Investigation Results

Exelon

ComEd
An Exelon Company

Lessons Learned Operating Experience | CE-EA- 937474 | November 4, 2016

Transmission OH Employee Falls From Tower

On August 22, 2016 (near the Town of Odell, Illinois), an Overhead Electrician fell 45 feet from a lattice structure transmission tower after inadvertently removing his secure anchor point. The incident occurred while employees were preparing for a raise of the transmission tower using a portable jacking system that was installed midway up the tower.

The OE and several other employees had successfully performed the same task on two of the four tower faces. The scope of this tower raise included reinforcement of the horizontal cross-members and a 10-foot lift in two 5-foot increments. Reinforcement of the cross-member was the work being performed at the time of the incident.

The OE fell when he removed bolts connecting the horizontal cross-member, compromising his secure anchor point.

The investigation identified that fall hazards can be reduced or eliminated by increasing the fall protection used on lattice and steel structures, enhancing the verification practices used on the jobsite, and improving the job brief discussion for lattice tower work.

.

This is not an M. J. Electric/Intermountain Electric or Quanta Services Company Incident

Why Does It Matter?

- While the employee sustained serious injuries, the outcome could have been worse
- Identifying and managing error likely situations can prevent injury

Causes

- Tethering to a single anchor point did not prevent the individual from falling
- Verification practices were not specifically required during the selection of anchor points
- Secure anchor point selection was a not part of a pre-job brief discussion

Corrective Actions

- Double tethering for lattice tower and steel structure work by attaching to two distinctly separate anchor points where possible should be utilized
- Verification practices (e.g. STAR, Peer Check) will be enhanced to better confirm a secure anchor point
- A Critical Task Tool will be created to enhance job briefings
- Ensuring quality audits to identify the unique risks

Information Contact: Bob Charland 630-576-6536

THIS IS NOT AN M. J. ELECTRIC/INTERMOUNTAIN ELECTRIC OR QUANTA SERVICES COMPANY INCIDENT