NORTHERN POWERGRID

SAFETY BULLETIN

A SAFETY INCIDENT HAS TAKEN PLACE



Operational incident during protection maintenance	
Issued to:	All Operational Staff and Service Providers
Date of Incident:	08 May 2026
Location:	Hunningley 132/33kV substation
Classification:	Operational Incident
Contact:	Health, Safety & Training
Issue Date:	01 June 2026

OVERVIEW

Technical Services engineers had been completing planned protection maintenance at Hunningley 132/33kV substation and connected substations for a number of days.

On the final day of the planned works two engineers were undertaking protection maintenance at Hunningley substation on the Grid Transformer 1 relay panels and the Hunningley BESS feeder. The customer at Hunningley BESS was completing work on their private network at the same time which had required an OI&E certificate to be issued to the customer.

On completion of the work one of the engineers spoke with the control engineer to cancel the safety documents and commence switching to return the feeder to service. The control engineer successfully closed the 132kV busbar isolator by telecontrol but was unable to close the 132kV feeder isolator. Instructions were issued to the engineer to close this locally.

The isolator would not close locally which required the engineer to undertake investigations into the protection scheme. The engineer began to feel some time pressure as the customer was expecting restoration of their supply and there was a scheduled control desk handover.

Having resolved the issue the engineer returned to the relay panel and mistakenly operated the 132kV circuit breaker instead of the 132kV feeder isolator. This caused a short section of 132kV busbar to be energised.

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:

- Remind operational colleagues of the importance of applying the HPI tools whilst switching and following established practices for panel address.
- Technical Services management team to consider whether the relay panel (see picture) can be modified to make the circuit breaker operating handle visibly different to the isolator operating handles.