

GEOHERMAL HOT LINE

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Geothermal Resources Board
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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"LIFE LEAPS LIKE A GEYSER FOR THOSE WHO DRILL THROUGH THE ROCKS OF INERTIA."

ALEXIS CARRELL

Olympia, Washington

The first Northwest conference on geothermal power, "Power from the Earth," was a total success. Several excellent papers were presented during the Friday morning and afternoon sessions. The one-day meeting was wrapped up following an open discussion on Friday evening led by Mr. Bert L. Cole, the Commissioner of Public Lands for the State of Washington.

Two very significant items emerged as a result of the Friday night discussion: One, the power generation companies in the Pacific Northwest were generally amazed at the potential of geothermal energy, and they showed an openness to explore the possibilities of incorporating the use of this energy into their systems. Two, the ground work was laid for a new organization to be called, for the time being, the "Western States Geothermal Council." An organizing committee was appointed to select members for a steering committee. More on the W. S. G. C. below.

Mr. Bert Cole, Mr. Marshall T. Huntting, Mr. Robert Bates, and the State of Washington can be commended for staging an excellent conference in a beautiful setting.

Western States Geothermal Council (W. S. G. C.)

As a result of the meeting in Olympia, Washington, a new organization, tentatively named the "Western States Geothermal Council" (W. S. G. C.), is now being formed. Its primary purpose will be to encourage geothermal development in the western United States, Canada, and Mexico. Its original efforts will be directed toward public information and promotion of geothermal exploration.

Mr. Robert Bates, the Director of Public Affairs of the Department of Natural Resources, State of Washington, and Dave Anderson, of the State of California Division of Oil and Gas, are now in the process of arranging for a steering committee meeting, which will take place sometime in mid-July, 1971. The steering committee will formulate plans and arrange for a general meeting sometime in the early fall. Watch the "Hot Line" for further developments.

United States Geological Survey - Menlo Park, California

For those readers who would like to know or are still puzzled by differences in the "hot water" and "dry steam" geothermal systems, Dr. Don E. White suggests reading:

"Vapor Dominated Hydrothermal Systems Compared with Hot Water Systems," by D. E. White, L. J. P. Muffler, and A. H. Truesdell - printed in "Economic Geology," Vol. 66, No. 1, January-February, 1971.

If you do not have access to a copy of "Economic Geology," the U. S. G. S. in Menlo Park has a limited number of extra reprints. For a copy write:

Dr. Don White
United States Geological Survey
345 Middlefield Road
Menlo Park, California 94025

State of California

Department of Water Resources

The Department of Water Resources would like to announce the availability of the following publication:

"Geothermal Wastes and the Water Resources of the Salton Sea Area,"
bulletin No. 143-7, February, 1970.

This bulletin may be purchased for \$3.50 plus 5% sales tax from the:

Office of Procurement
Documents Section
P. O. Box 20191
Sacramento, California 95820
(make check payable to State of California)

A second special publication, which is out of print but will be useful to those exploring for geothermal resources, is:

"Investigation of Geothermal Waters in the Long Valley Area, Mono County,"
July, 1967.

This publication may be reviewed in the DWR libraries in Los Angeles and Sacramento as well as at state colleges, universities, and major public libraries.

Geothermal Resources Board

James G. Stearns, Director of the Department of Conservation and Chairman of the Geothermal Resources Board, has offered a presentation on geothermal potential and development to those counties having potential resource areas.

The presentations are being made by Dave Anderson and Larry Axtell of the Division of Oil and Gas who are also offering any help or information that the counties may need in formulating local geothermal policy and ordinances.

To date, visits have been made to the counties of Imperial, Mono, Lake, Tehama, Modoc, Lassen, and Siskiyou. Others, including some repeat visits, are planned for the near future.

Mono County

Last month, Getty Oil Company announced that it would be the operator for the exploration program planned by Southern California Edison Company. Drilling is now expected to begin sometime in August.

Geothermal Legislation

Sacramento - Senate Bill 716

On March 25, 1971, Senator Lagomarsino introduced SB 716. This bill, if passed, would amend Section 6908 of the Public Resources Code relating to geothermal resources. It will allow the pooling of acreage of two or more lessees pursuant to a cooperative plan of development approved by the State Lands Commission. Such action would not be deemed to directly or indirectly increase the acreage of any lessee pursuant to specified limitations.

On May 20, 1971, the bill was amended requiring the unitization of acreage of two or more lessees pursuant to a cooperative or unit plan of development approved by the State Lands Commission.

On June 7, 1971, it passed the Senate Finance Committee with a due-pass recommendation and is cleared for the third reading.

Sacramento - Assembly Bill 2162

On April 14, 1971, Assemblyman Seeley introduced AB 2162 which amends and adds various sections of the Public Resources Code. This bill is still undergoing revisions and, when it is in final form, it will be summarized in a future issue of the "Hot Line."

Washington, D. C.

The Federal Government has published a list of the "Known Geothermal Resources Area" (KGRA) in the United States. These areas were delineated by the U. S. G. S. as directed by the "Geothermal Steam Act" (1970) and are listed in the "Federal Register" between the dates of March 26 and April 23, 1971.

Leases on federal lands within a KGRA can only be obtained through competitive bidding. Those people holding "granddaddy rights" can match the highest bid on land which they have leased under different laws prior to the enactment of the "Geothermal Steam Act" (1970). There is no provision allowing for exploration leases within KGRA. Furthermore, any government land outside a KGRA, in which high interest is shown, can be classified as a KGRA and put up for competitive bidding.

NOTE: All persons holding "granddaddy rights" on land that will be up for competitive bidding must file a written application with the Land Office of the Bureau of Land Management in that area by June 22, 1971, if they wish to exercise their rights. See "Federal Register," Vol. 36, No. 10, Friday, January 15, 1971, for complete information.

To date, the Federal Geothermal Leasing and Operating Regulations have not been published.

NOTE: A special issue will be published soon listing the "Known Geothermal Resources Area" (KGRA) in the Western United States and Alaska. The listings will be arranged by state, KGRA area, section, township, and range and will include the acreage.

County Regulations

Imperial County

On May 18, 1971, the Board of Supervisors passed the proposed terms, conditions, standards, and application procedures which will allow for initial geothermal development in the County of Imperial. To date, this is the most extensive and comprehensive set of county geothermal regulations to be adopted in California. It is hoped that this regulatory package can be used as a guide by other California counties as geothermal resources are developed throughout the state.

Lake County

The Board of Supervisors of Lake County adopted on May 26, 1971, a set of minimum operating standards for geothermal developers. The standards are keyed to the Lake County Zoning Ordinance and cover a list of subjects including distance of a well

from a populated area, dust, noise, and odor control and specified safety and regulatory standards set by the state.

The Hardware Corner

Geothermal Power Company, Inc., has announced the availability of a complete power generation package. The unit can be delivered and constructed on a concrete slab in less than one year at the lowest capital cost available in the world market today. Included are: a G. E. turbine rated at 5,000 kw (noncondensing), an English Electric generator with brushless excitation, a speed control governor, a lube oil and alarm system, switch gear, an exhaust silencer, and complete design and engineering services. The same turbine is rated at 10,000 kw with a condenser. For further information write or call:

Geothermal Power Company
P. O. Box 666
Elmira, New York 14902
(607) 733-7111

Direct all correspondence to:

Geothermal Hot Line
Division of Oil and Gas
1416 - 9th Street, Room 1316
Sacramento, CA 95814

If you wish to submit a newsworthy item, please make it as concise and complete as possible and include your name, address, and phone number.

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