

Maximum String Length Determination Using the New Voltage Pro Application Jason Spokes, PE



PLANT PREDICT

Performance models are being increasingly used to reduce string length conservatism

Codes and Standards Compliance

Challenges

Codes and standards are vague and
lack specificity

Lack of industry consensus on acceptable safety factors/margin

Method	Compliance
Simplified Linear Datasheet Calculation $(Max V_{oc} = V_{oc_{stc}} x [1 + \beta_{Voc} x (25 - T_{MIN})])$	NFPA 70 (NEC) 690.7(A)(1) (2014, 2017, 2020, 2023)
	IEC 60364-7-712:2017
	IEC 62548:2016
	IEC 62738:2018

Performance Model V _{oc} Simulation	NFPA 70 (NEC) 690.7(A)(3) (2017, 2020, 2023)	
	IEC 62549.2016	Inverter warranty risk for small
(PlantPredict, System Advisor Model)	IEC 02340.2010	a consistent to the second strations
	IEC 62738:2018	occasional voltage deviations

Voltage Pro takes the guesswork out of simulation-based string sizing

PlantPredict Integration



Safety Factory Automation



Data Visualization



	V _{OC} /String (V)	V _{OC} /Module (V)	Max Module /String		
17 years P100 V _{OC} (T _{MPP})	1,485.05	42.43	35		
17 years P100 V _{OC} (T _{OC})	1,474.90	42.14	35		
17 years P99.5 V _{OC} (T _{MPP})	1,465.45	41.87	35		
17 years P99.5 V _{OC} (T _{OC})	1,496.52	41.57	36		

Longer strings = Lower LCOE (reduced cost with minimal performance impact)

Business Case Study: 100 MW in Central Ohio, USA

	26 Mods/String (Simplified Method)	28 Mods/String (Voltage Pro)	Delta
# of Strings (ea)	7,917	7,350	-7.2%
# of Combiners / Harnesses (ea)	659	612	-7.2%
DC Installation Labor Savings		\$0.001-\$0.003	_
DC String Cable Length (m)	1.63 M	1.51 M	-7.2%
Modules / Tracker row	78	84	+ 7.6%
Trackers / 100MW	2331	2173	- 6.7%
Motors / Controllers / Drive Foundations	2331	2173	- 6.7%
Cost Savings (\$/Wp)		\$0.006 - \$0.008	_
Energy Yield (kWh/kWp)	1,542	1,542	0



Longer strings result in significant savings to electrical and mechanical BOS material and labor without noticeable impact to yield.





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