

Natalie Hunt [DPMC]

From: Dinah Okeby <dinah.okeby@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 24 May 2018 10:58 AM
To: Information [DPMC]
Cc: Rob Carr
Subject: FW: Official Information request - Location of Heritage Nitrate Film Dangerous Goods Vault at AM Radio Transmission Site.

Categories: Log

Hi - an ack'd OIA for you
Thanks
Dinah

-----Original Message-----

From: P L Ford [mailto:fyi-request-7928-e2f4abc1@requests.fyi.org.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 24 May 2018 10:56 AM
To: J Ardern (MIN)
Subject: Official Information request - Location of Heritage Nitrate Film Dangerous Goods Vault at AM Radio Transmission Site.

Dear Jacinda Ardern,

Two years ago, when you were opposition spokesperson for Culture and Heritage, we corresponded about the risks associated with the location at the High Power AM Radio Transmission site at Titahi Bay Wellington of Nga Taonga Sound and Vision's dangerous goods vault store for the long term storage of pre 1950 Nitrate Films. At that time I was unable to convince you or the then Minister for Culture and Heritage Maggie Barry that the problem was serious enough to require an investigation.

Following the change of government I continued to express my concerns by writing to the Chief Executive of WorkSafe NZ and the Minister responsible, MP Iain Lees-Galloway. CE Nicole Rosie did not reply but to his credit finally MP Iain Lees-Galloway asked WorkSafe management to re-assess the situation.

I offered to provide WorkSafe with details of two international standards I expected the site would normally be expected to comply with:
"PD CLC/TR 50427:2004 Assessment of inadvertent ignition of flammable atmospheres by radio-frequency radiation — Guide" and "Standard for the Storage and Handling of Cellulose Nitrate Film NFPA-40 2016 Edition".

Although the site fails both of the above international safety recommendations/standards, Mr Humphries, Acting General Manager of WorkSafe, has advised it is not mandatory for WorkSafe NZ to follow them.

A similar Radio Frequency Radiation situation arose at Homebush, Sydney, Australia in 2003. A local council permitted the erection of an apartment block about 200 metres from an AM Radio Transmission mast energised by two 5 Kw transmitters. When a builder received Radio Frequency burns the Radio Stations were ordered to cease transmission from the particular mast and an investigation was carried out. The result was the Australian Government admitted construction so close to a mast should not have been approved.

The replacement 220m mast at Titahi Bay due to be erected later this year, will be approximately 130 metres from the dangerous goods vault, and will be energised by 50 Kw transmitters. This is worse than the situation in Australia.

Mr Simon Humphries has admitted that WorkSafe do not have copies of the international safety standards quoted above, but he was instead able to conclude that Nga Taonga Sound and Vision had adequately addressed the

problem of risk of ignition from Radio Frequency Radiation. Apparently nothing further would be done unless the risks changed after the 220m high replacement mast is erected and energised.

My OIA request is for any information in Government Legislation that permits WorkSafe NZ to refuse to purchase/consider the recommendations in international safety standards when they do not have adequate knowledge themselves and/or take into account similar matters of significance such as the Australian incident.

Yours faithfully,

P L Ford

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