

Issued to:
Location:

SAFETY BULLETIN SB 1/2016

Infringement of Safety Distance from 11kV Overhead Conductors without a Permit to Work

On a recent job to adjust the tap changer position on two pole mounted transformers, access was gained to a work position that involved infringement of the Safety Distance from exposed 11kV overhead conductors without the issue of a Permit to Work (PTW).

The 11kV conductors and transformers were made dead and isolated for the anticipated tap change adjustment. The conductors were proved Dead on site, however no earths or PTWs were issued to allow access within the Safety Distance from the exposed conductors.

The Senior Authorised Person instructed the adjustment of the externally mounted tap changer to reduce the output voltage of the transformers. This operation required access to within the 'Working and Access Clearance' and the Safety Distance from the exposed 11kV conductors.

The recommended minimum 'Working and Access Clearance' on this occasion for this activity should have been 1.1m, which includes an Application Factor to ensure no encroachment of the 0.8m Safety Distance will occur.

WPD Distribution Safety Rules - Rule 4.4.2 states:

'....., no Person Shall allow any part of their body to approach exposed High Voltage Conductors, or insulators supporting such Conductors, within the Safety Distance specified in Rule 4.4.1 (0.8m as specified above) unless the Conductors have been made safe for work and a Safety Document issued as required by Rule 4.1.1' (i.e. Dead, Isolated, Earthed, Screened, Identified and Released for work with a safety document (DIESIR)).

WPD Standard Technique ST:OS5A section 1.1 requires:

Control Measures for work to take place on or within the Working and Access Clearance of any part of the High Voltage System (1.1m as specified above) in accordance with WPD Distribution Safety Rule (DSR) 4.1 (DIESIR) ... Shall be communicated to the person in charge of the work and all members of the Working Party by means of a formal, written Permit-to-Work (PTW).

Follow-Up Actions

All Operational staff shall be briefed about this incident by their line managers and shall be issued with a personal copy of this safety bulletin.

This bulletin is issued without prejudice to any investigation.