

**TECHNIQUES TO MINIMIZE TRANSFER POTENTIAL
NEAR THE SUBSTATION BOUNDARIES**

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Thesis/Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree
Master of Science in Electrical Engineering

Department of Electrical Engineering

University of Moratuwa

Sri Lanka

May 2021

DECLARATION OF THE CANDIDATE AND SUPERVISORS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost I offer my sincerest gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Asanka Rodrigo, who has supported me throughout my thesis with his patience and knowledge whilst allowing me to work in my own way. His remarkable guidance helped me throughout the research.

Special thanks goes to all the lecturers engaged in the MSc course sessions and research sessions for making our vision broader, providing us with the opportunity to improve our knowledge in various fields and I specially thank Dr. (Mrs.) Rasara Samarasinghe for her guidance on ANSYS Maxwell Software which helped me to complete the modelling part of my research.

It is a great pleasure to remember the kind cooperation of all my superiors at my work place, my colleagues and my friends who have helped me throughout this Post Graduate programme.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents for supporting me throughout my life. Last but not least I would like to thank my wife for always motivating and supporting me throughout this research work.

ABSTRACT

In Sri Lanka, the demand for electricity is growing at a rate of 5-6% each year. Transmission Infrastructure development is an essential task to cater this growing demand. Construction of grid substations and transmission lines are the major projects in transmission infrastructure development. It is very difficult and costly to find suitable lands for construction of grid substations in urban areas such as Colombo and Kandy. The designs of these grid substations are complex and congested, since they are confined to very small land extents.

It is vital to ensure electrical safety in a grid substation. Grid substation grounding system plays a major role in electrical safety. The grid substation grounding system carries the electric current to the earth at normal and faulty conditions. This flow of electric currents into the earth increases the ground potential not only in the premises of the grid substation, but also in the neighboring lands. Grid substation grounding system ensures the minimum grounding resistance, safe step potential and touch potential levels in the premises of the grid substation, but it does not cover the area beyond the boundary of the grid substation.

Soil structure of a land could be with a uniform soil resistivity or non-uniform and when it is non-uniform, it is considered as multiple layered with different soil resistivity in each layer. The flow of current in the earth depends on the resistivity of the soil layers. Accordingly current flow could be outwards from the land extent of the grid substation or to flow downwards from the surface. This behavior has been tested in this research with an artificially introduced vertical layer of Asphalt around the grid substation to reduce the flow of electric currents towards the adjacent lands from the land of the grid substation. The reduction of flow of electric currents in the upper soil layer of the adjacent lands, reduces the ground potential rise and the electric shock hazard beyond the boundary of the grid substation. The results show that with the increase of the depth and width of the vertical Asphalt layer, the ground potential rise of the adjacent land drops and hence the risk of electric shock reduces.

Keywords: *Grounding, Potential Rise, Reflection Factor, Step Potential.*

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- AC : Alternating Current
CEB : Ceylon Electricity Board
GPR : Ground Potential Rise
GSS : Grid Substation