

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) of the Regulations, together with the reasons for the Authority's decision.

Investigation

On 30 August 2017, the Authority appointed an investigator under regulation 12 of the Regulations to investigate a self-reported breach of clause 13.33(d) of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010, by Transpower New Zealand Limited as the grid owner.

On 18 February 2017, the grid owner breached clause 13.33(d) when it mistakenly opened Kikiwa circuit breaker 122 instead of Kikiwa circuit breaker 112 during a planned outage.

The breach was due to human error, and resulted in the total loss of supply to the West Coast of the South Island for an hour.

The breach caused a voltage excursion and required the system operator to declare a grid emergency to enable the grid owner to reconfigure the grid during the restoration process.

Transpower New Zealand Limited as the system operator was the only affected party who joined the investigation and had no settlement requirements.

On 19 December 2017, the Authority received and considered a report and a recommendation from the investigator to discontinue the investigation and issue a warning to the grid owner

The Authority's decision

On 19 December 2017, the Authority decided under regulation 23(3)(a) of the Regulations to discontinue the investigation and to issue a warning to the grid owner.

Reasons for the Authority's decision

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

- The grid owner has taken steps to prevent recurrence
- The parties to the investigation did not require a settlement.