



An artist's impression of one of the options for the fence line for the planned Ballarat East Zone Substation now subject to community consultation.

Ballarat East Zone Substation

Site Soil Testing and Management

The safety of the community and our employees is our top priority.

As part of the construction of the Ballarat East Zone Substation, we have undertaken a comprehensive soil assessment to identify and manage any potential environmental risks. This fact sheet provides the latest updates on soil testing and management at the site and what measures we will implement to protect both people and the environment. Soil testing and management are standard procedures and are very common at construction sites to make sure they are safe and comply with environmental guidelines.

Why soil testing is important

Soil testing is an important part of any construction project, and even more so in areas with a history of industrial activity like the Ballarat East Zone Substation site.

Soil can contain contaminants and identifying these before construction allows us to manage and dispose of the soil responsibly, minimising any impact on the surrounding community and ensuring we comply with Environmental Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) standards.

Overview of soil testing

In line with EPA guidelines, we conducted soil testing across 14 different locations throughout the site.

These samples were collected by qualified professionals to ensure accurate and reliable results.

Each sample was tested for a range of common contaminants and pollutants.

The test results help us determine the best methods for managing and disposing of the soil.

Findings and classification

Based on the results of the testing, the majority of the soil at the site was classified as Category D.

Under EPA guidelines, Category D represents a low level of contamination, meaning that the soil contains low levels of contaminants, which are often present in former industrial zones.

These contaminants are present in concentrations that pose minimal risk when managed properly and the soil is suitable for industrial waste disposal.

Safety measures

To ensure the health and safety of our workers and the surrounding community, we have implemented a series of stringent safety measures during the soil management process including:

- Dust suppression: To help avoid dust becoming airborne, we use water trucks and other dust suppression techniques, particularly during dry weather and periods of excavation.
- Contaminated soil handling: Soil with higher contaminant levels is safely transported to EPA-approved disposal facilities for proper disposal. We will test any soil before it is transported offsite to ensure it is disposed of correctly.

Disposal and environmental protection

In compliance with EPA guidelines, the soil identified as Category D will be transported to EPA-permitted industrial waste disposal sites. These facilities are specifically designed to handle this type of material.

We understand that construction projects can raise concerns in the community, particularly when it comes to environmental impacts. That's why we are committed to operating transparently and keeping the community informed.

We will be managing the soil safely in accordance with EPA regulations for removal, transportation and containment.

These measures help protect the environment while keeping employees and nearby residents safe.