

**WorkSafe Services**

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**Services de travail sécuritaire**

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June 27, 2006

"The Employer"

The Chief Compliance Officer is writing in response to the employer's email dated June 23, 2006 requesting a deviation in relation to the employer's seismic blasting operation. The Section of the Regulation affected by this deviation is the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*, General Regulation 91-191, Section 167(3) that states:

- 167(3)** *A blaster shall ensure that electric initiation of blasting is not used*
- (a) where there is a danger from extraneous electricity, or*
  - (b) when blasting within 100 m of electric power lines.*
- 93-8; 97-121*

In the employer's request, the employer states that the PITS program states 60 metres from power lines and 15 metres from residential power lines and it is the employer's request to do this for the employer's seismic operation.

The reason for the employer's request is that if the employer goes 100 metres from the power line, it would put the employer into the next source line and it would give the employer better data if the employer could close up the gap to 60 metres.

It is the Chief Compliance Officer's understanding that one way to ensure that there is no danger from extraneous electricity is to conduct a test for stray current and, if the results of the tests indicate that the amperage does not exceed 50mAmps, the employer would be in compliance with Section 167(3)(a) and therefore a deviation would not be required.

According to the information the employer has provided, blasters will conduct such tests when loading and shooting is on going.

By copy of this letter, the Chief Compliance Officer has advised WHSCC staff of the decision.

Yours truly,

Chief Compliance Officer

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