

Interim approval process Working Live (Open Wire) OH

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Part of the Energy Queensland Group

The recent fatality in Ausgrid has prompted reflection within our industry to review the process and tasks associated with working live on low voltage open wire and additionally identifying improvements to existing processes.

As an immediate action EQL will be adopting an Interim approval process for Working Live on **Low Voltage (LV) Open Wire Overhead Mains**.

The approvals process for **Low Voltage (LV) Open Wire Overhead Mains** will be adopted for **construction and maintenance** works excluding switching activities and service connections.

Approval process – business hours

The Work Group Leader / Supervising officer (Business Hours) is to be contacted prior to the works commencing (e.g. Scoping stage, Unplanned situation) and will respond to the requestor via email to approve the work to proceed utilising Live Work Low Voltage Techniques. The email is to be retained. It is also important to review the forward schedule to provide oversight and forward approval, and give time to revert to changing a job to de-energised if we don't agree it can be done live safely.

Approval process – after hours

In afterhours situations the field crew is to consider the below discussion points for working live prior to works commencing. At the next available opportunity during business hours the field crew shall notify their Work Group Leader of the work completed utilising Live Work Techniques. In this situation the workgroup leader shall record the Working Live activity in email format and retain as record of working live activities.

The following points must be considered to determine if Working Live Low Voltage Open wire activities can proceed.

- What options have been considered to work de-energised
- Can the work be completed safely and what hazard management practices are being put in place
- Does the work meet the requirements for live low voltage as per SWMS007/ESM Section 6/SWMS 4107

Future review

In addition to the interim approvals process a new set of guidelines is under development, with a focus on ensuring that LV working live activities are in line with the expectations of both the business and relevant legislation. Based on the introduction of the new set guidelines, the requirement for the approval process may be adjusted.