



Electrical Engineering Safety

Decision Sheet 1.1

Abandoned Mines

A basis for consistent application of Electrical Engineering Safety issues across NSW

Decision Sheets are developed by the Inspectors of Electrical Engineering in response to issues raised or questions asked by others in the DPI, in particular Mine Safety Operations and from our external clients. They are for use by any staff in Mine Safety Operations, but primarily by Electrical Engineering staff. They can be distributed externally to the DPI.

Original issue 11/11/2003

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Preamble

When mines are closed or abandoned, they are often left with residual electrical hazards. This is often coupled with a reduction in site security. These may present a risk to the public who may enter the site.

Points for consideration



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Issue

- Site security - access by public, children.
- Aerial lines de-energised or properly terminated.
- Security of power poles.
- Height of spans etc especially if scrapping operations to be undertaken in the future.
- Isolation of electrical plant.
- Prevention of unauthorised access.
- Extraneous conductors and cables earthed.
- Other OHS issues related to abandoned plant. In particular PCB's in transformers, power factor correction equipment and fluorescent lights.
- If mains power remains connected to any abandoned mine, the electrical installation must comply with AS/NZS3000 and AS3007 as a minimum.

Position

When a mine is officially abandoned, the abandonment must ensure the above points are considered and acted upon.

