

# **Improved Insulation Design Scheme for 145kv Current Transformer with the Help of Electric Field Analysis through Finite Element Method**

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**Abstract—** This paper proposes a new Capacitive graded bushing configuration for 145kV Live Tank Current Transformer which has lowest possible maximum electrical stress in it. Capacitive graded bushing breakdown is one of the major reasons of Current Transformer failures (In-service and at test bead). Since this bushing is heart of the current transformers so it is necessary to design it carefully and the electric stress distribution in capacitive graded bushing is primarily dependent on the geometry and dielectric properties of material. The main motive is to obtain the better design of a capacitive graded bushing which will have reduced electric stress as compared with the existing design. Capacitive graded bushing contains concentric aluminum foils which are isolated from each other by Oil Impregnated Paper (OIP). The partial capacitances (Combination of Series and Parallel) between these can be modified by adjusting the number of foils, its diameter, width and foil staggering also the thickness of dielectric material between foils. This stated grading configuration's stress level is under the limit considering all practical conditions, taking the various literature, IEEE transactions and practical results as benchmark. This paper reveals the configuration which gives improved and optimal electric stress distribution in the designed bushing configuration and which ultimately reduces the oil volume content, cost of active part insulation and the porcelain housing as a whole product.

**Keywords—**Capacitive graded bushing, Bushing Foils, Electric Field, Electric Field Simulation, ElecNet, Finite Element Analysis.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

With the ever increasing competition in the global market, there are continuous efforts to reduce the insulation in current transformers. This requires greater efforts from the researchers' and designers for precisely finding out the stress levels at various critical electrode configurations inside an instrument transformer under different voltage test levels and practical conditions. Advanced computational tools such as 2D finite element method are being used for perfect estimation of stress levels, which can be compared with standard withstand levels. The significance of electrical insulation in high voltage equipment goes on increasing as voltage levels are increasing day by day and so does the importance of insulation materials increased which lies in their opposition against voltage or electric field stresses.

As voltage and electric stress increases partial discharge takes place through voids or cavities which might get formed during (manufacturing/fabrication) and which leads to dielectric insulation breakdown, failure and deterioration of insulation materials [1], [2]. Finite element modeling (FEM) is a handy and commonly used tool in the solution of electrostatic problems that arise in the design of instrument transformers. High voltage bushing breakdown is one of the major contributors of all instrument transformer failures due to excessive electrical stresses [3]. FEM techniques are providing engineers with a important means of more accurately quantifying the electric stress in their design. This method calculates maximum electric stress and its distribution in complete product and for different insulating materials also. The validation of FEM technique, in common always depends on having sound modeling assumptions and techniques. In addition, this problem further introduced some complications that required carefully considered assumptions and treatments. The purpose of bushing is to insulate high voltage conductor from the external earthed body; maximum Current Transformers failure have been reported due to the bushing only [3]. As there is tremendous improvement going on in the high voltage transmission sector, so it needs high voltage electrical equipments in the power grid/network and hence the bushing design also improved to withstand the high voltage potential without any failure so as to have safe operation of equipments. Hence, to distribute the electric potential uniformly between the high potential conductor to body, semiconductor layers (graphite) or metallic (in most of the cases it's aluminum) are used. At high voltages the number of aluminum plates or foils also increases.

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These foils build a series of co-axial cylindrical capacitors configuration and they are called as Capacitive graded bushings. The gap between foils is filled by the thick insulating paper and this paper provides the required mechanical strength to concentric cylindrical configuration [3].

Partial discharges are likely to start on the occurrence of overvoltage or surge, so as to ensure the safe operation it is necessary to examine the electric stress distribution of the bushing [5]. As voltage increases, more aluminum foils are required, hence the foil length, width and placement location become critical/ essential. The relative position of foil influences the electric field of the staggering region, adjacent and so partial discharges are predicted here. This paper proposes the electric stress calculation of developed Capacitive graded bushing configuration, which contains different foil location and length [3], [4]. This paper first deals with mathematical modeling of insulation system for capacitive voltage grading, then compares the electric stress simulation results with the existing configuration by the use of finite element method (FEM) software ElecNet (2D simulation).

### II. A MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF A CURRENT TRANSFORMER INSULATION SYSTEM

Insulation system of Current Transformers is exposed to various dielectric stresses that can be hazardous if the dielectric strength of insulation is reduced. Electric field strength depends on the voltage distribution along the active part of CT bushings. The design process concerns the design of a system of electrostatic control shields for two parts of insulation and computing the electric field distribution in all elements of the insulation system of a Current Transformer [4].

The Capacitive graded bushing design is the most vital and critical part of manufacturing process of Current Transformer. So, designing this kind of bushing is a great challenge for the designers or engineers considering all technical and industrial constraints. The motive of these engineers is to design the best optimal configuration by means of least amount of raw materials and minimum cost of manufacturing process [5]. Capacitive grading bushings contain co-axial conductive foils, whose length, width and location are designed/ adjusted to have minimum electrical stress. The typical conic type foil configuration is shown in Figure 1. Taking into account the relation between electric potential and electric field intensity, the electric field in an insulation system is described by Laplace's equation; the electric field in an insulation system (after introducing the scalar electric potential) [3],

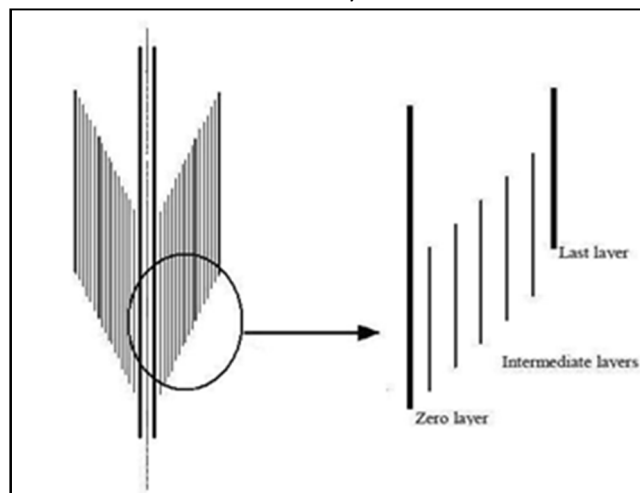
$$E = -\nabla V \quad (1)$$

At the same time considering the proper boundary conditions. Where E is the electric field strength is described by the Laplace's equation,

$$\nabla^2 V = 0 \quad (2)$$

The partial capacitance value formed between the intermediate layers and also the potential on each plate or foil can be calculated by deriving the amount of stored electrical energy in it [3],

$$C = \frac{2 \cdot W_e}{V^2} \quad (3)$$



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Figure 1: Typical Conic Type Configuration

The electrical energy stored between the plates or foils can be given by,

$$W_e = \int \frac{D \cdot E}{2} \quad (4)$$

The boundary conditions are values of potential of the CT pipe at 0kV and outer shield at 275kV; electrostatic shields are floating and the condition of the tangential electric field strength (Neuman's) at the boundary of the whole system with the surrounding air box. Applying the numerical finite element method in 2D systems makes it possible to solve this equation. The 2D analysis allows the estimation of the Electric field distribution in the whole system and which makes it possible to determine the maximum electric field strength in insulation. And because of its complex geometrical shape it could not be possible to determine it analytically.

The biggest problem of modeling the physical product is to reproduce the real shape of the product which may be sometimes very complicated to model with different diameter and radius of actual model [5]. The capacitive graded bushing is stressed, as shown in Figure 2, radially and axially. These two stresses have a very vital and crucial role while designing the bushing configuration and thus designer or engineer should try to keep it in the acceptable limit while designing [2], so as to have the uniform and minimum electrical stress distribution in the bushing as well as in the complete product. The region between insulating paper and surrounding medium should also be considered as a critical area. As the radial stress is increased, it can cause severe breakdown of the insulating material, at the same time under certain conditions. While as axial stress increased may lead to surface discharges along the boundary surface. The boundary layer is stressed to flashover limit and which is lower as compared with the electric field strength of insulating materials stressed [4], where as the axial stress component of electric field strength in common more critical based on the earlier mentioned fact. Both these radial and axial component of the electric field strength are kept within an allowable value or limit of one (1) over which it can cause severe breakdowns & surface discharges.

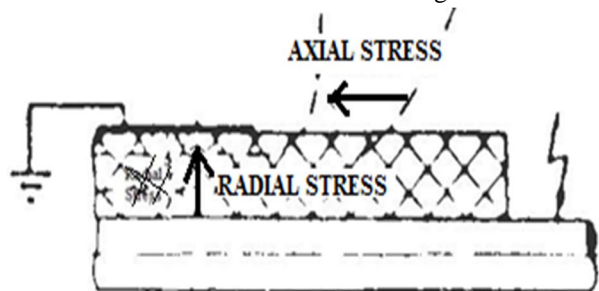


Figure 2: Radial and Axial Stress in High Voltage Bushing

### III. SIMULATION

Apart from analytical and clearance calculations, the in depth electrostatic stress analysis is a very important tool of a modern design philosophy. Previously old classical methods/ formulae were used to calculate the stresses at certain critical locations for e.g. bushing shield HV lead etc. However with the advent of EHV transmission lines, the insulation design is becoming more & more complex and important which cannot be easily analyzed by the classical/old methods. In the present design philosophy [8], a finite element method (FEM) based analysis is done through sophisticated software to accurately calculate the stresses in the 145kV live tank current transformer capacitive graded bushing.

#### A. ELECTROSTATIC SIMULATION

The co-axial cylindrical geometry of capacitive graded bushing allows the axisymmetric 2D simulation. The 2D simulation software is ElecNet (Infolytica, 2016). Capacitive graded bushing of 145 kV live tank current transformer was selected for 2D simulation (Crompton Greaves Ltd, 2016). Its main insulator comprises several layers of oil-impregnated paper packed together or compressed. There are total 30 numbers of foils, of which the last foil is used as grounding foil, connected to ground through a flange, its potential zero and first foil is connected to the high potential directly and between these two points capacitance is created [3]. The oil-impregnated paper isolates the conductive or aluminum foils. Table 1 lists the bushing materials and their characteristics (Crompton Greaves Ltd, Aurangabad, 2016). Figure 3 is a 2D figure of the existing capacitive graded bushing design.

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Sr. No.	Material	Relative Permittivity
1.	Metal	1
2.	Porcelain	6
3.	Oil	2.2
4.	Oil Impregnated Paper (OIP)	3.6

Table 1. Material Properties of bushing components (Crompton Greaves Ltd, Aurangabad)



Figure 3: 2D view of 145kV live tank current transformer existing Capacitive graded bushing design

### IV. CRITICAL FEATURES OF BUSHING DESIGN OF 145KV CURRENT TRANSFORMER

Understanding the electric stress and potential distribution is very essential for the design and improvement of high voltage current transformer insulation design. Insulation failure and their effects can be reduced and the quantity and grade of insulating material can be optimized if the distribution of the electric field is known. Voltage is stated as the dot product line integral of the electric field strength along a definite or specified path in an electric field. The voltage has no spatial direction therefore it as a scalar quantity [6]. Voltage is identical with potential difference in an electrostatic field only. Electric field strength is defined as the magnitude of the electric field at a point in the field. The electric field is a vector of electric flux density or field of electric field strength. Its synonyms used are voltage gradient, and potential gradient [6].

The potential gradient is a vector quantity whose direction is normal to the equipotential surface, in the direction of decreasing potential, and of which the magnitude gives the rate of variation of the potential. The equipotential line or contour defined as the locus of points having the same potential or voltage gradient or electric field strength magnitude at a given time.. The analytical methods are restricted to problems with simple geometries only. Whereas the numerical methods offer general applicability to the object has been the area of intense research. From the past thirty five years various numerical methods have been developed because of advancement in powerful computers [7]. The collective idea in the numerical methods is the reduction of the governing field or object equation or an equivalent integral formulation into a linear system of equations. These methods can be classified in two groups: the methods where approximations are to be made completely through the region B: and the methods where approximations are to be prepared only on the boundary dB. The finite difference (FDM) and finite element methods (FEM) belong to the first group while the boundary element methods belong to the second [7]. The finite element method (FEM) needs that the device geometry be broken into a mesh of many small pieces of standard shape like triangular in 2D and tetrahedron in 3D and expresses Newton Raphson's equation in differential form. However the finite difference method (FDM) solves the equations in differential form, but, in this method, it can solve them only with a regular meshing while the FEM allows irregular shaped meshing also. The boundary element method (BEM) expresses Maxwell's equation in integral form and solves for the source of the field on the boundaries of the device [6].

#### A. PROPOSED DESIGN

In proposed design of 145kV current transformer, no. of foils are reduced up to 12nos. and whereas the diameter of bushing also reduced by appreciable distance in mm. Below table shows the voltage distribution on each foil for high power frequency voltage.

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Foil No	Calculated Voltage(kV)
1	0
2	10.99
3	25.57
4	45.86
5	67.81
6	91.18
7	115.71
8	141.55
9	168.72
10	202.79
11	238.19
12	275.00

Table 2. Voltage Distribution along total foils

Figure 4 shows the proposed design 2D view in which no .of foils are reduced. All these graph results shown below states that the calculated voltage distribution and radial stress values are exactly matching with the results of voltage distribution and radial stresses given after simulation by ElecNet which also shows that my results are holds good and very accurate.

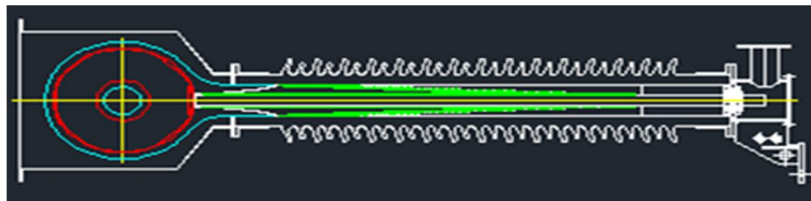


Figure 4: 2D view of proposed design

### V. SIMULATION RESULTS

A. Existing Design graphs of result are shown below

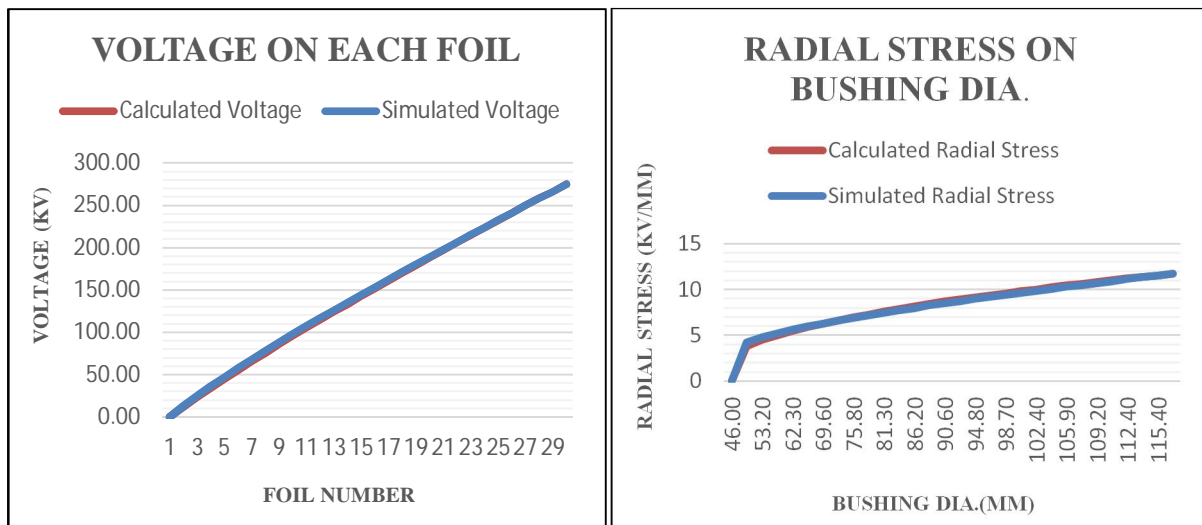


Figure 5: Voltage Distribution and Radial Stress variation in the Bushing and with respect to foil number

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B. Proposed design graphs of result are shown below

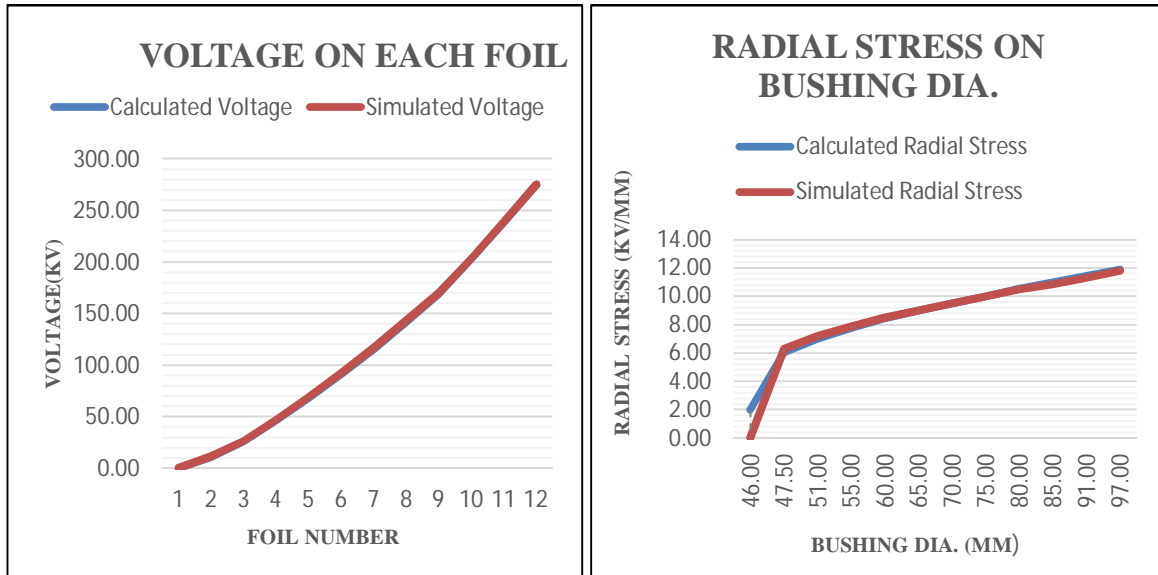


Figure 6: Voltage Distribution and Radial Stress variation in the Bushing and with respect to foil number

The diagram shown below gives the results of electrostatic stresses on existing and proposed design of 145kV current transformer. In which the stresses on the proposed bushing design are comparatively reduced with respect to the existing design.

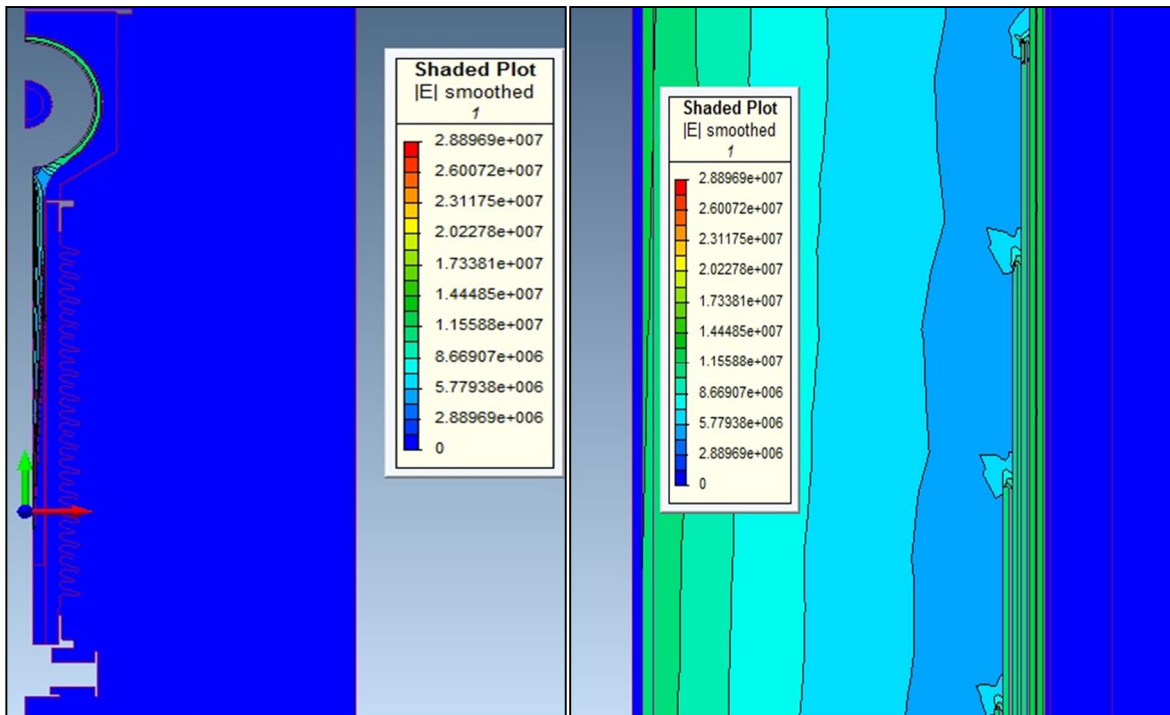


Figure 7: 2D Electric Field Plot of CT model under dry high voltage power frequency condition on Existing desi



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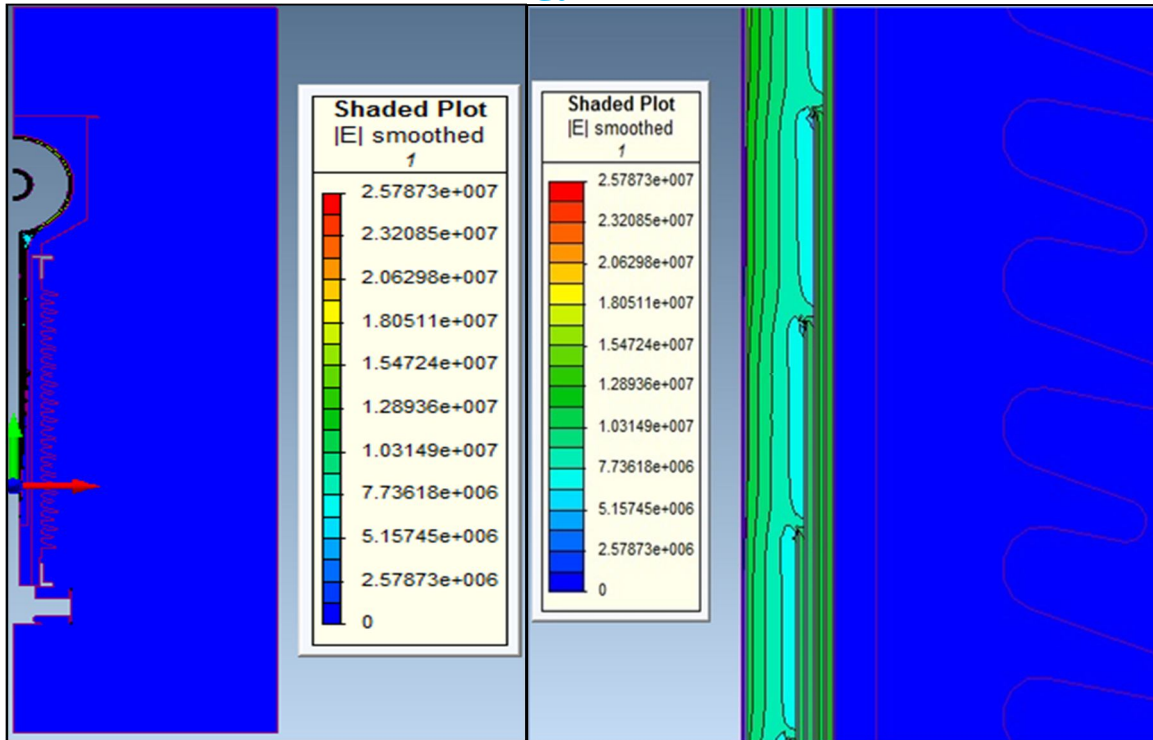


Figure 8: 2D Electric Field Plot of CT model under dry high voltage power frequency condition on Proposed design

### VI. CONCLUSION

This paper presents the new insulation scheme of capacitive graded bushing for 145kV current transformer. Simulation result shows that the complete Electrical stress and voltage (contour) plot of the existing design and proposed design of condenser bushing has same radial stress along the bushing diameter & between the foils and axial stress is also under the limit. Moreover the voltage distribution on each electrode or each aluminum foil is giving the same result as compared with the practical or theoretical calculations. The major benefit of this FEM method is that minimum/maximum stress in any zone/material can be calculated very precisely & resulting in better understanding of electrostatic stress distribution, optimization & higher technical reliability. Exact stress analysis in the critical locations under the dry power frequency high voltage is done and this analysis clearly shows that the stress value in the critical regions is well below the limit compared with the existing design.

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