

A centrifugal pump with a 12 in. diameter impeller requires a power input of 60 hp when the flowrate is 3200 gpm against a 60 ft head. The impeller is changed to one with a 10 in. diameter. Determine the expected flowrate, head, and input power if the pump speed remains the same.

SOLUTION:

Since the pump speed remains the same and assuming geometrically similar pumps, the pump scaling laws are,

$$\frac{Q_1}{Q_2} = \left(\frac{D_1}{D_2}\right)^3 \quad \frac{H_1}{H_2} = \left(\frac{D_1}{D_2}\right)^2 \quad \frac{W_1}{W_2} = \left(\frac{D_1}{D_2}\right)^5$$

Using the given parameters,

$$Q_1 = 3200 \text{ gpm,}$$

$$D_1 = 12 \text{ in,}$$

$$D_2 = 10 \text{ in,}$$

$$H_1 = 60 \text{ ft,}$$

$$W_1 = 60 \text{ hp,}$$

$$Q_2 = 1850 \text{ gpm}$$

$$H_2 = 41.7 \text{ ft}$$

$$W_2 = 24.1 \text{ hp}$$

If the empirical (and more accurate) scaling laws are used,

$$\frac{Q_1}{Q_2} = \left(\frac{D_1}{D_2}\right)^2 \quad \frac{H_1}{H_2} = \left(\frac{D_1}{D_2}\right)^2 \quad \frac{W_1}{W_2} = \left(\frac{D_1}{D_2}\right)^4$$

$$Q_2 = 2220 \text{ gpm}$$

$$H_2 = 41.7 \text{ ft}$$

$$W_2 = 28.9 \text{ hp}$$