

ACTIVE AERODYNAMIC BLADE CONTROL DESIGN FOR LOAD REDUCTION ON LARGE WIND TURBINES

David G. Wilson*, Dale E. Berg, Mathew F. Barone, Jonathan C. Berg, Brian R. Resor and Don W. Lobitz

Energy Systems Analysis* / Wind Energy Technology

Sandia National Laboratories, P.O. Box 5800

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-1108

Email: {dwilso,deberg,mbarone,jcberg,brresor,dwlobit}@sandia.gov

ABSTRACT

Through numerical simulations that use trailing edge flaps as active aerodynamic load control devices on wind turbines that range from 0.6MW-5MW rated power, a 20-32% reduction in blade root flap bending moments was achieved. This allows the turbine blade lengths to be increased, without exceeding original fatigue damage on the system, resulting in larger swept rotor area. This study developed and simulated several independent flap control designs (including tip deflection and tip rate deflection feedback) that seamlessly integrated with existing pitch control strategies to reduce loads sufficiently to allow 10% rotor extension and increased energy capture (see reference [1] for methodology).

*Address all correspondence to this author.