



Marketer's Home Showcases Latest Gas Heating, Cooling Products

A third-generation Kentucky marketer is showcasing the latest gas-fired heating and cooling technology at his newly-built 10,000-sq-ft residence in the Bluegrass State's north-central Breckinridge County. Kerry Kasey of Irvington Gas Co. Inc. (Irvington) has installed two gas-fired absorption heat pumps by Robur Corp. (Evansville, Ind.). The units simultaneously produce hot and chilled water for a complete hydronic heating and air-conditioning system while providing nominal heating efficiencies of 139% by recovering heat energy from renewable resources.

In addition to the Robur heat pumps, the Irvington residence features three Lennox fireplaces, a Radium vent-free unit, an Elite series EDV3530 direct-vent fireplace, and an LBV B-vent fireplace, as well as two Rinnai tankless water heaters. There is also a Heat & Glo Cyclone fireplace.

Kasey noted that he designed his home to highlight the many advantages and wide selection of gas appliances builders can offer their homebuyers. Builders invited to the residence will be able to see first-hand the attractiveness and functionality of gas applications, as well as their comfort and lifestyle features. Kasey said developing relationships with builders in his area of operations is critical since it is served by competitive rural electric cooperatives.

"We wanted to demonstrate what is possible," said Kasey, whose grandfather, P.L. Kasey, founded Irvington Gas in 1938 as an outgrowth of Kasey Petroleum Co., an independent gasoline distributor. Kerry Kasey's brother, Kevin, is also employed in the business, and their dad, Kenneth, is still on the job.

Geothermal loops and well water on Kerry's property in Irvington were uti-

lized to provide radiant heating and cooling throughout his home. With the Robur heat pumps, water can be heated to 149°F, and alternately, 37.4°F in the cooling mode. The units use only environmentally-friendly refrigerants, and the distribution of the water is in a closed-loop system, so there is no additional water consumption.

The radiant system is by Warmboard Inc. (Aptos, Calif.), and it incorporates a structural subfloor and radiant panel with 1/2-in. PEX tubing that distributes the heated or cooled water. A modular pattern of channels for the tubing is cut into the top surface, and a thick sheet of aluminum is stamped to match the channel pattern and is permanently bonded to each panel. The radiant system can be topped by any finish floor, including carpeting, tile, or wood, depending on owner preference.

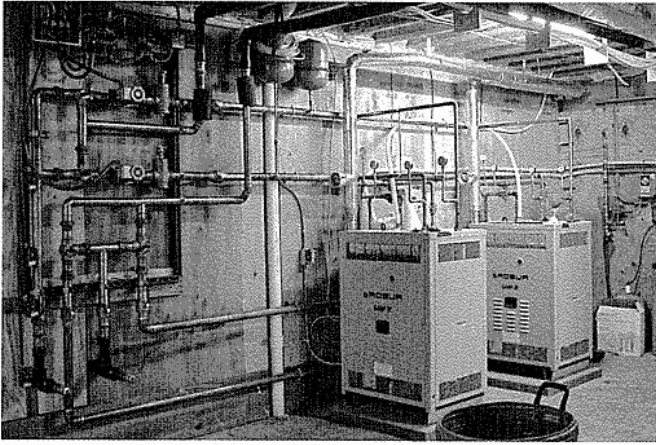
According to the company, its product can be nailed or screwed directly to floor joists like any conventional subfloor, and the same labor that would ordinarily install just a subfloor installs a high-performance radiant panel system, saving time and labor. While other radiant systems are more labor intensive because they are added either above or below the subfloor, Warmboard is the subfloor, noted the company.

Irvington Gas' service territory includes the growing Fort Knox area. As a result of its outreach to builders, the company has installed several piped town systems in new-home developments in the area—both

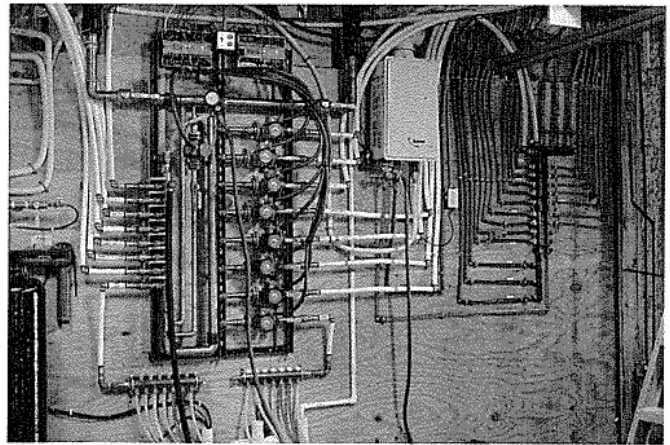


Warmboard, an integrated structural subfloor and radiant panel, distributes heated and cooled water through PEX tubing in a modular pattern of channels.

Inside the basement “nerve center”...



Kerry Kasey's Robur gas-fired heat pumps source well water (geothermal) to produce radiant heating and cooling.



A central water distribution system, tied into a manifold, ensures equal pressure distribution throughout the house.

propane and natural gas, Kerry Kasey said. The majority of the developments include 100 homes or less, he noted, and have up to 10 centrally-located 1000-gal. underground tanks to serve the residences. “We try to educate both builders and homebuyers as much as possible on the benefits of gas,” Kasey said, “and our relationship with builders has resulted in them sending us customers.”

He added that content on the Irvington Gas website, www.irvington-gas.com, also provides information to homebuyers and builders regarding their energy choices, and that builders often refer customers to the site for examples of their options regarding using gas as an energy source.

In addition to setting up central delivery systems and serving residential customers, Irvington Gas has com-

mercial accounts and offers water heating products by Rinnai and Bradford White, Holland grills, Heat & Glo and Lennox fireplaces, space heaters by Rinnai and Empire Comfort Systems, kitchen appliances, and gas lighting fixtures. In addition to its propane operations, Irvington Gas since 1963 has been the sole owner of Valley Gas Inc., which markets natural gas.

—John Needham