

A New Adaptive Underfrequency Load Shedding Scheme to Improve Frequency Stability in Electric Power System

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ABSTRACT

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This paper proposes a new adaptive underfrequency load shedding scheme (UFLS) to avoid frequency instability in electrical power system during abnormal wide area disturbances. The developed scheme is based on online monitoring of the distance relay zone 3 decisions of some tie lines using (WAMS) and SCADA/EMS systems, to check rapidly and reliably the uncontrolled islanding conditions and, permit an automatic load shedding action to maintain frequency stability of power system. Simulation results on 400 kV Turkish transmission systems demonstrated the effectiveness of the proposed scheme compared to current frequency load shedding schemes which they cannot consider all possible circumstances because of their limited access to the power network data. Simulation results clearly indicate that large disturbances in power systems can be avoided and their propagation can also be stopped using the proposed scheme.

1. INTRODUCTION

During later decades, many major blackouts have been experienced in different countries of the world. On July 31, 2012, the most severe blackout in history of the world was occurred in Indian Electricity Grids. This blackout affected more than 620 million people and about 1.4 GW power was lost. During the system disturbance the Indian power system was separated into three areas (Northern-Eastern, Eastern and Western areas). The enormous unbalance between load and supply in each area caused a significant frequency deviate. This situation led to a total power system blackout in around 20s [1]. On September, 28th, 2003, the tripping of some heavily loaded 400 kV transmission lines at the corridor between Italy and its neighboring systems, led to the disconnection of the Italian power system from the UCTE power system. This separation caused a loss of 6651 MW power import and the frequency rapidly dropped. The operation of the primary frequency control and UFLS scheme could not stop the frequency decrease. Finally, the frequency dropped further and caused a total blackout [2, 3]. Also, In Turkey on March 31, 2015 a cascading failure of some tie lines caused interruption of all customers connected to the network of the country with a total of 33450 MW lost [4]. During the system disturbance the Eastern and Western Turkish subsystems were separated. The huge imbalance of about 4700 MW that have experienced the Eastern and Western subsystem caused the collapse of the Network in around 10 sec. Indeed, the causes of the instability incidents mentioned above are multiple and one of them is directly related to the inability of load shedding scheme to bring the frequency back to a safer level in the formed islands after the system split [5]. In fact, UFLS scheme being used to mitigate a rapid decrease in frequency due to unbalance between production and consumption in power system [6]. However, current UFLS schemes used by most energy utilities around the world are based on static models in which the

thresholds and the load to be shed are based only on frequency measurements [7]. So, the amounts of load that be shed by these schemes are fixe irrespective of the magnitude of disturbance [8]. This may lead to under-shedding and over shedding problems and can further deteriorate the frequency stability of the electrical network [9-11].

In order to improve the operation of these conventional UFLS schemes during instability conditions, different techniques are proposed in the literature. UFLS Schemes based on the measurement of the rate of the frequency change (df / dt) have been designed to avoid the drawbacks of UFLS scheme which was based only on frequency amplitude measurements [12, 13]. Thus, the power deficit is calculated immediately after the disturbance and the load to be shed will be optimized according to variations of electrical system parameters as well as the dynamics of the disturbance. However, during various transient events the measurements of the frequency and its derivative can present large errors due to rapid variation of the conditions of the electrical network. In this case, the UFLS could not shed accurate amount of load and the power deficit estimation will be affected [14, 15]. The use of a hybrid load shedding scheme which takes into account both frequency and voltage variations has been studied in reference [16]. So, this scheme allowed shedding appropriate amount of load using both voltage and frequency load shedding relays. Different artificial intelligence-based schemes have been also employed to accurately estimate the power deficit during frequency instability conditions [17-21]. Centralized load shedding schemes have been suggested to execute a global load shedding decision using modern communication devices as reported in the references [22-24]. However, in practice, the lack of information about the amount of load that has been shed by frequency load shedding relays would greatly affect the reliability of these schemes. The mentioned weakness can be overcome by the use of new schemes that based on Wide Area Measurement System

(WAMS). Thus, the power imbalance is measured in real time using phasor measurement units (PMUs) [25-29]. This allows also shedding the correct amount of load and hence stabilizes the balance between generation and load in power system. Another new adaptive load shedding scheme based wide area measurements is carried out in Duong et al. [30]. In this work the load to be shed is evaluated based on three parameters, network structure, location and the amount of the power deficit in each under frequency area of power system.

It should be noted that all the techniques used by the load shedding schemes mentioned above have the same common principle which consists in shedding a certain load in order to restore the frequency to an acceptable level during instability conditions. However, under some frequency instability conditions such as observed during the aforementioned incidents, the application of underfrequency load shedding schemes was unable to improve frequency stability of the electric power system. Despite the total amount of charge, which was shed by the UFLS scheme during these incidents, was greater than the initial power deficit, but this could not arrest the rapid frequency drop and the frequency instability could not be avoided. In order to improve the operation of load shedding schemes in such situations, a new adaptive UFLS scheme based real time measurements from WAMS and SCADA/EMS system is proposed. Effectiveness of proposed scheme is validated by dynamic simulation on applied 400 kV Turkish electrical network. Details of the proposed scheme are given in the ensuing sections.

2. AUTOMATIC UNDERFREQUENCY LOAD SHEDDING

2.1 Basic principle of automatic underfrequency load shedding

Automatic underfrequency load shedding scheme is used as tool to mitigate the frequency drop caused by particular system disturbances. The load-shedding is carried out by an under-frequency relay, which sends trip commands to disconnect part

of the load in distribution stations (Figure 1) [31]. The tripping actions are performed in several stages and each stage has its own setting frequency and the load to be shed. The values of the frequency setting and the load to be shed for each stage are determined off line, basing on the experiences and the simulations [32].

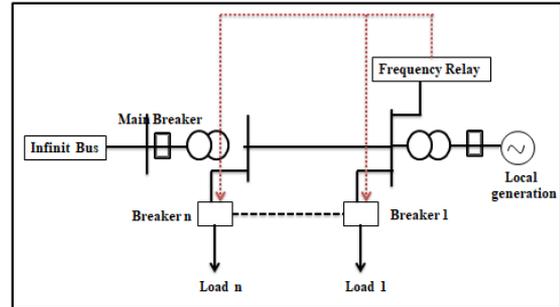


Figure 1. Under frequency load shedding scheme

The total amount of load to be shed (LD) can be calculated by Eq. (1) [3].

$$LD = \frac{\frac{L}{L+1} - d \left(1 - \frac{f_{min}}{f_n}\right)}{1 - d \left(1 - \frac{f_{min}}{f_n}\right)} \quad (1)$$

where, d is the load reduction factor, f_{min} and f_n are respectively the minimum and nominal frequencies allowed. L is the amount of anticipated load (L).

The anticipated load L is expressed by Eq. (2) [9].

$$L = \frac{\text{Total load} - \text{Total generation}}{\text{Total generation}} \quad (2)$$

2.2 Settings of load shedding scheme in Turkish power system

Table 1. Total amount of load shed by UFLS scheme in Turkish power system [4]

Region		Total design Value in (MW)	Total design value in (%)
West Island	Thrace	1706.6	5.2%
	Northwest Anatolia	2027.9	6.2
	West Anatolia	1891.3	5.8
	Southwest Mediterranean	666.5	2.0
	Middle Anatolia	1427.6	4.4
	Total	7719.9	23.5
	Middle Anatolia	336.6	1.0
East Island	Northeast Anatolia	234.2	0.7
	East Anatolia	176.7	0.5
	Southeast Anatolia	1337.4	4.1
	Southeast Mediterranean	1846.3	5.6
	Total	3931.2	12
Total		11651.1	35.5

Table 2. Settings of Load Shedding Scheme in Turkish power system

Stage	Settings (Hz)	Time (Sec)	The amount of load shed (MW)	
			East Area	West Area
Stage 1	49	0.15	510.4	1430.8
Stage 2	48.8	0.15	1692.3	1514.3
Stage 3	48.6	0.15	1026.7	2270
Stage 4	48.4	0.15	1212.2	2319.8

Table 3. Total amount of load shed

	Region	Real shed load in MW	Real shed load in %
West Island	Thrace	1641	5.0%
	Northwest Anatolia	1018	3.1
	West Anatolia	1059	3.2
	Southwest Mediterranean	516	1.6
	Middle Anatolia	583	1.8
	Total	4817	14.7
East Island	Middle Anatolia	204	0.6
	Northeast Anatolia	242.2	0.7
	East Anatolia	0	0
	Southeast Anatolia	683	2.1
	Southeast Mediterranean	1148.1	2.1
	Total	2277.3	6.9
Total		7094.3	21.6

The current underfrequency load shedding scheme is designed to shed the amount of load of around 11651.1MW in order to keep the frequency stable with frequency ranges from 48.4 to 49 Hz. Indeed, as can be seen in Table 3 the UFLS scheme did not work properly during this blackout since the total amount of load that shed for both two areas were 7094.3 MW. This amount of load represents only a rate of 21.6% compared to the total reference load of UFLS scheme. The reason is that current UFLS scheme is designed to protect the system against small power deficiencies such as a generating unit outage or a sudden increase of load. But, during this event the resulting imbalances between the generation and the load of the formed islands after a system split reached exceptional values. As result, each island of the power system experienced severe frequency transients that induced the tripping of several generators across the power system. So, the available countermeasures could not stop the system frequency deviation in both two areas and the power system experienced a total blackout.

4.2 A new adaptive underfrequency load shedding scheme

To overcome the weaknesses of current UFLS schemes and improve their reliability, a new adaptive scheme based real time measurements from Wide Area Measurement System (WAMS) and SCADA/EMS system is proposed [37]. The amounts of load to be shed by proposed scheme are determined on the basis of the real-time measurements of the imbalance between load and generation in each area before uncontrolled system split. Usually, the maximum allowable imbalance in each area formed after the system split is in accordance with the appropriate actions used by the electric utility. In this work, an imbalance rate of 20% for each area was chosen as the maximum admissible imbalance [38].

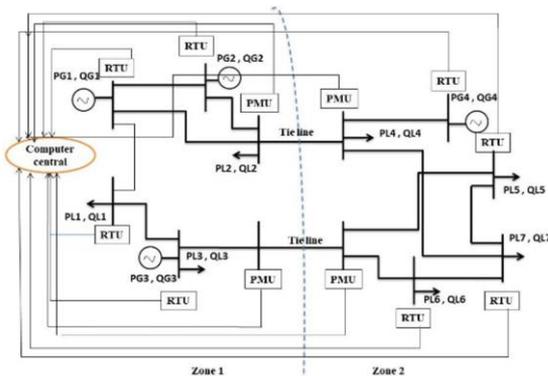


Figure 5. Illustration of the new algorithm principle

Figure 5 illustrates the transmission system and application of the new algorithm.

The application of this new scheme requires:

-i) First the supervision of distance relay zone 3 decision of all tie lines between areas, to quickly check the uncontrolled islanding conditions. In accordance with time-synchronized phasor measurements, zone 3 secondary impedance is calculated using the following equations [39]:

$$Z_{seen} = \frac{V_{Relay}}{I_{Relay}} = K_Z \cdot Z_3 = \left(\frac{K_{VT}}{K_{CT}} \right) \cdot Z_3 \quad (3)$$

where:

$$K_{VT} = \frac{V_{PRIMARY}}{V_{SECONDARY}} \quad (4)$$

$$K_{CT} = \frac{I_{PRIMARY}}{I_{SECONDARY}} \quad (5)$$

K_{VT} and K_{CT} are respectively the ratios of the voltage and current transformers.

-ii) Then, the value of the balance between power generation and consumption for each area is measured from SCADA system. The measurements are obtained every 1-2 seconds. The calculations of these values are obtained from following equations [1]:

$$L_1 = \frac{\sum(P_{G1} + P_{G2} + P_{G3}) - \sum(P_{L1} + P_{L2} + P_{L3})}{\sum(P_{G1} + P_{G2} + P_{G3})} \quad (6)$$

$$L_2 = \frac{\sum(P_{G4}) - \sum(P_{L4} + P_{L5} + P_{L6} + P_{L7})}{\sum(P_{G4})} \quad (7)$$

-The required amount of load to be shed for each area by proposed scheme is determined based on the following formulas:

$$L_{Shed1} = L_{Cal1} - L_{Critical} \quad (8)$$

$$L_{Shed2} = L_{Cal2} - L_{Critical} \quad (9)$$

where:

- $L_{Critical}$ is the maximum allowable imbalance in each area

formed after the system split.

- L_{Cal1} and L_{Cal2} represent the balance between power generation and consumption for area 1 and area 2 respectively.

A flexible communication Network is used to send measured data to a central computer where secondary impedance, the balance generation/consumption and load to be shed are calculated.

Figure 6 shows flowchart of proposed UFLS scheme.

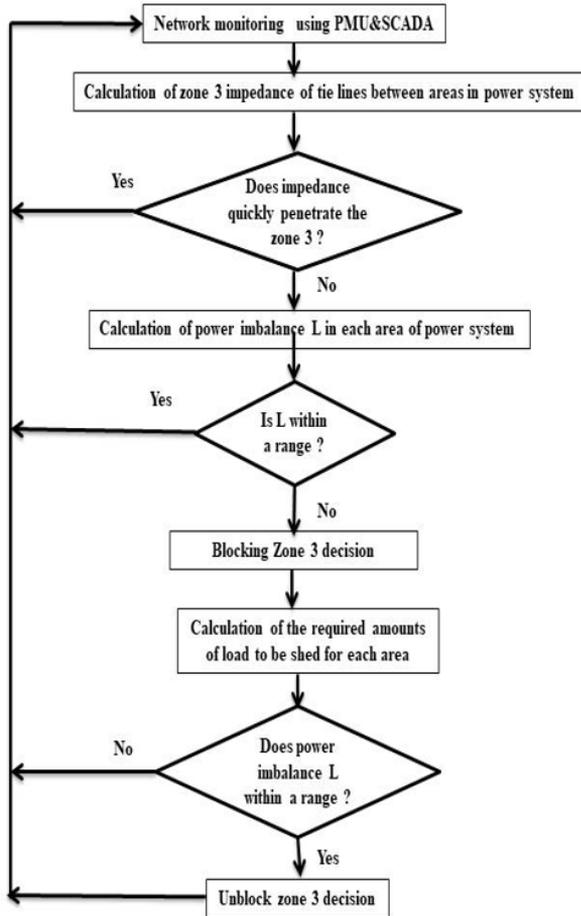


Figure 6. Flowchart of proposed UFLS scheme

The principle of proposed scheme will now be described.

Once the measured impedance encroaches on the zone 3 tripping characteristic of any tie line, the algorithm must check the impedance locus to distinguish between a fault and stress condition by measuring the rate of change of voltage magnitude index dv/dt . So, if the trajectory speed of the impedance locus moves into the zone 3 tripping characteristic quickly (high ratio of dv/dt), this one is treated to be a fault, and the corresponding action is taken. However, if the progression of the impedance is slow (low ratio of dv/dt), the Network state is considered as to be a stress condition and the zone 3 distance relay decision must be blocked. In this case, the proposed scheme proceeds to the calculation of the imbalance between load and generation L_{cal} in each area of the Network. If the measured value L_{cal} in each area is within range (less than 20%), the activation of load shedding actions is not required. Otherwise, in the case if the power/load balance in areas is violated (L_{cal} greater than 20%), the required load to be shed will be calculated in real time by the proposed UFLS scheme and the trip commands will immediately send to shed loads at different substations. It is worth noting that by shedding some premitted amount of load, the reactive and

active power flows transmitted from the exporting to importing area through tie lines will be reduced. Consequently, the trajectory of impedance will leave zone 3 tripping characteristic, and cascade tripping of tie lines by false operating of distance relay protection can be prevented. So, the uncontrolled system split scenario that led to total collapse or blackout can be avoided.

5. SIMULATION RESULTS

In order to verify the effectiveness of the proposed scheme, a real 400 kV, 50 Hz Turkish electrical transmission system is simulated in SICRE software package. SICRE is an integrated software tool for static and dynamic analyses of large power systems. SICRE package was developed by Centro Elettrotecnico Sperimentale Italiano company (CESI) in order to comply with a large variety of application domains [40-42]. Turkish electrical transmission system contains two main voltage levels 400 and 220 kV. During the simulation we use the same data that of Turkish power system on March 31, 2015. So, the total load of the system was about 33450. The Turkish power system had total generation of 32995 MW and import from Bulgaria of around 500 MW. The Western and Eastern subsystems have a load of 21870 MW and 11080 MW respectively. Before the disturbance, the power flow was about 4800 MW from Area 2 to Area 1. The exporting corridor is divided into eight 400 kV transmission lines and each end of transmission line is equipped by PMU unit. These lines are protected by distance relays [7, 43-45]. These latter are located at both ends of the tie lines. The parameters of these transmission lines and distance relays impedance zones are summarized in the appendix [39]. Mho characteristics were also considered in the simulation.

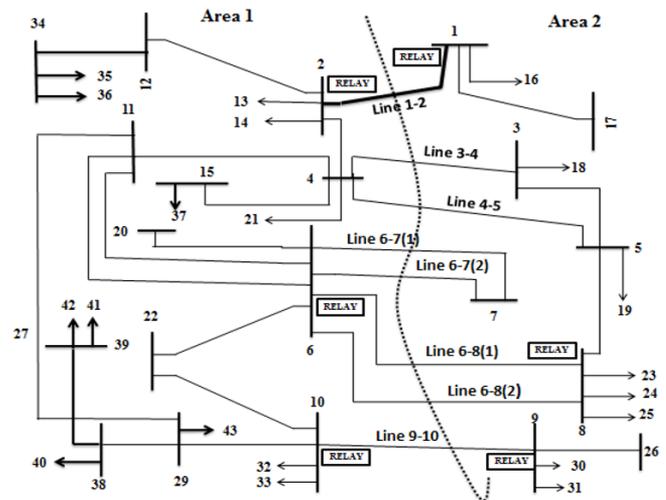


Figure 7. Single diagram of test system

The simulation procedures have been conducted for the two cases: current scheme UFLS and, that one of the proposed schemes.

5.1 Simulations using current UFLS scheme

Impact of the current UFLS scheme on the frequency stability during the blackout is investigated in this section. This scheme includes 4 stages whose actions are performed according to the settings in the Table 2. Figure 8 shows

development of the system frequency during the blackout.

As can be seen from the results, despite the tripping of several transmission lines at the beginning of the incident, the synchronism between the both areas were not lost and the frequency remains stable. On the other hand, the complete disconnection of both two areas is registered after 10 seconds from the first event and the imbalance between generation and consumption in each area tends to increase. As a consequence, the frequency of area 1 dropped to 48.02 Hz and the frequency of area 2 roses to 52.5 Hz. Although the operation of the UFLS scheme in zone 1 temporarily stabilized the fall in frequency, but this was not enough to bring the frequency back to a safer level. The reason is that after the loss of a 4800 MW electricity import from area 2, the frequency dropped suddenly which led to the untimely tripping of several generators in this area. This situation led to a further decrease in frequency and finally led to a total blackout of area 1. On the contrary, the second area faced a surplus of generation power of around 4700 MW, which induced a rapid increase in frequency. Thus, several generation units sensitive to the high frequency value suddenly tripped and the amount of approximately 11 GW of power generation was disconnected. However, this also could not restore the frequency at normal value and the power system of this area collapsed within a few seconds. This situation leads to full power system blackout. The results obtained demonstrate that the operation of the current UFLS scheme applied in the Turkish network was not sufficient to arrest the frequency drop during the blackout. Indeed, additional emergency control measures must be necessary to avoid frequency instability during such events.

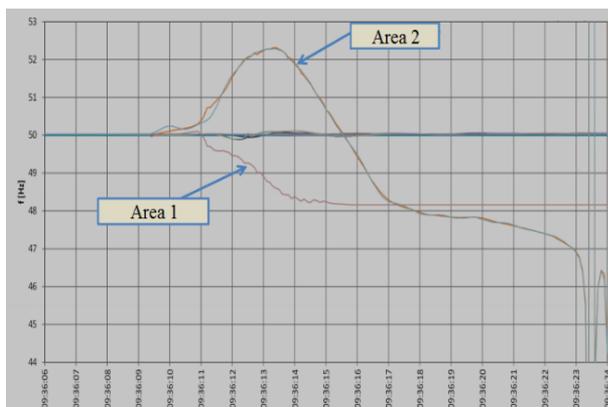


Figure 8. Power system frequencies during complete blackout sequence

5.2 Simulations using proposed scheme

The proposed scheme to avoid frequency instability during Turkish wide-area blackout, is examined in this section. The first tie line 1-2 initially tripped by the protection relay during the blackout, was considered as critical tie line. The loss of this line was initiating the fast tripping of all tie lines located between area 1 and area 2. This uncontrolled split of the power system has led to a significant underfrequency conditions in area 1 and over-frequency conditions in area 2. This situation widens the fault area and lead to total blackout. So, the first step in the application of proposed methodology is the use of Phasor measurement units (PMU) located in each side of the lines between two areas to supervision the impedance trajectory, seen by the distance relays. This strategy allows the direct measurements of real-time phasor of voltages and

currents. Signals from the global positioning system are used to achieve synchronization by same time sampling of voltage and current wave forms. Figure 7, of the previous work [39], depicts trajectory of the impedance seen by the distance relay located at substation 1. We can see that the load is increased up to the maximum power value available (1625 MVA). The results are analyzed in the reference [39].

Nevertheless, blocking the relay operation during these conditions is not enough to prevent a cascaded tripping of the power system. The proposed scheme will begin to check the load - generation levels L for each power system area.

The simulation results show that the measured value of the unbalance between generation and load in each area is greater than 20%. According to proposed scheme this situation automatically activated adaptive UFLS scheme in the area 1. The operation of proposed UFLS scheme was implemented in a single stage and the amount of load shed in area 1 is illustrated in Table 4.

Table 4. Total amount of load shed by proposed scheme in west area

Region	Station	Real shed load (MW)
Thrace	Hamitabat	22
	Kaptançelic	18
	Ambarli A	17
	Ambarli B	20
	Yenibosna	22
	Habeler	23
	Içdas	21
	Bekirli	19
	Adapazan	14
	Beykoz	28
Northwest Anatolia	Paşakoy	24
	Omranlye	22
	Yédiztepe	25
	Makine	12
	Golakoğlu	19
	Morsan	28
West Anatolia	Soma Res	18
	Bakkeşir	22
	Bekirli	15
	Izdemir	19
	Allaga	24
	Soma	12
	Kemerkoç	12
Southwest Mediterranean	Yenikoy	16
	Varsak	08
	Yatagan	10
	Germençik	14
Middle Anatolia	Afyon	18
	Konya	15
	Temelli	19
	Sincan	20
	Akşa	12
	Eşkisehir	21
Total		626

From the results presented in Figure 9 we can see that the amount of shed load by proposed scheme directly impacts on the measured impedance. It is seen that the impedance is increasing out of the zone 3 of the tripping characteristic. The distance relay could correctly operate, and cascaded tripping of other tie lines will be prevented.

Therefore, the simulation results show that by implementation of proposed UFLS scheme, the power system was secured against unpredictable and uncontrolled islanding conditions.

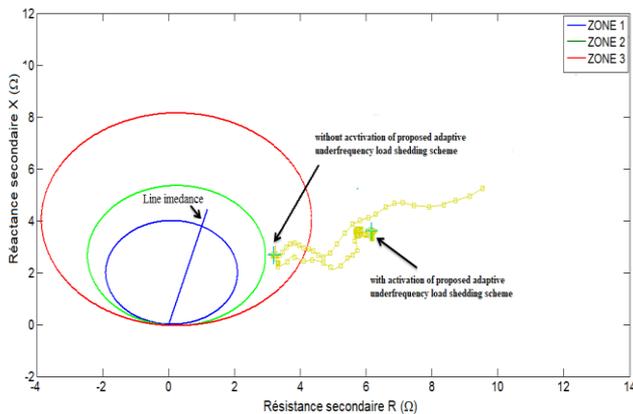


Figure 9. Impedance trajectory seen by distance relay after activation of proposed adaptive UFLS scheme in area 1

6. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, a new adaptive underfrequency load shedding scheme based wide area measurements from WAMS and SCADA/EMS systems is proposed to improve frequency instability in electrical power system during abnormal conditions.

This scheme is based on the supervision of the distance relay zone 3 decisions of all tie lines between areas using PMU units to initiate underfrequency load shedding actions in order to avoid severe split conditions which could lead to a total collapse or blackout. So, the amount of the load to be shed can be calculated fast and accurately using real time information of the ratio between power generation and load in each area of power system. Thus, the amount of the load to be shed by proposed scheme is basing on the location and amount of the power deficit in the area where the load is connected. The simulation results clearly indicate that the frequency stability problem in the power system was effectively improved by implementing proposed adaptive underfrequency load shedding scheme comparatively with the existing underfrequency load shedding schemes that based only on qualitative off-line analyses for severe contingency scenarios.

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NOMENCLATURE

UFLS	Underfrequency load shedding scheme
PMU	Phasor measurement unit
WAMS	Wide area measurement system
SCADA	Supervision control and data acquisition
EMS	Energy management system

APPENDIX

Transmissions lines parameters and Impedance zone settings:

-**Line1-2:** Length=206.9 km; positive sequence $X= 55.1\Omega$; $R=4.8\ \Omega$; zero sequence: $X0= 206.8\ \Omega$; $R0= 63.1\ \Omega$. Zone 1: $X1= 46.83\ \Omega$, $R1= 4.08\ \Omega$; Zone 2: $X2= 82.65\ \Omega$, $R2= 7.2\ \Omega$; Zone 3: $X3= 110.2\ \Omega$, $R3= 9.6\ \Omega$.

- **Line 6-8(1):** Length=216.5 km; positive sequence $X1= 57.2\ \Omega$; $R1= 5\ \Omega$; zero sequence: $X0= 216.3\ \Omega$; $R0= 66.4\ \Omega$. Zone 1: $X1= 48.62\ \Omega$, $R1=4.25\Omega$; Zone 2: $X2= 85.8\Omega$, $R2=7.5\Omega$; Zone 3: $X3= 114.4\ \Omega$, $R3= 10\Omega$.

- Line 9-10: Length=175 km; positive sequence $X1= 52.8\ \Omega$; $R1= 5.2\ \Omega$; zero sequence: $X0= 180.4\Omega$; $R0= 50.9\Omega$. Zone 1: $X1= 44.8\Omega$, $R1=4.42\Omega$; Zone 2: $X2= 79.2\ \Omega$, $R2=7.8\ \Omega$; Zone 3: $X3= 105.6\Omega$, $R3= 10.4\ \Omega$.