Integrating Large Scale, Innovative Solar Thermal Systems into the Built Environment

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF

June 26, 2013 11:00am – 12:30PM Track: Renewable & Alternative Energy Sources Sponsor: 6.7 Solar Energy Utilization

ASHRAE

Oakland UNIVERSITY

Hybrid Geothermal / Solar Thermal HVAC System: Part1 Design (OU Human Health Building)

Jim Leidel Oakland University Denver, June 26, 2013

LEED PLATINUM

USGB

Session Learning Objectives

- 1. What do solar thermal energy systems provide for the built environment?
- 2. Components of active solar thermal systems?
- 3. Examples of loads served by solar thermal systems.
- 4. Three case studies where large solar thermal systems.
- 5. Thermal energy storage (it's use and sizing) required by solar energy supply vs load. Review for each case.
- 6. Design challenges & major system design options faced while implementing large solar thermal projects.

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AGENDA

- Quick Look at Solar Thermal Economics as Compared to Solar PV
- Case Studies:
 - Oakland University Human Health Building: Hybrid
 Geothermal / Solar Thermal HVAC System: Pt 1 Design
 - District Energy St. Paul: Solar Thermal & Biomass for Downtown St. Paul, Minnesota
 - Drake Landing Solar Community with Seasonal Energy Storage



Economics of Solar Thermal

Solar PV vs. Solar Thermal in Today's Marketplace



Utility Cost per kWhr (or kWhr equivalent of natural gas)

Comparison of the annual energy value of two separate \$10,000 solar systems: PV and solar thermal at various utility rates.

PV Annual Output Value for a \$10,000 Investment



Sensitivity analysis of \$10,000 PV investment with varying installed cost and natural gas or electric rates

Thermal Annual Output Value for a \$10,000 Investment



Sensitivity analysis of \$10,000 solar thermal investment with varying installed cost and natural gas or electric rates



Sensitivity analysis of separate \$10,000 PV or solar thermal investments with varying installed cost and natural gas or electric rates

Conclusion?

Need to utilize solar thermal energy for more than just space heating & domestic HW.

Look at space cooling (displacing electricity usage)



Located in Southeast Michigan, just north of Detroit in suburban Oakland County





Public University Golden Grizzlies 19,000 students 3.0M square feet 132 baccalaureate degree programs 126 graduate

degree and certificate programs



Clean Energy Projects at Oakland



Human Health Building: Geothermal / Solar Thermal Hybrid Project

What are Ground Source Heat Pumps?



also referred to as Geothermal Heat Pumps or GeoExchange

HHB Project Overview

- Timeline •
 - Geothermal ground array bid package:
 - Geothermal ground array construction:
 - Main building construction begins:
 - Substantial completion:
 - Performance monitoring & reporting:
- Budget
 - Total project:
 - DOE share
 - Awardee share
- Barriers

April 2010 Summer 2010 June 2010 Summer 2012 2012 through 2014

\$9,778,930 \$2,738,100 \$7,040,830

(No funds received yet)

- Lack of experience with: Geothermal projects of this size, VRF heat pumps, large solar thermal systems, & desiccant cooling
- Architect / Engineer: ٠
- Construction Manager:
- Geothermal Specialist:

Smithgroup

Christman Company

Strategic Energy Solutions

Technologies Utilized

Geothermal Heat Pump Demonstration

Utilize a ground sourced heat pump HVAC system.

Variable Refrigerant Flow Technology

Utilize variable refrigerant flow (VRF) heat pumps, allows for less compressors and enhanced internal heat recovery.

Solar Thermal Desiccant Dehumidification

Dedicated outdoor air supply units will utilize a thermally regenerated desiccant dehumidification section. A large solar thermal system along with a natural gas backup boiler will provide the thermal regeneration energy.

Geothermal System



Geothermal System (grant funded full system)

Closed Ground Loop



Variable Refrigerant Flow Heat Pumps



Solar Thermal Desiccant Dehumidification



Temperatures Needed for Thermally Activated Cooling Technologies



100% Outdoor Air Unit (with desiccant)

Exhaust Air

Exhaust from Space



Outdoor Air Intake

Conditioned Air to Space





Dedicated Outdoor Air Units (DOAS)



Ground Loop Spec's

Geothermal Heat Pump Demonstration

HEAT EXCHANGER INFORMATION			
Configuration	Vertical Closed Loop		
Borehole Quantity	256		
Borehole Depth	320 feet		
Borehole Separation	25 feet		
Number of Circuits	20		
Thermal Conductivity *	1.23 BTU / (hr-ft-deg F)		
Soil Diffusivity	0.83 foot ² / day		
Undisturbed Ground Temperature *	53.0 deg F		
GHX Pressure Drop	42 feet of head		
FLUID INFORMATION			
Total Flow	1,225 GPM		
Fluid	Water only		
Minimum HP Unit Inlet Fluid Temp	40 deg F		
Maximum HP Unit Inlet Fluid Temp	90 deg F		

* From formation thermal conductivity test data taken July 30, 2009

Ground Loop Spec's (pg2)

Geothermal Heat Pump Demonstration

GROUT INFORMATION			
Grout Type	Thermally Enhanced Bentonite		
Minimum Thermal Conductivity	0.88 BTU / (hr-ft-deg F)		
FLUSH & PURGE INFORMATION			
Minimum Fluid Velocity	2 feet / second		
Minimum Purge Flow (per circuit)	75 GPM		
Purge Pressure Drop (per circuit)	47 feet of head		
GHX CAPACITY INFORMATION			
Peak Heating	2,000,000 BTU / hour (166 tons)		
Peak Cooling	4,920,000 BTU / hour (410 tons)		
Heating EFLH	1,455 hours		
Cooling EFLH	929 hours		











Meter Information

TAG	Description	Unit	Media	Dirctn	Meter
E _{elect}	Electrical utility	kWhr	Electricity	In	Nexus 1262
Ε _{spv}	Solar photovoltaics	kWhr	Electricity	In	Shark 200
E _{ng}	Natural gas utility	MCF	Natural gas	In	Gas
E _{sth}	Solar thermal system	BTU	Solar hot water	In	Ultrasonic BTU
E _{geo}	Ground loop	BTU	Ground loop water	Bi-dir	Ultrasonic BTU
E _{store}	Solar ground storage	BTU	Solar hot water	Bi-dir	Ultrasonic BTU
E _{V1in}	DOAS intake air	BTU	Outdoor air	In	Air flow & temp
E _{V1out}	DOAS intake exhaust	BTU	Exhaust air	Out	Air flow & temp
E _{V2in}	DOAS intake air	BTU	Outdoor air	In	Air flow & temp
E _{V2out}	DOAS intake exhaust	BTU	Exhaust air	Out	Air flow & temp
E _{exh}	Laboratory exhaust	BTU	Exhaust air	Out	None
E _{smelt}	Snow melt system	BTU	Hot water	Out	Ultrasonic BTU

Meter information

- **Nexus 1262** Utility switchboard electric meter
- Shark 200 Multifunction panel electric meter
- **Gas** Rotary natural gas meter with pulser
- **Ultrasonic BTU** Ultrasonic flow and energy meter
- Air flow & temp Dedicated Outdoor Air Unit (DOAS) with packaged air flow station and temperature / humidity sensors used by the building automation system to calculate energy











SIMPLIFIED HEATING DIAGRAM



PRIORITY:

SUMMER ON PEAK 1) HX-1 2) HX-4 3) B-1 4) GEO H/C-1 SUMMER OFF PEAK & WINTER 1) HX-1 2) HX-4 3) GEO H/C-1 4) B-1







CONTROL NETWORK ARCHITECTURE







VRF Heat Pumps

Variable Refrigerant Flow Compressors with VFD's

Solar PV on top of penthouse

End of Part 1: System Design

Part 2: Construction, Commissioning & Lessons Learned

Part 3: Energy Monitoring & Performance

Questions ?

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