

Federal Roof Committee Meets at CRREL

By Philip Dregger, PE, RRC

The 19th Federal Roof Committee (FRC) meeting was held at the Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in Hanover, New Hampshire, October 26 and 27, 1994, hosted by Wayne Tobiasson. The FRC meetings were initiated with the intent to open lines of communication about roof related activities, increase cooperation and reduce duplication between the various governmental agencies. RCI was pleased to accept an invitation to attend the meeting along with representatives of other industry organizations (e.g., SPRI, NRCA, ARMA). Both RCI Treasurer Robb Smith, RRC, and this writer represented RCI.

Presentations by several federal agencies indicated a growing acceptance and implementation of ROOFER Engineered Management System. The agency representatives voiced general support for the regimented approach to roof management, but expressed concern about their ability to follow through with needed repair and replacement work in light of base closures and declining operating budgets.

Mr. André Desjarlais (Oak Ridge National Laboratory) reported on a full-scale attic insulation study of a pre-manufactured housing system. One interesting conclusion was that, due to (1) energy loss at the perimeter, (2) compression of the insulation at the eave edge, and (3) truss construction, the "gross heat loss" of the system was virtually the same for tests using two layers of R-7 glass fiber insulation as for tests using one layer of R-7 glass fiber plus powder evacuated panels (a new type of insulation with an R value of 25 per inch).

Representatives from RCI reported that the Institute now has four weather stations fully packaged and



(Above) Robb Smith examines wind tunnel used to model snow drifting around arctic buildings. (Below) FRC participants tour CRREL test laboratory facility.



ready to be installed on buildings in the path of the next major wind storm event as part of RCI's Hurricane Research and Disaster Response Project. Thanks to the gracious cooperation of State Farm Insurance Company, literally hundreds of buildings along the East Coast, with well documented roof constructions, are now included in the project. The weather stations, with specially fabricated metal shielding, will be installed by RCI

consultants on buildings shortly before hurricanes make landfall in an effort to gather site specific storm weather data.

Brief highlights of other federal agency and industry reports include:

1. Mr. Dave Bailey (U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory) described plans to test several passive leak detection devices including one that sends out a radio signal when water fills a shallow plastic ring and activates an internal battery.
2. Mr. Desjarlais reported that the measured loss of solar reflectance (from 0.8 to 0.59) of an acrylic radiation control coating after four years of exposure was not reversible by washing the surface of the coating.
3. Mr. Walter Rossiter (National Institute of Standards and Technology) stated that his group has completed the Creep Rupture (time to failure) testing of adhesive bonded rubber lap seams. The group is presently working with a consortium of interested industry organizations to begin a similar testing for tape bonded lap seams.
4. Mr. Tom Smith, AIA, RRC, (National Roofing Contractors Assn.) reported that the third edition of its roofing and waterproofing manual is slated for publication in the spring of 1995 and will include new sections addressing both spray applied polyurethane foam and metal roofing.
5. Ms. Helena Hardy Pierce (SPRI) reported that her group was working with RCI to make field measurements of insula-

tion drying rates for three or four different roof systems on a building in Pembroke, Virginia.

6. Mr. John Clinton (Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Assn.) reported that the U.S. insulation industry was on

course to complete the replacement of CFC-11 blowing agent with the new HCFC-141B blowing agent by January of 1996.

The FRC meeting included an informative but chilly tour of the

“well-below-freezing” CRREL facility. Fortunately, the “blue-lipped” participants thawed shortly thereafter, thanks to a very warm reception that evening at the Tobiasson home nestled back in the nearby wooded hills.

Interface Editorial Guidelines

General Guidelines

Interface is a bi-monthly journal which features technical articles on a wide variety of roofing-related topics. All articles submitted are subject to a peer review process. This process gives an author several advantages and provides an initial reader reaction. Rebuttals desired by the author can then be integrated into the text prior to actual publication. *Interface* seeks technically meritorious articles rather than those which would serve commercial interests.

- Submissions should be typed, double-spaced, and one-sided.
- There are no length restrictions; however, typical articles range between 500 and 2,000 words.
- Photos should be black and white glossy prints, clearly labeled. Color photos or slides will be accepted. Photos will be returned upon request.
- Illustrations should be camera-ready or print quality originals.
- Peer-reviewed manuscripts may be submitted on computer diskette using IBM compatible MS-DOS format usable or convertible by Word Perfect 6.0.
- Footnote references serve to enhance a manuscript's professionalism and credibility. Footnotes should follow accepted documentation practice.
- The published article will include a byline, a short biographical sketch, and the author's photo if one is available.

Additional Categories

All of the following are subject to editorial review for length, style and content.

- Project descriptions for unique or challenging roofing projects will be considered for publication.
- Articles on topics such as finance, legal issues, environmental concerns, and business management are routinely published.
- *Interface* carries a “Contractor's Column” which features timely and relevant topics from the contractor's point of view.
- Press releases about events, services, and products are published as space allows in an “Industry News” column.
- *Interface* welcomes letters to the editor about any issue of concern to the Institute or the roofing industry. Letters must be signed and include a return address and telephone number.
- *Interface* is always looking for quality front cover photos and illustrations. All submissions will be considered and, depending upon space, a brief description of the photo will be published inside the magazine.
- Additional feature columns may be developed based on readers' interests and needs. *Interface* welcome all ideas and suggestions.

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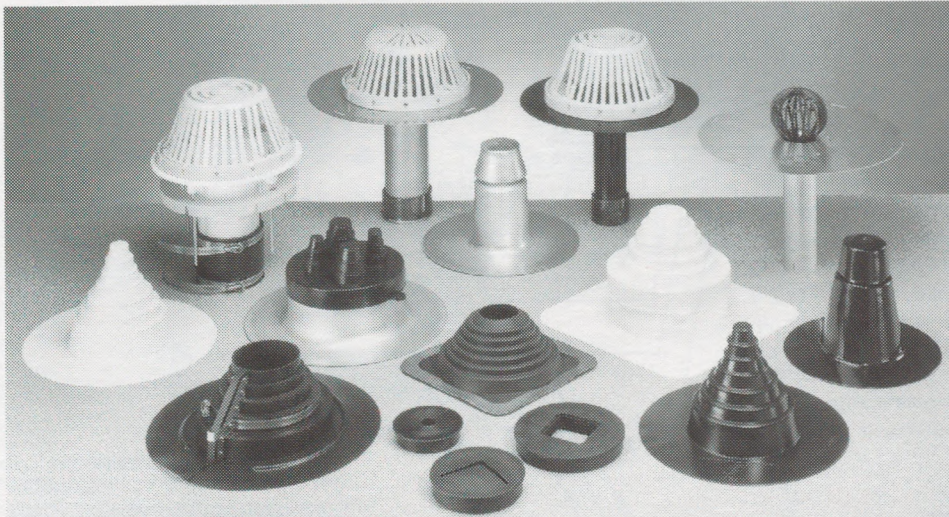
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