




Safety Alert – SA390

Near Miss – Underground Cable Strike

Incident		Description	
Date of Even	27/04/2017	14:00	Hamilton Substation
Investigation Status:		Ongoing	
Event Description:	<p>During excavation to install ODJB182. Northpower subcontractor hit an underground cable. The cable insulation was damaged but no damage was done to its armour. It is unknown at this stage if the cable is in service, but everything indicates that it is a redundant cable. No warning tape, mag slab or pvc conduit was found before hitting the cable, although it was known that a non-identified service was underground (earth, cable, oil pipe). Permit to dig was in place, correctly applied and measures implemented as per Maintenance Contractor recommendations.</p> <p>The digger operator involved is experienced, the digging was done as per other excavations on the yard, the equipment and the operator competencies were in order.</p>		 <p>Cable insulation damaged</p>
Conclusion:	<p>The digger bucket inadvertently damaged the cable when removing the crushed rocks on the excavation area although the cable was not located within that ground layer (negative identification). This could have been prevented by making the cable visible (positive identification) before removing any ground layer.</p> <p>Failure to identify the service before removing the first layer of soil.</p>		
Actions Required / Messages:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider all options for implementing safe digging practice in accordance with SMP 06.19.003 Minimize excavation by design as in this case the ODJBs could have been placed on the existing ducts from the start. 		
TP.SS.06.19.SA2	Permit to Dig Requirements for Transpower Ground Disturbance Work		
Incident Contact Person:	Janine Wagstaff		