

# 1200 MW Fault Induced Solar Photovoltaic Resource Interruption Disturbance Report

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### Western Interconnection frequency





#### **500kV Fault trace**





#### **Solar resource loss**





### Data gathering



- All utility scale
- Majority connected at 500kV or 230kV
- 10 different inverter manufacturers
- Reported causes of "trips"
  - Under frequency
  - Under voltage
  - Over voltage
  - DC overcurrent
  - 1 loss of synchronism



### Not an isolated event

#	Date/Time	Fault Location	Fault Type	Clearing Time (cycles)	Lost Generation (MW)	Geographic Impact
1	08/16/2016 11:45	500 kV line	Line to Line (AB)	2.49	1,178	Widespread
2	08/16/2016 14:04	500 kV line	Line to Ground (AG)	2.93	234	Somewhat Localized
3	08/16/2016 15:13	500 kV line	Line to Ground (AG)	3.45	311	Widespread
4	08/16/2016 15:19	500 kV line	Line to Ground (AG)	3.05	30	Localized
5	09/06/2016 13:17	220 kV line	Line to Ground (AG)	2.5	490	Localized
6	09/12/2016 17:40	500 kV line	Line to Ground (BG)	3.04	62	Localized
7	11/12/2016 10:00	500 kV CB	Line to Ground (CG)	2.05	231	Widespread
8	02/06/2017 12:13	500 kV line	Line to Ground (BG)	2.97	319	Widespread
9	02/06/2017 12:31	500 kV line	Line to Ground (BG)	3.01	38	Localized
10	02/06/2017 13:03	500 kV line	Line to Ground (BG)	3.00	543	Widespread
11	05/10/2017 10:13	500 kV line	unknown	unknown	579	Somewhat Localized



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- Largest block of loss (~700 MW) was due to underfrequency tripping
- Inverter sensed a near instantaneous frequency of <57 Hz and tripped instantaneously



#### What was the frequency?





### "phase jump"







OFF NOMINAL FREQUENCY CAPABILITY CURVE





#### Issues

#### **Curve Data Points:**

#### Eastern Interconnection

High Freq	uency Duration	Low Frequency Duration		
Frequency (Hz)	Time (Sec)	Frequency (Hz)	Time (sec)	
≥61.8	Instantaneous trip	≤57.8	Instantaneous trip	
≥60.5	10 <sup>(90.935-1.45713*f)</sup>	≤59.5	10 <sup>(1.7373*f-100.118)</sup>	
<60.5	Continuous operation	> 59.5	Continuous operation	

#### Western Interconnection

High Frequ	ency Duration	Low Frequency Duration		
Frequency (Hz)	Time (Sec)	Frequency (Hz)	Time (sec)	
≥61.7	Instantaneous trip	≤57.0	Instantaneous trip	
≥61.6	30	≤57.3	0.75	
≥60.6	180	≤57.8	7.5	
<60.6	Continuous operation	≤58.4	30	
		≤59.4	180	
		>59.4	Continuous operation	



### Data gathering

- 26 different solar developments
- All utility scale
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- 10 different inverter manufacturers
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  - Under Voltage
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## 2<sup>nd</sup> largest block of inverter loss (~450 MW) was attributed to low voltage



#### What was the voltage?





#### **PRC-024 LHVRT**







- Inverters have three modes of operation
  - Operating (injecting active current into the system)
  - Momentary Cessation (momentarily cease to inject current during voltages outside continuous operating range - .9 to 1.0 per unit)
  - Trip (cease to inject current, disconnect from grid, wait ~ five minutes and return to service if grid voltage and frequency are within bounds)



- The inverters did not "Trip", they went into Momentary Cessation
- Majority of installed inverters set to momentarily cease current injection for voltages <.9 p.u. or >1.1 p.u.
- In inverter language, Momentary Cessation does not equal trip



R1. Each Generator Owner that has generator frequency protective relaying activated to trip its applicable generating unit(s) shall set its protective relaying such that the generator frequency protective relaying does not trip the applicable generating unit(s) within the "no trip zone" of PRC-024 Attachment 1

R2. Each Generator Owner that has generator voltage protective relaying activated to trip its applicable generating unit(s) shall set its protective relaying such that the generator voltage protective relaying does not trip the applicable generating unit(s) as a result of a voltage excursion (at the point of interconnection) caused by an event on the transmission system external to the generating plant that remains within the "no trip zone" of PRC-024 Attachment 2



## Frequency tripping

- Manufacturer is adding tripping delay
- Simulations to identify momentary cessation risk
  - ~7200 MW potential
  - Specify maximum delay and ramp rate for Restore Output



#### Actions

- Alert 6/20/2017
- IRPTF (guideline)
- Clarify that outside the PRC-024 "no trip" envelope is may trip, not must trip
- Reviewing PRC-024-2
- Socialize, socialize, socialize!



http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/ea/Pages/1200-MW-Fault-Induced-Solar-Photovoltaic-Resource-Interruption-Disturbance-Report.aspx

http://www.nerc.com/pa/rrm/bpsa/Pages/Alerts.aspx



# Questions

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