

Human Health Risk Management

For VNIW Activities under Land Access
Agreement

9/09/2024



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Version control

Version	Release date	Changes
# 1.0	25/10/2024	

1 Scope

Transmission Company Victoria (TCV) Human Health Risk Management Policy (the Policy) establishes the preventative strategies and processes which mitigate identified risk to human health associated with Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNIW) related activities undertaken on private landholdings.

This Policy applies to all VNIW project related field operations and activities that could impact on human health.

This incorporates activities of TCV personnel as well as agents, consultants, and contractors to TCV engaged in delivery activities for the early works phase of VNIW.

1.1 Associated Policies and Plans

Policy / Plan	Publicly Available
TCV Health and Safety Policy	Yes
TCV Environmental Policy	Yes
Biosecurity Policy and Procedure	Yes
Fire Risk Management Procedure	Yes

1.2 Contacts

Comments or questions on this Policy can be directed to:

Role	Contact Number
TCV Information Number:	1300 687 327
Address of TCV Office	Level 12/171 Collins St Melbourne

TCV will make this Policy publicly available on the website and communicate with the local community groups and emergency services in relation to any query regarding this Policy.

1.3 Emergency Contacts

All emergency responses should be directed to the appropriate first responder.

2 Policy

TCV commits to ensuring that the VNIW delivery of early works has appropriate processes and procedures to deliver our strategic objective of preventing harm to the health of a landholder, land users or any person affected by the activities of the TCV.

This Policy implements a human health risk management strategy that ensures the prevention of transmission of illness/disease to or between landholders, project personnel and the broader community, and complying with legislative requirements and meets the standards, declarations and requirements of Victorian or Federal Government Health authorities.

TCV will design and apply risk management strategies to:

- Minimise the risk of illness transmission sources by any VNIW related fieldwork activity.
- Minimise impact if illness occurs directly from TCV activities through appropriate health incident response.
- Meet the requirements of the Victorian Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act 2004, OHS regulations 2017 and Land Access Code of Practice 2024 (LACOP).
- Regularly review and develop this plan for continual improvement, learnings from incidents and future control strategies.
- Raise awareness of all aspects of VNIW health management procedure through landholder liaison, public communications, and the Victorian Essential Services Commission (ESC) reporting.

2.1 Aim

The Aim of this Policy is to manage health risks associated with the activities of VNIW early works in order to ensure the safety of landowners, public and VNIW personnel in accordance with this Policy.

2.2 Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Describe the strategies and programs implemented to mitigate the risk to human health, from project fieldwork activities,
- Describe the processes and procedures for monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of the human health risk management strategies and programs,
- Describe the corrective action processes and procedures for ensuring effectiveness of the human health risk management program,
- Describe the processes and procedures that apply to VNIW early works operations, in high human health risk areas during any declared disease period.

Achievement of these objectives is facilitated through strategies that ensure;

- Our project people are all trained in their tasks and in biosecurity and illness transmission prevention behaviours.

- Our equipment, plant and procedures are suitable for the task and don't provide contamination sources.
- Landholders / land users' human health management requirements are complied with at all times unless it is not safe to do so.
- Consultation with municipalities, landowners, and other affected persons to ensure the effective prevention of illness transmission where applicable.

3 Roles and Responsibilities

Table 1 - Roles and Responsibilities

Position or Group	Responsibility
Landholder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in good faith with landholder liaison officers on the topic of human health risk. • Identify any human health risks. • Set the human health risk obligations within a land access agreement.
Land User	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in good faith with land liaison officers on the topic of human health risk. • Identify any human health risks.
Landholder Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage in good faith with landowners and land users on the topic of human health risk. • Document all obligations within a land access agreement. • Monitor the implementation of all obligations under a land access agreement. • Abide by the terms of the land access agreement and other obligations under the land access code of practice.
TCV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement this policy and associated procedures. • Monitor and take advice from Government health services on human health mitigation strategies. • Respond to landowner questions, concerns or complaints in accordance with TCV's dispute management process. • Adjust, modify, or make good any requests to process or policy to support a land access agreement (within legal parameters). • Abide by the terms of the land access agreement and other obligations under the land access code of practice.
Delivery Partners (contractors)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abide by the terms of the land access agreement and other obligations under the land access code of practice. • Abide by the human health risk management strategies of TCV.

4 Risk Identification – Planning, Preparation and Mobilisation

4.1 TCV HSE Management System

TCV's Safety Health and Environment Management Plan (SHEMP) sets the mandatory minimum standards and compliance behaviours for healthy and safe work.

The SHEMP requirements are translated into practical operational controls in the Field Access Request process (FAR), and the delivery partner organisations are guided on mandatory procedures for managing health and safety risks through the application of the Fieldwork Protocol Handbook.

These procedures and processes for risk management produce a safety risk assessment, of which a part is the human health risk assessment that identifies the risk of vector or biological disease spread and VNIW activity generated health risks.

This assessment will identify and list the controls to be implemented to prevent, minimise and respond to health incidents and the monitoring and review requirements for Human Health Risk for the delivery of VNIW early works within TCV's area of responsibility.

4.2 External Authorities – LGA, Department of Health, Agriculture Victoria

The VNIW corridor covers four local government areas (LGAs) and their respective health department structures, hospitals, community health centres and clinics.

TCV will consult and obtain any human health risk management related procedures, including local restrictions or precautions and emergency response arrangements, from Victorian health and agricultural authorities, and from those local landholders, land users, community groups and commercial operations on whose lands project activities will be undertaken.

These will form part of the Land Access Agreement (LAA) conditions of access.

TCV will make the Human Health Risk Management Policy publicly available on the website and communicate with the local community groups and health services in relation to any query regarding this plan.

4.3 Infectious Diseases Covid-19, Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus

Any project personnel who test positive for infectious disease are excluded from entering any property and performing works.

All project personnel must wear masks and practice hygiene controls if requested to by a landholder when coming into contact with any landholder/land user or entering any residence of a landholder/land user.

- TCV requires all project personnel to be free of signs of illness and symptoms prior to mobilisation. If any symptoms are experienced, they must be reported immediately to their supervisor, and the person excluded from work.

- Any TCV project personnel who have been on a property that has been declared under notifiable diseases within the infectious period will be excluded from entering any other property as soon as the notification is known.
- If any TCV project personnel become ill during land access activities, they must not come into contact with any other person or animal on the land and are to report immediately to their supervisor then remove themselves from the property or residence of an affected person.
- Any confirmed infectious disease will require clean down of any equipment, plant, and vehicle that the infected person(s) have contacted on the land.
- TCV will notify the landholder/land users of the illness onset once confirmed as a courtesy, and will maintain follow up support to affected persons through the Landholder Liaison officer.

4.4 Zoonotic Diseases

Zoonoses are diseases that can be spread from animals to humans, some are very serious such as Hydatids, Anthrax, Hendra, Avian Influenza, Tularaemia, Leptospirosis and Brucellosis.

The VNIW corridor covers animal farming operations, any declaration of any zoonoses outbreak in Victoria will be included in the FAR process.

- TCV will be informed by any declarations, notifications or warnings from Agriculture Victoria, and or conditions imposed by landowner.
- TCV will undertake a risk assessment of conditions applied to the land or applicability of the zoonoses risk to specific animal stock and monitor those whilst project activities are underway.
- Should TCV determine the need to proceed with activities on property or regions with a declared warning, TCV will assess the risk in association with the landholders and agree to the controls for access.
- During works TCV will monitor conditions and liaise with landholders throughout the access period and make changes to works programs and inter property movements.
- TCV requires all project personnel including subcontractors and agents to work under hygiene and transmission prevention practices as documented in TCV's biosecurity policy.
- TCV requires all personnel to keep distance actively always from animals (including birds and poultry) and their grazing areas on the land. This includes not taking water from any stock water points such as troughs, dams or irrigation channels for any TCV purposes.

4.5 TCV Activity Human Health Risk Management

Any TCV related work activity identified that may potentially generate health risk will be assessed in collaboration with the landholder / land user and agreed controls put in place to prevent this occurring.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Chemicals brought on to land.
- Noise and vibration from any equipment on the land.
- Fume or emission from any activity on the land.
- Accidental exposure of pre-existing contaminated waste / carcass through activity on the land.

5 Incident Management

5.1 Incident Response

TCV project personnel undertaking land activities, including on property meetings, must have a task, activity or work safety risk assessment and emergency response procedures and equipment as part of their FAR approval. This risk assessment identifies human health risks and sets out the controls required.

The emergency procedure must then provide adequate communications and response procedures for the human health risk described. TCV personnel will work with the landowner / land user to ensure agreement on resources and equipment (including communications methods) available for any health incident response.

5.2 Incident Notification and Reporting

TCV has complaint notification procedures for any VNIW related incident including health incidents in accordance with obligations under the Land Access Code of Practice.

5.3 Incident Outcomes and Communication

TCV personnel undertake debriefing meetings post incident to identify any learnings and to provide early response for any adverse impacts individuals may be experiencing.

TCV captures all related incidents which are summarised, reviewed and key learnings used to improve the projects human health risk controls for future field activities.

Communications regarding incidents and learnings are shared by TCV across project organisations also delivering in their areas of responsibility for VNIW. This is done via:

- Safety Bulletins
- Safety meetings.
- Safety moments in all project meetings.
- Document management communications across VNIW delivery partners and other projects.

5.4 Monitoring and Auditing

In accordance with the SHEMP TCV actively reviews and assesses the effectiveness of process, procedures and controls.

Compliance of contractors is measured through an active audit program.

Non-compliances are reported in accordance with ESC reporting obligations.

5.5 Communication and Reporting

TCV has internal communications and reporting processes for safety, health and environmental compliance, incidents and any work activities conducted under the Victorian Essential Services Commission Land Access Code of Practice conditions of a Land Access Agreement or Section 93 Authorisation.

These processes ensure that the affected landholder/land user(s) are communicated with about any activities that affect them or impact their property, and that they receive all reports required under the conditions of access to their property.

TCV is also required to provide the Essential Services Commission with summaries of communications with landholders/stakeholders, activity, and incident/compliance reports. TCV will meet the public communications requirements of the Essential Services Commission.

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