

REVIEW COMMITTEE DECISION

R. C. FILE NO. 82

Stockton Division Grievance No. 4 - Voltage Testers Taking Readings Alone on Circuits of More Than 750 Volts.

SUBJECT OF GRIEVANCE:

Voltage testers in the Division secure in the field current and voltage readings for area studies on electric distribution systems ranging in voltage from 2.3 kv to 17 kv. In performing these duties voltage testers normally work alone taking readings as planned and previously discussed with the technical section. Readings are taken in the 750-5000 volt range with rubber gloves or with a reading instrument attached to an insulated wooden handle. In the 5000-17000 volt range readings are taken with a tong ammeter attached to a 6-foot insulated wooden handle. Union claimed violation of Contract Section 207.4 which reads as follows: "Except in cases of trouble and emergency work involving immediate hazard to life or property an employee shall not work alone dangerously near live lines of more than 750 volts." The Division contended that voltage testers in performing reading duties are not working dangerously near primary circuits.

STATEMENT AND DECISION:

Several facts were brought up in this case which indicate that Stockton Division voltage testers are not required to work alone dangerously near live lines of more than 750 volts. For example, only qualified employees with a thorough knowledge of Company operating instructions as to clearances which must be maintained from high voltage circuits are utilized to take readings. All voltage testers are told that they need not take readings alone when in their judgment they will be exposing themselves to the primary circuit. Voltage testers are not required when alone to climb through a circuit of 750-5000 volt range to read a primary circuit above. Also the Division has emphasized that safety is a primary concern and that every reasonable precaution is taken to make certain that voltage testers perform their duties in a safe and efficient manner.

Under these circumstances it is the decision of this Committee that Section 207.4 has not been disregarded.

FOR UNION:

Russell Stone, Jr.
Edward James
Elmer B. Bushby

By Elmer B. Bushby

Date 2/8/1955

FOR COMPANY:

H. F. Carr
R. J. Tilson
V. J. Thompson

By [Signature]

Date 2-3-55