

Introduction

All of a sudden politicians, architects, and building owners have made a new discovery – thermal insulation saves fuel! Even the petrochemical industry, a major user of insulation for process control and industrial safety have been lax in the proper use and application of these materials. In fact, it has been a basic axiom of almost all owners that when the project is “overbudget” – eliminate the insulation. Thus, the professional engineer who has been involved in thermal insulation evaluation by means of such technical societies as ASTM Committee C-16 and ASHRAE TC4.4 has now become an important asset.

We are thus very pleased with this opportunity to present five technical papers which should help the petrochemical industry properly consider thermal insulation. Today the proper use of insulation is no longer a matter of economics and safety but rather a need for conservation of raw feed-stocks. It is all well and good to argue about the economics of thermal insulation, but if there are no feed-stocks to produce the thousands of products made from petroleum then all arguments are academic.

We hope in this short symposium to demonstrate a wide range of applications and procedures which will help the industry *make* money but also indicate how the petrochemical industry can lead the way for our Government and its bureaucratic and meandering attempts to help us become energy independent. We need more technical committees like a hole in the head. The time for action is now!

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