



Powell Apparatus Service Division

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SERVICE ADVISORY

SA004, Jan. 5, 1997

Powell Electrical Manufacturing Co. has identified a potential operating condition of the **PV26** breaker, under which the breaker **MAY NOT TRIP (OPEN) WHEN REQUIRED**.

This condition, if present, may result in an inability of the breaker to respond to a trip (open) command. Such a condition, in combination with another electrical system problem, may result in severe property damage, personal injury, or loss of life.

The possibility of this condition exists only on the 5 kV, 250 MVA, 1200 & 2000 amp, 26" wide, "PV26" breakers. These breakers were manufactured between June of 1992 and February of 1997. This **does not** include the 36" wide "PowlVac" or the replacement medium voltage circuit breakers.

This condition has only been observed on breakers that remain closed for an extended period without operation. The condition cannot be predicted, as most of these breakers have operated "problem free" for years. The source of the problem is the primary trip prop roller assembly. In rare cases the movement of the trip prop may be sluggish when the trip actuator is operated either electrically or mechanically. If this sluggish movement is present, a delay will occur in the opening operation of the breaker. The extended periods where this problem has been observed, are between one and three years. In our experience, the sluggish operation will occur only once, as exercising the breaker returns it to a normal condition. If a breaker does not open, operating and holding the "push to clear" actuator on the front of the breaker will open the breaker.

We have developed a kit, consisting of a replacement trip prop and instructions, to resolve this potential condition. Our service personnel can complete the modification in about 30 minutes per breaker. Please return the attached card to acknowledge receipt of this letter and initiate corrective action.

Please contact me if you have any questions concerning this issue.

Sincerely,

DENNIS R. THONSGARD
MANAGER - POWELL APPARATUS SERVICE DIVISION