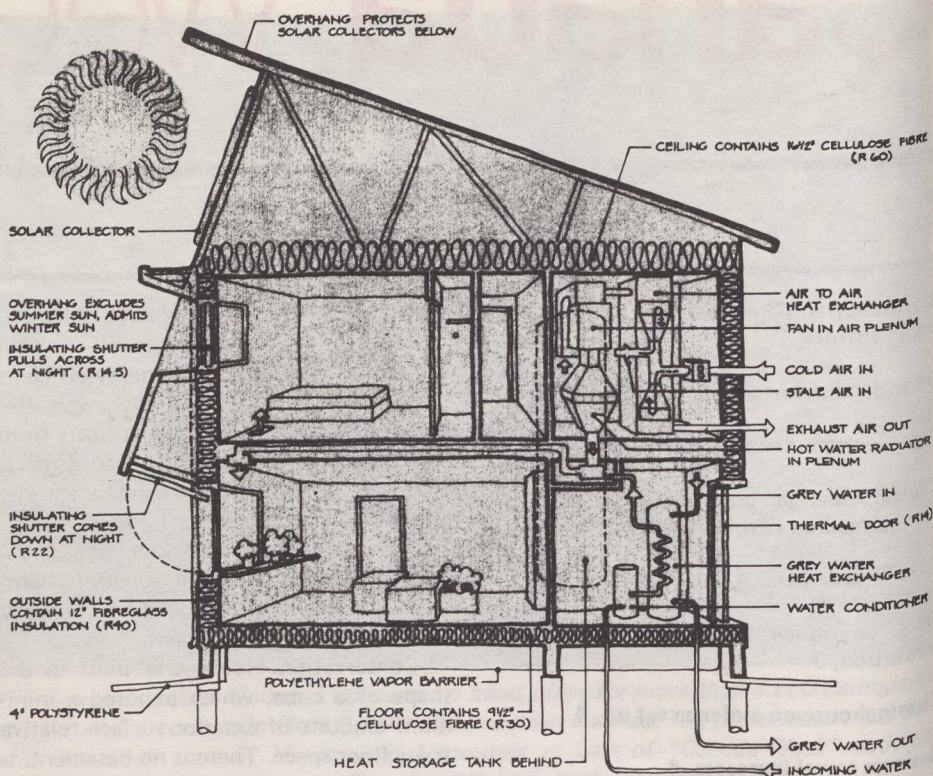


mil polyethelene vapour barrier — as airtight as they were able to make it. The seams between strips of the vapour barrier were caulked. Special caulking techniques were developed to seal around vents, pipe openings, windows, doors and even electrical outlets. These measures have paid off with a reduction in heat loss in the demonstration house by more than 95 per cent. This leaves the residual heat demand of the house so low that it could be adequately heated by a three-kilowatt electric heater.

Although it was decided by experts at the council that an active solar heat system was not necessary such a system was installed for testing purposes. New-design vacuum tube collectors were installed on the roof. Heat was accumulated in a 12 700-litre steel storage tank in the house, which when fully heated could meet space and domestic water heating needs for up to 15 days without sunshine.

The solar heat system has not been economical but it has been a worthwhile feature in the house because of the public interest in this type of renewable resource, said Mr. Eyre.



Cross section sketch of Saskatchewan conservation house.

Oil and gas act proclaimed

The federal government has announced the proclamation of the Canada Oil and Gas Act, the legislative element of the National Energy Program that establishes a new management regime for oil and gas resource development in the Yukon and Northwest Territories as well as Canada's offshore seabeds, known as the Canada Lands.

The new act contains several provisions which will promote the development of a Canadian oil and gas industry in the Canada Lands. The new legislation stipulates that Canadians, through the federal government, will retain a 25 per cent interest in any oil and gas rights on the Canada Lands, excepting fields already in production.

The new act also establishes a minimum level of 50 per cent Canadian ownership in new oil and gas production in the Canada Lands. A third provision ensures that benefits are provided to Canadians through royalties paid on oil and gas revenues from Canada Lands production. The act sets the basic royalty at 10 per cent of gross oil and gas revenues, with an additional royalty of up to 40 per cent of net profits above a 25 per

cent rate of return on the investment of the exploration company.

A fourth way the new act will promote a Canadian oil and gas industry is through its requirement that Canadian manufacturers, consultants, contractors and service companies have a full and fair opportunity to participate competitively in the supply of goods and services in exploration, development and production activities in the Canada Lands. With regard to exploration activities, proposals have been received from 11 companies for seven parcels of seabed located off the east coast of Canada. While the new Canada Oil and Gas Act promotes Canadian industry, jobs and skills, it will respond to the social and environmental issues relating to frontier energy development.

The new act also reinforces already stringent regulations and practices to ensure that the contribution of the Canada Lands to energy security will not be at the expense of the environment.

Although the Canada Oil and Gas Act encourages Canadian participation in the energy development of the Canada Lands, the federal government has indicated that it continues to provide excellent opportunities for foreign investment in the frontier areas.

Paper work cut eases exports

A federal government-industry venture has developed a system that will reduce documentation costs for Canadian exporters.

Devised by COSTPRO, which receives funding from the federal government, the new method is expected to significantly reduce the paper burden of Canadian exporters.

The system resulted from private and public sector consultations to reduce the costs and complications of paper work and procedures in international trade. It is based on the international standard for trade documents, the United Nations Layout Key, on which at least 40 other national organizations have developed or are developing similar techniques.

The new method, called the COSTPRO Standard Overlays, makes trade document preparation simple and inexpensive. Exporters type shipment information once onto a master document. Then, with the use of overlays and a photocopy machine, all documentation required for a shipment can be made. Pre-printed forms and additional typing are no longer required. The Canadian business community is expected to save up to \$54 million by using the new method.