

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**ENB079****(Question Serial No. 2197)**

Head: (42) Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

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

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services (CHAN Fan)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question (Member Question No. 40):

With regard to the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) filling stations, the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) originally planned to approve two LPG filling stations in 2013. The actual number of LPG filling stations approved is however three. Please advise the details of the additional filling station (including its location and date of commencement of operation). It is planned that four LPG filling stations would be approved in 2014. Please advise the details of the filling stations concerned, and whether the feasibility of increasing the number of dedicated LPG filling stations would be studied. If yes, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons and whether there are any measures to shorten the waiting time of LPG vehicles for refilling services.

Has the Administration collected any statistics on the utilisation rate of LPG filling stations? Please provide the average waiting time for refilling services during peak (shift-changing hours) and non-peak periods at the dedicated and non-dedicated LPG filling stations on Hong Kong Island.

Asked by: Hon. YICK Chi-ming, Frankie

Reply:

There were only two LPG filling stations originally expected for completion in 2013 and they are located at Repulse Bay and Tsing Yi respectively. There was one other filling station, also located at Tsing Yi, which was completed ahead of schedule. As a result, three filling stations were put into operation in September, November and December 2013 respectively.

The four LPG filling stations planned to be approved in 2014 are located at Sheung Kwai Chung, Sai Kung, Fanling North and Clear Water Bay. According to the land lease conditions, the filling stations at Sheung Kwai Chung and Sai Kung are expected to be put into operation by June 2014 and September 2016 respectively, whilst the filling stations at Fanling North and Clear Water Bay are expected to be put into operation by September 2015.

Currently, the LPG filling network has a total of 63 LPG filling stations, comprising 12 dedicated stations and 51 non-dedicated stations distributed in all 18 districts across the territory. As the existing filling network is generally sufficient to meet the filling demand of all taxis and LPG light buses, the Government does not have any plan to set up additional dedicated LPG filling stations. Nevertheless, the Government has since June 2000 required all new petrol filling stations on the land sales programme to provide LPG filling facilities, subject to fulfillment of the necessary safety requirements. This arrangement was further strengthened in 2012, with conditions being imposed in new tenders for petrol filling stations which are able to fulfill the necessary safety requirements, requiring the operators of non-dedicated filling stations to provide LPG nozzles at not less than 25% of the total number of filling facilities at the petrol filling stations. This new requirement serves to enhance the overall provision of LPG filling facilities and extend the coverage of the filling network. Apart from this, the Government will continue to identify suitable sites so as to enable oil companies to establish more non-dedicated filling stations to further expand the filling network, and to provide convenience to the trade, shortening the waiting time of LPG vehicles for refilling services.

According to the operational records provided by operators of dedicated LPG filling stations, a daily average of about 1 030 to 4 120 vehicles per station were refilled in 2013. LPG vehicles queuing for refilling services normally occurred at shift-changing periods, in particular at those dedicated LPG filling stations that are located at popular locations (i.e. near areas plied by the majority of taxis). Outside shift-changing periods, vehicles do not require much waiting time for refilling even at dedicated LPG filling stations. With regard to non-dedicated LPG filling stations, the Government has not collected any statistics on their operation data, but it is to our understanding that vehicles in general do not need to queue up for a long time for refilling at these stations.