

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

Head: 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

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 2008-09 the Administration will monitor the accelerated replacement programme of town gas medium-pressure ductile iron (MPDI) underground pipes having service life exceeding 20 years. Please advise:

- (a) what are the details of the replacement programme in 2007-08? What is the expenditure? What is the expected completion date? And
- (b) has the Administration deployed additional resource to deal with the accelerated programme? If yes, what is the expenditure incurred? How many years will the programme be expected to advance in completion?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

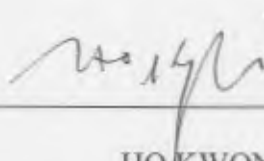
- (a) The accelerated replacement programme, which covers a total length of 150 km town gas MPDI underground pipes having a service life exceeding 20 years, commenced in July 2006. As at February 2008, The Hong Kong and China Gas Co. Ltd. (HKCG) has completed about 107 km MPDI pipes. The replacement cost of the MDPI pipes is borne by HKCG.

To ensure compliance with the replacement programme, the Gas Standards Office of the Department has been closely monitoring HKCG's planning and replacement work. As the officers concerned also handled other duties concurrently, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved for undertaking the monitoring duties.

With the accelerated replacement programme in steady progress, the work is expected to be completed by mid-2008.

- (b) No additional resources are required as the workload relating to the monitoring of the replacement programme can be absorbed by the Department. The accelerated replacement programme is targeted to be completed within two years from the beginning, no further advancement is expected.

Signature



Name in block letters

HO KWONG WAI

Post Title

Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date

26 March 2008