

# 34.5/115 kVA Solar Power Plant & Substation Senior Design Project

Senior Design Team 18 - May 2024

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**BLACK & VEATCH**



# Agenda

- Safety Moment
- Gantt Chart
- Substation Overview
  - Substation Design Steps
- Solar Array/Field Overview
  - PV Cells
  - Combiner Boxes
  - Inverters (Skids)



# Safety Moment - Sleep

Why is it important?

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Reduces stress and improve your mood
- Get along better with teammates

Signs of improper sleep:

- Slowed thinking
- Worse memory
- Lack of attention span



# TENTATIVE PLAN

<b>SEMESTER</b>	<b>DESIGN (AUTOCAD)</b>	<b>ANALYSIS &amp; CALCULATION</b>	<b>SIMULATION (ETAP)</b>
<b>FALL 2023</b>	Array Rack Solar Panel Layout Solar Field Layout	Array parameter Power Calculation Economic Cost Analysis Voltage-drop calculation	Solar Power System
<b>SPRING 2024</b>	One-line diagram Yard equipment layout Bus Plan Grounding Layout	Sizing layout Grounding calculation DC and AC load Cost Lightning Protection Calculation	Substation simulation

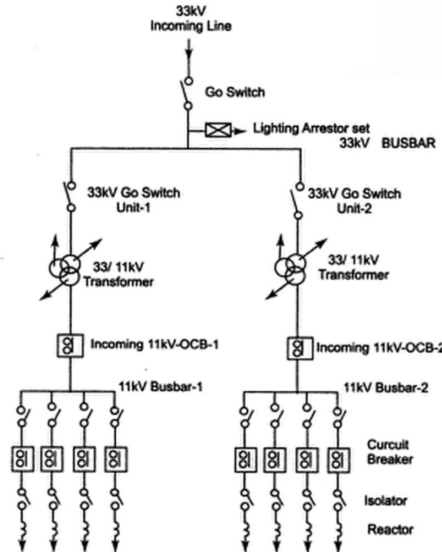
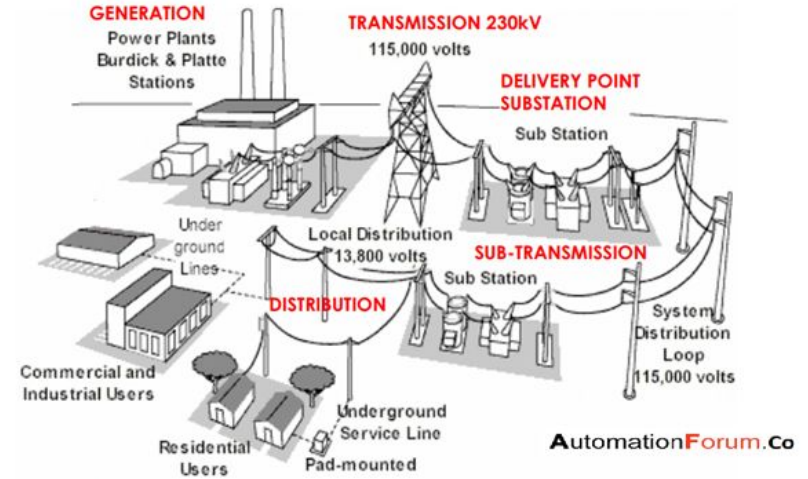






# Substation Overview

Transmission lines come into substation at 115 kVA. These lines then step down into transformers which take the voltage from 115 kVA to 34.5 kVA. The line then goes through switchgear to help service in case of a disaster. After the switchgear, the lines go to busbars which help distribute the voltage to different lines to be distributed.

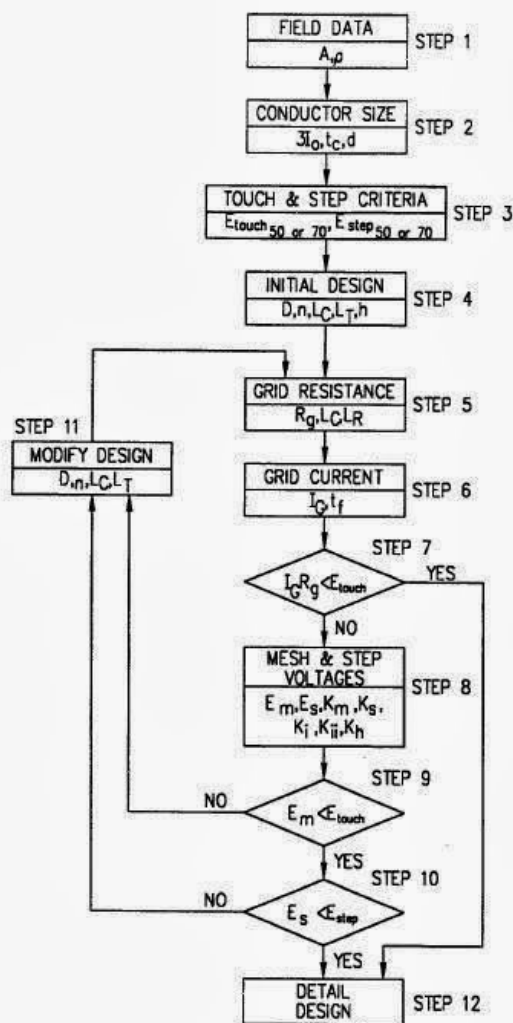


Feeders -> SG -> XFMR -> SG -> Circuit Breaker -> Busbar -> Outgoing Feeders

The circuit diagram to the left shows an overview of a typical substation circuit. This shows a 33/11 kVA system and transformer, but similar principles apply to our project.

# Substation Design Steps

The flowchart to the left shows different steps that go into designing a substation. These steps are outlined in the IEEE Standard 80-2000 which was then superseded by the IEEE Standard 80-2013. They focus mostly on the grounding aspect of the substation.



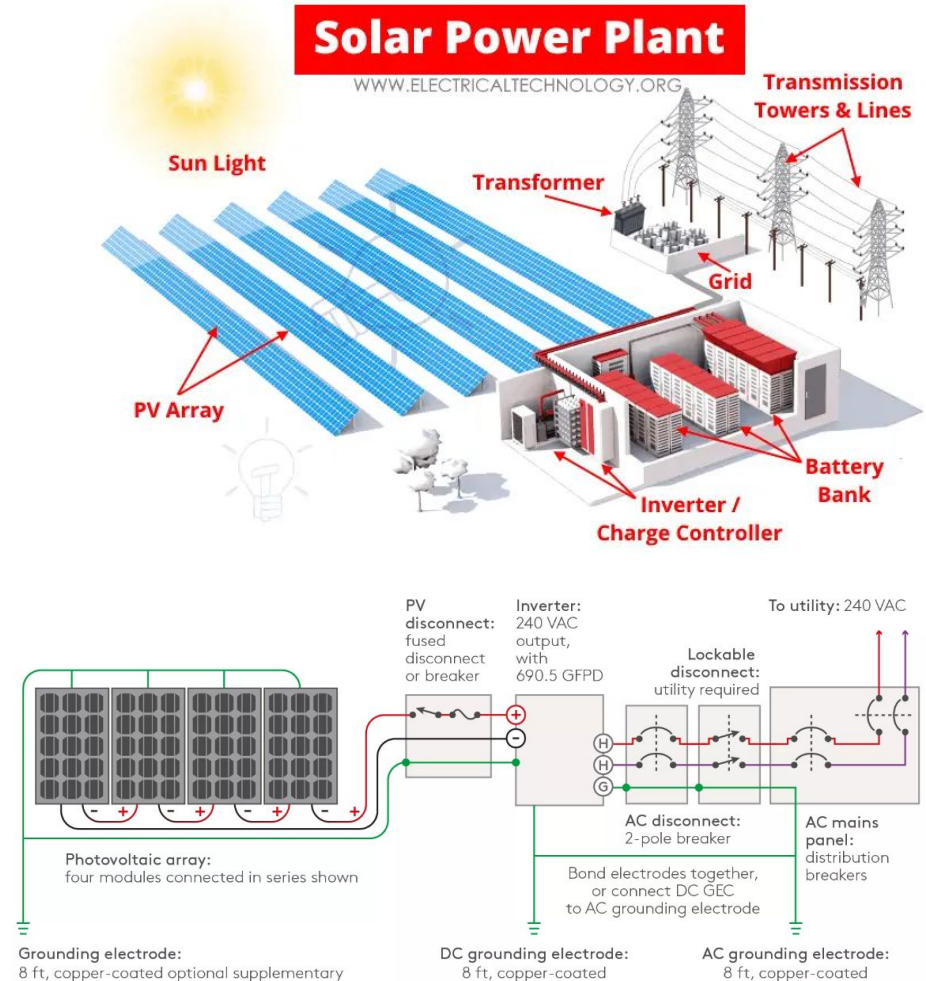
Design procedure block diagram





# Solar Field Overview

- PV Array connected in series
  - String or Rack
- Produces DC current
- Inverter converts DC to AC for use in the power grid
- Disconnects are used throughout solar plant for safety purposes
- Some substations contain battery banks
- Power is then sent to substation to be distributed to the grid
- Sent through to utility service



# PV Cells

## Relationship between irradiance and temperature

- In general, as solar radiance increases, surface/air temperature also increases
- Output current of PV devices is directly proportional to incident solar radiation, while output voltage decreases logarithmically. Power increases overall.
- Output voltage of PV devices is inversely proportional to cell temperature. Current increases slightly with temperature. Power decreases overall.

## MPPT

- Tracking and controlling output voltage and current caused by changes in temperature and solar irradiance. Achieved by sampling outputs and applying the correct load to draw maximum power.

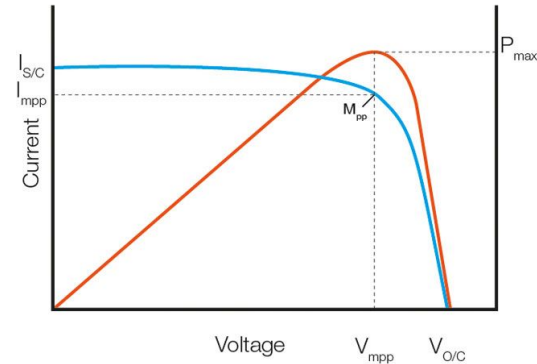
## Applications

- Solar power is not a full controllable source of energy and is often inconsistent. In order to properly connect a solar array to the grid, special constraints must be made in order to ensure power is generated/connected safely and efficiently to the grid as a whole.

[https://www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/education/k-12/curricula/use/documents/USE\\_17\\_IrradianceTemperaturePV.pdf](https://www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/education/k-12/curricula/use/documents/USE_17_IrradianceTemperaturePV.pdf)

<https://www.tycorun.com/blogs/news/the-ultimate-guide-to-maximum-power-point-tracking-principles-faqs-and-calculations>

<https://www.seaward.com/gb/support/solar/faqs/84179-what-is-solar-pv-i-v-curve-tracing/>



# Utility Grade Solar Panels Data Sheet

Link for Solar Panels Data sheets:

<https://www.solarrun.com.au/solar-product-data-sheets/>

<https://www.amerescosolar.com/solar-panel-datasheet-library>



# Combiner Boxes

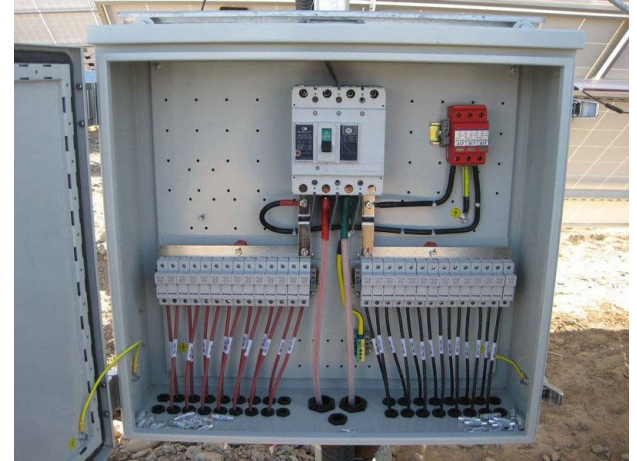
## Main Purpose

- Merge multiple DC inputs
- Single DC output

## Why use them?

- Overcurrent and overvoltage to improve dependability
- Materials, labor, wiring cost reduced

In between solar panels and inverter/charge controller



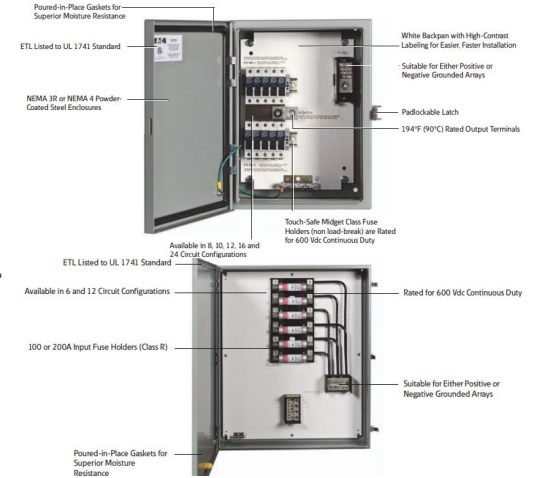
<https://www.bhgsip-mediakit.com/r5/what-you-need-to-know-about-a-solar-combiner-box/>



# Combiner Boxes

## Characteristics

- Prevent moisture by adding gaskets to each panel door
- High Contrast Labeling to read easier
- 8-24 circuit inputs with 310A-400A continuous max current
- 6-12 circuit output with 720A-1520 continuous max current
- 100A or 200A fuse holders



<https://www.eaton.com/us/en-us.html>



# Utility Grade Combiner Box Data Sheet

Link for Combiner Data sheets:

<https://us.solarpanelsnetwork.com/blog/best-solar-combiner-boxes/>

<https://www.datasheetarchive.com/COMBINER%20BOX-datasheet.html>



# Utility-grade Solar Inverters

## Main Purpose

- Make the electricity generate by the solar panels able to transmit into the grid.

## Why use them?

- Convert DC to AC
- Allows output to be synchronized with the grid
- The Maximum Power Point Tracking(MPPT) allow Solar panels work more efficiently
- Stop sending power to grid in case there is failure, to protect workers

## Where is Inverters?

- Between Solar Panels and Transformer



TMEIC's Solar Ware Ninja modular string inverter skid.



# Utility Grade Inverter Data Sheet

Link for Inverter data sheets:

[Commercial and Utility Eaton https://www.eaton.com › ecm › idcplg](https://www.eaton.com › ecm › idcplg)





# Updates

1. intellectual Property and Non-Disclosure Agreements
2. Software updates (AUTOCAD, BlueBeam, ETAP)

