



**BURNS  MCDONNELL**

## **Wild Flow, Concourse Expansion, and Other Pumping Adventures at Denver International Airport**

**Haven Cassidy, PE**  
**Jeff Easton, PE**

February 28, 2019

**CampusEnergy2019**



**HILTON NEW ORLEANS RIVERSIDE**

February 26 - March 1, 2019 | New Orleans, LA



# WHAT ARE WE DOING?

- A ADDING AMAZING NEW RESTAURANTS AND BARS
- B BUILDING AN ILLUMINATI HEADQUARTERS
- C REMODELING THE LIZARD PEOPLE'S LAIR



*Image Courtesy of Denver International Airport*

## AGENDA

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Existing System
- ▶ Capital Project Approach
- ▶ System Details
- ▶ Design Analysis
- ▶ Design Approach
- ▶ Current Status
- ▶ What Did We Learn



An aerial photograph of Denver International Airport, showing the large terminal building, parking lots, and surrounding landscape. The image is partially obscured by a white circular graphic on the right side.

# BACKGROUND

- ▶ Opened February 1995
- ▶ 5<sup>th</sup> Busiest Airport
  - 64.5 million travelers in 2018
- ▶ Largest US Airport by Land Area
  - 53 square miles
- ▶ Current Square Footage:
  - 7,720,000 square feet
- ▶ Future Square Footage:
  - 8,969,000 square feet

*Image Courtesy of Denver International Airport*





AIRPORT OFFICE  
BUILDING (AOB)

CONCOURSE A  
(CCA)

CONCOURSE B  
(CCB)

CONCOURSE C  
(CCC)

TERMINAL

HOTEL & TRANSIT  
CENTER (HTC)

CENTRAL UTILITY  
PLANT (CUP)

# BACKGROUND

- ▶ Central Utility Plant:
  - Chilled & Heating Water
  - Serves Seven “Buildings”
  - 40 feet Below Grade
- ▶ Concourse expansions:
  - 39 additional gates
  - 1.25 million square feet
- ▶ More expansions coming...

*Image Courtesy of Denver International Airport*



# EXISTING SYSTEM

## ► HISTORY

- Chilled Water
  - Natural Gas driven chillers
- Heating Water
  - Water-tube Boilers, 60 MMBtu
  - Jet-A back-up fuel
  - High temperature issues
- Pumping
  - Constant Flow, Variable Temp
    - Primary
    - Building Secondary
    - Tertiary Boosters

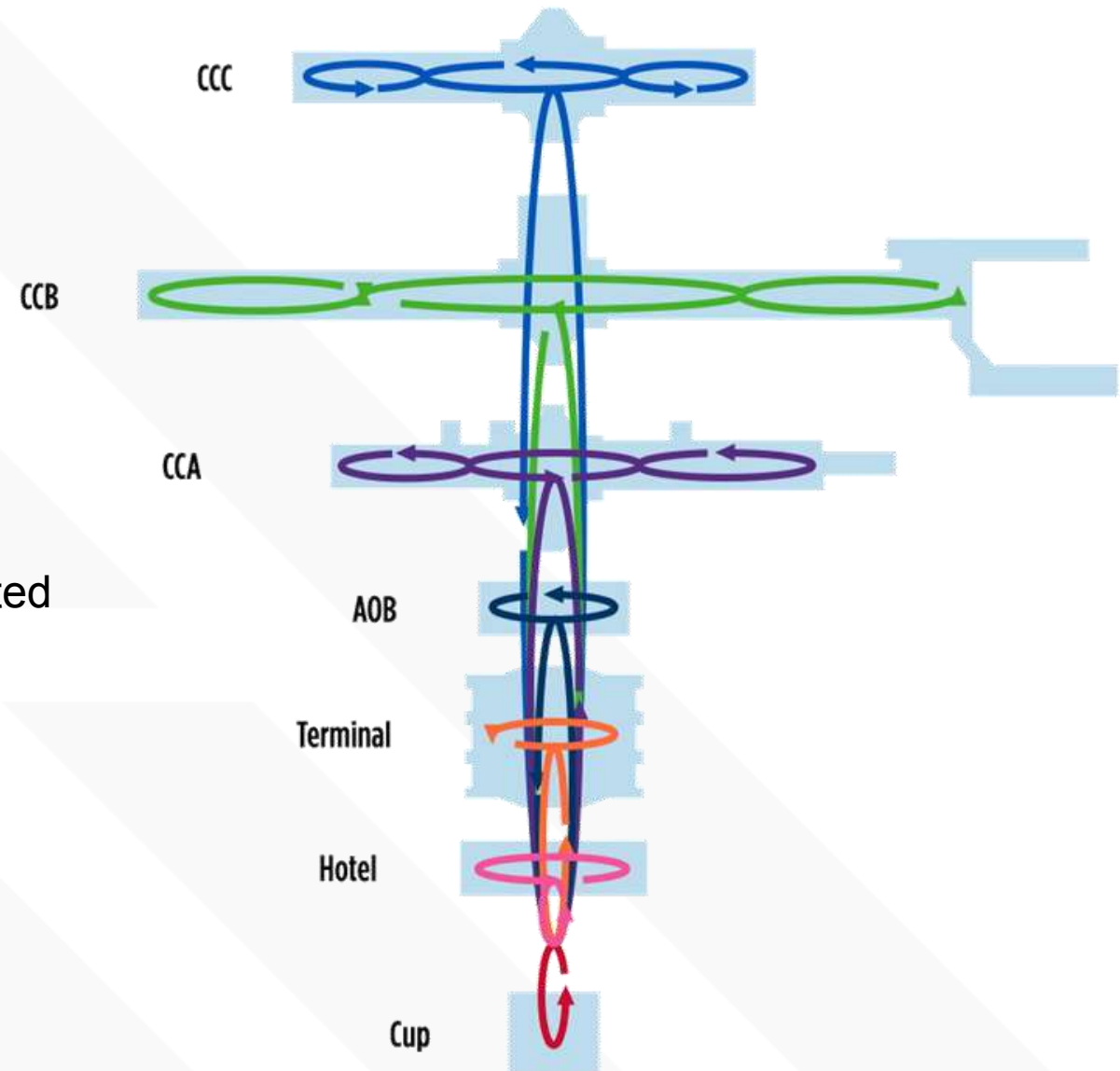


*Image Courtesy of Denver International Airport*

# EXISTING SYSTEM

## ► HYDRONIC OPTIMIZATION PROJECT

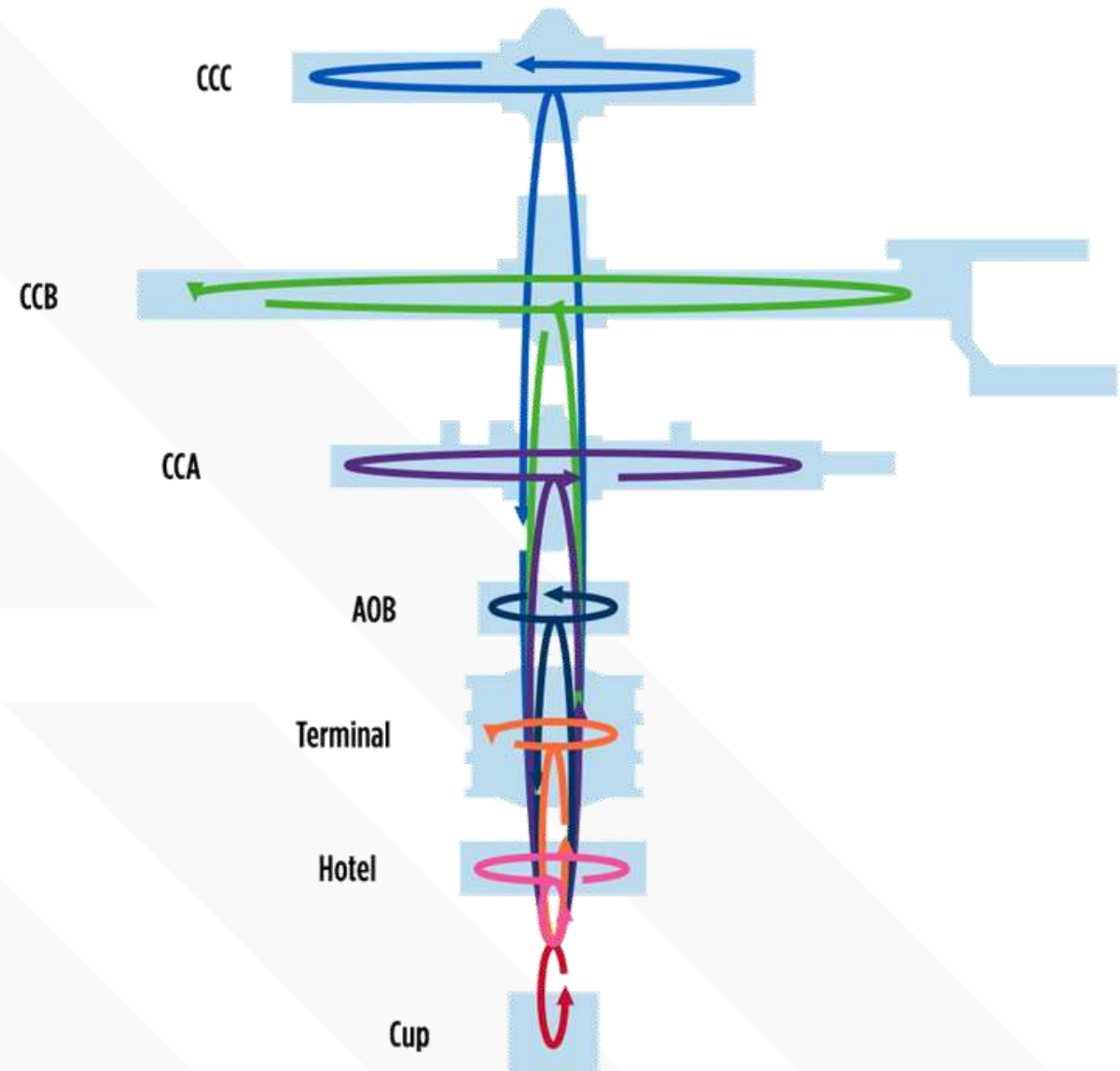
- 2010-2014 Timeframe
- Heating Water building pumps
- Pumped coils
- Removed >200 pumps
- “Major” two-way and three-way control valves
  - Quantity of “Minor” valves was under estimated



# EXISTING SYSTEM

## ► LEGACY DECOUPLER OPERATION

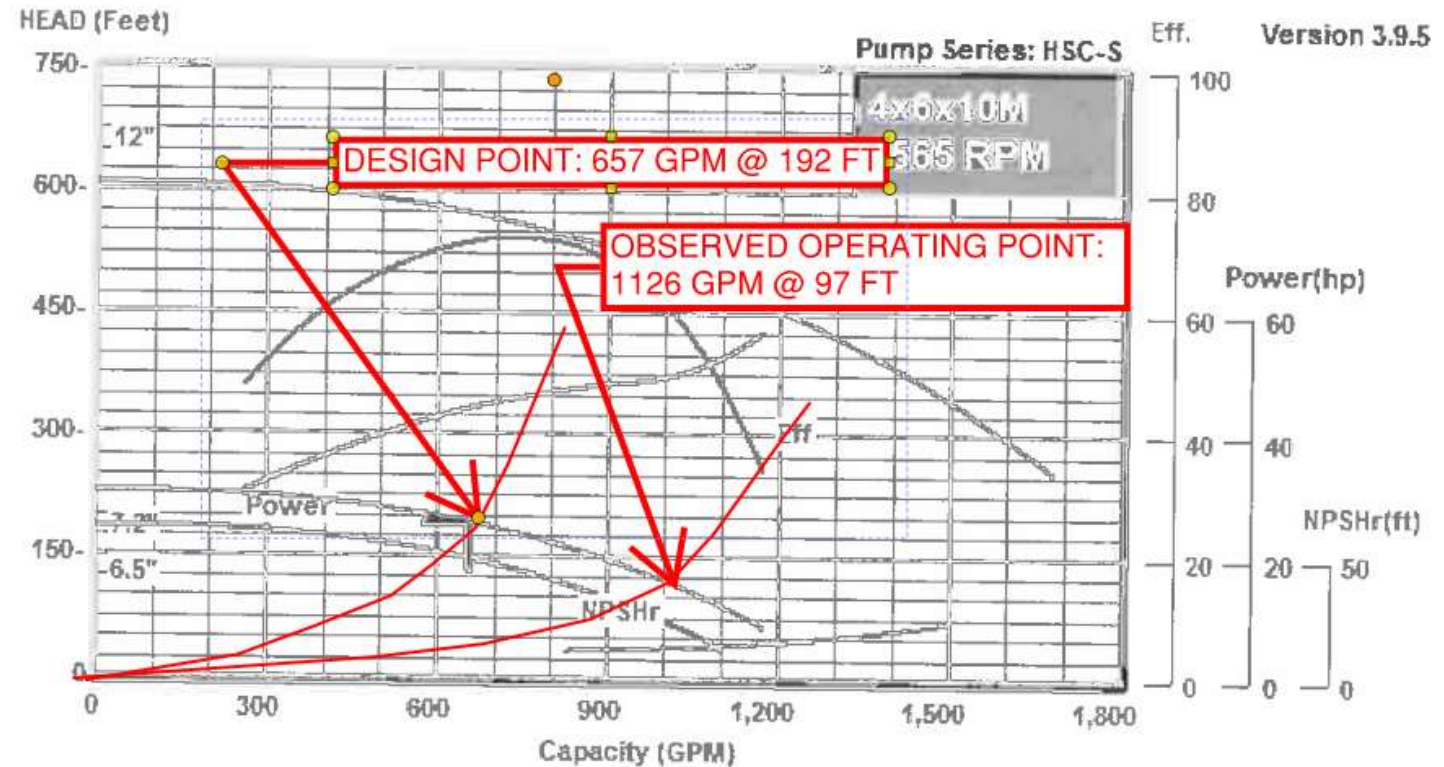
- Heating Water:
  - Historically open
  - Boilers staged based on return temperature
  - Secondary system overflowing the CUP
  - This winter it has been closed
- Chilled Water:
  - Historically open
  - Operating with flow offset,  $\leq 50$  GPM positive
  - Plans to close



# EXISTING SYSTEM

## ► ON-GOING CHALLENGES

- Wild Flows
  - Previous tenant build-out
  - Severe over pumping
  - Unhealthy operation
- Hydraulic Instability
  - CCB starves CCC
  - Building-level balance valves
  - Adjustment to failure
- Enforcement of Design Standards
- Loss of institutional knowledge





# CAPITAL PROJECT APPROACH

## ► CAPITAL PROJECT APPROACH

- Maintenance-Driven Projects
  - Nagging, systemic issues
- Planning/Enabling Projects
  - Capacity/Redundancy
- Packaging the Scopes
  - Initial Reluctance
  - Unexpected benefits

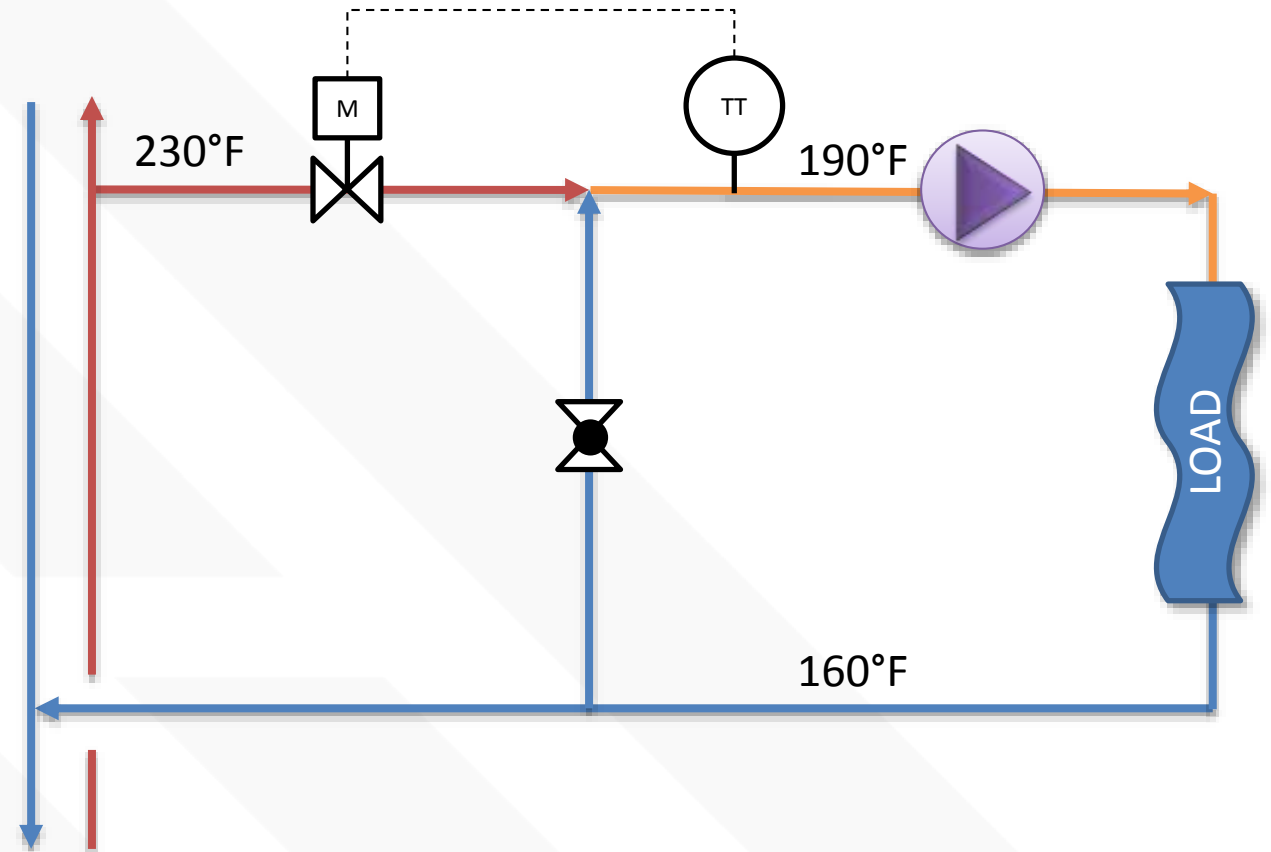


*Image Courtesy of Denver International Airport*

# SYSTEM DETAILS

## ► HOT WATER

- Production at CUP at 230°F
- Building-level blending loops
- Balance valve on building return
- Adjustments currently impact CUP





# SYSTEM DETAILS

## ► CHILLED WATER

- Production at CUP 42-56°F  $\Delta T$
- Currently in construction
- 20,000 tons ultimate
- 8 x 2,500 ton VFD chillers
- Tied to MANY critical systems
  - Limited outage opportunity



*Image Courtesy of Denver International Airport*

# DESIGN ANALYSIS

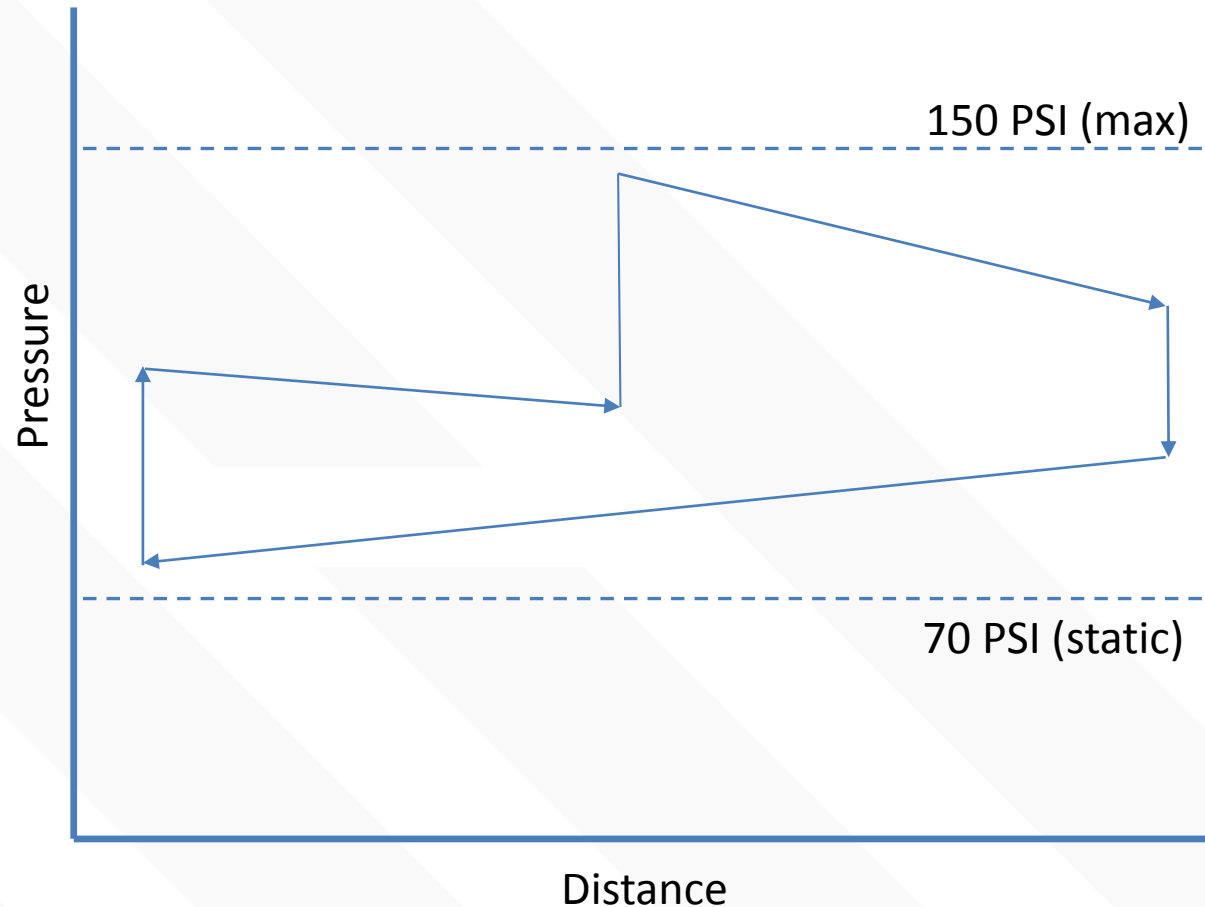
## ► SYSTEM LIMITATIONS

- 70 PSI static pressure
- Hard limit 150 PSI
- Pipe Velocity
- Electrical Service

## ► QUANTIFY

- Sparse data
- Historical logs
- Rumors

## ► SYSTEM TESTING

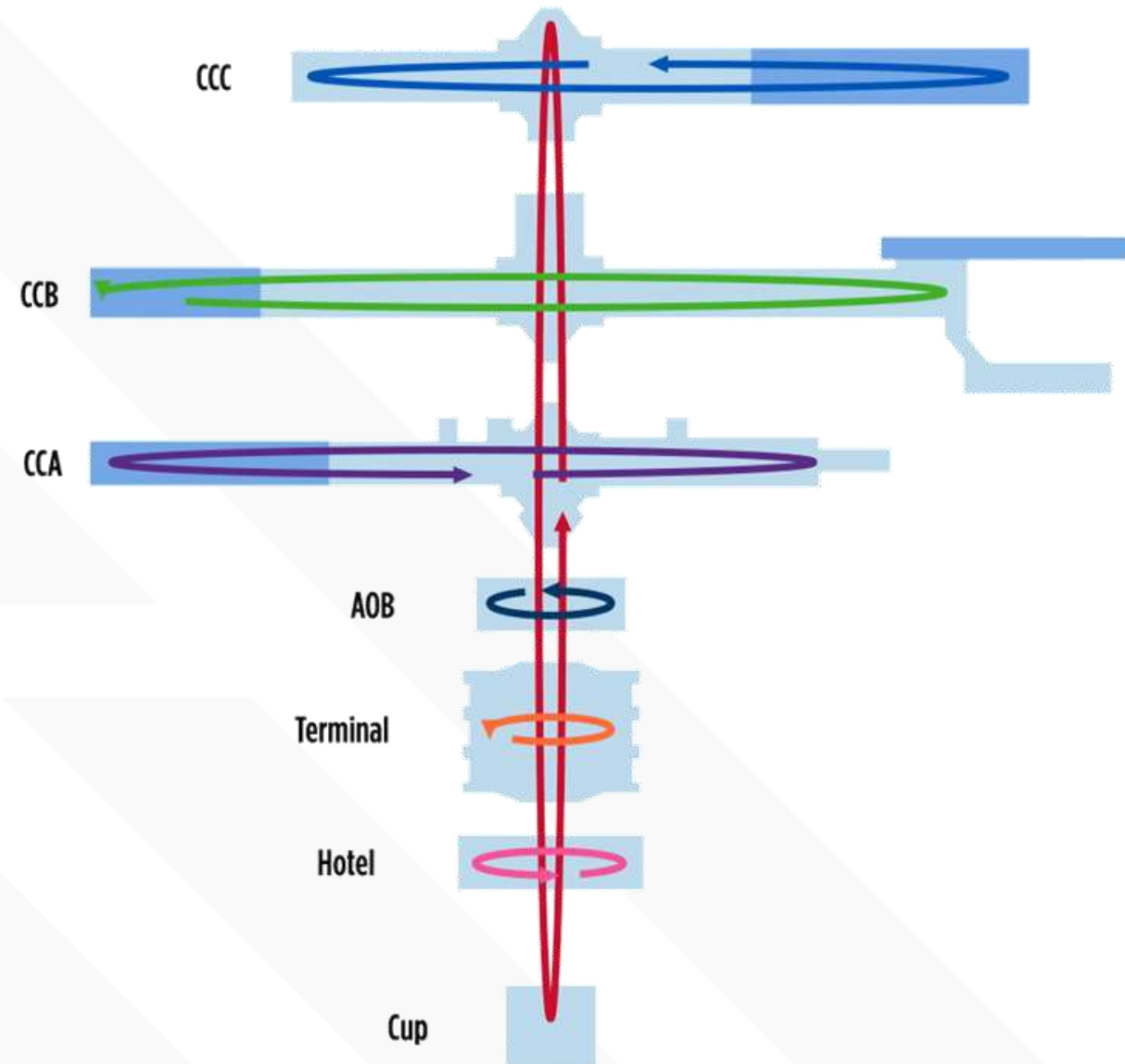




# DESIGN ANALYSIS

## ► SYSTEM TESTING

- Hot Water
  - Goal: Gain stability and minimize flow
  - Results: Success
    - Primary CUP flow reduced
    - Stable pumping
    - Building level pumping reduction
    - Positive pressure at CCC end of line
- Chilled Water
  - Goal: confirm pump rooms can be bypassed
  - Results: Success
    - Stable  $\Delta P$  pumping control
    - Building-level pumping reduction
    - AOB pressure met from CUP
    - Pump rooms can be bypassed



# DESIGN APPROACH

## ► HW PUMP SELECTION

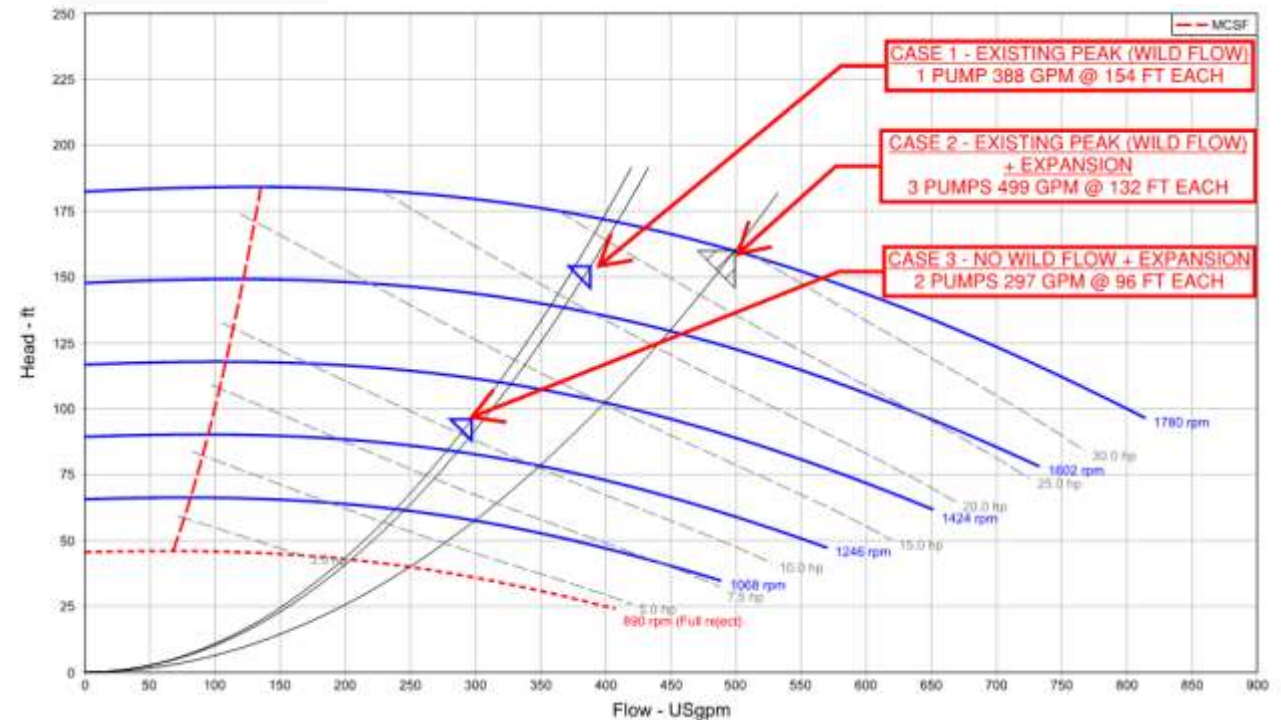
- Existing + Wild Flow
- Expansions + Wild Flow
- Expanded - Wild Flow

## ► DESIGN TO LIMITS

- Pipe velocity
- Max pressure
- Electrical Input

## ► CONCLUSION

- Load met with reduced end of line  $\Delta P$
- Addressing wild flow improves operating point





# DESIGN APPROACH

## ► HOLD EVERYTHING!!

- Expansions...a moving, GROWING target
- Multiple teams working in parallel
- Designers unclear on system capabilities

## ► COORDINATION MEETINGS

- Educate on system limits
- Detail load reviews
- Point of connection strategy
- Pressure negotiation



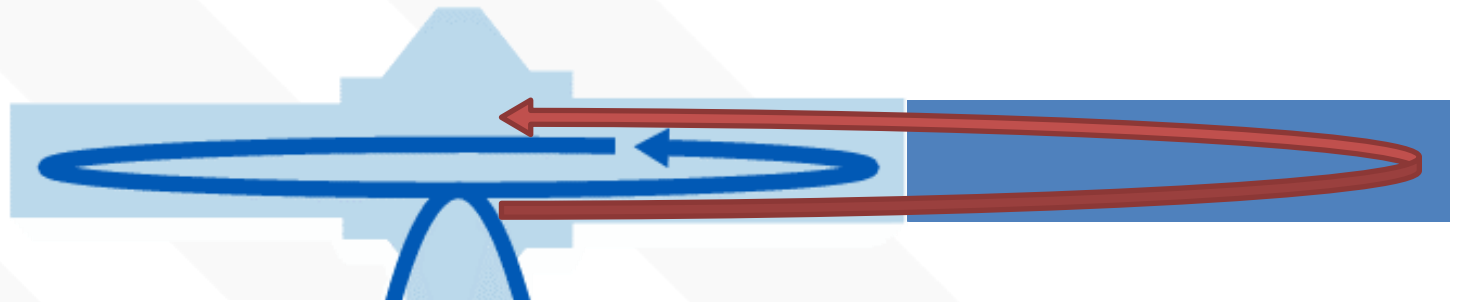
# CURRENT STATUS

## ► COMPLETE DESIGN

- Larger Expansions
- Express line required
- Additional pump power
- Electrical load study

## ► ENABLING PROJECTS

- Control valves
- Large quantity, first cost
- Challenge with expansions





# WHAT DID WE LEARN

## ▶ INVEST IN METERING / DATA

- Many hours spent deducing the system operation
- Calibrate existing instrumentation

## ▶ ENFORCE DESIGN STANDARDS

- Short-term blind eye = long-term impacts

## ▶ COORDINATE WITH PLANNING

- Future can change in a short time

## ▶ VISION & COMMUNICATION

- Engineering
- Operations
- Maintenance
- A/E Partners



*Image Courtesy of Denver International Airport*

# QUESTIONS

- ▶ Haven Cassidy, PE  
[haven.cassidy@flydenver.com](mailto:haven.cassidy@flydenver.com)
- ▶ Jeff Easton, PE  
[jeaston@burnsmcd.com](mailto:jeaston@burnsmcd.com)



*Images Courtesy of Denver International Airport*