

WMEA Denver May 29, 2015

Group 8

Lyle Hunt- Peabody

Tom Morton- General Cable

Jay Koenitzer- Helwig Carbon

Don Patterson- Drives and Control Services

Larry Hitt- Colowyo

Mark Larson- Benshaw

Lionel Weseen- Westmoreland

Safety Items

Breaker trip pushbutton is now remote from breaker on many substations. Also have used motorized isolation switches so that the operator is removed from a dangerous area. Eaton and Schneider are a couple of vendors offering this capability. – Lionel

Lyle Hunt from Peabody said they have changed their approach to breaker operation. They don't use the left hand rule and stand on the unhinged side of the breaker. They have staff wear balaclava and faceshield- stand on the hinged side of the cabinet and face the breaker so the shield will offer protection.

I mentioned many of the postash substations we've done lately have used remote breaker operators that are mounted around the side of the substation.

Lionel Weseen mentioned they do routine(monthly) GF tests on equipment and this serves dual purpose of exercising their breakers and testing the GF function.

Don Patterson from DCS mentioned interesting mechanical and electrical lockout programs that their staff has seen used on drums in Australia. It is a better system than just relying on electrical lockout.

New Innovations and Technology

I mentioned the AF0500 new Arc Flash relay that offers two zone protection and scalability for larger systems.

Don Patterson mentioned an advanced 757 Dragline that NA coal has been using in Hallsville. There is a DVD of it done with a drone that he said is rather impressive. It is also features a huge cab with a 12ft wide window so two operators can sit side by side for training purposes.

We discussed portable power applications and monitoring of grounds. Lyle Hunt mentioned Peabody's policy is that cable splicers have come on site have to provide their own power so they don't have to worry about compatibility issues with ground monitors and their equipment.

Mark Larson mentioned their MV drive is the first to feature AF detection built into each cabinet.

Problems and Solutions

Larry Hitt from Colowyo mentioned Colorado mines are facing a legal battle over permitting. WEG wild earth guardians are taking them to court. We Discussed potential for organizations such as Northwest mining Association to help them fight this case. Not much electrical folks can do.

Colowyo also had an incident where a switch was opened under a load- the VCB was not opened before opening the non-load-break visible disconnect. As a group we suggested light detection and also a kirk key interlock s ystem to prevent potential hazard in the future.

We Discussed testing resistance of ground in trailing cables. It was actually Luminant question and it was for pilot wire testing. Murray Duncan gave a couple options to Luminant such as metering resistance and bending the cable until the value changes to know where there may be a bad section.

Future Meeting Topics

Prep plant improvements was suggested as a potential topic.

Best lockout tagout procedures perhaps with some of the Australian requirements or some of the ideas that Lionel Weseen mentioned that Westmoreland PaintEarth is doing.

Future Locations

Phoenix JW Marriot Desert Ridge or Westin Kierland.

Las Vegas-Cheap flights and hotels.