CENTRIFUGAL PUMP DRIVES
FOR BOILER FEED SERVICE

LIN KAO
FMC Turbo Pump
Englewood, New Jersey

Discussion by

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The content of the subject paper was brief and to the point. The author was successful in delivering his thoughts in a satisfactory manner. The graphic materials contained in the paper were well prepared and clearly understandable. The manner in which the paper is constructed and presented is, in my view, very adequate.

As to content of the information, the author has built a good case for the steam turbine for use in powering boiler feed pumps. There was no mention of a back-up system for use in assisting the turbine in the event of a failure. The paper would be strengthened by the inclusion of methods for use in developing a standby power unit, should the steam turbine fail.

AUTHOR'S REPLY

Due to the growing reliability of boiler feed pumps and turbine drives, there is more and more a trend to get by without spare or standby boiler feed pumps, particularly in very small boiler plants.

There is no general rule for when to use a standby unit. It depends strictly upon the individual installation, economy and how critical the service is. In my opinion, when the service is critical and the plant load will vary frequently, the boiler requirement can be split by use of the steam generating plant in case of failure of one of the boiler feed pumps. If this will not satisfy plant requirements, then a spare — or standby — unit should be provided utilizing either steam turbine or any other type of drive appropriate to the emergency.