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Corrosion fatigue of phosphor bronze reinforcing tapes on underground power transmission cables - Failure analysis



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## **ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT**

#### Corrosion fatigue of phosphor bronze reinforcing tapes on underground power transmission cables - Failure analysis

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#### Abstract

This paper is an investigation on the failure mechanism involved in underground power transmission cables with their life limited by corrosion of phosphor bronze reinforcing tapes. In the present work, a detailed analysis of failed bronze tapes in an ammonium free environment has been undertaken and corrosion fatigue failure mechanism has been identified. A detailed examination of the tape samples is carried out using 2D and 3D optical microscopy and SEM. It follows a mechanical approach that confirms corrosion fatigue as the failure mechanism. SEM images reveal that the pits present on the surface could be the starting point for the crack that eventually leads to failure. Stress calculation shows that the tape could fail only if corrosion pits are present on the tape surface. Presence of corrosion pits, multi cracks and striations on the fractured surface demonstrates corrosion fatigue cracking as the failure mechanism across the tape samples.

Keywords: Corrosion Fatigue, Pitting, Phosphor bronze, Underground Power Transmission

Cables, Failure Analysis

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