

VICTORIAN DESALINATION PROJECT (VDP) UPDATE - 30 DECEMBER 2016

Work is underway to fix the switchgear that links the power cable to the plant which was damaged during the cable's re-energisation. The desalination plant itself has not been damaged.

A preliminary assessment indicates the incident is not linked to the underground power cable.

The incident occurred while the third section of cable that powers the desalination plant was being re-energised.

Further detailed investigations are taking place to establish the cause of the incident. The plant will not operate until the repair works are completed.

Background

Re-energisation of the power cable occurred in three stages. Section one and two were re-energised earlier this month. An incident occurred during the re-energisation of section 3 which resulted in damage to the Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS).

The GIS is a self-contained, terminal station which "steps down" high voltage electricity (220KV) to a lower voltage (22KV) which is then used by the plant site to operate the various components that make up the VDP.

The reason for the incident is still being investigated. The GIS is renowned as being a highly reliable, safe, low maintenance piece of infrastructure, so this incident is unusual.

Our team is working as quickly as possible to repair the switchgear, to enable the plant to commence operation and fulfil the 50Gl water order.

For further information:

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