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Performance and aging of OPERA bakelite RPCs.

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OPERA is an experiment dedicated to the observation of neutrino oscillations through tau appearance on the CNGS beam. The experiment is composed by two identical super-modules, each with a target section (made of emulsion/lead bricks alternated to a scintillator Target Tracker) and a muon spectrometer (instrumented with bakelite electrodes RPCs and drift tubes).

The OPERA RPC system is composed of about 1000 RPCs for an instrumented area of 3000 m².

The RPCs are operated in streamer mode and flushed with the gas mixture Ar/R134a/isobutane/SF₆=75.4/20/4/0.6 at five refills/day in open flow.

The present performances of the RPC system after six years of operation are presented.

The aging status of the detector is also described.

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