

**Given:**

Electric power is to be generated by installing a hydraulic turbine–generator at a site 70 m below the free surface of a large water reservoir that can supply water at a rate of 1500 kg/s steadily. Neglect losses in the pipes.

**Required:**

If the mechanical power output of the turbine is 800 kW and the electric power generation is 750 kW, determine the turbine efficiency and the combined turbine-generator efficiency of this plant.

**Solution:**

The elevation change is given as

$$h := 70 \text{ m}$$

The mass flow rate of the water is defined as

$$\dot{m} := 1500 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{s}}$$

The power output of the turbine is

$$\dot{E}'_{turb} := 800 \text{ kW}$$

The power output of the generator is

$$\dot{E}'_{gen} := 750 \text{ kW}$$

The mechanical energy extracted from the fluid is given by the expression below.

$$\Delta \dot{E}'_{mech} = \dot{m} \cdot \left( \frac{P_2 - P_1}{\rho} + \frac{V_2^2 - V_1^2}{2} + g_e \cdot (z_2 - z_1) \right)$$

Recognizing that the pressure at state 1 and 2 are both at atmospheric conditions, the change in pressure term goes to zero. This is shown below.

$$\Delta \dot{E}'_{mech} = \dot{m} \cdot \left( \frac{V_2^2 - V_1^2}{2} + g_e \cdot (z_2 - z_1) \right)$$

Similarly, the velocities at state 1 and 2 are relatively low (i.e. approximately zero). So the change in the squares of the velocities goes to zero. This is shown below.

$$\Delta \dot{E}'_{mech} = \dot{m} \cdot g_e \cdot (z_2 - z_1) \quad \text{or} \quad \Delta \dot{E}'_{mech} := \dot{m} \cdot g_e \cdot h = 1.03 \text{ MW}$$

The efficiency of the turbine is then

$$\eta_{turb} := \frac{\dot{E}'_{turb}}{\Delta \dot{E}'_{mech}} = 77.69 \%$$

The efficiency of the turbine-generator system is then

$$\eta_{turb-gen} := \frac{\dot{E}'_{gen}}{\Delta \dot{E}'_{mech}} = 72.84 \%$$

**Discussion:**

These answers are reasonable. It is expected that the efficiency of the turbine-generator system would be less than that of just the turbine. The efficiency of just the generator could also be determined. This is shown below.

$$\eta_{gen} := \frac{E'_{gen}}{E'_{turb}} = 93.75 \%$$

The efficiency of the turbine-generator system is then found by

$$\eta_{turb-gen} := \eta_{turb} \cdot \eta_{gen} = 72.84 \%$$

This matches the previous answer.