HSE Alert Form

Alert Number: **2014.29**

eSafe No		Location		Date	12 August 2014

Description of Hazard/Incident *(What happened?)*

AEM air break handles with lighter gauge steel are bending at the connection point.

Extent of Impact *(Details of injury, environmental harm, equipment damage, etc.)*

- Nil Injuries.
- Damage to handle.

Key Facts *(What are the key facts ?)*

- A design change in late 2008 resulted in the material for the operating handle being reduced from 5mm to 2.5mm thick.
- Air break switches supplied from 1 January 2009 until 31 December 2013 are affected by this change. This is approximately 2500 units. It has been observed during this time, that where there is resistance in operation of the handle, it has bent at connection point as shown in the enclosed photo.
- Where the handle is bent and fatigued it may not operate the ABS correctly.

Actions *(Information on corrective actions implemented that may prevent harm and or assist others in preventing a similar occurrence)*

- Distribution Network Standards group is currently pursuing the issue with the manufacturer.
- Do not use excessive force when opening or closing the ABS Switch. Use a firm deliberate action to operate an ABS.
- The Switching Operator shall follow the standard work practice SP0305 Operating Air Break Switches (ABS) SWP for operation of the ABS. **Note:** if all control measures cannot be carried out the operation shall not be undertaken.

Contact for further Information

Name: Carmelo Noel	**Position:** Engineering Manager Distribution Network Standards

IMPORTANT NOTES:

This advice is provided in confidence for distribution to ENA members for information only. This advice has not been modified by ENA.

The issuing company must refer to the "Guidelines for the notification and distribution of ENA Significant Incident Advice" before issuing this Significant Incident Advice.

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Ergon Energy Corporation Limited ABN 50 087 646 062
Ergon Energy Queensland Pty Ltd ABN 11 121 177 802