

October 3, 2011

The Seven-step Process for Basic Electrical Troubleshooting

Step three of the seven-step troubleshooting approach is *Identifying Which Parameters Need to be Evaluated*. Identifying which parameters need to be evaluated requires a clear understanding of the discrepancy and which signals affect the suspected component. Which input signals control the component? What is the expected output from the suspect circuit? Is there a timing delay, sequence, or set point that can be verified?

Identify the following:

- What parameters can you measure?
- What are the expected values for any measurements that are to be taken?
- What test equipment is needed?
- Is there access for the required readings?
- Is there an alternative method to gather the required readings?
- Could other components have been affected by this fault?

To read more about this step and see it applied to a boiler feed pump example, read the Basic Electrical Troubleshooting document at <http://www.pdma.com/pdfs/Articles/Troubleshooting.pdf>.

Next week we will take a break to learn about a platinum mine and resume basic electrical troubleshooting the following week with Identifying the Source of the Problem.

You are invited to submit an Electric Motor Testing Tip of your own and receive a free PdMA mug or hat if we publish it! Contact Lou at 813-621-6463 ext. 126 or lou@pdma.com.