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City Underwater: The Ongoing Challenge of New Orleans Drinking Water Management

Chris Bergeron, P.E., P.M.P. SWBNO Kate Despinoy, P.E., P.M.P., Stanley Consultants Scott Warren, P.E., Stanley Consultants July 19, 2023







Presentation Contents

- 1. SWBNO background and Carrollton Water Treatment Plant
- 2. Factors affecting operation
- 3. Iterative upgrade plan
- 4. Three-phased improvements plan
- 5. Instrumentation and controls design
- 6. Current state and future improvements

Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans History

- Founded in 1899
- Three systems
 - Water
 - Sewage
 - Drainage





Drainage System



From Canal St. at the Mississippi River to the Lakefront at U.N.O.









The Water System

- Carrollton Water Treatment Plant
 - Constructed in 1908
 - Water and power plant
- Two intake river pumping stations
- 7-step purification process
- 130 MGD average production





The Water System

- Two Separate Systems
 - East Bank
 - West Bank









Carrollton Water Treatment Plant

- **Claiborne Pump Station** 1.
- Panola Pump Station 2.
- High Lift Pump Station 3.





Carrollton Water Treatment Plant

- 1. Two 25 Hz, Two 60 Hz pumps
- 2. Two 25/60 Hz pumps
- 3. Two steam-driven pumps

Eight total distribution pumps





Hurricane Katrina

August 29, 2005







Water Treatment Plant Pre- and Post Katrina





Factors Affecting Operation

- Hurricane Katrina
- Power outages
- Water main leaks
- Water hammer





FEMA's Upgrade Plan

- Reiterative process
- Initial plan comprised of:
 - Eight new pumps and motors
 - New slowly opening and closing valves
 - Variable frequency drives (VFD)
 - Vacuum priming system





Surge Analysis Scenario

- 5 pumps running, 4 lose power
- Peak demand 170 MGD
- High vs low pressure transients





Surge Analysis Scenario





Surge Analysis Scenario





Potential Solutions

- Stand pipes
- Bladder tanks
- Elevated storage









FEMA's Revised Upgrade Plan

- Five refurbished pumps
- Four new motors
- Four VFDs
- Two water towers
- New valves and meters





Overall Water Hammer Program

- Phase 1 Two elevated 2 MG storage tanks
- Phase 2 Claiborne improvements
- Phase 3 Panola and High Lift improvements





Water Towers

- 2 million gallons each
- 200 feet tall
- Composite style concrete and steel





Hydraulics

- Connected to distribution system
- 40 minutes of water pressure
- Pressurized at 75 psi





Challenges

• Plant utilities





Water Tower Installation







Overall Water Hammer Program

- Phase 1 Two elevated 2 MG storage tanks
- Phase 2 Claiborne improvements
- Phase 3 Panola and High Lift improvements







Water Pump Stations

- Three existing pump stations that distribute potable water into one pressure zone
- The water level in the clear wells is at the same elevation throughout the plant, balanced through a series of pipes
- The clear wells are supplied from the Sycamore and Claiborne filters





Pump Station Flow

- The peak hour pumping capacity is 170 MGD combined
- System pressure is maintained between 68 and 72 PSI

Pumping Capacity

The capacity for each of the pump stations is indicated in the following table:

Pump Station	Pump No.	Maximum Speed (RPM)	Capacity (MGD)	Drive Type
Pump Room	А	742	45.0	Steam
Pump Room	В	742	45.0	Steam
Panola	1 (C)	750*	45.0*	Electric
Panola	2 (D)	750*	45.0*	Electric
Claiborne	1	740	44.0	Electric
Claiborne	2	720	41.0	Electric
Claiborne	3	720	41.0	Electric
Claiborne	4	740	44.0	Electric

Table 5-1 Pumping Capacity of Each Pump Station

* The Panola pumps will run faster and produce the flow rate indicated in the table at 25 Hz; at 60 Hz the motors will run slightly slower and produce less capacity.



Original Drawings





Existing Conditions





Claiborne Pump Station Improvements

- Significant rehabilitation of the existing pumps including:
 - Pump impellers and shaft removed scanned and rebuilt
 - Anti-reverse ratchets for all pumps
- New electric motors and VFDs to regulate discharge pressure





Construction







Construction







Improvements

- Air release valves
- Hydraulic actuated ball valves
- Yard piping, metering vaults, discharge valves and replacement piping




Construction Phasing

- Claiborne is a critical station
- A bypass sequence plan was developed
- While Claiborne was under construction, other two stations and the Claiborne elevated tank needed to be in operation
 - Two pumps were done at a time, never fully shut down

























Construction







Vacuum Priming System

- Sized to maintain a constant prime
- Instantaneous pump starts
- Automatic and manual operation configured for remote monitoring
- Two vacuum pumps





Improvements

- Surge control facility (remote facility)
- VFD building and switch gear electrical improvements.







The President Visits

• Highlighted the dire need to modernize infrastructure





Roadway Rehabilitation





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Project Completion







Project Completion





Overall Water Hammer Program

- Phase 1 Two elevated 2 MG storage tanks
- Phase 2 Claiborne improvements
- Phase 3 Panola and High Lift improvements





Panola Improvements

- Complete rehabilitation of pump no. 1
- Replacement of rotating assemblies
 - Impellers
 - Increase shaft size to add anti-rotation back-spin prevention devices
- New vacuum priming system
- New discharge valves and piping, yard piping
- Structural, electrical and I&C
- Change order structural lining of clear well





Panola Pump Station Construction





High-Lift Improvements

- Replacement of rotating assemblies
 - Impellers
 - Increase shaft size to add anti-rotation backspin prevention devices
- Vacuum priming system modifications
- New discharge valves and piping, yard piping
- Structural, electrical and I&C
- Change order convert second pump over to electric motor







Claiborne Pump Station Controls





What is Instrumentation & Controls Engineering?

- Unique discipline
- Interface with process, mechanical, electrical and client operations
- Always the last out the door
- Controls design is personal



History of the Controls at Claiborne Station

 Pump station built in 1958, 11 years before the first programmable logic controller (PLC) was developed

- Pumps were manually started and stopped
- No technology forward leaps





History of the Controls at Claiborne Station

Manual control stations.







History of the Controls at Claiborne Station

- Wound rotor motor control panel, pre-cursor to variable frequency drives (VFDs)
- Had speed control
- Several panels abandoned in the station as motors were upgraded





Discovery Process by Controls Engineers

- Uphill battle on implementing controls
- Started discovery process early 2012
- Not yet digitally cataloged
- Most were the originals from the plant or plant upgrades





Discovery Process

- Temperatures, pump speeds, system pressure manually recorded
- Chart recorders using paper disk







Discovery Process

System pressure gauge



Discovery Process

- Met with SWB engineering staff and operators, observed operations
- Questions we needed to understand:
 - How were pumps brought online?
 - How did controls function?
 - Function of auxiliary systems?
 - Which were essential?





Physical Inspections

- Spent time on-site, tracing large diameter pipes
- Used info to understand vast and complex piping system on the Carrollton site



Physical Inspections – Venturi Flow Metering





Design Challenges, Solutions



Controls-Electrical:

- System redundancy Must continually run under all scenarios, especially <u>hurricanes</u>
- Consider loss of
 - Incoming power
 - Specific power on sub-systems
 - Control system power
- Uninterruptable power supply (UPS)



Design Challenges, Solutions



Controls-Mechanical:

- Water hammer effect
- New design added ball valves with electro-hydraulic actuators
 - Must close valves if power loss
- Automation decision



Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) Installed



- All new instrumentation signals pulled into new "brain"
- Controls VFD speed simultaneously, can change pressure output by adjusting speed
- Controls discharge valves
- Monitors sub-systems



Control Panel – New Screens







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SCADA Computer







Instrumentation Installation and Construction



- Flow meters added at discharge of each pump
- Monitoring of the automated vacuum priming system







Variable Frequency Drives (VFD)









Controls Lessons Learned

- Determine how much to automate
- Flexibility needed during equipment startup
- New Equipment Training for staff
- Too much technology, too fast to meet client needs
MAKING OUR WATER SYSTEM MORE RESILIENT



Construction projects were phased to prevent water service interruptions.





- Electrical system upgrade
 - Evaluate equipment that could be fully automated
 - Determine how much automation to implement in the complex pumping system



Questions





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Contact

Chis Bergeron, P.E., P.M.P., cbergeron@swbno.org

Kate Despinoy, P.E., P.M.P., <u>despinoykate@stanleygroup.com</u>

Scott Warren, P.E. warrenscott@stanleygroup.com



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