Uncertainty Assessment and Decision from Concrete Electrical Resistivity Measurements on a Coastal Large Bridge

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Abstract

For RC structures exposed to marine environments, chloride-induced corrosion leads to deteriorations that can be associated to different exposure conditions: tidal, splash and atmospheric. The on-site assessment of the corrosion condition of the reinforcement in concrete relies on a corrosion diagnosis which consists in different techniques and among them non destructive techniques such as half-cell potential, resistivity and corrosion measurements. Although the two first techniques are commonly used, variability and uncertainties in NDT condition assessment remain factors that need to be better understood in order to increase the reliability of the diagnosis particularly in the case of marine structures (in comparison with atmospheric structures for which literature is more important).

The objectives of the Project DéCoF-Ré (2014-2017) were to study both the concrete durability and the corrosion state of the piers of the Ile de Ré bridge which is located in the French Atlantic coast. Concerning the corrosion study, visual inspections, rebar localization, half-cell potential mapping, electrical concrete resistivity mapping and corrosion rate measurements were performed during three years in order to analyse the influence of the measurement procedures, the investigated zones (pier number, side, height) and the environments (tide level, climatic conditions). This paper focuses on the resistivity measurements