Enabling High Penetration of Distributed PV through the Optimization of Sub-Transmission Voltage Regulation

SunShot National Laboratory Multiyear Partnership (SuNLaMP) Workshop Argonne National Lab Chicago, IL July 21, 2017

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(CReST-VCT)



PNNL Study Showed Volt/Var Regulation Challenge at Sub-Transmission



- Under modest penetration of distributed PVs, controlling overvoltage becomes a challenge at the sub-transmission level
- Voltage regulation challenges at subtransmission are a barrier for high penetration of photovoltaics (PVs). New PV projects target interconnection to subtransmission to reduce interconnection cost.



outputs increase

2

when the

proportional

almost

ncrease

magnitudes

System voltage

25

Project Objectives







Project Achievements

- Demonstrated CReST-VCT on IEEE 118-bus/ IEEE 123 node test systems
- Completed advanced synchronous generator capable PV inverter control models and integrated into CReST-VCT
- Developed and tested via simulation load-side control options for full IEEE 123-node system and two Duke Energy distribution feeders in OpenDSS
- Wrote white paper summarizing characteristics of reactive power compensation devices to be modeled in CReST-VCT
- Finalized prototype of distribution system model reduction tool
- Seven (7) peer-reviewed conference papers accepted



5



Simulation Scenario – 3 IEEE 123 feeders connected to Bus 84 of the IEEE 118 bus system





Real and Reactive Power (transmission vs. distribution)



PV Reactive Power (aggregated at substation vs. output of distributed units)



Voltage Profiles (substation vs. distribution nodes)





Performance of CReST-VCT

- The optimization time is about 1 hour of simulation time for one full day (total of 12 interval per hour * 24 hours per day = 288 optimization points per day).
- By analyzing the results, we found less than 1% of infeasible solutions out of 105,120 optimization points in one year.
- There are two risks related to computation and solvers for the optimization model at each 5 minute time step. These two risks are:
 - The time to solve the optimization problem is larger than the optimization step of 5-min (risk level is low)
 - Solver infeasibility of the optimization problem (risk level is medium)
- There are a number of mitigation options that are applicable to one or both of these two



Questions?

- Thanks!
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