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ACE Paper 14/2024

For advice on 4 November 2024

Report on the 159th Environmental Impact Assessment Subcommittee Meeting

PURPOSE

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Subcommittee considered the EIA report on “**Development of Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 2 (I-PARK2)**” (the Project) submitted under Section 6(2) of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO) at the meeting on 14 October 2024. The EIA report was submitted by the Waste Infrastructure Division of the Environmental Protection Department (the Project Proponent).

2. Members are requested to note the views of the EIA Subcommittee and advise on whether the EIA report should be endorsed.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

3. As set out in the “Waste Blueprint for Hong Kong 2035” promulgated in 2021, the development of a network of advanced and highly efficient modern waste-to-energy (WtE) facilities, including modern municipal solid waste (MSW) incineration facilities, is an important strategy to move away from the reliance on landfills for direct disposal of MSW and transform waste into useful energy resources. This Project proposed to construct a WtE facility in Tsang Tsui with a treatment capacity to handle around 6,000 tonnes of MSW per day.

4. Please refer to ACE-EIA Paper 2/2024 (*Annex A*) for details of the EIA project.

VIEWS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

5. Members noted that the EIA report was made available for public inspection during the period from 12 September to 11 October 2024. During the inspection period, a total of nine public comments were received by EPD. All public comments were submitted to Members of the EIA Subcommittee for consideration before its meeting.

6. Relevant extract of the minutes of the EIA Subcommittee meeting held on 14 October 2024 is at *Annex B*.

VIEWS OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

7. The Director of Environmental Protection (DEP), in consultation with relevant authorities, considered that the EIA report has met the requirements in the EIA Study Brief and the Technical Memorandum on EIA Process, for the purpose of its exhibition for public inspection under Section 7(4) of the EIAO.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

8. Having regard to the findings of the EIA report and information provided by the Project Proponent and its consultants, the EIA Subcommittee recommended the full Council to endorse the EIA report with the following conditions and recommendations –

Conditions of Endorsement

The Project Proponent shall –

- (a) submit an equipment installation report before the commencement of operation of the project to verify the completion of installation of the air pollution control system;
- (b) set up community liaison group(s) comprising representatives from the concerned and affected parties to facilitate communication and enquiries handlings on all environmental issues related to the Project;
- (c) update the Environmental and Monitoring Manual (EM&A Manual) to include monitoring of physiochemical parameters of water quality on sensitive site(s) and to enhance the air quality monitoring frequency; and
- (d) propose a web-based platform to disseminate continuous air quality monitoring information to the public.

Recommendations

The Project Proponent is recommended to –

- (e) consider air-cooled system as a preferred option that could avoid potential environmental impact due to the spent cooling water discharge;
- (f) explore further ecological enhancement design feature at the seawall such as eco-shoreline within the Project boundary;

- (g) consider suitable greening enhancement including planting of native tree and shrub species to maximise greening ratio, including vertical greening and roof greening, improve its appearance, improve air quality and enhance the potential urban biodiversity;
- (h) explore possible way(s) to reduce carbon emission in the construction and operational phases insofar as technically and economically feasible and practicable, such as the use of photovoltaic panel at the roof and green roof etc.;
- (i) formulate plans on developing suitable communal facilities as an integral part of the development, with considerations on the potential to allow public to benefit, by using the project gainfully;
- (j) recycle and reuse bottom ash generated by the waste incineration process as far as technically and economically feasible with a view to maximising its beneficial use before disposal to the landfills;
- (k) optimise the use of environmentally friendly and low carbon vessels, such as electric, hybrid or new energy vessels, for the daily transportation of MSW to I.PARK2; and
- (l) target for achieving the “Platinum” rating under the BEAM Plus rating system for the building(s) of I.PARK2.

9. Members of the EIA Subcommittee agreed that the Project Proponent should be invited to attend the subsequent ACE meeting to present and explain the project details to the full Council.

**EIA Subcommittee Secretariat
October 2024**