

CASE STUDY

CLIENT	AGL Energy Limited
INDUSTRY	Energy Sector
SCOPE OF WORK	Assessment of Turbine hub as a confined space
KEY DELIVERABLES	<p>The objective of the project was to obtain an independent assessment of the Suzlon S88 turbines, confirming whether the design in combination with the work needed to be performed by AGL and contractor personnel inside the Suzlon S88 Wind Turbine Generator (WTG) requires the space to conform to the definition of a confined space as per:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Compliance Code - Confined Spaces, Edition No. 1 (WorkSafe Victoria) September 2008;• AS/NZ 2865 (2009) - Safe working in a confined space; and the• Model Code of Practice - Confined Space, December 2011

OUTCOMES

In order to undertake the assessment, AGL required that the auditor have Work safely at heights and Vertical rescue Nationally Recognised Training unit qualifications TCA Partners were able to easily comply with this requirement as their HSE Specialists hold these units of competency.

AGL and REpower Australia documentation relating to the design, operation and maintenance activities undertaken inside at WTG hub was reviewed and a site inspection was conducted in December 2012 at AGL's Oaklands Hill Wind Farm.

Based on an analysis of the hub space and the work undertaken in the hub as part of the document review and site inspection (and associated interviews), TCA Partners was able to confirm to AGL that the Suzlon S88 WTG hub satisfies the elements of the Compliance Code - Confined Spaces, Edition No. 1 (WorkSafe Victoria) September 2008, AS/NZ 2865 (2009) - Safe working in a confined space and the Model Code of Practice - Confined Space, December 2011 as a confined space.

As part of assessment, TCA noted a number of related procedural and/or underlying system deficiencies which need to be addressed as part of the management of work activities within the hub.

As a result of the assessment, AGL and REpower Australia and implementing a number of procedural changes which will allow AGL and REpower Australia personnel to continue working safely in the WTG turbine hub.

