### Earthing Grid Analysis - Number of Meshes Versus Grid Resistance

#### SafeGrid is earthing design and analysis software. Complies IEEE Std 80 [1] and IEC 60479 [2]. Visit the website for more information www.elek.com.au/safegrid.htm

#### OVERVIEW

- A summary of some of the results of an extensive study conducted using SafeGrid a computer program designed for determining grounding performance are presented. Effects of total length of conductor and number of meshes on earth grid resistance.
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- The calculated earth grid impedances, surface, step and touch potentials are summarised in several 3D and 2D charts below. The results from SafeGrid earthing software have been verified and compared with those given by similar CDEGS earthing software package [3]. 0 0

		Inputs				Grid impedance (Ohms)		Grid Potential			
Case ID	Grid	Grid Number of Dir meshes		Total length of conductors (m)	f Depth of burial (m)	SafeGrid	CDEGS	Rise, GPR (V)	Surface Potential - Max. (V)	Touch Potential - Max. (V)	Step Potential - Max. (V)
1		1	20 x 20	80	0.8	2.71	2.76	2708	2054	1310	331
2		2	20 x 20	100	0.8	2.53	2.56	2527	2101	1139	301
3		4	20 x 20	120	0.8	2.44	2.44	2438	2166	1073	283
4		4	20 x 20	140	0.8	2.33	2.35	2333	2034	992	269
5		25	20 x 20	160	0.8	2.31	2.30	2309	2113	972	264
6		16	20 x 20	200	0.8	2.26	2.22	2256	2093	928	256

# NOTES:

- 1. Common inputs:
  - Soil resistivity =
  - Depth of grid conductor burial =
  - Earth fault current which flows into the grid =
    - Grid conductor type & material =

100 Ω.m, uniform soil

0.8 m

1000 A

50 Hz

- Grid conductor radius = 0.01 m
- Frequency for conductor impedance calculation =





- Decreasing the mesh size results in significant decrease in grid resistance up until 5 x 5 m. 0
- An effective eathing system provides a low resistance path to earth in order to minimise the GPR 0 0
- For most transmission substations or other large earth grids the earth resistance is typically 1  $\Omega$  or less
- For distribution substations the typical acceptable range is between 1 and 5  $\Omega.$ 0

## References:

- IEEE Standard 80-2000, IEEE Guide for Safety in AC Substation Grounding [1]
- IEC 60479, Effects of current on human beings and livestock
- [2] [3] Ladanyi, J., Analyses of the earthing resistance of HV/MV transformer stations with different earth electrode arrangements and soil structures, IEEE Transactions (2007)