

WE ARE BACK!

Hopefully, most of you have missed receiving our *Quarterly Bulletin* over the past year – as we had to suspend publication after last September’s issue (Vol. 26, No.3) due to lack of funding. Last fall all of our grant funds for publishing the Bulletin came to an end, and new funding was not received until late this spring. Thus, this is the first issue under our new grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, titled: “Technical Support and Transfer of Geothermal Technical Knowledge and Information.” We now have funding for at least four issues of the Quarterly Bulletin, and hopefully this will continue if geothermal continues to be of interest to the Department of Energy.

This first issue is devoted to spas with a special feature on what has happened at Chena Hot Springs in Alaska, August 2006 – the successful completion and running of the Ice Museum, and the dedication of the binary power plant. This event marks the application of the lowest geothermal fluid temperature used in the world for electrical power generation.

The Geo-Heat Center staff has been busy with other projects under the Task Ordering Agreements (TOA’s) funded by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory at Golden, Colorado supported by USDOE funds from the GeoPowering the West (GPW) Program. We have been working on 15 separate projects, as proposed by the various state GPW Working Groups, in Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Hawaii and California along with special projects in North Dakota and Nebraska. Seven of these projects have been completed with a final report and others are near completion. We have also completed an analysis of a potential onion dehydration plant in eastern Oregon funded by an Oregon Department of Energy Grant. The TOA’s that we are working on are:

1. Nez Perce Geothermal Heat Pump Feasibility Study, Idaho (Completed)
2. Winnebago Life Cycle Cost Analysis, NE (Completed)
3. Williston Geothermal Feasibility Study of a Biofuel Facility, North Dakota
4. Herald & News Building Well Drilling/Testing and Heating/Cooling System Design, Klamath Falls, Oregon
5. Geothermal Industrial Park, Elko, NV (Completed)
6. Myrtle Tree Development Project, Canby, California (Completed)
7. Technical Assistance Expertise for GPW and State Working Group Meetings (Completed)
8. USDA Farm Bill Energy Efficiency Improvements Template for Geothermal Heat Pump Applications (Completed)
9. Heating System Replacement for Mt. Grant General Hospital, Hawthorne, Nevada (Completed)

10. Feasibility Study of Direct Use Enterprises in the County of Hawaii
11. Technical Assistance in Matching Greenhouse Expansion Plans with Geothermal Resources, Garden Valley, Idaho
12. Geothermal Heating Feasibility Study for the Utah Transit Authority, Salt Lake City, Utah
13. Ground Source Heat Pump System Design for Coeur d’Alene Tribe Cultural Center, Plummer, Idaho
14. Feasibility Study of Geothermal Resources for GRID Rail Industrial Park, Fernley, Nevada
15. Assessment of Downhole Heat Exchanger in Existing Wells, Puna, Hawaii

Starting in July of this year, we added a new employee to the Geo-Heat Center: Debi Carr, who replaced Donna Gibson as our office manager. She transferred from the Provost Office, and thus is familiar with the campus operations. We are pleased to have her join the Geo-Heat Center.

All of the staff now have new email addresses as follows:

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Debi Carr, Office Manager:
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Gene Culver, Mechanical Engineer, continues to work for us part-time, but does not have an email address.

Depending upon future USDOE and GPW funding, we hope to continue the TOA program, in fiscal year 2007 (FY07), starting in October.

We welcome any suggestions that you might have on improving the *Quarterly Bulletin*. Comments, criticisms, praises and submission of articles are always appreciated.

The Editor

