

Safety Alert

Issued By: Director of Technical Affairs



Subject: Switching – Coordination with Control Person

Date: November 13, 2005

Summary of Incident:

On October 2nd, grounds were applied to a live 11 kV cable which subsequently caused a fault and a corresponding interruption in service. Fortunately, no injuries were sustained.

The authorized person and his helper (a competent person authorized to switch under the direction of the authorized person) were following a switching (maneuvering) form that had been completed by the control person for the system. Although the helper had concerns over the instructions, both he and the authorized person failed to contact the control person to clarify. Furthermore, both the authorized person and his helper failed to contact the control room immediately prior to commencing switching operations. Such communication is required to confirm that the switching sequence is still valid and to ensure that control is aware of the pending changes to the system configuration.

Although operator error was the root cause of the incident, a contributing factor was the company's failure to monitor and enforce compliance with established system safety rules.

Recommendations:

1. All switching operations must be performed in strict adherence with the system safety rules.
2. Authorized/Competent persons must contact the Control person immediately prior to commencing switching and the switching plan must be confirmed (repeated back) by both parties.
3. If any confusion arises during switching operations, all work must cease and the control person must be contacted to resolve the matter prior to resuming activities.

For Further Information contact:

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