

GEOHERMAL
HOT LINE NEWSLETTER

Published by the
Geothermal Resources Board
State of California

Issue No. 1

January 21, 1971

This is the first in a series of newsletters that will be published by the Division of Oil and Gas for the Geothermal Resources Board of the State of California. The primary purpose is to distribute information concerning geothermal development in California, its bordering states, and Mexico. Information will be provided on pending meetings, hearings, conferences, and conventions. A section will be set aside for field development covering items as they become available, such as leasing, drilling, testing, and abandonments. If space permits, lists and brief reviews of new and pertinent, published and unpublished articles will be included. At present the flow of available information does not warrant the printing of this publication each month, but it will be printed from time to time as relevant information is received.

The success of this publication depends on the participation of the people receiving it. The more information we receive, the more we can disburse. 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.

If you are not on the mailing list and you would like to be, please send your name, address, and company affiliation to this office. All correspondence should be directed to:

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

Federal "Geothermal Steam Act"

The long-awaited federal "Geothermal Steam Act" was officially signed into law by President Nixon on December 24, 1970. The Act directs the USGS to study and classify all potentially productive geothermal land within 120 days of its effective date. The preliminary work of writing the regulations and compiling a set of standards for classifying geothermal lands is now in progress.

This legislation is expected to spur geothermal activity in California and the other western states.

Copies of the "Geothermal Steam Act" can be obtained by writing to:

U. S. Congress
Senate Document Room
Washington, D. C. 20542

Ask for a copy of these:

"Geothermal Steam Act of 1970"
Public Law 91-581
December 24, 1970

There is no charge.

Compendium of Papers

Copies of the Compendium of Papers presented at the Imperial Valley-Salton Sea Geothermal Hearing held on October 22 and 23, 1970, in Sacramento are still available. It contains 35 separate papers and totals over 350 pages covering subjects ranging from climate, agriculture, and geology to drilling technology, produced minerals, and salt water desalination. The few remaining copies are being sold on a first come, first serve basis. The cost including postage is \$5.00. There are no plans to reprint.

Geothermal Energy in California - a Report to the Legislature

This report is a response to Senate Resolution 331 directing the Geothermal Resources Board to hold a hearing and present its findings to the Legislature. This report is a companion to the Compendium (see above) and will be available after February 1, 1971. If you desire a copy, the cost including postage is \$1.00.

Please send checks or money orders made in favor of the Division of Oil and Gas for both of the above publications to:

Division of Oil and Gas
1116 - 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Request Compendium of Papers and/or Geothermal Report to the Legislature (1971).

Imperial County

The Imperial County Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance on November 24, 1970, which requires that a conditional use permit be issued prior to any geothermal well being drilled, reworked, or abandoned. It permits the Planning Commission to establish conditions which must be met by geothermal developers.

This new legislation was proposed by the Geothermal Advisory Committee created in October by the Board of Supervisors. The Committee also recommended conditions which they felt should be adopted by the Planning Commission. The recommended conditions are now being studied by the Board of Supervisors.

Mono Lake

A meeting was held on December 15, 1970, at the Bureau of Land Management office in Sacramento to discuss the application for a land use permit by Geothermal Resources International. Both GRI and Southern California Edison Company, which also was represented at the meeting, have made applications for exploration permits with the State of California for those state lands that underlie the Lake. The U. S. land under application from the BLM would be used for drill sites (all wells will have to be directional) and power plant sites for the development of geothermal energy. The land use application application is now under advisement by the BLM. Both

companies would like to begin exploration operations not later than next April.

Lassen Peak Area

The Thermal Power Company of San Francisco announced in December, 1970, that they had leased the Terminal Geyser land at the southeast corner of Lassen National Park in Plumas County. The lease is approximately 640 acres in area, and the Company is negotiating for additional acreage in this area. The Company plans to make a geological study of the area this coming summer.

Magmamax Power Process Turbine and Generator

Magma Energy, Inc. (a subsidiary of Magma Power Company) has announced that the manufacturer's construction work on the turbine and generator for its "Magmamax" power process is nearing completion. A final decision on whether to locate the system at Brady, Nevada (about 50 miles east of Reno) or some other location (the most likely of which would be Imperial Valley) is expected within the next few weeks so that the plant operations can commence later in the year. Several additional engineering studies of the system are now under way including a field test of a small heat exchanger at Brady.

Direct all correspondence to:

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