

PCB Removal – New Plymouth Power Station

Project: PCB Transformer Removal
Client: Electricity Corporation of New Zealand Limited
Location: New Plymouth Power Station
Contract Value: NZ\$50,000

Electrix is well known for its willingness to tackle the difficult or unusual electrical projects. PCB (polychlorinated biphenyl) compounds were commonly used for providing electrical insulation in transformers and capacitors. During the past decade PCB's have become recognised as highly toxic and their use discontinued. The NZ Health Department is closely monitoring the removal of all PCB contaminated substances from NZ for destruction in high temperature incinerators.

At New Plymouth Power Station eight 6.6kV/415V 2MVA transformers were identified as PCB insulated and Electrix was contracted to remove them and to install replacements.

Each unit contained 1600 litres of PCB insulating oil which had to be drained into special 210 litre drums. Electrix staff had to wear special safety gear comprising of disposable polypropylene overalls, gloves, full face mask and breathing apparatus. The transformers each weighed four tonnes and were shifted in the confined space using air cushions.



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