Earthing Grid Analysis - Number of Meshes Versus Grid Resistance

SafeGrid is earthing design and analysis software. Complies IEEE Std 80 [1] and IEC 60479 [2]. Visit the website for more information www.elek.com.au/safegrid.htm

OVERVIEW

- A summary of some of the results of an extensive study conducted using SafeGrid a computer program designed for determining grounding performance are presented. Effects of total length of conductor and number of meshes on earth grid resistance.
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- The calculated earth grid impedances, surface, step and touch potentials are summarised in several 3D and 2D charts below. The results from SafeGrid earthing software have been verified and compared with those given by similar CDEGS earthing software package [3]. 0 0

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Case ID		Number of meshes	Dimensions (m)	Total length of conductors (m)	Depth of burial (m)	(Ohms)		Grid Potential					1	
	Grid					SafeGrid	CDEGS	Rise, GPR (V)	Surface Potential - Max. (V)		Touch Potential - Max. (V)		Step Potential - Max. (V)	
1		1	20 x 20	80	0.8	2.71	2.76	2708		2054		1310		331
2		2	20 x 20	100	0.8	2.53	2.56	2527		2101		1139		301
3		4	20 x 20	120	0.8	2.44	2.44	2438		2166		1073		283
4		4	20 x 20	140	0.8	2.33	2.35	2333		2034		992		269
5		25	20 x 20	160	0.8	2.31	2.30	2309		2113		972		264
6		16	20 x 20	200	0.8	2.26	2.22	2256		2093		928		256

NOTES:

- 1. Common inputs:
 - Soil resistivity =
 - Depth of grid conductor burial =
 - Earth fault current which flows into the grid =
 - Grid conductor type & material =
- 1000 A Copper, annealed soft-drawn (100% conductivity)

100 Ω.m, uniform soil

Grid conductor radius = 0.01 m 50 Hz

0.8 m

Frequency for conductor impedance calculation =



2. Colour scales:



- Decreasing the mesh size results in significant decrease in grid resistance up until 5 x 5 m. 0
- An effective eathing system provides a low resistance path to earth in order to minimise the GPR 0 0
- For most transmission substations or other large earth grids the earth resistance is typically 1 Ω or less For distribution substations the typical acceptable range is between 1 and 5 $\Omega.$ 0

References:

- IEEE Standard 80-2000, IEEE Guide for Safety in AC Substation Grounding [1]
- IEC 60479, Effects of current on human beings and livestock
- [2] [3] Ladanyi, J., Analyses of the earthing resistance of HV/MV transformer stations with different earth electrode arrangements and soil structures, IEEE Transactions (2007)