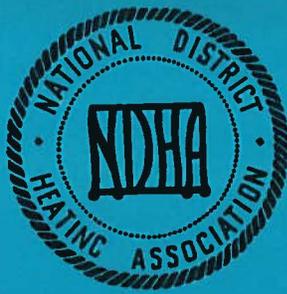


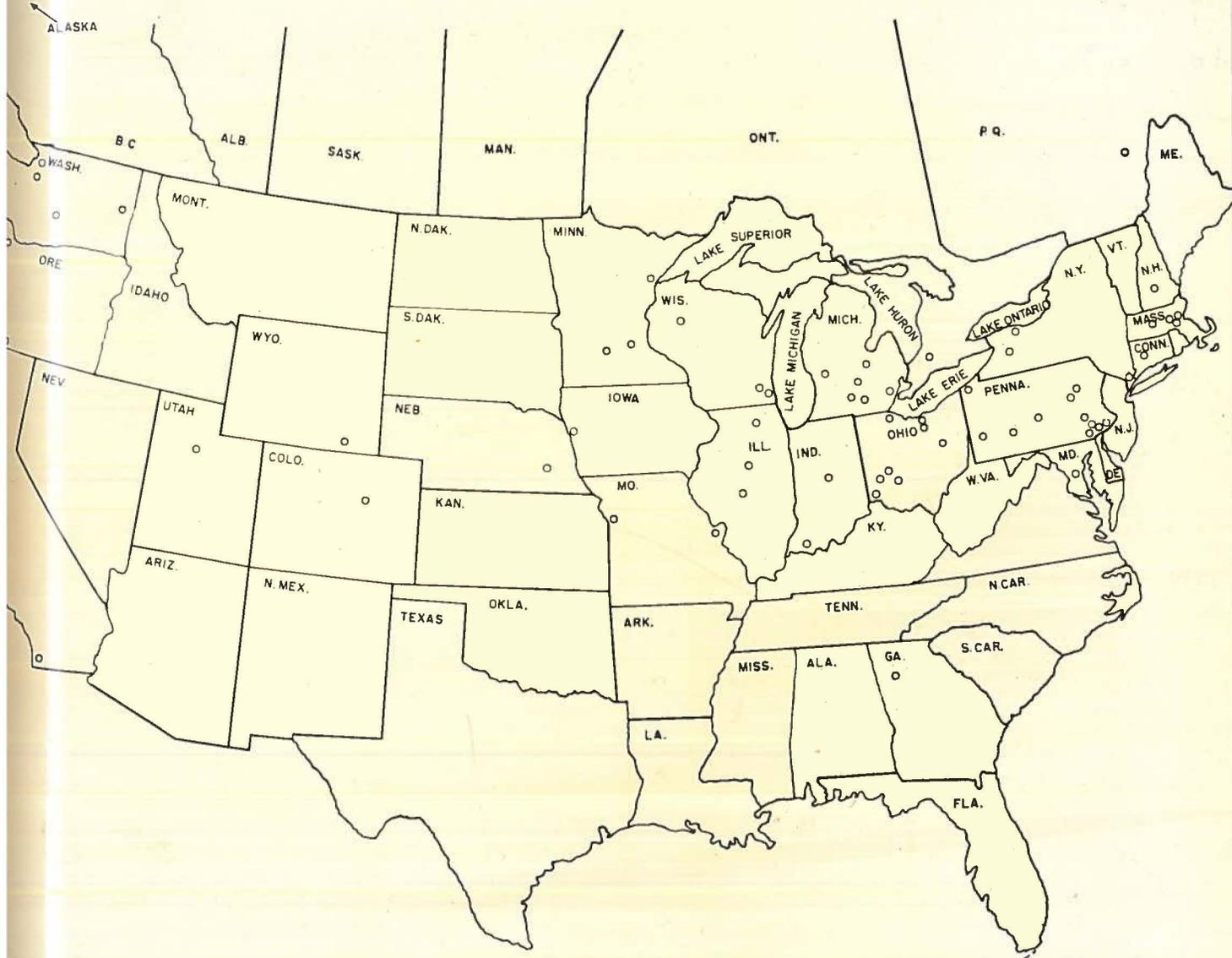
Office Copy

DISTRICT HEATING

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY SINCE 1915



APRIL 1963 — VOL. XLVIII, No. 4



N.D.H.A. DISTRICT HEATING COMPANY MEMBERS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

A COMMENTARY

On The National Coal Board (British) and District Heating

By the Editorial Director of the English Magazine

"The Steam Engineer"¹

"A subject on which there has probably been more written and more spoken than any other in the immediate post-war period is that of district heating, and it is perhaps somewhat ironic that so little should have resulted as an outcome.

"The concept of district heating in this country is not new, as is witnessed by the pioneer schemes at Bloom Street, Manchester, and in Dundee, which have been in operation for some fifty years now. However, very little subsequent progress has been made, and the only post-war schemes of any magnitude were the Pimlico thermal-electric district heating scheme and the Wythenshawe straight thermal scheme.

"These schemes are, however, very minor ones compared with comparable installations both in the U.S.A. and on the Continent, where district heating continues to make considerable progress. It is interesting to note that steam is still the principal heat distribution medium in the U.S.A., whilst on the Continent high pressure hot water is usually favored. In both cases the tendency appears to be towards thermal-electric generation rather than straight thermal schemes.

"In recent years the subject of district heating has virtually been dead in this country, apart from some investigations carried out by the Central Electricity Generating Board, which have not so far shown any definite results. It is interesting, therefore, that the whole question was revived publicly by Lord Robens, Chairman of the National Coal Board, at the joint N.C.B./C.U.C. (Coal Utilisation Council) Conference held at Torquay in March (1962) when in fact he is understood to have offered to provide the necessary boiler plant for any pilot scheme.

"As a result of the various discussions at the Torquay Conference, a new Design and Heating Study Group has been set up by the N.C.B. under the chairmanship of Mr. A. G. Sheppard Fidler, City Architect of Birmingham (who submitted a very interesting paper to the Conference) and invitations to serve on this group have been extended to the Royal Institution of

British Architects, the Institution of Heating & Ventilating Engineers, the Heating & Ventilating Research Association, the Building Research Station, the Coal Utilisation Council, and of course, the National Coal Board itself.

"The Study Group has the following terms of reference:

- (a) To study trends of development in both architectural design and heating methods, with specific reference to group heating and district heating.
- (b) to promote the adoption of heating equipment standardisation, with examination of related problems of tolerance in building construction;
- (c) to issue information bulletins on new developments in building and heating methods and on their inter relation; the first bulletin relating to district heating possibilities in the U.K. (United Kingdom) after study of Continental development.
- (d) to prepare outline proposals (for general guidance) on heating installations for specific large scale building projects.

"It is fairly obvious that Lord Robens and the National Coal Board are very concerned about the increasing use of oil, gas and electricity for domestic and commercial heating purposes, and see in district heating a method of "piped" heat supply which will give all the ease, convenience and cleanliness, etc., of alternate methods of heating, whilst still using solid fuel as the primary source of heat at the central boiler house or power station.

"We do not know to what extent the Coal Board are at present thinking in terms of thermal-electric generation or merely straight thermal schemes, but it will be very interesting to see whether or not the results of this Study Group's investigations lead to any more positive action than many of the similar reports on district heating published in the post-war years."

¹ Republished by the kind permission of the Editor of "The Steam Engineer," London, England.