

A Morin -2 X**A METHOD TO CONTROL OUT PUMPING FROM A SEWAGE PUMP STATION**

The invention concerns a method to control starts and stops of a pump or pumps in a sewage pump station the pumps being of the submersible type.

A pump of this type comprises a tank having an inlet for sewage water and one or several electrically driven pumps arranged in the lower part of the tank. The pump/pumps are connected to a pressure pipe which brings the pumped water away.

When using pumps it is of course important to avoid dry operation as much as possible as this increases wear and energy demand. It is also an advantage to let the surrounding water cool the electric motor which means that the pumps are normally stopped when the water level has reached the upper part of the pump.

The impulses to start and stop the pump/pumps may be obtained by help of level switches which are arranged at different levels in the tank or by means which monitor the current consumption. There are different systems for this which include possibilities to alternate the pumps in a tank containing at least two pumps and also to initiate an earlier or later start if the previous operation cycle has been long or short caused by a large or a small inflow to the tank. Compare the Swedish Patents No:s 469 408 and 420 788.

A disadvantage with an automatic stop of the pump when the water level has reached the upper part of the pump is that sludge and other pollutions easily collect within the lower volume of the tank which is never emptied. These pollutions easily stick to the pump impellers and might mean very frequent service intervals. The present development towards narrow pump stations increases the problems. A common way to solve an acute situation is to operate the pumps backwards by disconnecting the automatic control.

According to the invention the problem to diminish the risks for collection of pollutions that may cause stops in operation is solved by help of the method stated in the claims. The system, called APF and mainly used for two pumps, is connected in parallel with the ordinary system and so designed that one pump operates if any of the systems indicate operation.

The ordinary system normally controls start and stop of the pumps. The APF system then measures the current via a current transformer and registers the normal current consumption. By this reference values are obtained and stored for each pump.

At certain times, for instance once or some times per day, APF is programmed to take over the control from the ordinary system. The operation of a pump then continues until the water level has reached the pump inlet causing the pump to suck air. The current consumption then goes down and after a certain deviation from previously stored reference values, the pump is stopped. Compare the Swedish Patent No 469 408.

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In this way the water amount remaining within the tank is minimized and thus the amount of remaining pollutions is also minimized. In addition deposits and layers on the walls and on the pumps will be broken down and may more easily be pumped away.

The question of how often the pumping shall continue down to the lower level mentioned, is depending on local conditions, i.e. mainly on the amount of pollutions in the water. Under certain circumstances the operation should be carried out once per hour. Sometimes once per day may be sufficient. The operation may also be performed after a certain number of normal stops. The equipment used to obtain the function is so designed that various alternatives may be chosen.

The enclosed drawing shows a block diagram over the system according to the invention.

In the drawing A stands for a current transformer, B a rectifier, C a low-pass filter, D an amplifier, E a rotary switch, F a push button, G a switch, H indication lamps and I pumps.

A current signal from a pump is obtained by a current transformer (A) through which one of the conductors of the pump motor is drawn. The input is designed to register the absolute value and the differential coefficient of the motor current.

The signal is rectified in a first step (B) and is then treated in three cascade low-pass filters which form together a certain time constant (0,26 sec as an example). In addition to build the mean value for the signal the filter also serves as an anti folding filter for the following sampling.

A subsequent amplifier (D) amplifies the signal to adopt the level of the processor (5.7 times in the example).

The input voltage is 0-5 V. During normal motor operation the current transformer generates 55 mA which obtain a voltage of 2,5 V into the processor.

A transducer integrated within the processor transforms the measured signal into digital form (10 bits) which makes it possible to treat the signal by software.

The signal treatment shall make it possible to detect changes in the current consumption of a pump motor which is characterizing for a pump which starts sucking air. Two events are defined to lead to a stop:

1. A negative differential coefficient of the amplitude of the current exceeding a certain value.
2. A deviation of a current value from the reference value exceeding a certain percent (6 or 12 %).

In order to analyze the current with reference to point 1 above, the signal is filtered through a high-pass filter having a time constant of 0,68 sec. In this way the changes that should lead to a stop are exposed.

The signal treatment according to point 2 means that the absolute values of the motor current are measured and compared with the stored reference values.

For setting the number of cycles of down pumpings per day a binary coded rotary switch (E) is used. The value is read by the microprocessor which transform the frequency into time between pumping cycles.

When APF is started, a counting down of the determined time to next down pumping is started. When the time has lapsed, a down pumping cycle is started the first time a pump is started alone. When the down pumping is finished, the register is reloaded and a new counting down is started.

The push button (F) is used to start down pumping at next pump start and also to initiate a new reference current value for the stop function.

Four dual-position switches (G) are used to set the parameters. A blank time (during which the stop function is non-active after start) is set to avoid fault functions depending on initial current differences.

(H) in the block diagram symbolizes indications of different functions with diodes for feeding voltage, pump relay 1, pump relay 2, current input 1, current input 2 and "down pumping phase at next pump operation".

The system described above is an example of how the control can be made. However, the invention is universal and not depending on which type of level security systems that are used in the pump station. The important thing is that the pumping continues to a lower level automatically according to a certain scheme.

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CLAIMS

1. A method to control stops of an intermittently operating electric motor such as a driving motor for a submersible pump arranged in a pump station for sewage water, starts and stops of the motor being dependent of the water level in the pump station or of the current consumption of any other electric parameter possible to measure and where a stop of the motor normally is initiated when the water level has gone down to the upper part of the motor, characterized in that pumping down to a lower level until the pump or pumps start sucking air takes place at certain times, e g once or at certain times per day or after a certain number of pump starts.
2. A method to control stops of an intermittently operating electric motor according to claim 1, characterized in that the stop is controlled by the absolute value of the current, changes of said value or swift variations of said value.
3. A method to control stops of an intermittently operating electric motor according to claim 1, characterized in that the stop is controlled by changes of the energy consumption of the motor.

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