

Appalachian Power Company Policy / Procedure No. 24:  
Performing Dead Work Beyond Line Cutouts

1) Statement of policy:

When dead work is to be performed in accordance with AEP Safety and Health Manual articles 2.35 and 2.36 of the Electrical Section, line cutouts or line cutout type solid blade switches alone shall not be relied upon as visible open points. In addition to having the fuse tube or solid blade of the cutout open, a riser lead **shall** be disconnected from the primary.

2) Discussion:

In recent years the American Electric Power System has experienced an increasing number of insulator failures on line cutouts operating both at 12 and 34.5 kV. As a result of the significant numbers of these failures and the desire to maximize the safety of line personnel, Appalachian Power has adopted the practice of not relying solely on having the fuse tube or solid blade open on single insulator line cutouts for visible open points while performing dead work.

Therefore, a riser lead is to be removed on fused line cutouts or cutout type solid blade switches anytime they are used as the visible open points for dead work including in the following situations.

- Fused line cutouts used for either mainline or branch line protection
- Fused cutouts protecting distribution and step-down transformers
- Solid blade cutout type switches utilized for sectionalizing
- Cutouts or cutout type solid blade switches at normally open circuit tie points
- Fused cutouts or cutout type solid blade switches used for bypassing line reclosers

3) Definitions:

**Dead**-De-energized, tested and properly grounded.

**Cutout**-Line protective or sectionalizing device consisting of a single insulator with either a hinged fuse holder or solid blade)

4) Attachments:

## 5) OSHA / Safety Manual References

### Safety Manual:

E 2.35 When taking lines or equipment requiring a dispatcher's or operator's authorization, out of service, it shall first be de-energized by an appropriate switching device. Whenever possible, a visible open will be obtained from all possible energy sources. Lines and equipment taken out of service shall be properly tagged.

E 2.36 When lines or equipment not under the control of a dispatcher are taken out of service, they shall be de-energized by an appropriate switching device such as an automatic breaker, recloser, sectionalizer, switch or fuse. Any automatic device opened shall be checked open and made inoperative. Lines or equipment shall be disconnected from the electric circuit by a visible disconnecting means. Lines or equipment taken out of service shall be properly tagged.

6) Date Adopted: June 6, 2007