

Sullom Voe – Near Miss

20-March-2008



Near Miss - Cables Cut out with approved procedure

The work party were abandoning 415V cables in a trench as part of the demolition programme. The permit stated that the cables were to be proven dead prior to abandonment. 5 cables were routed in such a manner that it was agreed that rope access ET's would trace these cables and prove them dead, however during a visit by a Project Engineer it was observed that these cables had been cut and could not have been proven dead.

Findings

- The power cables were not proved dead (**AS PER BP PROCEDURES**) or positively identified in the field. Instead, the cables were traced back from a junction box in the field, then cut, proved dead and identified, then capped and abandoned in the trench.
- The techs involved had tested for continuity between cores from the substation-end of the power cables, but this did not provide any information on where the cables were terminated in the field.
- Failure to follow instruction : technicians involved had asked their supervisor how to deal with some of the cables in question and had been told what had to be done. They then disregarded this instruction and cut three cables without proving dead.
- Cutting these cables without following these instructions effectively negates all the checking done by others and placed the work party at risk.



Recommendations:

1. **Emphasise the need to adhere to permit conditions.**
2. **All ET's to be reminded of procedures in the Electrical Procedures Handbook UKCS-SSW-03**
3. **Supervision to ensure all relevant procedures for each task are recorded in the Tool Box Talk**

WGE Behaviour Actions:

1. **Learns relevant to local standards, rules and procedures.**
Follows rules and uses the right procedure for the job
2. **Takes time to plan work with the team, challenging complacency about routine tasks**
3. **Gets involved in incident investigation to understand root causes and communicate learning**



If in doubt – Take Time out For Safety – Recognise when a job changes



WG
WOOD GROUP

ABBI

ABOVE - BELOW - BEHIND - INSIDE
SPATIAL AWARENESS OF HAZARDS WILL ENSURE YOUR SAFETY

THINK

ABBI

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