



Activated Sludge Aeration Control Strategies

Dr. Bob Hill, P.E.
EMA, Inc.



AGENDA

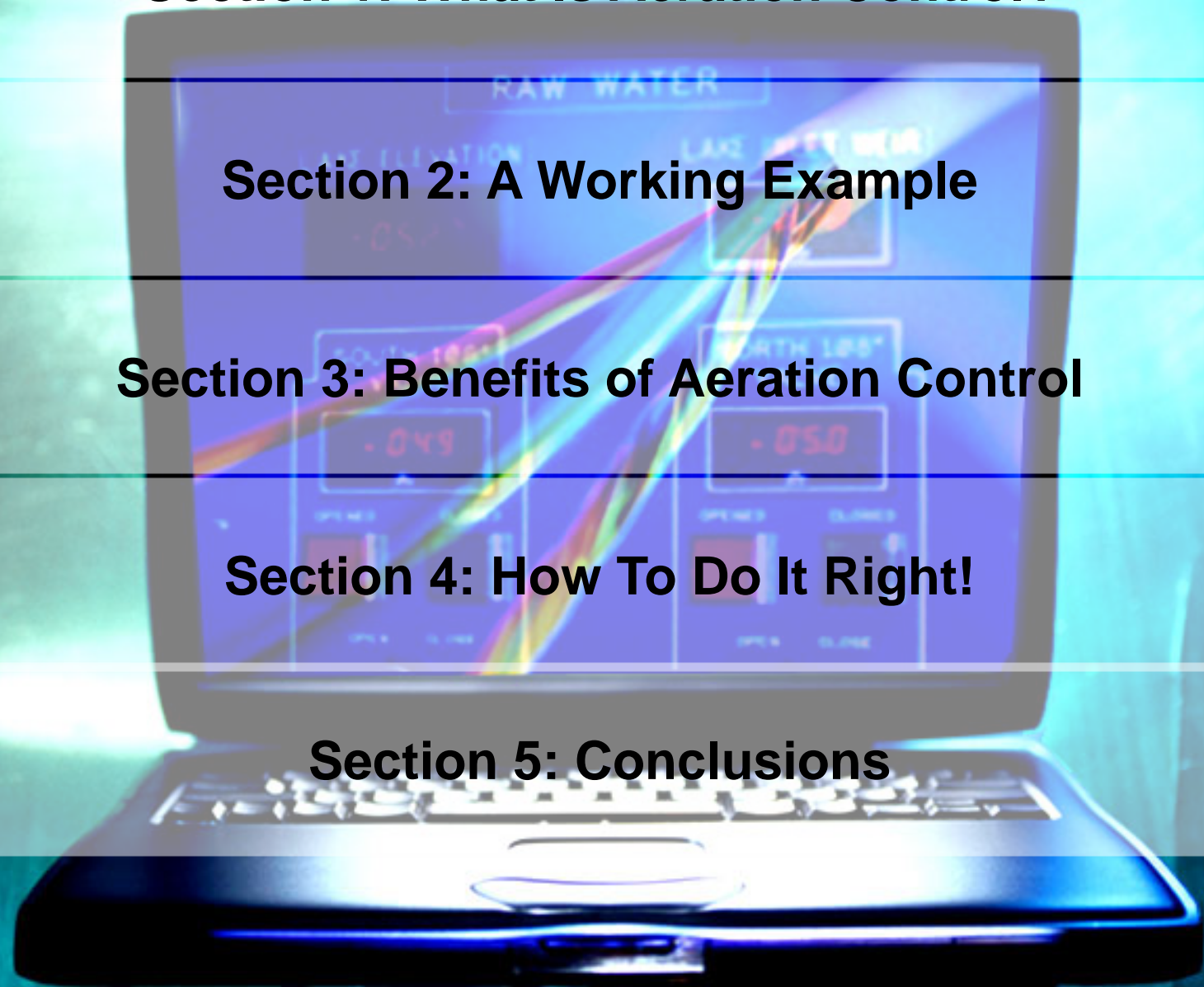
Section 1: What Is Aeration Control?

Section 2: A Working Example

Section 3: Benefits of Aeration Control

Section 4: How To Do It Right!

Section 5: Conclusions



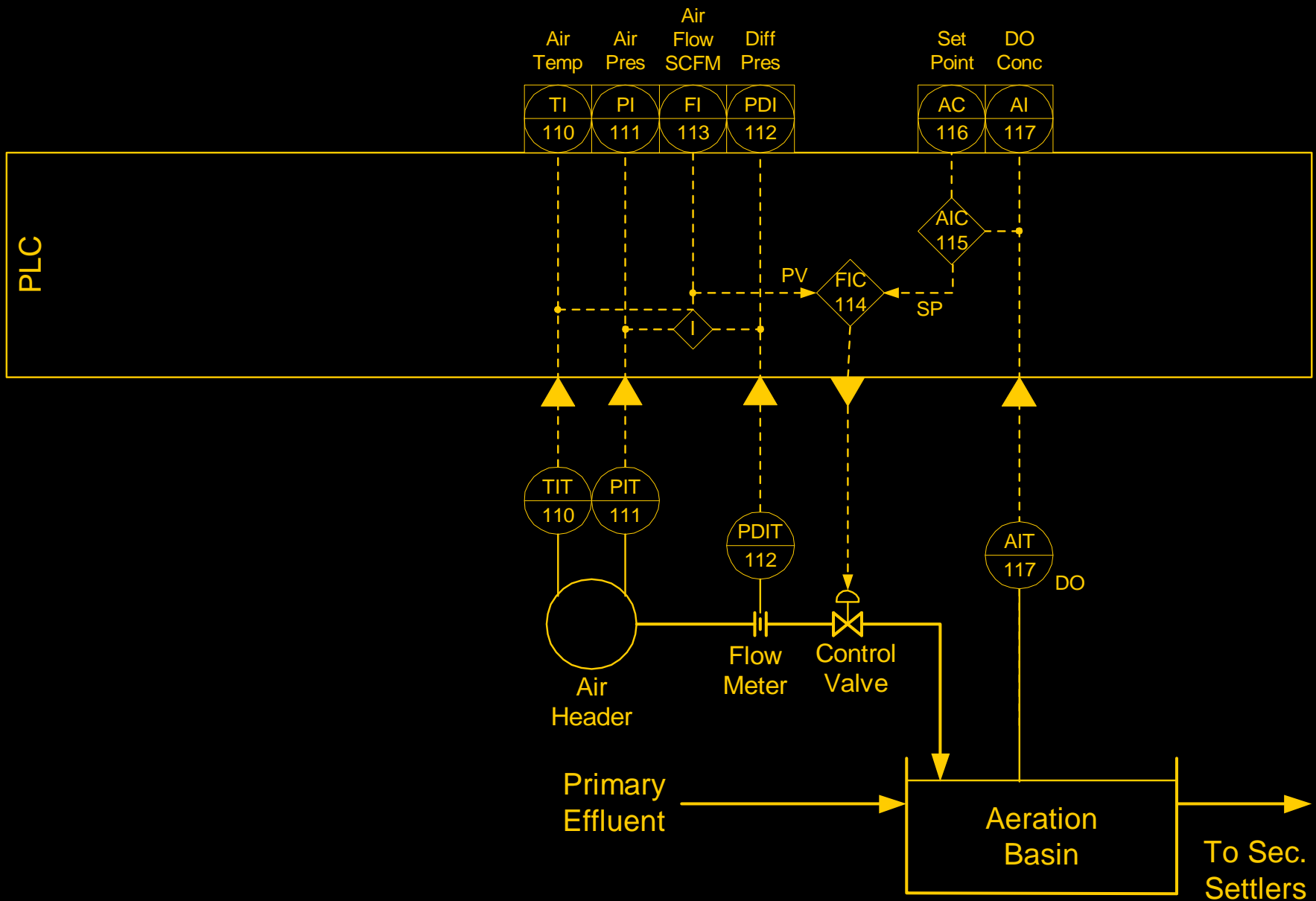
SECTION 1



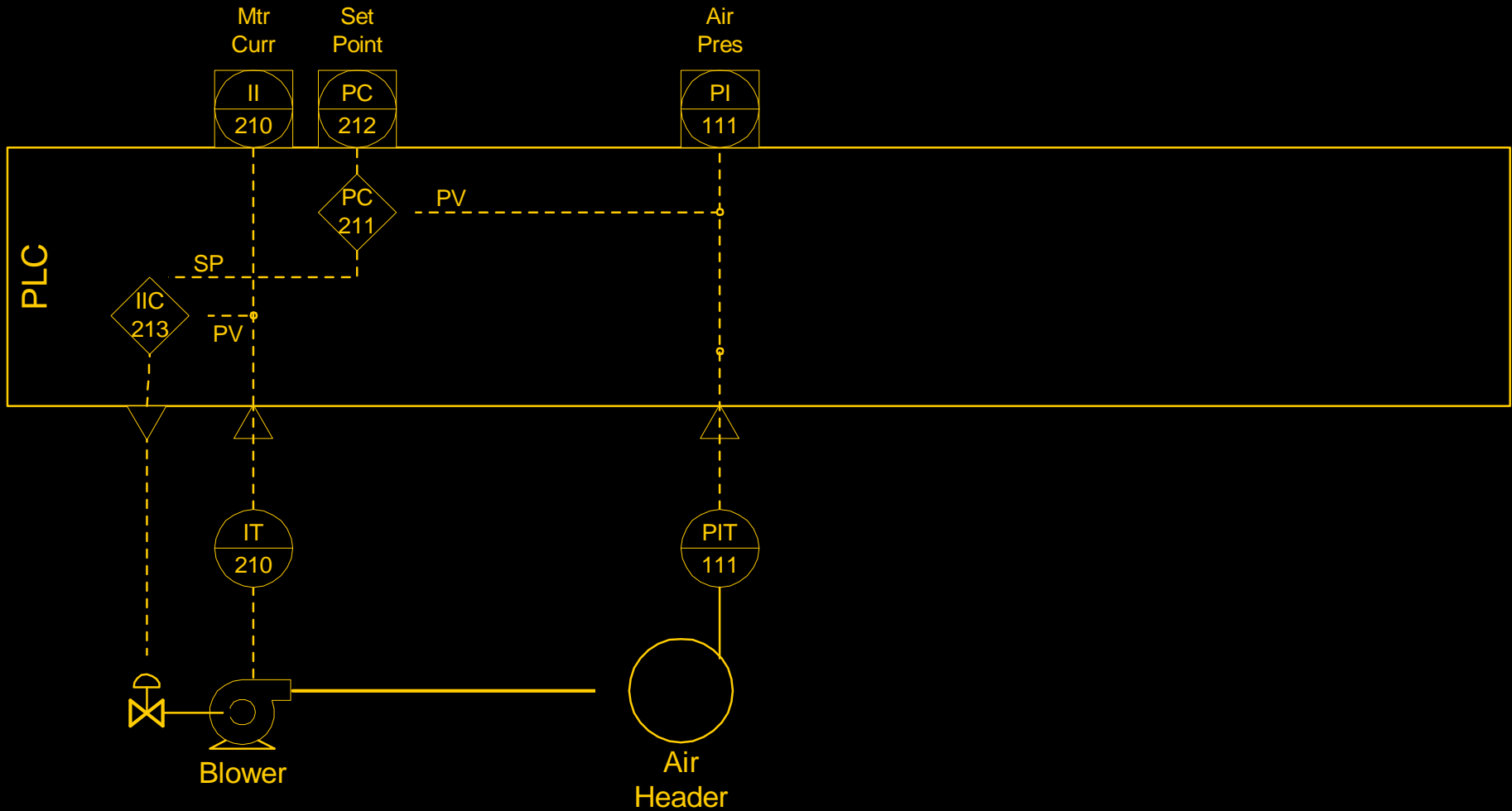
Section 1: What Is Aeration Control

Two Main Components of Aeration Control

1. Air Distribution Control – **Distribution of the Correct Amount of Air to Each Aeration Basin**
2. Air Production Control – **Production of the Right Amount of Air – at Minimal Cost (Minimum Header Pressure)**
3. Advanced Control

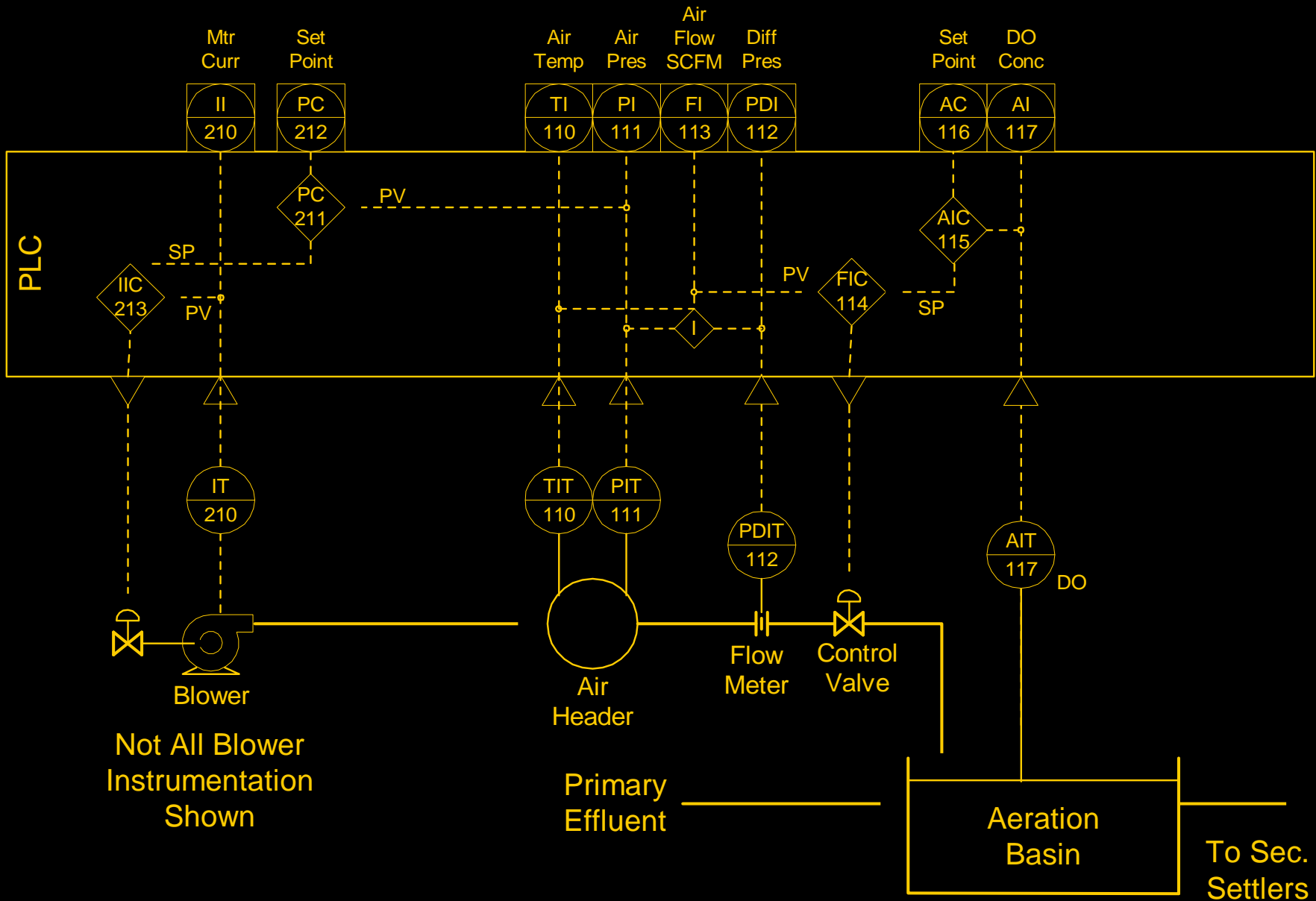


AERATION SYSTEM P&ID – Air Distribution



Not All Blower
Instrumentation
Shown

AERATION SYSTEM P&ID – Air Production



AERATION SYSTEM P&ID

Components of an Aeration Control System

- **Dissolved Oxygen Analyzers**
 - Instrumentation Testing Association
 - Performance Report
 - Maintenance Report



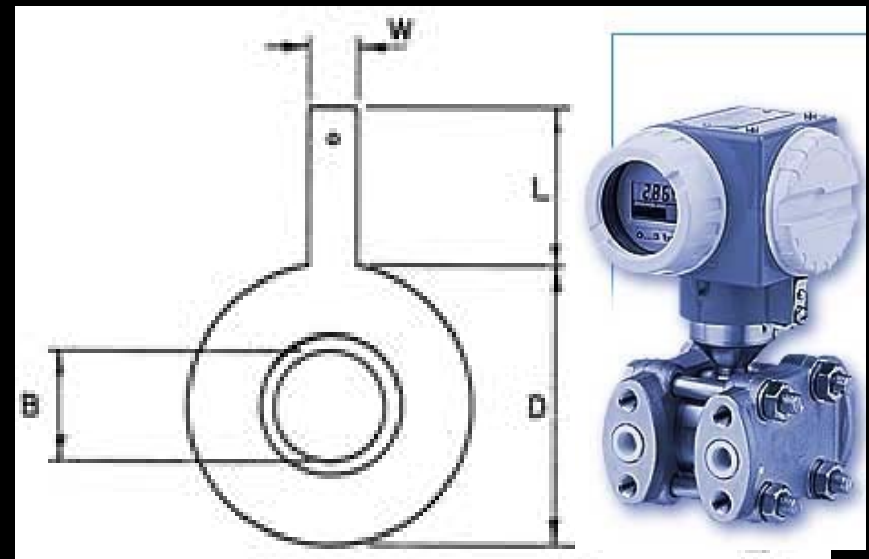
Components of an Aeration Control System

- Dissolved Oxygen Analyzers
- **Air Flow Meters**
 - Vortex Shedding



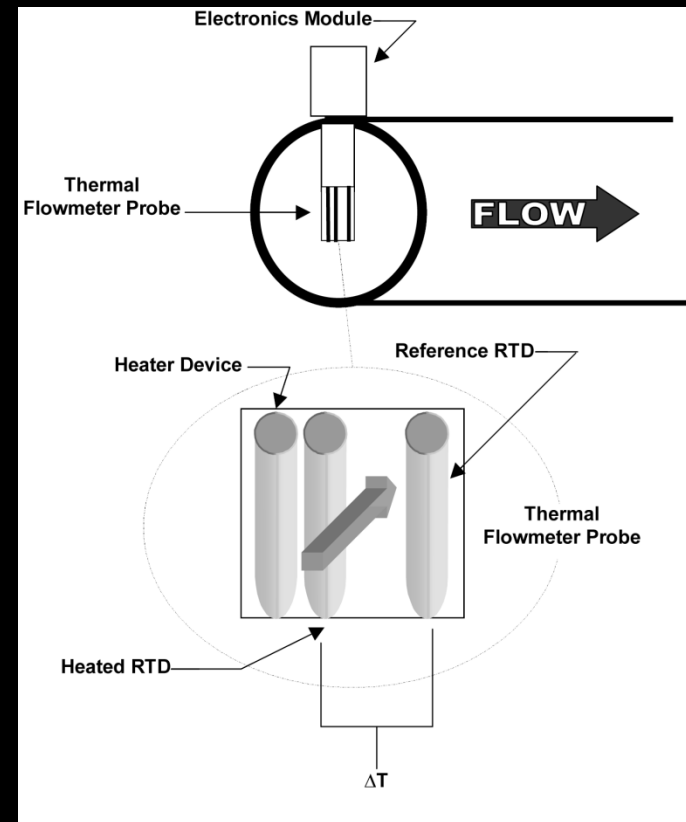
Components of an Aeration Control System

- Dissolved Oxygen Analyzers
- **Air Flow Meters**
 - Vortex Shedding
 - Orifice Plates



Components of an Aeration Control System

- Dissolved Oxygen Analyzers
- **Air Flow Meters**
 - Vortex Shedding
 - Orifice Plates
 - **Thermal Mass**



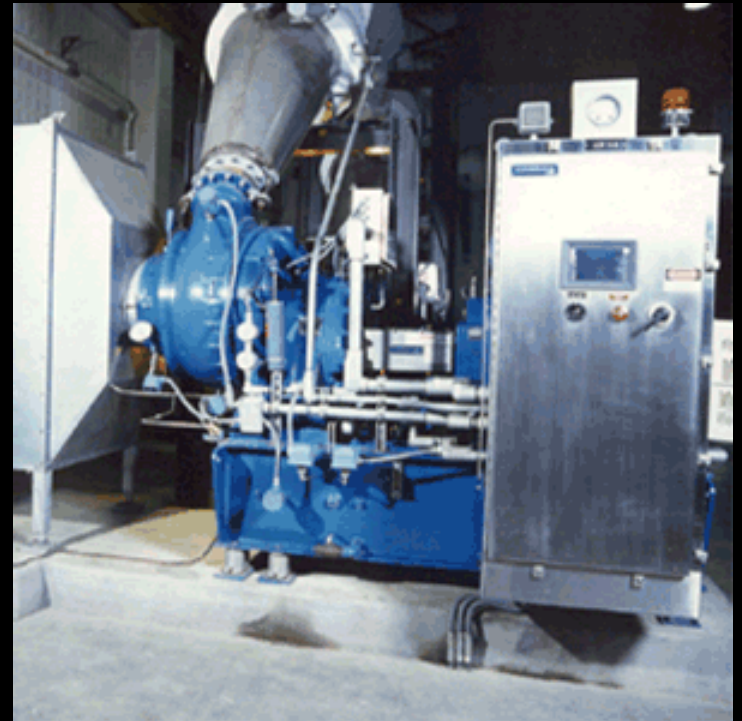
Components of an Aeration Control System

- Dissolved Oxygen Analyzers
- Air Flow Meters
- **Control Valves and Actuators**



Components of an Aeration Control System

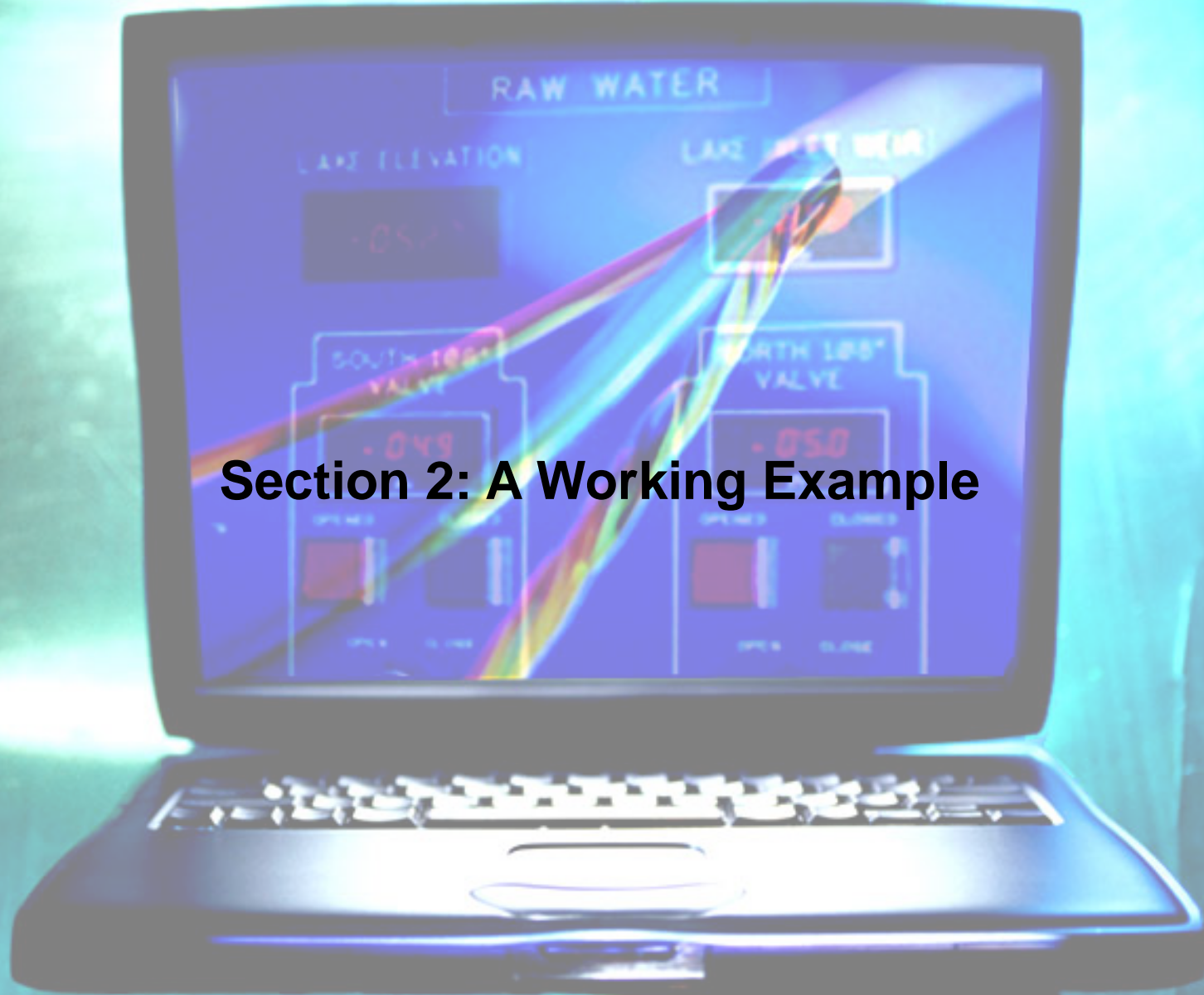
- Dissolved Oxygen Analyzers
- Air Flow Meters
- Control Valves and Actuators
- **Blowers**



Advanced Control Strategies

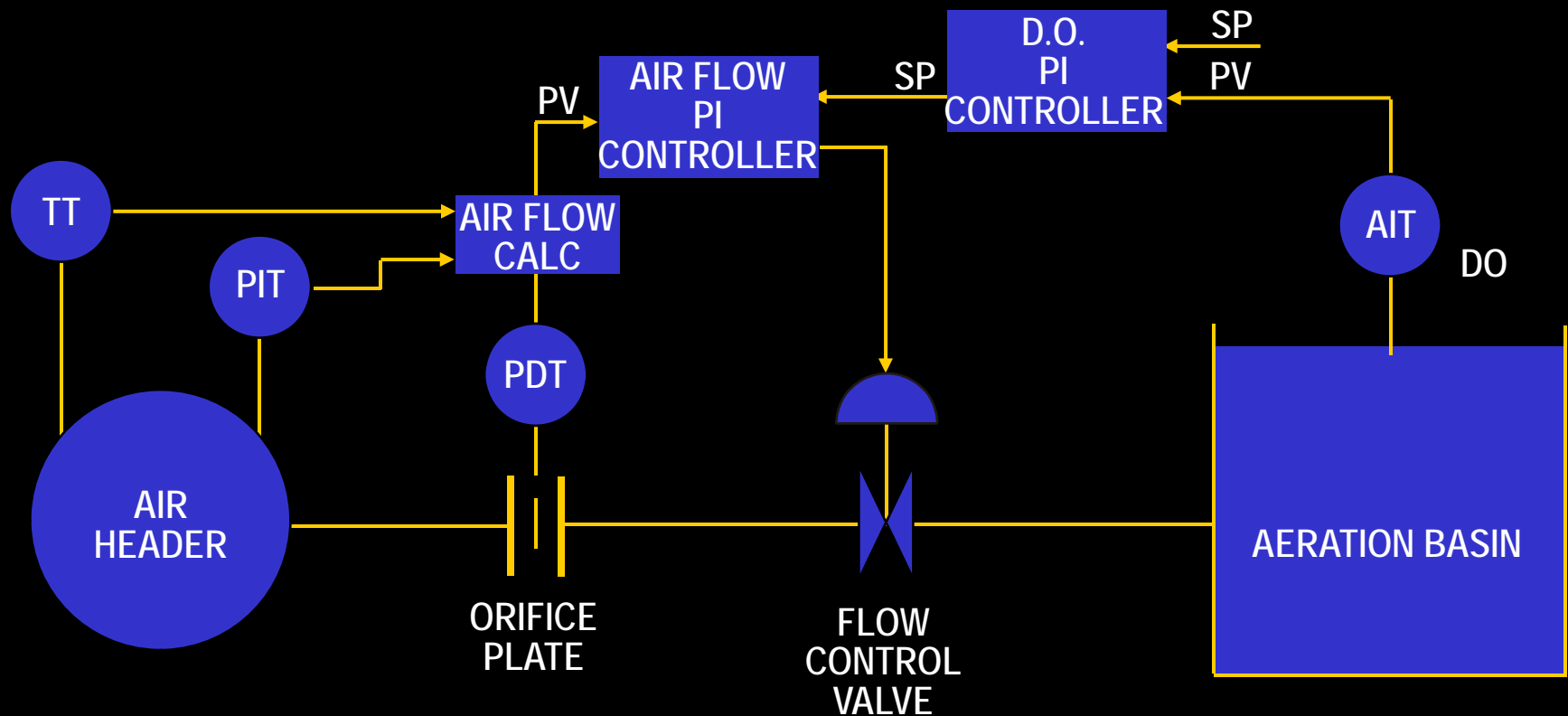
- **Load Shedding**
- **Load Shifting - Time of Day Setpoints**
- **Minimum/Maximum Air Flow Rates**
- **Periodic Air Purges**
- **Power Fail Start-Up Procedures**
- **Protect Against Blower Surge**
- **Use of Effluent Ammonia**

SECTION 2



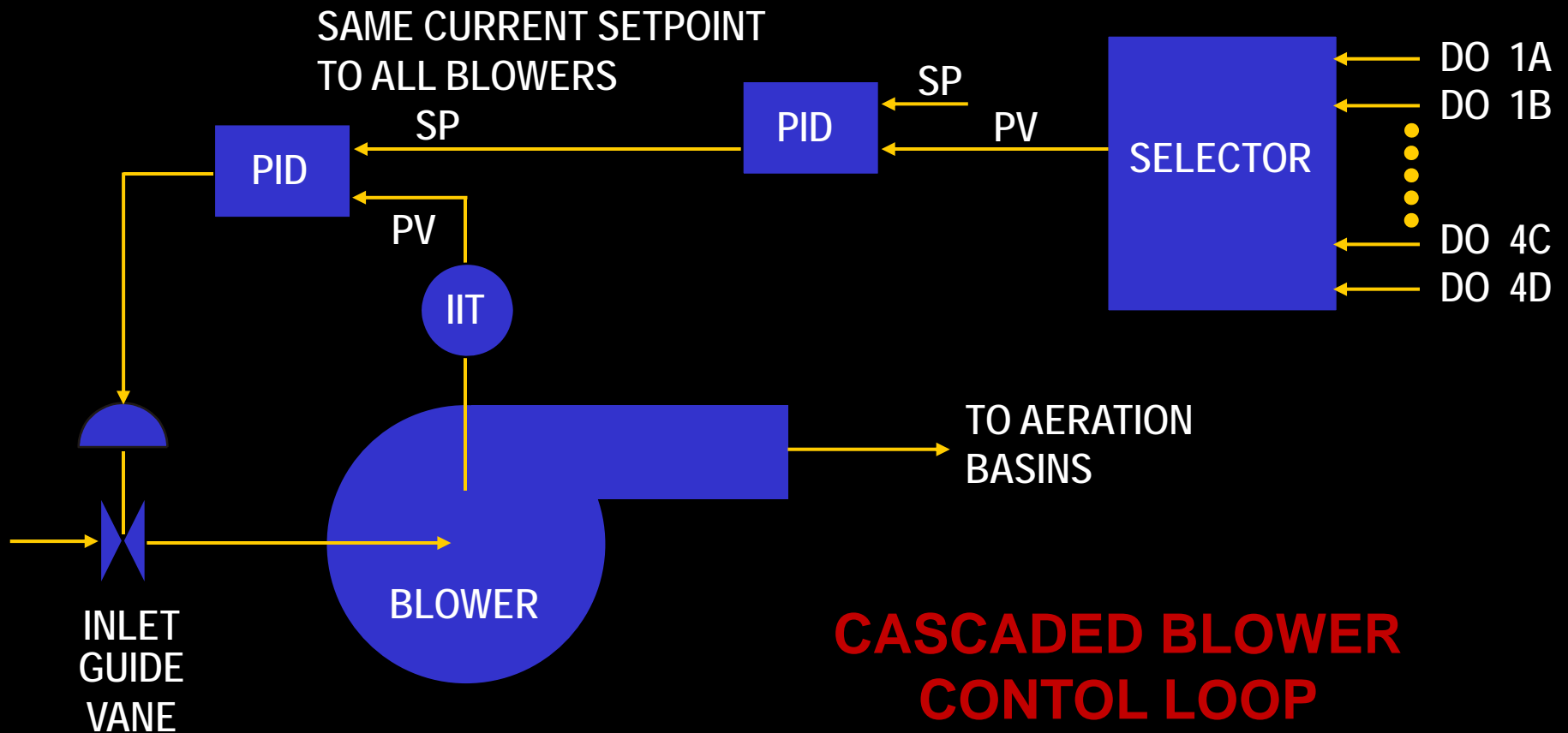
Section 2: A Working Example

Houston's Sims South WWTP Air Distribution Control



CASCADED DISSOLVED OXYGEN CONTROL LOOP

Houston's Sims South WWTP Air Production Control



Orifice Plate Used For Air Flow



Used Pneumatic Actuators



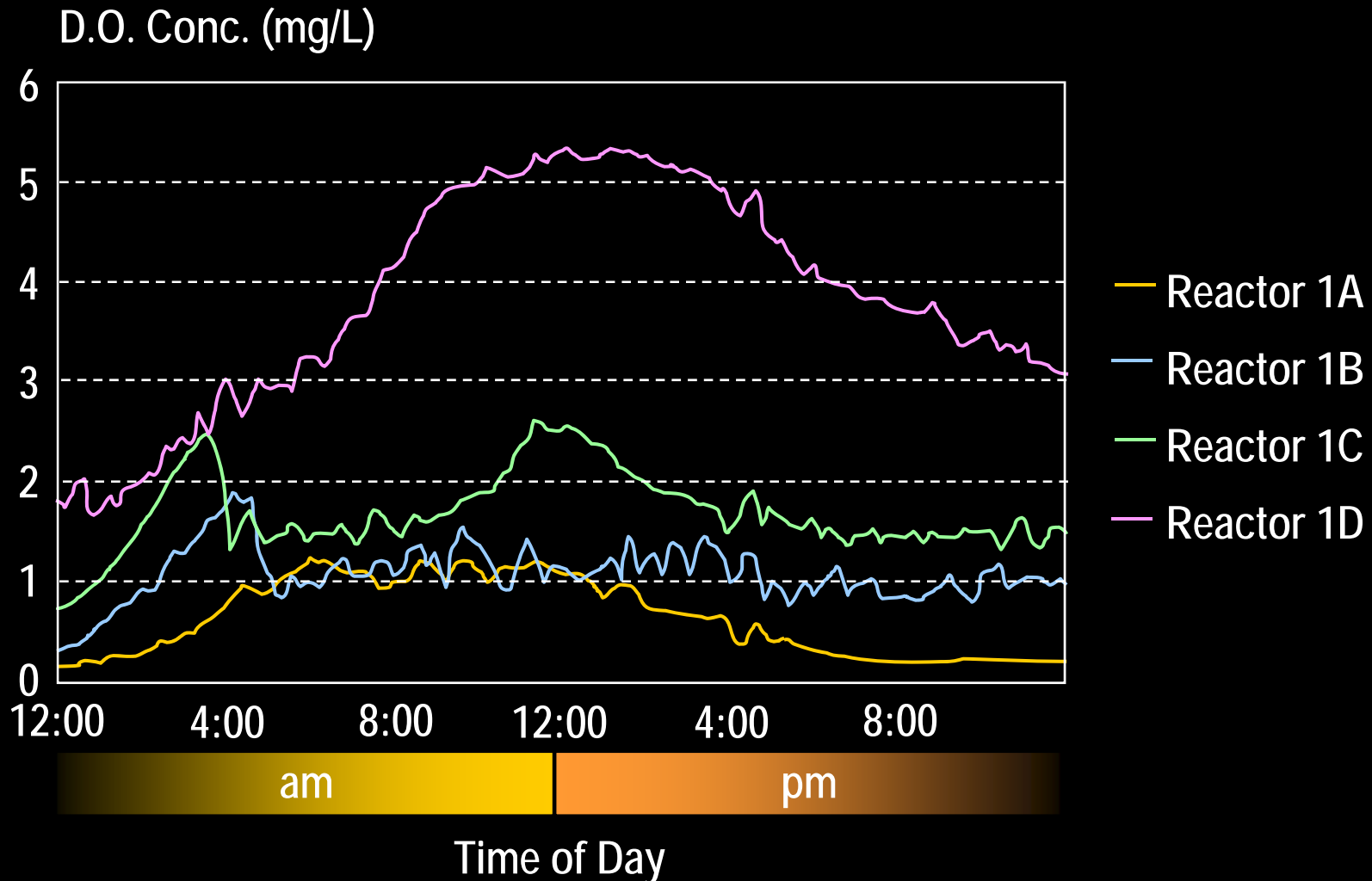
Unique DO Probe Mounting Minimizes Maintenance Time



Disposable DO Cartridge Provides Accurate Data



DO Control With Minimum and Maximum Air Flow Limits



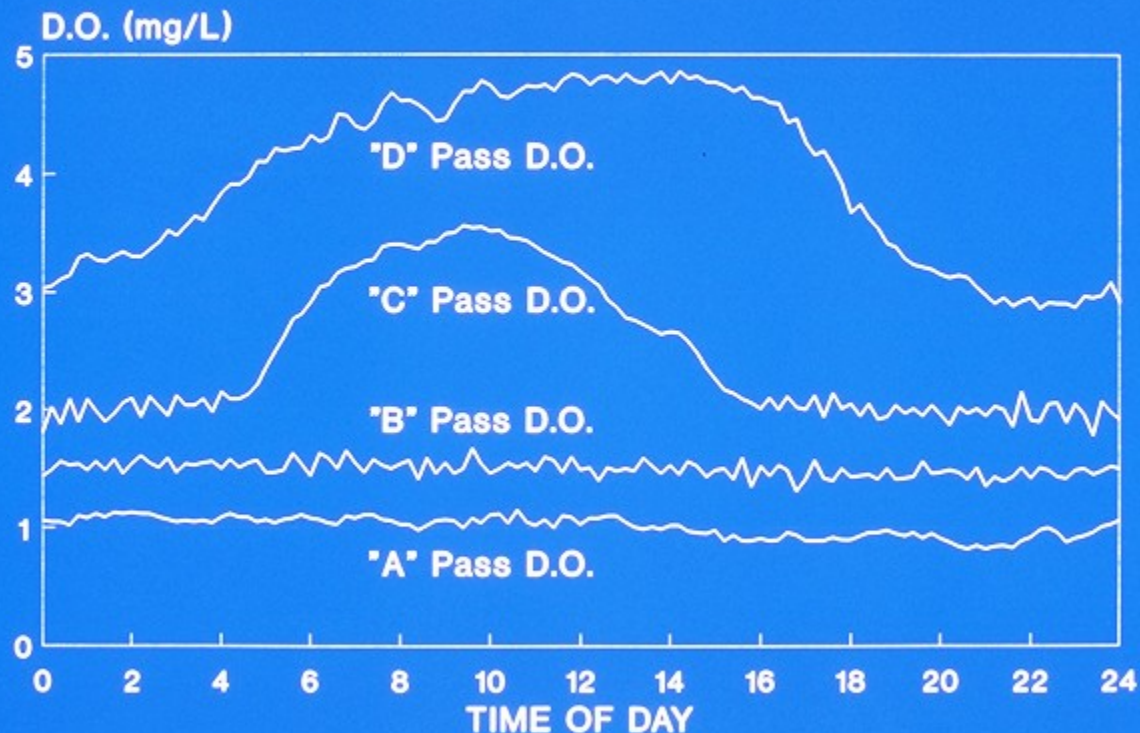
SECTION 3



Section 3: Benefits of Aeration Control

Consistent Process Performance

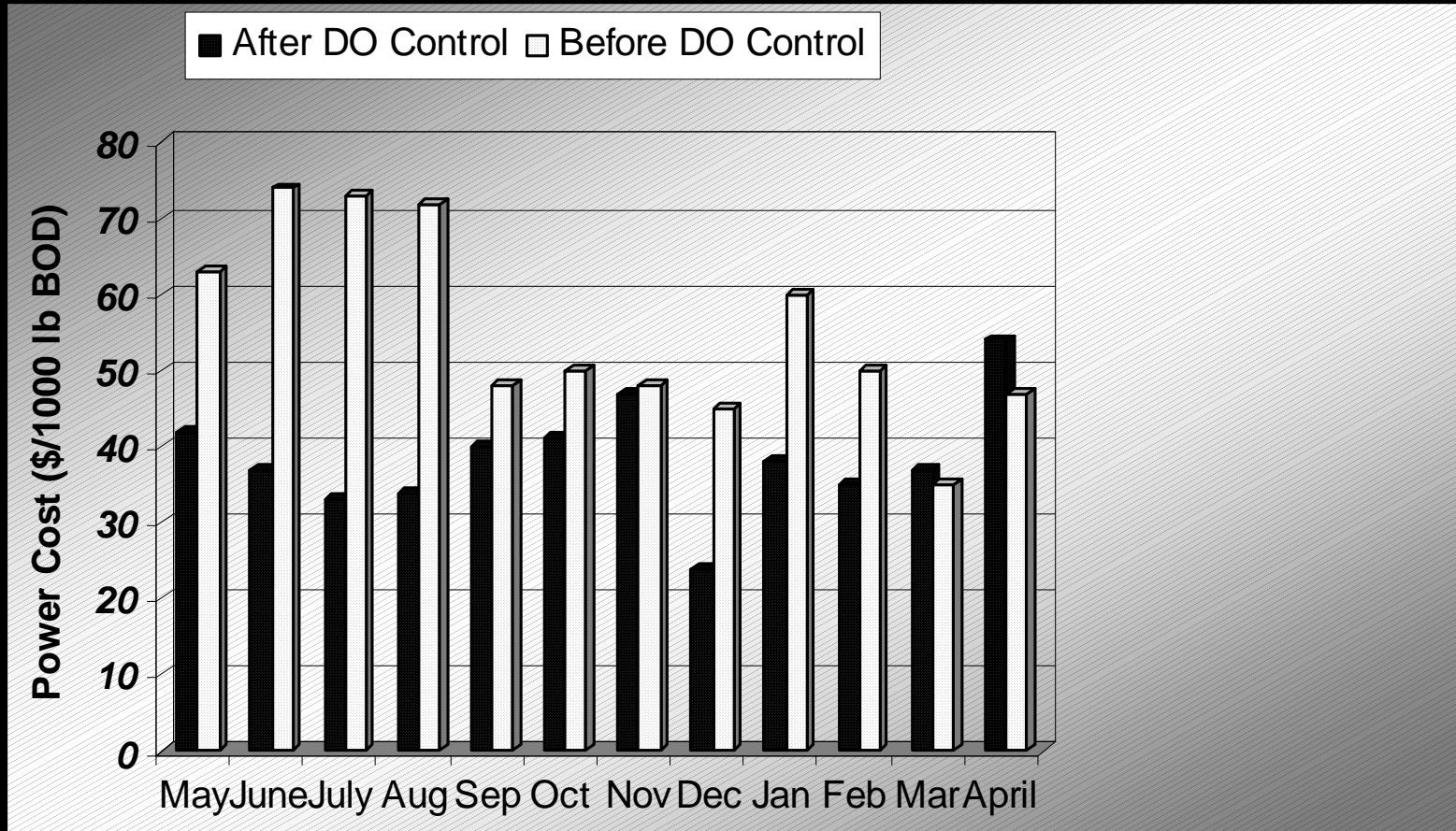
SIMS SOUTH WWTP
April 25, 1990



Aeration Control Saves Labor

- **Fewer Manual DO Readings**
- **No Adjustments of Blowers**
- **No Balancing of Air Between Tanks**
- **Less Process Sampling Needed**

Aeration Control Saves 30%



SECTION 4



Section 4: How To Do It Right!

How To Do It Right!

- **Conceive The Right Project**
- **Design Correctly**
- **Implement Fully**
- **Maintenance Wisely**

Conceive The Right Project

- **Develop a Consensus on the Automation Philosophy**
 - Designers
 - Operations
 - Maintenance
- **Degree of Automation**
- **Automatic Blower Starts and Stops**
- **Develop SOPs Based on Automation**

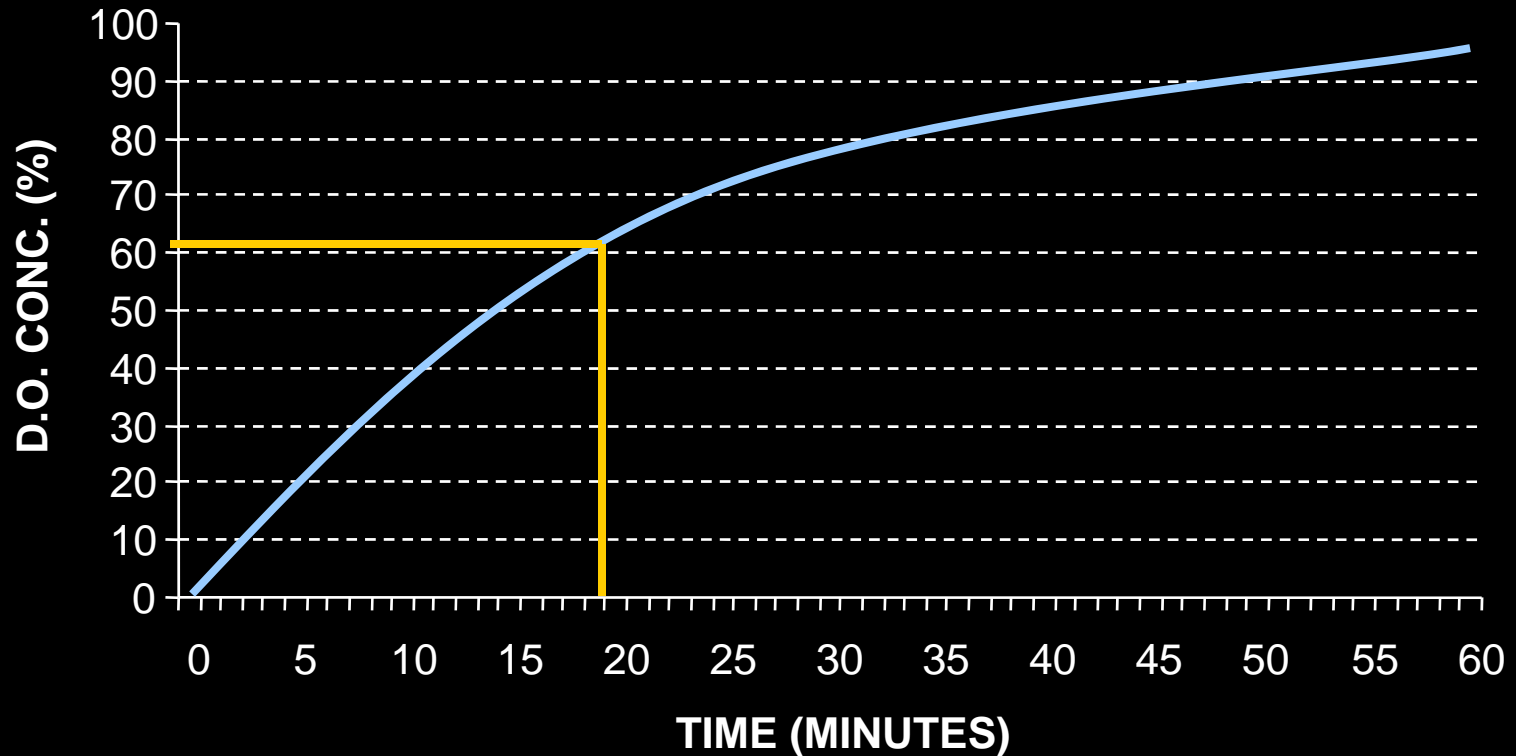
Design Correctly

- **Size Components Correctly for Anticipated Loads**
 - Don't Size for 20 Years Into the Future
- **Select Instruments and Control Elements Appropriate for the Service**
 - Instrumentation Testing Association (www.instrument.org)
 - Instrument Society of America (www.ISA.org)

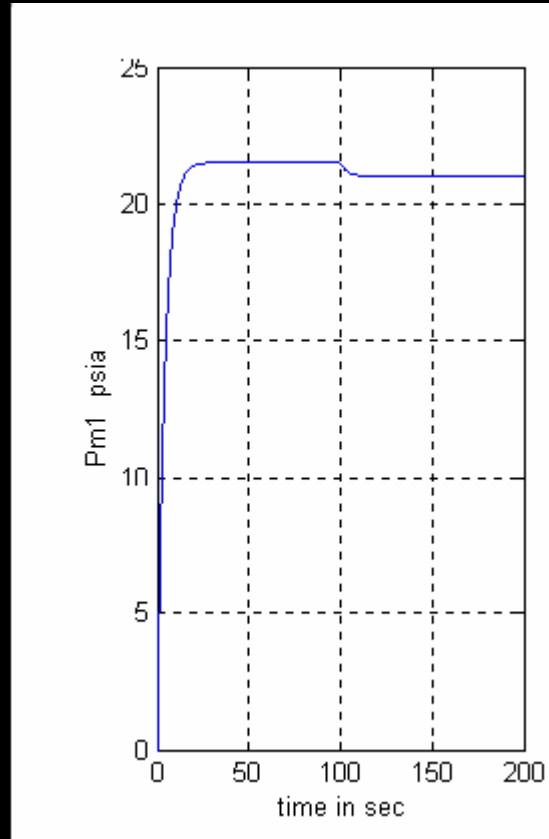
Implement Fully

- **Matching Control Strategy with Physical Characteristics**
- **Tuning of Control Loops (K_P , K_I , K_D)**
- **Timing of Control Loops**

D.O. Has a Time Constant of 15 to 20 Minutes



Header Pressure Has a Time Constant of 3 to 5 Seconds

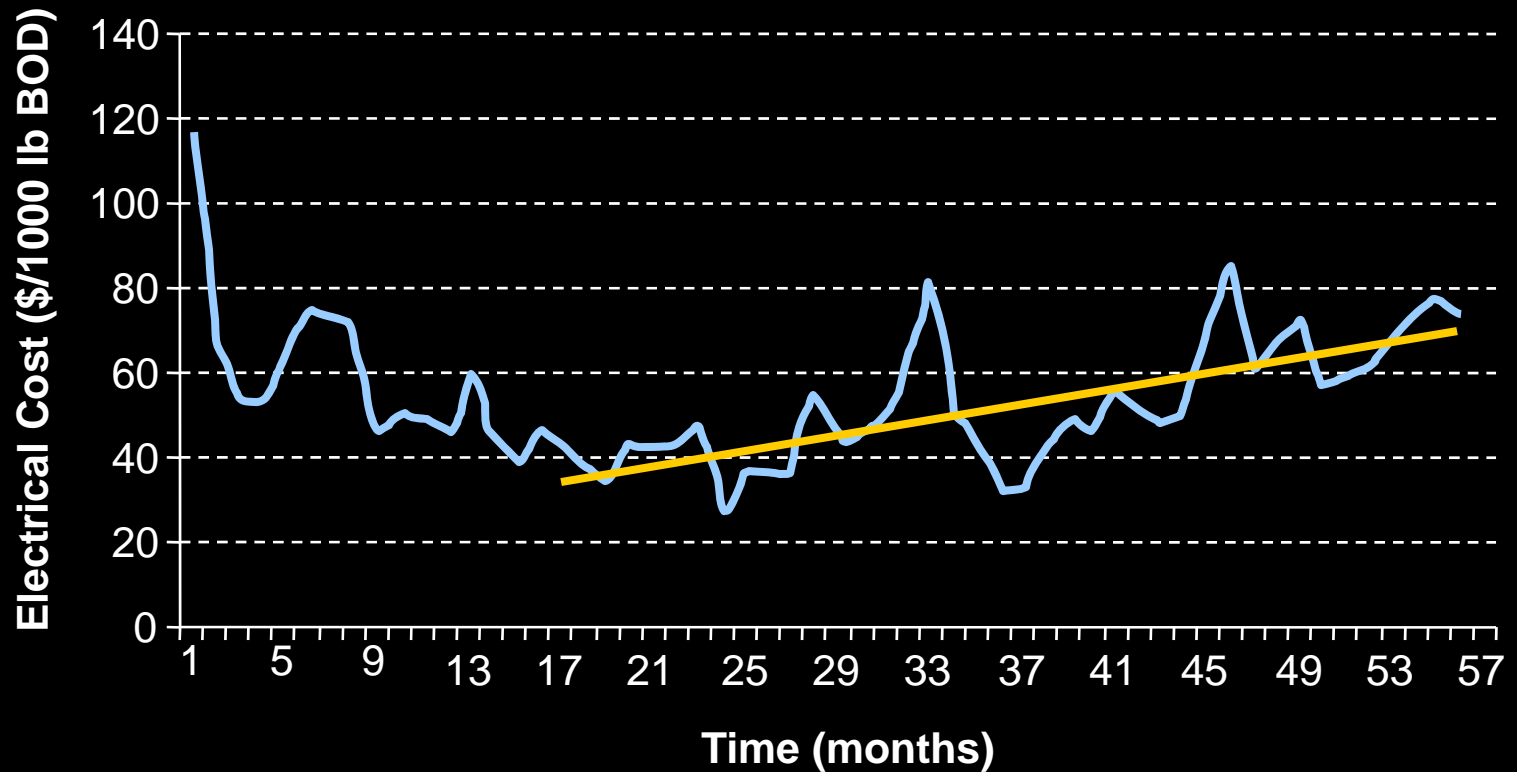


From Ekster and Wang (2004)

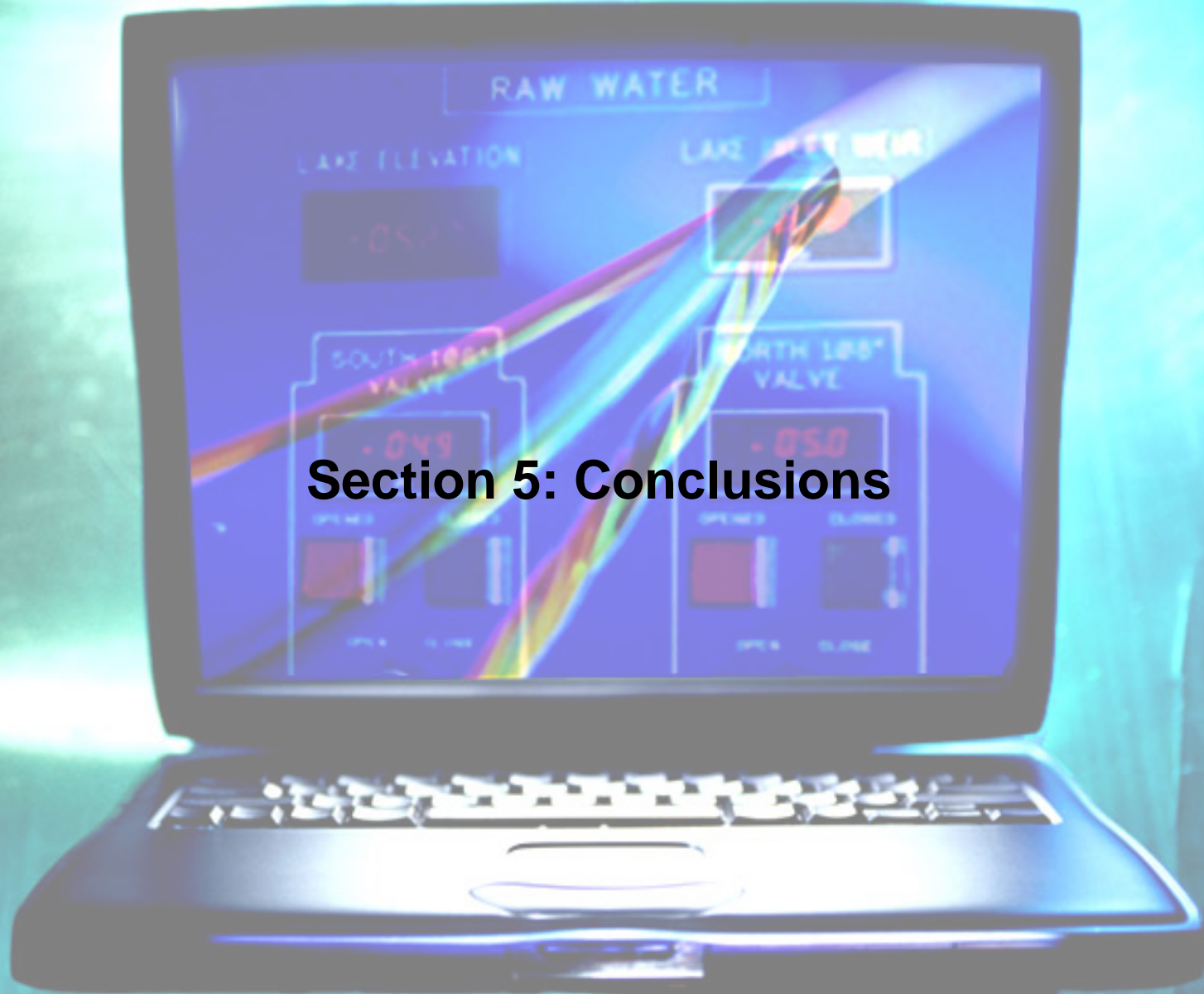
Maintain Wisely

- **Set Up Instrument Calibration Program Based on Performance**
- **Quality Control Charts are Useful**

System Performance Can Decrease Due to Aging



SECTION 5



Section 5: Conclusions

The Use Aeration Control Provides BIG Benefits

- **Consistent Process Performance**
- **Saves Labor**
- **Saves Power**



Questions?

