

## **EPANET SPATIAL MODELING FOR EQUITABLE PIPE-BORNE WATER DISTRIBUTION IN CALABAR METROPOLIS, CROSS RIVER STATE, SOUTHERN NIGERIA**

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**Abstract:** Epanet network modeling tools perform real-time simulation of hydraulic behavior within pipe networks and are designed to be a research tool that improves understanding of the movement and performance of water within a distribution system. An extended period simulation of 6:00 am, 12:00 noon and 6:00pm times of the day was performed using data obtained from the water board, Earth Explorer and Google Earth. Based on universal standards, a minimum pressure of 15m and maximum of 70m as well as a minimum flow-rate of 0.15 litres per second (LPS) were benchmarked. Locations with pressures and flow-rates that fell short of the standards were identified. Notably were areas around Barracks Road and Bogobiri Streets in Eta Agbor zone where 15 junctions depicted low pressures at dawn. Similar situations were observed in Ikot Effanga zone, mostly in Federal Housing Estate where at least 100 pipe junctions were deficient in pressures at all simulated times. Low pressures were also discovered in Atekong Drive, Ediba Road and Chief Obot Streets of the Diamond Hill zone. About 7 junctions also showed pressures higher than 70m at the north-eastern end of Ediba Qua zone. The height of the elevated water tanks (EWTs) and pipe junctions above mean sea level (AMSL) proved to significantly influence the water pressure. Results further showed that there were more pipes with flow-rates lower than 0.15 LPS at noon time in all the distribution zones, when household water consumption is usually most minimal. The implication of low pressures and subsequent flow-rates is intermittency or water hammer at consumer points. A reassessment of the existing pipe-borne water distribution network of the metropolis was recommended guided by the simulation result, precisely, the installation of pressure pumps enroute locations with low pressures and flows as well as pressure breaks for high situations.

**Keywords:** Epanet modeling, Pipe-borne water distribution, water pressure, water flow-rate.

### **1.0 Background to the Study**

Water quality models are increasingly being routinely used to help ascertain the performance of water distribution systems for design and operational management purposes. Practical application of hydraulic modeling progressed significantly in the 1990s with the introduction

of the public domain EPANET model (Rossman, 2000). Other Windows-based commercial water distribution system models such as Water CAD and Water GEMS were introduced as well. However, advance in applications development now allow for the construction of models that reflect both the temporal and spatial behavior of the network, known as Extended Period Simulation (EPS) models (Fitaye, 2015). Hydraulic modeling functionality has therefore become essential in the global water industry and is now an integral part of most water system design, master planning, and fire flow analysis, particularly in the developed world (Walski *et al.* 2003). Other scholars (Harding, 2007; Arunkumar and Mariappan, 2011; Bwire, Onchiri and Mburu, 2015; Ayanshola and Sule, 2006, etc.) have used the Epanet 2 pressure-dependent hydraulic model extensively to simulate the performance of water distribution systems. The application of this methodology becomes necessary due to the problems of inequitable access to pipe-borne water distribution in Calabar.

The Water Project Report (2014) indicated that 783 million people do not have access to clean and safe water, 37 percent of this population is in sub-Saharan Africa (United Nations Sustainable Development Plan, 2015). This informed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 6 (UNSDGs). The sixth goal of the sustainable development goal (SDG) is to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable water by the year 2030 (UNSDP, 2015). Water collection, treatment and distribution in Nigerian are a duties long assigned to the State Water Boards (SWBs) Agencies or Corporations. In Calabar metropolis, the provision of pipe-borne water has been tasked to the CRSWBL since 1998 which was earlier established as Water Board, by edict No. 13 of 1975. Its major functions were to establish, control, manage and develop new water works and to extend and develop existing ones for the purpose of providing water for individual and domestic needs (Cross River State Technical Unit, 2009). In 2015, CRSWBL recorded an average monthly water supply of 573,981 m<sup>3</sup>. The supply rate has gradually increased since inception of the water board service where in 2007 the average monthly supply was 360,738 m<sup>3</sup> (CRSWBL, 2015). CRSWBL distributes processed water from their treatment facility at Ndidem Isong Road, Calabar, through a series of pipes, mostly of plasticized polyvinyl chloride (PVC) materials. The water is pumped from the ground level reservoirs (GLRs) into the elevated water tanks (EWTs) from where it is gravitationally fed to homes. The behavior of a water distribution system is governed by; physical laws that describe the flow relationships in the pipes and hydraulic control elements, consumer demand, and system layout (Ostfield, Kogan and Shamir, 2002).

Changing technology and the availability of detailed spatial data have allowed for the representation of geographic phenomena in a Geographic Information System (GIS) to more closely resemble real-world phenomena (Cromley and McLafferty, 2002; Matthew, 2012). These fast growing technologies have introduced real-time computer simulation modeling of water networks, such as the Epanet 2.0 software designed by the Water Supply and Water Resources Division of the United States Environmental Protection Agency used in this study to model the present distribution situation in the area. This tool becomes handy for planning of pipe network systems to meet present and forecasted water demands as well as to manage the operation status of the system (Rossman, 2000).

Calabar metropolis is the capital city of Cross River State in south-south Nigeria. It lies between longitudes 8°18'00''E to 8°24'00''E and latitudes 4°54'00''N to 5°04'00''N. The Metropolis covers a land area of 137.039 square kilometers (sqkm) and an estimated population of 435,196 in 2016. Calabar is located on a gently undulating plain ranging from 85 (Ikot Effanga) to 09 (Eta Agbor) mean sea levels. The pipe-borne water distribution area is delineated into 4 zones; Ikot Effanga, Diamond Hill, Ediba Qua, and Eta Agbor distribution zones (figure 1). Each zone has its EWT and a network of pipes and junctions. The pipes vary in size from the 600mm diameter pipes which convey water from the tanks to the 75mm pipes and finally to the service lines which disburse the water to residences. Therefore the focus of this study is to use Epanet spatial modeling tools in assessing the physical challenges of sustainable pipe-borne water distribution in Calabar. This is with a focus on water pressure and flow rate at the consumer points.

## **2.0 Literature Review**

Empirical literatures as regards to spatial modeling of pipe-borne water distribution are lacking within the scope of this study, in as much as recent technologies abound on how to simulate water distribution from available data in other locations. Sonaje (2015) buttressed the continual increase in demand for portable water geared by a corresponding increase in population. He noted that the ever increasing demand can be taken care of by designing efficient water distribution networks based on advance computing systems including modern hydraulic modeling and designing software including Epanet (public domain software), Branch and Loop, Aquis, Water GEMS, Water CAD, etc.

Harding (2007) assessed the water distribution system of Mae La Temporary Shelter, Thailand using GIS techniques. About 7,117 homes were selected as samples for the study using Google Earth and in situ visits. ArcGIS and Epanet were used to evaluate the predicted

daily volume of drinking water available per home. His research found out that flow rates predicted by the Epanet model are highly dependent on the elevation of distribution system infrastructure points, which are difficult to determine accurately. Thus, while the final results show one in four homes are not adequately served, the reliability of the rope-pump-well proximity assessment and volume per home assessment is insufficient, and the findings could be overly pessimistic. However, the research showed that the vast majority of residents in Mae La have sufficient access to water.

The work of Arunkumar and Mariappan (2011) in urbanized areas of Chennai Metropolitan, Tamil Nadu, India, examined the water demand analysis of public water supply in municipalities using Epanet software. This was with the aim of providing effective planning, development and operation of water supply and distribution networks. The study used data provided by the municipality to delineate the areas that are un-served or underserved and the demands for these areas calculated. The pipe-borne water network of the area was analyzed for a 24 and 6 hour supply and the consumer satisfaction in obtaining water at the tail end without any loss of pressure. The 6 hour analysis which represented intermittent supply as mostly experienced in the area showed pressure loss at tail ends. Recommendations were made on practical ways to balance distribution for intermittent supply through maintaining even pressure at all nodes during supply.

Bwire, Onchiri and Mburu (2015) opined that a well-designed water system is meant to operate optimally such that consumers have access to portable water of sufficient pressure and quality at all times. Their study investigated the operations of Kimilili water supply system in Bungoma County of Kenya in terms of pressure variations from the treatment works to the consumer points. The main objective was to simulate pressure variations in the distribution system using Epanet software and compare with measured data in the field. Results from their analyses showed that simulated water pressure did not vary significantly with the actual values indicating that the pipes still had their hydraulic capacities even though some sections of the network need augmentation.

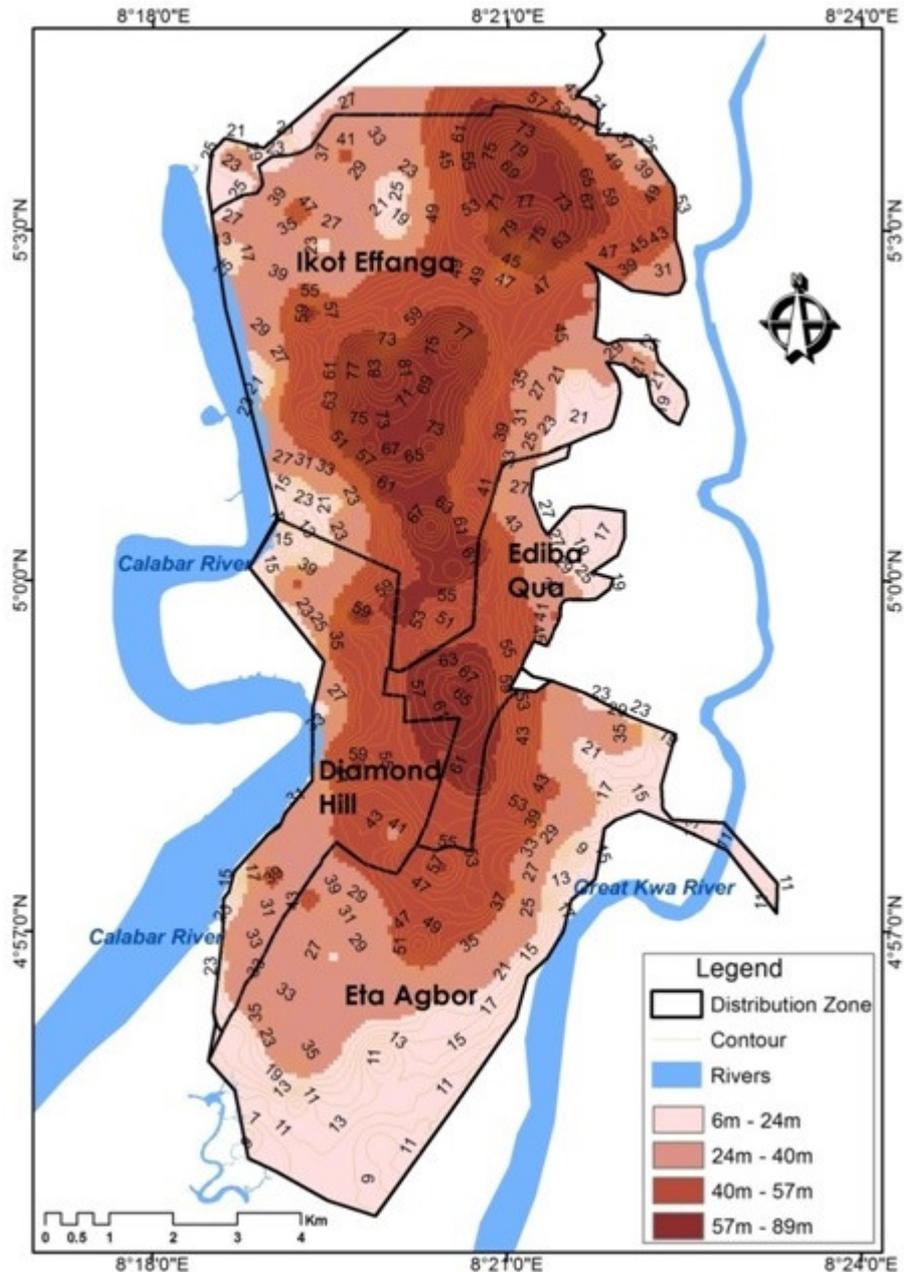


FIG 1: Topography of Calabar metropolis and the four distribution zones  
(Source: Earth Explorer, 2015; Author's field work, 2016)

Furthermore, Ayanshola and Sule (2006) assessed the flow pressure in selected zones of Ilorin township water supply network, in Kwara State, Nigeria. Pipe network analysis was carried out based on the demand for 10 cases using the location of the service reservoirs and the actual production for distribution to three zones within the study area. The maximum and the minimum nodal pressures obtained were compared with recommended values for satisfactory performance of a water supply pipe network. This review shows that lapses in pipe-borne water distribution due to insufficient flow rate and pressure can impede equitable access to the service by households.

### 3.0 Materials and Methods

Data were sourced from the 1991 census data from the NPC and CRSWBL data such as; the 2015 map of pipe-borne water network and distribution zones, locational and attribute data of EWTs, pipes and junctions. A 1-arc second resolution Advanced Space-borne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER) Digital Elevation Model of the metropolis was also sourced from Earth Explorer ([www.earthexplorer.usgs.gov](http://www.earthexplorer.usgs.gov), 2015) to aid in determining the topographic nature of the area. GIS analytical methods were used to model the existing pipe-borne water network of the metropolis in preparation for the pipe network data in a geometric network topology, plotting the tank locations (points) and distinguishing the pipes (lines) from the junctions (nodes). The Epanet program performed real-time simulation of hydraulic and water quality behavior within pressurized pipe networks and is designed to be a research tool that improves our understanding of the movement and fate of water within the system (Rossman, 1999).

To simulate daily water use, analyze the pressure at each node and track the flow of water in each pipe, attribute data of the EWTs, pipes and junctions (Table 1) were imputed into the software. The ground elevation of these components are very important in the network as it greatly determines the pressure and flow rate of water to homes, especially as the CRSWBL uses a gravity fed distribution system consistent with Harding (2007). The simulation was done for each distribution zone, as households in each zone are served from their respective EWTs. Parameters set included the Hazen-Williams (H-W) head-loss formula to compute the hydraulic head lost by water flowing in a pipe due to friction with the pipe walls (Almasri, 2012), and others shown in Table 2. Furthermore, a household water demand time pattern was assigned for each junction, representing demand at different times of the day. The 24 hour time period pattern was used, where water demand was modeled to be higher in the early hours of the morning and in the evening guided by Rossman's (2000) EPANET 2 User's Manual. This pattern also aided in Extended Period Simulation (EPS) of pressure and flow rate at different hours of the day (6:00am, 12 noon and 6:00pm).

According to Ayanshola and Sule (2006), the minimum residual pressure for pipe network systems pressure varies from one water agency to another and among countries. Bhardwaj (2001) recommended a minimum pressure head of 25m and maximum of 70m. Arunkumar and Mariappan, 2011, quoted the Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering, New Delhi, India (1999) to have stipulated a minimum pressure of 12m at destination junctions. About 35m and 140m were recommended by Washington State University Uniform Design

Standard (1998). However, due to lack of local standards, the American Water Works Association (1956) recommendation of a minimum of 15m and a maximum of 70m was adopted. Any pressure less than 15m is deemed insufficient and might infer total water loss at node. In the same vein, where the pressure is more than 70m, water hammer occurs where the water mains are susceptible to breaks and damages (Bwire, Onchiri and Mburu, 2015). Also, according to the United Kingdom's Office of Water Services (OFWAT, 1999), a flow rate of at least 0.15 litre per second is acceptable. A flow rate below the standard would also mean discontinuous flow of water at the consumer end of the pipes.

**Table 1:** EWT location and attributes data

Tank	Location	Attribute	Value	Tank	Location	Attribute	Value
Eta Agbor EWT	8 20 33.095E 4 57 19.815N	Diameter	24m	Ediba Qua EWT	8 20 47.248E 4 59 10.118N	Diameter	24m
		Minimum level	2.7m			Minimum level	2.7m
		Initial level	5.5m			Initial level	5.5m
		Maximum level	11m			Maximum level	11m
		Ground height (AMSL)	50m			Ground height (AMSL)	60m
		Tank height	25m			Tank height	25m
		Volume	2100m <sub>3</sub>			Volume	2800m <sub>3</sub>
Ikot Effanga EWT	8 20 56.861E 5 2 14.173N	Diameter	24m	Diamond Hill EWT	8 19 40.611E 4 58 36.447N	Diameter	24m
		Minimum level	2.7m			Minimum level	2.7m
		Initial level	5.5m			Initial level	5.5m
		Maximum level	11m			Maximum level	11m
		Ground height (AMSL)	50m			Ground height (AMSL)	50m
		Tank height	25m			Tank height	25m
		Volume	2900m <sub>3</sub>			Volume	2100m <sub>3</sub>

Source: CRSWBL, 2016

**Table 2:** Inputs for pipes and junctions within the network

Feature	Input	Attribute
Pipes	Pipe ID	Px
	Start Node	Junction A
	End Node	Junction B
	Length (m)	Auto generated for every pipe
	Diameter (mm)	75, 110, 160, 200, 225, 350, 500, 600
	Roughness	140
Junctions	Junction ID	Jx
	Node Coordinates	Eastings and Northings
	Elevation (AMSL)	Inputed for every node
	Base Demand (LPD, Per Household)	80
	Demand Pattern	Pa1

Source: CRSWBL, 2016

#### 4.0 Results and Discussions

Having identified the need to model the pipe-borne water network of the city to ensure equitable pipe-borne water distribution and an improved access to the resource in the long run, the existing piping network of the area is subjected to computer simulations using Arc Map and EPANET analytical tools. The inputs for the junctions and pipes within the network are illustrated in table 2. For the pipes, the results of the analyses are the flow rate of water within the system, while for the junctions, the pressure of water. The results of the analyses are presented in colour ramped maps showing the pressure and flow rate variations at all the four pipe-borne water distribution zones of the metropolis. The maximum and the minimum nodal pressures obtained from the EPS were compared with recommended values for satisfactory performance of the water supply pipe network.

##### 4.1.1 Eta Agbor distribution zone water pressure and flow rate

During early hours of the morning (6:00 am) when water use is presumed to be high, the analysis showed that low water pressure was recorded within Ward 1 of the Municipal LGA, specifically around Barracks Road and Bogobiri Street. A total of 15 junctions as shown in Appendix 1 depicted pressures below 15m and no junction exhibited pressures more than the 70m bar. The flow rate analysis at this time also showed variation within the zone, generally below 0.15 LPS in 491 of the 676 pipes. By 12:00 noon, pressures for all junctions were above the 15m stipulated and flow rates were lower than 0.15 LPS with exemption to the pipes parallel to Yellow Duke Street, Mount Zion Road and Goldie Street in Calabar South LGA as expressed in Appendix 2. In the evening (6:00 pm), there was no significant

difference with pressure values obtained by noon. As shown in Appendix 3, no junction had pressures below the standard, 89 between 25m and 15m clustered around the EWT. No junction depicted high pressures of concern and the result of the flow rate analysis showed that 107 pipes met the specification. The implication of the low pressures portrayed in the morning period within the vicinity of Barracks Road and Bogobiri Street would most likely mean intermittency in water supply for residents of these locations.

#### **4.1.2 Ikot Effanga distribution zone water pressure and flow rate**

At dawn (6:00 am), pressure was less than required in 35.1 percent of the junctions representing 103 junctions in the area. Appendix 4 shows that pressure was deficient around N line, Phase 1, SPC, Road 7 and Block 13 of Federal Housing Estate in Ward 8, as well as Ward 9, both of the municipality. Flow rate at dawn is shown on Appendix 4 to be below par in 24 pipes and high rates around the EWT. Pressure at 12:00 noon had similar characteristics with what was obtainable at dawn. The difference is slight with 105 junctions having pressures less than the standard. The flow rate at noon practically reduced as envisioned in Appendix 5. Here, only 43 pipes had sufficient flows while 287 were deficient of the required rate. By sunset (6:00 pm), pressure was once again depicted similar characteristics with the rate at dawn at same areas, with 103 nodes above the permissible limit and 145 pipes had flows more than 0.15 LPS as pictured in same Appendix 5. Based on the flow rate of the water, the service would be most sufficient in the morning and in the evening periods. Ikot Effanga area as noted earlier has the highest elevation in the metropolis. This may be the reason for the low pressure experienced at more than 100 junctions at all simulated periods of the day. These locations with high elevations and resultant low pressure rates most likely experience intermittency in water supply, thus reducing their overall access to pipe-borne water. The problem here is compounded when ground heights at the junctions are higher or at near elevation with the tank overall height. Table 1 reveals that the ground height measured at the Ikot Effanga EWT location is 50m while the height of the tank is 25m, thus a total of 75m. Given that locations exist with heights of 85m within the area, it becomes less surprising that low pressures are eminent within the zone.

#### **4.1.3 Ediba Qua distribution zone water pressure and flow rate**

At exactly 6:00 am, pressure ranged between 25m and 50m around 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue of Ward 4 and Nipost Street of Ward 6, both of Calabar Municipality. 7 junctions exhibited pressures higher than the 70m standard at the northeastern end of the zone, around the tail end of MCC Road (Appendix 6). On the other hand, only 21 pipes had flow rates below 0.15 LPS. Noticeable,

flow rate was highest in the pipes with larger diameters across the zone such as those aligning parallel to Ndidem Usang Isoand MCC Roads. Pressure at 12 noon was similar to what was obtainable at 6:00 am. As presented in Appendix 7, 7 junctions still had pressures higher than 70m and no area had a cause for low pressure concerns while flow rate decreased at noon for most parts of the zone. The analysis also showed that, in the evening (6:00 pm), pressure was not significantly different from what was deduced at noon, although at this time, flow rate increased, even though as much as 149 of the 283 pipes had flows less than 0.15 LPS. The implication of having pressures above the specification is that the water could destroy the facilities by causing frequent breakage of pipes and junctions. When the system gets damaged frequently, geographic dimensions of access to water begins to get jeopardized in the areas with such scenario. The Ediba Qua EWT was observed to be sited at a ground level 60m AMSL, relatively higher than other areas within the zone. This obviously informed the absence of low pressure within the zone and most likely the same reason why some areas on MCC Road depict pressure above the 70m bar.

#### **4.1.4 Diamond Hill distribution zone water pressure and flow rate**

For Diamond Hill zone, in the morning (6:00 am), water pressure was lower than 15m at 18 junctions around Atekong Drive and Ediba Road. The other 311 junctions were within acceptable limits. This is presented in Appendix 8. At same time, as exhibited in the same figure, flow was generally within workable measures, except for 34 pipes scattered around the zone. Appendix 9 indicates that, by 12:00 noon, in Diamond Hill zone, water pressure was generally within given standards as only 6 junctions had low pressures around same area as at dawn. Flow was seen to reduce significantly, leaving only the pipes with diameters greater than 200mm with high flow rates. The analysis revealed that at sunset (6:00 pm), pressure was low around Atekong Street, Chief Obot Street and the intersection of Ediba Road and Ndidem Usan Road. All these locations of low pressures were within Ward 4 of the Municipality. 24 junctions exhibited low pressures while 38 pipes had flow rates below 0.15 LPS (Appendix 10). At the morning and evening hours, when water use is at its peak, water flow rate was significantly high and good enough for sufficient supply. This is however still dependent on the quality of pressure. The northeastern end of this zone is highest in ground elevation as shown in the topographic map (Figure 1) and is a contributor to the presence of low pressures at some nodes within the area. Whereas other residents within the zone would receive adequate amount of water whenever it is disbursed, some residents around Atekong

Drive, Ediba Road, Chief Obot Street, etc. can only wonder why they are seemingly cut short of the service

## **5.0 Conclusion**

The goal of this study was to spatially investigate sustainability in terms of equity in the distribution of pipe-borne water in Calabar metropolis. This is believed to provide decision support for efficient pipe-borne water supply in the city. GIS modeling techniques aided in the display of locations in each of the four pipe-borne water distribution zones of the metropolis where water pressure and flow rate was low, normal or high at different times of the day. Noticeable from the simulation results is the fact that areas with low water pressure had very high elevations, with cases around Ikot Effanga zone where some pipe junctions were laid on elevations higher than the total height of the EWT. In a gravity fed water distribution system, areas with such elevations within the network would most likely experience intermittent water supply. Also areas with the potential of pipe network infrastructure damage from water hammer induced by very high pressure were identified. The EPS also mapped the flow situation of the water network within the metropolis. Observations from the results also showed that there were significantly much more pipes with flow rates lower than 0.15 LPS at noon time in all the distribution zones, when water use is supposedly minimal.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

Recommendations were made as blueprints for improving overall access to pipe-borne water in the study area. There is need for CRSWBL to re-assess the pipe-borne water distribution network of the metropolis. This is in light of the recent discovery of the behavior of the distribution system at different times of the day and locations of the city. It is necessary that concerned administrators are guided by the simulation results showing pipe-borne water pressure and flow rate within the network. Also, since the pipe-borne water distribution system is gravity-fed, the low water pressure and flow rate problem can be curbed through installation of electric pump stations en-route areas discovered to have low pressures. These pumps would assist to push water up to locations that experience water cuts and intermittency due to low pressures and increase the flow rate of the water when necessary. In the same vein, pressure breaks must also be installed on the revealed high pressure lines. This is to check damage of pipes from extreme pressures.

There is also need for specific studies on the behavior of water distribution systems not only in Calabar metropolis, but in other Nigerian cities that have operational systems and beyond. More importantly, water pressure and flow rate simulations should be executed even before

installation of pipes, junctions and tanks in areas where new distribution systems are planned. This is to ensure proper placement of the objects to avoid eventual distribution problems that may arise, especially in pressure-fed systems which are usually most suitable for regions with electricity problems.

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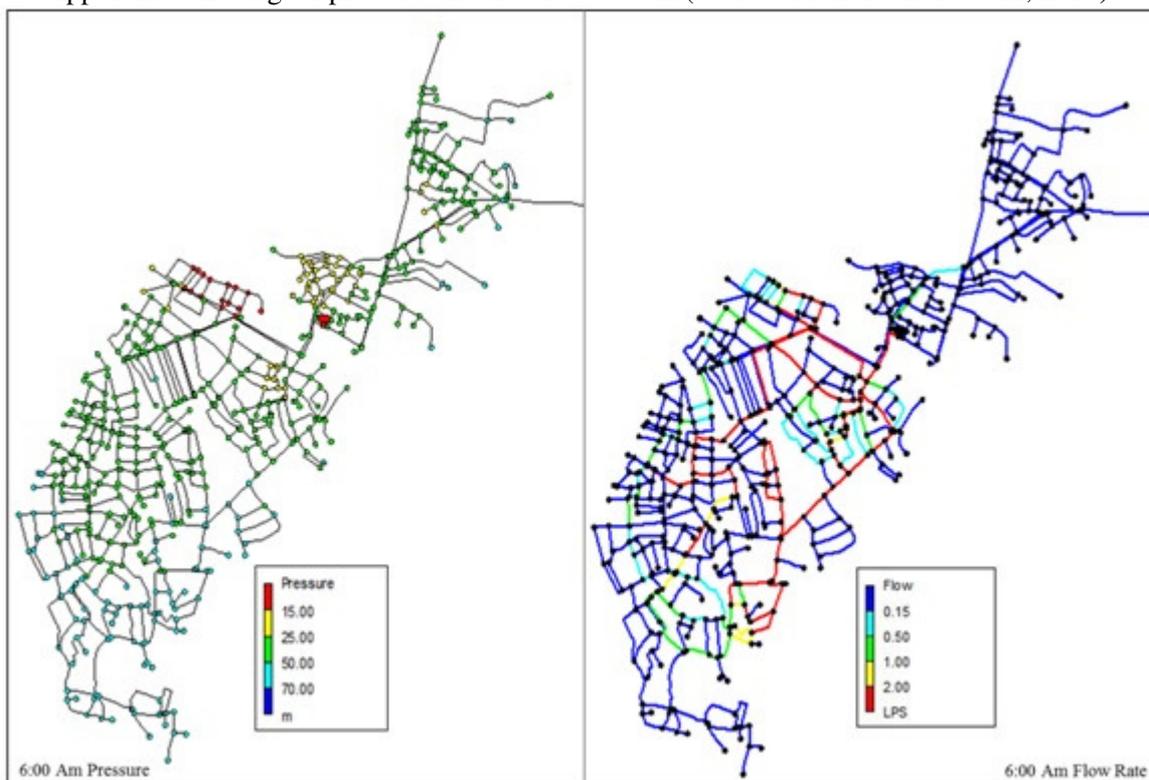
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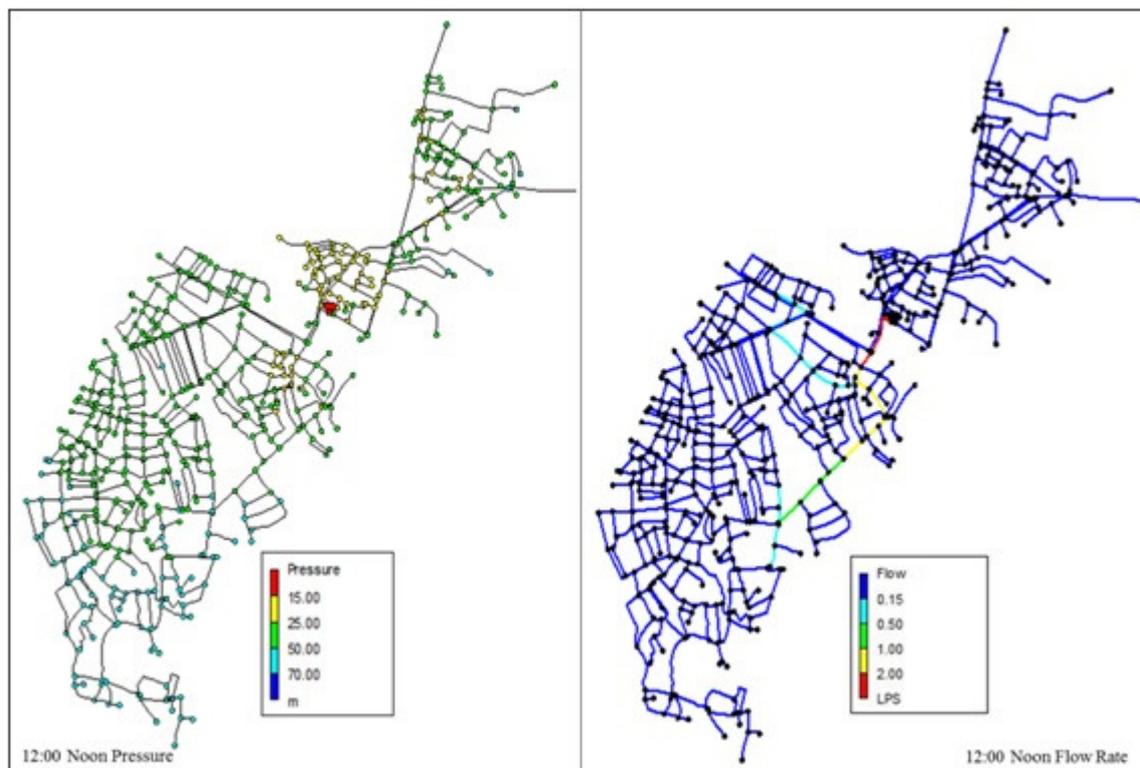
## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Eta Agbor pressure and flow rate at 6am (Source: Author's field work, 2016)

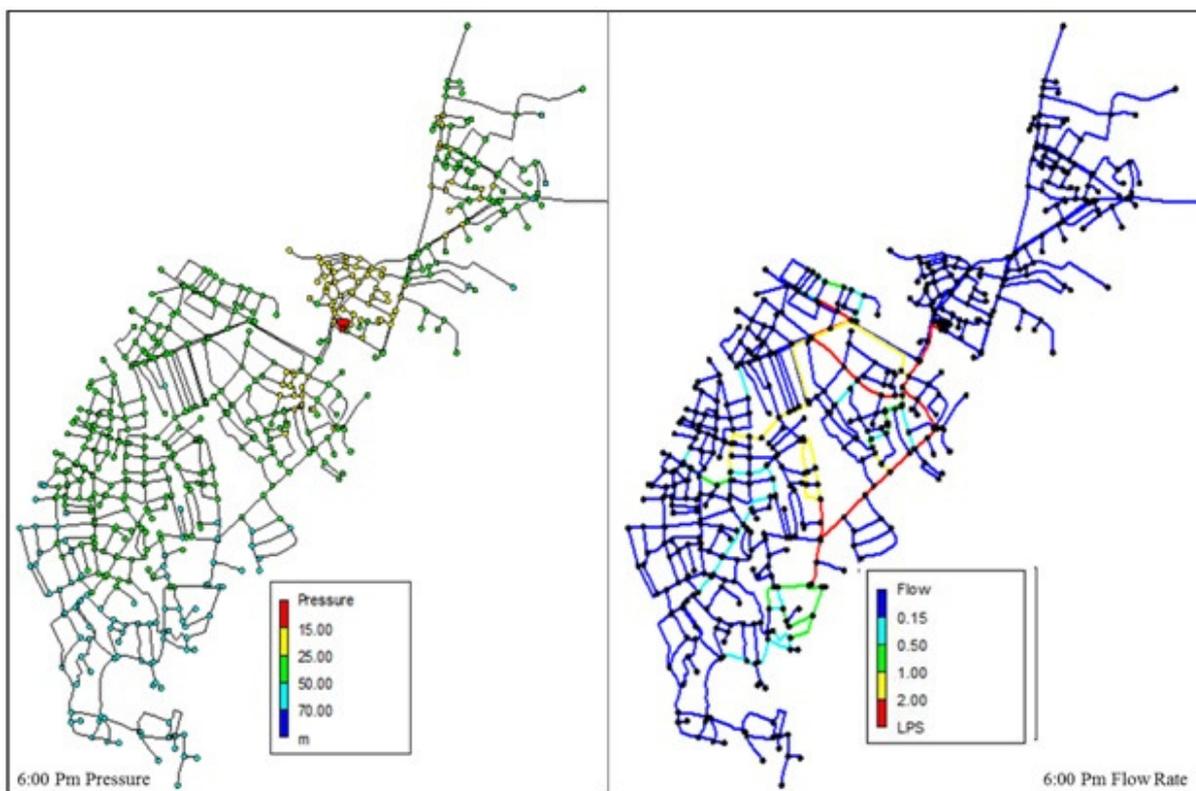
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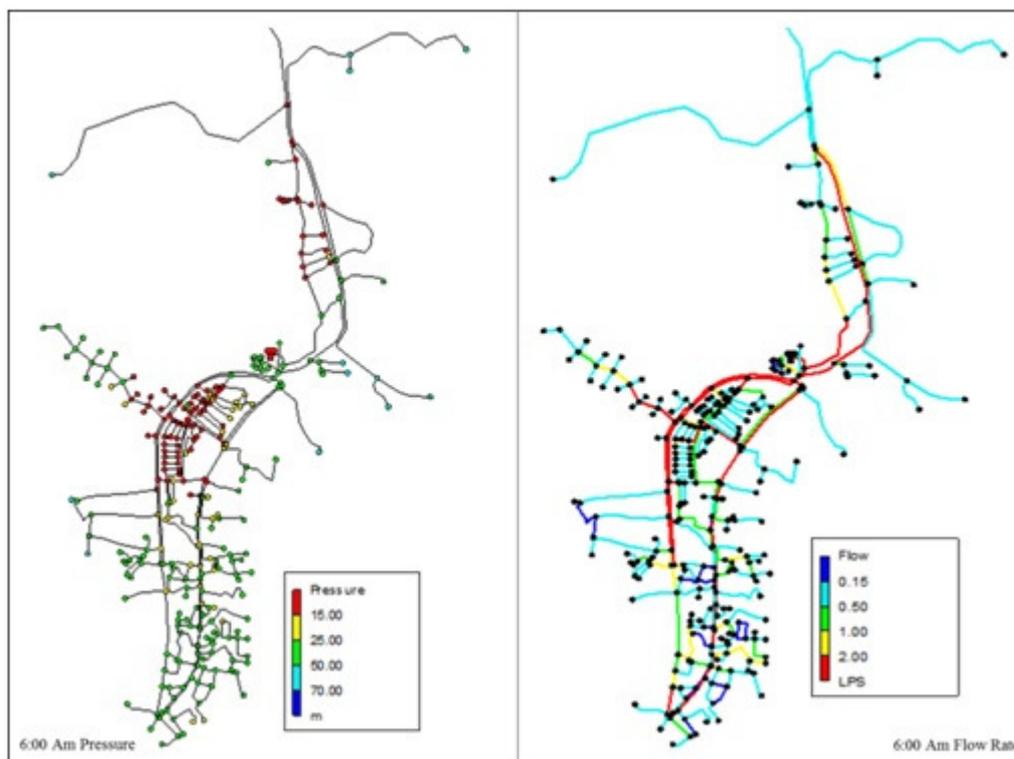
Appendix 2: Eta Agbor pressure and flow rate at 12 noon (Source: Author's field work, 2016)



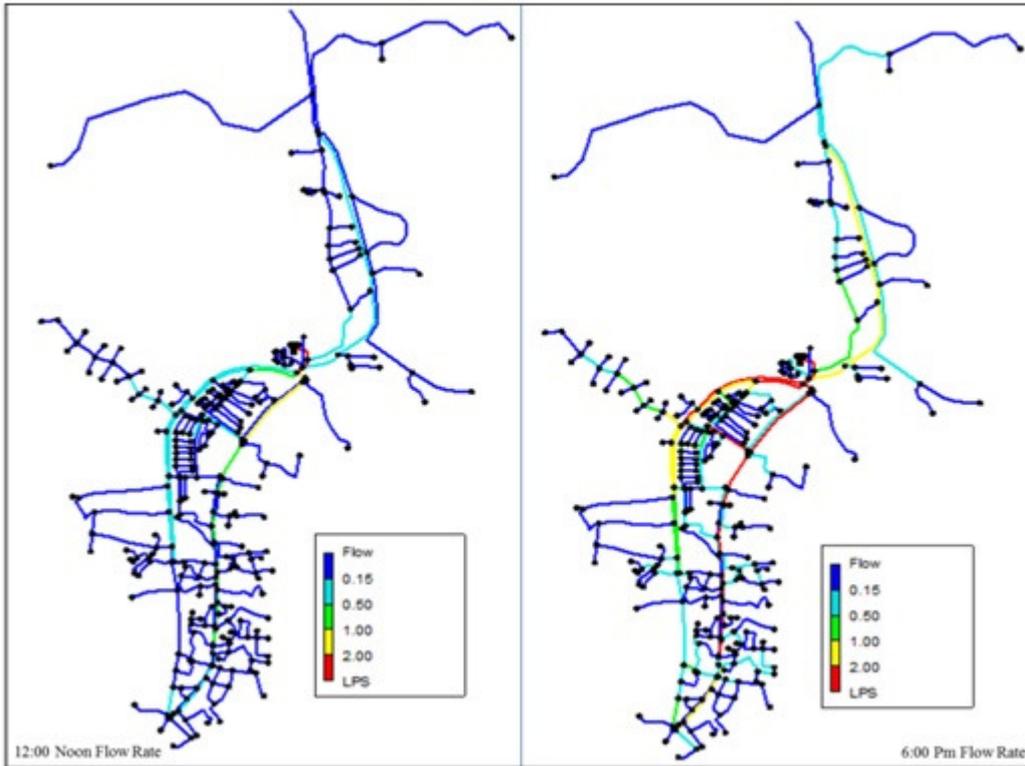
Appendix 3: Eta Agbor pressure and flow rate at 6pm (Source: Author's field work, 2016)



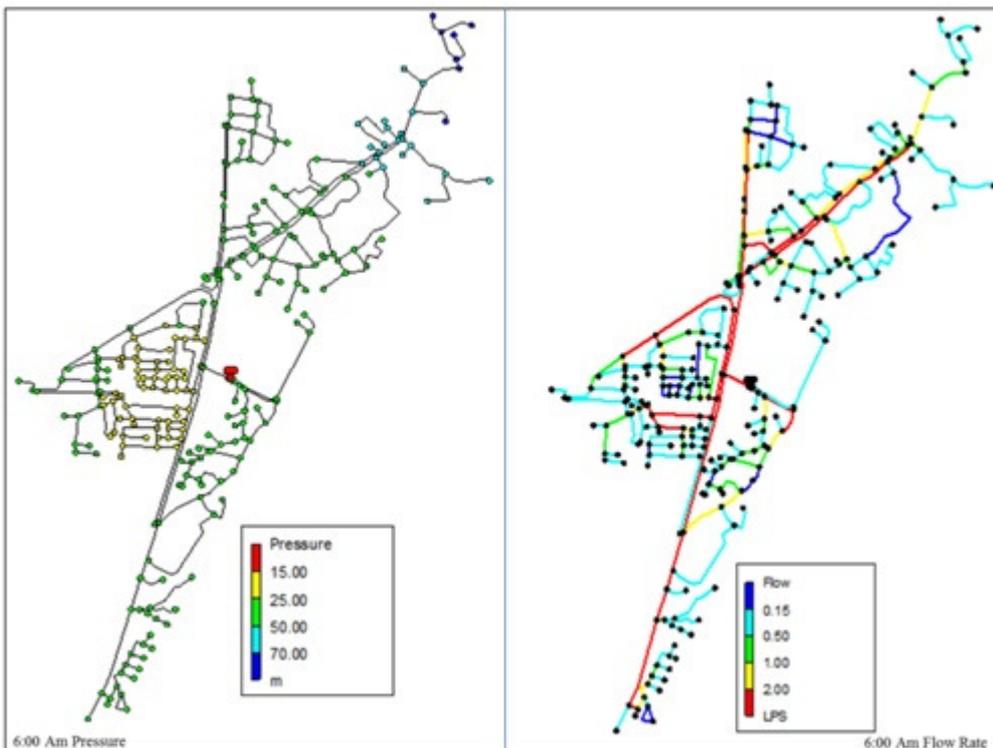
Appendix 4: Ikot Effanga pressure and flow rate at 6am (Source: Author's field work, 2016)



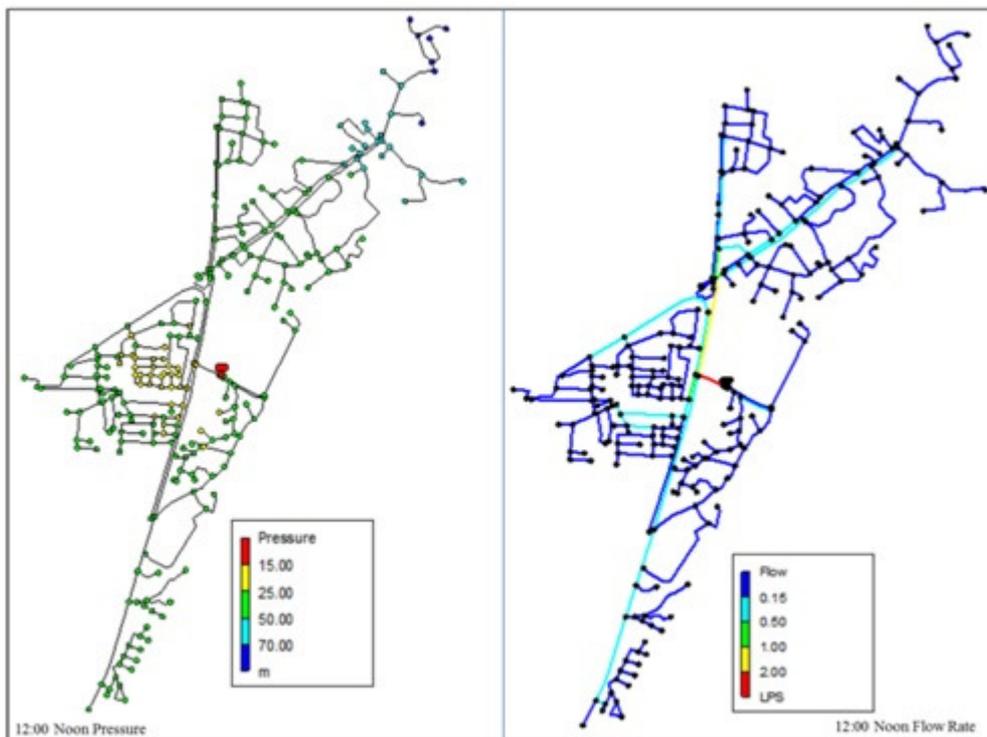
Appendix 5: Ikot Effanga flow rate at 12 noon and 6pm (Source: Author's field work, 2016)



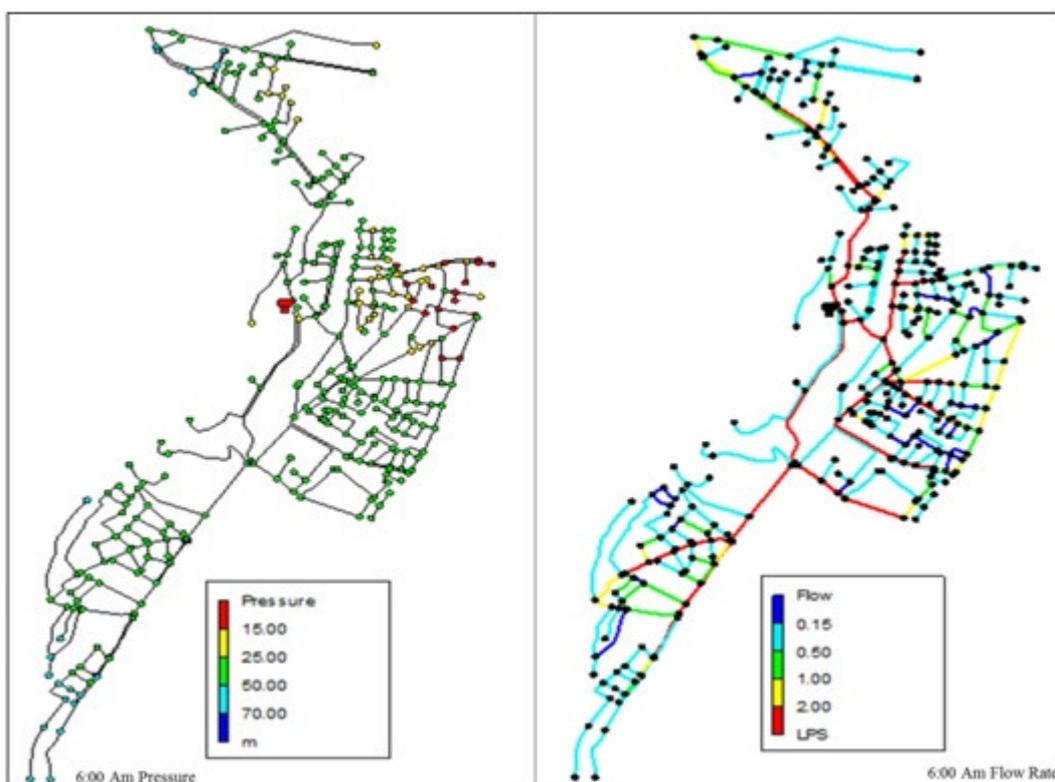
Appendix 6: Ediba Qua pressure and flow rate at 6am (Source: Author's field work, 2016)

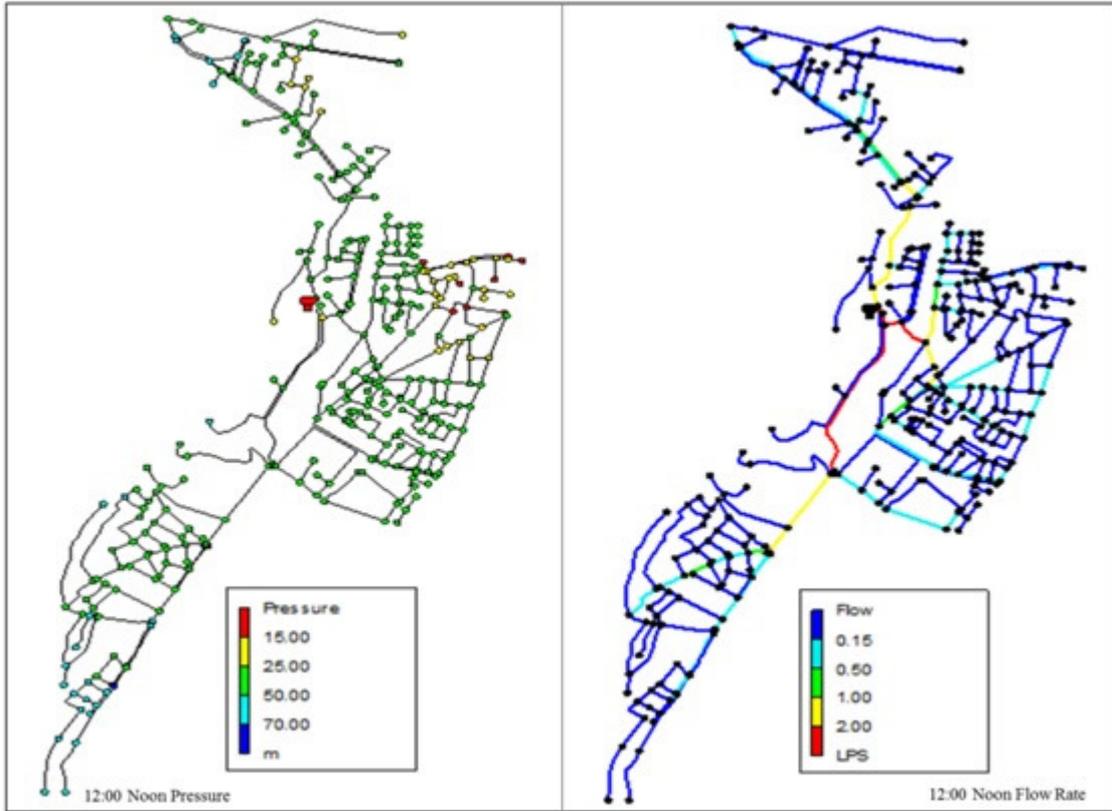


Appendix 7: Ediba Qua pressure and flow rate at 12 noon (Source: Author's field work, 2016)



Appendix 8: Diamond Hill pressure and flow rate at 6am (Source: Author's field work, 2016)

Appendix 9: Diamond Hill pressure and flow rate at 12 noon  
(Source: Author's field work, 2016)



Appendix 10: Diamond Hill pressure and flow rate at 6pm  
(Source: Author's field work, 2016)

