



You think your day was bad...

The Water Treatment Facility in Northport, AL is located on the side of a hill with a sludge lagoon at the very bottom. Add to this picture an employee cutting grass with an elderly riding mower...

While mowing on the hill, the brakes failed. Both the mower and the employee went down the hill backwards. Sure enough, they wound up in the sludge lagoon.

The employee dismantled the mower with some explicit language. The poor guy was covered from head to toe with sludge.

Once it was clear he was fine, everyone thought it was hilarious. All that could be seen of the old mower was the steering wheel.

The facility got a brand new mower right away, and another every three years since.

—submitted by Michael Shaw



News from the Field

If It's Broke, then Fix It!

Sometimes it makes more sense to repair what you've already got. That's where USABlueBook's Repairs Department comes in.

The Repairs staff has 52 total years of experience repairing equipment. They offer in-house warranty and non-warranty repair for brands including YSI, LMI, Pulsafeeder and Stenner.

The Repairs staff will also evaluate non-warranty repairs for most other products. Evaluation is always free.

Don Samuelson, our Repairs Manager, says, "We're known for our fast turnaround times—two days or better on most repairs. Plus, customers can call our Customer Service department at any time to hear their product's status."

Don told BlueBits about two happy customers:

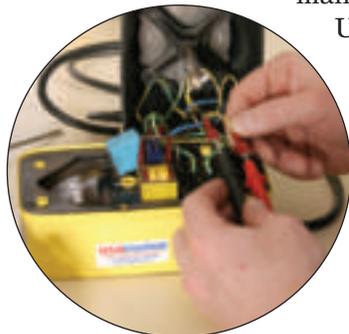
No need for the loaner

"A customer's pump had broken down and needed to be fixed ASAP. His process was too critical to be down for long, so he borrowed a loaner pump from USABlueBook to use while his pump was being fixed. However, it turned out the loaner pump wasn't needed—he got his repaired pump back after a one-day turnaround! He didn't even have time to install the loaner pump. This customer was very impressed with the both the professional repair job and the fast turnaround time."

The local guy

"A different customer sent his product to the manufacturer for repairs. When he got it back four weeks later, the unit still wasn't working right. The manufacturer suggested that the man drive the unit to USABlueBook, since he was local. He dropped it off in the late morning, and was called to pick up his fully functional unit the next morning. This customer said that he would tell all of his guys to use USABlueBook for repairs from now on."

If you don't want to spend the money purchasing new equipment and need it back in a hurry, give USABlueBook's Repairs Department a call!





Are You Ready for SSO Enforcement?

The Clean Water Act prohibits, among other things, overflow “spills” of untreated sanitary wastes into our lakes and streams. The EPA is concerned that many sanitary sewer systems are inadequate and frequent spills of contaminated waste presents an unacceptable threat to public health.

Legislation has been proposed to enact enhanced rules on SSOs (Sanitary Sewer Overflows), and we should plan on them being inevitable. The compliance cost will be substantial if your sewer system is in poor condition. We suggest the following steps:

- **Mapping.** The first thing you need to do is know what you have in the ground. System maps should be accurate and up to date. The easiest method of checking pipe location is to use a pipe locator and a “sonde” that can be fastened to the end of a sewer rod and pushed into a pipe to transmit to the receiver above.
- **Illegal Connections.** In most sanitary sewer systems, the biggest contributors to excessive flow are downspout, sump pump, and area drains that



have been connected by residents over the years. Smoke testing is the most efficient way of identifying these illegal connections.

- **Pipe Condition.** Unless your collection system is brand new, it is almost essential to do television inspection of the piping. You can expect to find broken pipes, leaking joints, protruding lateral connections, masses of roots, and possibly some other things that aren’t supposed to be there.

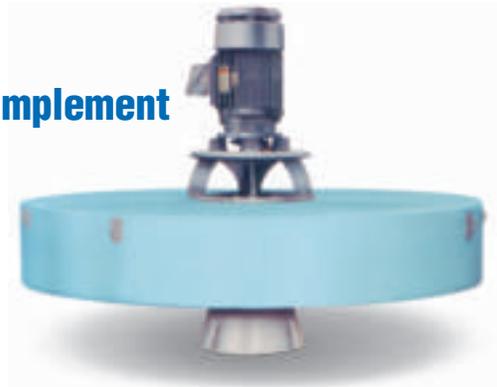
The sooner you find out what problems you have and establish an improvement program, the easier it will be when strict sewer enforcement begins.

Surface Aerators and Direct-Drive Mixers: a Perfect Complement

Using a surface aerator for oxygenation, mixing and maintaining biomass suspension in your system is a good idea. So is using a direct-drive mixer. However, if you use both together, you will have even better results.

Operating an up-flow surface aerator and a down-flow mixer together creates a complementary flow pattern that gives you better solids suspension and increased distribution of oxygen and substrate. The variable oxygen input keeps the system operating at the most efficient oxygen supply level.

Since this system requires less overall horsepower, you will improve your process efficiency. Energy costs are reduced by 30 to 40% in most applications.



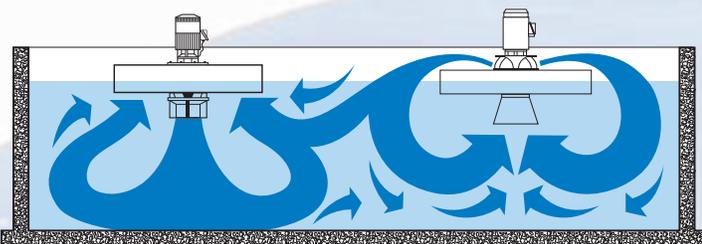
*Aqua DDM
direct-drive
mixer*

This system also eliminates short-circuiting, excess dissolved oxygen, and the need for tank baffles or full bottom coverage.

Applications include:

- Retrofitting existing aeration systems, including extended aeration, aerobic digestion, equalization and aerated lagoons
- Variable load, activated sludge systems
- Municipal-industrial combinations
- Oxidation ditches
- Long residence time processes in cold climates

Aqua-Aerobic®’s MixAir System combines an AquaDDM direct drive mixer with an Aqua-Jet surface aerator. The Aqua-Aerobic products are new to our #118 catalog. You can find them on pages 53 and 1379.



Combining an up-flow surface aerator (left) and down-flow mixer (right) results in better mixing and energy efficiency.



Break Time!

Catalog Trivia Contest

Find the answers to our trivia questions in the #118 Master Catalog and get entered in a drawing for a **\$50 Home Depot gift card!**

To enter, answer the questions below. Either e-mail your answers to stories@usabluebook.com or fax this page to 847-775-6908 no later than May 25, 2007. A winner will be randomly selected and announced in the next newsletter.

Don't have a #118 Master Catalog? Don't delay—call 1-800-548-1234 and we'll get one right out to you.



1. What is USABlueBook's main fax number?

2. What number do you call if you need 24/7 emergency service/shipping?

3. Write the name and page number of any new product in the Tools Section.

4. What pages are our new Chemical Feed Skid systems located on? (Hint: there are 3 pages).

5. Name any two clothing brands available in our Workwear section.

6. Which catalog section is your main source for Books and Software?

7. On what page numbers can you find our new Gauges section?



Good luck!

off the mark.com

by Mark Parisi



Great People

Meet...Kevin!

Kevin Taylor is a Senior Merchant at USABlueBook. Other positions he has held during his 8 years here include Product Manager and Technical Support Manager.

What's your background?

I've been involved in Wastewater Treatment for twenty years. I started as an Operator Trainee and rose through the ranks to Assistant Superintendent of a large treatment plant. I have a degree in Wastewater Treatment and Business Management. I received my Class 1 Illinois Wastewater Operator's License in 1993, which is the highest available here in Illinois.

Favorite thing about USABB: The focus on providing the best customer service possible. The employees here know that our customers are responsible for their community's or city's water supply or wastewater treatment plant. Taking care of the customer is Job #1.

Hobbies?: bow hunting, fishing and chauffeuring my kids all over the county to every sporting or social event imaginable!



BlueBits

News and Bits from **USABlueBook**

Look inside for:

- News from the Field
- Tech Talk
- Great People
- Break Time!

**Get \$50
the easy
way!**



Have an interesting or funny work story to share? Send it to us at stories@usabluebook.com. If we publish it, you'll receive a \$50 Home Depot gift card or a \$50 USABlueBook credit. Well, what are you waiting for?



Calendar

Just released: Catalog # 118!

Check out our expanded product listings! We have increased product offerings for custom chemical feed skid systems, polymer feed systems, gauges, pneumatic valves, lab apparel and more.

You'll also find more Operator Notes that offer helpful technical tips to help in both product selection and troubleshooting.

Don't have one? Call 1-800-548-1234 today to get your copy of the newest USABlueBook catalog!



Upcoming Trade Shows

Come visit us at the following tradeshows. Many of our shows also offer field training opportunities:

Florida Water Resources	Orlando, FL	April 15 to 18
Oklahoma Rural Water Assn.	Tulsa, OK	April 23 to 25
New York's Water Event	Saratoga Springs, NY	April 24 to 27
Maryland Rural Water Assn.	Ocean City, MD	April 29 to May 1
New York Rural Water Assn.	Saratoga, NY	May 8 to 11
Tennessee Assn. of Utility Dist.	Lebanon, TN	May 17th
Georgia Rural Water Assn.	Jekyll Island, GA	May
AWWA Annual Conference	Toronto, ON	June 24 to 28
Louisiana Rural Water Assn.	Alexandria, LA	July 16 to 19