European Electricity Blackout, November 2006

Analyst: Bernd Sieker

Report created on: Fri Aug 29 11:01:00 CEST 2008

Document version: NO VERSION SPECIFIED



Causalis Limited

Am Petersberg 3 D-33619 Bielefeld

mail: info@causalis.com web: http://www.causalis.com tel: +49 521 3 29 31 00 fax: +49 521 3 29 31 02

INCIDENT ANALYSIS

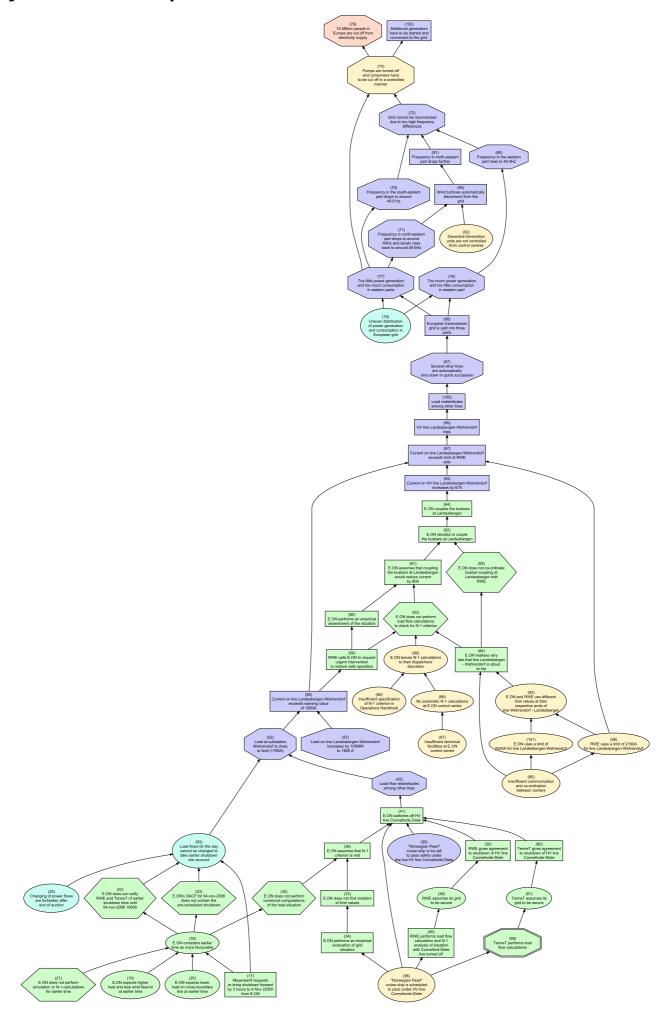
Incident description:

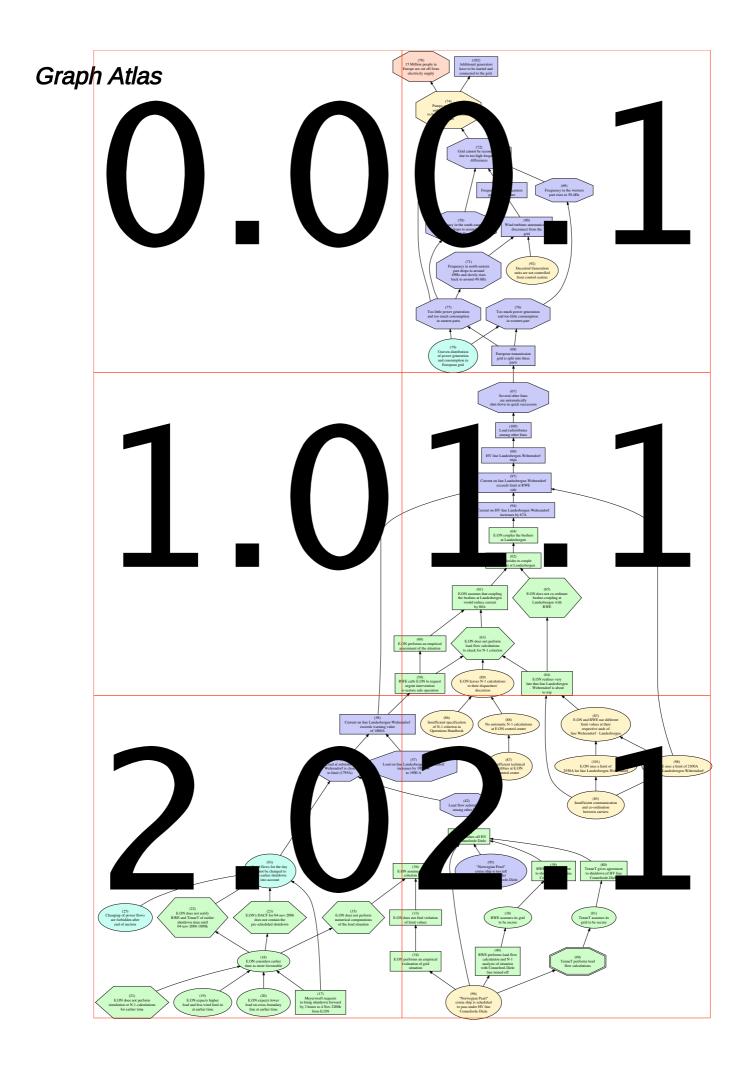
A Why-Because Analysis of the Disruption in the European Power Grid in the night between the 4 and 5 November 2006. A high-voltage line had to be turned off to let a cruise ship pass underneath. The following load redistribution caused many other lines to trip, splitting the European power grid into three parts with a generation/consumption imbalance. In areas with under-generation, consumers had to be disconnected from the grid. During the peak up to 15 million people in Europe were without electricity.

Legend of Factorshapes

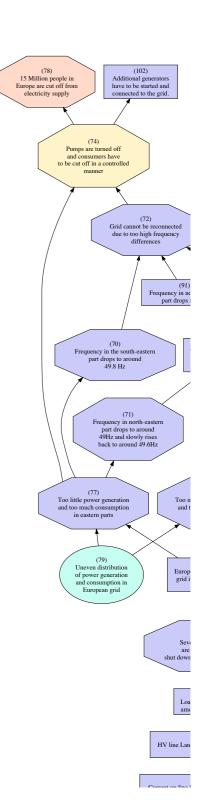
Factortype	Factorshape
Unspecified Factortype	
Event	
Un-Event	
State	
Process	
Assumption	
Countermeasure	
Contraindication	

Why-Because Graph

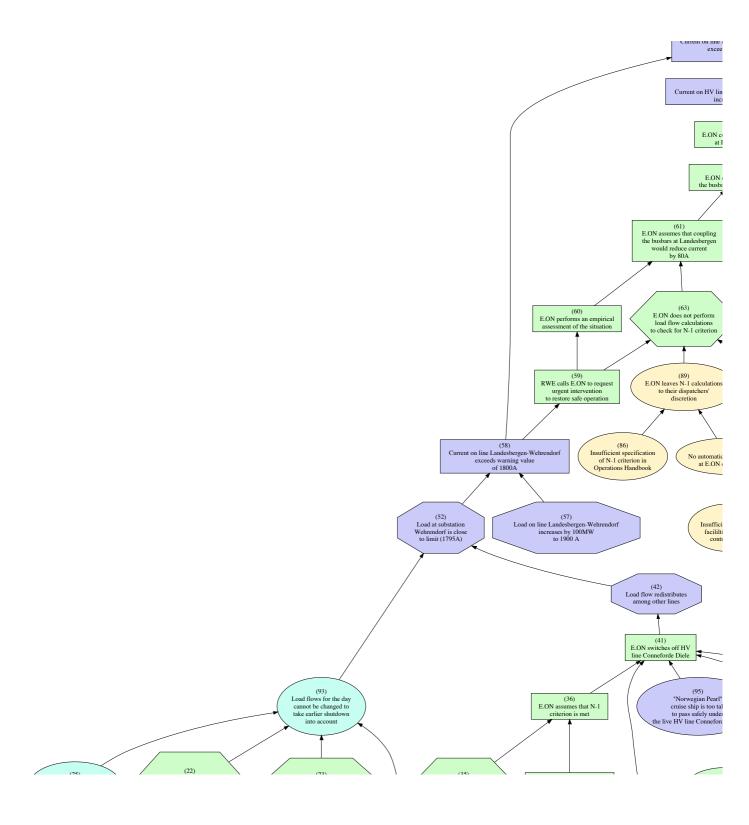




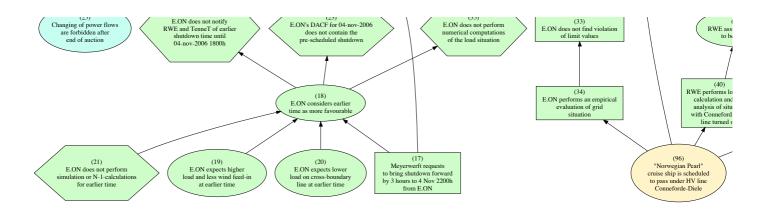
Graphtile 0.0



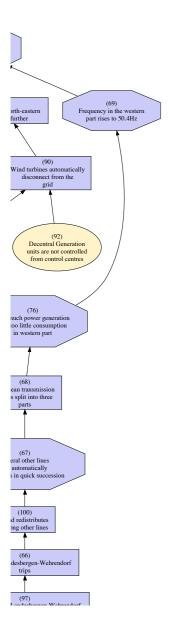
Graphtile 1.0



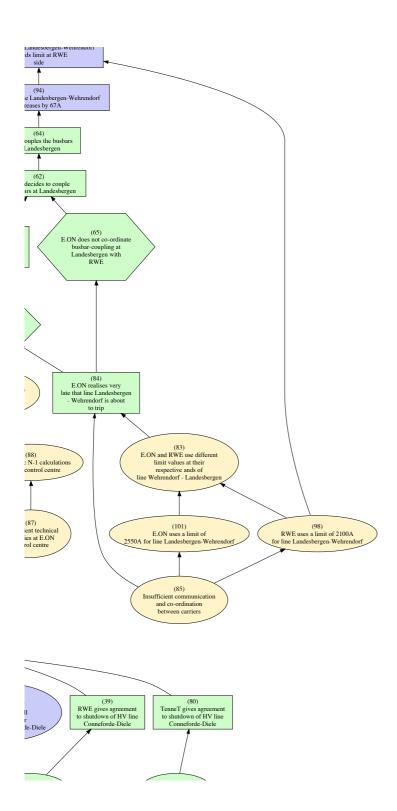
Graphtile 2.0



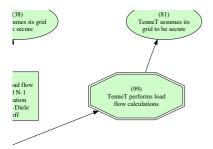
Graphtile 0.1



Graphtile 1.1



Graphtile 2.1



Timeline of Events

		, ,	IZ SILOIII	
		E.ON Netz GmbH	kwe Iransporner TenneT	Meyerwerft Vattenfall
Meyerwerft asks E.ON to turn off HV line Conneforde-Diele	18.09.200	X	Y Y	X Vat
E.ON Netz gives provisional approval for shutdown of HV line to Meyerwerft	00:00:00	X		X
E.ON performs analysis of load situation for shutdown of HV line	- 1	^ X		^
E.ON has no detailed information about load situation on day of shutdown	1	^ X		
E.ON informs Dutch network carrier TenneT about planned HV line shutdown		^ X	X	
E.ON informs network carrier RWE about planned HV line shutdown		^ X		
RWE performs N-1 calculations for situation with HV line shut down	1 '	^ / >		
TenneT performs N-1 calculations for situation with HV line shut down			X	
RWE anticipates high load but secure operation with HV line shut down		>		
TenneT anticipates high load but secure operation with HV line shut down			X	
E.ON Netz and TenneT agree to reduce cross-boundary flow by 350MW between 0 and 6 a.m. on 05-				
nov-2006		X	X	
Meyerwerft requests to bring shutdown forward by 3 hours to 4 Nov 2200h from E.ON	03.11.200	X		X
E.ON considers earlier time as more favourable		X		
E.ON expects higher load and less wind feed-in at earlier time		Χ		
E.ON expects lower load on cross-boundary line at earlier time		Χ		
E.ON does not perform simulation or N-1-calculations for earlier time		Χ		
E.ON does not notify RWE and TenneT of earlier shutdown time until 04-nov-2006 1800h		Χ		
E.ON's DACF for 04-nov-2006 does not contain the pre-scheduled shutdown		Χ		
TenneT expects increased infeed from wind turbines	04.11.200		Χ	
TenneT decides to reduce cross-boundary flow further for 2006-11-04		Χ		
E.ON, TenneT and RWE agree to change tap position at Meeden phase shifter	19:00:00	X >	(X	
TenneT changes tap position at Meeden phase shifter	19:33:00		Χ	
E.ON does not find violation of limit values	21:29:00	Χ		
E.ON performs an empirical evaluation of grid situation		Χ		
E.ON does not perform numerical computations of the load situation		Χ		
E.ON assumes that N-1 criterion is met		Χ		
RWE performs load flow calculation and N-1 analysis of situation with Conneford-Diele line turned off		Χ		
Frequency UCTE area very close to nominal 50 Hz	21:30:00			
RWE confirms to E.ON that corss-border-flows would be high		>	(X	
RWE assumes its grid to be secure		>	(X	
RWE gives agreement to shutdown of HV line Conneforde-Diele		>	(X	
TenneT gives agreement to shutdown of HV line Conneforde-Diele				
TenneT assumes its grid to be secure				
TenneT confirms to E.ON that corss-border-flows would be high				
E.ON switches off HV line Conneforde Diele	21:38:00	Χ		
Load flow redistributes among other lines				
E.ON receives warning messages about high power flow on line Elsen-Twistetal	21:39:00	Χ		
E.ON receives warning messages about high power flow on line Elsen-Bechterdissen		Χ		
E.ON sees no need for immediate action		X		
E.ON phones RWE to find if it everything is ok	21:41:00	X >	(
RWE maintains that N-1 criterion is met in their net		>	(
RWE points out the security margin for line Landesbergen (E.ON)-Wehrendorf (RWE)		>	(
RWE points out the limit of substation Wehrendorf		>	(
Load at substation Wehrendorf is close to limit (1795A)				

N-1 cirterion is met in internal RWE net	I	E.ON Netz GmbH	X RWE Transportnetz Strom	lenne! Meverworft	Vattenfall
E.ON iussues passage approval for Norwegian Pearl to Meyerwerft	21:42:00	- X	^	X	,
E.ON and Vattenfall still consider situation as tight	21:46:00	- ^		^	•
Load on line Landesbergen-Wehrendorf increases by 100MW to 1900 A	22:05:00	-^			
Current on line Landesbergen-Wehrendorf exceeds warning value of 1800A	22:07:00	-			
RWE calls E.ON to request urgent intervention to restore safe operation	22:08:00	-			
E.ON performs an empirical assessment of the situation	22:09:00	-			
E.ON assumes that coupling the busbars at Landesbergen would reduce current by 80A					
E.ON decides to couple the busbars at Landesbergen					
E.ON does not perform load flow calculations to check for N-1 criterion					
E.ON does not co-ordinate busbar-coupling at Landesbergen with RWE	22:10:00	_			
E.ON couples the busbars at Landesbergen	22:10:11	_			
HV line Landesbergen-Wehrendorf trips	22:10:13	_			
Several other lines are automatically shut down in quick succession	22:10:15	_			
European transmission grid is split into three parts					
Frequency in the western part rises to 50.4Hz	22:10:30	-			
Frequency in the south-eastern part drops to around 49.8 Hz					
Frequency in north-eastern part drops to around 49Hz and slowly rises back to around 49.6Hz					
Grid cannot be reconnected due to too high frequency differences					
Generators have to be cut off or pumps activated in the western part	22:11:00	-			
Pumps are turned off and consumers have to be cut off in a controlled manner					
Too much power generation and too little consumption in western part					
Too little power generation and too much consumption in eastern parts					
15 Million people in Europe are cut off from electricity supply	22:15:00	-			

Factor List - Details

1 Meyerwerft asks E.ON to turn off HV line Conneforde-Diele

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 18.09.2006 00:00:00
Actors involved: Employees of TenneT

Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

2 Distance between ship and HV line too small for safe passage

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

3 River Ems is dammed up for passage of cruise ship

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

4 E.ON Netz gives provisional approval for shutdown of HV line to Meyerwerft

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 27.10.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Employees of TenneT

Annotation:

5 E.ON performs analysis of load situation for shutdown of HV line

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 27.10.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

7 E.ON has no detailed information about load situation on day of shutdown

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 27.10.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

8 E.ON informs Dutch network carrier TenneT about planned HV line shutdown

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 27.10.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

9 E.ON informs network carrier RWE about planned HV line shutdown

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 27.10.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

10 RWE performs N-1 calculations for situation with HV line shut down

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 27.10.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

11 TenneT performs N-1 calculations for situation with HV line shut down

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 27.10.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

12 RWE anticipates high load but secure operation with HV line shut down

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: 27.10.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

13 TenneT anticipates high load but secure operation with HV line shut down

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: 27.10.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

14 E.ON Netz and TenneT agree to reduce cross-boundary flow by 350MW between 0 and 6 a.m. on 05-nov-2006

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 27.10.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

15 TenneT decides to reduce cross-boundary flow further for 2006-11-04

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

16 TenneT expects increased infeed from wind turbines

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

17 Meyerwerft requests to bring shutdown forward by 3 hours to 4 Nov 2200h from E.ON

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 03.11.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Employees of TenneT

Annotation:

18 E.ON considers earlier time as more favourable

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: 03.11.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

19 E.ON expects higher load and less wind feed-in at earlier time

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: 03.11.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

20 E.ON expects lower load on cross-boundary line at earlier time

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: 03.11.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

21 E.ON does not perform simulation or N-1-calculations for earlier time

Type of Factor: UnEvent

Date/Time: 03.11.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

22 E.ON does not notify RWE and TenneT of earlier shutdown time until 04-nov-2006 1800h

Type of Factor: UnEvent

Date/Time: 03.11.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

23 E.ON's DACF for 04-nov-2006 does not contain the pre-scheduled shutdown

Type of Factor: UnEvent

Date/Time: 03.11.2006 00:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

25 Changing of power flows are forbidden after end of auction

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time:
Actors involved:

Annotation: Rules of energy market in Europe

26 E.ON, TenneT and RWE agree to change tap position at Meeden phase shifter

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 19:00:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

27 TenneT changes tap position at Meeden phase shifter

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 19:33:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

28 Construction work at 380kV Borken substation

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

29 Borken substation operates in two-busbar mode

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

30 No power flows East->West possible at Borken substation

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

31 Frequency UCTE area very close to nominal 50 Hz

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:30:00

33 E.ON does not find violation of limit values

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:29:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

34 E.ON performs an empirical evaluation of grid situation

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:29:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

35 E.ON does not perform numerical computations of the load situation

Type of Factor: UnEvent

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:29:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

36 E.ON assumes that N-1 criterion is met

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:29:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

37 RWE confirms to E.ON that corss-border-flows would be high

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:30:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

38 RWE assumes its grid to be secure

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:30:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

39 RWE gives agreement to shutdown of HV line Conneforde-Diele

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:30:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

40 RWE performs load flow calculation and N-1 analysis of situation with Conneford-Diele line turned off

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:29:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

41 E.ON switches off HV line Conneforde Diele

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:38:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

42 Load flow redistributes among other lines

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:38:00

43 E.ON receives warning messages about high power flow on line Elsen-Twistetal

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:39:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

44 E.ON receives warning messages about high power flow on line Elsen-Bechterdissen

Type of Factor: Unspecified

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:39:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

45 Internal E.ON regulations

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time:

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

46 Temporary overload of up to 25% is permissible

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

47 E.ON sees no need for immediate action

Type of Factor: Unspecified

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:39:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

48 E.ON phones RWE to find if it everything is ok

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:41:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

49 RWE maintains that N-1 criterion is met in their net

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:41:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

50 RWE points out the security margin for line Landesbergen (E.ON)-Wehrendorf (RWE)

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:41:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

51 RWE points out the limit of substation Wehrendorf

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:41:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

52 Load at substation Wehrendorf is close to limit (1795A)

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:41:00

53 N-1 cirterion is met in internal RWE net

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:41:00

Actors involved: Employees of RWE Transportnetz Strom

Annotation:

54 E.ON iussues passage approval for Norwegian Pearl to Meyerwerft

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:42:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Employees of TenneT

Annotation:

55 E.ON and Vattenfall still consider situation as tight

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:46:00

Actors involved: Employees of E.ON Netz GmbH

Annotation:

57 Load on line Landesbergen-Wehrendorf increases by 100MW to 1900 A

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:05:00

Actors involved:

Annotation: The reason for this increase is unknown

58 Current on line Landesbergen-Wehrendorf exceeds warning value of 1800A

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:07:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

59 RWE calls E.ON to request urgent intervention to restore safe operation

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:08:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

60 E.ON performs an empirical assessment of the situation

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:09:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

61 E.ON assumes that coupling the busbars at Landesbergen would reduce current by 80A

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:09:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

62 E.ON decides to couple the busbars at Landesbergen

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:09:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

63 E.ON does not perform load flow calculations to check for N-1 criterion

Type of Factor: UnEvent

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:09:00

64 E.ON couples the busbars at Landesbergen

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:10:11

Actors involved: Annotation:

65 E.ON does not co-ordinate busbar-coupling at Landesbergen with RWE

Type of Factor: UnEvent

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:10:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

66 HV line Landesbergen-Wehrendorf trips

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:10:13

Actors involved: Annotation:

67 Several other lines are automatically shut down in quick succession

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:10:15

Actors involved: Annotation:

68 European transmission grid is split into three parts

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:10:15

Actors involved: Annotation:

69 Frequency in the western part rises to 50.4Hz

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:10:30

Actors involved: Annotation:

70 Frequency in the south-eastern part drops to around 49.8 Hz

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:10:30

Actors involved: Annotation:

71 Frequency in north-eastern part drops to around 49Hz and slowly rises back to around 49.6Hz

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:10:30

Actors involved: Annotation:

72 Grid cannot be reconnected due to too high frequency differences

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:10:30

Actors involved: Annotation:

73 Generators have to be cut off or pumps activated in the western part

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:11:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

74 Pumps are turned off and consumers have to be cut off in a controlled manner

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:11:00

76 Too much power generation and too little consumption in western part

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:11:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

77 Too little power generation and too much consumption in eastern parts

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:11:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

78 15 Million people in Europe are cut off from electricity supply

Type of Factor: Process

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 22:15:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

79 Uneven distribution of power generation and consumption in European grid

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

80 TenneT gives agreement to shutdown of HV line Conneforde-Diele

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:30:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

81 TenneT assumes its grid to be secure

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:30:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

82 TenneT confirms to E.ON that corss-border-flows would be high

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: 04.11.2006 21:30:00

Actors involved: Annotation:

83 E.ON and RWE use different limit values at their respective ands of line Wehrendorf - Landesbergen

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

84 E.ON realises very late that line Landesbergen - Wehrendorf is about to trip

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time:
Actors involved:
Annotation:

85 Insufficient communication and co-ordination between carriers

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

86 Insufficient specification of N-1 criterion in Operations Handbook

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

87 Insufficient technical facilities at E.ON control centre

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

88 No automatic N-1 calculations at E.ON control centre

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

89 E.ON leaves N-1 calculations to their dispatchers' discretion

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

90 Wind turbines automatically disconnect from the grid

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time:
Actors involved:
Annotation:

91 Frequency in north-eastern part drops further

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

92 Decentral Generation units are not controlled from control centres

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

93 Load flows for the day cannot be changed to take earlier shutdown into account

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

94 Current on HV line Landesbergen-Wehrendorf increases by 67A

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

95 "Norwegian Pearl" cruise ship is too tall to pass safely under the live HV line Conneforde-Diele

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

96 "Norwegian Pearl" cruise ship is scheduled to pass under HV line Conneforde-Diele

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

97 Current on line Landesbergen-Wehrendorf exceeds limit at RWE side

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

98 RWE uses a limit of 2100A for line Landesbergen-Wehrendorf

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

99 TenneT performs load flow calculations

Type of Factor: Assumption

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

100 Load redistributes among other lines

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

101 E.ON uses a limit of 2550A for line Landesbergen-Wehrendorf

Type of Factor: State

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation:

102 Additional generators have to be started and connected to the grid.

Type of Factor: Event

Date/Time: Actors involved: Annotation: