

Southwest Gas Corp. District Office



TECOGEN 

Natural Gas Engine-Driven Products

Tecogen, Inc.

- Two gas engine-driven chillers
- 50 total refrigeration tons
- Yuma, Arizona

The 25-ton chiller's small size makes it possible to install multiple units quickly for greater redundancy.

Utility Showcases State-of-the-Art Small Air-Cooled Packaged Gas Chillers

As a place where summer temperatures routinely soar to triple digits, Yuma, Arizona offers challenges for the air-conditioning industry.

“Yuma is historically one of the hottest places in the nation,” says Jim Stephens, Marketing Manager of Southwest Gas Corporation. “High temperatures over 120°F are common during the summer months.”

The heat is exacerbated by moisture from the Colorado River and agricultural irrigation, creating a humid environment.

It is no wonder then that Southwest Gas, the local natural gas utility, chose to demonstrate some of the latest natural gas cooling technology in its new Yuma District Office.

The utility purchased and installed two 25-ton Tecogen natural gas engine-driven chillers in its 6,000-sq.-ft. building, which serves as a central location for all Southwest Gas construction, customer service, meter reading, sales, and office and management personnel in the district. The Yuma District Office also accepts new business applications and billing, accommodates customer and business meetings. An additional 6,000-sq.-ft. area functions as a warehouse for company supplies.

The two Tecochill CH-25ACP Gas Engine-Driven Chillers installed in Yuma “represent the very latest in small air-cooled packaged gas chillers,” says Bill Martini, Western Regional Manager for Tecogen, Inc. “Their relatively small size opens up potential new small commercial markets for gas chillers.”





Like the rest of Tecogen's RT Series chiller line, this latest addition includes a built-in integral air-cooled condenser, which makes quick installation possible, according to Martini. The chillers' small size also allows for installation of multiple units, which gives the owner greater redundancy than is possible with a single large machine.

"Offering a showcase for new natural gas cooling equipment provides an opportunity for local gas cooling distributors and dealers to bring potential clients by to see the Tecochill gas chillers and evaluate them for possible consideration," says Pat Abiles, Southwest's Yuma District Manager. "Southwest Gas is excited to be the second installation of Tecogen's new 25-ton chillers."

"Our customers need to know they have a choice, that there are commercialized gas cooling products readily available for their small commercial applications."

By making it easy for potential clients to see innovative natural gas air conditioning equipment in operation, Southwest Gas hopes to gain new local natural gas cooling customers.

Stephens says an important benefit of natural gas cooling is that the natural gas is used onsite by cooling equipment, rather than burned remotely at a generating station to make electricity.

"The natural gas energy is used directly at the appliance and does not involve conversion of a natural resource to electric power generation, which wastes water and natural gas," he adds. "With changing energy costs, customers need to know they have options to help them reduce electric peak demand and electric consumption. Southwest Gas offers both residential and commercial gas cooling rates."

Besides saving water through bypassing the electric generation process, the gas-fired chillers make it possible to air condition a space without the need for a water-filled cooling tower, providing an extra environmental benefit in a region where water is a precious resource.

Martini points out that the chillers' high fuel efficiency helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including CO₂, and helps them deliver a much lower operating cost to an owner.

Southwest Gas is also installing a 200-ton Tecochill natural gas engine-driven chiller in a replacement project at its corporate offices in Las Vegas, Nevada.



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