NERC
NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY CORPORATION

NPCC - Lesson Learned

Generator Plant Gas Supply Event #2

Primary Interest Groups
Reliability Coordinator (RC)
Transmission Operator (TOP)
Transmission Owner (TO)
Balancing Authority (BA)
Generator Owner (GO)
Generator Operator (GOP)

Problem Statement
A gas pipe line owner supplying a generation station failed to notify the plant owner that one of the three valves in the outlet header pipe that supplies the generating units had been closed by the gas company. A pressure drop in natural gas supply resulted in the simultaneous loss of three generating units.

Details
A single natural gas supply lateral, supplying the generating plant, feeds into an inlet header pipe that is comprised of three valves in parallel. The three valves proceed to an outlet header pipe that supplies three units at the generation site. One of the three valves was closed (isolated) by the gas pipeline owner during a prolonged generation unit outage at the plant. When the generating unit was returned to service several months later, the increased demand for natural gas caused a drop in gas pressure and delivery capacity to the plant.

Corrective Actions
A process was developed that outlines a communication protocol between the gas pipe line owner and the applicable generating plant. The process requires a notification when control valves are opened or closed, that would impact the natural gas delivery to the plant.

Lesson Learned
Telemetry indication of gas supply pressure status should be considered for the generating plant control room.

For more Information please contact:

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