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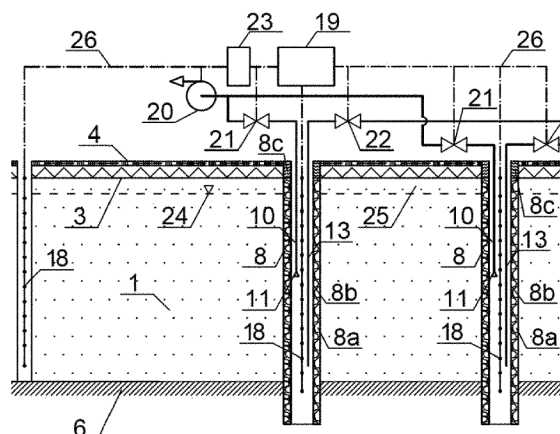
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(54) **DEVICE ARRANGEMENT FOR ACCUMULATING EXCESS HEAT IN A NATURAL WATER-PERMEABLE LAYER AND FOR ITS RECOVERY**

(57) The subject of the invention is a device arrangement for accumulating excess heat in a natural water-permeable layer and for its recovery, the main component of which is a heat storage (1) filled with water which constitutes a closed area, separated from the water-permeable layer (2), comprising at least one extraction well (8) made in this area and at least one discharge well (8) as

well as an installation enabling the extraction and discharge of water as well as the collection and delivery of excess heat to the heat storage (1) by means of a heat exchanger (15), as well as an installation providing temperature and water level control in the heat storage (1), and the automation and optimization of the process of storing and collecting excess heat.

**FIG. 2****EP 4 063 780 A1**

## Description

**[0001]** The subject of the invention is a device arrangement for accumulating excess heat in a natural water-permeable layer and for its recovery, applicable in the underground storage of excess heat, especially in its efficient use.

**[0002]** There are known and used methods and installations for underground heat storage. For example, in Korean patent application KR101670007 B1 and in the book of J. Chodury entitled "Instalacje słoneczne. Dobór, montaż i nowe konstrukcje kolektorów" (Rynek Instalacyjny, Wyd.: Dom Wydawniczy MEDIUM, Warszawa, 2011), typical methods of heat storage have been described, including i.a. water-gravel reservoirs and heat storage in aquifers. In the case of the water-gravel reservoirs, a mixture of water and gravel is used as a storage medium, located in a hole dug in the ground and thermally insulated from the surrounding ground and from the atmosphere by means of a plastic film. Hot water is drawn directly from the reservoir or through a coil arranged in the reservoir.

**[0003]** In the case of energy storage in the aquifers, heat is supplied to and collected from them through deep-wells equipped with filter sets, reaching to the aquifers, which have to be limited at the top and bottom with a layer of impermeable rocks.

**[0004]** In the publication of K. Kwęstarcz entitled "Magazynowanie ciepła - rodzaje magazynów" (Czysta Energia - 12/2016), heat storages using natural aquifers for underground heat storage have also been described. Heat is stored in water as well as in the surrounding ground. Water-bearing layers with a preferred thickness of 20-50 meters may be sand, gravel, sandstone rocks and limestones. The best conditions are when the layer is placed between two impermeable layers and when there is little or no water flow. The simplest system of this type consists of two wells (two sets of wells) of different depth. In summer, water from one set is drawn and heated, e.g. by solar collectors using heat exchangers, and injected into the other set of wells. A thermal front is formed between them, which moves with increasing or decreasing temperature. During the heating period, water is drawn from the layer heated in summer and supplied to the exchangers, where it cools down, and then it is forced into the second set of wells without any contamination. For economic reasons and due to heat losses, the temperature of the injected water should not exceed 45°C. Heat pumps are used when a higher flow temperature of the receiver is required.

**[0005]** From Polish patent specification PL217289B1 a shallow geothermal installation system is known, where the subject of the invention is an underground water extraction and injection device, the underground water being used for heating and air conditioning, applicable when at least two wells are used, reaching respectively to the saturation zone of the aquifer, located between impermeable layers, cooperating with a heat pump.

**[0006]** In both wells, at lower ends of the circulation pipeline, pump units are installed, and above the wells, controllable valves are built into surface sections of the pipeline, to which drain pipelines are connected and introduced to both wells. The solution ensures easy and quick change of the well function from extraction to absorbent one and vice versa, through appropriate setting the controllable valves. In the summertime, the heat pump is used for air conditioning and cooling, and the recuperative heat from the heat pump is discharged with the water into the aquifer, where it is collected for use during the winter period. Depending on the season, the wells perform alternately the functions of extraction or discharge wells.

**[0007]** Japanese patent specification JP6325835B2, in turn, discloses a method of storing heat in a labyrinthine tank formed in the area of a water-permeable layer situated between impermeable layers. The tank is separated by contouring parts of the water-permeable layer with impermeable, vertical walls from the surface to a depth below the ceiling of the underlying impermeable layer and by providing a closed area inside the vertical, impermeable partitions forming a labyrinth-shaped channel, maximizing the length of a flow path between holes drilled from the surface: a discharge hole and an extraction hole, connected, by means of pumps, to a heat exchanger, to which air conditioning can be further connected. Water stored in a water-permeable layer also insulated from the surface can be used to heat rooms, and to cool them in summer.

**[0008]** The invention solves the technical problem of a method of storing heat in natural water-permeable layers - ATEs (Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage), consisting in the inability to use it in water-permeable layers with low water accumulation or with significant water outflow from the area designated for the storage, while ensuring high efficiency and low thermal inertia.

**[0009]** The essence of the device arrangement for accumulating excess heat in a natural water-permeable layer and for its recovery, comprising a heat storage filled with water, which constitutes a closed area, separated from the water-permeable layer by means of anti-filtration walls, being vertical or having slope close to vertical, made of the ground surface to a depth below the floor of the water-permeable layer, and comprising at least one extraction well situated in this area and a heat exchanger, at least one discharge well and at least one pump, consists in that the anti-filtration walls are diaphragm walls that constitute a thermally insulating partition, wherein the extraction well and the discharge well are constituted by one dual-function extraction-discharge well equipped with a discharge pipeline and an extraction pipeline hydraulically connected to the pump directly or indirectly, wherein the pump is connected by means of an electric power cable to a frequency converter which has a signal connection to a checking, measuring and control equipment, which furthermore has a signal connection to multilevel temperature and water level measuring probes lo-

cated in the extraction-discharge well and in at least one control and measurement hole, situated within the heat storage and in the heat exchanger. The checking, measuring and control equipment has a signal connection to controllable valves situated on hydraulic lines that connect an extraction collector to an extraction pipeline, and to controllable valves situated on hydraulic lines that connect a discharge collector to a discharge pipeline. The extraction and discharge collectors are led to the heat exchanger, and the heat storage is covered on top with a horizontal partition that constitutes an anti-filtration cover and thermal insulation.

**[0010]** It is preferable that the heat storage is additionally covered with a layer of soil lying on the horizontal partition, which allows to ensure the biological function on the surface, above the heat storage. It is preferable that between the established water level in the heat storage and the horizontal partition, there is a waterless space filled with soil air, that constitutes an additional thermal insulation.

**[0011]** It is also preferable that the pump is a pump or a pump set installed on a surface between the extraction collector and the heat exchanger.

**[0012]** It is furthermore preferable that the pump is a submersible pump, installed in place of a suction stainer, on the extraction pipeline.

**[0013]** It is preferable that the walls of the heat storage form a ring shape when they are projected on a horizontal plane.

**[0014]** Moreover, it is preferable that the arrangement comprises dual-function extraction-discharge wells arranged such that one well is situated in the middle of the heat storage, and the others are arranged evenly at a constant distance from the center, wherein in directions representing the bisector of an angle defined by the two adjacent extraction-discharge wells and the central extraction-discharge well, the control and measurement holes are located.

**[0015]** The subject of the invention in an exemplary embodiment is shown in the drawing in which Fig. 1 shows schematically a top view of an underground excess heat storage along with an installation diagram on the surface, and Fig. 2 shows schematically a vertical cross-section through the center of the underground excess heat storage separated in a natural water-permeable layer, along with an installation on the surface.

**[0016]** A device arrangement for accumulating excess heat in a natural water-permeable layer and for its recovery comprises an underground heat storage 1 made in a natural part of a water-permeable layer 2, covered with a horizontal partition 3 that constitutes a thermal and filtration insulation and a layer of soil 4 lying thereon. The natural water-permeable layer 2 is limited by a vertical anti-filtration wall 5 constituting a thermal and filtration insulation, forming a ring-shaped closed area having an inner radius of 52 m. The vertical wall 5 is recessed over a distance of 1 m into a natural impermeable layer 6, lying under the natural water-permeable layer 2. A water

table level 24 in the heat storage 1 is above the natural underground water level 7 in the natural water-permeable layer 2. Inside the underground heat storage 1 there are six dual-function extraction-discharge wells 8 consisting of a filter pipe column 8a, around which a gravel pack 8b is provided, and in the near-surface section, a sealing 8c is provided above the gravel pack. The wells 8 are arranged such that one of them is situated in the center of the heat storage 1, and the others are arranged evenly at constant distances from the center; on a circle with a radius of 33 m. In directions representing the bisector of an angle defined by the two adjacent wells 8 located on the circle and the central well 8, at a distance of 45 m from the center, there are five control and measurement holes 9. In each dual-function extraction-discharge well 8 there is a vertical extraction pipeline 10, ended at the lower part with a suction stainer 11 with a check valve, submerged below the dynamic level of the water table 24 existing in that well, and the upper end of the extraction pipeline 10 is connected to an extraction collector 12 through a controllable valve 21. Furthermore, in each dual-function extraction-discharge well 8 there is a vertical discharge pipeline 13, the lower end of which is situated at the lower part of the underground heat storage 1, and the upper end is connected to a discharge collector 14 through a controllable valve 22. The extraction collector 12 and the discharge collector 14, made in the technology of pre-insulated pipes and located below the ground surface, are led to the heat exchanger 15, to which a heat supply installation 16 and a heat collection installation 17 are also connected. Between the cumulative extraction collector 12 and the heat exchanger 15 there is a set of hydraulic pumps 20 powered by a frequency converter 23 and connected to it by means of an electric wire. In each dual-function extraction-discharge well 8, in each control and measurement hole 9 and in the heat exchanger 15 there are multilevel temperature and water level measuring probes 18 connected by means of a signal wire 26 to a checking, measuring and control equipment 19, which in turn is connected, by means of the signal wire 26, to the frequency converter 23 and to the controllable valves 21 and 22. Between the established water level 24 in the heat storage 1 and the horizontal partition 3 there is a waterless space 25, filled with soil air, that constitutes an additional thermal insulation.

**[0017]** In order to better describe the invention in an exemplary embodiment, a method of its operation can be presented. By means of the multilevel measuring probes 18 transmitting readings to the checking, measuring and control equipment 19, the vertical temperature field distribution and the water table level 24 in the underground excess heat storage 1 as well as the temperature field distribution in the heat exchanger 15 are controlled. In case that the water table level 24 in the heat storage 1 needs to be raised, it is supplemented with a set of pumps (not shown in the drawing) from the area of the natural water-permeable layer 2 or from another water source. The extraction, discharge function or tem-

porary exclusion of individual wells 8 is determined in each case on the basis of measurement data obtained from all the multilevel measuring probes 18. A dedicated software of the checking, measuring and control equipment 19 individually determines the operating mode of each well 8 in real time, depending on the temperature field distribution in the space of the heat storage 1. Circulating water flow rate in the vertical extraction pipeline 10, the extraction collector 12, the discharge pipeline 13, and the discharge collector 14 depends on the operation of the pump set 20, in which the rotational speed control is applied by means of the frequency converter 23, controlled by the checking, measuring and control equipment 19. The checking, measuring and control equipment 19 turns the pump set 20 on and off depending on the pressure in the cumulative discharge collector 14 and on the temperature value measured by the multilevel measuring probes 18, and also individually controls the controllable valves 21 and 22 that regulate hot water extraction in order to transfer heat through the heat exchanger 15 to the accumulated heat collection installation 17 or its discharge to the heat storage 1, after it has been collected in the heat exchanger 15 from the excess heat supply installation 16.

**[0018]** In another embodiment of the invention, the signal transmission between the measuring probes 18, the checking, measuring and control equipment 19, the pump set 20 and the frequency converter 23, as well as the controllable valves 21 regulating water extraction and the controllable valves 22 regulating water discharge, is performed wirelessly, by means of radio waves.

**[0019]** In yet another embodiment of the invention not shown in the drawing, the pumps 20 are submersible pumps, installed in each dual-function extraction-discharge well 8 in place of the suction stainer 11. The pumps 20 are electrically powered and their operation is individually regulated by the checking, measuring and control equipment 19 using the frequency converter 23. Explanation of reference numbers in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2:

- (1) (heat) storage
- (2) natural water-permeable layer
- (3) horizontal partition
- (4) soil layer
- (5) anti-filtration wall
- (6) natural impermeable layer
- (7) natural water level
- (8) well
- (8a) filter pipe column
- (8b) gravel pack
- (8c) sealing
- (9) control and measurement hole
- (10) extraction pipeline
- (11) suction stainer
- (12) extraction collector
- (13) discharge pipeline
- (14) a discharge collector
- (15) heat exchanger

- (16) heat supply installation
- (17) heat collection installation
- (18) multilevel measuring probes
- (19) checking, measuring and control equipment
- (20) pump or pump set
- (21) controllable valve
- (22) controllable valve
- (23) frequency converter
- (24) water table level
- (25) waterless space
- (26) signal wire

## Claims

1. A device arrangement for accumulating excess heat in a natural water-permeable layer and for its recovery, comprising a heat storage filled with water, which constitutes a closed area, separated from the water-permeable layer by means of anti-filtration walls, being vertical or having slope close to vertical, made of the ground surface to a depth below the floor of the water-permeable layer, and also comprising at least one extraction well situated in this area and a heat exchanger, at least one discharge well and at least one pump, **characterised in that** the anti-filtration walls (5) are diaphragm walls that constitute a thermally insulating partition, the extraction well and the discharge well are constituted by a dual-function extraction-discharge well (8) equipped with a discharge pipeline (13) and an extraction pipeline (10) hydraulically connected to the pump (20) directly or indirectly, wherein the pump (20) is connected by means of an electric power cable to a frequency converter (23) which has a signal connection to a checking, measuring and control equipment (19), which furthermore has a signal connection to multilevel temperature and water level (24) measuring probes (18) located in the extraction-discharge well (8) and in at least one control and measurement hole (9) situated within the heat storage (1) and in the heat exchanger (15), and furthermore the checking, measuring and control equipment (19) has a signal connection to controllable valves (21) situated on hydraulic lines that connect an extraction collector (12) to an extraction pipeline (10), and to controllable valves (22) situated on hydraulic lines that connect a discharge collector (14) to a discharge pipeline (13), wherein the extraction (12) and discharge (14) collectors are led to the heat exchanger (15), and the heat storage (1) is covered on top with a horizontal partition (3) that constitutes an anti-filtration and thermally insulating cover.
2. The device arrangement according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the heat storage (1) is additionally covered with a layer of soil lying on the horizontal partition (3).

3. The device arrangement according to claim 1, **characterised in that** between the established water level (24) in the heat storage (1) and the horizontal partition (3), there is a waterless space (25) filled with soil air, that constitutes an additional thermal insulation. 5
4. The device arrangement according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the pump (20) is a pump or a pump set installed on a surface between the extraction collector (12) and the heat exchanger (15). 10
5. The device arrangement according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the pump (20) is a submersible pump installed in place of a suction stainer (11) on the vertical extraction pipeline (10). 15
6. The device arrangement according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the walls (5) of the heat storage (1) form a ring shape when they are projected on a horizontal plane. 20
7. The device arrangement according to claim 5, **characterised in that** it comprises dual-function extraction-discharge wells (8) arranged such that one well is situated in the middle of the heat storage (1), and the others are arranged evenly at a constant distance from the center, wherein in directions representing the bisector of an angle defined by the two adjacent extraction-discharge wells (8) and the central extraction-discharge well (8), the control and measurement holes (9) are located. 25 30

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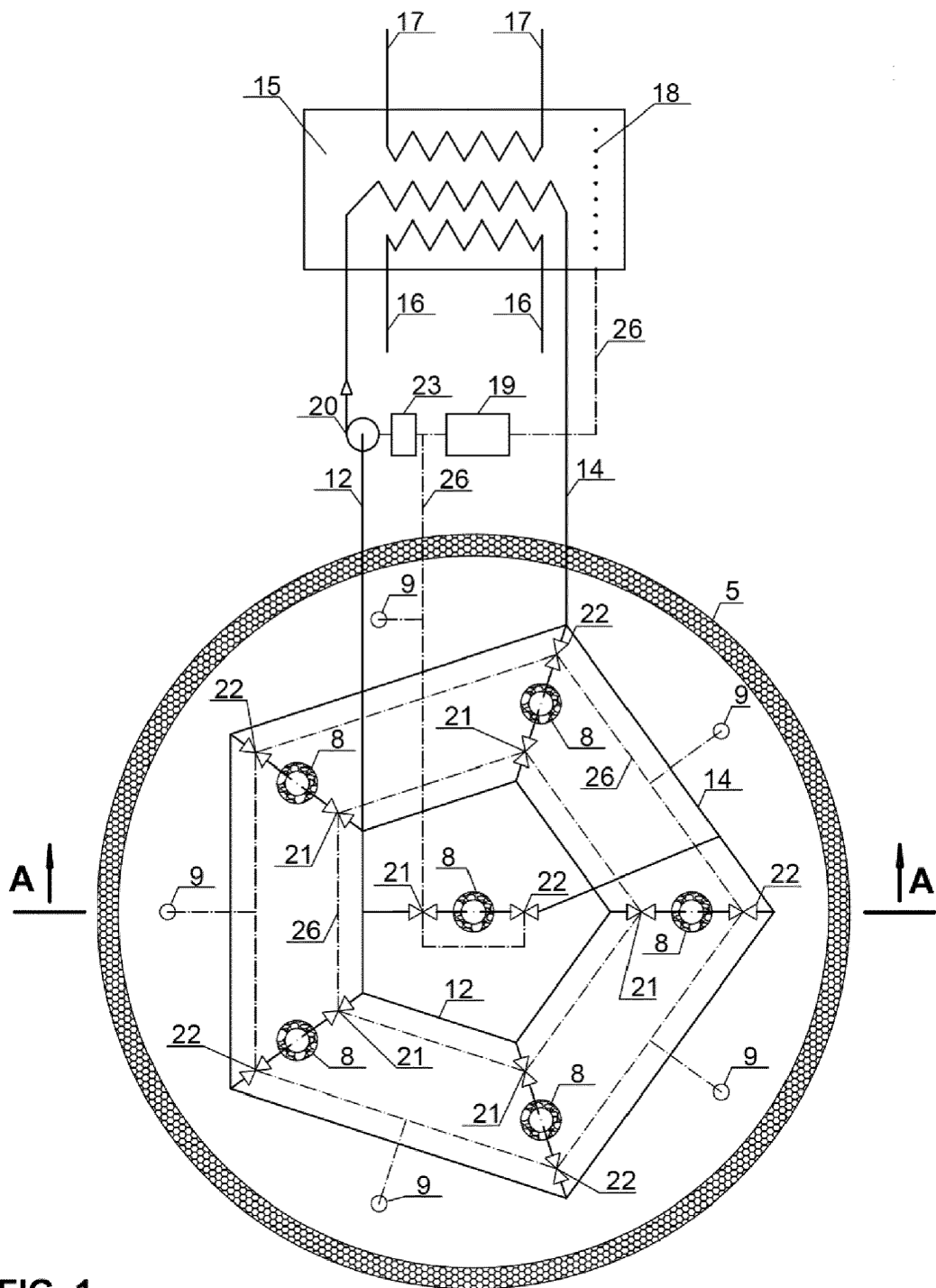


FIG. 1

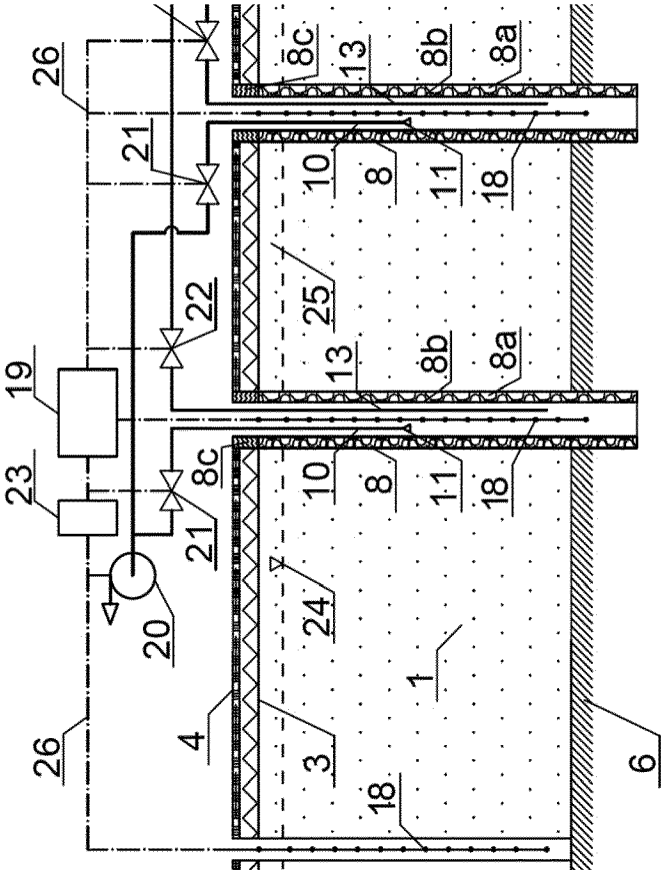


FIG. 2



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Application Number

EP 21 21 0998

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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>Munich</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>5 April 2022</b>	Examiner <b>Vassoille, Bruno</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	



**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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EP 21 21 0998

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