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TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

colour inside

Design of earth electrode stations for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) links – General guidelines

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DESIGN OF EARTH ELECTRODE STATIONS FOR HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) LINKS – GENERAL GUIDELINES

FOREWORD

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IEC TS 62344 has been prepared by IEC technical committee 115: High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission for DC voltages above 100 kV. It is a Technical Specification.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2013. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

– Changed the requirement of earthing resistance limit for short-time unipolar earth system in 5.1.3.
– Corrected the coefficient before ρ_s from 0,015 9 to 0,008 in touch voltage limit calculation formula (3) in 5.1.5.
– Deleted the analytical calculation formulas of earthing resistance for sea and shore electrodes in 6.1.3.
– Changed the current density limit from 100 A/m^2 to 40 A/m^2 ~ 50 A/m^2 for the sea electrodes that are not accessible to human beings or to marine fauna in 6.1.7.

– Extended some detailed technical requirements for the measurement of ground/water soil parameters in 6.2.5.

– Reformulated the types and characteristics of electrode element material for sea and shore electrodes in 6.3.2.

– Added an informative Annex B: Earth electrode design process.

– Added an informative Annex C: Test results of human body resistance.

– Deleted the formula for calculating the average soil resistivity using harmonic mean when processing the measurement data in D.2.6 of Annex D.

– Extended some detailed technical requirements of electrode online monitoring system in Annex H.

– CIGRE 675:2017 is added to the bibliography.

– Terminology and way of expressions are modified using more commonly used terms in the HVDC electrode design industries and English speaking countries, so as to make the readers understand the content more easily.

The text of this Technical Specification is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
115/276/DTS	115/293/RVDTS

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this Technical Specification is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under webstore.iec.ch in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

The high-voltage DC earth electrode is an important part of the DC power transmission system. It takes on the task of guiding the current into the earth under the monopolar earth return operation mode, and the unbalanced current under the bipolar operation mode. Further, it secures and provides the reference potential of converter neutral point under the bipolar/ monopolar operation mode, to protect the safe operation of the valves.

DC earth electrodes include land electrodes, sea electrodes, and shore electrodes. Today, there are around tens of DC electrodes in the world. Their influence on the nearby and far away environment is produced when there is DC current continuously leaking into the earth through DC earth electrodes.

Their influence on the surrounding environment includes:

a) influence on humans, mainly due to step voltage, touch voltage and transferred voltage;

b) influence on the electrode itself, mainly reflected by ground temperature rise and corrosion on the electrode;

c) influence on nearby ponds and organisms in the sea;

d) influence on the AC power system, mainly reflected by the DC voltage excursion of transformer neutral point;

e) influence on buried metallic objects, mainly revealed by the corrosion of buried metallic pipelines, AC grounding grids, tower foundations for power transmission lines and armoured cables, etc.

A great deal of experience has been accumulated in the research and design work in many countries, and relevant national standards or enterprise standards have been developed. The aim of this document is to develop the design guide for DC earth electrodes, on the site selection, material selection, shape, buried depth, adoption of equipment and connection styles, etc. It can be referred to by the electrode design engineers in different countries, to ensure the safe operation of earth electrode under different modes, control the influence on the environment nearby and the environment far away to the acceptable level, and to reasonably decrease engineering costs.

To ensure this document is more scientific, precise and practical, some research results obtained in recent years are adopted.

DESIGN OF EARTH ELECTRODE STATIONS FOR HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) LINKS – GENERAL GUIDELINES

1 Scope

This document applies to the design of earth electrode stations for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) links. It is intended to provide necessary guidelines, limits, and precautions to be followed during the design of earth electrodes to ensure safety of personnel and earth electrodes, and reduce any significant impacts on DC power transmission systems and the surrounding environment.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60479-1, *Effects of current on human beings and livestock – Part 1: General aspects*

IEC TS 61201, *Use of conventional touch voltage limits – Application guide*

IEC 61936-1, *Power installations exceeding 1 kV AC and 1,5 kV DC – Part 1:* AC

IEC TS 61936-2, *Power installations exceeding 1 kV a.c. and 1,5 kV d.c. – Part 2: d.c.*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at http://www.iso.org/obp

3.1
earth (ground) electrode
conductive part that is in electric contact with local earth, directly or through an intermediate conductive medium

[SOURCE: IEC 60050-195:2021, 195-02-01]

3.2
land electrode
earth electrode buried in the ground above the high tide water level and located away from the shore and not influenced by water bodies

3.3
shore electrode

3.3.1
beach electrode
electrode located on the shore above the low tide water level, where the active part of the electrode is in contact with the soil or with underground water, but not directly with seawater

Note 1 to entry: Compared with land electrode, beach electrode is relatively close to the shore and is influenced by water bodies.

3.3.2
pond electrode
electrode located on the seashore below the low tide water level, where the active part is directly in contact with seawater, within a small area which is protected by a breakwater against waves and possible ice damage or damage from other floating debris

3.4
sea electrode
electrode located away from the shoreline in a body of seawater

3.5
electrode station
whole facility which transfers current from/to electrode line to/from the earth or sea water, usually including the feeding cable, towers, switchgear, fencing and any necessary auxiliary equipment in addition to the electrode itself

3.6
common or shared earth electrode
earth electrode system, which is composed of a single earth electrode or multiple earth electrodes in parallel, shared by multiple converter stations

3.7
electrode site
site where the earth electrode is located

3.8
electrode line
overhead line or underground cable used to connect the neutral bus in a converter station to the earth electrode station

3.9
electrode element
earthing conductor buried underground or in the sea for guiding earthing current into the surrounding medium (soil or sea water)

3.10
feeding cable
cable used to guide current from current-guiding wire to electrode elements

3.11
current-guiding wire
main branch used to conduct current from electrode line (or bus) to feeding cables

3.12
current guiding system
system used to guide the current from electrode line to electrode elements

Note 1 to entry: It consists of current-guiding wire(s), disconnecting switches, feeding cables and connections.

3.13
jumper cable
cable used to connect two electrode elements placed at some distance from each other

EXAMPLE The cable that connects the two electrode elements on either side of a trench when the electrode has to cross the trench.

3.14
earth return operation mode
operation mode in the HVDC power transmission system, using DC lines and earth (or sea water) as the current loop

3.15
earth return system
set of devices designed and built specifically for earth return operation mode