District Heating & Cooling

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DHC in Pennsylvania

With Reports On . . .

Harrisburg
Pittsburgh
Philadelphia

Also in this Issue

Plus a
SPECIAL REPORT—
The Future of DHC in Kansas City

Harrisburg STEAM WORKS:

Up and Running

By Kathi Ann Brown

The year 1986 was one of many challenges for the new Harrisburg (PA) Steam Works. In one year HSW metamorphosed from a development stage company into a full-fledged operation holding the reins of the steam system serving Pennsylvania's third largest city.

President Bruce Mangione had set four major goals for HSW for 1986, all of which were met:

- Obtain adequate rate relief from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
- Hire and train a complete plant staff for utility operations and a complete office staff for administrative and business activities
- Obtain working capital sources and long-term financing to refund a short-term line of credit arrangement with Pennsylvania Power & Light; and
- Provide the necessary services to Paxton Creek Cogeneration Associates to permit its cogeneration project to be operational by September 1, 1986.

The develolpment of a marketing plan was a key element of HSW's business plan for 1986.

"The marketing plan," says Mangione, "is a three-pronged effort aimed at preserving the existing customer base, developing a corporate identity, and adding new customers to our steam lines."

An ambitious agenda of public relations activities shaped up for the year. HSW paid visits to over 300 existing customers and scores of potential purchasers, developed a new logo, put together a brochure highlighting district heating's advantages in Harrisburg, and made its presence known at IDHCA and Chamber of Commerce meetings.

Because PP&L's business systems were not transferrable to the new operations, HSW had to implement its own system. Computers for everything from accounting to customer billing to basic word processing and financial spread sheet were installed. The development of software for various aspects of the operation, such as a voucher system for the accounts payable system, kept HSW busy.

continued on page 41

graphite packed joints designed to absorb pipe expansion. The 6500 line, "Perm-Pax", incorporates corrosion-resistant aluminum/bronze alloy guides. A one-piece body with integral reduction to the nominal pipe size is a unique feature of the new design. Configurations are available for axial travel to 24 inches and service conditions to 600 psig at 750 degrees Fahrenheit. Complete with five-year warranty the new joints conform to MIL-E-17814E.

For information, write Hyspan Precision Products, Inc., 1685 Brandywine Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 92011, (619) 421-1355. Ask for catalog No. 986.

New Steam Trap on the Market

Spirax Sarco, Inc., of Allentown (PA), has introduced the UBP30 combined steam trap nd "in-line renewable" pipeline connector. The connector allows for rap rotation through 360 degrees to fit any piping configuration. The sealed stainless steel steam trap uses the latest themostatic capsule technology and an efficient two-bolt connection. The UBP30 is designed for use as a steam main drip trap and steam tracing trap, rated to operate at a maximum 435 psig, 545 degrees Fahrenheit.

For more information, call or write Spirax Sarco at 1951 26th Street, S.W., P.O. Box 119, Allentown, PA 18105, (215)797-5830.

***Harrisburg,** continued from page 11*

Operations, of course, did not cease during the transfer of Walnut Street steam plant from PP&L to HSW. A new operating and maintenance staff was hired by HSW and trained on-site by PP&L in preparation for the changeover. In addition, HSW went to work on the construction and early operation of a diesel cogeneration facility for Paxton Creek Cogeneration Associates. By the end of 1986, HSW's Walnut Street plant had produced (including purchases) 605 MM lbs., had sent out 525 MM lbs., and completed sales of 440 lbs.

With one year of service under its belt, HSW looks forward to putting a spit polish on its operations.

"In 1987," says Mangione, "the plant operations will concentrate on efficiency and steam generation reliability improvements. Also, we'll work on our diesel plant operations, repair distributions piping steam leaks, and work on a preventative maintenance program."

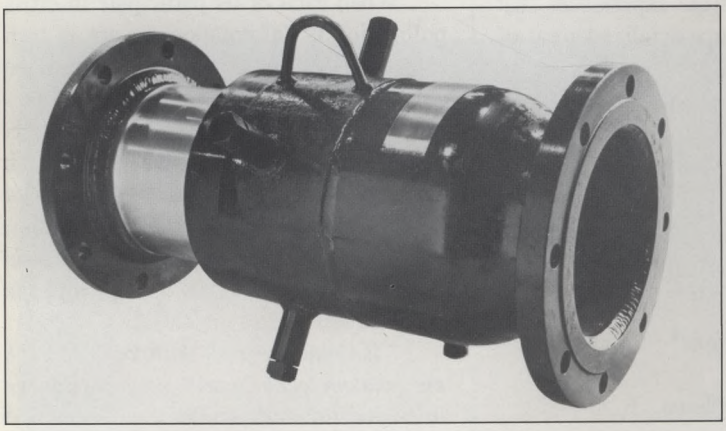
***UNICHAL,** continued from page 25*

weak points and to suggest possible measures for improvement.

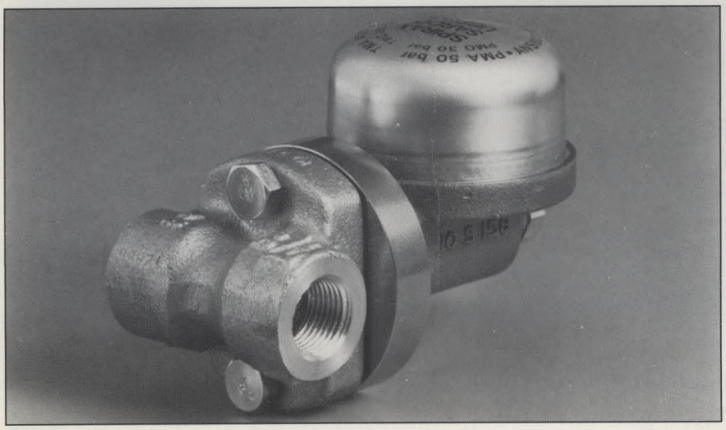
Study Committee for Heat Transport and Distribution

Today's energy policies demand either the erection of new heating plants outside the metropolitan centers of consumption or the connection to cost-efficient plants which are usually located some distance away. Both cases call for considerations of the economic limits of district heat transport. Taking examples from practice, the Study Committee has determined the heat transport costs and found the most important parameters by carrying out calculations for variants. Although such calculations cannot replace an exact calculation for a specific project, they do in fact provide valuable information for assessing an existing project.

Information about UNICHAL, its activities and its publications is available from the General Secretariat of UNICHAL, Bahnhofplatz 3, Postfach, 8023 Zürich, Switzerland; tel. 01/211 51 91; telex 814002 ucs ch; telefax 01/221 04 42. The General Secretary is Dr. E. Keppler.



Hyspan "Permax-Pax" Expansion Joint



Spirax Sorco Steam Trap