

# *PG&E's Applied Technology Services' Hot Water Technology Performance Laboratory*

Edwin Huestis, P.E.  
Senior Mechanical Engineer  
PG&E Applied Technology Services

ACEEE Hot Water Forum  
February 23, 2016



# Presentation Objectives

---

- Describe the history of hot water testing at PG&E's Applied Technology Services (ATS)
- Summarize the results of the last effort
- lab testing effort on Identify the opportunities for future research presented at the conclusion of the last study
- Describe the vision of PG&E's Upgraded Hot Water Technology Performance Laboratory
- Identify how PG&E's laboratory will be modified to support of commercial kitchen field performance characterization research



# PG&E Applied Technology Services (ATS)



**End use Equipment Testing**



**Non-Destructive Examination**



**Vibration Analyses**

- Multidisciplinary team of Engineers, Technologists, Technicians and Scientists
- Act as an internal PG&E consultant, also perform some 3<sup>rd</sup> Party work

# History of Hot Water Testing at ATS – Residential Water Heater Testing

---



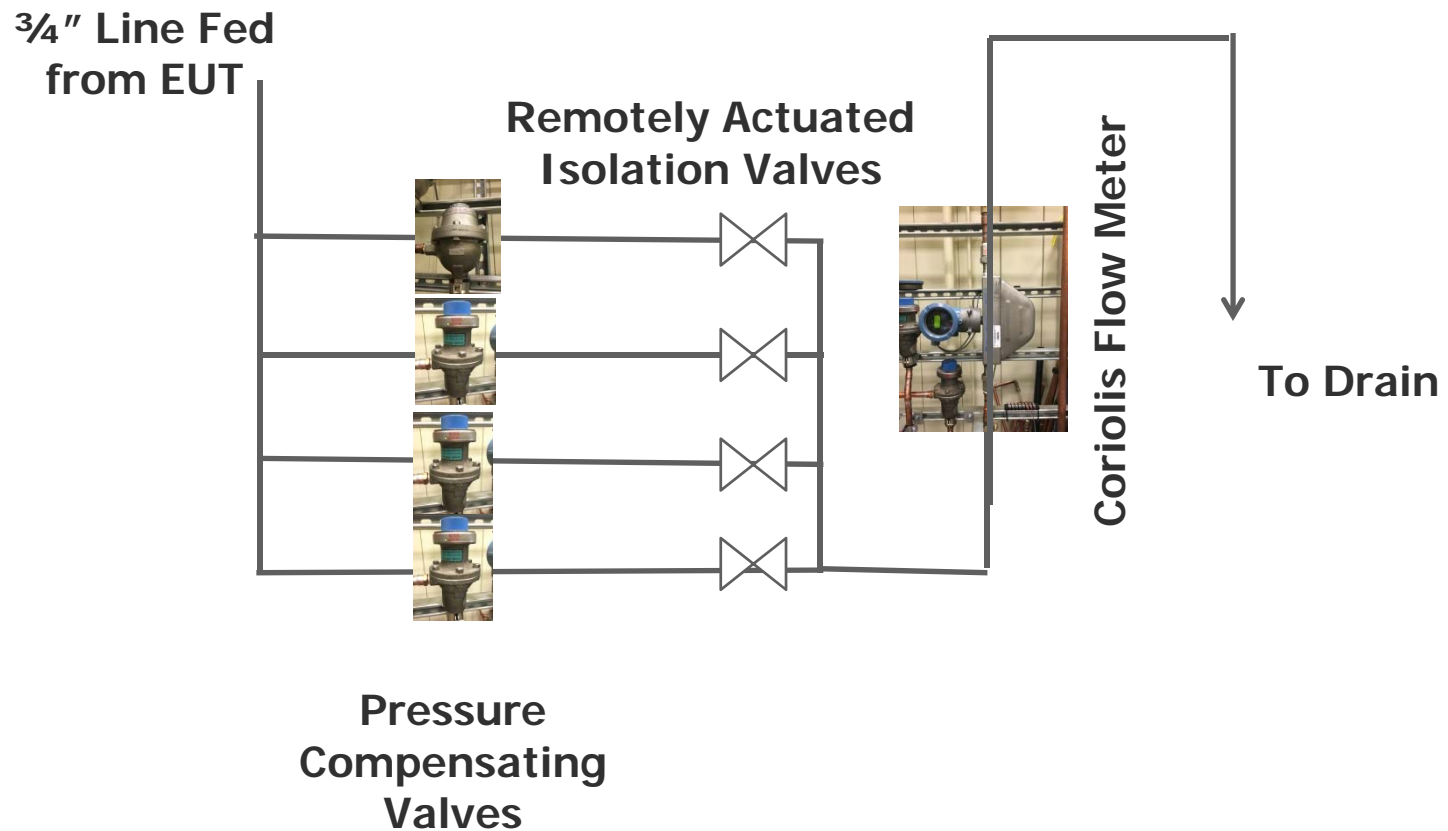
- Started off supporting the development of ASHRAE standards

# Residential Hot Water Draw Simulation – Flow Measurement and Control

---

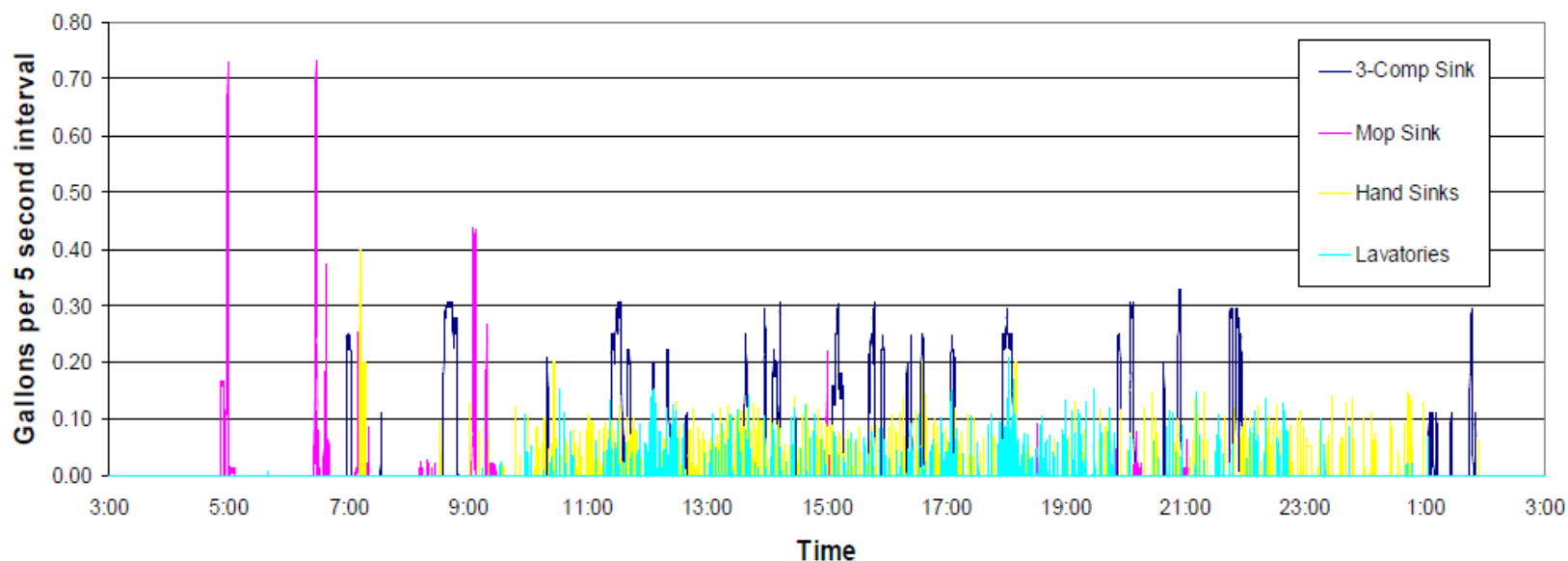


# Residential Lab Hot Water Draw Simulation – Flow Measurement and Control (Staged Volume Draws)



# Field Characterization of Restaurant Hot Water Use (Completed by Fisher Nickel - FSTC)

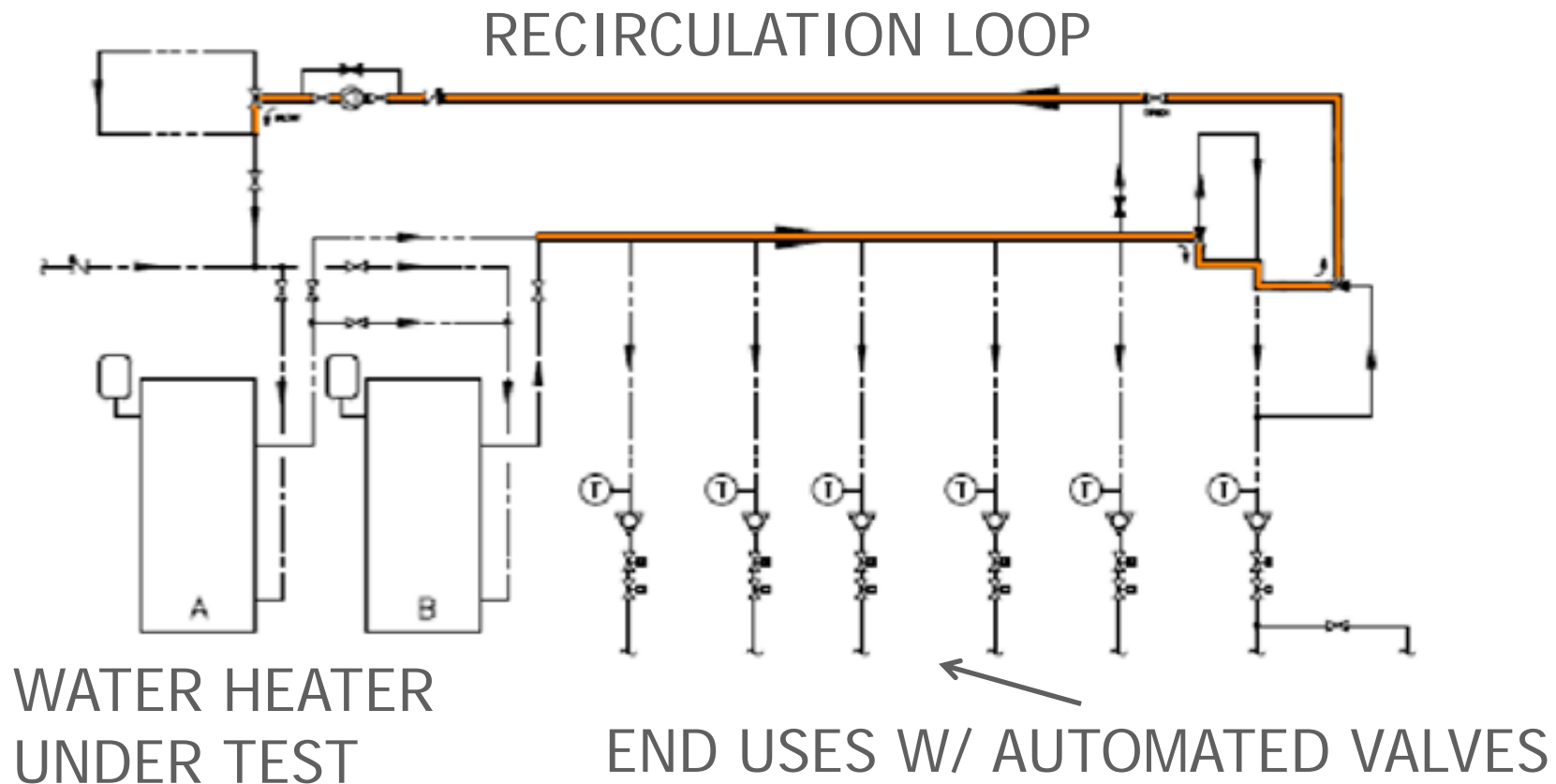
Time	3-Comp Sink	Mop Sink	Hand Sinks	Lavatories	24hr Total
Gallons	322.0	60.8	62.1	55.4	500.37
# of Draws	1793	810	1258	1161	5022.00
Average GPM	2.16	0.90	0.59	0.57	



- Fisher-Nickel conducted field monitoring at a quick service restaurant to gather a high resolution 24-hour “real world” hot water use profile

# PG&E Applied Technology Services

## Commercial Water Heater Laboratory Configuration



WATER HEATER  
UNDER TEST

END USES W/ AUTOMATED VALVES

- PG&E installed and fully instrumented and functional replication of the hot water system monitored in the field study. Tested various retrofit and RCx measures.



# PG&E Applied Technology Services

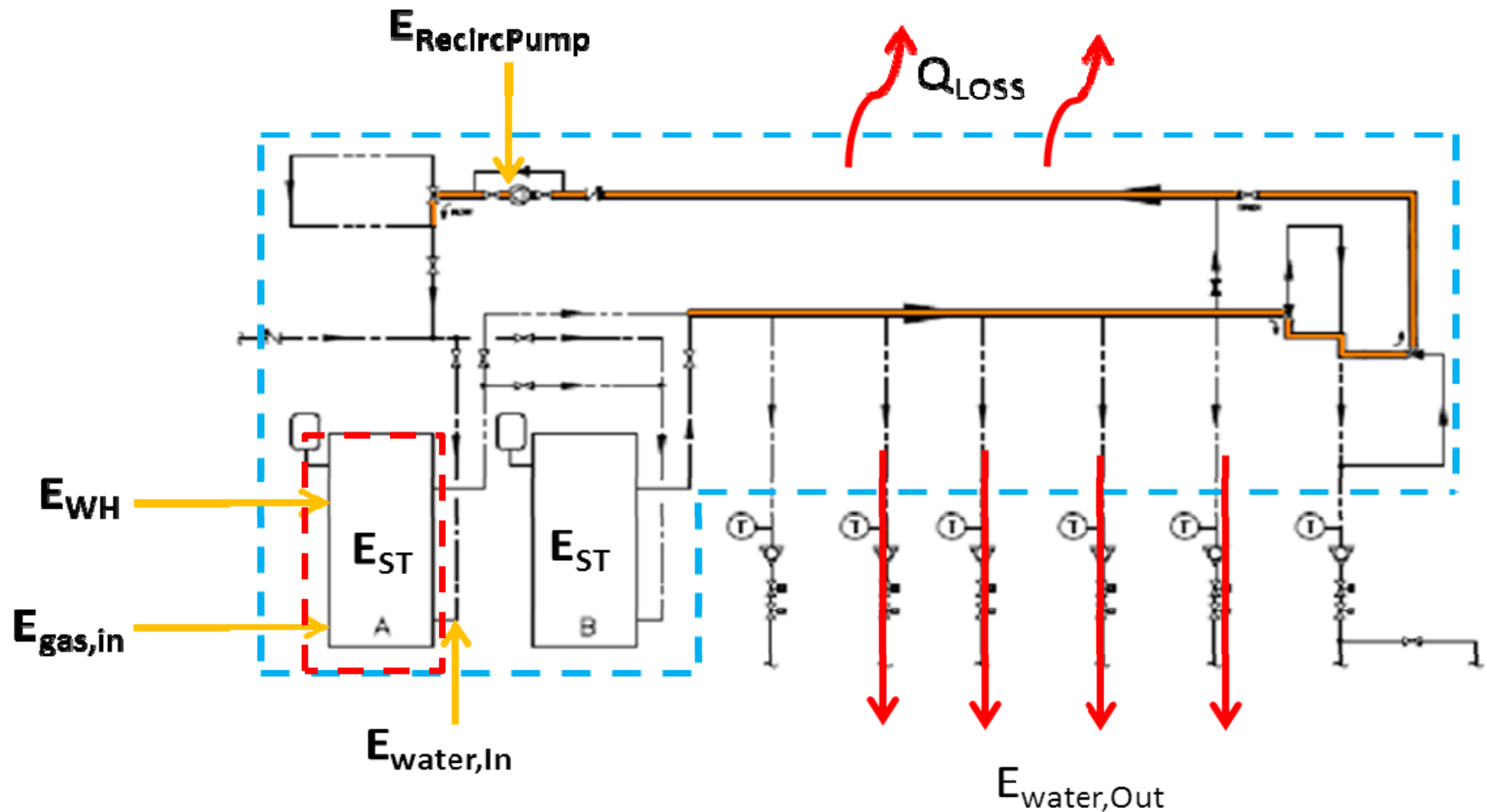
## Commercial Water Heater Laboratory Configuration (cont'd)

---



- Commercial and Residential Testing in same lab space

# Measuring Commercial Hot Water System Performance: System Delivery Efficiency vs. WH Thermal Efficiency

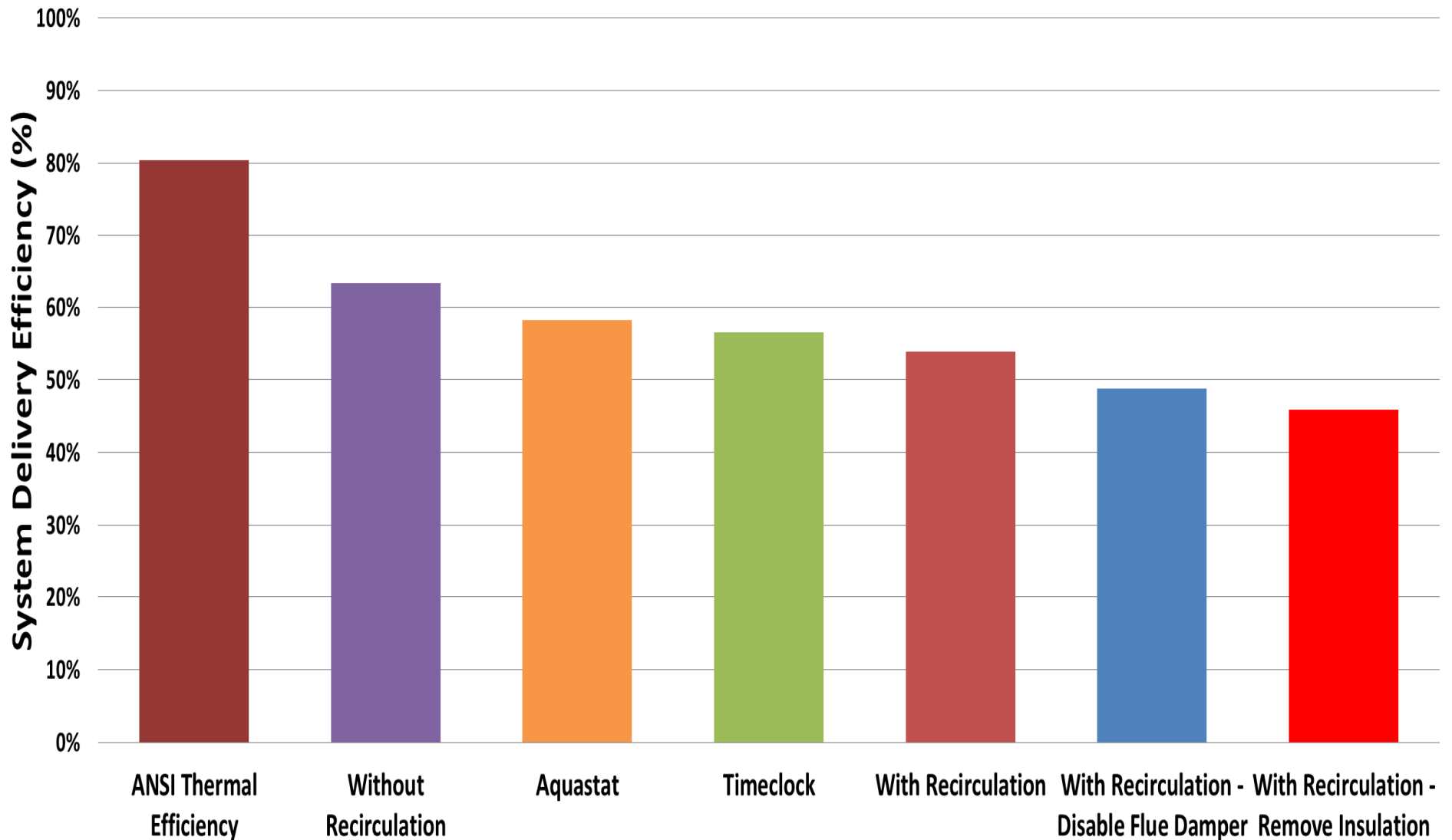


$$\eta_{\text{DELIVERY-TEST-TANK-TYPE}} = \frac{O.E._{TEST} + \Delta E_{\text{Storage}}}{I.E._{TEST}} \sim \frac{\text{Output Energy}}{\text{Input Energy}}$$

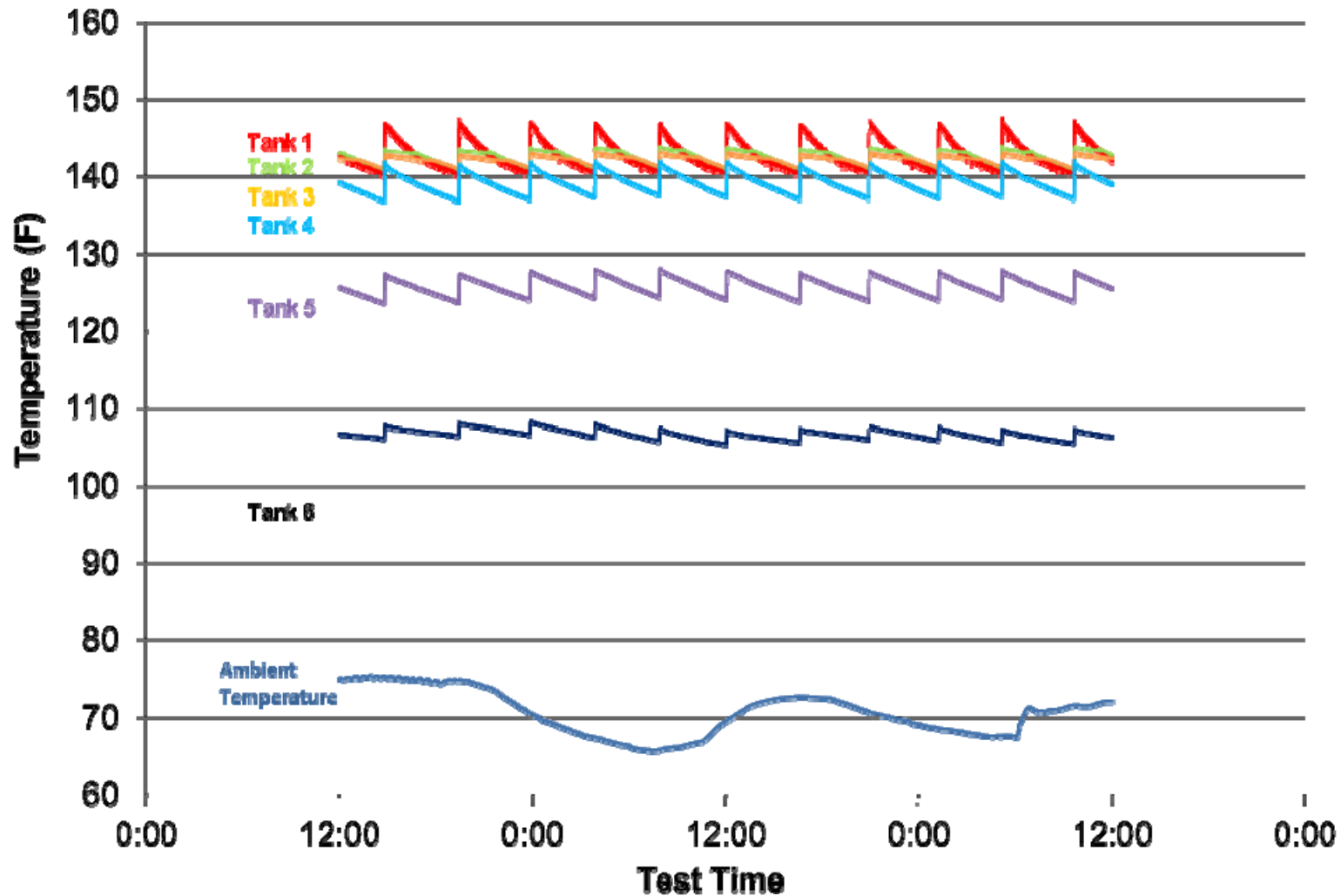
# Measuring Commercial Water Heater System Performance: System Delivery Efficiency vs. WH Thermal Efficiency

Heater 3:		High Efficiency Tankless					
QSR Profile Test - With Recirculation							
Summary of Test Results				Test Information			
Normalized Delivery Efficiency:	64.78%			Test ID:	3-123 X-1482		
Non-Normalized Delivery Efficiency:	60.82%			Test Start:	3/12/19 12:00		
Total System Energy Input (kBtu):	216.753			Test End:	3/12/19 12:00		
Total System Energy Output (kBtu):	131.102			Test Duration (Hours):	24		
Estimated Total System Heat Loss (kBtu):	77.149			Recirculation Interval (s):	6.0		
System Energy Input							
Measurement Parameter	Q <sub>in</sub>	Q <sub>r</sub>	Q <sub>l</sub>	Q <sub>out</sub>	H	Q <sub>e</sub>	Total Input
Units	kBtu/hr	MBtu/hr	MBtu/hr	kBtu/hr	MBtu/hr	kBtu/hr	kBtu
Assn Value	238.2	3.999	1.997	207.2	1.997	238.2	216753
Water Heater Operating Conditions							
Measurement Parameter	K	Q <sub>a</sub>	Q <sub>i</sub>	Q <sub>o</sub>	Inlet Water		
Units	°F	°F	°F	°F	Source (kBtu)		
Assn Value	120.9	120.8	120.9	97.4	201979		
QSR Profile Flow							
Fixture	Hand Sink	3 Coors Sink	4th Sink	Laundry	TOTAL		
Flowrate at Fixture Inlet	3.41	1.55	2.62	3.63			
Gallons Collected	42.4	22.9	22.7	49.2	239.2		
Quantity of Water Heated	9.91	9.19	9.19	9.93			
Water Collected (ft <sup>3</sup> )	295	197	229	297	999.9		
Energy Delivered to Fixtures							
Fixture	Hand Sink	3 Coors Sink	4th Sink	Laundry	Total		
Source Temperature (°F)	120.9		120.9	121.9	Delivered		
Tap Temperature (°F)	120.4	122.9	120.9	121.7	Source (kBtu)		
Energy Delivered per Fixture (kBtu)	44997	209917	49997	49219	267997		

# Energy Performance Impact Summary: Standard Efficiency Tank-Type Water Heater - RCx and Retrofit Measures

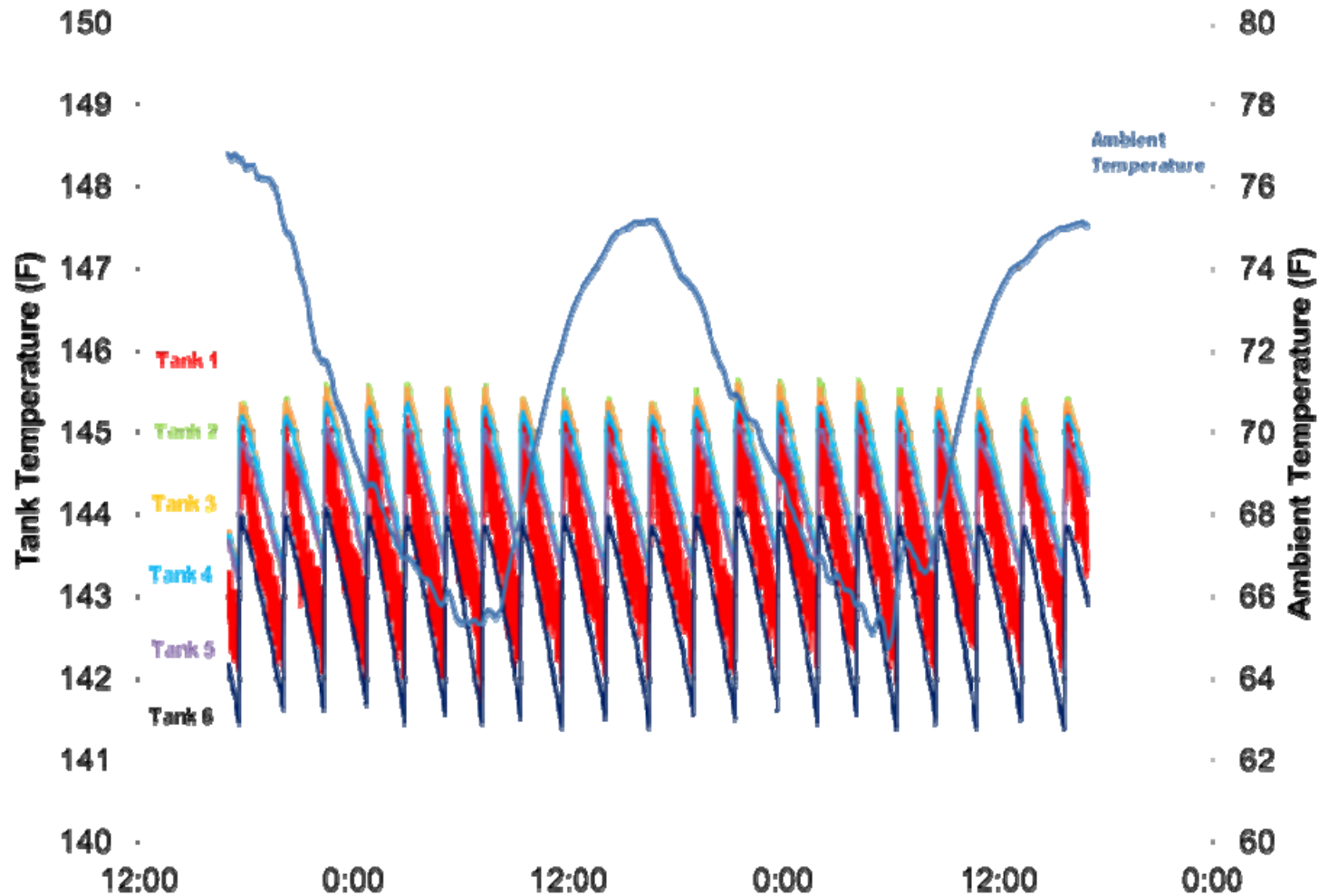


# Energy Performance Impact: Stratification in High Efficiency Tank-Type Water Heater – Standby Loss & T.E.



Standby Loss - 1.28% - 670.0 Btu/h

# Energy Performance Impact: Stratification in Standard Efficiency Tank-Type Water Heater – Standby Loss & T.E.



Standby Loss - 2.58% - 1654.0 (Btu/h)

# Opportunities for Future Research – Distribution System Scenarios – PG&E CHWH

## Distribution System Scenarios

**Simple Distribution (Quick Service):**  
100' supply to lavatory sink stub out, no return.

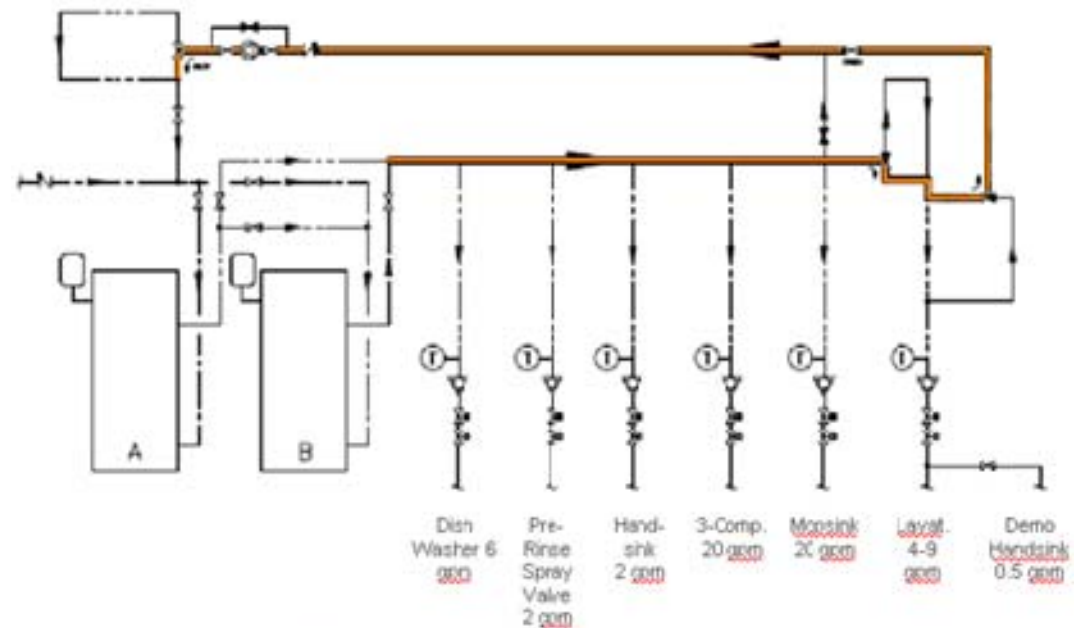
**Standard Recirculation (Quick Service):**  
94' supply + 56' return = 150' total.

**Standard Recirculation (Full Service):**  
108' supply + 92' return = 200' total.

**Hybrid System (Full Service):**  
Shortened Recirculation at mop sink with point-of-use electric heating at lavatory sink.  
84' supply + 47' return = 131' total.

**Demand Circulation (Quick Service):**  
114' supply + 56' cold water return = 170' total.

**Extended Recirculation (Quick Service):**  
100' supply to stub out + 62' return = 162' total.



**Standard Recirculation (Quick Service) = 150ft**

# PG&E Applied Technology Services

## Hot Water Technology Laboratory Vision

---

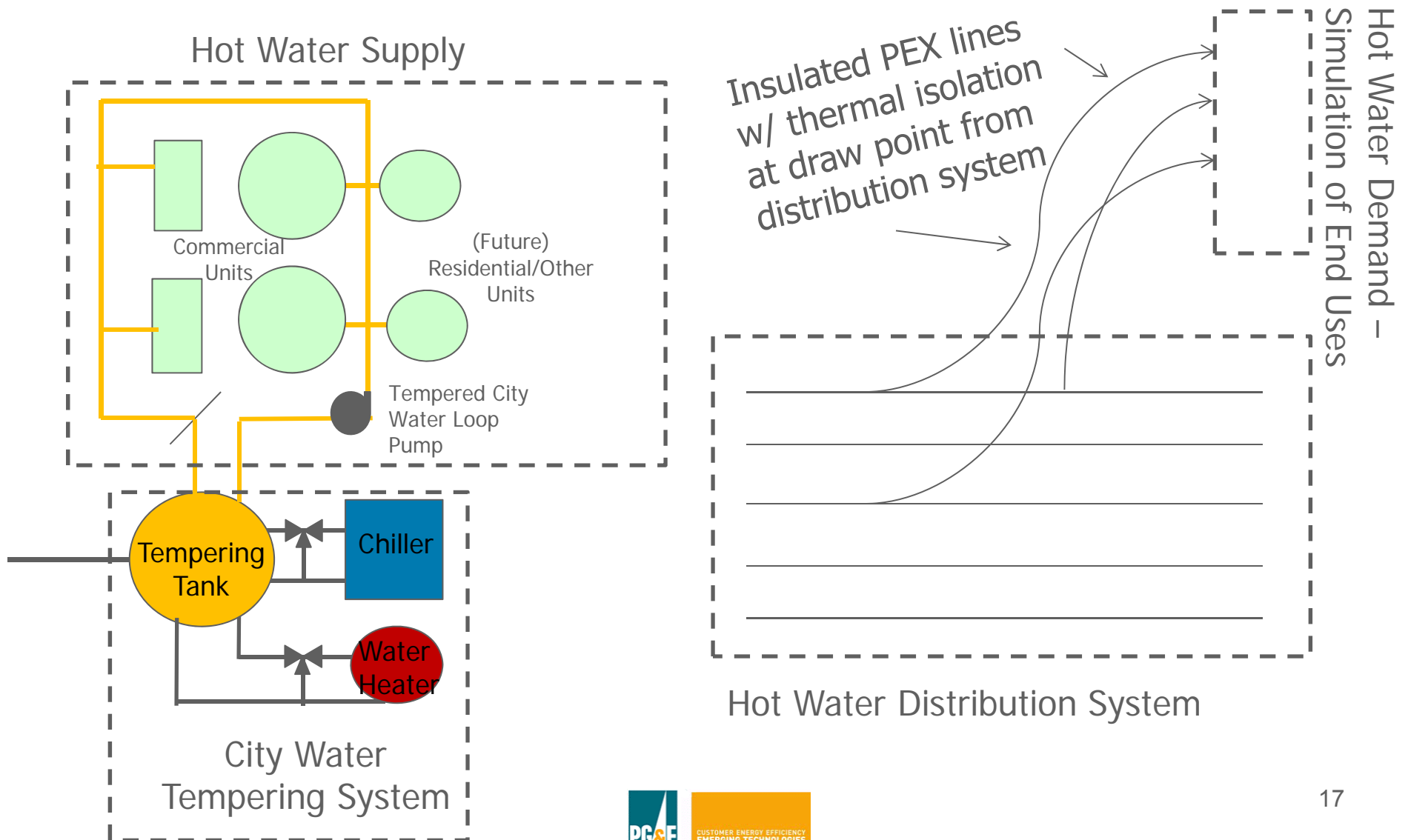
### Vision for PG&E's Upgraded Hot Water Technology Laboratory

- Include capabilities of past residential and commercial test systems
- Employ modular laboratory design, easily adaptable to changing test setups, specifically distribution system
- Design instrumentation plan and DAS system for versatility
- Automation of tests via National Instruments Labview DAS
- Continued focus maintaining high instrument accuracy and control of test variables
- Rely on industry for guidance and new ideas, also attempt to develop our own

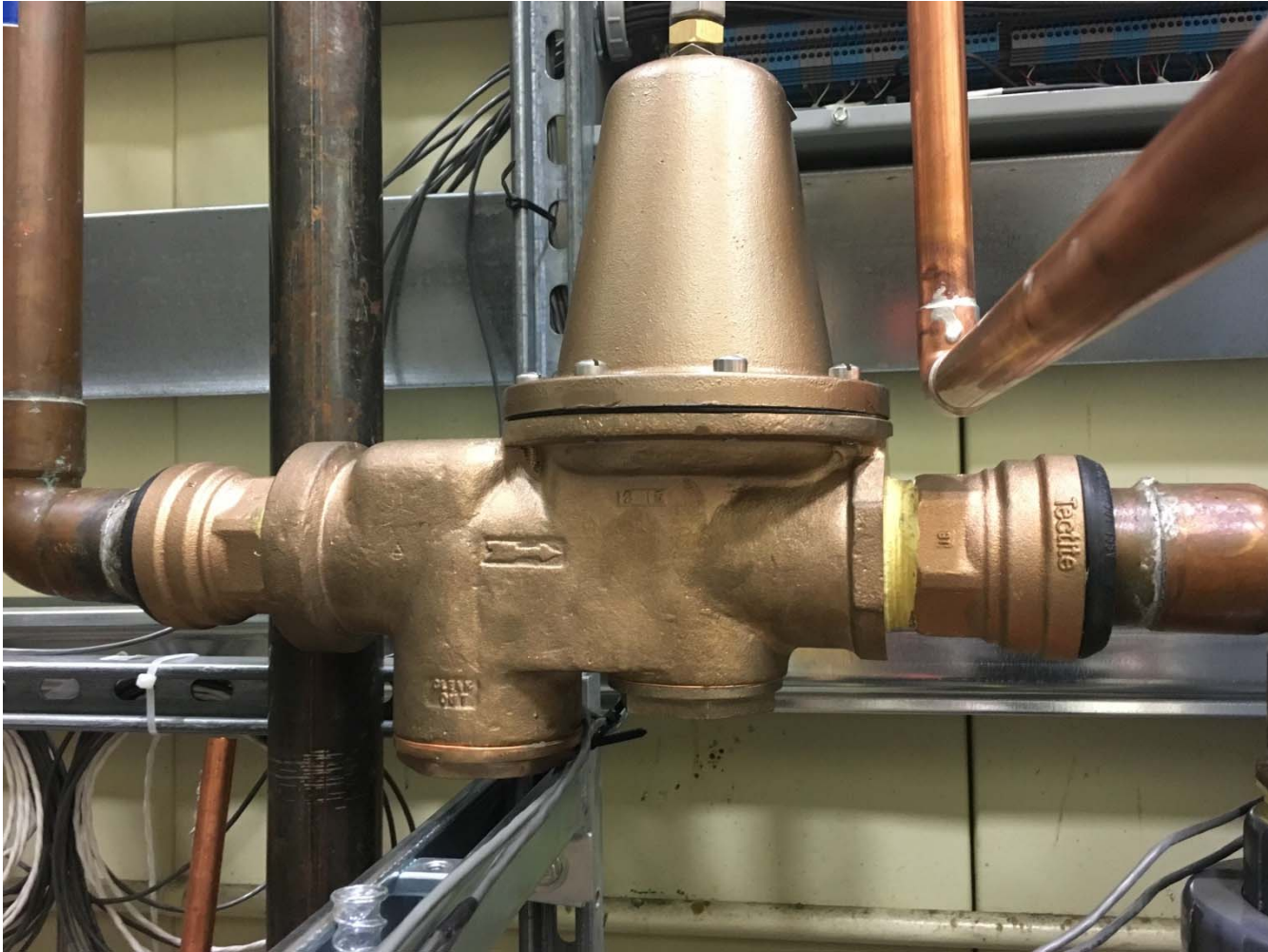


# PG&E Applied Technology Services

## Implementing the Hot Water Technology Laboratory Vision

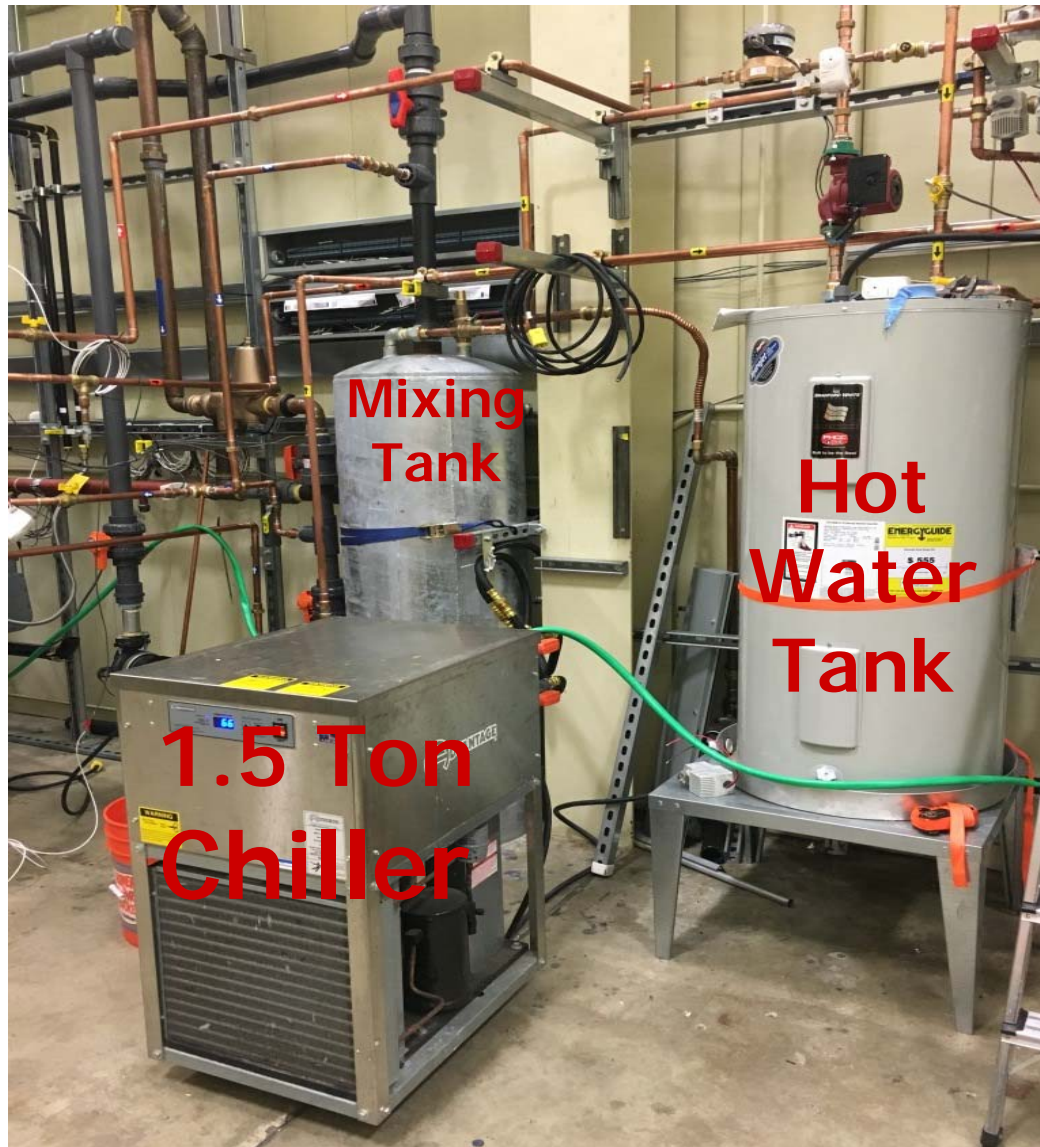


# Regulating City Water Pressure



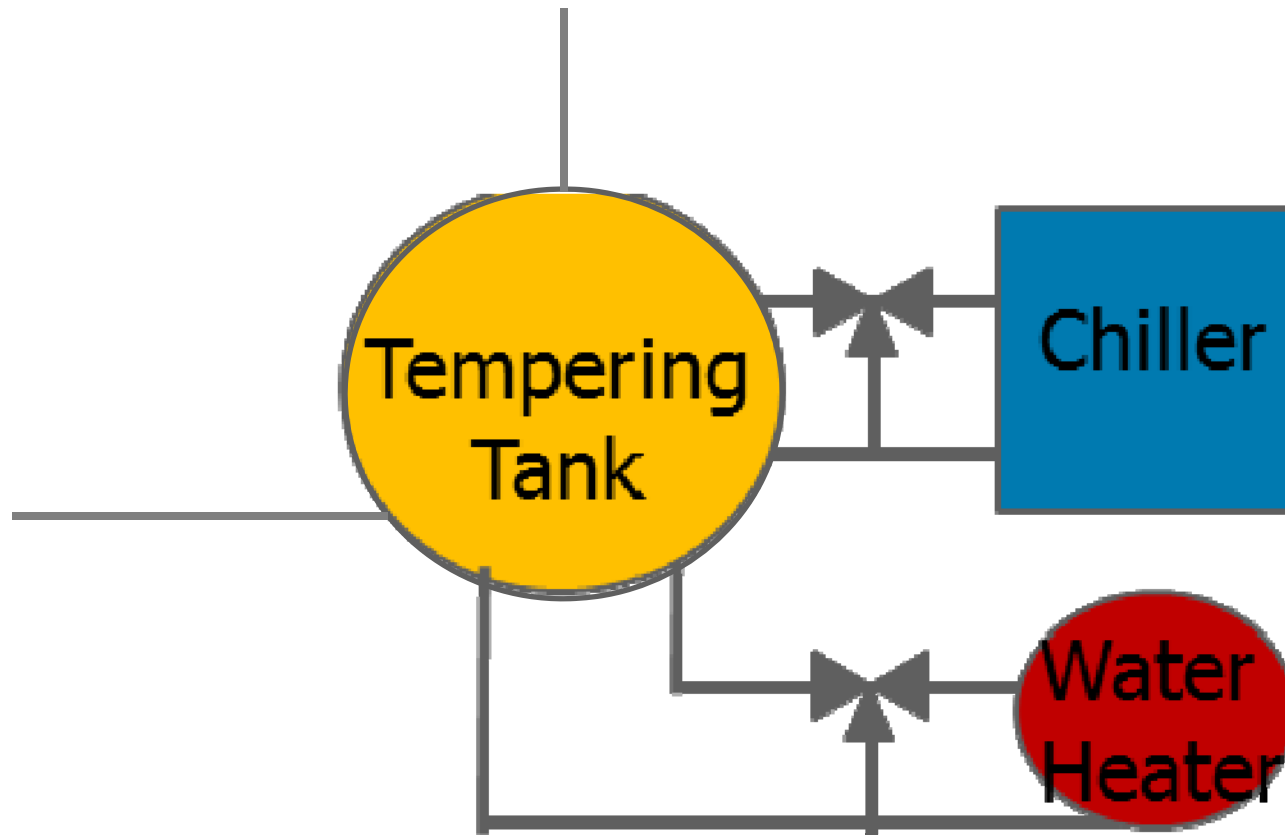
# Conditioning City Water - Tempering System

---



# Conditioning City Water - Tempering System

---



# Distribution System – Piping Rack

---



# Hot Water Draw Simulation – Flow Measurement and Control (Constant, Staged and Variable Volume)



# Hot Water Draw Simulation – Flow Measurement and Control (Constant, Staged and Variable Volume)

8 Simulated End Uses

1 2-Way Modulating Valve

Flow Meters

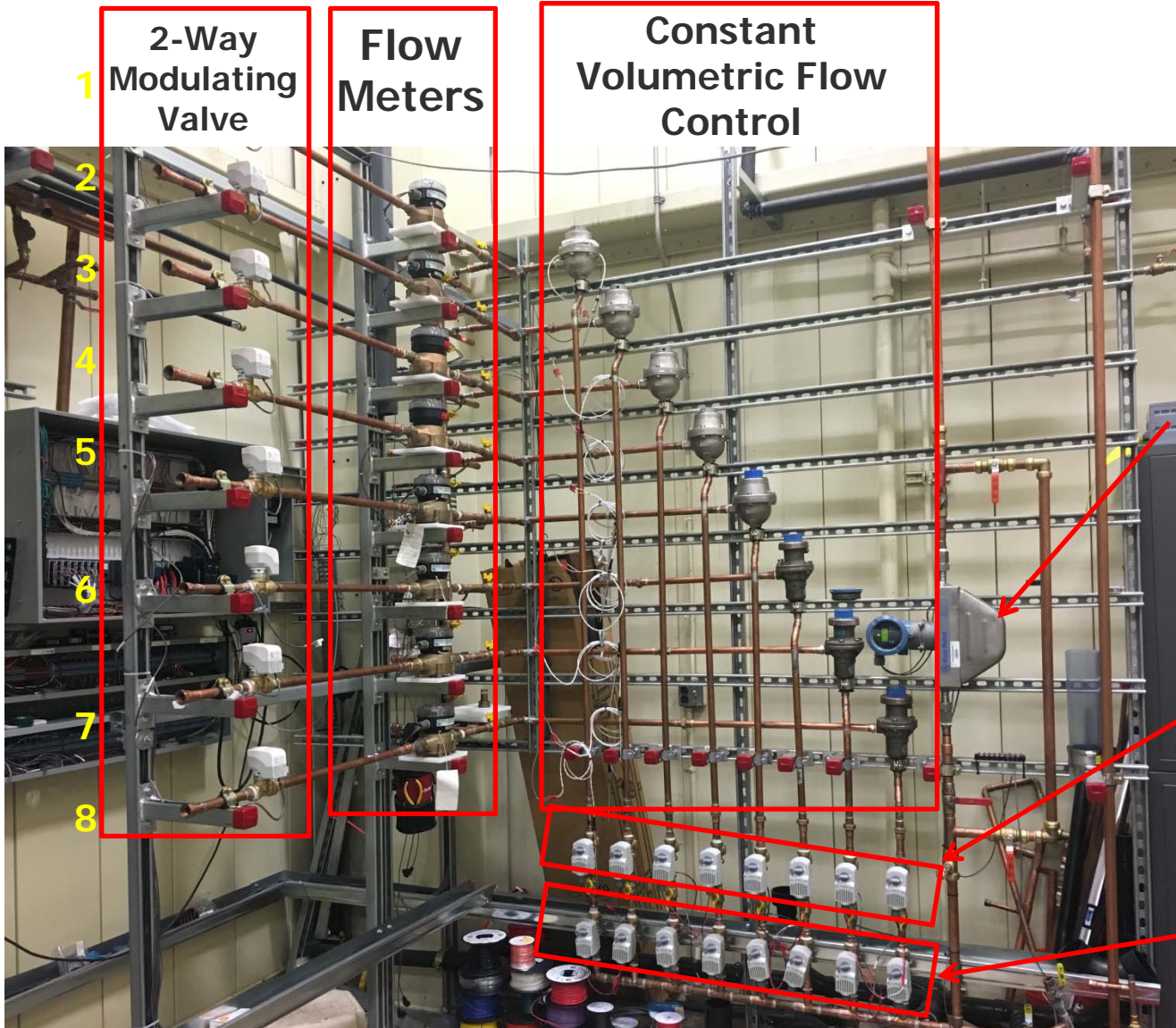
Constant Volumetric Flow Control

Coriolis Mass Flow Meter (Collects all Flow For Comparison)

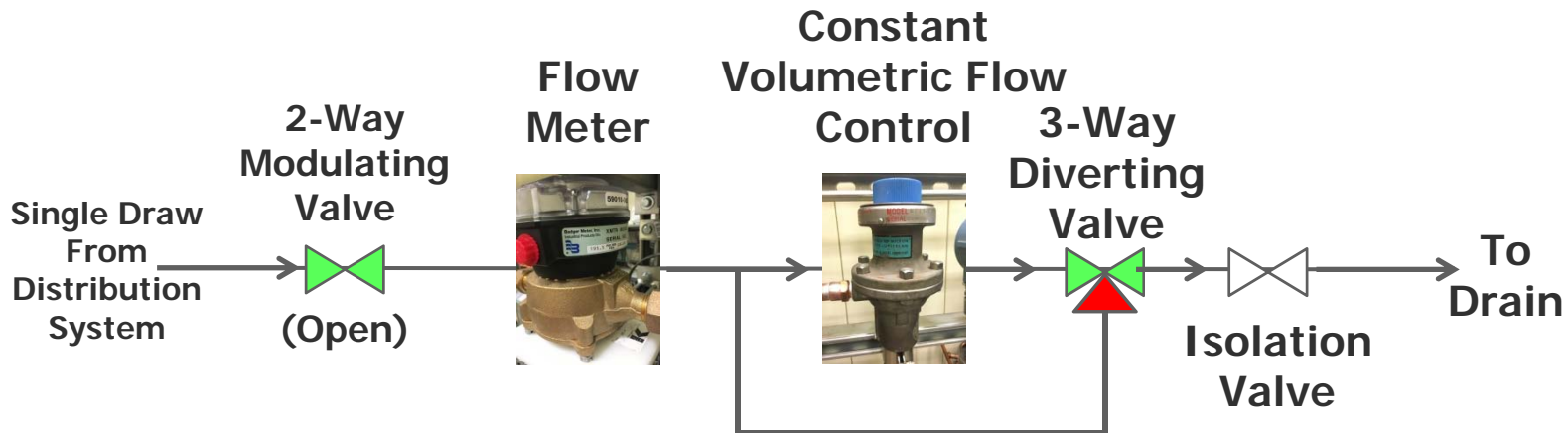
3-Way Diverter Valve (Throttling vs. Constant Volume)

Solenoid Isolation Valve

\*ATS Likely to add additional end uses



# Hot Water Draw Simulation – Flow Measurement and Control (Constant Volume Draws)



“Larger” Pressure Compensating Valve



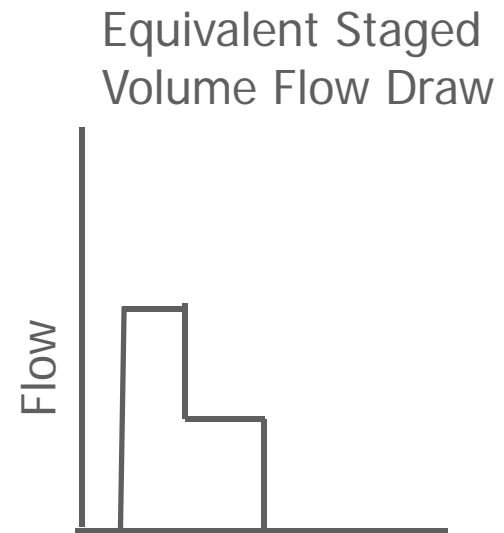
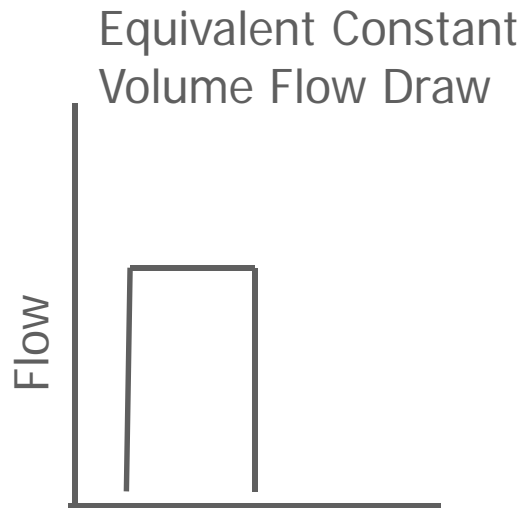
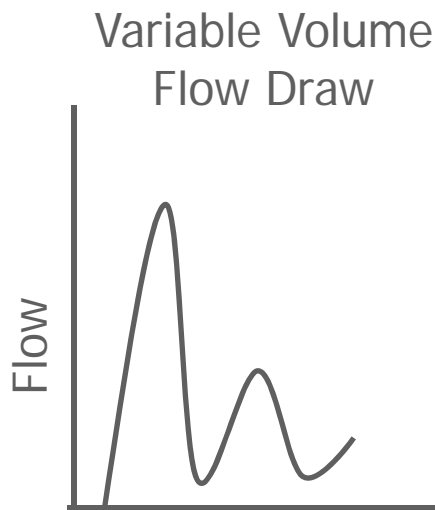
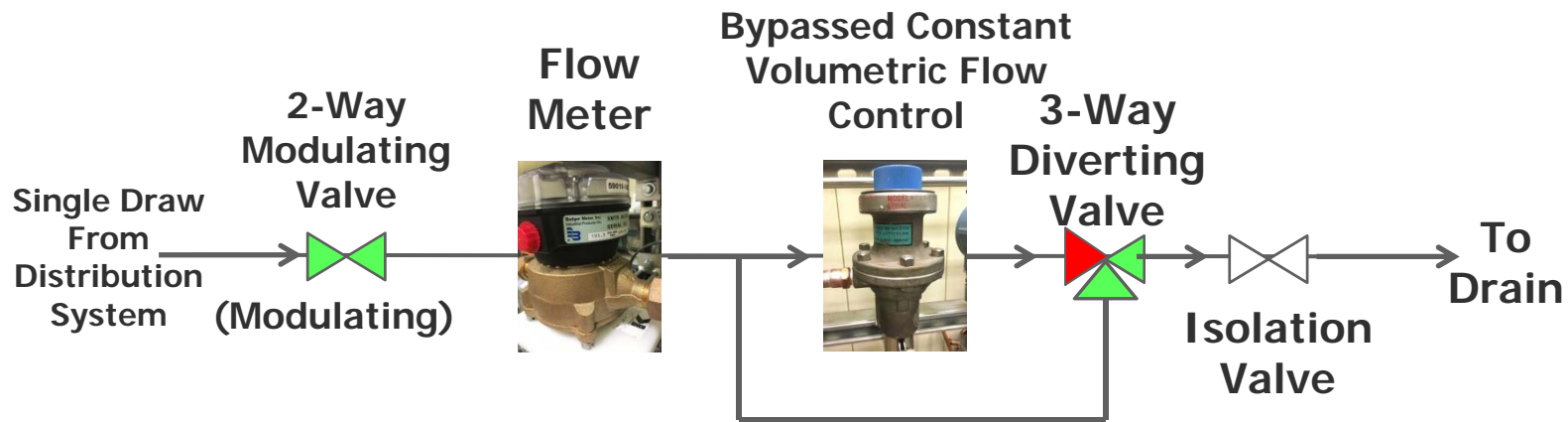
“Smaller” Pressure Compensating Valve



Volumetric Flow between  
 .2 – 3.0 gpm (smaller valves)  
 .7 – 20 (larger valves)<sup>24</sup>



# Hot Water Draw Simulation – Flow Measurement and Control (Variable Volume Draws) (Not Implemented Yet)



# Temperature Measurement and Calibration



4-wire RTD's Almost Exclusively Used



Isothermal Block for Temperature Calibration



# Pressure Measurement and Calibration

Rosemount Pressure Transmitters for Natural Gas Flow Compensation



\*Omega pressure transmitters purchased for measuring pressure drop in piping network

Dead Weight Tester – Calibration Standard



# Flow Measurement and Calibration



Diaphragm Meter w/  
Pulsing Transmitter

Coriolis Flow Meter



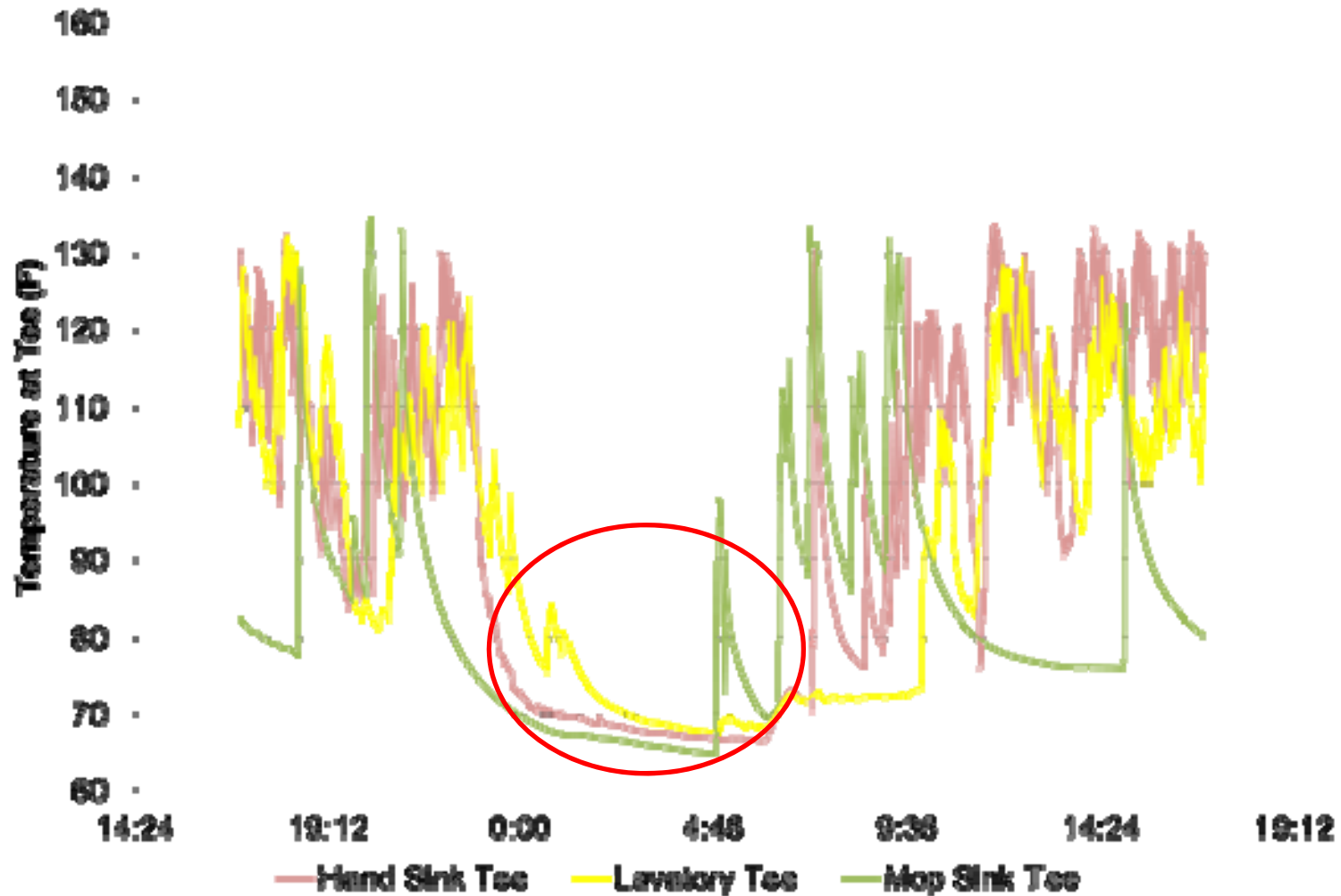
Nutating Disc Hot  
Water Meter



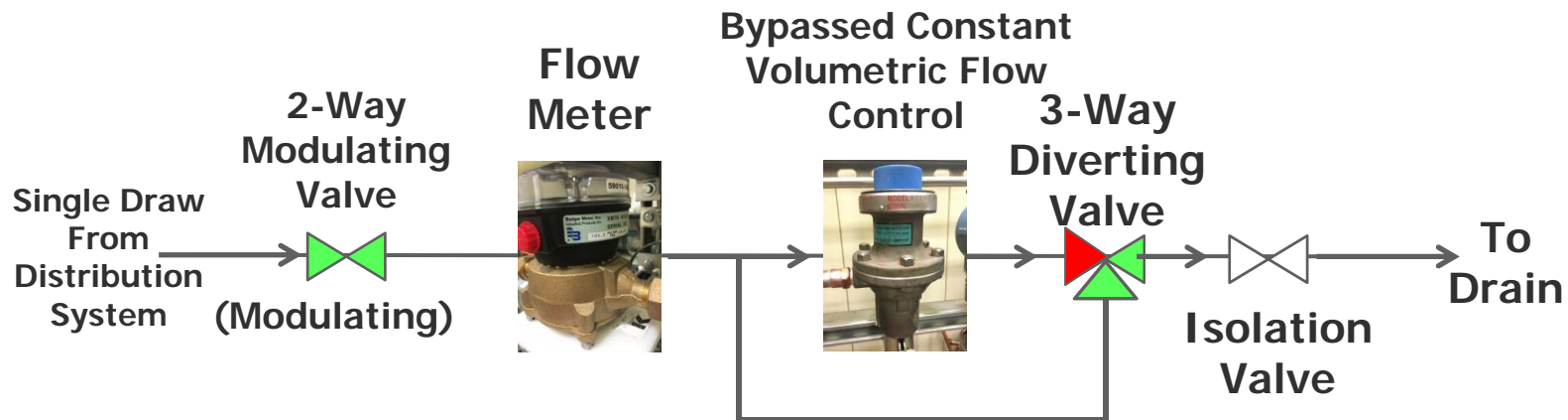
Coriolis Flow  
Calibration Standard



# Opportunities for Future Research – Account for Human Factors



# Accounting for Human Factors – Temperature Feedback and Min Temperature Criteria



- Force solenoid valve to remain open until water reaches specified temperature, and for a specified duration/volume

## Summary of Test Conditions

---

### Build Baseline and Optimized Distribution System on Rack

- Run Tests using each of the following
  - (2) Standard Efficiency Tankless Units (199,000 Btuh ea)
  - (1) Condensing Tankless (250,000 Btuh)
  - (1) Standard Efficiency Tank (199,000 Btuh)
  - (1) Condensing Tank (199,000 Btuh)
    - If possible, vary recirc return port location (upper/lower)
- Add insulation, program timeclock, aquastat, D'mand circulation, modify drop dimensions
- Run a variety of flow profiles if time permits

# Thank You

---

Questions?

[EMHk@pge.com](mailto:EMHk@pge.com)