

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

**Design of earth electrode stations for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) links –
General guidelines**

Witholdawn



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General guidelines**

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	7
INTRODUCTION.....	9
1 Scope.....	10
2 Normative references.....	10
3 Terms and definitions.....	10
3.22 current-releasing density.....	13
4 System conditions.....	14
4.1 General principles.....	14
4.2 System parameters related to earth electrode design.....	14
4.2.1 Amplitude and duration of the current.....	14
4.2.2 Polarity.....	14
4.2.3 Designed lifespan.....	15
4.2.4 Common earth electrodes.....	15
5 Design of land electrode stations.....	15
5.1 Main technical parameters.....	15
5.1.1 General principles.....	15
5.1.2 Temperature rise.....	16
5.1.3 Earthing resistance.....	16
5.1.4 Step voltage.....	17
5.1.5 Touch voltage.....	17
5.1.6 Current density.....	17
5.1.7 Field intensity in fish ponds.....	18
5.2 Electrode site selection and parameter measurement.....	18
5.2.1 General principles.....	18
5.2.2 Data collection survey.....	18
5.2.3 Distance from converter station (substation).....	18
5.2.4 Environment conditions.....	19
5.2.5 Terrain and landform.....	19
5.2.6 Measurement of soil parameters.....	19
5.2.7 Geological exploration.....	19
5.2.8 Topographical map.....	19
5.2.9 Values selected during design.....	19
5.3 Earth electrode and associated components.....	20
5.3.1 General principles for material selection.....	20
5.3.2 Selection of feeding rods and characteristics.....	20
5.3.3 Chemical and physical properties of petroleum coke.....	21
5.3.4 Current-guiding system.....	21
5.3.5 Bus.....	22
5.3.6 Electrode line monitoring device.....	22
5.4 Electrode arrangement.....	22
5.4.1 General principles.....	22
5.4.2 Filling coke.....	22
5.4.3 Selection of earth electrode shape.....	22
5.4.4 Earth electrode corridor (right of way).....	23
5.4.5 Distance between sub-electrodes in the arrangement.....	23
5.4.6 Burial depth of the earth electrodes.....	23

5.4.7	Segmentation of earth electrodes	24
5.5	Minimum size of earth electrode	24
5.5.1	General principles	24
5.5.2	Total earth electrode length	24
5.5.3	Side length of coke section	24
5.5.4	Diameter of feeding rods	25
5.6	Current guiding system	26
5.6.1	General principles	26
5.6.2	Placement of the current-guiding wire	26
5.6.3	Connection of current-guiding wire	26
5.6.4	Selection of current-guiding wire cross-section	27
5.6.5	Insulation of the current-guiding wire	27
5.6.6	Disconnecting switch	27
5.6.7	Connection of the feeding cable	27
5.6.8	Connection of jumper cables	28
5.6.9	Selection of cable structure	28
5.6.10	Selection of cable cross-section	28
5.6.11	Selection of cable insulation	28
5.6.12	Cable welding position	29
5.6.13	Welding	29
5.6.14	Mechanical protection for cable	29
5.7	Auxiliary facilities	29
5.7.1	Online monitoring	29
5.7.2	Soil treatment	29
5.7.3	Exhaust equipment	30
5.7.4	Fence	30
5.7.5	Marker	30
6	Design of sea electrode station and shore electrode station	30
6.1	Main technical parameters	30
6.1.1	Temperature rise	30
6.1.2	Earthing resistance	30
6.1.3	Step voltage	31
6.1.4	Touch voltage	32
6.1.5	Voltage gradient in water	32
6.1.6	Current density	32
6.2	Electrode site selection and parameter measurement	32
6.2.1	General principles	32
6.2.2	Data collection survey	32
6.2.3	Distance from converter station (substation)	32
6.2.4	Environment conditions	33
6.2.5	Measurement of soil parameters	33
6.3	Earth electrode and associated components	33
6.3.1	General principles for material selection	33
6.3.2	Common feeding rods and characteristics	33
6.3.3	Chemical properties of petroleum coke	34
6.3.4	Current-guiding system	34
6.3.5	Bus	34
6.3.6	Electrode line monitoring device	34
6.4	Electrode arrangement	34

6.4.1	General principles	34
6.4.2	Filling coke	34
6.4.3	Selection of earth electrode shape	34
6.4.4	Segmentation of earth electrodes	35
6.5	Current-guiding system	35
6.5.1	Placement of the current-guiding wire	35
6.5.2	Connection of current-guiding system	35
6.5.3	Selection of cable cross-section	36
6.5.4	Insulation of the current-guiding system	36
6.5.5	Selection of cable structure	36
6.5.6	Mechanical protection for cable	36
6.6	Auxiliary facilities	36
7	Impact on surrounding facilities and mitigation measures	37
7.1	Impact on insulated metallic structures and mitigation measures	37
7.1.1	General principles	37
7.1.2	Relevant limits	37
7.1.3	Mitigation measures	37
7.2	Impact on bare metallic structures	37
7.2.1	General principles	37
7.2.2	Relevant limits	37
7.2.3	Mitigation measures	37
7.3	Impact on the power system (power transformer, grounding network, and surrounding towers)	38
7.3.1	General principles	38
7.3.2	Relevant limits	38
7.3.3	Mitigation measures	38
7.4	Impact on electrified railway	38
7.5	Other facilities (such as greenhouses and water pipes)	39
Annex A (informative)	Basic concepts of earth electrodes	40
Annex B (informative)	Soil parameter measurement method	52
Annex C (informative)	Electrode line design	60
Annex D (informative)	Assessment of measurement method	63
Annex E (informative)	Earth electrode electrical parameter calculation method	67
Annex F (informative)	Thermal time constant	78
Annex G (informative)	Schematic diagram of online monitoring system	80
Annex H (informative)	Calculation method for corrosion of nearby metal structures caused by earth electrodes	81
Annex I (informative)	Calculation method for d.c. current flowing through a.c. transformer neutral near earth electrodes	83
Annex J (informative)	Chemical aspects	86
Annex K (informative)	Simple introduction of shore electrodes	87
Bibliography	89
Figure 1	– Electrode cross-section	22
Figure 2	– Vertical arrangement	23
Figure 3	– Placement of the current-guiding wire	26
Figure 4	– Feeding cable	28

Figure 5 – Resistivity layers with sea or shore electrodes	31
Figure 6 – Sea electrode	34
Figure 7 – Sea bottom electrode with titanium nets	35
Figure 8 – Titanium net	36
Figure 9 – Impact of earth electrodes on a.c. systems (transformer, grounding network, tower)	38
Figure A.1 – HVDC power transmission system structure	40
Figure A.2 – Schematic diagram of the structure of a monopolar earth (sea water) return system	41
Figure A.3 – Schematic diagram of the structure of monopolar metallic return system	41
Figure A.4 – Schematic diagram of the structure of bipolar neutral grounded at both ends	42
Figure A.5 – Schematic diagram of the structure of bipolar neutral grounded at one end	42
Figure A.6 – Schematic diagram of the structure of bipolar neutral line	43
Figure A.7 – Schematic diagram of touch voltage and step voltage	44
Figure A.8 – Schematic diagram of single circular earth electrode	45
Figure A.9 – Axial distribution of step voltage of single circular earth electrode	45
Figure A.10 – 3-D distribution of step voltage of single circular earth electrode	46
Figure A.11 – Schematic diagram of double circular earth electrode	46
Figure A.12 – Axial distribution of step voltage of double circular earth electrode	46
Figure A.13 – 3-D distribution of step voltage of double circular earth electrode	47
Figure A.14 – Schematic diagram of triple circular earth electrode	47
Figure A.15 – Axial distribution of step voltage of triple circular earth electrode	47
Figure A.16 – 3-D distribution of step voltage of triple circular earth electrode	48
Figure B.1 – Equivalent circuit of Wenner method	54
Figure B.2 – Equivalent circuit of Schlumberger method	54
Figure B.3 – Equivalent circuit of dipole-dipole method	55
Figure E.1 – π shape equivalent circuit of an individual earth electrode unit	67
Figure E.2 – Ohm's Law applied to cylinder conductor	68
Figure E.3 – Continuity of axial component of the electric field in the soil and in the conductor	68
Figure E.4 – Spatial division of the earth electrode	68
Figure E.5 – Network for solving axis current	69
Figure E.6 – Horizontally layered soil	71
Figure E.7 – Geometrical structure of a tetrahedron unit	72
Figure E.8 – Structure of a double-circle d.c. earth electrode	76
Figure E.9 – Ground potential and step voltage distribution of a double-circle earth electrode	77
Figure F.1 – Earth electrode temperature rise characteristics	78
Figure G.1 – Schematic diagram of earth electrode online monitoring system	80
Figure H.1 – Calculation of current flowing through a metal pipe	82
Figure I.1 – Schematic diagram of ground resistance network and underground voltage source	83
Figure I.2 – Circuit model for the analysis of d.c. distribution of a.c. systems	85
Figure K.1 – Top view of shore electrode, beach type	87

Figure K.2 – Shore electrode, pond type 87

Table 1 – Composition of iron-silicon alloy electrode..... 21

Table 2 – Chemical composition of the coke after calcination..... 21

Table 3 – Physical properties of petroleum coke used for earth electrodes 21

Table 4 – Electric corrosion characteristics of different materials 26

Table B.1 – Soil (rock) resistivity..... 52

Table B.2 – Soil thermal capacity..... 53

Table B.3 – Soil thermal conductivity 53

Table B.4 – Number of measurement points with different pole distances 56

Table E.1 – Model of soil with two layers 77

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**DESIGN OF EARTH ELECTRODE STATIONS
FOR HIGH-VOLTAGE DIRECT CURRENT (HVDC) LINKS –
GENERAL GUIDELINES**

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Technical specifications are subject to review within three years of publication to decide whether they can be transformed into International Standards.

IEC 62344, which is a technical specification, has been prepared by IEC technical committee 115: High-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission for d.c. voltages above 100 kV.

This technical specification cancels and replaces IEC/PAS 62344 published in 2007. This first edition constitutes a technical revision.

The text of this technical specification is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
115/53/DTS	115/64/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical specification can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC web site under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- transformed into an International Standard,
- reconfirmed,
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INTRODUCTION

The high-voltage d.c. earth electrode is an important part of the d.c. power transmission system. It takes on the task of guiding the current into the earth under the monopolar metallic return operation mode, and the unbalanced current under the bipolar operation mode. Further, it secures and provides the reference potential of valve neutral point under the bipolar/ monopolar operation mode, to protect the safe operation of valves.

D.C. earth electrodes include land electrodes, sea electrodes, and shore electrodes. Today, there are around tens of d.c. electrodes in the world. Their influence on the nearby and far away environment is produced when there is d.c. current continuously leaking into the earth through d.c. earth electrodes.

Their influence on the surrounding environment includes:

- a) influence on humans, mainly due to step voltage, touch voltage and transferred voltage;
- b) influence on the electrode itself, mainly reflected by earth temperature rise and corrosion on the electrode;
- c) influence on nearby ponds and organisms in the sea;
- d) influence on the a.c. power system, mainly reflected by the d.c. voltage excursion of transformer neutral point;
- e) influence on buried metallic objects, mainly revealed by the corrosion on buried metallic pipelines, a.c. grounding grids, tower foundations for power transmission lines and armoured cables, etc.

For years, a great deal of experience has been accumulated in the research and design work in many countries, and relevant native standards or enterprise standards have been developed. The aim of this Technical Specification is to develop the design guide for d.c. earth electrodes, on the site selection, material selection, shape, buried depth, adoption of equipment and connection styles, etc. It could be referred to by the specialized employees in different countries, to ensure the safe operation of earth electrode under different modes, control the influence on the environment nearby and the environment far away to the acceptable level, and to reasonably decrease engineering costs.

To ensure this Technical Specification is more scientific, precise and practical, IEC/PAS 62344:2007 is referred to, and some research results obtained in recent years are adopted.