

Question on super incinerator on Shek Kwu Chau
(Paper TAFEHCCC 29/2020)

Written reply from Environmental Protection Department

This paper is to provide responses to Paper TAFEHCCC 29/2020 from Environmental Protection Department.

1. What are the expected completion and commissioning dates of the incinerator?

According to the latest construction progress, the Integrated Waste Management Facilities Phase 1 (IWMF 1) will commence operation in 2025.

2. Please provide details of the consultation exercises conducted on the construction of super incinerator on Shek Kwu Chau over the past five years.

Environmental Protection Department (EPD) attaches great importance to the consultation and liaison with stakeholders through various means. In recent years, our consultation activities mainly include the following :-

16 Dec 2013	Island District Council (IDC)
16 Apr 2014	Public Works Subcommittee under the LegCo Financial Committee
17 Oct 2014	LegCo Financial Committee
25 Jun 2018	Island District Council

In order to improve the public's understanding of the planning and management of EPD's major waste facilities (including the IWMF 1) in the Islands District and to strengthen the communication with the relevant stakeholders, in July 2015 the Government established the Islands District Liaison Group with members comprise of the representatives of EPD, the chairman of IDC, the chairman and the representatives of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Environmental Hygiene and Climate Change Committee (TAFEHCCC) of IDC, the chairmen of relevant rural committees, local stakeholders, as well as the representatives of relevant Government departments.

In 2018, the Contractor of IWMF 1 established the Community Liaison Group (CLG) in accordance with the Environmental Permit (EP) condition. Members comprise of the representatives of the Contractor, EPD, IDC members and chairmen of rural committees of Cheung Chau, South Lantau and Mui Wo, as well as fishermen representative and other local stakeholders. The CLG aims to strengthen the communication among the Contractor, EPD and the local representatives. The CLG meetings are to be held about once every six months.

All the meeting materials and the meeting minutes are uploaded to the project website for public information.

3. Are there any changes in the cost, design, work procedures and reclamation area? If yes, what are the reasons?

In order to be the new icon in Islands District, the chimney design will be enhanced from the original one in the Contractor's tender submission to a "sail" form embedded the wish of "smooth sailing" and better embracing with the surrounding natural environment. The chimney height remains at 150m above the ground level of the artificial island.

There is no change in the construction sequence and extent of the reclamation. According to the latest estimates, the amount of HK\$ 19.2037 billion approved by the LegCo Financial Committee is sufficient for the design and construction of IWMF 1.

4. Has PlanD approved an increase in the height of the Shek Kwu Chau super incinerator? If yes, what are the justifications?

According to Shek Kwu Chau's outline zoning plan (OZP) (No. S/I-SKC/2) annotated the "integrated waste management facilities" zone, the building height is restricted to +60mPD. At the design stage, the Contractor, taking into consideration efficiency of heat recovery and maintenance issues, considered necessary to slightly relax the building height of a portion of the main process building to +65.5mPD. In 2018, the Contractor submitted an application under the Town Planning Ordinance to the Town Planning Board to relax the building height. In the same year, the Board, after considering the information/rationale submitted by the Contractor and the public comments received, approved the application.

5. Would EPD step up measures to prevent air, noise, water and thermal pollution?

IWMF 1 is a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO). We have conducted a detailed environmental impact assessment (EIA) to examine the impacts due to the construction and operation of IWMF 1 on the air quality, noise, water quality, ecology, visual impact, public health, etc. and proposed a series of mitigation measures to minimize the potential environmental impacts to ensure full compliance with the requirements of the environmental protection ordinances.

The EIA Report has been approved by the EIAO Authority and an environmental

permit (EP) has been granted. The Contractor has been fully implementing the mitigation measures as required in the EIA, EP and the contract. EPD has also been conducting regular and ad hoc environmental inspections by our own site staff during the construction stage and we will continue to do so during the operation stage to ensure the Contractor's environmental performance.

Regarding the mitigation measures, in respect of air pollution control, the IWMF 1 will be equipped with advanced air pollution control systems to treat and filter the flue gas to ensure that emissions from the facilities will comply with Hong Kong and European Commission (EC) Standards. The IWMF 1 will not cause unacceptable impacts on the environment and human health. In addition, the Contractor will set up 24-hour continuous air quality monitoring stations at Shek Kwu Chau, Cheung Chau and South Lantau to comprehensively monitor and collect objective air quality data in the region to make sure that the environment and the human health will not be unacceptably affected. In respect of noise nuisance, we have set up the upper limit of powered mechanical equipment's noise level, and will provide noise barriers on needed basis and conduct noise monitoring. In respect of water quality, all the wastewater generated from the operation of IWMF 1 will be treated by a wastewater treatment plant and reused in the incineration plant and mechanical treatment plant and for washing and irrigation within the site area. No wastewater will be discharged into the coastal water.

6. Upon commissioning of the Shek Kwu Chau super incinerator, would EPD submit discussion papers and report to TAFEHCCC at the meeting the number of visits, waste treatment statistics, air pollution and water quality indexes at Shek Kwu Chau and the incidents occurred?

After the commencement of operation of IWMF 1, the Contractor shall conduct environmental monitoring strictly in accordance with the requirements as set out in the EIA, EP and the contract. EPD will upload the general operation and environmental monitoring information to EPD's website for public information. We would be pleased to submit monthly environmental monitoring reports to IDC.

May 2020