

ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT

26 July 2017

Soil Contamination

WHAT HAPPENED?

Transpower regularly carries out earthworks/soil disturbance at our station sites for building, grounds, and electrical works. Soil and stock piles in and around our outdoor switchyards associated with these works have recently tested positive for contamination (e.g. elevated levels of zinc, copper, nickel, lead and occasionally asbestos). We may be required to remediate the soil and obtain environmental approvals to dispose of the soil at appropriate facilities – e.g. landfills.

New Zealand's environmental regulations classify all substations as potentially contaminated sites. Whenever you're considering soil disturbance at substations, you must also consider and manage the potential for contamination. Early management can significantly reduce the risk of unanticipated contamination impacting on the project, worker health and the environment.

Talk to the Environment Group early on if you need to do any soil disturbance work at substations.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

-) Work stopped
-) Testing carried out
-) Experts called to site to oversee further works
-) Review of policy

LEARNINGS

-) We are reviewing the requirements to test soils before any soil disturbance/earthworks.
-) The type of plant being used should carefully be considered before soil disturbance/earthworks.
-) The soil disturbance/earthworks and storage/disposal of soil should be discussed with the Environment Group. Please note that if environmental approvals are required, these can take some time to obtain so discuss your project requirements as early as possible with the Environment Group