Microgrid Controls to Operate a CHP/Steam Plant

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University of Michigan – Central Power Plant

We safely produce reliable energy that provides critical support to our hospital, our research and to our students, faculty and staff

- Operating at the current site since 1914
- Central Power Plant (CPP) produces electricity, steam (400, 60 & 9lb), compressed air and domestic hot water (LTHW)
- Central campus; approximately 22 million sq ft, 118 buildings





Central Power Plant – Electricity Service Area







Central Power Plant – Heat Service Area







Central Power Plant – Current Assets

- 4 Gas Boilers
- 2 Heat Recovery Steam Generators
- 2 Combustion Turbines
- 2 Steam Back Pressure Turbines

Current Demand Profile:

Heat: 120,000klbs/hr – 600,000klbs/hr

Electricity: 30MW – 60MW





Central Power Plant – Expansion Project

- Expansion Project approval was in January 2017
- Expansion Project schedule 2019 to 2021
- Install new building that includes a 140,000klbs/hr HRSG and 16.5 MW Combustion Turbine

• Install new 13.2kV switchgear with Microgrid Controls





Central Power Plant – Why install a Microgrid?

- To ensure a resilient supply of energy to our customers
- The Campus experiences electrical outages due to extreme weather events – this trips the CPP and heat production is lost
- The CPP cannot produce enough electricity to cover the summer peak loads, therefore load shedding is required





Central Power Plant – Selecting an Integrator

- Developing the technical specification was challenging
- The complex nature of integrating multiple energy production sources
- Resulted in a 1000+ page document and RoviSys was selected as the preferred vendor





Microgrid Controller (MC)

- SEL-based Microgrid Control System
 - Redundant Controllers
 - Redundant Network
 - Encrypted Traffic
 - High-Speed
 Communications







MC HMI

- Utilizes the University's existing DeltaV DCS
 - Continuity in graphics
 - Minimizes training effort
 - Minimizes additional cost for licensing and new equipment
- Backup SEL-based web HMI







MC Network

- Redundant managed switches at every location
- Encrypted traffic between CPP and remote locations
- Utilizes IEC-61850 protocol to determine connections to utility/generation and provide metering data
- Redundant GPS clocks for time synchronization of all PPS control equipment and field relays





MC Controls

- Provides real-time status of all MV switchgear
- Dispatches generators into Isochronous/Droop mode on loss of utility connection
- Provides priority-based load shedding per bus with subcycle reaction time on loss of utility
- Provides priority-based load shedding per bus on under/over voltage and frequency





CPP Drawing "As-Builts"



NUMEROUS UNKNOWNS WITH CURRENT SYSTEMS NEARLY 20 ENCLOSURES VARIOUS CONTROL SYSTEMS

200+ MAN-HOURS ONSITE





Steam Model

• Simulate the current CPP control system

• Determine shortfalls in current operations

Analyze effects of adding new steam equipment





Steam Model Implementation

- Merge CPP's DCS controls with AspenTech HYSYS software
- Steam Production
 - 4 Existing Boilers
 - 2 Existing HRSGs and 1 New
- Steam Handling/Conversion
 - 2 Steam Turbine Generators
 - Several PRVs







Steam Model Outcome

- Analysis of system disturbances (boiler trips, turbine trips, islanding scenarios, etc.)
- Minor DCS logic tweaks
- Load shed on loss of utility will not cause a major steam system disruption
- Operations will be capable of stabilizing during islanded conditions
- Valuable training tool in a controlled environment





Preliminary Results







MINIMAL PERSONNEL INTERACTION, WHICH REDUCES DISTRACTIONS SUB-CYCLE LOAD SHEDDING ELECTRICAL LOAD SHEDDING WILL NOT CAUSE STEAM OUTAGE





Design Considerations

- Load shed priority table is critical for each season
- Accuracy of existing equipment drawings is critical
- Use of technology based on existing
- Fit the network to your installation
- Operator interaction vs. automated sequences
- Access prevention for critical controls equipment





Implementation Considerations

Open communications with customer

Detailed documentation and test plans

Thorough factory acceptance testing

• Operations Training is vital





Questions?





Thank You

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