



Tuesday, May 16 2017

### Transformer work well advanced

The eight transformers, used to convert low voltage power from Hazelwood Power Station to high voltage for distribution to the grid, are in the process of disconnection.

Alongside this operation, the oil inside the disconnected transformers is being safely removed as are the overhead wires, once used to send power from the station to the AusNet Switchyard.

As part of the station decommissioning project, employees from local contractor BMC are carrying out the electrical disconnection of the transformers.

Senior Project Engineer, Kashif Siddique, said a great deal of preparation went into this part of the decommissioning.

“We needed to secure approval from our two external agencies, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and Ausnet, for permanent disconnection,” Mr Siddique said. “This process is much different to the normal maintenance of the transformers.”

When Hazelwood was operating, it generated power at 16.5kV. The transformers then converted this to 220kV, sending it to the Ausnet Switchyard where it was then dispatched into the grid.

Each transformer weighs around 175 tonne with the disconnection project expected to take a month to complete.

Mr Siddique said BMC was very experienced in high voltage electrical work. “Our priority is to ensure that everything we do, is done safely with any risk mitigated,” he said.

Meanwhile, following the approval of a Waste Management Plan by the EPA, the removal of oil from the disconnected transformers is also underway. The eight transformers have more than 740,000 litres of oil, once used to cool the transformers.

Due to the specialisation of this operation, an outside contractor has been engaged.





Large B Double trucks pull alongside the transformers and are filled with oil, pumped via a specially equipped vehicle fitted out with the pumping station. The oil is then safely disposed of in a special waste facility offsite, under EPA regulations.

AusNet employees are also disconnecting the high voltage cables between the power station and switchyard, starting on Unit 5 last week.

Three lines are connected between each of the station's eight units and the nearby switchyard.

