



Rome, 16.10.2010

IEEE Standard Association

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Att.: Chairman of WG D5, Mr. Bob Nowell, ([rsnowell@southernco.com](mailto:rsnowell@southernco.com)) and

Vice-Chairman of WG D5, Dr. Sakis Meliopoulos, ([sakis.meliopoulos@ece.gatech.edu](mailto:sakis.meliopoulos@ece.gatech.edu))

Dear Sir,

A number of persons have drawn our attention to the ongoing discussion concerning non-conventional lightning protection systems in IEEE's working group D5, specifically the Early Streamer Emission (ESE) and Collective Volume Method (CVM), and their inclusion in the revised version of the IEEE 998 standard: "Guide for Direct Lightning Stroke Shielding of Substations".

For your information, the International Conference on Lightning Protection (ICLP) together with its offspring Simpósio Internacional de Proteção contra Descargas Atmosféricas (SIPDA) are the only scientific/technical organs solely devoted to the subjects of **Lightning** and **Lightning Protection**, trying to promote scientific research concerning lightning phenomena as well as the implementation of methods in practice for improving the protection of people, animals and properties against the effects of lightning.

ICLP is represented by a group of more than 20 professors, from different countries all over the world, specializing in lightning phenomena, and forming the Scientific Committee of ICLP\*. Moreover, the members of the Scientific Committee are independent of any political or commercial interest.

Regular international conferences on lightning phenomena and lightning protection of living beings, structures and services are organized by ICLP in order to provide an interdisciplinary forum for the exchange of scientific knowledge and information among scientists and engineers that are engaged in research and practical application of lightning protection and to ensure the effective transfer of new knowledge from lightning research into practice for the benefit of our societies.

In this capacity, ICLP has previously been consulted and has given advice, recommendations, and support in questions related to lightning standards in different parts of the world.

As Lightning Protection Standards are key measures to provide safety against lightning hazards, the International Electrotechnical Commission, IEC, and other recognized standard organizations have abstained from including non-conventional methods in their standards until these methods have been verified.

This has been a useful procedure since a number of non-conventional methods, including the abovementioned ESE and CVM methods, subsequently, beyond any degree of doubt, have shown not to function according to the hypothesis and therefore dangerous to use due to their incapability to provide the improved efficiencies promised.

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\* More information can be found on ICLP's homepage: [www.iclp-centre.org](http://www.iclp-centre.org).

During the last edition of ICLP which was held last month in Cagliari, Italy, the question of both ESE and CVM methods were once again discussed, and new evidences were presented, in addition to the already known, of the shortcomings of the two mentioned methods.

Therefore, it is strongly recommended to abstain from the inclusion of such methods in any standards, and in any form, as it has been done by IEC and by other recognized standard organizations. This precaution is important due to the general and worldwide increasing concern about "Health and Safety" and the legal responsibility carried by the standards for providing the necessary and promised protection and safety.

For your information, ICLP will continue to keep all forms of lightning protection procedures, both classical and new, including methods for improving the efficiencies of lightning protection systems, on its agenda. Furthermore, we will be looking forward to, and welcome, the emergence and presentation of new ideas for lightning protection, the research work required to prove them, and to the subsequent discussions.

Finally, ICLP will also in the future be pleased to provide IEEE with the results of the latest research worldwide, the results of discussions at the conferences, and the ongoing discussion between scientists, and thus be ready to support IEEE in its work concerning Protection against Lightning Hazards.

On behalf of the Scientific Committee of ICLP

President  
Prof. Farhad Rachidi



Vice President  
Prof. Vernon Cooray

