

Lightning Surge Analysis of an Offshore Wind Farm

In offshore wind farms, wind turbine resilience against lightning strikes is crucial. Lightning surges can threaten the turbines' reliability and the wind farm's efficiency. This model simulates the effects of a lightning strike on one turbine and its resulting induced electric fields on adjacent turbines.

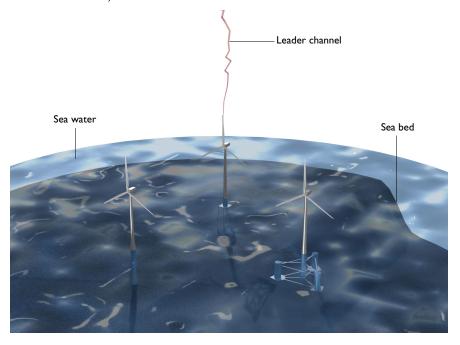


Figure 1: The view of an offshore wind farm. Lightning strikes one of the turbine blades.

This simulation aids in understanding the potential impacts of lightning on interconnected turbines within an offshore wind farm. Through analysis of these fields, engineers and researchers can gauge potential overvoltages and transient effects, thereby informing design for protection measures, wind turbine layout optimization, and continuous farm operation.

Model Definition

The model's geometry accurately reflects an offshore wind farm, detailing the strategic placement of turbines and their connectivity to the power grid. This spatial configuration plays a crucial role as it influences the propagation of the induced electric fields. Effects

from the saline water and the sea bed are essential components of the model given the offshore setting.

Assuming negligible losses from finite conductivity, the turbine's framework, which encompasses the tower, inner strips, and tower support structures, is characterized by perfect electric conductors. Meanwhile, the turbine blades, deemed RF-transparent, are excluded from the model for simplification.

Simulating the actual lightning strike, an edge current feature defines a 20 kA current source that targets a turbine, capturing the temporal nuances of a lightning surge. Furthermore, to emulate an expansive environment and minimize outward radiation, the model's exterior boundaries are configured with a scattering boundary condition.

Results and Discussion

The primary output of the simulation is the induced electric fields in adjacent wind turbines resulting from a lightning strike on one of the turbines, as illustrated in Figure 2. These electric fields shed light on potential overvoltages and transient effects that could impact neighboring turbines. Examining the distribution and magnitude of these induced fields helps identify vulnerable zones within the wind farm layout. Figure 2 focuses on the visual representation of these fields. For a more quantitative evaluation, Figure 3 contrasts the norm of the electric field at a vertex near the tip of the blades across each turbine tower.

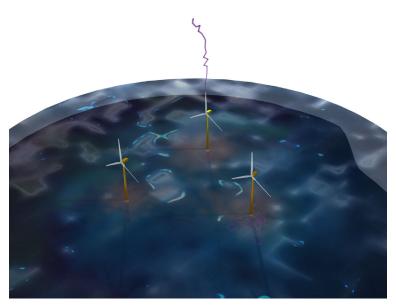


Figure 2: The norm of electric field on the turbine towers, sea water, and sea bed at $5 \mu s$.

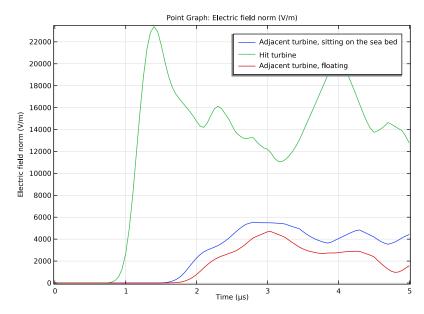


Figure 3: The norm of electric field on area around the tip of the blades at each tower.

Notes About the COMSOL Implementation

The model is designed for demonstration and emphasizes minimal computational resource use. Linear discretization is employed to lower computational costs.

Application Library path: RF Module/ESD and Lightning Surge/ lightning surge wind farm

Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

NEW

In the New window, click Model Wizard.

MODEL WIZARD

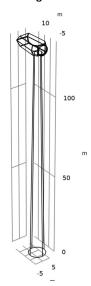
- I In the Model Wizard window, click **3D**.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Radio Frequency>Electromagnetic Waves, Transient (temw).
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click 🔵 Study.
- 5 In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Time Dependent.
- 6 Click **Done**.

GEOMETRY I

Wind Turbine Tower

- I In the Home toolbar, click Import.
- 2 In the Settings window for Import, type Wind Turbine Tower in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the **Import** section. Click **Browse**.
- 4 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file lightning_surge_wind_farm_turbine_tower.mphbin.
- 5 Click Import.
- 6 Click | Build Selected.

7 Click the Wireframe Rendering button in the Graphics toolbar.



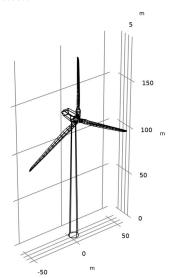


- 8 Locate the Selections of Resulting Entities section. Find the Cumulative selection subsection. Click New.
- 9 In the New Cumulative Selection dialog box, type Steel Body in the Name text field.
- IO Click OK.

Wind Turbine Blades

- I In the Home toolbar, click Import.
- 2 In the Settings window for Import, type Wind Turbine Blades in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Import section. Click **Browse**.
- 4 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file lightning surge wind farm turbine blades.mphbin.
- 5 Click Import.

6 Click Pauld Selected.

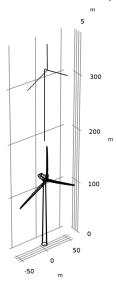




Inner Strip

- I In the Home toolbar, click Import.
- 2 In the Settings window for Import, type Inner Strip in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Import section. Click **Browse**.
- **4** Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file lightning_surge_wind_farm_inner_strip.mphbin.
- 5 Click Hoport.
- 6 Click **Build Selected**.

7 Click the **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.



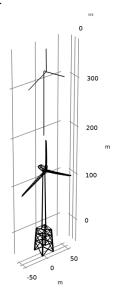


- 8 Locate the Selections of Resulting Entities section. Find the Cumulative selection subsection. Click New.
- 9 In the New Cumulative Selection dialog box, type Down Conductors in the Name text field.
- IO Click OK.

Supporting Structure

- 2 In the Settings window for Import, type Supporting Structure in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Import section. Click **Browse**.
- 4 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file lightning_surge_wind_farm_turbine_support1.mphbin.
- 5 Click Import.

6 Click | Build Selected.

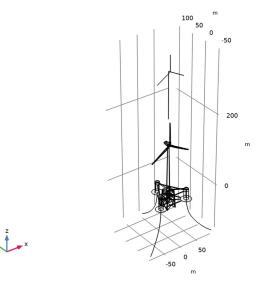


7 Locate the Selections of Resulting Entities section. Find the Cumulative selection subsection. From the Contribute to list, choose Steel Body.

Floating Supporting Structure

- I In the **Home** toolbar, click **Import**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Import, type Floating Supporting Structure in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Import section. Click Browse.
- 4 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file lightning_surge_wind_farm_turbine_support2.mphbin.
- 5 Click Hoport.

6 Click | Build Selected.

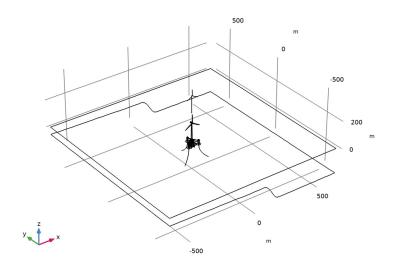


7 Locate the Selections of Resulting Entities section. Find the Cumulative selection subsection. From the Contribute to list, choose Steel Body.

Water and Seabed Surfaces

- I In the **Home** toolbar, click **Import**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Import, type Water and Seabed Surfaces in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Import section. Click Browse.
- 4 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file lightning_surge_wind_farm_water.mphbin.
- 5 Click Hoport.

6 Click Pauld Selected.



Move I (movI)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Transforms and choose Move.
- 2 Select the object imp5 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Move, locate the Displacement section.
- 4 In the x text field, type 300/sqrt(3).
- 5 Click Pauld Selected.

Move 2 (mov2)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Transforms and choose Move.
- 2 Select the object imp3 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Move, locate the Displacement section.
- 4 In the z text field, type -200.
- 5 Click Pauld Selected.

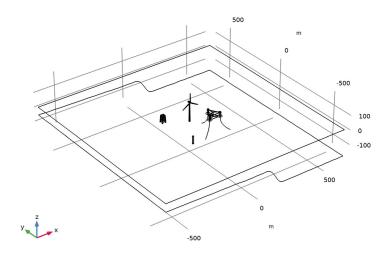
Move 3 (mov3)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click \times \tag{Transforms and choose Move.
- 2 Select the object imp4 only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Move, locate the Displacement section.
- 4 In the x text field, type -150/sqrt(3).

- 5 In the y text field, type 150.
- 6 Click | Build Selected.

Cylinder I (cyl1)

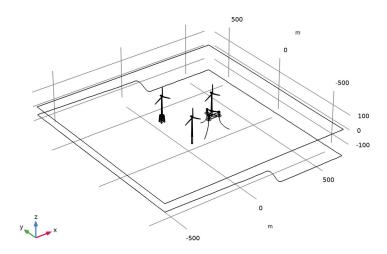
- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Cylinder.
- 2 In the Settings window for Cylinder, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Radius text field, type 5.
- 4 In the Height text field, type 50.
- 5 Locate the **Position** section. In the x text field, type -150/sqrt(3).
- 6 In the y text field, type -150.
- 7 In the z text field, type -50.
- 8 Locate the Selections of Resulting Entities section. Find the Cumulative selection subsection. From the Contribute to list, choose Steel Body.
- 9 Click Pauld Selected.



Copy I (copy I)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click 7 Transforms and choose Copy.
- 2 Click the Select Box button in the Graphics toolbar.
- 3 Select the objects imp1, imp2, and mov2 only.
- 4 In the Settings window for Copy, locate the Displacement section.

- 5 In the x text field, type -150/sqrt(3).
- 6 Locate the Input section. Clear the Keep input objects check box.
- 7 Locate the **Displacement** section. In the x text field, type -150/sqrt(3) -150/sqrt(3) 300/sqrt(3).
- **8** In the **y** text field, type -150 150 0.
- 9 Click | Build Selected.
- 10 Click the Zoom Extents button in the Graphics toolbar.

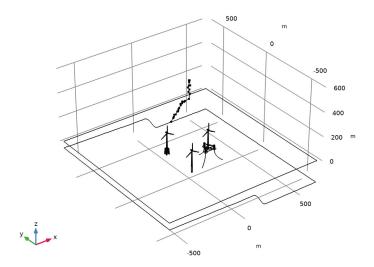


Leader Channel

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click

 More Primitives and choose Polygon.
- 2 In the Settings window for Polygon, type Leader Channel in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Coordinates section. Click Load from File.
- 4 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file lightning_surge_wind_farm_table.txt.

5 Click | Build Selected.

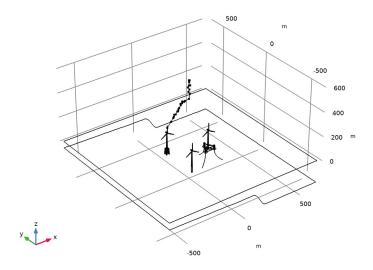


- 6 Locate the Selections of Resulting Entities section. Find the Cumulative selection subsection. Click New.
- 7 In the New Cumulative Selection dialog box, type Lightning Channel in the Name text field.
- 8 Click OK.

Final Strike

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click \bigcirc More Primitives and choose Line Segment.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line Segment, type Final Strike in the Label text field.
- **3** On the object **poll**, select Point 1 only.
- **4** Locate the **Endpoint** section. Click to select the **Activate Selection** toggle button for End vertex.
- 5 On the object copy (5), select Point 273 only.
- 6 Locate the Selections of Resulting Entities section. Find the Cumulative selection subsection. From the Contribute to list, choose Lightning Channel.

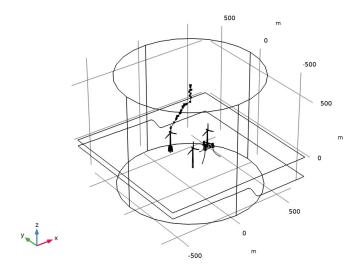
7 Click **Build Selected**.



Cylinder 2 (cyl2)

- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Cylinder.
- 2 In the Settings window for Cylinder, locate the Size and Shape section.
- 3 In the Radius text field, type 600.
- 4 In the Height text field, type 1000.
- **5** Locate the **Position** section. In the **z** text field, type -300.

6 Click Pauld Selected.

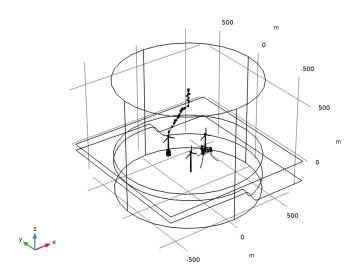


Partition Objects I (par I)

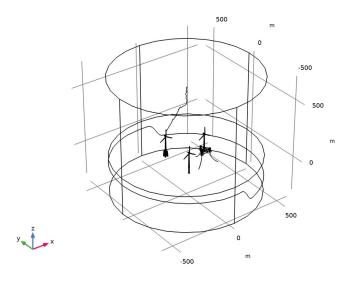
- I In the Geometry toolbar, click Booleans and Partitions and choose Partition Objects.
- **2** Select the object **imp6** only.
- 3 In the Settings window for Partition Objects, locate the Partition Objects section.
- **4** Click to select the **Activate Selection** toggle button for **Tool objects**.
- **5** Select the object **cyl2** only.
- **6** Select the **Keep tool objects** check box.
- 7 Click **Build Selected**.

Delete Entities I (del I)

I In the Model Builder window, right-click Geometry I and choose Delete Entities.



- 2 On the object parl, select Boundaries 1 and 2 only.
- 3 In the Geometry toolbar, click **Build All**.
- 4 In the Model Builder window, click Geometry 1.



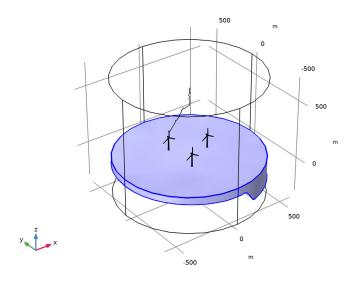
ADD MATERIAL

- I In the Home toolbar, click Radd Material to open the Add Material window.
- 2 Go to the Add Material window.
- 3 In the tree, select Built-in>Air.
- 4 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click 4 Add Material to close the Add Material window.

MATERIALS

Sea Water

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) right-click Materials and choose Blank Material.
- 2 In the Settings window for Material, type Sea Water in the Label text field.
- **3** Select Domain 2 only.

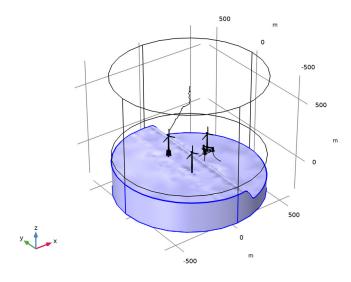


4 Locate the **Material Contents** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group	
Relative permittivity	epsilonr_iso; epsilonrii = epsilonr_iso, epsilonrij = 0	80	I	Basic	
Relative permeability	mur_iso; murii = mur_iso, murij = 0	1	I	Basic	
Electrical conductivity	sigma_iso; sigmaii = sigma_iso, sigmaij = 0	4	S/m	Basic	

Sea Bed

- I Right-click Materials and choose Blank Material.
- 2 Select Domain 1 only.



3 In the Settings window for Material, type Sea Bed in the Label text field.

4 Locate the **Material Contents** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Property	Variable	Value	Unit	Property group	
Relative permittivity	epsilonr_iso; epsilonrii = epsilonr_iso, epsilonrij = 0	15	I	Basic	
Relative permeability	mur_iso; murii = mur_iso, murij = 0	1	I	Basic	
Electrical conductivity	sigma_iso; sigmaii = sigma_iso, sigmaij = 0	0.1	S/m	Basic	

Use the Linear discretization to reduce computational costs, though this might compromise accuracy. The model is designed for demonstration with an emphasis on minimizing computational resources.

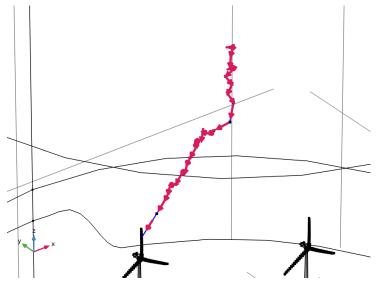
ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES, TRANSIENT (TEMW)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Electromagnetic Waves, Transient (temw).
- 2 In the Settings window for Electromagnetic Waves, Transient, click to expand the **Discretization** section.
- 3 From the Magnetic vector potential list, choose Linear.

Edge Current I

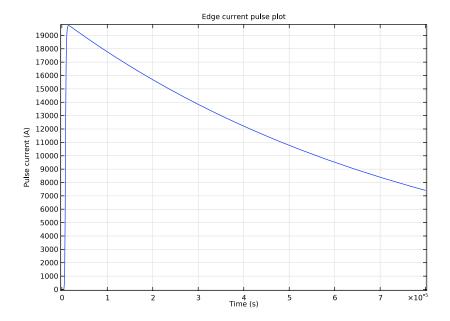
- I In the Physics toolbar, click Edges and choose Edge Current.
- 2 In the Settings window for Edge Current, locate the Edge Selection section.

3 From the Selection list, choose Lightning Channel.



- 4 Locate the Edge Current section. From the Edge current type list, choose Lightning.
- **5** In the I_0 text field, type 20[kA].
- **6** In the τ_1 text field, type 0.8[us].
- 7 In the τ_2 text field, type 80[us].
- **8** In the v_p text field, type c_const/3.
- **9** Select the **Reverse direction** check box.

10 Click Plot Pulse Shape in the window toolbar.

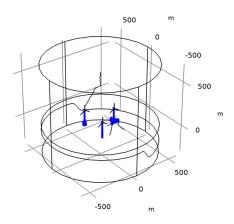


ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES, TRANSIENT (TEMW)

Perfect Electric Conductor 2

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Component I (compl)>Definitions node.
- 2 Right-click Component I (compl)>Electromagnetic Waves, Transient (temw) and choose Perfect Electric Conductor.
- 3 In the Settings window for Perfect Electric Conductor, locate the Boundary Selection section.

4 From the Selection list, choose Steel Body.

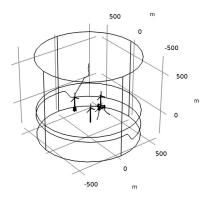




Perfect Electric Conductor 3

I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Perfect Electric Conductor.

2 Select Boundary 667 only.



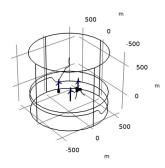


3 Click the Go to Default View button in the Graphics toolbar.

Perfect Electric Conductor 4

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Perfect Electric Conductor.
- 2 In the Settings window for Perfect Electric Conductor, locate the Boundary Selection section.

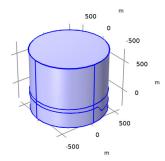
3 From the Selection list, choose Down Conductors.





Scattering Boundary Condition I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Scattering Boundary Condition**.
- 2 Click the Orthographic Projection button in the Graphics toolbar.
- **3** Select Boundaries 1–5, 7, 8, 10, and 1262–1267 only.

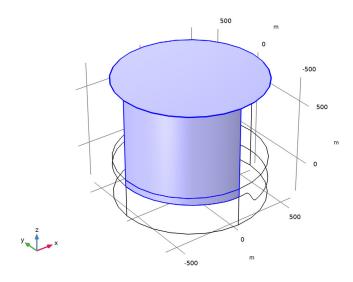




DEFINITIONS

Hide for Physics 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click View I and choose Hide for Physics.
- 2 In the Settings window for Hide for Physics, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- **4** Select Boundaries 4, 7, 10, 1259, and 1260 only.



MESH I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Mesh I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Mesh, locate the Electromagnetic Waves, Transient (temw) section.
- 3 In the Maximum element size in free space text field, type 120.
- 4 Click Build All.

Make the mesh coarse in the area where the wave propagation is not of interest such as the sea water.

- 5 In the Settings window for Mesh, locate the Sequence Type section.
- 6 From the list, choose User-controlled mesh.

Size

I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Mesh I click Size.

- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size Parameters section.
- **3** In the **Minimum element size** text field, type 20.

Size 1

- I In the Model Builder window, click Size I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size Parameters section.
- 3 In the Maximum element size text field, type 120.
- 4 In the Minimum element size text field, type 20.

Size 2

- I In the Model Builder window, click Size 2.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size Parameters section.
- 3 In the Maximum element size text field, type 90.
- **4** In the **Minimum element size** text field, type **20**.
- 5 Click **Build All**.

STUDYI

Step 1: Time Dependent

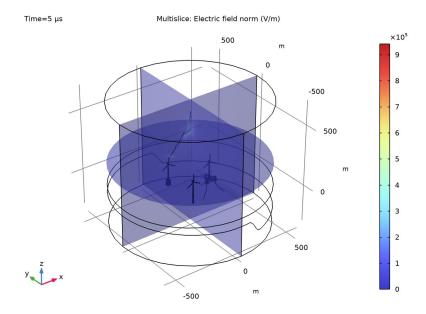
- I In the Model Builder window, under Study I click Step I: Time Dependent.
- 2 In the Settings window for Time Dependent, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 From the Time unit list, choose μ s.
- 4 In the Output times text field, type range (0,0.05,5).
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click **Compute**.

RESULTS

Transparency I

I In the Model Builder window, expand the 3D Plot Group I node.

2 Right-click Multislice I and choose Transparency.



3D Plot Group 2

In the Home toolbar, click **Add Plot Group** and choose **3D Plot Group**.

Sea Water

- I Right-click 3D Plot Group 2 and choose Volume.
- 2 In the Settings window for Volume, type Sea Water in the Label text field.
- 3 Click to expand the Range section. Select the Manual color range check box.
- 4 In the Maximum text field, type 1.
- 5 Locate the Coloring and Style section. Click Change Color Table.
- 6 In the Color Table dialog box, select Aurora>JupiterAuroraBorealis in the tree.
- 7 Click OK.

Selection I

- I Right-click Sea Water and choose Selection.
- **2** Select Domain 2 only.

Material Appearance I

I In the Model Builder window, right-click Sea Water and choose Material Appearance.

- 2 In the Settings window for Material Appearance, locate the Appearance section.
- 3 From the Appearance list, choose Custom.
- **4** From the **Material type** list, choose **Water**.
- **5** Locate the **Color** section. Select the **Use the plot's color** check box.

Transparency I

Right-click Sea Water and choose Transparency.

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click 3D Plot Group 2 and choose Volume.
- 2 In the Settings window for Volume, type Sea Bed in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Coloring and Style section. Click | Change Color Table.
- 4 In the Color Table dialog box, select Thermal>GrayBody in the tree.
- 5 Click OK.

Selection 1

- I Right-click Sea Bed and choose Selection.
- **2** Select Domain 1 only.

Material Appearance 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Sea Bed and choose Material Appearance.
- 2 In the Settings window for Material Appearance, locate the Appearance section.
- **3** From the **Appearance** list, choose **Custom**.
- 4 From the Material type list, choose Soil.
- **5** Locate the **Color** section. Select the **Use the plot's color** check box.

Wind Turbine Body

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click 3D Plot Group 2 and choose Surface.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, type Wind Turbine Body in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Coloring and Style section. Click Change Color Table.
- 4 In the Color Table dialog box, select Thermal>Plasma in the tree.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Surface, locate the Coloring and Style section.
- 7 From the Scale list, choose Logarithmic.

Selection 1

I Right-click Wind Turbine Body and choose Selection.

- 2 In the Settings window for Selection, locate the Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Steel Body.

Material Appearance 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Wind Turbine Body and choose Material Appearance.
- 2 In the Settings window for Material Appearance, locate the Appearance section.
- 3 From the Appearance list, choose Custom.
- 4 From the Material type list, choose Steel (anodized).
- **5** Locate the **Color** section. Select the **Use the plot's color** check box.

Down Conductors

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click 3D Plot Group 2 and choose Surface.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface, type Down Conductors in the Label text field.

Selection 1

- I Right-click Down Conductors and choose Selection.
- 2 In the Settings window for Selection, locate the Selection section.
- **3** From the **Selection** list, choose **Down Conductors**.

Material Abbearance 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Down Conductors and choose Material Appearance.
- 2 In the Settings window for Material Appearance, locate the Appearance section.
- 3 From the Appearance list, choose Custom.
- 4 From the Material type list, choose Gold.
- **5** Locate the **Color** section. Select the **Use the plot's color** check box.

Lightning Channel

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click 3D Plot Group 2 and choose Line.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line, locate the Coloring and Style section.
- **3** From the **Line type** list, choose **Tube**.
- 4 In the Tube radius expression text field, type sqrt(z-175).
- 5 Select the Radius scale factor check box. In the associated text field, type 0.1.
- 6 From the Scale list, choose Logarithmic.
- 7 Click Change Color Table.

- 8 In the Color Table dialog box, select Recently Used>Plasma in the tree.
- 9 Click OK.
- 10 In the Settings window for Line, type Lightning Channel in the Label text field.

Selection 1

- I Right-click Lightning Channel and choose Selection.
- 2 In the Settings window for Selection, locate the Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Lightning Channel.
- 4 In the 3D Plot Group 2 toolbar, click Plot.

Transparency I

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Lightning Channel and choose Transparency.
- 2 In the Settings window for Transparency, locate the Transparency section.
- **3** Set the **Transparency** value to **0.65**.

3D Plot Group 2

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click 3D Plot Group 2.
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, locate the Plot Settings section.
- **3** Clear the **Plot dataset edges** check box.

Blades

- I Right-click 3D Plot Group 2 and choose Volume.
- 2 In the Settings window for Volume, type Blades in the Label text field.
- **3** Locate the **Expression** section. In the **Expression** text field, type 1.

Selection 1

- I Right-click Blades and choose Selection.
- 2 Select Domains 4, 5, and 22 only.

Material Appearance 1

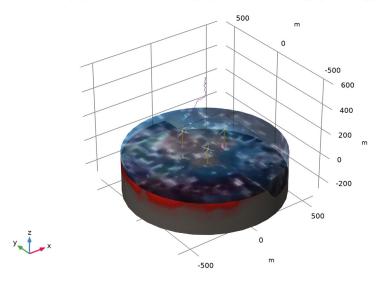
- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Blades and choose Material Appearance.
- 2 In the Settings window for Material Appearance, locate the Appearance section.
- 3 From the Appearance list, choose Custom.
- 4 In the 3D Plot Group 2 toolbar, click Plot.

Transparency I

I Right-click Blades and choose Transparency.

2 Click the Show Legends button in the Graphics toolbar.

Time=5 µs Volume: Electric field norm (V/m) Volume: Electric field norm (V/m) Surface: Electric field norm (V/m) Line: Electric field norm (V/m) Volume: 1 (1)



By adjusting the 3D camera settings, add more visual impact.

DEFINITIONS

Camera

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Definitions>View I click Camera.
- 2 In the Settings window for Camera, locate the Camera section.
- 3 In the **Zoom angle** text field, type 35.
- 4 Locate the **Position** section. In the **x** text field, type 800.
- **5** In the **y** text field, type -900.
- 6 In the z text field, type 900.
- 7 Locate the Target section. In the x text field, type -4000.
- **8** In the **y** text field, type 5000.
- 9 In the z text field, type -4000.
- 10 Locate the Up Vector section. In the x text field, type -0.3.
- II In the y text field, type 0.35.

12 In the z text field, type 1.

13 Locate the Center of Rotation section. In the x text field, type -50.

14 In the y text field, type 80.

I5 In the **z** text field, type 15.

16 Locate the View Offset section. In the x text field, type 0.05.

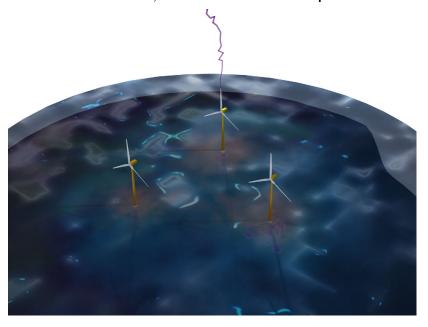
17 In the y text field, type 0.05.

18 Click 🚺 Update.

RESULTS

3D Plot Group 2

In the Model Builder window, under Results click 3D Plot Group 2.



ID Plot Group 3

In the Home toolbar, click Add Plot Group and choose ID Plot Group.

Point Graph I

- I Right-click ID Plot Group 3 and choose Point Graph.
- 2 Select Points 1560, 1561, and 2385 only.
- 3 In the ID Plot Group 3 toolbar, click Plot.

- 4 In the Settings window for Point Graph, locate the Selection section.
- **5** Click to select the **Activate Selection** toggle button.
- 6 In the list, select 2385.
- 7 Click to expand the Legends section. From the Legends list, choose Manual.
- **8** In the table, enter the following settings:

Legends						
Adjacent 1	turbine,	sitting	on	the	sea	bed
Hit turbine						
Adjacent 1	turbine,	floating)			

- 9 In the ID Plot Group 3 toolbar, click Plot.
- 10 Select the Show legends check box.
- II In the ID Plot Group 3 toolbar, click **Plot**.

