

36.68 Three 90% efficient secondary chilled water pumps operate in a parallel redundant N+1 configuration supplying a total of 1500gpm against 200ft of total dynamic head. In normal operation with all pumps running, the pumps have a speed of 900rpm. When one pump fails, the remaining pumps increase speed to provide consistent uninterrupted flow to the cooling loads. During a pump failure, what brake horsepower is required to drive the two running pumps?

- A. 28hp
- B. 42hp
- C. 63hp
- D. 95hp

Make a table to organize the information comparing the normal mode of operation to the failure mode described. The values in the table are per individual pump.

Normal	Failure
$Q_1 = 500gpm$	$Q_2 = 750gpm$
$h_{A,1} = 200ft$	$h_{A,2} = 200ft$
$n_1 = 900rpm$	$n_2 ?$
$bhp_1 ?$	$bhp_2 ?$

Look up the **Pump Affinity Laws**. Recall the relationship between volume flow rate and speed is linear. Therefore, a 50% increase in speed must be required to produce a 50% increase in the flow rate.

$$\frac{n_2}{n_1} = \frac{Q_2}{Q_1}$$

$$n_2 = n_1 \left(\frac{Q_2}{Q_1} \right) = (900rpm) \left(\frac{750gpm}{500gpm} \right) = 1350rpm$$

Brake horsepower changes with the cube of the speed. However, before applying another pump affinity law, first calculate the brake horsepower by finding the water horsepower, *whp*, which is determined by the flow rate and head added by the pump, then include the efficiency to account for the pumping losses. Assume the pump efficiency is constant over a range of speeds.

$$whp = \frac{Q_{[gpm]} h_{A[ft]}}{3960}$$

$$bhp = \frac{whp}{\eta_p} = \frac{Q_{[gpm]} h_{A[ft]}}{3960 \cdot \eta_p}$$

$$bhp_1 = \frac{(500)(200)}{(3960)(0.9)} = 28.06hp$$

Having defined the brake horsepower for the normal operating state, apply the affinity law relating power and speed to determine the *bhp* for the failure mode:

$$\frac{bhp_2}{bhp_1} = \left(\frac{n_2}{n_1}\right)^3$$
$$bhp_2 = bhp_1 \left(\frac{n_2}{n_1}\right)^3 = (28.06hp) \left(\frac{1350rpm}{900rpm}\right)^3 = 94.7hp$$

Note the dramatic increase in power associated with a moderate increase in speed. This is one reason why energy savings can be readily achieved by running redundant pumps in parallel using variable speed drives.

Answer D