Methodology to calculate the density of the magnetic field generated in overhead transmission lines in HVDC applying a two-dimensional analysis of parallel poles above ground level

Metodología para calcular la densidad del campo magnético generado en líneas de transmisión aéreas en HVDC aplicando un análisis bidimensional de polos paralelos sobre el nivel del suelo

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DOI: 10.35429/EJDRC.2020.6.11.1.11 Received July 10, 2020; Accepted December 30, 2020

Abstract

The growth in the demand for electricity has led to the development and application of technologies that make its means of transport more efficient. Thus, one of these options is the implementation of transmission lines in HVDC. One of important design parameters of these lines is to know their magnetic field distribution, when it is required to calculate it, there is no methodology that can be applied to HVDC transmission lines. The following article presents a methodology that allows obtaining the density of the magnetic field on the corridor of an overhead transmission line. A case study of a 500 kV bipolar line in HVDC is presented, the results obtained are compared by using the commercial software Field and Corona Effects (FACE), the results obtained are consistent with those obtained from the presented methodology. An analysis of the impact of the transmission line configuration on the magnetic field density is developed, defining the most efficient configuration.

Resumen

El crecimiento de la demanda de energía eléctrica ha provocado el desarrollo y la aplicación de tecnologías que hacen más eficiente su medio de transporte. Así una de estas operaciones es la implementación de líneas de transmisión en HVDC. Uno de los parámetros importantes de diseño de estas líneas es conocer su distribución de campo magnético, cuando se requiere calcularlo no se cuenta con una metodología que pueda ser aplicada en las líneas de transmisión en HVDC. El siguiente artículo presenta una metodología que permite la obtención de la densidad del campo magnético sobre el corredor de una línea de transmisión aérea. Se presenta un caso de estudio de una línea bipolar de 500 kV en HVDC, los resultados obtenidos son comparados por medio del software comercial Field and Corona Effects (FACE), los resultados obtenidos son coherentes con los obtenidos a partir de la metodología presentada. Se desarrolla un análisis del impacto de la configuración de la línea de transmisión en la densidad de campo magnético, definir la configuración más eficiente.

HVDC, Imaginary poles, Line runner

Citation: AGUILAR-MARIN, Jorge Luis, CISNEROS-VILLALOBOS, Luis, PADILLA-CANTERO, Jorge Gabriel and VERGARA-VÁZQUEZ, Julio Cesar. Methodology to calculate the density of the magnetic field generated in overhead transmission lines in HVDC applying a two-dimensional analysis of parallel poles above ground level. Journal - Democratic Republic of Congo. 2020. 6-11:1-11.
Introduction

Today, one of the most efficient methods for the transmission of electrical energy is to use High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC), when it comes to providing electrical energy from long distances to a large load and that is in continuous growth (Lee, Pong & Zhu, 2019), (Tang, Luo & Wei, 2013), (Feltes, Gemmell & Retzmann, 2011).

Due to the remarkable increase in the power and reliability of AC/DC power converters, the transmission of high voltage power in HVDC has grown significantly worldwide. Currently, the voltages used for overhead transmission are in the range of ±500 to ±800 kV, with nominal currents of 1 to 4 kA (Girdinio, Molfino, Nervi, Rossi, Bertani & Malgarotti, 2015), (Baharman & Johnson, 2007).

The below the main ones are listed technical benefits of an HVDC system (Samy, 2017).

− The energy flow is fully controllable, fast and accurate.
− The link in HVDC is asynchronous and can adapt to any nominal voltage or frequency.
− Transmission lines in HVDC do not increase the short-circuit level of the system and faults cannot be transferred through connections in HVDC.
− There is a better ability to transmit power with overhead, underground and submarine cables over long distances.
− The visual impact and the use of the land is lower, as well as the cost for the line corridor (Mooney, 2010).

In Figure 1 the dimensions of the land used for transmission line are observed HVAC and an HVDC (Zhou, Qiu, Sun, Chen, Deng, Qian, Wang, Zhao, Li, Li, Qiu & Yu, 2018).

Currently Mexico does not have transmission systems in HVDC and with the growing demand for energy, it will be one of the most efficient transmission media in the near future, so this technology is being analysed by Mexican regulations, for the development of the National Electric System (SEN), with regard to generation and transmission activities (PROSEDEN, 2019).

One of the important parameters for the design of HVDC lines is the magnetic field is caused by the circulation of electric current in a conductor (Jang, Kim, Lee, Lim & Sood, 2009), (Rofalski & Schlabbach, 2014). Figure 2 shows its distribution around a conductor, so the magnetic field generated in transmission lines is determined by the magnitude of the current that circulates through the conductors and by the spatial configuration of the line (IEC, 2014).
In the case of HVDC systems the frequency is null, therefore is it considered 0 Hz, according to the Carson method (Zhu, Lee & Pong, 2018). The image conductor will be located at a great depth below ground level as seen in Figure 3 and the equivalent distance of the image conductor will tend to infinity (IEC, 2014) therefore, the effect of the image conductors is so small that can despised for the calculation of the magnetic field density in HVDC transmission lines.

![Image conductor](Figure 3 Carson’s method, imaginary poles. Source: Own elaboration)

The complex penetration effect considers that the magnetic field lines cross the surface of the soil, where for the calculation magnetic field density the equivalent complex reference plane is considered, which is at a great depth, to know this depth. The parameter $\alpha$ related to the skin depth or complex penetration depth, or the distance from the ground level surface to the reference plane is incorporated (Sarma, 2000).

The following article provides engineers with a reference methodology, which contains the steps necessary to calculate the magnetic field density for the first overhead transmission lines in HVDC to be built in Mexico. The density of the magnetic field is obtained by applying a two-dimensional analysis of the transmission line, assuming parallel poles above ground level, considering the operating characteristics of the line and, unlike other methodologies, the exposure limits to magnetic fields are taken into account recommended by (ICNIRP, 2009). The methodology offers speed and precision in calculating the density of the magnetic field over the corridor of a monopolar and bipolar transmission line.

**Calculation methodology for density of magnetic field**

The following methodology allows calculate the components of the magnetic field density in a simplified but reasonably exact way over the corridor of an overhead transmission line in HVDC, the design is based mainly on complying with the limits for exposure to magnetic fields. The flow chart of the methodology is presented itself ted in Figure 4.
The calculation of electric current intensity for transmission lines in monopolar and bipolar HVDC is determined through the equations (1) and (2), respectively (CIGRE, 2014).

\[ I = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{P \times 10^3}{V} \right) \text{ A} \]  
\[ I = \left( \frac{P \times 10^3}{V} \right) \text{ A} \]  

Where:

- \( I \) = Electric Current of the pole, in A.
- \( P \) = Power of the line, in MW.
- \( V \) = Electrical voltage of the pole, in kV.

The current intensity will be considered positive, when evaluating the positive pole and negative when considering the negative pole (CIGRE, 2014).

Calculation of horizontal and vertical components

To determine the components of the magnetic field density, the following considerations must be taken.

- The currents at the poles of transmission lines in HVDC are of different polarity, which reduces the magnetic field density. For a monopolar transmission line, the magnetic field density is higher (CIGRE, 2014).
- The currents at the poles they only contribute with its real component (CIGRE, 2014).

Using the previous considerations, the contributions of the magnetic field density due to the effect of the current in each of the components (horizontal and vertical) are obtained.

Figure 5 shows the horizontal and vertical components of the magnetic field at a point \( P \), on the axis of the coordinates \((x, y)\) located at a height of 1 m above the transmission line corridor (CIGRE, 2014), (IEEE, 2002).

The horizontal and vertical components are obtained by applying equations (3) and (4) respectively (CIGRE, 2014).

For the horizontal components, equation (3) is used.

\[ B_{x_i} = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2 \times 10^{-6} \pi} \cdot \left( \frac{x-x_i}{R_i^2} \right) \mu T \]  

For the vertical components, equation (4) is used.
Methodology to calculate the density of the magnetic field generated in overhead transmission lines in HVDC applying a two-dimensional analysis of parallel poles above ground level.

Where:

\[ B_x = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \left( \frac{y-y_i}{R_i^2} \right) \mu T \] (4)

\[ B_y = \frac{\mu_0 I}{2\pi} \left( \frac{x-x_i}{R_i^2} \right) \mu T \] (4)

\[ B_{x_i} = \text{Horizontal component of the pole magnetic field, in } \mu T. \]

\[ B_{y_i} = \text{Vertical component of pole magnetic field, in } \mu T. \]

\[ \mu_0 = \text{Magnetic permeability of vacuum } 4 \cdot \pi \times 10^{-7}, \text{ in } \frac{H}{m}. \]

\[ X = \text{Coordinate on the horizontal axis of the measurement point P, in m.} \]

\[ Y = \text{Coordinate on the vertical axis of the measurement point P, in m.} \]

\[ x_i = \text{Coordinate on the horizontal axis of the pole, in m.} \]

\[ y_i = \text{Coordinate on the vertical axis of the pole, in m.} \]

\[ R_i = \text{Distance between pole and measuring point P, in m.} \]

The distance between the pole and the measurement point P, is obtained with equation (5).

\[ R_i = \sqrt{(x-x_i)^2 + (y-y_i)^2} \text{ m} \] (5)

**Sum of all contributions at a point**

The magnetic field at the measurement point P, under the transmission line, will be the sum of the contributions from the poles and are obtained by applying equations (6) and (7) (CIGRE, 2014).

\[ B_H = \sum_{i=1}^{u} B_{x_i} \mu T \] (6)

\[ B_V = \sum_{i=1}^{u} B_{y_i} \mu T \] (7)

Where:

\[ B_H = \text{Horizontal component of magnetic field under the line at measurement point P, in } \mu T. \]

\[ B_V = \text{Vertical component of magnetic field under the line at measurement point P, in } \mu T. \]

\[ u = \text{Number of poles present in the line.} \]

The total magnetic field at the measurement point P is obtained by applying equation (8).

\[ B_T = \sqrt{B_H^2 + B_V^2} \mu T \] (8)

Where:

\[ B_T = \text{Total magnitude of magnetic field at measurement P, in } \mu T. \]

The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIR) and the International Radiological Protection Association (IRPA) recommend that the limit of public exposure to magnetic field in transmission lines in HVDC should be less than 40 mT (ICNIRP, 2009).

**Case study**

Consider a 500 kV bipolar transmission line in HVDC where you want to calculate the density of the magnetic field at one meter above ground level, over a 120 m corridor of line. Table 1 shows the spatial measurements of the pole locations of the bipolar line. Figure 6 shows the configuration of the transmission tower, the spacing between the posts and its location above ground level. Table 2 shows the operating characteristics of the line.

**Table 1** Coordinates of the poles in the bipolar transmission line

| Conductor          | x axis | y axis |
|--------------------|--------|--------|
| Positive pole      | -10 m  | 20 m   |
| Negative pole      | -10 m  | 20 m   |

**Source:** Own elaboration

**Figure 6** Profile of the 500 kV bipolar transmission line in HVDC

**Source:** (Lee, Pong & Zhu, 2019)
For the rest of the intervals of the line runner of the negative pole, the results shown in Table 4 are obtained.

| Coordinates | Distance in m |
|-------------|---------------|
| P (x=0, y=1) | R₁ = 21.4709 |
| P (x=10, y=1) | R₂ = 19 |
| P (x=20, y=1) | R₃ = 21.4709 |
| P (x=30, y=1) | R₄ = 27.5862 |
| P (x=40, y=1) | R₅ = 35.5105 |
| P (x=50, y=1) | R₆ = 44.2831 |
| P (x=60, y=1) | R₇ = 53.4883 |

Table 4 Distance from pole 2 to the measurement point.

The calculation of the magnetic field components of each pole is carried out. For the positive pole, the distance R₁ to point P (x=0, y=1) is used, applying equations (3) and (4) as shown below.

\[ B_{x₁} = \frac{\pi \times 4 \times 10^{-7} \times 3000}{2 \times 10^{-6} \times \pi} \cdot \frac{0 - (-10)}{(21.4709)^2} \]
\[ B_{y₁} = \frac{\pi \times 4 \times 10^{-7} \times 3000}{2 \times 10^{-6} \times \pi} \cdot \frac{1 - 20}{(21.4709)^2} \]

The results obtained from the horizontal and vertical components of the positive pole are shown in Table 5 and 6 respectively.

| Coordinates | Component in \( \mu \text{T} \) |
|-------------|-----------------|
| P (x=0, y=1) | Bₓ₁ = 13.0151 μT |
| P (x=10, y=1) | Bₓ₁ = 15.7687 μT |
| P (x=20, y=1) | Bₓ₁ = 14.2743 μT |
| P (x=30, y=1) | Bₓ₁ = 12.2386 μT |
| P (x=40, y=1) | Bₓ₁ = 10.4858 μT |
| P (x=50, y=1) | Bₓ₁ = 9.0886 μT |
| P (x=60, y=1) | Bₓ₁ = 7.9832 μT |

Table 5 Horizontal components of the positive pole on the line corridor.

| Coordinates | Component in \( \mu \text{T} \) |
|-------------|-----------------|
| P (x=0, y=1) | Bᵧ₁ = -24.7288 μT |
| P (x=10, y=1) | Bᵧ₁ = -14.9802 μT |
| P (x=20, y=1) | Bᵧ₁ = -9.0404 μT |
| P (x=30, y=1) | Bᵧ₁ = -5.8133 μT |
| P (x=40, y=1) | Bᵧ₁ = -3.9846 μT |
| P (x=50, y=1) | Bᵧ₁ = -2.8780 μT |
| P (x=60, y=1) | Bᵧ₁ = -2.1668 μT |

Table 6 Vertical components of the positive pole on the line corridor.
For the negative pole, the distance $R_2$ to point $P$ ($x=0$, $y=1$) is used, applying equations (3) and (4) as shown below.

\[
B_{x_2} = \frac{\pi \cdot 4 \times 10^{-7} \cdot -3000}{2 \times 10^{-6} \cdot \pi} \cdot \left( \frac{0 - 10}{(21.4709)^2} \right)
\]

$B_{x_2} = 13.0151 \, \mu T$

\[
B_{y_2} = \frac{\pi \cdot 4 \times 10^{-7} \cdot -3000}{2 \times 10^{-6} \cdot \pi} \cdot \left( \frac{1 - 20}{(21.4709)^2} \right)
\]

$B_{y_2} = 24.7288 \, \mu T$

The results obtained from the horizontal and vertical components of the negative pole are show in Table 7 and 8 respectively.

| Coordinates       | Component in, $\mu T$       |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| $P \,(x=0, \, y=1)$ | $B_{x_2} = 13.0151$         |
| $P \,(x=10, \, y=1)$ | $B_{x_2} = 0$              |
| $P \,(x=20, \, y=1)$ | $B_{x_2} = -13.0151$        |
| $P \,(x=30, \, y=1)$ | $B_{x_2} = -15.7687$        |
| $P \,(x=40, \, y=1)$ | $B_{x_2} = -14.2743$        |
| $P \,(x=50, \, y=1)$ | $B_{x_2} = -12.2386$        |
| $P \,(x=60, \, y=1)$ | $B_{x_2} = -10.4858$        |

Table 7 Horizontal components of the negative pole on the line corridor

| Coordinates       | Component in, $\mu T$       |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| $P \,(x=0, \, y=1)$ | $B_{y_2} = 24.7288$         |
| $P \,(x=10, \, y=1)$ | $B_{y_2} = 31.5789$         |
| $P \,(x=20, \, y=1)$ | $B_{y_2} = 24.7288$         |
| $P \,(x=30, \, y=1)$ | $B_{y_2} = 14.9802$         |
| $P \,(x=40, \, y=1)$ | $B_{y_2} = 9.0404$          |
| $P \,(x=50, \, y=1)$ | $B_{y_2} = 5.8133$          |
| $P \,(x=60, \, y=1)$ | $B_{y_2} = 3.9846$          |

Table 8 Vertical components of the negative pole on the line corridor

### Sum of all contributions at a point

The sum of the contributions for the horizontal component at the measurement point $P$ ($x=0$, $y=1$), is developed using equation (6).

$B_H = 13.0151 + 13.0151 = 26.0302 \, \mu T$

Table 9 shows the results obtained from the contributions for the horizontal component on the line corridor.

| Coordinates                   | Component in, $\mu T$ |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| $P \,(x=0, \, y=1)$           | $B_H = 26.0302$       |
| $P \,(x=10, \, y=1)$          | $B_H = 15.7687$       |
| $P \,(x=20, \, y=1)$          | $B_H = 1.2592$        |
| $P \,(x=30, \, y=1)$          | $B_H = -3.5300$       |
| $P \,(x=40, \, y=1)$          | $B_H = -3.7885$       |
| $P \,(x=50, \, y=1)$          | $B_H = -3.1500$       |
| $P \,(x=60, \, y=1)$          | $B_H = -2.5025$       |

Table 9 Contributions of the horizontal component

The sum of the contributions for the vertical component at the measurement point $P$ ($x=0$, $y=1$), is developed using equation (7).

$B_V = -24.7288 + 24.7288 = 0 \, \mu T$

Table 10 shows the results obtained from the contributions for the vertical component on the line corridor.

| Coordinates                   | Component in, $\mu T$ |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| $P \,(x=0, \, y=1)$           | $B_V = 0$             |
| $P \,(x=10, \, y=1)$          | $B_V = 16.5986$       |
| $P \,(x=20, \, y=1)$          | $B_V = 15.6884$       |
| $P \,(x=30, \, y=1)$          | $B_V = 9.1669$        |
| $P \,(x=40, \, y=1)$          | $B_V = 5.0558$        |
| $P \,(x=50, \, y=1)$          | $B_V = 2.9352$        |
| $P \,(x=60, \, y=1)$          | $B_V = 1.8177$        |

Table 10 Vertical component contributions

Finally, the total magnitude of the magnetic field is calculated at the measurement point $P$ ($x=0$, $y=1$), using equation (8).

$B_T = \sqrt{(26.0302)^2 + (0)^2} = 26.0302 \, \mu T$

Table 11 shows the results obtained from the total magnitude of the magnetic field on the line corridor.

| Coordinates                   | Magnetic field density in, $\mu T$ |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| $P \,(x=0, \, y=1)$           | $B_T = 26.0302$                   |
| $P \,(x=10, \, y=1)$          | $B_T = 22.8947$                   |
| $P \,(x=20, \, y=1)$          | $B_T = 15.7388$                   |
| $P \,(x=30, \, y=1)$          | $B_T = 9.8231$                    |
| $P \,(x=40, \, y=1)$          | $B_T = 6.3177$                    |
| $P \,(x=50, \, y=1)$          | $B_T = 4.3056$                    |
| $P \,(x=60, \, y=1)$          | $B_T = 3.0930$                    |

Table 11 Magnetic field density over the line corridor

In Figure 7, the plotted results of the magnetic field density over the corridor of the 500 kV bipolar transmission line in HVDC are presented.
In Figure 7 it is observed that for the transmission line under study, the maximum magnetic field intensity is 26.0302 μT, which is lower than the maximum limit recommended by the ICNIRP.

Results

To obtain a validation of the methodology presented to calculate the density of the magnetic field, a simulation of the transmission line under study is carried out, for this the FACE software (FACE, 2019) was used, since it allows the configuration of the profiles. Transmission lines. This software is based on the complex penetration method, which uses the Carson method, which consists of the circulation of a current that returns through the earth, this method considers the earth as a superconductor, with which the return of current through the earth is modeled. Unlike the methodology presented, the FACE software uses the image conductor effect.

Table 12 and Figure 8 show the comparison of the results obtained between the methodology presented and the validation of the FACE software.

![Figure 7](image1.png)  Figure 7 Magnetic field density of the 500 kV bipolar transmission line in HVDC

![Figure 8](image2.png)  Figure 8 Comparison of the results obtained between the methodology and the FACE software

The percentage difference between the results obtained by the methodology and the FACE software is obtained with equation (9).

\[
\text{dif} \% = \frac{M - F}{F} \cdot 100 \% \tag{9}
\]

Where:

\( M \) = Magnetic field density obtained by the methodology proposed here, in μT.

\( F \) = Magnetic field density obtained by FACE software, in μT.

The comparison of the results obtained in interval 0 on the line corridor presented in Figure 8 and in Table 12 is made, using equation (9).

\[
\text{dif} \% = \frac{26.0302 - 25.7698}{25.7698} \cdot 100
\]

\( \text{dif} \% = 1.0104\% \)

Table 13 shows the percentage difference between the results obtained by the methodology and the FACE software, on the intervals of the line corridor.

| Line runner intervals (m) | Percentage difference (in, %) |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 0                        | 1.0104                       |
| 10                       | 1.0103                       |
| 20                       | 1.0101                       |
| 30                       | 1.0108                       |
| 40                       | 1.0104                       |
| 50                       | 1.0111                       |
| 60                       | 1.0124                       |

Table 13 Percentage difference of the results obtained between the methodology and the FACE software

| Magnetic field density Methodology in, μT | FACE in, μT |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| \( B_{T0} = 26.0302 \)                  | \( B_{T0} = 25.7698 \) |
| \( B_{T10} = 22.8947 \)                 | \( B_{T10} = 22.6657 \) |
| \( B_{T20} = 15.7388 \)                 | \( B_{T20} = 15.5814 \) |
| \( B_{T30} = 9.8231 \)                  | \( B_{T30} = 9.7248 \)  |
| \( B_{T40} = 6.3177 \)                  | \( B_{T40} = 6.2545 \)  |
| \( B_{T50} = 4.3056 \)                  | \( B_{T50} = 4.2625 \)  |
| \( B_{T60} = 3.0930 \)                  | \( B_{T60} = 3.0620 \)  |

Table 12 Comparison of the results obtained between the methodology and the FACE software
Analysis of the impact of the line configuration on the magnetic field density

For the analysis of the transmission line, two additional spatial configurations to the one presented in Table 1 are considered, to determine the most efficient configuration and obtain a smaller tower with a shorter line corridor.

Table 14 shows the coordinates of the poles of the second configuration of the line.

| Conductor      | x axis | y axis |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Positive pole  | -8 m   | 15 m   |
| Negative pole  | 8 m    | 15 m   |

Table 14 Coordinates of the poles of the second configuration of the bipolar transmission line

Carrying out the methodology procedure with the second configuration of the line presented in Table 14, the results of the magnetic field density shown in Figure 9 are obtained.

The behavior of the results obtained are typical of a transmission line, as presented in (Ahmed, Wael & Ehab, 2012).

Table 15 shows the coordinates of the poles of the third configuration of the line.

| Conductor      | x axis | y axis |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Positive pole  | -12.5 m| 25 m   |
| Negative pole  | 12.5 m | 25 m   |

Table 15 Coordinates of the poles of the third configuration of the bipolar transmission line

Performing the methodological procedure with the third configuration shown in Table 15, the results of the magnetic field density shown in Figure 10 are obtained.

The results of the magnetic field density for configurations 1, 2 and 3 are shown in Figures 7, 9 and 10, respectively, in Figure 11 the comparison of the results is observed. Configuration 3 has a lower magnetic field density, but because the transmission line has an increase in height and a greater separation of its poles, an economic increase in its installation will be generated. Due to this, it is verified that the most efficient configuration is the one presented in configuration 1 of the case study.

Figure 10 Magnetic field density of the third configuration of the 500 kV bipolar transmission line in HVDC

Figure 11 Magnetic field density of configurations 1, 2 and 3

The results of the magnetic field density for configurations 1, 2 and 3 are shown in Figures 7, 9 and 10, respectively, in Figure 11 the comparison of the results is observed. Configuration 3 has a lower magnetic field density, but because the transmission line has an increase in height and a greater separation of its poles, an economic increase in its installation will be generated. Due to this, it is verified that the most efficient configuration is the one presented in configuration 1 of the case study.
Conclusions

The following points are concluded from the work carried out:

- A reference methodology is presented, containing the steps necessary to perform the calculation of the magnetic field density, for the first HVDC overhead transmission lines to be built in Mexico.

- The methodology presented may be applied in bipolar and monopolar lines, admitting the different nominal voltages of the lines in HVDC, allowing to calculate the magnetic field density at a height between the poles and the ground level, over the transmission line corridor.

- The use of the presented methodology offers speed and precision, unlike commercial software like FACE generates a calculation memory of the magnetic field density in the corridor of the transmission line under study for free.

- The magnetic field density profile was validated of the 500 kV bipolar transmission line in HVDC with the FACE software, with which a difference of 1% is obtained. Because the software uses the effect of image conductor and the presented methodology does not consider it, since the effect is so small that it can be overlooked.

- It is determined that the geometry of the transmission line under study will not present magnetic field problems, as the results are less than the maximum limit recommended by the ICNIRP.

- Magnetic field density increases as the height of the poles decreases and will decrease as the distance between the poles increases.

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