

# Well Pump Selection To Match System Hydraulics

John Fawcett, PE

CA-NV AWWA  
2013 ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE



Luhdorff and Scalmanini  
Consulting Engineers  
[jfawcett@lsce.com](mailto:jfawcett@lsce.com)

# GROUNDWATER USE

- Well pumps used in over 10,000 public supply groundwater wells in CA
- Pumping groundwater accounts for 25 to 40% of CA's water supply
- Nearly 15 billion gallons of groundwater per day in CA

# GOAL OF PRESENTATION

- To educate participants using real world examples that inform them of the importance of efficiently well pump selection
- Provide the participants with the tools needed to select a well pump should they be involved with equipping one of the 10,000 CA public supply groundwater well projects

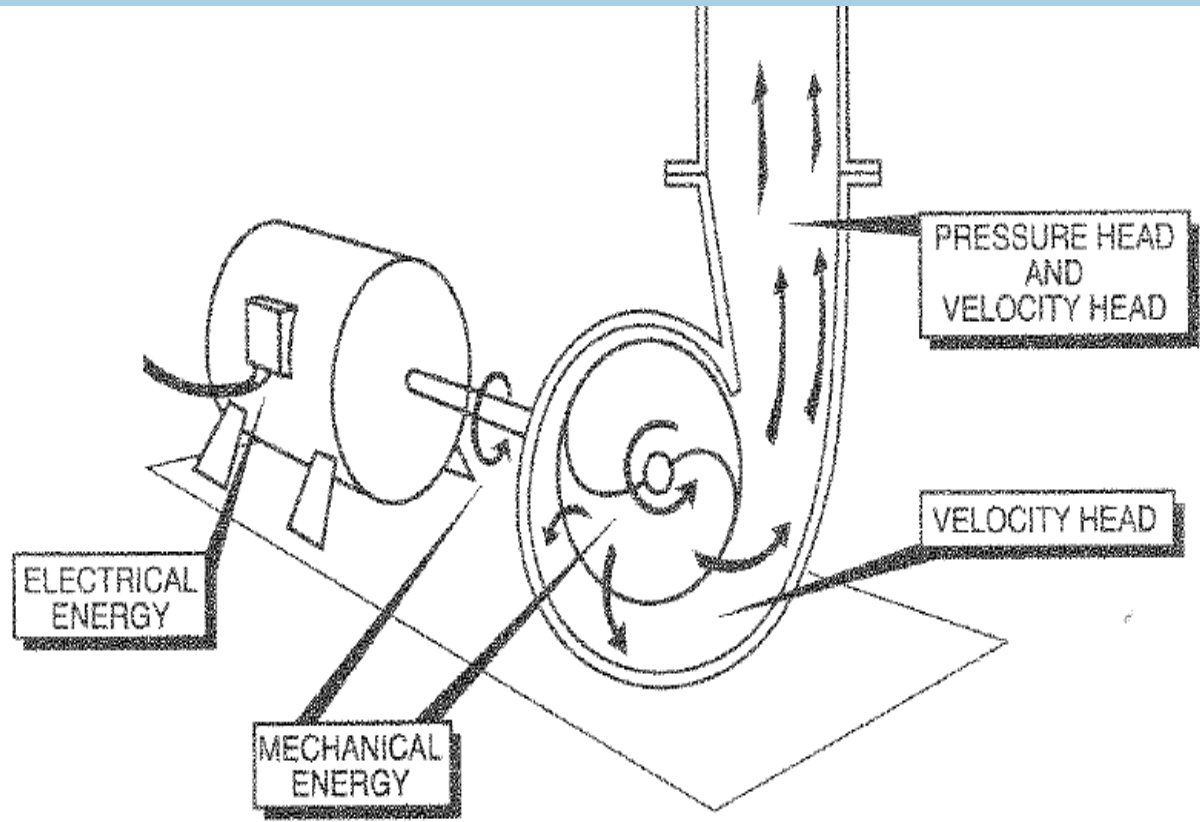
# IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING WELL PUMPING HYDRAULICS

- Pumping Groundwater is a Major Cost For Many Cities and Water Districts
- Head losses account for one third of all energy
- Good Hydraulic Design = Less Energy = Less Greenhouse Emissions

# Presentation Content

- Well & Well Pump Hydraulics
- Well Pump Selection
- VFD & Well Pump Performance
- Examples

# Imparting Energy To The Fluid



# Eye Of An Enclosed Impeller



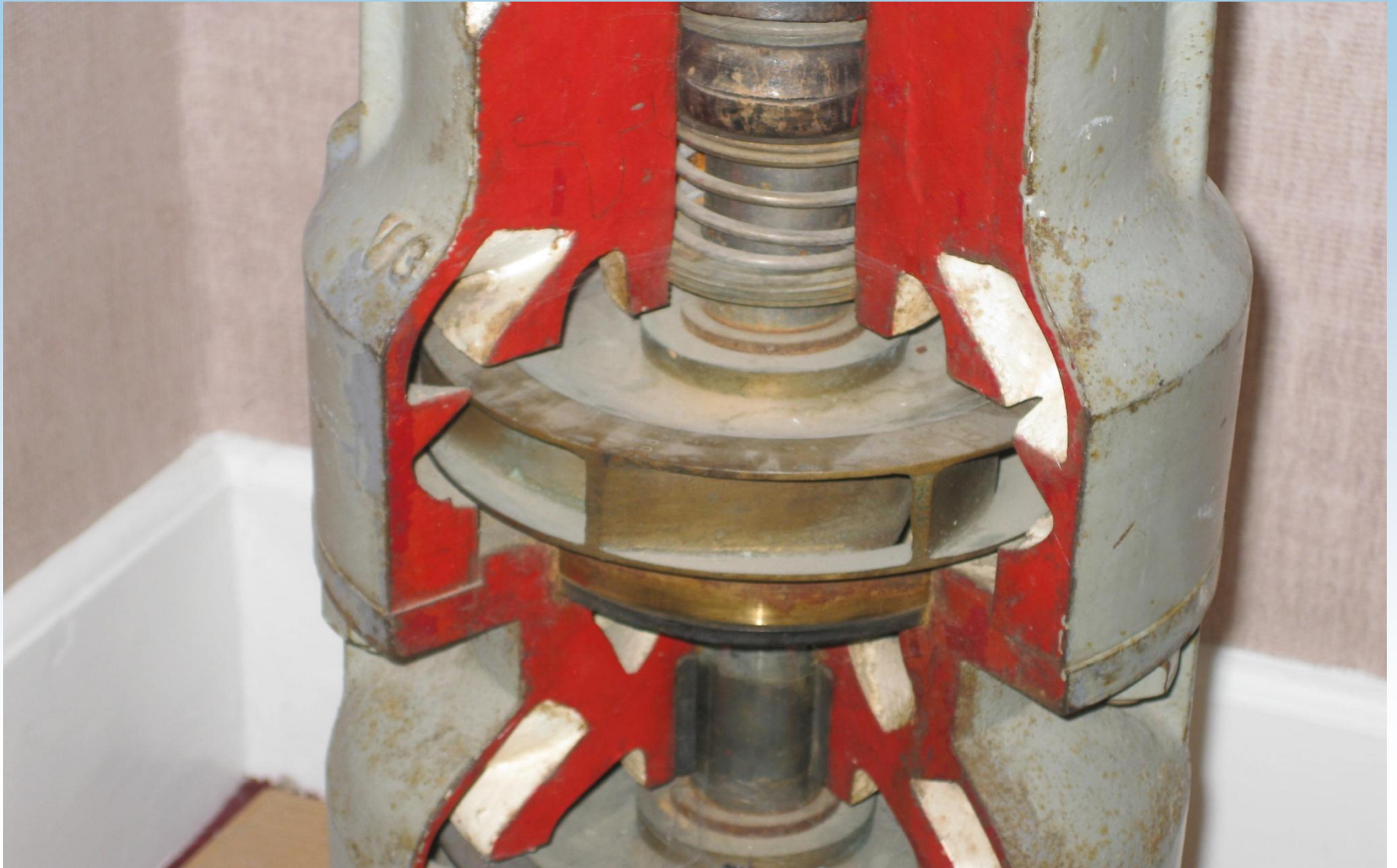


# Sectional View Of A Pump Bowl





# Impeller With Shaft



# Submersible Pumps

## General Uses:

- Water well duty

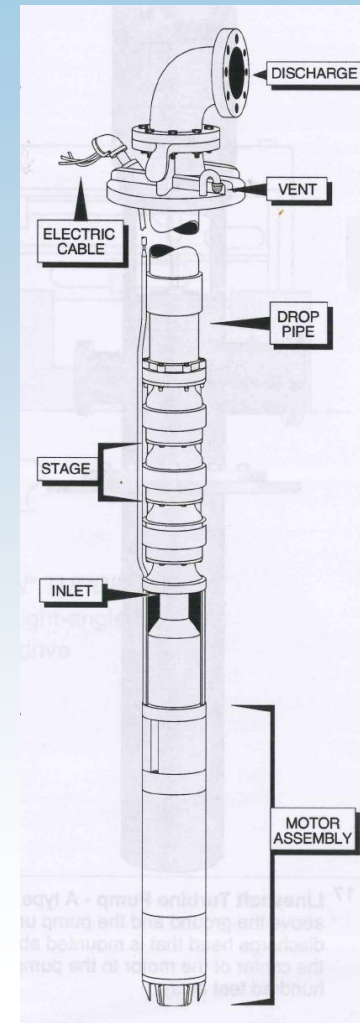
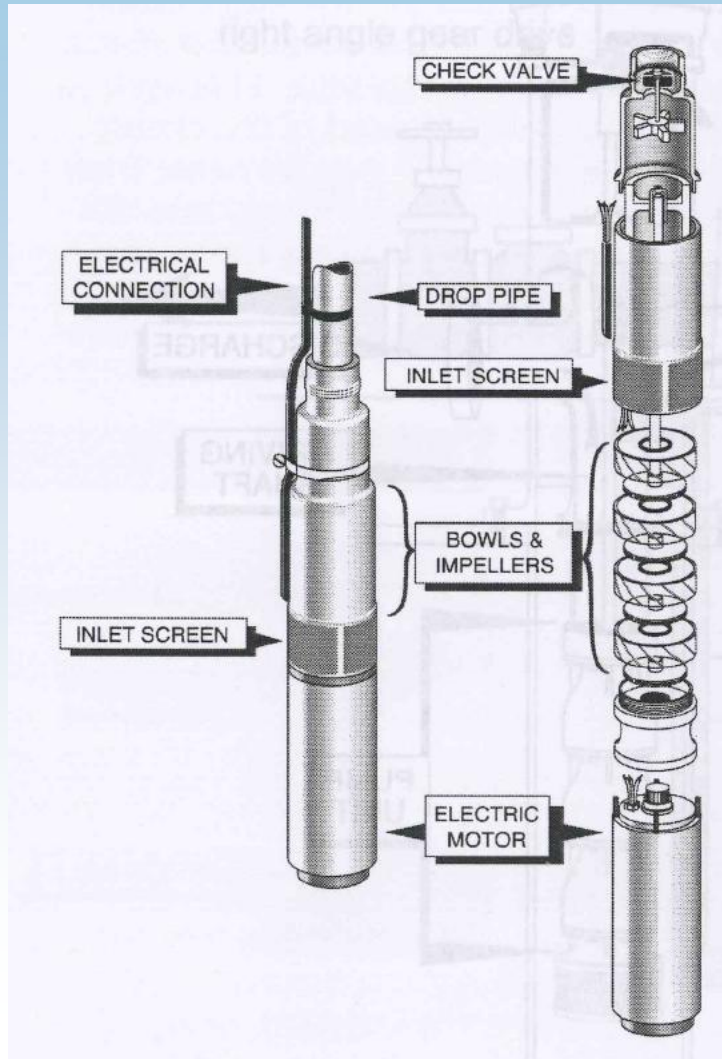
## Advantages:

- Wide range of capacities

## Disadvantages:

- Minimum flow required for cooling motor
- Power cable vulnerability

# Example Of A Submersible Pump





# Discharge Head For Submersible Pumps



# Submersible Pump and Motor



# Vertical Lineshaft Pumps

## General Uses:

- Water well duty
- Booster duty

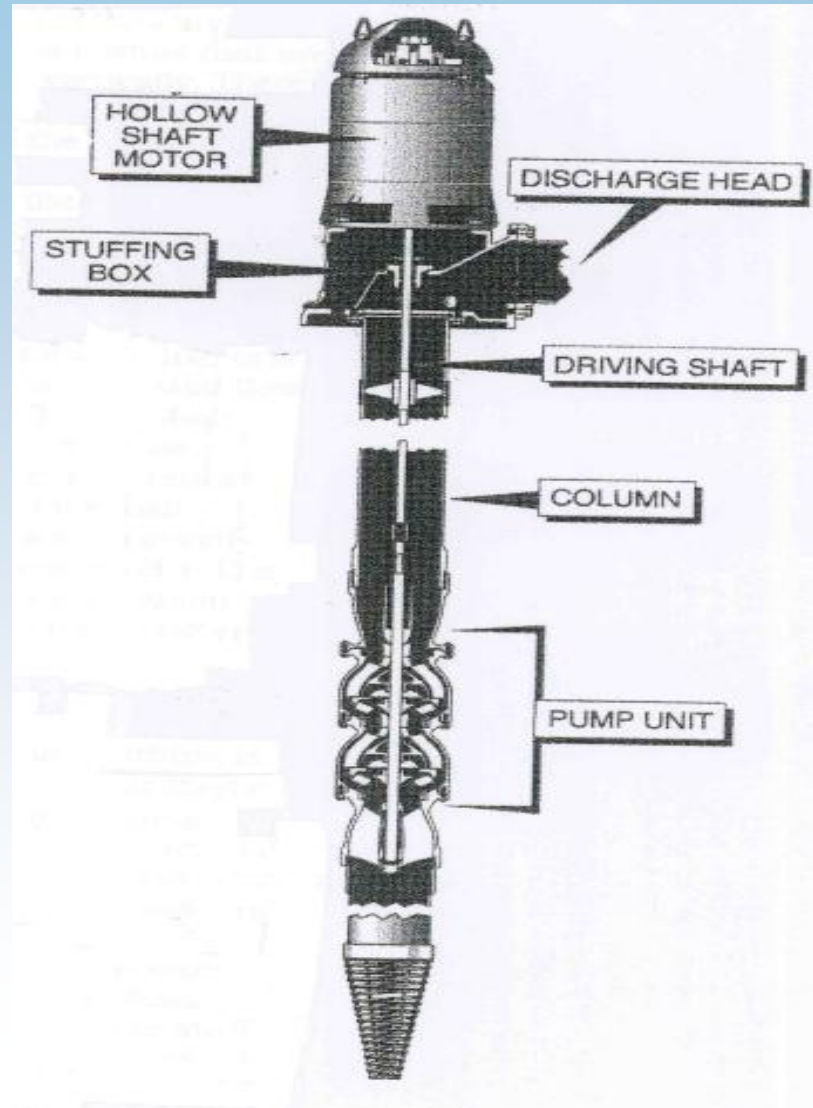
## Advantages:

- Wide range of capacities and heads
- High operating efficiency

## Disadvantages:

- Minimum operational speed required to cool motor and bowl assembly
- Well alignment concerns

# Example Of A Lineshaft Pump





# Deep Well Product Lubricated Lineshaft Pump



# Water Lube Lineshaft Pump



# Submersible and Lineshaft Pumps Advantages and Disadvantages

Variable	Submersible	Turbine
1. Noise	X	
2. Motor Serviceability		X
3. Initial Capital Cost		X
4. Operating Cost (Electrical)		X
5. Service Life		X
6. Flexibility (Use of Different Primer Movers)		X
7. Well Alignment Problem	X	

X Denotes Advantage

# Why is Proper Well Pump Selection Important?

- Well Pump Stations Have a High Capital Cost
- Reliability
- Operational Flexibility
- Efficiency/Operational Cost

# Quick Examples That illustrate Cost of Poor Pump Selection

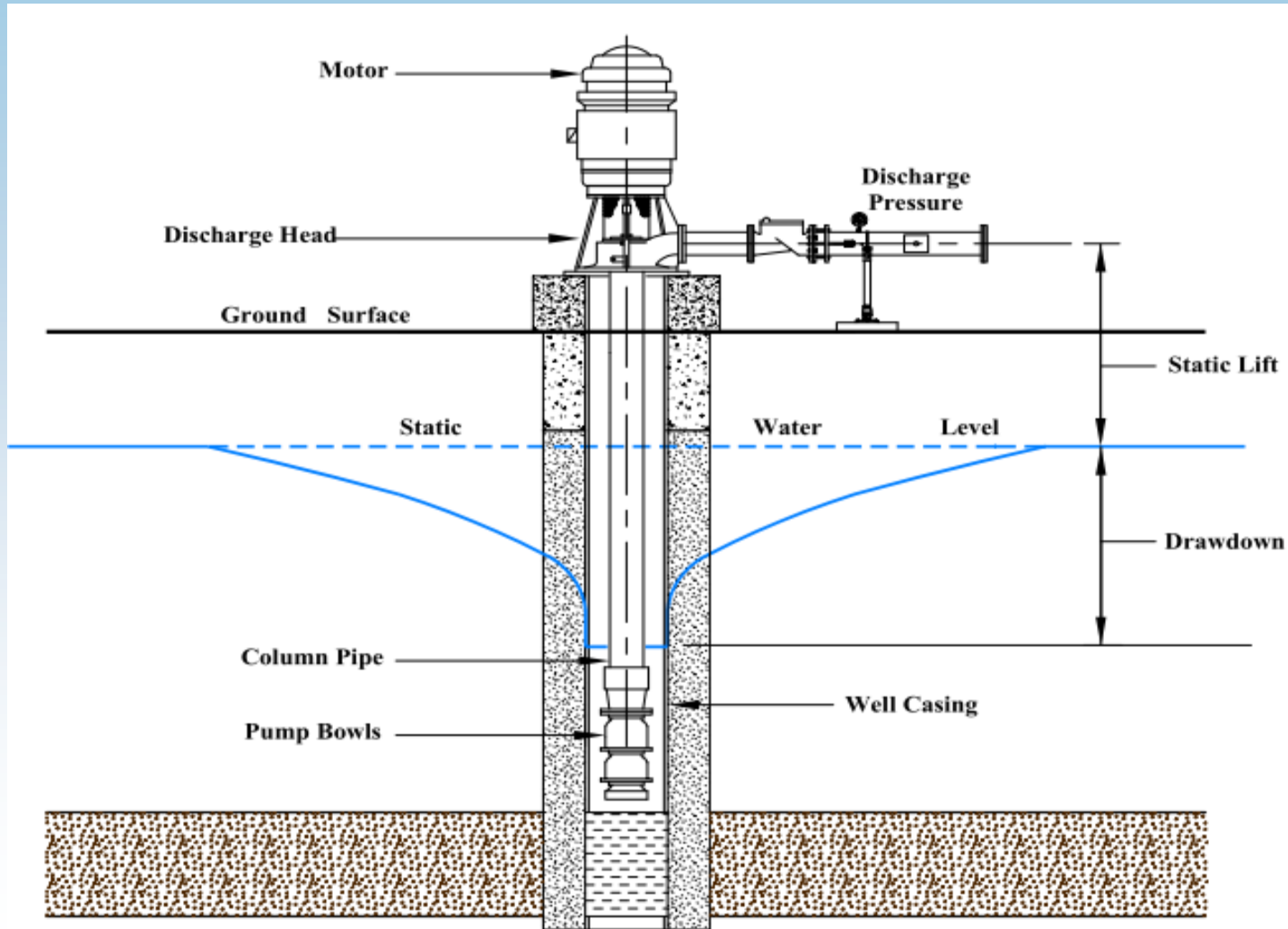
- Inefficient Pump Example  
Cost of Mistake: \$3,500/year
- Not Needed VFD Example  
Cost of Mistake: \$23,000 + Ongoing \$
- Saved Money on Column Pipe Example  
Cost of Mistake: \$2,000 over pump life

# Well/Aquifer Data Link To Pump Selection

- Water Level
- Well Design Capacity
- Well Tests/Specific Capacity
- Mutual Pumping Interference
- Well Physical Characteristics
- Well Plumbness and Alignment Tests



# Typical Well Pump





# Pump Characteristics Curve

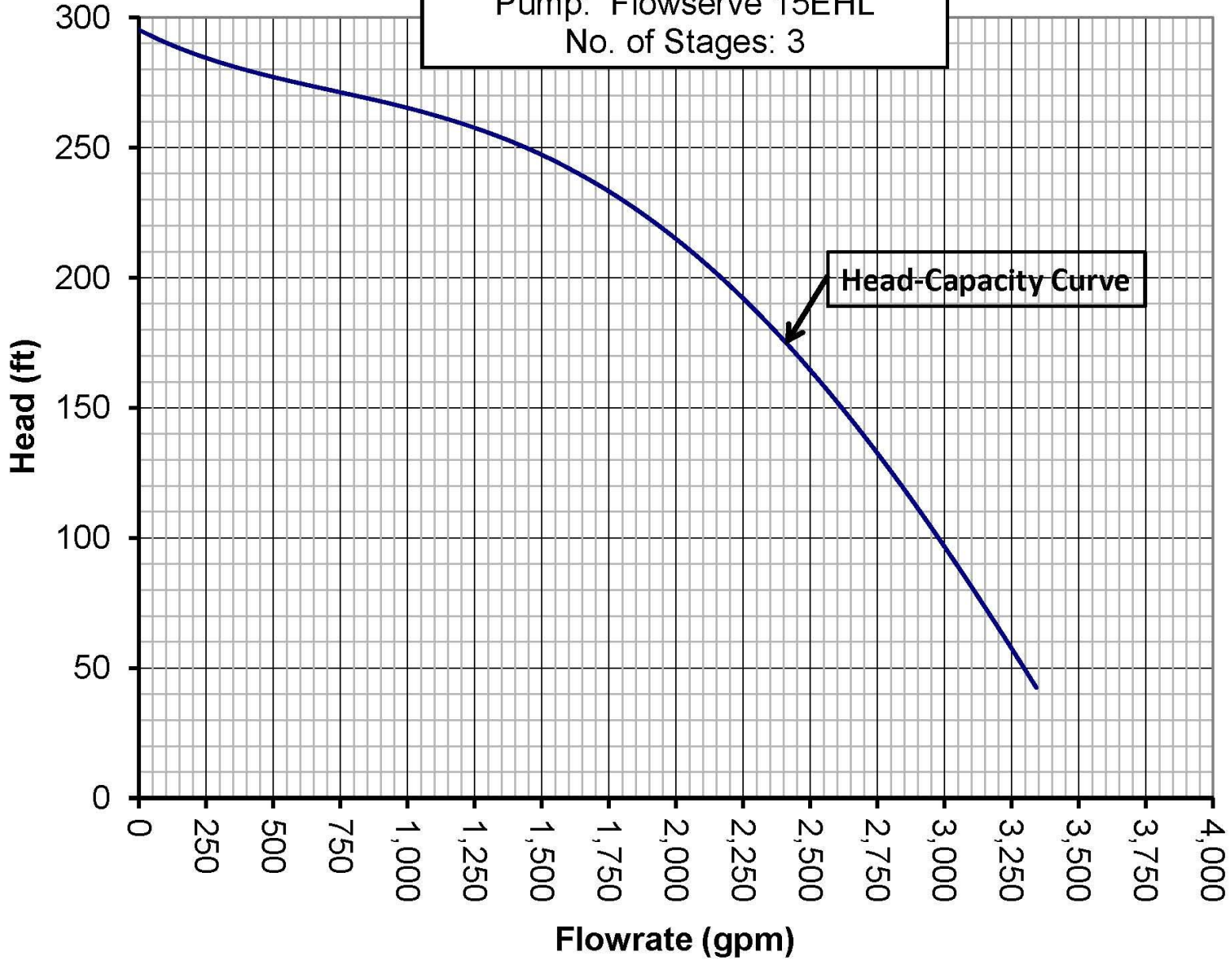
- **Head-Capacity Curve**  
Head developed by pump and flow passing through it
- **Efficiency Curve**  
A pump operates most efficiently at only one point
- **Horsepower Curve**  
Brake horsepower (called bowl/impeller horsepower)
- **Combined Curve**  
Head-Capacity, efficiency and power on the same curve

### PUMP INFORMATION

Type: Vertical Turbine Lineshaft

Pump: Flowserve 15EHL

No. of Stages: 3

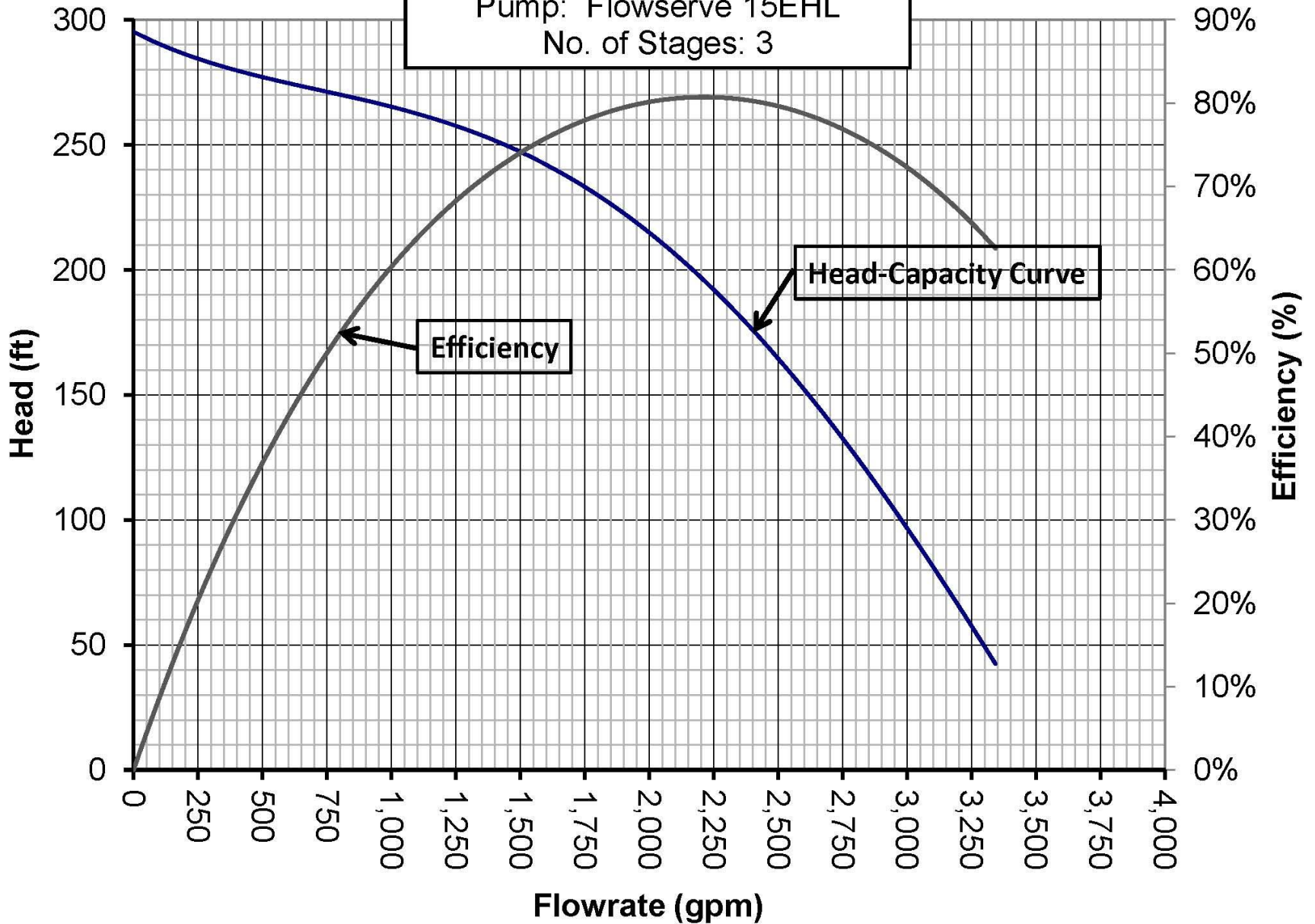


### PUMP INFORMATION

Type: Vertical Turbine Lineshaft

Pump: Flowserve 15EHL

No. of Stages: 3

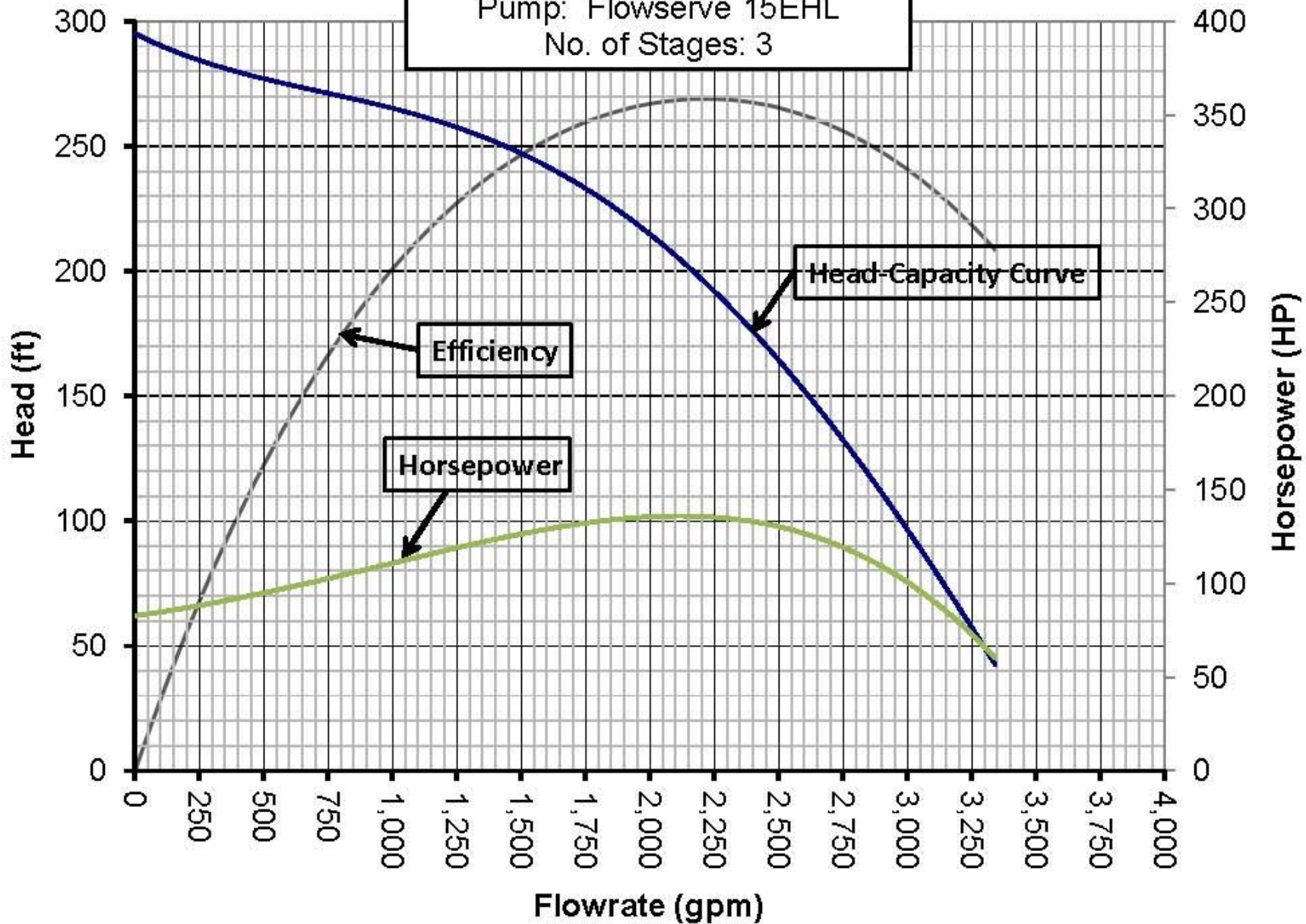


### PUMP INFORMATION

Type: Vertical Turbine Lineshaft

Pump: Flowserve 15EHL

No. of Stages: 3



# Total Dynamic Head (TDH)

TDH is the total energy a pump imparts to the water for a specific flow rate

TDH of a Well Pump = Static Lift  
+ Drawdown  
+ Surface Discharge Head  
+ Column and Discharge Head Losses

# System Curves

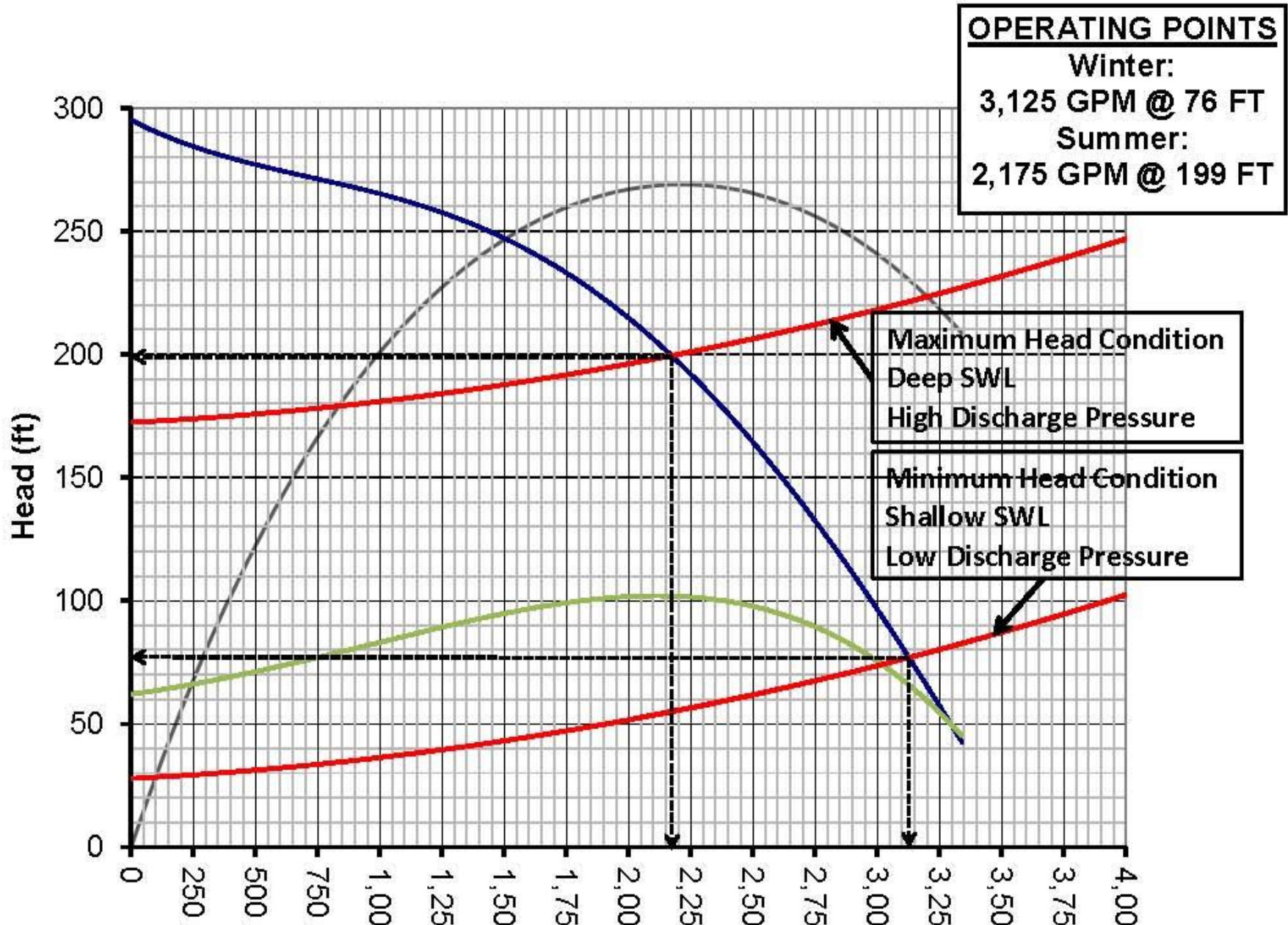
Definition: Graphical plot of the **TDH** required by the system for a change in flow rate

Used Two Ways:

- **One-point Method – Conditions Not Changing**  
Pump not expected to change over time (e.g., pumping from tank to reservoir)
- **Two-point Method – Pump Conditions Changing**  
(e.g., seasonal lowering of water level in well)



# System Head Curve





# Well Pump Acquisition

- Specify Well Pump Operation Points Using Two-point Method
- Specify Pump Supplier Provide All Pump System Appurtenances
- Require Certified Factory Curve
- Specify OPE & Vibration Testing by Independent Contractor

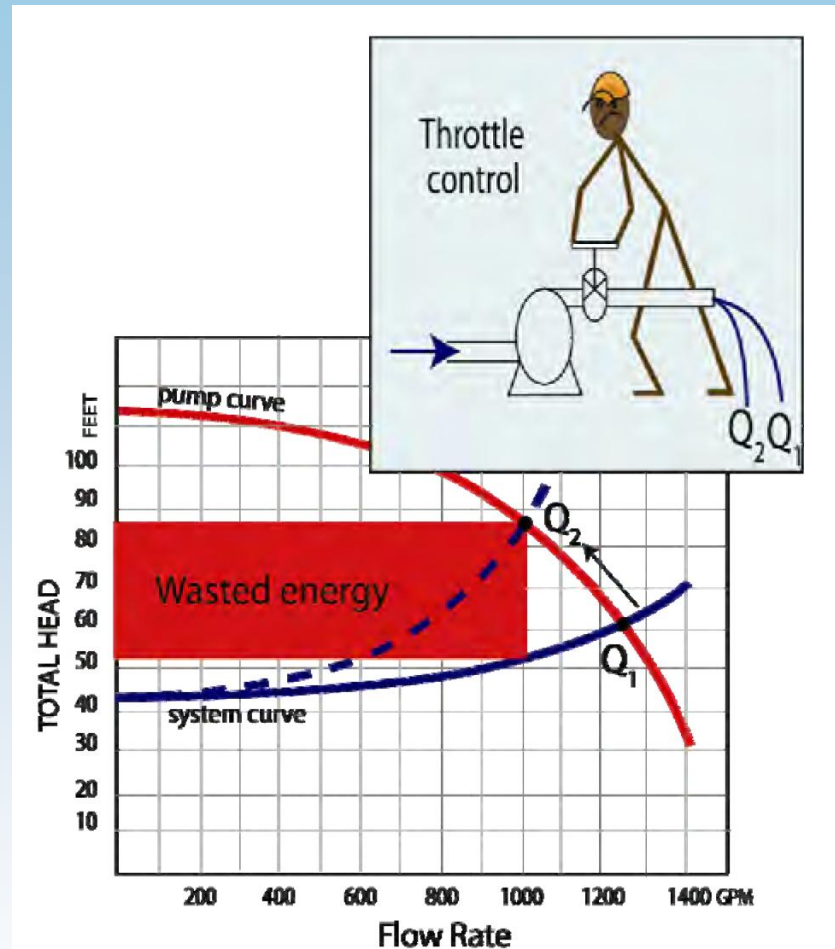
# Variable Frequency Drive (VFD)



# VFD Advantages

- Potential Power Savings
- Enhances Operational Flexibility
- Soft/Start Lowers In-rush Current & Reduces Mechanical Stress
- Reduces Chance of Water Hammer

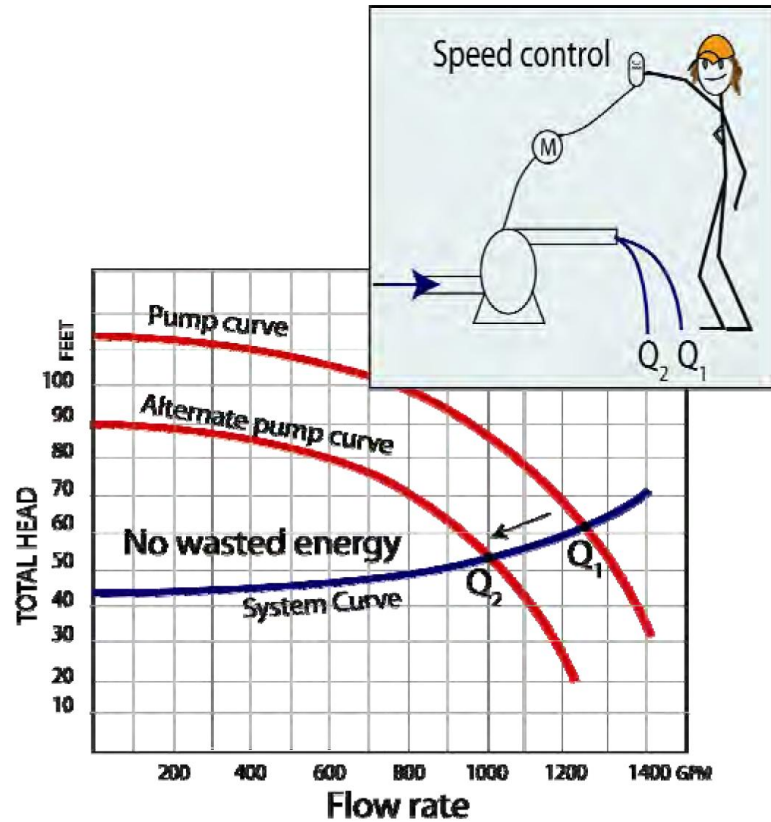
# Throttle Control Is Not Efficient



**Shutting Valves To Control Flow Wastes Energy**

*Reference: USDA ,MT-14 , January 2010*

# Speed Control Using VFD



**Operator Controls Flow Using VFD as Opposed to Turning Valve**

*Reference: USDA ,MT-14 , January 2010*

# Affinity Laws and VFDs

Laws of affinity express mathematical relationship between flow, pump speed, head and power consumption for well pumps

$$\frac{Q1}{Q2} = \frac{N1}{N2}$$

$$\frac{H1}{H2} = \left(\frac{N1}{N2}\right)^2$$

$$\frac{BHP1}{BHP2} = \left(\frac{N1}{N2}\right)^3$$

Where

Q = Capacity, GPM

H = Total Head, Feet

BHP = Brake  
Horsepower

N = Pump Speed, RPM



# Affinity Laws and VFDs

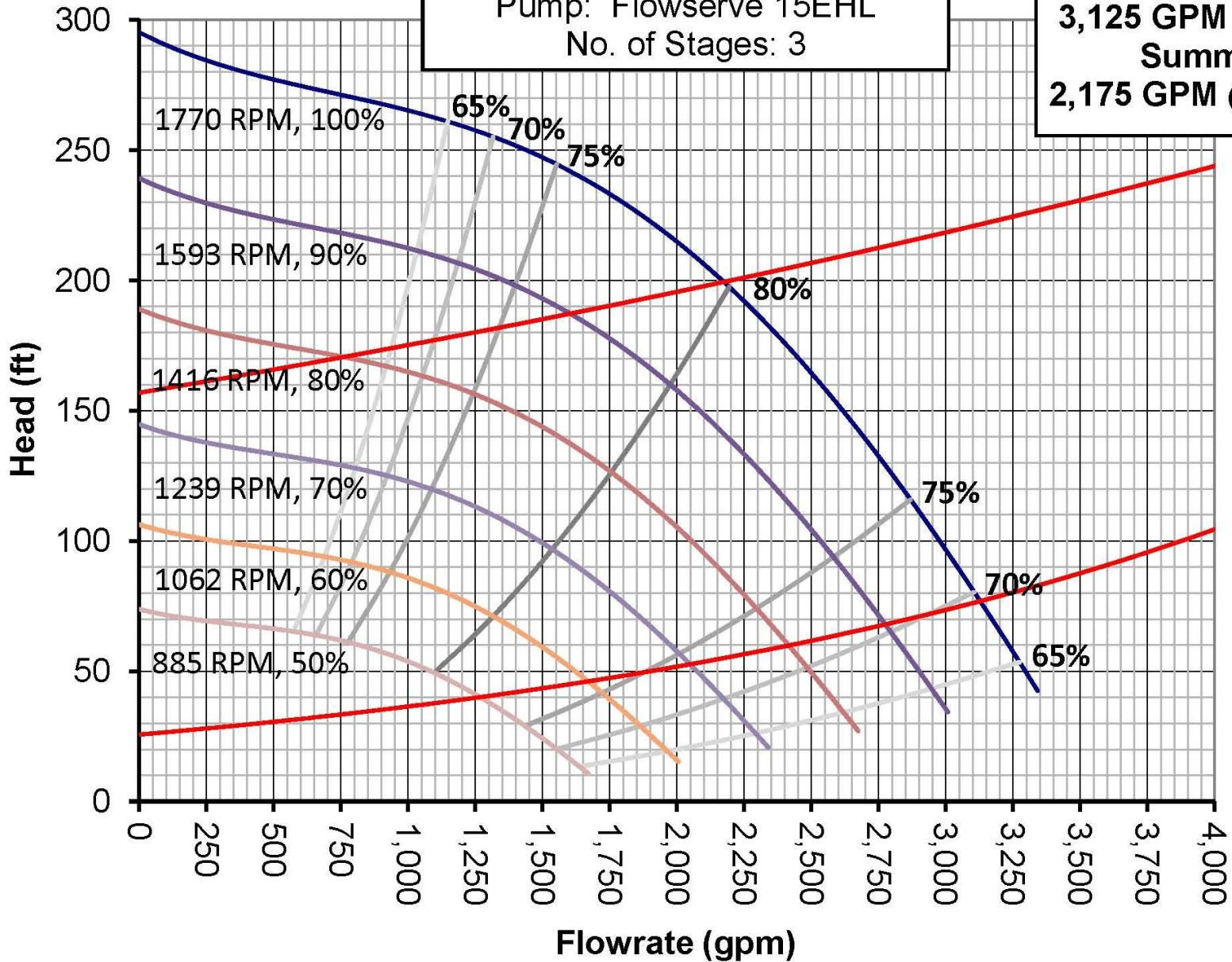
- VFD Changes Pump Speed
- Reduce pump speed by 50%, flow reduced to 50%, head will be reduced to 25%, and power consumption will be reduced to 12.5%
- Small flow reduction can result in power reductions and hence energy consumption savings

### PUMP INFORMATION

Type: Vertical Turbine Lineshaft  
Pump: Flowserve 15EHL  
No. of Stages: 3

### OPERATING POINTS

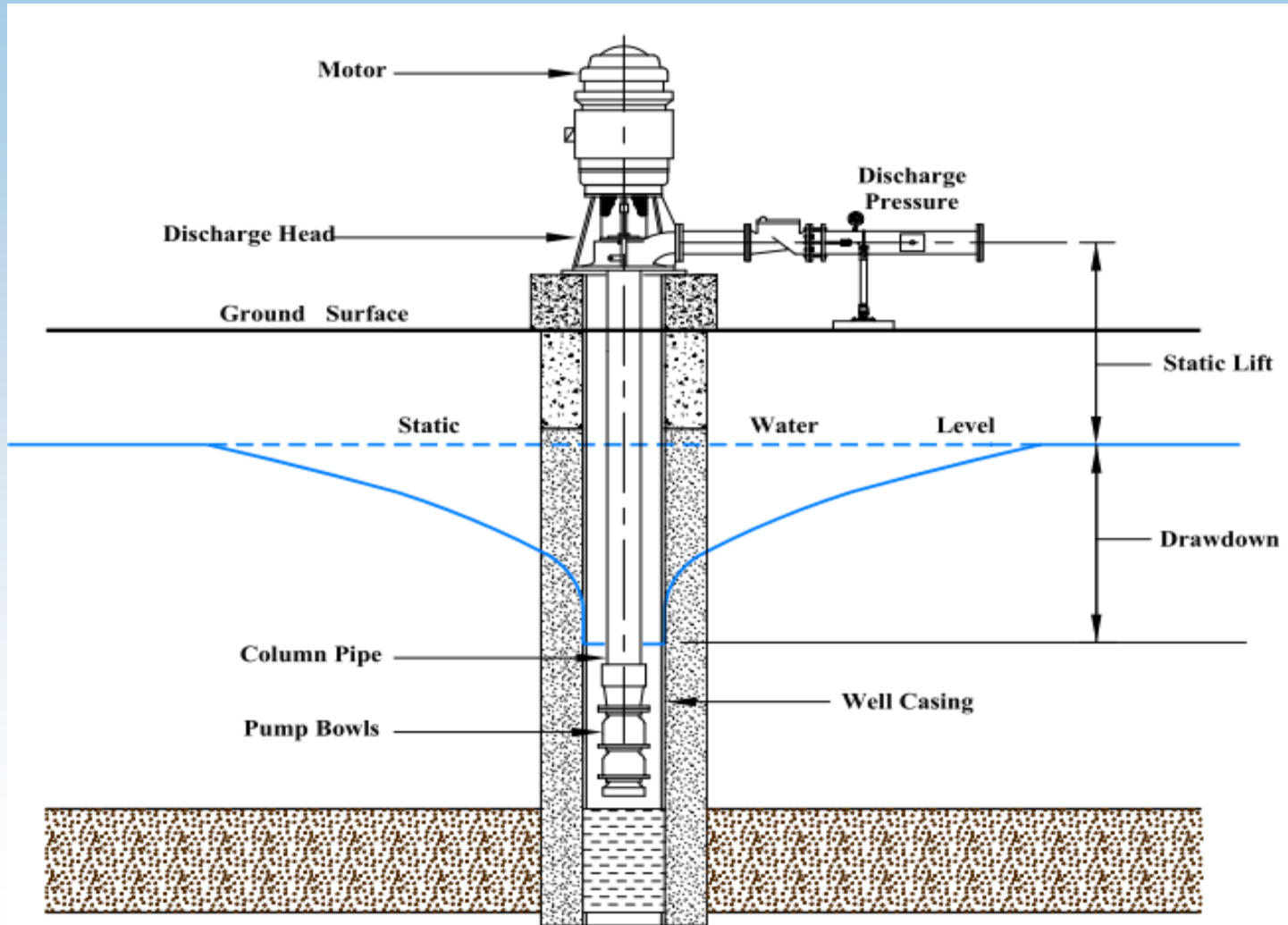
Winter:  
**3,125 GPM @ 76 FT**  
Summer:  
**2,175 GPM @ 199 FT**



# Working Examples



# Typical Well Pump



# Example TDH Calculations

Static Water Level (no pumping) = 100 feet

Drawdown = 30 feet

Discharge pressure = 60 PSI

Pump bowl settling below ground = 200 feet

800 GPM, 8" column pipe, 1.5" shaft with a type A discharge head

Find: Pump Total Dynamic Head required, TDH

Formula:  $TDH = \text{Static Lift} + \text{Drawdown} + \text{Friction} + \text{Discharge Pressure}$

# TDH Solution

Solution:

Determine the column and discharge head friction loss for a deep well turbine are determined.

$$\text{Column } H_f = (2.6 \text{ feet}/100') \times 200 \text{ feet} = 5.2 \text{ feet}$$

$$\text{Discharge head } H_f \text{ for 8" Type A} = 0.3 \text{ feet}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{TDH} &= \text{Static Lift} + \text{Drawdown} + \text{Friction} + \text{Discharge Pressure} \\ &= 100' + 30' + (60 \text{ PSI} \times 2.31' / \text{PSI}) + 5.2 \text{ ft} + 0.3 \text{ ft} \\ &= \underline{274 \text{ feet}} \end{aligned}$$

NOTE: For a submersible well pump, the friction loss in the discharge pipe obtained using the same length of straight pipe made of the same material (no shaft or oil tube in the column pipe to cause extra friction)



# Power Delivered In Three Places

Think of Power delivered in Three Places

1. The energy imparted to the water (WHP)
2. The impellers (BHP)  
(some consider BHP to include shaft also)
3. The Driver (electrical motor or engine) (IHP)

# Example Water Horsepower (WHP)

$$WHP = \frac{(GPM) \times (TDH \text{ in FEET})}{3960}$$

Where the flow rate is measured in Gallons Per Minute (GPM) and the Total Dynamic Head (TDH) is measured in feet:

Find: Water Horsepower (WHP)

Formula:  $WHP = \frac{(GPM) \times (TDH \text{ in FEET})}{3960}$

Solution:  $WHP = \frac{(800 \text{ GPM}) \times (274')}{3960}$

$= \boxed{55.4 \text{ HP}}$

# Brake Horsepower (BHP)

- Actual Power Delivered to Pump Impellers
- BHP is the Horsepower Value Printed on Pump Catalog Curves
- For Close-Coupled Pumps (i.e. submersible & booster pumps output HP = BHP)
- For Line-Shaft Well Pumps HP Includes:
  - Thrust Bearing losses or HP loss driver thrust bearing (About 1% of BHP, or 0.8% of IHP)
  - Shaft losses or HP loss from friction in line shaft bearings (About 1 BHP/100' of line shaft)

# Input Horsepower (IHP)

- Power Delivered to Pump Driver
- Power Actually Billed For
- Energy Consumed Units Kilowatt-Hours
- Utility Company Bills of a Meter That Allows You to Read or Calculate IHP
- Engine Driver Input Measured by Noting Volume of Fuel Consumed Over Time

# Efficiencies

- Impellers Don't Convert All Mechanical to Hydraulic Energy  
Typical: 70% (+)
- Vertical Turbine Motors Don't Convert All Electrical to Mechanical Energy:
  - Standard Efficient: 88 – 92%
  - Premium Efficient: 93 – 96%
  - Submersibles: 83 – 87%
- Engine Drivers Don't Convert All Input Energy (Fuel) Into Mechanical Energy  
  
Typical: Internal Combustion Engine = 33%

# Determine Motor Size Example

Given: A well pump

Floway 10LKM at 1770 RPM, impeller trim "A"

Flow rate (Q) = 500 GPM

Total Dynamic Head (TDH) = 150 feet

Shaft HP Loss = 2 HP

Thrust = 0.5 HP

- Find:
- a) WHP
  - b) BHP
  - c) Required Motor Size
  - d) Estimated Input HP to the Pumping Plant (IHP)
  - e) Overall Pumping Plant Efficiency (OPE)



# Find WHP

Formula: 
$$\text{WHP} = \frac{(8Q \text{ in GPM}) \times (\text{TDH in ft})}{3960}$$

Solution: 
$$\text{WHP} = \frac{500 \text{ GPM} \times 150 \text{ ft}}{3960}$$

= 18.9 HP

# Find BHP

Formula:  $BHP = \frac{WHP}{\left(\frac{E_i}{100}\right)}$

p VI-38, TDH,  $E_i = 78\%$

Solution:  $BHP = \frac{18.9 \text{ HP}}{.78}$

= 24.3 HP

# BHP From Pump Curve

One can determine the BHP directly from the pump performance curve itself.

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BHP} &= 8.1 \text{ per stage (impeller)} \\ &= 8.1/\text{stage} \times 3 \text{ stages} \\ &= \boxed{24.3 \text{ HP}} \end{aligned}$$

# HP Output From Motor

= BHP + shaft losses + bearing losses

= 24.3 + 2.0 + 0.5

= **26.8 HP**

# Service Factor: Don't Overload Motor

1. A motor should not be overloaded by more than the service factor stamped on its nameplate
2. 25 HP motor having a service factor of 1.1 should not be loaded to greater than  $25 \text{ HP} \times 1.1 = 27.5 \text{ HP}$
3. If there is no service factor on the motor nameplate, then do not overload motor
4. Conclusion: In this case choosing a 25 HP motor is OK, but LSCE does not usually recommend exceeding nameplate HP

# Input HP to the Motor

$$= \frac{\text{BHP} + (\text{Shaft \& Bearing Loss})}{\left(\frac{E_m}{100}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{24.3 \text{ HP} + 2.5 \text{ HP}}{\left(\frac{89}{100}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{226.8 \text{ HP}}{0.89}$$

$$= \boxed{30.1 \text{ HP}}$$



# Overall Pumping Plant Efficiency

$$= \frac{\text{WHP}}{\text{IHP}} \times 100$$

$$= \frac{18.9 \text{ HP}}{30.1 \text{ HP}} \times 100$$

OPE

=

**63 %**

# Questions

