

Hydro Tasmania

SAFETY OR ENVIRONMENT ALERT

High Potential Near Miss – Work in Proximity of Live 22KV


Alert Number (YYMMDD)	250122	Date Issued	21 February 2025
SAP Incident Number	63750	Approved By	Head of WHS
Alert Category	Safety / Environment	Action Required?	Yes

Alert details/incident summary

During works on the Parsons Falls Pumps project, one 22KV phase / link was noticed to have failed to open on a 22KV Air Break Switch (ABS). The ABS had been opened two weeks prior as part of the Schedule of Planned Operations (SOPO) before handing the site over to a Principal Contractor and during operation, an insulator shattered, releasing a small falling object. The falling object became the focus and the link that failed to open was missed.

At the time the SOPO was enacted it was believed that there was no planned work to be conducted on, or access required to, the 22KV switchgear indoor enclosure (Fluokit), and therefore proving dead and applying earths was not required.

On review it was identified that some control wiring had been removed from the 22KV switchgear (from outside) with sections of this wiring originating from within the busbar enclosure and therefore within Safe Approach Distances (700mm), with no permit controls in place.

Photos	Immediate action taken
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work was stopped - incident reported• Contractor engaged to disengage link• Test for voltage and earth• Investigation to establish contributing factors and mitigations is in process.
	<p>Actions for employees and actions for leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicate this Safety Alert• Operate ABS with caution, faults are known to occur.• Energy sources should be considered live until proven otherwise.• Refresh requirements of Hydro Tasmania's Isolation Procedure.• Report faulty equipment and plan for repair/replacement.• Alternative equipment should be considered when outages/upgrades occur.