

**Minutes of the
Tenth Oregon Geothermal Working Group Meeting
Engaging the Environmental Community
Bend, OR, Oct 31, 2008**

The Tenth meeting of the Oregon Geothermal Working Group (OGWG) was held at the Central Oregon Environmental Center in downtown Bend, Oregon. The agenda is shown on page 3.

Carel DeWinkel, Oregon Department of Energy, convened the meeting at 8:30 followed by self introductions of the approximately 50 attendees. Mike Riley, Executive Director of the Center welcomed the audience to the home of 40 environmental organizations. COEC is twenty years old and more information can be found at www.envirocenter.org.

Alex Sifford, Sifford Energy Services, gave an overview presentation on geothermal development in Oregon. He covered existing direct use and potential power generation projects.

John Lund, the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) Geo-Heat Center, talked about Klamath Falls geothermal activities and plans underway for generating power on the campus using a well soon to be drilled. The goal is for the OIT campus to be 100 percent self-generated renewable energy.

Jim Walls, Lake Co. Resources, gave an update on geothermal activities in Lakeview and elsewhere in Lake County. The City of Lakeview continues to aggressively look for opportunities to use existing systems to supply additional users.

Bob Fujimoto, US Forest Service, briefly described the steps leading to creation of the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. Negotiations between all the parties to the legislation included land & lease exchanges, frequent boundary line movement, and creating "Special Management Areas" with contingent development rights, e.g. no surface occupancy. Public Law 101-522 was passed in 1990 creating the Monument.

Al Waibel, a geology consultant with Davenport Power, shared recent developments at Newberry Volcano. The company is drilling its second deep exploration well (46-16), performing logging tests on the 11,000 foot hole and evaluating options to drill a third permitted well.

Mike Riley, COEC facilitated the second half of the meeting, a period for questions to all attendees, as well as an opportunity for local environmental organizations to present their perspectives on geothermal energy development in Oregon.

Mike Riley asked about public processes planned for the Davenport project. Carrie Gordon, Deschutes National Forest, responded that the federal agencies have a contractor starting environmental impact statement work and some baseline wildlife surveys are underway. A significant part of the EIS work includes public input and meetings.

Riley also asked where Davenport Power would get water from if it turned out it would need to inject water into wells to generate steam. “We’re still trying to find out what’s going on under there” said Al Waibel. The company doesn’t know whether it will need water or whether there’s enough water naturally to tap into, so it’s too early to say what it would do, he said.

Riley asked about potential hot spots in Central Oregon identified in the recently released Final Geothermal Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement by the Bureau of Land Management. Bob Deane, with the Deschutes National Forest, said the U.S. Forest Service would have to do studies to see if geothermal exploration is appropriate for new sites in the forest before leases are issued.

Mathias Perle with the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council asked how the drillers would avoid contaminating the groundwater in shallow aquifers with the water in deeper pockets or fissures. Waibel said the drilling process includes sealing up and cementing off the edges of the drill hole as the crews dig deeper to prevent contamination. Both state and federal regulations require the casing off of aquifers (by cement, pipe or both) to protect groundwater.

Asante Riverwind of the Sierra Club Juniper chapter said that he felt Davenport was rushing through the permitting process and not meeting enough environmental benchmarks to make sure it doesn’t interfere with the hydrology or ecology of the Newberry area.

Asante raised the issue of geothermal well pads at Newberry held in a status of suspension prior to reclamation. Bob Deane, with the Deschutes National Forest, said the U.S. Forest Service is in communication with leaseholder ORMAT to suggest possible steps with these well pads.

Some general expressions of support for local geothermal support, properly done, were expressed by audience members.

Mike and Carel adjourned the meeting at 12:30 P.M.

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Engaging the Environmental Community
Bend, OR, Oct 31, 2008**

When: Friday Oct. 31, 2008, 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Where: Downtown, Bend: Central Oregon Environmental Center 16 NW Kansas,
Bend, Oregon 97701, Phone: 541-385-6908

***** AGENDA *****

- 08:30 Welcome/Introductions – Carel DeWinkel, Oregon Department of Energy
08:45 Geothermal development: the basics and an Oregon overview, – Alex Sifford,
Sifford Energy Services
09:15 Klamath Falls geothermal activities – John Lund, GeoHeat Center
09:30 Lakeview geothermal activities – Jim Walls, Lake Co. Resources
09:45 Steps that lead to the creation of the Newberry National Volcanic Monument,
Bob Fujimoto, US Forest Service
10:00 Newberry Volcano– Al Waibel, Davenport Power
10:30 Break
10:45 Environmental Organization Perspectives
Facilitated by Mike Riley, Executive Director, Central Oregon Environmental
Center.
*This is a discussion period for Questions and Answers, as well as an
opportunity for local environmental organizations to present their
perspectives on geothermal energy development in Oregon.*
12:15 Closing remarks.

Register by Oct. 22, please

Please send the following registration information
to linda.ross@state.or.us :
name, organization, address, e-mail address, and phone number