

# Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations

IEEE PES Wind Plant Collector System Design Working Group

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*Abstract*—This paper presents a summary of the most important design considerations for wind power plants. Various considerations, including feeder topology, collector design, interconnect and NESC/NEC requirements, and design engineering studies are discussed.

*Index Terms*—Wind turbine generator, turbine layout, transient analysis, harmonics analysis, wind power plants.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Considerations in Wind Power Plant (WPP) collector system design are driven by economics and reliability. While WPPs have many things in common with traditional utility electrical systems, they also have a number of unique characteristics that require special attention. This paper will discuss various important design considerations applicable to modern WPPs. The scope of the discussion includes design considerations associated with plant and equipment ranging from the point of interconnection (POI) to the switchgear or converter in the base of the wind turbine tower.

## II. FEEDER TOPOLOGY

Feeder topology, also referred to as collection system layout, can range widely in function and features depending on several factors including, turbine placement, terrain, reliability, landowner requirements, economics, and expected climatic conditions for the location.

After site selection for the WPP has been determined, the tower specific locations are defined, based on wind resource, soil conditions, FAA restrictions, land agreements, and constructability considerations. The turbine locations and the POI will be the primary factors in the design and layout of the WPP feeder topology. A POI located far from the wind power plant may require a transmission line and interconnect switchyard in addition to the collector substation; otherwise, the collector substation can be connected directly to the POI. To optimize loss efficiencies within the collector system, the ideal collector substation location is within a central area of the wind power plant to minimize collector conductor lengths. However, this is not always possible due to land constraints and the actual utility POI location itself.

The majority of large wind power plants built in North America have a radial feeder configuration with a collection

system voltage of 34.5 kV (Figure 1). In this configuration, turbines are connected together in a "daisy chain" style, moving outward from the project substation to the furthest located turbine. These feeder strings are commonly underground but may be of overhead construction as well. Each individual feeder string may also have branch strings, connected by sectionalizing cabinets that can make up several string paths within a feeder string. Sectionalizing cabinets, sometimes referred to as junction boxes, have separable connectors, or elbows, that can isolate a feeder string to allow the remaining connected turbines to operate while maintenance or repair work is being performed. The separable connectors can come in two forms: 200 A load-break or 600 A dead-break style. The load-break elbows allow removal and isolation of the feeder string while the connector is energized by use of a "hotstick" and properly trained electricians. For strings with full load current ratings above 200 A, 600 A dead-break elbows are required, which also requires the circuit to be de-energized before removing and isolating the connector, or a live-front cable termination (without use of elbows) which also must be de-energized for connection or disconnection. An alternative to the sectionalizing cabinet is padmounted switches, with or without interrupting devices, that can more easily isolate a feeder for maintenance or troubleshooting. However, the increased cost needs to be weighed against the expected frequency of operation.

The number of wind turbine generators (WTGs) placed on a feeder string is limited by the conductor ampacity. In addition, the total number of collector circuits is driven by the size of the substation transformer (ST) located in the collector substation. System reliability is also a consideration since any given collector circuit cable fault will typically result in an outage to all WTGs connected to that particular circuit. Underground feeders are generally limited to roughly 25 to 30 MW per string due to soil thermal conditions and practical cable sizes, although parallel conductors may be combined at the collector substation circuit breaker to increase the number of WTGs on the feeder.

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## **Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations:**

**Protection & Control Systems of Wind Farm Power Plants** Maty Ghezelayagh, 2020-03-05 There are a number of books in the market about wind energy turbine controllers modelling and different aspects of integration of Wind Farm Power Plants WPP to grids But none of these books meets the expectations of design and field engineers technicians to address directly the setting and design philosophy of different Intelligent Electronic Devices IED of WPP networks This book provides practical applications of numerical relays for protection and control of different parts of onshore offshore WPP network namely wind turbine generator collector feeder and EHV interconnection transmission line to grid In addition required changes to existing special protection system SPS and run back scheme by adding a new WPP are discussed The topology and characteristics of WPP networks are different from conventional one for both onshore and offshore WPP In addition the fault current contribution from wind farm generators are low 1 1 1 2 pu These causes significant challenge for setting and design of IEDs of WPP in order to meet the common industry practice requirement with respect to reliability sensitivity stability security and grading coordination The author believes that this book may be unique with respect to addressing these challenges and provision of the mitigation techniques to rectify the deficiencies of existing industry practice which otherwise have not been discussed for real systems in any other book The content of this book have been successfully applied in the field for various WPPs projects and consequently can be used as a practical guideline for implementation for future projects The content of the book covers Principal of Operation of WPP Modelling of different components of WPP Short Circuit current and voltage characteristics of different type of wind turbine generators Setting and Design of Protection systems of WPP Network Design of Control systems of WPP Lightning and Overvoltage Protection of WPP and Analysis of Disturbance on the WPP networks

**Control Applications in Modern Power Systems** Arvind Kumar Prajapati, Manoj Tripathy, Asheesh K. Singh, Vijay K. Sood, Om P. Malik, 2025-03-24 The book titled Control Applications in Modern Power System select proceedings of EPREC 2024 delves into in depth discussions case studies and recent advancements within the burgeoning field of control systems It specifically focuses on areas such as load frequency control wide area monitoring control and instrumentation optimization intelligent control energy management systems and SCADA systems The development of effective control strategies plays a pivotal role in managing reactive power and upholding voltage profiles among other critical aspects Readers stand to gain valuable insights bolstering their knowledge and expertise in these domains Furthermore this book has the potential to inspire fresh and innovative ideas Whether a newcomer a researcher or a seasoned professional this book serves as an invaluable reference for all for staying abreast of the latest developments in control systems

**The ^A Changing Energy Mix** Paul Meier, 2020-09-21 The Changing Energy Mix compares twelve renewable and nonrenewable energy types using twelve common technical criteria After reading this book readers will be well informed enough to draw their own conclusions and make their own decisions about next steps in

the world of energy      **Advances in Energy Materials and Environment Engineering** Pei Jiang Zhou, Aragona Patty, 2014-12-11 Selected peer reviewed papers from the 2014 International Conference on Energy Materials and Environment Engineering ICEMEE 2014 October 25 26 2014 Guangzhou China      **Wind Energy for Power Generation** K. R. Rao, 2019-10-17 This far reaching resource covers a full spectrum of multi faceted considerations critical for energy generation decision makers considering the adoption or expansion of wind power facilities It contextualizes pivotal technical information within the real complexities of economic environmental practical and socio economic parameters This matrix of coverage includes case studies and analysis from developed and developing regions including North America and Europe Asia Latin America the Middle East and Africa Crucial issues to power generation professionals and utilities such as capacity credits fuel saving intermittency penetration limits relative cost of electricity by generation source growth and cost trends incentives and wind integration issues are addressed Other economic issues succinctly discussed inform financial commitment to a project including investment matrices strategies for economic evaluations econometrics of wind energy cost comparisons of various investment strategies and cost comparisons with other energy sources Due to its encompassing scope this reference will be of distinct interest to practicing engineers policy and decision makers project planners investors and students working in the area of wind energy for power generation      **ELECTRIMACS 2024** Enrique Belenguer, Hector Beltran, 2025-01-30 This book collects a selection of papers presented at ELECTRIMACS 2024 The conference papers deal with modelling simulation analysis control power management design optimization machine learning techniques and identification and diagnostics in electrical power engineering The main application fields include electric machines and electromagnetic devices power electronics transportation systems smart grids electric and hybrid vehicles renewable energy and energy storage systems batteries supercapacitors and fuel cells and wireless power transfer among others Contributions included in Volume 1 are particularly focused on electrical engineering simulation aspects and innovative applications

*Energy*, 1980      **Energy: a Continuing Bibliography with Indexes**, 1978      Intersociety Energy Conversion Engineering Conference Proceedings, 1974      **Energy Research Abstracts**, 1977 Semiannual with semiannual and annual indexes References to all scientific and technical literature coming from DOE its laboratories energy centers and contractors Includes all works deriving from DOE other related government sponsored information and foreign nonnuclear information Arranged under 39 categories e g Biomedical sciences basic studies Biomedical sciences applied studies Health and safety and Fusion energy Entry gives bibliographical information and abstract Corporate author subject report number indexes

*ERDA energy research abstracts*, 1977      **Proceedings**, 1981      **International Aerospace Abstracts**, 1982      The Energy Index, 1987      "*Energy for the Marketplace*", 1983      **Energy Information Abstracts**, 1993      **Proceedings of the Annual UMR-MEC Conference on Energy**, 1976      **The 2nd Annual UMR-MEC Conference on Energy** J. Derald Morgan, 1976      **Petroleum Abstracts**, 1979      "**Advanced Energy Systems--their Role in Our Future**", 1984

Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a noteworthy surge in literary brilliance, with numerous engrossing novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of bestselling books, exploring the captivating narratives that have enthralled audiences this year. Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This touching tale of love, loss, and resilience has captivated readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover masterfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can prevail. Uncover the Best : Taylor Jenkins Reid's "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This intriguing historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reid's captivating storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations : Delia Owens' "Where the Crawdads Sing" This mesmerizing coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens weaves a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, entrancing readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These popular novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of engaging stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a masterful and thrilling novel that will keep you speculating until the very end. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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## **Table of Contents Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations**

1. Understanding the eBook Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - The Rise of Digital Reading Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations User Reviews and Ratings
  - Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations Free and Paid eBooks
  - Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations Public Domain eBooks
  - Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations eBook Subscription Services
  - Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations eBook Formats
  - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations Compatibility with Devices
  - Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - Interactive Elements Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations

8. Staying Engaged with Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
  - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - Setting Reading Goals Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Wind Power Plant Collector System Design Considerations
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
  - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
  - Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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