115kV/ 34.5kV Solar Power Plant & Substation Design Project

FINAL REPORT

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Executive Summary

Development Standards & Practices Used

This is primarily a design-focused project, so we will be adhering to IEEE standards for reporting and documentation, as well as design layouts. We will also adhere to standard practice when designing with Revu Bluebeam. Additionally, we will need to consider any limitations or requirements associated with construction in specific states, specifically New Mexico. We will also need to specifically follow the substation grounding guidelines of IEEE 80 [12]. We will follow the overcurrent/fault protection rules outlined by the NEC. When dealing with relaying, we will utilize proper ANSI device number nomenclature. We will also strictly adhere to the design standards of Black & Veatch to avoid confusion.

Summary of Requirements

- Design 60 MW Solar Field (Fall 2020)
	- Component Selection
	- Select Location
	- Design Layout of Field
	- Voltage Drop Calculations
	- Economic Analysis
- Design Substation to Harness Output from Solar Field (Spring 2021)
	- One-Line Diagram (Protection and Relaying)
	- Bus Plan Diagram and Calculations
	- Trench Fill Tool
	- Grounding Diagram and Calculations
	- Conduit Sizing and Diagram
	- DC Battery Sizing
	- AC Load Calculations

Applicable Courses from Iowa State University Curriculum

- EE 201: Electric Circuits
- EE 230: Electronic Circuits and Systems
- EE 303: Energy Systems and Power Electronics
- EE 455: Energy Distribution Systems
- EE 456: Power System Analysis I
- EE 457: Power System Analysis II

New Skills/Knowledge acquired that was not taught in courses

- Revu Bluebeam design
- \bullet One-line diagrams
- \bullet Solar farm layout
- \bullet Substation layout
- Functionality of solar farm and substation

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1 Introduction

1.1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge Black & Veatch as they guided us as we worked through this project. Additionally, we would also like to thank our faculty advisor Dr. Ajjarapu, our TA Rachel Shannon, and our professors Dr. Daniels and Dr. Tyagi.

1.2 PROBLEM AND PROJECT STATEMENT

This project sets out to develop a solar farm to increase the use of renewable energy at Black & Veatch. Additionally, a power substation must be created which will allow for the harnessing and distribution of the solar farm's energy. This project is very important because regulations pushing renewable energy on power companies are rapidly increasing and so Black & Veatch must begin to take the necessary steps towards avoiding penalties from these regulations. It is our hope that with projects like this one, we can help to get one step closer to solving the climate change crises. On the other side of this project, we can find importance through the students who are trying to learn about solar energy and power distribution. Through this project, our team of students gained real world experience of what it would be like to work for a power company using methods outlined in Black & Veatch's internal documents.

The final goal of this project is to design a 60MW Solar Power Plant with an accompanying 115/34.5kV substation. This project was split into two semesters with the first semester being focused toward the creation of the solar plant design and the second semester being focused toward the creation of the substation design. To accomplish this, our team of students collaborated with the mentors completing the following deliverables:

Semester 1

- Equipment Selection
- Solar Array Sizing and Design
- Solar Field Layout
- Voltage-Drop Calculations
- Economic Analysis

Semester 2

- One-Line Diagrams (Relaying and Protection Modeling)
- Bus Plan Diagram and Sizing Calculations
- Grounding Diagram and Analysis
- DC Battery Sizing
- Cable Trench Fill Tool
- Cable and Cable Trench Sizing
- Conduit Plan Diagram and Sizing
- AC Load Calculation
- Updated Economic Analysis

In order to stay on track with all of these deliverables, we were required to develop a detailed engineer man-hour budget and schedule for this project; this was a conclusive way to plan the overall project while allowing us to create consistent meeting times within our team and with our mentors. Through the meetings with the mentors via Microsoft Teams, we shared our work with the Black & Veatch engineers. During these weekly meetings, they assessed the work that we completed and offered ideas about how we could further optimize the realism and accuracy of our design.

General Problem Statement

We were tasked with designing a 60 MW solar farm with an accompanying substation to add clean, renewable energy to the American power grid. This project is a "from scratch" design, and while we used the resources provided to us, the overall design of the final project is of our own creation. The purpose of this project was to create a design that Black & Veatch could possibly use as a template for their own projects. This project is intended to increase their use of renewable energy which in turn will help them to meet new regulation guidelines. These regulations directly impact the complex and important issue of climate change.

General Solution Approach

We designed a 60 MW solar farm and substation by selecting appropriate parts and land, and then decided the most cost-effective way to combine and set up the farm. This consisted of appropriately sizing different arrangements solar panels, combiner boxes, and inverters. We accomplished this by using Excel spreadsheets to see how changing parameters in one area affected other areas. This also allowed us to see expected output values of the plant. Once we had the design of the solar plant completed, we then moved on to the design of our substation. This consisted of detailed adherence to IEEE, NEC, and ANSI regulations while following the general direction provided to us by our mentors. For the substation design, we continued to use Excel for calculations. Additionally, we utilized Revu Bluebeam to virtually build and continuously assess our designs to produce a cohesive final product.

1.3 OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

This solar farm will operate outside in typically hot, sunny weather but also must be able to withstand temperatures below freezing. It must be resistant to common weather conditions of the area, such as thunderstorms or snow. The substation will operate in the same environment as the solar farm as it will only be 50 feet from the solar field.

1.4 REQUIREMENTS

Functional

- Must be able to operate in environmental conditions as described in section 1.3.
- Power rating at the solar farm of 60 MW
- Adhere to IEEE, NEC, ANSI standards
- Maintain reliability throughout the lifespan of the project
- Minimize voltage drop across solar plant
- Safely ground the entirety of the substation
- Keep the trench cabling capacity under 40%
- Establish overcurrent protection system
- Calculate overall DC and AC loads

Environmental

- Parcel of land must be flat and continuous (i.e. no hills, creeks, ravines)
- High amount of average sunshine per year
- High irradiance on the land
- Substation should be able to safely provide power to nearby communities
- Efficient use of land

Economic

● Our solar plant must be able to produce enough power per year to recover initial investment and operational costs over 10 years.

1.5 INTENDED USERS AND USES

This substation will service the surrounding areas as a support to current infrastructure. This may include spikes in commercial or residential power usage during the daytime.

1.6 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Assumptions

- The sun will shine a consistent number of hours per year
- A consistent amount of energy will be generated and sold each year
- Power lost to inefficiencies in equipment/transmission will be constant
- Maintenance will remain within reasonable tolerances
- Price per kWh will remain as calculated or better (adjusting with inflation)
- The equipment will perform like new for majority of life cycle

Limitations

- The plant cannot operate at maximum power rating, as power is lost in wires, equipment, and to indirect sunlight.
- The solar farm must be relatively close to customers as to minimize losses during transmission from the substation to the users.
- Land must be flat and continuous (no creeks/ravines/steep hills).

Engineering / Project Limitations

- No physical testing was possible
- Time to complete project was cut short due to shorter semester
- Background knowledge of this project was limited due to limited experience of the students
- Our economic evaluation was based on estimations for the cost of components

1.7 EXPECTED END PRODUCT AND DELIVERABLES

There are deliverables for this project that were required from both the mentors with Black & Veatch alongside the mentors/professors from Iowa State. The deliverables that were required for our mentors from Iowa State include:

- Discussion posts covering various topics from the lectures.
- Bi-weekly project reports
- Lighting talks
- Design documents
- Bluebeam Drawings
- Team website
- Final report
- Final presentation

The weekly discussion posts allowed us to learn different processes that our mentors from Iowa State think will help throughout the process of this project. The bi-weekly reports helped our own group along with the mentors to keep track of where we are in the project. This involved us stating current problems and solutions that we are dealing with and current parts of the project that we were finishing and starting. The lightning talks were effective in forcing us to practice talking about our project and giving verbal updates for our ISU mentors. This final report is the last deliverable for our ISU mentors which will serve as an all-in-one project description. The team website is a cohesive way of bringing everything together so that the deliverables can be accessed easily from one place. The final presentation is our team's time to present the hard work and dedication that we put into this project.

With the information given by Black & Veatch, we concluded that we were expected to report the following deliverables:

- Equipment sizing calculations
- Solar layout drawing
- Solar panel string sizing design
- Electrical layout drawings (substation equipment)
- Grounding analysis and ground-grid developed with IEEE-80 [13]
- Bus calculations for substation
- Possibility of additional calculations (DC battery bank, Lightning protection, etc.)
- Creation of solar/substation design-optimizing tool

The equipment sizing calculations are excel documents that Black & Veatch outlined for us. These outlines include built-in formulas that were either given to us or were completed throughout the duration of the first semester of this project as our group put everything together. The 2D model of the solar field that we created in excel provides a visual overview of our farm. The rest of the calculations were completed in the second semester of the project and include DC battery, grounding, bus sizing, and AC load calculations. These calculations were used to determine equipment parameters and limits of our substation design.

All these deliverables helped us to maintain a steady workflow, resulting in a well-documented and complete project by the end of this course. At the end of the project, our clients received a completed (2D) virtual model of the solar farm along with the power substation. This included all deliverables listed above as well as a presentation of the overall progress we made throughout this project.

2 Project Plan

2.1 TASK DECOMPOSITION

Semester 1 Parts Acquisition

- Select Solar Panels based on price, company, and power rating
- Select Combiner Boxes based on price, number of inputs, Amperage rating, and company
- Select Inverter skids based on capacity, inputs, cost, and company

Semester 1 Design

- Design high-level model to better visualize final design
- Design farm layout within land requirements and accessibility
- Design component connections based on part ratings, cost, and power efficiency

Semester 1 Analysis

- Economic efficiency analysis
- Voltage-drop calculations

Semester 2 Design

- Design one-line diagram of substation
- Design bus plan of substation layout
- Grounding grid layout and calculations
- Create the Trench Fill Tool
- Conduit plan and sizing

Semester 2 Analysis

- Use the Trench Fill Tool to estimate conduit plan
- Bus size calculations
- DC battery calculations
- Assess overcurrent/fault protections
- AC load calculations
- Update economic analysis

2.2 RISKS AND RISK MANAGEMENT/MITIGATION

We will not be physically constructing a prototype for our project, so the risks will relate only to performance targets. We have assumed an ideal plot of land that is perfectly flat at the standard elevation of New Mexico and has enough room for the entire layout of the solar plant and substation. One possible risk is that the minimum temperature of the solar plant's location will affect the solar string voltage. To compensate for this, we set the minimum temperature to -40 degrees Celsius. This ensures a risk factor of zero because New Mexico simply does not get that cold at any point in the year. We have designed the system so that the combiner boxes and inverters will all be of adequate strength to handle all their inputs, even with maximum solar output. The solar plant can also store excess power to keep up production on days with less-than-optimal amounts of sunlight. This means that projected average solar output will not be a risk. The risks presented by the design of our substation were far

greater than of our solar plant. There is always a risk of injury associated with improper grounding of a substation. To counter this, we designed many possible grounding grid layouts and chose the design with rated step and touch voltages well below the tolerable step and touch voltage amounts. The only possible risk associated with the grounding is that the tolerable voltages were calculated with a body weight of 50kg or 110lbs. This means that the voltages could be less than tolerable if touched by someone weighing less than 110lbs. Another possible risk is ground or arc faults. We handled this issue by adding relays to our substation. These constantly monitor the system for ground or arc faults and shut off power in the necessary areas if a fault occurs. This almost completely ensures that someone will not be injured by a sudden fault, as the maximum amount of time they could be exposed to a fault is 5 milliseconds. As for the possibility of sudden overcurrent, there are breakers spaced at appropriate intervals along our substation to immediately cut off contact with the circuit if overcurrent is detected. The main risk that we encountered as a team was the possibility of falling behind schedule. This ended up not being a problem. We ended the first semester about one week ahead of schedule and we ended the second semester further than any group to previously attempt this senior design project (according to our mentors). We ensured that we did not fall behind by having a weekly meeting with our mentors and at least two weekly meetings with just our team to work on our assigned tasks.

2.3 PROJECT PROPOSED MILESTONES, METRICS, AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Solar Plant Design

- Component Selection
- Array Parameter
- Plant Design/Layout
- Voltage Drop Calculation
- Economic Analysis

Substation Design

- Substation Layout
- Trench Fill Tool
- Grounding Calculations
- Bus Calculations
- DC Battery Calculations
- Overcurrent/Fault Protection
- AC Load Calculations

These milestones were evaluated by percentage complete, as well as by how they affected the projected efficiency of the solar plant and substation system. Whereas the first semester milestones were sequential, most of the second semester milestones were concurrent with at least one other milestone. For example, the substation design was constantly being updated based on whatever set of calculations we had done that week. Overall, setting and constantly evaluating milestones helped us form a conclusive view of our project progression.

2.4 PROJECT TIMELINE/SCHEDULE

Figure 1 - Proposed Project Schedule

The figure above (Figure 1) outlines the project schedule that we followed. The creation of the Trench Fill Tool was postponed until after the fall semester had ended, as we felt it would be more relevant to our work with the substation. We began working with this tool over winter break and into the spring semester. The figures below (figure 2 and figure 3) show the Gantt charts that we created, which more accurately depicts our progress and timeline of accomplishments over the course of the fall and spring semesters.

Senior Design Project: GANTT CHART

Figure 2 - Gantt Chart for Fall

Senior Design Project: GANTT CHART

						Start Date:	25-Jan		1-Feb 8-Feb 15-Feb 22-Feb	1-Mar		8-Mar 15-Mar 22-Mar	29-Mar	5-Apr	12-Apr	19-Apr
	TASK NAME		START DATE END DATE	DURATION	TEAM MEMBER	PERCENT COMPLETE							WEEK1 WEEK2 WEEK3 WEEK4 WEEK5 WEEK6 WEEK7 WEEK8 WEEK9 WEEK10 WEEK11 WEEK10 WEEK12			
Design				(WORK DAYS)												
	One-Line Diagram	2/8	3/21	28 21	Eric Schultz Christof Barrier Cortland Polfliet Nolan Rogers Brian Lemke	100%										
				28	Keve Hughes Logan Hinkle Eric Schultz											
	Bus Plan Diagram	2/5	3/21	21	Christof Barrier Cortland Polfliet Nolan Rogers	100%										
					Brian Lemke Keve Hughes Logan Hinkle Eric Schultz											
	Grounding Diagram	3/1	4/11	14	Christof Barrier Cortland Polfliet Nolan Rogers	100%										
					Brian Lemke Keve Hughes Logan Hinkle Eric Schultz											
	Conduit Diagram	3/1	4/4	14	Christof Barrier Cortland Polfliet Nolan Rogers Brian Lemke Keve Hughes	100%										
					Logan Hinkle											
Calculations	Grounding Calculations	3/1	4/11	14	Eric Schultz Christof Barrier Cortland Polfliet Nolan Rogers Brian Lemke Keve Hughes	100%										
	Bus Calculations	3/22	4/4	14	Logan Hinkle Eric Schultz Christof Barrier Cortland Polfliet Nolan Rogers Brian Lemke Keve Hughes	100%										
	Trench/Conduit Fill Tool	2/1	3/28	35	Logan Hinkle Eric Schultz Christof Barrier Cortland Polfliet Nolan Rogers Brian Lemke	100%										
					Keve Hughes Logan Hinkle Eric Schultz Christof Barrier Cortland Polfliet											
	DC Battery Calculations	3/29	4/11	14	Nolan Rogers Brian Lemke Keve Hughes Logan Hinkle	100%										
	AC Battery Calculations	4/12	4/18	$\overline{7}$	Eric Schultz Christof Barrier Cortland Polfliet Nolan Rogers Brian Lemke Keve Hughes	100%										
					Logan Hinkle											

Figure 3 - Gantt Chart for Spring

2.5 PROJECT TRACKING PROCEDURES

Our group used Microsoft Teams and Google Drive to communicate and collaborate on all project materials. We met with our mentors every week via Microsoft Teams. In these meetings we presented our weekly progress reports along with any questions from the previous week's workload, and if any issues arose throughout the week we communicated with our mentors via email. We tracked progress by adhering to strict deadlines for the various tasks necessary to complete the project. Additionally, we held team meetings without our mentors at least once per week to discuss progress on tasks and to determine if additional resources needed to be reallocated to the completion of a specific task.

2.6 PERSONNEL EFFORT REQUIREMENTS

All tasks have been completed by dividing work amongst team members via our weekly group meetings. The mentors gave the team tasks from the senior design schedule, which were divided amongst the team members during our team meetings.

2.7 OTHER RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

We required access to solar field modeling tools, namely the Array Design Parameter Tool we used to model our initial solar field design. These tools were largely provided by our mentors. We also needed access to software for designing things in the spring semester. We discussed using Revit or AutoCAD but decided on using Revu Bluebeam because some of us have had experience using that software and we could get it for free as students. We also used Microsoft Excel for our trench fill, grounding, bus size, and battery calculations. For battery sizing, we utilized the online EnerSys BSP battery sizing program.

2.8 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Given that our project is simply designing the solar field and substation there were no actual financial requirements. The software used for design was free to use because we were ISU students. If our project was to completely build the solar plant and substation, the cost would be many millions of dollars. Our Array Parameter Tool had a section for calculating the total cost of our required parts based on an estimated per-unit component cost. Our mentors suggested that we evaluate the 10-year cash flow of the solar plant with and without axis tracking technology. They also said that we were not going to use axis tracking technology because there were many additional factors that come with axis tracking that would complicate our calculations. The first semester economic evaluation is shown below.

Figure 4 - Fall Semester Economic Evaluation

Due to the changes made to our project in the spring semester, we figured it would be inaccurate to use the evaluation from the fall semester. We talked with our mentors about price estimates for

construction, equipment, and operation/maintenance costs of our substation. We also elected to only evaluate the solar plant without axis-tracking, as that is the design our mentors recommended. Shown below is our economic evaluation to include both our solar plant and our substation.

	No Axis Tracking	\$13/kW												
	Installation Cost		$O+M/yr$	Inflation Rate		Yearly Revenue								
s	113,020,000.00 \$		1,000,000.00	3.22%	-S	12,989,088.00								
	\$1767/kW													
	Cash Flow													
	Year 0		Year 1	Year 2		Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9		Year 10
s	$(113,020,000.00)$ \$		11,989,088.00 \$	12,375,136.63 \$		12,773,616.03 \$	13,184,926.47 \$	13,609,481.10 \$	14,047,706.39 \$	14,500,042.54 \$	14,966,943.91 \$	15,448,879.50	-S	15,946,333.42
	Present Value													
	Years		Installation Cost	$O+M$		Revenue	Profit							
	10	s.	(113,020,000.00)	(58, 435, 224.53) --	s	138,842,154.00 \$	17,386,929.47							

Figure 5 - Spring Semester Economic Evaluation

3 Design

3.1 PREVIOUS WORK AND LITERATURE

The design of solar farms and substations has well established practices and methodologies to maximize efficiency. Our mentors at Black & Veatch guided our design process to follow these standard practices. The general layout of a solar array is strings of solar panels connected in parallel, forming racks, which are then linked into combiner boxes. The combiner box outputs are then fed into inverters, which contain the transformer shown in the schematic below. Efficiency has been a constant problem in solar power, as power is lost in equipment, transmission, and due to uncontrollable variables, such as temperature. Some of the advantageous design choices involve strategic placement of combiner boxes and skids to minimize the amount of cable used in the farm. The graphic below shows a sample layout of a traditional solar array.

Figure 6 - Sample Solar Array Layout

As for our second semester substation design, Black & Veatch provided us with a toolbox of common substation components for use in our Revu Bluebeam designs. One of our first tasks was to determine what type of bus configuration to use. There are several common configurations and we researched different options in order to find what would work best for our substation. We primarily made use of information on the EEP website as well as recommendations from our industry mentors who have designed similar substations in the past [9]. We chose to use a ring bus layout because of its simplicity, flexibility, and expandability. Additionally, we consulted IEEE [12] documentation to guide our design and calculation process. This documentation gave equations, sample example calculations, and explanations which we consulted for many of our calculations. pictured below is an example ring bus layout which we modified for use in our substation.

Ring Bus Configuration

Figure 7 - Sample Ring Bus Layout [9]

3.2 DESIGN THINKING

Much of our design process has been driven by the guidance of our client, Black & Veatch. They provided us with the specifications to meet during different design steps, as well as with advice about common design principles for solar farms and substations.

Some of the important decisions we made about the design of our solar farm were the wattage of the solar panels, the location we would build the solar farm, and the location of the combiner boxes and inverters with respect to the solar panels. We elected to use the 410W solar panels instead of the 340W option to minimize the number of panels needed. As for the location of combiner boxes and inverters, we elected to use a centralized design to minimize overall voltage drop across the circuit. We compared two locations, one in Iowa and one in New Mexico. The property in New Mexico would be significantly better than the property in Iowa. The property in New Mexico has over 100 more sunny days, higher average irradiance each month, much more acreage that can be used to expand the solar farm, and is considerably cheaper than the property in Iowa. The land in New Mexico costs about \$750 an acre, and gets approximately 310 sunny days per year.

As for the substation, we utilized the EEP website shown to us by our mentors to narrow down our bus configuration to a ring bus [9] This type of bus provides an optimal amount of safety for maintenance and overcurrent protection, and it is also highly flexible in terms of design. One part of the substation design that was largely left to our discretion was the arrangement of the grounding grid and distribution of grounding rods. We determined that the grid should be divided into smaller squares with grounding rods at the intersections (also sometimes at the middle of the squares) to make efficient use of the given space. We'll talk in greater depth about the design decisions we made for grounding later in this report, as this was a massive portion of our work in the second semester.

3.3 PROPOSED DESIGN

This project consisted of two separate but related designing processes, divided between the fall and spring semesters. In the fall, our goal was to design a solar farm that produces 60 MW of power. After completing this design, we focused our efforts on designing a substation that can take the power generated from that solar farm and safely prepare it for high-voltage transmission.

3.3.1 Solar Plant Design

We have designed the layout of the panels, combiner boxes, and inverter skids, as well as the components and layout of the substation. The basic idea behind our thinking was to maximize our efficiency on wiring and solar power collection. We made use of the array parameter tool with component choices to guide the layout we created. Below we can see the parameters used in our array parameter tool:

Figure 8 - Array Parameter Tool

Using this parameter tool, we determined that there would be 25 solar panels in each string, resulting in 50 solar panels per rack. For the layout of the racks, we settled on 6 racks per row, with 34 rows per array. In each array, there will be 2 racks removed to provide space for the inverter skid, and there will be a 35 ft wide access road running through the middle for maintenance. Based on these calculations, each full array will produce 4.141 MW of power. Since our target power for the entire solar field is 60 MW, we needed approximately 14 full arrays and 1 half-array, resulting in a total system output of 60.024 MW. The layout of a full array as well as the half-array is shown below.

Figure 9 - Full-Array and Half-Array Layouts

Each blue/orange rectangle represents a single rack. The large box in the middle of the array represents the inverter skid, while the smaller dark blue squares represent combiner boxes. Each full array contains 10,100 solar panels, 17 combiner boxes, and one inverter skid.

The full combined layout of the \sim 14.5 arrays will have a total length of 2,684.59 ft and a total width of 2,520 ft, resulting in a total area of 6,765,168.3 ft, approximately 155.3 acres. The proposed fullsized layout is shown below.

Figure 10 - Multiple Array Layout

Having well-defined information on how to design a solar farm and substation has been very helpful for us. It allows us to focus more on getting this piece of infrastructure built in a timely manner - something important in a renewable energy industry that is continuously innovating and creating more efficient products. However, one downside to having such rigid constraints is removal of creativity in a way - we cannot go out and create something completely original the way an artist might. Efficiency and conformity are rewarded in an industry like this; the most effective plant designs are ones that amalgamate all the best parts of other plans.

We also had to calculate the size of the wires connecting our solar plant. There were many factors to consider, such as outdoor conditions, maximum current flow, and temperature. Using NEC tables (shown in Chapter 6 of this document) we were able to accurately size the wires to minimize voltage drop of the wires to less than 3%, which was our target value. The tables below show a filled-out version of the voltage drop calculation document given to us by Black & Veatch for the 14 full arrays and the 1 half array.

	12 Rack Combiner Box:												
DCB	Strings	ISC for	String	String	String Conductor	String	Voltage Drop	IMP for	Jumper	Jumper	Jumper	Jumper	Voltage Drop
	<mark>per Rack</mark>	String	Length	wire size	Resistance	Resistance	of String	Jumper	Length	wire size	<u>Resistance</u>	resistance	of Jumper
DCB### DCB1-01	per rack $\overline{\mathbf{c}}$	Amp 16.484	feet 84	AWG 12	Ohm/kft 1.98	Ohm 0.322	Volts 5.483	Amp 32.968	feet 185	AWG 8	Ohm/kft 0.778	Ohm 0.279	Volts 9.490
DCB1-02	2	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	8	0.778	0.152	5.181
DCB1-03	$\overline{\mathbf{c}}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	17	8	0.778	0.025	0.872
DCB1-04	2	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	17	8	0.778	0.025	0.872
DCB1-05	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	8	0.778	0.152	5.181
DCB1-06	$\overline{\mathbf{c}}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	8	0.778	0.279	9.490
DCB1-07	\overline{c}	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	8	0.778	0.279	9.490
DCB1-08	2 $\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	8	0.778	0.152	5.181
DCB1-09 DCB1-10	$\overline{2}$	16.484 16.484	84 84	12 12	1.98 1.98	0.322 0.322	5.483 5.483	32.968 32.968	17 17	8 8	0.778 0.778	0.025 0.025	0.872 0.872
DCB1-11	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	8	0.778	0.152	5.181
DCB1-12	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	8	0.778	0.279	9.490
	10 Rack Combiner Box:												
DCB9-01	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	10	0.78	0.279	9.490
DCB9-02	2	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	10	0.78	0.152	5.181
DCB9-03	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	17	10	0.78	0.025	0.872
DCB9-04	\overline{c}	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	10	0.78	0.152	5.181
DCB9-05	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	10	0.78	0.279	9.490
DCB9-06	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	10 10	0.78	0.279	9.490
DCB9-07 DCB9-08	$\overline{\mathbf{c}}$ $\overline{2}$	16.484 16.484	84 84	12 12	1.98 1.98	0.322 0.322	5.483 5.483	32.968 32.968	101 17	10	0.78 0.78	0.152 0.025	5.181 0.872
DCB9-09	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	10	0.78	0.152	5.181
DCB9-10	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	10	0.78	0.279	9.490
		No. of	IMP for					Voltage		Voltage			
	DCB	Rack	DCB	Feeder	Feeder wire size	Feeder resistance	Feeder resistance	drop for	/oltage drop	drop for	VMP for circuit	Voltage drop for circuit	
		Inputs	circuit	length				feeder	for feeder	circuit			
	DCB#-##	$\#$	Amp	feet	kcmil	Ohm/kft	Ohm	Volt	per cent	Volt	Volt	per cent	
	DCB ₁	12	395.616	410	600	0.0214	0.01693	6.942	0.71%	44.972	1500	3.00%	
	DCB ₂	12	395.616	367	600	0.0214	0.01558	6.214	0.64%	44.729	1500	2.98%	
	DCB ₃	12	395.616	324	600	0.0214	0.01345	5.486	0.56%	44.486	1500	2.97%	
	DCB4	12	395.616	281	600	0.0214	0.01161	4.758	0.49%	44.243	1500	2.95%	
	DCB5	12	395.616	238	600	0.0214	0.00987	4.030	0.41%	44.001	1500	2.93%	
	DCB6	12	395.616	195	600	0.0214	0.00803	3.302	0.34%	43.758	1500	2.92%	
	DCB7	12								43.515			
			395.616	152	600	0.0214	0.00629	2.574	0.26%		1500	2.90%	
	DCB8	12	395.616	109	600	0.0214	0.00455	1.846	0.19%	43.273	1500	2.88%	
	DCB ₉	10	395.616	38	600	0.0214	0.00155	0.643	0.07%	42.872	1500	2.86%	
	DCB ₁₀	12	395.616	75	600	0.0214	0.00310	1.270	0.13%	43.081	1500	2.87%	
	DCB11	12	395.616	118	600	0.0214	0.00494	1.998	0.21%	43.323	1500	2.89%	
	DCB12	12	395.616	161	600	0.0214	0.00668	2.726	0.28%	43.566	1500	2.90%	
	DCB ₁₃	12	395.616	204	600	0.0214	0.00842	3.454	0.36%	43.809	1500	2.92%	
	DCB14	12	395.616	247	600	0.0214	0.01026	4.182	0.43%	44.052	1500	2.94%	
	DCB15	12	395.616	290	600	0.0214	0.01200	4.910	0.51%	44.294	1500	2.95%	
	DCB16	12	395.616	333	600	0.0214	0.01384	5.638	0.58%	44.537	1500	2.97%	
	DCB17	12	395.616	376	600	0.0214	0.01557	6.367	0.65%	44.780	1500	2.99%	
											Average of worst-case		
											DCB voltage drop:	2.93%	
		Temperature correction			$V_d = \frac{2LR_2I}{1000}$								
		for resistance:											
	a_{cu}	0.00323	/°C	Where:									
	α_{al}	0.00330	ľС				V_d = voltage drop over circuit length (volts)						
	T_{a}	60	°C			$L =$ length of circuit (ft)							
	$T_{\rm{a}}$	70	°C				R_2 = resistance of conductor from Equation (ohm/kft)						
	KRcu	-0.032					/ = maximum power current of circuit (amps)						
	K_{Ral}	-0.033											

Figure 11 - Full-Array Voltage Drop Calculations

	12 Rack Combiner Box:												
DCB	Strings	ISC for	String	String	String Conductor	String	Voltage Drop	IMP for	Jumper	Jumper	Jumper	Jumper	Voltage Drop
	ber Rack	String	Length	wire size	Resistance	Resistance	of String	Jumper	Length	Wire Size	Resistance	Resistance	of Jumper
DCB#-##	per rack	Amp	feet	AWG	Ohm/kft	Ohm	Volts	Amp	feet	AWG	Ohm/kft	Ohm	Volts
DCB1-01	$\overline{\mathbf{c}}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	8	0.778	0.279	9.490
DCB1-02	\overline{c}	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	8	0.778	0.152	5.181
DCB1-03	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	17	8	0.778	0.025	0.872
DCB1-04	\overline{c}	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	17	8	0.778	0.025	0.872
DCB1-05	\overline{c}	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	8	0.778	0.152	5.181
DCB1-06	$\overline{\mathbf{c}}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	8	0.778	0.279	9.490
DCB1-07	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	8	0.778	0.279	9.490
DCB1-08	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	8	0.778	0.152	5.181
DCB1-09	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	17	8	0.778	0.025	0.872
DCB1-10	\overline{c}	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	17	8	0.778	0.025	0.872
DCB1-11	$\overline{\mathbf{c}}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	8	0.778	0.152	5.181
DCB1-12	2	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	8	0.778	0.279	9.490
	10 Rack Combiner Box:												
DCB5-01	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	10	1.240	0.444	15.126
DCB5-02	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	10	1.240	0.242	8.258
DCB5-03	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	17	10	1.240	0.041	1.390
DCB5-04	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	10	1.240	0.242	8.258
DCB5-05	2	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	10	1.240	0.444	15.126
DCB5-06	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	10	1.240	0.444	15.126
DCB5-07	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	10	1.240	0.242	8.258
DCB5-08	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	17	10	1.240	0.041	1.390
DCB5-09	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	10	1.240	0.242	8.258
DCB5-10	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	10	1.240	0.444	15.126
6 Rack Combiner Box:													
DCB9-01	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	10	1.240	0.444	15.126
DCB9-02	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	10	1.240	0.242	8.258
DCB9-03	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	17	10	1.240	0.041	1.390
DCB9-04	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	17	10	1.240	0.041	1.390
DCB9-05	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	101	10	1.240	0.242	8.258
DCB9-06	$\overline{2}$	16.484	84	12	1.98	0.322	5.483	32.968	185	10	1.240	0.444	15.126
		No. of	IMP for					Voltage		Voltage			
	DCB	Rack	DCB	Feeder	Feeder	Feeder	Feeder	drop for	/oltage drop	drop for	VMP for	Voltage drop	
		Inputs	circuit	length	wire size	resistance	resistance	feeder	for feeder	circuit	circuit	for circuit	
	DCB#-##	$\#$	Amp	feet	kcmil	Ohm/kft	Ohm	Volt	per cent	Volt	Volt	per cent	
	DCB1	12	395.616	238	600	0.0214	0.00987	4.030	0.41%	44.001	1500	2.93%	
	DCB ₂	12	395.616	195	600	0.0214	0.00803	3.302	0.34%	43.758	1500	2.92%	
	DCB ₃	12	395.616	152	600	0.0214	0.00629	2.574	0.26%	43.515	1500	2.90%	
	DCB4	12	395.616	109	600	0.0214	0.00455	1.846	0.19%	43.273	1500	2.88%	
	DCB ₅	10	395.616	38	600	0.0214	0.00155	0.643	0.07%	42.872	1500	2.86%	
	DCB ₆	12	395.616	75	600	0.0214	0.00310	1.270	0.13%	43.081	1500	2.87%	
	DCB7	12	395.616	118	600	0.0214	0.00494	1.998	0.21%	43.323	1500	2.89%	
	DCB8	12	395.616	161	600	0.0214	0.00668	2.726	0.28%	43.566	1500	2.90%	
	DCB ₉	6	395.616	204	600	0.0214	0.00842	3.454	0.36%	43.809	1500	2.92%	
											Average of worst-case		
											DCB voltage drop:	2.90%	
	Temperature correction						$V_d = \frac{2LR_2I}{1000}$						
		for resistance:											
	α_{cu}	0.00323 /°C			Where:		V_d = voltage drop over circuit length (volts)						
	$\alpha_{\rm al}$	0.00330	/°C			$L =$ length of circuit (ft)							
	T_a	60	°C				R_2 = resistance of conductor from Equation (ohm/kft)						
	T_a	70	°C										
	KRcu	-0.032					/ = maximum power current of circuit (amps)						
	K_{Ral}	-0.033											

Figure 12 - Half-Array Voltage Drop Calculations

3.3.2 Substation Design

The power generated by the solar field is carried along three main feeder lines at a voltage of 34.5 kV each. These feeders serve as inputs to our substation with a total combined load of 1739.83 A. The power then travels through a bus network before reaching a step-up transformer which increases the voltage from 34.5kV to 115kV for long-distance transmission. In terms of bus arrangement, we contemplated between a ring configuration and a breaker-and-a-half configuration. While the breaker-and-a-half configuration would offer more protection and reliability, we elected to go with the ring configuration as it requires less components and streamlines our design process while maintaining sufficient protection. This configuration prevents the entire system from failing due to a fault or overcurrent by isolating the affected components for maintenance while rerouting the power through the other side of the ring.

3.3.2.1 One-Line Diagram

The first step in designing this substation was the creation of our one-line diagram, which establishes the configuration of our ring bus network while modeling fault and overcurrent protection via primary and secondary relaying. The ring bus network that we designed consists of four 34.5 kV breakers and one 115kV breaker, with each breaker being monitored by two primary and two secondary current transformers for use in relay protection. The 115/34.5kV transformer is monitored via four primary and four secondary current transformers, however the four current transformers on the high-voltage (115kV) side of the transformers are unused, and therefore shorted. Regarding relaying, we utilized SEL-411L and SEL-311L relays for the primary and secondary differential protection of each breaker as well as for long-distance fault protection. Additionally, we used SEL-487E relays for the differential protection of the $115/34.5kV$ transformer and SEL-451 relays for transformer overcurrent protection. The one-line diagram is shown in Appendix II, consisting of two drawings which include the layout of our zones of protection as well as our relaying model.

3.3.2.2 Bus Plan Diagram

After completing the one-line diagram, our next task was to design a three-phase bus plan diagram that accurately portrays the scale and location of each component of the substation as well as the spacing between various elements. To accomplish this, we first needed to determine minimum spacing and clearances for all metal components and cables according to ANSI C_{37-32} standards [15]. Once proper sizing and spacing was established for each component and structure, we proceeded with the design of the bus plan. This included the addition of a protective fence that extends 15 feet beyond any substation equipment as well as a control structure and accompanying cable trench to house our underground wiring and control systems. The design of this diagram was quite intensive and was often updated throughout the semester as we received more information regarding other calculations, serving as the foundation for the remaining diagrams detailed in 3.3.2.3 and 3.3.2.8. The bus plan diagram is shown in Appendix II.

3.3.2.3 Grounding Calculation and Diagram

The design of the grounding system in a substation is an important aspect that protects personnel and equipment during a fault condition. Grounding systems typically include a "mesh" of bare copper conductor that is placed in the soil beneath the substation equipment. All equipment is then connected to this mesh, which allows for any phase-to-ground faults to travel through the ground conductors and the soil back to its source. It is important that the fault current has multiple paths back to its source in order to protect any nearby personnel from dangerous voltages that exist in the soil and on the equipment within the substation. Our task was to design a grounding grid for our proposed substation area that meets requirements set by IEEE-80 while considering several given parameters, shown below. This calculation process involved calculating a tolerable step and touch voltage which served as a maximum limit that we could not exceed. These calculations are shown in the figure below.

Figure 13 - First Half of Grounding Calculations

After calculating our maximum tolerances, we then experimented with various conductor spacings and grounding rod configurations in an attempt to optimize our specific substation step and touch voltages to below those tolerances. After a number of attempts, we ultimately elected to implement a conductor spacing of 12 ft using 4/0 AWG conductors. Our final design included 278 grounding rods that are 20 feet in length, which we understand is a very inconceivable number of grounding rods. After discussing with our mentors at Black & Veatch, we concluded that the reasons for the incredibly large number of grounding rods included the fact that we did not have access to the intensive grounding programs that are readily available and widely used in the field. In our case, we simply followed an IEEE guide that leaves many considerations out of the equation. Another possible reason for the large number of grounding rods is that our soil was input as relatively poor. Our calculations possibly could have been made simpler if we had considered a soil with less uniform soil resistivity.

This was by far the most challenging and confusing aspect of our design process, as it became incredibly tedious to optimize spacing in addition to the amount of ground rods required. Part of the reason for this was that we found inconsistencies with one of the equations given to us. The IEEE grounding guide mandated that a certain geometrical factor "nd" should be equivalent to 1 for square or rectangular substations. Previous teams who attempted this project had completely overlooked this, instead electing to use a very small fraction rather than 1 for n_d. This perfectly explains why their grounding calculations seemed so optimal with the inclusion of far fewer grounding rods than our team. The image below shows the second half of our finalized grounding calculations.

Figure 14 - Second Half of Grounding Calculations

3.3.2.4 Bus Calculation

The purpose of high voltage buses in substations is to interconnect the various pieces of equipment to form the desired bus configuration, which in our case was a ring bus configuration. The buses may either provide controlled paths for current to flow between the connected equipment or may maintain the equipment at the same potential. To operate successfully over an extended period, a substation bus must be designed to meet a diverse variety of criteria. The basic task of a substation bus designer is to select the bus conductor, components, and arrangement to meet each of the criteria at the least possible expense to the owner. For the purposes of this project, our group calculated only a few of the necessary calculations needed to complete a full bus calculation. Black

& Veatch provided us with a large list of variables relating to the material properties of the conductors or insulators, some of which we converted to different units for ease of use. The image below shows these given values.

Figure 15 – Given Values for Bus Calculation

Our substation consists of rigid buses that form the skeleton of our bus configuration along with flexible buses that connect each major piece of equipment to the rigid bus. Although we have two voltage classes, 115kV and 34.5kV, we will be using the same size rigid and flexible bus for both classes. We conducted the following calculations with an assumed 15kA fault current, representing the worst-case scenario for the substation. Based on our feeder load current of 1739.83 A, we established our rigid bus to be a 3-inch nominal 6061-T6 schedule 40 pipe, and our flexible bus to be 1113-45/7 Bluejay ACSR. Our first task in this calculation was to verify that our feeder load

current would not exceed the maximum allowable current capacity of our selected bus conductors, adhering to the guidelines of IEEE 605. This calculation is shown in the figure below.

				$\frac{\text{Ampecific}}{R} = \frac{1.724 \times 10^{-6}}{C'A} \left(1 + \frac{0.00403 C'}{61} (T_2 - 20) \right) A_c = \frac{\pi}{4} \times \left[(D)^2 - (D - 2 \times t)^2 \right]$
				$A = \pi D l_{-} q_c = 3.561 D^{-0.4} A \Delta T \frac{1}{-q_s = \varepsilon' Q_s A' K \sin(\theta)} = \cos^{-1} [\cos H_c \cos(Z_c - Z_1)]$
				$q_r = 5.6697 \times 10^{-8} \varepsilon A \left[(T_c + 273)^4 - (T_a + 273)^4 \right] - I = \sqrt{\frac{q_c + q_r - q_s}{RF}}$
Rigid	$Ac =$	$0.001437725 \, \text{m}^2$		(calculated using equation above)
	$R =$	2.73475E-05 Ohms/m		
	$A =$	0.279288145 m^2		
	$qc =$	130.9282697 W/m		
	$ar =$	24.59190168 W/m		
	$\theta =$		97 degrees	
	$qs =$	47.19708972 W/m		
	$l =$	1990.221419 A		
Flexible	$Ac =$	$0.000563965 \, \rm{m}$ ^{^2}		(converted from 1113 kcmil)
	$R =$	6.42506E-05 Ohms/m		
	$A =$	0.100384139 m ^{^2}		
	$qc =$	70.85997365 W/m		
	$ar =$	8.839032091 W/m		
	$\theta =$		97 degrees	
	$qs =$	16.96398253 W/m		
	$I =$	988.135368 A		

Figure 16 - Bus Calculation (Ampacity)

According to these calculations, the maximum allowable current of our rigid conductor is 1990.22 A. In our configuration, two flexible buses branch from the rigid conductor to each major component, resulting in a combined maximum ampacity of 2×988.135 A = 1976.27 A. This confirms that both of our selected bus conductors can handle the load of 1739.83 A coming into our substation.

Our next step was to calculate the forces acting upon our rigid bus, specifically the weight of the conductor, F_c , the wind load, F_w , the force of a short circuit, $F_{sc_corrected}$, and the total gravitational force, FG. This calculation is shown below (Figure 16).

Forces		$F_c = \pi w_c t_c (D_o - t_c)$ $F_w = CV^2 D_o C_f K_Z G_f I$	$F_{sc_corrected} = D_f^2 K_f F_{sc} = D_f^2 K_f \left(\frac{16 \Gamma I_{sc}^2}{10^7 D} \right)$	$\perp F_G = F_c$	
	Rigid	$Fc =$	38.100 N/m		
		$Fw =$	48.582 N/m		
		$Fsc.corr. =$	292.984 N/m		
		$Fg =$	38.100 N/m		
		$Ft1 =$	343.684 N/m		

Figure 17 - Bus Calculation (Forces)

The final step of this bus calculation was to determine the maximum distance that our rigid bus can span without requiring additional bus supports. We performed this calculation twice, first based on the deflection limit and second based on fiber stress, and chose the fewer of the two to be our maximum span.

<u>Span</u>		384EJn		h4			
	Rigid	$l =$	1.25585E-06 m^4				
		$Lv =$	10.53310807 m				
		ls =	8.883573211 m			(this would be what we choose)	

Figure 18 - Bus Calculation (Span)

3.3.2.5 DC Battery Sizing Calculation

Battery Sizing

Continuous Loads

Continuous Load = 4.508 *amps* (*use* 5.0 *amps for continuous loads to be conservative*)

Momentary Loads

Determination of Duty Cycle

A) 115 *kV bus fault:* 1 - 115 *kV breaker would trip; if that breaker failed,* 2 - 34.5 *kV breakers would also trip.*

B) 115/34.5 *kV transformer fault:* 1 - 115 *kV breaker would trip, and* 2 - 34.5 *kV breakers would trip; if either* 34.5 *kV breaker failed,* 1 *additional* 34.5 *kV breaker would also trip.*

Situation (B) provides the worst-case dc load for a fault condition with 16.5 amps.

@ Time T = 0 *min,*

Trip the 115 *kV breaker with a trip coil current inrush of* 6.6 *A, and* 3 - 34.5 *kV breakers with a trip coil current inrush of* 3.3 *A each. Include continuous load current.*

@ T = 1 *min,*

Continuous load for 239 *minutes.*

@ T = 240 *min,*

Close the 115 *kV breaker with a close coil current inrush of* 3.6 *A, then the 3* - 34.5 *kV breakers one at a time with a close coil current inrush of* 2.6 *A each. Include continuous load current.*

Based on the data gathered from this calculation, we generated a sizing report using the IEEE-485 method via EnerSys. According to that report, we would need one string of (20) CA-03M rated at 50 AH with a margin of 11% .

3.3.2.6 AC Load Calculation

The goal of the AC load calculations was to determine the AC current draw on our system. This involved adding up the individual AC loads of all substation components, which were calculated by dividing the rated wattage by the rated voltage and multiplying by the number of specific components. The image below shows our method of calculating these loads.

Figure 19 - AC Load Calculation recommend XXXA Station Service Equipment

Based on the total worst-case load of 47663 W, we decided to size our station service at 50 kVA. We sized the safety switch based on the total current load of the system, sizing up from 219.01 to 225 A.

We also had to size the battery charger for our substation battery. We ended up with a value of 8.25 but rounded up to the minimum size supplied which is 25. The image below shows how we sized that battery charger for our substation.

Battery Charger Sizing

$$
A = L + \frac{AHR * K}{T}
$$

3.3.2.7 Trench Fill Tool

At the start of the semester, our mentors challenged us to create a trench fill tool that helps size substation cable trenches. The cable trench and corresponding conduit route auxiliary power and control cables from the control house out to main pieces of equipment like the transformer and circuit breakers. The central focus of the calculation was to minimize the trench size while still meeting the standard fill capacity of 40% as outlined by IEEE standard 525-2007 [18]. This tool helped us design our substation and will be utilized in the future by B&V. Our calculation used standard cable and sizes for substation equipment. The total cross-sectional area of cable running through our trench came out to 119 in² and adhering to the 40% fill constraint corresponds to a minimum cable trench area of 297 in². Of course, cable trenches from Trenwa/Old Castle come in standard sizes so we need to select the next closest size up, 300 in² for Trenwa trench.

Component	Number of	Component Area (in ²) Total Area (in ²)	
	Components		
Transfomers		15.64	15.64
Breakers	5	16.42	82.12
Lighting	8	2.62	20.99
Component Total			118.76
Minimum Allowable Trench			
Area			296.89
		Trenwa Trench Area	300
		Oldcastle Trench Area	430

Figure 21 – Trench Fill Tool Inputs

Figure 22 – Trench Fill Tool Calculations

3.3.2.8 Conduit Plan Diagram

Using the trench fill tool that we created, our final task was to properly size and model the PVC pipe conduits which house the cables that connect various pieces of equipment into the cable

trench, and subsequently to the control structure. Typically, in practice, a maximum of 5-inch nominal PVC pipe is used for conduit planning, which we adhered to in our substation design. Utilizing the same 40% fill constraint as before, we calculated the cross-sectional area of the cables for each piece major piece of equipment and distributed them amongst different sizes of PVC pipes accordingly while considering our constraints. The diagram of this conduit plan is shown in Appendix II.

Figure 23 – Conduit PVC Sizing

3.4 TECHNOLOGY CONSIDERATIONS

Solar panel technology is evolving, and as a result, large amounts of equipment with vastly different specifications is available. Higher wattage solar panels produce more energy in less space but are more expensive and require equipment that can handle the larger load. Copper cables are more efficient than aluminum cables, however they are significantly more expensive at the gauge required to transfer utility scale power. Sun tracking technology increases efficiency of the solar panels and generates more power but involves more maintenance and higher installation costs. The trade-off in equipment is usually power/efficiency for cost. After careful research, economic evaluation, and discussion with our mentors, we concluded that using axis-tracking technology was unneeded. The benefit of producing more power is outweighed by the added installation and maintenance costs and because we already are producing enough power due to the sheer number of solar panels. As for the specific tilt angle of our panels, multiple sources claimed that an angle between 30 and 40 degrees is optimal for an area like New Mexico. Given that we did not adjust the angle of our panels throughout the year, it makes more sense to go with the angle that provides the best year-round results. Winter has a lower sunshine output, so optimizing our tilt angle to maximize power in winter is the way to go. This gives us an angle of 35 degrees, which will compensate for the lower sunlight levels in the New Mexico winter. This careful design is the only way to minimize the impact of the tradeoffs.

The technological considerations for the substation mostly revolve around protections and monitoring systems. Most of the other components are a set standard and we did not have many options to choose from in that regard. The DC system in the substation was designed based on constraints given to us by Black & Veatch to meet their desired specifications. The battery which gives power to relaying and tripping devices needed to be sized in accordance with a "worst-case" fault scenario in which three circuit breakers trip. Another technological consideration that we encountered during the substation design was proper relay placement. There are multiple ways to set up relays depending on which bus type you choose, so we talked with our mentors about the optimal relay arrangement for our specific design. We ended up having to add a few grounded current transformers after the 34.5/115kV transformer to allow for more rigorous relaying setup. The relay and protection devices in our design came from SEL due to their high quality and dependability [14]. Detailed data pulled from cutsheets on the SEL website helped us complete the

DC battery sizing for the substation. Substation design is a well-established industry practice and there are many less technological considerations to deal with compared to designing a solar farm.

3.5 DESIGN ANALYSIS

Our solar array design works well. We completed all necessary documents on time and successfully met the technical requirements outlined for us by Black & Veatch. The 410 W panels generate the 60 MW required using the least amount of space, while not overloading the equipment and keeping the costs as low as we can. Our design iterations have involved tweaking the number of panels in the arrays as well as trying out different types of cable in our design to minimize voltage drop.

The final substation design also turned out wonderfully. Completion and review of all design tools along with comparisons to the projects of past groups demonstrated that we successfully met guiding requirements established at the beginning of the semester. The ring bus layout connected the solar plant and substation perfectly and the 12x12 foot grounding grid matched up evenly with the overall dimensions of the substation. All equipment is well protected from harmful overcurrents and fault events thanks to our rigorous protection network of circuit breakers and relays.

3.6 DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

We have adopted a Waterfall development process for this project. This method makes sense for us as our requirements have been laid out specifically for us by Black & Veatch and following with a high-level design to detailed design is the most straightforward way to getting to a final product.

3.7 DESIGN PLAN

Our design did take into consideration intended users and use cases from section 1.5, however, they were not as important as other technical aspects of our design. For example, we researched potential locations and completed an economic evaluation of the project; factors which are usually very important considerations for a project like this. However, our solar plant will not actually be constructed so these considerations just gave us a better conceptual understanding of our design and did not significantly affect its technical aspects. The vast majority of our design plan focused on meeting the technical requirements for the solar plant and substation such as component choice, physical layout, and generating capacity because they were most pertinent to the overall design. These requirements were laid out by our Black & Veatch mentors who pushed us to design our solar plant to meet the constraints as closely as we could.

The figure below shows a high-level overview of how Black & Veatch and our intended users informed our design requirements. Our design process was centered around meeting these requirements. Component selection includes the panels, inverters, combiner boxes, and cables for the solar plant. Substation components include current transformers, disconnect switches, circuit breakers, relay and protection equipment, DC batteries, and the power transformer. The solar array layout encompasses string/rack sizes, array size and layout, panel tilt, and row spacing. Substation layout includes bus breaker scheme, trench routing, grounding grid, and control enclosure placement.

Figure 24 - Plant Design Flowchart

4 Testing

Within our project, individual unit testing is not directly related to the desired outcome. The type of testing we did is based more on iterative calculations that met predetermined constraints such as in the array parameter tool and the voltage drop calculation for the solar array portion of the project. Similarly, the grounding calculation, bus load calculation, and battery sizing test were all iterative calculation tests that guided our design for the substation. Furthermore, we did cost analysis on the project to see what our return on investment would be. Again, because we are not physically building this project, no real-world tests were conducted. Despite this, we gained an understanding of what kind of challenges arise when designing and building a utility scale solar farm and step-up substation in industry practice.

One of the challenges we encountered while testing the array parameter tool was confusion of the terminology used because it is proprietary to Black & Veatch. We were able to clear this up by asking our mentors questions and researching other plant designs. When we moved into the second semester, we also had challenges with testing the grounding grid. We discovered errors in some parameter assumptions which were given to us by our industry mentors. We raised these concerns to our mentors, and they agreed that previous groups had failed to recognize these errors. One way industry clients avoid this type of error is by using a dedicated program to complete the grounding calculation. Due to financial constraints, we did not have access to this type of software.

4.1 UNIT TESTING

Under the category of unit testing, we worked on the solar farm and substation design as separate entities. Within the solar farm design, we have a few different topics that we spent multiple weeks testing and refining (array parameter tool, voltage drop calculator, and economic analysis). A very similar process carried us through the second semester where we focused on the substation design and analysis. Documents and calculations we tested include the grounding grid, trench fill tool, DC battery calculation, and bus load calculation. For the purposes of our project, each of these were treated as individual units and were continually tested and improved as they are not physical designs but rather conceptual units.

4.2 INTERFACE TESTING

Interface testing was not utilized in our first semester while we were designing the solar panel array field, but it did come into play while we designed the corresponding substation. When selecting which substation bus configuration to use, we had to consider the size and layout of our solar array to ensure the substation protection scheme was appropriately set up. Synthesizing our solar farm with the substation ensures the designs fit together seamlessly to squeeze the most power possible out of the panels. This consideration led us to select a ring bus which is simple, effective, and easily expandable in case the solar field is expanded in the future.

4.3 ACCEPTANCE TESTING

To show that we met the design requirements, we presented our findings, testing, and designs with our peer mentors in our weekly meetings. There, we received feedback and criticisms to ensure that we were moving in the right direction. Over the course of the week, we would tweak and optimize our designs to better match the expectations of our mentors.

4.4 RESULTS

In our iterative testing of the array parameter tool, we encountered two main obstacles. First, we needed to get familiar with all the terminology and background information and second, we needed an understanding of how the array parameter tool worked. We were successful in this endeavor and were able to design a 60MW solar farm consisting of modules split into 14.5 arrays of panels. This requires 1 inverter per array, for a total of 18 inverters, and 247 combiner boxes.

The next aspect of our project, the substation, also had some obstacles. The first was understanding how to use Bluebeam software in order to build our diagrams. The second was designing tools to help us determine the sizing of certain components of the substation. We utilized Excel to do this and were successful in creating a substation design within the constraints provided to us. This is a ring bus configuration with 4 low-side breakers and 1 high-side breaker, a 34.5 kV/ 115 kV 20MVA step-up transformer. We also created a grounding grid consisting of a 12ft x 12ft conductor mesh which reduces ground potentials caused by high voltage equipment. The relay control houses a 60 cell DC battery capable of delivering 24 A to breakers and protection equipment under the worstcase fault scenario.

Our cost analysis shows that we will turn a ten-year profit of about \$17.4 million. Government subsidies and bonuses for solar applications may mean it is possible that the solar plant could make even more of a profit. This is very promising as the life of these solar panels is 25 years, meaning there will be 15 more years of high profitability. The voltage-drop calculations helped us determine how to efficiently wire our solar farm to minimize losses across wires, which means there will be less wear and tear on the system and help ensure the 25-year lifespan.

5 Implementation

We will not be directly involved with the implementation of this project. Our two semesters involved two separate, yet intertwined, design projects, and as such, we will not have time to see a fully built solar farm or substation of our design. Any and all implementation will be handled by Black & Veatch.

6 Closing Material

6.1 CONCLUSION

In the first semester we completed selection and sizing of solar farm components, and analyzed voltage drop and layout options. We have also done cost analysis for return on investment over the course of 10 years and it looks promising. In the second semester we amended the economic analysis to include substation equipment, construction, and operation costs. Although the added cost of the substation reduces overall profits of the project, it will still generate a positive return on investment after 10 years. Design of the substation included one-line diagrams for bus configuration, grounding, and overall substation design including breakers, lighting, and a transformer. These design specifications were all selected based on calculations for safe and efficient operation of the solar farm. We believe this farm is a solid investment for anyone wanting to provide more renewable energy to the US power grid.

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6.3 APPENDICES

Appendix I: Pertinent Tables

Table 8 Conductor Properties

Notes:

1. These resistance values are valid only for the parameters as given. Using conductors having coated strands, different stranding type, and, especially, other temperatures changes the resistance.

2. Equation for temperature change: $R_2 = R_1 [1 + \alpha (T_2 - 75)]$ where $\alpha_{cu} = 0.00323$, $\alpha_{AL} = 0.00330$ at 75°C.

2. Conductors with compact and compressed stranding have about 9 percent and 3 percent, respectively, smaller bare conductor diameters than those shown. See Table 5A for actual compact and compact cable dimensions.

4. The IACS conductivities used: bare copper = 100% , aluminum = 61% .
5. Class B stranding is listed as well as solid for some sizes. Its overall diameter and area is that of its circumscribing circle.

Figure 25 - NEC Table 8: Conductor Properties [10]

Conductor Ampacity Based on the 2011 National Electrical Code®

Conductor Ampacity Based on the 2011 National Electrical Code
Ampacity based on NEC Table 310.15(B)(16) (Formerly Table 310.16) –
Allowable Ampacities of Insulated Conductors Rated Up to and Including
2000 Volts, 60° Throu

For conduit fill see 2011 NEC Annex C.

For Information on Temperature Ratings of Terminations to Equipment See NEC 110.14(C).

" Refer to 310.15(B)(2)(a) for the ampacity correction factors where the ambient temperature is other than 30°C (86°F).
"See Section 240.4 (D) for conductor overcurrent protection limitations.

Figure 26 - NEC AWG Chart [11]

Phase spacing and ground clearance for station class outdoor air switches and bus supports

NOTES-

Close lightning arrester coordination may allow lower lightning impulse values. Traditional values shown in bold font. $\mathbf{1}$

 \overline{c} Minimum metal-to-metal distance may be modified providing proof of performance is substantiated by dielectric tests.

 $\overline{3}$ Ground clearances for switches with voltages 362 kV and above are based on switching surge voltage levels. Refer to bibliography, Annex C.

 $\overline{4}$ The phase spacings in columns 6, 7, and 8 are recommended values. Overall width of switch and bus support energized parts, angle of opening of side break switches, etc., may allow a reduction in phase spacing dependent upon voltage concentration on sharp projections. Resultant metal-to-metal distances between phase energized parts should not be less than that shown in column 3.

5 Values not yet established.

Figure 27 - IEEE ANSI Phase Spacing [16]

Physical & Electrical Properties of Aluminum

Standard Pipe-Size Conductors at Typical Conductivities

Figure 28 – AFL Rigid Bus Conductor Properties [22]

ACSR

Figure 29 – ACSR Flexible Bus Conductor Properties [23]

Figure 31 – Trenwa Trench Information [19]

Figure 32 – Old Castle Trench Information [20]

Figure 33 – PVC Piping Sizing Chart [21]

Appendix II: Bluebeam Diagrams

H |

F |

E |

B |

A |

C |

D I

G |

H |

G

F |

E |

B

A

C

D

NONE TO OCCUPATION

SCALE

E

B

A

C

D

F

G

H