

Blandford MTA Tower Wind Monitoring

This document provides information not repeated in the monthly wind monitoring updates.

Instrumentation and Equipment

Wind monitoring equipment is mounted on the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority (MTA) tower at Blandford. A wind vane and two anemometers are located at two heights on the tower: 60 m and 40 m. Details of the equipment and models are:

- NRG model Symphonie Cellogger
- 4 – #40 Anemometers, standard calibration (Slope - 0.765 m/s, Offset – 0.350 m/s)
- 2 - #200P Wind direction vanes
- NRG 110S temperature Sensor

The data from the Symphonie logger is retrieved on a regular basis. The logger samples wind speed and direction once every two seconds. These are then combined into 10-minute averages, and along with the standard deviation for those 10-minute periods, are put into a binary file. These binary files are converted to ASCII text files using the NRG software BaseStation®. These text files are then imported into a database software program where they are subjected to QA tests prior to using the data.

Test Definitions

All raw data were subjected to a series of validation tests, as described below. The sensors tested are given below. Data which were flagged as invalid were not included in the statistics presented in this report.

MinMax Test: All sensors are expected to report data values within a range specified by the sensor and logger manufacturers. If a value falls outside this range, it is flagged as invalid. A data value from the sensor listed in Test Field 1 (TF1) is flagged if it is less than Factor 1 (F1) or greater than Factor 2. This test has been applied to the following sensors (as applicable): wind speed, wind speed standard deviation, wind direction, temperature, and solar insolation.

$$F1 > TF1 > F2$$

MinMaxT Test: This is a MinMax test for wind direction standard deviation with different ranges applied for high and low wind speeds. A wind direction standard

deviation data value (TF1) is flagged either if it is less than Factor 1, if the wind speed (TF2) is less than Factor 4 and the wind direction standard deviation is greater than Factor 2, or if the wind speed is greater than or equal to Factor 4 and the wind direction standard deviation is greater than Factor 3.

$$\begin{aligned} & (TF1 < F1) \\ & \text{or } (TF2 < F4 \text{ and } TF1 > F2) \\ & \text{or } (TF2 \geq F4 \text{ and } TF1 > F3) \end{aligned}$$

Icing Test: An icing event occurs when ice collects on a sensor and degrades its performance. Icing events are characterized by the simultaneous measurements of near-zero standard deviation of wind direction, non-zero wind speed, and near- or below-freezing temperatures. Wind speed, wind speed standard deviation, wind direction, and wind direction standard deviation data values are flagged if the wind direction standard deviation (CF1) is less than or equal to Factor 1 (F1), the wind speed (TF1) is greater than Factor 2 (F2), and the temperature (CF2) is less than Factor 3 (F3). To exit an icing event, the wind direction standard deviation must be greater than Factor 4.

$$CF1 \leq F1 \text{ and } TF1 > F2 \text{ and } CF2 < F3$$

CompareSensors Test: Where primary and redundant sensors are used, it is possible to determine when one of the sensors is not performing properly. For anemometers, poor performance is characterized by low data values. Therefore, if one sensor of the pair reports values significantly below the other, the low values are flagged. At low wind speeds (Test Fields 1 and 2 less than or equal to Factor 3) wind speed data are flagged if the absolute difference between the two wind speeds is greater than Factor 1. At high wind speeds (Test Fields 1 or 2 greater than Factor 3) wind speed data are flagged if the absolute value of the ratio of the two wind speeds is greater is greater than Factor 2.

$$\begin{aligned} & [TF1 \leq F3 \text{ and } TF2 \leq F3 \text{ and } \text{abs}(TF1 - TF2) > F1] \\ & \text{or} \\ & [(TF1 > F3 \text{ or } TF2 > F3) \text{ and } (\text{abs}(1 - TF1 / TF2) > F2 \text{ or } \text{abs}(1 - TF2 / TF1) > F2)] \end{aligned}$$

Table1 : Test Definitions

TestOrder	TestField1	TestField2	TestField3	CalcField1	CalcField2	CalcField3	TestType	Factor1	Factor2	Factor3	Factor4
1							TimeTest Insert	0	0	0	0
4	Etmp2adegc						MinMax	-30	60	0	0
5	EtmpSD2adegc						MinMax	-30	60	0	0
10	Anem60ams						MinMax	0	90	0	0
11	Anem60bms						MinMax	0	90	0	0
12	Anem40ams						MinMax	0	90	0	0
13	Anem40bms						MinMax	0	90	0	0
20	AnemSD60ams						MinMax	0	4	0	0
21	AnemSD60bms						MinMax	0	4	0	0
22	AnemSD40ams						MinMax	0	4	0	0
23	AnemSD40bms						MinMax	0	4	0	0
30	Vane60adeg						MinMax	0	359.9	0	0
31	Vane40adeg						MinMax	0	359.9	0	0
50	Turb60zNONE						MinMax	0	2	0	0
51	Turb40zNONE						MinMax	0	2	0	0
60	Wshr0zNONE						MinMax	-100	100	0	0
70	Pwr60zWMS						MinMax	0	5000	0	0
71	Pwr40zWMS						MinMax	0	5000	0	0
200	VaneSD60adeg	Anem60yms					MinMaxT	0	100	100	10
201	VaneSD40adeg	Anem40yms					MinMaxT	0	100	100	10
300	Anem60ams	AnemSD60ams	Vane60adeg	VaneSD60adeg	Etmp2adegc		Icing	0.5	1	2	10
301	Anem60bms	AnemSD60bms	Vane60adeg	VaneSD60adeg	Etmp2adegc		Icing	0.5	1	2	10
302	Anem40ams	AnemSD40ams	Vane40adeg	VaneSD40adeg	Etmp2adegc		Icing	0.5	1	2	10
303	Anem40bms	AnemSD40bms	Vane40adeg	VaneSD40adeg	Etmp2adegc		Icing	0.5	1	2	10
400	Anem60ams	Anem60bms					CompareSensors	1	0.25	3	0
401	Anem40ams	Anem40bms					CompareSensors	1	0.25	3	0