



Press Release
9 September 2004

EIA Report on Wind Turbine Submitted to Government

Green power will be made available to customers of the Hongkong Electric Company (HEC) when Hong Kong's first commercial-scale wind turbine begins operation on Lamma Island in early 2006.

The \$10 million project is now a step closer to reality following HEC's recent completion of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which concluded that Tai Ling is the most desirable location for the project and that the project would not bring any adverse impact on the local ecology or the environment.

Copies of the EIA report, which has been submitted to the Environmental Protection Department, will be available for public inspection for a month starting tomorrow, said HEC's Chief Engineer (Projects), Mr. Cheung Nai-yik.

A consultant commissioned by HEC earlier studied the potential environmental impacts associated with the wind turbine, in areas including noise, ecology, landscape and visual, air quality and water quality.

A list of effective mitigation measures has been recommended in the study relating to design, construction and operation of the project, Mr. Cheung noted.

"The construction of the wind turbine at Tai Ling on Lamma, which has a capacity ranging from 600 to 850 kW, is a pilot scheme that demonstrates HEC's efforts to explore the use of renewable energy in Hong Kong," he said.

"The Lamma turbine may be a small first step, but as a pilot project, it will provide HEC with important practical experience that might underpin more sizeable projects in the long term."

Wind energy is environmentally friendly as it produces power without generating emissions. By erecting a wind turbine on an otherwise barren hilltop, the project will boost Lamma as a tourist spot with educational and environmental value, he noted.

The site covers an area of about 4,400 sq meters with facilities including one 600-850 kW wind turbine and a high-voltage distribution pillar. Designed for an automatic startup, it will generate electricity when wind speeds are in the range of 2.5 to 25 meters per second.

Connecting to the existing power grid, the wind turbine is expected to produce electricity of 700 MWh a year, Mr. Cheung said.

“In determining the site, the availability of reliable wind data and the site’s proximity to both resources of high ecological value and high population are primary considerations. The Tai Ling site has been identified as the overall preferred site due to its distinct merits in site access, ground conditions, as well as noise and visual impacts,” he remarked.

Mr. Cheung stressed that HEC is mindful of the possible impact of the project and has limited the construction work on site to a minimum.

Another prime concern in the choice of the site is to minimize the risk of wind turbine bird collision. “Since the identified site is not considered to be either within important bird habitats or on the flight paths of migratory birds, the impact on bird species is expected to be minimal,” he added.

To keep a watchful eye on the situation, a year-long monitoring exercise will be conducted after the commissioning of the wind turbine.

Regular noise monitoring audits are also being planned to ensure that stipulated noise criterion are complied with. To minimize landscape and visual impact, a series of measures will be implemented, including reinstatement of disturbed areas, compensatory planting, the careful choice of color scheme relating to turbine facilitates as well as soil conservation.

“While awaiting for the Environmental Permit, HEC has proceeded with the necessary land application and procurement procedures. Construction work is expected to commence in the first quarter of next year and will take about a year to complete, during which HEC will maintain a close dialogue with the Government and the local residents,” Mr. Cheung said.

- End -

Media Enquiries:

Miss Esme Lau
Public Affairs Manager (Media & Community)
Tel: 2843 3225



選址現況
Existing view of the site



由東博寮海峽所見的未來景象
Future view from Lamma East Channel



選址現況
Existing view of the site



由大嶺涼亭所見的未來景象
Future view from Tai Ling Pavilion

由大嶺涼亭所見的未來景象
Future view from Tai Ling Pavilion

