# Testing Lightning Talk: 115/34.5 kVA Solar Power Plant & Substation Design

Team 18 - May 2024

Baylor Clark, Liam Grossman, Eduardo Jimenez-Tzompaxtle, Siti Mohd Radzi, Elymus Schaffer, Chicheng Tang

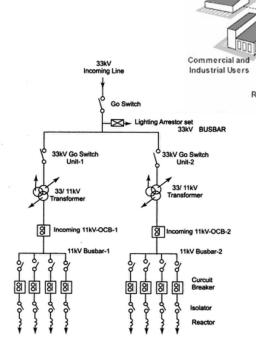




Due to increasing Renewable Energy requirements for utilities, a 34.5/115 kV distribution substation and 60 MW Solar Plant will need to be designed by lowa State University. We as the project team are responsible for the complete design of solar layout, electrical layout, and associated construction deliverables. Our project team will also perform various calculations required of a typical substation, including load-flow analysis, short-circuit studies, system protection design, and grounding calculations.

## Substation Overview

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



GENERATION

Power Plants

**Burdick & Platte** 

Stations

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

Sub Station

TRANSMISSION 230kV

**DELIVERY POINT** 

System

Distribution Loop

115,000 volts

AutomationForum.Co

SUBSTATION Sub Station

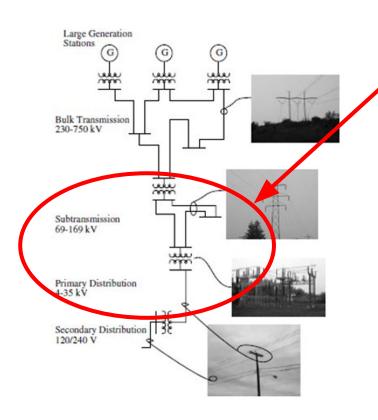
115,000 volts

Underground Service Line

Pad-mounted

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

## Electricity Infrastructure – Solar Farms (PV systems)



- Solar Farms (Photovoltaic systems)
  are usually interconnected to the
  grid at either the sub-transmission
  voltage or primary distribution
  level.
- Solar systems provide a DC output that must be inverted and stepped-up before making a network (grid) interconnection.

### Safety Moment - Situational Awareness

#### **SLAM Method**

- S: Stop
  - Stop and consider the work and what it will involve.
- L: Look
  - Look for overhead or other objects that could be hazardous.
- A: Assess
  - Think about what PPE or other precautions need to be taken to mitigate hazards.
- M: Manage
  - Take steps needed to reduce or eliminate hazards.



## **TESTING TALK**

## **Unit Testing**

#### What units are being tested?

 Voltage, Current, Power, Safety Systems(Circuit Breakers)

#### How?

Etap will be used to test the solar farm

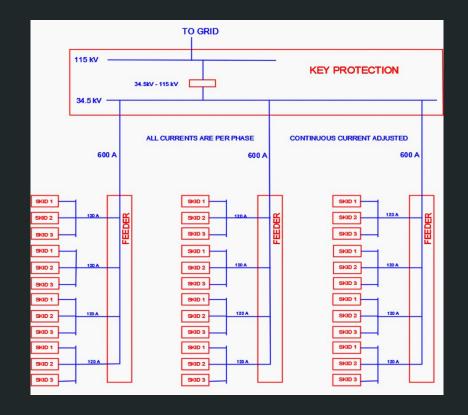
#### Plan for testing?

 All of the testing will be done in a software called Etap that will show the output of each component to determine if the group needs to change parts of the design.



# Interface Testing

- "Interfaces" for Phase One Design
- Voltage and Power output from the solar arrays to inverters
  - Voltage drop calculations from racks to the skid inverters
- Output from Inverter to Substation
  - Using AC output from inverters voltage drop calculations from inverters to substation





## Integration Testing

#### Solar Panel to Inverter

- Efficiency analysis under various conditions
- Durability tests

#### Monitoring and Control Systems

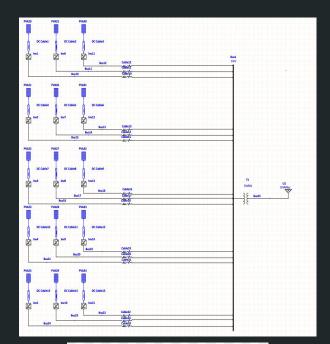
- Data accuracy
- Communication reliability

#### • Grid Interconnection

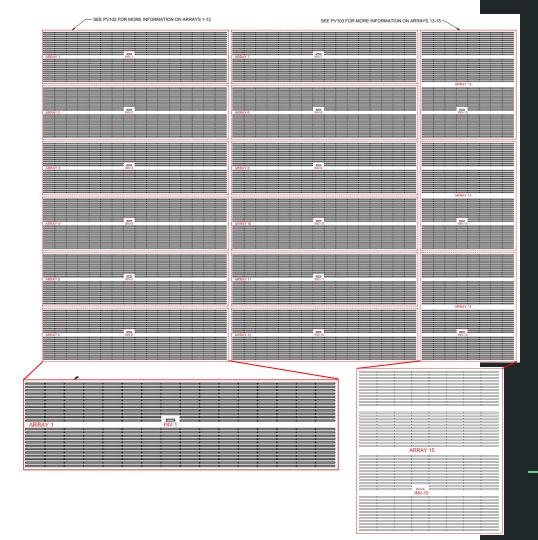
- Power quality
- Anti-islanding protection

#### • Safety and Protection Systems

- Grounding systems
- Circuit breakers





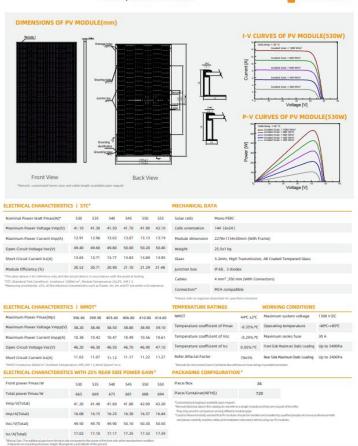


# System Testing

- Voltage Drops
  - Rows
  - Arrays
  - Substation
- Integration
  - Inverter Efficiencies
  - Panel Efficiencies

## Regression Testing

New design components are tested to ensure their compatibility with other connecting components as well as meeting the requirements of the overall project. Values such as rated voltage, current, apparent power, and number of connections are used to calculate compatibility.



P Add: 1W, Zhixi Industrial Zone, Jintanjiangsu 213251, P.R. China 🔍 Tel: +86 519 6822 0233 🖂 E-mail: info@znshinesolar.com

Note: Specifications included in this datasheet are subject to change without notice. ZNSHINE reserves the right of final interpretation to ZNSHINE SOLAR 2022 | Version: ZNM7-SHDB144 2203.E