

Sharon Durham

From: [Out of scope] >
Sent: Monday, 22 February 2016 10:25 AM
To: Helena Langton
Cc: Sharon Durham
Subject: RE: Mine Sites with asbestos in switch rooms

Thanks Helena, that'd save us all a lot of trouble.

As you'd appreciate, we potentially have members on there working on these things who would be unaware of it being there.

[Out of scope]

From: Helena Langton [mailto:Helena.Langton@ministerial.qld.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 22 February 2016 9:27 AM
To: [Out of scope] >
Cc: Sharon Durham <Sharon.Durham@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Mine Sites with asbestos in switch rooms

[Out of scope]

I have just been forwarded your emails regarding the concerns you have raised re: asbestos in switch rooms, as I am sure you are aware our inspectorate is currently seeking permission from sites to be able to release the names of the sites as stipulated in mining act.

The Inspectorate have been working this over the course of the weekend and we hope to have the information to you by COB today.

Regards

Helena Langton
Caucus Liaison/Advisor(Mining Safety)
Office of the Honourable Dr Anthony Lynham MP
Minister for State Development, Natural Resources and Mines.
Helena.langton@ministerial.qld.gov.au

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Sharon Durham

From: [Out of scope]
Sent: Friday, 19 February 2016 3:41 PM
To: Sharon Durham
Subject: Re: Asbestos in Switchrooms

Thanks Sharon

Sent from my iPhone

On 19 Feb 2016, at 3:33 PM, Sharon Durham <Sharon.Durham@ministerial.qld.gov.au> wrote:

[Out of scope]

The Minister has made inquiries with the Department and we are awaiting a response. We have made it very clear that the key issue here is the safety of the workers involved. We will be in contact with you as soon as we have all of the information we need.

Regards,

Sharon

From: Lucia Neale
Sent: Friday, 19 February 2016 11:11 AM
To: Sharon Durham <Sharon.Durham@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Asbestos in Switchrooms
Importance: High

From: [Out of scope]
Sent: Friday, 19 February 2016 11:08 AM
To: Grace Grace <Grace.Grace@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
Cc: Lucia Neale <Lucia.Neale@ministerial.qld.gov.au>; [Out of scope];

[Out of scope]

Subject: Asbestos in Switchrooms
Importance: High

Grace,

Further to our phone call, we are reliably informed that the Dept of WH&S knows of the locations of these switch rooms but will not disclose them to the ETU & CFMEU.

As a result of that refusal, I'm about to instruct all of our Officials to place an immediate ban on work in all switch rooms across the State until such time as they are deemed safe.

Some info we've received on this today (below) as you can see we are talking about 26 across Queensland.

[Out of scope]

I am emailing to advise you of electrical switch rooms that possibly contain asbestos materials which have been supplied to a workplace that may be under the management and control of

The issue came to the attention of the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) Asbestos Importation Working Group in late November 2015 and late yesterday the list of Queensland sites was sent to me (see attached). The HWSA group has been working to develop a common national response.

The South Australian manufacturer, Robin Johnson Engineering Pty Ltd, advises there were 64 switch room buildings supplied as per Table 1.

Table 1

State	Projects	Buildings
QLD	13	26
NSW	13	17
SA	7	11
VIC	4	9
NT	1	1

On the 7 December 2015, the manufacturer sent a total of 32 letters to the Environmental/Safety Department of each business. I have pasted the content of that letter below, deleting information that may identify the business.

Identification of asbestos in floor sheeting
Dear Sir/Madam,

We are contacting you regarding the electrical control/switchroom identified as KJ76 Fans Substation Switchroom and Control Room and LV Switchroom supplied(dates vary from customer to customer)

Pictures of the switch rooms are below. I am advised the floor area of these switch rooms range from smallest being 14m x 4.5m to largest being 30m x 7.5m and a range of sizes in-between.

<image001.png>

The asbestos material is contained in the floor panelling.

<image002.png>

<image003.png>

Regardless of the correspondence sent by the manufacturer to each customer, I am making contact with the relevant person at the non-mine workplaces listed in the attached, today, to ensure they are aware of this issue and to provide you with the following advice/direction:

- Identify the presence of these switchrooms at all workplaces under their control

- Immediately instruct staff and contractors to not disturb the floor sheeting in the switch room/s, for example by cutting, grinding, drilling, etc, until such time the below is implemented
- Either assume the presence of asbestos, or have analysis done of the floor sheets of the switch rooms for presence of asbestos. You may have to test each individual sheet of the floor as different batches of the floor sheeting may have been used, some containing asbestos and others not.
- If presence of asbestos confirmed then record the presence in an asbestos register, implement an asbestos management plan, label the floor sheeting to warn of the presence of asbestos, inform staff and contractors of the presence of asbestos in the floor sheeting, issue appropriate work instructions, ensure appropriate supervision of elements of the asbestos management plan
- If any work that may disturb the floor sheeting is to be performed, appropriate safe work methods must be put in place immediately. Information on such work methods can be found on the Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) website at visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au
- Notify the Manager of the WHSQ Asbestos and Occupational Hygiene and Health Unit of any past or current work performed on the floor sheeting, post-delivery of the switchrooms.

The above will control any immediate risk of exposure to airborne asbestos fibres. WHSQ will advise in due course as to ongoing management of the floor sheeting, including whether the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 places a duty on the person conducting the business or undertaking (PCBU) to remove the floor sheeting.

Regards,

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