

The Geysers Steamline

GEYSERS GEOTHERMAL ASSOCIATION

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www.theGGA.org

FALL 2010

GGA Fall Membership Dinner to be held in November

Save the date! Tuesday, November 9 is when GGA members will come together for the annual Membership Dinner. The venue will be Charlie's, overlooking Windsor Golf Course. A social and no-host bar will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner following at 7:00. \$36 per person.

If you have received your invitation, you already know that the guest speaker will be John Galbraith, GRC Communications Director. John is new to geothermal and will offer us a new perspective of the steam industry. If you have not received an invitation either by mail or email, contact Marilyn Sanborn, msanborn@frontiernet.net.

The menu will feature chef's choice chicken, Charlie's chef special tri-tip of beef, mixed green salad, chef's choice pasta (vegetarian), seasonal vegetables and rolls. Dessert will be a small vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce.

Bring a Friend

Do you know someone who would like to join GGA? If so, invite him or her to the Fall Dinner to get acquainted! There will be membership applications available.

To RSVP for this event contact Margaret Lewis by November 3. Call her at 707 431-6132 or email LewisM@calpine.com.

GGA sponsors banners for GRC event

Five decades of geothermal development at The Geysers will be on display at the GRC Annual Meeting in Sacramento October 24 through 27 in the form of a series of six-foot tall vertical banners. Each of the five decades is depicted on two banners placed back to back on a stand. There are five decade-stands, plus a sixth set of two banners constructed by geothermal historian, Susan Fox Hodgson, which covers 13,000 years of history at The Geysers.

The posters are the brainchild of Kathy Enedy and Louis Capuano III, this year's co-chairs for the GRC Poster Session, as a way to pictorially show off the milestones and accomplishments that have made the dream of geothermal energy from The Geysers a reality.


Banner Sponsored by the GGA*

50 YEARS at The GEYSERS

THE Third Decade: 1980-1989

"Stay in touch with The Geysers. Join the Geysers Geothermal Association at theGGA.org today!"


A popular tourist destination beginning in the 1860's, The Geysers drew visitors for nearly 100 years.




Development

1985 Northern California Power Agency (NCPA) is first electric utility to become field operator, power generator and franchised utility.


1987 Total Geysers steam production peaks at almost 250 billion pounds, sufficient for an annual average generation of 2000 megawatts.



West Ford Flat cooling tower.



Aerial view of working drilling pad, PG&E, Unit 11 in background.



Smud Geo #1 power plant.

1989 Aidlin, the last new Geysers power plant, is completed, bringing total installed capacity to 2043 megawatts from 23 plant sites.

See other side for 1980s
Technical Advances and Legislation

Sponsored by the GGA, the banners, will be on display during opening session, the banquet and the poster session.

Enlisted to carry out the artwork for the project, Dorothy Beebee and Marilyn Sanborn developed the maps and layout, while Kathy and Louis combed through hundreds of photos, researched dates and events, and perfected the text. Many volunteer hours were spent on this project.

GGA President, Ron Suess stated, "the GGA is delighted to have the opportunity to participate in the creation of these banners for the GRC Annual Meeting. We feel The Geysers has been a vital part of the geothermal industry, and we are thrilled to be recognized for our contributions to geothermal energy at this important event."

The GGA is planning to display the banners at the GGA Fall Membership Dinner November 9.



President's Message

By Ron Sues

There's something about the American independent spirit that pushes forward to "make things happen". A key form of that independence is demonstrated by entrepreneurship, and it is precisely that entrepreneurship that has played a key role in the development of The Geysers.

As we celebrate the Golden Anniversary of commercial operation at The Geysers, people such as Grant, McCabe, McMillan, and a host of others come to mind. These were the entrepreneurs and risk takers who pushed forward the foundation for what is today recognized as the largest geothermally powered electricity-generating facility in the world, namely, The Geysers.

These entrepreneurs saw a vision and took the risks to make it happen and thereby provided an attractive opportunity for established companies to implement. There has been a balanced relationship between the entrepreneurs and the established companies that, combined, have made The Geysers what they are today. Continuing to move forward the geothermal industry requires this relationship to remain healthy.

Even so, a recent article states that "a consolidation blitz that has already hit the geothermal power sector is set to continue and further reduce the number of publicly traded companies."¹ The article further states that the "five or six publicly traded companies are going to be even a smaller number".

In view of the high front-loaded costs to develop geothermal resources, there is a certain sense that only the highly capitalized, publicly traded entities have the resources to start and complete a new geothermal power project. Due to the current extended recession less capital from the equity pool is available for project development by privately-held geothermal entities.

This demonstrates the financial handicap affecting the small entrepreneurs in the geothermal realm. At this particular time, this scenario seems well entrenched and is progressively getting more so.

This scenario generates many questions as we look into the future: What about the role of entrepreneurs and small private developers as the industry continues to evolve? Is there even a place for them in the future of the geothermal industry? Is the "pac man" consumption model the best model for the industry in the long term? Can the industry move forward without the entrepreneurial innovative mindset of our historical past? Will the industry's "heavy hitters" be positioned to take the risks that entrepreneurs typically tackle so as to develop small and/or marginal geothermal resources? With limited or no entrepreneurial involvement, will geothermal technology grow as it should to meet the challenges offered by non-typical resources?

Right now, there exists insufficient data to answer these questions and more. We can make educated assessments as to what's going on right now and into the immediate future. Nevertheless, we need to initiate and carry on an objective discussion about our geothermal industry's future. This is especially apropos for entrepreneurs and small privately held entities who remain in a conundrum as they seek a share of the shrinking source of capital needed to develop new resources and technology.

The scenario described above notwithstanding, there remains the indomitable American spirit of independence in many who seek to carve out a niche in the growing geothermal industry. It is hard to escape the pervading sense that there are balanced roles where entrepreneurs and the surviving publicly traded geothermal giant companies will somehow work out a scenario that is inclusive of both for the benefit of our mutually shared geothermal industry.

We will all participate in this evolving scenario in one way or another, and, together, we'll fashion an industry with great innovative vitality and growth here at The Geysers. No matter what, all of us are in this together.

Reference: ¹*Reuters, Business and Financial News Article, 15 September 2010*

Geysers area earthquake update

A 3.5 earthquake four miles north of The Geysers and ten miles southwest of Clearlake, shook things up a bit on Tuesday, October 20 at 10:51 a.m. The US Geological Survey received shake reports from Kelseyville, Middletown and one from San Jose.

On October 4, a 3.0 magnitude quake shook the area at 12:34 p.m. and was immediately followed by two smaller quakes, measuring 1.3 and 1.0 in magnitude. Centered two miles north of The Geysers, 15 miles southwest of Clearlake and 25 miles north of Santa Rosa, the only shake reports were from Eureka, 247 miles away, and Mammoth Lakes, 365 miles away, according to the USGS report.

Over the summer USGS reported the occurrence of a 3.5-magnitude earthquake two miles north of The Geysers at 12:49 a.m. Sunday, July 18. The quake was five miles west of Cobb and seven miles west northwest of Anderson Springs, at a depth of 2.4 miles, with one shake report from Berkeley and one from Sea Ranch.

On Thursday, July 15, two quakes measuring 4.0 and 3.8 respectively, were reported near The Geysers.

Both geothermal operators and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) operate earthquake monitoring networks at The Geysers. All monitoring data is made available to the public on the Northern California Earthquake Data Center website at <http://www.ncedc.org/>.

The Northern California Earthquake Data Center (NCEDC) is a joint project of the [University of California Berkeley Seismological Laboratory \(BSL\)](#) and the [United States Geological Survey \(USGS\)](#). The NCEDC is a long-term archive and distribution center for seismological and geodetic data for Northern and Central California and is partially supported by funding from the USGS component of the [National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program \(NEHRP\)](#).

Geysers Geothermal Association

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Geothermal technology harnessed in gas and oil coproduction

Coproduction could be defined as the height of business efficiency, such as when a company cuts its costs by cleverly turning a liability into an asset.

The gas and oil industry is set to implement the latest coproduction discovery by utilizing geothermal technology to turn hot wastewater from oilfield production into enough electricity to help run their field operation.

New research has shown that much of the 25 billion barrels of geothermally heated water that is normally disposed of, is hot enough to produce electricity.

Federal funding may hasten use of this technology in the oilfields. It is estimated that many of the wells might have clean energy capacities of up to 1 MW.

The theory was first tested in 2008 when the Department of Energy developed the first low-temperature geothermal unit in an oil field at the Rocky Mountain Oilfield Testing Center (RMOTC) in Wyoming.

The well is producing energy and has a capacity of approximately 217 kW. RMOTC continues to test power units produced by Ormat Technologies and UTC/Pratt and Whitney Power Systems at the Center.

More than 30 oil firms have visited the Center to learn about coproduction technology. This type of coproduction is also being implemented in Nevada, Mississippi, Louisiana, North Dakota and Texas.

In Nevada, Florida Canyon Mining, Inc. is using the 220° F groundwater in a coproduction project that uses ElectraTherm's 50-kW waste heat generators, also known as Green Machines to generate electricity.

Energy can be harnessed at working oilfields and used to power them without interrupting their operation.

A Gulf Coast Green Energy (GCGE) coproduction project at the Denbury oilfields in Laurel, Mississippi, is using this technique, again, with ElectraTherm Green Machines. It replaced Denbury's electric submersible pump and cut electricity costs by a third. GCGE has a second 50 kW geothermal natural gas coproduction project in Louisiana.

Source: www.RenewableEnergy.com/geothermal

The changing face of the geothermal industry

The emergence of publicly-traded geothermal companies is changing the face of the steam business. Many of the familiar companies are disappearing from the landscape, ingested by large corporations.

Borrowing from an article by Tom Konrad, PhD., CFA we published his list of players below. Konrad is a regulatory consultant and financial analyst specializing in renewable energy and energy efficiency. He is editor of AltEnergyStocks.com, a website for investors who are looking to invest in alternative energy and cleantech stocks. We published his list of geothermal stocks not for investment purposes, but to provide a glimpse of who the world players are in this new landscape.

Geothermal stocks fall neatly into two categories: Large cap companies and junior exploration and development companies. Below are excerpts.

Large-cap companies

Ormat (NYSE:ORA): Ormat is the leading vertically integrated geothermal power giant, involved in exploration, development, power production and maintenance both for themselves and as a contractor almost everywhere geothermal resources are found in the world.

Calpine (NYSE:CPN): Calpine is the largest independent power producer (IPP), owning 15 of the 18 operating power plants in the world-class Geysers geothermal field near Santa Rosa, CA.

United Technologies (NYSE:UTX): Like Calpine, United Technologies is a diversified industrial giant included here because of the modular PureCycle geothermal and heat recovery engine from its Pratt&Whitney unit, which could open up low temperature geothermal resources.

Junior Exploration and Development Companies

Magma Energy Corp. (Toronto: MXY.TO/Pink Sheets: MGMXF). Magma Energy has three operating geothermal plants in Nevada and Iceland, and is also developing several prospects.

Nevada Geothermal Power (Toronto Venture:NGP.V/ OTC BB: NGLPF.OB). Nevada Geothermal is develop

ing five projects totaling over 200 MW in the Western United States, and brought on-line its 49.5 MW Faulkner-1 plant in late 2009.

Ram Power Corp. (Toronto: RPG.TO/RAMPF.PK). Ram Power was formed by buying up several smaller geothermal developers (Polaris Geothermal, Western GeoPower Corp, GTO Resources, and the recently acquired Sierra Geothermal Power.) Ram currently owns an operating 10MW plant and hundreds of MW of development prospects.

Raser Technologies (NYSE:RZ). Raser Technologies owns one of the largest portfolios of low-temperature geothermal projects which it intends to develop using the PureCycle energy converters mentioned earlier. Power production at Raser's first 10 MW Hatch power plant initially fell short of expectations.

US Geothermal (AMEX:HTM). US Geothermal currently has about 11 MW of operating capacity at two power plants, with plans to quickly develop several times that in the next few years to take advantage of current US federal incentives.

This list may not be complete. If you know of additional geothermal stocks, go to the AltEnergyStocks.com website and make a note in the comments section. Konrad plans a closer look at each of the exploration and development companies in coming weeks and will add suggestions to his list.

Disclosure: Long HTM, NGLPF.OB.

Disclaimer: The information and trades provided here are for informational purposes only and are not a solicitation to buy or sell any of these securities.

Geothermal consolidation trend gobbling up smaller companies

Following is a list of recent merges and takeovers in the geothermal sector, a trend that experts in the field expect to continue. This list may not be complete.

July, 2009: Large, Vancouver-based Magma Energy, snaps up U.S. properties, including seven geothermal leases in Nevada.

October, 2009: U.S. geothermal company, Ram Power, founded in 2008, acquires Polaris Geothermal, Western Geo Power and GTO Resources.

April, 2010: Technology giant, Schlumberger acquires Richmond-based GeothermEx.

June, 2010: Ram Power takes over Vancouver-based Sierra Geothermal Power in a controversial deal to enhance Ram's potential for the development of a geothermal "power cluster" in Esmeralda County, Nevada, where both firms had projects.

Sierra had endured a proxy battle among shareholders in January, which resulted in two representatives of a renegade shareholder group getting seats on the board. The shareholders had ties to Ram, which also purchased two other Canadian geothermal companies last year, prompting Sierra to look for a buyer. (<http://www.businessgreen.com>)

August, 2010: In a hotly protested move, Magma Energy increased its holding in Icelandic geothermal firm HS Orka, from Geysir Green Energy ehf. The deal is the third tranche of HS Orka shares acquired by Magma, taking its overall holding to 84.21 percent.

A group of people protesting the takeover formed a campaign fronted by pop star Bjork, accusing Magma Energy of attempting to build a monopoly holding in Iceland's potentially lucrative geothermal energy sector. (<http://www.businessgreen.com>)

Calpine Open House planned

As part of their public outreach, Calpine will hold a Geothermal Open House Friday, November 5 from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Cartwright Geothermal Visitors Center in Middletown. The free event will feature a continental breakfast and Calpine's Geothermal Operations presentation along with free power plant tours. Tour reservations are recommended. For more information call 707 987-4270.

People Notes

■ **Ali Khan**, who worked in the Santa Rosa DOGGR office for many years has been promoted to Permitting and Operations Supervisor for District 1 in Cypress. Ali has been a good friend to many in the geothermal business, and we will miss him.

■ **Voris Brumfield**, former Lake County Supervisor, is now Lake County Geothermal and Illicit Discharge Coordinator. Geothermal duties include monitoring and compliance of use permits and investigating complaints. Illicit Discharge Coordination includes overseeing remediation of illegal disposal sites.

Business Notes

■ Geothermal investment and development company, GeoGlobal Energy LLC (GGE) has announced the addition of three highly respected professionals to its technical team. Bob Swanson has joined as drilling manager, Jim Stimac has joined as senior geologist, and Paula Blaydes joined as Director of Environmental Permitting and Governmental Affairs. The three are based in GGE's Santa Rosa office. Swanson and Dr. Stimac are former Unocal employees. Blaydes, owner of Blaydes and Associates, Inc., is a GGA board member.

GGE president, former consultant to Unocal, A. Michael Van Vleck commented, "the addition of Bob Swanson, Jim Stimac, and Paula Blaydes, three of the top professionals in their respective fields, is central to GGE's strategy to build the premier geothermal company with top-tier talent to execute our ambitious growth plan."

■ Two new videos can be found at Calpine's website, www.geysers.com, plus a short news video created by the Economist.

The videos, *People of The Geysers*, and *50 Years of Innovation* have some familiar faces. The news video, *Power from the Earth: The Largest Generator*, talks about Engineered Geothermal Systems (EGS), visiting potential sites around the globe, including The Geysers.

Narrated by Karl Gawell, executive director of Geothermal Energy Association (GEA), the film interviews Calpine Senior Vice President Mike Rogers, among others. Terming EGS as "promising new technology", the film has some nice photography, good graphics, and does a good job of explaining EGS. The direct link to the Economist video is: http://www.economist.com/multimedia/2010/09/power_earth_0.

Points of Interest

■ The Geysers geothermal field was the subject of a CBS Sunday Morning segment in mid-August titled, *Alternative Energy: Will U.S. Lead or Follow?* Calpine's Mike Rogers was interviewed for the program. Video: <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=6774753n&tag=related;photovideo>

■ The University of Nevada Reno's Great Basin Geothermal Center held a workshop in September on geothermal exploration with support from the US Department of Energy and the Geothermal Energy Association. Over 50 leading experts participated in the program which covered issues ranging from "What technologies are used successfully?" to "What are the hurdles to bringing more resources rapidly on-line?" Upcoming sessions will examine future efforts in these areas. "It was a very timely meeting given the potential of undiscovered resources to contribute to our national energy goals," noted Karl Gawell, GEA's Executive Director. "Bringing together some of the best experts in this area to pool their knowledge and experience can only help launch successful new efforts in the future," he added.

■ Geothermal electric cars? President of Iceland, Olafur Ragnar Grimsson says "yes!" Speaking at Reykjavik's Driving Sustainability 2010 conference in September, Grimsson said the next step in Iceland's clean initiatives is green transportation. With cheap green electricity in abundance, Grimsson said the goal is to become "the first country to move over to 100 percent clean energy for all land-based activity." Iceland has had "100 percent success in geothermal heating and clean electricity production," Grimsson said. With 85 percent of homes heated with geothermal and 100 percent renewable electricity, the country only lacks electric cars to plug into the clean grid.

■ In the U.S., the geothermal industry is set to add thousands of new workers, according to a report released in late October by the Geothermal Energy Association. Aided by strong government support and new training programs at colleges and universities, the organization says that geothermal companies will add jobs faster than in the conventional energy sector. While 2010 was a down year for geothermal (the final figures aren't out), the number of projects in the pipeline has increased. The trade group says that around 3,800 direct and indirect jobs will be created in 2011, mostly in Nevada and California.

AltaRock Energy reports positive feedback from community

AltaRock Energy and Davenport Newberry received positive community support at three public outreach meetings held over the summer to discuss the Newberry Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) Demonstration underway near La Pine, Oregon. At the third meeting, held September 21 in Bend, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced plans to initiate scoping for their Environmental Assessment (EA) of the project.

According to an AltaRock press release, "all three meetings were well-attended and provided a valuable opportunity for the team to collect public feedback, questions and concerns, and for the public to receive accurate information about plans for the demonstration." Attendees included interested individuals and parties throughout Deschutes County and the state of Oregon.

Positive feedback included enthusiasm for the project's significance for the state and nation, and support for renewable energy as a whole.

According to the news release, participants expressed concern regarding water consumption, water quality, induced seismicity and visual impact. AltaRock and Davenport Newberry has considered these issues from inception of the project and included detailed information on each topic in the community outreach meetings and in the Notice of Intent filed with the BLM. The EA process will offer an opportunity to further address these areas of public concern.

The news release stated, "The BLM's initiation of scoping for the Environmental Assessment is important for both the public and for the AltaRock-Davenport partnership which, along with the public, is eager to ensure a safe and successful demonstration with potential national benefit. AltaRock-Davenport is committed to keeping interested individuals and parties fully abreast of the Demonstration's progress."

Regular updates and pertinent information about the Newberry EGS Demonstration can be found online at AltaRock Energy or at the Newberry EGS Demonstration Facebook page.

www.altarockenergy.com

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Add your website to your business listing!
 Call or email Marilyn Sanborn, 530 472-6442 msanborn@frontiernet.net
 Do we have your contact information up to date? Let us know changes.

Four open GGA Board positions to fill for 2011-2012 year

When the GGA Executive Committee meets in the Spring, they will be acting as a nominating committee, and in that capacity, will be looking for people to fill four key positions: president, secretary, financial officer and public relations.

Those offices are presently held by the following:

President:	Ron Suess
Secretary:	Ben Barker
Financial Officer:	Ralph Aviles
Public Relations:	Vacant

Both Ron Suess and Ralph Aviles have served the GGA in an official capacity for many years and have other commitments! If you are interested in any of the above positions, please contact Ron Suess, 707 541-0976 or ron.suess@gmail.com.

Ben Barker has been traveling on business a good deal lately and his time is also limited.

Our former public relations chair and good friend, Sylvia Timmons is awaiting a lung transplant and has had to bow out of her commitment to GGA . We wish her the very best during this difficult time.

“Sitting on the board of an organization that represents the largest geothermal field in the world is a great privilege, and one which I have enjoyed immensely,” said Ron Suess. “I heartily recommend the experience to anyone who shares an affinity for The Geysers, and has a passion for geothermal energy.”

There is zero travel time to and from Executive Committee meetings, as we now meet via phone conference, which is more efficient, and saves gas!



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