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Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Session No. : 20

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**Replies to supplementary questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09**

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Session No. : 20

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S-ENB01	SV015	WONG Kwok-hing	42	Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety
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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Department
Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: The Administration was requested to provide information on the provision of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations, in particular the factors considered when deciding whether to approve additional stations.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

At present, there are 12 dedicated and 46 non-dedicated LPG filling stations in Hong Kong. These stations can support the entire fleet of LPG taxis and light buses. All LPG filling stations have to meet the safety requirements of the Gas Safety Ordinance and the siting has to satisfy the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines to ensure the risk level is acceptable. To make refilling more convenient for LPG vehicles, the Administration has a standing policy since 2000 to include LPG filling facility requirement in land sales for petrol filling stations, subject to safety requirements being met.

Signature _____

Name in block letters HO KWONG WAI

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date 10 April 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services
Department

Subhead:

Programme: (1) Energy Supply; Electrical, Gas and Nuclear Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: In recent years, the Government encouraged vehicles running on the road to switch to use liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) with a view to improving air quality. With increasing number of vehicles switched to use LPG, the Government leased out sites for the construction of LPG filling stations, including dedicated and non-dedicated LPG filling stations. In this regard, would the Government advise:

1. In the last three years, were there any approvals granted for the construction of new LPG filling stations? If yes, what is the number of LPG filling stations approved? If not, what are the reasons?
2. In the last three years, did the Administration approve the construction of any new dedicated LPG filling stations? If not, what are the reasons?
3. In 2008-09, does the Administration have any plan to lease out sites for the construction of new dedicated LPG filling stations? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

1. There were a total of eight new LPG filling stations completed in the last three years and all of them were approved. The breakdown is five stations in 2005, one in 2006 and two in 2007 respectively.
2. & 3. At present, there are 12 dedicated and 46 non-dedicated LPG filling stations in Hong Kong. They can support the entire fleet of LPG taxis and light buses. As such, the Administration has no plan to construct new dedicated LPG filling stations in 2008-09. Also, there was no approval for the construction of new dedicated LPG filling stations in the last three years. However, to make refilling more convenient for LPG vehicles, the Administration has a standing policy since 2000 to include LPG filling facility requirement in land sales for petrol filling stations, subject to safety requirements being met.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

HO KWONG WAI

Post Title _____

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____

11 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-ENB03

Question Serial No.

S076

Head : 44 Environmental Protection Subhead (No. & title):
 Department

Programme : (2) Air

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment / Director of Environmental Protection

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : For the Programme 'District Traffic and Transport Services' of the Transport Department, the aim includes the implementation of traffic management as well as the monitoring and regulating of public transport management. But in recent years, there are always lots of vehicles queuing up for petrol filling at a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling station on Marsh Road, Wanchai. As the price of LPG keeps rising and the petrol filling station concerned is the only one in the Wanchai and Causeway Bay district, the queue has resulted in severe traffic congestion. As such, will the Administration inform this Council of whether there are measures in the short term to solve the problem of having a long queue waiting at the petrol filling station? If yes, what are the details of the measures? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The existing LPG infrastructures, including 12 dedicated and 46 non-dedicated LPG filling stations, can support the entire fleets of taxis and light buses to use LPG vehicles. Vehicles queuing for LPG refilling service at the dedicated LPG filling station at Marsh Road, Wan Chai, usually occurs at shift-changing hours (i.e. early afternoons), when many taxis seek refilling concurrently. In March 2008, the relevant Government departments including the Environmental Protection Department, Transport Department, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department and Hong Kong Police Force discussed with the taxi trade to agree a more orderly queuing there to minimize obstruction to local traffic. The relevant departments are in discussion with the taxi trade on the feasibility of introducing additional local traffic management measures to further reduce the impact.

The Administration will also continue to make use of the quarterly liaison meetings between dedicated LPG filling station operators and the LPG vehicle trades to encourage LPG vehicles to be refilled during off-peak hours.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment /
Director of Environmental Protection

Date _____

9 April 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

S-ENB04

Question Serial No.

S110

Head : 137 Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title):
 Environment Bureau

Programme : (2) Power

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment

Question : According to Reply Serial No. ENB 130 of 0832, the Administration does not have any plans to conduct specific studies on the continuous increase in energy prices, and monitoring will only be effected through the agreements signed with the two power companies. Please advise:

- (1) Has the Administration assessed the continuous increase in energy prices to project the impact of energy crisis on people's livelihood, such as tariffs, transportation and inflation?
- (2) Given that the energy crisis pushes up tariff rates directly and has a serious impact on the livelihood of the grass-roots, has the Administration got any plans to monitor more closely the proportion of fuels used by the two power companies so as to maintain tariff rates at a reasonable level?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (1) The Environment Bureau will ensure safe, reliable and efficient energy supply at reasonable prices through the established monitoring arrangements of the operation of the two power companies and the town gas supply company. In this connection, we will assess the impact of fuel cost increases on tariffs as part of our annual Tariff Review for the two power companies pursuant to the Scheme of Control Agreement (SCA) and our ongoing monitoring of the Fuel Cost Variation Charge/Rebate by the Hong Kong and China Gas under the Information and Consultation Agreement.
- (2) In the course of the annual Tariff Review pursuant to the SCA, with the assistance of the energy consultant, we will critically examine, inter alia, the reasonableness of the actual and projected operating costs of the two power companies including the fuel costs to ensure that the electricity tariffs are maintained at reasonable levels.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ANISSA WONG

Post Title _____

Permanent Secretary for the Environment

Date _____

9 April 2008