

DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 141(2)(d) OF THE ELECTRICITY SAFETY ACT 1998 SUPPRESSION OF AUTO RECLOSE ON SWER LINES

I refer to the 2009 Victorian Bush Fire Royal Commission, recommendation 32, and the Powerline Bushfire Safety Task Force recommendation 2, regarding Automatic Circuit Reclosers (ACRs) on Single Wire Earth Return (SWER) lines during periods of Total Fire Ban, and Code Red days.

I am satisfied, pursuant to section 141(2)(d) of the *Electricity Safety Act 1998*, that during Total Fire Ban and Code Red days the operation of certain ACRs has the potential to create an unsafe electrical situation. In keeping with the 2009 Victorian BushFire Royal Commission recommendation, and to prevent an unsafe electrical situation from arising, I hereby direct, under section 141(2)(e) of the *Electricity Safety Act 1998*, that Powercor amend the relevant section of its 2011/12 Bushfire Mitigation Plan, and supply a copy of that plan to Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) before 3 January 2012, to provide that:

- (a) The automatic reclose function be suppressed on SWER ACRs in the highest 80% fire loss consequence areas on Total Fire Ban and Code Red days that occur during the 2011/12 fire season consistent with the recommendations contained in the Powerline Bushfire Safety Taskforce report dated 30 September 2011;*
- (b) Where it is not practicable to suppress the auto reclose function of a SWER ACR for a TFB or Code Red day, the auto reclose function shall be suppressed for the duration of the worst bushfire risk period;*
- (c) A list of all the ACRs included in (a) and (b) above (showing which ACRs will be suppressed on a daily basis and those for the total period) be included as an appendix in the company's 2011/12 Bushfire Mitigation Plan; and*
- (d) If the list of devices is amended due to further risk modelling or other fire risk information obtained by the business, ESV must be provided with an updated list with the basis for these amendments within 5 business days of the decision to amend the list of devices.*

For the purposes of this direction, the following definitions apply:

- The highest 80% fire loss consequence areas are those areas of the State identified as such by the Phoenix fire loss consequence model produced by Dr Kevin Tolhurst, as at 21 December 2011, which I am advised your company has a copy of; and
- The worst bushfire period is the period commencing 23 January 2012 for a period of 6 weeks.

The abovementioned directions will take effect from 3 January 2012.

Should you require any clarification of the above matters, please contact
Executive Manager, Electrical Infrastructure Safety, Robert Skene on 9203 9737.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Fearon', with a stylized initial 'P' and 'F'.

Paul Fearon

DIRECTOR OF ENERGY SAFETY

SECTION 69 ELECTRICITY SAFETY ACT 1998

Rights of Review

A person to whom a direction is given under section 141 of the Electricity Safety Act 1998, may apply to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal for review of that direction if compliance with it –

- a. would impose a significant financial burden on the person;
- b. would prevent the person from complying with any obligation under a licence issued under Part 2 of the Electricity Industry Act 2000

The application for review of this notice must be made within seven days after the latter of;

- a. the day on which this direction was received by you, or,
- b. if under section 45 of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 1998, the person requests a statement of reasons for the decision, the day on which the statement of reasons is given to the person, or the person is informed, under section 46(5) of that Act that a statement of reasons will not be given.