



Mark Osmack

Director of Government Relations
18927 Hickory Creek Drive, Suite 220
Mokena, Illinois 60448

January 31, 2024

Jim Zolnierek
Bureau Chief, Public Utilities
Illinois Commerce Commission
527 E. Capitol Ave.
Springfield, IL 62701

Re: Thermal Energy Network Implementation Recommendations

Dear Mr. Zolnierek,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Hydronics Industry Alliance (HIA-C¹), a committee of the Radiant Professionals Alliance (RPA²) under the nation's premier code leader and expert in hydronic and geothermal energy, the IAPMO Group. HIA-C focuses on the advancement of geothermal energy systems and ambient temperature loops for commercial buildings. The alliance serves as a resource with a mission to educate, integrate, and communicate the advantages of hydronic system solutions. The committee is composed of contractors, dealers, manufacturers, distributors, design professionals, and other partner trade organizations. This diversification ensures that best practices and lessons-learned are drawn from varied sources to encourage sound and actionable solutions.

HIA-C and RPA are involved in the creation, education, testing, and development of geothermal and hydronic provisions addressed in the *Uniform Mechanical Code*[®] (UMC)³ and *Uniform Solar, Hydronics, and Geothermal Code*[®] (USHGC)⁴ under American National Standards Institute (ANSI) accredited process. Chapter 17 of the 2024 UMC and Chapter 7 of the USHGC address geothermal energy Systems and ambient temperature loops for open-loop, closed-loop, and DX systems.

Though water is one of the world's oldest energy sources, its usage in this form is new and unfamiliar in much of the United States. The guidance and recommendations detailed throughout the chapters provide best practices and lessons learned bringing certainty and expertise to program implementation. For successful rollout, we strongly recommend utilizing and referring to these chapters into planning and execution efforts going forward. We believe the integration of expertise in this area can significantly contribute to the objectives outlined in the Thermal Energy Network (TEN) Forum and provide confidence to the statewide effort. Further, the guidance within the chapters can be incorporated other statewide or code efforts in the future. We are also Illinois constituents with deep roots in the state as we have two business units, ASSE International and Dispensing Equipment Alliance headquartered in Mokena.

¹ www.hia-c.org

² www.radiantpros.org

³ <https://epubs.iapmo.org/2024/UMC/>

⁴ <https://epubs.iapmo.org/2021/USHGC/>



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
PLUMBING AND MECHANICAL OFFICIALS**

Mark Osmack

Director of Government Relations
18927 Hickory Creek Drive, Suite 220
Mokena, Illinois 60448

Moving forward, the HIA-C can augment being a code resource and per request, offer recommendations based upon our membership's experience on the following matters to further strengthen TEN implementation:

- **Maximizing Value of State and Federal Programs**
- **Climate Justice and Emissions Reductions**
- **Training and Transition of Utility Workers**
- **Broad Workforce Support**

As Illinois plans, initiates, and enacts the plan, we hope you consider us as a technical and professional resource along each step of this process. We are also happy to schedule regular touchpoints or as needed. We believe these suggestions align with the public interest and can significantly benefit the efficiency and sustainability of Illinois' thermal network infrastructure. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate and bring our expertise to the discussion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Osmack". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Mark Osmack
Director of Government Relations
The IAPMO Group

Cc. Hydronics Industry Alliance-Commercial (HIA-C)