# HV ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

## NEWS

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Pringle Beleski and Associates (PBA) have recently formed a high level specialist cable jointing group called PBA Cables that will be led by Rowland Bartlett and Brian Meredith.

Rowland and Brian are both very experienced industry leaders and are known for developing company capabilities and delivering a high level of service to their clients. This group will enable a greater level of service and delivery to the power industry in New Zealand and Australia.

This cable jointing group was formed to increase the skill level needed in New Zealand and to deliver a high quality cable jointing service. PBA Cables will quickly develop a reputation as the leading specialist cable jointers.

PBA Cables also wants to offer clients a turn-key solutions package which will provide project management, electrical fitting, cable jointing, commissioning and testing capabilities with the aim to have a strong service and delivery model.

This specialist group will have an Australian presence which will initially be focusing on Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia to complement existing PBA business in Australia.

This PBA cable jointing group will have a strong safety and environmental focus and will strive towards being a world class service provider. This will include continual improvement to develop and sustain a culture of doing things right and building successful relationships with our clients. For more information, please contact Rowland Bartlett – rowland.bartlett@pbanz.com



Brian, Rowland and the PBA Cables team



## Tokaanu Power Station Generator Transformers Replacement Project

In August 2011, PBA was awarded a contract with CG Power Systems to replace the four Generator Step-up Transformers at Tokaanu power station for Genesis Energy.

The scope of this work includes managing the removal and disposal of the old transformers before taking delivery of each replacement unit, and completing the installation, assembly, testing and commissioning.

The four transformers will be replaced over a 5 month period. The projects organisation and preparation had been underway for several months when, in December 2011, PBA was awarded a contract with Genesis Energy, also for work at Tokaanu, to replace the 11kV cables between 3 of the generators and associated transformers. An earthing upgrade was also included in the scope. The cables and the transformer replacements will be carried out utilising the same outages and started in late February 2012.

This contract presented a geographic challenge to the business which has been overcome through the flexibility of PBA staff and various contacts within the industry assisting with resourcing. This work at Tokaanu, combined with the Benmore Final Configuration



Project and the Aviemore transformer replacements clearly demonstrates the growth PBA has undergone in the last three years and the company's ability to take on and deliver projects on a steadily increasing scale.

## Transpower SF<sub>6</sub> Contract

PBA has been awarded the Transpower SF<sub>6</sub> Gas Management Contract, this came into effect in May 2011.

The focus of the contract is to manage Transpower's stocks of  $SF_{6'}$  however this also includes:

- SF<sub>6</sub> gas cylinder management
- Gas consolidation
- Cylinder recertification
- SF<sub>6</sub> gas purification
- SF<sub>6</sub> gas disposal

The contract will enable PBA to demonstrate its technical expertise applying new concepts to SF<sub>6</sub> gas management.

The contract started by working with the Transpower contractors on the records for the existing system. PBA have developed and implemented a SF<sub>6</sub> database that follows a step by step gas management process from the time SF<sub>6</sub> cylinders are requested from the Transpower store until their return. This online tracking

database shows the location of all of Transpower's  $SF_6$  cylinders and can be accessed by all Transpower contractors who have been identified as approved handlers.

In addition to this, PBA are assisting Transpower with a review of Transpower's  $SF_6$  standards and providing training in the following areas:

- Awareness
- Handling
- SF<sub>6</sub> equipment and use
- Competency
- Certification

The revised training will provide a better understanding of the requirements and the implementation of best work practices. PBA looks forward to working with Transpower on this contract over the next two years.



## PBA Assisting Rio Tinto in Western Australia

PBA has made a large step forward in the Australian high voltage electricity market by gaining Approved Contractor Status with Rio Tinto. This accreditation acknowledges PBA's entrance into Australia and sets a precedent for future growth in providing technical services to the entire Australasian region.

The Pilbara region in Western Australia supplies 15% of the worlds iron ore production of 1.59 billion tonnes. PBA's technical specialists have recently been at Rio Tinto's Tom Price mine which produces 28 million tonnes of high grade iron ore annually. It has a workforce of 1500 who are based in the nearby town of Tom Price.

PBA was engaged to provide specialist technical knowledge on various equipment including two 20MVA transformer tap changers and associated equipment at the Tom Price mine. PBA specialists also assisted Rio Tinto with a circuit breaker mechanism box replacement.

During the visit to Western Australia the temperatures reached into the early forties in the shade. These extreme conditions in an isolated location provide an appreciation as to why stringent health & safety accreditation is required for Rio Tinto's contractors. The outside working conditions in Western Australia have also given our specialists a new respect for the classic Aussie wave.

PBA's "Service & Delivery" model, backed by systems and policies certified to industry standards, is developing the relationship with Rio Tinto, particularly in the Pilbara region.



PBA Specialists service a Rienhausen tap changer at the Tom Price mine



PBA Technical Manager John Pringle completes testing for the tap changer

#### **PBA 3 Year Anniversary**

PBA is now entering its 4th year as a contractor to the HV industry successfully passing its 3 year anniversary supplying services and delivery to its clients. PBA's emergence and growth has allowed it to enter the Australian market not only in HV but also with a Specialist Cables Division. With a growing team of specialists and the latest test equipment, PBA is focusing on becoming a major technical resource for the Australasian market.



## **PBA** Welcomes Tony Armstrong

PBA is pleased to welcome Tony Armstrong as Chairman of the PBA Board of Directors. Tony has over 25 years experience in the high voltage electricity industry and has held senior roles on several major New Zealand power projects including the HVDC upgrade project in 1990. He is a co-founder of PSC and developed that company to a global specialist consulting firm of over 120 people with offices around the world. Tony has extensive experience in business development and strategic direction that will assist PBA with growth and expansion into the Australian high voltage electricity market.



Tony Armstrong and PBA CEO Rob Silcock

### PBA awarded Health & Safety certification

PBA has achieved certification in several areas crucial to running a successful business in the high voltage electricity industry. These include:

- AS/NZS ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System
- AS/NZS ISO 14001:2004-Environmental Management System
- Rio Tinto Approved Contractor Accreditation Contract Management System Approval
- Employers License Prescribed Electrical Work

Health and safety is an important aspect of PBA's business operations. In adopting AS/NZS 4801:2001 Occupational Health

and Safety Management Systems, PBA have developed a framework that will allow identification and control of Health & Safety risks, reduce the potential for accidents and ensure PBA are complying with all relevant Health & Safety legislation.

During 2011 PBA began work to gain certification with Telarc SAI Limited under AS/NZS 4801:2001 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems. During the evaluation period, the assessment of the company's management systems, audits and documentation met the requirements of the standard and PBA received notification from Telarc SAI confirming PBA had achieved AS/NZS 4801:2001 certification. This certification is a credit to the efforts of all PBA staff and an important milestone for PBA.

### **PBA Safety Summit**

The PBA annual safety summit took place in Christchurch in February. Due to the rapid expansion in staff numbers, this two day event provided a rare opportunity to get the entire PBA team together to discuss issues related to safety and our business strategy moving into 2012.

Safety and compliance are key elements in PBA's success, and is a major focus for the company going forward. Presentations were given by several enthusiastic PBA employees keen to get their message across to the team. Opportunities for improvement were welcomed and the open discussion proved very worthwhile. All staff have had an input into the PBA quality, environmental and



The PRA Team

health & safety systems. This ensures a good understanding of the requirements.

This summit was very successful and planning is already underway for the 2013 PBA safety summit.

