The TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR NITROGEN INJECTION SYSTEM FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE FIRE & EXPLOSION FOR EXISTING TRANSFORMERS

Nitrogen Injection system for protection against the transformer explosion for 132 KV Transformers 10/16 MVA, including all required civil works of oil sump, foundations, and any other required for satisfactory working of system.

Each oil filled transformer shall be provided with a dedicated Nitrogen Injection system for prevention against the transformer explosion which shall use nitrogen as quenching medium. The system shall prevent transformer explosion and possible fire in case of internal / external cause. The system should have a smoke detector in the control room to trip the control circuits.

In the event of fire by external causes such as bushing fire, OLTC fires, fire from surrounding equipment etc., it shall act as a fast and effective fire fighter. It shall accomplish its role as fire preventer and extinguisher without employing water or carbon dioxide. Fire shall be extinguished within reasonable with time (not more than 3 minutes so as not to harm the transformer) of system activation and within 30 seconds (maximum) of commencement of nitrogen injection. The system shall have been in successful operation / commissioned in Indian / Abroad installations for at least last five years for protection of transformers of 132 KV and higher voltage class.

Activation of the system

Mal-functioning of the Nitrogen injection system could lead to interruption in power supply. The system shall ensure that the probabilities of chances of malfunctioning of the Nitrogen injection system are practically zero.

To achieve this objective, the system should activate scheme of signals which should not be too complicated to make the system inoperative in case of actual need. The system shall be provided with automatic controls to prevent the explosion of transformers. Besides automatic control, remote electrical push button control at Control box and local manual control in the cubicle shall also be provided. The following electrical-signals shall be used for activating the system under prevention mode/fire extinguishing mode.

Auto Mode

For prevention:

- Differential relay operation.
- Buchholz relay paralleled with pressure relief valve or RPRR (Rapid Pressure Rise Relay)
- Tripping of all circuit breakers (on HV & LV side) associated transformer is the pre-requisite for activation of system.
For extinguishing

- Smoke detector
- Fire Detector
- Buchholz relay paralleled with pressure relief valve or RPRR (Rapid Pressure Rise Relay).

Tripping of all circuit breakers (on HV & LV side) associated with transformer is the pre-requisite for activation of system.

Manual Mode (Local / Remote)

Tripping of all circuit breakers (on HV & LV / LV side) associated with transformer is the pre-requisite for activation of system.

Manual Mode (Mechanical)

Tripping of all circuit breakers (on HV & LV / LV side) associated with transformer is the pre-requisite for activation of system. The system shall be designed to be operated manually / by DC 220V (in remote) in case of failure of power supply to the system.

General description

Nitrogen Injection system should be a dedicated system for each oil filled transformer. It should have a Fire Extinguishing Cubicle (FEC) placed on a plinth at a distance of 5-10 m away from transformer or placed next to the firewall (if fire fighting wall exists). The FEC shall be connected to the top of transformer oil tank for depressurization of tank and to the oil pit (capacity is approximately equal to 10% of total volume of oil in transformer or existing oil pit) from its bottom through oil pipes. The FEC should house a pressurized nitrogen cylinder (s) which is connected to the oil tank of transformer oil tank at bottom. The Transformer Conservator Isolation Valve (TCIV) is fitted between the conservator tank and Buchholz relay.

Cable connections are to be provided from signal box to the control box in the control room, from control box to FEC and from TCIV to signal box. Detectors placed on the top of transformer tank are to be connected in parallel to the signal box by Fire survival cables. Control box is also to be connected to relay panel in control room for receiving system activation signals.

Operation

On receipt of all activating signals, the system shall drain – predetermined volume of hot oil from the top of tank (i.e. top oil layer), through outlet valve, to reduce tank pressure by removing top oil and simultaneously injecting nitrogen gas at high pressure for stirring the oil at pre-fixed rate and thus bringing the temperature of top oil layer down. Transformer conservator isolation valve blocks the flow of oil from conservator tank in case of tank rupture / explosion or bushing bursting. Nitrogen occupies the space created by oil drained out and acts as an insulating layer over oil in the tank and thus preventing aggravation of fire.
System components

Nitrogen Injection system shall broadly consist of the following components. However, all other components which are necessary for fast reliable and effective working of the system shall deemed to be included in the scope of supply.

CUBICLE (FEC)

The Cubicle Frame shall be made of CRCA sheet of 3mm (minimum) thick complete with the base frame, painted inside and outside with post office red colour (shade 538 of IS -5). It shall have hugged / hinged split doors fitted with high quality tamper proof lock. The doors, removable covers and panels shall be gasketted all round with neoprene gaskets. The degree of protection shall be IP55. The following items shall be provided in the Cubicle

- Nitrogen gas cylinder with regulator and falling pressure electrical contact manometer.
- Oil drain pipe with mechanical quick drain valve.
- Electro mechanical control equipment for draining of oil of predetermined volume and injecting regulated volume of nitrogen gas.
- Pressure monitoring switch for back-up protection for nitrogen release.
- Limit switches for monitoring of the system.
- Butterfly valve with flanges on the top of panel for connecting oil drain pipe and nitrogen injection pipes for transformer.
- Panel lighting (CFL Type/LED type)
- Oil drain pipe extension of suitable sizes for connecting pipes to oil pit /soak pit.
- Space heater.

Control box

Control box is to be placed in the control room for monitoring system operation, automatic control and remote operation. The following alarms, indications, switches, push buttons, audio signal etc. shall be provided.

- Smoke detector
- System Oil.
- TCIV open.
- Oil drain valve closed.
- Gas inlet valve closed
- TCIV closed
- Detector trip
- Buchholz relay trip
- Oil drain valve open
- Extinction in progress
- Cylinder pressure low
- Differential relay trip
- PRV / RPRR trip
- Transformer trip
- System out of service
• Fault in cable connecting fault detector
• Fault in cable connecting differential relay
• Fault in cable connecting Buchholz relay
• Fault in cable connecting PRV / RPRR
• Fault in cable connecting transformer trip
• Fault in cable connecting TCIV
• Auto / Manual / Off
• Extinction release on / off
• Lamp test
• Visual / Audio alarm for AC supply fail
• Visual / Audio alarm for DC supply fail

As far as possible the control box should be such devised that all the transformers or group thereof should be controlled from single spot.

Transformer Conservator Isolation Valve.

Transformer conservator isolation valve (TCIV) to be fitted in the conservator pipe line, between conservator and buchholz relay which shall operate for isolating the conservator during abnormal flow of oil due to rupture / explosion of tank or bursting of bushing. The valve shall not isolate conservator during normal flow of oil during filtration or filling or refilling, locking plates to be provided with handle for pad locking. It shall have proximity switch for remote alarm, indication with visual position indicator.

The TCIV should be of the best quality as malfunctioning of TCIV could lead to serious consequence. The closing of TCIV means stoppage of breathing of transformer. Locking plates shall be provided for pad locking.

Detectors

The system shall be completing with adequate number of detectors (quartz bulb) fitted on the top cover of the transformer oil tank.

Signal box

It shall be mounted away from transformer / reactor main tank, preferably near the transformer marshalling box, for terminating cable connections from TCIV & detectors and for further connection to be control box. The degree of protection shall be IP55.

Cables

Fire survival cables (capable to withstand 750º C.) of 4 core x 1.5 sq. mm size for connection of detectors in parallel shall be used. The fire survival cable shall conform to BS 7629-1, BS 8434-1, BS 7629-1 and BS 5839-1, BS EN 50267-2-1 or relevant Indian standards.

Fire Retardant Low Smoke (FRLS) cable of adequate size shall be used for connection of signal box / marshalling box near transformer / reactor and FEC mounted near transformer / reactor with control box mounted in control room. Fire Retardant Low Smoke (FRLS) cable of 4 core x 1.5 sq. mm size shall be used for connection between control box to DC & AC supply source, FEC to AC supply source, signal box / marshalling box to transformer conservator isolation valve connection on transformer / reactor. Separate cables for AC supply & DC supply shall be used.
Pipes

Pipes complete with connections, flanges, bends and tees etc. shall be supplied along with the system.

Other items to be supplied.

(a) Oil drain and nitrogen injection openings with gate valves on transformer at suitable locations.
(b) Flanges between Buchholz relay and conservator tank for fixing TCIV.
(c) Detector brackets on transformer / reactor tank top cover.
(d) Spare potential free contacts activating the system i.e. in differential relay, Bucholz relay. Pressure Relief Device / RPRR, Circuit breaker of transformer.
(e) Pipe connections between transformer / reactor and FEC and between FEC and oil pit required for collecting top oil.
(f) Cabling for detectors mounted on transformer / reactor top cover.
(g) Inter cabling between signal box, control box and FEC.
(h) Butterfly valves / Gate valves on oil drain pipe and nitrogen injection pipe which should be able to withstand full vacuum.
(i) Supports, signal box etc. which are to be painted with enameled paint.
(j) Any other item required for satisfactory operation of system.

Power supply

For Control Box 220 V / 110 V DC For FEC Auxiliary 230 V AC

Spares for three (3) years Operation & Maintenance

spares list recommendation spares for three years trouble free operation of the equipments and also furnish unit rates. The owners will scrutinize the said list and decide on the items on spares to be ordered and the quantities. These spares shall be supplied by the contractor before end of guarantee period. The owner reserves right to order the spares with twelve (12) months from the date of order for main equipments and the rate shall be kept valid till this date.

Mandatory Spares

Cylinder filled with Nitrogen of required Capacity per substation. - 1 No.
Detectors per transformer - 3 No.
Regulator assembly per sub-station - 1 No.

Modification on the transformer

No modification on the transformer shall be allowed which affects its performance (i.e. efficiency, losses, heat dissipation ability etc.) safety, life etc. or it’s any other useful parameter. This requirement shall be paramount importance and shall form the essence of the contract. However, in any case, performance of transformer should not be affected in any manner by having Nitrogen Injection Fire Prevention Cum Extinguishing System (NIFPES) and the Contractor / Sub-Contractor shall give an undertaking to this effect. All pipes should be washed / rinsed with transformer oil. If any damage is done to the transformer and / or any connected equipment during installation & commissioning full recovery therefore shall be effected from the Contractor / Sub-Contractor, of NIFPES system.
It shall be solely the responsibility of supplier to install, carry out pre-commissioning tests & commission NIFPES at the mentioned Sub-Station in this specification, to the entire satisfaction of the SCCL.

**Interlocks**

It shall be ensured that once the NIFPES gets activated manually or in auto mode, all the connected breakers shall not close until the system is actually put in OFF mode. Also PRV shall get closed only if all the connected breakers are open.

**Tests**

Supplier has to carry out the type test as per relevant IS/IEC. Specifically IP 55 on FEC or have to produce the report from NABL approved Lab. Reports of all routine test conducted as per relevant IS/IEC standards in respect of various bought out items including test reports for degree of protection for FEC / control box / signal box shall be submitted by the supplier. The supplier shall demonstrate all the functional test associated with the following as Factory Acceptance Tests:

- Smoke detector
- FEC, Control Box
- Fire Detector
- Transformer Conservator Isolation Valve

The performance test of the complete system shall be carried out after erection of the system with transformer at site. Detailed layout drawings, equipment drawing along with 4 sets of Operation and Maintenance manual along with soft copies (In CDs) shall be submitted by the supplier along with the consignment. The guaranteed and other technical particulars for the offered system are indicated in Section - "Guaranteed and Other Technical Particulars". Any other particulars considered necessary in addition to those listed in that Section may be furnished by the supplier.