ARTICLE

555

MARINAS, BOATYARDS, COMMERCIAL AND NONCOMMERCIAL DOCKING FACILITIES

Introduction to Article 555—Marinas, Boatyards, and Docking Facilities

Water levels are not constant. Ocean tides rise and fall, while lakes and rivers vary in depth in response to rain. To provide power to a marina, boatyard, or docking facility, you must allow for these variations in water level between the point of use and the electric power source. Article 555 addresses this issue.

This article begins with the concept of the electrical datum plane. You might think of it as the border of a "demilitarized zone" for electrical equipment. Or, you can think of it as a line that marks the beginning of a "no man's land" where you simply do not place electrical equipment. Once you determine where this plane is, do not place transformers, connections, or receptacles below that line.

Article 555—Marinas, Boatyards, Floating Buildings, and Commercial and Noncommercial Docking Facilities

This article was reorganized, includes several technical changes, and was expanded to incorporate the rules for floating buildings that were in Article 553.

555.13. Bonding of Noncurrent-Carrying Metal Parts

This rule was relocated here from 553.11 and requires all metal parts likely to become energized that are in contact with the water to be connected to the ground bus of the panelboard.

Scan this QR code for a video of Mike explaining this topic; it's a sample from the videos that accompany this textbook.

Analysis

RELOCATED

The rules pertaining to floating buildings are more appropriately placed in Article 555 because they need to apply to more than just floating buildings which was the case in Part III. Locating these rules here in Part I, make them enforceable throughout the entire scope of Article 555.

Author's Comment:

- It seems that complying with this section would be very difficult because there are many independent metal parts in contact with the water.