NORTHERN POWERGRID

SAFETY BULLETIN

A SAFETY INCIDENT HAS TAKEN PLACE



Application of circuit main earths on 11kV pole termination	
Issued to:	All operational staff and service partners
Date of Incident:	17 June 2026
Location:	Dairy Farm substation
Classification:	Operational Near Miss
Contact:	Health, Safety & Training
Issue Date:	27 August 2026

OVERVIEW

An engineer booked an outage to enable replacement of the 11kV switchgear at Church Balk School substation. The outage booking form was submitted with a portable circuit main earth to be applied on the overhead conductors at Dairy Farm substation.

The switching schedule was returned to the engineer with the portable circuit main earth to be applied at the 11kV pole termination at Dairy Farm substation. The engineer had been on leave prior to the outage and whilst the switching schedule was checked and returned to control, they did not notice the change in the location of the circuit main earth from the line conductors to the pole termination.

On the day of the outage the circuit main earth was applied by a line team and neither the engineer nor a second engineer under supervision questioned the placement of the circuit main earth.

On completion of the work a Sanction for Test was taken out to complete commissioning tests. Under this safety document the line team disconnected the earth at Dairy Farm substation by cutting the droppers to enable testing of the 11kV cable.

A third engineer who attended site to assist in the testing identified that the position of the circuit main earth required the line team to work in proximity to the transformer droppers which were outside of the section of network released under the safety document.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Human Performance Improvement Tools

- **Self Checking** – take time to think about the intended action and the expected outcome.
- **Two Minute Rule** – take time before the start of the job to make yourself aware of the work environment and conditions.
- **STOP when unsure** – when confronted with a situation that creates a question stop and get help.

Corrective Actions

- **Switching Schedule verification** – The review of the switching schedule by the field engineer and return to control is an important control in our operational procedures.