

# BUILDING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

## 115 KV/34.5KV SOLAR PLANT/SUBSTATION

CHASE BENTON:  
SENKO DIZDAREVIC:  
ARIF IBRAHIM:  
MAKOKO MUKUMBILWA:

TEAM LEADER  
COMMUNICATION LEADER  
WEBMASTER  
KEY CONCEPT HOLDER

SPONSOR/CLIENT:  
ADVISOR:

BLACK & VEATCH – ADAM LITERSKI, RAHUL RAMANAN  
DR. VENKATARAMANA AJJARAPU

27 April, 2016



Disclaimer: Logos and graphics are registered trademarks of Black & Veatch. Used here with permission.



**BLACK & VEATCH**  
Building a world of difference.®

# AGENDA

- **Project Overview (Scope)**
- **Deliverables**
- **Specification(Parameters)**
- **Solar Power Plant Design**
- **Substation Design**
- **Simulations**

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

- **Plant Location**

- Iowa
- Choose best location

- **60 MW Solar Power Plant**

- Plant/component sizing
- Plant layout
- Production Simulation

- **Attached 115 kV/34.5 kV Substation**

- Substation one-line drawings
- Substation three-line drawings

# DELIVERABLES

- Solar power plant layout and conductor sizing
- Plant and substation component connections
- Substation one-line/three-line drawings
- Drawing list
- Production simulation data
- Engineering man hour budget and schedule
- Project presentation to Black & Veatch

# SOLAR PLANT REQUIRED SPECIFICATIONS

- Location: Iowa
- Fixed Rack 325 W Hanwha Q Cells solar modules
- 1670 kW Eaton Xpert inverter
- 1500 VDC string voltage
- $\approx 1.30$  Inverter Load Ratio (ILR)

# SUBSTATION REQUIRED SPECIFICATIONS

- Substation specification document
- Arcadia single line diagram
- ANSI standard device numbers



# 325 W HANWHA Q CELLS SOLAR MODULE

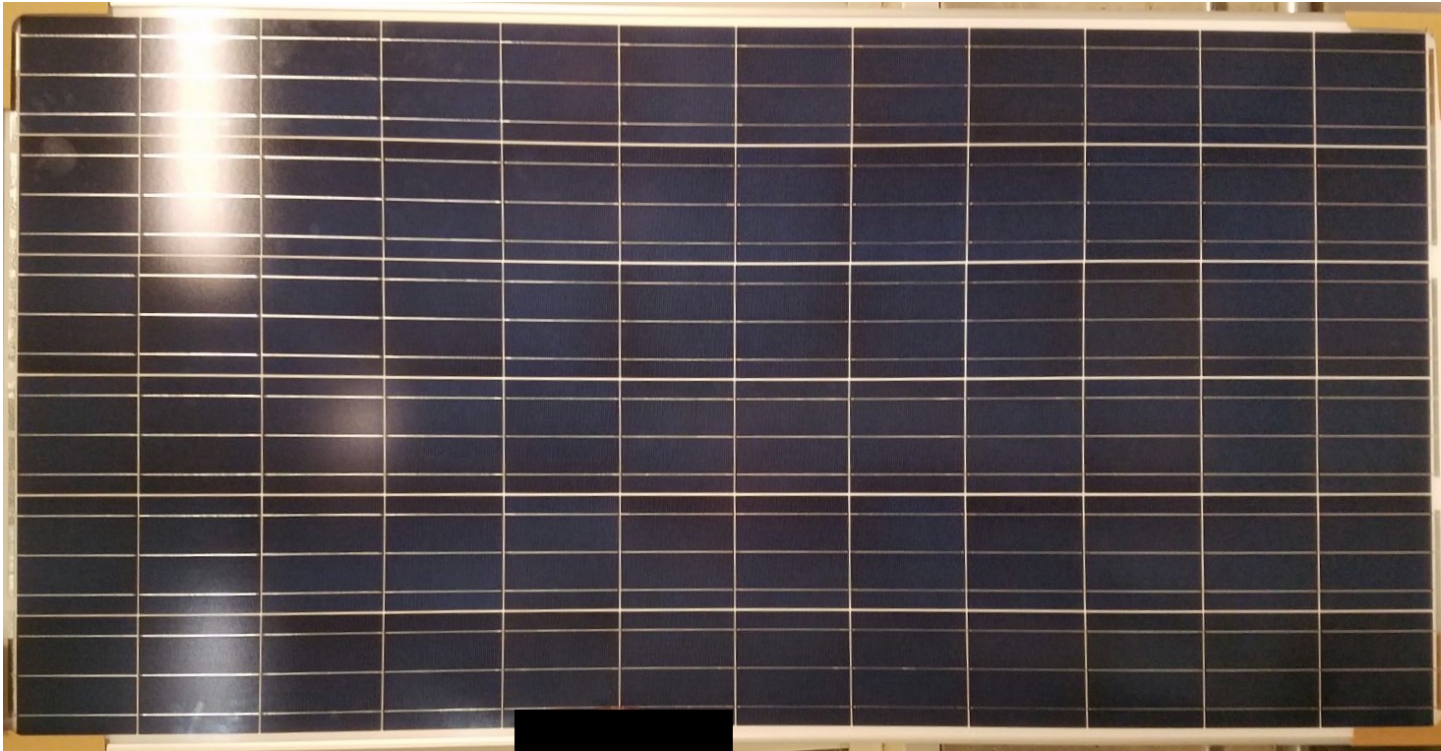
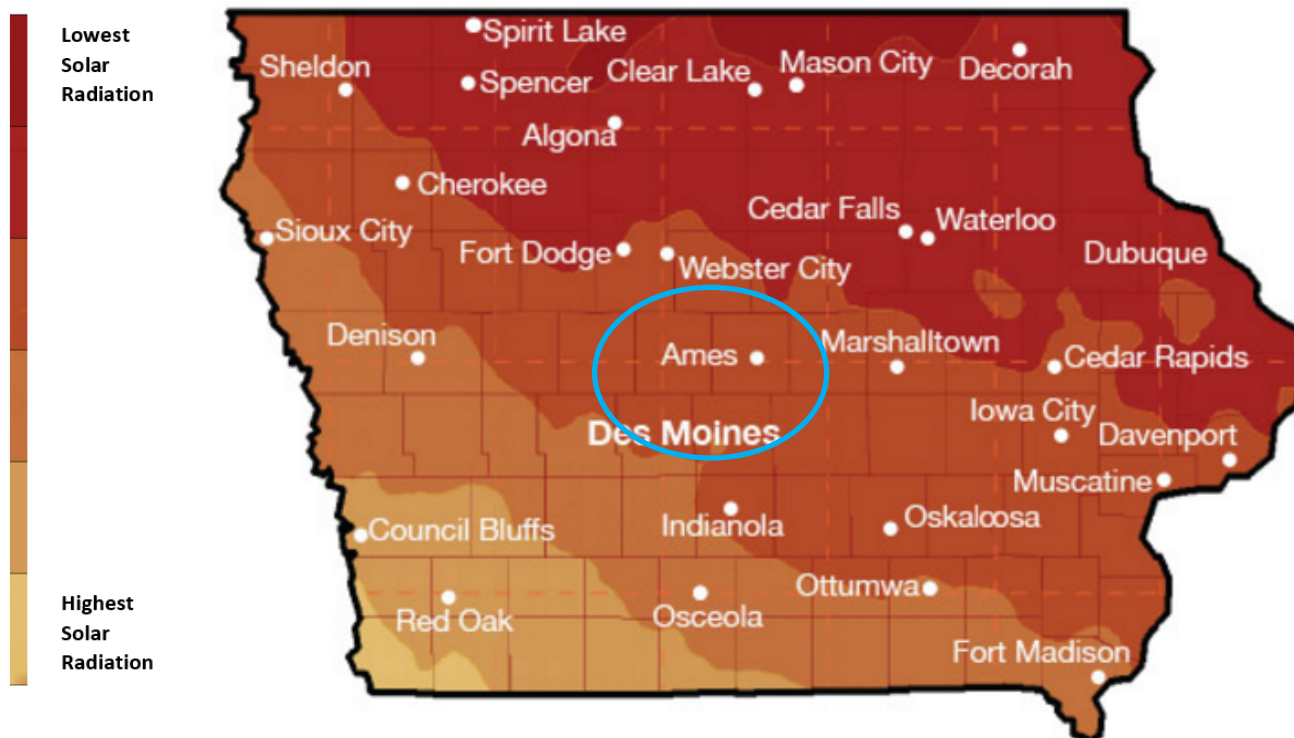


Photo taken at B&V engineering office.

# SOLAR POWER PLANT LOCATION

- Using the Iowa energy center solar calculator tool
  - Area most suitable: Southwest Iowa\*
  - But we are using Ames/Boone area due lack of temperature data in SW Iowa



# SOLAR POWER PLANT AREA – CALCULATION

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Number of Panels Needed} &= \frac{60 \text{ MW}}{325 \text{ W}} (1.30) = 240000 \text{ panels} \\ \text{Panel Area} &= 21.45 \text{ ft}^2 \\ \text{Total Area of Panels} &= 240000 * (21.45 \text{ ft}^2) = 5147990 \text{ ft}^2 \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$\text{Total Area Needed} = 5147990 \text{ ft}^2 = 0.185 \text{ mi}^2 = 120 \text{ acres}$$

To split the solar panels into arrays, we divided the required output by the inverter power rating.

$$\text{Number of Arrays} = \frac{60 \text{ MW}}{1670 \text{ kW}} = 36 \text{ arrays}$$

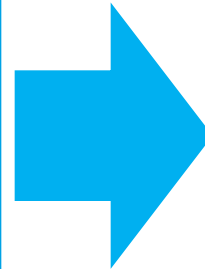
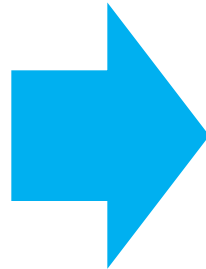
Including the row spacing, inverter skid, and access road; the total area becomes about 240 acres for the entire solar plant.





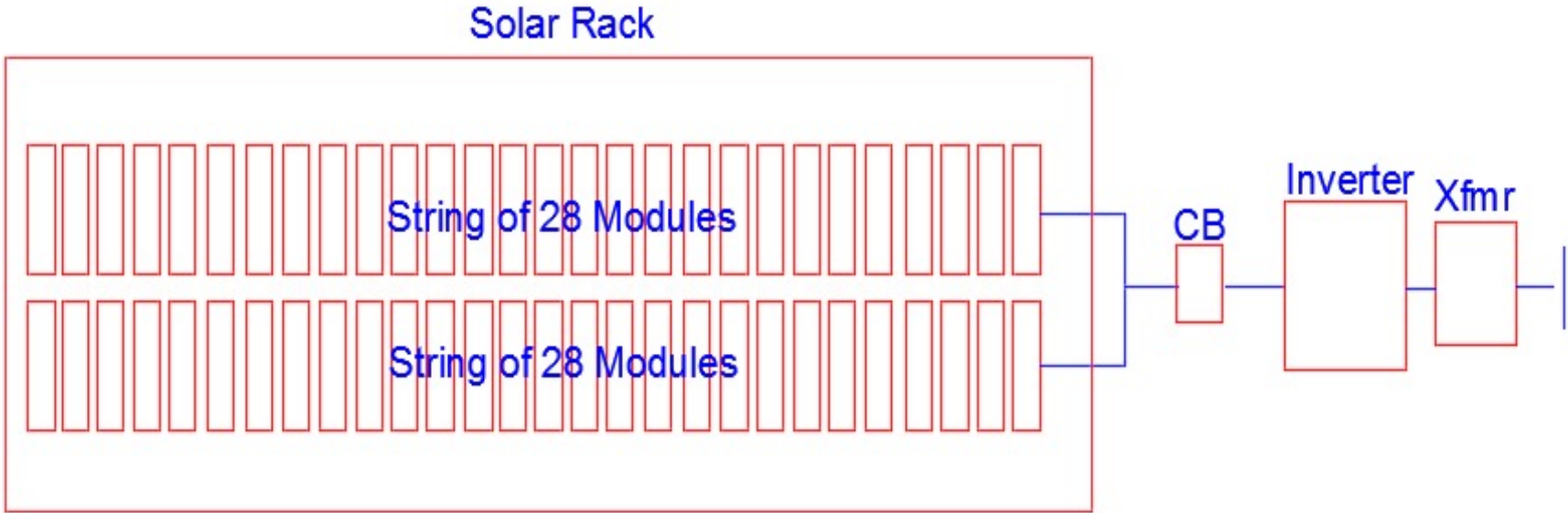
# ARRAY PARAMETER TOOL

Absolute Min Temp  
Module Dimensions  
Desired Spacing  
Desired Tilt/Azimuth  
String size  
Module voc & Isc  
Temp Coefficient  
Inverter AC Capacity



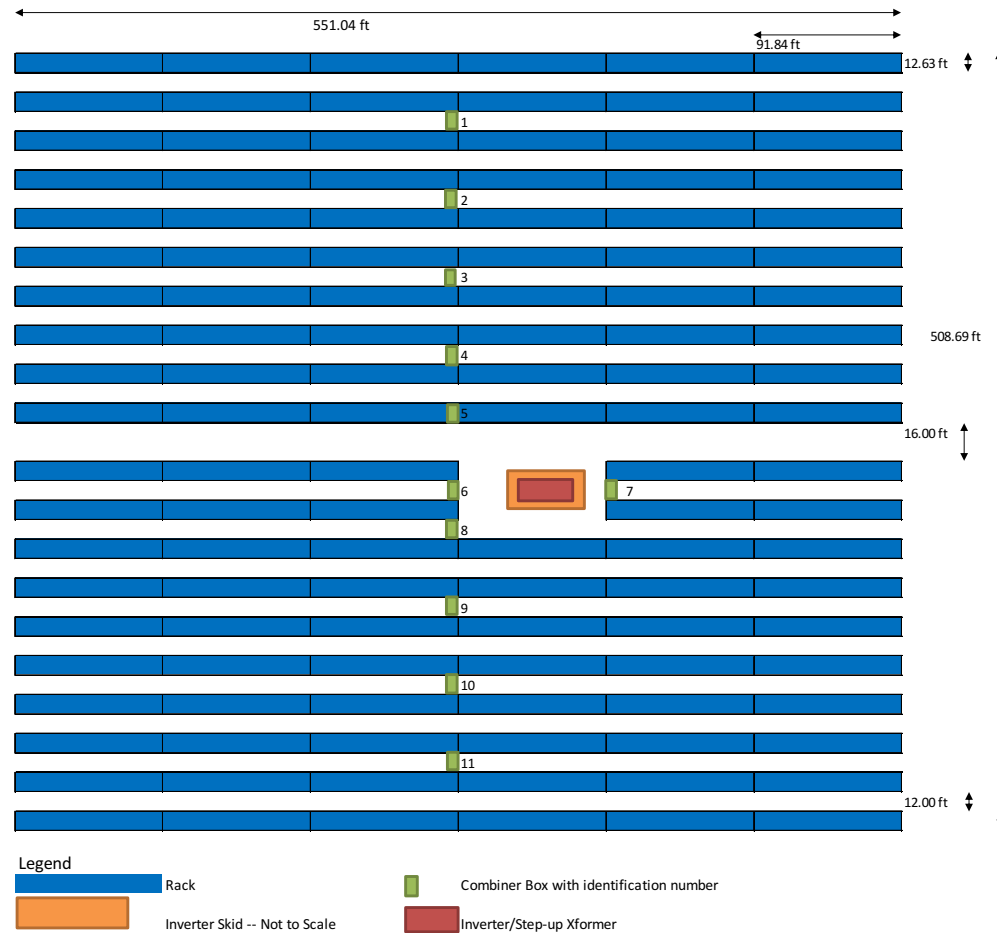
Corrected String Voltage  
Combiner Box Current  
Total DC Capacity  
Total AC Capacity  
Inverter Load Ratio  
Tilt Adjusted Dimensions  
Ground Coverage Ratio

# SINGLE RACK DETAIL

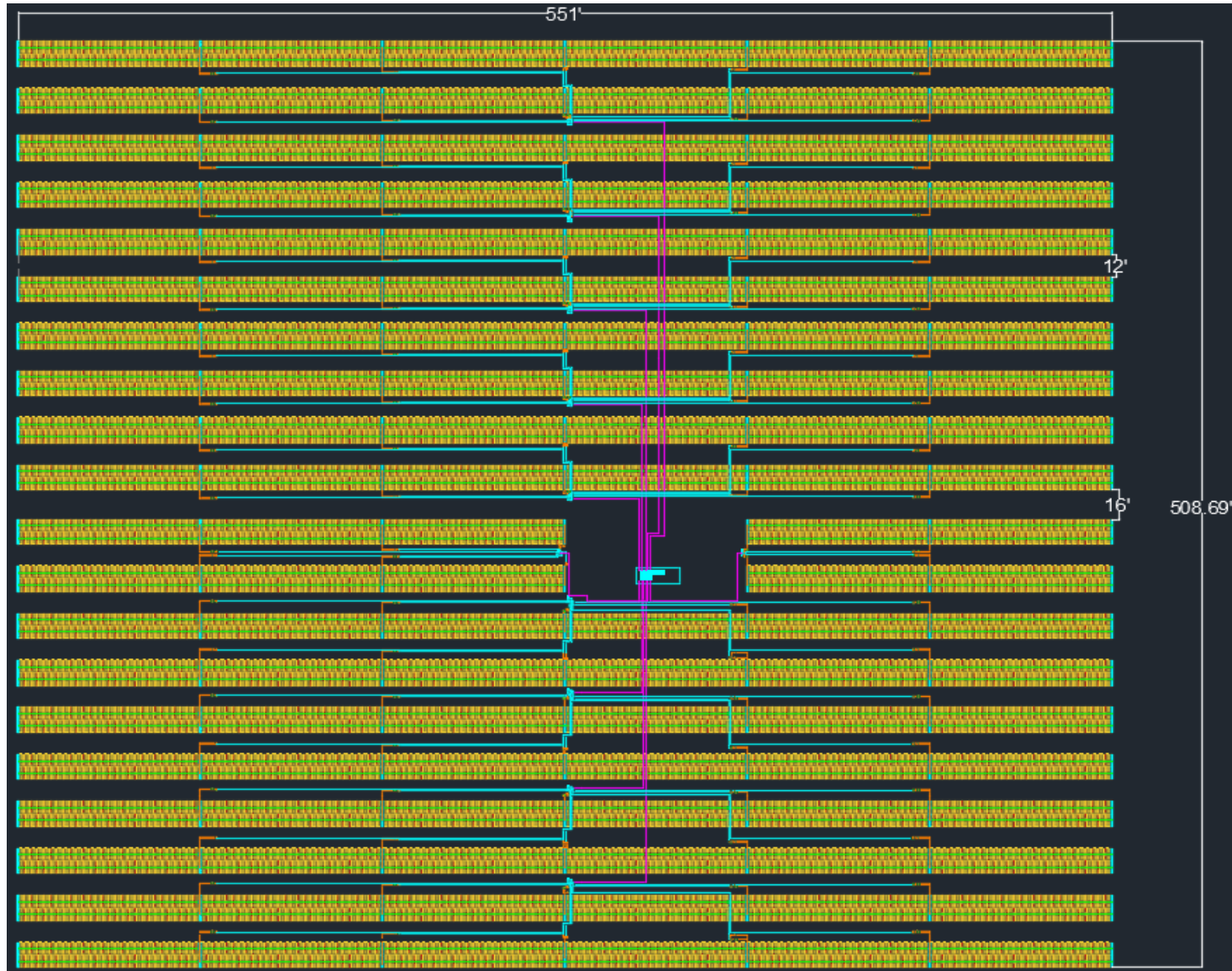


# SOLAR POWER PLANT DESIGN – ONE ARRAY

- 36 total arrays
- Components – per array
  - 118 racks per inverter
  - 11 combiners per inverter
  - 12 racks per combiner\*
  - 2 strings per rack
  - 28 modules per string
  - 6608 modules per array
- Spacing – per array
  - 12 ft between rows
  - 16 ft inverter access road in the middle



# DETAILED SOLAR ARRAY – AUTOCAD



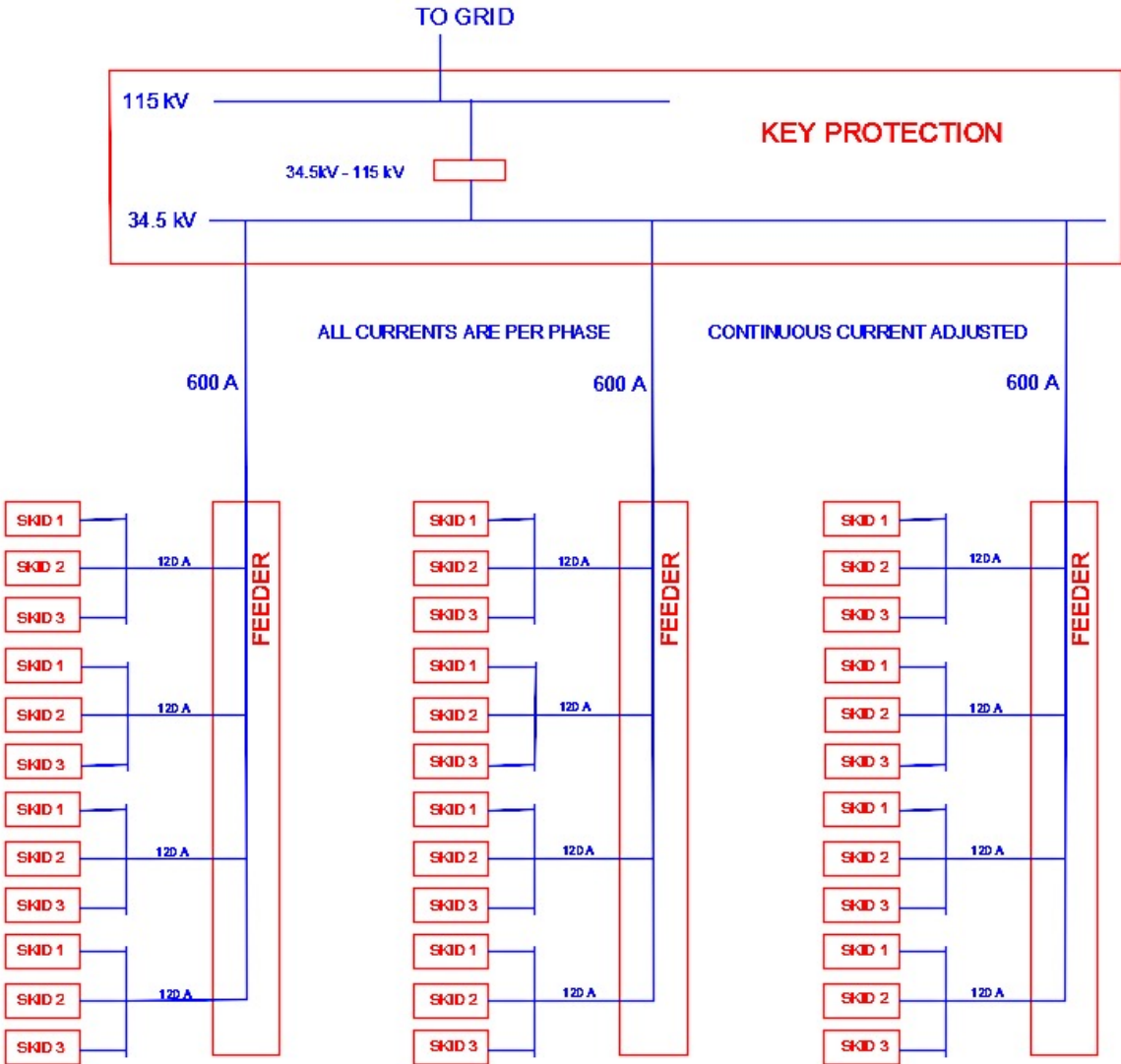
# SOLAR ARRAY CONDUCTOR SIZING

- Irradiance correction factor of 1.25 – NEC690(A)(1)
- Continuous current correction of 1.25 – NEC 690(B)(1)
- Used NEC 310 guidelines to size conductors for solar power plant
- Referenced NEC 310 Table 300.50 for minimum burial depth requirements
- Conductor selection – NEC Table 310.15(B)(16) and Table 310.15(B)(17) guidelines.

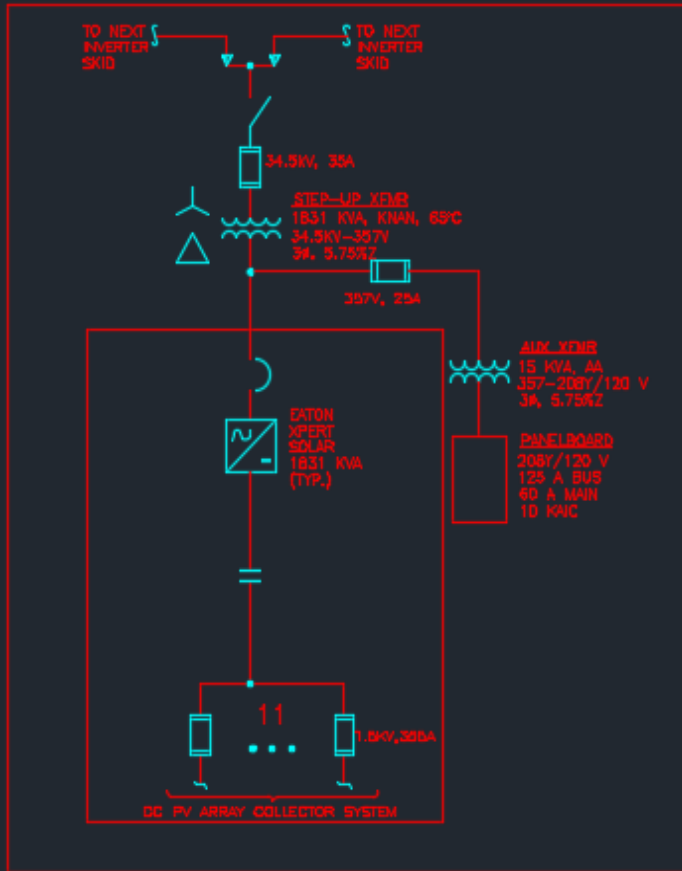
Conductors	Max Isc (A)	Type	Material	Temp (degC)	AWG	Cable Rating (A)	Minimum Depth	Fuse
String Conductor	14.75	Free Air	Copper	75	12	35	NA	15
Rack to CB - Jumper	29.5	Free Air	Copper	75	10	50	NA	30
CB to Inverter - DC feeder	354	Buried	Aluminum	75	700	375	30 inch	355
Xformer to Collector	116	Buried	Aluminum	75	1\0	120	36 inch	(*)



# SUBSTATION SYSTEM BLOCK DIAGRAM

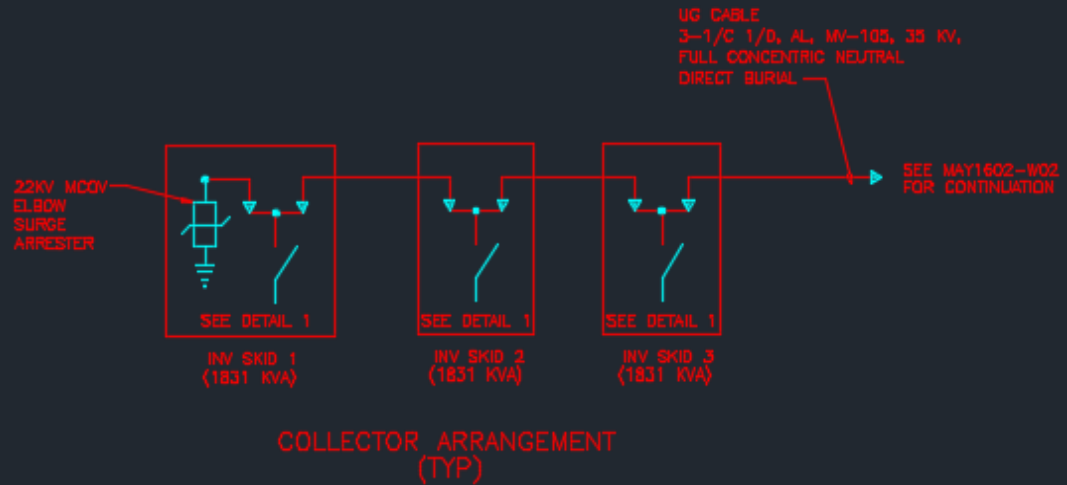


# COLLECTOR

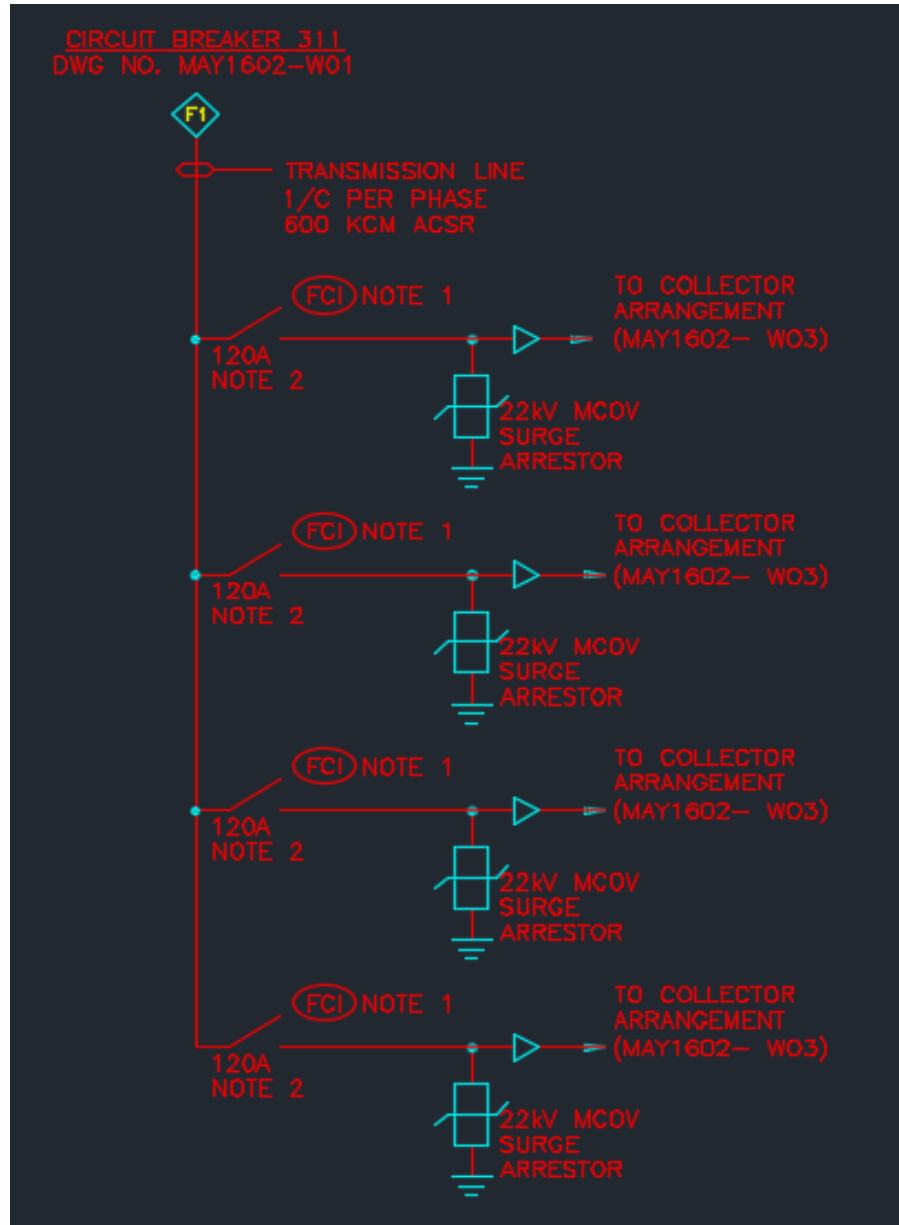


1831 KVA INVERTER SKID DETAIL

DETAIL 1

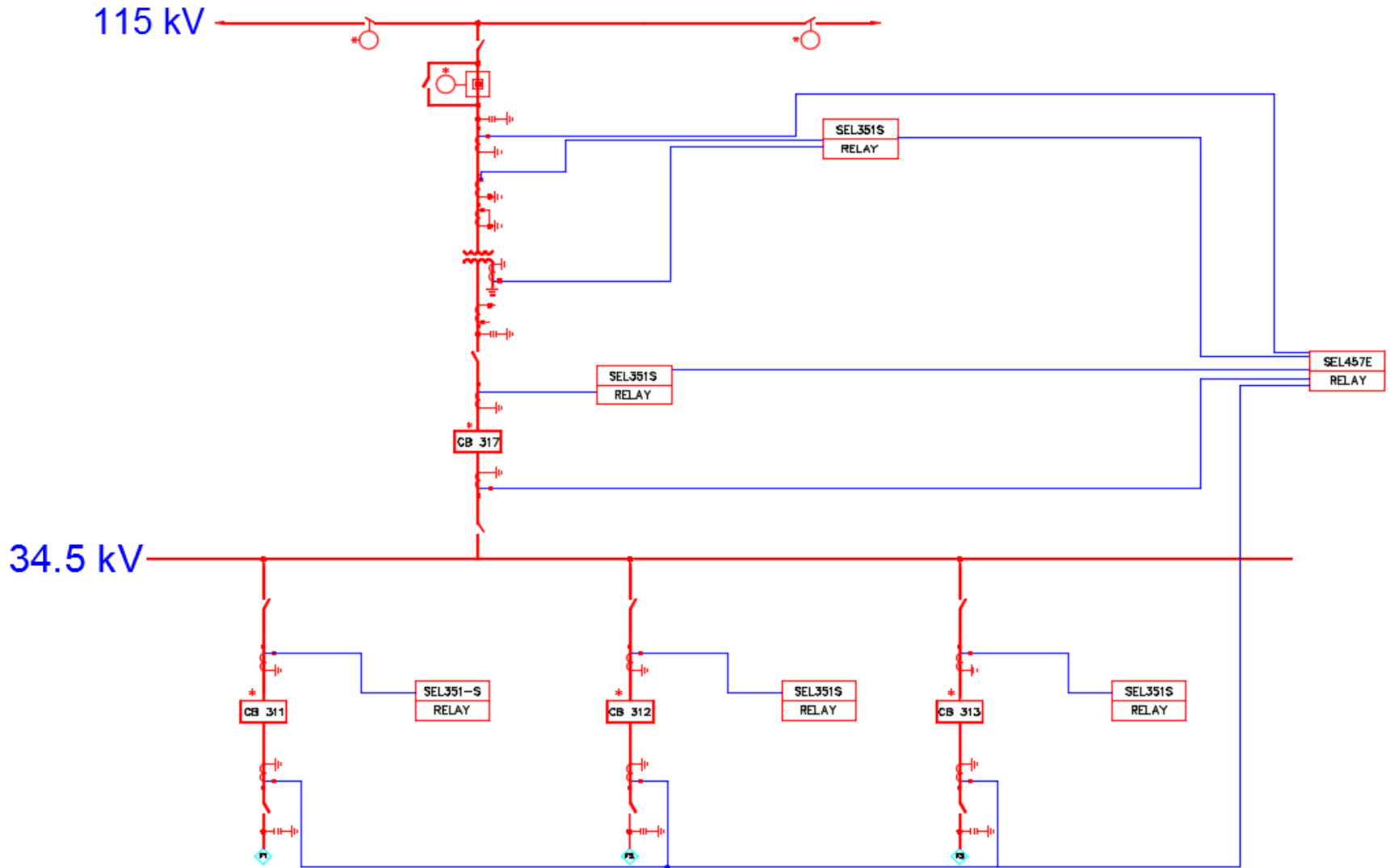


# FEEDER





# KEY PROTECTION



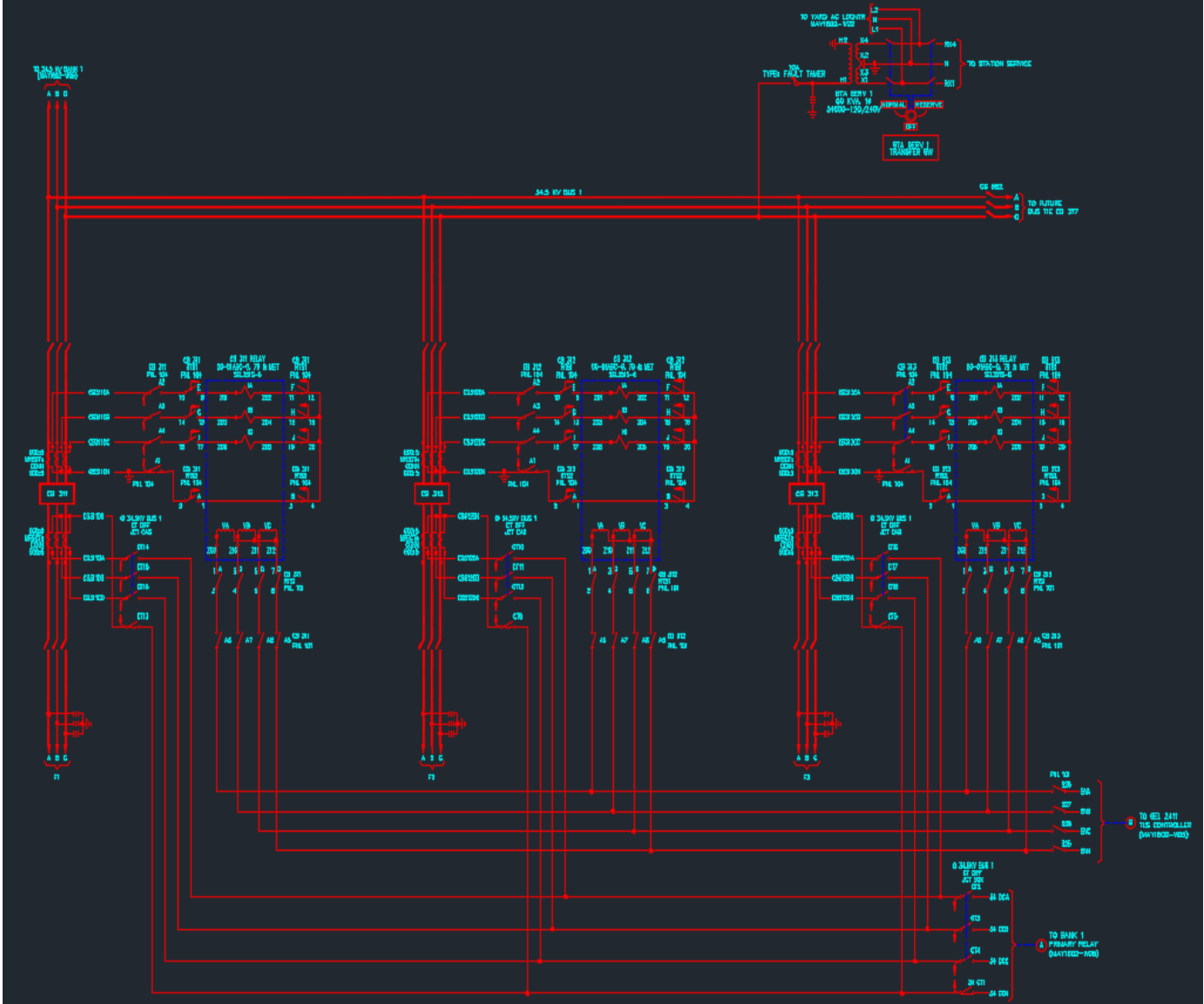


# SUBSTATION 3 LINE DRAWINGS

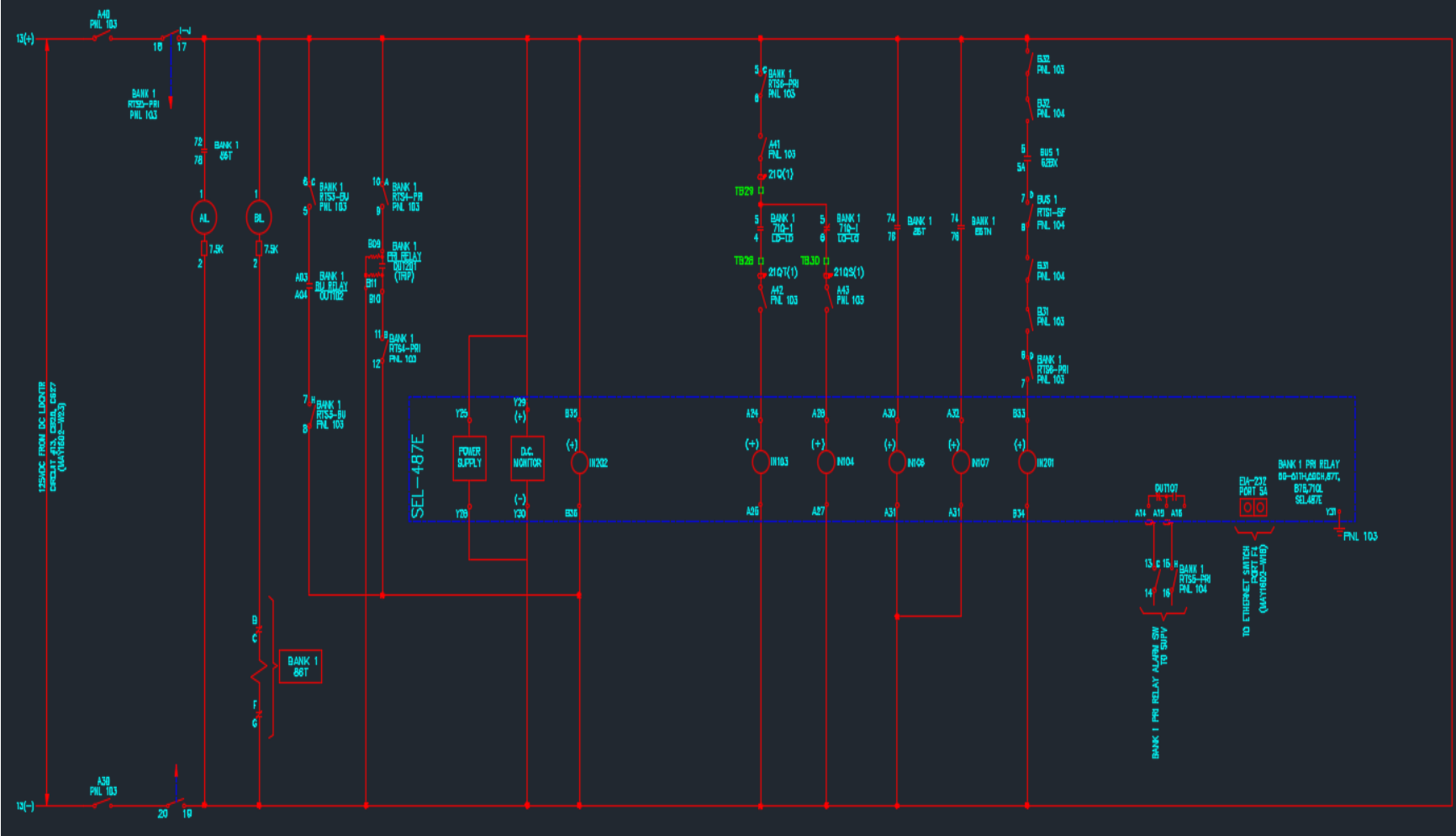
- 3 Phase AC Schematics
- DC Schematics: Air-Breaker Bypass Switches (ABS), SEL-451 (Primary Relay), SEL-351 (Feeder & Backup Relay)
- Communication (RTU, Router, RLH Card and Ethernet Switches)
- AC and DC Load Centers
- Panel Elevations



# AC THREE LINE DRAWING

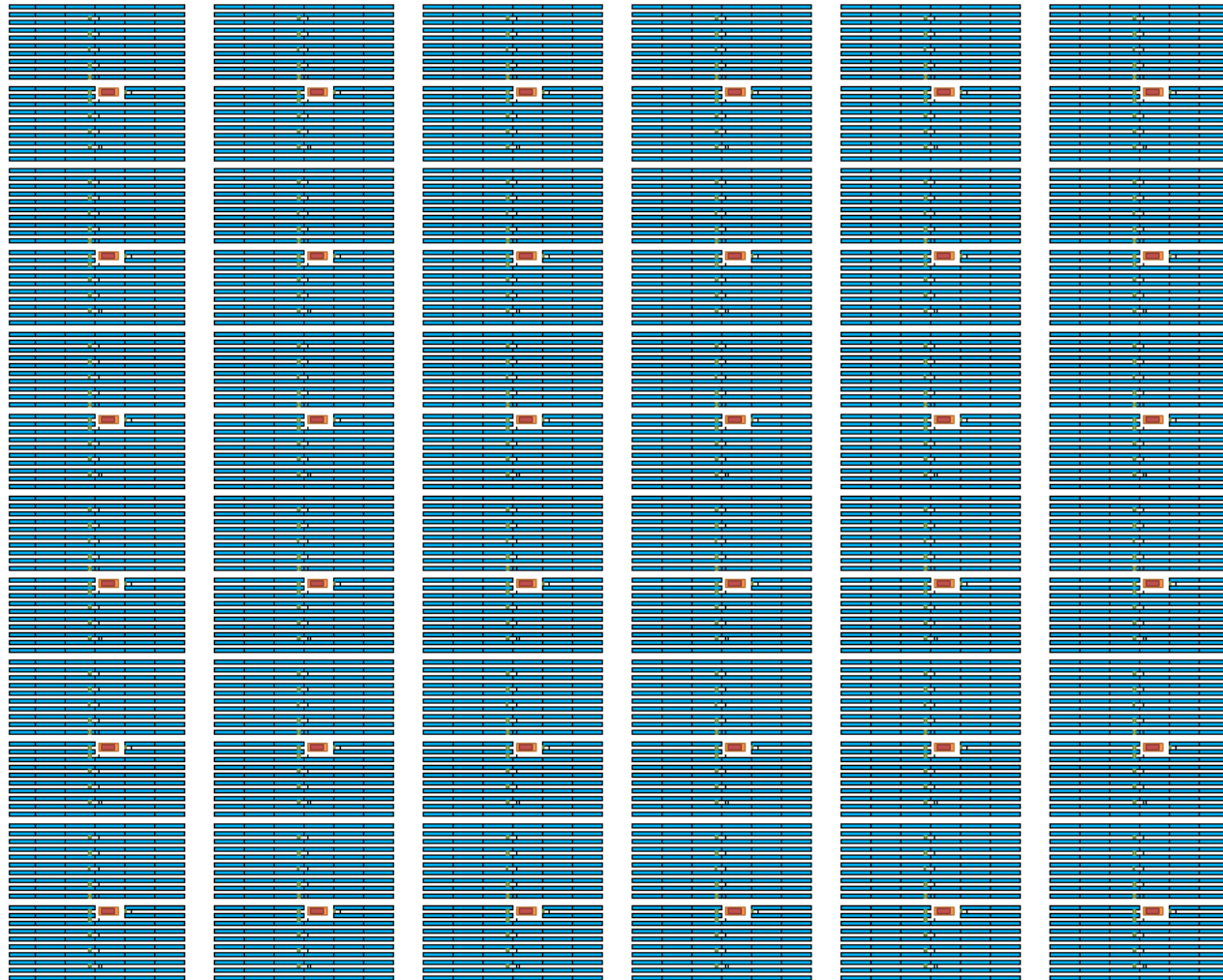


# PRIMARY RELAY DC DRAWING

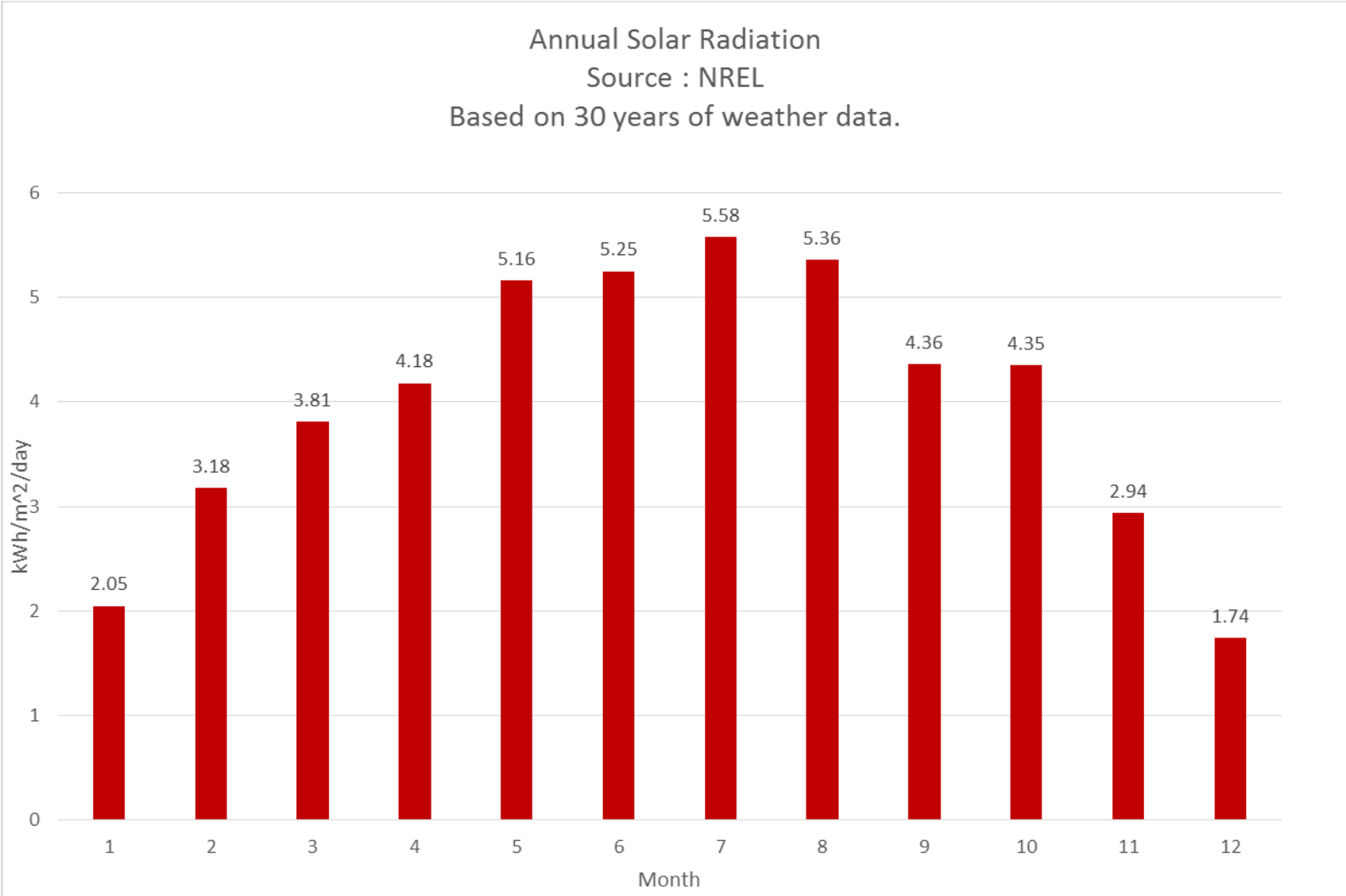


# SOLAR POWER PLANT LAYOUT

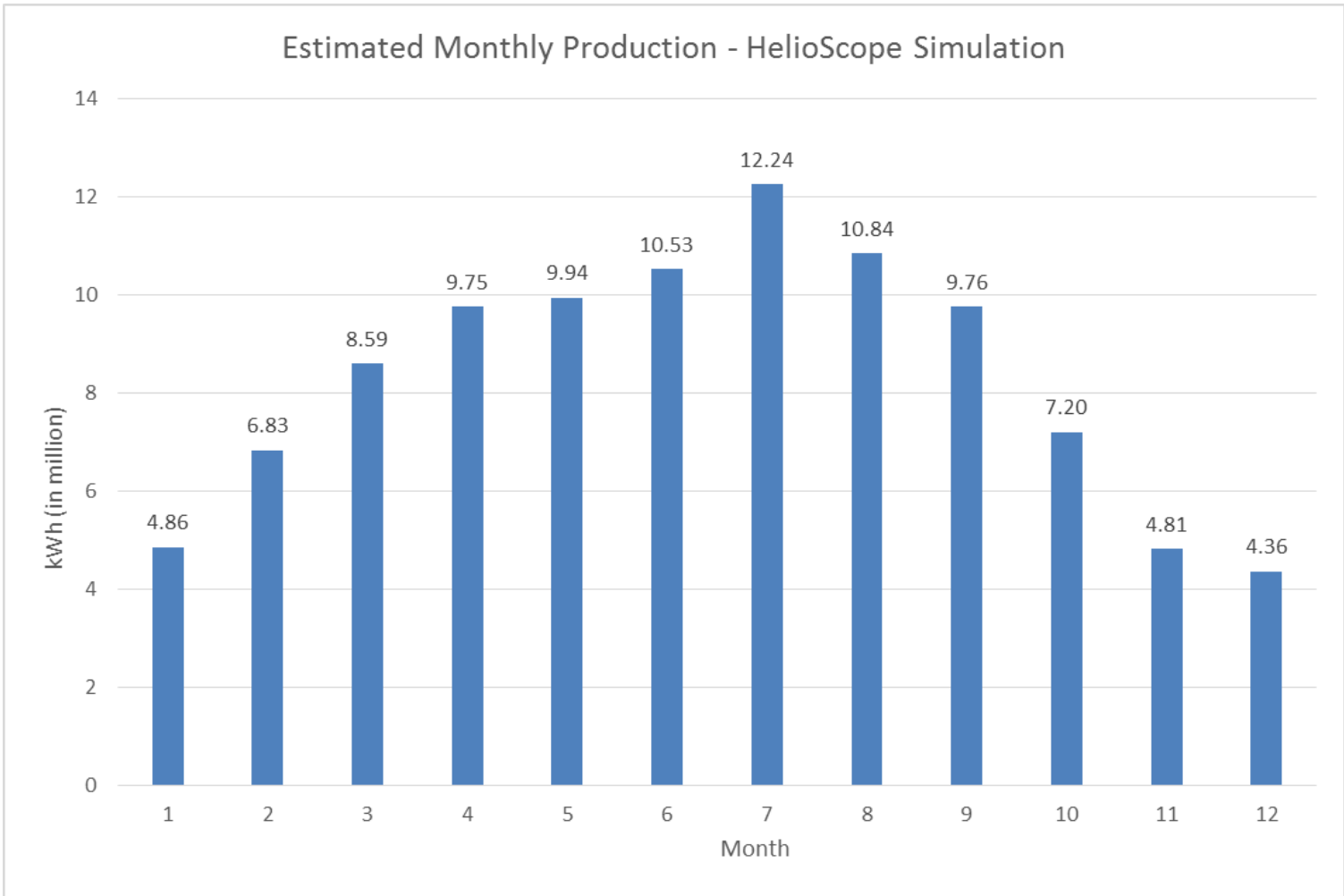
237,888 panels – 36 arrays – 60 MWac – 240 acres



# ANNUAL SOLAR RADIATION



# EXPECTED PRODUCTION



HelioScope Simulation: 99.73 million kWh/year

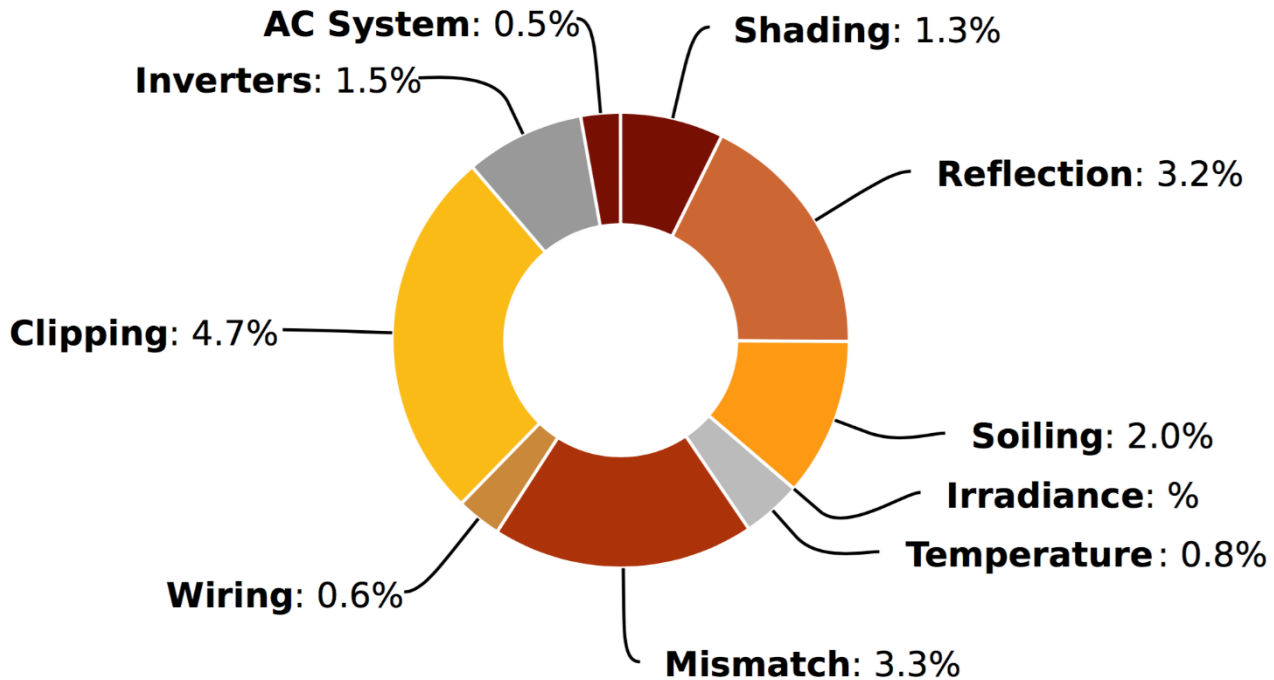
Comparison: Olmedilla PV Park (60MW): 87.5 million kWh/year





# ESTIMATED SYSTEM LOSSES

Solar power losses  
17.9% of 77.3 MWp



Helioscope Simulation



# PV PLANT COST

- **Projected cost: PVWatts Estimate**
  - Solar power plant – \$ 255,134,880
  - \$ 4.25 Million/MW
  - Substation – \$ 20,000,000
  - Grand total – \$ 275,134,880
  
- **FOR COMPARISON: Topaz PV Plant**
  - \$ 2.5 Billion
  - 550 MW
  - \$ 4.53 Million/MW

# MAN HOUR BUDGET

115 kV / 34.5 kV Solar Power Plant / Substation																		
Start Week Aug 31, 2015																		
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Billable Hours	
Start Date	Aug 31	Sep 7	Sep 14	Sep 21	Sep 28	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26	Nov 2	Nov 9	Nov 16	Nov 23	Nov 30	Dec 7	Dec 14	Tasks/Assignments	
FALL 2015																	Meetings-client & advisors	
																		Assign tasks/ begin research
																		Team roles/advisors meetings
																		Discuss project scope with client
																		Solar plant size determination
																		Project Plan V1
																		Design document V1
																		Solar array parameters
																		Solar array layout
																		Solar plant conductors
																		Substation one-line drawings
																		Substation three-line drawings
																		Project Plan V2
																		Design Document V2
																		Presentation slides and rehearsal
																		Faculty presentation
																	Finalize deliverables	
																	SUM	
Hours Budget	5.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	30.0	30.0	15.0	15.0	30.0	0.0	40.0	10.0	2.0	267.0	
Hours Actual	4.0	10.0	8.5	16.5	25.0	16.5	44.0	37.0	24.0	16.0	18.0	31.5	0.0	59.0	29.5	1.0	340.5	
% of Budget	80	100	85	165	125	83	220	123	80	107	120	105	0	148	3	1	127.5	
Start Week Jan 11, 2016																		
Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Billable Hours	
Start Date	Jan 11	Jan 18	Jan 25	Feb 1	Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 22	Feb 29	Mar 7	Mar 14	Mar 21	Mar 28	Apr 4	Apr 11	Apr 18	Apr 25	Tasks/Assignments	
SPRING 2016																	Meetings-client & advisors	
																		Fall 2015 review
																		3-line ac drawings
																		3-line 89 drawings
																		3-line bank drawings
																		3-line bu drawing
																		3-line comm drawings
																		3-line dc drawings/ethernet
																		3-line feeder drawings
																		Design document V3
																		Optimization
																		Presentation preparation
																		BV presentation
																		IRP presentation
																		SUM
	Hours Budget	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	10.0	8.0	15.0	0.0	10.0	20.0	20.0	10.0	20.0	2.0	165.0
Hours Actual	7.5	18.5	19.5	17.5	4.5	9.0	16.5	23.0	41.5	0.0	8.5	24.0	34.0	19.0	25.0	2.0	270.0	
% of Budget	94	231	244	219	56	90	165	288	277	0	85	120	170	190	125	100	163.6	



# BLACK & VEATCH VISIT



Overland Park, Kansas



# INITIAL CHALLENGES AND DIFFICULTIES

- Industry terminology
- Lack of experience with AutoCAD
- Team communications associated with tracking large number of drawing and parameter revisions.
- Familiarity with NEC code regulations
- Lack of solar panel parameter knowledge. Such as string voltage limitations, MPP, temperature affects of on panel voltage.
- Lack of face-to-face meetings with client/mentor.



# WHAT WE LEARNED – QUICK SUMMARY

- Design process book keeping and man hour budget.
- Solar power generation parameters.
- How to maximize utilization of inverters by increasing DC capacity above inverter ratings.
- Design modularity into solar arrays to allow flexibility of placement.
- Experience with substation relay circuitry & communication circuitry.
- Importance of NEC Code compliance.
- Minimizing cost – use aluminum for large conductors, minimize space.
- Simulation of expected kWh production.



**QUESTIONS?**

