

HSE Event – Initial Brief

Yallourn W Power Station (Latrobe Valley) – not an AGL Incident

This brief is for Group Operations to share and undertake critical risk control verification at AGL sites.

Description of event

At approximately 4pm on 12 November an incident occurred at the Yallourn W Power Station in the Latrobe Valley. An operator was operating 6.6KV switchgear in preparation of U3 return to service and suffered severe burns due to what appears to be a severe Arc flash event (this is yet to be confirmed).

A full investigation will be undertaken by the relevant authorities.

Extent of injury

The man, in his 50s, was taken by air ambulance to hospital in Melbourne but passed away earlier today (13 November). He was a very experienced Operator with more than three decades service.

Safety Implications and actions for your site

At AGL Loy Yang the Operations group has identified similar equipment to that in the Yallourn incident (see photos right).

We have suspended local operation of 6.6KV Ash Pond Bus A & B switchgear until further notice. This is an interim safeguard until further details of the serious incident at Yallourn are understood.

Our 6.6KV Ash Pond Bus A & B have been barricaded and tagged. A risk assessment will be undertaken involving the HV group and operations to determine controls for possible future access.



Ash Pond 6.6KV Bus – similar Magrini bus work as the Yallourn switchgear



Ash Pond 6.6KV CB cubicle with Bus and Cable shutters open – similar Magrini bus work as the Yallourn switchgear



Ash Pond 6.6KV Circuit Breaker (CB) – AGL LY Magrini CB, Yallourn have a retrofitted Siemens CB as a replacement to the Magrini

Further actions

Please discuss with your teams what this means for your site, review the effectiveness of your AGL Arc flash standards and critical controls as a priority. This is a tragic reminder of the dangers of Arc flash and the consequences when things go wrong.

What support is available?

Leaders should provide appropriate support to those affected.

All employees and their immediate families can access the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) on 1300 687 327.

For those at Loy Yang, Counsellor Shirley is not available on site today. She will be onsite tomorrow morning, and people can make a time to see her via 1300 687 327.

Further Information

For further information contact Nigel Brown (AGL Loy Yang), at [m: 0417 117 649](tel:0417117649)