

Re-energizing Feeders after Recloser Lockout A Survey of Practices and Report

Purpose:

The purpose of this bulletin is to communicate the results of a survey and report that was undertaken at the recommendation of the Utility Advisory Council. The goal of the study was to document and summarize Canadian and US Distributor practices when reclosing tripped feeders to try to identify if there is a standard practice appropriate for Ontario

Background:

The issue was raised as an action item at the June 2005 Utility Advisory Council Meeting. A survey was conducted with requests being sent to 56 Distributors across North America. Eleven responses were returned with all but one being from Ontario.

Feeder Recloser Report Summary:

The results of the survey were inconclusive due to the small sample of responses received and due to practices that varied amongst the respondents. Research into courts cases was done as part of the study. The research revealed that in situations where recloser operations occurred, courts ruled in favour of the Distributor. The courts acknowledged the use of reclosers as being a practical necessity.

Research into existing statutes and regulation found that none exist and that operating practices are at the discretion of the local Distributor to determine in what manner and how many times the recloser feature may be reclosed with safety.

Conclusion:

Each Distributor needs to determine what criteria they will use before re-energizing a feeder in a safe manner after lockout.

A complete copy of the report is available by emailing a request to:
utility.regulations@electricalsafety.on.ca