AC MITIGATION MODELLING

AC MITIGATION MODELLING

Introduction

Pipelines running into close proximity with electric power transmission and distribution systems will occur electromagnetic field created by the alternating current (AC) (expands and collapses and changes direction 120 times per second). An alternating electromagnetic field will exhibit an induced voltage on the pipeline. In addition, power conductor faults to ground can cause substantial fault currents in the underground structure. Stray alternating currents can cause corrosion on pipelines, damage to the coating, resulted in metal loss and pipeline leak. Even though the corrosion weight loss for AC currents is less than for equivalent DC currents, the magnitude of AC stray current is often large–hundreds of amperes under electromagnetic induction and thousands of amperes during power line faults. These high current levels can produce a shock hazard for personnel and can damage the structure and related equipment. There are three basic methods by which AC currents and voltages appear on metallic structures near AC power lines such are Electrostatic coupling, Electromagnetic induction and Resistive coupling.

Need of Mitigation

AC interference on the pipeline due to inductive, capacitive and resistive coupling between the power line and the pipeline produces the following risks:

- Shock to personnel under normal (steady state) operation
- Shock to personnel under fault conditions
- Electrical arcing under fault conditions causing puncture or damage to pipeline
- AC-enhanced corrosion under steady state operation
- Damage to the coating due to electrical stress under fault condition

Mitigation Modelling

Mitigation Modeling is used to compute/model the AC interference pattern in cases where either one component (OHL or Pipeline) in absent or energized.

Physical Testing

- AC Testing
- Measurement of AC voltage to Ground
- Pre Testing (In case of Existing OHL & Pipeline)
- Safety