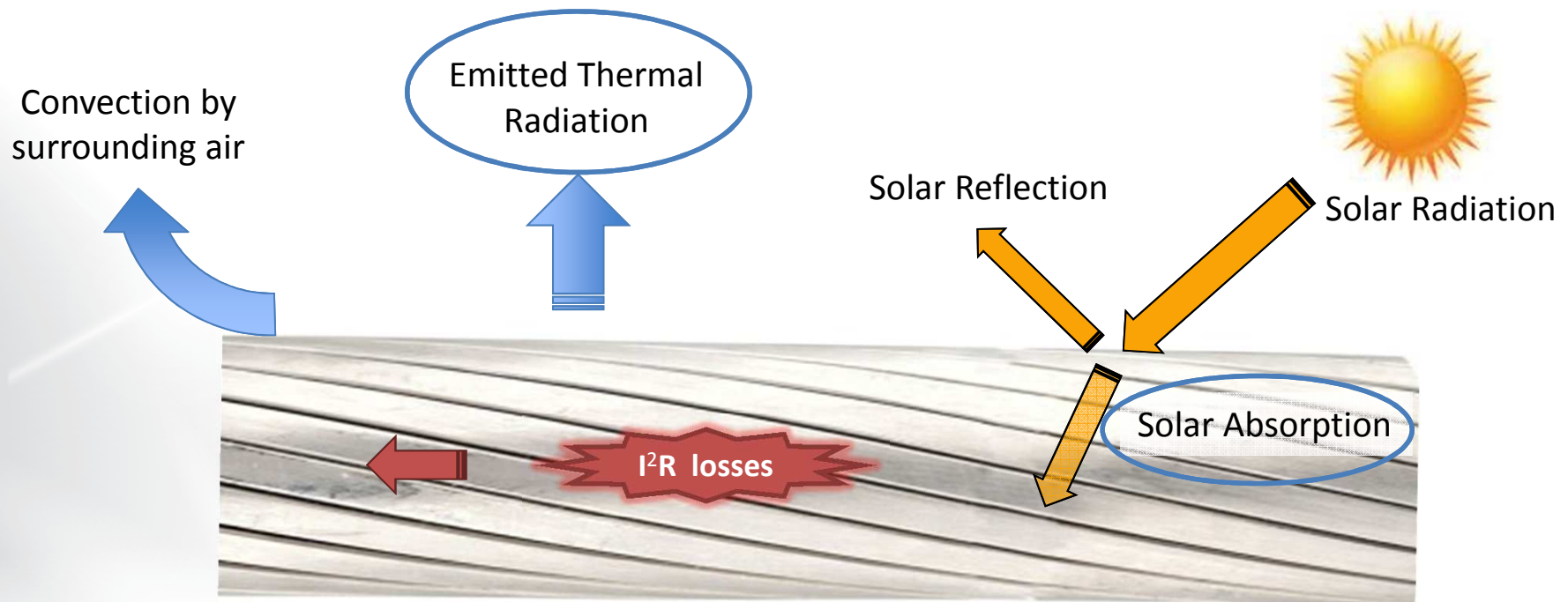


**Advancements in Overhead Conductor  
technology:  
Engineered Emissivity**

# Conductor Temperature/Line Ratings

Ratings can be increased with higher emissivity and lower absorptivity



# Explanation of Emissivity and Absorptivity

From a utility's facility rating methodology\*

The *Infrared Emissivity coefficient* represents the ratio of radiant energy emitted by the conductor surface to the infrared radiant energy emitted by a blackbody at the same temperature, and can vary between about 0.2 to about 0.9. As a conductor ages, the infrared emissivity, or ability of the conductor to radiate heat energy to its surroundings increases, which increases the MVA rating of the conductor.

The *Solar Absorptivity coefficient* represents the fraction of incident solar radiant energy that is absorbed by the conductor surface. The solar absorptivity coefficient varies between about 0.2 to about 0.9, with higher values indicating that more solar energy is being absorbed by the conductor. As a conductor ages, the solar absorptivity, or the amount of solar energy absorbed by the conductor increases, which decreases the MVA rating of the conductor.

selection of these two variables can be highly subjective.

*E3X changes these variables to fixed values, eliminating uncertainty*

# New vs. Aged Conductors

New aluminum conductor



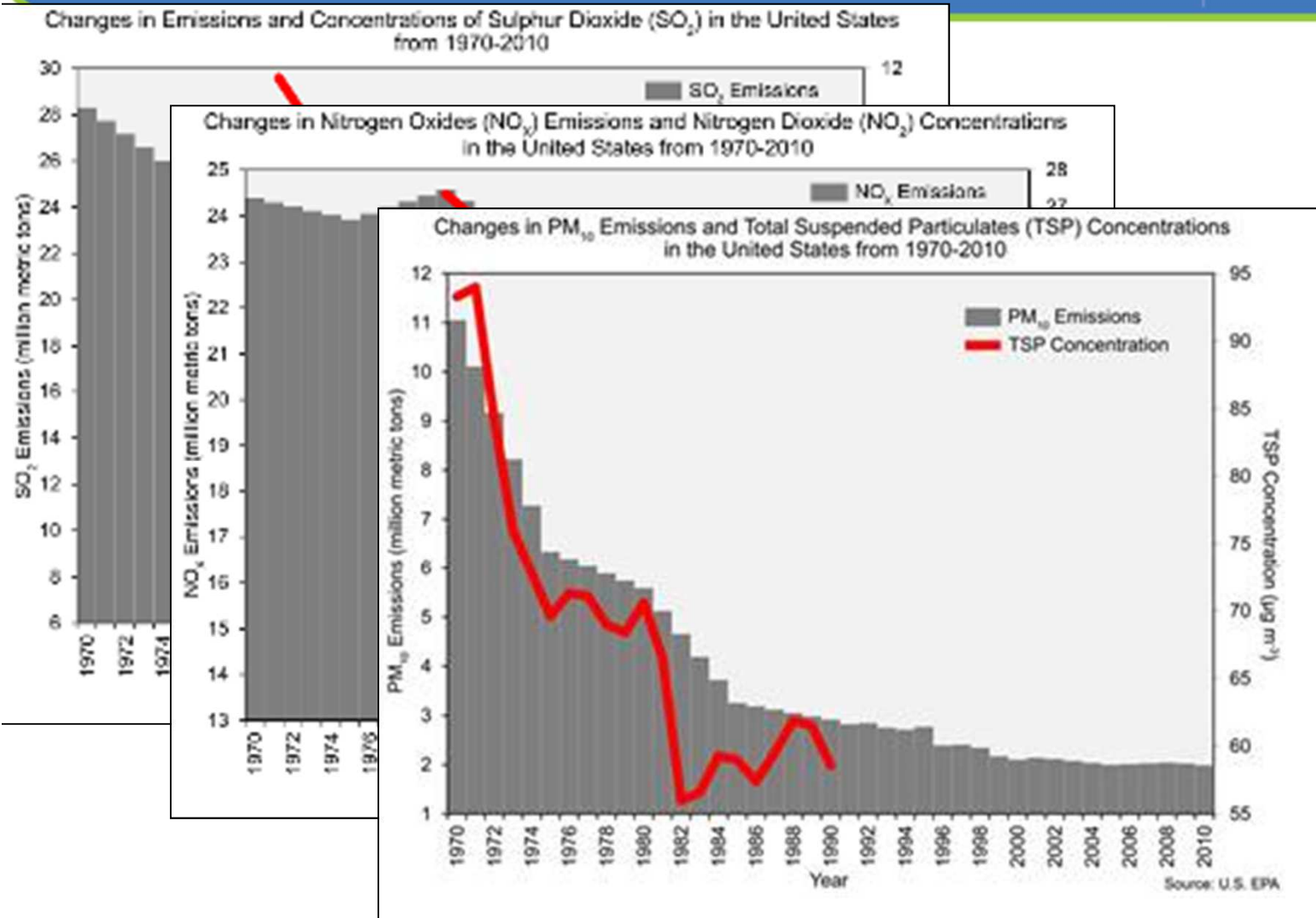
Aged aluminum conductor



How many years will it take for conductor to “darken” to assumed value?  
Will today’s conductors ever reach this level?

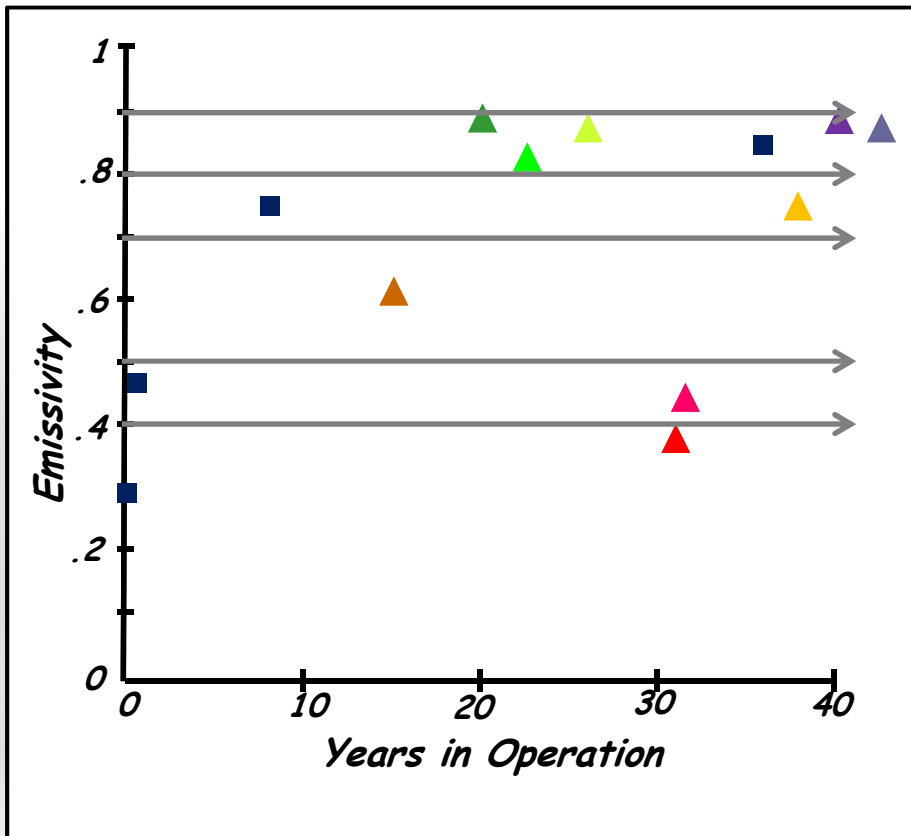
# Atmospheric Pollution Reduction 1970-2010

Conductors from existing studies were installed pre-1970



Limited number of more recent conductors tested show lower emissivity

# What value of Emissivity is used today? (For standard lines not using E3X conductors)



Location	Years in service	approx. year installed	Reference	Emissivity
Washington, DC	0.8	1971	PJM/NASA	0.46
Washington, DC	8	1964	PJM/NASA	0.74
Washington, DC	36	1936	PJM/NASA	0.85
San Francisco	40	1916	Taylor, House	0.91
Philadelphia	21	1935	Taylor, House	0.89
Chicago	25	1931	Taylor, House	0.89
San Francisco	43	1913	Taylor, House	0.88
New York	23	1933	Taylor, House	0.80
Tennessee	38	1918	Taylor, House	0.77
New Jersey	15	1993	EPRI	0.63
Austin, TX	32	1982	EPRI	0.45
San Bernadino	32	1924	Taylor, House	0.38

*A sample of emissivity values used for line rating by EEI members: 0.4, 0.5, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9  
Which value is Correct?*

*Values derived by Aluminum Company of America in study cited in IEEE 738 and by EPRI using their Emissivity Testing Instrument and by NASA in for 1973 PJM conductor rating task force Shape of aging curves are estimates for illustration purposes only*

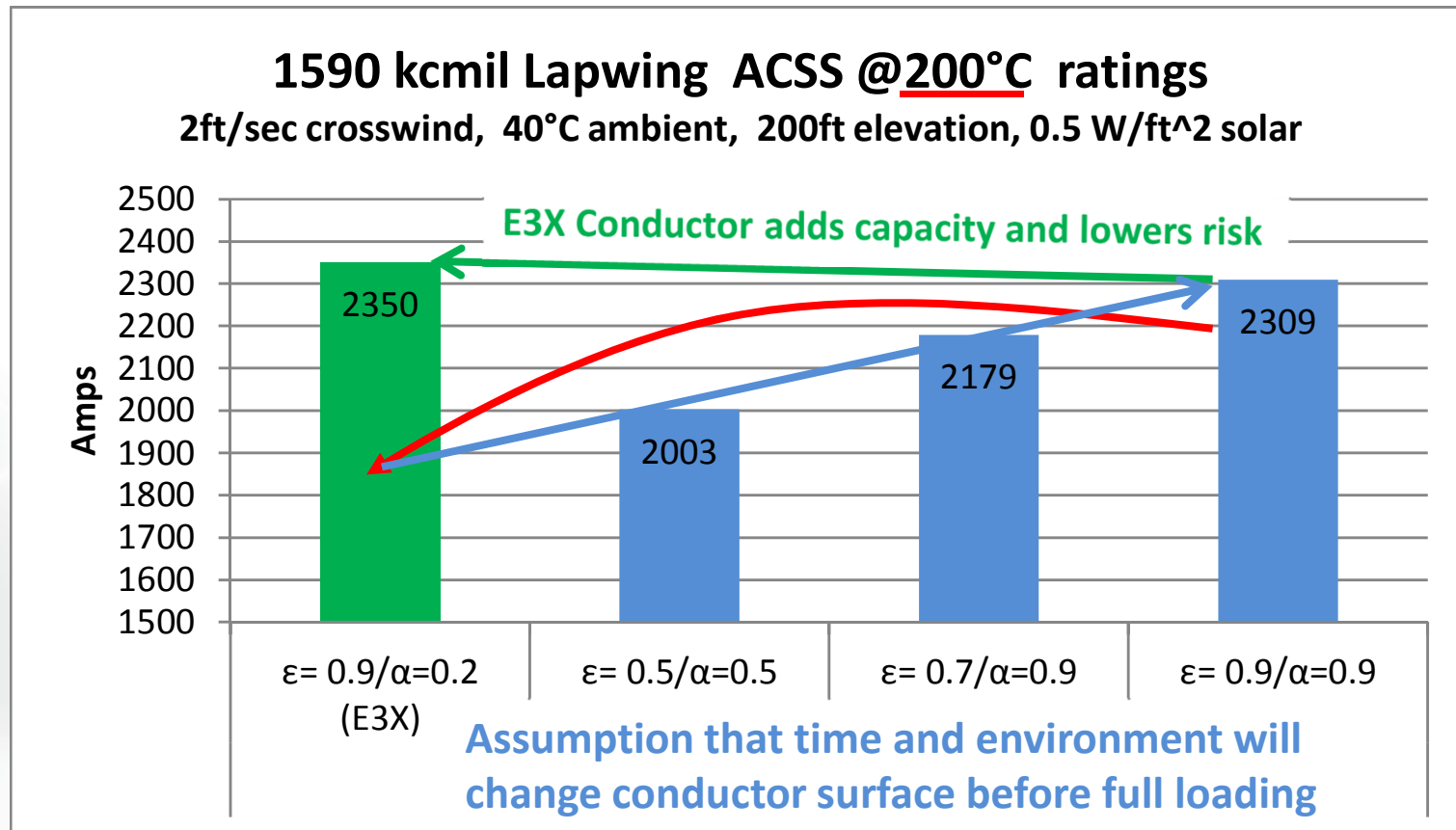
# Video Demonstration



# General Cable

**Surface Modified  
Overhead Conductor  
Temperature Rise Test**

# Impact of different surface conditions on ratings



What if full “0.9” load put on new conductor? 2309 amps = 320 °C

What if 2309 amps put onto E3X Conductor? 195 °C



# Introducing



**Surface Coating**



**High Emissivity (0.9),  
Low Absorptivity (0.2)**

**Results in cooler operating  
conductor for given load**

**Applied in the factory to the  
outside of the conductor**

**Thin ( $\frac{1}{2}$  mil) coating**

**Environmentally stable**

**Hard, Durable, Abrasion and  
Heat Resistant, Flexible**

**Can only be removed by  
removing underlying aluminum**



# Commonly Used ERCOT conductors

<b>Frequency:</b>	60 Hz	<b>Ambient Temperature:</b>	40 °C
<b>Total Solar Radiated Heat:</b>	95.4 W/ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>Crosswind Velocity:</b>	2.00 ft/s
<b>Azimuth of Line:</b>	0 °	<b>Wind Angle:</b>	90 °
<b>Atmosphere:</b>	Clear	<b>Northern Latitude:</b>	32 °
		<b>Elevation:</b>	600 ft
		<b>Month and Day of Year:</b>	July 1
		<b>Time of Day:</b>	2:00 PM

	795.0 kcmil 20/7 Drake/ACSS/TW/MA2				959.6 kcmil 22/7 Suwannee/ACSS/TW/MA2			
Temp	Resistance	Ampacity			Resistance	Ampacity		
C	Ω/kft	New (shiny)	E=0.5/A=0.5	E3X	Ω/kft	New (shiny)	E=0.5/A=0.5	E3X
200	0.03622	1415	1550	1759	0.03006	1595	1753	1996

	1590.0 kcmil 42/19 Falcon/ACSS/TW/MA2				1926.9 kcmil 42/19 Cumberland/ACSS/TW/MA2			
Temp	Resistance	Ampacity			Resistance	Ampacity		
C	Ω/kft	New (shiny)	E=0.5/A=0.5	E3X	Ω/kft	New (shiny)	E=0.5/A=0.5	E3X
200	0.01955	2125	2352	2695	0.01620	2398	2664	3065

# E3X Technology improves any aluminum conductor

## Added Capability

- E3X adds capacity to standard bare aluminum conductors such as ACSR and ACSS, increasing operational flexibility and reducing the need for one-off solutions

## More Ratings Certainty

- E3X lowers risk of clearance violations and damage to lines from overheating by converting uncertain ratings variables to fixed values
  - Changes assumed emissivity values to fixed emissivity values
  - Changes assumed absorptivity values to fixed absorptivity values

# E3X Testing: from the lab to field trials to utility deployment

## Performance

- Temperature Reduction (vs. New, Non-Specular, and Aged )
- Ampacity
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- Temperature Reduction vs. Coating Coverage

## Physical Durability

- Adhesion
- Thermal Stability
- Sheave Roller
- Galloping
- Aeolian Vibration
- Tension Cycling

## Environmental Durability

- Weatherometer
- 85/85 Heat/Humidity
- Water Immersion
- Low pH
- High pH
- Salt Water

## Electrical Performance

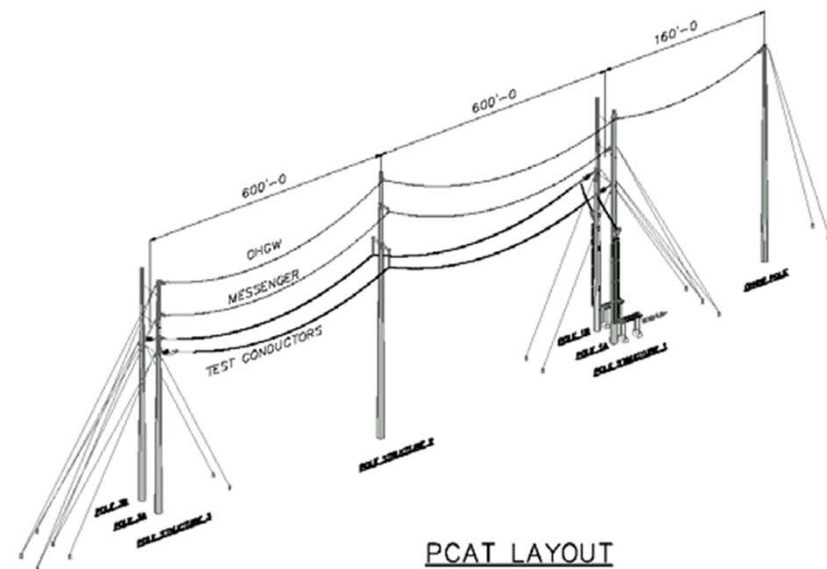
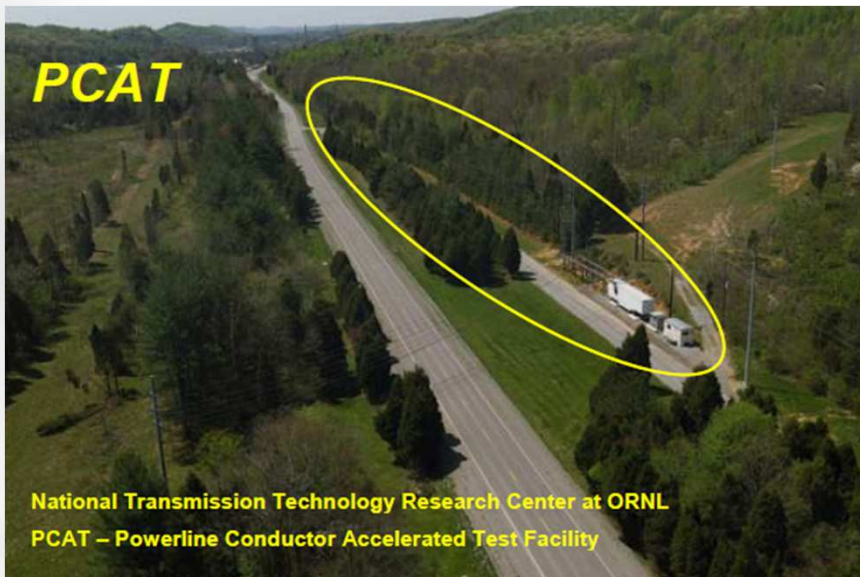
- Corona / Wet Corona

## Field Testing

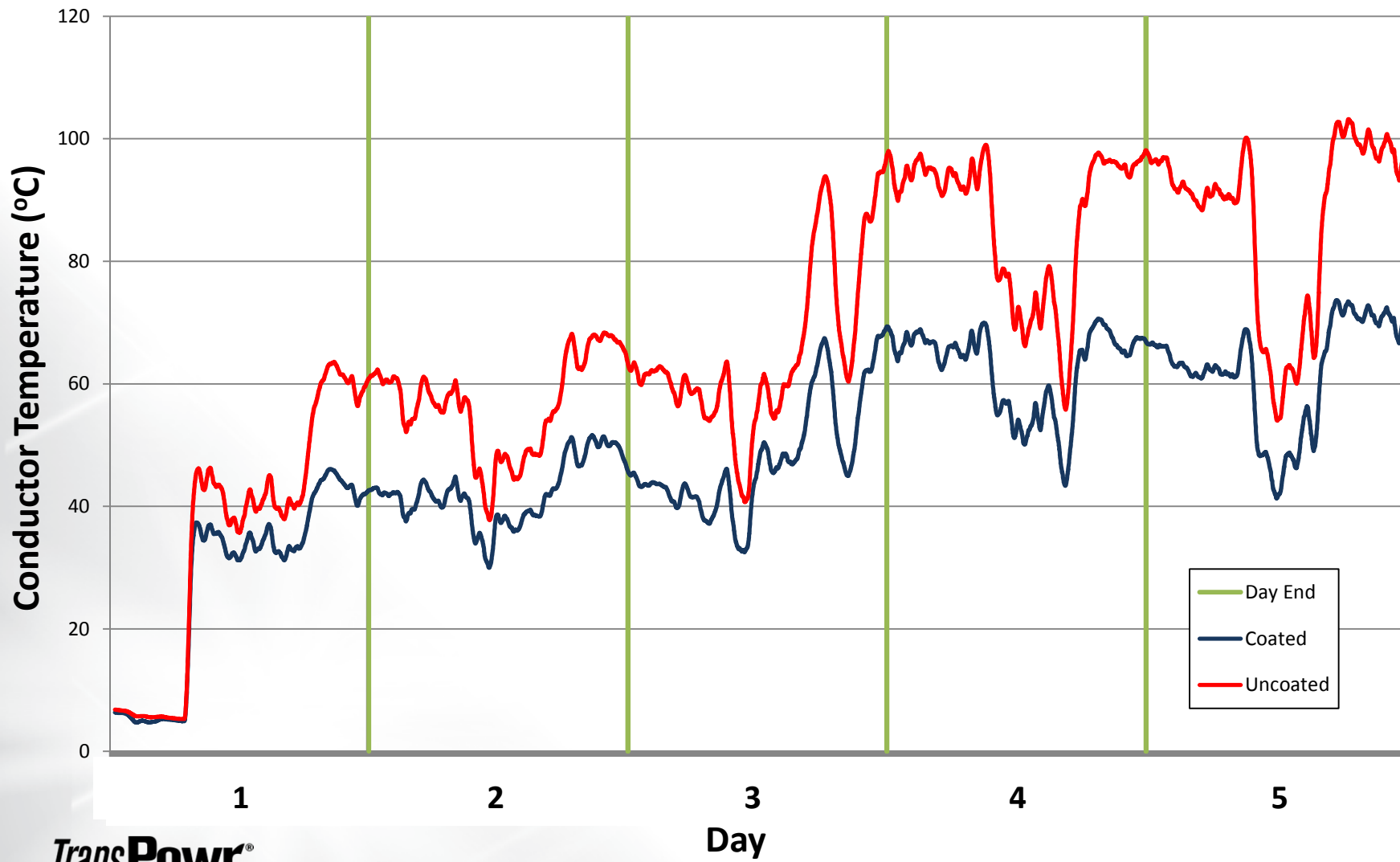
- Utility Installations

# Sample of testing performed: Oak Ridge National Laboratory

- Conductor was installed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory's PCAT (Powerline Conductor Accelerated Test Facility) in October 2014



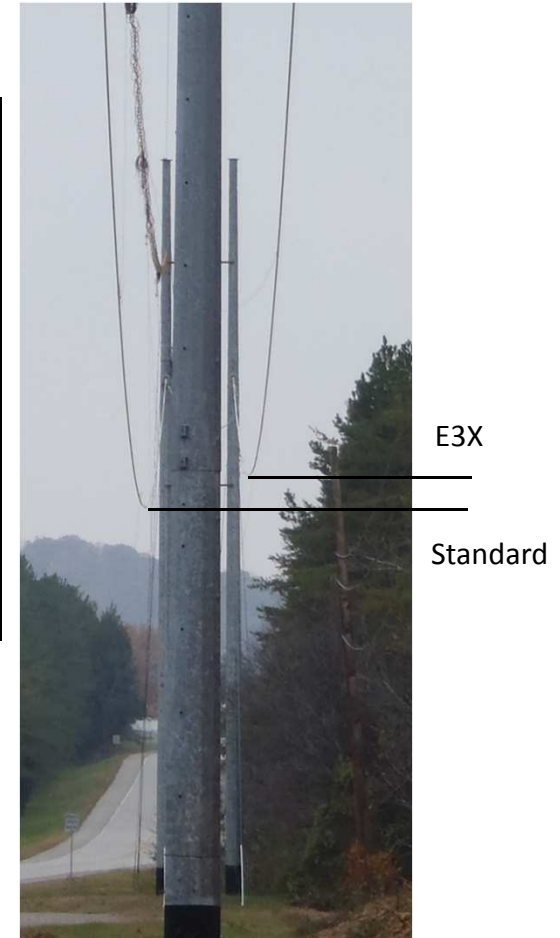
# Sample Test Results at Oak Ridge National Laboratory



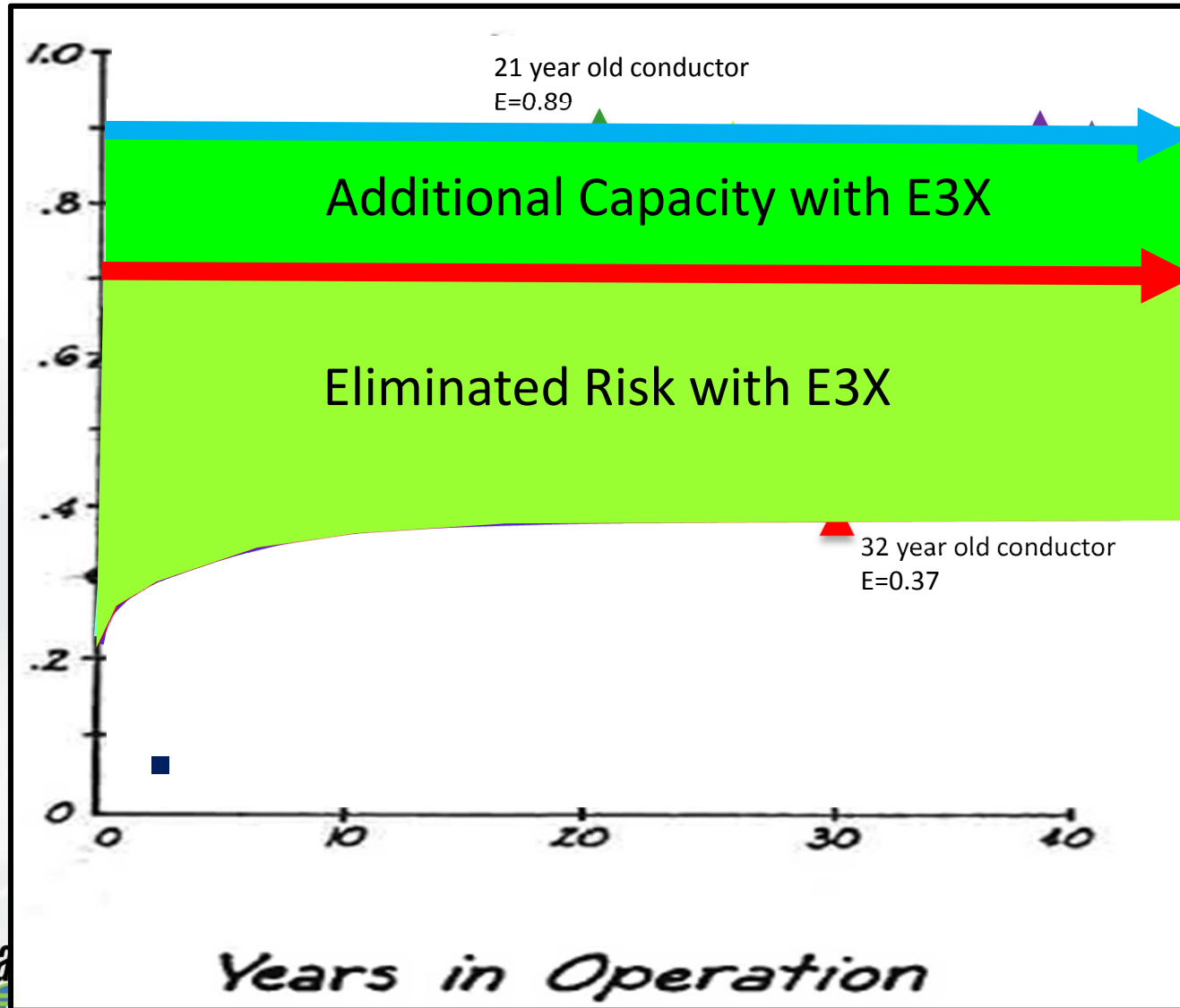
# Sample Test Results at Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Ambient Temp (°C)	Wind Velocity (ft/s)	Drake ACSS/MA2 (°C)	Drake ACSS/MA2/E3X (°C)	Temperature Reduction (°C)	Sag Differential (ft)*
9	1.1 - 3.6	90	72	18	0.5
8	0 - 4.7	119	90	29	0.7
8	4.4 - 5.7	125	94	31	0.9
6	0.2 - 3.2	166	125	41	1.5
6	0.4 - 4.8	200	150	50	1.6
4	N/A	240	174	66	2.25
2	2.1 - 2.2	275	190	85	2.85

\* 600 ft span



# E3X Technology: Increased Capacity, Lower Risk



E3X  $E=0.9$

Example:  
 $E=0.7$  estimate





## Summary

- Adds capacity and flexibility to accommodate uncertainty in a fast changing transmission landscape
- Reduces risk in transmission line ratings by changing assumed variables to fixed values
- Lowers project costs by enabling conductors to operate safely at higher rated ampacities
- Reduces O&M costs by increasing capabilities of products already used everyday.
- Proven in the lab, the field, and with utility installations

# Thank You!

Joe Coffey

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Director Transmission

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