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### Voltage Drop Creating Visible Light Flicker

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#### **Voltage Flicker Is:**

- Voltage Drop as Seen by Others
  Visible With Incandescent lights and some CFLs
  Complaints Normally From Residential Customers
  Much lower in magnitude than a fault related voltage sag – usually only a few volts on 120-V system
- Noticeable at low levels and downright annoying at higher levels

#### **Voltage Flicker Does Not:**

Normally does not cause equipment downtime Does not damage other folks equipment





### Per Unit Approach to Calculating Flicker

#### $Vdrop \cong IR\cos \Phi + IX\sin \Phi$

Hand calculations often work best in percent on an MVA base TVA uses 100-MVA as our base so the following is the same approach but written on a percent basis:

 $\%Vdrop \cong \frac{MWswing\ (\%R1) + MVARswing\ (\%X1)}{100}$ 

Example: Large motor draws 25-MW and 40-MVAR on startup. With a system Thevenin equivalent Of Z= 0.988% +j 7.170% (100-MVA base), What is the expected voltage swing on startup?

 $Vdrop \cong \frac{25MW(0.988\%) + 40MVAR(7.170\%)}{100} = 3.1\%$ 









#### Three Key Flicker Components

#### **Recipe for Complaints:**

- 1. Start with Varying load/generation equipment
- 2. Serve from a High System Impedance
- 3. Repeat variations until annoying





### Mitigation Systems Reducing Load Swings

#### **Dynamic Var Systems**

- Static Var Compensators
- Dstatcom
- Intellivar
- Thyristor-Controlled Capacitor Systems

**Motor Impact Reduction** 

- Reduced Voltage Starters
- Wound Rotor Motor Resistors
- DC Motor Systems

Sequencing Multiple Welder Systems Arc Furnace Reactors

#### Component 2: Impedance Issues Important to Flicker Critical Point of Common Coupling (PCC) for Flicker Studies



TransmissionSub-transmissionDistributionDistributionLevelCircuit LevelBus LevelCircuit Level

My PCC Definition:

Closest Interconnection Location Where Another Customer Can See The Voltage Drop From The Disturbing Load

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Possible PCC Interconnection		% Series Circuit Impedance 100-MVA base
Transmission – 161-kV	А	(0.70+j4.82)% – total to A
Sub-transmission – 69-kV	В	(1.08+j12.6)% – total to B
Distribution Bus – 13-kV	С	(1.75+32.6)% – total to C
Distribution Circuit – 13-kV	D	(30.47+j138.9)% – total to D

Hopkinsville, KY Facility - Services Went From 13-kV to 161-kV



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#### Mitigation Approaches With Impedance Reductions

Historical Solution to Flicker Problems – Reduce Impedance and percent voltage drop by Moving PCC upstream:

- General Distribution to Dedicated Distribution Feed
- Dedicated Distribution Feed to Sub-transmission Feed
- Sub-transmission Feed to Transmission Feed

#### Add Series Capacitors In Line

#### Component 3: Frequency of Voltage Variation Swings

- Startup Related (once per season, month, week, day)
  - Pump Motors
  - Process Systems
  - Energizing Transformers
- Low Frequency Process cyclic (multiple times per day or hour)
  - Air compressors
  - Refrigeration Compressors
- High Frequency Process cyclic (many times per hour of second)
  - Rock crusher cycling
  - Shredders
  - Welders
  - Arc Furnaces







### **IEEE 1453**

- Based on IEC 61000-4-15 (adopts the IEC standard).
- Provides specifications for the measurement of flicker based on IEC 61000-4-15.
- Provides recommended flicker limits on medium-voltage, high-voltage, and extra-high voltage systems based on IEC 61000-3-7.



### Advantages of using IEEE 1453 over IEEE 141/519 curves

- Measurement that directly represents flicker level in terms of human perception.
- Provides a way of measuring flicker when voltage fluctuation is anything but a rectangular change.
- Impact of modulations caused by modern solid-state converters (interharmonics) on voltage fluctuations taken into account.
- Can be incorporated into simulation models to provide future flicker estimates and the effectiveness of various flicker mitigation options.





### **IEEE 1453 Definitions**

- Pst "A measure (statistical) of short-term perception of flicker obtained for a ten-minute interval. "
- Plt "A measure (statistical) of long-term perception of flicker obtained for a two-hour period. This value is made up of 12 consecutive Pst values per the following formula." - Necessary when duty cycle varies or multiple loads operating simultaneously.

$$Plt = \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{N} \times \sum_{j=1}^{N} Pst_j^3}$$

where N = The number of Pst readings.

N should be based on the duty cycle of the fluctuating load. If exact duty cycle is unknown, assume N=12 to represent 2 hours.



### IEC Flickermeter

- Pst of 1.0 represents a magnitude and frequency of voltage fluctuation that is generally considered to be objectionable.
- Measurement based on luminous fluctuation associated with 60-watt, 60-Hz 120-VAC or 50-Hz 240-VAC incandescent lamps.





### IEEE 1453 Recommended Flicker Levels

Table 1—Planning levels for Pst and Plt in MV, HV, and EHV power systems

	Planning levels		
	MV	HV–EHV	
Pst	0.9	0.8	
Plt	0.7	0.6	

#### Table 2—Compatibility levels for Pst and Plt in LV and MV power systems



Represents the levels below which complaints are not generally received.

However, levels that are not objectionable may still be perceivable.



### 1453 Statistical Guidelines

- As a general guideline, when designing, Pst and Plt should not exceed the planning levels more than 1% of the time (99% probability level), with a minimum assessment period of one week.
- IEEE 1453 recommends that Pst and Plt not exceed 1.0 pu 5% of the time in existing low voltage and medium voltage systems (95% probability level.

# Other Points To Note About Flicker People most sensitive to fluctuation frequency of 2 to 10 Hz with flicker visible up to 35 Hz. Any change in voltage 6.0 % or greater results in objectionable flicker, regardless of frequency. [1]

- Lower-wattage incandescent bulbs produce more flicker for a given change in voltage. At the same rated wattage, a 230-volt bulb will flicker more than a 120-volt bulb for a given change in voltage.
- Dimmers can exacerbate the flicker problem because flicker becomes more perceptible as baseline lumen levels are reduced.
- Fluorescent lamps typically flicker less for a given voltage input [2].

[1] R.Dugan, et al., *Electrical Power Systems* Quality, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed., 2002.

[2]T.A. Short, *Electric Power Distribution, 2005.* 



### EPRI Studies of Compact Fluorescent Lamp Gain Factors

Gain Factor for Compact Fluorescent Lamps at 8-Hz Flicker Frequency





### EPRI Studies of Linear T8 Fluorescent Lamp Gain Factors

Gain Factor for 4-Foot T8, 32-Watt Electronic Lamp-Ballast Systems at 8-Hz Flicker Frequency





### How About a Break!

#### Lets Keep It to 15 Minutes – The Best is Yet to Come!

### Case #1 Sawmill on Rural Feeder



7.2/12.47 kV distribution source @ mill

Primary Z = 12.94 + j10.45 ohms

9.47 miles of 14.4/24.9 kV

3.76 miles of 7.2/12.47 kV

Bandzaw

40 HP

Flicker caused by load fluctuations as well as motor starts.

Vibrator

25 HP

MiscMotorLoads

<75 hp

UUU 75 K7A

COCC 120/240 Single-Phase

VA









## **Initial Goals**

- Reduce flicker Pst on utility system to < 1.0.
- Reduction in voltage sags caused by sawmill operations on utility system to no more than 2.0 percent.
- Mitigation mechanisms must not cause greater than 2.0 percent voltage rise on utility system.



#### **Examples of Products Providing Fast Reactive Power Compensation**



#### S & C's AVC (Adaptive Var Compensator)





## ABB's DynaComp (Dynamic-Var Compensator








#### **Starter Modifications**





Set all taps to 50% on all autotransformer starters.

Programmed 200hp softstart to start at 250 % of FLA.

After starter modifications, Max starting Vdrop on primary ~3%

# Findings of Additional Recording at the Sawmill



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# Case Study #1 – Sawmill on Rural Feeder







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# Calculations - Converting 3.9 miles to 14.4/24.9 kV









# Estimating Future Pst After Voltage Conversion

- Max Pst at residence for day shown = 1.34
- Corresponding Pst at sawmill secondary metering point = 1.74
- Typical ratio "every other interval" ~ 0.7-0.75
- Impedance Ratio =

$$\frac{Pst_{Max@residence}}{Pst_{Corresponding@sawmill}} = \frac{1.34}{1.74} = 0.77$$

$$\frac{Z_{To\_XFMR\_Sawmill\_Primary}}{Z_{To\_XFMR\_Sawmill\_Secondary}} = \frac{0.1070}{0.1535} = 0.7$$

• By converting last 3.76 miles to 14.4/24.9 kV

$$\frac{Z_{To\_XFMR\_Sawmill\_Primary}}{Z_{To\_XFMR\_Sawmill\_Secondary}} = \frac{0.0448}{0.0933} = 0.48$$

With Impedance Ratio = 0.48 PstMax @ Residence Due to Sawmill Load = 0.84



### Case Study #2a & #2b – Residential Air-Conditioning Starting

- Customer complaints at their worst have resulted in service drop/lateral changeout or possibly even transformer upsizing
- HVAC technicians often install "hard start" kits
- On average, electric consumers understand that flicker is simply going to occur when their A/C starts.
- Members sharing secondary conductors and sometimes transformer may result in one member seeing another member's A/C startup.



#### Results of Using Hard Start Devices

- Hard start results in increased starting torque
- Compressor accelerates to full speed more quickly, thereby reducing startup duration
- Magnitude of initial inrush current and voltage drop still the same as before – capacitor provides phase shift but no voltage rise





### A/C Startup Case Study #2b

- Customer complained about flickering lights, number of interruptions occurring, and damaged electronics.
- Distributor power-quality monitoring revealed nothing problematic.
- Distributor changed 50 kVA to 75 kVA transformer and concerns were not resolved.
- Relationship between customer and distributor was tense and customer wondered why the transformer had been changed out if no problem could be detected.
- HVAC technician told customer that the A/C unit needed a "booster" (hard-start kit).





### Case Study - Raw Water Pumping Station – Original Design

- Original study began in 2004
  - Design incorporated 1 pump driven by 1250 hp 4,160 V AC induction motor
  - Provision for additional pump installation
  - 4,160 VAC Electronic softstarter
  - 2,125 kVAr 2-stage capacitor bank switched simultaneously on with motor (electromechanical contactor-switched)
  - 1,800 kVAr switched off just as motor about to reach full speed



### Original Design – Circuit Characteristics

- Fed from 161/69/12.47 sub off of 12.47-kV system
- App. 3.5 miles with 8 line sections of distribution line
- 12.47 kV to 4,160 V 2,500 kVA padmount XFMR
- 0.1 miles from riser pole to XFMR, but distributor wanted PCC to still be at primary terminals of XFMR



### **Original Objectives and Constraints**

- Determine if original design with both electronic softstart and simultaneously-switched cap bank:
  - Result in less than 2.0 % voltage drop at PCC during motor start?
- Use softstart manufacturer's stated inrush current values for calculations
- Perform calculations by hand and/or using steady-state type analysis program



#### Original Calculations from 2004-2005

Table 2 - Voltage Drop at PCC and Transformer Secondary During Motor Starting Assuming 2,125 kVAr Switched On in 1 Step and Then 1,800 kVAr Switched Off

	PCC Relative to Previous State %	PCC Relative to No Load %	1800 kVA XFMR Sec Terminals Relative to No Load %
Beg of Startup	- 1.81%	- 1.81 %	- 4.57 %
2 sec (20%Rated Speed)	- 0.5 %	- 2.16 %	- 5.81 %
5 sec (환4% Rated Speed)	- 0.8 %	- 3.04 %	- 7.76%
10 sec (83 % Rated Speed)	- 0.00 %	- 3.04 %	- 7.76%
Immediately After Startup Before Caps Deenergized	+ 4.89 %	+ 1.85 %	+ 5.11 %
1800 kVAr OFF	- 2.79 %	- 0.94 %	- 2.20 %

2.0 % limit exceeded but distributor willing to go to 3.0 % with understanding that pump not started more than once per week



## 2006 Design Changes

- Latest starter mfr/consultant analysis indicated voltage drop will exceed 4.0 percent at PCC during startup.
- New design called for 2 pumps operating simultaneously
- Increased runtime/# of startups
- Customer contemplating generator because distributor does not want to allow more than 3% fluctuation under any circumstances



•EMTP used to simulate motor start using dedicated feed from substation

•Analysis of across-theline start with and without simultaneous cap switching









#### Without 1,800 kVAr Cap Bank Switched - Results

















#### Case 5 – Wind Generation



1.8-MW units went in service, it was decided to serve the new load at 161-kV.







#### Case 6 – Large Motor System

Evaluate Possibility of Serving a 3000-hp Wound Rotor Motor Metal Shredder At Two Possible Locations

- XXX 69-kV: Z1 = 23.989 + j 52.618%
- YYY 161-kV: Z1 = 1.559 + j 9.048%





#### **EMTP Simulation Results** TVA Voltage Drops As Shredder Cycles - Percent\_V@control [EMTP1] - Percent\_V@control [EMTP2] 100.4 100.2 YYY – 161-kV 100 0.3% 99.8 99.6+ 99.4 99.2 99 XXX -98.8+ 69-kV 98.6 1.75% 98.4 98.2 98 97.8+ 1.5 2 2.5 з 3.5 4 4.5 5 5.5 6 6.5 7 7.5 8 8.5 Time (s)

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#### Case 7

#### My Town Needs a Steel Rolling Mill What do we need to do to allow us to run this mill?

Remote Community Fed at 46-Kv – Impedance to Substation - Z1 = 74.9 +j113.5%

At 26-kV Substation Transformer Secondary (PCC) - Z1=76.3 +j169.0%

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# IntelliVAR System at 1500-KVAR Controls Not Working Properly



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### **Before and After Intellivar Changes**



## Case 8

## My Largest Industry Has Us in a Bad Situation Due to Flicker, What Are Our Options?

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### **PST Estimate – Traditional Hand Calculation**

#### 161-kV MVAsc at Sub – 1558 MVAsc or 3.85% at 60 MVA Base

161-kV:46-kV:13:kV Transformer Nameplate: Z161-46 = 9.7% at 60-MVA, Z161-13 = 5.8% at 21-MVA (16.57% at 60-MVA) Z46-13 = 2.1% at 21-MVA (6.0% at 60-MVA) Convert to T equivalent Z161 =  $\frac{1}{2}$  (9.7% +16.57%-6.0%) = 10.135% at 60 MVA Z46 =  $\frac{1}{2}$  (9.7% + 6.0% -16.57%) = -0.435% at 60 MVA Z13 =  $\frac{1}{2}$  (16.57%+6.0% -9.7%) = 6.435% at 60-MVA

PCC Includes TVA plus 161-kV portion of winding to 46/13-kV T point PCC = 3.85% + 10.135% = 13.985% = 429-MVAsc

Estimated AF Swing = 2 x 4-MW = 8-MVA Swing with 3 AF =  $\sqrt[3]{3}$  x 8-MVA = 11.54-MVAsc for 3 units operating

46-kV Short Circuit Voltage Depression (SCVD) = 11.54/429 = 0.0269 161-kV Short Circuit Voltage Depression (SCVD) = 11.54/1558 = 0.0074

46-kV PST Estimate = 0.0269 x KST = 0.0269 x 60 = 1.61

161-kV PST Estimate = 0.0074 x KST = 0.0074 x 60 = 0.44









TVA	Move PCC to 161-kV Option 2 - Install Dedicated 161-13-kv Substation at Plant Site							
X	Option 2	Move PCC Up to 161-kV System at Plant	All cost	below in <sup>©</sup>	10005			
			All COSt		Total			
	20	New 16 MV/A Transformer, oil containment, foundations, bus	Equip.	Install ¢75	10181 ©025			
	Za	New 10-INVA Transformer, oil containment, foundations, bus	000	\$75 \$	\$920 \$			
10/000000 //	2a	Used 18-MVA Transformer, oil containment, foundations, bus	\$350	\$75	\$425			
Y	2b	161-kV SF-6 breaker w/ bay and relays	\$250	\$75	\$325			
	2c	161-kV Feed to Plant (existing row - big unknown ??)			\$400			
	2d	161-kV Circuit Switcher at Plant with relays	\$100	\$25	\$125			
	2e	13-kV Distribution Breaker at Plant with relays	\$50	\$25	\$75			
	2f	Two-Step - 4.5 (4.0 effective) -MVAR Harmonic Filter	\$100	\$23	\$123			
		Misc. cost not currently identified - 20% of cost (excluding transformer)			\$210			
E CAL E		Grand Total - New Transformer System			\$2,183			
		Grand Total - Used Transformer System			\$1,683			



TVA	Fix Flicker at Plant 13-kV Bus Option 3 - Install Quick, Dynamic VAR Correction and Harmonic Filter System at Plant Site							
	Option 3	Install ABB Mincomp or S&C Purewave Dstatcom						
			All cost l Equip.	below in \$ Install	1000s Total			
() /\	3a	Install +10 /- 2-MVAR Var Compensator	\$1,000	\$100	\$1,100			
Y	3b	Two Step - 6.6/6.3 (6.0 effective)-MVAR Harmonic Filter	\$120	\$25	\$145			
	Зс	13-kV Switchgear Integrated Into Existing System	\$100	\$25	\$125			
		Misc. cost not currently identified - 10% of cost			\$125			
		Grand Total			\$1,370			

TVA	Economic Summary: Installing Dynamic Var Compensation is Best Choice							
	Option #	Power Factor Correction Savings (1000s)	Electronic Equip. Savings (1000s)	Production Profit Increase (1000s)	Total Savings (1000s)	Total Cost (1000s)	Simple Payback (years)	
	Option 1	\$32.8	\$31.6	\$0	\$64.4	\$1,742	27.0	
	Option 2	\$32.8	\$31.6	\$0	\$64.4	\$2,183	33.9	
	Option 3	\$32.8	\$31.6	\$415.0	\$479.4	\$1,370	2.9	
	Option 1 – Transformer Isolation at Substation, filter at Plant							

Option 2 – Transformer Isolation at Plant, filter at Plant

Option 3 – Install Filter/Dynamic VAR Compensation at Plant



# Case 9

### A Large Steel Mill Has an SVC, Why is it Creating More Flicker When On Compared to When its Off?















# Case 10

A Large Steel Mill Has an SVC and DC Electric Arc Furnace, Here is The Way Things Should Operate!

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# If not, then lets eat!!