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GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMPS:
Technology Transfer Teleconferences

James E. Bose, Marvin D. Smith, and Jeff D. Spitler
Oklahoma State University

KEY WORDS

geothermal heat pumps, teleconferencing, ground source heat pumps, HVAC, heating, cooling

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND STATUS

Geothermal heat pumps (GHPs) used in the residential and commercial heating cooling and water heating market save significant amounts of energy and save customers money. A series of seven teleconferences have been aired since July 1992 on topics pertaining to geothermal heat pump applications. These past teleconferences have been co-sponsored with DOE, EPA, EPRI, IGSHPA, NRECA and other industry and government organizations. According to questions and comments from viewers these have been effective in disseminating geothermal heat pump information to diversely located groups.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Project objectives are to continue the teleconference series thus increasing the number of building customers, installers, developers, engineers and architects who have first hand knowledge of the technology and its potential benefits. A further objective was to bring together in a common meeting those parties that are involved in commercializing the technology.

Technical Objectives

- Provide the audience access to experts in the geothermal heat pump field
- Provide a set of successful case studies that will stimulate the audience to further investigation
- Provide an open forum for discussions of the technical merit of the technology

Expected Outcomes

- Increased number of electric utilities, contractors, building owners, etc. involved in GHP technology

APPROACH

The approach was to offer a series of teleconferences covering a large market area that would include residential, commercial and institutional buildings. Three teleconferences were held in 1995 and a brief synopses of each follows:

June 15, 1995 -- Geothermal Heat Pumps: The State of the Art

This teleconference consisted of the latest developments in GHP technology and applications, presentations, and case studies of GHP applications in the residential, commercial, institutional, and agricultural sectors, as well as news about the Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium and new products and techniques were cast.

September 14, 1995 -- Geothermal Heat Pumps in Commercial Buildings

This teleconference focussed on case studies of GHP applications in: hotels, motels, retirement homes, apartments, and condominiums. It was aimed at an audience of electric utilities, state regulators, architects/engineers, commercial builders and developers, and geothermal heat pump installers/drillers.

November 16, 1995 -- Geothermal Heat Pumps for Residential Customers

Applications and success stories, aimed at an audience of dealer/contractors, installers, electric utility residential customer service representatives, realtors/developers, and others involved in HVAC system selection for single family residential buildings.

Activities to produce these teleconference included production, coordination with hundreds of sites, studio panels for overview, phone in questions and answers, uplinking and delivery. A brochure was developed to advertise the conference and the selected technology. In addition, a 15 to 30 minute video highlighting each teleconference was produced.

Policy Research Associates, Inc. was responsible for production assistance along with the Educational Television Services Department of Oklahoma State University

RESEARCH RESULTS

Approximately 5,000 persons viewed each of the three teleconferences. Based on their written comments, the teleconferences were highly successful with suggestions on topics to be covered and technology to be presented.

FUTURE PLANS

Integrate more technical information into the teleconference series. Design examples and design methods could be presented which would take a project from conception to operation.

INDUSTRY INTEREST AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Each teleconference had approximately 5,000 viewers and based on their written comments, the industry was able to actively participate in the discussions and/or observe successful projects.

REFERENCES

Copies of the teleconference video tapes are available from the International Ground Source Heat Pump Association. Written comments collected from the teleconference downsites are available from Policy Research Associates, Inc.

CONTACTS

DOE Program Manager:

Lew Pratsch
U. S. Department of Energy
Geothermal Division, EE-122
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D. C. 20585
Tel: (202) 586-1512
Fax: (202) 586-8185

Principal Investigators:

International Ground Source Heat Pump Association
482 Cordell South
Stillwater, OK 74078 - 8018
Tel: (405) 744-5175
Fax: (405) 744-5283

Policy Research Associates
Attention: David Ross
11260 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 206
Reston, VA 22090
Tel: (703) 742-8402

Geothermal Heat Pump Consortium, Inc.
701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20004-2696
Tel: (202) 508-5500
Fax: (202) 508-5222