

# Transpower HVDC work



PBA staff (Daniel Moffat, Darren Horton and James Kyle) have been assisting Electrix and Transfield Services with the decommissioning of Pole I equipment at both Benmore and Haywards HVDC terminal stations.

The PBA team reviewed the current state of equipment and compiled an isolation plan to ensure the decommissioning work was completed without impacting on the performance and security of the in service HVDC link. In addition to this, Transpower has requested PBA to assist with reviewing HVDC spares and equipment (including Ex Konti-Scan) made redundant from the decommissioning of Pole I.

*Benmore Pole 1B yard showing the VG3 Gantry removed and lying on the ground.*

## Training

PBA staff members Daniel Moffat, Darren Horton and John Pringle completed a "Train the Trainer" course in June 2009.

The above PBA staff are now assisting the Transpower Training Group for their courses such as Restricted Area Entry (RAE) and Substation Maintainer (SM) Modules for Transpower contractors. The substation maintenance modules that PBA staff have been

assisting with include testing, circuit breakers, cables, capacitor banks, insulating oil, instrument transformers and surge arrestors.

Training and passing on industry knowledge and skills is one of the cornerstone foundations of why PBA was founded. PBA as a group has a large amount of knowledge and expertise that we can pass on; and we look forward to assisting Transpower with their future training programmes.

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Training

Welcome to the first newsletter for Pringle Beleski and Associates Ltd (PBA), technical specialists to the high voltage industry. The concept behind the PBA News will be to update our clients on news and activities within PBA on a regular basis.

## Specialist Services Contract signed with Transpower

PBA has been awarded a contract for the supply of Specialist Technical Services to Transpower including the support and training of their maintenance contractors. The contract covers HVDC specialist equipment, circuit breakers, transformers, primary and secondary systems, project management and training provision.

The scope provides for the supply of Specialist Services to Transpower, or their contractors. The agreement framework allows PBA to work directly with Transpower as-required and is acknowledgment of the people who work for PBA and the skills they possess.

Rob Silcock, PBA CEO commented "this is a major achievement for PBA and is recognition of the highly skilled staff we have working for us. We look forward to providing our specialist services to Transpower and continuing our focus on training and development of skills in the New Zealand high voltage industry."

PBA's people are recognised as some of the top technical specialists in New Zealand's HVDC system and specialist high voltage assets such as circuit breakers and transformers. We have some of the most up-to-date service, test and commissioning equipment available in New Zealand. This equipment compliments our team of skilled specialists.

The culture within PBA emphasises self-motivation and self-management. This ensures our people enjoy what they are doing and are capable of providing innovative solutions for the industry. Through this we build a safe, enjoyable and sustainable place of work.

PBA are High Voltage Electrical Specialists, providing Specialist Technical Services to the New Zealand electricity industry. PBA are located throughout New Zealand, employ some of the most skilled high voltage technical individuals in the country and are 100% Kiwi Owned. PBA has a focus on retaining and increasing the skills and people in the high voltage industry, providing superior technical service to our clients and supporting other industry participants.



*Kim Glover (left), Transpower Stations Manager – Grid Performance and Rob Silcock, PBA Chief Executive Officer signing the contract agreement in Transpower's Christchurch office.*

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# PBA – Join the Revolution!

PBA was formed to bring together some of New Zealand's best technical talent into a single organisation and provide our clients with an exceptional quality service. The group was the concept of John Pringle and Vern Beleski, and their growing desire to retain and increase the skills in the New Zealand HV industry. PBA is proud to be an employer of choice for leading New Zealand industry staff.

PBA is committed to the development of our people through their involvement in the company, by recognising and rewarding our specialists and providing top quality technical service to our clients. At PBA we recognise the importance of a culture that ensures our people enjoy what they are doing and are capable of managing themselves. Through this we build a safe, enjoyable and sustainable place of work.

PBA's vision for the company and the electricity industry in New Zealand is to:

- Build and grow the leading group of technical specialists, and pass on specialist knowledge
- Ensure New Zealand has local and sustainable expertise to look after its key electricity infrastructure by developing and retaining skills in New Zealand
- Be a New Zealand company that is committed to the New Zealand industry
- Provide an environment of safety for staff, public and our environment
- Create a company culture that looks after its team and families

The PBA Team is led by Rob Silcock (CEO), Vern Beleski (Operations Manager) and John Pringle (Field Services Manager) who together bring a number of years experience in the high voltage contracting industry to PBA. The Team at PBA consists of a number of technical specialists who have extensive experience in various aspects of project management, service, installation and commissioning of high voltage equipment.

## PBA ISO 9001 Certification and Employers Licence

PBA has received notification from Telarc SAI confirming PBA has achieved ISO 9001 registration. The registration covers the Quality Management System for provision of the following services:

- HV Equipment Installation and Commissioning
- HV Equipment Servicing
- Project Management

The Telarc SAI audit report included several observations and no non-compliances. It was the PBA teams' collaborative approach with assistance from Phil Hickin of IBIS Ltd to developing the system which made this certification process such a success. This is a great achievement for PBA and a milestone in the companies growth that the whole team can take pride in.

PBA has also been successful in obtaining an Employers Licence to carry out prescribed electrical work in New Zealand's high voltage industry. This was made possible by the hard work carried out by the PBA team and assistance from Phil Hickin on the PBA safety manual and quality management system documentation.



Jeff Silverwood with PBA's ISO 9001 certificate

## PBA offer SF<sub>6</sub> Services to the Electricity Industry

PBA have invested heavily in state-of-the-art equipment for the testing, reclamation and purification of SF<sub>6</sub> gas with minimal emissions to atmosphere.

PBA's staff are some of New Zealand's most experienced in the handling of SF<sub>6</sub> and have had provided significant input into the development of New Zealand industry standards. We offer a management service for SF<sub>6</sub> gas to our clients in addition to testing and recovery services. We also offer a "GasBank" service where we manage and maintain our clients SF<sub>6</sub> at our premises, eliminating your risk with storage and handling.

SF<sub>6</sub> (Sulphur hexafluoride) is a gas used in high voltage circuit breakers as the dielectric and cooling medium. SF<sub>6</sub> provides excellent arc-quenching, thermal transfer and dielectric properties, making it highly suitable as a high voltage dielectric. This has led to the development of smaller, cheaper and higher voltage circuit breakers. All of these benefits come at a cost however; SF<sub>6</sub> is the most potent greenhouse gas known with a global warming potential 23,000 times that of CO<sub>2</sub>. This means minimisation of SF<sub>6</sub> emissions to atmosphere is critical through correct handling, management and maintenance practices. PBA are fully committed to ensuring a sustainable future through greenhouse gas reduction.

PBA's SF<sub>6</sub> equipment includes an Enervac GRU-6 Gas Cart, a Shaw Dew Point meter, Rikenkieke Purity meter and Enervac Decomposition meter. The gas cart has a three-stage compressor allowing the cart to pull equipment down to 50mBar to achieve 99.6% gas reclamation, one of only a few portable units in New Zealand with this capability. The compression ratio of 1000:1 allows the SF<sub>6</sub> to transform into liquid phase in the cylinders allowing large quantities of SF<sub>6</sub> to be reclaimed into cylinders. Filters are present to dry the SF<sub>6</sub> and filter gaseous and particulate decomposition products down to 0.1microns in size. With our certified test equipment, PBA are able to carry out on-site testing of gas, as well laboratory testing of SF<sub>6</sub> samples.

PBA staff are some of the leading SF<sub>6</sub> experts in New Zealand. Our people are familiar with most types of SF<sub>6</sub> circuit breakers used in New Zealand and have extensive experience with management, industry best practice handling techniques, testing and maintenance. With PBA's experience, equipment, expertise and commitment to the environment we can offer the best possible service to the New Zealand Electricity Industry.



PBA's Enervac GRU-6 SF<sub>6</sub> Gas Cart and SF<sub>6</sub> accessories are easily transported in our vans.