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Considerations on Analysis of Lightning Protection System Adequacy when Required Documentation is not Available

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# OBJECTIVES

NDIN

- Pre-1984 installations / Tenant facilities / As-builts not up to date
- Address methods available to assess adequacy of installed LPS
  - Define deviations to standards
  - Risk analysis of deviation
- Identification of equivalent information required
- Considerations for update to DDESB TP 26

## System Evaluation Plan

#### NDIN

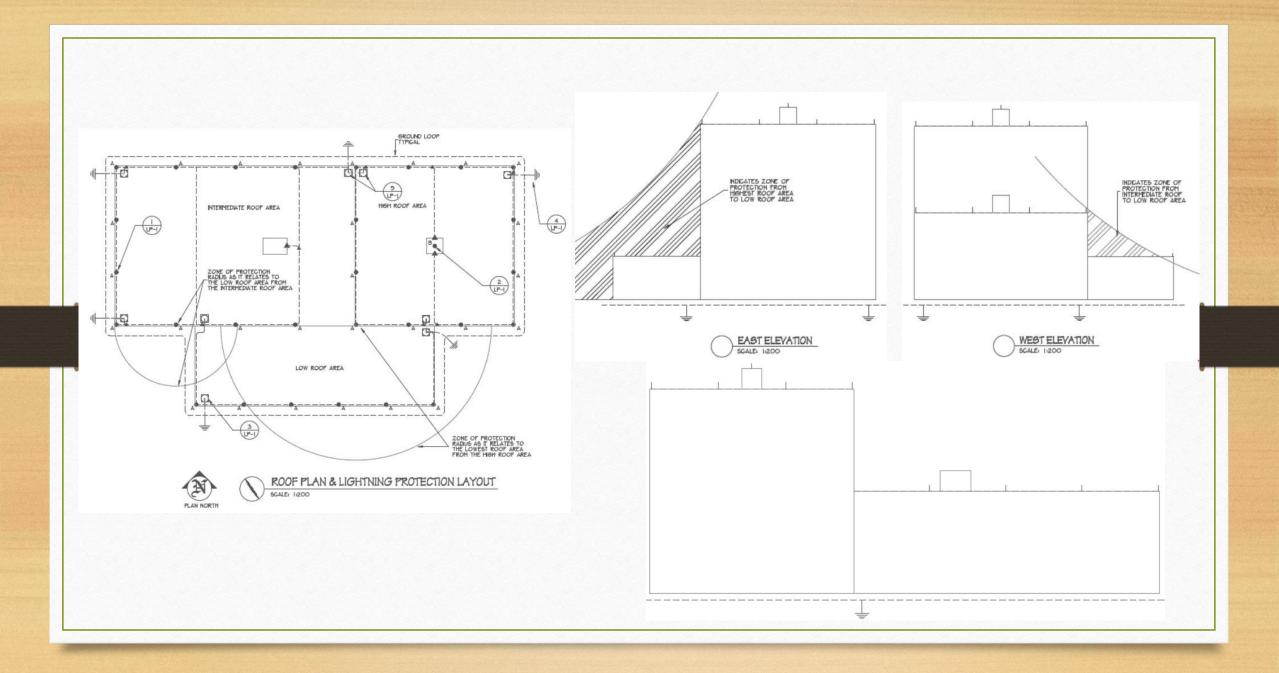
- Assess what information is available and what is missing
- Establish plan for developing information needed for site plan
- Visual Inspection
- Electrical Testing
- Documentation

# Principles of Protection

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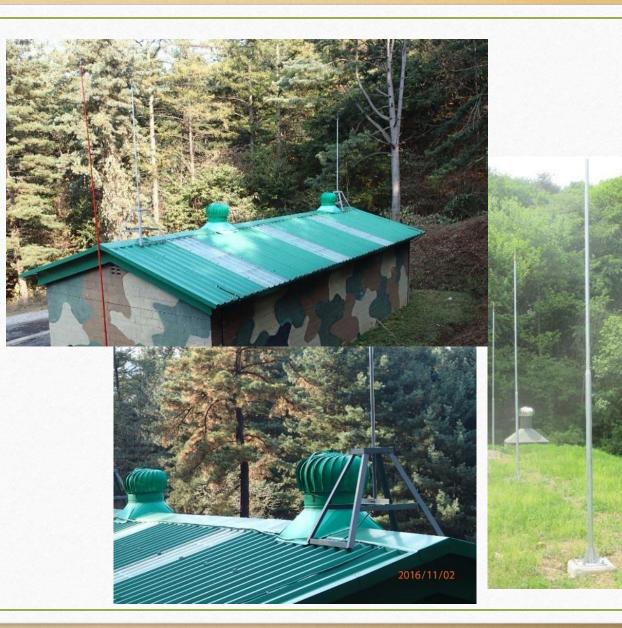
- Provide strike termination devices for protection against direct strike
- Down conductors provide low impedance path to earth electrodes
- Grounding system provides transition of lightning currents into earth
- Potential equalization to reduce probability of arcing
- Surge protection techniques for protection of electrical and electronic systems
  - Shielding SPDs Routing of cables, etc.



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### Strike Termination

- Data collection
- Support
- Zone of Protection
- Topography
- Calculations





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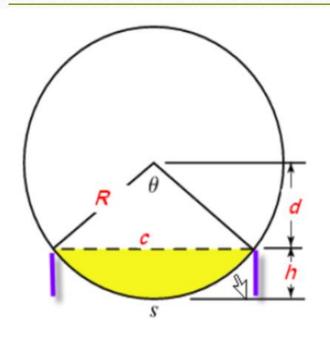
## Zone of Protection Analysis

- DDESB Technical Paper No. 22 provides relationship between AT spacing and striking distance
- EGM relationship between peak current and striking distance
  - $R = 10 I^{0.65}$
- Probability that a lightning strike exceeds the calculated current
  - CIGRE + IEEE graphs (CIGRE Tech Bulletin 63)
  - IEC 62305-1 Edition 2, Table A.3

### Strike Termination Efficiency

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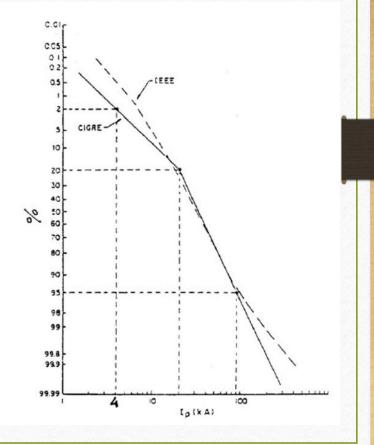
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 $c = 2\sqrt{h(2R-h)}$ 

Where:

- c = the chord length or the minimum air terminal spacing
- h = the air terminal height
- d = R h
- R = the radius of a circle or the zone of protection.
- s = arc segment that cannot touch the surface of the structure
- θ = acute angle so that s does not touch the surface of the structure
- Units shall be consistent, ft or m



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### Down Conductors

- Document locations with spacing dimensions
- Visual if external
- Electrical if concealed

### Surge Protection Documentation

NDIA



- Power
  - Type 1 or Type 2 SPDs
  - Nominal discharge current of 20kA installed at service entry
- Communications / data / signal / security
  - Maximum discharge current of 10kA installed at service entry
- Incoming lines shall enter the facility in shielded cables or metallic conduit run underground 
   > 50 ft from structure

#### NDIA

- Must locate and document all service entry / exit points
- Ground level potential equalization (interconnections) confirmed
  - Ground ring electrode preferred
  - Ground loop conductor acceptable
- Electrode requirements in NFPA 780
  - supplemented by service requirements





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# Concrete-encased Grounding Electrodes

- Concrete-encased Electrodes without documentation or method to test to be allowed?
- Confirmation that it meets criteria
  - consists of ≥ 20 ft bare copper main-size conductor or 20 ft of ½" diameter steel rebar bonded together by welding, mechanical coupling, or overlapping 20 diameters and wire tying
- Test or connection point shall be provided to allow test
- Impedance test preferred to characterize quality of ground

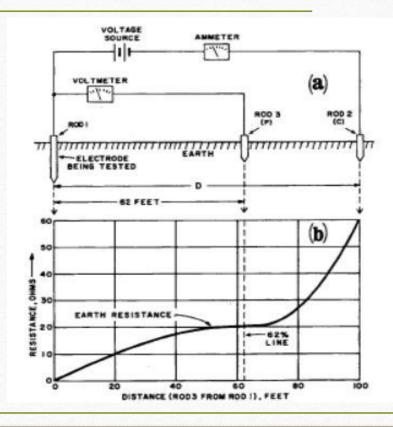
### Electrical Testing

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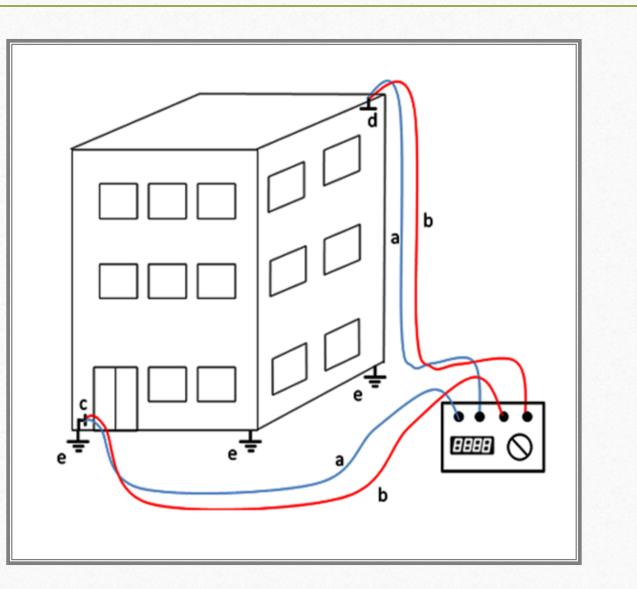
#### (from Biddle, Getting Down to Earth)

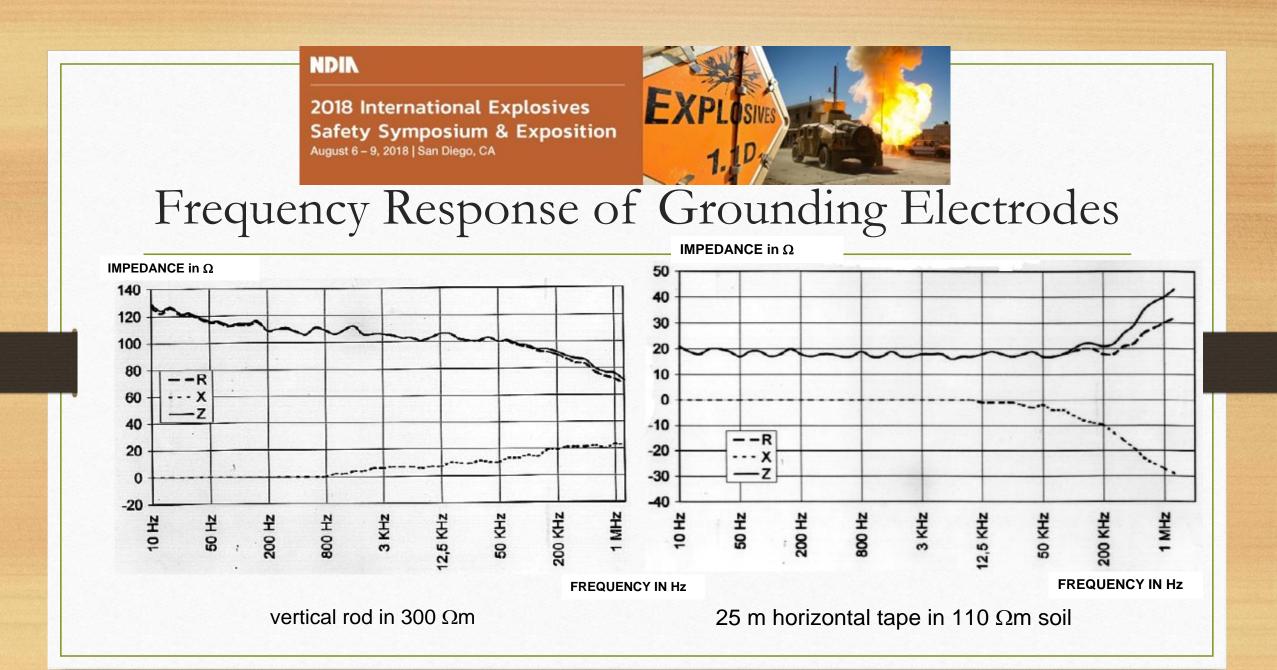
- Bonding testing
  - Confirmation of potential equalization
  - Continuity of concealed down conductors
- Grounding System Testing
  - 3-point Fall-of-Potential
  - Confirm S-curve for data confidence assessment
  - Possible earth resistivity testing
  - Impedance testing where justified

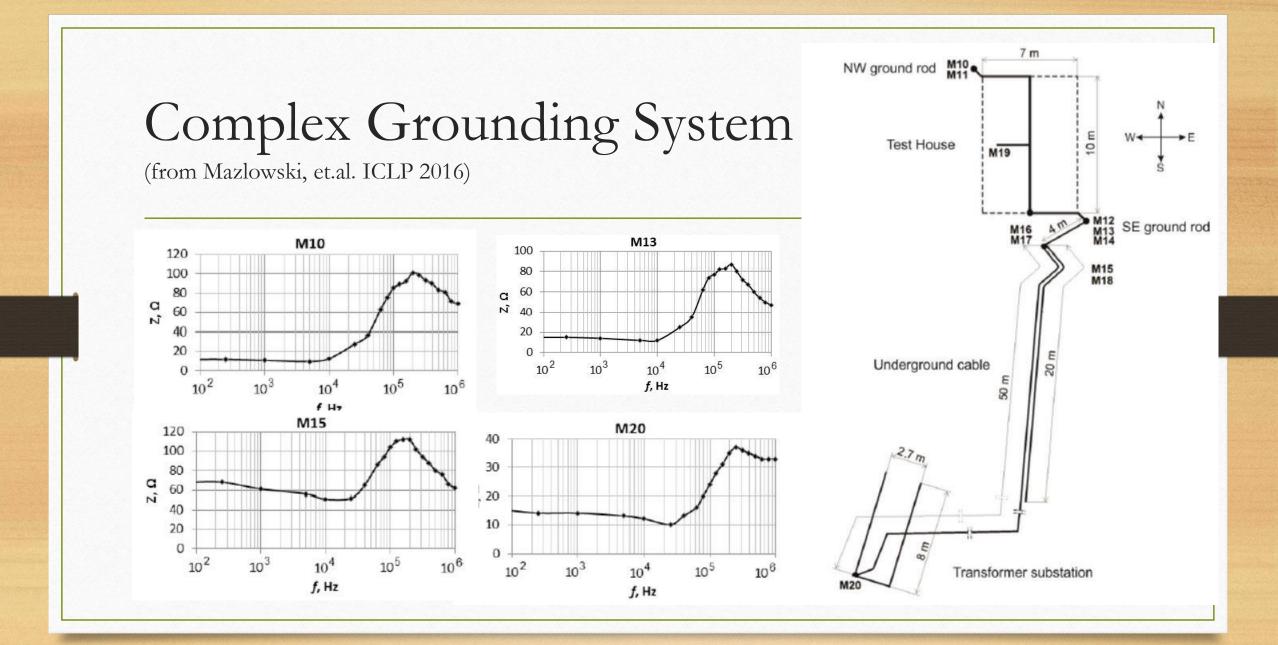


### Test of Resistance from Air Terminal to Ground

- •IEC 62305-3 guidance for testing steel reinforcing steel
- •10A test current recommended
- •200 milliohms resistance proposed
- •Ground reference can be:
  - •Grounding electrode
  - •Equipotential Ground Bus
  - •Base of down conductor







### Draft Interim Guidance

#### NDIN

- LPS visual and electrical test plans and test results to be developed
  - Testing includes bonding resistance + resistance to earth
- Goal to develop package equivalent to Service-provided drawings/sketches, photographs, contextual descriptions, and LPS test plans and test results
- Package should include zone of protection analysis based on 100foot striking distance

### Draft Interim Guidance

#### NDIN

- Interim Guidance should address surge protection
- Details regarding removal of old system could provide valuable info in LPS redesign / modification
- Risk assessment is valuable tool in consideration of waiver for LPS or portions thereof.
  - NFPA 780 Annex or Strike-QRA assessment should be conducted to determine whether additional factors / modifications should be considered
  - Other assessments to be considered? IEC 62305-2?
  - Assessments must be performed by personnel trained in lightning risk assessments

# Thoughts and Observations

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- Consideration of IEC standard LPL I or II LPS design packages for foreign LPS designs?
  - Relevant for 1991 to present
  - No international conformity assessment program for 3<sup>rd</sup> party validation
- Critical that Service-generated packages be prepared by trained personnel knowledgeable in principles of lightning protection
- Limitations of  $R_{GND}$  test versus impedance testing to determining what is installed or adequacy to perform function
  - Measure earth resistivity as additional data quality check ?