A new section is added to describe “Operational Faults”. This can be added before the section “Demand Limiting” (around Page 477 in the current EngRef).

Rongpeng Zhang, Mar. 4th, 2015

# Operational Faults

### Introduction to Operational Faults Modeling

Most of the buildings, either new or old, have operational faults in the sensors, controllers, meters, equipment and systems. Being able to model and simulate these faults and their impact on energy performance of buildings is crucial to improve accuracy of building simulations and to support the retrofit of buildings.

To date, the main practitioner use of EnergyPlus has been for new construction design. With the new high priority attached by USDOE to retrofit and improved operation of existing buildings, there is a need to extend the capabilities of EnergyPlus to model existing buildings, including faulty operation:

* Retrofit analysis: starts with calibrated simulation; the ability to estimate the severity of common faults is expected to improve the accuracy and transparency of the calibrated model and hence the increase accuracy of the analysis of different retrofit measures.
* Commissioning providers can use the fault models to demonstrate the saving to be expected from fixing faults found in retro-commissioning
* Support for building operation by using the calibrated model, including unfixed faults, as a real-time reference model to detect, and verify the diagnosis of, newly occurring faults.

The users in these cases are practitioners, not power users, so it is needed to implement the fault models using conventional EnergyPlus objects rather than the EMS, which, in any case, could only be used to model limited types of faults.

EnergyPlus contains a number of objects to model operational faults of sensors, meters, equipment and systems. The current implementation allows the modeling of the following fault types: (1) sensor faults with air economizers, (2) thermostat/humidistat offset faults, and (3) heating and cooling coil fouling faults.

### Sensor Faults with Air Economizers

#### Symptom

The sensor readings deviate from the actual air conditions due to sensor offset, which leads to inappropriate operations of the air economizer and thus undesired resulting indoor conditions.

#### Modeling Approach

There are a number of sensors installed to support the air economizer operations. The sensors may be of different types. The objects used by EnergyPlus to model the sensor faults are as follows:

* FaultModel:TemperatureSensorOffset:OutdoorAir
* FaultModel:HumiditySensorOffset:OutdoorAir
* FaultModel:EnthalpySensorOffset:OutdoorAir
* FaultModel:TemperatureSensorOffset:ReturnAir
* FaultModel:EnthalpySensorOffset:ReturnAir

### Thermostat/Humidistat Offset

#### Symptom

The zone air temperature/relative humidity readings deviate from the actual zone air conditions due to thermostat/humidistat offset, and thus leads to inappropriate operations of the HVAC system and undesired resulting indoor conditions.

#### Modeling Approach

The thermostat offset fault is described in the object FaultModel:ThermostatOffset, which refers to the object ZoneControl:Thermostat. The humidistat offset fault is described in the object FaultModel:HumidistatOffset, which refers to the object ZoneControl:Humidistat.

The effect of an offset in a thermostat/humidistat whose sole use is for the calculation of difference between the set-points and the design values can be modeled as an equal and opposite offset in the thermostat/humidistat:

Ts,f = Ts,ff ± ΔT

RHs,f = RHs,ff ± ΔRH

Where,

*Ts,f* */RHs,f* thermostat/humidistat value in the faulty case

*Ts,ff/RHs,ff* thermostat/humidistat value in the fault-free case (design value)

*ΔT/ΔRH* difference between the thermostat/humidistat readings and the actual zone air conditions. Positive values mean that the readings is higher than the actual air conditions.

Note that the thermostat/humidistat settings are related with two major processes within EnergyPlus: one is the design load calculations and HVAC system sizing, and the other is the HVAC system operations. Only the latter is affected by the thermostat/humidistat offset fault, while the former is not. Therefore, the size of the corresponding HVAC equipment in the faulty cases is the same as that in the fault-free cases.

When EMS is used to overwrite the ZoneControl:Thermostat/ZoneControl:Humidistat values, the offsets are applied to the EMS values rather than the Thermostat/Humidistat values.

### Heating and Cooling Coil Fouling

#### Symptom

Reduced overall heat transfer coefficient (UA) causes reduced coil capacity, resulting in unmet loads and/or increased water flow rate and decreased water side temperature difference (“low ΔT” syndrome).

#### Modeling Approach

The coil fouling fault is described in the object FaultModel:Fouling:Coil. The fault model currently applies only to the ‘simple’ water coils: Coil:Heating:Water and Coil:Cooling:Water.

The FaultModel:Fouling:Coil object allows the user to describe the fouling information in either of the two methods: FouledUARated or FoulingFactor. Using FouledUARated method, user specifies the value of *UAfouled* directly. Using FoulingFactor method user specifies air/water side fouling factor, and the *UAfouled* value is further calculated via the equations shown below.

UAfouled = [UAair-1 + Rfoul + UAwater-1]-1

Where,

*UAair* heat transfer coefficient of the coil on the air side, W/K

*UAfouled* overall heat transfer coefficient of the fouled coil, W/K

*UAwater* heat transfer coefficient of the coil on the water side, W/K

*Rfoul* fouling factor, K/W

*Rfoul* is determined by:

Rfoul = rair/Aair+ rwater /Awater

Where,

*rair* Air side fouling factor, m2-K/W

*rwater* Water side fouling factor, m2-K/W

*Aair,* Air side coil surface area, m2

*Awater* Water side coil surface area, m2

The pressure drop associated with the fouling is ignored in the current implementation.