

NERC Lessons Learned

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One Lesson Learned Posted in March

Protective Relay Solid-State Output Contact Voltage Leakage

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 An entity experienced unnecessary breaker failure initiation signals due to solid-state output contact voltage leaks which can operate downstream devices with optically coupled isolator (OCI) inputs or air gap inputs. A traditional corrective action was used that is now considered a less than optimal work-around by the vendor.



The entity created an internal alert to install 47 K Ω pull-down resistors on the solid-state outputs to prevent the leakage voltage from rising above the OCI BFI inputs. When possible, the entity sets the de-bounce delays of inputs for critical circuits to 2 ms or more.



Solid-state outputs can leak voltage, potentially causing issues with protective equipment. To address this issue, appropriately sized (much smaller impedance) pull-down resistors can be placed inparallel with solid state outputs across the OCI or air gap input.



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