

Westinghouse Electrolytic Lightning Arresters

For 2,200 to 120,000 Volt Alternating-Current Systems

Construction: A series of nested aluminum trays, supported and secured in frames of specially treated wood, and a containing tank of welded sheet steel, comprise the two essential parts of Westinghouse Type "A" Electrolytic Arresters.

The aluminum trays are filled with electrolyte and lowered into place in the steel tank, which, in turn, is filled with transformer oil to within a few inches of the top. The oil furnishes insulation to the arrester, and at the same time prevents evaporation of the electrolyte, and also acts as a cooling medium in operation.

Action: When the voltage reaches a predetermined maximum, the film on the aluminum trays breaks down into myriads of minute punctures, short circuiting the potentials above the critical point and offering a free path to ground. When the discharge reduces the tension to normal the punctures immediately seal up and the original resistance is restored. The critical voltage of any tray having a fixed value; it is possible, by connecting trays in series, to provide collective resistance to any desired degree. See Circular No. 1132.



Type A Electrolytic Arrester, dismantled.



22,000 Volt Type "A" Electrolytic Arrester installed on the roof of an Industrial Plant

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