

Expert witnessing pays dividends

To act as Independent Cable Expert in support of the client who was in dispute with a sub-contractor and provide commentary regarding liability for 132kV cable joint failures.

Background

This assignment was to act as independent cable expert to review and determine the appropriateness of the practices and procedures undertaken by the sub-contractor in undertaking the jointing of several 132kV single core XLPE cables that subsequently failed during high-voltage testing.

The work included a review of the sub-contractor's procedures, contractual terms and conditions placed on the sub-contractor by the client, the correspondence in relation to the dispute with due consideration to cable industry standards, specifications and best practice.

Action

After jointly agreeing the scope and programme of works EA Technology Ltd appointed a global and UK renowned Senior Cable Consultant to undertake this work that comprised of:

- A review of all correspondence between the client and sub-contractor
- A review of the contractual terms and conditions placed on the sub-contractor
- A detailed review of the work undertaken and the circumstances leading up to the joint failures
- Identifying what part each of the two parties played in the matter
- Providing opinion on which party was liable for the failures
- Providing opinion on other third party expert witness reports commissioned by the sub-contractor
- Provision of a comprehensive report detailing the assessment, findings and recommendations

Results

The work highlighted numerous serious non-compliances indicating that, in EA Technology Ltd.'s opinion, the sub-contractor had used incompetent cable jointers that were unfamiliar with the technology employed. The report and its findings supported the client in legal proceedings to recover unnecessarily incurred costs from the sub-contractor.

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