



SAFETY BULLETIN

Operational earthing requirements for HV switchgear replacement

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What is the issue?

There have been a number of reported incidents involving replacement of switchgear where work has been carried out without earths applied at both ends of a cable prior to being cut. The principles of the Electrical Safety Rules, Clause 8.6.5.2 and 8.6.5.4 are to ensure network elements are earthed while connected to the network. Once the network element is disconnected from the network the earths can be removed.

What are the changes?

Requesting officers and authorised switching officers are reminded of the Electrical Safety Rules Clause 8.6.5.2 Earthing for a high voltage cable to be cut:

"When a high voltage cable is to be cut, where practicable, earthing and short-circuiting shall be carried out on each side of any proposed break in the cable."

What you need to do

When replacing high voltage switchgear:

- The earths are to be applied at each end of the cables to be cut or disconnected to replace the switchgear;
- The earths on the switchgear can then be removed and the switchgear removed, only after all connections to the switchgear have been removed from the switchgear, either by cutting the cable or removing the cable and transformer connections from the switchgear.

When the new switchgear is installed the switches should be in the earth position when reconnecting to the network.

Contact

For further details:

Mark Sheather, Field Operations Manager on 0417 654 853

Beau Radford, Field Operations Manager on 0409 772 059

Related documents

Endeavour Energy Electrical Safety Rules

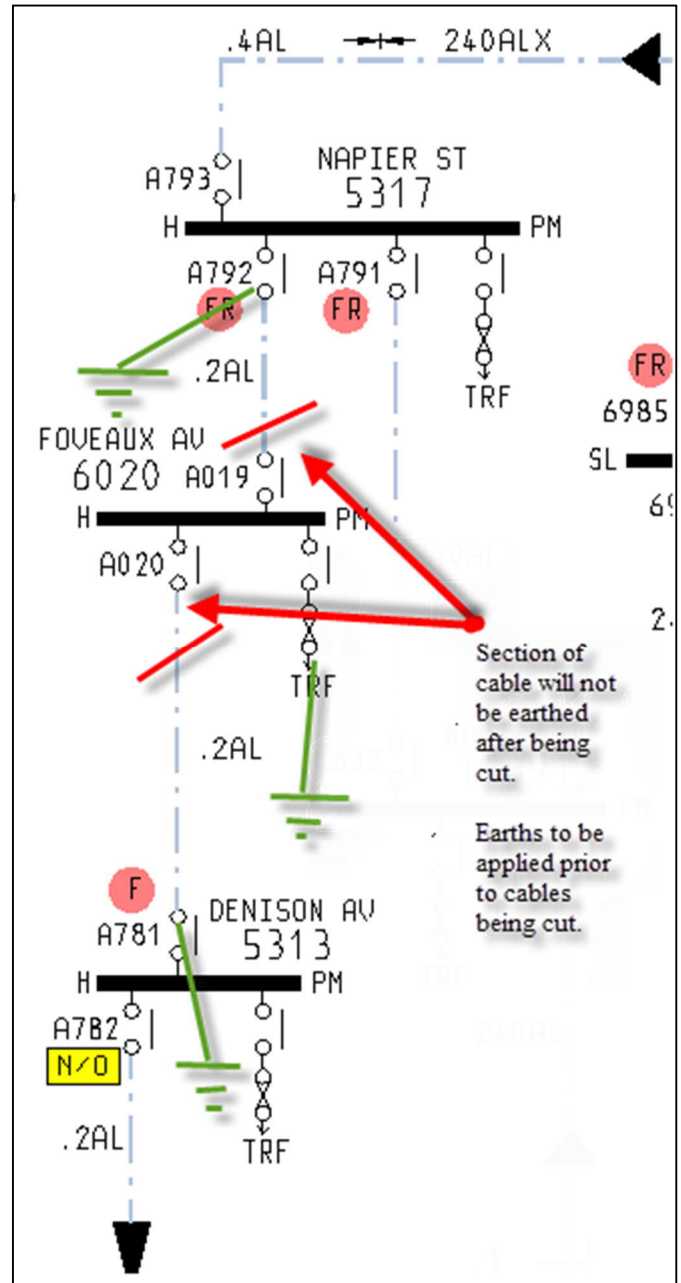


Figure 1 - Schematic diagram displaying potential breach of ESR Clause 8.6.5.2

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Owner: Mark Sheather, Field Operations Manager

Approver: Jadranka Landeka, Acting Manager HSE Assurance & Improvements

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