

New County Building to Use Geo-Thermal Energy

Late in 2007, DeKalb County Government began construction of a new Community Outreach Building. It will be a 26,000 square foot building, located on the County's Health Facility Campus, which is at the north-east corner of Annie Glidden Road and Dresser Road in DeKalb, IL. The building is expected to open in late 2008.

The building will utilize many energy efficient ideas, but one of the most unique will be the use of geo-thermal energy to heat and cool the building. It is believed that this will be the first major public building in DeKalb County to utilize this form of energy. The County Board approved an appropriation of \$150,000 to go to a geo-thermal system over more traditional heating and cooling systems. The payback period is expected to be 7 to 10 years for a building with a useful life in excess of 40 years. No grants or energy credits were available for this project.

The geo-thermal system is a closed-loop system. The well field was placed in a dry retention pond already on site, therefore no additional productive land had to be acquired or impacted. There are a total of 63 wells for this project with each well drilled to a depth of 160 feet.