

Surge Protection Hall of Fame



Andrew R Hileman

June 2008

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Expert in Insulation Coordination

Bob Hileman, as he is known to most, is the author of the most comprehensive book on Insulation Coordination ever written. His 766 page, 18 chapter masterpiece, is simply titled "Insulation Coordination for Power Systems." It is currently the most often referenced book on this important subject in the overvoltage protection world.

Before retirement in the early 2000's his presence at IEEE and IEC meetings was larger than life. His depth of knowledge in power systems went well beyond insulation coordination. When he spoke in his unique raspy voice, he had the undivided attention of everyone. His comments and guidance in the business was among the best of the best. Even to this day, seldom does an insulation coordination meeting go on without some reference to "What did Bob say in chapter so-and-so on this subject?" His contribution to standards continues on.

Bob served on several IEC and IEEE committees during his career. He was a significant author of the IEEE Standard 1313.2. He was a significant member of the Surge Protective Devices Committee. He served on the IEC committee that wrote 60071-1 and 60071-2. Both documents related to insulation coordination. Bob served as the Chair of IEEE Committee on Insulation Coordination. He was a fellow of the IEEE and an active member in CIGRE.

Prior to retirement Bob was a professional engineer in Pennsylvania, his home state. A 1951 BSEE Lehigh University graduate, a 1955



MSEE University of Pittsburgh graduate, and after leaving Westinghouse in 1989, a well known private consultant in the electric power industry.

He spent over 40 years with the Westinghouse Electric Corporation where he specialized in the study of insulation coordination, switching overvoltages, lightning phenomena, lightning protection, and high-voltage laboratory testing.

While at Westinghouse he was a co-developer of a new theory of the last step of the lightning stroke and discovered the pre-discharge phenomena.

He attended the University of Berlin, Germany, in 1966/67 on a Lamme Fellowship to study high voltage phenomena. He was at the forefront of the development of EHV transmission systems and supervised analytical

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and field test programs for the initial industry 345kV and 765kV projects.

Bob authored more than 50 technical papers, a lecturer in the graduate schools of several universities, and the recipient of numerous awards and honors in the electric power field. As a lecturer for the Penn State Advanced Power Engineering Program, Bob taught students from all over the world.

Bob's reputation and contribution to the surge protection industry is inarguably "World Class" which makes him a prominent and deserving member of the Surge Protection Hall of Fame.

Bob is living quietly in Monroeville PA with his lifelong wife Becky. He and Becky have three daughters Judy, Linda and Nancy.

Jonathan Woodworth
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