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PRESENTS

BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS



theme:

EMERGING TRENDS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TOWARDS INDUSTRY 4.0 REVOLUTION



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**9:00AM
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INTERNATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER
DR. SHIVAN CHETHEY
Director, Biomedical, Industrial/Healthcare & Globalization
Division, Wits Health Consortium, South Africa

NATIONAL KEYNOTE SPEAKER
PROF. IKUOBASE EMOVON
Dean College Of Engineering, Federal University
Of Petroleum Resources, Effurun, Delta State



OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE LEVELS OF ELF MAGNETIC FIELD ASSESSMENT IN 330 KV SWITCHYARD OF HYDRO-PLANT AND GAS-PLANT STATIONS IN NORTH-CENTRAL NIGERIA

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Abstract

The ardent quest for electricity that affects virtually all human activities has evolved the speculation of its adverse effect on human health when exposed to the associated electromagnetic field. Occupational exposure levels of the strength of extremely low frequency (ELF) magnetic field in five 330 kV switchyard of Hydro-plant and Gas-plant generation stations with similar infrastructures were investigated, assessed and analysed. The entire switchyard measurements of ELF magnetic field were performed with reference to three observation heights of 1.0, 1.5 and 1.8 m above ground level via spot measurements technique in segmented manner using Extech 480826 triple-axis EMF metre in conformity to IEEE standards, and occupational exposure computed from the mean of the three observation heights for each spot. The data obtained were subjected to analysis using One-way ANOVA SPSS package. The results demonstrated occupational significant differences of ($p < .001$) between 330 kV switchyards of Shiroro Hydro-plant and Geregu Phase II Gas-plant, significant differences of ($p = .045$) between switchyards of Geregu Phase I Gas-plant and Geregu Phase II Gas-plant, and also significant differences of ($p < .001$) in occupational exposure was demonstrated between switchyards of Jebba Hydro-plant, Kainji Hydro-plant when separately compared to Geregu Phase I and Geregu Phase II Gas-plants. However, non-significant differences occurred between switchyards of Shiroro Hydro-plant and Jebba Hydro-plant, Kainji Hydro-plant and Geregu Phase I Gas-plant, and Jebba Hydro-plant with Kainji Hydro-plant. This study has revealed the prevalence of electropollution in occupational environment and variation in the strength of ELF magnetic field between switchyards personnel might encountered at instant of the measurements.

1.0 Introduction

Electrical infrastructure, such as transmission lines, substations and its facilities are regarded as main sources of manmade extremely low frequency (ELF) magnetic field which are of high strength close to source [1]. These sources of radiated ELF magnetic field are known as electropollution [2] or electromog [3] and have contributed to the level of environmental pollution in the atmosphere, in which the modern society exists and develops [4]. In Nigeria, the operational frequency of generated electricity is 50 Hz, which lies in the range of extremely low frequency (3 – 300 Hz) [5]. The results from epidemiological surveys have established that the intensity of ELF magnetic field from manmade sources are in manifold higher when compared to the intensity of natural sources [6].

The strongest occupational exposure to extremely low frequency magnetic field that form the fundamental part of the operating mechanism can be found in work environments where electricity is generated, transmitted or distributed [7, 8]. The systems expectedly emit very high ELF magnetic fields, because of the magnitude of electric current that pass through the system [9].



These form part of the reasons why the average exposures of magnetic field in occupational environment are found to be greater in electric utility than in other occupations [10]. And since limited number of people are exposed to these fields due to professionalism [11], and the field limits in occupational environments stipulated safety regulations [12]. Therefore, there should be need to embark on assessment of ELF magnetic field strength in switchyards vicinity, compare strength and determine the level of exposure workforce encounter in their day-to-day task. Since ELF magnetic field cannot be easily screened by human body because of the resemblance of permeability in both air and skin. Therefore, the study was aimed at determining whether the magnitude of the emitted field lies within the occupational reference thresholds set by ICNIRP for environmental safety.

Evidences from epidemiological studies of people who live or work around electric power stations [13], have revealed that prolonged excessive exposure to extremely low frequency magnetic field induces electric field within the human body and if there exist potential differences within it causes a current to flow due to its conductive nature [14,10]. The biological effects appear to cause or promote certain forms of leukaemia and brain tumours [15]. In view of these, the wide usage of electricity and its associated appliances have raised the question of electropollution and health risk associated with it [16].

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) based on the evidence gathered from international research [17], has classified ELF magnetic fields into category 2B, corresponding to the category of agents that are “possibly carcinogenic to humans” [18], that might transform normal cells into cancer cells [19]. And to support the claim World Health Organisation (WHO) through the International EMF Project has established the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) which releases periodically recommendations, and the present occupational reference level is set at 1 mT [7]. However, scientists of the International Electromagnetic Fields Alliance (IEMFA), advised nations of the globe should adopt lower exposure guidelines of 0.1 μ T to guard current public health and that of future generations in order to reduced exposure limits of radiated electromagnetic fields from electrical power and telecommunications technologies [20].

In Nigeria, several studies on ELF magnetic field transmission lines environment have been carried out in recent times, thus, accenting the presence of extremely low frequency magnetic field. However, from published literatures it were observed that there are scarce studies on comparative analysis in the strength of ELF magnetic fields emission in switchyards of generating plant of the study areas. Therefore, it is noteworthy to embark on assessing the magnitude ELF magnetic field in the transmission switchyards using spot measurements technique to fill the existing research gap.

In this study, One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to analyse the significant differences for the strength of ELF magnetic field level in 330 kV of North-Central, Nigeria to determine whether the personnel performing their day-to-day task in each switchyard are exposed to the same environmental hazard within the vicinity.



Figure 1 indicate the study areas on map of Kogi and Niger State, Nigeria.

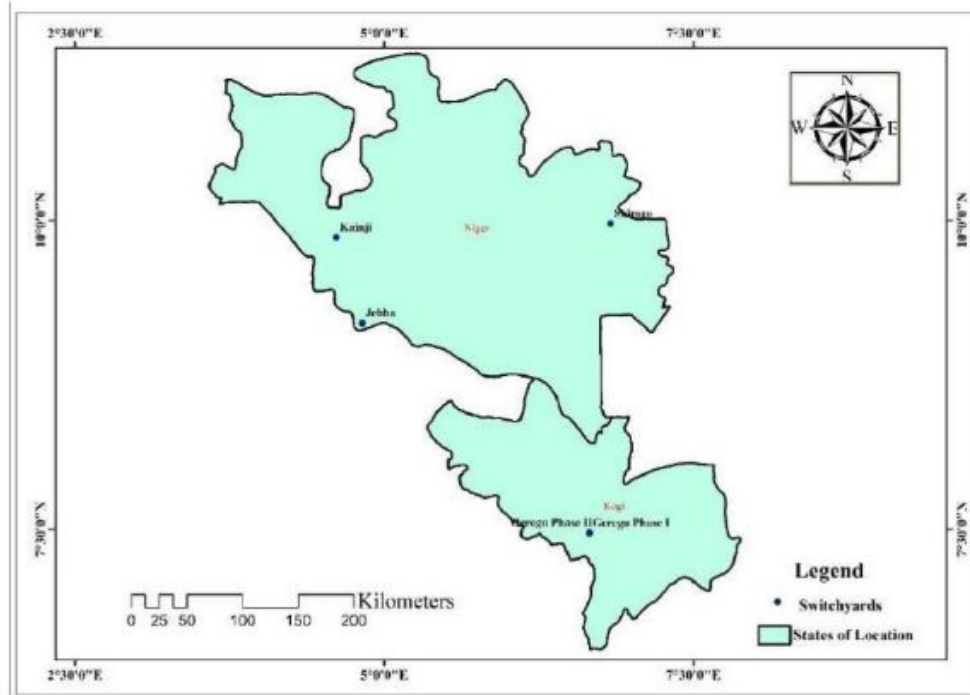


Figure 1: Map of the Study Areas

The studies were conducted in five 330 kV transmission switchyard stations. The stations are Geregu phase I switchyard at (7.470116°N, 6.658052°E) generation source from three gas turbines with installed capacity of 345 MW, Geregu phase II switchyard at (7.472133°N, 6.659133°E) generation source from three gas turbines with installed capacity of 507 MW both located in Kogi state while Kainji switchyard at (9.861044°N, 4.613103°E) generation source from eight turbines with installed capacity of 760 MW, Jebba switchyard at (9.168045°N, 4.821214°E) generation source from six turbines with installed capacity of 578 MW and Shiroro switchyard at (9.972474°N, 6.830333°E) generation source from four turbines with installed capacity of 600 MW all located in Niger state, Nigeria.

1.2 Governing laws of magnetostatic fields emission

The electric field and magnetic field produced by power facilities are usually uncoupled, due to the fact that ELF field varies so slowly in time that Maxwell's equations are generally converted into the electrostatic and magnetostatic equations [21], and their effects to the human body can be studied and computed independently of one another [22]. Magnetostatic is magnetic field



phenomenon produced by steady currents [23]. There are two laws governing the phenomena of magnetostatic field emission in space close to sources:

A. Biot-Savart's law

This law is also referred to as point source model. The current-carrying conductors are modelled as point source if length of conductors or conductor spacing is much smaller than observation distance [13]. The magnetic field of a steady current is expressed by Biot-Savart law as [23]:

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\mu_0}{4\pi} \int \frac{I d\vec{l} \times \hat{r}}{r^2} \quad (1)$$

where $\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{T} \cdot \text{m/A}$ is the permeability of free space, I is the line current, $d\vec{l}$ is a differential element of the conductor in the direction of current, r is the distance between an observation point and a source point and \hat{r} is a distance vector. The law specifies the direction and the magnetic field strength in the vicinity of conductor carrying-current [24].

B. Ampere's circuit law

This law is also referred to as long-conductor source model. The current-carrying conductors are modelled as long-conductor source if conductors are much larger than observation distance, as well as conductor spacing is much smaller than observation distance [13]. In power systems, magnetic field occur around the current-carrying conductor [25]. This symmetrical magnetic field generated by current distribution around the conductor can be determine by application of Ampere's law [26]:

$$B = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi r} \quad (2)$$

where B is the magnetic field, I is the current flow through the long-conductor, μ_0 is the permeability of free space and $2\pi r$ is the circumference of the magnetic field generated by current through a long-conductor.

2.0 Methodology

The instrument used for the measurement of extremely low frequency magnetic field was Extech 480826 triple-axis EMF metre manufactured by Extech Instrument. It was calibrated to flat frequency response, with frequency bandwidth of 30 to 300 Hz and sampling time of approximately 0.4 s. The three modes of selection with corresponding basic accuracy are 20 μT (4 %), 200 μT (5 %) and 2000 μT (10 %), and measured field isotropically with detachable external magnetic field probe.

The field probe for the Extech 480826 Triple-Axis EMF metre during the measurement of ELF magnetic field was mounted on special designed "field probe stand" constructed to correspond to three observation heights of 1.0, 1.5 and 1.8 meters of interest. The estimated standard for the



occupational exposure was obtained by computing the mean from the three observation heights at each spot of measurement.

The field probe stand was mounted along with the sensor placed at the successive position in segmented manner in switchyard vicinity for detection and measurement of fields intensity. What informed the construction of the field probe stand was to have corresponding uniformity in height for measurement of the field levels throughout the survey, to guaranty degree of accuracy and stability of field reading. The mounted sensor was directly connected to the detector that displayed the values through 1m length sensor cable, which processed the signal from the probe. The resultant rms vector magnitude of unperturbed extremely low frequency magnetic field in three orthogonal directions was computed according to Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers [IEEE] 644-1994 standards for measurement procedure [27]:

$$B = \sqrt{B_x^2 + B_y^2 + B_z^2} \quad (3)$$

3.0 Results and Discussion

After exclusion of erroneous data that failed to meet the criteria for evaluation, a total of 767 data field were assessed and analysed for the five 330 kV switchyards of Hydro-plants and Gas-plants. The statistical analysis of the field data was performed using the IBM SPSS Statistics package (IBM version 21.0, USA). One-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) with significant level set at (P - value $\leq .05$) was performed to compare the mean strength in ELF magnetic field generated between the switchyards with similar infrastructures, which operate at the same highest national voltage level of 330 kV. The essence of using ANOVA for analysis was to determine whether switchyard influences the level of ELF magnetic field generated within the vicinity. Table 1 presents summary of descriptive statistics, Test for Homogeneity of Variance, Robust test of Equality of Means and the Games-Howell Post Hoc test of Multiple Comparison of occupational exposure to ELF magnetic field level in the 330 kV switchyards of the electric generation stations in North-central, Nigeria.



Table 1: Statistical Descriptive Data and Games-Howell Post Hoc Test in 330 kV Switchyards for ELF Magnetic Field Measurements

Variance	Descriptive Statistics						Test of Homogeneity of	
	Robust Tests of Equality of Means						Welch	Sig.
330 Switchyard	kV	N	Mean μT	Std. Deviation	Levene Statistics	Sig.		
Shiroro Hydro-plant		183	5.0555	4.76172	16.842	.000	31.885	.000
Jebba Hydro-plant		164	5.7843	3.28311				
Kainji Hydro-plant		170	6.1780	3.18878				
Geregu Phase I Gas-plant		124	3.9473	3.21017				
Geregu Phase II Gas-plant		126	2.9426	2.42697				
330 kV Switchyards Stations	of	Generation	Mean Difference	Sig.	95% Interval Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Confidence Bound	
Shiroro Hydro-plant		Geregu Phase II Gas-plant	2.11285	.000	.9788		3.2469	
Jebba Hydro-plant		Geregu Phase I Gas-plant	1.83699	.000	.7775		2.8965	
		Geregu Phase II Gas-plant	2.84171	.000	1.9211		3.7624	
Kainji Hydro-plant		Geregu Phase I Gas-plant	2.23066	.000	1.1923		3.2690	



	Geregu Phase II Gas-plant	3.2353 8	.000	2.3 394	4.1314
Geregu Phase I Gas-plant	Geregu Phase II Gas-plant	1.0047 2	.045	.01 39	1.9956

* The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level

The One-way between-switchyards ANOVA was performed with occupational ELF magnetic field as the dependent variable and generation switchyards as the independent variable. The results revealed significant differences between switchyards with Levene's statistic of $F(4,762) = 16.842, p < .001$ and, Kainji Hydro-plant switchyard ($N = 170, M = 6.18, SD = 3.19$) was observed to have the highest mean occupational exposure to ELF magnetic fields, while Geregu Phase II Gas-plant switchyard ($N = 125, M = 2.94, SD = 2.43$) was observed to have the least occupational exposure to extremely low frequency magnetic field.

Since the Levene's statistical test was significantly different at ($p < .001$), therefore, assumption for homogeneity of variance have been violated. So, the Null Hypothesis "there was no significant difference in occupational ELF magnetic field exposure level in 330 kV switchyards of both hydro-plants and gas-plants" stand rejected. The Welch robust test of equality of mean was then employed for the analysis because it is robust to violation of homogeneity of variances.

The Welch robust test of equality of mean demonstrated that the switchyards occupational exposure to ELF magnetic field level had statistically significant differences of ($p < .001$) between them.

To determine the specific groups that differed in exposure levels, Multiple comparison of Game-Howell Post Hoc tests was performed by assuming nonequality of variances for the five switchyards to identify which switchyard are significantly different from the other. As revealed in Table 1, the mean and 95% confidence intervals for emission level demonstrated Jebba Hydro-plant and Kainji Hydro-plant switchyards to have statistically significant differences of ($p < .001$) when independently compared to both Geregu Phase (I & II) Gas-plant switchyards, while Shiroro revealed significant difference of ($p < .001$) with Geregu Phase II Gas-plant and, significant difference of ($p = .045$) was observed between switchyards of Geregu Phase I and Geregu Phase II Gas-plant. However, nonsignificant differences were observed between switchyards of Shiroro, Jebba and Kainji Hydro-plants when compared with each other and between switchyards of Shiroro Hydro-plant and Geregu Phase I Gas-plant.

The means occupational exposure to extremely low frequency magnetic field in 330 kV switchyards of Kainji Hydro-plant (6.18 μ T), Jebba Hydro-plant (5.78 μ T) and Shiroro Hydro-



plant (5.06 μT) were found to be significantly high when compared to 330 kV switchyards of Geregu Phase I (3.95 μT) and Geregu Phase II (2.94 μT). However, these exposure levels are still far below the expected set limit of 1 mT for occupational exposure proposed by ICNIRP. These results have revealed that the personnel working in switchyards at voltage level of 330 kV are not exposed to the same level of ELF magnetic field.

Medical research has shown that exposure to ELF magnetic field above safe limits can have a significant detrimental effect on health. The short-term exposure might cause nervous system disorder, abnormal cell activity, muscle pain and other effects while the long-term exposure might cause risk of neurodegenerative diseases [28]. Further studies revealed that it causes physiological change in human tissues [29], like neurological, cardiovascular disorders and low sperm count in the workers [30], because the nervous system has bioelectric properties that make it more vulnerable to be influenced by electromagnetic fields [31]. The possible effects on health are reinforced by the submission of WHO and IARC that time weighted average exposure to ELF magnetic field levels greater than 0.3 μT increases the likelihood of leukaemia [32].

5.0 Conclusion

The One-way ANOVA performed for the five 330 kV switchyards of Hydro-plants and Gas-plants to determine the density of ELF magnetic fields in the studied locations revealed that there exist significant difference in occupational exposure levels between switchyards. Even though the level of ELF magnetic field emission in the five switchyards have been found to be lower than the recommended permissible set limits of 1 mT by ICNIRP guidelines, there still exist variance in occupational exposure levels encountered by workforce. With government efforts for stability in power supply, the ELF magnetic field in the switchyards are expected to rise in future with increased load demand. Therefore, it is suggested that constant monitoring of fields level should be undertaken to detect high risk zone for possible avoidance to prolonged exposure for safe working environment.

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