OMC Cause Code Request Process

A process for requesting OMC cause codes has been in place since the June 2010 PJM eGADS data submittal due July 20, 2010. Since the June 2010 data submittal, this process has required full and complete explanations of any outage or derating using any restricted OMC cause code in the PJM eGADS system.

This process has been incorporated into the PJM eGADS system. It requires event data to be downloaded (for restricted OMC cause codes only) from the PJM eGADS system by the eGADS user, augmented with full and complete explanations of the reason for the OMC request and submitted to the PJM GADS administrators by the normal monthly due date.

Data for each month is due 20 days after the last day of the reporting month. In cases when the 20th day is not a non-holiday weekday, data is due the next business day following the 20th of the month. Early submittals will expedite approvals however, they must follow these procedures. We realize that from time to time schedules can slip and data entry lags the due date. However, this should only be expected on a non-recurring basis.

OMC evaluations will be handled on a first come first served basis, and those who do not send the proper supporting data to the PJM eGADS administrators will have their OMC requests rejected.

In general, during normal monthly GADS event data submittal, any generator with a minimum of one event containing a restricted cause code will fail its monthly validation prior to OMC approval by PJM, although validation must still be used to correct data errors. Once any restricted OMC events are approved by PJM and the user corrects any rejected OMC events, the user must then re-validate their data for that generator. Remember, non-validated data for any generator will cause a **100%** forced condition for that reporting month. Once validated, any event containing a restricted OMC cause code must not be altered; if it is, the validation will be undone and you must contact the PJM eGADS administrators in order to fix the issue. You will be able to alter any other data containing non-restricted OMC cause codes and re-validate without issues. A complete example follows in the next section.

If you have any questions about this document, OMC cause codes or this OMC event request policy please contact:

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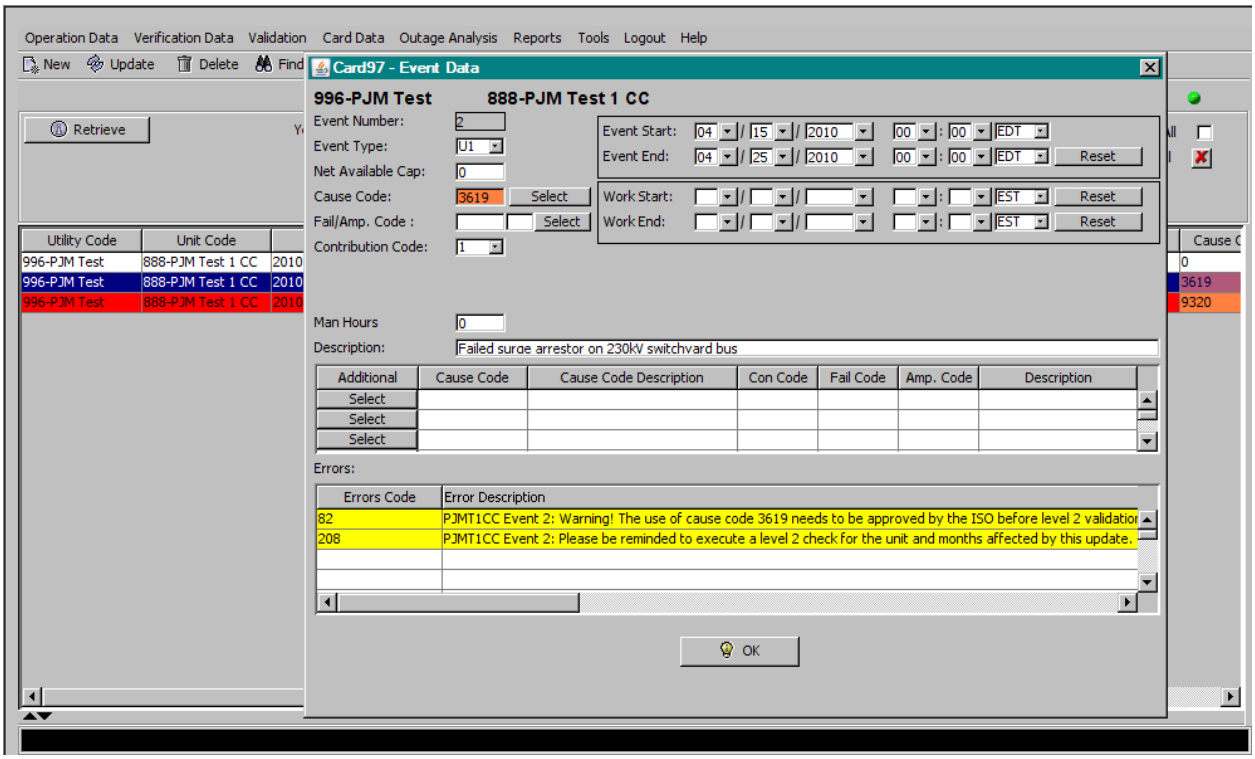
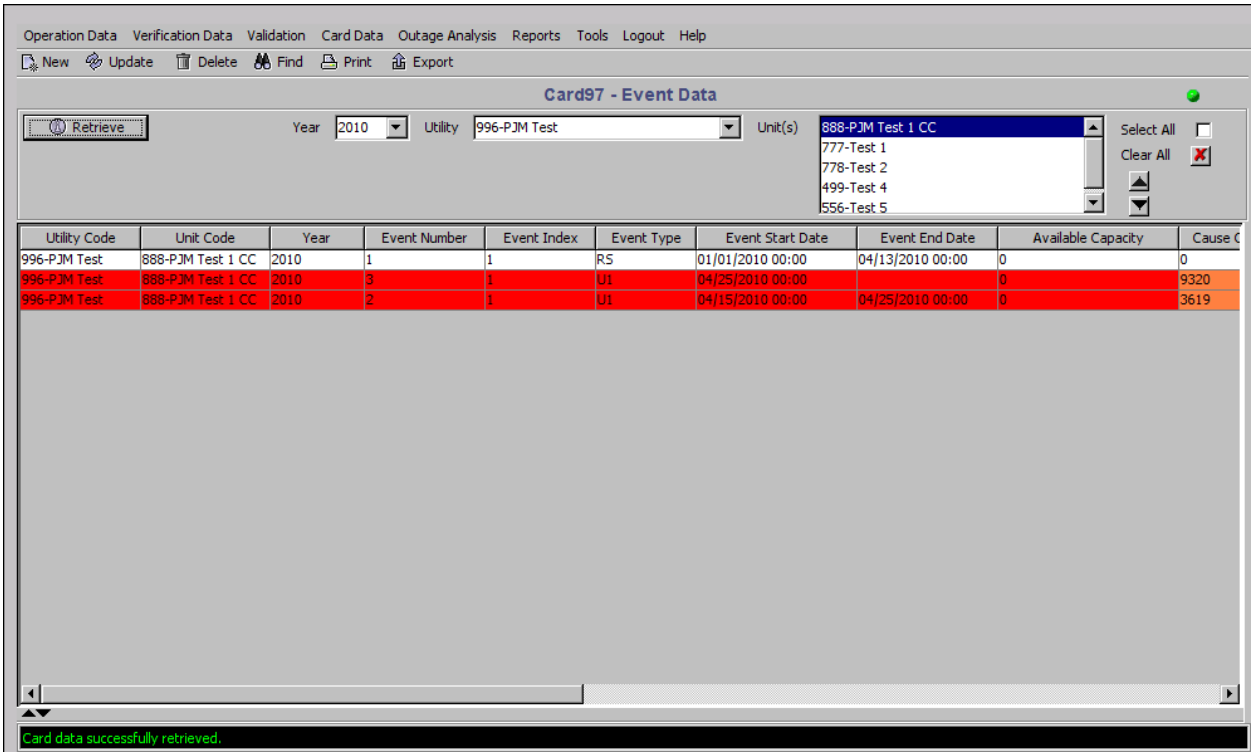
Example Restricted OMC Procedure

Let's assume we have a generator that is on reserve shutdown until April 13, 2010 @ 0000 hours; then the unit comes online until a full forced event takes it offline on April 15, 2010 @ 0000 hours. This event is caused by an unknown external event and an outage is placed in the PJM eGADS system commencing 4/15/2010 @ 0000. This event ends on 4/25/2010 @ 0000 hours when a full forced event for a failed switchyard surge arrestor starts and continues into May 2010.

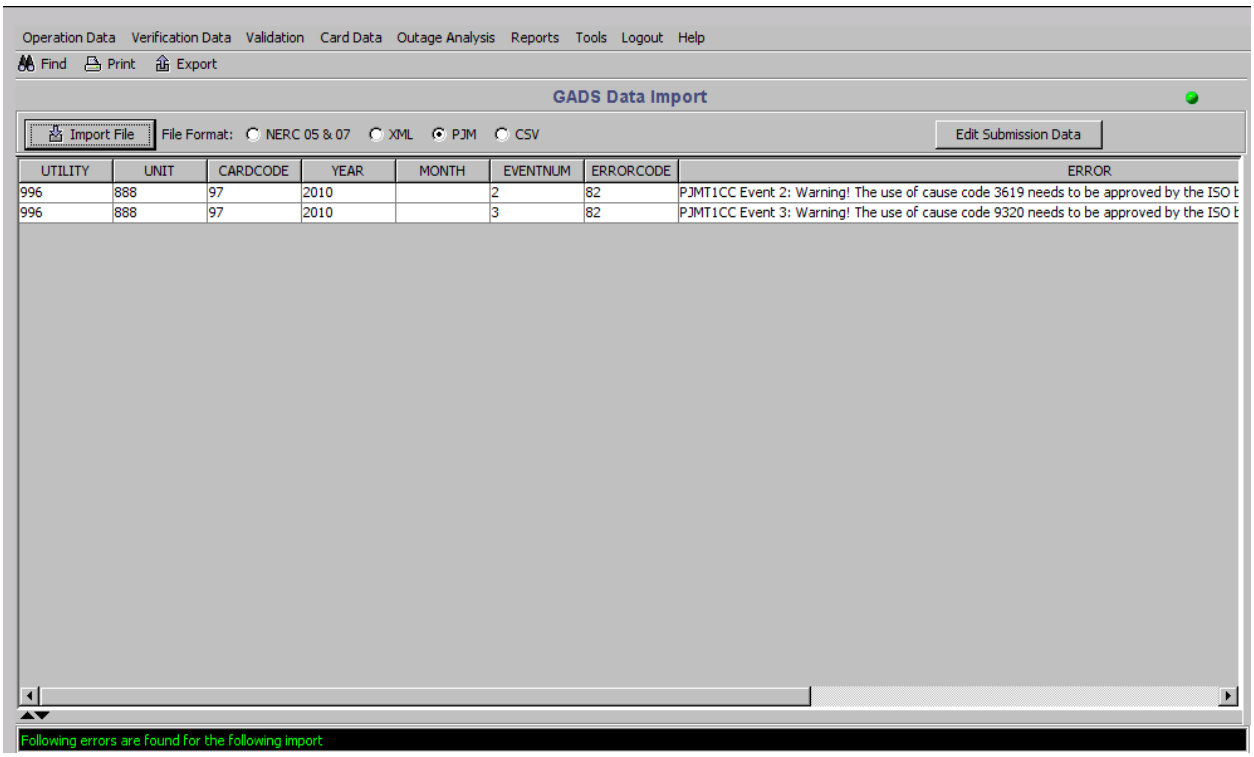
Upon entering the data manually, the event entry panel indicates below (highlighted in yellow) that the use of cause code 3619 is restricted and must be approved by the PJM eGADS administrators. Use of any restricted OMC cause code causes the restricted cause code message to appear:



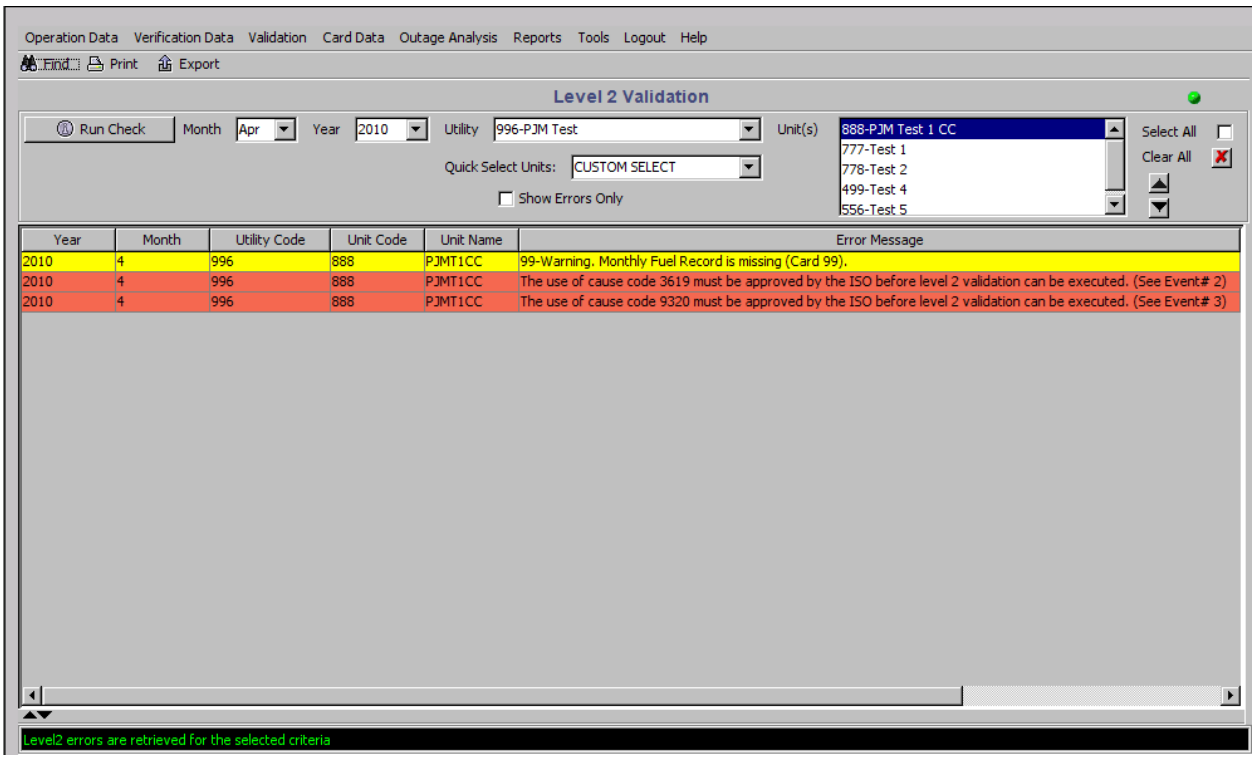
When finished entering the data manually, any events using restricted OMC cause codes are highlighted in red:



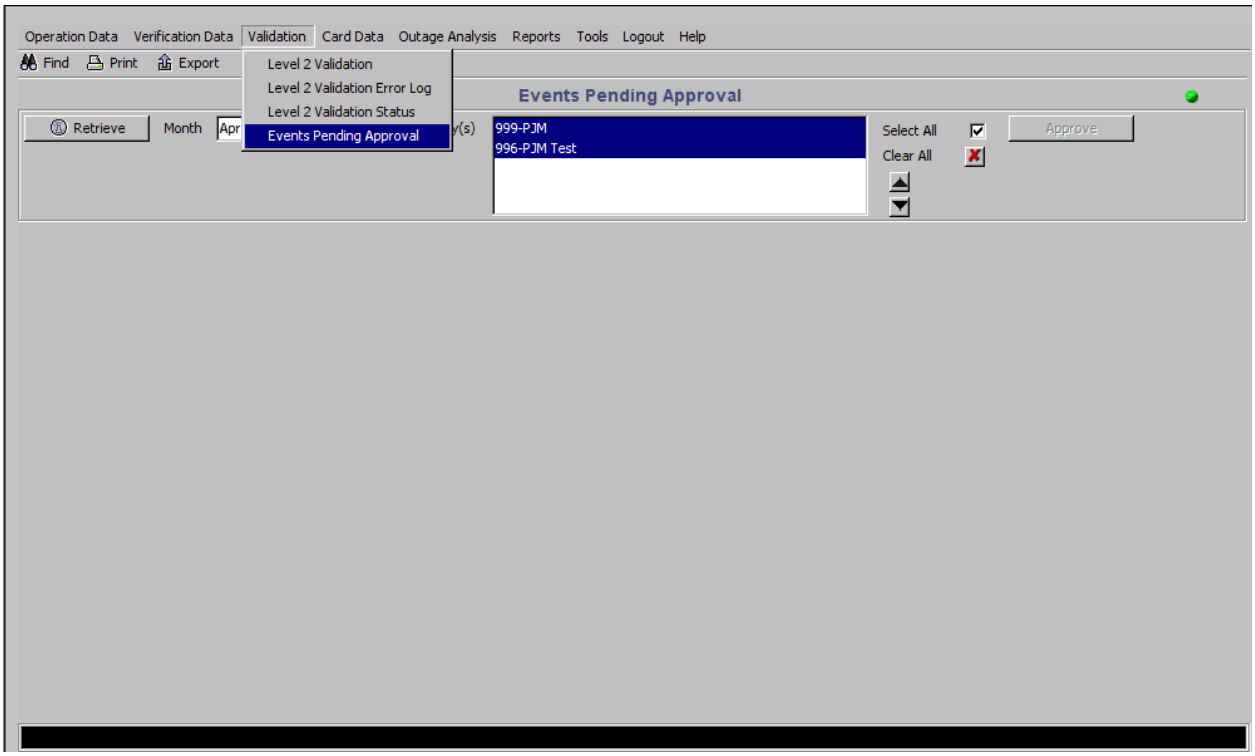
If the data were entered via the data import, the restricted cause code message would appear after acceptance of the data upload similar to the screen shot below:



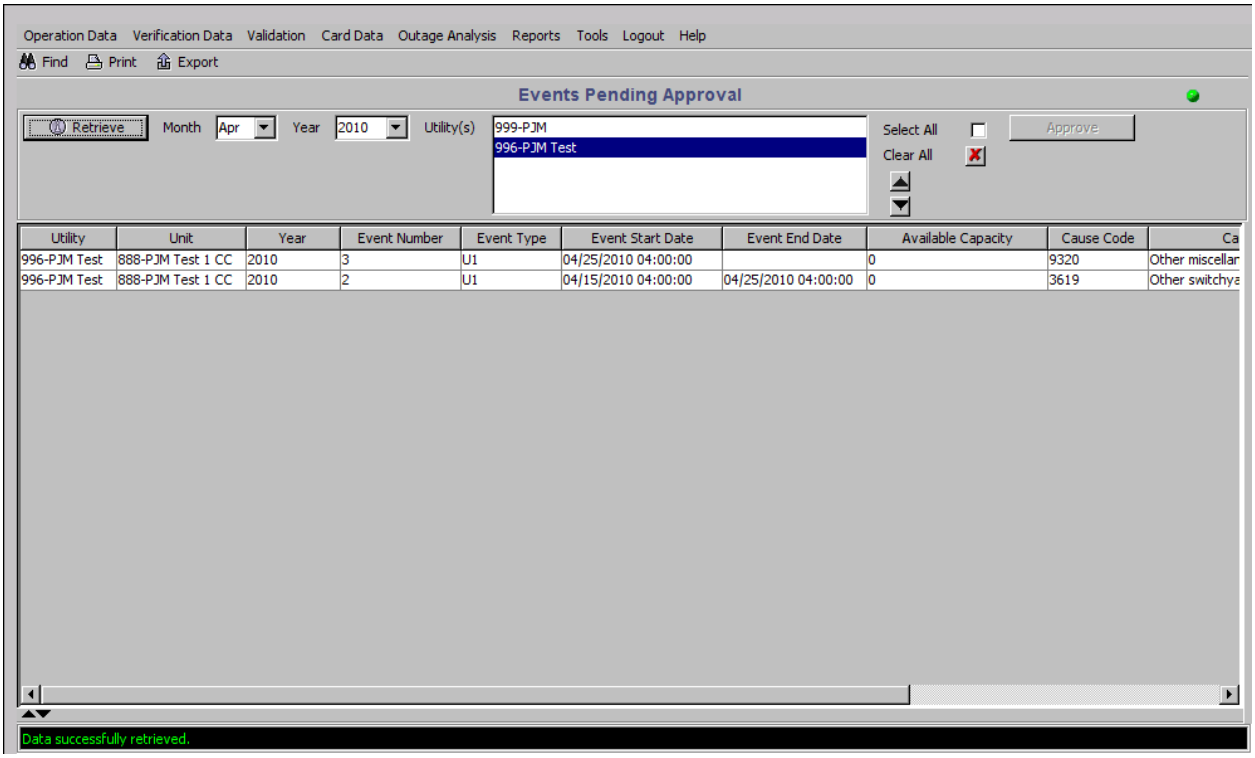
After using validation to clean data errors, if only restricted OMC cause codes and non critical warnings remain, the validation will look similar to this:



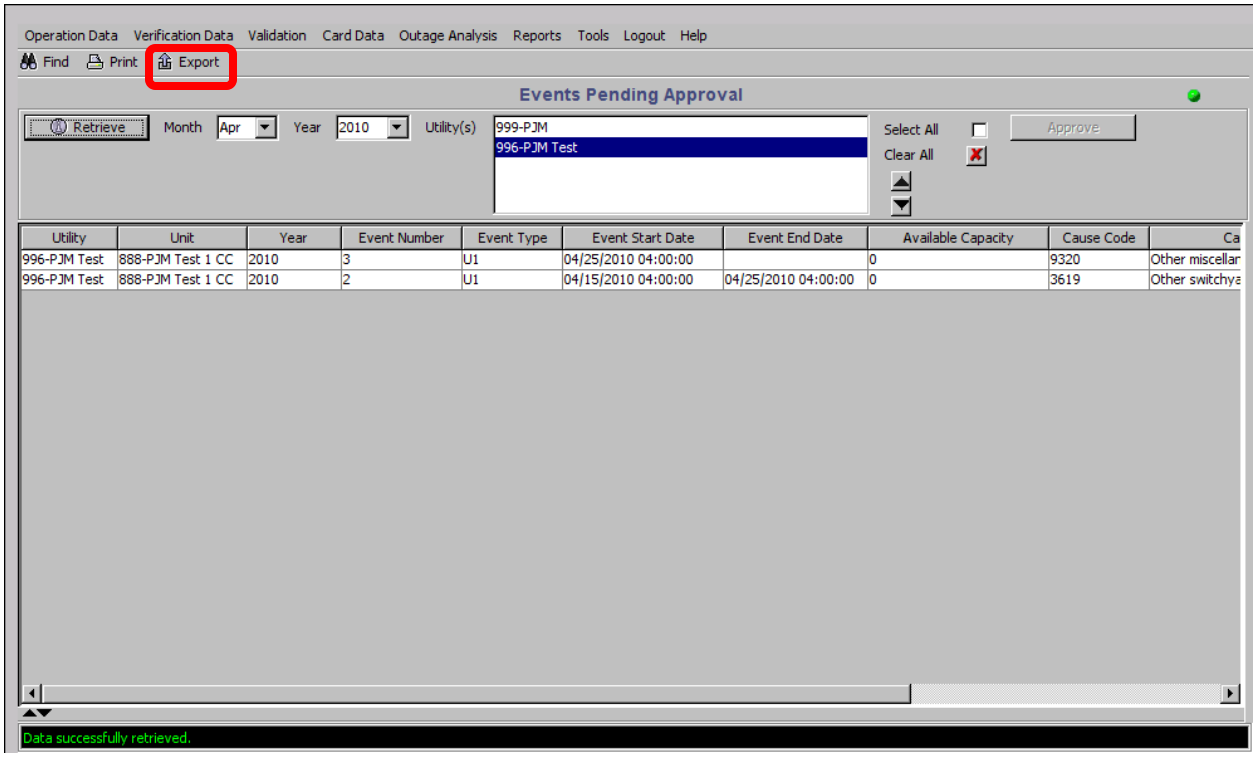
In order to provide the PJM eGADS administrators with the proper documentation of the explanations for use of the restricted OMC cause codes, first find all of the events using restricted OMC cause codes for your company(ies)/unit(s) by using the **"events pending approval"** option under "validation" as seen below:



After selecting your company(ies) a list of events pending approval will appear:



Export the data to a comma delimited file using the export button:



Open the file in a spreadsheet program and add one column on the right entitled “Reason for request” and for each restricted OMC event and add a full and complete explanation for each of the OMC events similar to the example below:

Utility	Unit	Year	Event Number	Event Type	Event Start Date	Event End Date	Available Capacity	Cause Code	Cause Code Description	Event Description	Reason for request
996-PJM Test	888-PJM Test 1 CC	2010	3	U1	4/25/2010 4:00		0	9320	Other miscellaneous external problems	Other Miscellaneous External Problems	External problems caused plant to shutdown
996-PJM Test	888-PJM Test 1 CC	2010	2	U1	4/15/2010 4:00	4/25/2010 4:00	0	3619	Other switchyard equipment external (OMC)	Repair failed 230kV surge arrestor	The failed surge arrestor is located on the 230kV bus. In order to safely replace the surge arrestor, the 230kV bus had to be de-energized.

Request reasons must contain all pertinent information so that the PJM eGADS administrators can render an approval. Incomplete information will cause rejection of the request.

Reasons will be considered incomplete, inadequate and rejected immediately if they contain only text such as:

- “Utility trip”
- “Breaker maintenance”
- “Transmission event”
- “Outside of plant control”
- “Requested by transmission provider”
- “Plant tripped offline”
- “Annual testing”
- “Switchyard Fault”

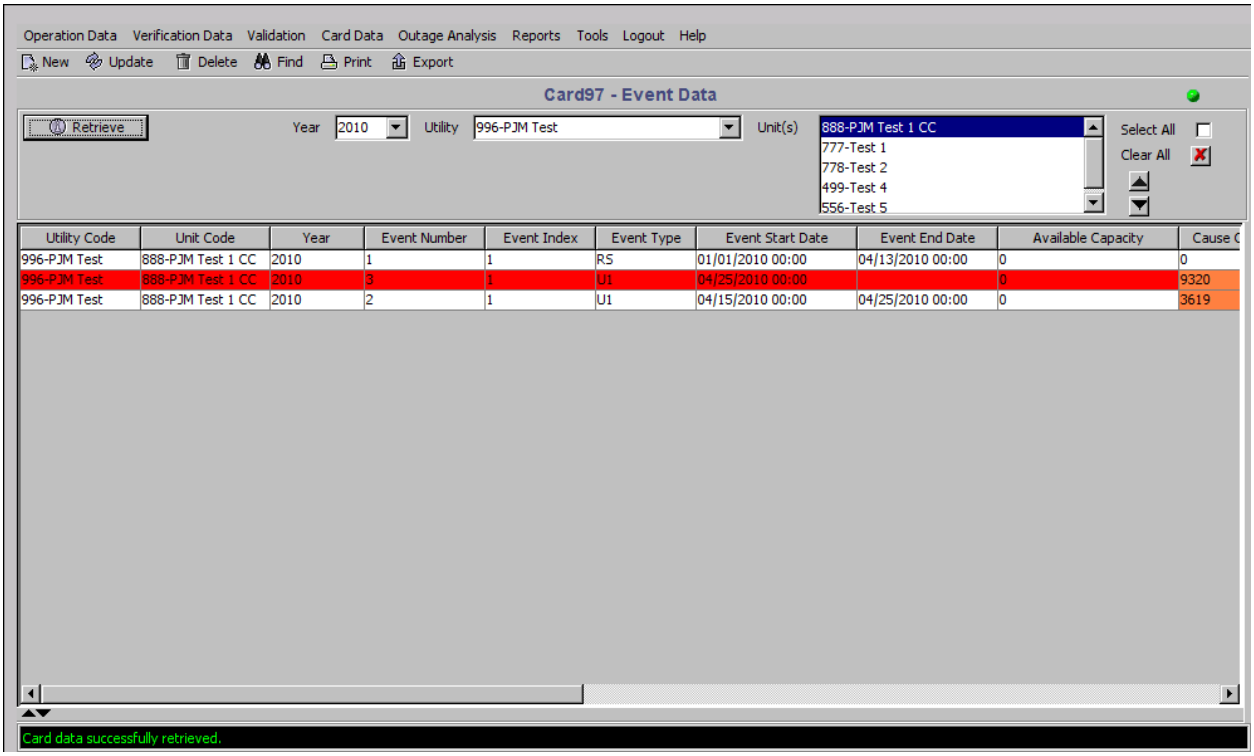
Examples of adequate information are:

- “Utility trip/car hit utility pole and tripped feeder”
- “Switchyard 230kV breaker #23 failure eDART #456657”
- “Transmission event eDART #345987”
- “TO requested trans outage eDART #454564”
- “High water/low head (for hydro units only)”
- “Switchyard fault caused by failed conductor on 230kV bus”

For any explanation that is associated with any transmission event, where applicable, include the eDART transmission ticket number (available from the TO). This will expedite your request. It is also helpful to identify where (electrically) failed equipment is located (especially in switchyard events) in order to evaluate the request.

Save the spreadsheet and send it to gadssupport@pjm.com with a subject of “Request for OMC events” including your company(ies) name(s). Each request will be evaluated, and when accompanied with all pertinent information, will be turned around promptly.

After approval or rejection of restricted OMC cause code requests, each user can quickly find their rejected OMC events (if any). Just go into the PJM eGADS system and retrieve your 97 cards for the generator(s). Rejected requests will remain in red highlights. See below:



In this example, only one event was approved and the other event was rejected. The reason event #3 above was rejected was because the reason for the request gave no pertinent information as to the cause of the event, the equipment involved or any valid reasons for the request (see event #3 in the table in the middle of the preceding page).

If any OMC requests are rejected by PJM, you will receive a return email delineating rejected requests and specifying why the OMC request was not granted. If there need to be clarifications about the explanations, the PJM GADS administrators will contact you pertaining to any such restricted OMC cause code requests.

Upon correcting any rejected OMC cause codes to non-OMC cause codes, it is suggested that validation be performed immediately in order to complete your monthly data submittal. You do not want your data to remain un-validated or the generator in question will receive the 100% EFORd monthly penalty for lack of validation.

For reference the NERC GADS Data Reporting Instructions can be found at the following link:
http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/gads/DataReportingInstructions/Entire%20GADS%20Data%20Reporting%20Instructions-Effective%20January%201%202015.pdf
Appendix K of the NERC GADS DRI (“Outside Management Control”) can be found at the following link:
http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/gads/DataReportingInstructions/Appendix_K_outside_management_control.pdf

This appendix contains not only the OMC cause codes but an example of the definition of the boundary between the generating plant and the transmission system and where control of plant management typically ends.

List of OMC cause codes and their restriction level

Restriction Type	Cause Code	Description
Globally	3600	Switchyard transformers and associated cooling systems - external (OMC)
Globally	3611	Switchyard circuit breakers - external (OMC)
Globally	3612	Switchyard system protection devices - external (OMC)
Globally	3619	Other switchyard equipment - external (OMC)
None	3710	Transmission line (connected to powerhouse switchyard to 1st Substation)
None	3720	Transmission equipment at the 1st substation)
None	3730	Transmission equipment beyond the 1st substation
Globally	9000	Flood
Globally	9010	Fire not related to a specific component
None	9020	Lightning
None	9025	Geomagnetic disturbance
None	9030	Earthquake
Globally	9035	Hurricane
Globally	9036	Storms (ice snow etc)
Globally	9040	Other catastrophe
Globally	9130	Lack of fuel (coal mines gas lines etc) where the operator is not in control of contracts supply lines or delivery of fuels
Globally	9135	Lack of water (hydro)
Globally	9150	Labor strikes company-wide problems or strikes outside the company's jurisdiction such as manufacturers (delaying repairs) or transportation (fuel supply) problems.
Globally	9200	High ash content (OMC)
Globally	9205	Poor quality natural gas fuel low heat content (OMC)
Globally	9210	Low grindability (OMC)
Globally	9220	High sulfur content (OMC)
Globally	9230	High vanadium content (OMC)
Globally	9240	High sodium content (OMC)
Globally	9250	Low BTU coal (OMC)
Globally	9260	Low BTU oil (OMC)
Globally	9270	Wet coal (OMC)
Globally	9280	Frozen coal (OMC)
Globally	9290	Other fuel quality problems (OMC)
Globally	9300	Transmission system problems other than catastrophes (do not include switchyard problems in this category; see codes 3600 to 3629)
Globally	9320	Other miscellaneous external problems
None	9350	Public Safety (water hazard or river rescue)
None	9500	Regulatory (nuclear) proceedings and hearings - regulatory agency initiated
None	9502	Regulatory (nuclear) proceedings and hearings - intervener initiated
None	9504	Regulatory (environmental) proceedings and hearings - regulatory agency initiated
None	9506	Regulatory (environmental) proceedings and hearings - intervenor initiated
Globally	9510	Plant modifications strictly for compliance with new or changed regulatory requirements (scrubbers cooling towers etc.)
Globally	9590	Miscellaneous regulatory (this code is primarily intended for use with event contribution code 2 to indicate that a regulatory-related factor contributed to the primary cause of the event)

Partial restrictions mean that only some companies or their units are restricted from using the delineated OMC cause code. Global restrictions mean that every company and unit is restricted from using the delineated OMC cause code.

Contact information

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