

## CONFIRMING ISOLATIONS & VALVE INDICATION STATUS ARE CORRECT



### When and where this incident occurred:

21 Jan 2019, Maraetai Hydro Power station.

### Brief description of incident:

When isolating the G2 penstock priming valve as per an operating order, the operator failed to confirm the valve was fully closed, instead he relied on the recipient's interpretation of the valve position which was incorrect.

The valve was electrically isolated in a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> open position when it should have been fully closed. This resulted in priming of the penstock when water was introduced into the priming bus during operations later that day.

Significant contributing factors were the lack of lighting, access and poor valve position indication, making it difficult to ascertain if it was open or closed.

No one was injured however the potential for harm was significant.

### Immediate actions required:

- Anyone applying isolations (IASM / RASM) are to physically check the status of the equipment prior to applying the lock and tag
- The recipient shall, before the permit is accepted, ensure, as far as practicable, that all required issuer applied safety measures have been applied.

### All operational staff are to ensure:

- They familiarise themselves with the type of valve being worked on, and its method of position indication prior to operation
- Where valves can be operated remotely, adequate position indication is installed at the point where the valve is controlled or operated
- That they have good lighting (either portable or fixed) to be able to identify the valve position.
- Where practicable, there is a mechanical valve position indicator installed so that the position of the valve can be easily identified.

For further information about this safety notification, please refer to Synergi Life incident #15952 & 16464 or contact the Health and Safety Team.

Date issued: 15 April 2019

*Please discuss this Safety Alert with workers at your next tool box or team meeting*