

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 39 – Drainage Services Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Sewage Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Drainage Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Under this programme, the estimated expenditure in 2007-08 will increase by 2%, partly as a result of increased requirement for operating new facilities. Please provide details why the new facilities are introduced. What improvement to sewage services will be provided by the new facilities? Will cost savings arise from these facilities?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

In 2007-08, major new facilities including four sludge dewatering facilities and six anaerobic digesters at the Shatin Sewage Treatment Works will be put into operation as part of its Stage 3 Extension. The upgrading of the Shatin Sewage Treatment Works, when completed, will increase its treatment capacity to cope with the increase in population in the Shatin and Ma On Shan area. It will also improve the odour emission and the quality of effluent discharged.

Upon commissioning of the new dewatering facilities, the volume of dewatered sludge will be reduced, leading to lower sludge transportation and landfilling costs. On the other hand, the commissioning of Stage 3 anaerobic digesters will enhance the sludge digestion process resulting in high mass reduction and more biogas being produced for power generation. Therefore the new facilities will achieve cost savings on sludge handling as well as on plant electricity consumption. The Drainage Services Department will monitor the cost savings closely to reap the best results.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C.K. WONG

Post Title _____ Director of Drainage Services

Date _____ 16 March 2007