

# IEEE Standard for the Electrical Protection of Communication Facilities Serving Electric Supply Locations Through the Use of Isolation Transformers

IEEE Power and Energy Society

Sponsored by the  
Power System Communications Committee

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# **IEEE Standard for the Electrical Protection of Communication Facilities Serving Electric Supply Locations Through the Use of Isolation Transformers**

Sponsor

**Power System Communications Committee  
of the  
IEEE Power and Energy Society**

Approved 6 March 2013

**IEEE-SA Standards Board**

**Abstract:** Engineering design procedures for the electrical protection of communication facilities serving electric supply locations through the use of isolation transformers are presented in this standard. These isolation transformers are hard-wired (i.e., have no plug-in units and are not modular).

**Keywords:** electric supply locations, IEEE 487.5™, isolation, power stations, protection, transformers, wire-line communications

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## Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 487.5-2013, IEEE Standard for the Electrical Protection of Communication Facilities Serving Electric Supply Locations Through the Use of Isolation Transformers.

Wire-line communication facilities serving electric supply locations often require special high-voltage protection against the effects of fault-produced ground potential rise or induced voltages, or both. Some of the telecommunication services are used for control and protective relaying purposes and may be called upon to perform critical operations at times of power system faults. Even when critical services are not involved, special high-voltage protection may be required for both personnel safety and plant protection at times of power system faults.

Effective protection of any wire-line telecommunication circuit requires coordinated protection of all circuits provided over the same telecommunication cable.

This standard presents workable methods for the electrical protection of wire-line communication circuits serving electric supply locations through the use of isolation transformers.

This project is part of a reorganization of IEEE Std 487 in which the main document is broken down into a family of related documents (i.e., dot-series) segregated on the basis of technology.

- IEEE Std 487™
- IEEE Std 487.1™ [Metallic Wire-Line]
- IEEE Std 487.2™ [Optical Fiber Facilities]
- IEEE Std 487.3™ [Hybrid Facilities]
- IEEE Std 487.4™ [Neutralizing Transformers]
- IEEE Std 487.5™ [Isolation Transformers]

Isolation transformers are considered to be a mature technology. Isolation transformers were used extensively and although there are many still in use today, they are usually no longer provided for new installations. For newer technologies refer to IEEE Std 487.1, IEEE Std 487.2, and IEEE Std 487.3.

This standard has been prepared by the Wire-Line Subcommittee of the Power System Communications Committee of the IEEE Power and Energy Society. This standard represents the consensus of both power and communications engineers.

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# IEEE Standard for the Electrical Protection of Communication Facilities Serving Electric Supply Locations Through the Use of Isolation Transformers

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## 1. Overview

### 1.1 Background

Wire-line telecommunication facilities serving electric supply locations often require special high-voltage protection against the effects of fault-produced ground potential rise (GPR) or induced voltages, or both. Some of the telecommunication services are used for control and protective relaying purposes and may be called upon to perform critical operations at times of power system faults. This requirement presents a major challenge in the design and protection of the telecommunication system because power system faults can result in the introduction of interfering voltages and currents into the telecommunication circuit at the very time when the circuit is most urgently required to perform its function. Even when critical services are not involved, special high-voltage protection may be required for both personnel safety and plant protection at times of power system faults. Effective protection of any wire-line telecommunication circuit requires coordinated protection on all circuits provided over the same telecommunication cable.

The isolation transformers covered in this standard are hard-wired (i.e., have no plug-in units) and are not modular.

## 1.2 Scope

This standard presents engineering design procedures for the electrical protection of communication facilities serving electric supply locations through the use of isolation transformers. Other telecommunication alternatives such as radio and microwave systems are excluded from this document.

## 1.3 Purpose

This standard presents workable methods that can be used with greater reliability to improve the electrical protection of communication facilities serving electric supply locations through the use of isolation transformers.

## 2. Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document (i.e., they must be understood and used, so each referenced document is cited in text and its relationship to this document is explained). For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments or corrigenda) applies.

IEEE Std 367™, IEEE Recommended Practice for Determining the Electric Power Station Ground Potential Rise and Induced Voltage from a Power Fault.<sup>1, 2</sup>

IEEE Std 487™, IEEE Recommended Practice for the Protection of Wire-Line Communication Facilities Serving Electric Supply Locations.

## 3. Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply. The *IEEE Standards Dictionary Online* should be consulted for terms not defined in this clause.<sup>3</sup>

**electric power station:** A substation or generating station.

**electric supply locations:** Any building, separate space, or site in which electric supply equipment is located that may be subjected to the effects of ground potential rise (GPR) from power system fault currents. This definition includes generation, transformation, conversion, switching, and delivery facilities.

**ground potential rise (GPR):** The maximum electrical potential that a substation grounding grid may attain relative to a distant grounding point assumed to be at the potential of remote earth. This voltage, GPR, is equal to the maximum grid current times the grid resistance.

NOTE—Under normal conditions, the grounded electrical equipment operates at near zero ground potential. That is, the potential of a grounded neutral conductor is nearly identical to the potential of remote earth. During a ground fault the portion of fault current that is conducted by a substation grounding grid into the earth causes the rise of the grid potential with respect to remote earth.<sup>4</sup>

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