

Notification of the Authority's Decision under regulation 29 of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010

Under regulation 29(1) of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010 (Regulations) the Electricity Authority (Authority) must publicise every decision made under regulation 23(3) together with the reasons for the Authority's decision.

Investigation

On 21 May 2015, the Authority appointed an investigator under regulation 12 of the Regulations to investigate the self-reported breach of clause 13.33(d) of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010, by Transpower New Zealand Limited as the grid owner (grid owner).

The grid owner breached clause 13.33(d) when it mistakenly opened Tekapo A circuit breaker 72 at 06:12 on 23 January 2015 without notifying the system operator of the change to the circuit breaker's status.

The grid owner had failed to follow its operating sequence and also opened the incorrect circuit breaker during a planned outage. The breach caused a total loss of supply of 2.2 MW to Albury for 25 minutes.

Transpower New Zealand Limited as the system operator joined the investigation as an affected party.

On 26 February 2016, the Authority received and considered a report and a recommendation from the investigator to discontinue the investigation.

The Authority's decision

On 26 February 2016, the Authority decided under regulation 23(3)(a) of the Regulations to discontinue the investigation.

Reasons for the Authority's decision

The reasons for the Authority's decision to discontinue the investigation were that:

- The grid owner had undertaken its own investigation of breaches caused by human error. The grid owner's investigation identified a number of initiatives to reduce human errors. The grid owner has largely implemented those initiatives, with the remaining initiatives due for completion in the near future.
- The parties to the investigation did not require a settlement.