Lesson Learned
Unit Trip due to Control Signal Sent to Incorrect Fan

Primary Interest Groups
Generator Owners
Generator Operators

Problem Statement:  Unit trip caused by control signal sent to incorrect fan due to operator error.

Details:  While repairing a faulty motor on a speed changer on one of two induced draft (ID) fans, a Controls Coordinator was assisting with the repairs by sending control signals from the plant Distributed Control System to the problematic fan, as directed by maintenance staff.  The Coordinator accidentally called up the control screen for the good ID fan and sent a control signal to that fan which caused it to stop and ultimately trip the unit due to loss of both ID fans.

Corrective Actions:  The problem was discussed with all Controls Coordinators to stress the importance of staying focused on the job being performed.

Lesson Learned:  At the time of the event, the Controls Coordinator was training two other employees, which caused him to be distracted from his primary duties of assisting with the ID fan repair.  In the future, distractions such as this will be eliminated/suspended when assisting with critical plant repairs or performing other operations which could impact the availability of the unit.

For more information please contact:

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This Lesson Learned was prepared by the SPP Registered Entity that experienced the event.  Company specific identifiers were removed to maintain confidentiality.