

Incident Alert



Incident Title:

INSULATOR FAILURE 33kV Disconnecter

Date of Incident:

Sunday, 22nd November 2015

Incident Description and Details:

On the early hours of Sunday morning during a severe storm, Transfield Fault operators were requested to attend a fault at Penrose substation.

The fault was located as a broken insulator on the cable section of a 33kV feeder circuit.

As part of the process to isolate a faulted circuit from the live bus, the disconnecter moving section insulator has also failed.

The moving section of the Canterbury Engineering under hung Disconnecter (Blue phase), has broken away from the top cap, this has caused the entire pantograph section to swing into the live 33 kV BUS.

The failed section being blue phase swung and hit the blue phase of the live bus, so there was no phase to phase short.

It is believed to be the second such failure within Transpower within a week.

Immediate actions taken / Immediate response / Immediate remedy

The 2 switching operators immediately cleared the yard and advised the Transpower National Grid Operating Centre to clear the bus for isolation.

At day break a team of projects and maintenance staff were mobilised and tasked to remove the damaged disconnecter and insulators.

By Sunday afternoon all power had been restored to the affected bus.

Recommendations / Lessons:

This is initial alert, further recommendations will be discussed following the investigation.

Contact Person:

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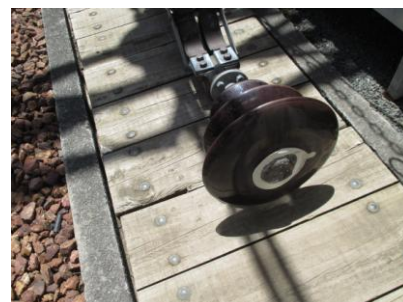


Photo showing the broken end of Insulator



Photo showing the Pantograph section hanging prior to removal



Photo of circuit, note that the position of the staff member is where the operator would be