VI.e - Outdoor Substation Conductor Ratings

Transmission and Substation Subcommittee

PJM Interconnection, LLC

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September 2010 – Revision 2

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August 1979 - Original

VI.e PJM Substation Conductor

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1.0 SCOPE / INTRODUCTION

The PJM Transmission and Substation Subcommittee (TSS) was requested to review and update the existing Outdoor Substation Conductor Ratings, Revision 2 from September 2010 issued by the Transmission and Substation Design Subcommittee (TSDS). This document contains ampacity ratings for tubular bus, stranded conductors, and bars used in substations and was based on calculations performed using a similar methodology and set of parameters determined for transmission line conductors. A task force consisting of representatives from PJM member operating companies was assigned the task updating the document and reflecting changes associated with FERC Order 881 to apply Ambient Adjusted Ratings (AAR) over a wider range of temperatures in five (5) degree Fahrenheit increments for both day and night. The results of the task force work are incorporated into this new document.

For this guide, it is assumed that system power levels will be maintained and managed within the requirements of PJM Manual 3, Section 2, "Thermal Operating Guidelines". PJM operating philosophy strives to restore loads to below the Normal Rating in four hours or less. The intent of this guide is that equipment loading will not be above the Normal Rating for greater than four hours. It is understood that under a single event restoration, cumulative time of loading, in excess of the Normal Rating, beyond four hours may occur. Operating in excess of four hours above the Normal Rating for a single event restoration should be evaluated by the equipment owner.

The task force utilized the information and methodology contained in IEEE Std 605- 2008, "Guide for Design of Substation Rigid-Bus Structures" as a primary reference in developing ampacity ratings for non-tubular rigid bus shapes, specifically bar and angle shaped conductors.

The task force retained the recommended values adopted in Revision 1 for the key parameters used in calculating bar and angle shaped conductor ampacity. These parameters include wind speed and direction, ambient temperature, solar gain, emissivity, absorptivity, and maximum conductor temperature limitations for conditions of normal (continuous), emergency (one hour and 24-hour) ratings. The report also contains a discussion on the calculation methodology, conductor materials, fittings and accessories, other ampacity considerations, and the risk associated with wind speeds which are different than those that are assumed for the calculations.

Lastly, this report includes new revised ampacity ratings for substation conductors used in facilities under the control of PJM. **The ratings provided in this document are for outdoor applications of aluminum and copper tubular bus, aluminum and copper bar, aluminum universal angle bus (UAB), and bare aluminum and copper wire of various sizes.**

2.0 DEFINITIONS AND TERMS

3.0 WEATHERASSUMPTIONS

Ambient weather conditions have a major effect on thermal ratings of a substation conductor. There are many factors to consider when determining the precise weather model to utilize in the ampacity calculations of substation bus conductors. However, wind (speed and direction) and ambient temperature are major variables to consider and have the most effect in determining the final thermal ratings of substation conductors. The following sections will outline these major variables that are critical in the calculation of the overall thermal rating.

It is important to note that weather data was collected and analyzed in PJM work performed by the original transmission line conductor rating task force in 1973. The weather data included 10 years of data from Pittsburgh from January 1, 1949 through December 31, 1958 and 16 years of data from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (formerly Washington D.C. National Airport) from January 1, 1949 through December 31, 1964. All of the data was combined to form an hourly composite record that was representative of the entire PJM service territory. The previous task force evaluated this original data and believed it to remain representative of the weather conditions that exist within the present PJM territory. The present task force made no change to the weather assumptions.

3.1.Wind Speed

Wind speed is an important variable in determining the ratings of a substation conductor. This document follows Section C.3 (Heat Transfer) in Annex C of the IEEE Standard 605 document which states that a wind speed of 2 fps is used for all substation conductor thermal rating calculations. In IEEE Standard 605, it is concluded that assumption of a 2fps wind is a conservative, yet realistic approach and was chosen for the basis of the IEEE document. The inherent risks associated with utilizing this wind speed are discussed in Section 11 of this document.

3.2.Wind Direction

Both the 1979 PJM bus rating work and the IEEE Standard 605 agree in the utilization of a wind perpendicular to the substation conductor. A perpendicular wind (a 90° cross wind) was recommended by the previous task force for the calculations of substation conductor thermal ratings and is used in the published tables.

The composite weather data supporting the above statistics can be found in Section 11. The inherent risk associated with utilizing the various ambient temperature parameters can be found in Section 11 of this document.

3.3.Ambient Temperature

Ambient temperature is an important parameter to consider when calculating substation conductor thermal ratings. Based upon FERC Order 881 and PJM requirements, conductors shall be rated between and including temperatures from 150F (65.5C) to -65F (-53.9C)

3.4.Rating Tables

A conductor rating report for each type of substation conductor can be generated by the MS Excel Spreadsheet that is described in appendix A of this document. The conductor rating report will provide a specific thermal rating based on the wind and ambient temperature recommendations discussed above. The reports are ambient temperature adjusted so as to allow the system operator to determine the ampacity of a substation conductor based on real time information. Each conductor rating report provides thermal ratings based on ambient temperatures from -65°F to 150°F in 5° F increments. For historical reference, the ratings in 5°C increments from -15°C to 40°C are also included.

3.5. Solar Gain & Atmosphere

July 2024 Rev 3 **PJM Substation Conductor Ratings** 5 The model utilized by the PJM task force is based upon the solar gain (solar heating) equations used in both IEEE Standard 605 and IEEE Standard 738 "IEEE Standard for Calculating the Current-Temperature of Bare Overhead Conductors". Both of these standards allow for adjustments in solar gain effects due to varying atmosphere clarity. The atmosphere clarity varies between a clear atmosphere and a hazy industrial atmosphere. The clear atmosphere allows for more solar heating of the bus conductor and results in a slightly lower bus ampacity rating when compared to the industrial atmosphere assumption. The bus ampacity tables published in IEEE Standard 605 are based upon a clear atmosphere. Utilizing this flexibility, the task force chose to utilize a

clear atmosphere for ampacity calculations as defined by IEEE Standards 738 and 605. The task force believes this is a conservative, yet realistic approach and is chosen for the basis of this document.

4.0METHOD OF CALCULATION

4.1Calculating the Current-Temperature Relationship of Conductors

The task force retained the method of IEEE Standard 605. Copies of the standard are widely available and earlier IEEE source documents discuss the calculations in greater

detail than the standard. IEEE Standard 605 is widely accepted as a standard within the

industry and forms a commonly accepted basis for calculations. With this in mind, the 2004 task force developed a Microsoft Excel © Spreadsheet to accommodate a wide base of possible users. The spreadsheet applies the IEEE Standard 605 approach to these calculations for use by all PJM member companies. The 2010 task force modified the existing spreadsheet to calculate bar and angle shaped ampacities. The 2023 task force modified the existing spreadsheet to calculate ratings over a wider range of ambient temperatures to address the needs of FERC Order 881.

4.2Description of IEEE Standard 605-2008

This standard presents a method of calculating the current-temperature relationship of bare substation rigid-bus conductors based on a 2-fps wind perpendicular to the length of the conductors. The authors of the standard chose a 2-fps wind because it was, "conservative, yet realistic."

The conductor temperature is a function of:

- a. Conductor material
- b. Conductor shape with diameter or width and thickness
- c. Conductor surface condition
- d. Ambient weather conditions
- e. Conductor electrical current

IEEE Standard 605 includes mathematical models to calculate conductor temperatures and conductor thermal ratings. The standard contains calculated tables with numerous temperature-current relationships for specific conductors and weather conditions. Each user of the standard must determine weather data and conductor characteristics appropriate for their needs.

The source document for the ampacity calculation and table portion of IEEE Standard 605 and Appendix B of IEEE Standard 605 which references the IEEE transactions on Power Apparatus & Systems (PAS) 96, No. 4, July/August 1977, Page 1341, "Thermal

Considerations for Outdoor Bus Conductor Design Ampacity Tables," notes an elevation of sea level was used in preparing the ampacity tables.

The equations relating electrical current to conductor temperature may be used in either of the following two ways:

- To calculate the conductor temperature when the electrical current is known
- To calculate the current for a given conductor temperature (by iteration)

The Standard's approach to calculating ampacity requires first calculating the convective heat loss (q_c), the radiation loss (q_r), and the solar heat gain (q_s), of the conductor under investigation. Since the Task Force decided that calculations should be able to be performed at any wind speed, the convection equations contained in IEEE Standard 605 were modified to be suitable for variable wind speeds. The modifications were based on IEEE Standard 738.

Since both standards use the same sets of equations to calculate the radiation loss and the solar heat gain for round shapes, the balance of this discussion will focus on convective heat loss considerations for all shapes, and radiation loss and solar heat gain for non- tubular shapes.

4.3Convective Heat Loss Considerations

Convective heat loss, or the cooling due to air movement, is a major factor in determining the thermal rating of a conductor. There are two conditions to consider: (a) cooling due to natural convection – or a zero-wind speed, and (b) cooling due to forced convection – or a non-zero wind speed. This section reviews material taken from IEEE Standards 605 and 738, to permit bus ampacity calculations for any wind speed.

4.3.1. Natural Convection

4.3.1.1. Cylindrical Surfaces

Natural convection applies to surfaces shielded from direct exposure to the wind. Assuming, however, that there is enough space for natural convection to occur, then surface heat loss can be calculated using generally accepted equations for natural convection. According to IEEE 605 natural convection is not consider for single round or flat conductors since they are not shielded from the wind. In Section C.3.2.3, IEEE Standard 605 (Substation Rigid-Bus Structures) gives equation (1.) below for natural convection over a cylindrical surface:

$(1.)$ **q**_c = 0.0022 $*$ Δ T ^{1.25} $*$ l^{-0.25} $*$ A

 ΔT = temperature difference between the conductor surface and the surrounding air in degrees Celsius.

- l =length of conductor surface in inches
	- = 12 for a one-foot length of conductor.
- A $=$ conductor surface area in inches² / footlength.
- q_c = convective heat loss in watts per linear foot.

A more useful equation for spreadsheet application:

- A = $area = \pi * D * 12 in^2 / ft$
- l =length of conductor surface

 $= 12 * L = 12$

Substituting into (eq. 1.) gives:

$$
q_c = 0.0022 * \Delta T^{1.25} * 12^{-0.25} * 12 * \pi * D q_c
$$

= 0.0022 * $\Delta T^{1.25} * 20.255166 * D$

(2.) $q_c = .044561 * D * \Delta T$ ^{1.25} watts / ft

By comparison, IEEE Standard 738 (Bare Overhead Conductors) explicitly recognizes more of the factors involved in natural convection heat loss. As noted in Section 2.4.4 of that Standard:

(3.) q_{c0} = **.283** $*$ ρ ^{0.5} $*$ $D^{0.75}$ $*$ Δ T^{1.25} watts/ft

 q_{c0} = convective heat loss due to zero wind

 p_r = density of air in lb/ft³

D= conductor outer diameter in inches

 ΔT = temperature difference between the conductor surface and the surrounding air in degrees Celsius

Since the spreadsheet developed by the task force is based on the work of the previous Conductor Rating Task Force, equation (3.) above is used. This facilitates recognizing the effect of elevation upon conductor ratings (higher elevation results in lower air density and therefore lower heat transfer, all else being equal.).

4.3.1.2. Bars & Rectangular Shapes

Equation 1, above, is applicable to upward facing surfaces while surfaces facing down experience one-half this heat loss. Natural convection for a single rectangle or bar is assumed to be zero per the table in C.3.2.6 of IEEE 605-1998. The table also gives the area for natural convection of multiple (N) rectangles as:

(4.) A = 24 * l * (N-1)

A = effective conductor area

l = length of the conductor in inches

N = number of conductors

Substituting this expression for A in equation 1:

$$
(5.) \tq_{c0} = .0528 * \Delta T^{1.25} * 1^{0.75} * (N-1)
$$

4.3.1.3. Single & Double Angles

As noted in 4.3.1.2, Equation 1, above, is applicable to upward facing (favorable) surfaces while surfaces facing down (unfavorable) experience one-half this heat loss. Natural convection for a single angle is assumed to be zero per the table in C.3.2.6 of IEEE 605- 1998. The table also gives the area for natural convection of 2 angles as:

(6.) A = 24 * (l + w)

A = effective conductor area

l = length of the angle in inches w = width of the angleEquation 1 is multiplied by a factor of 7/8 to average the loss of 3 favorable and 1 unfavorable surfaces. Substituting this expression for A and applying the multiplier to equation 1:

(7.) $q_{c0} = .0462 * \Delta T^{1.25} * (1^{0.75} + w^{0.75})$

4.3.2. Forced Convection

4.3.2.1. Forced Convection for Cylindrical Shapes

IEEE Standard 605, section C.3.2 2 gives the following equation for heat transfer where there is a 2 fps wind.

(8.) $q_c = .010 * (D^{-0.4}) * A * \Delta T$

D = outer diameter of cylinder in inches

A = surface area of cylinder in inches² per foot length

 ΔT = temperature difference in degrees Celsius between the conductor surface and the ambient air temperature.

Remembering that the surface area of a 12-inch-long cylinder = 12 $*$ π $*$ D and then substituting in equation (4.) gives:

$$
(9.) \qquad q_c = 0.376991 * D^{0.6} * \Delta T
$$

This equation, again, is valid only for a 2-fps wind. As stated in section C.3 of IEEE Standard 605, an assumption of a 2-fps wind is a conservative, yet realistic approach, and it will be used in the examples given herein.

IEEE Standard 738 notes in section 2.6.1.2, "Since the wind velocity is greater than 0 ft/second, the forced convection heat loss for perpendicular wind is calculated according to equations [6a.] and [6b.] corrected for wind direction, and compared to the natural convection heat loss. The larger of the heat losses due to both natural and forced convection is then used in calculating the thermal rating."

\n- [6a.]
$$
q_{c1} = [1.01 + 0.371 * (3600 \, \text{D p}_r \, \text{V/}\mu_r)^{0.52}] * k_f * (T_c - T_a)
$$
\n- [6b.] $q_{c2} = .1695 * (3600 \, \text{D p}_r \, \text{V/}\mu_r)^{0.52} * k_f * (T_c - T_a)$
\n

where $V =$ wind velocity in feet per second.

Taking this guidance leads to the conclusion that the proper method of calculating q_c is to use the specific equations for q_{c0} , q_{c1} , and q_{c2} and then pick the one yielding the greatest value. To recap, q_{c0} is the convective heat loss due to zero wind, and q_{c1} is the convective heat loss due to low wind velocity. The q_{c1} equation applies at low wind speeds, but gives values that are too low at high wind speeds. q_{c2} is the convective heat loss due to high wind speed. This equation gives values that are too low at low wind speeds. Hence the largest heat loss value is chosen.

In the spreadsheet, the following equations will be used for the calculations:

```
q_c = Maximum (q_{c0}, q_{c1}, and q_{c2})
```

```
q<sub>c0</sub> = Equation (3.) = \qquad .283 * \rho_r<sup>0.5</sup> * D<sup>0.75</sup> * \Delta T<sup>1.25</sup> watts/ft
```
qc1 = Equation (6a.) = [1.01 + 0.371*(3600 D ^r V/r) 0.52] * k^f * (T^c – Ta) watts/ft qc2 = Equation (6b.) = .1695 * (3600 D ^r V/r) 0.52 * k^f * (T^c – Ta) watts/ft

The tables below compare the values of q_c obtained for a 2 fps wind speed using the equations of IEEE Standard 605 and the Task Force's spreadsheet for various diameter pipes.

4" Diameter Pipes

In conclusion, the q_c calculation in the spreadsheet gives q_c values that are between 3% and 7% lower than those calculated by the formula of IEEE Standard 605. The practical impact of these upon conductor ampacity is minimal, as shown in the tables below. These tables compare the spreadsheet against the values in IEEE Standard 605, Table B.3 for schedule 40 aluminum (6063 alloy -53.0 % conductivity) tubular bus at a 40 \degree C ambient at sea level. The small differences are attributable to rounding errors, errors due to curve fitting to data in the standard, and unavailability of the actual conductor constants that were used in preparing the original tables.

6" Diameter Pipes

4" Diameter Pipes

4.3.2.2. Forced Convection for Flat Surfaces

IEEE Standard 605, section C.3.2.1 gives the following equation for the total heat transfer (in watts/ft) due to forced convection when air flows parallel to and over a flat planar surface:

$$
q_c\!=\!0.00367hA\Delta T
$$

where

- *q^c* = convection losses, watts/ft
- h = heat transfer coefficient, BTU/hr Pf ft²
- *A* = area of flat surfaces, square inches/linear foot
- Δ*T* = temperature difference between the surface of the conductor and surrounding air, °C

The heat transfer coefficient, *h*, is given by the following equation:

$$
h = 0.66(L \nu \rho / \mu)^{-1} \int_{0}^{2} (C \mu k)^{-2} (C \nu \rho)
$$

where

L = length of flow path over conductor (normally the width or thickness) in feet

ν = air velocity, feet/hour

$$
\rho_a = \text{density of air, lb/cubic ft}
$$

 μ/ρ_a = kinematic viscosity, ft²/sec

- *C^ρ =* heat capacity of air, BTU/lb-°F
- $k =$ thermal conductivity of air, BTU/hr-ft²-°F
- *Cρμ/k* = Prandtl number of air (dimensionless)
- μ = viscosity of air, lb/ft-sec

According to IEEE Standard 605, the formula above for *q^c* "applies to air flow parallel to the surface. Outdoor air flow is seldom unidirectional and cannot always be parallel to the surface. However, it is assumed that air circulating around the conductor will bein more turbulent flow and provide on the average greater heat transfer that would be calculated using the ... equation" for q_c given. This equation "must be applied to each surface of the conductor."

For multiple bars or angles, facing surfaces are treated as shielded from forced convection, being separated by about one thickness of the bar or angle, with natural convection being applied to those surfaces.

5.0 EMISSIVITY AND ABSORPTIVITY

For all ampacity calculations within this guide, the emissivity and absorptivity of rigid bus conductors are considered to be equal. The values used for emissivity and absorptivity for copper bus are 0.85 and for aluminum bus are 0.50. These values are typical after extended outdoor exposure resulting in weathered conductors and are in alignment with IEEE Standard 605.

The values of emissivity and absorptivity used in the original PJM document for tubular bus were based upon tests made on stranded aluminum conductors. As stated above, the task force has chosen to utilize the values for emissivity and absorptivity from IEEE Standard 605. These changes have a small impact on the ampacity of the bus.

For stranded aluminum and copper conductors used in a substation, an emissivity value of 0.7 and an absorptivity value of 0.9 will be used for both materials. These values are based on the 1973 study titled *"Determination of Bare Overhead Conductor Ratings"* and are identical to the values used in the previous tubular bus rating guide.

6.0 MAXIMUM CONDUCTOR TEMPERATURE LIMITATIONS

Maximum conductor temperature limitations are based on different criteria for the various types and applications of the conductors treated in this guide. For stranded conductors under tension, the loss of tensile strength (annealing) due to high operating temperatures is a major factor in limiting maximum conductor temperature. For rigid conductor maximum span length designs, annealing may be an issue due to the loss of bending strength. For stranded conductors in low-tension applications, such as leads to circuit breaker or transformer bushings or to switch terminals, annealing is not an issue, but rather the maximum temperature limits of the bushings or switch terminals may dictate the maximum conductor temperature limits.

ECAR (East Central Area Reliability)¹ reports 74-TFP-37, "Transmission Conductors Loss of *Strength Due To Elevated Temperature"*, and 74-EEP-42, "*A Uniform Method For the Determination of Load Capability of Line Terminal Equipment,*" and IEEE 605- 2008, "IEEE Guide for Bus Design in Air Insulated Substations," have all been used to assist the task force in selecting the recommendations for substation conductor maximum operating temperatures.

The annealing process causes a loss of the conductor strength, which occurs whenever the conductor is exposed to elevated temperature operation for a period of time. After a conductor is operated at an elevated temperature, there is no recovery of the amount of strength lost when the conductor is allowed to cool. Additional loss of strength from subsequent heating cycle will begin with the loss established by the previous heating cycle and will continue to accumulate as long as the elevated temperatures exist. The amount of loss of strength will increase rapidly under extreme emergency operating conditions and can be calculated if sufficient information on the conductor materials and operating history is available with respect to temperatures.

6.1. Stranded Conductors Under Tension

In choosing maximum operating temperatures for stranded conductors under tension, it is important to choose values that will not cause significant reduction in the conductors' mechanical strength or life. Many studies have been performed to determine the

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¹ ECAR was formed in 1967 to address the reliability of the bulk electric system and was the predecessor of Reliability First. The ECAR research and findings are still relevant to the calculation of outdoor substation conductor ratings.

temperatures at which conductors can operate without loss of strength or life, the results of which are reported in documents such as the ECAR reports cited above.

ECAR report 74-TFP-37 provides a method for performing loss of strength calculations for stranded conductors. Conductor loss of strength is a function of the conductor temperature and the duration of time the conductor is at that temperature. For stranded conductors, factors considered in the determination of conductor loss of strength include the loss of strength factor, the strength ratio of conductor components, the strength adjustment due to stranding or cabling factor, and the adjustment to test strand data. The loss of strength factor is a percent loss of strength of test strands taken from suppliers' data. The ratios of the strength of each component part of a cable to the total strength of cable are given in ECAR report 74-TFP-37, and reflect the composite effect of the rated strength of strands, cabling reduction, and metal proportions. The cabling process reduces the effective strength of the individual components of the cable relative to the sum of the individual strands. This factor is given by ASTM standards. The adjustment to test strand factor is needed since the entire cable is composed of strands that may not be of identical type and strength. The initial strength of strands is a function of the cold drawing process at the wire mill. The final strength in the fully annealed state is related only to the metal alloy. Consequently, the portion of the initial strength that can be lost through annealing will be greater for the higher strength strands than for the lower strength strands.

The conductor temperature limitations chosen by the task force are based on ECAR report 74-EEP-42, except for stranded copper, as noted in the next paragraph. The temperature limits are based on the annealing characteristics of hard-drawn copper and two representative aluminum conductor materials. The maximum normal conductor temperatures chosen are based on a normal temperature limit at which operation will result in no reduction of conductor strength.

It is important to note that most strain buses in substations are not strung at tensions comparable to tensions typically used on transmission lines. This is primarily because the spans are usually not as long in a substation bus as in a transmission line. Therefore, for copper conductors, the task force chose higher temperature limitations than those recommended in the ECAR documents.

The recommended maximum normal operating temperatures for conductors under strain are 90°C² for copper wire and 105°C for aluminum wire (AAC, AAAC, ACAR, and ACSR). The recommended maximum 24-hour conductor emergency operating temperatures are based on a temperature limit at which operation at this temperature for 24 hours will rarely result in more than one percent loss of strength. (As explained in the previous paragraph, a slightly greater amount of loss of strength may be tolerated for copper.) The recommended maximum emergency 24-hour operating temperatures are 100° C for copper wire and 130° C for aluminum wire of all types. The recommended maximum one hour conductor emergency operating temperatures are based on a temperature limit at which operation at this temperature for one hour will rarely result in more than one percent loss of strength. The emergency one-hour operating temperatures chosen are 110 \degree C for copper wire and 140 \degree C for aluminum wire.

It is recommended when a high temperature conductor is connected to substation equipment such a disconnect, caution should be used with respect to the conductor temperature versus the temperature rating of the substation equipment. The substation conductors should be sized to limit the temperature at the substation equipment. Larger or multiple conductors per phase or a plate used as a heatsink could mitigate the high temperatures.

A ten to fifteen percent loss of initial conductor tensile strength over the lifespan of the conductor is considered to be the limit for maintaining safe mechanical integrity of the conductor.

6.2.Rigid Conductors

The maximum normal recommended operating temperature for rigid copper and aluminum conductors (i.e., pipe, bar, and angle) is 90 $^{\circ}$ C, based on IEEE 605-2008, Section 8.2.1. (Note that this task force feels the statement in this same IEEE 605 section concerning excessive oxidation of copper that may occur if operated above 80^oC should not normally be a concern in substation applications.) The maximum 24-hour conductor emergency operating temperature is 115° C. The maximum one-hour conductor emergency operating temperature is 130°C. These temperatures are the same as those used for pipe in the previous version of this document.

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² This document refers to degrees Celsius since this is an industry standard. When calculations are made using the PJM bus conductor rating tool, calculation will be made in both degrees Fahrenheit and Celsius.

6.3. Stranded Conductors in Non-Strain Applications

The recommended maximum normal operating temperature chosen for stranded conductors under no strain is 130° C for all copper and aluminum conductor types. The recommended maximum 24-hour conductor emergency operating temperature is the same as the recommended normal operating temperature, due to the concern of exceeding the limit of observable temperature rise of connected equipment due to conductive heat transfer from the conductor. The maximum one-hour conductor emergency operating temperature is 140°C. In all cases, care should be taken to ensure that the recommended limits of observable temperature rise of connected equipment are not exceeded.

7.0 CONDUCTOR MATERIALS

Copper and aluminum are the main basic materials used in commercial manufacturing of most types of electrical conductors for current carrying applications in electric power systems.

Conductivity standards of copper (percent International Annealed Copper Standard $(IACS)³$ apply to pure copper in the annealed or unrestrained condition, for as the metal is cold worked its resistance is increased and conductivity decreased. The cold working of copper greatly increases its ultimate tensile strength. Likewise, greater strength is obtained if certain alloying ingredients are added, but its conductivity is decreased. Commercial hard drawn copper conductor is considered as having conductivity ranging between 97%-99% IACS.

Pure aluminum has an electrical conductivity of 65% IACS. Commercial high-purity aluminum alloys such as 1350, 6063, and 6061 are the forms of aluminum most widely used for electrical conductors. They have a conductivity of approximately 61, 55, and 43%

IACS respectively. Again, greater strength is obtained if certain alloying ingredients are added, but its conductivity is decreased. Aluminum conductors are manufactured to meet appropriate ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) specifications.

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³ *Note* : International Annealed Copper Standard (IACS) – In 1913 the International Electro-Technical Commission established an annealed copper standard (IACS) which in terms of weight resistivity specifies the resistance of a copper wire one meter long that weighs one gram. The reference temperature is taken to be at 20ºC.

In general, a high strength metallic alloy can only be produced at the expense of conductivity. Conversely, a high conductivity metallic alloy can only be produced at the expense of high strength. Improvement of strength may be achieved by addition of alloying elements, cold working, or heat treatment (i.e., temper).

8.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The purpose of this document is to define the ampacity rating method to be used for substation conductors. It is not intended to be a comprehensive bus design standard. Other elements of bus design are the responsibility of the design engineer. Some of the other elements that need to be considered are described below:

8.1. Connections to Station Equipment

Bus ratings within this document are based on maximum allowable conductor temperatures over the specified time period to prevent significant loss of conductor strength. It is important to recognize that the heat generated by a bus conductor may be conducted to any attached equipment. While fittings and connectors often act as heat sinks and can dissipate heat generated by the bus, equipment temperature limitations must be considered to insure proper bus design. Equipment temperature limitations should be obtained from the applicable specification or equipment manufacturer.

8.2.Thermal Expansion

Bus conductors expand and contract as their temperature changes. This expansion and contraction, if not properly designed for, can induce significant loadings on bus supports. For long bus spans, provisions should be made to allow for expansion and contraction of bus conductors over the operating temperature range through the use of expansion fittings.

8.3. De-rating of Parallel Busses or Conductors

All ratings within this guide apply to bus configuration with one conductor per phase and sufficient spacing between phases as to not impact the conductor rating. When more than one conductor per phase is used and the conductors are in close proximity, the conductors' ability to radiate heat is reduced. Consequently, the ampacity of the bus conductor is reduced. In these situations, an appropriate ampacity rating reduction should be taken.

8.4.Uneven Loading of Parallel Conductors

Parallel conductors are often used to increase the ampacity of a bus. Depending on their physical configuration, mutual inductance between conductors can result in an impedance imbalance and uneven loading. The uneven loading of parallel conductors should be considered when calculating the overall ampacity rating of the bus.

9.0 FITTINGS AND ACCESSORIES

The 1979 PJM Tubular Bus Rating task force contacted several manufacturers and electric utility companies to determine the effect of elevated temperatures on bus fittings and accessories. Replies confirmed that properly installed bus fittings and accessories can be operated at temperatures up to 120° C without incurring either electrical or mechanical limitations. Several tests conducted by manufacturers showed that many conductor accessories operated at temperatures 50° C to 100° C lower than the conductor when operating at temperatures above 180°C. This property is mainly dependent on the large mass and surface area of the fittings. The current PJM Substation Bus Rating task force believes this information to still be valid or conservative. Overall, the quality of workmanship installing the fittings and accessories will directly affect the ability to operate at elevated temperatures. Therefore, it is imperative that fittings and accessories be properly installed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations to insure the desired performance.

10.0 RATING ASSUMPTIONS

Assumptions for Calculations shown in the results tables.

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⁴ Since heat generated in the bus conductor may be conducted to attached equipment, allowable conductor temperatures may be governed by the temperature limitations of the attached equipment. Equipment temperature limitations should be obtained from the applicable specification or equipment manufacturer.

11.0 RISK

As discussed previously, bus conductor ratings are affected by many factors. The most significant of these is wind speed. Unlike many of the other factors such as absorptivity, ambient temperature, conductor resistance, etc., wind speed is truly variable in magnitude and direction. In the early PJM work on transmission line conductors, summarized by the "Determination of Thermal Ratings for Bare Overhead Conductor, 1973", weather data was collected from Washington DC over a period of 16 years, and from Pittsburgh over a 10-year period. This data was pooled to represent a 26-year span of conditions in the PJM service territory. The weather data were summarized on pages A18 and A19 in the 1973 Report in a table format for the frequency distribution of wind and ambient temperature conditions. The tables are reprinted below. In these tables each row lists the probability of occurrence of a given wind speed at a specified ambient temperature. Alternately, each row gives the probability of occurrence of different ambient temperatures given the particular wind speed.

COMPOSITE WEATHER DATA PITTSBURGH AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE (PERCENT)

SUMMER NIGHTS

Note: Data is taken from page A-18 of 1973 PJM Report, "Determination of Thermal Ratings for Bare Overhead Conductors".

COMPOSITE WEATHER DATA PITTSBURGH AND WASHINGTON, D.C.

FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE (PERCENT)

Note: Data is taken frompage A-19 of 1973 PJM Report, "Determination of Thermal Ratings for Bare Overhead Conductors".

When rating bus conductors, the choice of wind speed used is important due to the significant effect on the rating. While a higher wind speed is desired for the higher rating, there is a cost. What happens if the wind speed that actually occurs at the substation is less than the assumed value? As the original PJM work showed, the wind speed is characterized by a distribution of wind speeds with higher and lower values. A wind speed lower than assumed would result in a higher bus temperature than designed. For example, if a rating were based upon 100° C with 2 feet/sec. of wind and a lesser wind were to occur it would cause an increase in conductor temperature to a temperature above 100° C. The risk due to the magnitude of the over temperature condition is called temperature risk.

The duration of these lower wind speeds is also of concern. The acceptability of a particular temperature risk changes with the duration of that risk. For example, while a temperature overrun of 25°C would not be of major concern for 5 minutes, it would be more problematic if it were for 6 hours during mid-day. The risk due to the duration of the over temperature condition is called time risk.

The figure shown below illustrates these risks. On the horizontal axis are listed the wind speeds that could be used for the basis of a bus rating. On the left vertical axis are the bus temperatures that would result if the assumed wind conditions were not achieved. On the right are the durations for the wind speeds at or less than the rated values. For example, with a rating of a section of 2" aluminum bus based upon 90 \degree C and a wind speed of 2 feet per second, for times when the wind speed drops below 2 fps, the bus could rise in temperature up to approximately 115° C and may experience overheating above 90 $^{\circ}$ C for about 0.25% of the time.

From this chart it can be seen that the magnitude of over temperature condition is higher with small bus sizes, and reduced with large bus sizes. Additionally, it can be seen that the duration of an over temperature condition does not vary by bus size.

While the original PJM transmission line work evaluated these risks and developed a reasonable approach to manage these risks using normal ratings based upon 0 knots of wind, this approach is not applicable for substation bus conductor. It is not appropriate for substation ratings because transmission conductors are often sag limited. The maximum sags are controlled by operating and legal limitations. For substation bus, sag limitations do not typically exist, but thermal expansion issues and loss of mechanical strength is of concern.

Normal Ratings

The task force recommends normal ratings based upon 2 fps at normal bus operating temperatures of 90 \degree C for rigid aluminum, 105 \degree C for aluminum wire in strain, 90 \degree C for rigid copper, and 90° C for copper wire in strain. These temperatures have been chosen to generally mitigate loss of mechanical strength of the aluminum or copper conductors through annealing. (Higher temperatures were chosen for aluminum and copper wire in non-strain applications, where loss of strength is normally not an issue.) This philosophy includes an inherent temperature risk of overheating that can be quantified. For example, 4" schedule 80, 6063 aluminum bus has a proposed summer normal rating of 3713 amperes. This is based on a 35° C ambient temperature, a wind of 2 fps, and a bus operating temperature of 90° C. If during this period the wind speed were to fall to zero, then the bus temperature would rise due to the decrease in heat loss from the bus. In this case the bus temperature would rise to approximately 108° C. This represents a temperature risk of 18^oC. While this may be relatively small, ratings based upon higher wind speeds will have commensurately higher temperature risk. The substation designer must consider the magnitude of temperature risk when designing for expansion and contraction of the bus over the wide range of possible operating temperatures. The temperature risk will change with changes in bus conductor size.

Once the temperature risk has been evaluated, the next logical question is how long will this over temperature condition exist. There are discrete probabilities that exist for weather conditions that will cause an overheated conductor based upon the assumed conditions. For a summertime assumed ambient temperature of 35° C and a wind speed of 2 fps, there is a possibility that the ambient temperature could actually be higher than 35°C and winds at or below 2 fps. From the composite weather figures shown earlier, it is possible to calculate the joint probability of summer daytime temperatures above 35° C and wind speeds of 2 fps. It is also possible to calculate the joint probabilities of occurrence for lesser wind speeds and ambient temperature combinations that result in bus overheating. These probabilities can then be summed to calculate the total probability of bus overheating for an assumed set of ambient conditions such as 35°C and 2 fps of wind. For the 4" aluminum bus described above, this calculation summing probabilities result in any bus overheating above 90° C yields a 0.3% duration of risk for summer daylight hours. Assuming 15 daylight hours per day in the summertime, and 180 days of summertime rating, this equates to 8 hours of risk per year.

Therefore, the bus conductor could be expected to overheat by up to 18° C for up to 0.3% of the time or about 8 hours per summer. This quantifies the magnitude of temperature and time risk in this example. In reality the probability is small of the bus operating at the rated load concurrently and with less than assumed wind.

Based on this type of analysis, it is possible to calculate the cumulative time and temperature risk for a 40-year expected lifetime of substation bus, and use these results to make a judgment about any concerns of loss of bus strength due to annealing. The task force believes the time and temperature risk in the magnitude depicted in this example does not represent a significant design concern for the substation bus conductor. The substation designer must make this evaluation for each individual substation design to determine what maximum operating temperature to utilize.

Emergency Ratings

Emergency ratings are provided for abnormal out of configuration system conditions. The duration of emergency conditions is much shorter, and based upon previous PJM work on transmission line conductors; PJM assumes emergency operations could exist for up to 4 hours per year. This is also a reasonable assumption for substation bus conductors. To help manage abnormal conditions, emergency ratings with durations of 24 hours and 1 hour are provided by this document.

While there is some non-zero additional time and temperature risk that is accumulated by emergency operation, the various emergency operating temperatures (100 \degree C, 115 \degree C and 130° C) do not significantly increase loss of strength from annealing above the values previously described because the duration of temperatures above normal operating temperatures are small in the overall bus lifespan. The concern with emergency operations at high temperature becomes the adequate management of the expansion of the bus. Emergency rating periods are not to exceed 24 hours.

12.0 PJM METHOD COMPARISON

In the previous sections, the task force has detailed the changes recommended in the method and parameters for the calculation of substation bus conductor ratings.

Table 12-1 summarizes the changes in input parameters and provides a qualitative impact to the ratings for the change. The effect of any change in individual parameter should not be considered excessively, but the cumulative effect of all of the changes needs to be evaluated.

Table 12-2 summarizes the effective changes in ratings for 3 sizes of aluminum tubular bus between the original PJM ratings and the proposed ratings recommended in this document. It can be seen from the table that while the new ratings generally show an increase in capability when compared to the original PJM ratings, the table shows that there is a reduction in rating by between 5% and 8% for summer emergency conditions. The task force generally believes this reduction to be tolerable for a number of reasons. Firstly, some utility companies utilize the normal ratings for both normal and emergency conditions which render this concern meaningless. Second, some utility companies utilize a lower bus design temperature which provides a lower rating and therefore eliminates the concern.

The task force believes that there will be an inherent variance between any old method and a new one due to rounding issues, and variability in the bus resistance and temperature values. As a result of these alone, the task force believes that ratings that are within a few percent tolerance essentially represent identical ratings. As a result, the 5% to 8% reduction shown for summer emergency conditions in Table 12-2 are not only negligible, but more conservative.

Table 12-1

PJM Substation Bus Conductor Ampacity Parameter Summary

 \overline{a}

 5 The 2010 version incorrectly identified this temperature as 115 $^{\circ}$ C.

 6 The 2010 version incorrectly identified this temperature as 100 $^{\circ}$ C.

 7 The 2010 version incorrectly identified this as 24 Hour.

⁸ The 2010 version incorrectly identified this temperature as 140°C.

⁹ The 2010 version incorrectly identified this temperature as 130°C.

Table 12-2

PJM Substation Bus Conductor Rating Comparison Table

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¹⁰ The original PJM ratings published in the "Determination of Ratings for Tubular Bus" dated 1979 establish bus conductor ratings based upon a bus conductor design temperature ranging between 70°C and 120°C. The ratings shown in the table above are based on 90°C and represent typical values used. Individual substation owners may currently use different ratings due to the use of a different design temperature.

APPENDIX A

Instructions for using PJM Bus Conductor Ratings Spreadsheet

This Excel Program is designed to generate ratings for Substation Bus conductors following the methodology defined in IEEE 605. This spreadsheet was originally produced for round shape conductors by the first PJM Substation Bus Conductor Task Force. The bar and angle shapes are now included in the Substation Bus Conductors Ratings Spreadsheet.

 Open the spreadsheet and select the desired conductor **Shape**. Then choose the correct combination of options from the dropdown bar on the right. Note, it is important to select the conductor from the dropdown bar and not manually type it in. Typing in this field could cause the conductor data not to update properly.

Figure 1: Bus Conductor Rating Program

 Review the month, day, time and atmospheric conditions parameters. The spreadsheet defaults to the PJM values. Adjust parameters as required and then click on the "Calculate" button.

Figure 2: Calculation Set Up

 While remaining on the main page, one can view the **Ratings at a Glance** table at the bottom right. This table populates after clicking the "Calculate" button above.

Figure 3: Ratings at a Glance

To view the full ratings, navigate to the **Rating Report** page. It is the third tab. This tab calculates two sets of ratings, one for ambient temperatures in degrees Centigrade and one for ambient temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit.

Ratings calculated per IEEE 605 ^m-2008

Figure 4: Rating Reports

 For the next several tables, the tabs are color coded, yellow for round conductors, blue for bars and purple for angles.
Publication Table Bar (Night) Publication Table Angle (Day) Publication Table Angle (Night)

Publication Table Round (Day)

Figure 5:Color Codes Based on Shape

 The **Publication Tables** provide ratings charts which are shape specific and are completely copy-ready for simple transfer into other documents. Each tab has two charts, one for Celsius and one for Fahrenheit.

Figure 6: Publication Table (Shape)

 The next set of tabs are comprised by the **Comparison Tables**. These tables are shape specific, and provide two rating tables for comparison. The first table shows the ratings at a wind speed of the user's designation. and the second shows the conductor ratings at the default wind speed of 2fps. It should be noted that the comparison wind speed is entered on the Main tab (first green tab). This wind speed will not impact the conductor ratings shown on the Rating Report tab (green).

Figure 7: Comparison Table (Shape)

 The **Conductor Data Table** tabs show the stored values for each conductor, and provide space for the user to enter new parameters for an unlisted conductor.

Figure 8: Conductor Data Table with User Definable Conductor Space

 The **Weather Data** table shows values for all of the weather related variables used to calculate the conductor ratings. It lies on the second tab.

Figure 9: Weather Data Table

 The **Cond** tab or **conductor data** shows characteristics of the conductor the spreadsheet is rating. Only the shape chosen on the main page will have a complete set of data.

Figure 10: Conductor Data Table

APPENDIX B

PJM Bus Conductor Ratings Spreadsheet: Tab by tab Instructions

This section described the various sections or tabs of the spreadsheet software. No user inputs are required.

This table is one of the results tables and shows conductor ratings for the range of operating temperatures, ambient temperatures for each of the two different wind speeds.

This table is for daytime since it is based upon solar exposure. No user inputs are required.

This table is another of the results tables and shows conductor ratings for the range of operating temperatures, ambient temperatures for each of the two different wind speeds. This table is for nighttime since it is absent solar exposure. No user inputs are required.

The DeltaT Tab:

This tab is used for intermediate steps in the calculation. No user inputs are required. The table shows the difference in temperature between the conductor temperature and ambient temperature. Γ

This tab is used for intermediate steps in the calculation. No user inputs are required. The table shows the temperature of the air film between the conductor and ambient environment.

The TFilm tab:

The Air Density (pf) tab:

This tab is used for intermediate steps in the calculation. No user inputs are required. The table shows the air density around the conductor based on temperature.

The q^c tab:

This tab is used for intermediate steps in the calculation. No user inputs are required. The table shows the convection heat loss from a 1-foot length of conductor.

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This tab is used for intermediate steps in the calculation. No user inputs are required. The table shows the thermal conductivity of the air around the conductor.

The kf tab:

Thermal Conductivity of Air (k_i) at Temperature , T_{film} W/ft (degrees C)

This tab is used for intermediate steps in the calculation. No user inputs are required. The table shows the heat gain to the conductor due to solar heat input. This is only used for daytime ratings.

The q^s tab:

Solar Heat Gain (q_s) , Watts Per Foot of Conductor

The q^r tab:

This tab is used for intermediate steps in the calculation. No user inputs are required. The table shows the heat loss due to radiation from the hot conductor.

The Resistance tab:

APPENDIX C

References

This PJM Substation Conductor Rating document was prepared using various industry standards as guides and references. These referenced documents are:

- 1. *IEEE Standard for Calculating the Current-Temperature Relationship of Bare Overhead Conductors*, IEEE Std 738
- 2. *IEEE Guide for Design of Substation Rigid-Bus Structures*, IEEE Std 605
- 3. *A Uniform Method for the determination of load capability of line terminal equipment*, ECAR 74-EEP-42, revised June 1974.
- 4. *ECAR Transmission Conductors Loss of Strength Due to Elevated Temperature, ECAR 74-TFP-37*, May 1974.
- 5. *Determining the Loadability of Line Terminal Equipment*, ECAR 88-EEP-42, July 1988
- *6. Transmission Conductor Thermal Ratings, ECAR 89-TFP-28, October 1989*
- 7. *Bare Overhead Transmission Conductor Ratings,* PJM Interconnection, December 2022.
- 8. *PJM Manual 03: "Transmission Operations".*