



Powell Apparatus Service Division

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SERVICE ADVISORY

SA 005, December 9, 1997

The PowlVac[®] vacuum circuit breaker has earned an excellent reputation for reliability over the past 15 years. We have identified however, a possible operating condition of specific 15kV breakers, which may require a visual check during routine maintenance.

The possible condition is that of a "partial discharge" between the primary disconnect device of the breaker and the epoxy spout of the stationary stab assembly. The discharge has been detected in a very small percentage of the breakers in service. The known impact of this condition has been minimal, consisting of minor metalizing of the inside of the spout near the location of the tension springs on the stab. This rare event has not impacted the safe performance of the breakers. The condition is corrected by cleaning the inside of the spout and replacing the spring assembly.

The inspection requirement is classified as low priority. The occurrence of this condition should be checked during a routine maintenance period as recommended in the PowlVac instruction bulletin. This period should be established by specific application and experience. The general rule however, is once annually or every 2000 operations, whichever occurs first.

The specific models affected are 15kV, 1200 amp, PowlVac[®] breakers with the primary disconnect device consisting of two 1/4" X 3" copper bars. These models were manufactured after March 21, 1989 and the last four digits of the serial number are higher than 2711.

We have developed a kit, consisting of replacement springs, clips and spacers, to resolve this potential condition. All breakers shipped after November 21, 1997, will utilize this version of contact springs.

Please contact PASD for kit information or any other questions concerning this issue.

I want to restate that this rare event has not impacted the safe performance of PowlVac[®] breakers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dennis R. Thonsgard".

DENNIS R. THONSGARD

MANAGER - POWELL APPARATUS SERVICE DIVISION