

Blowers and Variable Level Processes



Tom Jenkins, P.E., *JenTech Inc. Keynote Speaker*

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Handouts









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Blowers and Variable Level Processes

Introduction by Rod Smith, Publisher

Blower & Vacuum Best Practices Magazine

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About the Speaker



- President of JenTech Inc.
- Over 30 years of experience with aeration blowers and blower controls



Tom Jenkins, P.E. JenTech Inc.

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Blowers and Variable Level Processes

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- Types of Processes
- Determining Variable Pressure Requirements
- Impact on Blower Performance
 - Positive Displacement
 - Centrifugal
- Control System Responses

Types of Proceses

Many wastewater processes have frequent level changes, often more than 2:1 range

- Equalization basins
- Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBRs)
- Sludge storage tanks
- Aerobic digesters

Types of Processes

- The depth may affect required air flow rate
 - Mixing energy
 - Oxygen requirements
- The depth will <u>always</u> affect the system pressure
- The blower discharge pressure is dictated by the system pressure
 - Static pressure varies with depth of diffusers
 - Friction losses in diffusers, pipes and fittings varies with air flow rate

• Static pressure can be calculated from depth of submergence:

 $p_{static} = \gamma \cdot d$ $p_{static} = static pressure$ $\gamma = \rho \cdot g = specific weight$ $\gamma_{water} = 62.4 \text{ lbf/ft}^3$ d = depth of submergence

For Water:

 $p_{static} = 0.433 \cdot d$ d = feet $p_{static} = psi$

Friction loss for design air flow in piping:

$$\Delta p_{f} = 0.07 \cdot \frac{Q_{S}^{1.85}}{d^{5} \cdot p_{m}} \cdot \frac{T}{528} \cdot \frac{L_{e}}{100}$$

- Δp_f = pressure drop due to friction, psi
- $Q_{\rm S}$ = air flow rate, SCFM
- d = actual pipe inside diameter, inches
- p_m = mean system pressure, psia
 - = air temperature, °R

Т

L

= equivalent length of pipe and fittings, feet

$$p_m = p_{initial} - \frac{\Delta p_f}{2} = p_{final} + \frac{\Delta p_f}{2}$$

 Once pressure drop for one flow rate is determined it can be calculated for other flow rates:

$$p_{friction} = k_f \cdot Q^2$$
$$k_f = \frac{(p_{des} - p_{static})}{Q_{des}^2}$$

 k_f = constant of proportionality for friction losses, psi/SCFM² p_{static} = static pressure, psig p_{des} = total system pressure at design flow, psig Q_{des} = design system air flow rate, SCFM

• The total system pressure can be calculated for any flow and submergence:

 $p_{total} = 0.433 \cdot d + k_f \cdot Q^2$

 The result is a family of system curves showing the pressure required at the blower discharge vs. flow rate and depth

• Example system curves:



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• Example system curves:



NOTE: The system determines the blower discharge pressure! The blower does not determine the system pressure.



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- PD (Positive Displacement) blowers move a fixed volume of air for every revolution
 - Lobe (Roots) type
 - Screw type
- The delivery volume is essentially unaffected by discharge pressure
- Discharge pressure increases and decreases to match system restriction

- With PD blowers the efficiency changes with speed because friction is constant
- With all PDs efficiency changes with pressure because of internal leakage
- With screw blowers the efficiency also changes with discharge pressure because they have a fixed internal pressure ratio
- Historically only PD blowers were used for variable level applications

- On rising water level:
 - The discharge pressure will naturally rise to meet system needs without control system intervention
 - The blower power draw will increase because of system pressure increases
- The blower speed must change to change flow rate
 - Typically with VFD

• On rising water level:



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- Centrifugal (dynamic) blowers are variable volume and variable pressure
 - Multistage Centrifugal
 - Geared Single Stage Centrifugal
 - High Speed "Turbo" Centrifugal
- The delivery volume changes with discharge pressure changes
- Flow rate increases and decreases until the performance curve intersects the system curve

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- On rising water level:
 - The discharge pressure will rise and the flow rate will decrease without control system intervention
 - The blower power draw will decrease because of lower flow rate
- The blower speed or throttling must be used to change the flow rate
 - Without controls, changing water level could create damaging surge or overload conditions 16

• On rising water level:



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• On rising water level:



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- The control system should monitor flow rate and use it for blower control
- The controlled process variable is flow rate
- The manipulated variable (controller output) is:
 - Valve position for throttled centrifugals
 - Speed is preferred for centrifugals
 - Speed is required for PDs

- For PD blowers no control response is required if flow rate is constant
- Flow changes must use speed changes
- Speed may be limited to clamp power draw
- Note that at constant pressure PD blowers are constant torque and constant amps
- Blower protection should include air temperature

- Centrifugal blowers should be used on variable level applications only when combined with automatic control
 - Surge, overload, and air temperature protection at minimum
 - Automatic control to maintain set flow rate as the water level changes is the most practical system

- Centrifugal operation is more complicated, but may have advantages
 - Possible lower power consumption
 - Compatible with other plant equipment
 - Noise
 - Maintenance

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- Centrifugal operation is more complicated, but may have advantages
 - Possible lower power consumption
 - Compatible with other plant equipment
 - Noise
 - Maintenance
- Every application is different and should be analyzed for the optimum configuration!

- For centrifugal blowers the control system must modulate the blower to maintain the desired flow rate
- Modulation may use an inlet throttling valve or a variable speed (typically VFD)
 – Cost vs. power tradeoff
- If using inlet throttling the discharge temperature must be considered

- With throttled centrifugal blowers the Δp across the blower doesn't change
- Discharge pressure changes because some of the pressure rise through the blower is taken at the inlet valve
- Power demand changes primarily with flow rate changes

• Throttled:



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• Throttled:



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- For variable speed centrifugal blowers the Δp across a blower changes with speed²
- Discharge pressure changes because the pressure rise changes
- Flow rate changes directly with speed
- Power draw changes with flow rate and pressure as a function of speed³

 The new blower performance curves are calculated from the affinity laws

$$Q_{a} = Q_{c} \cdot \frac{N_{a}}{N_{c}}$$

$$X_{a} = X_{c} \cdot \left(\frac{N_{a}}{N_{c}}\right)^{2} \qquad X = \left(\frac{p_{d}}{p_{i}}\right)^{\left(\frac{k-1}{k}\right)} - 1$$

$$P_{a} = P_{c} \cdot \left(\frac{N_{a}}{N_{c}}\right)^{3}$$

 The performance curves and the system curves establish the new operating point

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• Variable Speed:



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• Variable Speed:



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Summary

- Variable level processes create challenges for blower systems
- The impact of level changes depends on the type of blower
- Control systems can make the application of any type of blower in variable level applications practical
- The type of control is a function of the type of blower

Blowers and Variable Level Processes

Thank You

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About the Speaker



- CEO and President of APG-Neuros
- Over 30 years of experience with leaders in the aerospace and defense industry

Omar Hammoud APG-Neuros



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High Speed Turbo Blowers in Varying Water Depths

Omar Hammoud, President & CEO of APG-Neuros

APGN Inc. proprietary information

APG-Neuros – Blowers & Complete Aeration Systems







Weures Proprietary Information

Customer Benefits - Overview

We offer the widest range of products

- 30 HP to 1600 HP Single and Multiple Core models
- Air Bearing all models 30 to 1600 HP models
- Magnetic Bearings 150 to 1450 HP models

Higher efficiency over other technologies

- Up to 35% over traditional blowers
- Up to 11% over other turbo blowers

Low maintenance

- Condition based maintenance no scheduled periods
- Filter Changes is only routine maintenance action

Environmentally friendly

- No Oils to change or dispose
- Quiet Operation below 80 dBa
- No Heat Rejection into Blower Room

Easy installation

- Plug and Play, small footprint
- Indoor and outdoor installation
- Smart connect for remote monitoring



Woodland, California 2 x NX300-C070, 2 x NX200-C070



APG-Neuros Blower Installation Growth Over 10 years



weight A euros Proprietary Information

APG-Neuros Turbo Blower Reliability Over 10 Years



weight with the second second

Operating Variable Pressure – Ballenger-McKinney, MD

Discharge Pressure (PSIG)



Suction Airflow (SCFM)

Varying Water Depth Blower Installations



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SBR Turbo Blower Installations – N. America

49 units in SBR Installations – Over 9 years of experience

Turbo Blower Installations in SBR Application (2009 - 2017)



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68 units in SHT/Digester Installations – Over 10 years of experience

Turbo Blower Installations in Sludge Holding Tank/Digester Applications (2007 - 2017)



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MBR Turbo Blower Installations – N. America

111 units in MBR Installations – Over 10 years of experience



euros Proprietary Information

Ballenger-McKinney, MD – Sludge Holding Tanks - 2011

- Blower # 2 trends: Dec-21 to Dec-29, 2017
- Pressure variation from 10 psig down to below 4.5 psig



3 Nov 1 Dec 6 Dec 11 Dec 16 Dec 21 Dec 26 Dec 31 Dec 5 Jan 10 Jan 15 Jan 20 Jan 25 Jan 30 Jan

Ballenger-McKinney, MD – Sludge Holding Tanks - 2011

- Blower #1: Jan-6 to Jan-8, 2018
- Pressure ranges from 7 psig to 3.8 psig



SBR Application - Frequent Start/Stops

Number of Start/Stops

Total operating Hours

City of Dryden, ON

Operating since September 2011 – 7 years Total Run Hours to date: 2,020 hrs Total Start/Stop cycles to date: 14,802





Frequent Start/Stops – City of Dryden, ON

Blower #4: Apr-4 to Apr-6, 2018 - start/stop cycles over 2 days



Frequent Start/Stops – City of Dryden, ON



Easy Control & Monitoring for Varying Water Depth Applications

- High monitoring and control capabilities
- Different blower control modes
- Control and protection
 - DO, Pressure, Flow, Speed, Time
 - Dynamic Adjustment to Ambient Conditions
 - Dynamic Speed adjustment to prevent Surge
 - Remote communication for monitoring and diagnostics







Master Control Panel – Complete Aeration Control

Fox Metro – North Plant – 4 NX700-C070



Remote Monitoring System

Pima County Arizona

Operating since October 2012 5 Dual Core NX600-C100 blowers

Elevation: 2839 FASL Temp: highs of 100°F during summer months Pamb: 13.6 psia

Pdisch: 14.7 psig



rpm

rp m

rp m

Hrs

Hrs

Hrs

k00/h





High Speed Air Bearing Turbo Blowers comfortably operate in high varying pressure operations such as SBR, MBR and Sludge Holding Tank/Digester.

Our high-speed turbo blowers have been proven to operate adequately in frequent start/stop operations for over ten years with the rate of 7 starts/stops per hour.

Lessons learned in more than 10 years of operation have resulted in product improvements such as preventing surge.

Our lessons learned also helped us design better for the various environmental conditions in wastewater treatment plants.



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Q&A

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