

Meramec Electrical Presents at WECC SSWG's 2013 Annual Meeting

June 7, 2013 - Cuba, Missouri

Chris Steineman (Meramec-Electrical Products: Engineer) and Brad Armstrong (Meramec \Electrical Products: Sales/Marketing) made a presentation to Western Electric Coordinating \Council (WECC) Substation Working Group's (SSWG) Annual Meeting covering the subject of "Cracked CT Casings on the Siemens SP/SPS Breaker."

The Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) is the Regional Entity responsible for coordinating and promoting Bulk Electric System reliability in the Western Interconnection.

The WECC SSWG is made up of Engineers, Maintenance Managers, and Substation Equipment Specialists from electric utility companies in the western US and Canada. This group's purpose is to recommend and monitor the planning, design, operation, maintenance, and documentation of substations essential to the reliable operation of grid.

"The goal of the presentation was to make the attendees more aware of the possible severity of the 'cracked casing' issue that is being experienced on Westinghouse/Siemens SP/SPS Circuit Breakers," says Brad Armstrong. "We want to point this issue out and let them know that our Meramec's eSP CT is a solution to their 'cracked casing' problem."

In 1980, Westinghouse began manufacturing a high voltage circuit breaker, model SP/SPS, and then sold the breaker design to Siemens in the mid 1980's. Over the course of roughly 20 years, many of these breakers were employed, and now this model of breaker is commonly found in many electric transmission and distribution companies.

Cracked outer casings are common occurrences throughout the electrical distribution industry.

Extreme conditions can severely affect the life of a Current Transformer operating in outdoor environments. Cracks in the housing lead to moisture ingress that can cause diminished performance, flashover and even failure.

Meramec has targeted the Westinghouse design unit for cracked CT casings on SP/SPS circuit breakers. The original CTs on the SP/SPS breakers manufactured by Westinghouse and Siemens are unique because they are "potted" in resin within an aluminum casing. While it is common to find cracks in CT casings, it is not generally recognized as a problem. The unit is functioning, operating and the power is flowing, so no replacement is requested. The performance problems exist in low megger readings and under-the-surface corrosion that will contribute to the ultimate failure of the unit. Insulation resistance testing (megger) will verify a problem.



Cracked Outer Casing



Meramec recognizes this problem and a potential opportunity to eliminate unnecessary downtime and severe problems in the electrical distribution industry.

To provide a solution to this problem, Meramec-Electrical has developed an enhanced replacement to these original CTs. The Meramec eSP CT is an outdoor mounted slip-over BCT developed specifically for the popular SP/SPS power circuit breaker. This self-contained model offers a solution to replace aged and failing CTs, to add additional Current Transformers, or to change out older CTs for system upgrades when retiring the breaker is not an option.



Meramec eSP CT

About Meramec

Meramec Electrical Products is the preeminent manufacturer of bushing current transformers for the high-voltage circuit breaker, large power transformer, generator, and utility markets. For decades, Meramec Electrical Products has been regarded as the highest quality Current Transformer producer in the electric power distribution industry. For more information contact us at 1-573-885-2521, or visit us on the web at www.meramec-electrical.com.

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