

Annex F9

Investigation Reports of
Environmental Quality
Limit Exceedance

Investigation Report of Environmental Quality Limit Exceedance

Project	South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill Extension
Date	Pump Station No. 1X: 8 - 16 September 2023 Pump Station No. 3X: 8 - 20 September 2023 Pump Station No. 4X: 8 - 20 September 2023
Monitoring Location	Pump Station No. 1X (Cell 1X), Pump Station No. 3X (Cell 3X) and Pump Station No. 4X (Cell 4X)
Parameter	Leachate level
Limit Levels	Pump Station No. 1X: > 178 cm Pump Station No. 3X: > 175 cm Pump Station No. 4X: > 186 cm
Measured Level	<p><u>Pump Station No. 1X (Average of Meter No. X-1 and No. X-2)</u></p> <p>8 September 2023: 243 cm 9 September 2023: 235 cm 10 September 2023: 231 cm 11 September 2023: 228 cm 12 September 2023: 222 cm 13 September 2023: 218 cm 14 September 2023: 204 cm 15 September 2023: 186 cm 16 September 2023: 175 cm</p> <p><u>Pump Station No. 3X (Average of Meter No. X-5 and No. X-6)</u></p> <p>8 September 2023: 194 cm 9 September 2023: 194 cm 10 September 2023: 211 cm 11 September 2023: 210 cm 12 September 2023: 213 cm 13 September 2023: 218 cm 14 September 2023: 218 cm 15 September 2023: 216 cm 16 September 2023: 218 cm 17 September 2023: 214 cm 18 September 2023: 209 cm 19 September 2023: 203 cm 20 September 2023: 192 cm</p> <p><u>Pump Station No. 4X (Average of Meter No. X-7 and No. X-8)</u></p> <p>8 September 2023: 250 cm 9 September 2023: 272 cm 10 September 2023: 278 cm</p>

	<p>11 September 2023: 283 cm 12 September 2023: 279 cm 13 September 2023: 274 cm 14 September 2023: 273 cm 15 September 2023: 268 cm 16 September 2023: 263 cm 17 September 2023: 270 cm 18 September 2023: 262 cm 19 September 2023: 242 cm 20 September 2023: 206 cm</p>
Possible reason	<p>From the on-site rainfall record of September 2023, heavy rainfall events (up to 356 mm per day) were recorded from 7 to 15 September 2023. Amber, red and black rainstorm warning signals were also issued by the Hong Kong Observatory on 7, 8, 10, 14 and 15 September 2023. As confirmed by the Contractor, the leachate collection system and leachate treatment plant were under normal operating conditions during the reporting period.</p> <p>Accumulation of surface water at Cell 1X, 3X and 4X was observed during the reporting period, which could contribute to the leachate level exceedances. Based on this observation, the leachate level exceedances at Pump Station No. 1X, 3X and 4X were deemed to Project-related activities.</p> <p>It is understood that the large volume of leachate (contaminated surface runoff) accumulated at Cell 1X, 3X and 4X has exceeded the leachate treatment capacity (daily maximum effluent discharge volume of 1,783 m³ recorded from 8 to 20 September 2023, with daily effluent discharge limit of 2,000 m³ as stipulated in the WPCO license).</p>
Action Taken / Action to be Taken	<p>Examination of environmental performance of the Project will be continued during the weekly inspections. The Contractor is reminded to closely monitor the operating conditions of the leachate collection system (e.g. set alarm when the leachate level reach about 80% of the Limit Level) and pump out the leachate for treatment to avoid any exceedance of the Limit Level.</p>
Remarks	-

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Date: 9 October 2023

Investigation Report of Environmental Quality Limit Exceedance

Project	South East New Territories (SENT) Landfill Extension
Date	22 September 2023
Time	11:32
Monitoring Location	MWX-7
Parameter	Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)
Limit Level	>36 mg /L
Measured Level	40 mg /L
Possible reason	<p>Groundwater contaminated with leachate is commonly characterized by high COD and ammoniacal-nitrogen levels as a result of degradation of organic matters in the waste. The ammoniacal-nitrogen monitoring result at groundwater monitoring wells MWX-7 (4.80 mg/L) and the COD monitoring results of the groundwater monitoring wells adjacent to MWX-7 (MWX-6: 36 mg/L and MWX-8: 32 mg/L) are well within the respective limit levels. Hence, there is a low possibility of the elevation of COD level at MWX-7 is due to leachate contamination from SENTX operation or at least it is not conclusive to base on these results to demonstrate exceedance was due to leachate contamination.</p> <p>In accordance with Table 4.5b of the updated EM&A Manual, repeat measurement was conducted on 12 October 2023 to confirm findings. COD concentration of 31 mg/L (below the Limit Level) was measured at MWX-7 during the sampling event, which demonstrate no consecutive groundwater quality impact at the monitoring location.</p> <p>According to the findings of the desktop review commissioned by GVL and EPD (the Employer) in May 2021 to investigate the potential sources of the elevated methane levels at the perimeter landfill gas monitoring wells at SENTX, pockets of organic matters are identified in the fill materials of the SENTX site upon review of the historical site investigation borehole logs at the Project Site area. It is possible that the elevated COD concentration measured at MWX-7 on 22 September 2023 could be due to localised organic matters within or around the monitoring well and background fluctuation.</p> <p>Due to the presence of influencing factor from non-project source and the subsequent month monitoring results at MWX-7 did not show any exceedance, there is no adequate evidence showing that the COD level exceedance measured at MWX-7 on 22 September 2023 was deemed to Project-related activities.</p> <p>It should also be noted that although the COD level exceeded the limit level of the EM&A programme, it is still well within the</p>

	WPCO effluent discharge limit of COD (80 mg/L) and the standard for effluents discharged into the inshore waters of the Junk Bay Water Control Zone as stipulated under Technical Memorandum Standards for Effluents Discharged into Drainage and Sewerage Systems, Inland and Coastal Waters (80 mg/L). The slight exceedance of COD at MWX-7 on 22 September 2023 will not cause adverse water quality impact to the Junk Bay Water Control Zone.
Action Taken / Action to be Taken	<p>Examination of environmental performance of the Project will be continued during the weekly inspections. The Contractor is reminded to implement relevant and appropriate mitigation measures according to the updated EM&A Manual to avoid any exceedance of the Action and Limit Levels.</p> <p>ET will continue to closely monitor the groundwater quality monitoring results and collect additional data for investigation and further review, if necessary.</p>
Remarks	-

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