TRANSPOWER

SAFETY ALERT!

15th April 2016

11kV oil insulated combined fuse switch

WHAT HAPPENED?

On Tuesday 3rd February 2015, a serious incident occurred during maintenance work on a Long and Crawford 11kV oil insulated combined fuse switch in Western Australia. This incident caused two fatalities and remains under investigation by the local authorities. Based on the preliminary investigation, two orders were released by the Government of Western Australia requiring all owners and operators to completely isolate 11kV oil insulated fuse-switches from electricity supply before any person can commence access into the fuse-switch unit.

Electricity distribution companies across Australia and New Zealand have followed this advice as a precaution and have issued operational restrictions for these oil insulated fuse-switch units.

Transpower has recently identified a small number of 11kV oil insulated fuse-switch units still in service in our local service network. These 11kV oil insulated fuse-switches are, but not limited to the following types:

- ABB SDAF3, SD, SD3, SDAF
- ASEA SDAF3, SD, SD3, SDAF
- ANDELECT SDAF3, SD, SD3, SDAF

Example of ANDELECT SDAF3

LIST OF KNOWN ABB, ASEA and ANDELECT SD, SD3, SDAF3

NCC-CB-192, NCC-DS-192
NCC-CB-193, NCC-DS-193
OTA-DS-706
OTA-DS-726, OTA-DS-736, OTA-DS-746
OTA-DS-756, OTA-DS-766, OTA-DS-786
OTA-DS-716, OTA-DS-776, OTA-DS-796

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IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

The following operational requirement is to be implemented immediately across all 11kV oil insulated fuse-switch and switch units owned by Transpower, until further notice:

- Labels on the Temporary Hazard board at the Otahuhu substations and NCC for these fuse-switches and switch units – “DO NOT OPERATE UNTIL COMPLETELY ISOLATED”
- Install labels on these fuse-switches and switch units - “DO NOT OPERATE UNTIL COMPLETELY ISOLATED”
- Any operation by switching or any work activities which requires internal access to the fuse-switch or switch unit shall only be carried out after the unit is completely isolated from the electricity supply.
- The switches must remain isolated for the duration of the work.
- Re-energisation of the fuse switch or switch unit shall only be performed using an upstream located switch.

FURTHER ACTION

- Transpower is liasing with the Government of Western Australia to find out the outcomes of the formal investigation.
- Transpower is now reviewing the management approach to these oil insulated fuse-switch units.

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