

1 Nov. 1989

\$25m attempt to reduce fumes

By Vivian Tse

THE Hongkong and China Gas Company will invest \$25 million to further reduce the emission of nitrogen dioxide at its Town Gas plant in Tai Po, the New Territories.

An environmental study the firm commissioned has noted that heavy traffic around the Tai Po industrial centre would mean a big rise in the emission of nitrogen dioxide from vehicles.

It said that in this context the increase in nitrogen levels due to an expanded plant would be irrelevant.

The company eventually plans to triple gas production at its Tai Po facilities.

The findings of the environmental impact assessment study were presented to the Tai Po District Board yesterday.

The study noted that an existing park located between the plant and the residential area would act as a buffer zone.

It also said that the emission of nitrogen dioxide, a gaseous pollutant, would not exceed levels set by the Environmental Protection Department.

Managing director Mr Malcolm Matthews said yesterday the company had decided to install "selective catalytic reduction" machinery to reduce the already low emission of nitrogen dioxide at its plant.

He said the move was in response to comments made by the department.

The emission of the gaseous pollutant would be reduced by 45 percent after the anti-pollution machinery is installed, he said.

"The amount of emission has been well below the safety standards set by the Government," Mr Matthews said.

"But we will install the machinery as a friendly gesture to the environment," he said.

According to the study, the installation cost would only amount to four or five percent of the total cost of the project.

The plant will have a daily capacity of 2.8 million cubic metres of Town Gas.

Production will rise to 8.4 million cubic metres following the installation of four more gas generators.

The expansion programme is based on a projection of future gas consumption in the territory.

The company was required under its land lease conditions to carry out an environmental impact assessment study as a pre-requisite for Government approval.