



Joyce, David

From: Joyce, David
Sent: Wednesday, 5 June 2013 4:27 PM
To: Walters, Daniel
Subject: RE: Asbestos like substance [Incident: 130531-001340] Forwarded to Agency

Thank you Daniel.

From: Walters, Daniel
Sent: Wednesday, 5 June 2013 4:25 PM
To: Joyce, David
Cc: McCabe, Mark; Simmons, Craig; Meyer, John; Woollard, John; Dix, Rodney; Perram, Phillip; Brookes, Clare
Subject: FW: Asbestos like substance [Incident: 130531-001340] Forwarded to Agency

David For your information as discussed

I have discussed with Mark and John Woolard briefly and will have samples officer took analysed tomorrow by Health.

Exempt s41

who made the initial enquiry through Canberra Connect (Fix my Street) was contacted and advised of outcomes and he was satisfied with the prompt action taken and the response.

This will no doubt form some of the discussions at Friday's ARF meeting, John has agreed to prioritise sampling to determine if the material contains asbestos.

I we hear back from Comcare I'll update accordingly.

Cheers

Daniel Walters

Director, Environment Protection and Water Regulation
The Environment Protection Authority and Clinical Waste Controller
Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

☎Ph: (02) 6207 2230

☎Fax: (02) 6207 6084

✉email: daniel.walters@act.gov.au

🌐<http://www.environment.act.gov.au/>

Please consider our environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Dix, Rodney
Sent: Wednesday, 5 June 2013 3:38 PM
To: Walters, Daniel
Cc: Thomas, Steve
Subject: FW: Asbestos like substance [Incident: 130531-001340] Forwarded to Agency

Daniel

Below report of asbestos near a Telstra pit was investigated on 4 June.

The pit was located near the corner of Geils Court and Champion Street Deakin.

48

EPO Thomas noted the pit was damaged around the top section of the pit perimeter. There was a concrete lid on the pit that was in good condition. There were sections of the pit scattered close by and it was difficult to establish the extent of the spread due to leaves partially covering the immediate area. I could see fibres among the fragments broken away from the pit that appeared to me to be asbestos fibres. The area was dry and close to a footpath. The area appeared to have had foot traffic over and around the pit as there was no grass, which I assessed as being a concern for the public. It is unknown how long the barricade had been there but the pit appeared badly damaged over time. I took photos.

Telstra was advised through the Asbestos Hotline 1800 067 225. Telstra advised the matter would be attended to. EPO Thomas requested a copy of Telstra's procedures in handling asbestos. The SOP were provided that day.

Telstra advised an embargo on working or handling pits at present was in place due to the public concerns regarding National Broadband Network installations recently.

EPO Thomas spoke to WorkSafe (Brett at ACT WorkSafe) and discussed the issue. WorkSafe advised the matter of asbestos and the Telstra Pits were due to be discussed, including which jurisdiction had control over the Telstra network, local WorkSafe or Comcare. EPO Thomas received a phone call from ACT WorkSafe a short period later advising that he had discussed the matter with his Manager and it was agreed that it was a Comcare issue. I was then referred to Comcare to report the matter.

I explained the situation in detail to Tanya at Comcare and they filled out a complaint form. (reference number AHE\21). I asked them to contact me back urgently to discuss the matter. (I am still waiting).

At approximately 16.00 Telstra advised the area was cleaned up of any obvious asbestos cement fragments around the immediate area and placed a footboard across the top of the pit and a secure barricade was placed around the pit.

On 5/6/2013 the area was reinspected, the footboard was sitting on the pit but was approximately 30mm off the ground and not secured down. The barricade was an open steel structure with no signage except Telstra on the side. There were leaves around the pit area but there had been signs of a cleanup of sorts.

On 5/6/2013 Peter Garth, Senior Relations Manager, NBN Rollout called and advised that work was programmed to secure and make safe the area of the pit in Deakin. He was advised the the footboard should be secured, the frayed edges of the pit glued to ensure no fibres are loose.

Regards

Rodney Dix | Manager
Phone: +61 2 6207 2586 | Fax: +61 2 6207 6084 | Email: rodney.dix@act.gov.au
Environment Protection | Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government
Level 1 North - Dame Pattie Menzies House | 16 Challis Street Dickson | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.environment.act.gov.au

From: Canberra Connect Customer Services [<mailto:canberraconnect@act.gov.au>]
Sent: Friday, 31 May 2013 1:26 PM
To: Environment Protection
Subject: Asbestos like substance [Incident: 130531-001340] Forwarded to Agency

The following communication has been received by the ACT Government:

Contact Information

Email Address:
First Name: Exempt s41
Surname:
Type:



Joyce, David

From: Joyce, David
Sent: Wednesday, 5 June 2013 5:43 PM
To: Boogs, Monika
Cc: Robinson, Heidi; Brighton, Meg; Ferguson, David
Subject: NBN Rollout
Attachments: Asbestos and NBN rollout issues in the ACT - Dot Points (3).docx

Monika

I have attached some talking points as provided by health. The results of analysis should be known in the morning and a brief will be provided once that information is available.

In short, the Asbestos Regulators Forum have met and discussed the stop work notices issued by Comcare associated with the NBN rollout. The notices were placed on two telecommunication pits in the suburb of Nicholls. The outcome of the meeting was that the ARF agreed on a coordinated approach with WorkSafe and ACT Health the lead agencies. Samples are currently being analysed at the ACT Government Analytical Laboratory.

WorkSafe and ACT Health will brief the media once the results of analysis are known.

David



Asbestos and NBN rollout issues in the ACT

Issue

- Late on Monday 3 June 2013, Comcare advised WorkSafe ACT of two pits in the Nichols area where Comcare issued stop work notices last week because they may be of concern. It is understood that one of the sites is close to a primary school.
- The stop work notice is understood to have been issued by Comcare on 29 May 2013
- Bearing in mind that Nichols is a relatively new suburb it would be unlikely that any pits in the suburb would contain asbestos. Therefore the risks of exposure to asbestos would be low.
- Comcare, Worksafe ACT, ACT Health and other involved agencies are working together to ensure that any potential risks to the public are minimised.

Background

- As part of the NBN rollout Telstra is managing issues associated with 'pits' which quite often contain bonded asbestos. 'Pits' provide access to underground cables and are generally located on the footpaths at certain points within suburbs.
- It has recently been reported that the handling of asbestos containing material found in some pits by Telstra subcontractors has been inadequate from a health and safety perspective.
- Comcare and all relevant agencies from state/territory jurisdictions, including the ACT, work jointly on this issue.
- Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fibre which was used in buildings in the past for its insulating properties and resistance to fire. Damaged material containing asbestos can release fibres into the air that may cause lung disease when inhaled.
- Although there is no completely safe level of exposure to asbestos, the majority of people who have developed illness have had years of exposure to fibres through their work, for example, asbestos miners or builders.
- WorkSafe ACT is the lead agency for matters relating to asbestos in the ACT. They put restrictions on sites where asbestos is found and order works to be done to safely remove the asbestos hazard.
- ACT Health provides support in a variety of ways, including:
 - providing advice on the level of risk; and
 - assessing results of air monitoring and advising on the potential risks of exposure.

Joyce, David



From: Boogs, Monika
Sent: Wednesday, 5 June 2013 7:49 PM
To: Joyce, David
Cc: Robinson, Heidi; Brighton, Meg; Ferguson, David
Subject: Re: NBN Rollout

Thanks David

On 05/06/2013, at 5:43 PM, "Joyce, David" <David.Joyce@act.gov.au> wrote:

Monika

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In short, the Asbestos Regulators Forum have met and discussed the stop work notices issued by Comcare associated with the NBN rollout. The notices were placed on two telecommunication pits in the suburb of Nicholls. The outcome of the meeting was that the ARF agreed on a coordinated approach with WorkSafe and ACT Health the lead agencies. Samples are currently being analysed at the ACT Government Analytical Laboratory.

WorkSafe and ACT Health will brief the media once the results of analysis are known.

David

<Asbestos and NBN rollout issues in the ACT - Dot Points (3).docx>



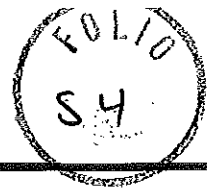
Rees, John

From: Joyce, David
Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2013 2:07 PM
To: Robinson, Heidi; Simmons, Craig; McNulty, Hamish; Walters, Daniel; Barker, Lee; Lasek, Jeremy; Brown, David; Wilson, Denis; Perram, Phillip; Ware, Chris; Brookes, Clare; Rees, John; Langhorne, Melissa
Subject: NBN

Update – for information only.

Comcare has established a hot line to provide advice and answer queries from the public. The hotline number is 1300 366 979.

David



Joyce, David

From: McNulty, Hamish
Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2013 2:16 PM
To: Joyce, David
Subject: RE: NBN

David

Are the test results back yet

Hamish

Hamish McNulty | Executive Director |

| Phone 02 6205 9674 | Fax 02 6207 0123 | Mobile 0418 619 057 |

Infrastructure and Capital Works | Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government

Level 6, TransACT House, 470 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | www.economicdevelopment.act.gov.au

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

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To: Robinson, Heidi; Simmons, Craig; McNulty, Hamish; Walters, Daniel; Barker, Lee; Lasek, Jeremy; Brown, David; Wilson, Denis; Perram, Phillip; Ware, Chris; Brookes, Clare; Rees, John; Langhorne, Melissa

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Subject: NBN
Sensitivity: Confidential

Update- for information only.

Subsequent to the ARF meeting, two further pits in Curtin and Deakin, with similar issues have been identified. Samples from Curtin and Deakin have also been sent for analysis. I understand that the Deakin pit was not part of the NBN rollout. One sample has been as confirmed as containing asbestos.

Telstra has advised that one of the locations pursuant to a Comcare Prohibition Notice has not been sampled at this time, however the A Class Asbestos Assessor will be conducting sampling and testing of a Telstra pit located on Lexcen Avenue, Nicholls today and this information will be included in the report provided to Telstra. It is understood that the results of this analysis will be provided to WorkSafe ACT, for our information.

David



Joyce, David

From: Lasek, Jeremy
Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2013 2:52 PM
To: Joyce, David
Subject: RE: NBN

Sensitivity: Confidential

Brilliant...thanks David.

From: Joyce, David
Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2013 2:49 PM
To: Lasek, Jeremy
Subject: RE: NBN
Sensitivity: Confidential

Jeremy

Minister Corbell's office is being provided with updates regularly. John Rees prepared a brief for the CM on the suspected contamination in Nicholls on Wednesday. I will check TRIM to see where that is at.

I have just been advised that the Deakin pit analysis is negative for asbestos.

I have attached talking points prepared by Health on Wednesday.

David

From: Lasek, Jeremy
Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2013 2:40 PM
To: Joyce, David
Subject: RE: NBN
Sensitivity: Confidential

Hi David

A quick check – what is line of communication on this to Minister's office?

Cheers

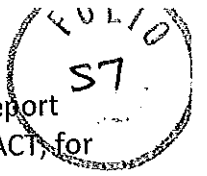
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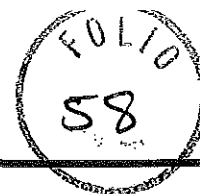
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Telstra pit located on Lexcen Avenue, Nicholls today and this information will be included in the report provided to Telstra. It is understood that the results of this analysis will be provided to WorkSafe ACT, for our information.

David



Rees, John

From: Joyce, David
Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2013 2:55 PM
To: Robinson, Heidi; Simmons, Craig; McNulty, Hamish; Walters, Daniel; Barker, Lee; Lasek, Jeremy; Brown, David; Wilson, Denis; Perram, Phillip; Ware, Chris; Brookes, Clare; Rees, John; Langhorne, Melissa
Subject: NBN rollout

Update - for information only.

The EPA has provided an update for the Deakin sample. There was no asbestos detected in this sample.

David



Joyce, David

From: McCabe, Mark
Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2013 5:27 PM
To: James, Ross (EDD)
Cc: Joyce, David
Subject: RE: EDD 6 NBN Rollout
Attachments: EDD 6 NBN Rollout.docx

Hi

Updated version attached using Track Changes

From: James, Ross (EDD)
Sent: Thursday 6 June 2013 15:07
To: McCabe, Mark
Cc: McCredie, Andrew; Finnan, Ally; Cox, Ian
Subject: FW: EDD 6 NBN Rollout

Hi Mark

Here is our current CM Talkback brief.

We are being asked to update it.

Any words you can provide on the asbestos issue would be welcome.

Regards

Ross James
Senior Manager, Business Development and Engagement
Business Development | Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government
Level 2 Telstra House 490 Northbourne Avenue Dickson ACT 2602
+61 2 6207 1893 | Mob. 0412 177537 | Fax. +61 2 6207 0033
ross.james@act.gov.au
www.business.act.gov.au

From: Finnan, Ally
Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2013 12:26 PM
To: James, Ross (EDD); McCredie, Andrew
Subject: EDD 6 NBN Rollout

Dear Ross, Andrew

Are there any updates to this CM Talk back brief before I submit it to MACC today?

Ally



The ACT has been working with Comcare and Telstra in relation to health and safety issues associated with the NBN rollout Australia wide and, in particular, the issues associated with work involving Telstra 'pits'.

~~The ACT's Asbestos Regulators Forum met at a specially convened meeting on 5 June 2013 to discuss and formulate a whole of government response to a range of broader issues associated with the NBN rollout. The Work Safety Commissioner and the Chief Health Officer are working together to ensure that neither public or worker safety are compromised these issues are addressed in an appropriate manner.~~

Comment [jw1]: This paragraph is essentially the same as the first. In addition the reference to the ARF will not mean anything to the public. Suggest that it be deleted

~~WorkSafe ACT is working closely with Comcare and Telstra in relation to this issue to ensure that the ongoing management of the NBN rollout is in accordance with ACT legislative and regulatory requirements.~~

~~All NBN work involving Telstra pits has ceased in the ACT until a thorough management strategy has been reviewed and implemented.~~

Comment [jw2]: Again we are being a bit repetitive I think???

Arrangements are now in place for Comcare and the ACT to work in a collaborative manner on this issue. Although Telstra, as the principle contractor for this work, is regulated by the Commonwealth work health and safety regulator, both Comcare and WorkSafe ACT may on occasion collaborate to conduct joint inspections when that is deemed necessary.

Generally ~~a~~Any asbestos containing materials in Telstra pits will almost certainly be in a bonded form. The risk to the wider community of exposure to asbestos fibres because of poor removal practices is therefore considered to be very low. The primary risks associated with ~~such~~the asbestos removal will be occupational.

Comcare has established a hot line to provide advice and answer queries from the public with respect to...... The hotline number is 1300 366 979.

It is important to remind the community that asbestos containing materials have were used extensively within the ACT ~~in the last century~~until the mid 1980's. ~~The and it is to be expected that~~ issues surrounding the use of asbestos, and its removal will exist for decades to come. The important control for the risks associated with this is to ensure that when asbestos containing products are encountered they are properly managed and handled.



Joyce, David

From: Joyce, David
Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2013 2:49 PM
To: Lasek, Jeremy
Subject: RE: NBN
Attachments: Asbestos and NBN rollout issues in the ACT - Dot Points (3).docx; CM Brief _ NBN Rollout- Asbestos.docx

Sensitivity: Confidential

Jeremy

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Update- for information only.

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David

Asbestos and NBN rollout issues in the ACT

Issue

- Late on Monday 3 June 2013, Comcare advised WorkSafe ACT of two pits in the Nichols area where Comcare issued stop work notices last week because they may be of concern. It is understood that one of the sites is close to a primary school.
- The stop work notice is understood to have been issued by Comcare on 29 May 2013
- Bearing in mind that Nichols is a relatively new suburb it would be unlikely that any pits in the suburb would contain asbestos. Therefore the risks of exposure to asbestos would be low.
- Comcare, Worksafe ACT, ACT Health and other involved agencies are working together to ensure that any potential risks to the public are minimised.

Background/Talking Points

- As part of the NBN rollout Telstra is managing issues associated with 'pits' which quite often contain bonded asbestos. 'Pits' provide access to underground cables and are generally located on the footpaths at certain points within suburbs.
- It has recently been reported that the handling of asbestos containing material found in some pits by Telstra subcontractors has been inadequate from a health and safety perspective.
- Comcare and all relevant agencies from state/territory jurisdictions, including the ACT, work jointly on this issue.
- Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral fibre which was used in buildings in the past for its insulating properties and resistance to fire. Damaged material containing asbestos can release fibres into the air that may cause lung disease when inhaled.
- Although there is no completely safe level of exposure to asbestos, the majority of people who have developed illness have had years of exposure to fibres through their work, for example, asbestos miners or builders.
- WorkSafe ACT is the lead agency for matters relating to asbestos in the ACT. They put restrictions on sites where asbestos is found and order works to be done to safely remove the asbestos hazard.
- ACT Health provides support in a variety of ways, including:
 - providing advice on the level of risk; and
 - assessing results of air monitoring and advising on the potential risks of exposure.



Ref

Date 4 June 2013

To Chief Minister

- Director-General
- Acting Deputy Director-General Workforce Capability and Governance

From Acting Director Office of Industrial Relations

Subject Asbestos in Telstra Pits

Critical date and reason

As soon as possible. This matter may be raised in the Assembly

Purpose

To brief you on matters relating to the discovery and disturbance of asbestos during the roll-out of the National Broadband Network.

Background

As part of the NBN rollout Telstra is managing issues associated with 'pits' which were often put in place by the then Post Master General (PMG) and which quite often contain bonded asbestos. Telstra pits provide access to underground cables and are generally located on the footpaths at certain points within suburbs.

Telstra, as a business, is regulated by Comcare in respect of its health and safety obligations under Commonwealth law. Vision-Stream, one of the subcontractors involved in the rollout is also regulated by Comcare.

In some cases there are other subcontractors involved who are regulated by State/Territory regulators such as WorkSafe ACT. In such cases Comcare regulates the activity through the principle contractor, Telstra, and WorkSafe ACT regulates the activity through the subcontractor.

It has recently come to the attention of authorities that the handling of this material by Telstra subcontractors has been inadequate from a health and safety perspective. Comcare is working with Telstra as the principal contractor to address the concerns and insure that the ongoing management of this issue is in accordance with work, health and safety laws. Telstra have publicly accepted responsibility for addressing this matter.

Issues

Arrangements are now in place between Comcare and all relevant state/territory jurisdictions, including the ACT, for Comcare and the relevant state authority to work hand in hand on this issue. Comcare will, in many cases, have the lead since they are responsible for the principle contractor. However there may be joint inspections when work site inspections are deemed necessary and a state or territory subcontractor is involved.

Where enforcement action, such as stop work notices, is deemed necessary, Comcare will generally impose these on Telstra as the principle contractor. A decision will be made on a case-by-case basis whether similar action is required in relation to the subcontractor by WorkSafe ACT.

Late on Monday 3 June 2013, Comcare advised WorkSafe ACT of two pits in the Nicholls area where Comcare issued stop work notices last week because they may be of concern. WorkSafe is seeking clarification of the exact nature of the concern in these instances as one of the sites is close to a primary school. On the other hand, Nicholls is a relatively new suburb and it is not clear how many pits there could contain asbestos. At this point, it is important to note that testing has not been undertaken, and the presence of asbestos cannot be confirmed.

WorkSafe is now working hand in hand with Comcare to ensure that both territory and Commonwealth law requirements are met.

Reporting arrangements are now in place to ensure that both Comcare and WorkSafe ACT share any information regarding this and any future issues which may arise.

The ACT's Asbestos Regulators Forum will be convened on 5 June 2013.

Consultation

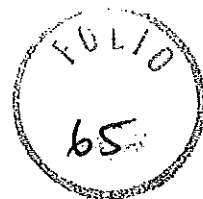
WorkSafe ACT is keeping the asbestos coordinator at CMTD and ESDD updated on any developments in relation to this matter. The Work Safety Commissioner has also been in contact with Paul Kelly and John Woollard from ACT Health.

Financial

Nil

Media

When the public is made aware of the location of areas of potential concern in the ACT, there may be a significant amount of media interest.



Recommendation

That you note the contents of this brief, and note that we will update you on further developments.

Heidi Robinson

Contact Officer: David Joyce / John Rees
Phone: 62050709 / 62051398

Katy Gallagher MLA / /

NOTED /PLEASE DISCUSS



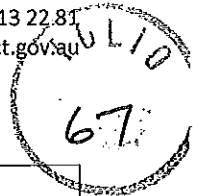
Joyce, David

From: Joyce, David
Sent: Thursday, 6 June 2013 3:01 PM
To: Lasek, Jeremy
Subject: Brief.
Attachments: MIR_NBN.doc

Jeremy

This is the brief provided to Minister Corbell's office.

David



UNCLASSIFIED

TRIM No.:2013/1752
Date Rec'd Minister's Office .../.../...

To: Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations.

From: A/g Director, Office of Industrial Relations

Subject: National Broadband Network (NBN) Rollout – Asbestos

Critical Date: For Noting only.

- DG (JACS) .../.../...
- DDG .../.../...

Recommendation

1. That you:
 - a. Note the information contained within this brief.

NOTED/PLEASE DISCUSS

Purpose

2. To brief you on stop work notices placed on two telecommunication pits in Nicholls by Comcare.

Background

3. As part of the NBN rollout Telstra is managing issues associated with 'pits' which were often put in place by the then Post Master General (PMG) and which quite often contain bonded asbestos. Telstra pits provide access to underground cables and are generally located on the footpaths at certain points within suburbs.
4. Telstra, as a business, is a licensee under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* and is regulated by Comcare in respect of its health and safety obligations under Commonwealth law.
5. The status of sub-contractors engaged by Telstra, Comcare or the NBN is less clear. In some cases there are other subcontractors involved who are regulated by State/Territory regulators such as WorkSafe ACT. In such cases Comcare regulates the activity through the principal contractor, Telstra and WorkSafe ACT regulates the activity through the subcontractor.
6. As you will be aware the management and handling of this material associated with the NBN has been the focus of negative public scrutiny on a national level.
7. Comcare is working with Telstra as the principal contractor to address the concerns and ensure that the ongoing management of this issue is in accordance with work, health and safety laws.

Issues

8. Late on 3 June 2013, Comcare advised the ACT Work Safety Commissioner that two telecommunications pits in the suburb of Nicholls were subject to Comcare stop work notices. These pits were suspected of being contaminated with asbestos.
9. The Asbestos Regulators Forum met at a specially convened meeting on 5 June 2013, to discuss Nicholls and formulate a whole of government response to a range of broader issues associated with the NBN rollout.
10. It was agreed that ACT Work Safe and ACT Health lead on the issues associated with the telecommunications pits.

UNCLASSIFIED



- 11. Subsequent to this meeting the ARF has been advised of similar issues with telecommunication pits in Curtin and Deakin.
- 12. Samples of material taken from these sites have been sent for analysis. One of these samples has been confirmed as containing asbestos.
- 13. Health have provided the attached talking points should the media seek comment from the Minister. As is indicated by these talking points, Health believe that the risk to public health is low.
- 14. Both the Chief Health Officer and the Work Safety Commissioner are available to speak with the media and address their relevant areas of concern.
- 15. It should be noted that Comcare has established a hot line to provide advice and answer queries from the public. The hotline number is 1300 366 979.
- 16. Arrangements are now in place between Comcare and all relevant state/territory jurisdictions, including the ACT, for Comcare and the relevant state authorities to work hand in hand on this issue. Comcare will, in many cases, have the lead since they are responsible for the principal contractor. However there may be joint inspections when work site inspections are deemed necessary and a state or territory subcontractor is involved.
- 17. Where enforcement action, such as stop work notices, is deemed necessary, Comcare will generally impose these on Telstra as the principal contractor. A decision will be made on a case-by-case basis whether similar action is required in relation to the subcontractor by WorkSafe ACT.
- 18. The ARF will discuss issues associated with the continued rollout of the NBN at its scheduled meeting on 7 June 2013.

Financial Implications

19. Nil

Internal Consultation

20. The ARF has been consulted and the asbestos management coordinator is responsible for coordinating the communication of information to all Directorates.

Benefits/Sensitivities

21. When the public has been made aware of the location of areas of potential concern in other jurisdictions, there has been a high degree of media interest which at times has been significantly in excess of the real issues.

Media Implications

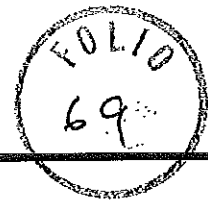
22. When the public is made aware of the location of areas of potential concern in the ACT, there may be a significant amount of media interest. As a proactive measure and as a demonstration of government transparency the Chief Health Officer and the Work Safety Commissioner will brief the media on the results of analysis from the Nicholls pits.

Heidi Robinson
6207 6003
June 2013

Action Officer: David Joyce Phone: 6205 0709
AGREED/NOT AGREED/NOTED/DISCUSS
Simon Corbell MLA /.../...

Performance Assessment

- Satisfactory
- Unsatisfactory



Joyce, David

From: Woollard, John
Sent: Friday, 7 June 2013 3:26 PM
To: Joyce, David
Cc: McCabe, Mark; Robinson, Heidi
Subject: Re: Media Document

Thanks david. Good set of points that should work well for mark at interview

For the media release i think the info at 4 is too technical and 6 needs to be at the local level. For the ACT the national stuff is not really relevant to our message

The health sentence probably needs to follow the generic statements around the existence of asbestos in buildings etc..... Perhaps touch on bonded? Then lead into the ph statementI'll re read the dot points you have sent (can't read the attachment and do this e mail on the I phone) and send you some words and any final comments

Thanks for your work on this

John

On 07/06/2013, at 1:58 PM, "Joyce, David" <David.Joyce@act.gov.au> wrote:

Mark/John

This is the skeleton of the media document.

David

<NBN Media Document.doc>

- 1) We are aware of the issue surrounding the NBN rollout Australia wide.
- 2) The Asbestos Regulators Forum met at a specially convened meeting on 5 June 2013, to discuss and formulate a whole of government response to a range of broader issues associated with the NBN rollout.
- 3) It was agreed that ACT Work Safe and ACT Health lead on the issues associated with the NBN rollout.
- 4) ACT WorkSafe is working closely with Comcare and Telstra in relation to this issue. Comcare is working with Telstra as the principal contractor to address the concerns and ensure that the ongoing management of this issue is in accordance with work, health and safety laws.
- 5) All work associated with the NBN has ceased in the ACT until a thorough management strategy has been implemented.
- 6) Arrangements are now in place between Comcare and all relevant state/territory jurisdictions, including the ACT, for Comcare and the relevant state authorities to work hand in hand on this issue. Comcare will, in many cases, have the lead since they are responsible for the principal contractor. However there may be joint inspections when work site inspections are deemed necessary and a state or territory subcontractor is involved.
- 7) At this stage ACT Health would advise that the risk to the public is low. The primary risk is to those workers working directly on these pits.
- 8) Both the Chief Health Officer and the Work Safety Commissioner are available to speak with the media and address their relevant areas of regulatory responsibility.
- 9) It should be noted that Comcare has established a hot line to provide advice and answer queries from the public. The hotline number is 1300 366 979.
- 10) It is important to remind the community that asbestos containing materials was used extensively within the ACT and this means that issues surrounding the use of asbestos will exist for decades to come. Therefore it is important to remind everybody that the risks of exposure can be managed and that people should take appropriate precautions when handling this material.



Asbestos Regulators Forum

Meeting 07 June 2013

Minutes

Attendees: Mark McCabe (MMc), Steve Edwards(SE), David Brown (DB), Daniel Bailey (DBa), Daniel Walters (DWa), Dennis Wilson(DWi), Craig Simmons (CS), John Woollard (JW), Hamish McNulty (HMc), John Rees (JR)

Item 1 – Previous Minutes

Endorsed without comment.

Item 2 – NBN – Continued Rollout

MMc indicated that he was working with Comcare. MMc further indicated that work had been ceased until clarification had been gained.

DJ indicated that it was a question of asbestos management plans and registers. As a Commonwealth workplace this requirement was provided for in Commonwealth legislation.

JW reinforced this point and questioned the capacity of Telstra and Comcare to manage the issue. JW suggested "how can they manage the risk if they don't know about the asbestos."

JW indicated that MMc should confirm with Comcare and Telstra the ongoing nature of the program and seek out definitive information relating to past work. The Terms of Reference have been drafted for the Asbestos Regulators Forum. This document provides an overview of the objectives which should guide the Asbestos Regulators Forum in developing advice in respect of asbestos regulation, remediation, training, industry oversight and public awareness.

The discussion then centred on issues with Telstra Pits in general and the identification of asbestos containing material which had been identified in another pit not associated with the NBN rollout.

DWa indicated that he would write to Telstra seeking clarification on the future rollout of the NBN and the management plans which they have in place.

Out of Scope