



# SAFETY ALERT

## Release, Then Re-Energize

July, 09

Recently there have been several incidents where crews have re-energized distribution lines before releasing their Hold Order back to the proper Dispatching Authority. After completing their work, the crews re-energized the lines from an isolation point where jumpers had been cut or where the line had a set of dead-end bells installed at mid span. Re-energizing distribution lines from any isolation point before releasing the Hold Order to the appropriate Dispatching Authority is an Operating/Switching Error with the potential of catastrophic consequences.

According to AEP Switching and Tagging procedures, no one is authorized to switch or operate devices on AEP circuits without approval from the appropriate Dispatching Authority. See the following AEP Switching and Tagging rules.

1.A. “No one is authorized to perform any work, testing or switching on any of the company’s electrical equipment or the associated controls, relays, alarms, metering, or other auxiliary equipment without obtaining approval to do so from the appropriate Dispatching Authority.

3.B.1. A HOLD ORDER is an operating order issued by the Dispatching Authority to hold equipment open or in a designated state.

3.B.1.b. A HOLD ORDER shall be issued for de-energized distribution circuit work where it is not practical to isolate all distribution line transformers. The normal primary voltage source shall have a properly tagged visible open point.

3.D.4.b. EQUIPMENT READY FOR SERVICE – The equipment being released from an OPERATING ORDER is ready for service and in the same switching state as received.

5.A.1. “No device whether on a line or in a station will be operated without permission from the proper Dispatching Authority except in an emergency.



**PROCEDURAL COMPLIANCE REQUIRES THAT YOU RELEASE YOUR HOLD ORDER BEFORE RE-ENERGIZING THE LINE FROM ANY ISOLATION POINT ASSOCIATED WITH A HOLD ORDER.**