

NER Impact During Bushing Failure

A Calculated Escape

Presented by:

Jichao Chen (AECOM)

Overview

1. What Happened?

- Faults in the grid
- Transformer bushing failure

2. Root Cause

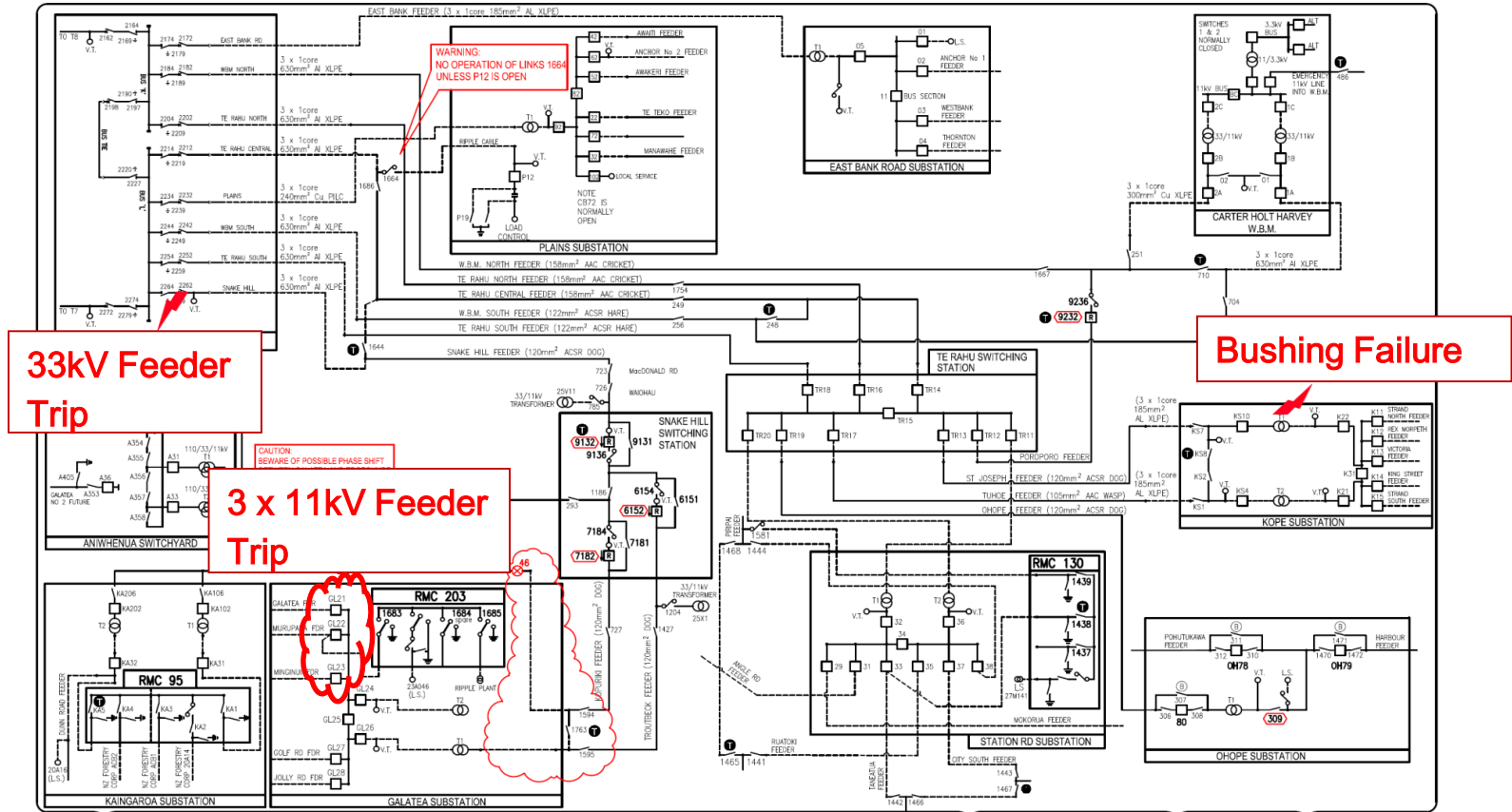
3. NERs

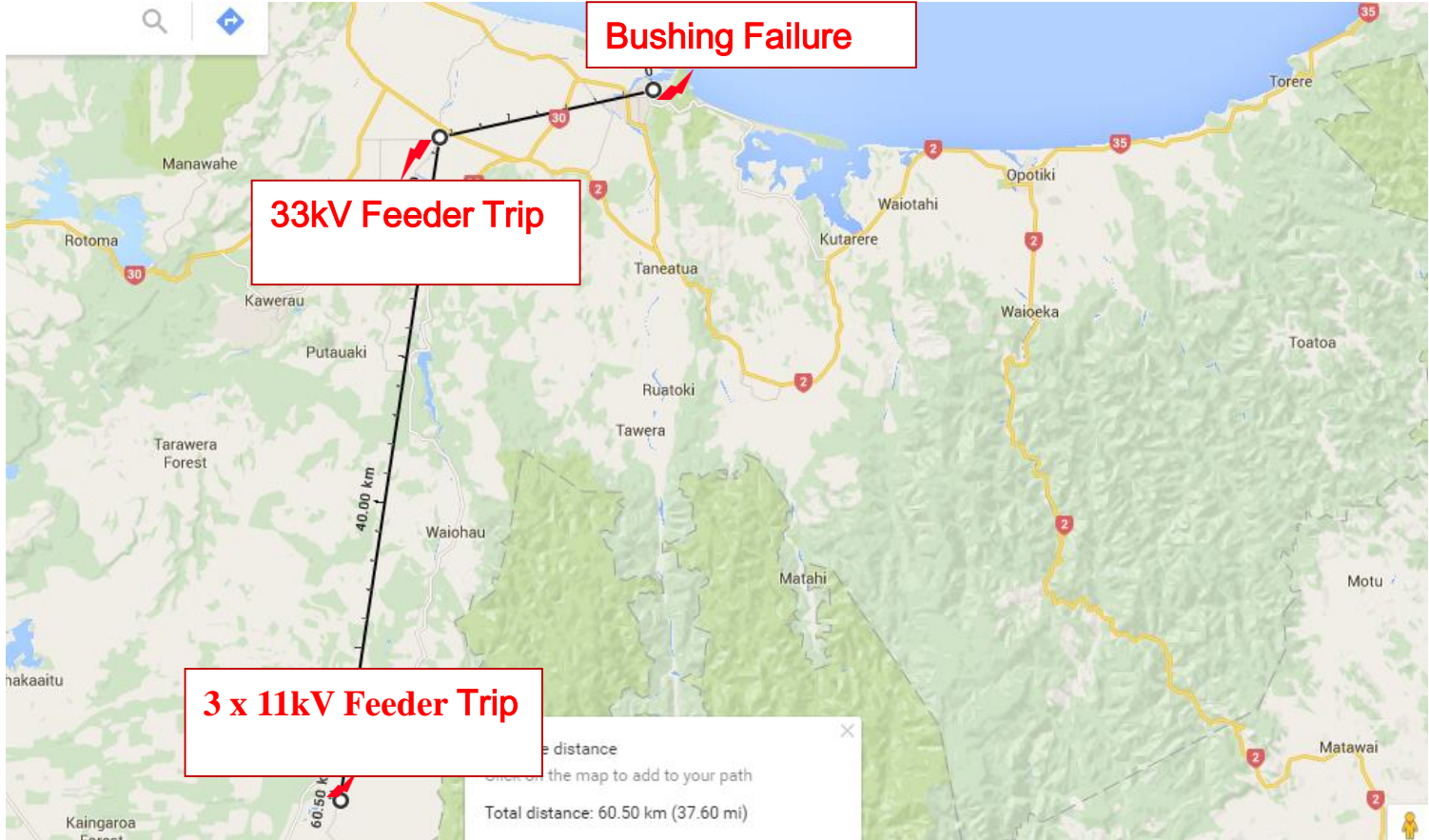
- What is NER
- How NERs helped
- Issues and concerns of NERs

4. Lessons Learnt and Conclusion

What Happened

Events of 20th June 2015





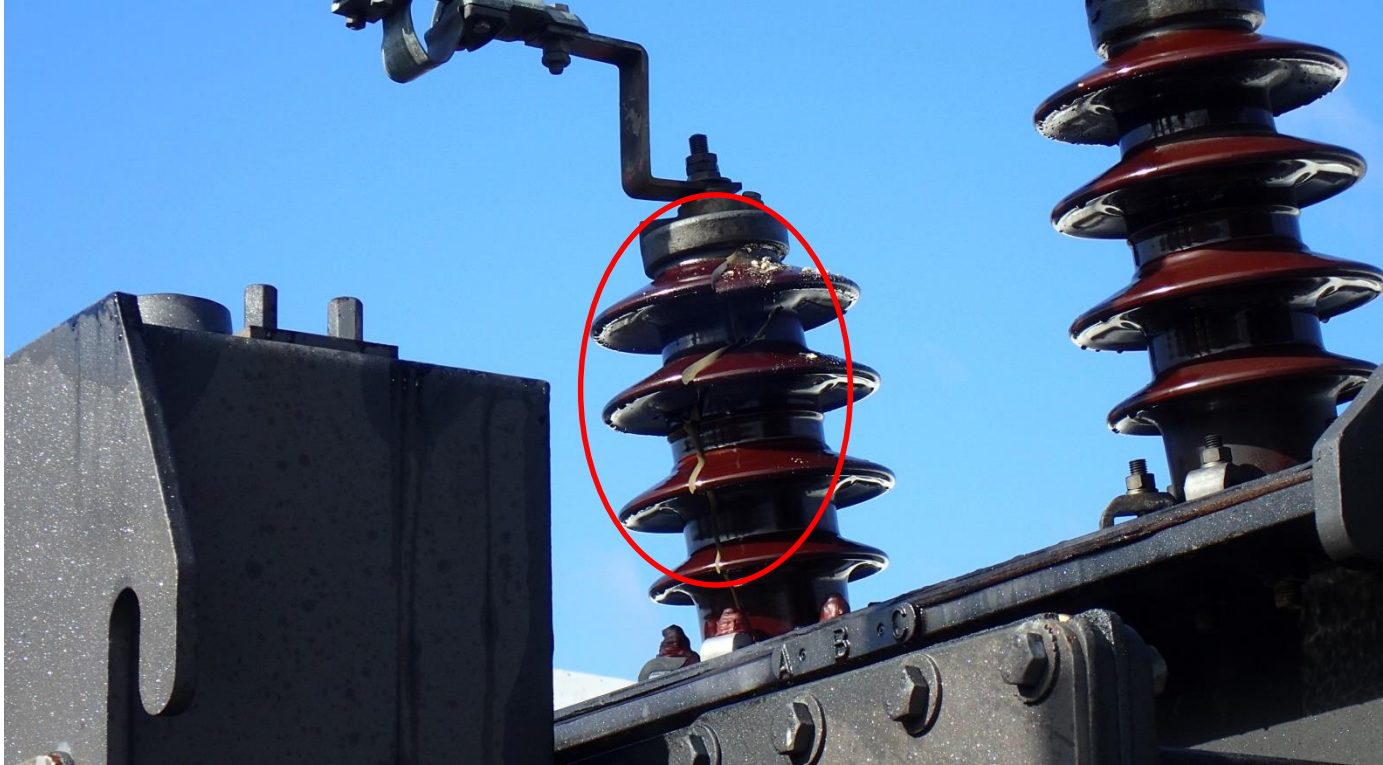
Trip 1 – RØ Bushing Failure at Kope T1

Bushing Failure

- Bucholz trip at 7am, 20th June 2015
- Trip reset
- Bushing failure at 11:30



Observations on Site



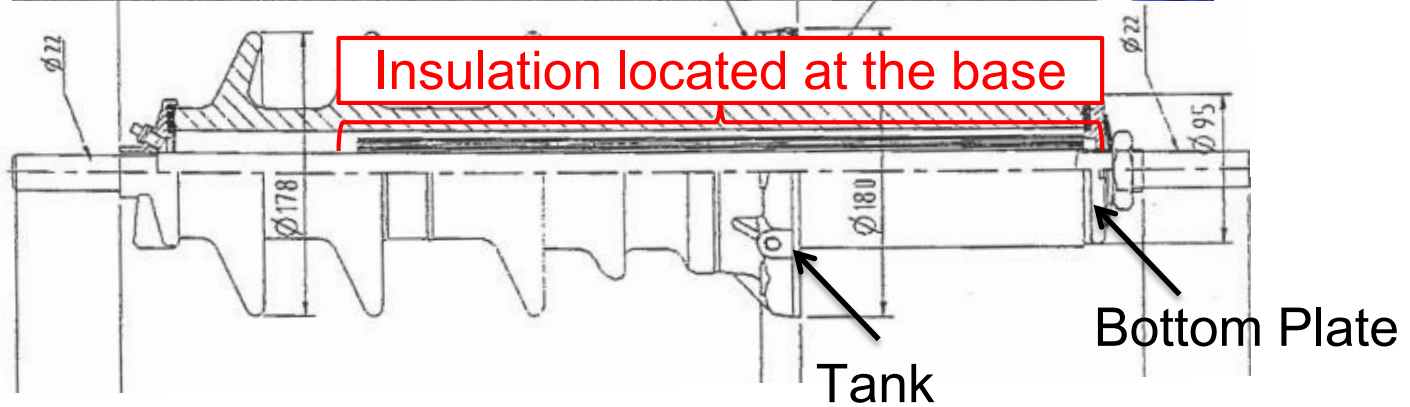
February 2013 Transformer Condition Assessment



- Bushing had been noted as a noisy bushing
- On inspection glazing cracks and marks on clamps and studs
- Bushing was tightened with self-amalgamating tape

Indication of glazing breaking due to tracking

Transformer Bushing



Transformer Bushing Failure – Root Cause

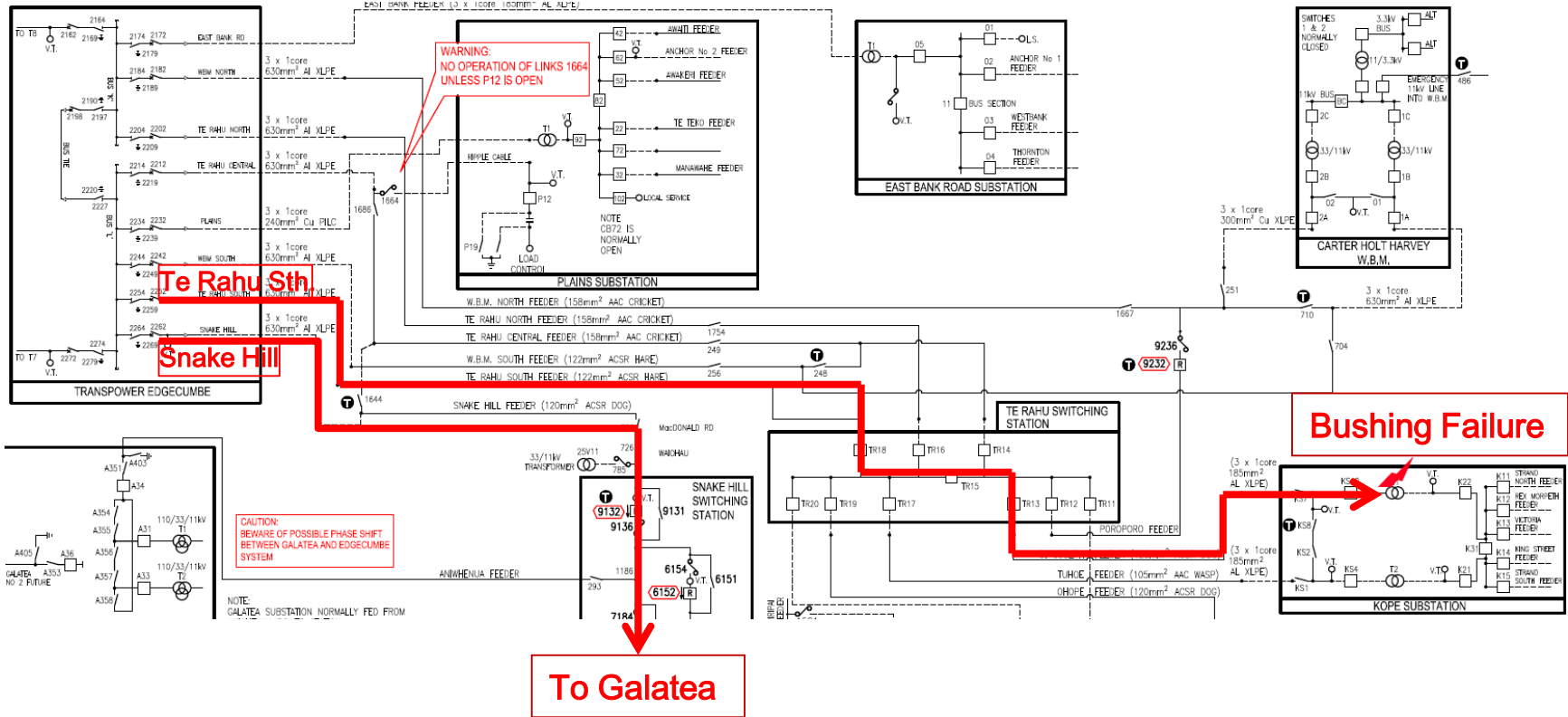


NOTICE NO
DAMAGE TO
INSULATION



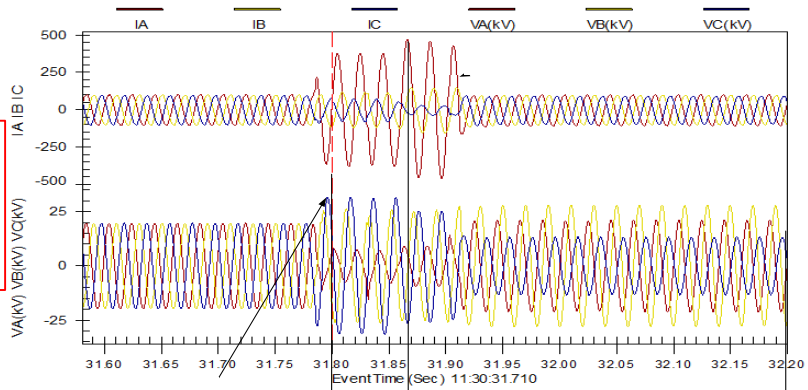
Trip 2 – Cross Country Earth Fault

33 kV Simultaneous Cross Country Earth Fault

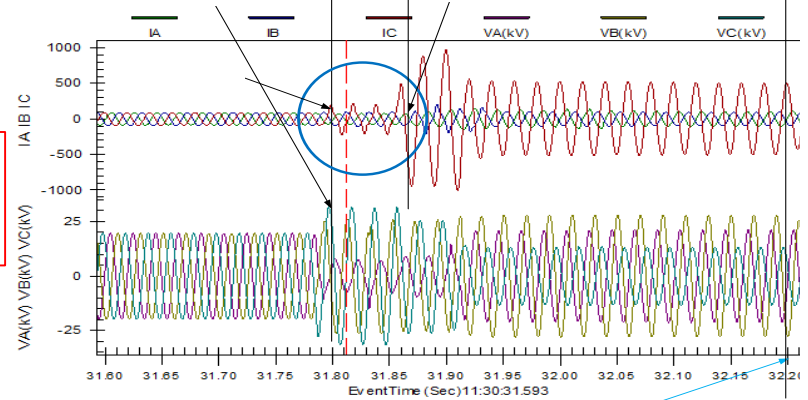


33 kV Simultaneous Cross Country Earth Fault

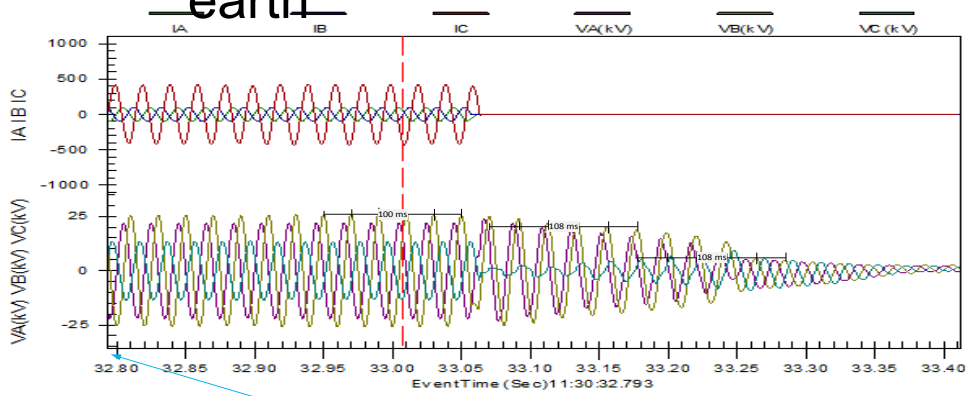
Te Rahu Sth.



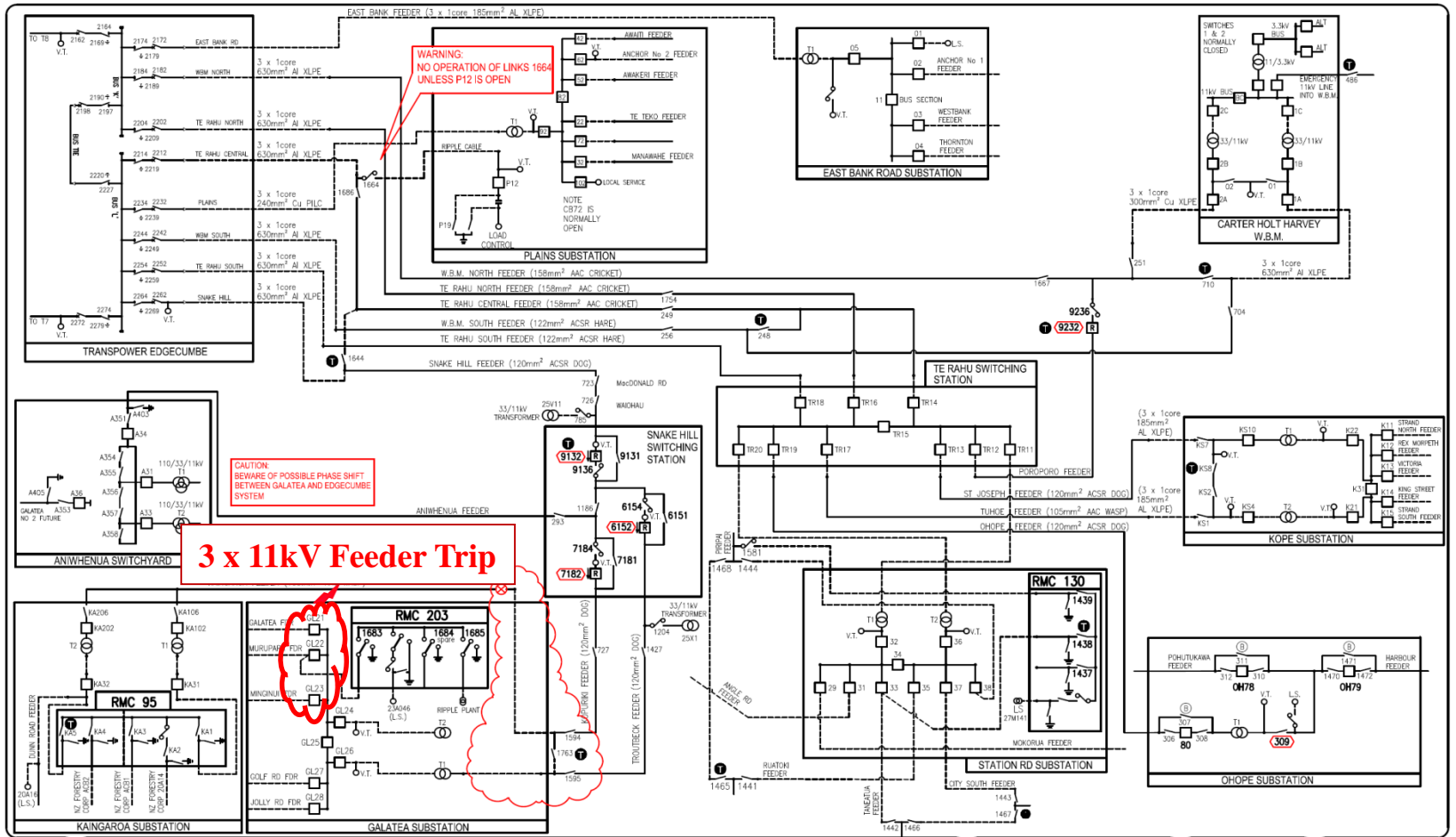
Snake Hill



- Te Rahu fault current normalised once fault cleared at Kope
- High sound phase voltage on Snake Hill indicative of resistive earth

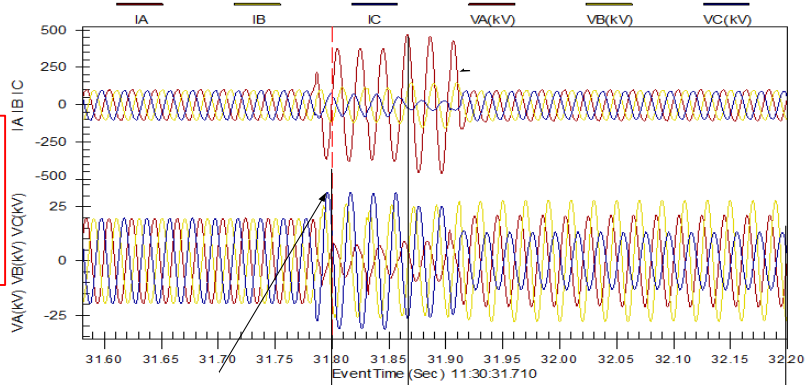


Trip 3 – Under Frequency

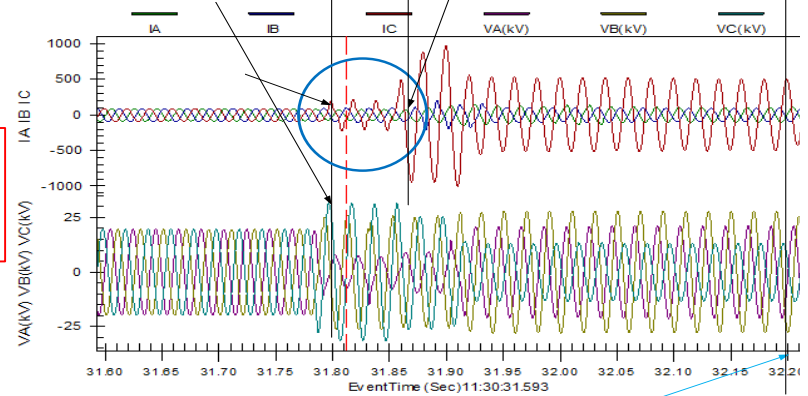


Trip – 3 Under-frequency

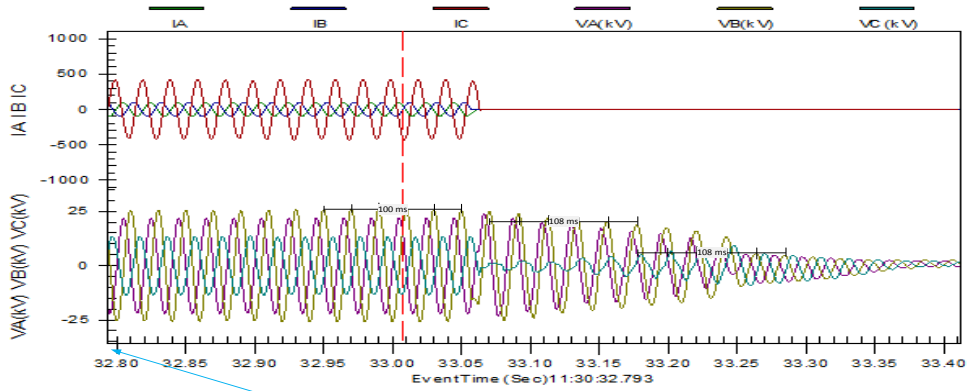
Te Rahu Sth.

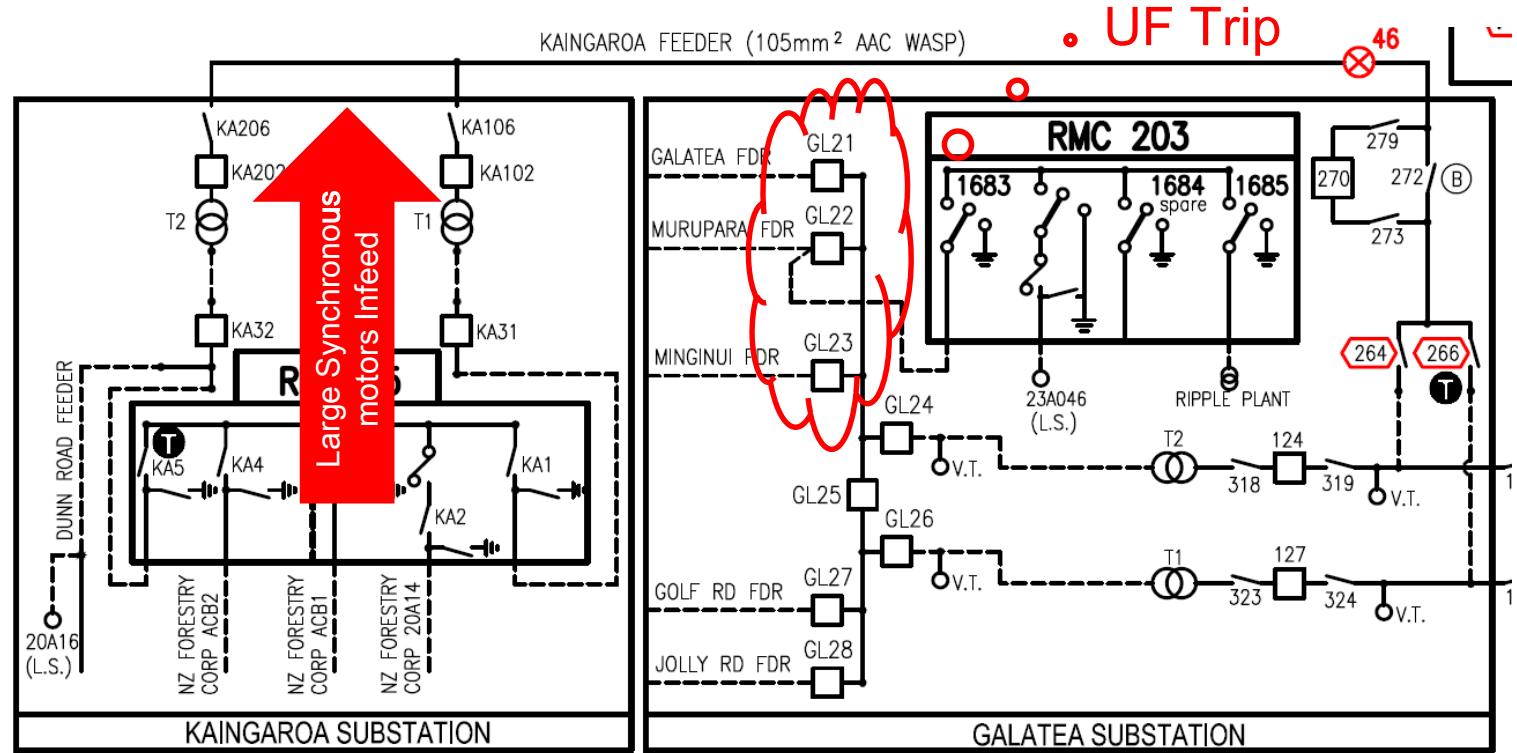


Snake Hill



- Gradual decay of voltage after fault clearance indication of remote infeed

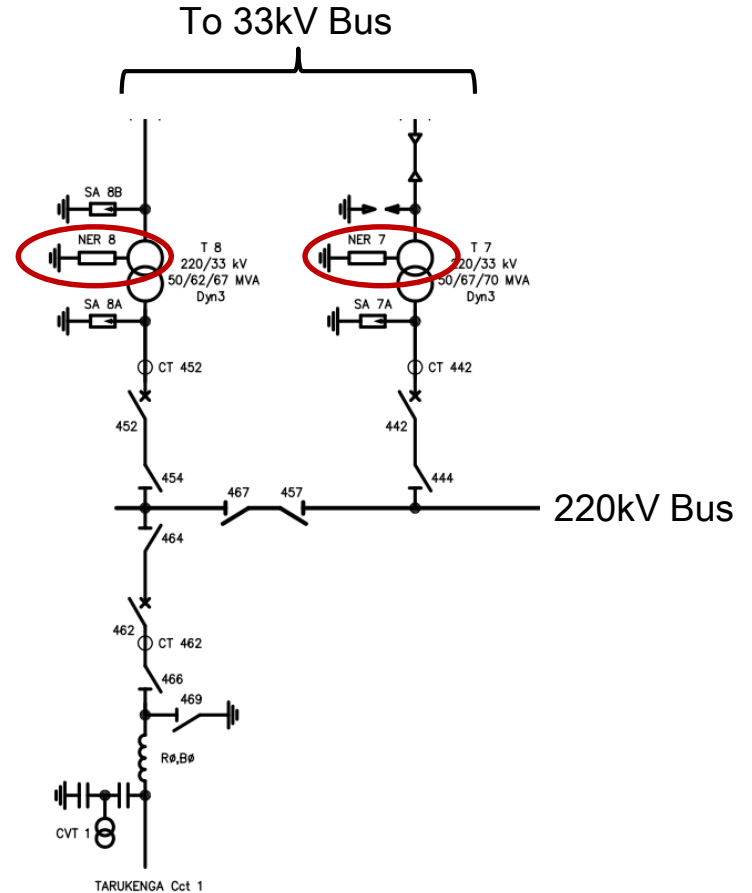




Theory

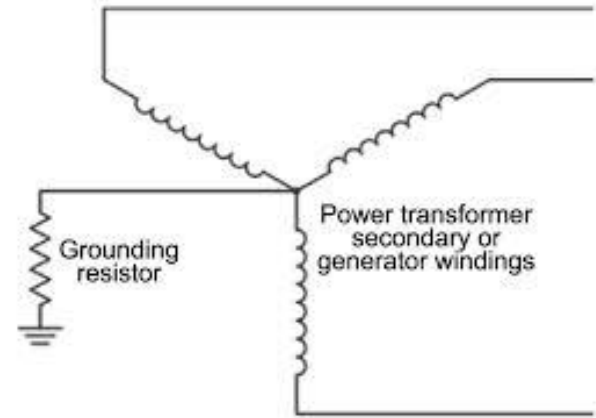
Neutral Earthing Resistor

Two NERs recently installed at Edhecumb by Transpower



What is NER?

- Connected between ground and neutral
- Low resistance NERs
 - Permit only 200A to 1200A
 - Used for large electrical systems
- High resistance NERs
 - Limit the fault current to very low as less than 50A to 100A
 - Used in mining etc.



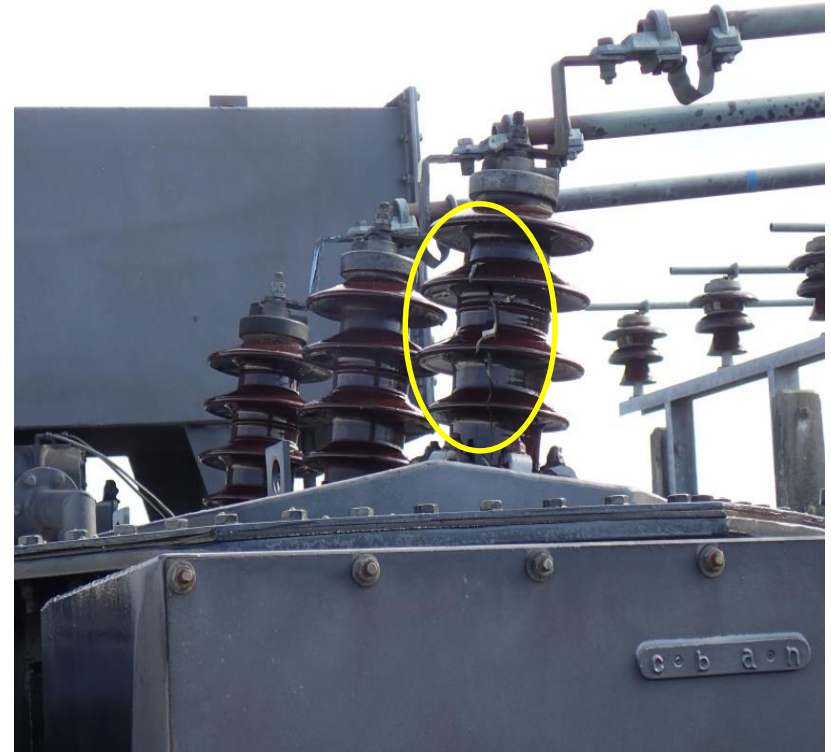
What is NER?

- Three elements are considered when sizing the earthing resistors:
 - Voltage (V)
 - Current (I)
 - Time (t)

$$R = \frac{V}{I \times \sqrt{3}}$$

How NERs Helped

- Limited Fault Current
 - <1000A with NERs
 - 15 to 20kA without NERs
- Limited Energy Released
 - Could have been explosive or transformer catching fire without NERs
 - Now only cracks on porcelain



Severe Damages



Issues and Concerns of NERs

- Difficulty in Finding Fault Location
 - Energy of fault arc is negligible
 - Insulation is likely to be self-restored
- Sound Phase Voltage Rise During Earth Faults
 - Displaced to full line-to-line voltage
 - Need to take it into consideration when doing design

Conclusion

Lessons Learnt and Conclusion

- NERs
 - Limited the fault current
 - Prevented causing severe damage
 - Caused cross country fault
- Failures
 - Failures happen
 - Treat the fault like a crime scene
 - Prior history usually a good indication for cause of fault
 - Take the time to investigate the root cause
 - Horizon has stopped live streamlining

Thank You!
And
Questions?