

- [54] **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ACCELERATED TESTING OF POWER CABLE INSULATION FOR SUSCEPTIBILITY TO TREEING**
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- [58] Field of Search **324/54**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

Extruded power cable insulation is tested for susceptibility to gradual electro-chemical deterioration (electro-chemical treeing) by wetting at least a portion of the insulation of a sample of the cable with a selected liquid wetting agent and applying a high frequency, high voltage alternating current signal across the wetted portion of the insulation. During testing the conductor of the test sample may be heated to approximately its normal operating temperature. The cable sample may also be mechanically stressed during the test if desired. Trees develop in considerably less time than is required under normal operating conditions.

27 Claims, 3 Drawing Figures

- [56] **References Cited**
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