

GIC risk for Scotland

Final Outcome

Since 1st April 2005 when National Grid took over being the system operator for Scotland, the procedure for Geomagnetically Induced Currents has not been updated. This procedure now needs to be updated to include Scotland.

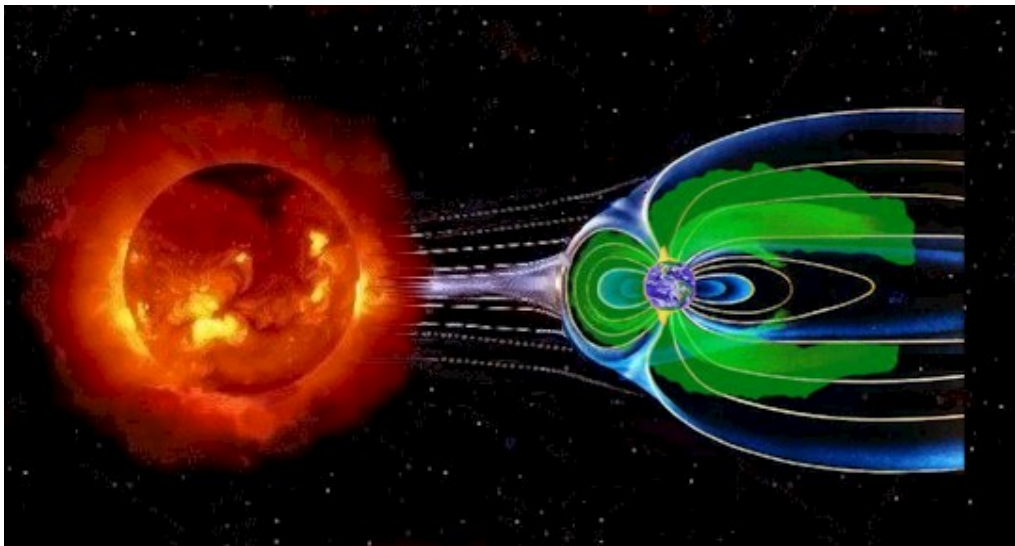
A decision needs to be made about investing in a GIC warning system as the one used during the last solar cycle has now been decommissioned, as the computer system is now out of date. To make an informed decision about the need for a warning system the risk to the whole of the UK is needed.

To Date

I have talked to Alan Thomson from the British Geological Survey, Tom Cumming and David McMenemy from Scottish Power and Bob Brownlie from Scottish and Southern. I am in the process of gathering information regarding transformers at risk to GIC's to assess the risk posed.

What is a GIC?

A GIC is a geomagnetically induced current that occurs due to solar flares and coronal mass ejections interacting with the Earth's magnetic field. With the changing magnetic field a current is induced in transformers and can saturate them causing problems in operating correctly and in extreme cases a transformer can trip out causing blackouts.



For further information please contact Beth Salter,
Elizabeth.Salter@uk.ngrid.com or Chris Rogers,
Christopher.Rogers@uk.ngrid.com