

# ENERGY DEPARTMENT ADVANCING GEOHERMAL POWER IN THE WEST

## Geothermal Energy Association GEA Washington Update Washington, DC

August 9, 2000, Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson joined Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) in Las Vegas to announce the creation of 21 partnerships between the Department of Energy (DOE) and private industry to support the development and use of geothermal energy throughout the western United States. The projects will expand production and use of energy generated from the earth's heat to bring electricity and geothermal heat to millions of homes and businesses in California, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah. DOE and industry will share funding the projects over a three-to-five year period.

"Today's projects move us one step closer toward our goal of providing 10 percent of the electricity needs of the western states with geothermal resources by 2020," said Secretary Richardson. "Clean, reliable and renewable energy sources such as geothermal energy can become a significant contributor to the energy mix in the west, at a time when parts of the region are experiencing power supply shortages."

The Energy Department will provide first-year funding of \$3.5 million to 21 companies to expand their geothermal activities. The research and development work will be conducted in three areas:

- **Small-Scale Geothermal Electric Power Plants** will demonstrate the capabilities of small generating stations in a variety of settings. Each plant will produce between 300 kilowatts and one megawatt of power.

- **Enhanced Geothermal Systems Technology** to improve the electricity generating potential of geothermal systems at existing sites by increasing production and extending their operating life.
- **Geothermal Resources Exploration and Definition** to support the exploration and development of new or previously undiscovered geothermal resources. Activities will focus on surface exploration, exploratory well drilling, and well testing.

In January, Secretary Richardson launched *GeoPowering the West*, to expand the production of geothermal energy activities in 19 western states. The goals of the initiative include:

- Supplying at least 10 percent of the electricity needs of the west by 2020 with 20,000 megawatts of geothermal energy installed;
- Supplying the electric power of heating needs of at least seven million homes through geopower by 2010; and
- Doubling the number of states with geothermal electric power facilities to eight by 2006.

A complete list of the DOE awards announced on August 9 appears below.

### DOE GEOHERMAL POWER CONTRACTS ANNOUNCED AUGUST 9, 2000

Project Area	Private Sector Partners	Project Location	FY 2000 DOE Funding	Total DOE Funding	Private Funding
Small-Scale Geothermal Power Plants	Empire Energy LLC Empire, NV	Empire, NV	\$150,000 prior year money	\$1,600,000/4 years	\$600,000
	Exergy Inc. Hayward, CA	Cotton City, NM	\$150,000 prior year money	\$1,700,000/4 years	\$1,600,000
	Milgro Newcastle Inc. Newcastle, UT	Newcastle, UT	\$150,000 prior year money	\$1,100,000/4 years	\$1,400,000
	ORMAT International Inc. Sparks, NV	Lordsburg, NM	\$150,000 prior year money	\$1,596,000/4 years	\$1,604,000
	Vulcan Power Company Bend, OR	Radium Springs, NM	\$150,000 prior year money	\$500,000/4 years	\$1,900,000

Enhanced Geothermal System Technology	Americulture Inc. Los Alamos, NM	Animas Valley, NM	\$177,000	Funding being awarded through evaluation **	
	Drilling Observation and Sampling of Earth's Continental Crust, Inc., Salt Lake City, UT	The Geysers, Santa Rosa, CA	\$199,917	Funding being awarded through evaluation **	
	Maurer Engineering, Inc. Houston, TX	The Geysers, Santa Rosa, CA	\$194,554	Funding being awarded through evaluation **	
	Northern California Power Agency, Middleton, CA	The Geysers, Santa Rosa, CA	\$174,584	Funding being awarded through evaluation **	
	ORMAT International, Inc. Sparks, NV	Animas Valley, NM	\$200,000	Funding being awarded through evaluation **	
	Power Engineering, Inc., Hailey, ID	Roosevelt Hot Springs, UT	\$191,615	Funding being awarded through evaluation **	
	Steamboat EnviroSystems, LLC, West Palm Beach, FL	Reno, NV	\$199,805	Funding being awarded through evaluation **	
	ThermaSource, Inc., and RES Company, Santa Rosa, CA	The Geysers, Santa Rosa, CA	\$198,630	Funding being awarded through evaluation	
	University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT	The Geysers, Santa Rosa, CA	\$199,973	Funding being awarded through evaluation **	
Geothermal Resource Exploration and Definition	Calpine Siskiyou Geothermal Partners Limited Partnership, Middletown, CA	Glass Mountain, CA	\$202,371	\$1,102,371 / 3 years	\$275,593
	Coso Operating Company of Caithness Resources, Inc., Ridgecrest, CA	U-boat, NV	\$300,00	\$1,875,000 / 3 years	\$500,000
	Mount Wheeler Power Company, Ely, NV	Rye Patch, NV	\$20,000	\$1,620,000 / 3 years	\$405,000
	Noramex Corporation, Carson City, NV	Blue Mountain, NV	\$21,600	\$656,736 / 3 years	\$164,184
	ORMAT International, Inc., Sparks, NV, and Lighting Dock Geothermal Inc., Las Cruces, NM	Animas Valley, NM	\$245,000	\$913,000 / 3 years	\$245,500
	SB Geo. Inc., Reno, NV	Steamboat Springs, NV	\$14,792	\$269,792 / 3 years	\$67,448
	Utah Municipal Power Agency, Spanish Forks, UT	Cove Fort-Sulphurdale, UT	\$23,057	\$366,057 / 3 years	\$91,514