DISTRICT HEATING

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COGENERATION

—technical and economic aspects

—new Alaska capital

—program by Department of Energy

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COMPARATIVE STUDY: ENERGY USE IN THE U.S. AND SWEDEN

Representatives of the governments of the United States and Sweden have been conferring about research priorities, funding, and potential contractors to perform an energy comparison study. Funding, presently estimated to cost approximately $1 million, will be shared by the two governments; and the work may be done under the International Energy Agency.

Initially, the study will be concerned with the towns of New Ulm, Minnesota and Mora, Sweden; both having a similar size and type of population, climate, and standard of living. Their one great difference is energy use—New Ulm's is 40 per cent higher than Mora's. Although the study will begin with these two locations, the project may be expanded to include other comparable cities in the U.S. and Sweden.

At a workshop sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the Minnesota Energy Agency (MEA) in April 1978, energy conservation/community development guidelines were discussed and these will probably form the nucleus of the research study on New Ulm and Mora. The MEA, a pioneer in the field of energy conservation research and the key factor in the April '78 Workshop, is expected to play an important part in future U.S. energy conservation investigations.

An interesting result of research to date, has shown that New Ulm and Mora use about the same amount of energy for district heating, but New Ulm's system is more efficient; it burns coal to generate both electricity and steam, and Mora burns oil and generates heat only. One of the main points of interest in the study will be to determine if distict heating systems are actually efficient when the energy reaches the end user. The overall study will also include residential, transportation, and other energy uses.

BOSTON EDISON'S NEW STEAM CUSTOMER PUBLICATION

The first edition of Boston Edison Company's new publication, "Steamlines," was received by its steam customers in August 1978. Contents included a brief history of the Company steam system; an explanation of the term, "degree-day," and the method for calculating steam use in relation to the number of degree-days; and an offer of complimentary energy management consultation.

Publication of "Steamlines" is a Company effort to improve communication with its steam customers. If you would like to to have a sample copy, please write to: Steam Division, Boston Edison Company, 800 Boylston Street PB4, Boston, Massachusetts 02199.