

SAFETY! ALERT!

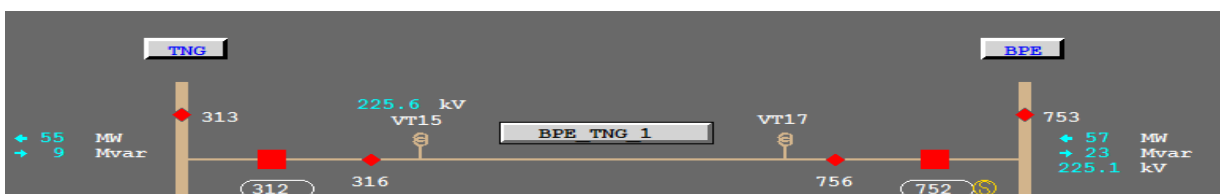
Date: 5th May 2016
Maximo Reference: 91007



Inadvertent enabling of Auto-Reclose Functionality during live line work.

WHAT HAPPENED?

On Tuesday 3rd May 2016, a Reclose Block Agreement for the BPE-TKU-1 circuit was returned upon completion of live line work to the NGOC Controller managing that area of the Grid. During the restoration of the Auto-Reclose functionality, the NGOC Controller inadvertently enabled the Auto-Reclose function on the BPE-TNG-1 circuit in error. This circuit still had a valid Reclose Block Agreement in place as line crews were still undertaking live work on this circuit. The error was identified 13 minutes after the enabling took place. This period placed the work crew at a heightened risk of exposure to flashover due to the voltage transients that can occur when a transmission circuit is automatically re-energised after a tripping.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

- Upon identification of the incorrect application of the Auto-Reclose functionality onto the BPE-TNG-1 circuit, the NGOC Controller immediately disabled that functionality to return the circuit to the correct state required for a Reclose Block Agreement.
- The Lines crew were advised of the error at the earliest opportunity.

ROOT CAUSES

- Failure to check and verify the correct asset was being actioned in accordance with the prepared operating sequence.
- Lack of engineering solution to control permissions to restore Auto-Reclose functionality following handback of Reclose Block Agreement.

LEARNINGS

- Always maintain situational awareness of assets for operational actions, and follow check and verify practices to confirm correct assets have been selected.
- A well-designed engineering solution is a more effective control than just relying on people to always get things right.