



U.S. Department of Energy  
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy



# Department of Energy Geothermal Focus

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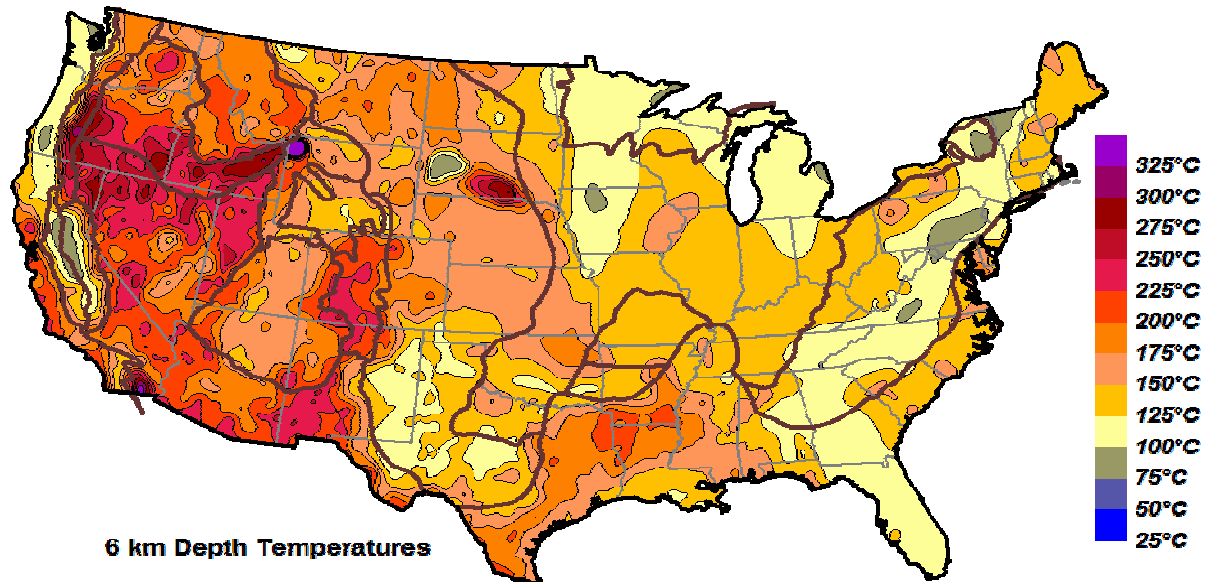
SMU Geothermal Conference  
March 13, 2006



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# Program Vision

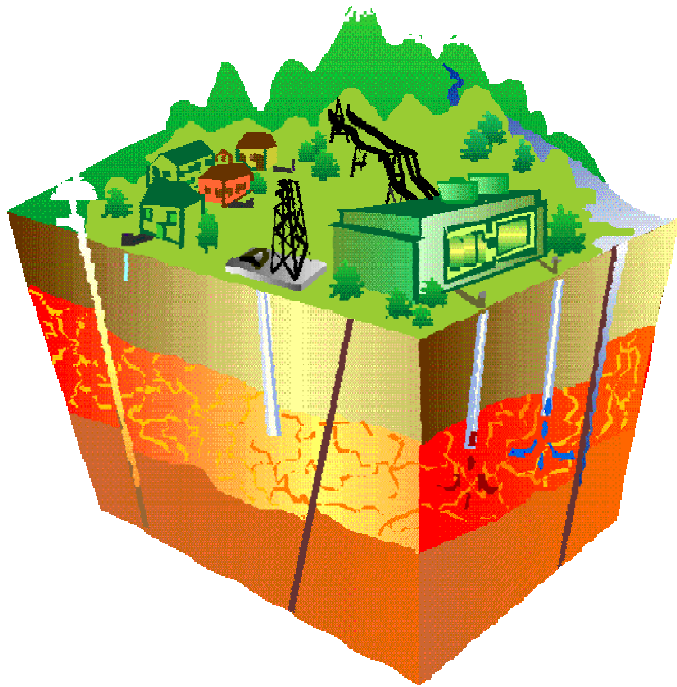
The DOE Geothermal Technologies Program has a vision of geothermal energy as the Nation's environmentally preferred baseload energy alternative.





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# Program Mission



The Program's mission is to work in partnership with U.S. industry to establish geothermal energy as an economically competitive contributor to the U.S. energy supply.



# Strategic Program Goals

- Reduce the levelized cost of hydrothermal development to less than 5 cents/kWh by 2011
- Increase the economically viable geothermal resource to 40,000 megawatts by 2040
- Decrease the levelized cost of electricity from Enhanced Geothermal Systems to less than 5 cents per kWh by 2040



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# Key Strategic Directions

- Enhanced Geothermal Systems
- Exploration and Resource Characterization
- Drilling and Wellfield Construction
- Reservoir Management
- Energy Conversion
- Institutional Barriers



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# Strategic Plan

- Addresses:
  - Power markets
  - Geothermal industry
  - Understanding of resources
  - Projected technical and economic requirements
  - Policy recommendations
  - Technical opportunities



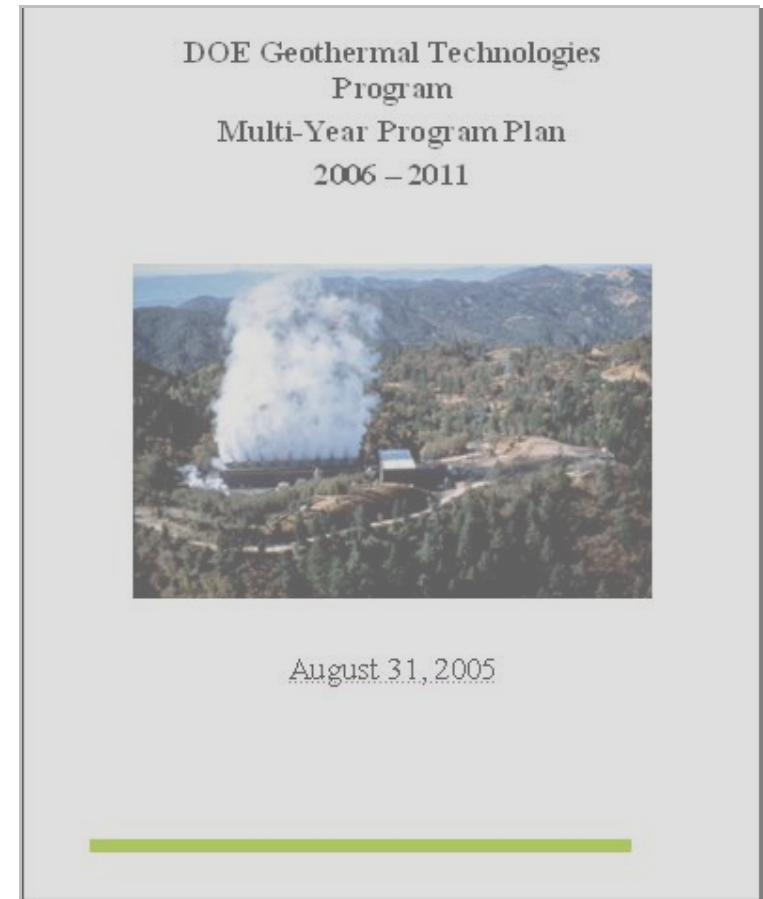
Available at: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/geothermal/pdfs/36738.pdf>



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# Multi-Year Program Plan

- Identifies near-term technical challenges and opportunities (through 2011)
- Covers expected program activities
- Describes near-term program priorities



Available at: [http://www.eere.energy.gov/geothermal/pdfs/consolidated\\_draft\\_83105\\_final.pdf](http://www.eere.energy.gov/geothermal/pdfs/consolidated_draft_83105_final.pdf)



# Program Funding

<b>Subprogram</b>	<b>FY05 Comparable Appropriation</b>	<b>FY06 Appropriation</b>	<b>FY07 Request</b>
Technology Development	15,480	15,317	0
Enhanced Geothermal Systems	6,687	6,110	0
Systems Development	6,292	6,379	0
Resource Development	2,501	2,828	0
Technology Application	6,232	4,232	0
Technology Verification	3,130	1,547	0
Technology Deployment	3,102	2,685	0
Congressionally Directed Activities	3,558	3,750	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,270</b>	<b>23,299</b>	<b>0</b>

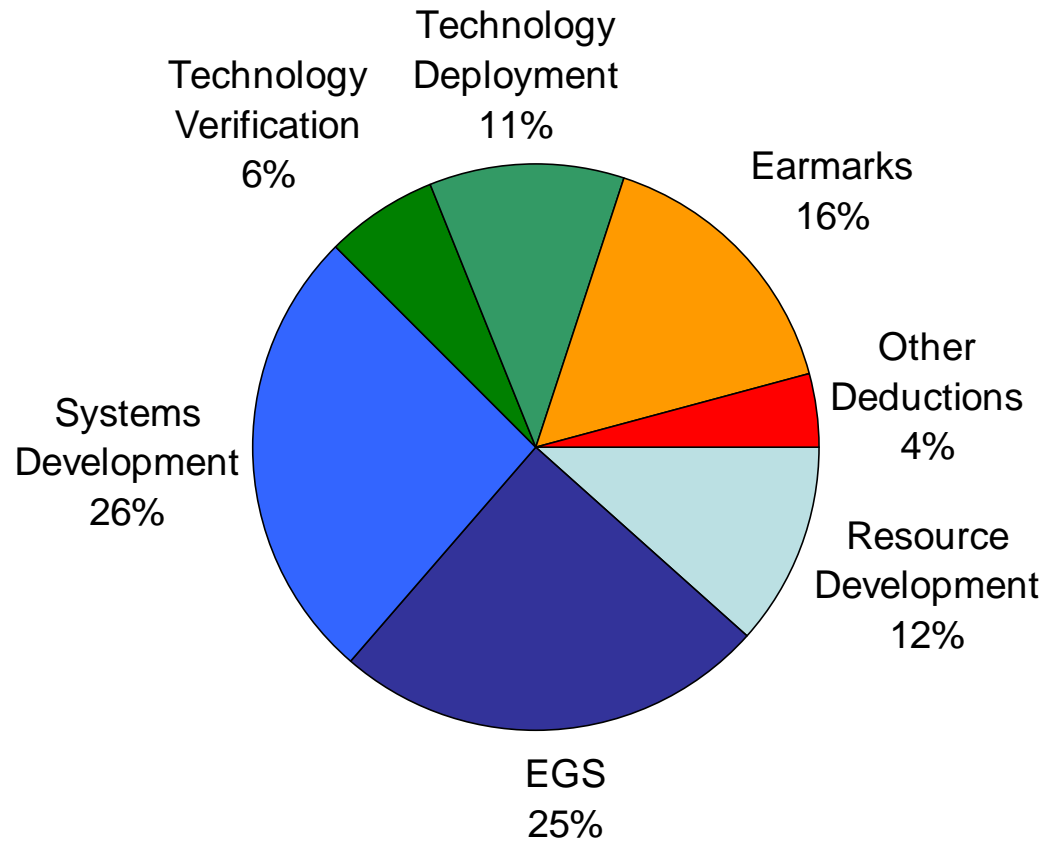
\*All figures in \$thousands





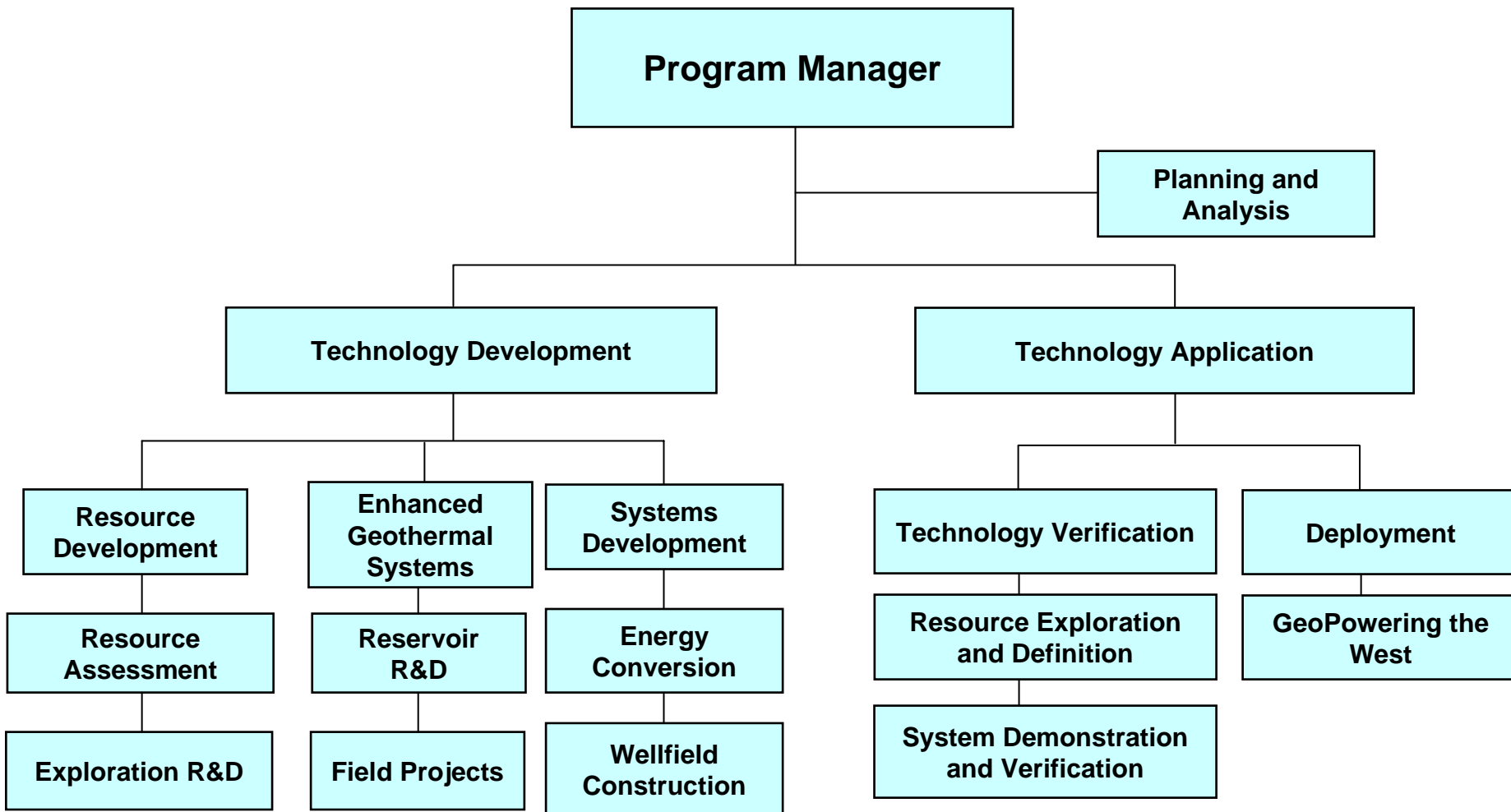
# Budget Allocation

## FY06 Budget





# Geothermal Technologies Program Organization Chart





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# Enhanced Geothermal Systems

Create hydrothermal reservoirs at sites lacking economic hydrothermal resources

- Conduct research on improved and innovative technologies for creating and managing EGS.
- Apply technological tools in partnership with industry at selected field locations.

**Accomplishments to Date:** Technical feasibility of EGS demonstrated at various sites

**Present Status:** Cost-shared projects underway at Desert Peak, NV and Coso Hot Springs, CA

**Path Forward:** Awards for research and development on fractures and fracture systems



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# Exploration

## Double the exploration success rate from 20% to 40%

- Improve most effective exploration techniques
- Update assessments of known resources
- Support exploration for new resources

### Accomplishments:

- Verified Steamboat Springs, NV resource for 42 MW plant
- Verified resources at Rye Patch, NV for 12 MW plant
- Proved aeromagnetic surveys can help find hidden faults

### Present Status:

- Completing evaluation of InSAR for remote sensing
- Completing eight exploration projects





# Wellfield Construction

## Reduce Cost of Drilling 25% by 2008

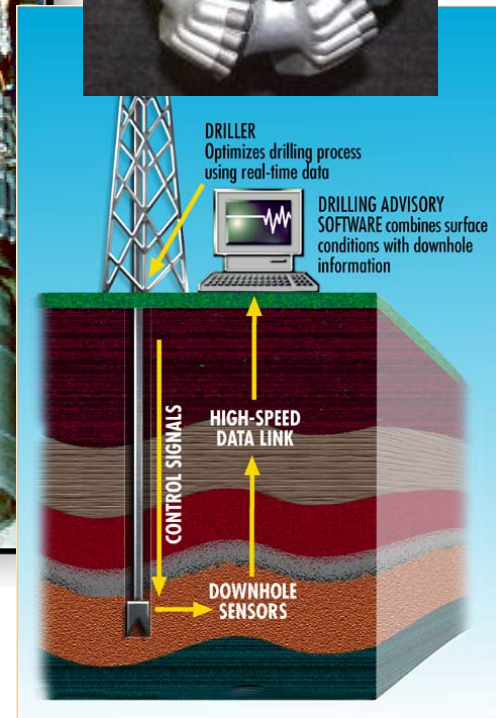
- Improve the component parts of a drilling system to perform essential functions quickly, reliably, and cheaply.
- Investigate long-term revolutionary advances in drilling materials and techniques with the target of drilling twice as deep for the same cost.

### Accomplishments to Date:

- Diagnostics While Drilling (DWD) proof of concept
- Hard rock drill bits
- Polyurethane grout for lost circulation control
- High-temperature integrated circuits for logging too

### Present Status:

- DWD system test with proprietary drill bits
- Drill bit database being developed





# Energy Conversion

## **Reduce the capital cost of surface systems by 20 percent**

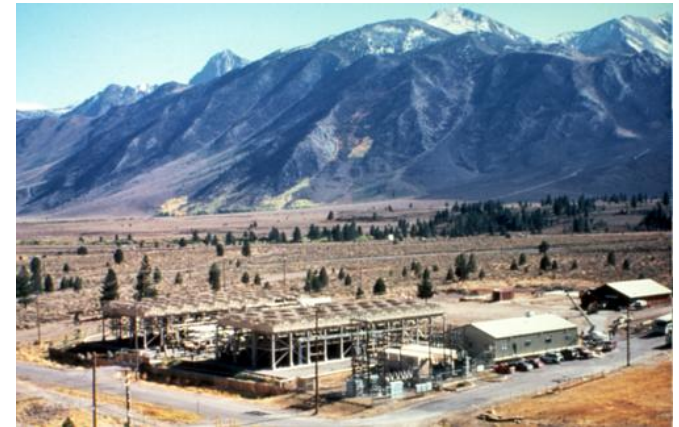
- Improve efficiency of heat rejection systems for lower-temperature resources
- Develop more efficient cycles for lower-temperature resources
- Reduce O&M costs through optimized maintenance schedules, better construction materials, and hardier instruments.

## **Accomplishments to Date:**

- Technology for Salton Sea metastable expansion
- Innovative condensers
- High performance coating materials

## **Present Status:**

- Conducting field verifications of technology
- Evaluating enhanced air-side condenser fins





# Field Verification Projects

## **Chena Hot Springs, AK Power System Validation**

- 2x200 kWe PureCycle™ ORC modules using R134a
- Very low temperature (165° F) resource
- 37° F stream water for cooling
- Near-Arctic off-grid location

## **Salt Wells, NV Power System Validation**

- 10 MWe KCS-34 Kalina Cycle plant using ammonia-water
- Moderately low temperature (260° F) resource
- Evaporatively-enhanced air cooling
- Grid-connected central station power plant

## **Low-Cost Coating Material Field Tests**

- CurraLon™ PPS for HX tubes at Mammoth and Puna, wellheads at Salton Sea, and injection spools at The Geysers
- Organometallic phosphates for brine-wetted condenser fin-tube at Mammoth

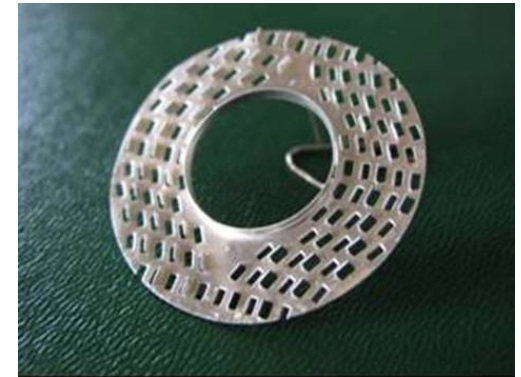


# Air-Cooled Condenser Enhancement

Tabs on fins interrupt boundary layers, extend out to coolest air, and reduce size of wakes downstream of tubes

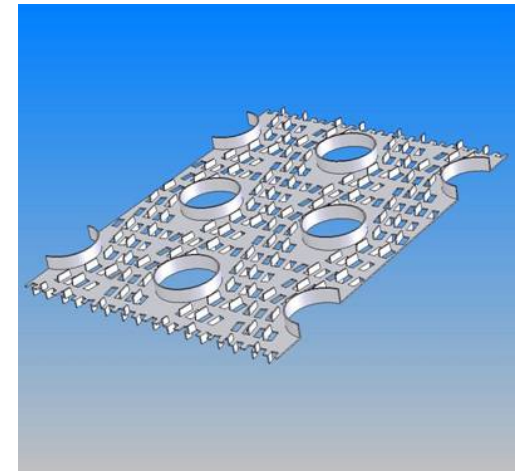
## Tabbed Fin-Tube

- Easiest to apply to individual fins e.g., GEA steam condensers
- Working with McElroy to apply to tension-wound fins



## Tabbed Plate-Fin

- Oil coolers, trim coolers, evaporators, and condensers
- Licensing to Super Radiator Coil





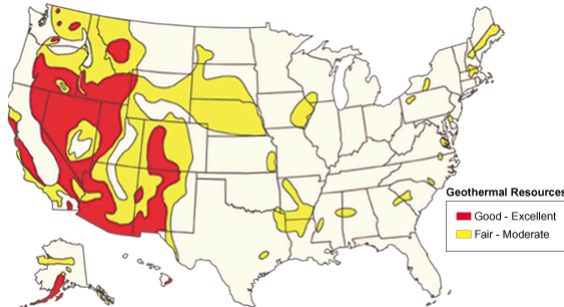


# GeoPowering the West



**GEOPOWERING  
THE WEST**

- DOE Leadership
  - State Geothermal Workshops/Working Groups
  - National Geothermal Collaborative
- State and Local Outreach
  - State Energy Program
  - Resource Mapping/Publications
  - Native American Involvement
  - Technical Assistance
- Industry Partnerships
  - Broad-Based Awards for Outreach Activities
  - Support for Direct-Use Community





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# Geothermal Electric Technology Evaluation Model

- Technical and cost modeling tool
  - Internally and externally validated
  - Analyzes economic impact of technology improvements
- Reference systems defined by properties of existing hydrothermal plants
- Modeling system undergoing active development
  - System-scale effects of improvements only partially modeled to date
  - Technology baseline assumptions under review



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# Geothermal Legacy

The Geothermal Legacy Project will provide rapid, searchable Internet access to thousands of geothermal documents previously available only in print format at a few archives

FY05 Accomplishment:

- Provided Internet access to 3,200 documents in searchable format

FY06 Goal:

- E-archive 4,100 additional reports in searchable format, establishing Web access to a total of 7,300 Geothermal Legacy reports

Documents are available at the DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) Repository (<http://www.osti.gov/energycitations>)

- Permanent repository contains 15K+ citations for geothermal technical reports including journal articles, conference reports, and patent filings



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# Next Steps

- The groundwork has been laid
- More to come from lab staff and financial assistance recipients over the next two days
- We are available to discuss technology transfer or other collaboration

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