Response to Adam Walters, Channel 7, on Port Kembla Copper stack demolition

Tuesday, 11 February 2014

Tests in 2011 showed that “gaskets” (sealing materials) within the Port Kembla Copper (PKC) stack contained asbestos – this is acknowledged in a number of reports published on the department’s website.

However, between April and August in 2013, consultants Precision Demolition removed all of the gaskets from the stack – along with bricks surrounding the gaskets.

The 2012 Clearsafe report you refer to was completed for PKC before the company made a decision to remove all of the asbestos from the stack – and is therefore no longer valid.

Following removal of the gaskets, no asbestos was detected by consultants Airsafe in samples from the stack’s inside and outside concrete shell, or in samples from the stack’s brickwork.

In August 2013, Clearsafe issued an Asbestos Visual Clearance Certificate following an internal inspection of the stack from top to bottom (levels 1-21).

Subsequent testing by Workcover NSW and the Environment Protection Authority also found that no asbestos remained in the stack.

The current demolition plans were approved with the knowledge that all asbestos has been removed from the stack.

Further information on the Port Kembla stack demolition can be found at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/portkemblastack