

NEWSLETTER

2025 - 26 VOLUME 2



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Design & Sizing Considerations For Oil Separators, Solids Interceptors and Acid Neutralization Tanks

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12, 2025

12-1PM LUNCH MEETING

THE THIRSTY GOAT IN FITCHBURG

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13, 2025

5-6 PM NETWORKING/DRINKS

6-7 PM TECHNICAL MEETING/DINNER

Process & Mechanical Systems, Inc.

1343 East Wisconsin Ave. Suite 115

Pewaukee, WI 53072

VISIT ASPEWI.ORG to register

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

BY: JON MILLARD, PE



What's the first thing you do when you start a new project?

Odds are, one of the first things you do is ask for a current flow test. I think most of us roughly know what a flow test is – you're given a static pressure, and a residual (flowing) pressure at a fire hydrant near your site. This information is used to assess the available water pressure on site, and determine if it will meet the needs of the given project, or if a booster pump (or PRV) is needed.

I'm sure a lot of you have seen all kinds of different information on flow tests, and it often seems that the quality of the information provided is vastly different, depending on who provides that information. This leads to the question – why isn't there a standard for flow tests? The answer: there actually is a standard, and that standard is contained within AWWA M17 – Fire Hydrants: Installation, Field Testing, and Maintenance.

I'll let you read through this standard on your own time, but the Flow Tests portion specifically is contained within Chapter 6 (at least for the free 2006 version that I found online). This standard goes into detail about all of the specific steps that are to be followed to perform a proper flow test. Another very useful part of this standard is that it provides equations that can be used to chart the available pressure at a given flow rate. Spoiler alert: This chart is not linear and often has a very steep drop-off to the right.

This info is very useful, and something that many folks I've talked to in the industry don't know about. Many people I've talked to say that they just take the residual (flowing) pressure and use that as their baseline incoming water pressure. The problem with this approach is that the flow rate at the residual pressure is usually way higher than the building will ever see for domestic water, and it can lead to the engineer feeling the need to add a booster pump when reality is that the incoming pressure is just fine. By charting out pressure vs. flow rate, you can determine the available pressure at your design peak flow rate (which by the way, is probably way higher than the building will ever see!).

As an example from a recent flow test I received, the static pressure was 78 PSI, and the residual pressure was 47 PSI at a flow rate of 919 GPM. The building in question was a single story building, and had to take the typical pressure drops through backflow preventor, water meter, water softener, iron filter, and a few other water treatment devices. After all those pressure losses, if I were to simply take the residual pressure of 47 PSI from the flow test, it would indicate that the available pressure is too low, requiring a booster pump. However, by charting out the pressure vs. flow rate, at a peak domestic water flow rate of 115 GPM, the available pressure was actually 77 PSI which is more than adequate to serve this single-story building.

If you haven't heard of the AWWA M17 standard yet, I'd suggest giving it a read – it might just save you from having to add a booster pump (or a fire pump for that matter!).

Upcoming Events

VISIT ASPEWI.ORG TO SIGN UP

NOVEMBER	12th	Lunch Meeting - Madison
	13th	Lunch Meeting - Milwaukee
	13th	Dinner Meeting - Milwaukee
DECEMBER	10th	Lunch Meeting - Madison
	11th	Lunch Meeting - Milwaukee
JANUARY	14th	Lunch Meeting - Madison
	15th	Dinner Meeting - Milwaukee
FEBRUARY	11th	Lunch Meeting - Madison
	12th	Lunch Meeting - Milwaukee
MARCH	11th	Lunch Meeting - Madison
	12th	Lunch Meeting - Milwaukee
APRIL	16th	Joint Technical Seminar & Product Show with PHCC
MAY	13th	Lunch Meeting - Madison
	14th	Lunch Meeting - Milwaukee



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LETS GET TECHNICAL WITH VP TECH

BY: JUSTIN MONK, D.E.S.



On Tuesday November 4th, 2025, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin (ACEC-WI) held its annual Division of Facilities Development (DFD) Collaborative Conference in Madison, where architectural and engineering professionals' discussion project success, lessons learned and projected goals for future work in the state of Wisconsin. Many plumbing design professionals that perform work in Wisconsin are familiar with DFD's meticulous review process from schematic design to project close out. And for our plumbing manufacturer representatives, entry into the DFD specifications ranks as the gold standards of validation of their product. So, who is DFD and what can we expect from future DFD projects?

WHO IS DFD?

As a Division of the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration, DFD is responsible for developing and implementing the biennial State Building Program, including the biennial Capital Budget, and staffing the State Building Commission. The program includes the construction of new buildings, and the remodeling and renovation of existing facilities for all state agencies and the University of Wisconsin System. DFD is responsible for over 6,700 facilities totaling around 87 million gross square feet statewide. They also provide technical design advice / review, project management, and field oversight of construction projects, as well as contracts for architecture/engineering services and construction work. DFD plumbing / fire protection technical reviewers are expertise in their fields and its newest member, Nathan Dederich, is a license master plumber and license plumbing designer with many years of field experience. DFD encourages the plumbing design professional to meet with their technical reviewers early in the project to discuss project concepts and requirements to minimize rework.

DFD is not to be confused with or is associated with the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) Division of Industry Service (DIS), the agency that regulates plumbing in the state of Wisconsin and provides plumbing consultations, inspection, plan and product review. DFD is not just another plan reviewer, but an active, hands-on partner for the duration of your projects. At times, attending design and construction meetings to provide comments on the plumbing and fire protection system design methods and construction administration tasks, such as RFI and final reports.

DFD PROJECT EXPECTATION

Below is a list of items, outside the local codes, that DFD shared during a HVAC plumbing fire protection roundtable breakout session, that they have observed and are concerned with we should keep in mind for their projects.

1. DFD Specifications – Always download current technical specifications from the DFD website. Do not copy sections from previous DFD projects your firm has done. The DFD specifications are intended to be a starting point for projects and must be edited to be project specific.
2. Design Firm QA/QC – Ensure your firm completes adequate quality control on documents before submitting them to DFD. DFD does complete technical reviews but does not intend to be the designers QA/QC.
 - a. Minimize notes such as “field verify,” “to be determined in the field,” and “as directed.”
 - b. Submitting documents with gross errors is a good reason not to be selected for future work.
3. Coordination between Disciplines – Communication and coordination between consultants of different disciplines are required. This is especially true where the design scope of work overlaps with others (i.e., Civil, HVAC, electrical, architectural).
 - a. The water service piping can be shown on the plumbing drawings as a reference, but the site utility contractor shall install the water service into the building and terminate above the finish for the plumbing and fire protection contractor. This is due to tests and flushing of the entire water service. Do not use the note to terminate the water service five feet outside the building.
 - b. Coordinate all penetrations through the building envelope (i.e., hose bibbs, downspout nozzles and fire department connection) to confirm location and elevation.
4. Technical Reviews of Drawings and Specifications – Provide sufficient pipe routing and layout information, with basic sizing, equipment selections and system information during the preliminary technical review to avoid major revisions at the final technical review.
5. Water Pressure and Flow Data – Evaluate available water pressure and flow near the project site. Provide current data no more than 12 months old from the water utility. Size the system to avoid unnecessary use of water pressure booster pumps and fire pumps.
6. Piping Accessories – Provide isolation valves for plumbing fixtures and groups of fixtures. Each backflow prevention device shall be called out, noted and detailed. Consider maintenance clearances and locations of items shown on the drawings.
7. Equipment Selections – Do not over size pumps, water heaters and water softeners. Perform calculations to right sized. Consider maintenance clearances and locations of items shown on the drawings.
8. Piping Material Selection – Select the best piping material for each application and specialty need, such as kitchen foods service equipment and laboratory and medical equipment pure water systems. Confirm water quality standards and parameters with the end users before design and selection equipment.

DFD BENEFITS

DFD is a true partner in your project. From online plumbing and fire protection design guidelines, details, and specifications, they are active champions for the success of your project. For facilities managed by DFD, they offer domestic water sizing instructions to eliminate oversizing of piping and equipment. DFD projects vary across many types of design markets and are unique. When a design professional or manufacturer representative listed a DFD project as part of their resume it indicates all the detailed work that went into that project's design. Hopefully, next year I'll see you at the next ACEC-WI and DFD Collaborative Conference to learn more about DFD projects!



MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

BY: RICH DAVISON



Here we are fellow ASPE members! The 2025 holiday season has started, and we are so excited to see you at our upcoming meetings. Being a member of our chapter is special – why? Because it is one of the best ways you can increase your plumbing knowledge and at the same time create new relationships and build on the ones you already have. This month- we will highlight the top benefits of your membership. Each month we will be picking yet another great reason to be part of our chapter.

MEMBER BENEFIT TIP #1 - BUILD A KILLER NETWORK

One of ASPE's greatest benefits is its members. Everyone is busy at home and at work, but members who attend Chapter meetings, Conventions & Expositions, and Symposiums are more likely to build a killer contact list. Our members are eager to help you in your next plumbing engineering problem, which undoubtedly will make you more competitive in the workforce. Whether you are in sales or engineering, you sell yourself every day. ASPE has many networking opportunities for you to meet professionals who possess the skills and training necessary to help you out of a tight spot or put you in touch with someone who can help you. If you are outside your comfort zone, ask your Chapter Board to make the introductions. Exchange business cards and remember to follow up with a brief conversation or email thanking them for their time. Before you know it, you will be a pro in engaging other members, which will lead to career growth and prosperity. If you cannot attend a Chapter meeting, ASPE Connect offers you a way to build your network online.

Happy Birthday ASPE members!

Patrick Casey
Craig DeGarmo
Jeff Ihn
Ben Janik
John Klinzing P.E.
Joseph LaMonte CPD
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PRESENTER'S CORNER

BY: BRIAN GOGLIA



Hello Everyone!

I will be starting a new monthly article focusing on the presenter for our upcoming ASPE meetings. This month our presenter is Ian Brown, P.E. from Striem. Ian is the Regional Product Educator for the Midwest.

1. What is the importance of ASPE to your company?

ASPE is a great resource for connecting engineers to manufacturers and other members of the design and construction community. It also allows for more opportunities to educate engineers on new approaches and standards that help drive better design. Ultimately, ASPE serves as a great resource for continual improvement of the craft of plumbing design as a whole.

2. What three items would you like engineers and designers to take away from your presentation?

A better understanding of intricacies of the sizing requirements for oil separators in different areas.

Awareness of potential solutions for different applications requiring solid interceptors and more confidence in how to approach those projects.

An understanding of IGC 325, a new standard for Oil Separator sizing developed by IAPMO

3. What additional tools does your company provide that helps solve problems?

Striem tries to make things as easy as possible for the specifying engineer. This is important to us since these products that are not on each project, so many plumbing designers and engineers may not be as familiar. Probably the best tool available for the engineer are the online sizing and selection tools. Each tool leads to the product page and downloadable spec sheet PDFs, dwg file, revit families, and installation guides.

4. Are there any codes or updates that the engineering community should be aware of when dealing with your products or product category?

The primary code sections that pertain to oil separators, solids interceptions, and chemical waste tanks nationally are sections IPC 1003 and UPC 1017. Locally in Wisconsin, the major code sections pertaining to these products are found in section SPS 382.34.



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