

Fact Sheet - Obtaining permission to disturb the site of a serious electricity works accident

1 November 2016



WHAT

This fact sheet provides information about obtaining permission to disturb the site of a serious electricity works accident (SEWA).

This relates to any **person or persons seeking to disturb or interfere with the site of a SEWA for any reason other than to make it safe.**

A SEWA is an accident which:

- ▼ involves electricity works such as power lines, power poles, substations, and associated equipment or structures that form part of an electricity network, **and**
- ▼ causes a person to receive treatment from a health care professional, be hospitalised, suffer permanent disability, die, or be unable to attend work for any period of time.



WHO

The obligation to obtain site disturbance permission applies to anyone that seeks to disturb or interfere with the site of a SEWA for any reason other than to make it safe. In most cases this will be the electricity network operator, but the obligation applies to everyone.



WHY

It is an offence under the *Electricity Supply Act 1995* to disturb or interfere with the site of a SEWA before it has been inspected by an appointed inspector **except:**

- ▼ to make it safe, or

- ▼ with the permission of an inspector.¹



HOW

IPART has appointed SafeWork NSW inspectors to be able to grant site disturbance permission under the provisions of the *Electricity Supply Act*.

Call 13 10 50 to contact an inspector to seek site disturbance permission.

An inspector may grant permission to disturb the site over the phone, or may decide an inspection is required prior to granting permission.



WHAT NEXT

Electricity network operators also have an obligation to notify IPART of all SEWAs. The more critical of these are to be notified directly to SafeWork NSW rather than to IPART.

This notification may be made to SafeWork NSW concurrently with seeking site disturbance permission under the *Electricity Supply Act* and any notification that may be required under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

See IPART's *Electricity Networks Reporting Manual* for further information regarding which SEWAs are to be notified to SafeWork NSW and further details on reporting requirements for all safety and reliability incidents.

¹ Under s 63U of the *Electricity Supply Act 1995*.

