Seattle's Turbine Pumps – No Electricity Needed

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PNWS-AWWA Conference

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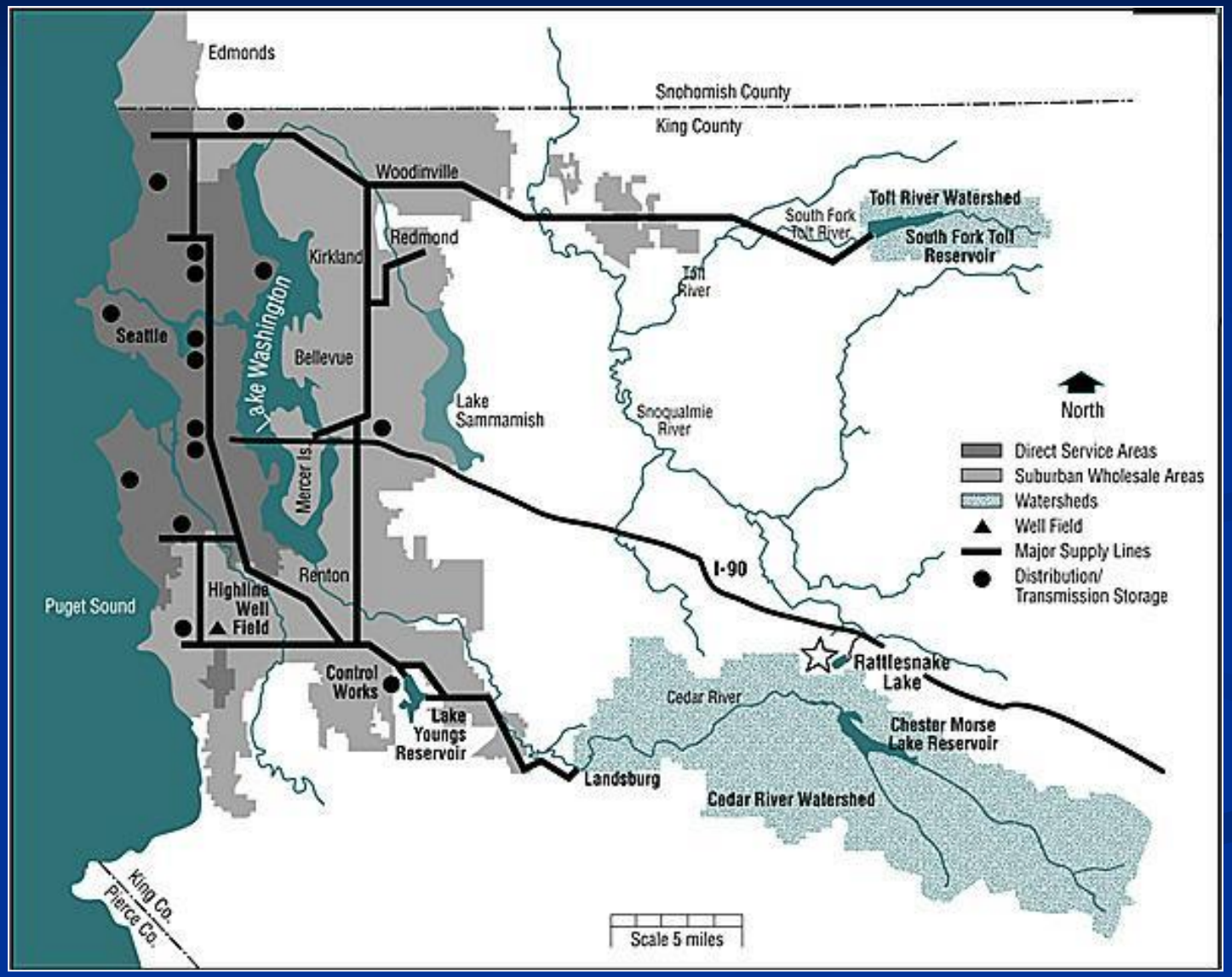
Overview

- Seattle System
- Topography
- Concept
- Operational Needs
- The Turbines

Seattle System



Topography

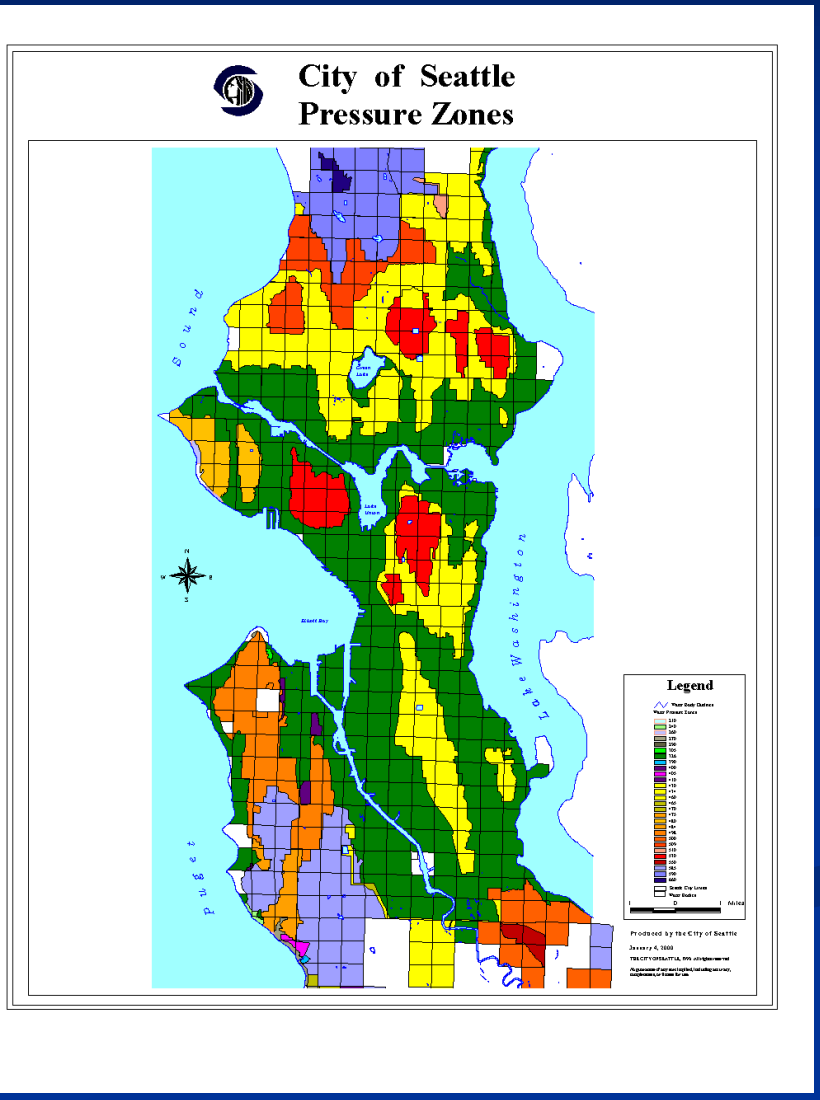
"Seattle has hills, and to spare. With surface elevation of Lake Youngs at 498 feet above sea level, water incoming from Cedar River is vented by gravity into reservoirs at surface elevation 430 feet, as is the reservoir on Capitol Hill. Leo Tank on Beacon Hill is supplied by gravity, off the pipelines, at elevation 480 feet. So are reservoirs on the West Seattle hills, at elevation 440 feet.

Topography (cont.)

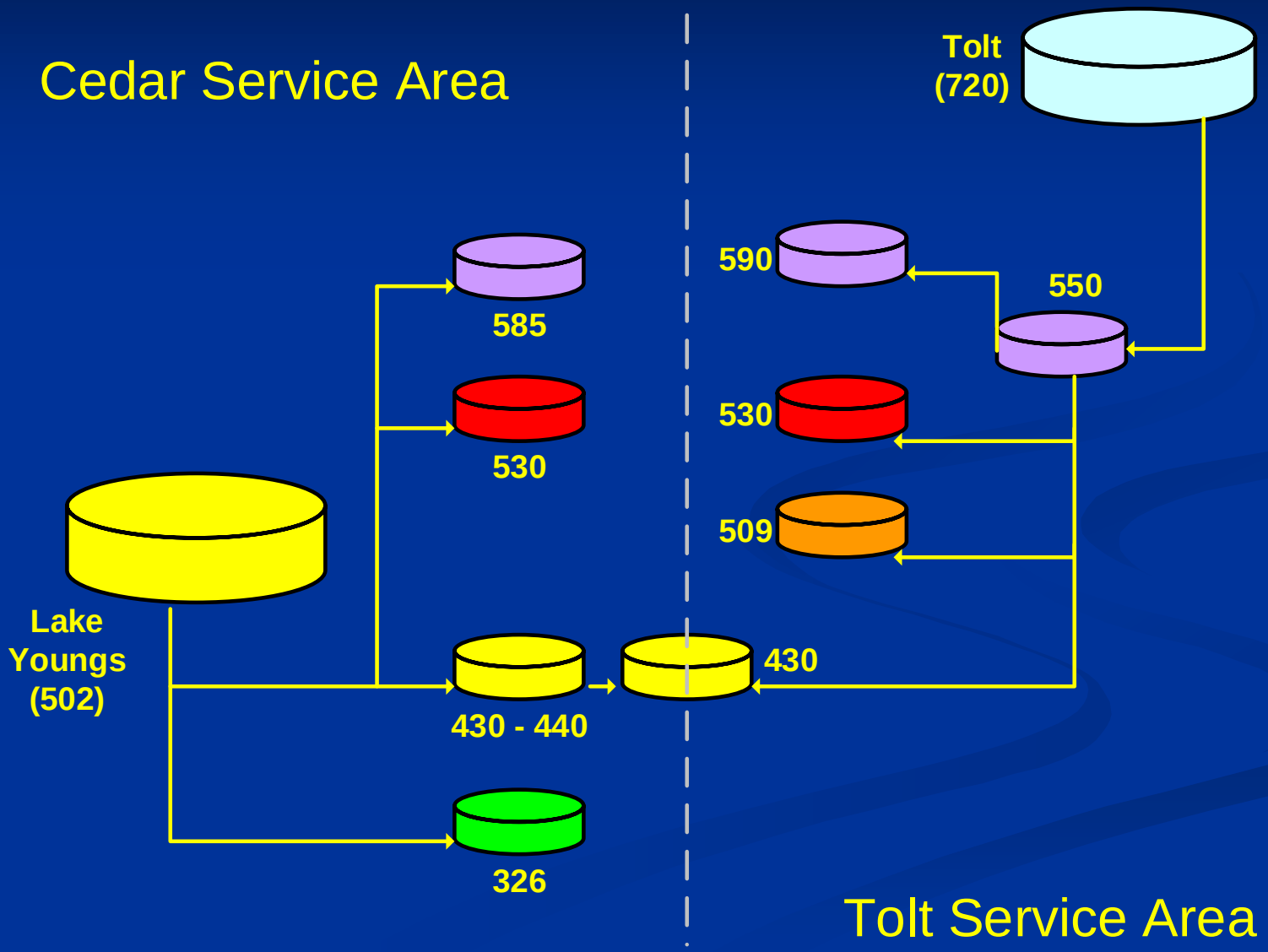
"Hydraulic turbines placed on the lines, take advantage of the kinetic energy of water between elevations. Pumps connected to these units force water to high zone towers and tanks with overflows of 530 feet above sea level, such as Queen Anne Hill."

- R.H. Calligan, Superintendent of Water, 1893

Topography & Pressure Zones

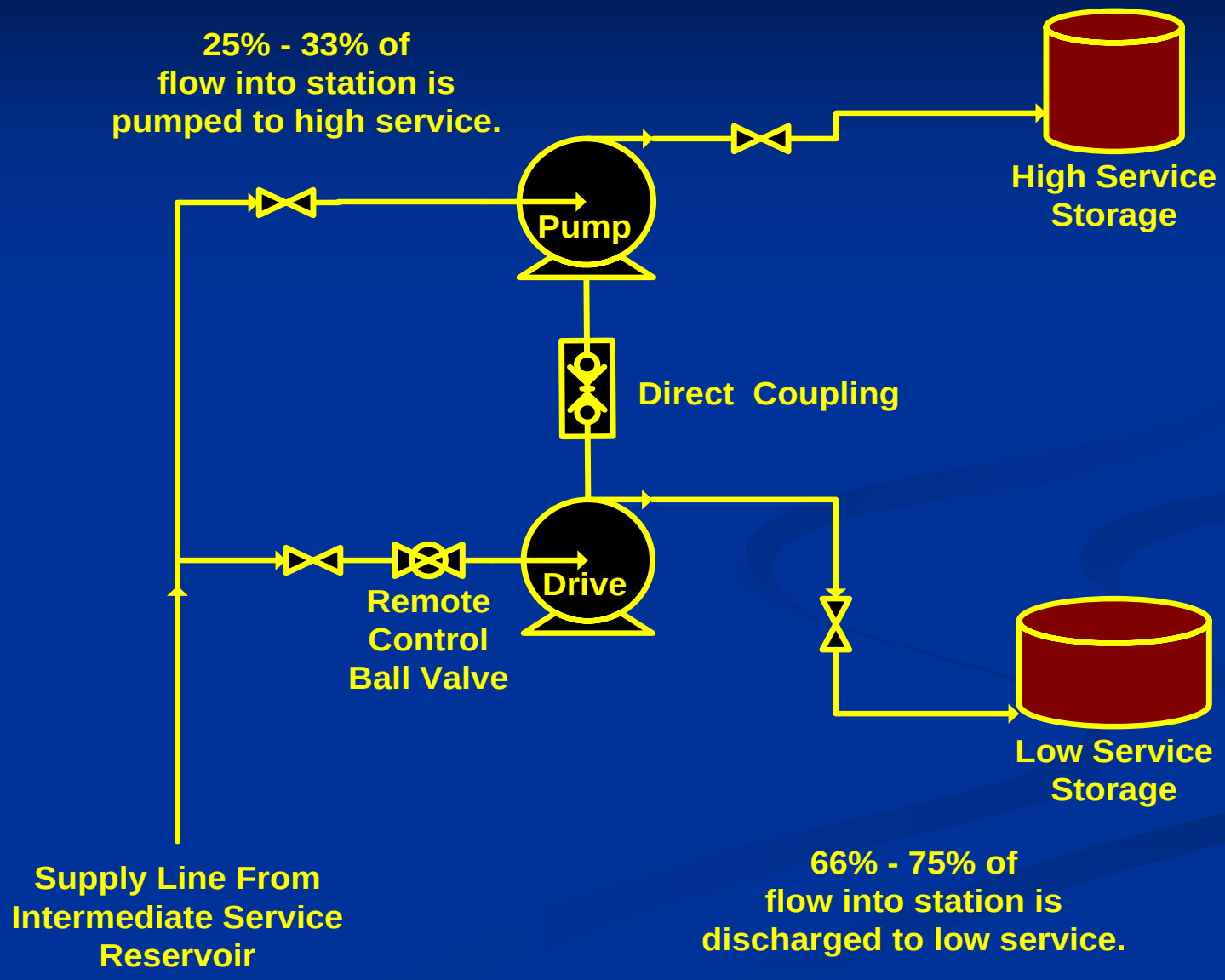


Pressure Zone Hydraulic Profile



The Concept
and
The Operational Needs

Turbine Schematic



Operational Needs

- Hills & multiple pressure zones
- Stable & adequate suction head
  - Output varies along with gradient on pipeline supply
  - Turbine must be shut down if gradient drops too far
- Vent on supply pipeline

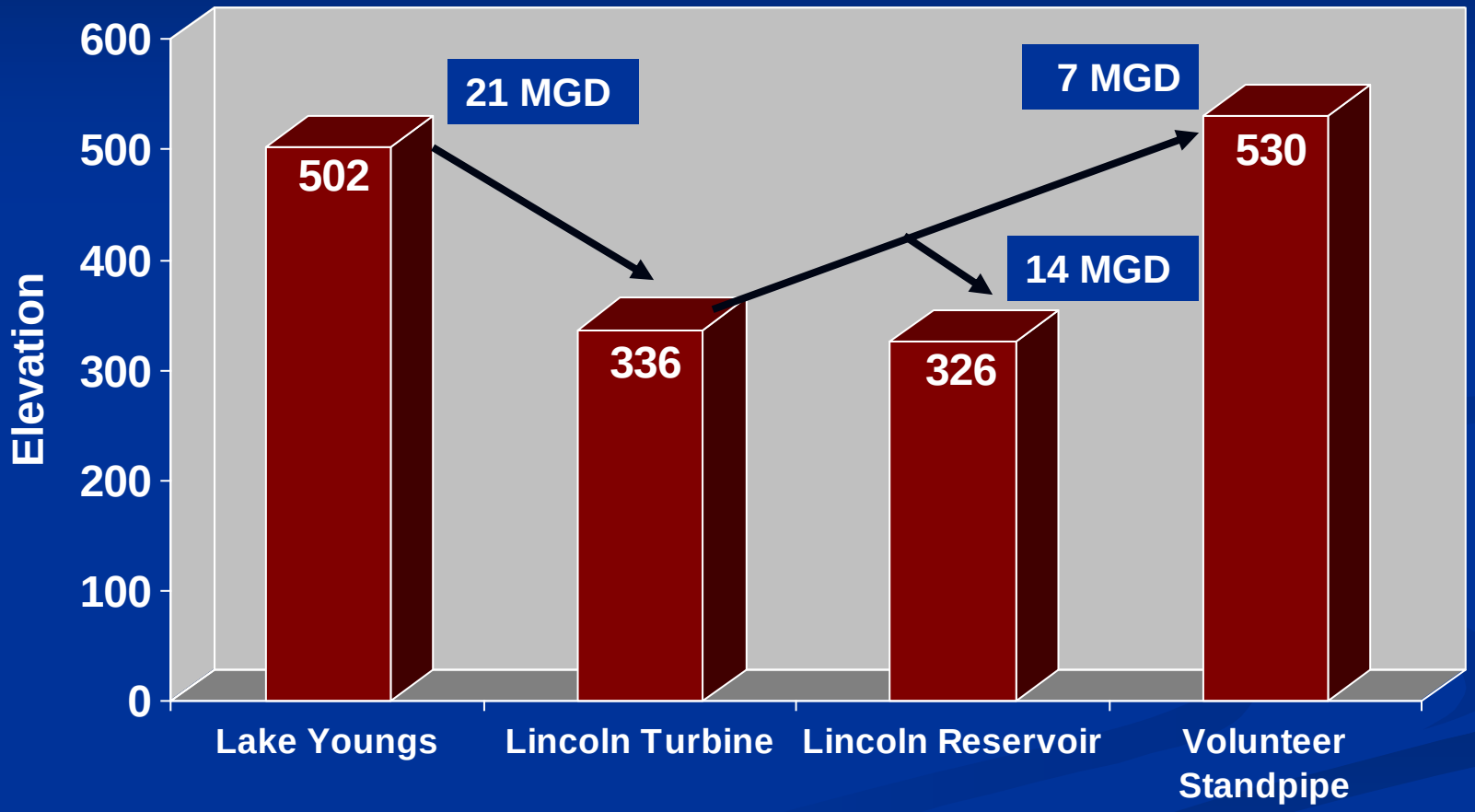
Operational Needs

- Storage or demand for the drive-water, and
- Storage or demand in the pumped zone

- Managing demands can be challenging
  - Ability to move water out of zones can extend running time

The Turbines

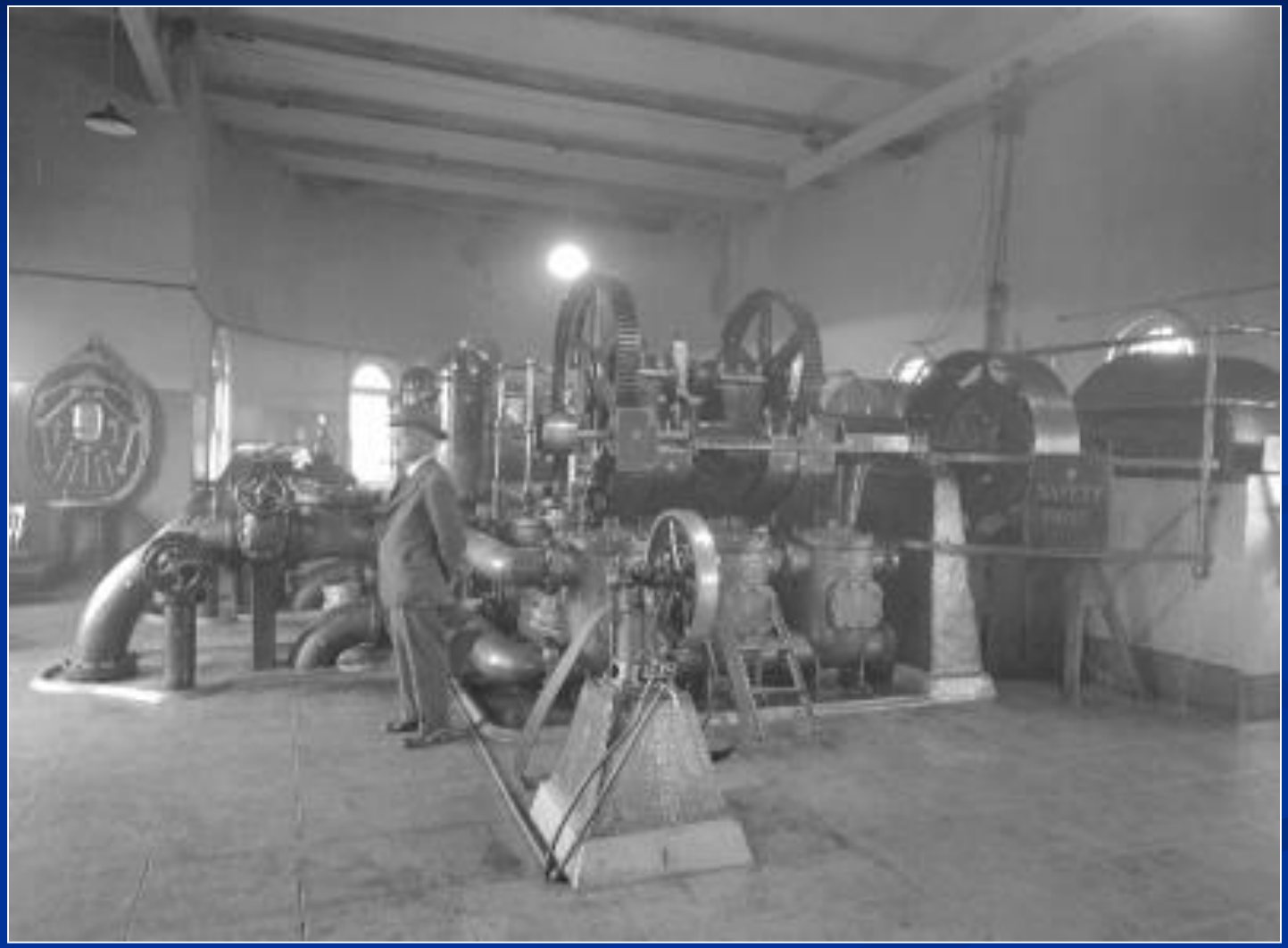
Lincoln Turbine Hydraulic Profile



Lincoln Turbine

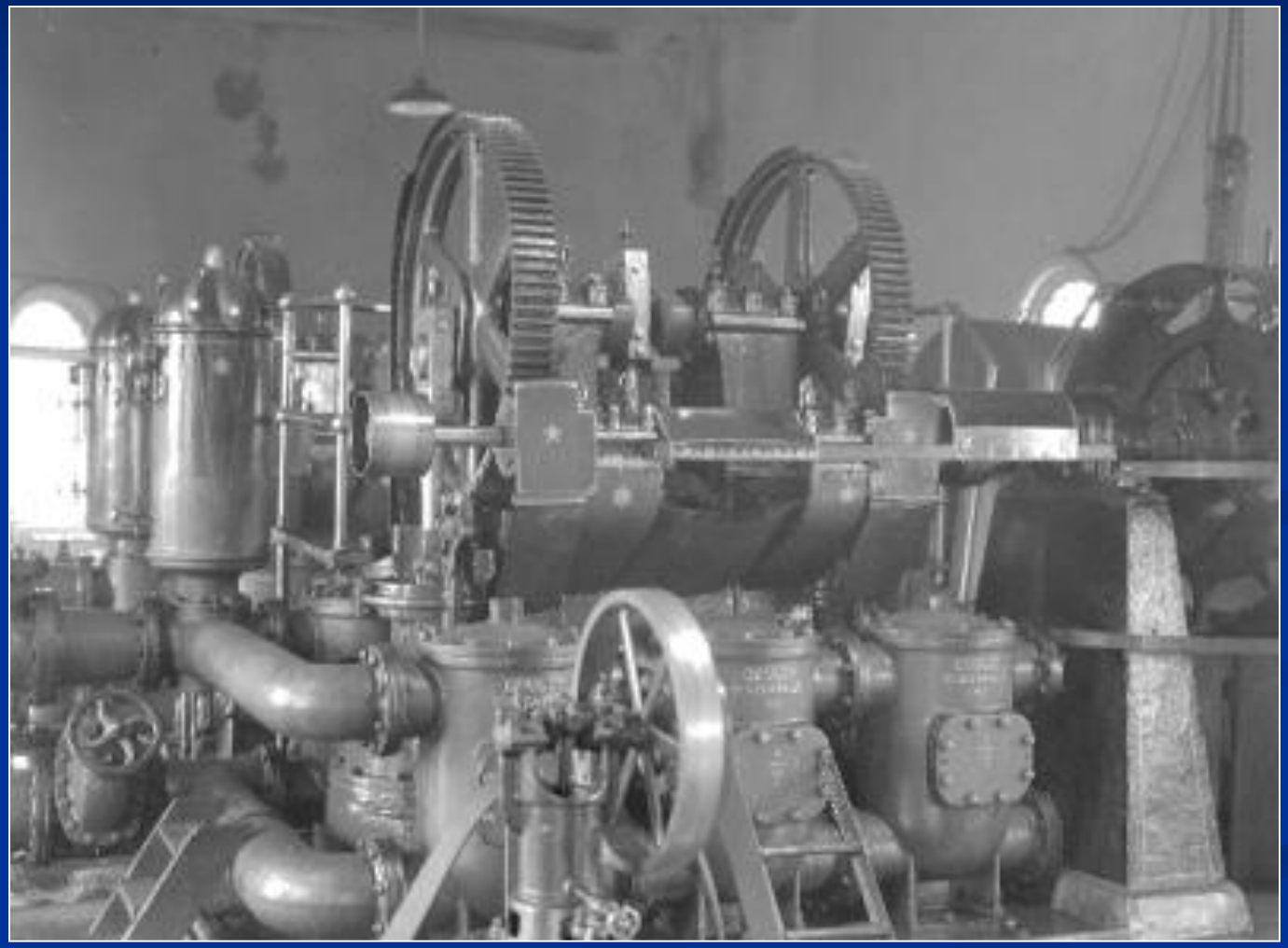
- 1900 – two 10x12” Gould Triplex pumps connected through reducing gears to 90hp Pelton water wheels

Lincoln Turbine 1901 - 1931



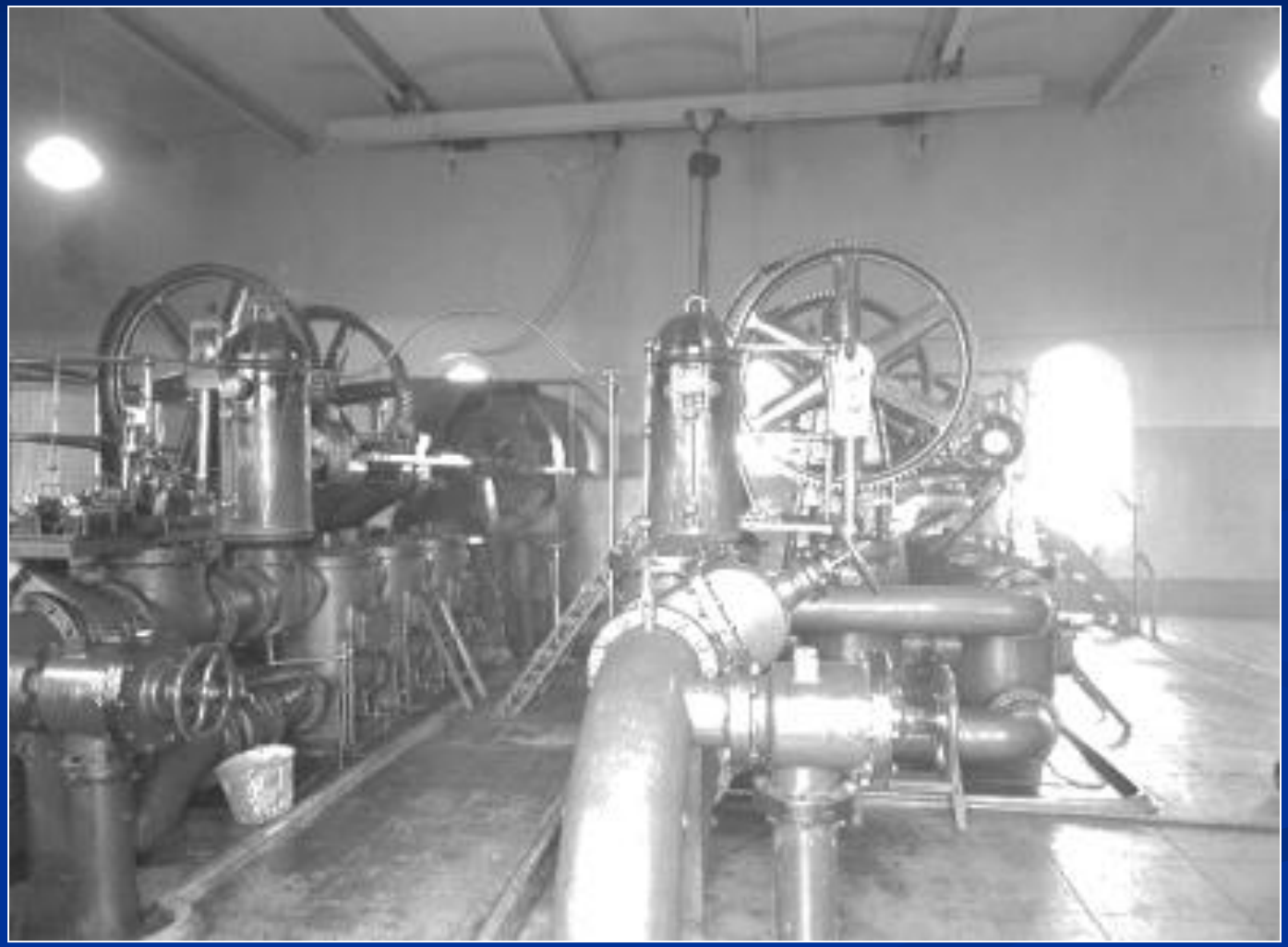
Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives, 6910 (1929)

Lincoln Turbine 1901 - 1931



Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives, 6909 (1929)

Lincoln Turbine 1901 - 1931

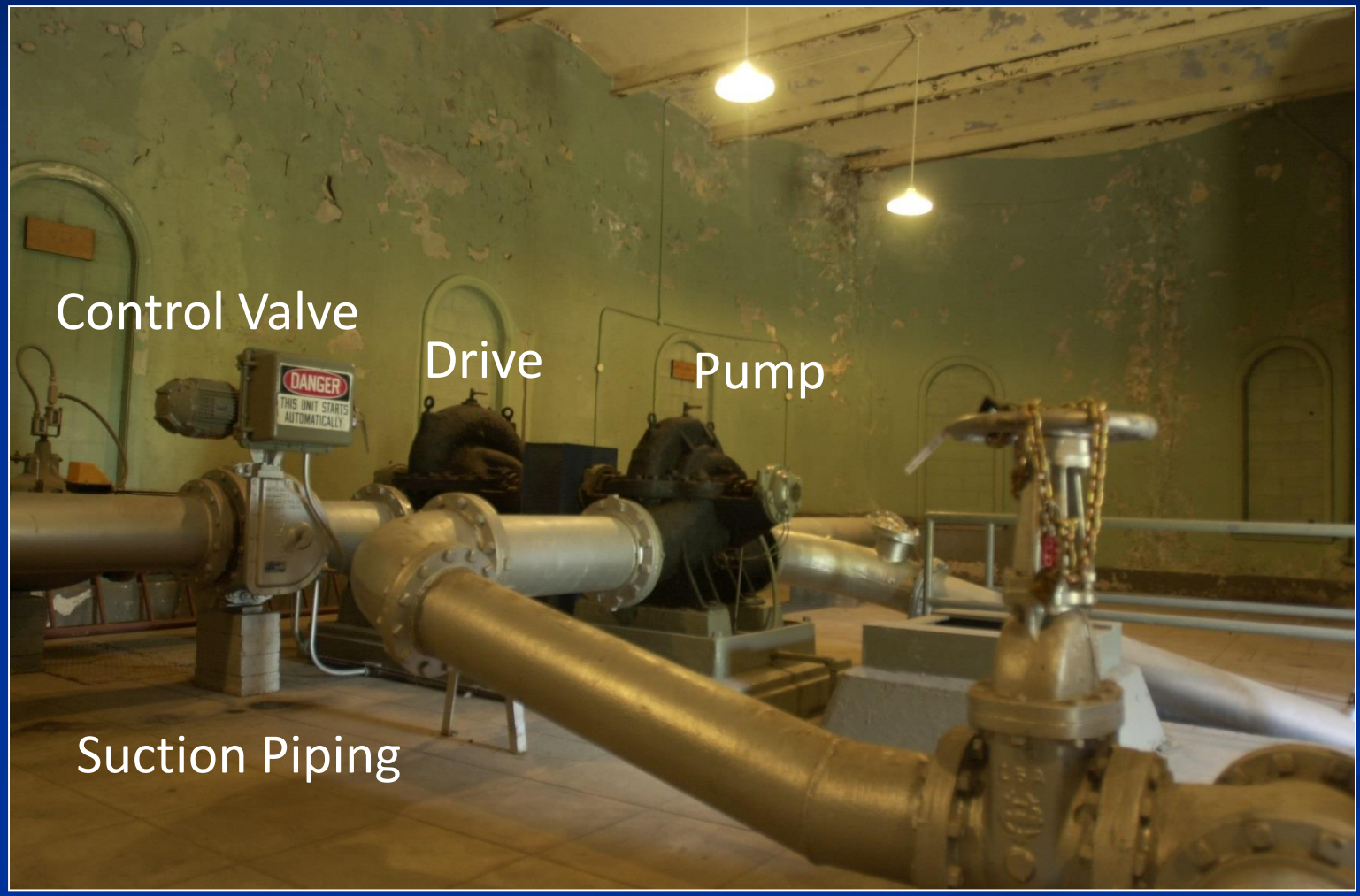


Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives, 6908 (1929)

Lincoln Turbine

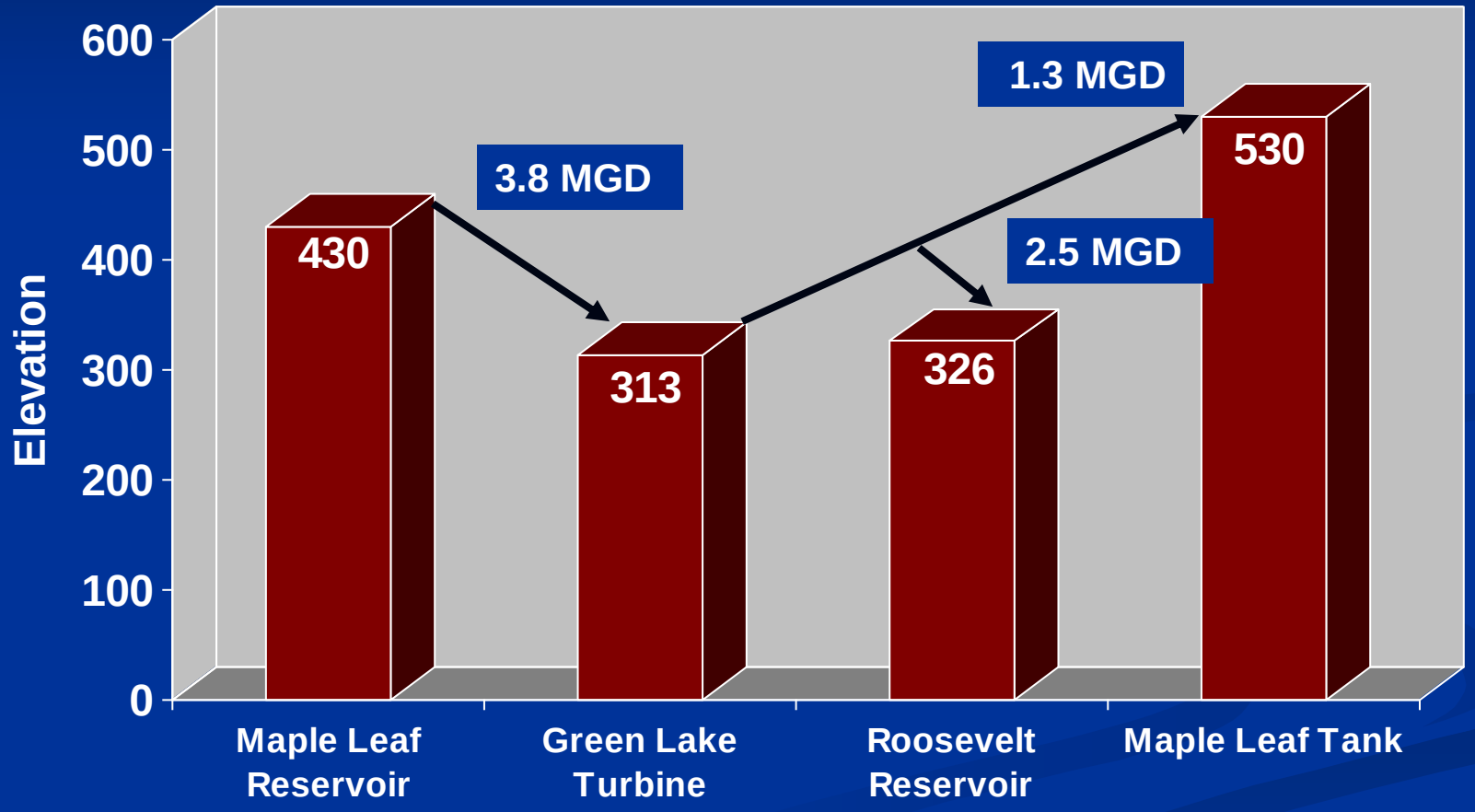
- 1931 – original units replaced by a 120 hp Worthington 16” turbine of the reaction type direct-connected to a 12x10” single stage double suction centrifugal pump

Lincoln Turbine 1931 - Present

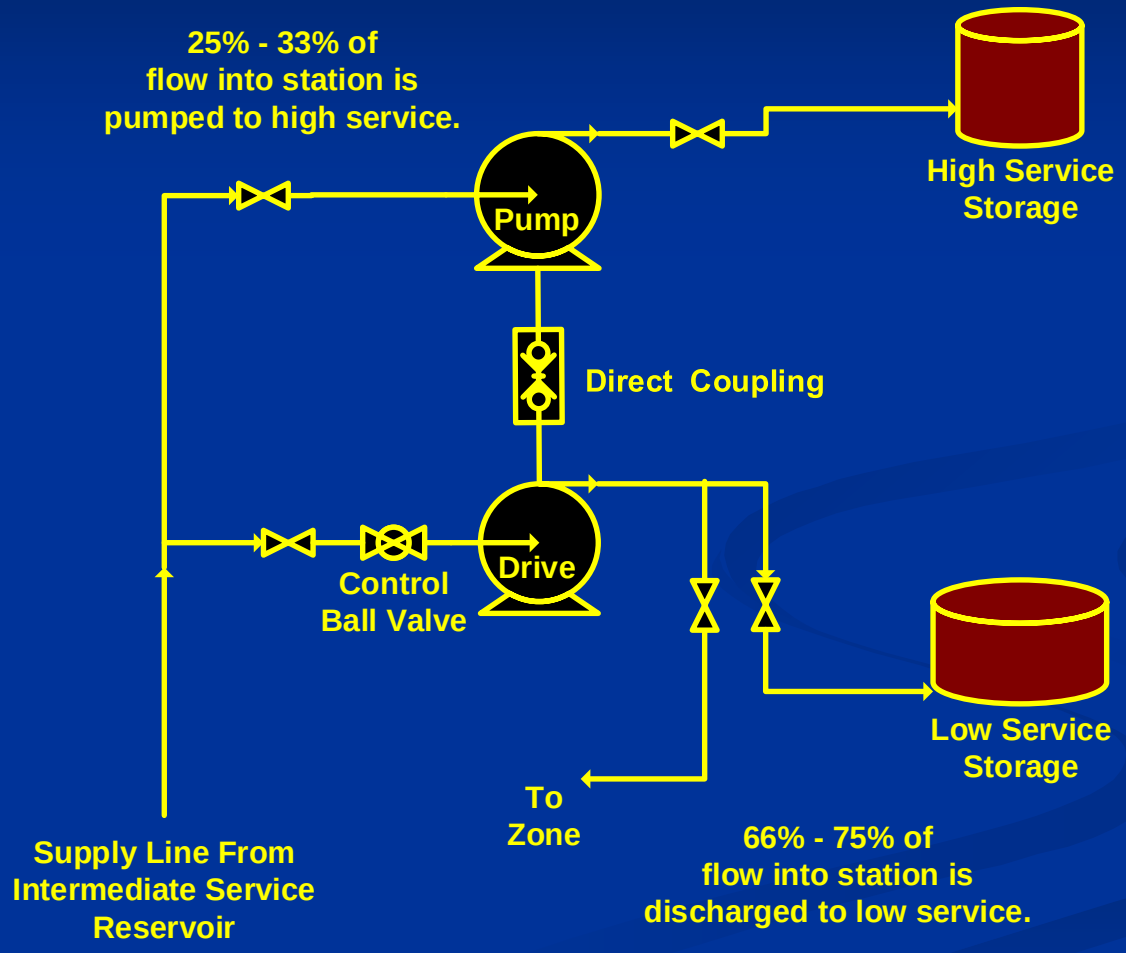


Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives, 131318 (2002)

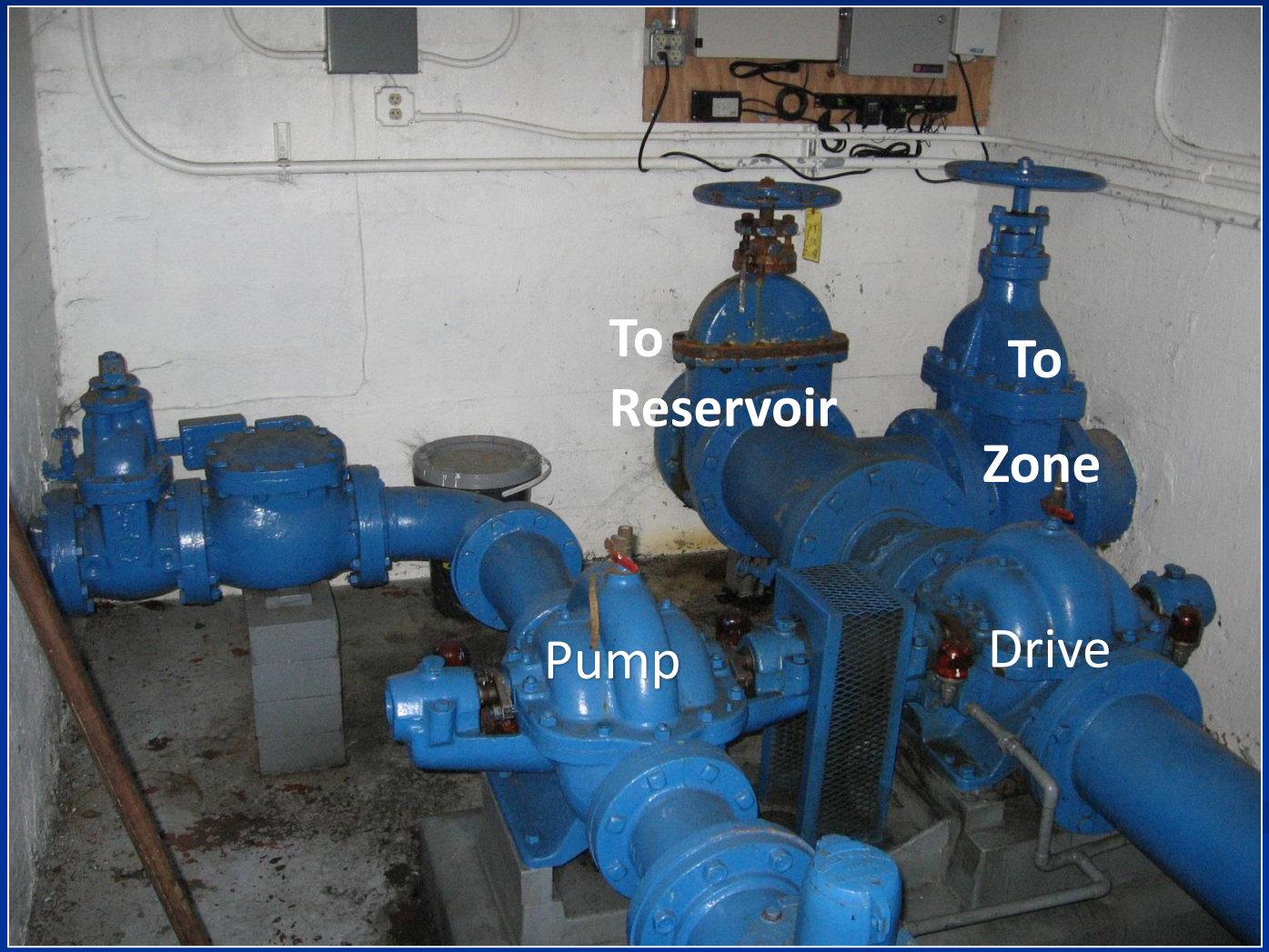
Green Lake Turbine Hydraulic Profile



Green Lake Turbine



Green Lake Turbine Discharge Piping

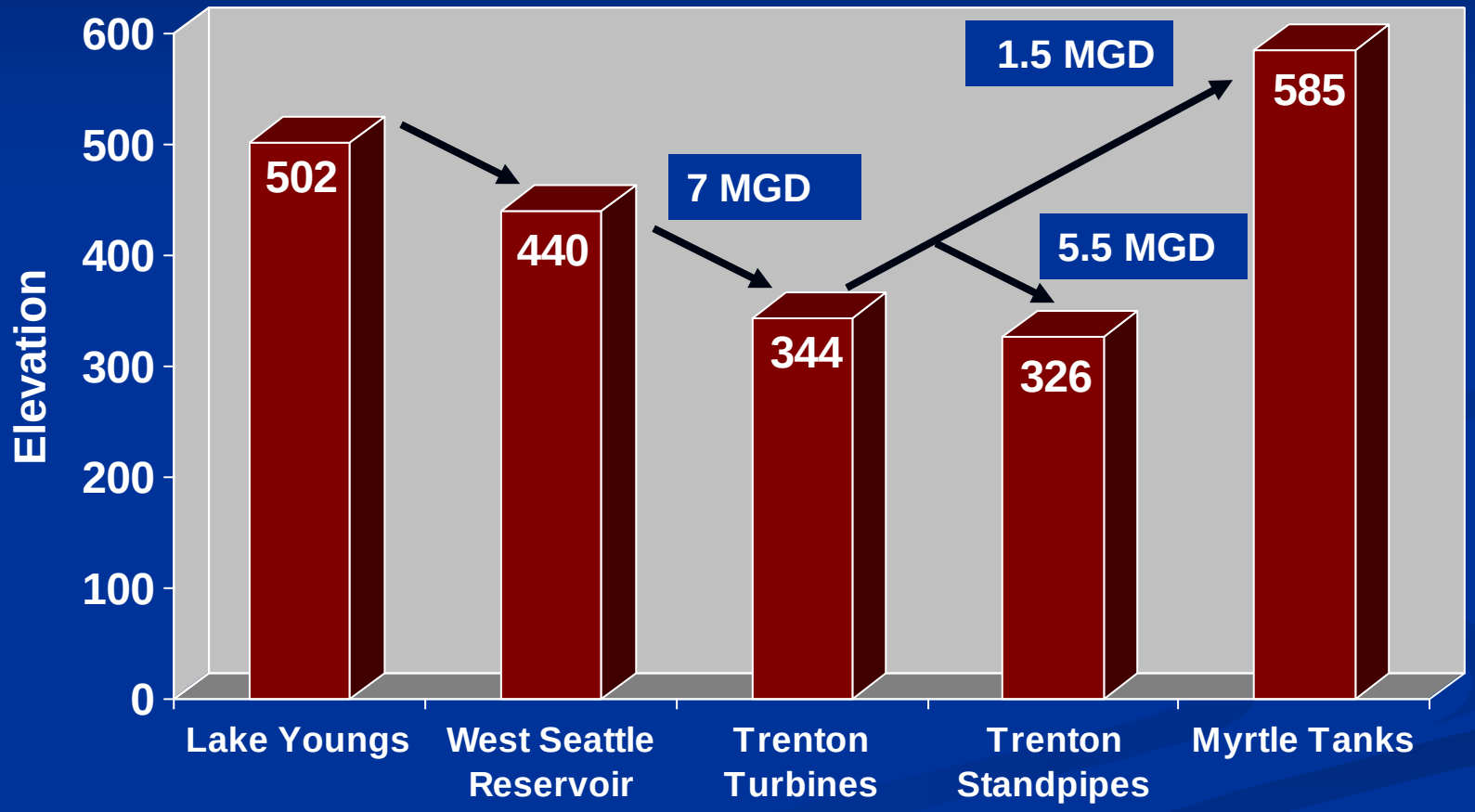


Trenton Turbines

- 1935 –Trenton Pumping Plant and Trenton Standpipes enter service

- 1994-95 – Turbine #2 is overhauled after a screwdriver left in the reservoir outlet line during the liner installation was sucked into an impeller.

Trenton Turbine #1 Hydraulic Profile



Trenton Turbines

- Turbine #1
  - 7 MGD total demand
  - 1.5 MGD to upper zone
  - 5.5 MGD to lower zone
- Turbine #2
  - 21 MGD total demand
  - 4.3 MGD to upper zone
  - 16.7 MGD to lower zone

Trenton 1932

Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives, 5493 (1932)

Trenton 1934

Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives, 7196 (1934)

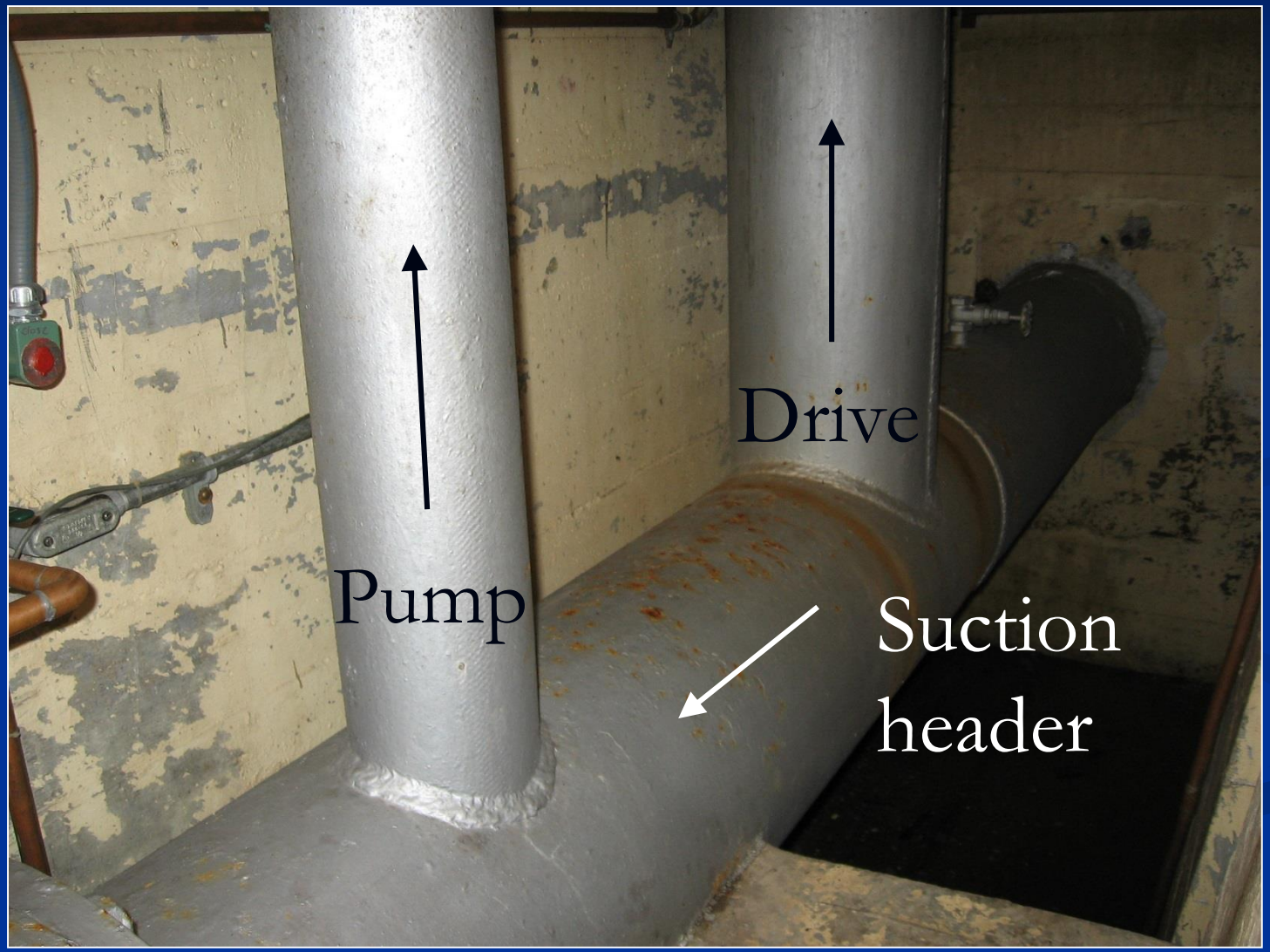
Trenton #2, 1934

Courtesy of Seattle Municipal Archives, 7192 (1934)

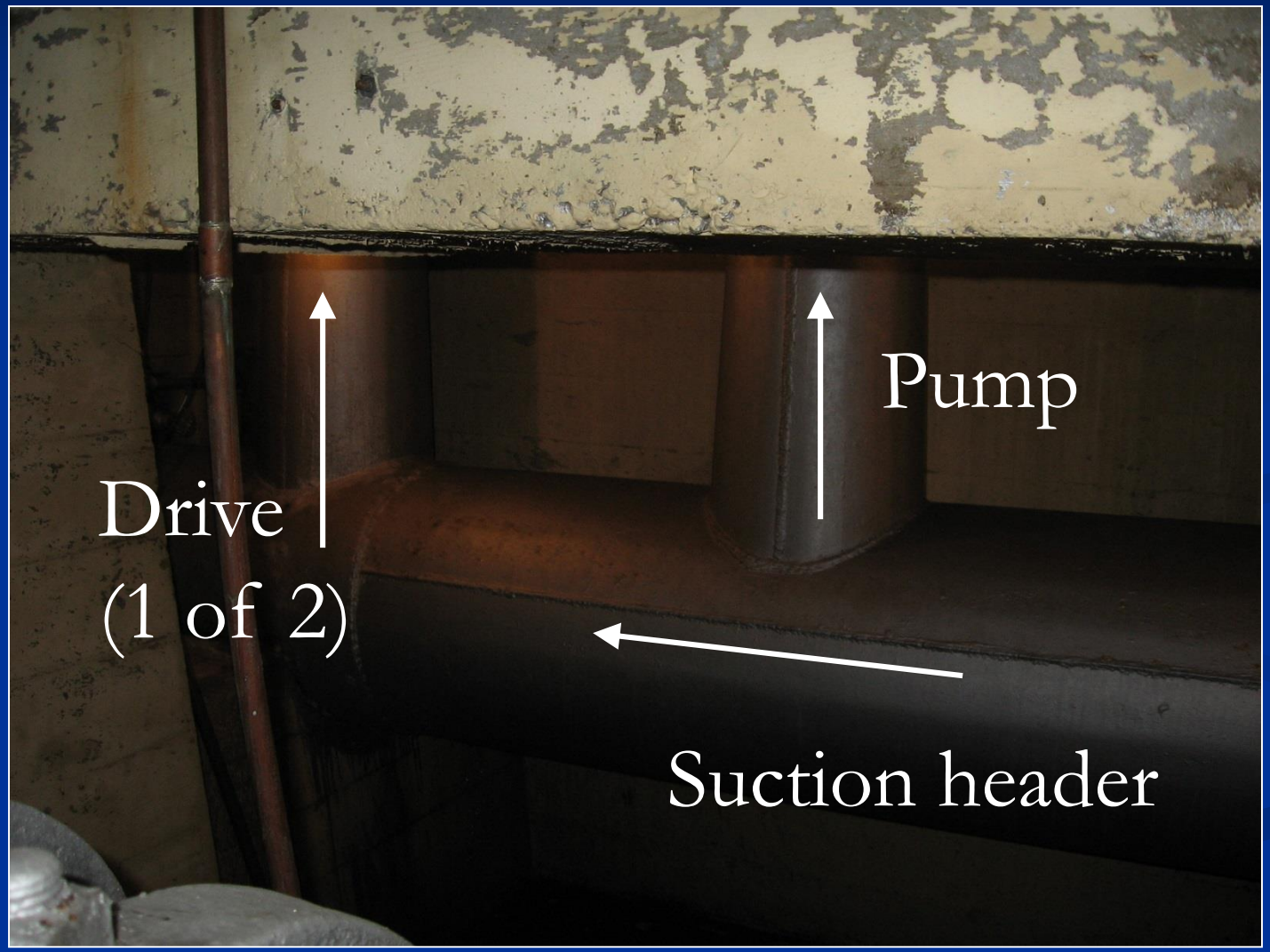
Trenton #2, 2008

Trenton #1, 2008

Suction Piping, Trenton #1

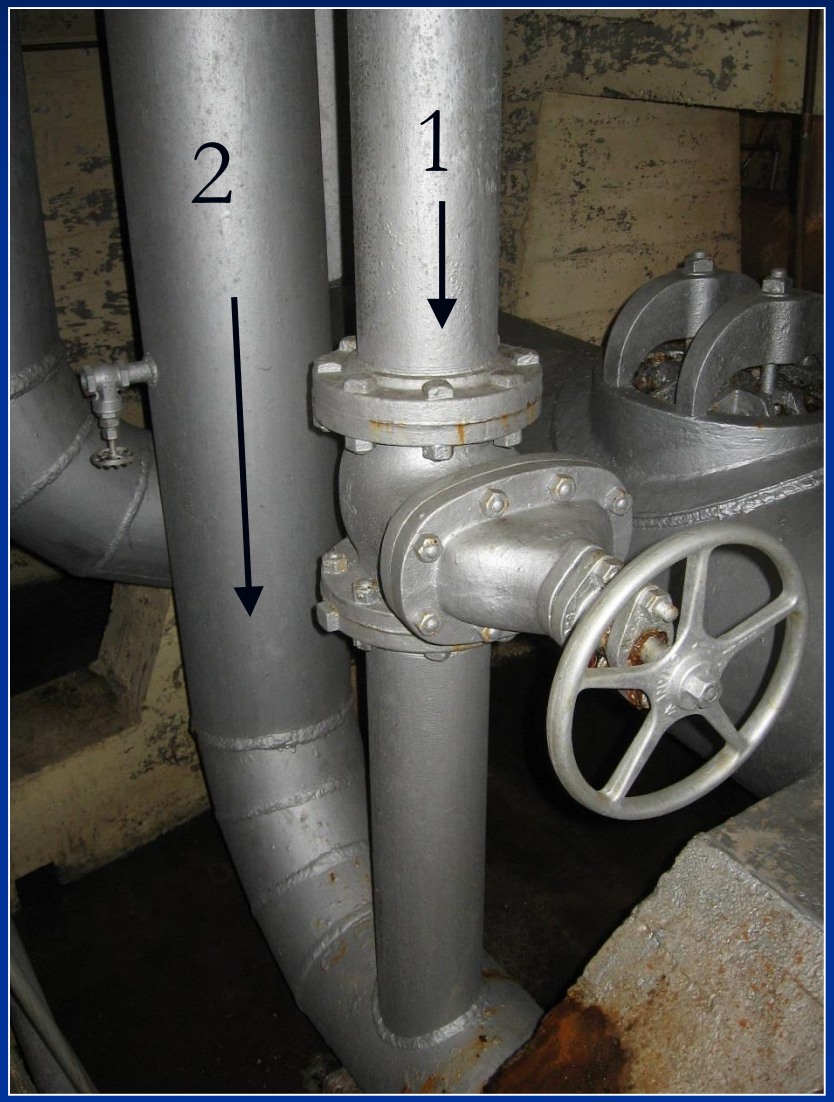


Suction Piping Trenton #2



Trenton Drive-water Discharge

Trenton Pump Discharge



Pump discharge piping in foreground.

Drive-water discharge piping in background.

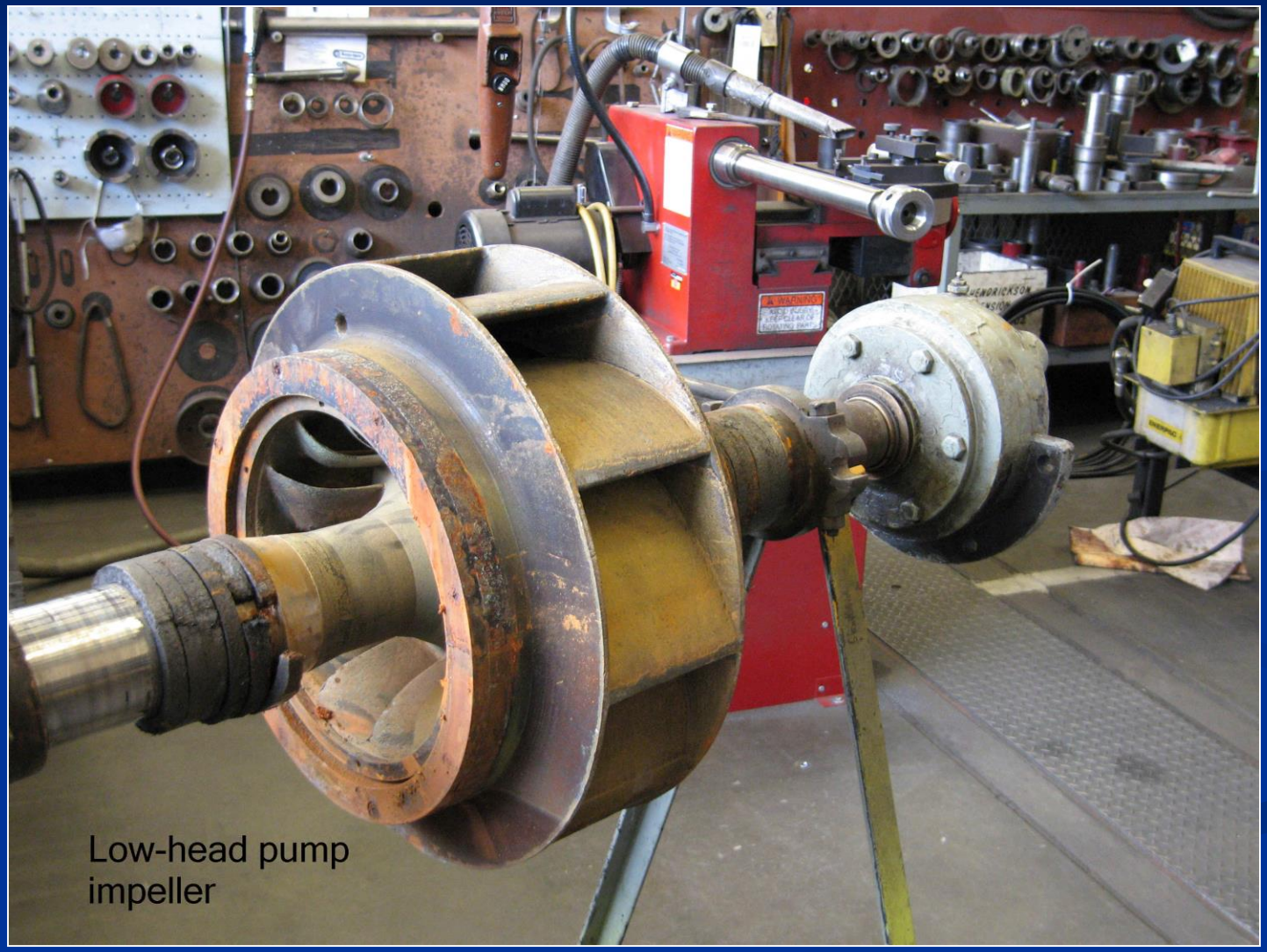
Foy Pump Station

- Built 1933, initially all electric
- By 1935, one pump replaced with turbine
- By 1942 – electric pumps upsized
- Report by W.A. Herrigel in 1952 indicates Foy Turbine is still operational
- Turbine was likely removed when the Tolt source was brought on line, around 1960

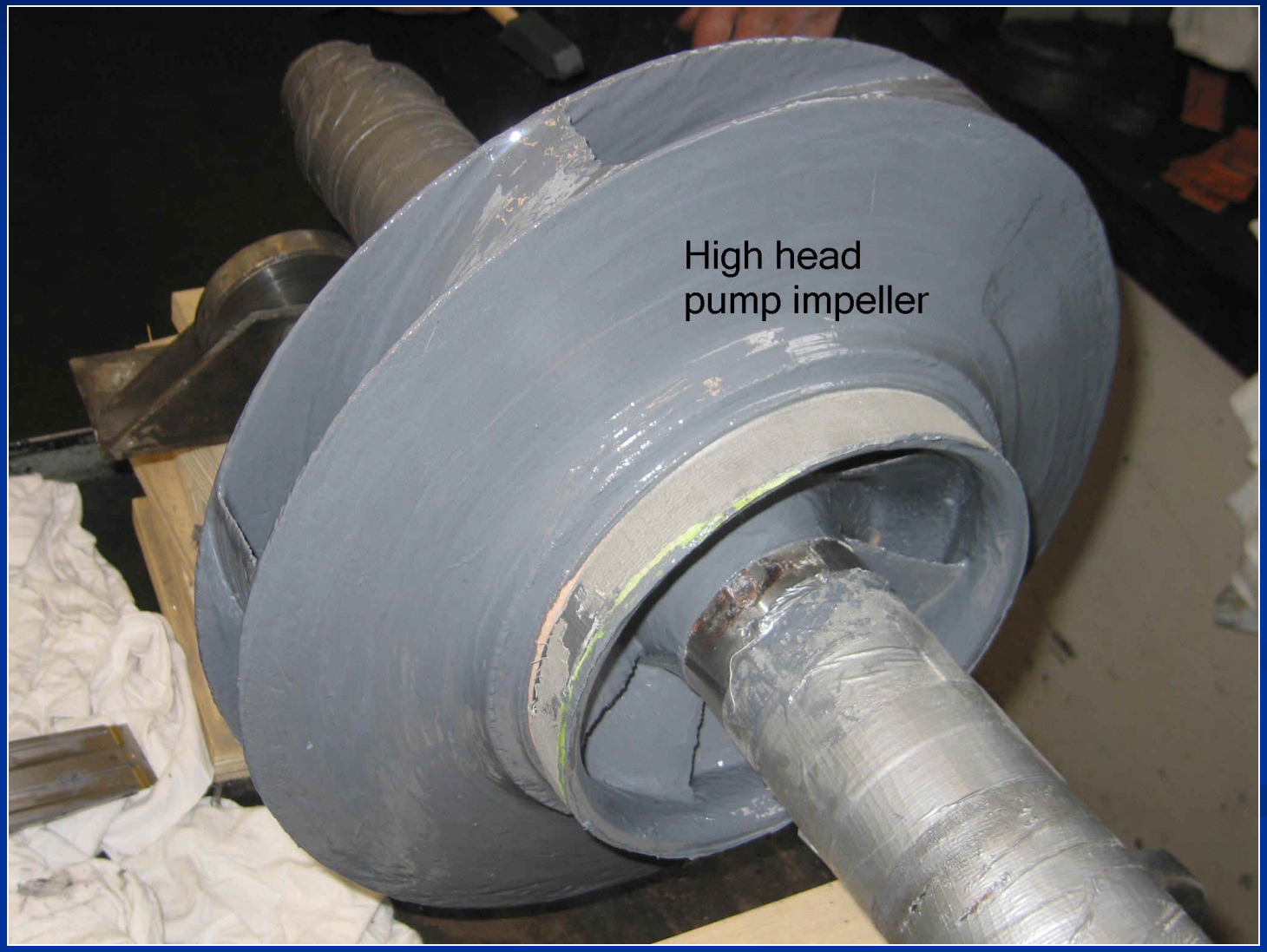
What's Inside?

Contrasting Typical Impellers With Turbine Impeller

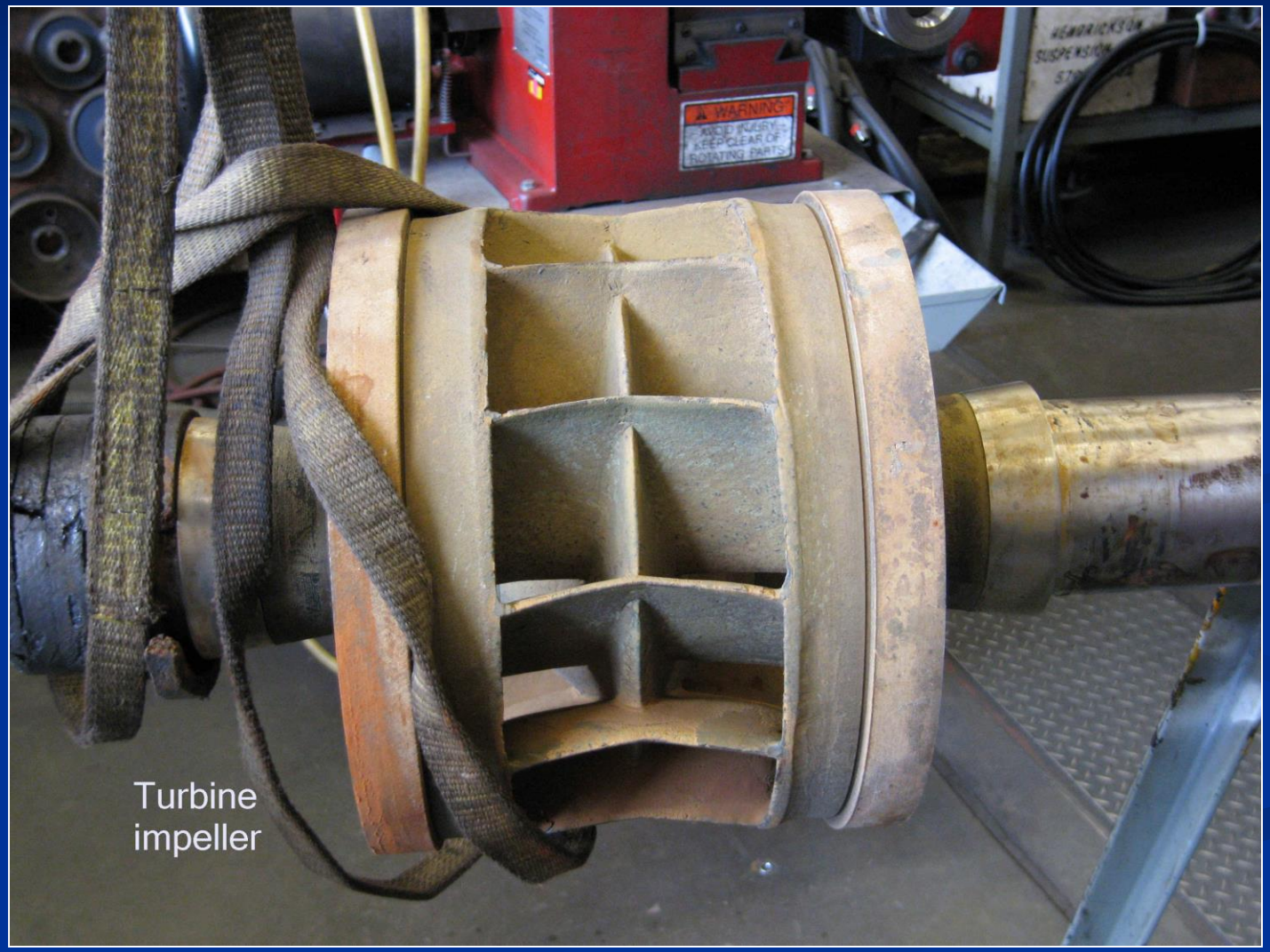
Typical Low-Head Pump Impeller



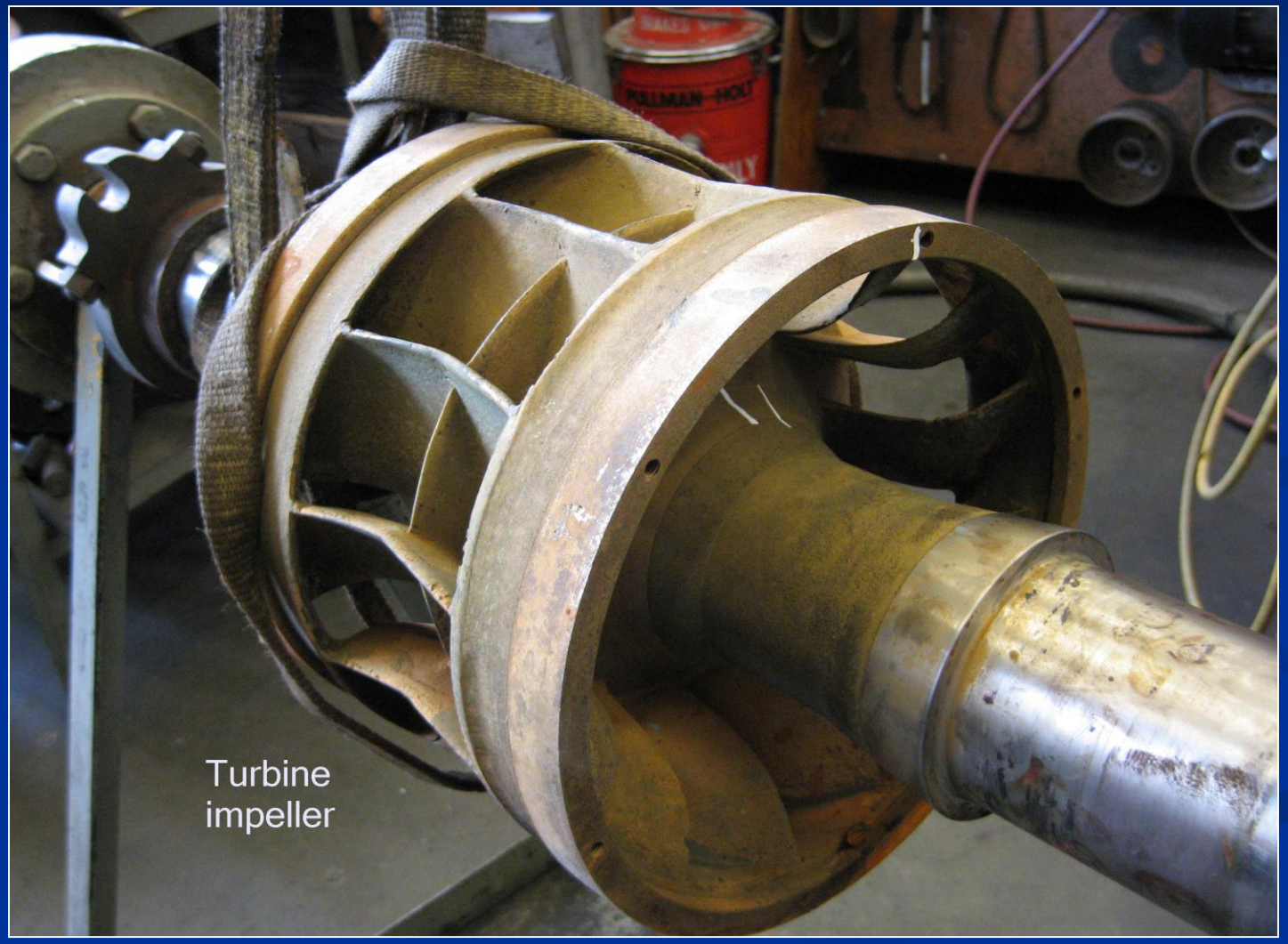
Typical High Head Pump Impeller



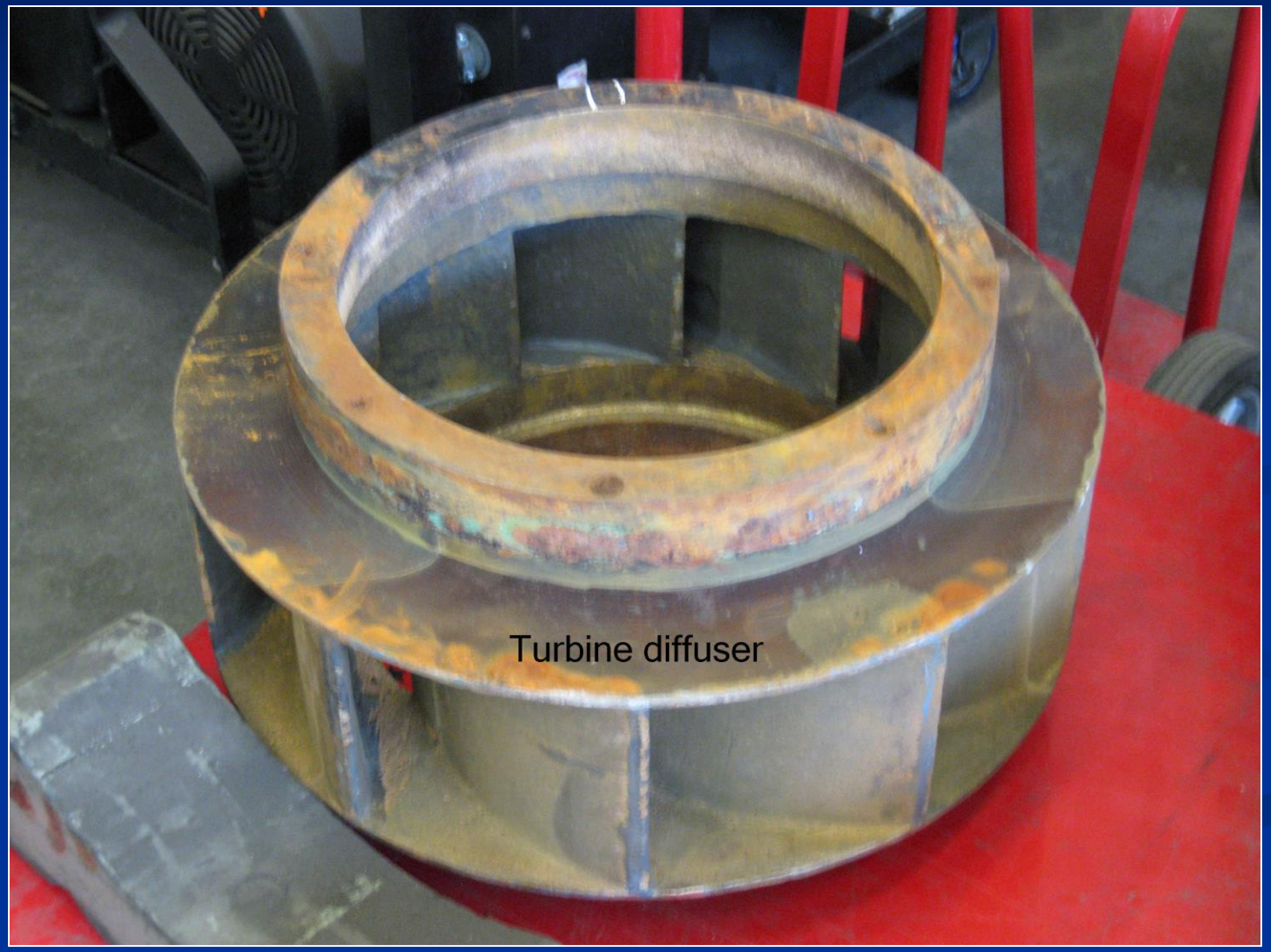
Turbine Pump Impeller



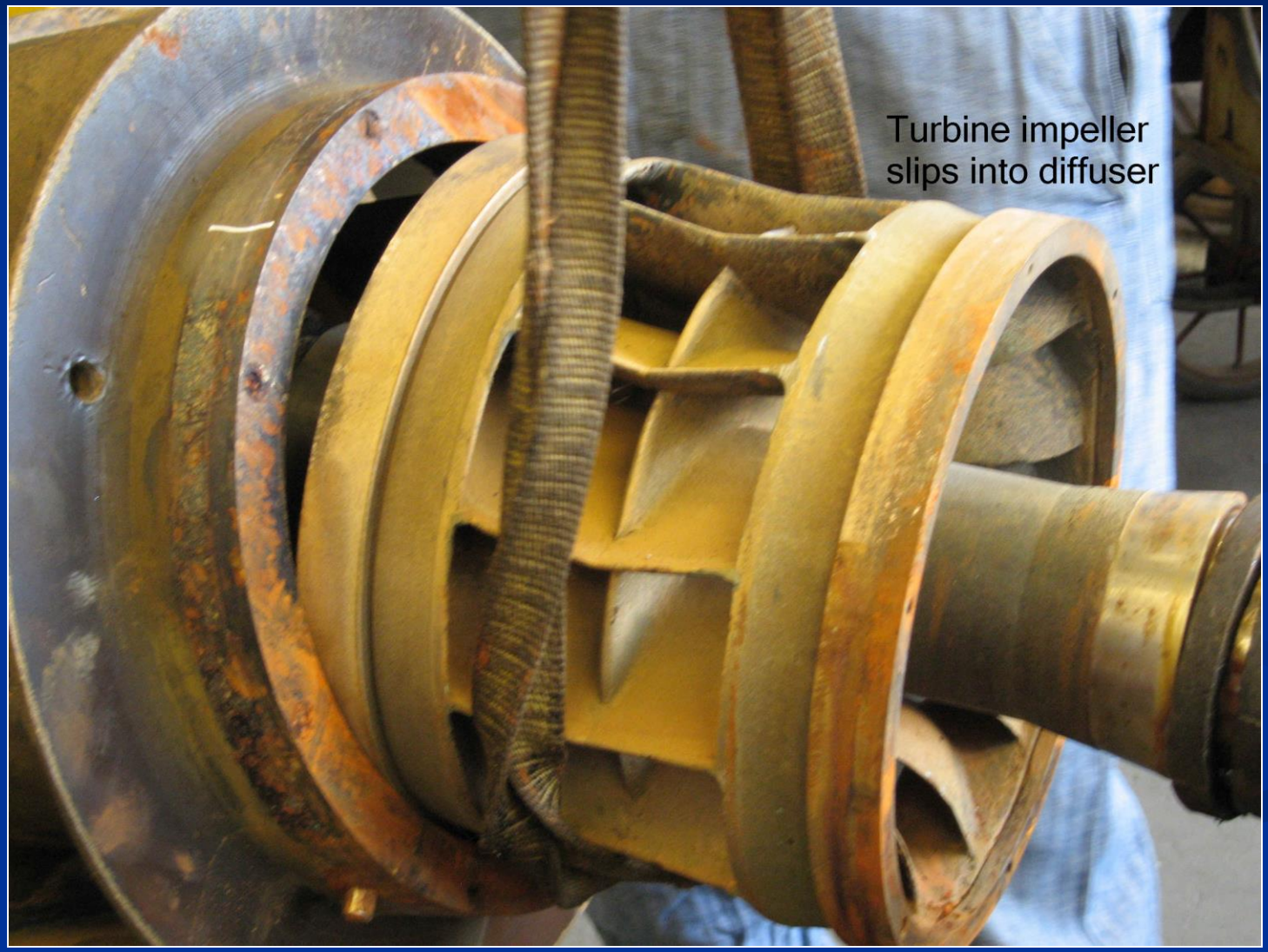
Turbine Pump Impeller



Turbine Pump Diffuser



Diffuser & Impeller Assembly



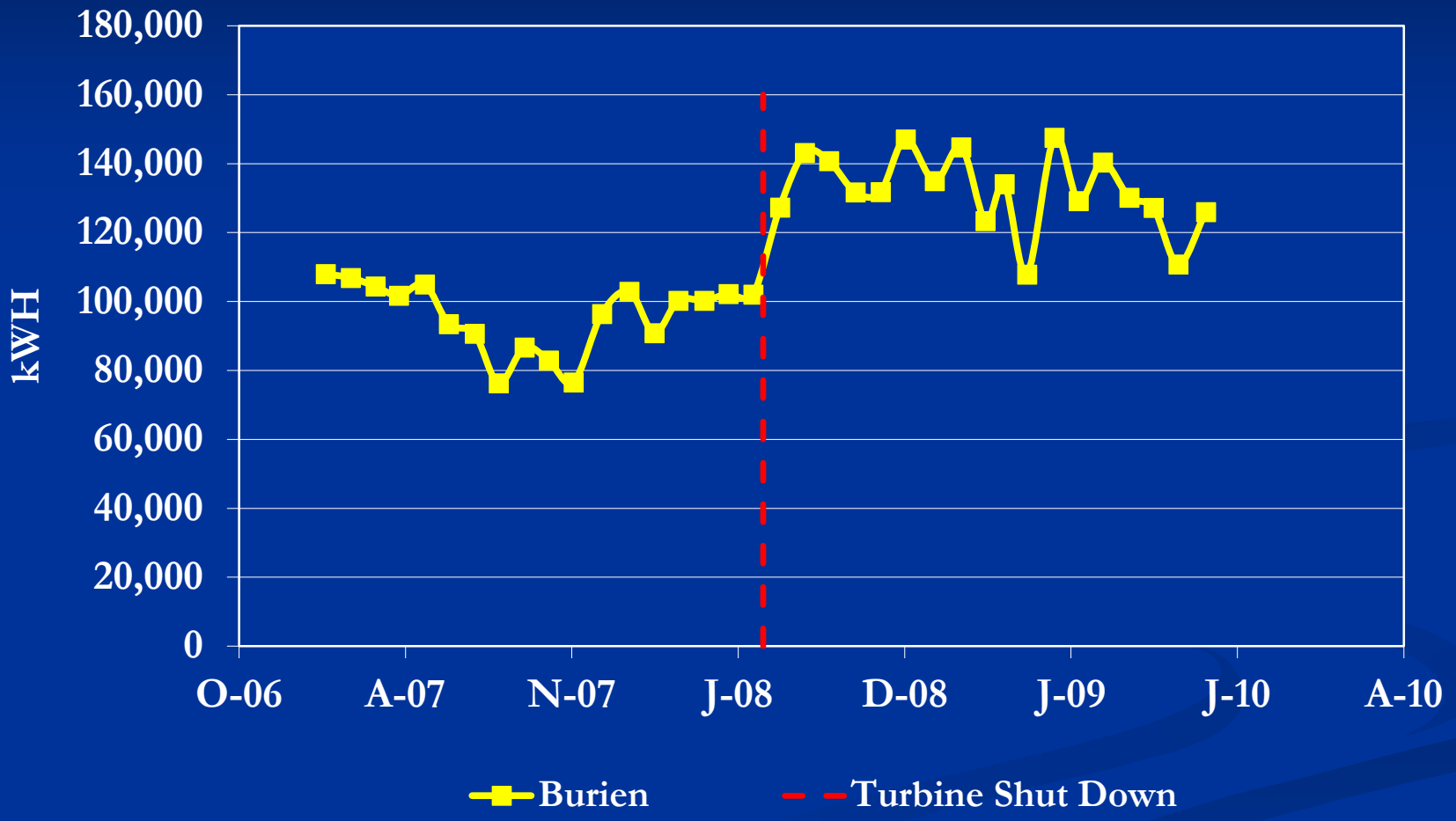
Turbine Impeller – Electrical Generator

What’s the Payoff?

Example of Savings

- Trenton Turbines shut down July 2008
  - West Seattle Reservoir construction
- Burien PS usage up an average of 35,000 kWH per month
- Burien kWH charges up $1000 - $1500 per month.

Burien PS Electrical Use



Where Do I Get One?

Sweden, Maybe

- SPU looked into replacing Lincoln Turbine with 2 smaller units when the reservoir was down-sized. The only potential manufacturer we found was in Sweden.
- Spare parts
  - We make our own. Patterns are made from existing equipment, then parts are cast and machined.

Credits

- University of Washington Libraries Digital Collection
- City of Seattle Municipal Photo Archives
- Seattle Water Department History 1854:1954 Operational Data and Memoranda
  - Mary McWilliams, published 1955

Questions?

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