

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

Team 18 - May 2024

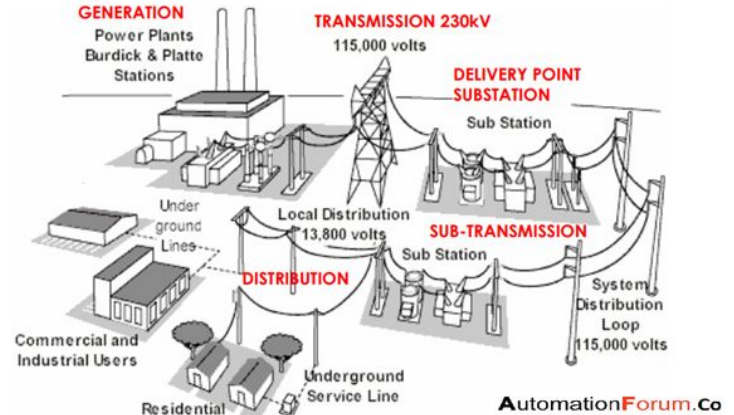
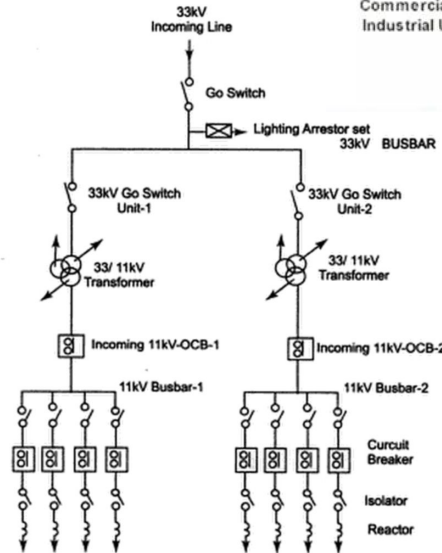
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Due to increasing Renewable Energy requirements for utilities, a 34.5/115 kV distribution substation and 60 MW Solar Plant will need to be designed by Iowa State University. We as the project team are responsible for the complete design of solar layout, 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

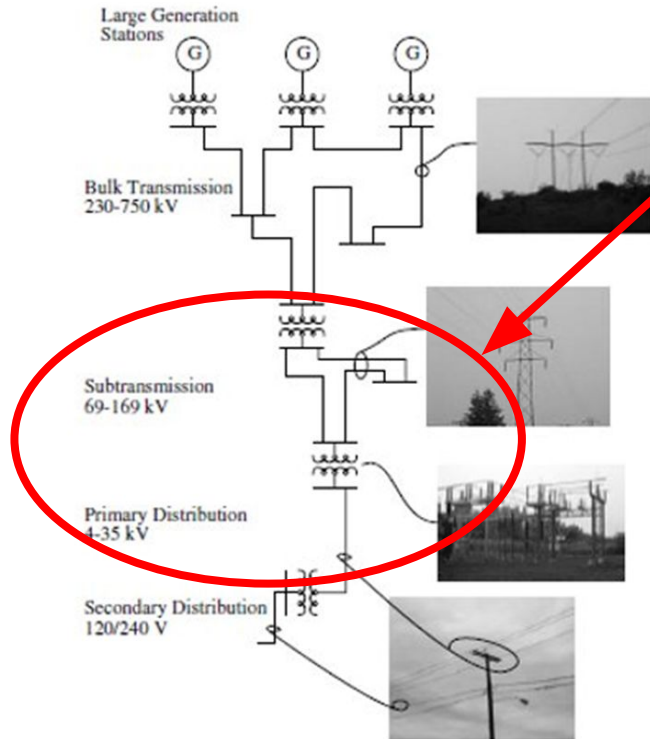
Transmission lines come into substation at 115 kV. These lines then step down into transformers which take the voltage from 115 kV to 34.5 kV. The line then goes through a switchgear to help service in case of a disaster. After the switchgear, the lines go to bus bars which help distribute the voltage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



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 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

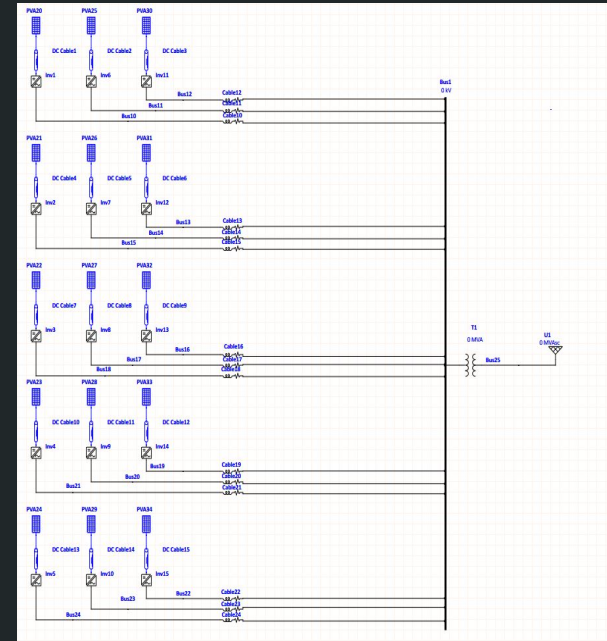
Plan for testing?

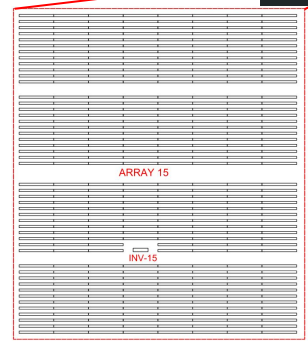
- All of the testing will be done in a software called Etap that will show the output of each component to determine if the group needs to change parts of the design.



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

