

Visible Break Discussion Group

September 21, 2015 – San Diego, CA, USA



Chair: Francois Soulard

Secretary: Frank DeCesaro

Meeting Minutes

1. Attendance:

Attendance was 39 persons. Only a preliminary breakdown of guest to member is here in presented since this is the first meeting. Persons interested to participate are identified as members in the list in annex.

Wants to limit the participation and looking for group volunteers. All are welcome in the discussions. Want to get utility participation in this group. There are about ten people here today that expressed interested in being members of this group.

2. Call to order and introduction:

The chair wants to limit the participation and is looking for group volunteers. All are welcome in the discussions. It is desired to get utility participation in this group.

The need for a discussion group was raised at the last RODE meeting (spring 2015 ref.: S15RODEmi.pdf). A consideration for Solid Dielectric Switchgear that incorporates a visible open as an integral part of the switchgear was raised by a member since visible break is not covered in the standards. A Discussion Group of 6 volunteers was formed at the last meeting and a preliminary draft was compiled and sent out to the volunteers. Francois Soulard, member of RODE will lead the discussion group going forward.

3. Previous Meeting Minutes:

This is the first meeting for this group.

4. Agenda:

The proposed meeting agenda was displayed to the group to start discussions. The main subject of the agenda was the following;

- Working group scope (proposal)
- Working plan
- Utilities contribution
- Proposed schedule (for discussion)

5. Discussion topics:

- a. Working group scope (proposal) François Soulard

The scope (Proposal):

- *The working group will report to RODE subcommittee their conclusions and recommendations on the integration of a visual open as an integral part of*

switchgear.

Discussion;

- Question; The question was raised if this discussion will cover all type of dielectric technology.
 - Answer; The chair mentioned that the discussion can include pole top, pad mounts, submersible, etc., has described in RODE.
- Question; Will it be visible ground?
 - Answer; The visible ground was not initially in the discussion but it can be discuss to include it or not.
- Question; It will be a visible open and not semaphore?
 - Answer; The discussion objective is visible opening but we have to distinct what is acceptable in regulation.
- Question; Visible break don't have definition in standards as of now. Is the definition of a visible disconnect switch can be consider.
 - Answer; This will be part of the discussion.
- Question; Are disconnecting elbows included in this?
 - Answer; The visual break discussion cover the integrated part in equipment covered by RODE. However chair considers the function and the objective of disconnecting elbows related with the discussion since it is a safety practice by Utilities to realize a visible break. The function and the objective the disconnecting elbows may be discuss.

- Proposal: This group will discuss the requirements of a visible break to include, but not be limited to, testing, requirements, and definitions. This will then be presented to the RODE sub-committee to request that a task force or working group be created to continue with this. The discussion should include an integrated disconnect switch and not include.

This was not acted on.

An attendee rose that a definition of visible break is related with safety in regulation and the safety electric code. Then, according to him we cannot redefine in this group that definition.

It was also raised during the discussion that the subject exceeds the scope of RODE. Other Subcommittees shall be invited to the discussion.

The chair proposes to suspend the Scope's text discussion and address this issue to RODE. This issue will be presented to RODE or ADSCOM later this week.

b. Working plan

It will be adjusted when RODE and ADSCOM will conclude on the issue.

c. Utilities contribution

Utility Get Together will be addressed with the subject to get their participation later on a survey on their practices.

d. Proposed schedule (for discussion)

It was raised that according to the Switchgear Policies and Procedures the group discussion cannot exceed six (6) month after his creation. The plan shall meet this requirement. In these circumstances, since the group was not official yet, the time frame will be adjusted when RODE and ADSCOM will conclude on the issue.

The members list, including new membership request to participate will be keep in record for RODE and ADSCOM references for future actions.

6. New Business;

- Nothing to report.

7. Next meeting:

- Spring 2016 (April 25 – 29) Sonesta Resort, Hilton Head, SC USA
- Fall 2016 (October 9 – 14) Sheraton Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

8. Meeting was adjourned at 11:49 PM

9. Complementary reported out of the discussion session

The issue of the discussions was presented to RODE meeting and followed by presentation to ADSCOM. Refer to RODE and ADSCOM minutes of meeting for the following steps.

Annex: Member Attendance

| Count | Role | First Name | Last Name | Company | Country | 2015-09-21 |
|-------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------|------------|
| 1 | Chair | Francois | Soulard | Hydro-Quebec | Canada | X |
| 2 | M | Chris | Ambrose | Federal Pacific | USA | X |
| 3 | M | Nenad | Uzelac | G&W Electric | USA | X |
| 4 | G | Antone | Bonner | Eaton | USA | X |
| 5 | Secretary | Frank | DeCesaro | Eaton's Cooper Power Systems | USA | X |
| 6 | M | Edgar | Dullni | ABB | USA | X |
| 7 | M | Paul | Found | BC Hydro | Canada | X |
| 8 | M | Harold | Hirz | Thomas and Betts | USA | X |
| 9 | M | Chris | Lettow | S&C Electric Company | USA | X |
| 10 | G | Donald | Martin | G&W Electric Co. | USA | X |
| 11 | M | Timothy | Royster | Dominion Virginia Power | USA | X |
| 12 | M | William | Walter | We-Energies | USA | Excused |
| 13 | M | Jeffrey | Gieger | Thomas & Betts | USA | X |
| 14 | M | Steven | Meiners | GE | USA | X |
| 15 | M | Anil | Dhawan | Comed | USA | X |
| 16 | G | Brendan | Kirkpatrick | Southern California Edison | USA | X |
| 17 | M | Karla | Trost | G&W Electric | USA | X |
| 18 | G | Roger | Golze | Trayer Switchgear | USA | X |
| 19 | M | David | Beseda | S&C Electric Company | USA | X |
| 20 | M | Robert | Warren | DNV GL KEMA Laboratories | USA | X |
| 21 | G | Paul | Barnhart | UL, LLC | USA | X |
| 22 | M | Matt | Williford | Schneider Electric | USA | X |
| 23 | M | John Paul | Adigue | Southern California Edison | USA | X |
| 24 | G | Kevin | Wood | Southern California Edison | USA | X |
| 25 | G | Jack | Harley | LLC First Power Group | USA | X |
| 26 | G | Kyle | Stromberg | G&W Electric | USA | X |
| 27 | G | Art | Jur | Eaton | USA | X |
| 28 | G | Ted | Burse | Powell Electrical Systems Inc. | USA | X |
| 29 | M | Jean-Marc | Biasse | Schneider Electric | USA | X |
| 30 | G | James K. | Stacy | Schneider Electric | USA | X |
| 31 | G | Sever | Poodea | ABB CA | USA | X |
| 32 | G | William | Ernst | T&B | USA | X |
| 33 | M | Gary | Haynes | ABB | USA | X |
| 34 | M | Marcelo | Valdes | GE | USA | X |
| 35 | G | Jon | Spencer | T&B | USA | X |
| 36 | G | Travis | Johnson | Xcel Energy | USA | X |
| 37 | G | Ellen | Baraq | G&W Electric | USA | X |
| 38 | G | Brad | Lewis | AEP | USA | X |
| 39 | M | Albert | Livshitz | CE Power Sol. | USA | x |
| 40 | M | Jerry | Baskin | Federal Pacific | USA | Excused |
| 41 | M | James | Swank | Cooper Power Systems | USA | Excused |
| 42 | M | Jonathan | Deverick | Dominion Virginia Power | USA | Excused |

1 Chair

21 Request for Membership (plus 3 initially required to be members at RODE meeting)

17 Guests Attending

Total attendees

39 (14 new membership requested)

Submitted by:

François Soulard, ing.

September 21, 2015