FAQ Number	06-0016, Revision 1

Plant: Harris Nuclear Plant (HNP) FAQ # 06-0016
Submittal Date: 03-22-07
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Subject: Clarification/enhancement of Ignition Source counting guidance for Electrical Cabinets in NUREG/CR-6850, supporting NFPA-805 Fire PRA application.

Interpretation of guidance? Yes

Proposed new guidance not in NEI 04-02? Yes

Details:

NEI 04-02 Guidance needing interpretation (include section, paragraph number, and line number):

New attachment on interpretation issues

Circumstances requiring guidance interpretation or new guidance:

The guidance provided in NUREG/CR-6850 for Task 6, Fire Ignition Frequency (Section 6.5.6, Bin 15), states:

> *Bin 15 – Electrical Cabinets (Plant-Wide Components):* Electrical cabinets represent such items as switchgears, motor control centers, DC distribution panels, relay cabinets, control and switch panels (excluding panels that are part of machinery), fire protection panels, etc. Electrical cabinets in a nuclear power plant vary significantly in size, configuration, and voltage. Size variation range from small-wall mounted units to large walk-through vertical control cabinets, which can be 20' to 30' long. The configuration can vary based on number of components that contribute to ignition, such as relays and circuit cards, and combustible loading, which also affects the fire frequency. Voltages in electrical cabinets vary from low voltage (120 V) panels to 6.9 kV switchgears. Even though it is expected that these features affect the likelihood of fire ignition, from a simple analysis of the event data involving the electrical cabinets, it was determined that the variation by cabinet type did not warrant separate frequency evaluation. Therefore, one fire frequency was estimated for the electrical cabinets.

This guidance infers that cabinet size is not a factor for ignition source counting. However, additional guidance states that electrical cabinets "… should be counted by their vertical segments ...". During the presentation of Pilot Project results it was determined that differences related to the definition of 'segments' could result in notable inconsistency between individual users of NUREG/CR-6850.

The discussion of this issue found that this issue affects only general electrical cabinets and panels. In the case of switchgears, load centers, unit substations, and motor control centers the term 'segment' was uniformly interpreted to be equal to the individual vertical sections that define these types of components. As applied to general electrical cabinets and panels, the term 'segments' could be interpreted to mean different metrics.

- A segment could be defined as an enclosed element that is generally independent of size or volume (also referred to as a vertical section).
- A segment could be defined as an individual section of an enclosure regardless of whether it was fully enclosed.
- A segment could be defined based on a 'standard' or reference sample panel size.

Depending on the metric being used, the counting of electrical cabinets would result in varying results and consequently, different fire ignition frequency values. While NUREG/CR-6850 allows the establishment of plant specific criteria for counting of electrical cabinets, additional guidance is required to achieve a consistent basis for determining the ignition frequencies.

Detail contentious points if licensee and NRC have not reached agreement

This topic has impact on the NFPA-805 pilots, non-pilots and other users of NUREG/CR-6850.

Potentially relevant existing FAQ numbers:

This guidance is specific to the characterization of electrical cabinets for Bin 15 ignition frequency determination. The characterization of switchgear and load center segments for the purposes of high energy arcing faults is addressed by FAQ 06-0017.

Response Section

A generalized counting criterion for general electrical cabinets and panels is proposed. This proposed criterion would involve two elements.

For switchgears, load centers, unit substations, and motor control centers the counting for the purposes of NUREG/CR-6850, Task 6, Bin 15 would be based on vertical section. This counting is illustrated in the following examples.

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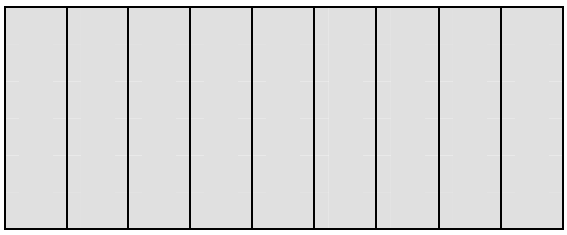
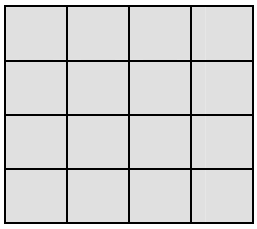


Medium Voltage Switchgear

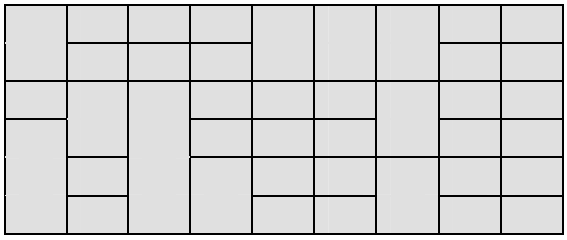
9 Breakers and Sections
Count = 9 for Bin 15



Load Center or Unit Substation

16 Breakers in 4 Sections

Count = 4 for Bin 15



Motor Control Center

41 Breakers/Starters in 9 Sections

Count = 9 for Bin 15

For general electrical cabinets and panels, counting is based on externally apparent vertical sections. No examination of the internal construction is required.

This proposed counting for electrical cabinets and panels is to be applied for a wide range of panel sizes. However, recognizing that the ignition frequency is more a function of the cabinet contents than the cabinet size, a basis is needed to address outlier conditions. It is proposed that each user be required to establish criteria for identifying the outliers and the basis for counting them. As an example, they can be counted by establishing a nominal 'standard' or reference cabinet size. The count could also be based on evaluating the cabinet internals relative to a defined 'standard' or reference configuration.

For example, a particular user may define a cabinet with any horizontal dimension more than 8 feet as an outlier, and a 'standard' cabinet as being nominally 4 feet in length x 3 feet deep. (cabinet height is not generally an issue based on the use of vertical sections). Using this example, the following cabinet and panel examples would be counted as follows:

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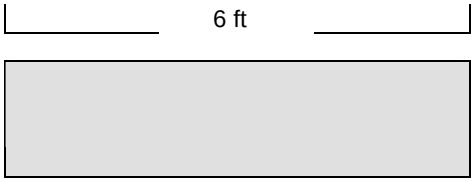
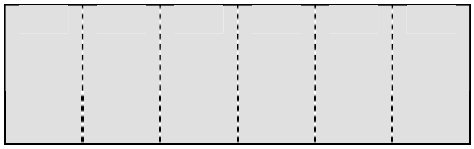


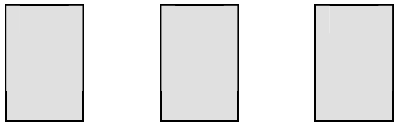
Cabinet is not an outlier –
Count = 1

Cabinet is same as standard
Count = 1

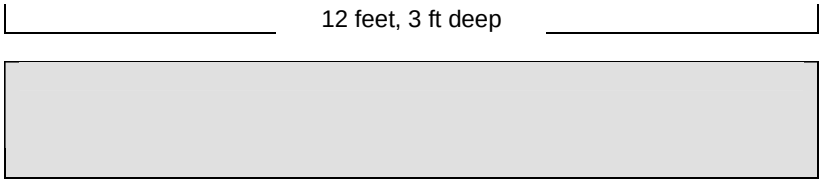


Externally, the cabinet appears to have 6 vertical sections. The construction of internal dividers is unknown or open.
Count = 6

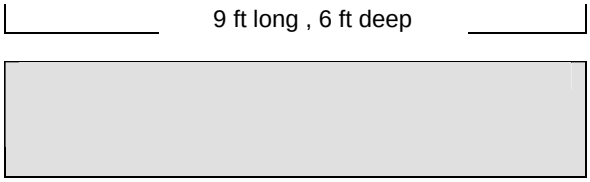
Internal dividers are solid
Count = 6



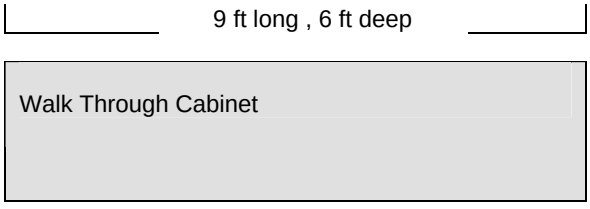
Three independent cabinets
Count = 3



Panel is an outlier, using a 4' standard cabinet -
Count = 3



Cabinet is an outlier, no evaluation of contents, based on reference cabinet
Count = 3 – due to both variation from the standard length and width..



Cabinet is an outlier, evaluation of contents shows small set of ignition sources typical of the standard cabinet -
Count = 1

The intent is that a basis for the counting of outliers is required. A volumetric comparison is not required. Also, to prevent any appearance that this treatment is intended to be based on physical measurements, the proposed approach allows only integer counting. The assignment of fractional values would not be allowed. In addition, the proposed methodology retains the option for screening small cabinets resulting in a count of zero for them (as discussed in NUREG/CR-6850). As applied in this case, the user would be allowed to screen cabinets or panels based on defined criteria and exclude them from the overall population count. When performing detailed fire modeling, the fire should be applied to the actual cabinet footprint by vertical section, including outliers.

Basis:

The existing guidance in NUREG/CR-6850 is based on industry data which has only been provided with fidelity adequate to support plant level ignition frequencies for electrical cabinets. Although the guidance does address the broad applicability of the data, it leaves room for variability that can create issues with PRA quality. It is important that the ignition frequency results be of sufficient quality to support not only NFPA-805 transition but also the more broad scope of regulatory inspection and enforcement issues.

The guidance proposed will provide more consistency when determining plant specific electrical cabinet ignition frequencies while working within the bounds of the exiting data provided by the NUREG. This should facilitate the review and acceptability of the results.