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JANUARY ASHRAE NY Dinner Meeting

Date: Jan 19, 2010

Location: TBD

Speaker: Julius Atkins ; Uponor

Topic: Radiant Cooling **Theme:** Sustainable Cooling design using Radiant Floor Slabs **Bio:** Julius Atkins joined Uponor in December of 07 as a commercial sales manager for the East region. He is responsible for the profitable sales growth of the Uponor brands to the national commercial markets. In addition, he is focused on increasing market share within the region while coordinating and executing national commercial sales plans and strategies. He came to Uponor with over 12 years of professional experience in the HVAC and engineering fields. Atkins has held positions as HVAC contractor,

mechanical designer, product engineer and product manager. Prior to joining Uponor, Atkins worked for Viega LLC as national business development manager. He holds a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from University of Massachusetts. Atkins is also a professional member of the Radiant Panel Association, ASPE and ASHRAE, Society of Physics.

SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION:The presentation will cover the fundamentals for designing radiant cooling systems. It will start with an understanding of what radiant cooling is and defining which applications radiant cooling is best fit for. Many of the most popular questions in the industry will be covered; Is condensation an issue, if so how do you solve it? What are the limitations of a radiant cooling system? How does a radiant system work with the rest of the HVAC system? Design Parameter will be discussed such as water temperatures, surface temperatures and possible radiant floor cooling loads.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE BY KEVIN GALLEN, PE, LEED AP

Happy New Year! The attendance at the November Dinner Meeting was a bit of a disappointment, but the presentations by Shillpa Singh of YRG, and Hugh Henderson of CDH Energy and the Q&A afterwards were enthusiastic and well received. The Energy Code Training held on December 2 was very well attended, and the feedback was very encouraging. For those of you who missed out on this, there will be another series in early January – stay tuned for details! Another reminder –the January chapter meeting will be on the 19th of the month, just before the Winter Meeting and AHR Expo in Orlando. To register for the events in Orlando, please visit <http://www.ashrae.org/events/page/2478>.

The NY chapter of ASHRAE would like to congratulate Corinne Benedek of ARUP for her nomination for New Faces of Engineering

UPCOMING ASHRAE EVENTS

Please see attached Region I Dinner [flyer](#) and [menu](#) in Orlando FL on January 24th, 2010

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ASHRAE EDUCATION

Commissioning Webcast

Why do I need Commissioning? Why should Commissioning start in the design phase? How can I avoid or reverse building performance decay? How does Commissioning improve ROI? Get answers to these questions and tools to commission your next building by participating in the ASHRAE Webcast, **“Right from the Start– Commissioning for High Performing Buildings.”** Register and access this free webcast via the Internet on April 21, 2010, from 1 to 4 p.m. EDT. The program is sponsored by ASHRAE’s Chapter Technology Transfer Committee with support from the ASHRAE’s *High Performing Buildings Magazine*.

Online registration begins **March 2nd** at <http://listman.ashrae.org/t/5571715/12462821/804/0/>.

Three (3) Professional Development Hours (PDHs) or three (3) AIA Learning Units (LU’s) may be awarded to viewers who complete the “Participant Reaction Form” online by **April 30, 2010**.

Chapters may also earn 100 Presidential Award of Excellence (PAOE) points for hosting the webcast.

Information about the program and a media kit to assist chapters with promotion are available at <http://listman.ashrae.org/t/5571715/12462821/804/0/>. Please watch for updates via *ASHRAE Insights* and <http://listman.ashrae.org/t/5571715/12462821/90/0/>.

If you have questions, call (678) 539-1200 or email ashrae-webcast@ashrae.org.

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ASHRAE Government Affairs Update, 12/20/09

Welcome to ASHRAE's Government Affairs Update. Along with the Government Affairs webpage, these periodic e-mail updates feature information on government affairs related activities of interest to ASHRAE members and others interested in the built environment. Archives of previous updates are available from the government affairs webpage (<http://www.ashrae.org/advocacy>).

Please pass this information on to interested colleagues who also may subscribe from the ASHRAE Government Affairs webpage. Should you wish to unsubscribe, information appears at the end of this e-mail.

If you have any recommendations regarding content, or have questions about or would like to participate in Washington Office activities, please contact ASHRAE Government Affairs staff at (202) 833-1830 or washdc@ashrae.org.

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President Obama Proposes Home Energy Retrofit Program for Job Creation

President Barack Obama proposed a new rebate program to reward homeowners for making their homes more energy efficient, while also proposing additional federal investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy. As part of a speech about jobs and the economy, the president noted that home energy retrofits create jobs, save money for families, and reduce the pollution that threatens our environment. President Obama also called for aid to small businesses and new investments in infrastructure. Most of the president's proposals will require congressional approval.

President Obama's job plan calls for an expansion of select American Recovery and Reinvestment Act initiatives that promote energy efficiency and clean energy jobs. The president noted that one-third of the Recovery Act is intended for investments "to put Americans to work doing the work that America needs done," such as doubling the U.S. capacity for producing power from renewable energy. But most of those initiatives are oversubscribed, causing many strong ideas to go unfunded. With that in mind, the Obama Administration is supporting the expansion of programs for which additional federal dollars will leverage private investment and create jobs quickly, such as investments in industrial energy efficiency,

as well as new or extended tax incentives for investing in U.S. manufacturing facilities for renewable energy technologies. See the White House press release (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/president-obama-announces-proposals-accelerate-job-growth-and-lay-foundation-robust>) and a transcript of the president's remarks (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/president-obama-announces-proposals-accelerate-job-growth-and-lay-foundation-robust>).

Commerce Department to Speed Review of Green Technology Patents

The U.S. Commerce Department announced that its U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will pilot a year-long program to accelerate the examination of certain "green" technology patent applications by as much as one year. The new initiative is designed to speed the development and deployment of green technology, create green jobs, and promote U.S. competitiveness. In particular, the program focuses on patents for renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, plus other environmental technologies. The program rules spell out 29 categories of renewable energy technologies and 23 categories of energy efficiency technologies that are eligible. Pending patent applications in these technologies will be eligible for special status and given expedited review. Earlier patenting of these technologies enables inventors to secure funding, create businesses, and bring vital green technologies into use much sooner.

Patent applications are normally taken up for examination in the order that they are filed. It typically takes the USPTO two and a half years to start taking action on a patent application, and it takes another 10 months to reach a final decision on the patent. Under the pilot program, the office will examine patent applications on an accelerated basis for the first 3,000 applications related to green technologies for which a petition is filed. Petitions are currently being accepted, and the program will accept petitions through December 8, 2010. If the trial is successful, the USPTO will consider ways to expand the initiative. See the Commerce Department press release (http://www.commerce.gov/NewsRoom/PressReleases_FactSheets/PROD01_008680); the USPTO Web site (<http://www.uspto.gov/>); the full details on the pilot program as published in the Federal Register (<http://www.uspto.gov/patents/law/notices/74fr64666.pdf>); and the petition form for the pilot program (<http://www.uspto.gov/forms/sb0420.pdf>).

EIA: U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Decreased by 2.2% in 2008

The total U.S. emissions of greenhouse gases dropped to the equivalent of 7,053 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in 2008, a 2.2% decrease, according to a new report from DOE's Energy Information Administration (EIA). The drop was largely due to a 2.9% decrease in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, which the EIA attributes to record-high oil prices for much of the year, followed by a decline in economic activity. That decline is expected to continue this year, as the EIA's "Short Term Energy Outlook," released on December 8, projects a 6.1% decrease in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, which are the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. But a healthier economy tends to bring increases in such emissions, and the EIA projects a 1.5% increase in energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in 2010. Since 1990, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions have grown at an average annual rate of 0.7%. See the EIA press release (<http://www.eia.doe.gov/ncic/press/press333.html>), the greenhouse gas report (<http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/1605/ggrpt/index.html>), and the "Short-Term Energy Outlook" (<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/steo/pub/contents.html>).

EPA Declares Greenhouse Gases Threaten Health

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has officially declared that greenhouse gases threaten the public health and welfare of the residents of the United States, which means that they fit within the Clean Air Act's definition of air pollutants and are subject to regulation. The so-called endangerment finding covers six key greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. The finding does not in and of itself impose any emissions requirements, but it does allow the EPA to finalize its proposed greenhouse gas standards for light-duty vehicles. Although it opens the six greenhouse gases to regulation under the Clean Air Act, the Obama Administration prefers a legislative solution to the problem of climate change. See the EPA press release (<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/08D11A451131BCA585257685005BF252>) and the endangerment finding (<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment.html>).

The EIA reports and the EPA endangerment finding also come as international negotiations on a climate change

pact are underway in Copenhagen, Denmark. The United Nations (U.N.) climate change conference, technically known as the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP 15 for short, runs through December 18. The president's arrival near the end of the negotiations allows him to potentially play a role in achieving an international agreement. See the White House press release (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/statement-press-secretary-united-nations-climate-change-conference>), the official U.N. COP-15 Web site (<http://en.cop15.dk/>), and the official U.S. COP-15 Web site (<http://cop15.state.gov/>).

Maine Requires Default Green Power Offer

Governor Baldacci of Maine signed into law a bill requiring the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to develop a default green power option for all residential and small commercial electricity consumers. The PUC is directed to include community-based renewable energy to the maximum extent possible. Community-based energy includes generation facilities that are at least 51% owned by an individual, a political subdivision, a State entity, a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Maine, a nonprofit corporation, or a business corporation which has at least 51% ownership by one or more residents of Maine. The PUC is charged with adopting rules to implement the requirement.

For additional information see

http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/bills_124th/chapters/PUBLIC329.asp.

NY Approves Property Assessments for Solar and Energy Efficiency

The New York legislature passed a law authorizing municipal loan programs for renewable and energy efficiency improvements to homes and businesses. The measure allows municipalities to use Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. Under PACE, cities or counties set up special clean energy finance districts capable of issuing low-interest bonds to participants. The bonds are used to cover the costs of renewable energy and efficiency improvements on private property, and participants pay the loans back through a 20-year assessment on their property taxes.

PACE programs are entirely voluntary. There are no requirements for municipalities to set them up for homeowners to take out loans from the programs. They are now allowed by state law in California, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, and Wisconsin

Recently, DOE announced \$454 million in Recovery Act funds to help set up programs such as PACE. For more information, read the New York governor's press release

(http://www.ny.gov/governor/press/press_1116091.html), and the DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program application (http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/about/competitive_grants.html).

Existing Energy Efficiency Technologies Could Provide Major Savings

Energy efficiency technologies that exist today or that are likely to be developed in the near future could save considerable money as well as energy, says a new report from the National Research Council. Fully adopting these technologies could lower projected U.S. energy use 17 percent to 20 percent by 2020, and 25 percent to 31 percent by 2030.

Achieving full deployment of these efficiency technologies will depend in part on pressures driving adoption, such as high energy prices or public policies designed to increase energy efficiency. The energy savings from attaining full deployment of cost-effective, energy-efficient technologies in buildings alone could eliminate the need to add new electricity generation capacity through 2030, the report says. New power generation facilities would be needed only to address imbalances in regional energy supplies, replace obsolete facilities, or to introduce more environmentally friendly sources of electricity.

Many cost-effective efficiency investments in buildings are possible, the report says. For example, replacing appliances such as air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, furnaces, and hot water heaters with more efficient models could reduce energy use by 30 percent. Opportunities for achieving substantial energy savings exist in the industrial and transportation sectors as well. For example, deployment of industrial energy efficiency technologies could reduce energy use in manufacturing 14 percent to 22 percent by 2020, relative to expected trends. Most of these savings would occur in the most energy-intensive industries, such as chemical manufacturing, petroleum refining, pulp and paper, iron and steel, and cement.

Although there is great potential, many barriers exist to widespread adoption of energy efficiency technologies,

the report points out. The upfront costs can be high, which can deter investment despite the possibility of long-term cost savings. Volatile energy prices can cause buyers to delay purchasing more efficient technology due to a lack of confidence that they will see an adequate return on their investment. In addition, there is a shortage of readily available, trustworthy information for consumers hoping to learn about the relative performance and costs of energy-efficient technology alternatives. Investments in energy-efficient infrastructure are particularly important, as these can lock in patterns of energy use for decades. Therefore, taking advantage of windows of opportunity for infrastructure is crucial.

Overcoming these barriers will require significant public and private support, and sustained effort. Many energy efficiency initiatives have been successful, such as the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star labeling program. Efforts undertaken by California and New York have yielded large energy savings for those states. These experiences provide valuable lessons for national, state, and local policymakers on enacting effective energy efficiency policies.

Copies of Real Prospects for Energy Efficiency in the United States are available from the National Academies Press (http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12621).

[EPA Signs Two Rules Addressing HCFCs and the Ozone Layer](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced two final rules that will further cut ozone-depleting pollutants, protecting the Earth's ozone layer and reducing harmful greenhouse gases. The rules reduce the availability and use of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs).

The first rule prohibits the use of specific HCFCs to manufacture new air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment beginning in 2010, while allowing limited HCFC use to service existing equipment. The second rule prohibits the sale, distribution, and import of air-conditioning and refrigeration appliances and their components containing certain HCFCs that are manufactured or imported after January 1, 2010.

More information on the two rules: <http://www.epa.gov/ozone/title6/phaseout/rulesoverview.html>

[New Category of Geothermal Heat Pumps Can Earn Energy Star](#)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is announcing new requirements for residential geothermal heat pumps (GHPs), enabling water-to-water geothermal heat pumps to earn the Energy Star label for the first time.

EPA's stringent specifications for this new category of geothermal heat pumps will help protect the environment and reduce energy costs, because GHPs that meet the new standards will be up to 45 percent more efficient than conventional pumps.

EPA worked with industry stakeholders to revise the requirements in response to growing consumer demand for water-to-water geothermal heat pumps. The new requirements for water-to-water equipment complements existing efficiency and performance requirements for water-to-air and direct geothermal GHP models. Homeowners who install geothermal heat pumps with the Energy Star are eligible for a 30 percent federal tax credit.

More information on the heat pumps see <http://www.energystar.gov/ghp>. For more information on the tax credit see <http://www.energystar.gov/taxcredits>.

[NIST Offers Funds for Research](#)

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces that the following programs are soliciting applications for financial assistance for FY 2010: (1) The Electronics and Electrical Engineering Laboratory Grants Program; (2) the Manufacturing Engineering Laboratory Grants Program; (3) the Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory Grants Program; (4) the Physics Laboratory Grants Program; (5) the Materials Science and Engineering Laboratory Grants Program; (6) the Building Research Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program; (7) the Fire Research Grants Program; (8) the Information Technology Laboratory Grants Program; (9) the NIST Center for Neutron Research Grants Program; (10) Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology Grants Program; and (11) the Technology Services Grants Program.

Each program will only consider applications that are within the scientific scope of the program as described in this notice and in the detailed program descriptions found in the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement for these programs. Prior to preparation of a proposal, it is strongly suggested that potential applicants contact the Program Manager for the appropriate field of research, as specified in the FFO

announcement found at <http://www.grants.gov>, for clarification of the program objectives and to determine whether their proposal is responsive to this notice.

For more details, see the Federal Register notice at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-29825.pdf>.

California Releases Preliminary Rules for GHG Cap-and-Trade Program

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) released a preliminary draft version of California's greenhouse gas (GHG) cap-and-trade regulation. As proposed, the cap-and-trade regulations will take effect in 2012 and will apply to 605 of the state's largest stationary emitters of GHGs, including industries and power plants, along with electricity imports. Starting in 2015, the regulations will also apply to fuel suppliers, to help address emissions from vehicles and from smaller stationary emitters of GHGs, such as homes and commercial businesses. The regulations will set a cap on GHGs emissions that will decline each year through 2020, in order to help bring the state's GHG emissions back to 1990 levels, which represents a decline of about 15% from today's emission levels. The cap-and-trade program is just one part of achieving this goal; other measures include building and appliance efficiency standards, strong energy efficiency programs, a statewide renewable energy requirement, clean car standards, a low-carbon fuel standard, and targeted usage fees. The goal was set by the state's Global Warming Solutions Act, which was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2006.

Under the proposed cap-and-trade program, covered entities will receive a declining number of tradable emissions credits, a portion of which will be available through an auction. A trading system will allow entities with higher emissions to buy credits from entities that have reduced their emissions. This effectively sets a market-based price on GHG emissions, which encourages companies to invest in ways to reduce their emissions. However, the program is not prescriptive; it allows each company to find the most cost-effective means of cutting emissions, while allowing companies that lack cost-effective approaches to buy emission credits. The proposed program includes the limited use of offsets, which allow companies to invest in other ways to reduce GHG emissions. When fully in place, the program would cover 85% of California's GHG emissions. For flexibility, the trading program is intended to be linked to the Western Climate Initiative, which includes a large portion of Canada and the western United States. See the ARB press release

(<http://www.arb.ca.gov/newsrel/nr112409b.htm>), the draft cap-and-trade regulation

(<http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/capandtrade/meetings/121409/pdr.pdf>), and for background, the scoping plan for achieving the state's GHG goal (http://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/scopingplan/document/adopted_scoping_plan.pdf).

DOE Launches Public Web Site for Energy Technology Information

DOE has unveiled Open Energy Information, an open-source Web platform that will make DOE resources and energy data widely available to the public. The data and tools housed on the free, editable, and evolving wiki platform will help deploy clean energy technologies across the country and around the world. The site currently

houses more than 60 clean energy resources and data sets, including maps of worldwide solar and wind potential, information on climate zones, and best practices. OpenEI.org also links to the Virtual Information Bridge to Energy (VIBE), which serves up Web gadgets that display energy data. See the DOE press release (<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8381.htm>), the OpenEI.org Web site (http://en.openei.org/wiki/Main_Page), and the VIBE Web site (<http://vibe.nrel.gov/>).

National Academy Reports on Construction Competitiveness and Efficiency

Construction productivity--how well, how quickly, and at what cost buildings and infrastructure can be constructed--directly affects prices for homes and consumer goods and the robustness of the national economy. Industry analysts differ on whether construction industry productivity is improving or declining. Still, advances in available and emerging technologies offer significant opportunities to improve construction efficiency substantially in the 21st century and to help meet other national challenges, such as environmental sustainability.

Advancing the Competitiveness and Efficiency of the U.S. Construction Industry identifies five interrelated activities that could significantly improve the quality, timeliness, cost-effectiveness, and sustainability of construction projects.

These activities include widespread deployment and use of interoperable technology applications; improved job-site efficiency through more effective interfacing of people, processes, materials, equipment, and information; greater use of prefabrication, preassembly, modularization, and off-site fabrication techniques and processes; innovative, widespread use of demonstration installations; and effective performance measurement to drive efficiency and support innovation. The book recommends that the National Institute of Standards and Technology work with industry leaders to develop a collaborative strategy to fully implement and deploy the five activities.

For more details and a copy of the report see http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12717

White House Launches “Educate to Innovate”

President Obama helped launch a new campaign, “Educate to Innovate,” designed to energize and excite America’s students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). It builds on the President’s pledge that he would use his position to help encourage students to study and consider careers in science, engineering, technology, and innovation—fields upon which America’s future depends—and elevate those students from the middle to the top of the pack worldwide.

President Obama announced the launch of five major public-private partnerships that have committed to helping unleash the power of media, interactive games, hands-on learning, and community volunteers to reach millions of students over the next four years, inspiring them to become the next generation of engineers and scientists, inventors and innovators.

The partnerships respond to a challenge made by the President in April, when he spoke at the annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences and asked the nation’s philanthropists, professional and educational societies, corporations, and individuals to collaborate and innovate with the goal of reinvigorating America’s STEM educational enterprise. The partnerships announced -- dramatic commitments in the hundreds of millions of dollars, generated through novel collaborations and creative outreach activities -- are just the first wave of commitments anticipated in response to his call. ASHRAE will be participating as part of National Lab Day designed to engage students in hands-on science and engineering activities. See www.nationallabday.org.

For information on the “Educate to Innovate” initiative see <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/educate-innovate>.

DOE Awards \$620 Million for Smart Grid and Energy Storage Projects

DOE awarded a total of \$620 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for projects around the country to demonstrate advanced Smart Grid technologies and integrated systems, as well as large-scale energy storage systems. The 16 Smart Grid demonstration projects, which include smart meters, distribution and transmission system monitoring devices, and a range of other smart technologies, will act as models for deploying integrated Smart Grid systems on a broader scale. This Recovery Act funding will leverage \$1 billion from the private sector to support more than \$1.6 billion in total Smart Grid projects nationally. An analysis by the Electric Power Research Institute estimates that implementing Smart Grid technologies could reduce electricity use by more than 4% by 2030.

DOE will award \$435 million to support 16 fully integrated, regional Smart Grid demonstrations in 21 states, representing over 50 utilities and electricity organizations with a combined customer base of almost 100 million consumers. The projects include streamlined communication technologies that will allow different parts of the grid to “talk” to each other in real time; sensing and control devices that help grid operators monitor and control the flow of electricity to avoid disruptions and outages; smart meters and in-home systems that empower consumers to reduce their energy use and save money; on-site energy storage options; and on-site and renewable energy sources that can be integrated onto the electrical grid. For example, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. will demonstrate a secure Smart Grid in New York and New Jersey that will offer grid monitoring and automated control of transmission lines and will better accommodate renewable power generation. The system, which will include lower Manhattan, will accommodate electric vehicle charging stations, and will feature customer systems designed to help expand the use of renewable energy and lead to greater customer participation in the electricity system.

An additional 16 awards for a total of \$185 million will help fund utility-scale energy storage projects that will enhance the reliability and efficiency of the grid, while reducing the need for new electricity plants. Improved energy storage technologies will allow for expanded integration of renewable energy resources like wind and photovoltaic systems and will improve frequency regulation and peak energy management. The selected projects include advanced battery systems (including flow batteries), flywheels, and compressed air energy systems. See the DOE press release (<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8305.htm>), and a complete list of the projects (http://www.energy.gov/news2009/documents2009/SG_Demo_Project_List_11.24.09.pdf).

FTC Proposes New Output-Based Labels for Light Bulbs

The days of referring to a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) as being "equivalent to a 60-watt light bulb" may soon be over, as the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has proposed new labels for light bulbs that are based on light output rather than energy consumption. The marketplace has been changing quickly with the emergence of newer, more energy-efficient technologies—such as CFLs and light-emitting diode (LED) products—as traditional incandescent bulbs are phased out. The proposed labels provide consumers with information to help them choose among different bulb types.

The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) seeks public comments on new labels that emphasize lumens, not watts, as the measure of bulb brightness. This information, along with estimated energy cost information, would appear on the front of the light bulb package. The back of the package would display a "Lighting Facts" label modeled after the "Nutrition Facts" label for food packages. The Lighting Facts label would provide information about brightness, energy cost, the bulb's expected life, color temperature, as well as wattage. The label also would require disclosures for bulbs containing mercury. The bulb's output in lumens—and a mercury disclosure for bulbs that contain mercury—would also have to be placed on the bulb itself. The NOPR was published in the Federal Register on November 10, and comments are due by December 28.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 requires the FTC to consider the effectiveness of current bulb labeling requirements and explore alternative labeling approaches. As the first step, the FTC issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking last year, seeking comments on existing labeling requirements and possible labeling alternatives, and then held a public roundtable to gather more information. See the FTC press release (<http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2009/10/lightbulbs.shtm>), and the Federal Register Notice (<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-27036.pdf>), which includes samples of the proposed labels.

President Obama Sets a Target for Cutting U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The White House announced that President Obama is offering a U.S. target for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the range of 17% below 2005 levels by 2020. The proposed target agrees with the limit set by climate legislation that has passed the U.S. House of Representatives, but the U.S. Senate is currently considering a bill that cuts GHG emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020. The White House noted that the final U.S. emissions target will ultimately fall in line with the climate legislation, once that legislation passes both houses of Congress and is approved by the President. In light of the President's goal for an 83% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050, the pending legislation also includes a reduction in GHG emissions to 30% below 2005 levels by 2025 and to 42% below 2005 levels by 2030.

The White House also announced that President Obama will travel to Copenhagen on December 9 to participate in the United Nations climate change conference. A number of top White House officials and cabinet members will also attend the conference, including Energy Secretary Steven Chu. For the first time, the U.S. delegation will establish a U.S. Center at the conference, providing a unique and interactive forum to share the United States' story with the world. The center will feature keynote speeches by top U.S. officials from December 9 through December 17, including a December 14 speech by Secretary Chu on U.S. leadership in energy efficiency and renewable energy. The U.S. Department of State has also established the "COP-15" Web site and a Facebook page to mark the event. The U.N. climate change conference is officially known as the 15th annual session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP-15 for short. See the White House press release (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/president-attend-copenhagen-climate-talks>) and the State Department's press release

(<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2009/nov/132439.htm>), COP-15 Web site (<http://www.cop15.state.gov/>), and COP-15 Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/usdos.cop15>).

The day after the White House announced the U.S. GHG targets, China announced that it will reduce the intensity of its carbon dioxide emissions by 40%-45% by 2020. China expects its GDP to at least double by 2020, which could potentially result in a doubling of carbon dioxide emissions, but the new target should hold the increase in carbon dioxide emissions to 20% or less. The carbon intensity target will be a binding goal that China will incorporate into its medium- and long-term development plans. China also announced plans to invest in the research, development, and commercialization of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, as well as other low-carbon energy technologies. The country plans to draw on non-fossil-fuel energy sources for 15% of its energy needs by 2020 and will encourage low-carbon lifestyles and consumption. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao will attend the U.N. climate change conference in Copenhagen. See the announcement (http://english.gov.cn/2009-11/26/content_1474008.htm) on the Chinese Government's official Web portal.

United States and India to Cooperate on Clean Energy Technologies

President Barack Obama and India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for their nations to work together to speed up the development and deployment of clean energy technology. Noting that energy security, food security, and climate change are interlinked, the leaders entered into a Green Partnership to meet these global challenges. Both leaders also affirmed that the outcome of the United Nations climate change conference in Copenhagen must be comprehensive. Under the new MOU, the two nations will launch a Clean Energy and Climate Change Initiative, with the goal of improving technologies to make clean energy more affordable and efficient. The initiative will include cooperation in wind and solar energy, second-generation biofuels, and energy efficiency, as well as unconventional sources of natural gas and clean coal technologies, including carbon capture and storage. The two nations will also mobilize public and private resources to invest in clean energy projects in India. Further, the two nations began an Indo-U.S. Clean Energy Research and Deployment Initiative, supported by government and private-sector funds. The initiative will leverage expertise from both countries and may cover such topics as energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, second-generation biofuels, battery technology, the Smart Grid, solar energy, wind energy, and micro-hydropower. It will also include a Joint Research Center operating in both countries to accelerate the deployment of clean energy technologies.

The United States and India also signed MOUs on solar and wind energy. Under the solar MOU, DOE's National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) will partner with India's Solar Energy Centre to create a comprehensive nationwide map of the solar potential in India. Also, more than two dozen U.S. and Indian cities will team up to jointly boost solar energy development. The wind MOU, between NREL and India's Centre for Wind Energy Technology, will focus on developing a low-speed wind turbine. See the White House press release (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/joint-statement-between-prime-minister-dr-singh-and-president-obama>) and the Green Partnership Fact Sheet (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/Green_Partnership_Fact_Sheet.pdf).

DOE Looks for Commercial Building Partners

DOE's Building Technologies Program has issued a call for new Commercial Building Partnerships (CBP). This program is part of DOE's Net-Zero Energy Commercial Building Initiative, an effort that aims to achieve marketable commercial net-zero energy buildings by 2025. As it looks for Partners to participate in the CBPs, DOE is seeking organizations that want to tackle an energy-efficient building project, cooperate with DOE and its National Laboratories, and inspire others in the commercial building sector to explore emerging technologies and practices. Eligible projects include commercial buildings of all types including federal agencies, municipalities, states, academic institutions, nonprofits, and private businesses.

Proposals are due by January 15, 2010 and may be submitted through the DOE web site where additional information is also available: http://commercialbuildings.energy.gov/project_call.html. Proposals for the 2009 solicitation will be evaluated on a competitive basis to determine which fulfill the current objectives of the

program. If you have questions, please email: cbp@commercialbuildinginitiative.net.

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IAQ 2010 Examines Impact of HVAC on Airborne Infectious Disease

ATLANTA –The role of HVA&R in airborne infectious disease transmission, design and control strategies and technology, pandemic preparedness and airborne infection control will be examined at the IAQ 2010 conference sponsored by ASHRAE. Co-organized by CIBSE and ISIAQ, IAQ 2010: Airborne Infection Control – Ventilation, IAQ & Energy, takes place Nov. 10-12, 2010, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This is the first time the conference is being held outside of the United States.

“The building industry is increasingly faced with the challenge of providing a healthy indoor environment,” Dr. Chandra Sekhar, conference chair, said. “The SARS episode, the current H1N1 pandemic and fears of avian flu have transformed the built environment landscape, raising not only significant public health concerns but also economic implications on a global scale. Airborne infection and its control in the built environment have tremendous impact in the design, operation and maintenance of buildings and other enclosed environments. IAQ 2010 will review the state of knowledge about airborne infection and help define future directions.”

The conference will feature peer-reviewed technical papers, workshops and tutorials. Abstracts are invited in the following subject areas:

- Is airborne infection in enclosed environments emerging as a primary IAQ and health concern?
- What is our current understanding of the airborne infection route in enclosed environments, including buildings and transportation conveyances?
- What is the status of airborne infection control techniques adopted in different types of enclosed environments and our knowledge about their effectiveness?
- How do mechanical systems and other building and enclosure characteristics contribute to healthy environments in an energy-efficient manner?
- How can we create and sustain healthy enclosed environments through design, construction, commissioning, operation and maintenance?
- What metrics and tools can be used to quantify the degree to which an enclosed environment is healthy and energy-efficient?
- What are the costs and quantifiable benefits of airborne infection control strategies?
- What government and private sector programs exist or are proposed, including standards and guidelines for infection control and pandemic-preparedness in enclosed environments?
- How well are the existing programs working and what roles can ASHRAE and other organizations in the field of building science and conveyance design play?

The deadline for abstracts is Jan. 15, 2010. For more information, email IAQ2010@ashrae.org

Health Care Facility Ventilation Standard Incorporated into FGI Guidelines

ATLANTA – As a move toward a single consensus-based standard of care, a ventilation standard from ASHRAE and ASHE has been incorporated into the *Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities*, copyrighted by the Facility Guidelines Institute and published by the American Society for Healthcare Engineering (ASHE).

ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2008, *Ventilation of Health Care Facilities*, defines ventilation system design requirements that provide environmental control for comfort, as well as infection and odor control.

The inclusion of Standard 170 in the 2010 edition of the Guidelines replaces much of the ventilation material previously included in the Guidelines. This merger is intended to eliminate potential confusion by having two national ventilation standards for health care. The Guidelines are used by more than 42 states and several federal agencies to regulate health care facility design and construction around the United States, meaning that in some states Standard 170 is likely to be adopted into code as part of the Guidelines.

“Congratulations to FGI and ASHE for their successful publication of the 2010 Edition of the *FGI Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities*,” Rick Hermans, chair of the Standard 170

committee, said. “Standard 170 was developed and continues to evolve with the direct participation of members of the Health Guidelines Revision Committee, who are supported by FGI. Their efforts, along with the efforts of our partner ASHE, make the family of documents that offers guidance, regulation and mandates to designers of health care facilities closer than ever to the goal of a single consensus-based minimum standard of care. The marriage of the FGI Guidelines and Standard 170 is a testament to the cooperation of all parties over the last four years to bring this excellent document to publication.”

ASHRAE Conference Goes Virtual

ATLANTA—ASHRAE’s Winter Conferences provide members and professionals in the HVAC&R industry with technical guidance, networking opportunities and access to the latest technology. For 2010, the Society will continue in this tradition with an additional new twist: The Conference is going virtual. The Virtual Conference extends access to advances in the HVAC&R industry to professionals across the country and around the world. Participants in the Virtual Conference will be able to interact with speakers and attendees by posting questions and comments, viewing other comments and viewing the presenters’ responses through an online discussion board, in addition to ASHRAE’s traditional recordings (synced audio and PowerPoint presentations).

“The ASHRAE Winter Virtual Conference offers tremendous opportunities to learn about current practices, case studies and other professional and personal development sessions on a wide-range of hot-topics,” Dennis Wessel, Orlando Conference chair, said. “From BIM to ASHRAE standards, attendees can post and view comments on their schedule and refer back to the sessions as needed after the conference ends.”

Benefits of the Virtual Conference include:

- Access to over 250 presentations.

Complete coverage of the technical program with access to seminar presentations, select Transactions sessions, posters and questions and answers from attendees and presenters.

- The ability to post and view comments on presentations.
- Send and receive questions and answers from presenters of selected sessions for a two-week period
- Online access to the presentations for one year.

ASHRAE members may register for the Virtual Conference at www.ashrae.org/orlandovirtual for \$299. Non-members may register for \$464; registration includes one-year ASHRAE membership upon completion of membership application. Companies may also register three or more employees for the Virtual Conference. Additionally, those already registered to attend the Conference in person will have access to all virtual content for free.

National Building Energy Leaders Clarify Stimulus Act Funding

Washington, D.C. – Working in tandem with the U.S. Department of Energy, a group of national building energy organizations – noted for their broad leadership role in national energy efficiency policy – have developed an explanatory statement for state and local governments to clarify the intent of Section 410 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and to offer assistance as states and localities adopt, provide training on and enforce advanced building energy efficiency codes.

The participants, which include ASHRAE, issued the following remarks regarding their statement, which can be found at www.ashrae.org/recovery:

We have joined forces to clarify what Congress intended to be crystal clear when it linked building energy code adoption and enforcement with funding under Section 410 of ARRA. By accepting State Energy Program funding and submitting letters assuring the Department of Energy that their states would comply with the terms of Section 410, all 50 states have committed to do three things:

1. Adopt a residential building energy code that meets or exceeds the 2009 IECC;
- Adopt a commercial building energy code that meets or exceeds the ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2007 and;
 - Develop and implement a plan, including active training and enforcement provisions, to achieve 90 percent compliance with the target codes by 2017, including measuring current compliance each year.

“This joint effort is another step in ensuring a strong foundation of energy efficiency in this country,” ASHRAE President Gordon Holness said. “We encourage states to take advantage of the State Energy Program funding and work to ensure a more energy efficient future for our buildings, nationwide.”

Key Deadlines Are Swiftly Approaching. With only a few states having adopted codes that ‘meet or exceed’

the target codes, most states have a long way to go. ARRA requires State plans to be designed to achieve 90 percent compliance with codes by 2017 and to make annual compliance progress assessments. The February 2010 anniversary of ARRA marks the act's first compliance deadline for states.

To ensure ARRA compliance, it is in each State's best interest to begin the process of adopting target codes (or better) and to develop the means to train code officials to enforce them as soon as possible, according to the statement.

Help and Funding Are Available for Enforcement and Training. In addition to revenue from building inspection fees, funding for enforcement and training is available from federal grants (including SEP and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)) and from existing state and federal energy efficiency funds. In addition, the groups issuing this statement are working closely together to boost new building code-related funding in the pending climate and energy legislation before Congress, according to the statement.

The undersigned groups are committed to providing support to any requesting state and local government to achieve adoption of the target codes, to develop workable plans for training and enforcement, and to assist them in developing a plan to address the measurement and reporting of annual compliance with the target codes.

Alliance to Save Energy
American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy
The American Institute of Architects
American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
Building Codes Assistance Project
Building Energy Efficient Codes Network
International Code Council
National Association of State Energy Officials
Natural Resources Defense Council
Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project
U.S. Green Building Council

High-Performance Building Standard Provides the Foundation for Green Building Codes

ATLANTA – A proposed high-performance building standard and a stronger version of Standard 90.1, both being released next year, together will provide a total green resource for local and state governments looking to set building code requirements to reduce energy use.

Proposed Standard 189.1, *Standard for the Design of High Performance, Green Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, is being developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) in conjunction with the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) and the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The standard is slated to be the first code-intended commercial green building standard in the United States when published early in 2010.

It covers key topic areas typically included in green building rating systems: site sustainability, water use efficiency, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, and the building's impact on the atmosphere, materials and resources.

ASHRAE and IES also are working to strengthen the requirements in ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1, *Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings*, which provides minimum requirements for the energy-efficient design of buildings except low-rise residential buildings. It is estimated that the 2010 standard will result in 25 to 30 percent energy savings over the 2004 version. The 2010 standard is expected to be released in mid-2010.

An update on the development of Standard 189.1P will be given this week at the USGBC GreenBuild Expo at a press conference on Thursday.

"Both standards are written in mandatory language to allow for adoption with building codes," Gordon Holness, ASHRAE president, said. "They are being developed using the widely respected American National Standards Institute consensus procedures. As such, their strength comes from the volunteer committee of experts from all facets of the building industry. In addition, the requirements in the draft standard were

strengthened through the public review process with input from a variety of building industry professional.”

Proposed Standard 189.1P has been written by experts representing all areas of the building industry, including engineers, lighting designers, sustainability experts, building owners, designers, architects, code and compliance officials, utilities, materials experts and equipment manufacturers. These volunteer experts have contributed tens of thousands of man hours valued at millions of dollars.

The technical requirements in the standard also are supported by input from the building industry during the public review process. The standard recently completed a fourth public review, in which 109 comments were received. The comments are being reviewed by working groups of the committee developing the standard.

The full committee meets this week in conjunction with the GreenBuild Expo to act on the suggested comments.

The standard has undergone four public reviews, meaning anyone could comment on its proposed requirements. Some 2,500 comments were received during the review periods.

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RESEARCH PROMOTION

Research Promotion Goal: \$25,250

YTD as of 11/09 Total: \$9,045 (35.8%)

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For the Research Contribution Form, click [here](#)

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ASHRAE MEMBERSHIP

Members can run their own dues renewal with the following steps:

- 1. Go to <http://www.ashrae.org/>
- 2. Login as yourself
- 3. Click **Update Your Bio** the in left-hand column
- 4. Click **Member Dues Renewal** - it will generate a file you can print or save to PDF

- 5. And while here, members can also update their bio to advance to Member grade if interested!

ASHRAE will continue its regular billing of members, but this new addition makes it easier for you to assist members you need something immediately!

For further information, please contact the membership chair.

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