

**Appendix I: Abrasive Blasting Rules that apply to  
Electricity Transmission Activities regulated by the  
Resource Management (National Environmental Standards  
for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009**



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### Transmission line support structures: Discharges from blasting and applying protective coatings

#### Regulation 25 Permitted activities

- (1) Blasting a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line, or preparing the structure to receive protective coatings, is a permitted activity if all of the applicable conditions in subclauses (3) to (9) are complied with.
- (2) Applying protective coatings to a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line is a permitted activity if the condition in subclause (10) is complied with.

#### Conditions

- (3) Blasting must not be done within 50 metres of a water body or the coastal marine area.
- (4) Blasting must not be done—
  - (a) within 50 metres of a public road; or
  - (b) within 100 metres of an occupied building.
- (5) Abrasive material used in abrasive blasting must contain no more than 5% free silica by dry weight.
- (6) Waste and debris resulting from abrasive blasting must be removed from the site of the blasting to the extent practicable.
- (7) Dry abrasive blasting—
  - (a) must be done no more than 1 metre above ground level; and
  - (b) may be done only if covers or screens are used to mitigate the effects of any contaminants discharged by the blasting.
- (8) If abrasive blasting is done on a tower coated with lead-based paint, the waste and debris (including abrasive material) resulting from the blasting must be captured and removed by using geotextile material of a filter quality or by any equivalent method.
- (9) The following substances must not be used for surface preparation: paint strippers (unless used on a solvent rag to degrease a surface), fungicides, acids, alkalis, sodium hypochlorite, or any other oxidising agent.

- (10) Protective coatings must be applied—
  - (a) by hand; or
  - (b) by pressurised spray used no more than 1 metre above ground level.

#### Regulation 26 Controlled activities

- (1) Blasting a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line, or preparing the structure to receive protective coatings, is a controlled activity if –
  - (a) it is not done over a water body or the coastal marine area; and
  - (b) the applicable conditions in regulation 25(4) and (7) and complied with; and
  - (c) 1 or both of the following apply:
    - (i) it is done within 50 metres of a water body or the coastal marine area;
    - (ii) 1 or more of the conditions in regulation 25(5), (6), (8), and (9) are breached.
- (2) Applying protective coatings to a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line is a controlled activity if the condition in regulation 25(10) is breached.

#### Matters over which control reserved

- (3) Control is reserved over the following matters in relation to a controlled activity under this regulation:
  - (a) the effects on water quality and ecologically-sensitive receiving environments; and
  - (b) the effects on occupied buildings; and
  - (c) the risk of contamination of soil; and
  - (d) the effects on health.

#### Regulation 27 Restricted discretionary activities

- (1) Blasting a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line, or preparing the structure to receive protective coatings, is a restricted discretionary activity if –
  - (a) it is done over a water body or the coastal marine area; or
  - (b) 1 or both of the conditions in regulation 25(4) and (7) are breached.

#### Matters to which discretion restricted

- (2) Discretion is restricted to the following matters in relation to a restricted discretionary activity under this regulation:

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- (a) the effects on water quality and ecologically-sensitive receiving environments; and
- (b) the effects on occupied buildings and use of public roads; and
- (c) the risk of contamination of soil; and
- (d) the effects on health.