

8 January 1993

Works Branch Technical Circular No. 2/93

Public Dumps

Introduction

This Circular promulgates the revised policy on public dumps. It amplifies, and should be read in conjunction with, paragraphs 19 & 20 of WBTC No. 6/92 : Fill Management.

Background

2. It is important that suitable construction waste is placed in public dumps on reclamation and land formation projects, and not disposed of in landfills. In this way, not only can land be formed cheaply, but also valuable landfill space can be conserved.

3. The Land Development Policy Committee (LPDC) has endorsed proposals by the Fill Management Committee (FMC) to set aside certain reclamation projects for public dumping and to bring their implementation forward, to emphasize the economic benefits of this method of disposal of construction waste.

Provision of Sites

4. The Public Dumping Sub-Committee (PDSC) of the FMC co-ordinates the provision of public dumps. It aims to ensure that there are sufficient strategically located sites available at all times to accommodate all suitable surplus excavated material and other suitable construction waste.

5. In conjunction with the PDSC, project departments shall consider the suitability of each reclamation site for use as a public dump at an early stage in the planning process. It should be noted that public dumping need not be the only source of fill where the supply of such material would not meet the required programme, and the provision of a public dump should not be ruled out for this reason alone.

Dumping Licences

6. Dumping Licences are issued by the Civil Engineering Department under the Crown Land Ordinance, under delegated authority from the Director of Buildings & Lands. They are issued to individuals or companies who deliver suitable construction waste to the dumps. Individual licences and windscreen stickers are issued for each vehicle involved. A copy of the revised licence is attached at
..... Appendix I.

7. The conditions attached to dumping licences have been amended to allow larger rock and concrete material to be received at public dumps, without restriction.

Acceptance of Materials

8. Under the licence conditions, public dumps will accept only inert building debris, soil, rock and broken concrete. There is no size limitation on the rock and broken concrete, and a small amount of timber mixed with otherwise suitable material is permissible.

9. Pieces of rock and broken concrete up to 250mm in size have little effect on subsequent piling operations and can therefore be placed anywhere in reclamations. Hard material above this size could pose serious restrictions to piling; this must therefore be placed in areas zoned as non-building areas or must be broken down to a size smaller than 250mm. Reinforcement bars must either be cut to lengths that will not interfere with piling, or placed in non-building areas.

10. Public dump material must not contain significant quantities of timber. If placed in water, timber will float; if placed above the permanent water-table in significant amounts, it will decay and lead to unacceptable settlement. Dump Supervisors, however, shall accept suitable material which contains small quantities of timber. Dumping licence holders should be warned that repeated deliveries of significant quantities of timber will result in cancellation of their licence. Guidance Notes for Dump Supervisors are available from the Chief Engineer, Port Works, Civil Engineering Department.

11. Particular Specification clauses shall be written into contracts where public dumping is included as a source of fill, covering the requirements for the placing of oversized material in designated areas, the breaking down of oversized material, the cutting up of reinforcement bars, and the collection and disposal of floating debris where necessary. Items shall be included in the Bills of Quantities for payments in respect of these operations. Appropriate provision shall be made in the project estimate to meet these costs.

Barging Points

12. The Civil Engineering Department is planning to operate a series of barging points where construction waste will be loaded into barges for delivery to reclamation sites for bottom dumping. These barging points will include areas where oversized hard material can be sorted and broken down so that material delivered to reclamations in this way will not affect subsequent piling.

(H B Phillipson)
Deputy Secretary (Works Policy)