TECHNICAL AND ECONOMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE WIND TURBINES INTERCONNECTION WITH THE WINDFARM SUBSTATION

COROIU N.
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Industrial Management, University of Oradea, Oradea, Romania
nicolae_coroiu@yahoo.com

Abstract: The article examines the solution of interconnection of wind turbines to park's substation. The technical solution for the substation interconnection with the wind turbines offers a choice between two voltage levels of 20 kV or 33kV. Depending on the choice of one of these levels, the technical solution of reactive power compensation is also influenced. This Article treats also economical costs deriving from use of each of these voltage levels.
Keywords: *active energy, reactive energy, energy compensation, wind farm.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Continuous growth in the number of wind farms respectively of the wind power installed in the recent years has forced the transport and system operators (OTS) to increase the grid connection rules in order to limit the wind farms effects on the grid quality and stability. These new rules require that electric power stations of any kind to support the grid during their operation. So from this point of view key aspects are the steady state and dynamic capacity of reactive power, continuous voltage control and behavior on grid breakdowns. For the purpose of this Article is analyzed the influence of the medium-voltage level used to interconnect the wind turbines on the technical solution for compensating the reactive power [1].

2. Technical and economic analysis of the wind turbines interconnection

2.1 Technical analysis of the wind turbines interconnection from energy losses point of view

Losses of electrical power in a three-phase network are determined by the relationship:

$$\Delta W = 3R \int_{0}^{T} i_T^2 \, dt$$

These Joule losses are determined by the square of current i_T, which is variable with load and ohmic resistance on a grid phase.
For the reduction of energy losses at interconnection of wind turbines have been analyzed the usage of 20KV voltage level versus 33KV voltage level.
When nominal voltage in the grid U_n increases with the value u, variation of losses ΔP_n in the grid is given by the relation [2]:

$$\Delta P_n = \frac{S_k}{U_n^2} \left[1 - \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{u}{100}\right)^2}\right]$$

As case study, it was modeled the Buzau wind farm 120MW consisting of 40 wind turbines, connected to the injection substation by 24KV cables in accordance with sections and lengths from table [4].

Table 1. List of cables for 20KV

20KV cable list		
Types of cables	Length (m)	ΔP [KW]
Total 1X95MM2-AL-20KV	13425	141.07
Total 1X150MM2-AL-20KV	6235	120.91
Total 1X185MM2-AL-20KV	4070	114.95
Total 1X240MM2-AL-20KV	2210	58.9
Total 1X300MM2-AL-20KV	2490	66.22
Total 1X400MM2-AL-20KV	2930	89.45
Total 1X500MM2-AL-20KV	2415	55.03
Total 1X630MM2-AL-20KV	23255	642.26
Total 1X630MM2-CU-20KV	3670	88.76
Overall total cables MV	**60700**	**1377.55**

Table 2. List of cables for 33KV

33KV cable list		
Types of cables	Length (m)	ΔP [KW]
Total 1X95MM2-AL-30KV	23730	246.85
Total 1X150MM2-AL-30KV	4700	104.09
Total 1X240MM2-AL-30KV	5345	114.77
Total 1X400MM2-AL-30KV	23255	474.76
Total 1X500MM2-AL-30KV	3670	84.33
Overall total cables MV	**60700**	**1024.8**

For a period of 20 years, with an average operation time at maximum power of 40%, using the EDSA software (Electrical design and System Analysis), outcome is a ΔP=1377,55 KW and a loss of electrical power ΔW=96 538 MWh. The value of lost electricity is estimated at 3.8 million euros.
According to the same scenario, using the turbines interconnection cables of 33KV according to the above table, results in a ΔP=1024,8 KW and a loss of

electrical power ΔW=71 817 MWh representing 2.8 million euros.

2.2 Technical analysis of the wind turbines interconnection from reactive power compensation point of view

Loss of reactive energy in electrical cables has the expression:

$$\Delta Q = \frac{P^2}{U_n^2} X_L \quad [VAr]$$

The addition of reactive energy of the cables is:

$$Q_{cablu} = Y\, U_n^2 \quad [VAr]$$

The analyzed case study refers to connection of 9 wind turbine of Vestas 3MW type, according to the single wire electrical schematic of interconnection from figure 1 [5].

Have been analyzed the component elements of the grid for the evacuation of power in SEN (National Energetical System) (24/33KV) as well as the various operating modes of the electricity generators, taking account of their parameters and the conditions imposed in technical connection permit.

The results for the two versions analyzed are listed in the tables 3 and 4.

We can notice that there are no significant differences between use of 24KV cables respectively 33KV, the necessary of maximum reactive power is for a charge of 100% of the wind turbines in inductive regime.

In conclusion, in order to allow the wind farm operation in a wide range with compliance with power factor imposed by technical connection permit, it is necessary and sufficient the mounting of a compensation system consisting of capacitors battery of 3MVAr and an inductance of 1 MVAr, connected to the Medium Votage bar of transformer station as shown in Figure 2.

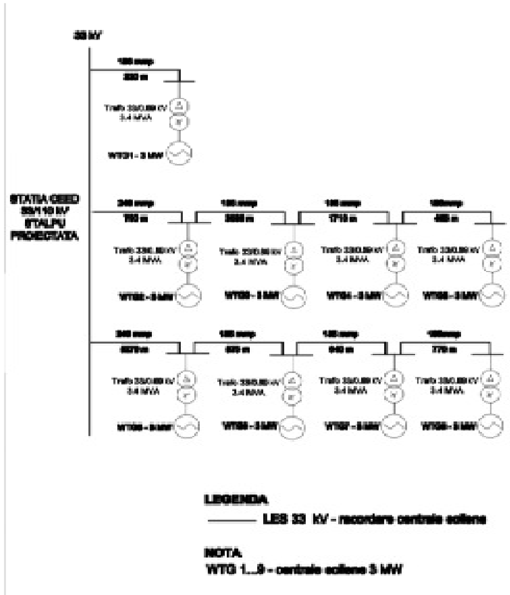

Fig. 1. The single wire schematic of interconnection

Table 3. Wind farm operation at 33KV

Turbine functioning mode		Inductive (cosΦi)				Neutral	Capacitive (cosΦc)	
		0,96	0,97	0,98	0,99	1	0,99	0,98
Values in PCC								
Zero load	P [MW]					0,587		
	Q [MVAr]					0,836		
	cosΦrez					0,57		
10%	P [MW]	2,438	2,438	2,438	2,438	2,438	2,438	2,438
	Q [MVAr]	0,153	0,264	0,392	0,556	0,94	1,32	1,485
	cosΦrez	0,998	0,994	0,987	0,975	0,93	0,87	0,854
50%	P [MW]	13,22	13,22	13,22	13,22	13,22	13,22	13,22
	Q [MVAr]	-4,005	-3,43	-2,76	-1,93	10,96	1,91	2,708
	cosΦrez	0,957	0,968	0,979	0,99	1	0,99	0,98
100%	P [MW]	26,67	26,68	26,68	26,68	26,68	26,67	26,67
	Q [MVAr]	-11,21	-9,99	-8,61	-6,88	-2,92	0,86	2,434
	cosΦrez	0,922	0,936	0,952	0,968	0,994	0,999	0,99

Legend:

Wind turbines operating range which produces no disturbance in PCC (cosΦrez = + /- 0.95.

Wind turbines operating range which requires compensation (in PCC is out of allowed range cosΦrez = + /- 0.95.

Table 4. Wind farm operation at 24KV

Turbine functioning mode		**Inductive (cosΦi)**				**Neutral**	**Capacitive (cosΦc)**	
		0,96	**0,97**	**0,98**	**0,99**	**1**	**0,99**	**0,98**
Values in PCC								
Zero load	P [MW]					0,558		
	Q [MVAr]					0,466		
	cosΦrez					0,76		
10%	P [MW]	2,469	2,469	2,469	2,469	2,469	2,469	2,469
	Q [MVAr]	-0,215	-0,104	0,024	0,188	0,572	0,955	1,118
	cosΦrez	0,996	0,999	1	0,997	0,974	0,933	0,911
50%	P [MW]	13,28	13,28	13,28	13,28	13,28	13,28	13,28
	Q [MVAr]	-4,304	-3,729	-3,067	-2,23	-0,289	1,615	2,414
	cosΦrez	0,951	0,963	0,974	0,986	1	0,993	0,984
100%	P [MW]	26,84	26,83	26,83	26,83	26,82	26,82	26,82
	Q [MVAr]	-11,27	-10,07	-8,69	-6,97	-3,01	0,786	2,359
	cosΦrez	0,922	0,936	0,951	0,968	0,994	1	0,996

Legend:

Wind turbines operating range which produces no disturbance in PCC (cosΦrez = + /- 0.95.

Wind turbines operating range which requires compensation (in PCC is out of allowed range cosΦrez = + /- 0.95.

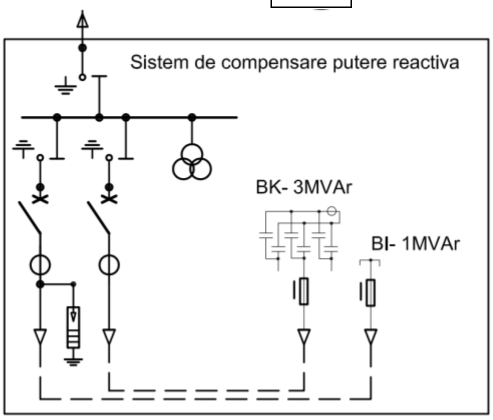

Fig. 2 Reactive power compensation system

2.3 Technical analysis of the wind turbines interconnection from MV cables cost point of view

Following the cost analysis for medium-voltage cables resulted that the cost of the medium-voltage cables is less in the case of 33KV solution compared to 24KV solution with about 672 611 lei or 152 866 Euro, if using in the both cases cables of type NA2XS2Y at the corresponding insulation level for each variant.

3. CONCLUSIONS

Technical and economic analysis of the wind turbines interconnection with the wind farm substation is strictly necessary in order to achieve a solution that fully complies with requirements specified in the technical connection permit, respectively quality of electricity at the point of common coupling.

The connection solution to the injection substation though 33KV cables and equipment's creates discomfort from the point of view of specialization of maintenance teams and ensuring the stock of spare parts.

This discomfort is covered by the advantages of reducing losses of electricity on cables and reduced costs of electric cables.

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