

Resonant Earthing – A Paradigm Shift for Australia

Introduction:

Resonant earthing is a well established form of system earthing in the northern hemisphere, with applications ranging from 11kV to beyond 220kV in various networks including rail, mining, distribution and transmission. This earthing technology has however failed to gain acceptance in Australia until now, with recent technological advancements in power electronics reinvigorating interest in the technology. As a result, a resonant earthing trial was initiated this year at United Energy Distribution's (UED) Frankston South Zone Substation located in the Melbourne area. Resonant earthing provides an opportunity for Australian electricity distribution companies to make a paradigm change to the design of their networks, resulting in a step increase in performance. On the basis of the data obtained to date plus international application experience, Jemena is recommending a strategy to introduce resonant earthing into every distribution zone substation.

Bushfire:

- Probability of fire ignition linked to earth fault energy
- GFN minimises energy during an fault earth fault
- Explosive failure reduced – no surge energy, no shower of sparks
- No arcing to serve as a means of fire ignition
- Increased earth fault detection sensitivity (factor of 10)

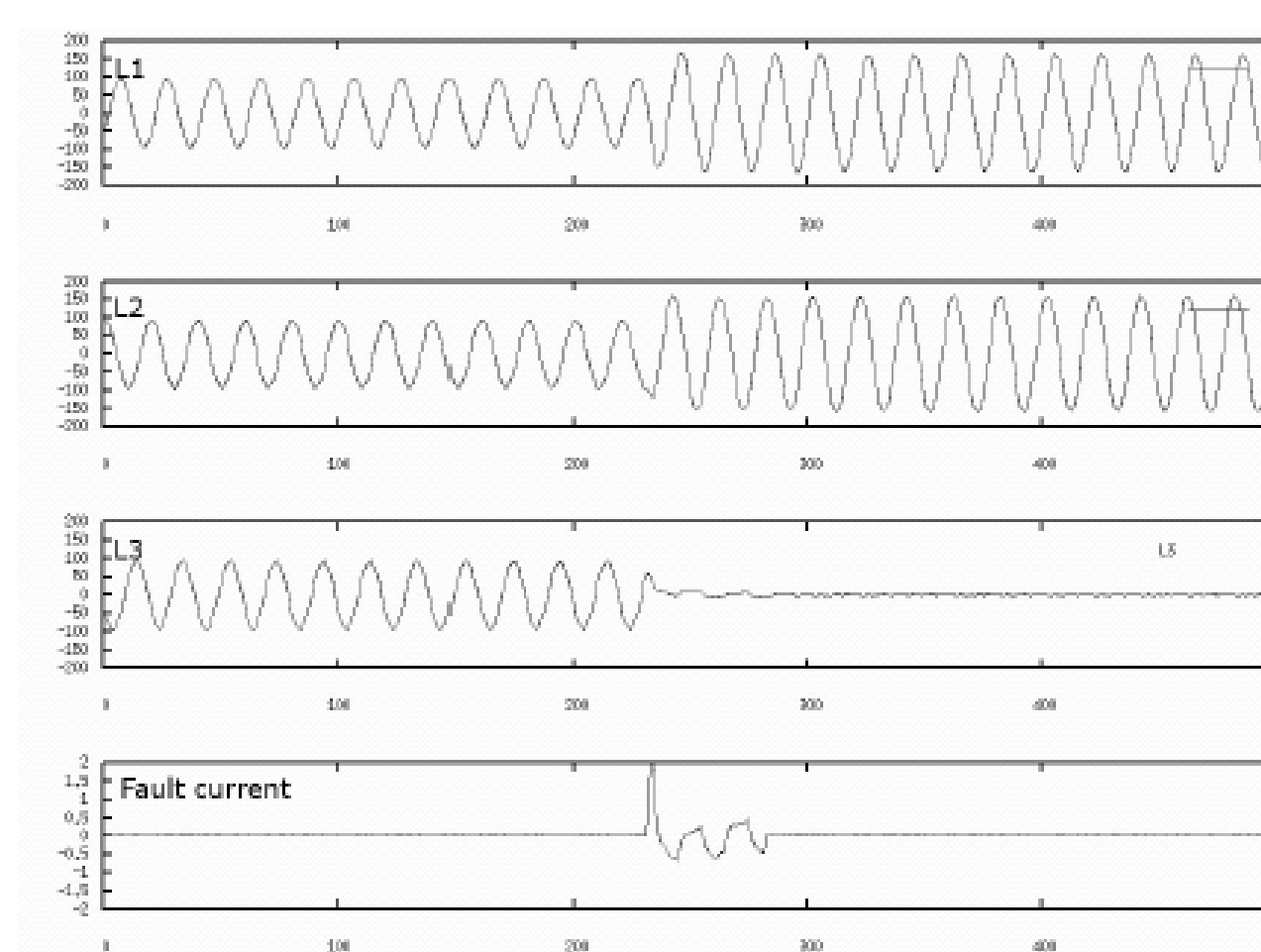
Reliability:

- Reduction in customer outages
- Transient earth faults become self clearing
- Reduction in secondary damage

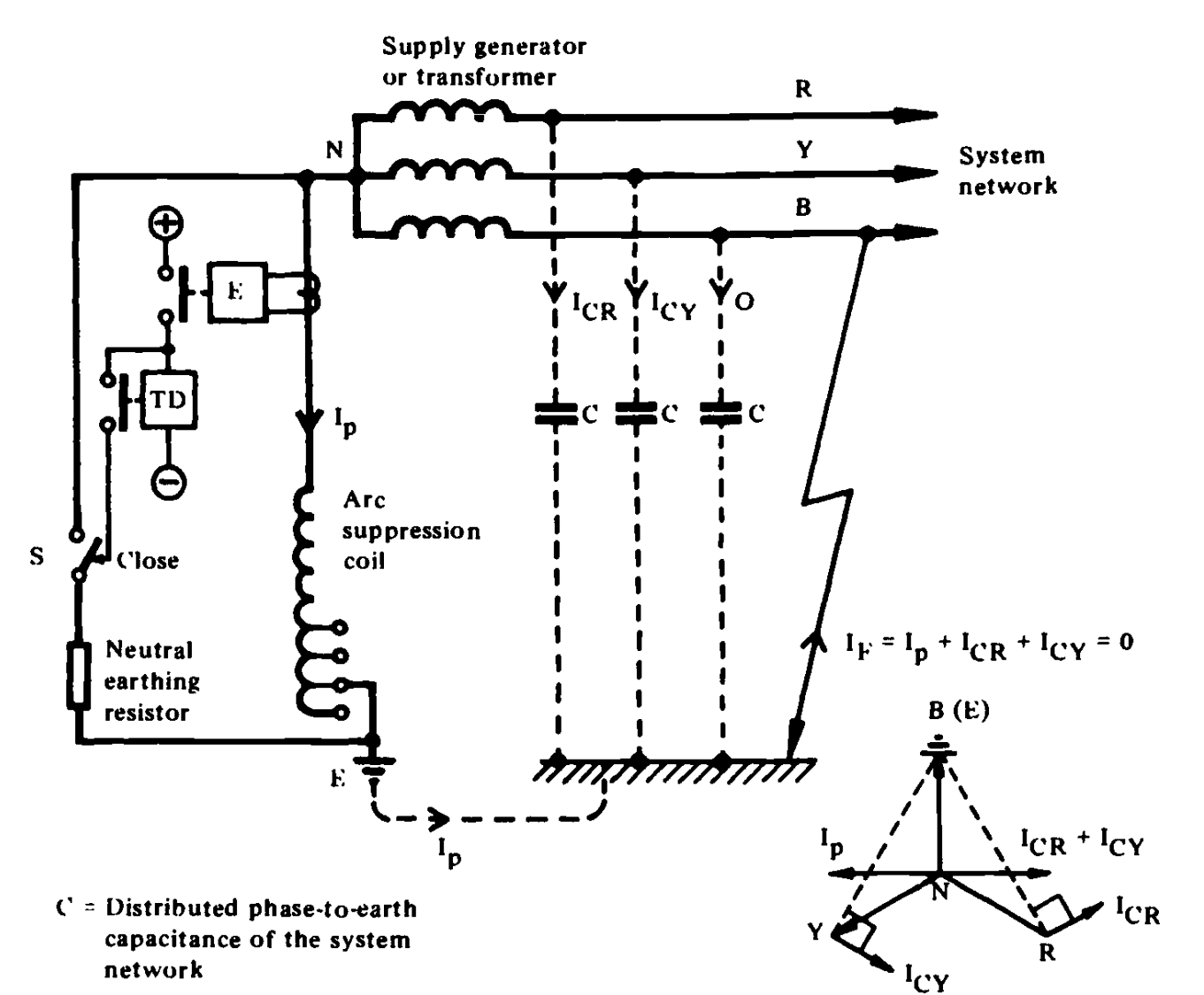
Safety:

- The fault current and fault voltage are minimised
- Reduces risk of conductor clashing & plant failure
- Reduces probability of flash burns
- Improved 'Step & Touch' voltage performance
- Fault detection sensitivity is improved
- The GFN will compensate faster than conventional protection

Operation:

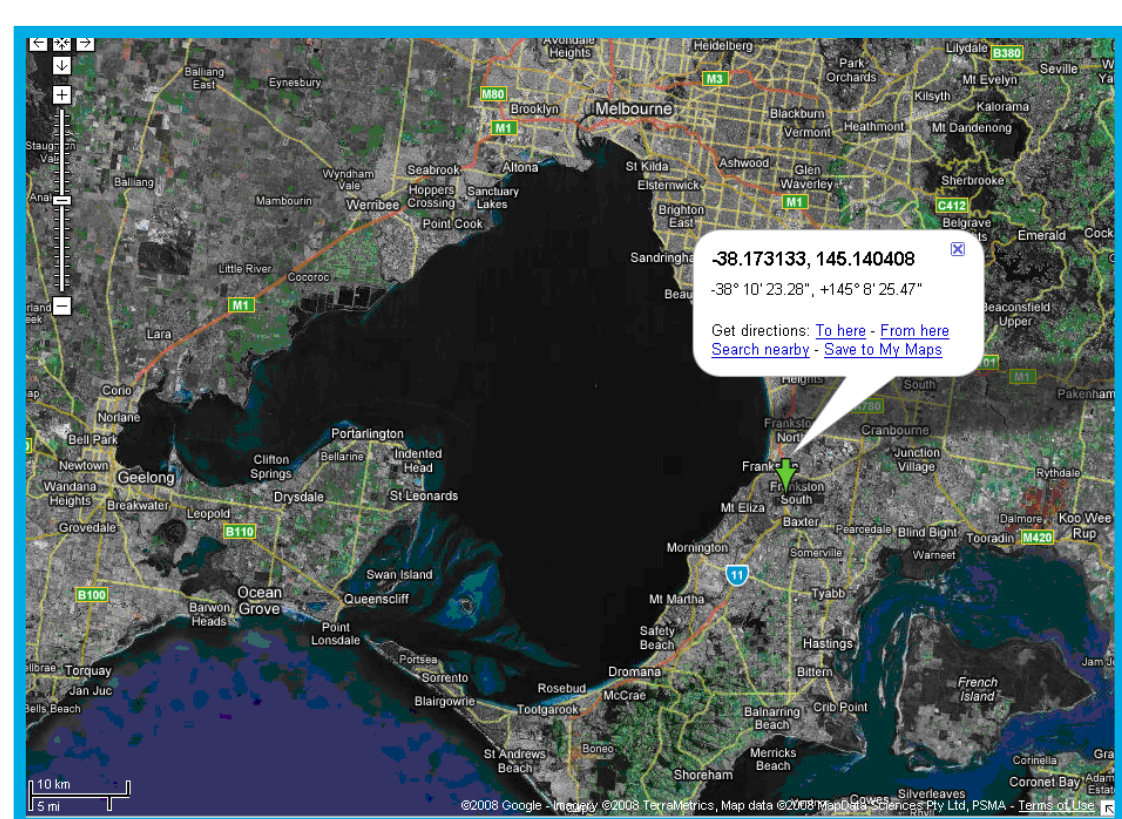


Fault Current / Voltage

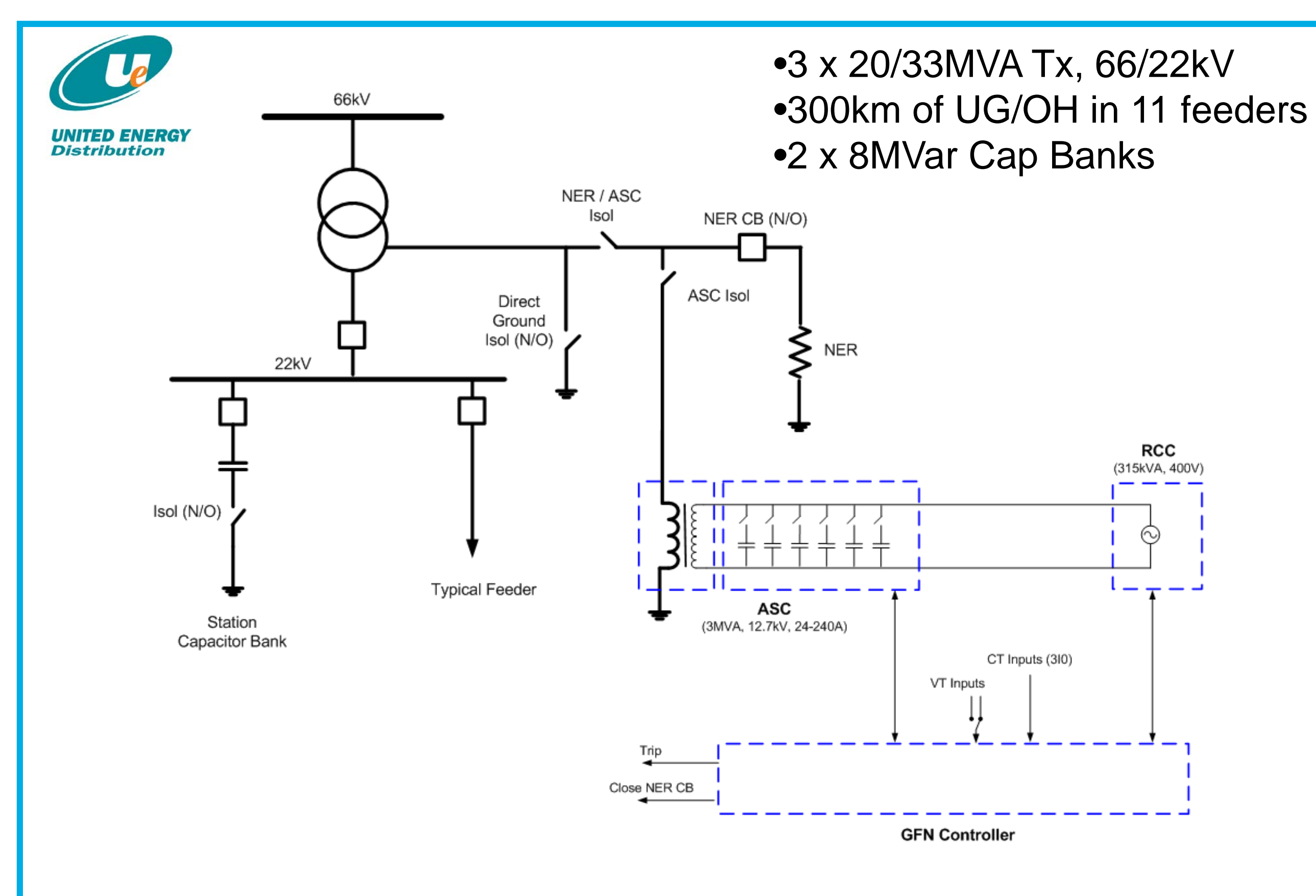


Fault Diagram

The Frankston South Ground Fault Neutraliser (GFN) Trial Installation:



Frankston South - Location



Frankston South – Simplified Single Line Schematic



Arc Suppression Coil (ASC)



GFN Controller



Residual Current Compensator (RCC)

Karl Edwards

Karl recently held the position of Asset Manager, Jemena Electricity Network, with responsibility for the Engineering Asset Management team and the Jemena Electricity Network. Most recently Karl has been responsible managing the introduction of Resonant Earthing into the United Energy Distribution network. Karl holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Honors) degree from The University of Melbourne

karl.edwards@jemena.com.au

Robert Simpkin

Robert has been working within the Victorian electricity supply industry since 1992 and is currently Jemena's Protection and Control Manager, with responsibility for the strategic management of secondary assets on both the United Energy and Jemena electricity distribution networks. Robert holds a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering (Honors) degree from The University of Ballarat.

robert.simpkin@jemena.com.au