

NEW ANALYTICS TO IMPROVE PUMP PERFORMANCE

BY: Juan Gamarra, PE
[Specific Energy] &
Rodney Seaver
[Kempner Water
Supply Corporation]



TURBOMACHINERY & PUMP SYMPOSIA

DECEMBER 14-16, 2021



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY



TURBOMACHINERY LABORATORY
TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION


SPECIFIC ENERGY



BIOS:

Juan Gamarra, PE

- Director of Business Development
- Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of NJ
- 14+ years of experience in the pump industry

Rodney Seaver

- Distribution Manager
- Specific Energy customer since 2009
- Found Specific Energy as Field Service Supervisor

Abstract

Kempner Water Supply Corp. in Central Texas serves a population of 20,000. After installing VFDs, they experienced high pressure spikes which strained their pipe network as well as their staff. Line breaks became a common issue. After installation of a Dynamic Pump Optimizer (DPO), the pressure transients decreased and the VFDs were used to their full potential. In the end, KWSC was able to reduce peak transients by 77%, cut their energy costs by 20%, and better manage their assets.

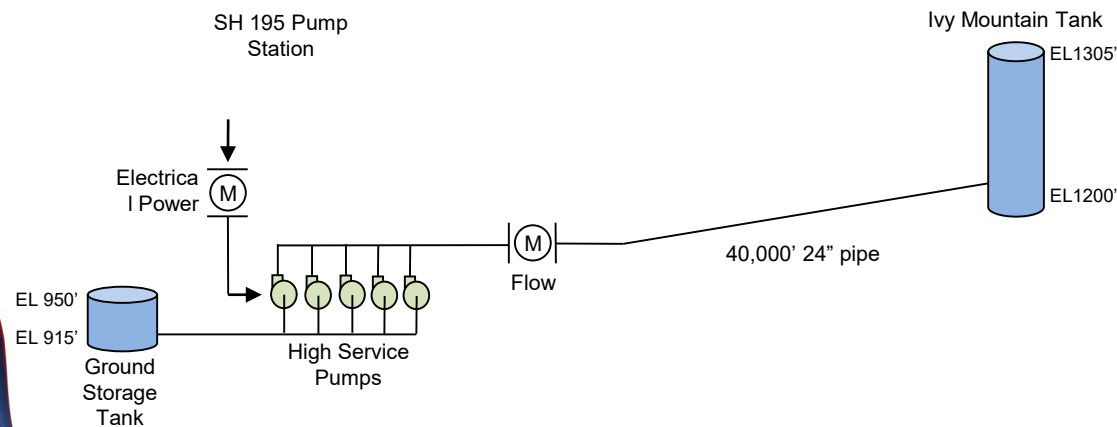
Problem Statement

“After installing VFDs, my team was fixing suction and discharge pipe ruptures once a week. I was about to lose my guys because they grew frustrated of having to perform the same urgent repairs, working lo

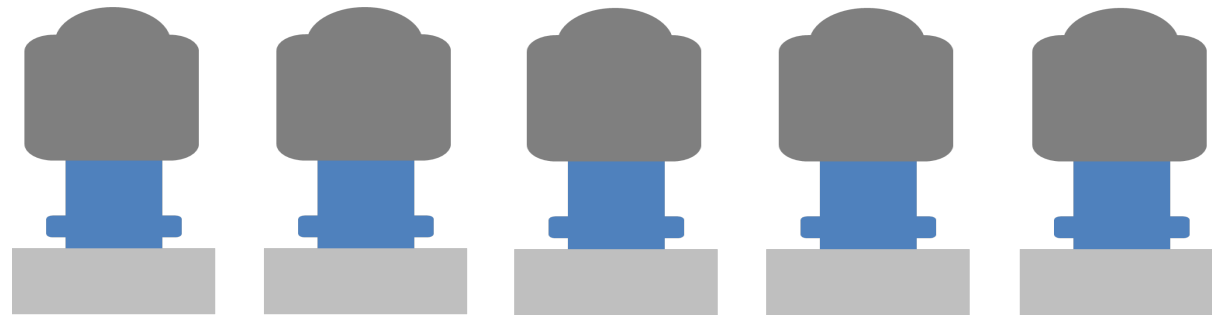


System Overview

- State Highway 195 Pump Station
- (5) 250 HP Vertical Turbine Pump
- Pump water to Ivy Mountain tank
- KWSC's largest energy consumer
- Installed VFDs to reduce energy



Operators' Challenge



Constant
Speed
Control
ON / OFF

$$2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2 =$$

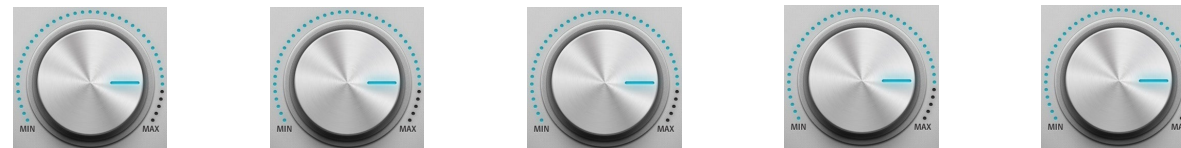
32
combinations



$$31 \times 31 \times 31 \times 31 \times 31 >$$

28 million
combinations

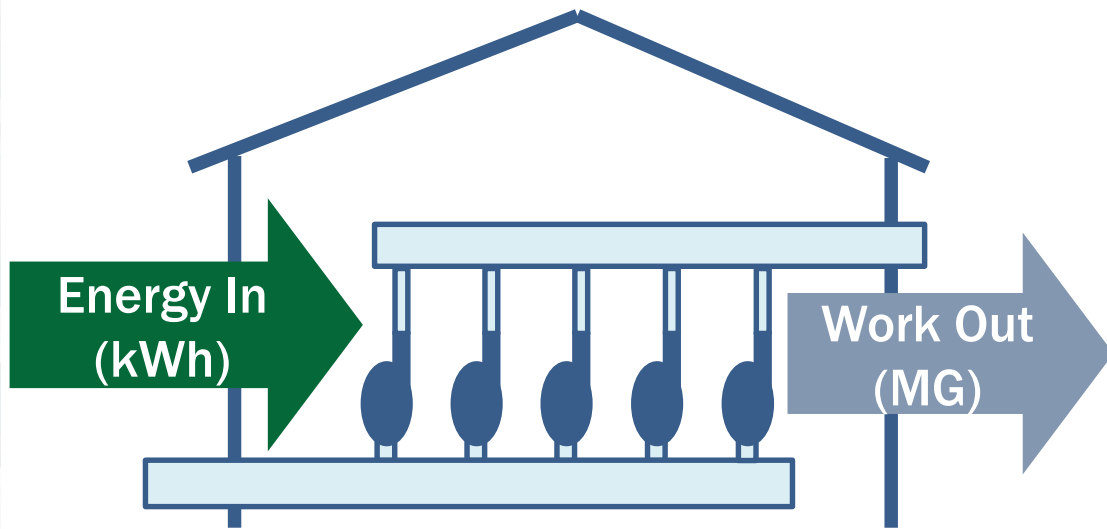
VFD Speed
Control
(0.5 Hz res.)



$$45 \quad 60 \quad 45 \quad 60 \quad 45 \quad 60 \quad 45 \quad 60 \quad 45 \quad 60$$



Specific Energy - Defined



EXAMPLE

Pump station power: $P = 1,125 \text{ kW}$

Flow rate: $Q = 15,000 \text{ gpm}$

$$SE = k (P / Q)$$

$$SE = 1,125 \text{ kW} / 15,000 \text{ gal} / \text{min}$$

* (1,000,000 gal / MG)

* (1 hour / 60 minutes)

$$SE = 1,250 \text{ kW h} / \text{MG}$$

100% efficient system: 3.14 kilowatt-hours per million gallons per foot of elevation gain.

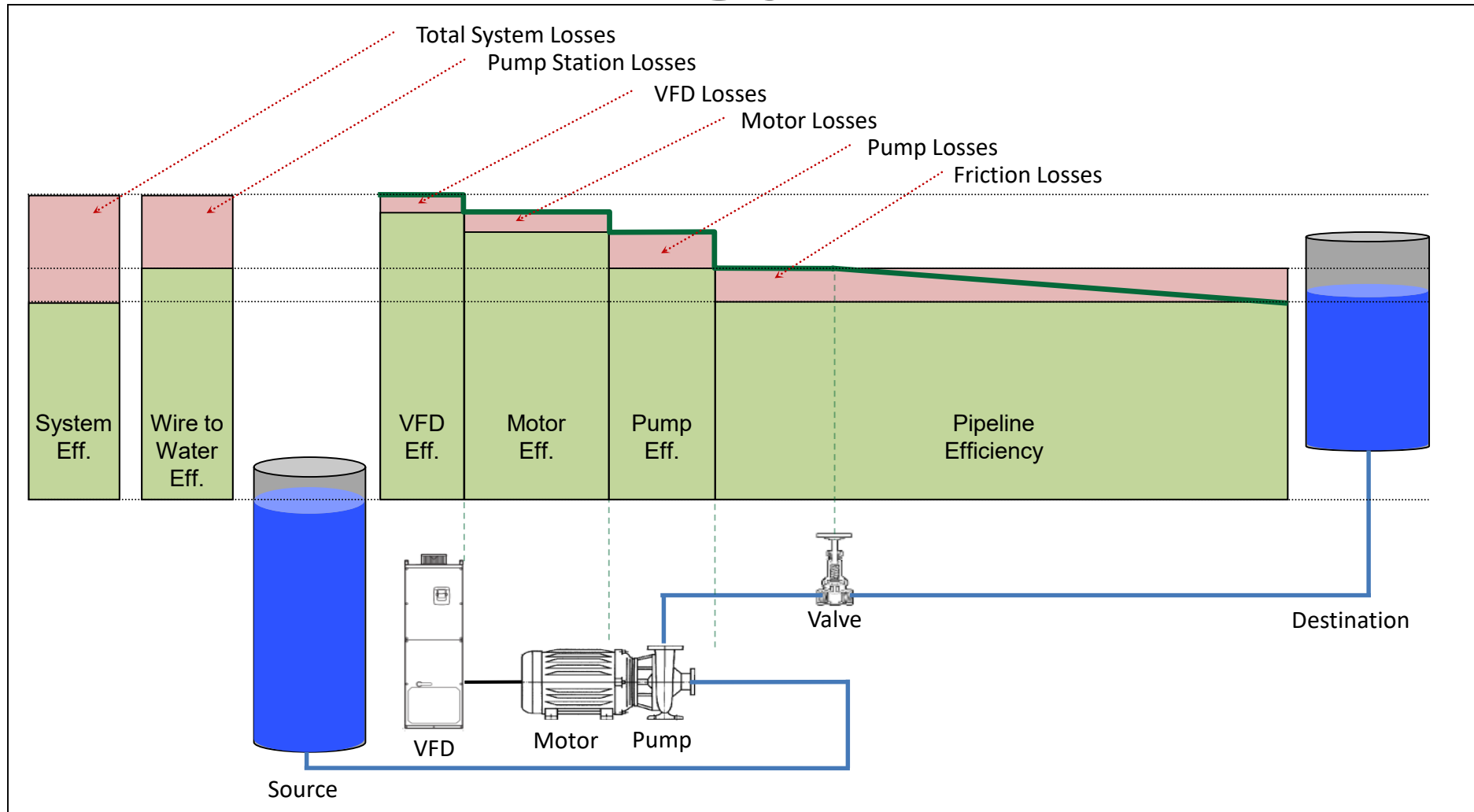
SE Efficiency =

$$\frac{3.14 \cdot (\text{elevation gain in ft})}{(\text{measured SE})}$$

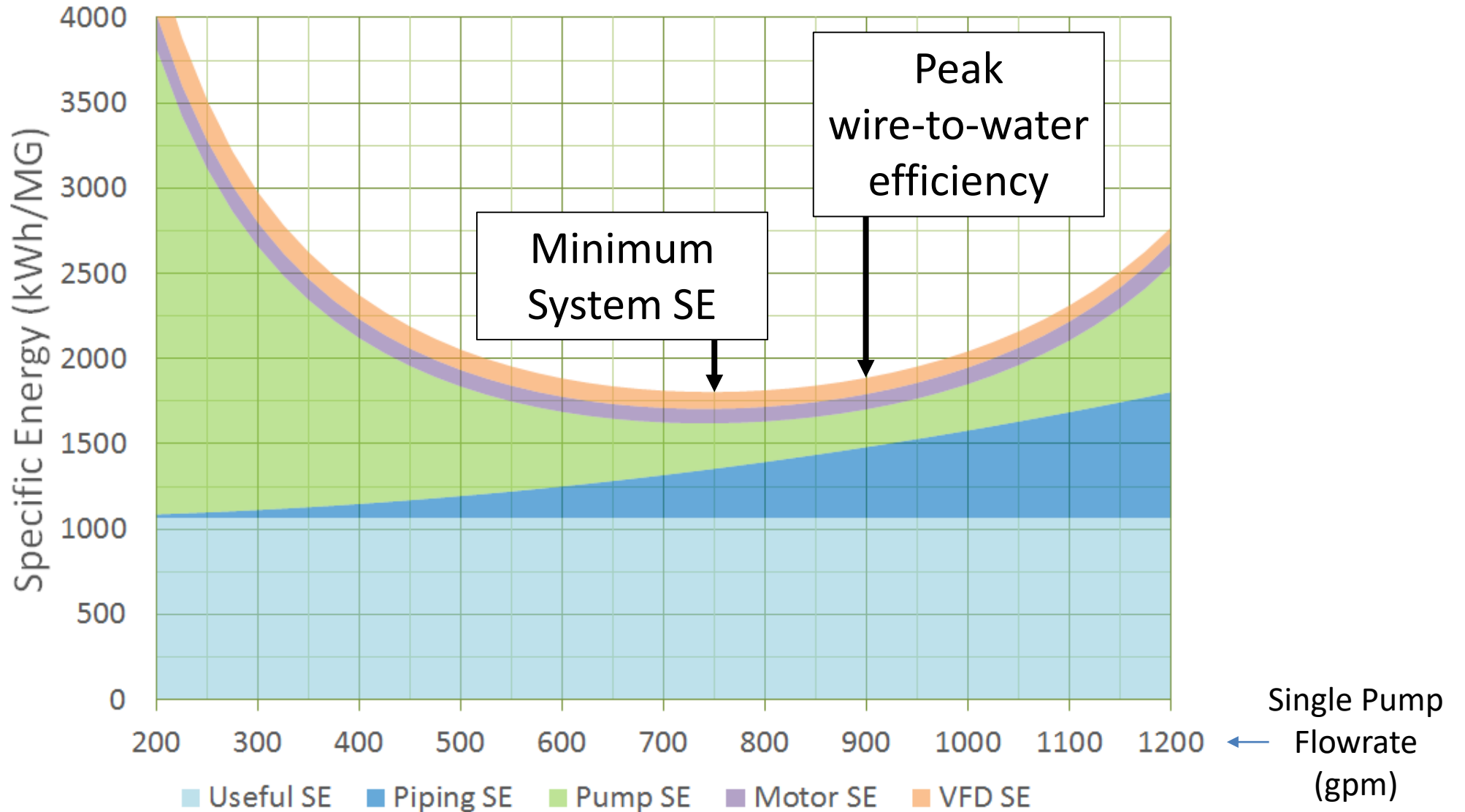
Typical efficiency for public water pumping and distribution systems: 50% to 75%.

$$\text{Specific Energy} = \frac{\text{Energy [kWh]}}{\text{Volume [MG]}} = \frac{\text{Power [kW]}}{\text{Flow [MG/h]}}$$

Specific Energy - Illustrated



Specific Energy - Graphed



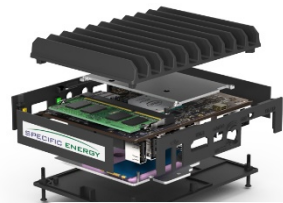
Specific Energy - Solution Architecture

Physical System ↔ Digital Twin



Plant Data

- Pressure
- Flow
- Level
- Pump power/speed
- PLC/Controller (inputs/outputs)



Dynamic Pump Optimizer - Edge Device

- Physics based model analytics
- Compute Pump Curves
- Optimize in real-time
- Model ROI
- Dynamic modeling



Cloud

- Operating visibility and recommendations
- Pump health reports
- Monitor from anywhere
- Unlimited data storage/historian



Operations

- Text message alerts
- Recommendations
- Real-time pump performance
- Flexible operations
- Dashboards



DPO Control [Active]

Advisory Mode [Passive]

Model-based Control

Optimized Performance

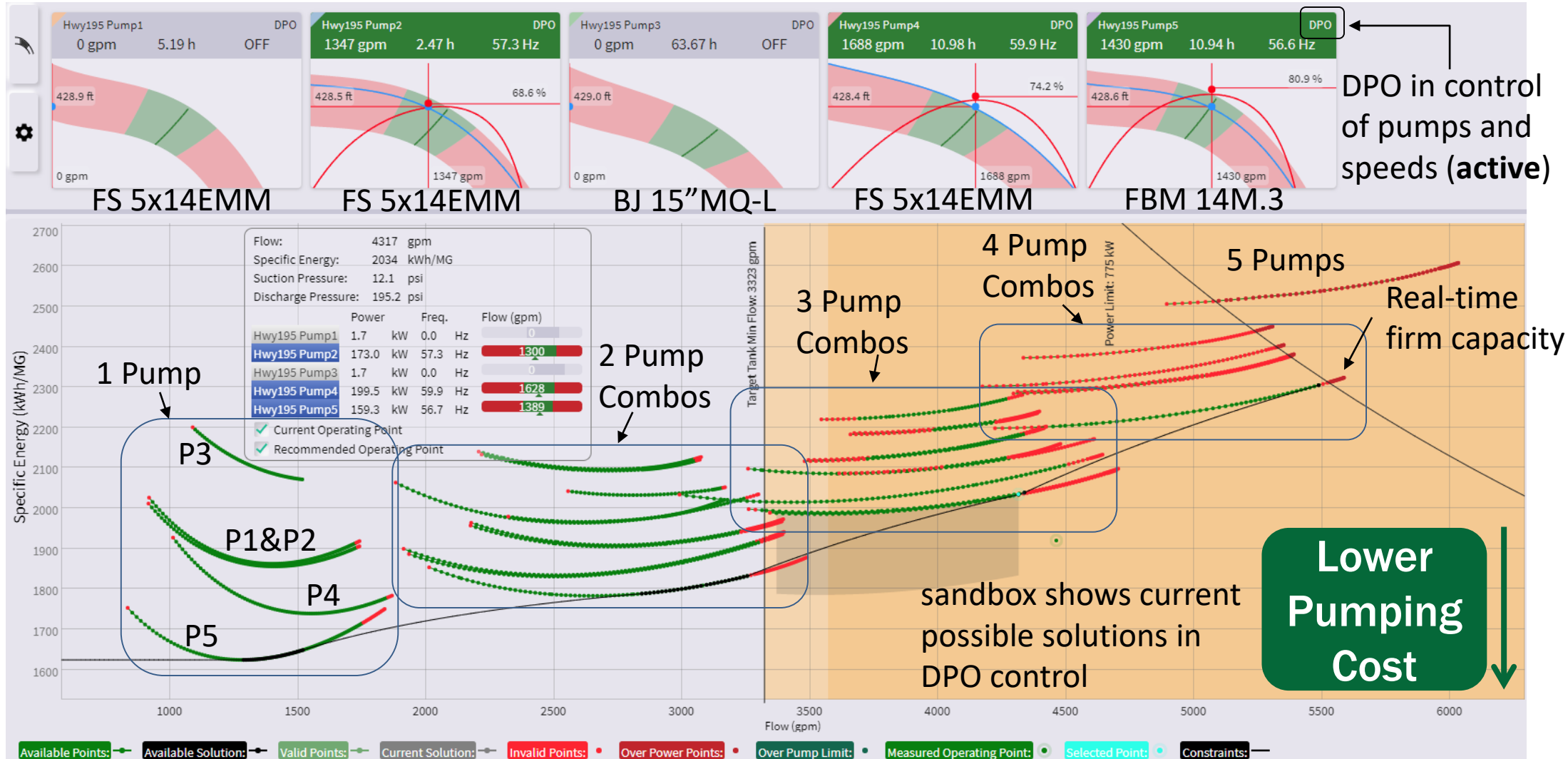
Informed Decisions

Actionable Results

Specific Energy – Map

Green = In POR

Red = Out of POR

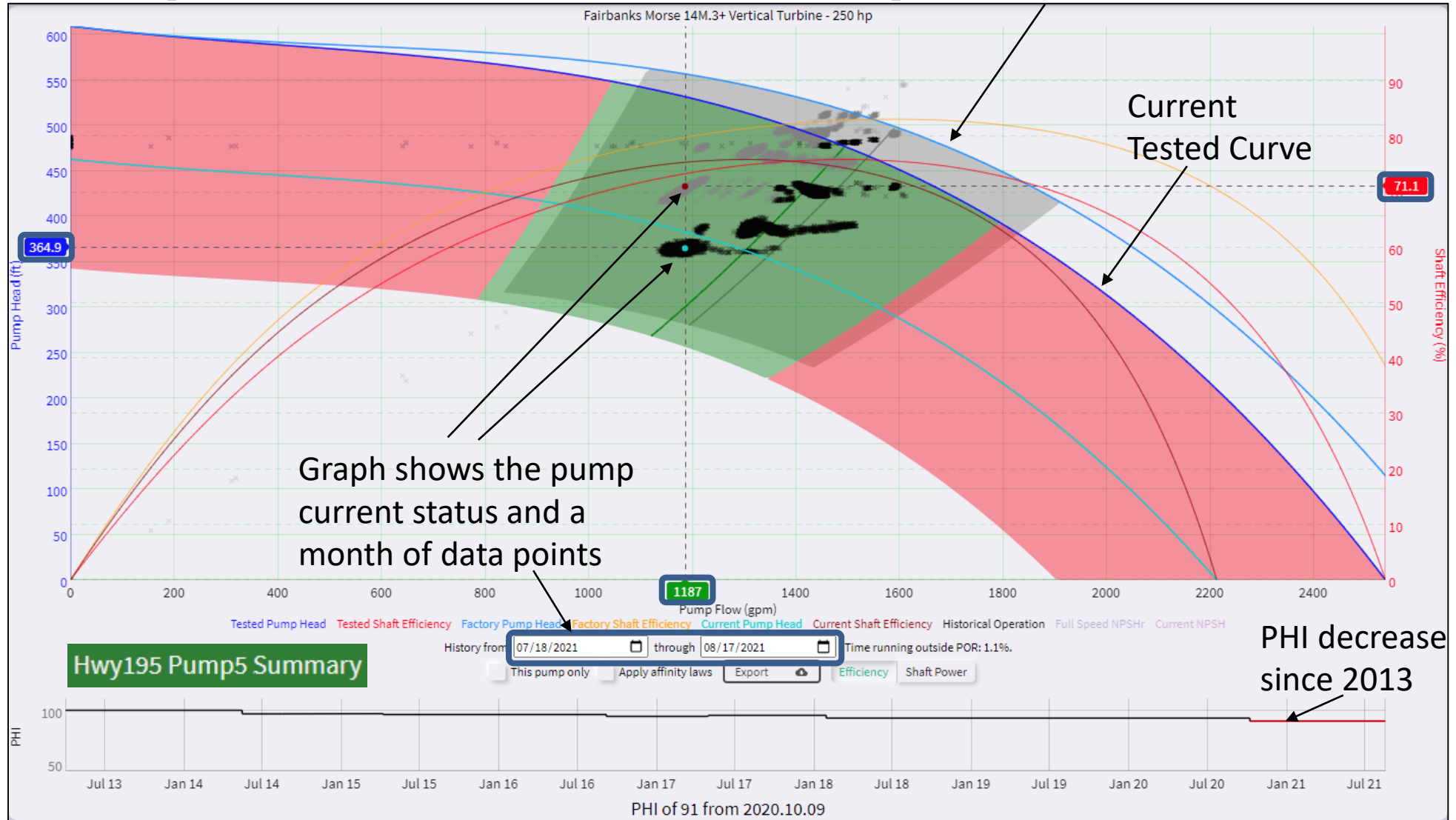


Map shows all possible ways to run the pump station. The lower the point, the lower the SE.

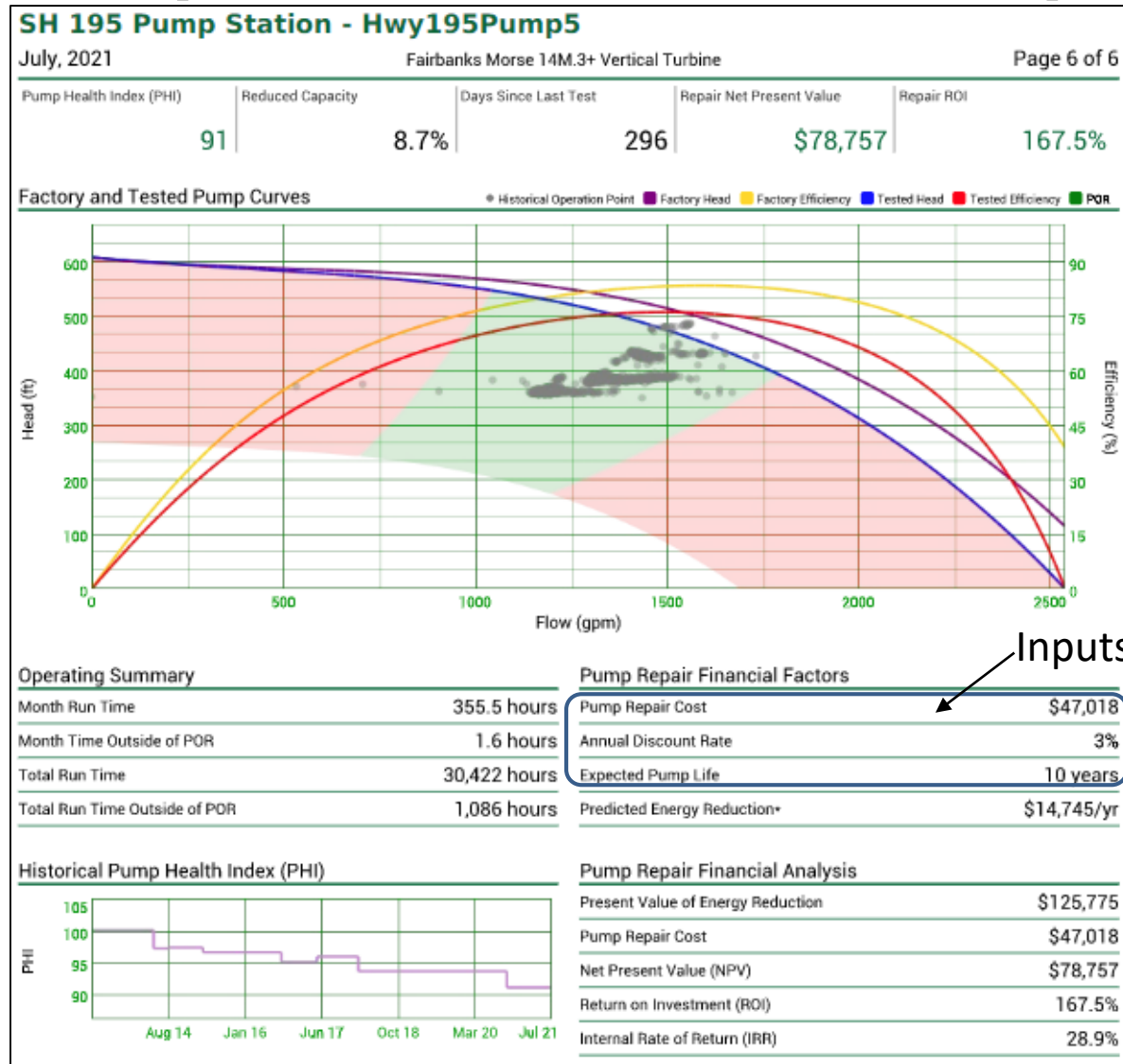


Pump Health – Graph

Pump Health Index (PHI) = Current BEP Efficiency vs. Factory BEP Efficiency

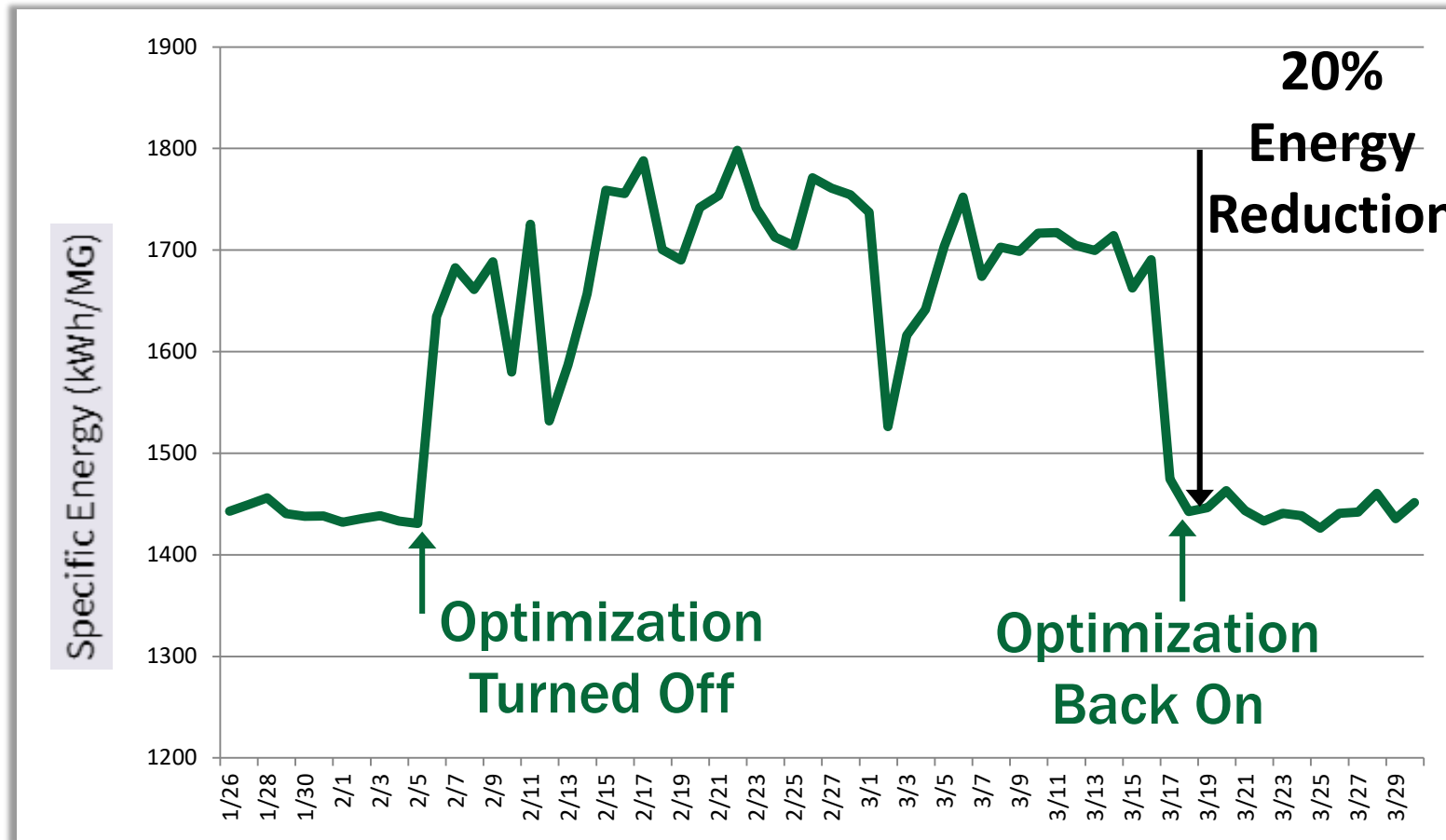


Pump Health – Report



The monthly health report shows how the pump has worn to date. The goal is to quickly show managers information on deciding to refurbish a unit when the Net Present Value (NPV) turns positive. It takes the total run time and calculates the energy reduction based on using a refurbished unit (more efficient). No more running pumps to failure or past their energy efficient lifespans. In some cases, capacity reduction is king.

Results - Energy Reduction



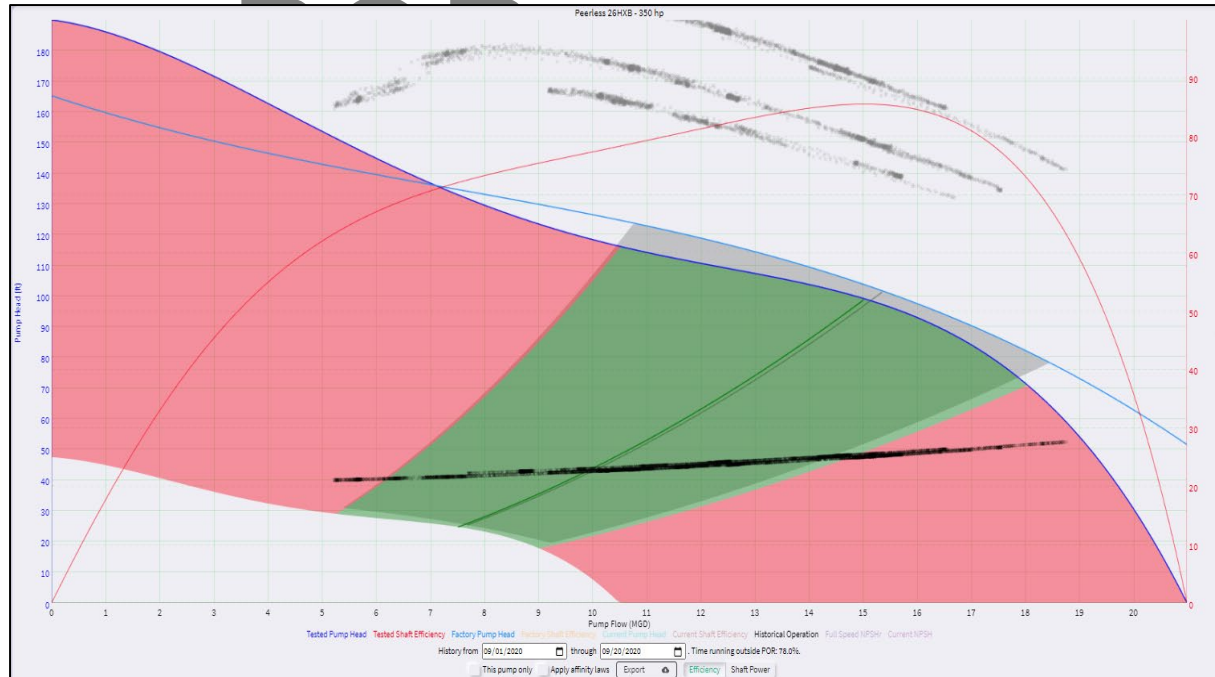
Annual Energy Savings:
\$37,000
431,052 kWh

Optimization period involved all pumps. The DPO system was controlling the combination of pumps and speeds (**active**) to meet the demand at minimum SE.

Daily Specific Energy
(1/26/2014 - 3/30/2014)

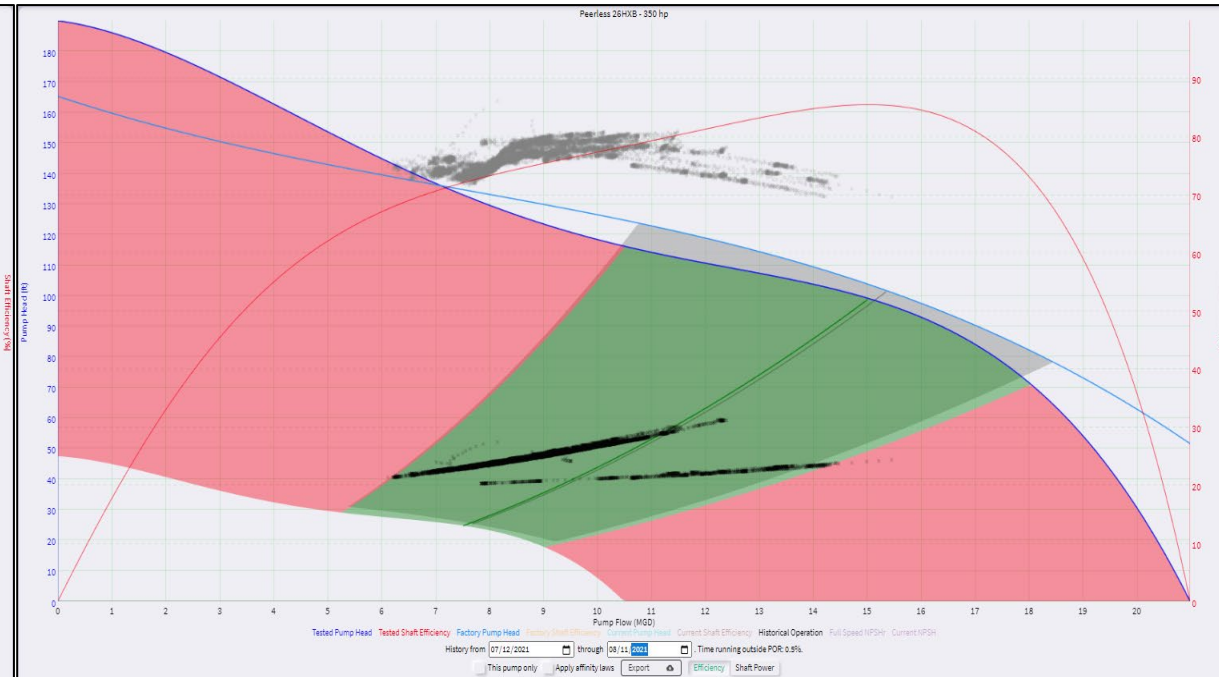


Results – Operation within



20 days of operation

Operators without dashboard access
“Flying Blind”
= 78% out of POR



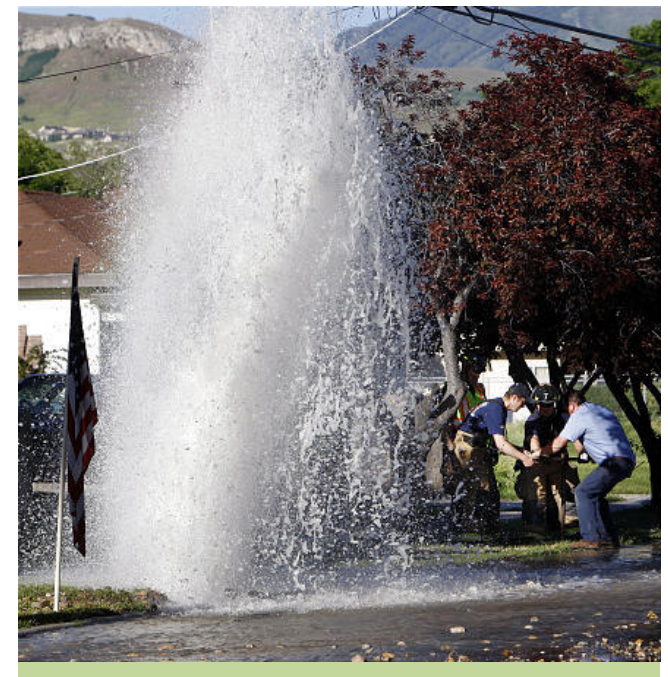
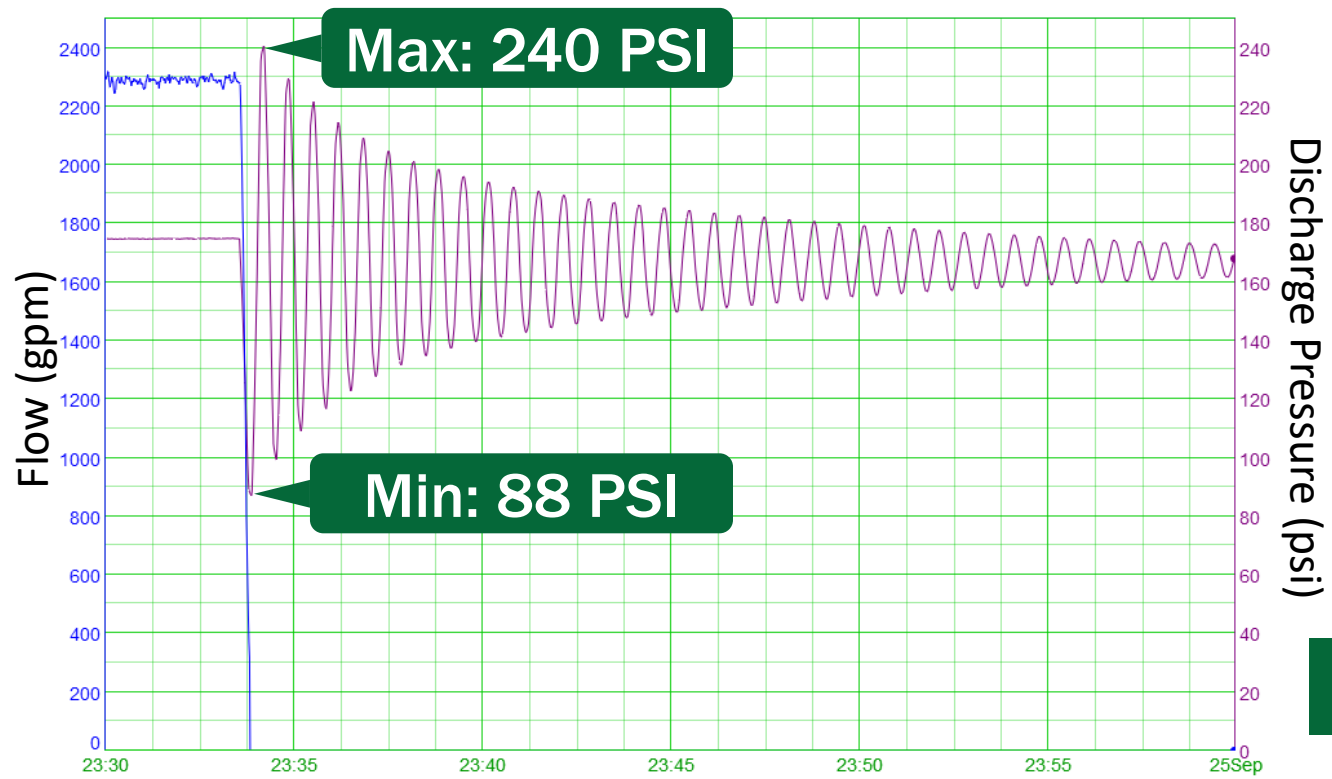
30 days of operation

Operators following recommendations
Advisory Mode
= < 1% out of POR

Green = In POR
Red = Out of POR

Operators are controlling the pumps and speeds following DPO recommendations in Advisory Mode(**passive**).

Water Hammer - Before



Without Digital Transient Control

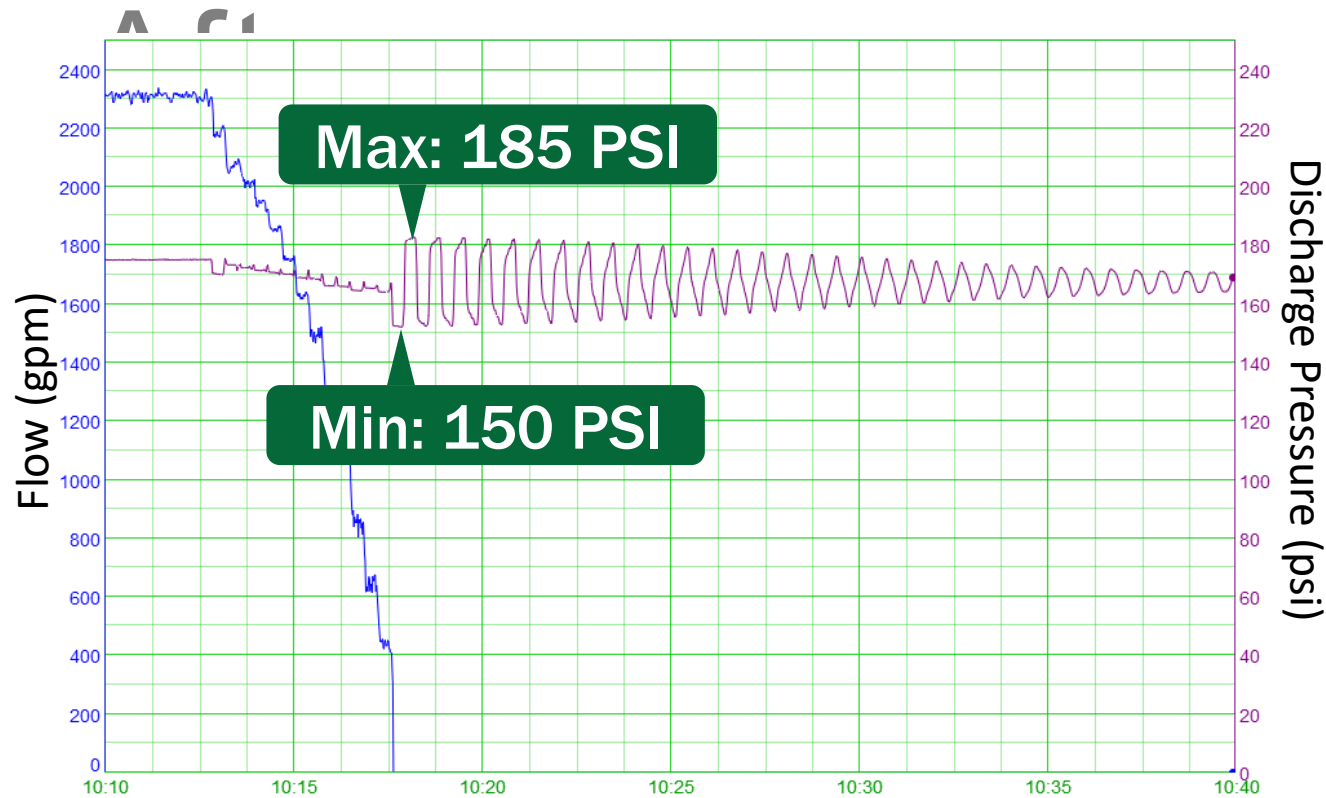
PID control made changes too quickly
[no flow rate-of-change control]
controlled via pump speed

Max Pressure: 240 PSI

Min Pressure: 88 PSI

Δ Pressure: 152 PSI

Digital Transient Control -



With Digital Transient Control

Max Pressure: 185 PSI

Min Pressure: 150 PSI

Δ Pressure: 35 PSI

Edge analytics determined appropriate response interval for flow rate-of-change (Dynamic Pump Optimizer in control)

Lessons Learned

- Kempner WSC learned that their lead pump was severely worn and operating at a peak efficiency of 57% - almost 30% lower than the peak efficiency of a new pump
- Software recommended a pump repair project with a NPV of \$12,488 and a ROI of 50%
- An average of 23% energy savings realized by operating at minimum specific energy
- Digital Transient Control functionality reduced peak pressure transients during pump starts and stops by 77% from 152 to

Customer Feedback

“The DPO has made it much easier to run our pump station and allowed us to get the full benefit out of our VFDs.”
– Rodney Seaver



TURBOMACHINERY &
PUMP SYMPOSIA