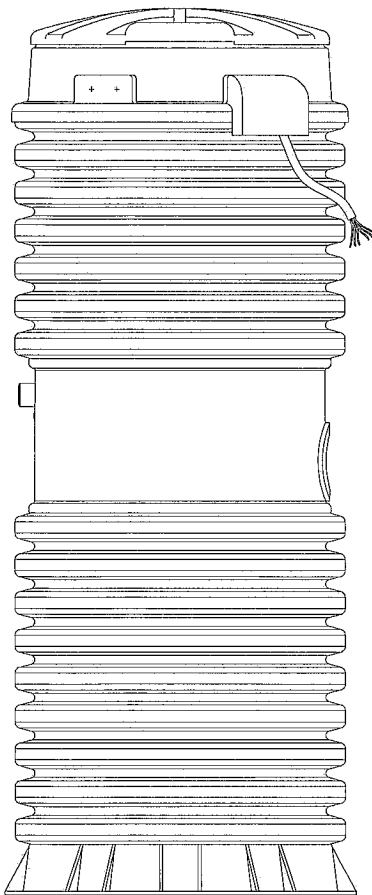


E/ONE
EXTREME
S E R I E S



**Low Pressure
Sewer Systems
Using
Environment One
Grinder Pumps**

dences, or several families in the case of apartment buildings.

Grinder pumps discharge a finely ground slurry into small-diameter pressure piping. In a completely pressurized collection system, all the piping downstream from the grinder pump (including laterals and mains) will normally be under low pressure. Pipe sizes will start at 1 1/4 inches for house connections (compared to 4 or 6 inches in gravity systems) and will be proportionally smaller than the equivalent gravity pipeline throughout the system. All pipes are arranged as zone networks without loops.

Depending on topography, size of the system and planned rate of buildout, appurtenances may include valve boxes, flushing arrangements, air release valves at significant high points, check valves and full-ported stops at the junction of each house connection with the low pressure sewer main.

Pump Operation

Low pressure sewer systems have become feasible with the availability of the Environment One grinder pump, the reliability of which has been proven in almost 40 years of service. The grinder pump station provides adequate holding capacity, reliable grinding and pressure transport of a fine slurry to an existing gravity sewer, pump station or directly to a wastewater treatment plant.

In operation, the grinder pump station will handle sewage and many items that should not, but often do, appear in domestic wastewater. For example, plastic, wood, rubber and light metal objects can be routinely handled without jamming the grinder or clogging the pump or piping system. The grinder pump will discharge this slurry at a maximum rate of 15 gpm or 11 gpm at a pressure of 40 psig. Transporting sewage several thousand feet to a discharge point at a higher elevation is possible as long as the sum of the static and friction losses does not exceed design limits of 185 feet TDH (80 psig).

The grinder pump is actuated when the depth of the sewage in the tank reaches a predetermined "turn-on" level, and pumping continues until the "turn off" level is reached. The pump's running time is short, power consumption is low, and long pump life is ensured. The unit is protected against backflow from discharge lines by an integral check valve. Several grinder pump station models are available to satisfy various total and peak demand conditions.

Pump Type

The semi-positive displacement pump in the grinder pump station has a nearly vertical H-Q curve. This is the best type of pump for successful parallel operation of many pumps into a system of common low pressure mains. Since each pump will be located at a different point along common low pressure mains and at various elevations, each pump should operate in an efficient and predictable manner, whether one pump or numerous pumps are operating at a given moment; the pumps in such a system do not have a single fixed "operating point," but must operate consistently over a wide range of heads that are continually, and often rapidly, changing.

The Environment One grinder pump has the capability of operating above the LPS system design criteria of 80 psig, or 185 feet (Figure 1). Based on the maximum daily number of pumps operating simultaneously (Table 3) versus the number of pumps connected to the system at the design pressure of 185 feet, the capability to operate significantly above the system's design pressure is mandatory in order for the system to operate properly during the approximately bimonthly peaks when

the “absolute maximum” numbers of pumps are operating. This feature also ensures that pumping will continue under those conditions when higher-than-normal pressure occurs in the pipeline.

System designs with calculated heads approaching the upper limits of recommended heads should be reviewed by Environment One application specialists. Contact your local Environment One Regional Sales Office or authorized distributor for a no-cost, computerized review of your design.

Occasionally during “normal” operation, there will be short periods when higher-than-design pressures will be experienced. These can result from a variety of causes including solids buildup (obstructions) or air bubbles.

Deposits of solids or air accumulation will be purged from the line since the pump continues to produce an essentially constant flow, even though the cross section of the pipeline has temporarily been reduced. Higher velocities through the reduced cross section will provide the scouring action needed to correct such conditions as soon as they start to appear.

These higher-than-expected pressure conditions are transitory occurrences. The only requirement is that no damage be done to the pumping equipment, pipelines or appurtenances during these occasional short periods. Environment One grinder pumps are driven by motors rated for continuous operation at 104 F/40 C above ambient temperature. They can operate at 50 percent above rated pressure for at least 5 minutes without excessive temperature rise. Based on the Albany, New York, demonstration project⁴, for this type of overload to last even as long as one minute would be rare.

Motor Selection

A grinder pump station is an electromechanical system that depends on electric power for its operating, control and alarm functions. The design and selection of Environment One’s pump, motor, grinder and level-sensing controls were accomplished by optimizing the wastewater transport function of the unit within the necessary constraints for unattended, trouble-free operation in a residential environment.

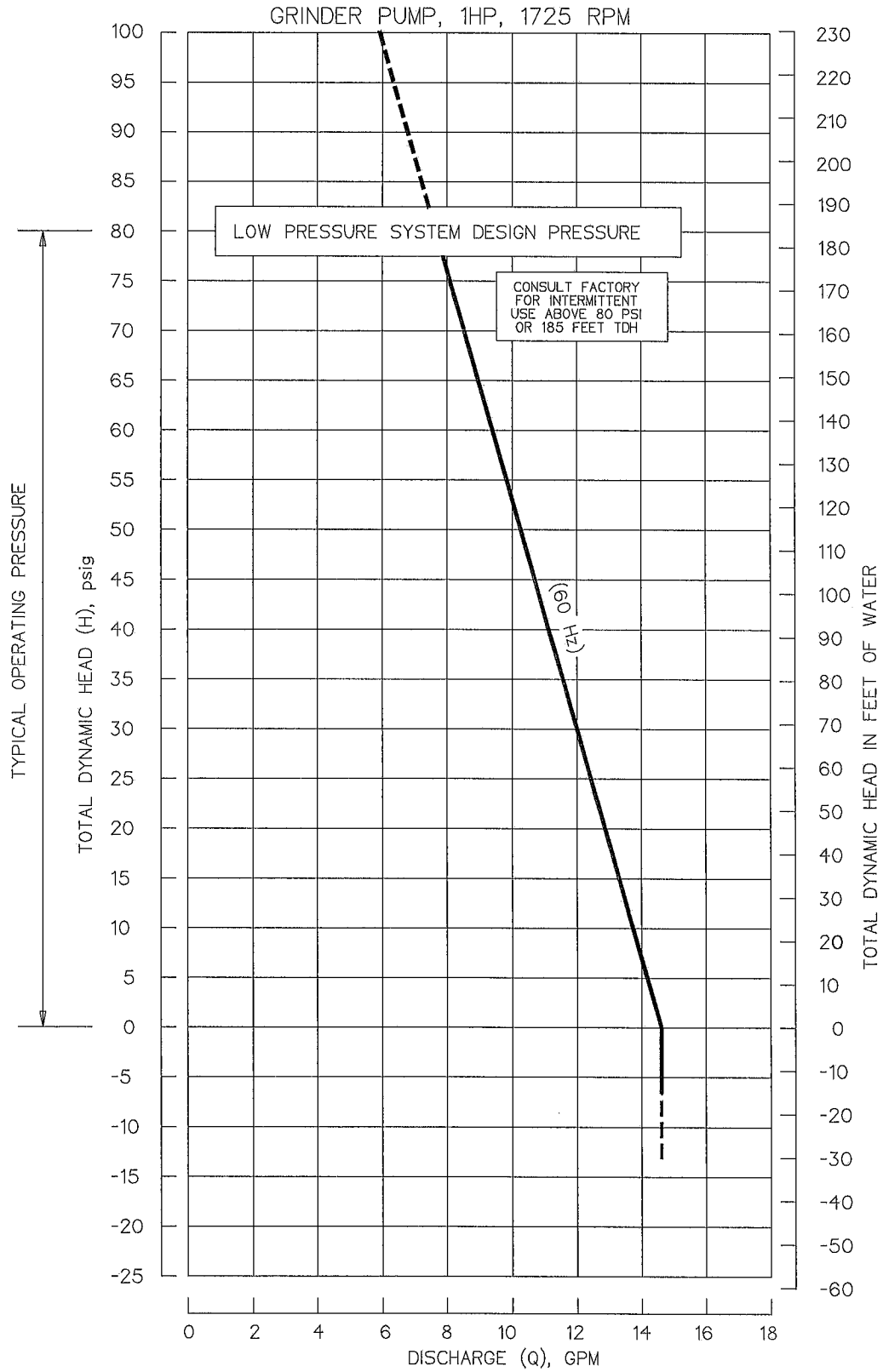
A single grinder pump core is common to all models of Environment One grinder pumps (models DH071, DH151, DH152, DH272 and DH502). This central core contains all of the working and control elements of the unit and is powered by a 1 hp, 240v (or 120v), 1,725 rpm capacitor start, thermally protected induction motor. Each of these motor features was carefully considered in the design of the grinder pump station.

The pump should be considered as a residential appliance. For this reason, performing the grinding and pumping functions using no more than 1 hp to permit occasional use at 120v in older homes not wired for 240v is desirable. In order to achieve the high heads desired and provide constant flow at varying heads, the 1-hp motor is coupled to a pump of semi-positive displacement design (Figure 1).

At a rating of 1 hp and 1,725 rpm, the Environment One grinder pump develops more than 8.4 foot-pounds of torque. Motors used to drive centrifugal pumps are often rated at 2.0 hp at 3,450 rpm and may produce less torque. When handling residential sewage, grinding torque may be demanded during any portion of the starting or running cycle. When the pump stops (controlled by level) in the midst of grinding hard objects (e.g. tongue depressors, plastic items, etc.), it must, upon restarting, be able to provide sufficient torque to the grinder to overcome the resistance of any object remaining from the previous cycle.

Figure 1

Grinder Pump Performance Characteristics



Power Outages

Environment One grinder pump stations have adequate excess holding capacity to provide wastewater storage during most electrical power outages (Figure 2). This excess holding capacity is shown on curve A. Data from the Federal Power Commission on national electrical power outages is plotted as a cumulative distribution function (curve B). Note that only volume above the normal "turn-on" level was counted as available storage. The average flow of 1.54 gallons/hour/person is based on the actual measured flow over a one-year period at the Albany Demonstration Project⁴.

The local electrical power utility should be contacted to obtain a history on the power interruptions of the feeder(s) scheduled to serve the low pressure sewer site. From this data, curve B should be replotted to reflect local conditions. In those rare local areas where the frequency and/or the duration of outages exceed 7.5 hours, the use of Model DH151, with its greater holding capacity than that of the DH071, could be considered.

When power has been restored after a power outage, it is likely that nearly all the pumps in the system will try to operate simultaneously. Under these conditions, the dynamic head loss component of the total head will rise significantly. A number of pumps in the system would see a total back pressure high enough to cause the thermal overload protectors to automatically trip in a few minutes. Operation under conditions that could cause damage to the pumps or the system would be avoided. While these pumps are offline, other pumps in the system would be able to empty their tanks. After one to two minutes, the group that tripped off on thermal overload would cool and restart. The system back pressure would have been reduced and the group would be able to pump down normally. This process repeats itself automatically under the influence of each unit's own thermal protector, reliably restoring the system to normal operation.

Power Consumption

Monthly power consumption of a residential grinder pump station is substantially less than that of other major appliances. The power consumption will vary based on the system operating parameters. The monthly cost can be approximated using the following equation and operating data:

$$\frac{* \text{ Watts} \times \text{ GPD} \times \text{ Days/Mo}}{** \text{ GPM} \times 60 \text{ min} \times 1000} = \text{ kwhr per month}$$

Discharge Pressure (PSI)	0	25	60	80
* Watts	690	770	1100	1400
** Flow (GPM)	15	12.4	9.3	7.7

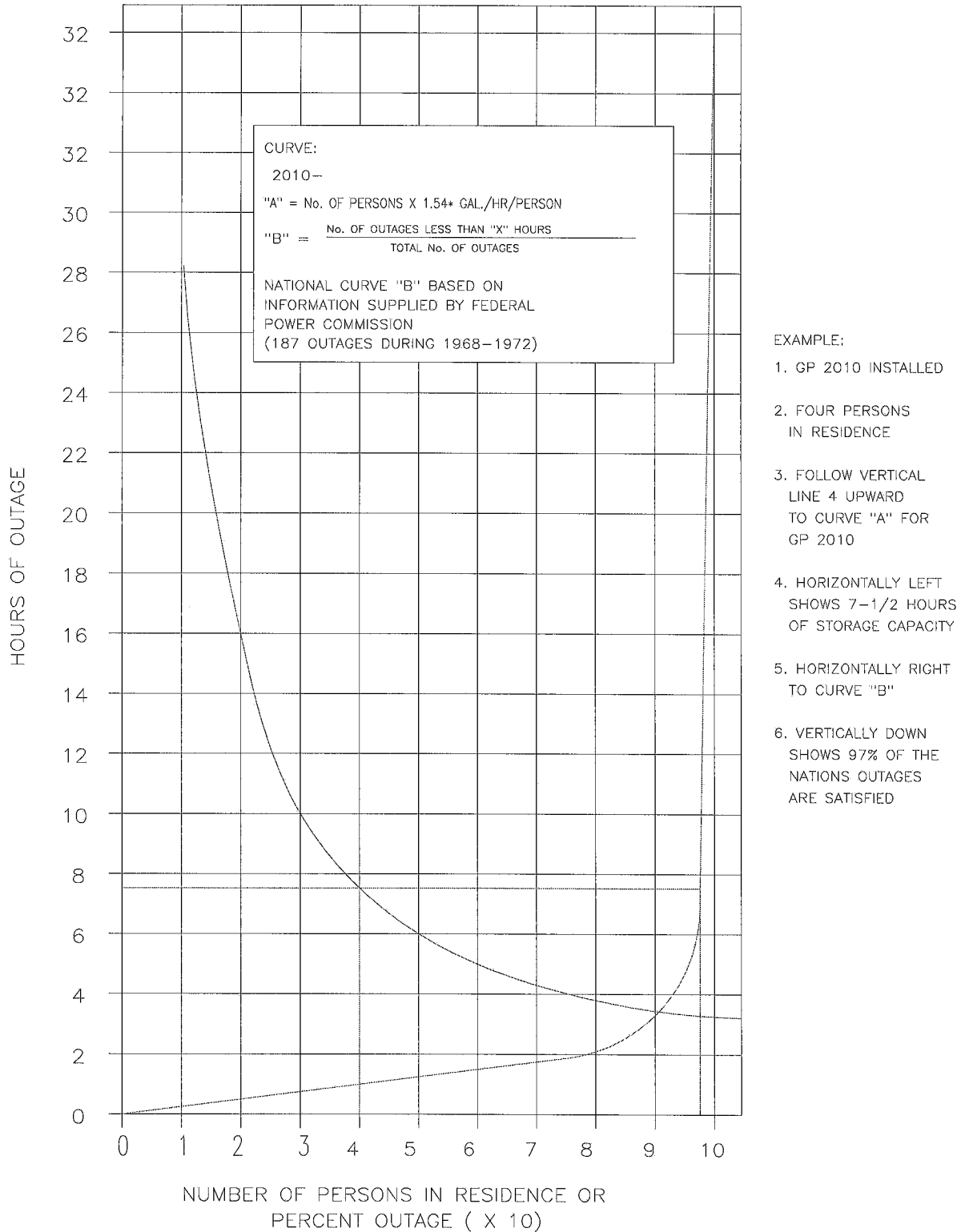
As an example of the calculation for a typical single-family home using 250 GPD, pumping at 25 psi is:

$$\frac{770 \text{ W} \times 250 \text{ GPD} \times 30 \text{ Days}}{12.4 \text{ GPM} \times 60 \text{ min} \times 1000} = 7.76 \text{ kwhr per month}$$

Then, multiply the kilowatt hours by the current cost of electricity and you will have an approximate monthly cost of running the unit.

Figure 2

Relationship of GP Storage Capacity to Power Outage Experience



TYPICAL OUTDOOR INSTALLATION

