



# Ball State University

---

## “Paradigm Shift: Burning Coal to Geothermal”

November 20, 2012

[jlowe@bsu.edu](mailto:jlowe@bsu.edu)

765.285.2805

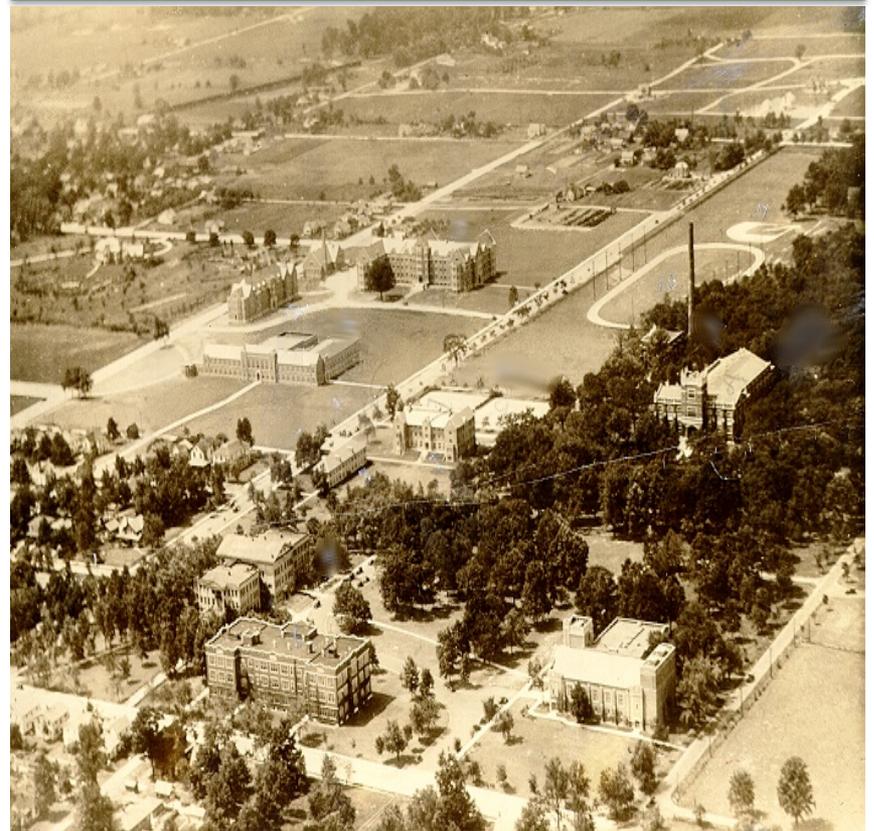
---

# Ball State University

Administration Building 1899



Ball State 1920s



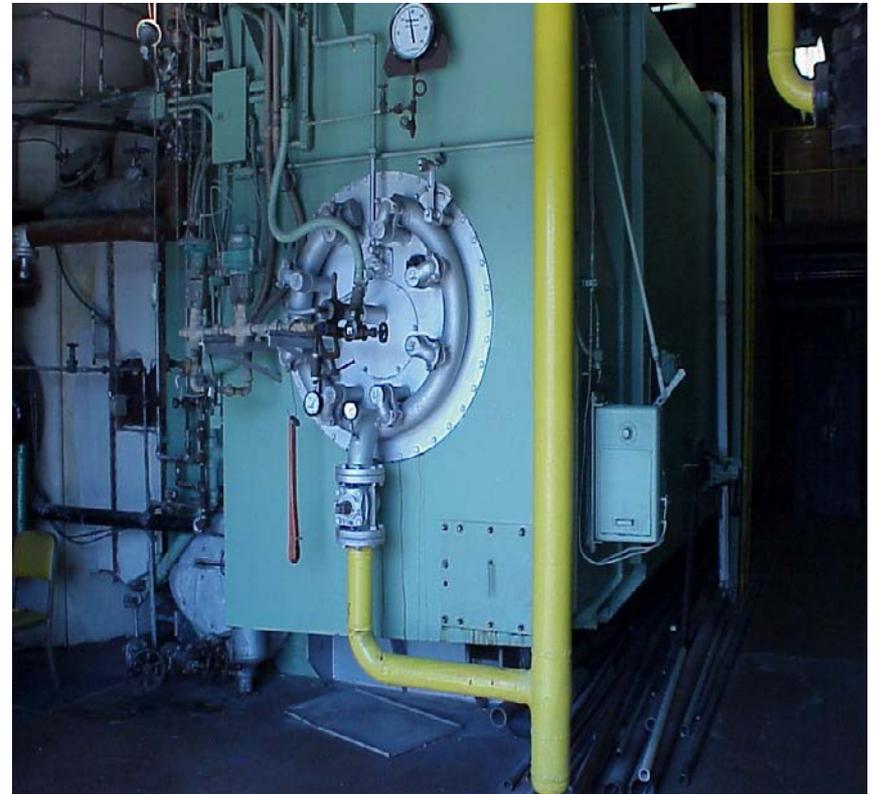
# Ball State University



# Ball State University

**(4) Coal Fired Boilers**  
Installed 1941/1955

**(3) Natural Gas Fired Boilers**  
Installed in the 1970s



# Heat and Chilled Water Plant Operations

## Heat Plant:

4 Coal Fired Boilers

3 Natural Gas Fired Boilers

320,000 Lbs/Hr nameplate

240,000 Lbs/Hr current

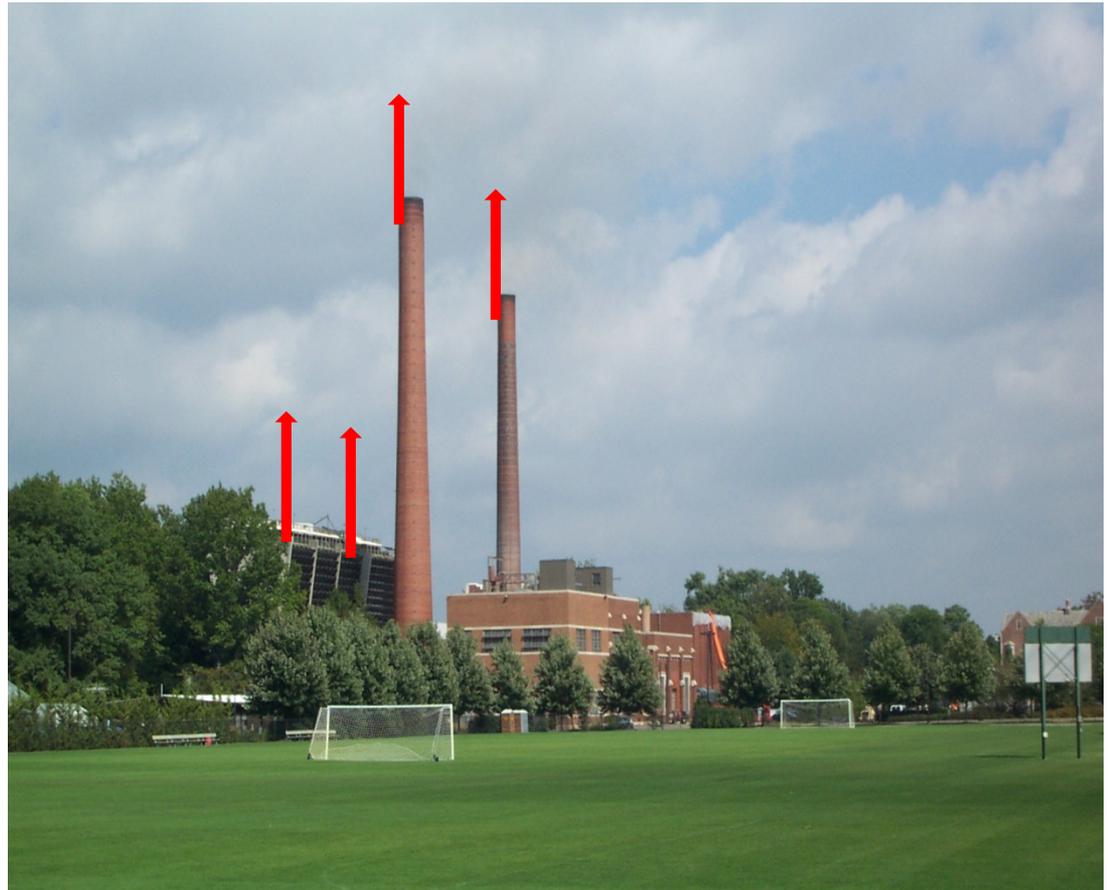
700,000,000 Lbs/Year

## Chilled Water Plant:

5 Electrical Centrifugal  
Chillers

9,300 ton capacity

25,000,000 Ton Hours/Year



# Pollutants Produced from Burning 36,000 tons of Coal

- Carbon Dioxide      85,000 tons      (Global Warming)
- Sulfur Dioxide      1,400 tons      (Acid Rain)
- Nitrogen Oxide      240 tons      (Smog)
- Particulate Matter      200 tons      (Breathing)
- Carbon Monoxide      80 tons      (Headache)
- Multiple Hazardous Air Pollutants now regulated by EPA's Boiler MACT rules

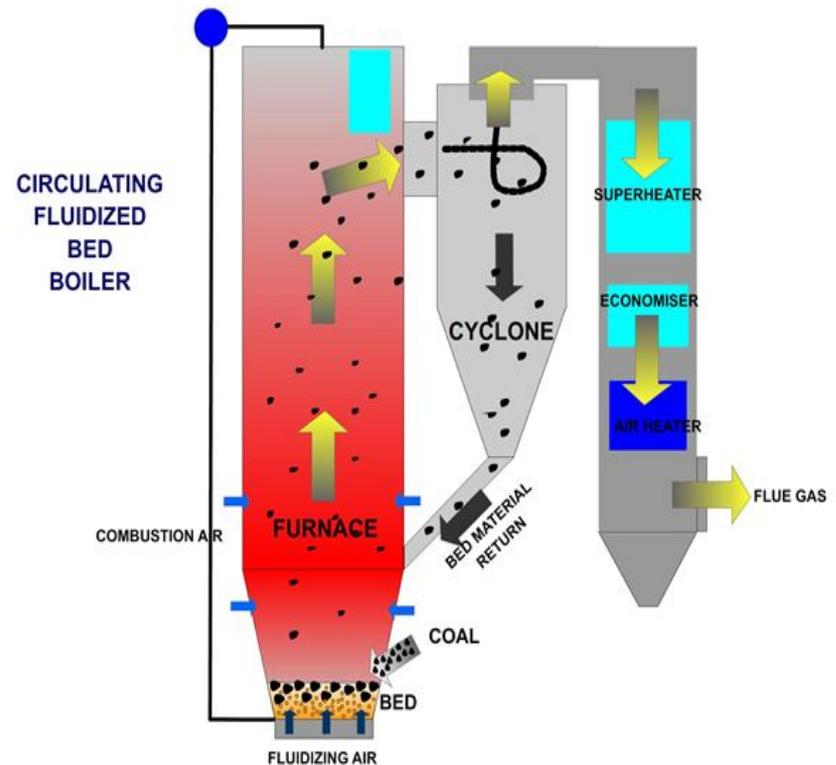
# Coal-fired Boiler Replacement

- Condition: Average age over 64 years old
- Capacity: Campus grew in size  
Boiler output degraded  
Title V permit limits
- EPA : Boiler Maximum Achievable  
Control Technology (BMACT)

*State of Indiana appropriated \$45 million in 2005  
to replace (4) coal fired boilers*

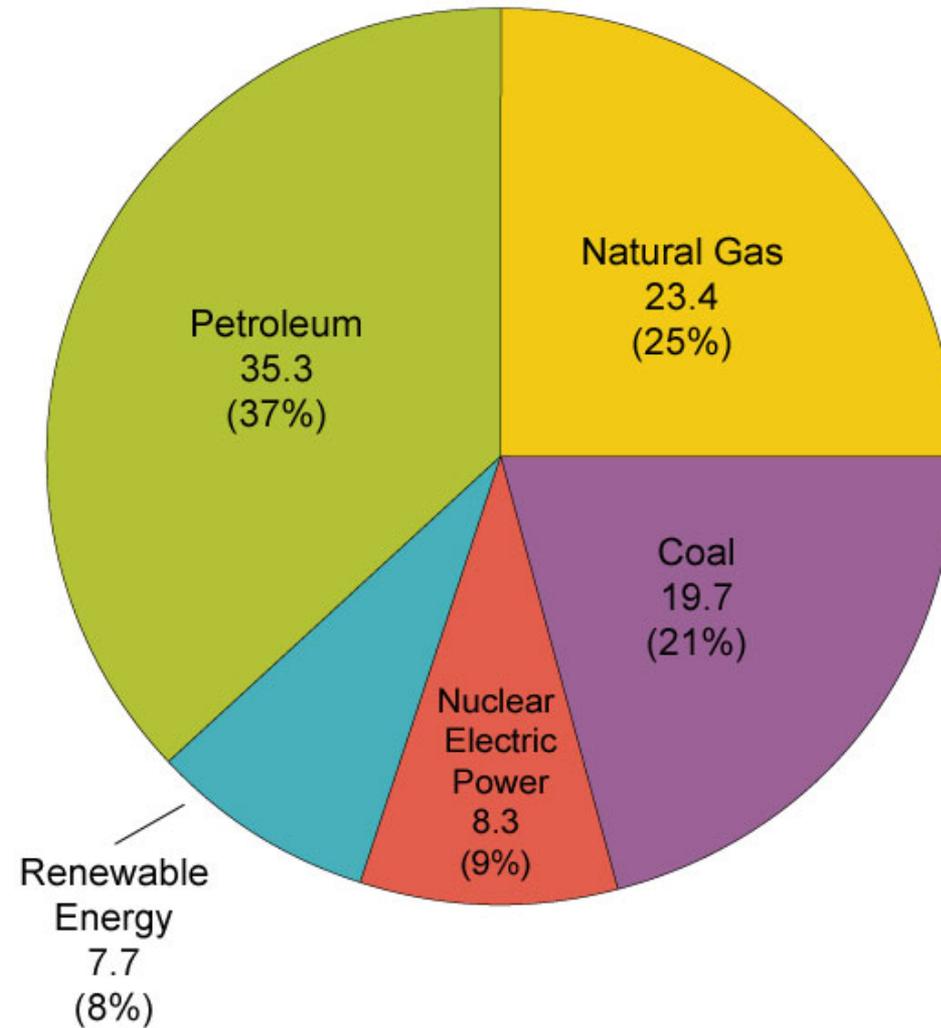
# Circulating Fluidized Bed Boiler

- Burn 70% fossil fuel with 30% alternative fuels
- Approximately 15% more efficient
- **Cost escalated to \$65 - \$70 million by 2008**



# Primary Energy Use by Source, 2009,

Quadrillion Btu and Percent



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 2009*.

# Geothermal Research

- MAPPA Survey of Universities
- International Ground Source Heat Pump Association(IGSHPA)
- National Ground Water Association (NGWA)
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- US Department of Energy
- Galt House --Louisville
- Stockton College (NJ)
- AUL/One American Building in Indianapolis
- Dr. Steve Kavanaugh and Kevin Rafferty

# Ball State University

- Proof of Concept: District System Capable
- Provide both Hot Water and Chilled Water
- Project Estimate \$75 - \$80 Million
- Estimated \$2,000,000 Savings by Eliminating Coal Purchases

***Received a \$5 million US Department of Energy grant in 2009 ; total funds available \$50 million***

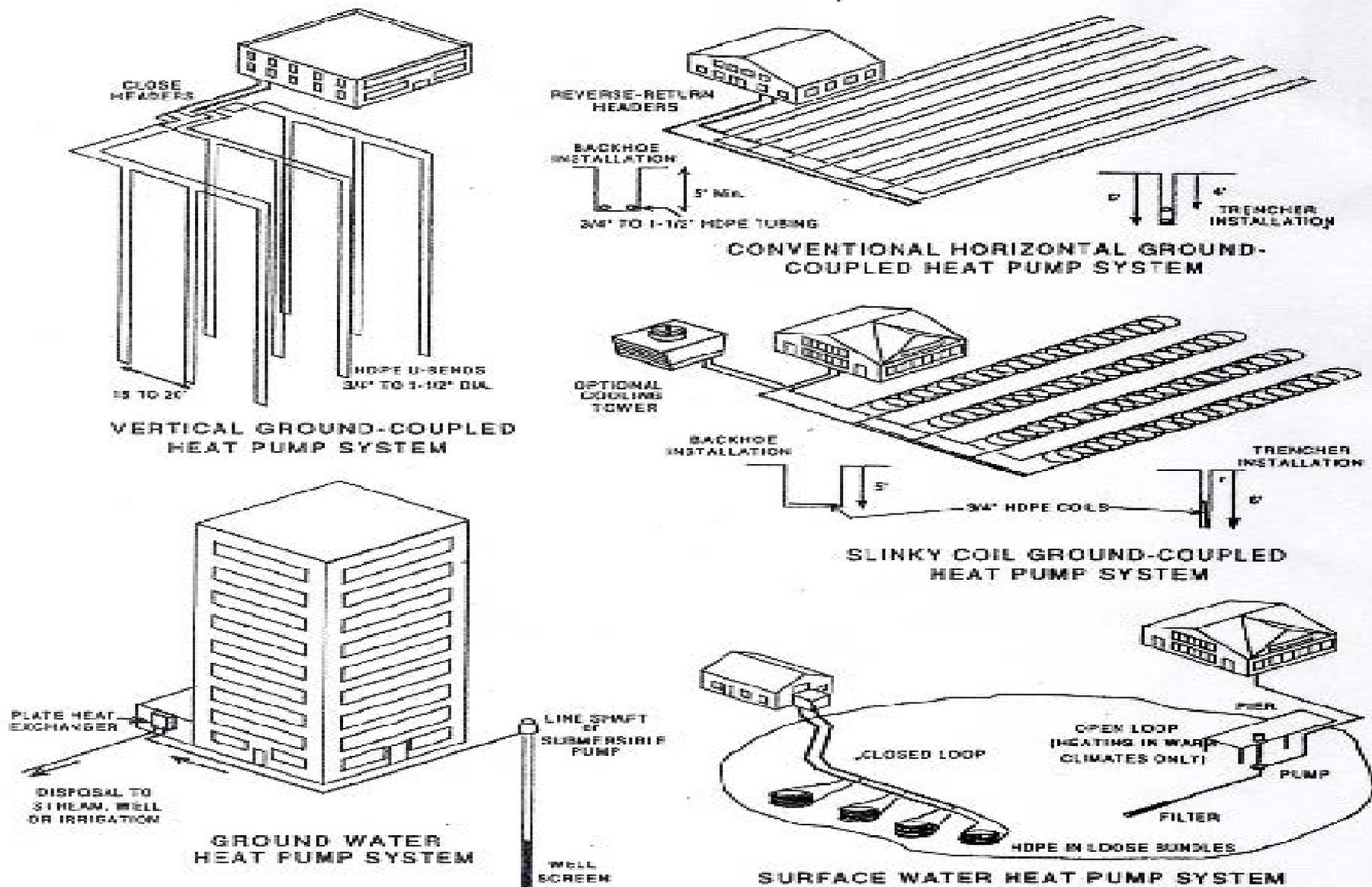
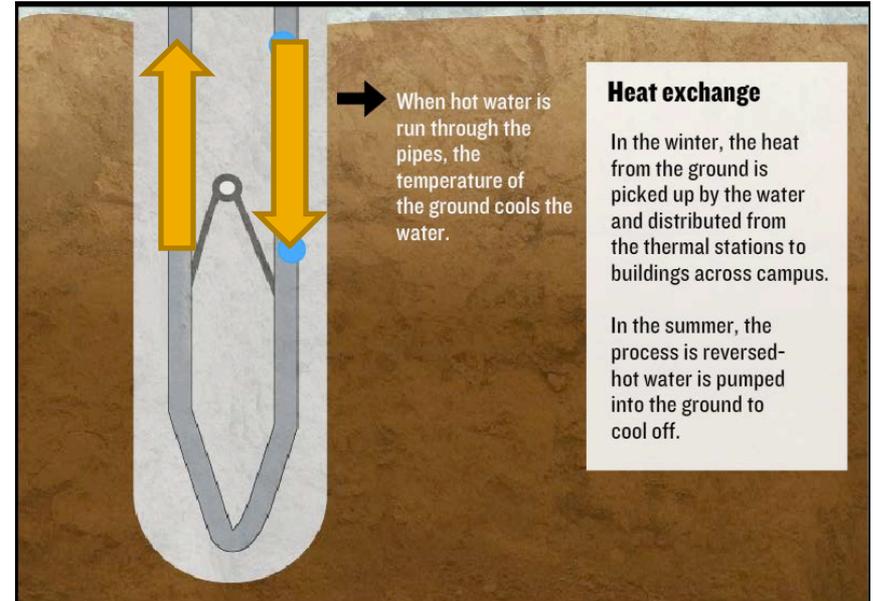


Figure 1.1 Ground-source (or geothermal) heat pump types.

# Geothermal Process

## Borehole Loops

## Thermal Energy Flow



# Laws of Thermodynamics

## “Engineers Holy Grail”

### **Zeroth law: “Thermal equilibrium”**

if two thermodynamic systems are each in thermal equilibrium with a third system, then they are in thermal equilibrium with each other.

### **First law: “Conservation of energy”**

energy can neither be created nor destroyed. It can only change forms.

### **Second law: “Energy flows from higher to lower temperature objects”**

heat can spontaneously flow from a higher temperature region to a lower temperature region, but not the other way

### **Third law: “Minimum Kinetic Energy”**

As temperature approaches absolute zero, the molecular kinetic energy of a system approaches a minimum, 0 degrees K, -273.15 degree C or -459.67 degree F.

Senator Richard Lugar  
Geothermal Groundbreaking Ceremony, May 9, 2009



# Borehole Drilling

## Drilling Rigs

## Drilling Process

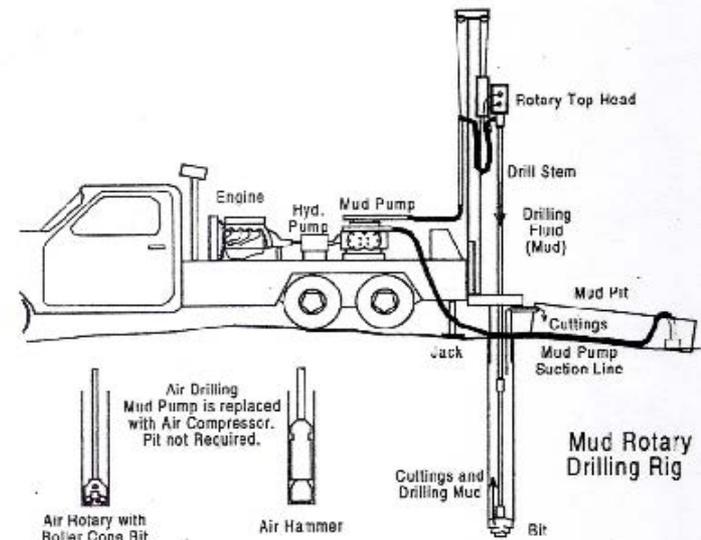


Figure C.1 Small rotary drilling rig for vertical loop installation.

# Borehole Construction

## Installation of Pipe



## Installation of Grout

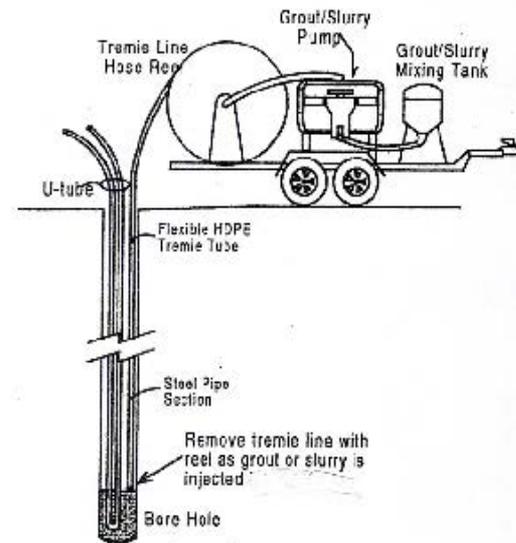
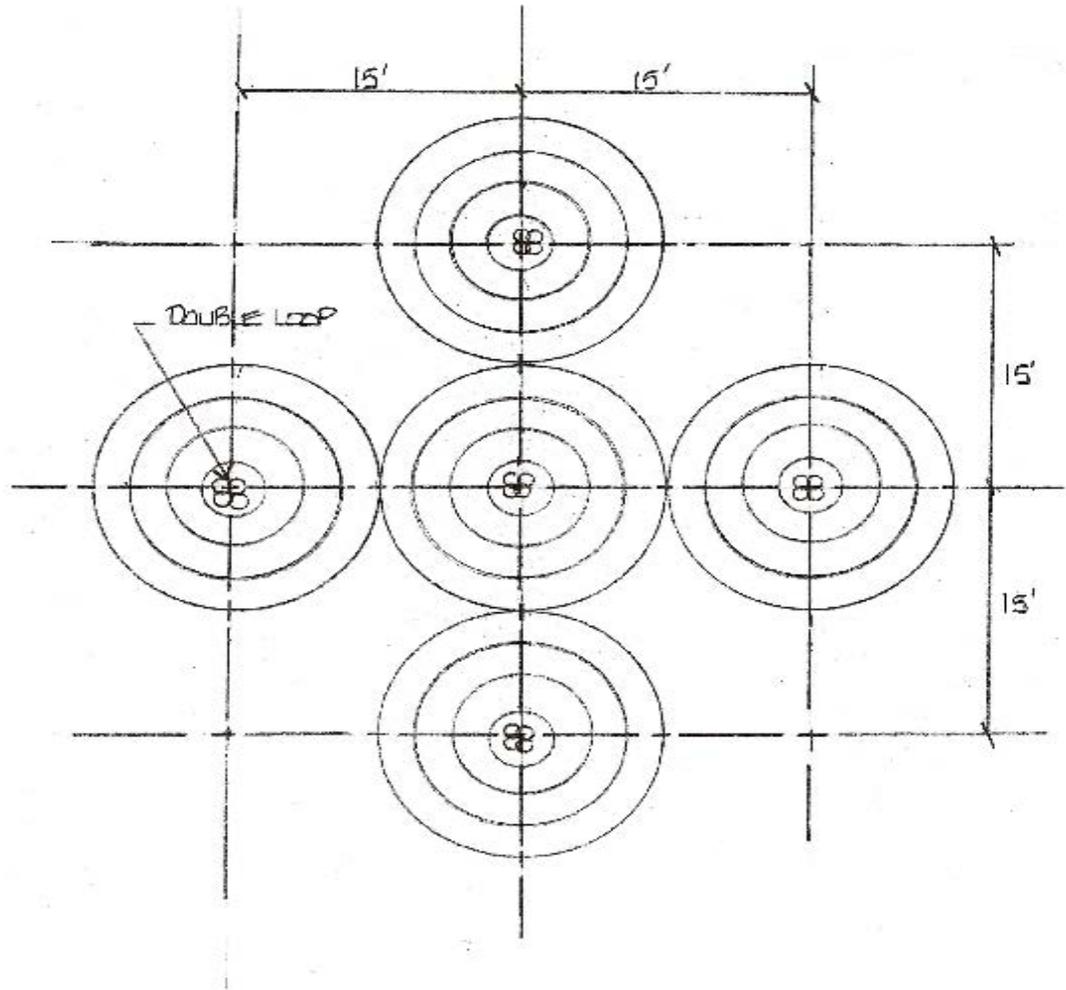


Figure C.4 Backfill/grouting the bore hole

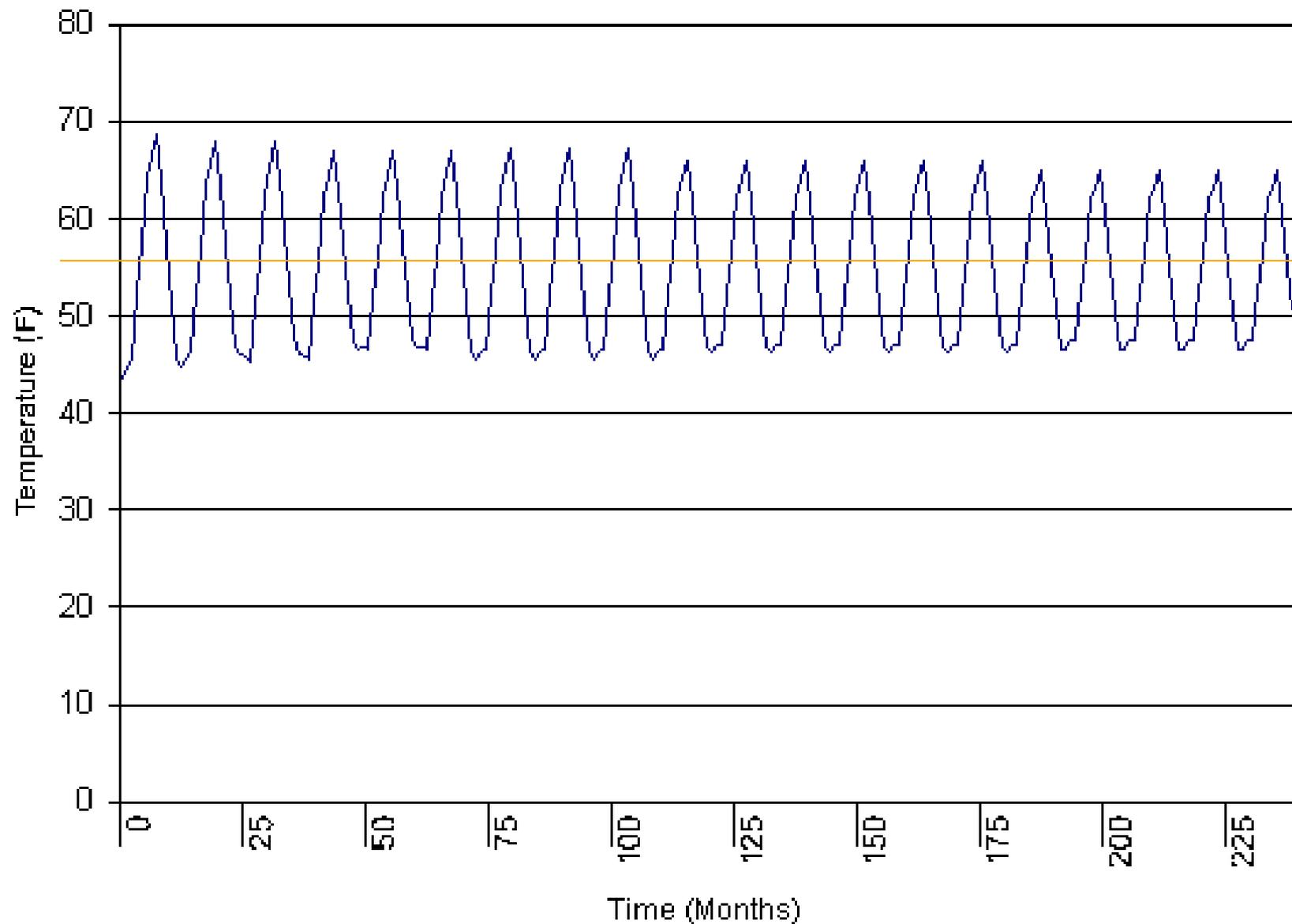
# Borehole Design

- 15 feet apart
- 225 SF per borehole
- 400/500 feet deep
- Double and Single Loop
- 1-1/4 inch diameter pipe
- High Density Polyethylene

**3,600 boreholes; total  
of 1,000 miles of pipe**



# 20 Year Ground Temperature Model



# District Energy Station North

**(4) CYK York Chillers:**  
**R134A Refrigerant**

**Heating:**

**150 degree F hot water**  
**38,000,000 BTU/Hour**

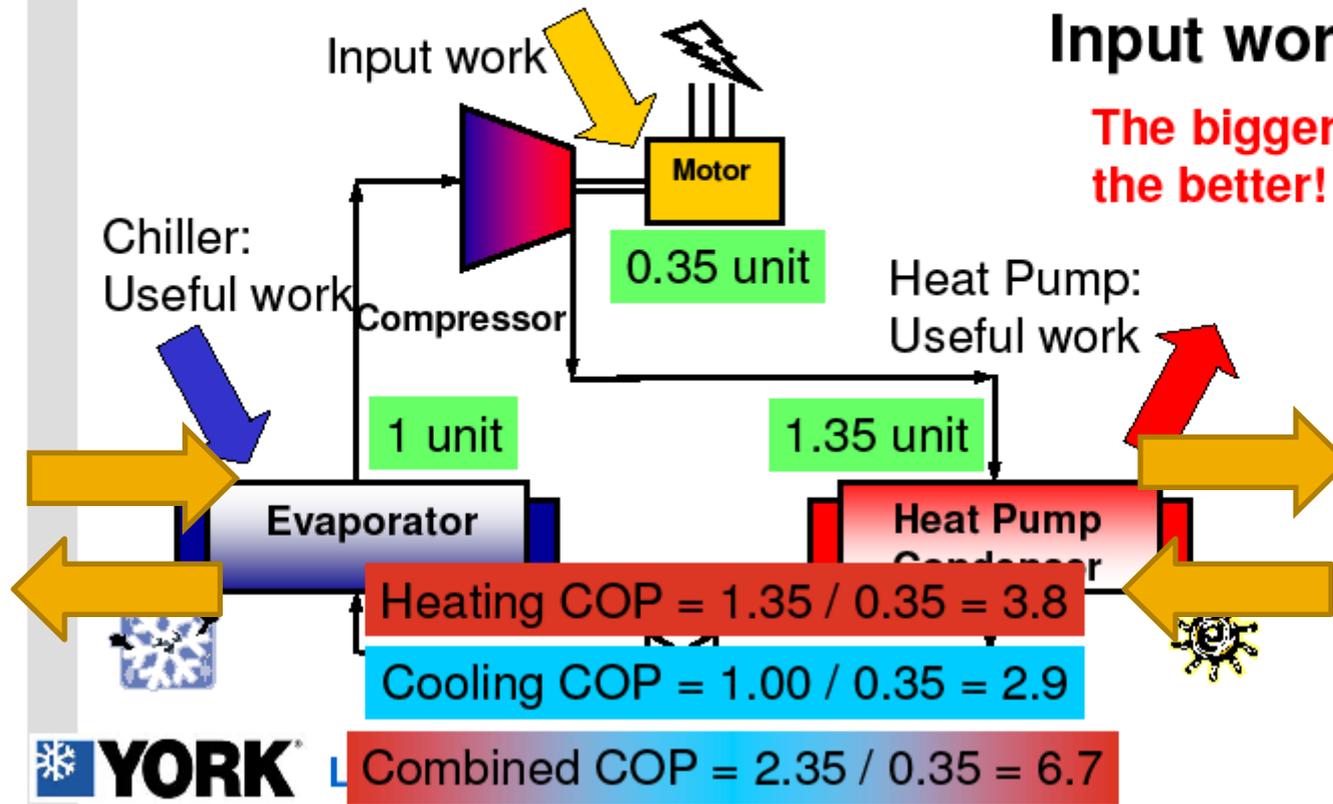
**Cooling:**

**42 degree F chilled water**  
**2,500 tons**



**COP (Coefficient of Performance) =  $\frac{\text{Useful work}}{\text{Input work}}$**

**The bigger the better!**



# Four Pipe Central Piping

Central Energy



Campus Building



Campus Building

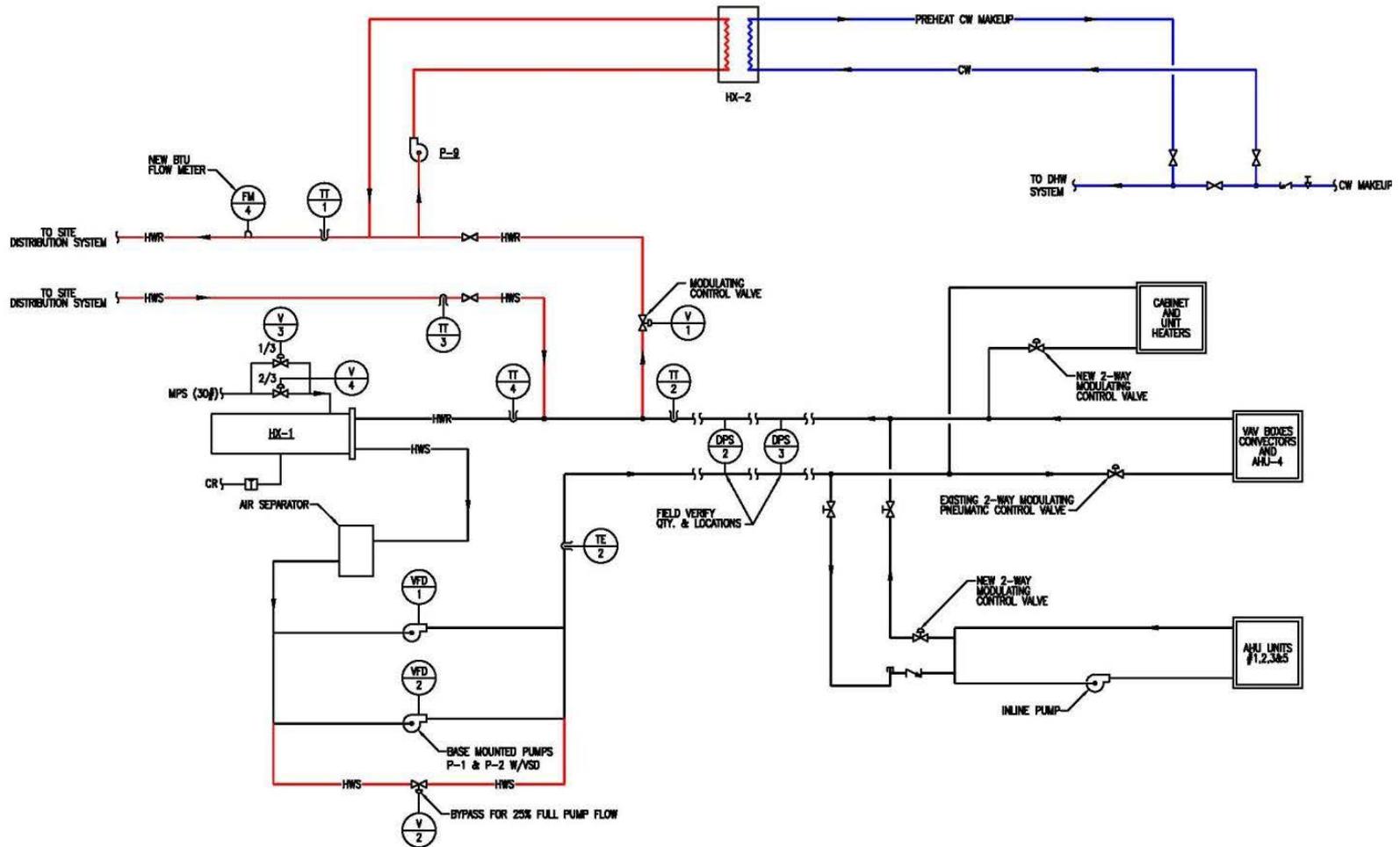
# Ball State University

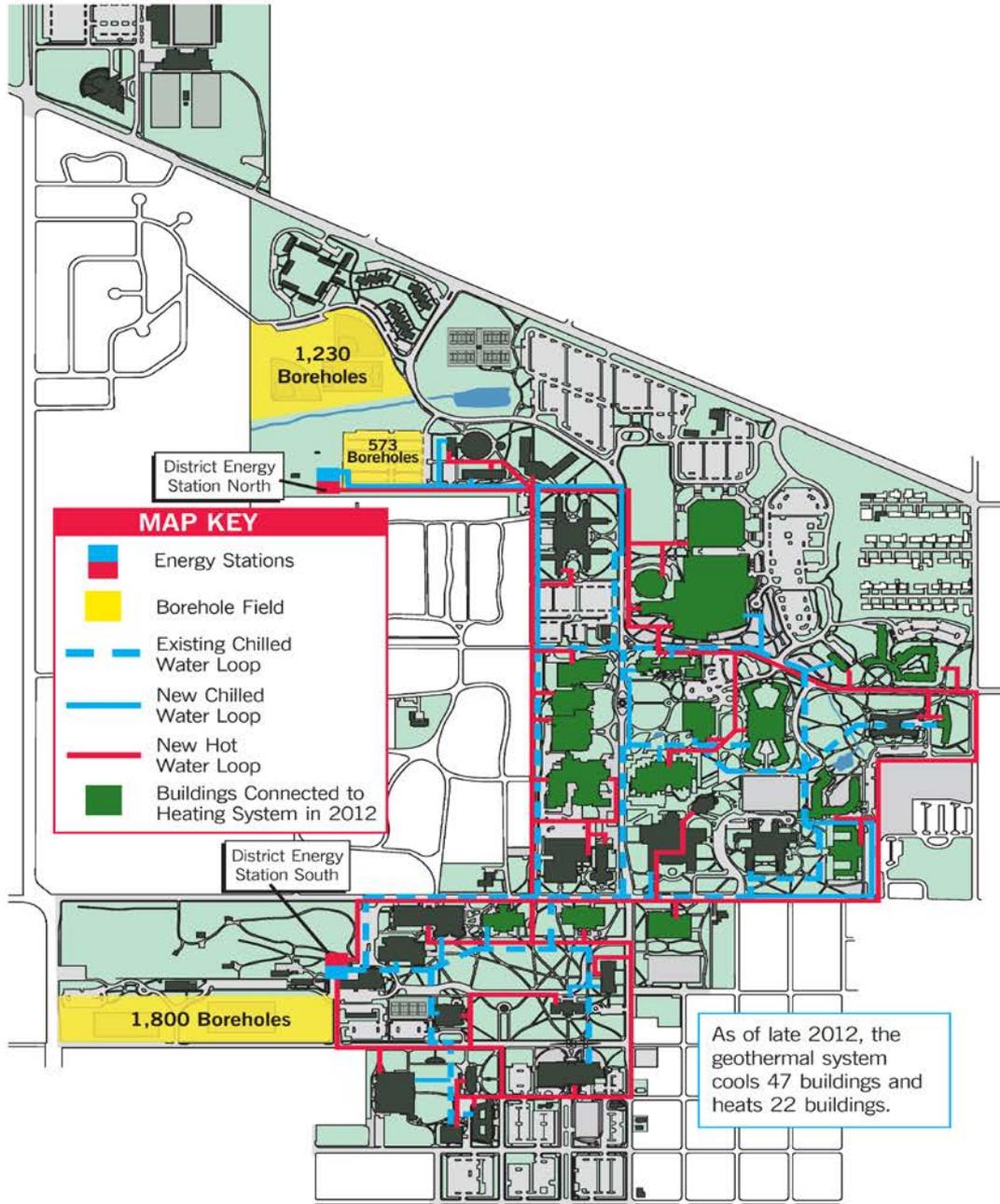
New Hot Water Piping  
10 Miles of New Pipe

Typical Air Handling unit  
42 F Chilled Water/150 F Hot Water



# Typical Hot Water Interface





# Pollutants Eliminated with Geothermal Conversion

- Carbon Dioxide            75,000 tons
- Sulfur Dioxide            1,400 tons
- Nitrogen Oxide            240 tons
- Particulate Matter        200 tons
- Carbon Monoxide         80 tons

*“Ball State will be able to comply with Boiler MACT requirements”*

# Benefits

BTUs per year reduction

500,000,000,000

BTUs/SF/Year

185,000 reduced to 110,000

Water reduction

36,000,000 gallons

Dollars Saved

\$2,000,000

# Ball State University's Geothermal Project Visits and Inquiries

## Colleges & Universities

- Dartmouth College
- Stanford University
- University of Notre Dame
- Ohio State University
- University of Iowa
- Northern Kentucky University
- Colorado College
- Slippery Rock University
- Hampton University
- Pratt Institute
- Oakland University
- Purdue University
- Miami University, Ohio
- Cornell University
- Toledo University
- Bowling Green State
- University of Michigan
- The Evergreen State College
- Northwestern University
- University of Illinois
- Ohio University
- Lake Land College
- Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
- DePauw University
- University of Washington
- Montana State University-Bozeman
- Penn State University
- University of Kentucky
- Indiana State University
- Northampton Community College

# Ball State University's Geothermal Project Visits and Inquiries

- U.S. Department of Energy
- Indiana Department of Natural Resources
- Indiana Office of Energy Development
- Representatives of Isparta, Turkey
- National Wildlife Federation
- Union of Concerned Scientists
- Building Indiana Magazine
- WFYI Indiana Expeditions
- The Chronicle for Higher Education
- Delta Sky Magazine
- Second Nature (2010 Climate Leadership Award)
- Geo Outlook Magazine
- Allison Transmission
- Waterwell Journal
- International District Energy Association
- Biz World
- The Christian Science Monitor
- National Public Radio
- Argonne National Laboratory
- National Ground Water Association
- Hoosier Environmental Council (2010 Technology Innovator of the Year Award)
- Waste Management
- General Service Administration
- Korea: Engineering Firm

# Lessons Learned: Ouch!

- Purging: velocity pressure is critical
- Ductile iron pipe: asphalt coating
- Borehole design: double versus single loop
- Borehole quality checks: grout conductivity
- Pressure reliefs: building interfaces
- Heat pump chillers: vary the size

# Learning Opportunities

- **Classroom Collaboration:** Natural Resources, Geology, Architecture, Construction Management
- **Research:** Geology Department
- **Conferences:** Geothermal Nexus
- **Tours:** Universities
- **Special Projects:** Graduate Students

BALL STATE  
UNIVERSITY

