

Blade equipped with Wicetec technology

AEP losses - less than half of the truth of the economic icing losses Case example Finland

Winterwind 28.3.2023

Neighbouring turbine without heating

Wicetec – The Leader in Blade Heating

- Sells and develops carbon fiber –based blade heating technology
 - New installations with wind turbine OEMs
 - 45 retrofit installations in Quebec, Canada
- Founded in 2014 as a spin off from Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT)
- Company with most experience on wind turbine icing worldwide!
 - Key persons have 10 25 years of experience
- Strong engineering force: Composite, electrical and lightning protection, mechanical, control, software, and cyber security





Finland - as part of Nordpool market



WICETEC Ice Prevention Systems

Characteristics of Finnish Price Area

- 10 GW average electricity consumption
- Finland in the past has been relying on electricity imports
 - Situation changing due quick increase in renewables and 1,6 GW Olkiluoto 3 nuclear plant
- Import 1 GW from Russia ended 2022
- Import capacity from Northern Sweden typically "sold out" on day ahead markets due cheaper price
 - No possibility to get balancing power from Sweden



Picture source: https://www.fingrid.fi/en/electricity-market/power-system/

Wind Power Capacity in Finland

- 5 GW wind power at the end of 2022
 - 50% of average consumption
 - Concentrated in small area
- 20 GW wind power 2030



The Factors Increasing The Cost of Icing in Finland

Icing increasing factors

Many of the wind parks are built to inland instead of coastal proximity

New turbines reach higher

Modern big turbines are more sensitive for icing

Operative Factors

Forecasting the starting time of icing is difficult

Forecasting the ending time of icing is even more difficult

The icing affects most on low and medium winds, cutin speed increases, i.e., to 7-8 m/s level

Electricity market factors

Cheap balancing power not available anymore

On new balancing power contracts the cost of icing is on wind power producer

The cost of balancing power is high during the icing events due high demand

The spot price is high on low winds





Typical Ice Loss Evaluation is Outdated in Dynamic Markets

- Losses typically evaluated as percentage of annual energy production (AEP) with average electricity price
- The operating environment has changed due to quick increase of wind power
- Method does not include dynamics of electricity market:
 - Cost of sourcing the missing production
 - Intraday trade (Nordpool) and balancing power (Fingrid)
 - Value of production on low winds
 - Uncertainties: Any big production facility down at the same time. Is it weekday or weekend, night or day?







The total loss for site with expected 3% of AEP can be in real life 10%!



Example: Sunday 22.1.2023 in Finland



Example: November 14.-29.11.2022 in Finland



Example: Friday 4.2.2022 in Finland



Ice Prevention Systems

Graph & balancing power data source: https://www.fingrid.fi/ Intraday data source: https://www.nordpoolgroup.com/



Final words

Economical icing losses are greatly underestimated!

The market factors are difficult to predict.

But, you can disregard these by choosing a turbine with efficient anti-icing solution.