

**GEOHERMAL RESOURCE AND RESERVOIR  
INVESTIGATIONS OF  
U. S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION LEASEHOLDS AT  
EAST MESA, IMPERIAL VALLEY, CALIFORNIA**



October 1978

LAWRENCE BERKELEY LABORATORY  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

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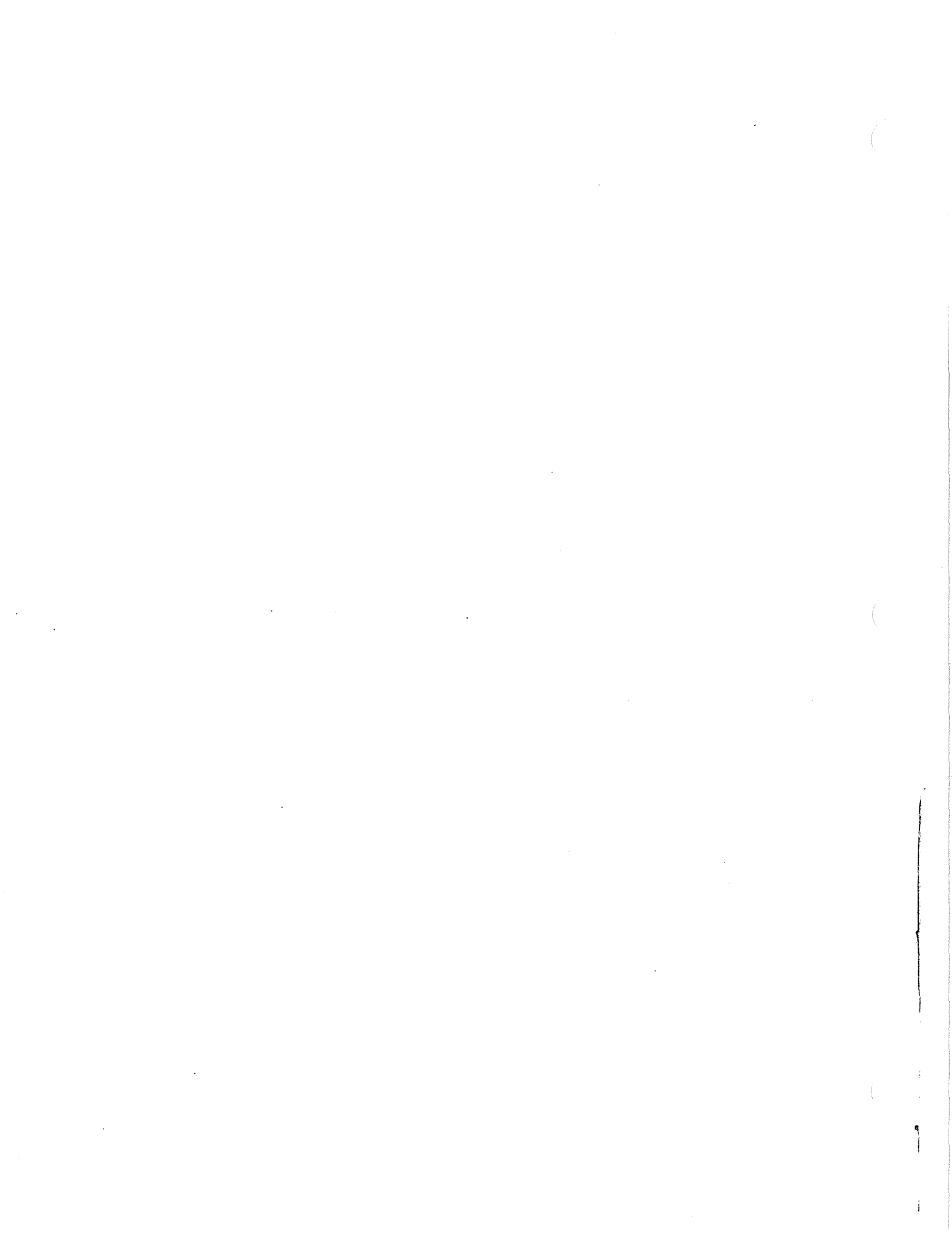
Printed in the United States of America  
Available from  
National Technical Information Service  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
5285 Port Royal Road  
Springfield, VA 22161  
Price Code: A14

LBL-7094  
UC-66a

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J. H. Howard, J. A. Apps, S. M. Benson, N. E. Goldstein, A. N. Graf,  
J. P. Haney, D. D. Jackson, S. Juprasert, E. L. Majer, D. G. McEdwards,  
T. V. McEvilly, T. N. Narasimhan, B. Schechter, R. C. Schroeder,  
R. W. Taylor, P. C. van de Kamp, and T. J. Wolery

EARTH SCIENCES DIVISION  
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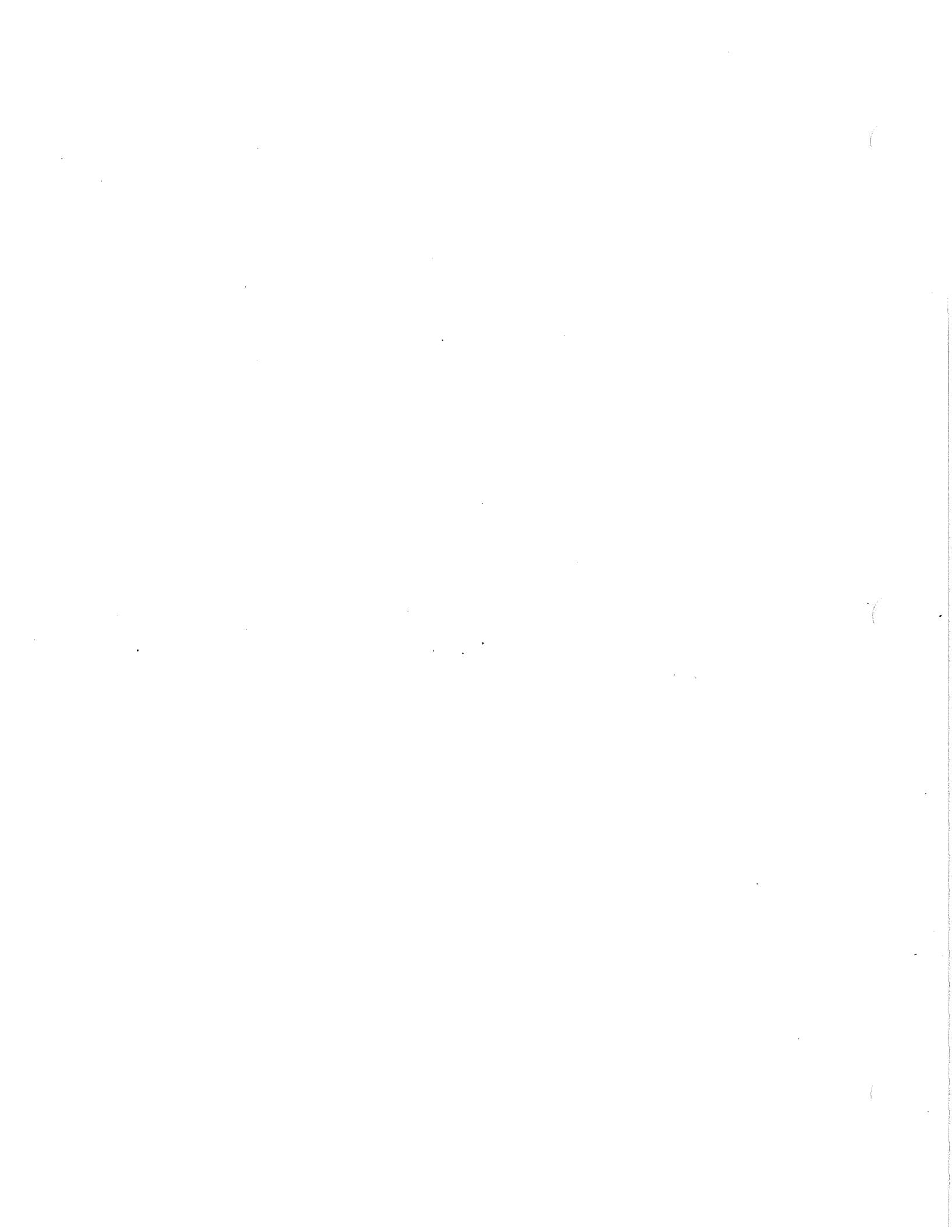
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## PREFACE

R. C. Schroeder

Scientists from Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (LBL) have been involved in resource-related activities at the East Mesa, California, Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA) since 1975. The earliest LBL activities were the geophysical and reservoir engineering work carried out in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE), Imperial Magma Co. (Magma) and Republic Geothermal, Inc. (RGI). In 1977, LBL personnel proposed a comprehensive reservoir and resource study program. The principal goal of the study was to present a qualitative and quantitative appraisal of the resource that would allow USBR to assess their geothermal desalination program.

The study program presented to the USBR included five parts: geology, geophysics, well testing, reservoir simulation, and geochemistry. The tasks and orientation of the LBL study were constrained by funding and by the principal goal referred to above. For example, the reservoir simulation was oriented toward answering the question of availability of fluid for desalination and the geochemistry study was limited to certain questions of brine chemistry that were appropriate for the USBR desalination project. In both cases, if more time and money were available, the scope of the work would have been expanded to include more basic and comprehensive considerations. The topics agreed upon for study by USBR and LBL and the tasks to be performed are summarized below.

1. Geology

- Review the regional geological setting of the East Mesa KGRA.
- Prepare a geological model of the East Mesa geothermal anomaly.
- Estimate the size of the resource at the USBR property.

2. Geophysics

- Continue the seismic interpretation begun in 1977.
- Determine hypocenters of microearthquakes and higher-amplitude events.
- Relate seismo-tectonic effects to the reservoir behavior, if possible.

3. Reservoir Engineering (Well Testing)

Conduct productivity tests of all USBR production wells.

Conduct injection test of well 5-1.

Review and analyze all well tests.

Provide estimates for the reservoir material parameters, well conditions, and a preliminary appraisal of the hydrologic continuity of the East Mesa geothermal anomaly.

4. Reservoir Engineering (Reservoir Simulation)

Analyze and forecast reservoir behavior for production of specified amounts of water with and without injection.

Analyze and forecast reservoir behavior for different well patterns, and different numbers of wells.

Prepare estimates of reservoir lifetime for specified withdrawal and injection rates (for different patterns and wells).

Prepare estimates of surface subsidence for the cases chosen in the simulation.

5. Geochemistry

Evaluate the possibility of downhole production well scaling.

Evaluate the possibility of production pipeline scaling.

Evaluate the possibility of scaling and precipitation in injection wellbores and adjacent formations.

Review problems associated with mixing of brines of different composition.

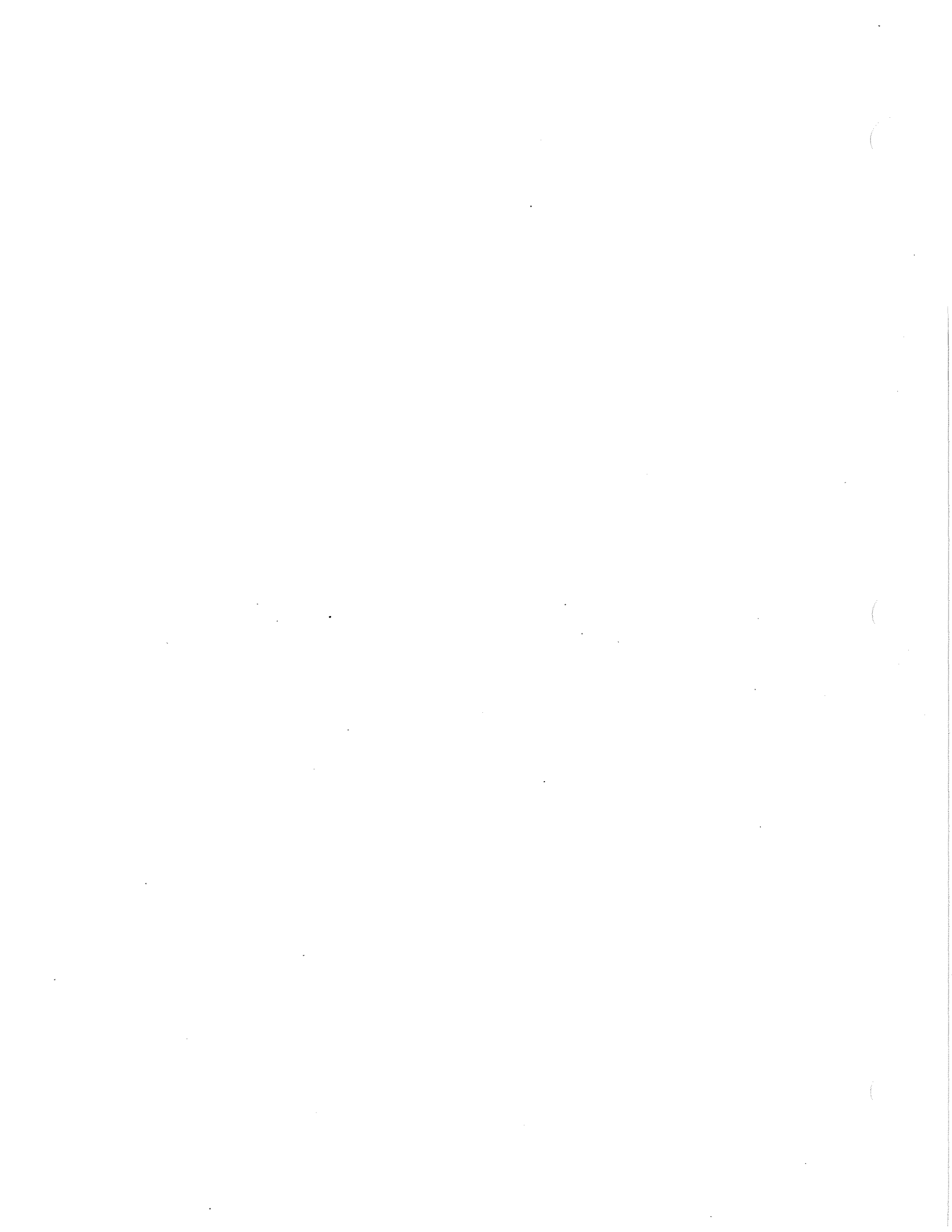
Whenever possible, we have drawn upon the work previously completed at East Mesa by people from the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, TRW, Intercomp, University of California at Riverside, and others. Previous contributions are acknowledged in the report by referencing the appropriate publication. In addition to the principal contributors and authors shown here many more people have contributed substantially to this project.

Although the following list is incomplete, we can acknowledge a few of the people involved. They are: W. Fernelius, K. Fulcher, and K. Mathias of USBR; R. Sones, Westec; J. Angevine, R. Davis, C. Goranson,

D. Lippert, M. Moebus, R. Phillips, R. Solbau and P. A. Witherspoon of LBL; T. Hinrichs and J. Featherstone, Magma; J. Barkman, D. Campbell and M. Walker, RGI; and A. Adduci, DOE/SAN.

The Geochemistry section was prepared primarily by R. W. Taylor, D. D. Jackson, and T. J. Wolery, all of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Their contribution to this report is substantial, and the cooperation of the management of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in permitting their scientists to work on this project is gratefully acknowledged.

This work was partially supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Division of Geothermal Energy, under contract W-7405-ENG-48.



## SECTION 1: GEOLOGY

P. C. van de Kamp, J. H. Howard, and A. N. Graf  
Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory

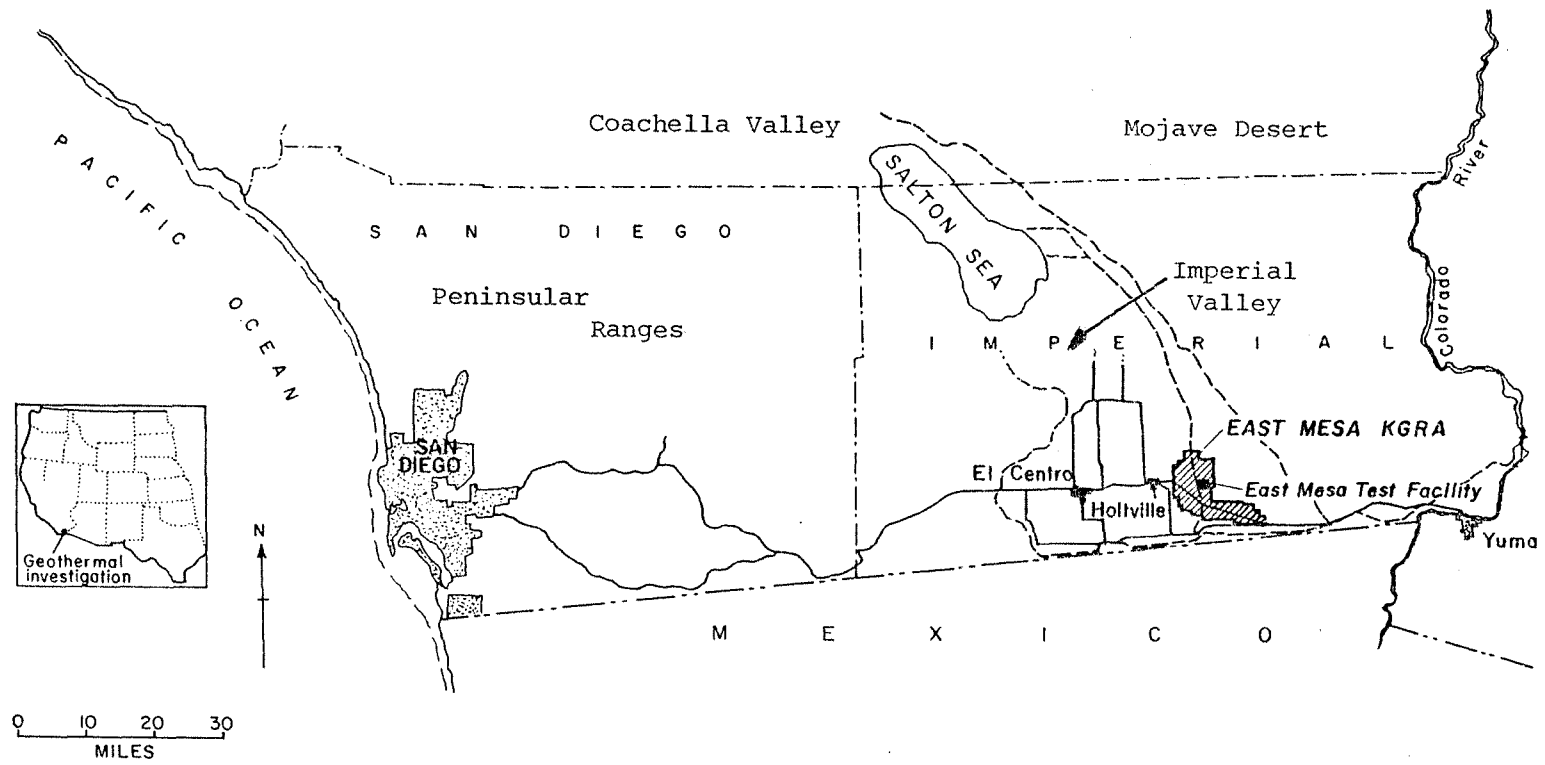
### INTRODUCTION

The fault-bounded Salton Trough is the nonmarine northerly extension of the Gulf of California physiographic province. The Salton Trough includes the Colorado River delta in Mexico and the Coachella and Imperial Valleys between the Peninsula Ranges of southern California and the south Mojave Desert mountains (Figures 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3).

Several major northwest-trending faults are present in the Imperial Valley. These include the San Andreas fault on the eastern margin of the Salton Trough, the San Jacinto fault on the western margin, and the Imperial fault in the center of the valley. These all are active faults with significant horizontal and vertical displacements. Other subparallel faults are present in the valley; some have surface expressions, others are seen only in wells or deduced from seismic data.

The Gulf of California and the Salton Trough developed in late Cenozoic time by a combination of strike-slip displacement and dip-slip movement. This moved Mesozoic and older basement complex rocks as much as 15,000 to 20,000 ft below sea level within the trough. Equivalent rocks are up to 5,000 ft or more above sea level in the mountains adjacent to the trough.

The present geographic limits of the trough correspond approximately to those of the late Cenozoic depositional basin. In the central Imperial Valley, up to 6 km of sediments have been deposited since the late Miocene. Figure 1.4 shows the stratigraphic column of the trough including marine and nonmarine facies derived from basin-margin sources and large volumes of sediment transported by the Colorado River and deposited in its delta. In the Pleistocene, the delta built up across the trough and closed off the northern portion from the Gulf of California (Downs and Woodard, 1961). The northern part of the trough has since been the site of nonmarine and lacustrine deposition (van de Kamp, 1973). The basement rocks are both Mesozoic to Precambrian metamorphic rocks and igneous rocks with local Mesozoic and Cenozoic volcanics.



XBL 783-475

Figure 1.1. Location map, East Mesa geothermal resource.



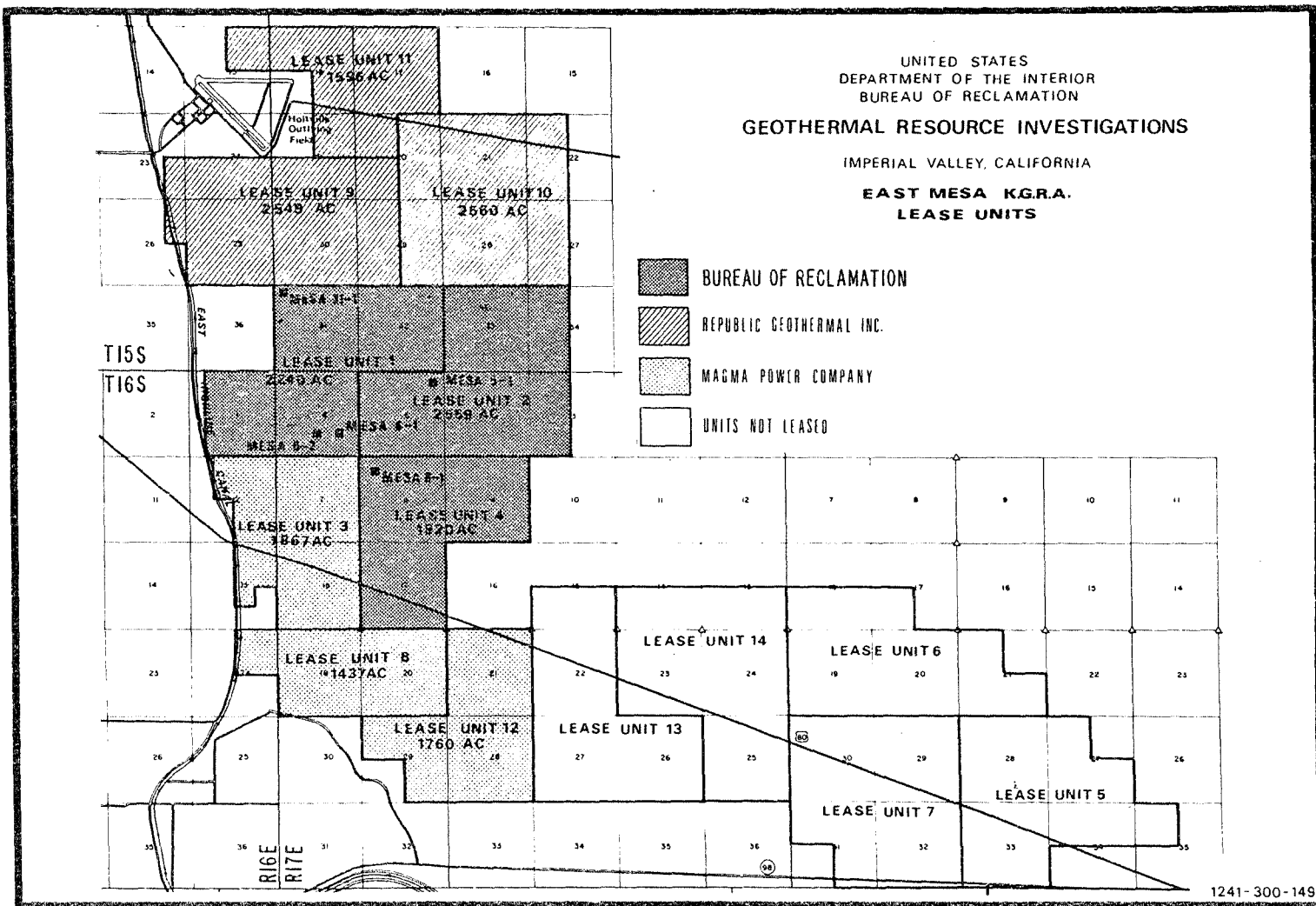


Figure 1.2. East Mesa KGRA lease units.

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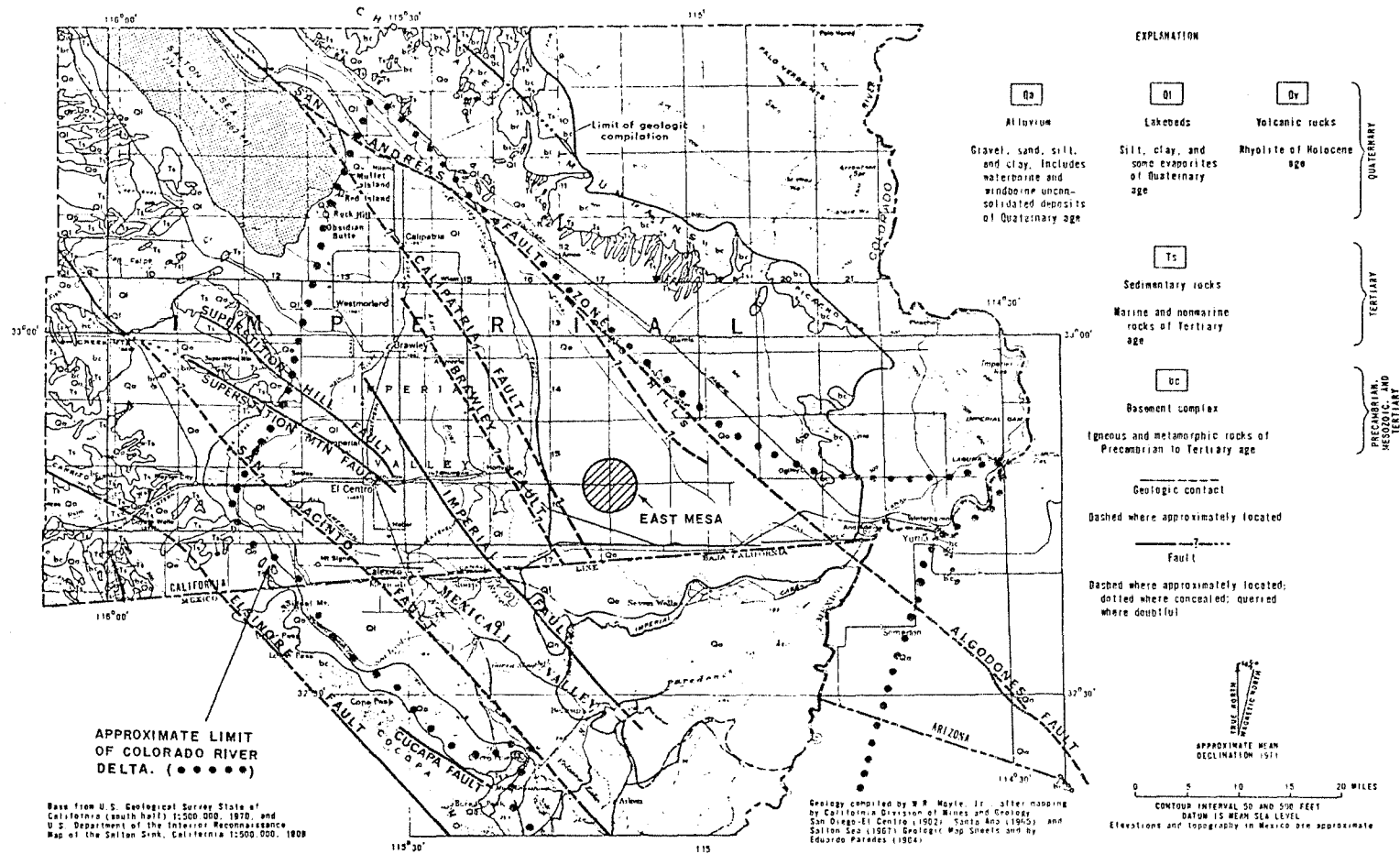


Figure 1.3. Geologic map of the Imperial and Mexicali Valleys.

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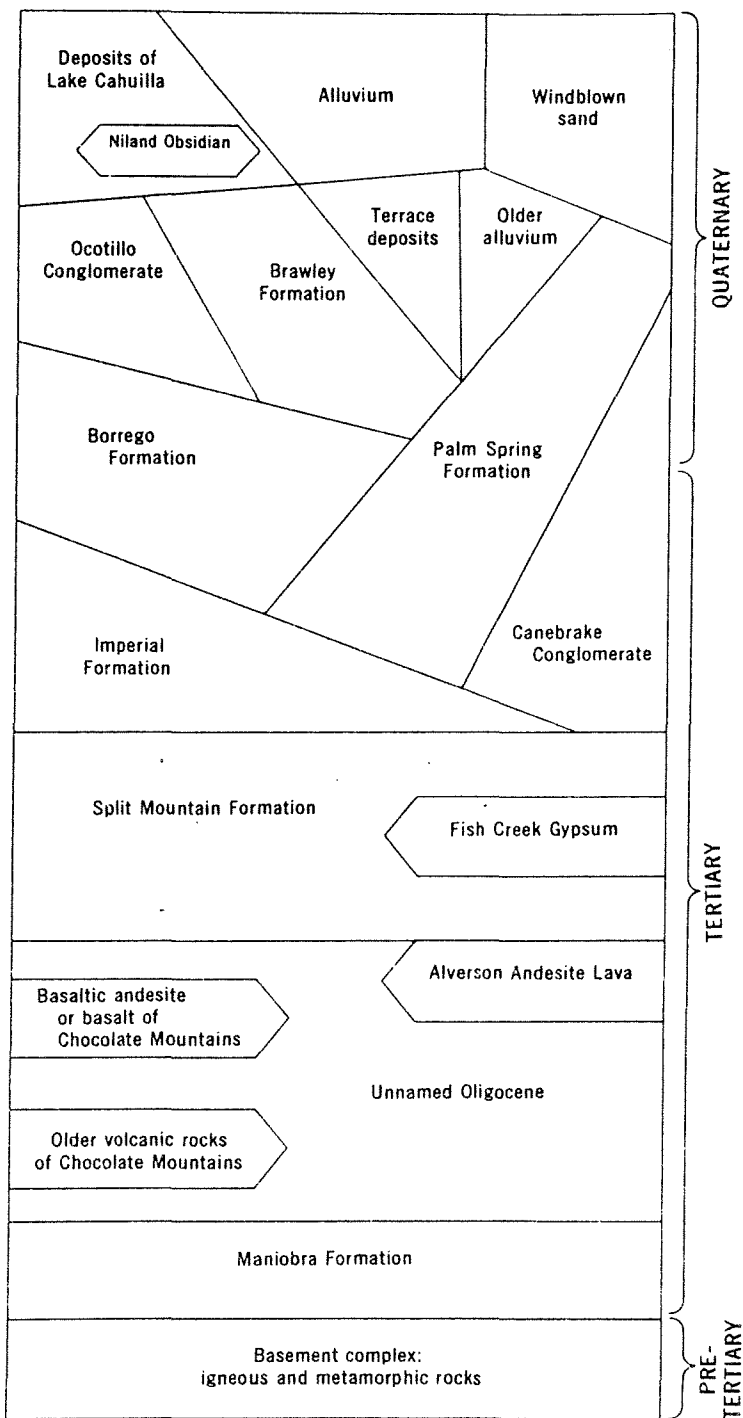


Figure 1.4. Composite stratigraphic section of the Salton Trough (after Loeltz et al., 1975).

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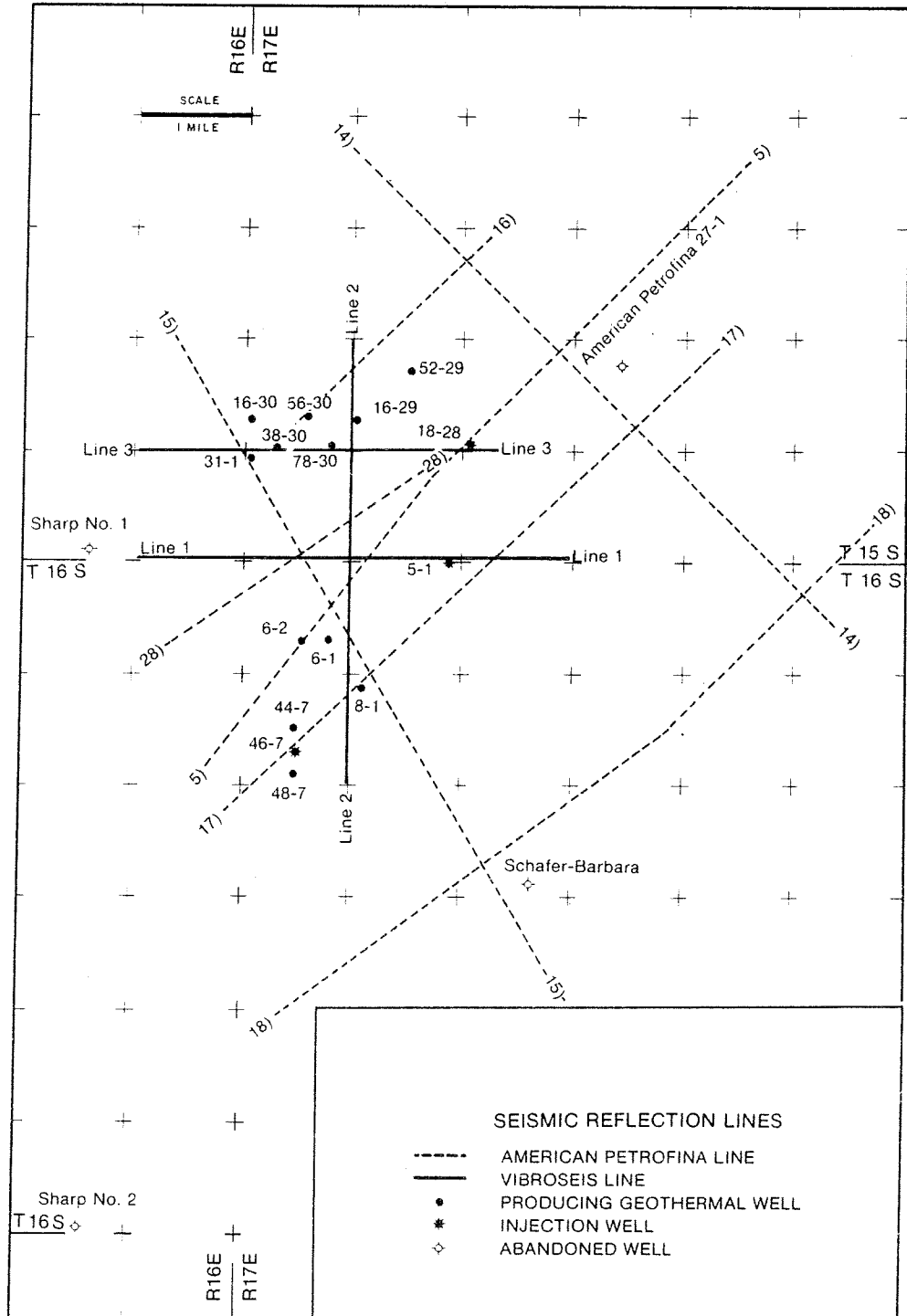
East Mesa (Figure 1.3) is a triangular area southwest of the Algodones Dunes, east of the Eastside Canal and north of the Mexican border. Physiographically, the East Mesa is a plain sloping from the eastern basin margin into the central Imperial Valley. It was formed mostly by fluvial processes of the Colorado River delta deposition. Irregular deposits of aeolian sand up to 20 ft thick mantle the fluvial deposits.

The purpose of the subsurface study was to determine the stratigraphy and structure of the area in order to facilitate mapping the structure and distribution of the sandstone reservoir. This information is used to determine the size, shape, and volume of the reservoir containing the geothermal energy resource and can be used along with other data in calculating the amount of energy in place.

#### SUBSURFACE GEOLOGY

In this study, we interpreted the subsurface geology of East Mesa from well data including electric, sonic, density and gamma-ray logs, and sample cuttings. The well data were generated mainly from the drilling programs of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, Republic Geothermal, Inc., and Magma Power, Inc., during the 1970s. Data collected from older petroleum wildcat wells in the area were also used. Reflection seismic data, obtained in 1966 by Geophysical Survey, Inc. (GSI), for American Petrofina and in 1977 by Western Geophysical for Systems, Science and Software (Goupilland and Cherry, 1977), were used to map structure on the stratigraphic markers.

We originally hoped to obtain a three-dimensional picture of the subsurface stratigraphy and structure by correlating electric logs. This method, however, soon proved unsuccessful since individual log markers cannot be correlated with confidence from one well to another because of variations and discontinuities in the lithologic units between the wells. Nevertheless, the well logs have been essential for interpreting sandstone genetic units and porous zones, and for calibrating the seismic data (Figures 1.5 through 1.11) through the development of time-depth curves (Figure 1.7) from the sonic logs. These time-depth curves enabled us to convert the seismic reflection times to subsea depths.



XBL 786-1859

Figure 1.5. Index map to the seismic data showing the grid of lines used to map the structure shown in Figures 1.7, 1.8, and 1.9. The quality of the data range from poor to good, but sufficient resolution exists for mapping presented in this report.

The seismic reflection profile in Figure 1.6 is from 24-fold VIBROSEIS data acquired by Systems, Science and Software in 1977. The upper part of the profile exhibits good quality reflections; these deteriorate rather abruptly at 1.2 to 1.6 seconds, where the denser rocks of the poorly reflective zone (PRZ) appear. In this zone, the velocity contrast between shales and sandstones is diminished so that the reflections are also diminished. Fracturing is believed to be another significant factor causing diminished reflections in this zone due to the dispersion of seismic energy. Figure 1.7 shows time-depth curves computed from sonic velocity logs. These illustrate the time required for seismic energy to reach a given depth and return to the surface (two-way time). This in turn facilitates the determination of depths from the seismic reflection data, which are recorded as a function of time. The time-depth curves are all very similar, which indicates that the response of seismic waves to rocks is homogeneous throughout the East Mesa field.

The seismic data proved very useful for mapping structure on through-going reflectors (Figures 1.5, 1.6, 1.9, and 1.10). The wells could then be correlated by identifying these reflectors on the well logs at the depths indicated on seismic records. These data have been used to construct structure maps (Figures 1.8, 1.9, and 1.10) and cross-sections (Figures 1.12 through 1.23).

Cross-sections 1 through 11 are vertical profiles derived from seismic reflection, thermal, and well-log data and show stratigraphic, structural, and temperature relationships in the East Mesa area. The blue, orange and yellow markers are mapped seismic reflectors (Figures 1.9 and 1.10). TPRZ is the top of the poorly reflecting zone (Figure 1.11). The lines for 300°F and 330°F represent isotherms that illustrate the form of the high-temperature zone. Horizontal and vertical scales are equal. The wells are represented with electric logs. The  $S_p$  curve is to the left and the resistivity curve to the right.

Three prominent reflectors were mapped at shallow, intermediate and deep levels relative to productive zones in order to understand the structure and stratigraphy within and adjacent to the reservoir (Figures 1.8, 1.9, and 1.10).

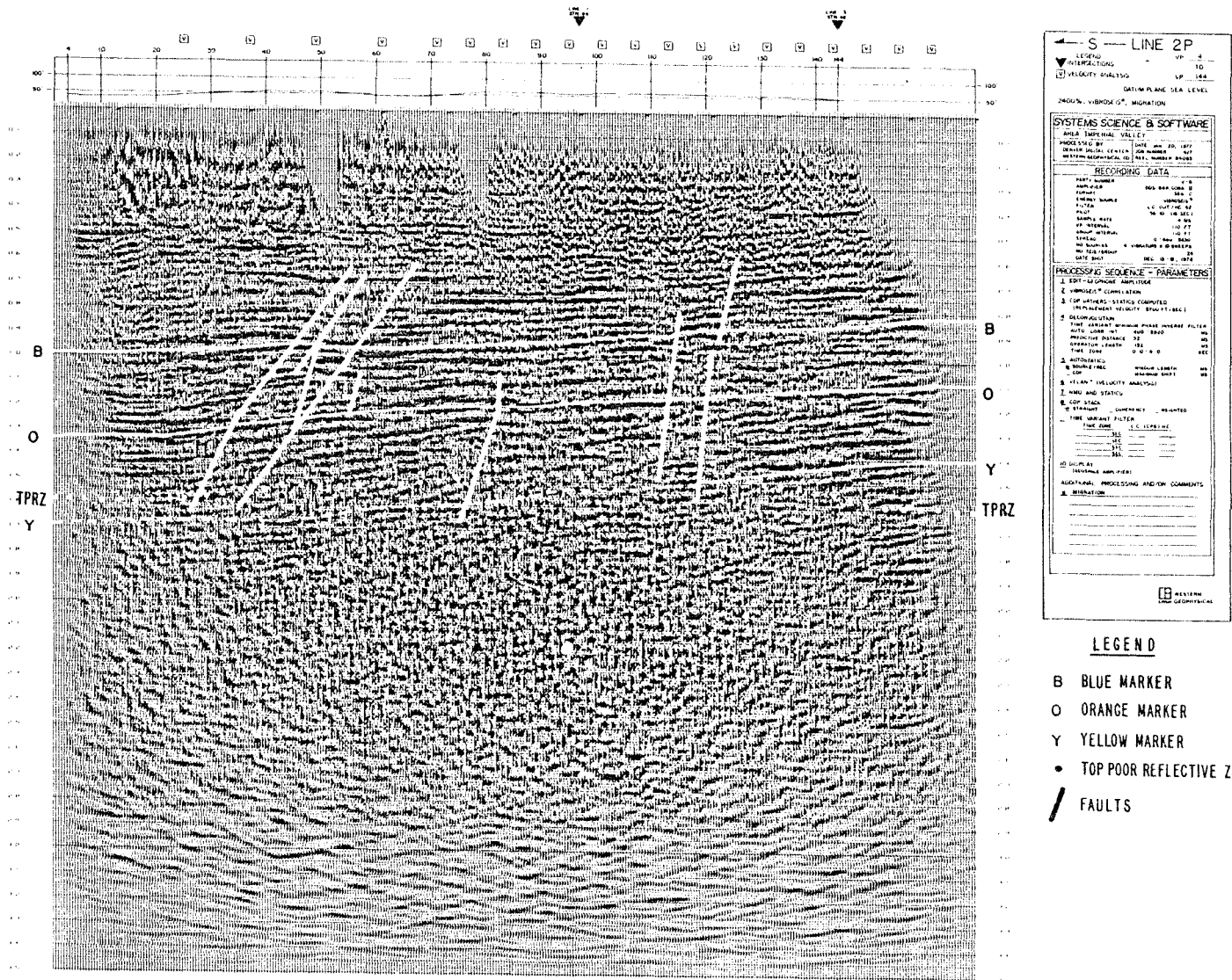


Figure 1.6. Example of a seismic reflection profile in the East Mesa area. The stratigraphic markers used to map structure and the faults offsetting these markers are indicated (modified from Systems, Science, and Software, 1977).

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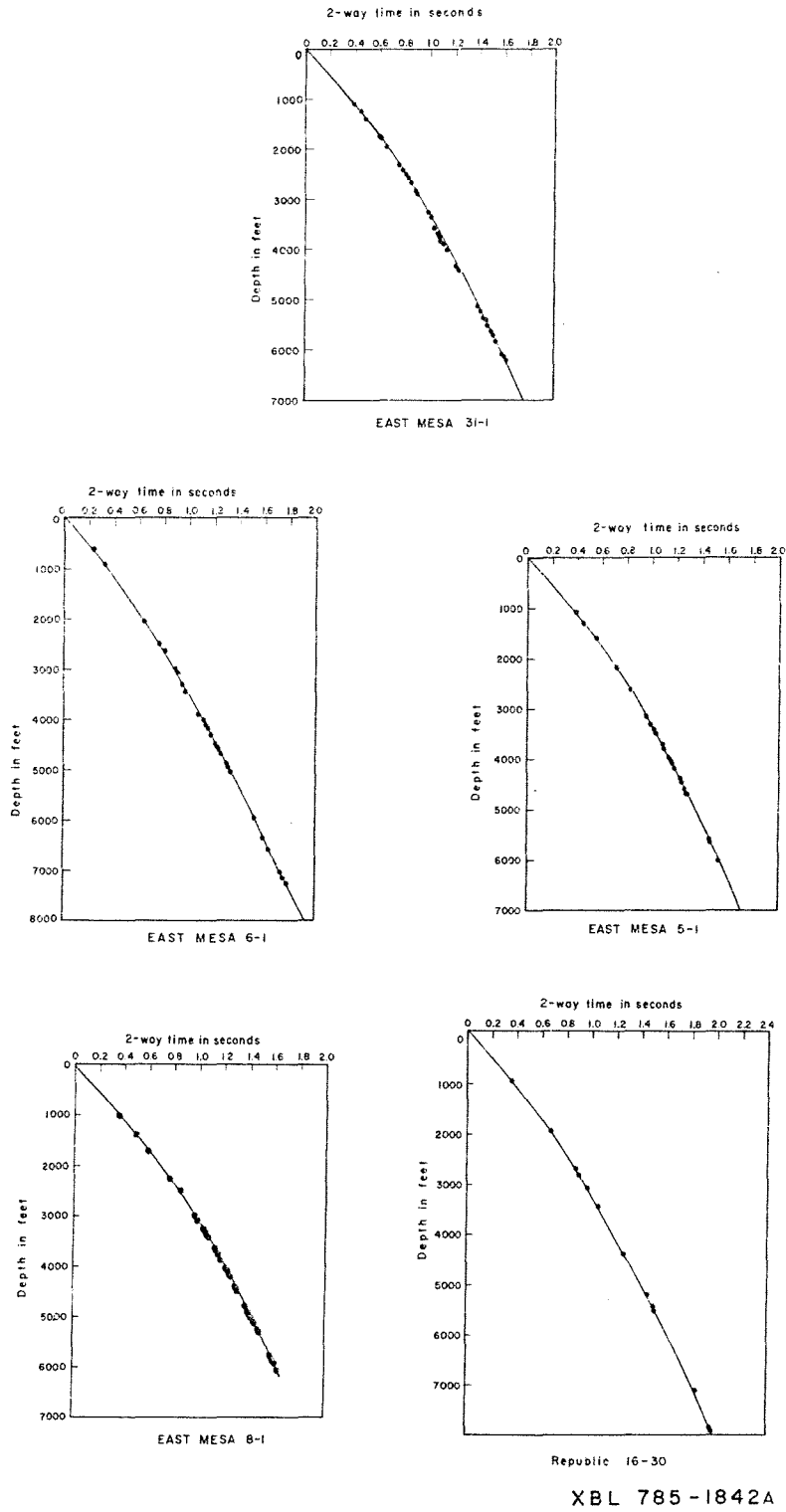
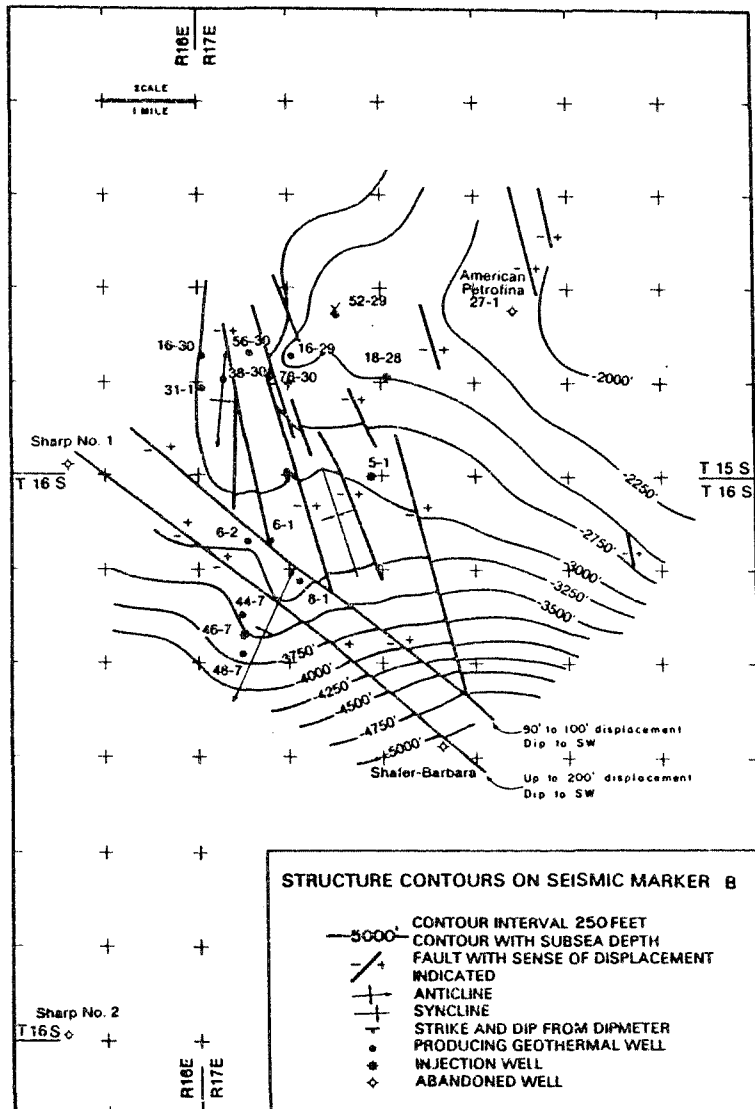


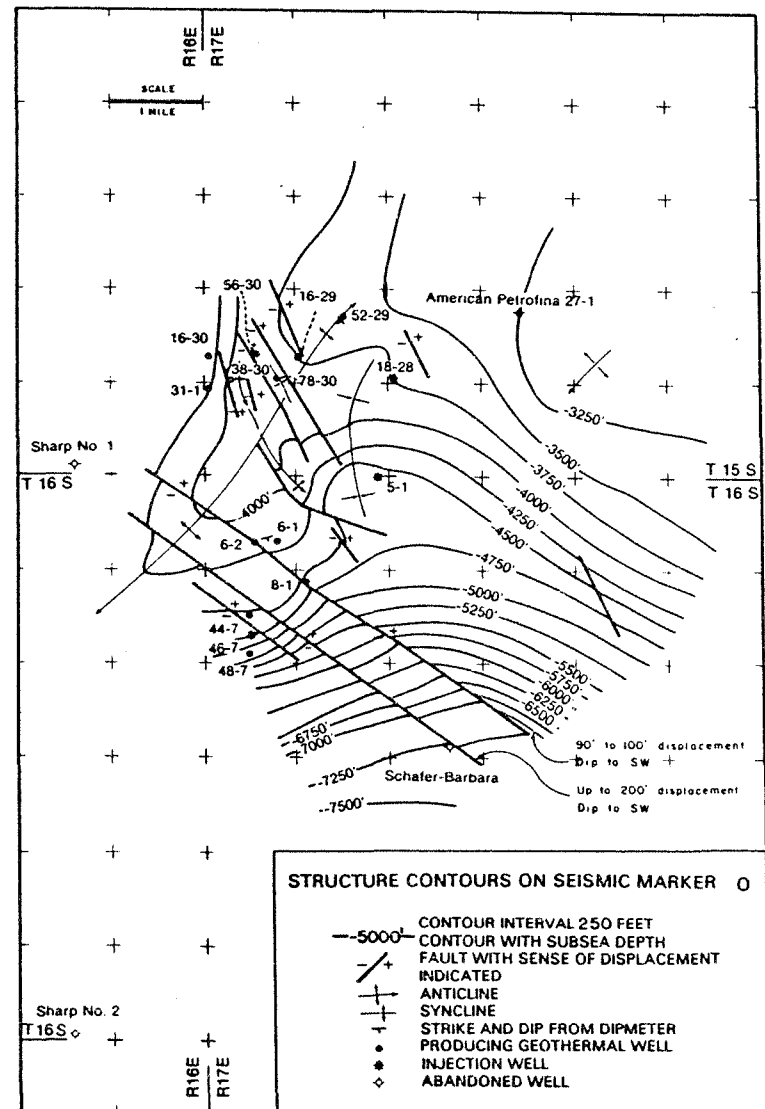
Figure 1.7. Time-depth curves computed from sonic velocity logs.

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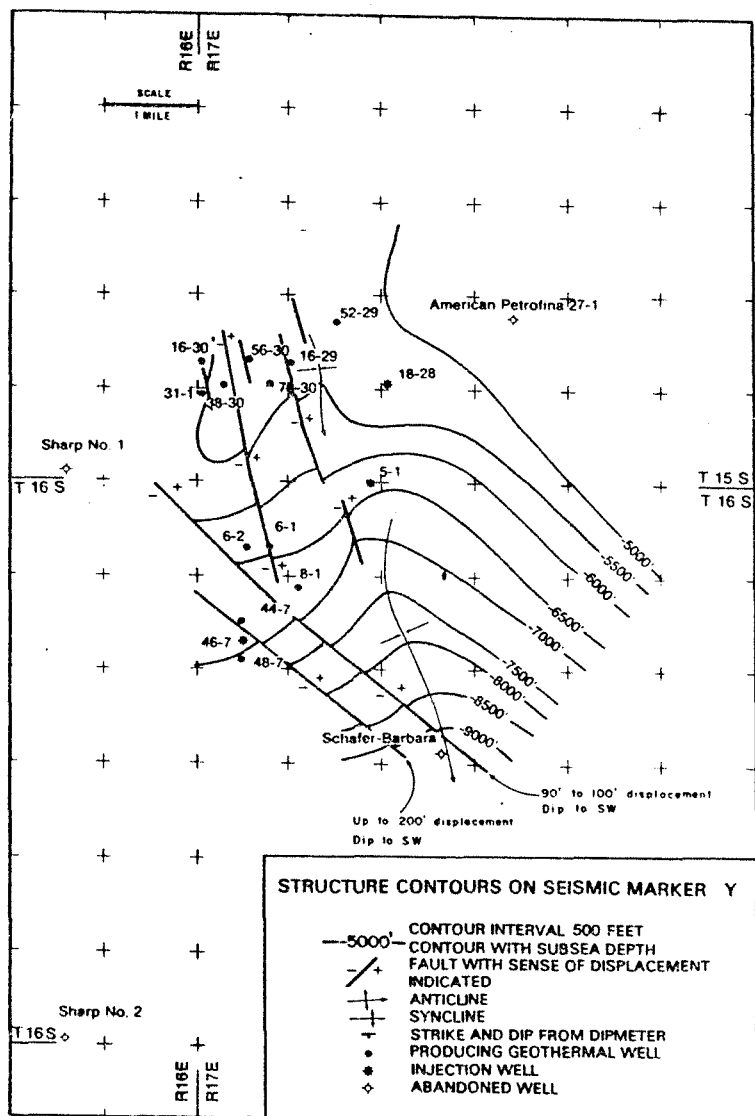


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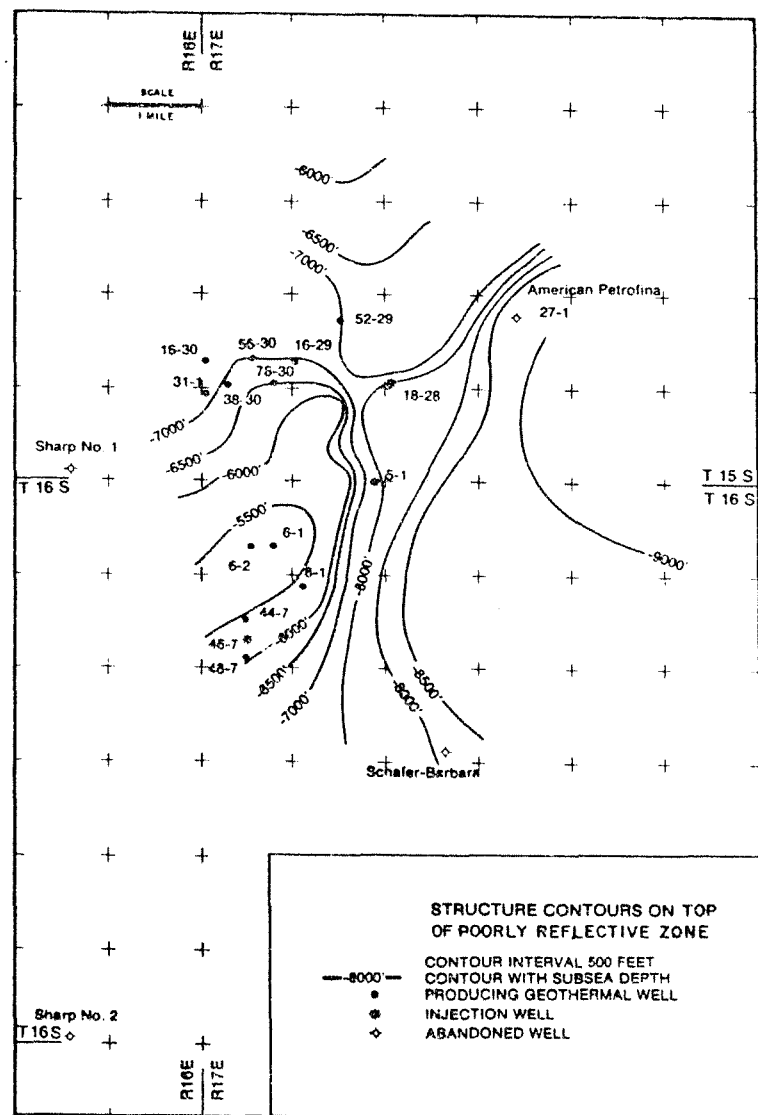
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Figure 1.8. Structure contours on seismic marker B. Figure 1.9. Structure contours on seismic marker O.



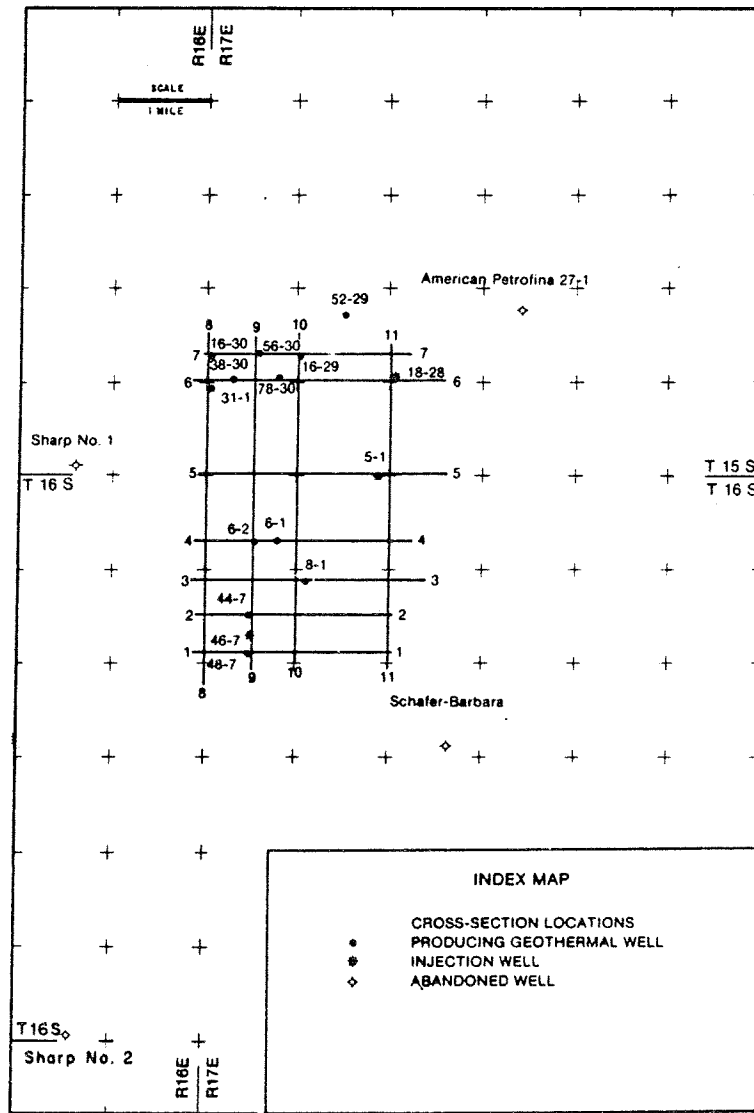
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Figure 1.10. Structure contours on seismic marker Y.



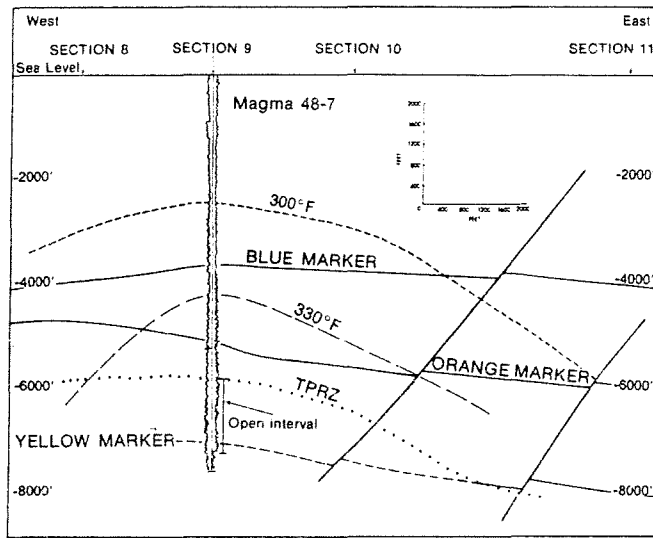
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Figure 1.11. Structure contours on top of poorly reflective zone (TPRZ).



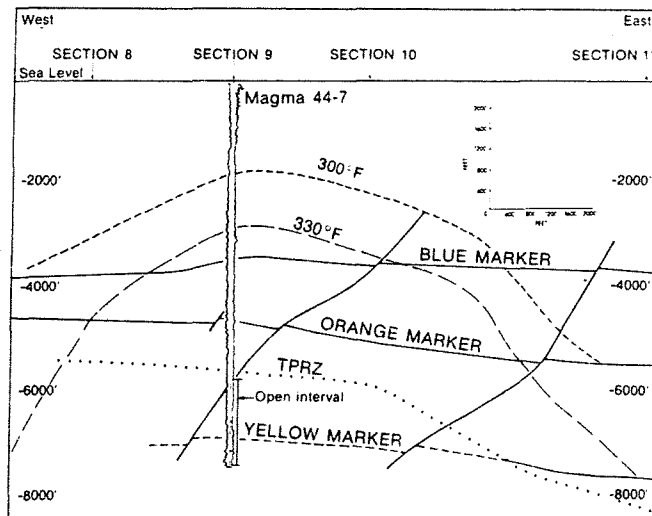
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Figure 1.12. Index map showing the locations of the 11 cross sections (Figures 1.13 through 1.23) that outline the stratigraphic, structural, and thermal geometry of the East Mesa subsurface.



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Figure 1.13. Cross section 1. Isothermal surfaces at 300 and 330°F. Blue, orange, and yellow markers are seismic reflectors on which structure has been mapped.



XBL 785-1845

Figure 1.14. Cross section 2. Isothermal surfaces at 300 and 330°F. Blue, orange, and yellow markers are seismic reflectors on which structure has been mapped.

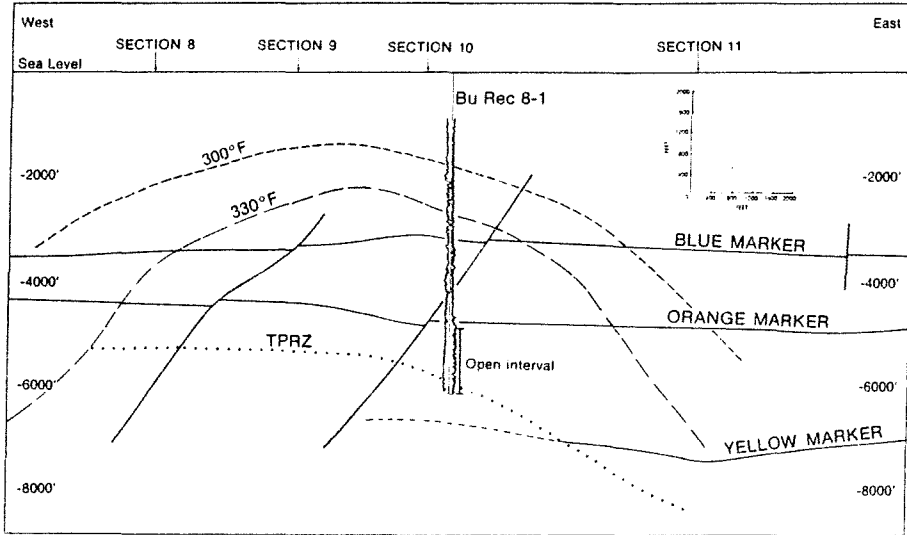


Figure 1.15. Cross section 3. Isothermal surfaces at 300 and 330°F. Blue, orange, and yellow markers are seismic reflectors on which structure has been mapped.

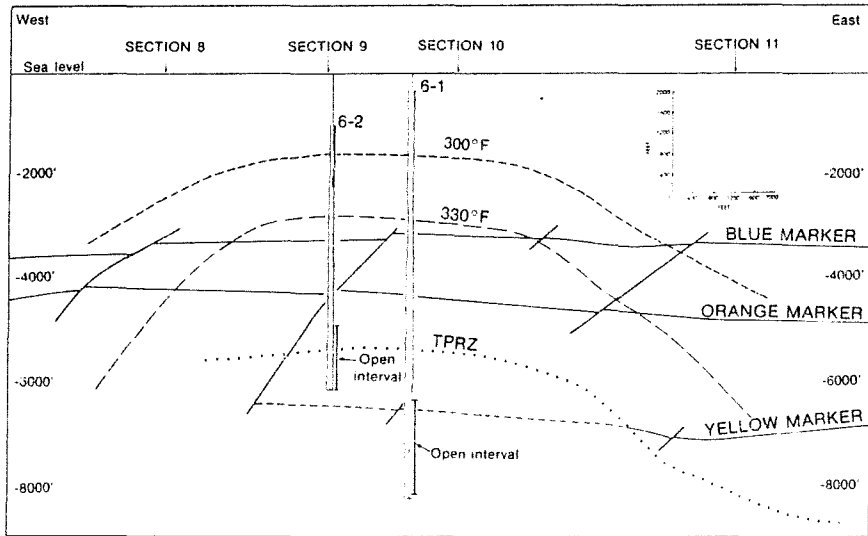
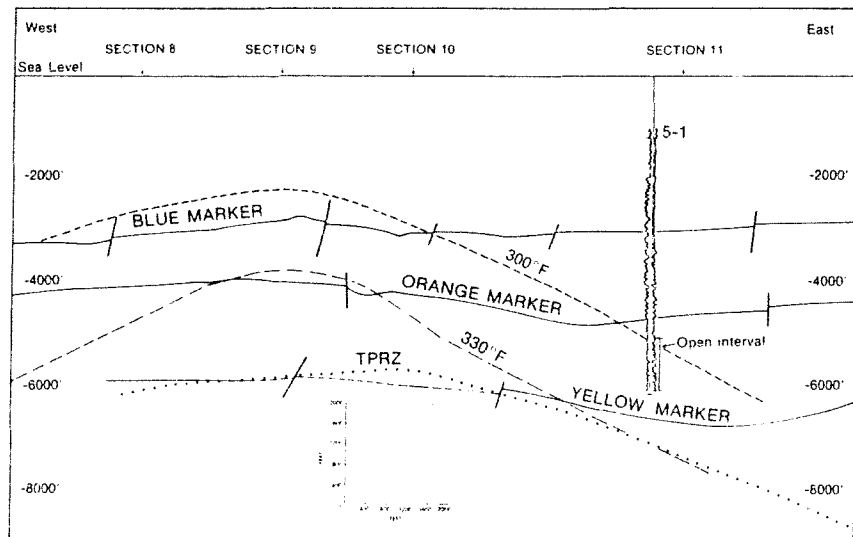
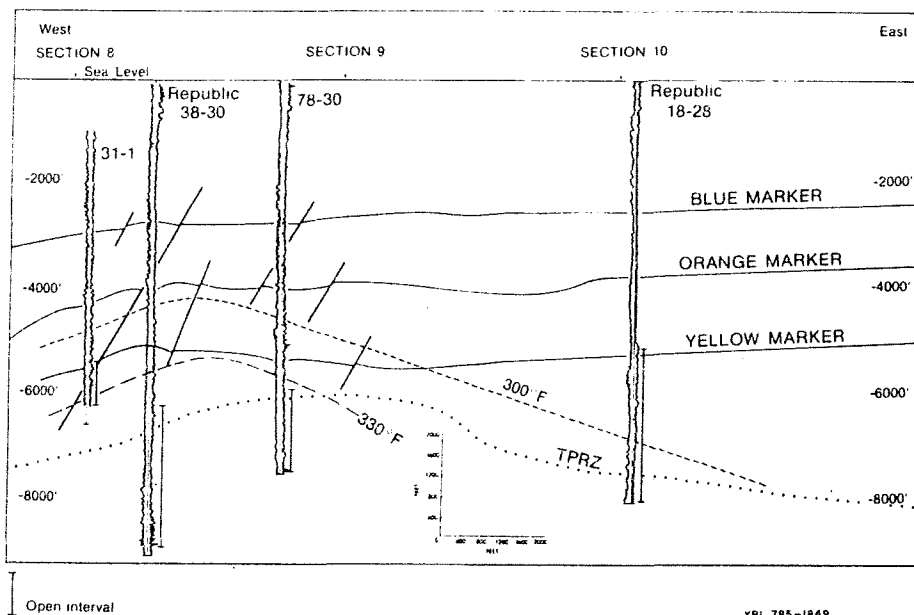


Figure 1.16. Cross section 4. Isothermal surfaces at 300 and 330°F. Blue, orange, and yellow markers are seismic reflectors on which structure has been mapped.



XBL 785-1848

Figure 1.17. Cross section 5. Isothermal surfaces at 300 and 330°F. Blue, orange, and yellow markers are seismic reflectors on which structure has been mapped.



XBL 785-1849

Figure 1.18. Cross section 6. Isothermal surfaces at 300 and 330°F. Blue, orange, and yellow markers are seismic reflectors on which structure has been mapped.

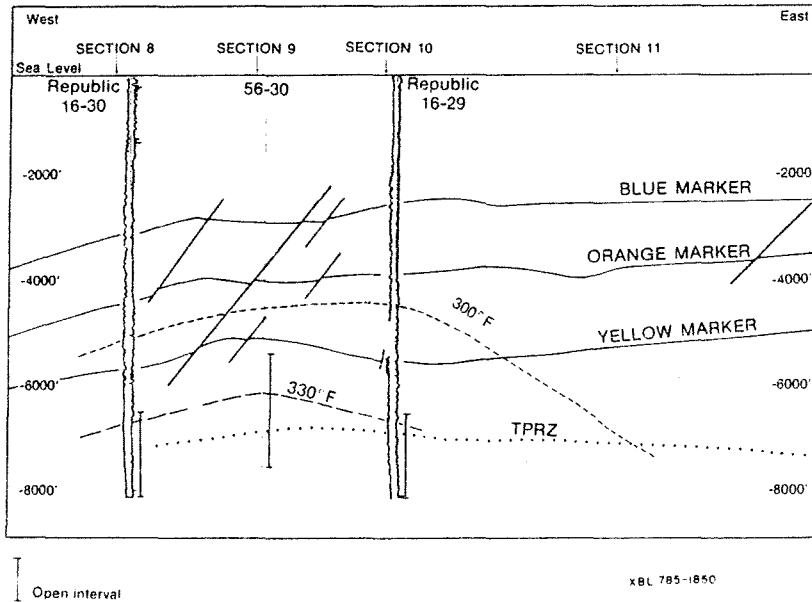


Figure 1.19. Cross section 7. Isothermal surfaces at 300 and 330°F. Blue, orange, and yellow markers are seismic reflectors on which structure has been mapped.

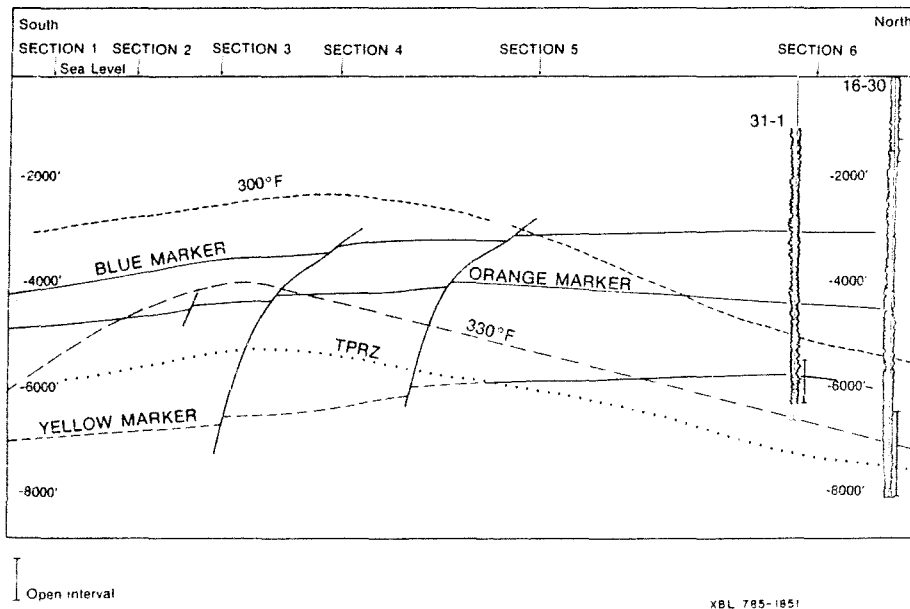


Figure 1.20. Cross section 8. Isothermal surfaces at 300 and 330°F. Blue, orange, and yellow markers are seismic reflectors on which structure has been mapped.

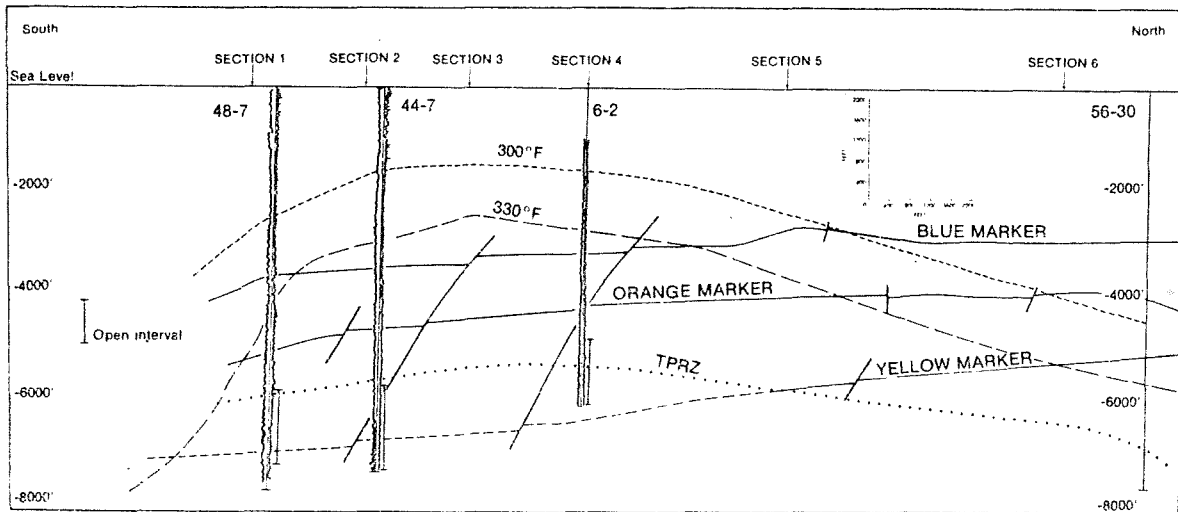


Figure 1.21. Cross section 9. Isothermal surfaces at 300 and 330°F. Blue, orange, and yellow markers are seismic reflectors on which structure has been mapped.

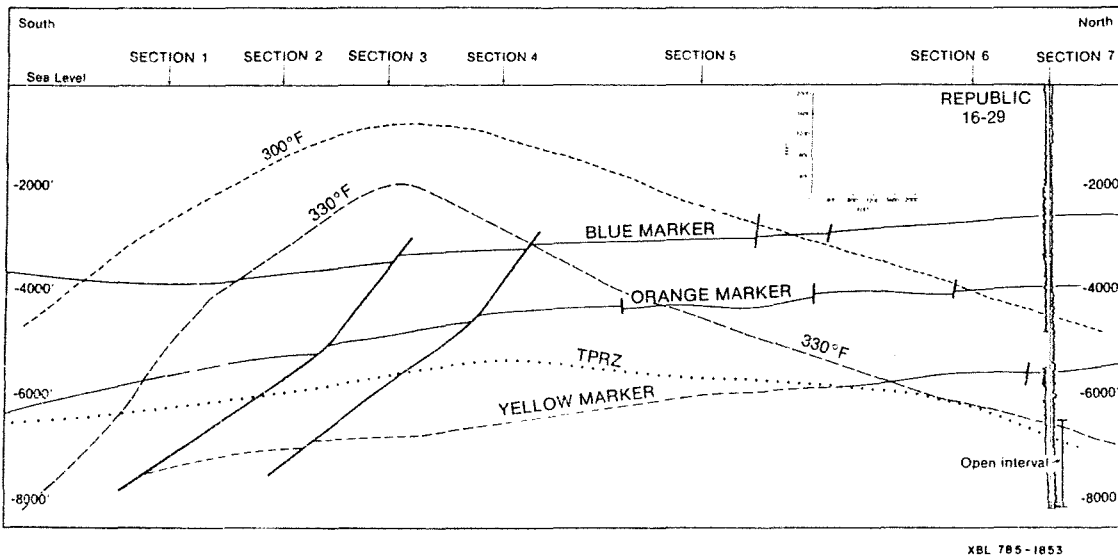
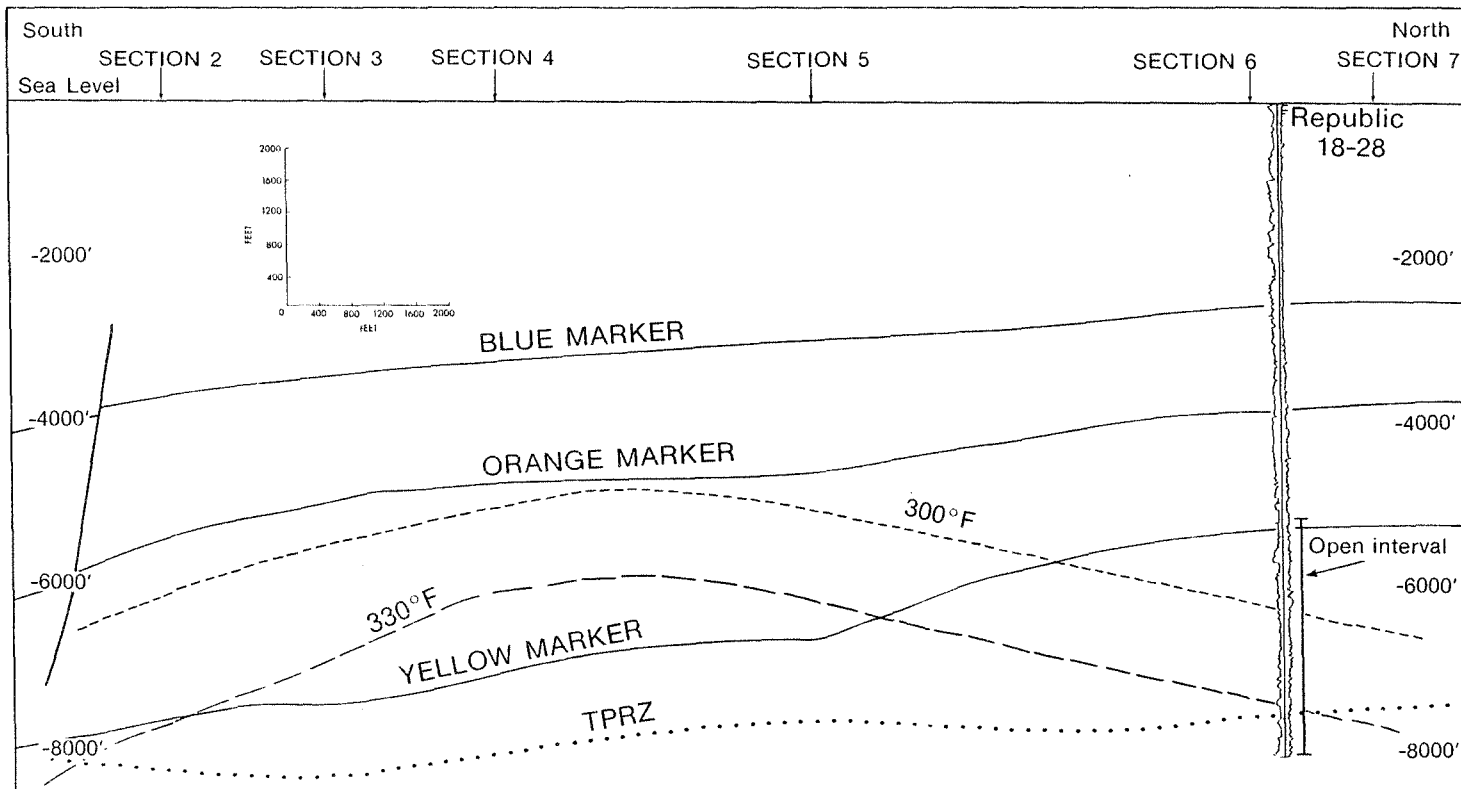


Figure 1.22. Cross section 10. Isothermal surfaces at 300 and 330°F. Blue, orange, and yellow markers are seismic reflectors on which structure has been mapped.





XBL 785-1854

Figure 1.23. Cross section 11. Isothermal surfaces at 300 and 330°F. Blue, orange, and yellow markers are seismic reflectors on which structure has been mapped.

Reflections are represented in two-way time (the time for sound to reach the reflector plus return time to surface). This is then converted to depth using a time-to-depth conversion (in feet) from sonic velocity logs (Figure 1.7).

The blue, orange, and yellow markers represent structure at relatively shallow, intermediate, and deep levels with respect to the productive intervals at East Mesa. These markers show a major anticline trending southwest through the field. Some cross-folds of a smaller scale are also present; these are particularly well displayed on the shallow blue marker where resolution is best. A pair of prominent faults trending northwest, with displacements of 100 to 200 ft or more down to the west and dipping to the southwest, are evident. Smaller displacements (50 to 100 ft) high angle faults trending north-northwest, most of them with downward displacement to the west, are common in the field area.

Another seismic structure map, which is not confined to a single stratigraphic level but rather cuts across numerous reflectors above the basement, was made on top of a poorly reflective zone (PRZ, Figure 1.11).

The PRZ is visible on seismic reflection records as diffuse data below well-ordered reflection data for porous and permeable rocks. The sedimentary rocks of the PRZ have relatively low matrix porosity and permeability, but they are reservoirs for geothermal energy production. The poor matrix permeability is enhanced by fracturing to yield high production flow rates. Figure 1.11 maps the top of this zone. Compared with Figure 1.24, there is good correlation of high temperature at shallow depths with the top of the PRZ. This is caused by temperature-related alterations that reduce porosity and permeability in sandstones. These include quartz and carbonate cementation. A good correlation of the gravity maximum of Biehler (1971) with the PRZ high is also found. The top of the PRZ outlines the potentially productive zone as most well completions are in this zone and the 1000 ft immediately above it.

Velocity analyses suggest that the PRZ is a zone of relatively dense rocks in which seismic velocities are significantly higher (9500 to 11,000 fps\* or more) than in the overlying rocks (9000 fps or less). Wells that have penetrated this zone (Republic 38-30, 8000-8900 ft) show that the sandstones have considerably lower porosity (10-20%) than shallower zones (15-30%) and lower permeability (1-5 md), compared with shallower zones with tens to hundreds of millidarcies permeability. The gross transmissivity of these rocks is quite high and may be enhanced by fracturing in these relatively well-indurated rocks. Permeabilities computed from well test data (see Section 3) for the PRZ interval are much higher (30-84 md) than those measured on core and from SARABAND analyses for permeabilities (1-10 md) for the same interval. This contrast further suggests that PRZ rocks are fractured and that the fractures are providing the permeability necessary for the high flow rates in these wells.

If the PRZ is fractured extensively, then the fractures may cause considerable dispersion of seismic waves. This would explain the poor reflection data obtained in this zone. The relatively hard and brittle rocks of this zone are also more susceptible to fracturing.

A corollary to the above discussion is that the PRZ has been proved to have significant productive capability at East Mesa. The ability to identify and map this zone with seismic reflection data is important to exploration and development since the depth, distribution, and configuration of potential production zones are delineated (Figure 1.11).

If fractures exist to greater depths than those drilled to date (9000 ft), production might be extended deeper.

The form of the PRZ (Figure 1.11) is similar to the gravity high mapped by Biehler (1971) and is centered in the thermal high (Figures 1.24 through 1.30) of East Mesa. It suggests that the PRZ is composed of dense, highly altered and cemented sediments that have been subjected to temperature-dependent diagenetic alteration processes. Below the

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\* Feet per second.

top of the PRZ, exploration would seek fractured reservoir rocks in order to produce geothermal fluids.

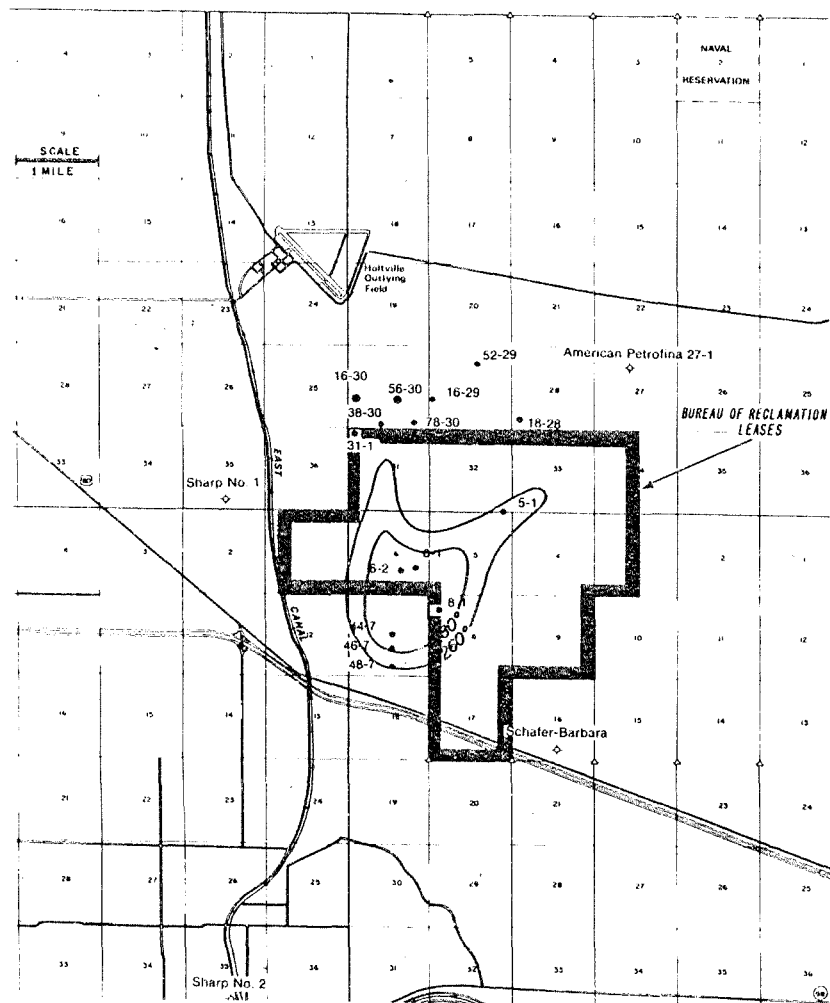
The major sedimentary rock types present at East Mesa are sandstone, siltstone, shale and minor fine conglomerates (Fournier, 1973, 1976). Lithologic and geophysical log data suggest that many of the sandstones are channel fills and bars. The siltstones and shales represent lower-energy environments such as interchannel and levee deposits. The sediment assemblages are characteristic deltaic deposits and are part of the Colorado River delta complex, which in the East Mesa is more than 10,000-ft thick (Biehler, et al., 1964). Seismic data suggest that the depth basement is at least 10,000 to 12,000 ft in the East Mesa area.

Log data indicate a high proportion of sand (60-80%) in the delta, which is to be expected in view of the relative proximity of East Mesa to the apex of the delta. Farther north and west in the Imperial Valley, a greater proportion of mud facies would be expected. The deposits are similar throughout the drilled section and show no great variations in the relative proportions of sand and shale.

## STRUCTURE

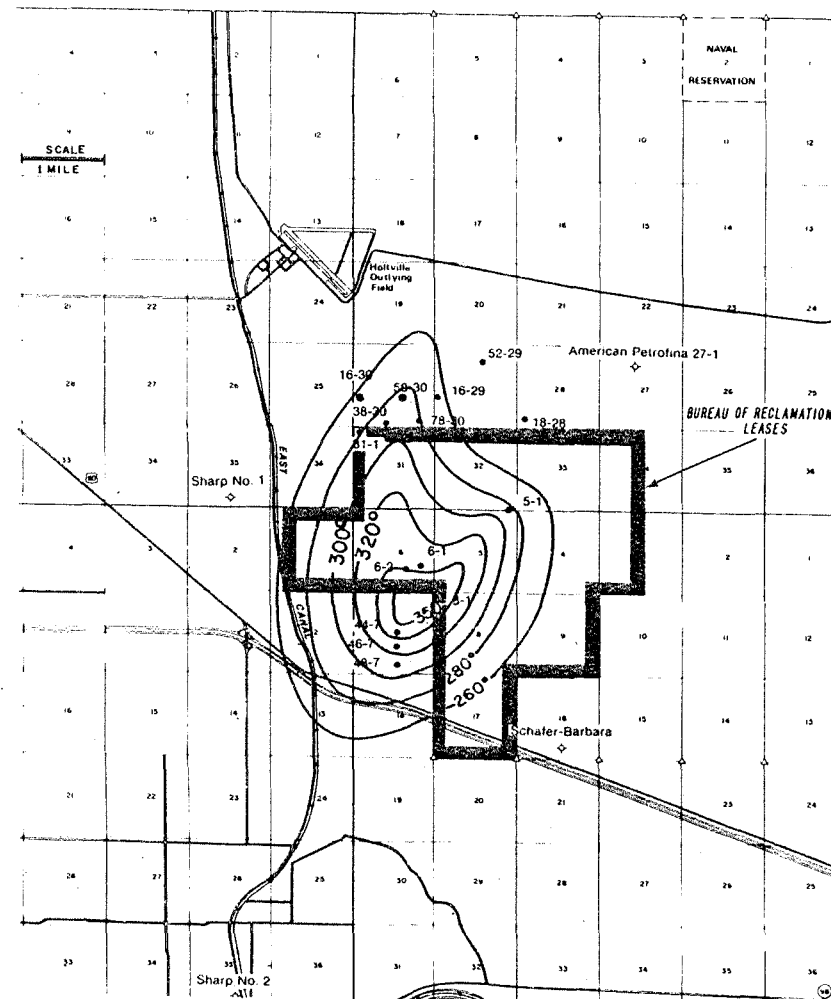
Structure in the East Mesa was mapped (Figures 1.8, 1.9, and 1.10) using the reflection seismic data. The structure shows a west-southwest-trending anticline to the north with a flanking syncline to the south. Both folds plunge to the southwest, toward the center of the Salton Trough. The rocks involved in this folding are of Pliocene and Pleistocene age. Folding probably occurred in the Pleistocene since the Holocene strata appear relatively undisturbed.

Numerous faults are present in the East Mesa area as shown in Figures 1.8, 1.9, and 1.10. Two fault sets are present. One trends northwest through USBR wells 6-1 and 6-2 with vertical displacements of 100 to 200 ft down to the west. The magnitude of horizontal displacement is not known. These faults have roughly the same orientation as the Superstition Hills faults (Figure 1.3) located on the west side of the Imperial Valley. This set of faults appears to be a major, through-going displacement for the East Mesa area. Seismic data suggest



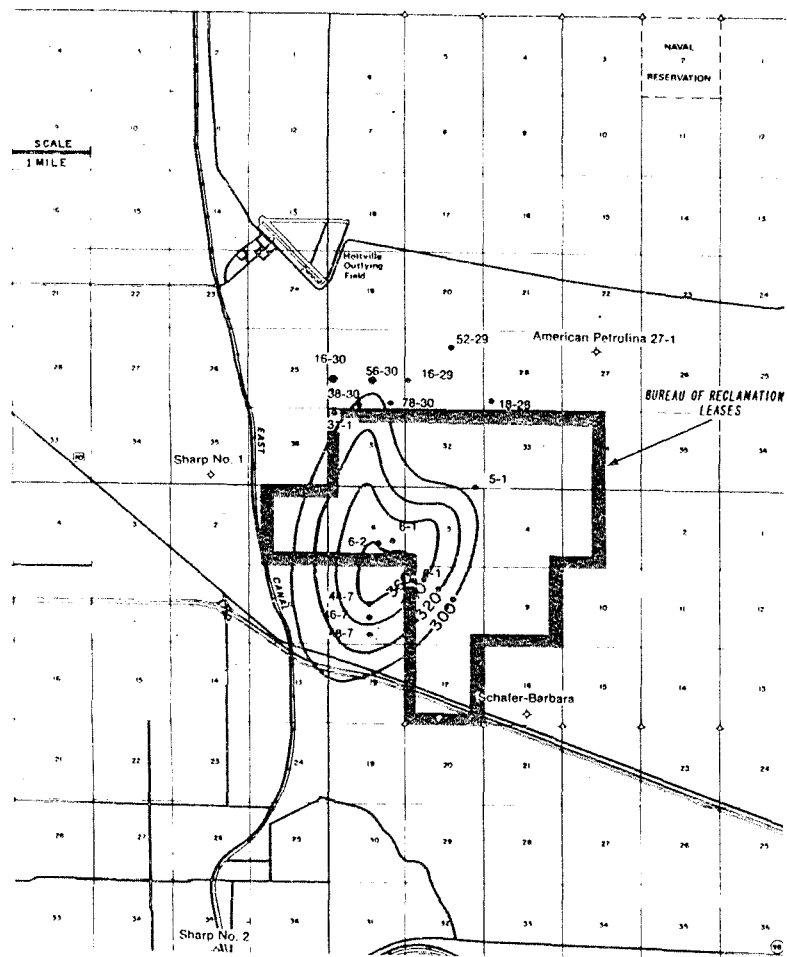
XBL 786-1867

Figure 1.24. Temperature contours ( $^{\circ}$ F) at 2000-ft depth for East Mesa KGRA (modified from TRW/Intercomp, 1976).



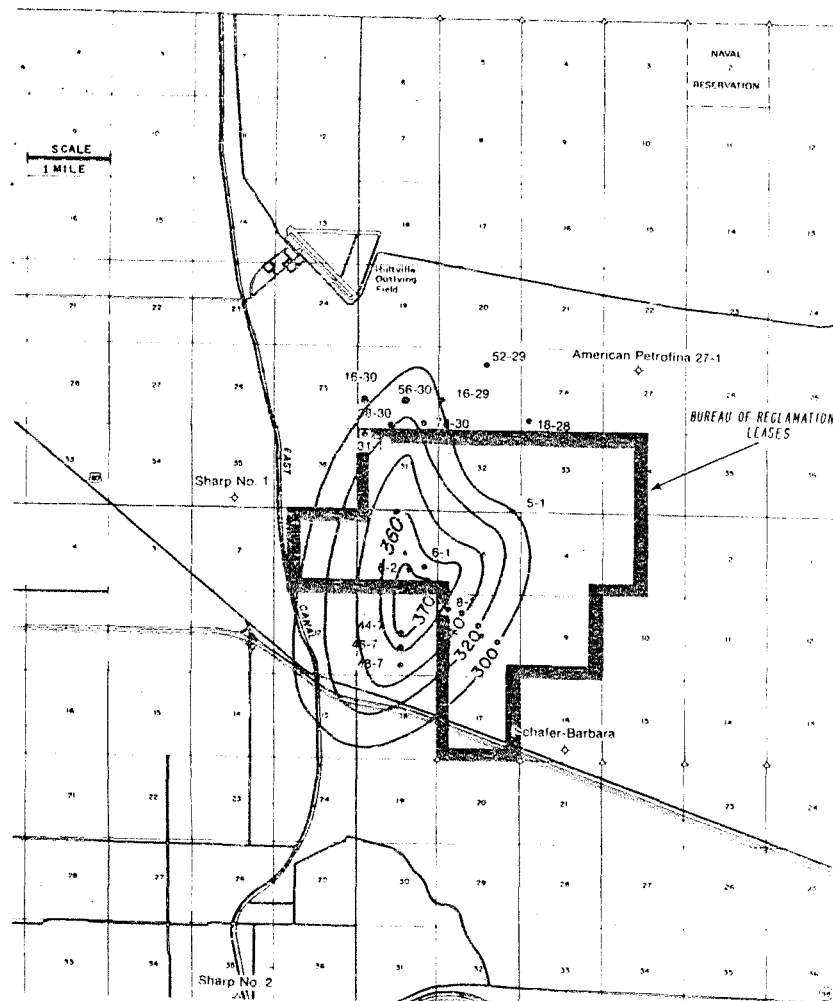
XBL 786-1866

Figure 1.25. Temperature contours ( $^{\circ}$ F) at 3000-ft depth for East Mesa KGRA (modified from TRW/Intercomp, 1976).



XBL 786-1863

Figure 1.26. Temperature contours ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) at 4000-ft depth for East Mesa KGRA (modified from TRW/Intercomp, 1976).



XBL 766-1868

Figure 1.27. Temperature contours ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) at 5000-ft depth for East Mesa KGRA (modified from TRW/Intercomp, 1976).

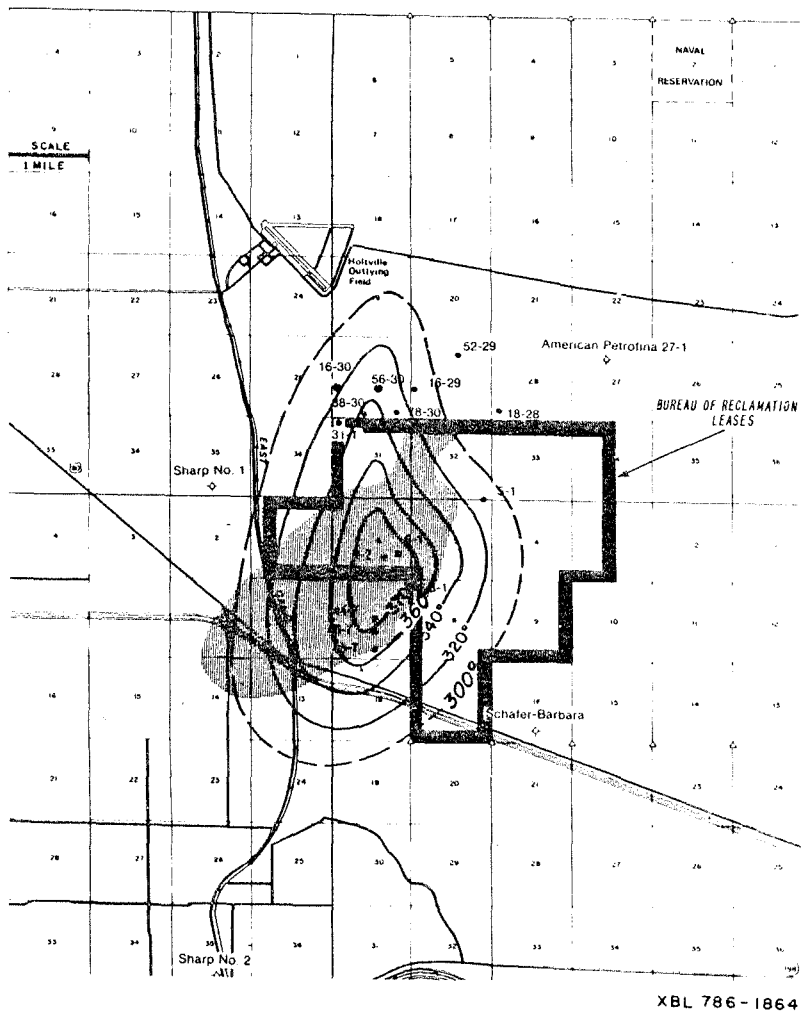


Figure 1.28. Temperature contours ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) at 6000-ft depth for East Mesa KGRA; shaded area is poorly reflective zone (modified from TRW/Intercomp, 1976).

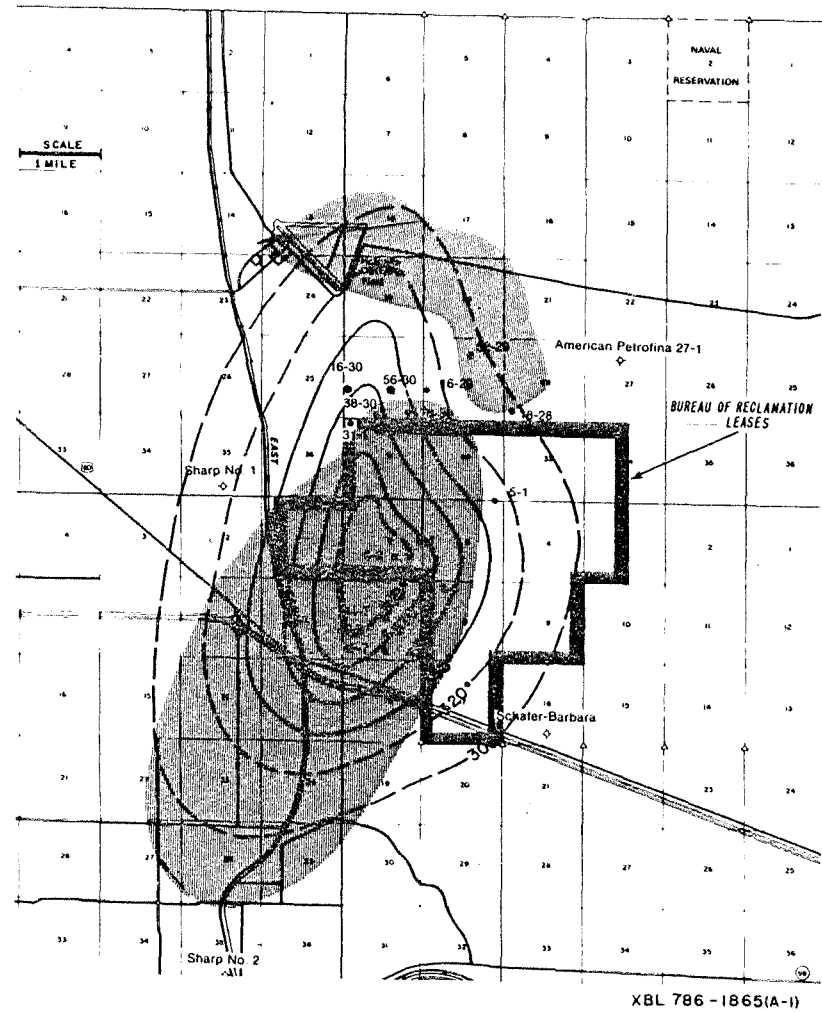
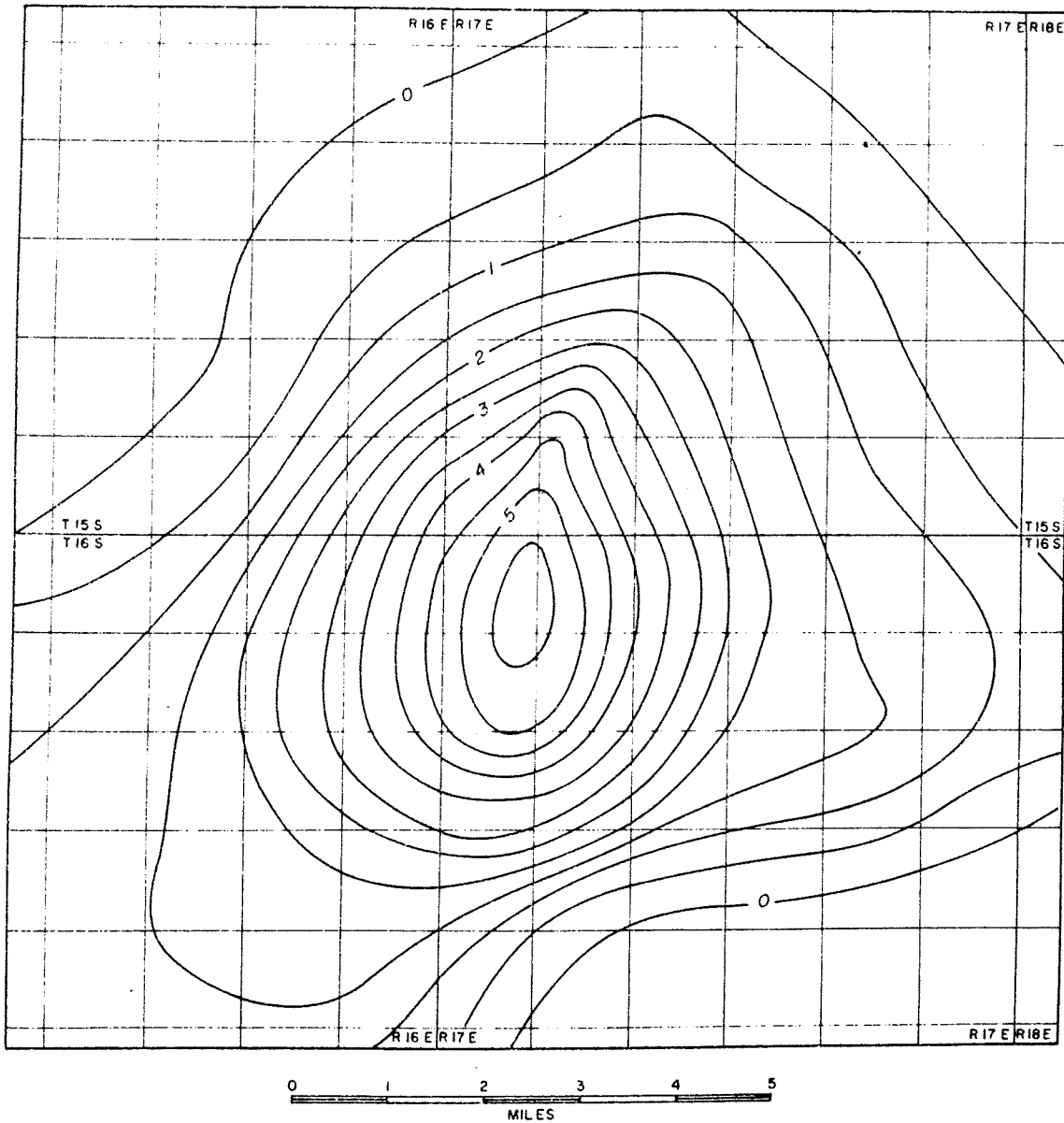


Figure 1.29. Temperature contours ( $^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) at 7000-ft depth for East Mesa KGRA; shaded area is poorly reflective zone.



XBL 7810-11720

Figure 1.30. Residual gravity anomalies of the Mesa area, contour interval 0.5 milligals (from Biehler, 1971). The southwesterly extension of contours suggests the extension of the geothermal anomaly in that direction. This correlates with the PRZ high. Future exploration might be focussed on this area.



progressively greater vertical displacements with increasing depth (growth faulting) on these and another, north-trending fault set.

The numerous north-trending faults have displacements of about 50 to 100 ft, generally sloping down to the west. In a few cases, there are displacements down to the east.

We do not know whether or not any faults form barriers to the subsurface fluid flow. Our data do not indicate if any of the faults are active.

### Discussion

The structure maps (Figures 1.8 through 1.11) and cross-sections (Figures 1.13 through 1.23) show the potentially producible zone. There appears to be a reasonable correlation of the gravity high and the high of the poorly reflecting zone with the thermal high. Where these parameters are well mapped, we obtained a good correlation of the physical parameters. If the high-temperature zone continues to track the gravity and PRZ high west and south of the mapped area, the potentially producible zone would extend farther to the southwest than is shown in Figures 1.13 to 1.16. Another apparent high in the PRZ is suggested north of the East Mesa in sections 7 and 18, T. 15 S., R. 17 E.

We suggest an investigation of these possibilities through seismic reflection surveys in order to map the areas (a) to the southwest and (b) to the north, contiguous with the area already mapped. By determining the form of the remainder of the PRZ high and a possible high to the north, potentially productive areas could be outlined for exploration drilling.

### ESTIMATE OF FLUID AND THERMAL CONTENT

We have estimated the fluid and thermal content of that portion of the East Mesa reservoir underlying U. S. Bureau of Reclamation leasehold (see Figure 1.2) as a function of temperature and depth. The total reservoir volume has been defined as follows: the 300°F isothermal surface is the upper boundary; the 300°F isothermal surface and USBR leaseholds are the lateral boundaries (see Figure 1.24); and a depth of 7500 ft is the base of the reservoir for the purpose of this calculation.

Extension of the reservoir to greater depths, based on the possible existence of fracture permeability, has not been considered. The net reservoir volume includes only sands with porosities greater than 10% within the boundary surface noted here.

A larger volume would result from including rock and fluid to a greater depth. However, from Table 1.1 and the geologic maps and cross-sections, it can be seen that: (a) porosity decreases significantly below 7500 ft; and (b) there is little information available below this depth.

We compiled a table listing sand thickness and porosity (Table 1.1) from SARABAND logs of wells at East Mesa. Based on this compilation, we calculated average sand thickness and porosity for each depth interval of 1000 ft. TRW/Intercomp (1976) temperature contour maps (Figures 1.24 to 1.29) define the approximate location of selected temperature isotherms at 300°F and above. Using the average sand thickness and porosity from Table 1.1 and the temperature contour maps, we estimated the contained volumes of fluid and sand bounded by selected isothermal surfaces over a depth interval of 1000 ft. An average temperature was assigned to each of these volumes based on the temperature of the bounding isothermal surfaces. Tables 1.2 and 1.3 exhibit the results of the above calculations, giving the volume and thermal content of the contained fluid and sand, respectively.

The reservoir, as defined above, contains approximately  $5 \times 10^{11}$  cu ft of reservoir sand (gross sand volume minus porosity volume). Fluid volume (that is, porosity times gross sand volume), is approximately  $1.1 \times 10^{11}$  cu ft ( $2.4 \times 10^6$  acre-ft).

We calculated the thermal content of the reservoir using a reference temperature of 60°F. The thermal capacities were 1.005 Btu/lb°F for the fluid and 32 Btu/cu ft °F for the sand. The thermal content of the reservoir fluid is  $1.7 \times 10^{15}$  Btu ( $0.4 \times 10^{18}$  cal) and the thermal content of the reservoir sand is  $4.4 \times 10^{15}$  Btu ( $1.1 \times 10^{18}$  cal). The total thermal content of U. S. Bureau of Reclamation leases 1, 2, and 4 as defined above is estimated to be  $6 \times 10^{15}$  Btu ( $1.5 \times 10^{18}$  cal).

Table 1.1. Sand thickness and porosity of East Mesa wells.

	DEPTH INTERVALS (feet)							
	1500- 2500	2500- 3500	3500- 4500	4500- 5500	5500- 6500	6500- 7500	7500- 8500	8500- 9000
<u>Well 5-1</u>								
Sand (ft.)	840	915	925	880	500 <sup>1</sup>			
Porosity	0.247	0.211	0.189	0.193	0.182			
<u>Well 6-1</u>								
Sand (ft.)	640	845	820	1000	955	700	220 <sup>2</sup>	
Porosity	0.157	0.175	0.150	0.156	0.189	0.167	0.114	
<u>Well 6-2</u>								
Sand (ft.)	815	820	840	965	425 <sup>3</sup>			
Porosity	0.186	0.234	0.170	0.150	0.140			
<u>Well 8-1</u>								
Sand (ft.)	555	725	760	755	626 <sup>4</sup>			
Porosity	0.195	0.210	0.131	0.153	0.165			
<u>Well 31-1</u>								
Sand (ft.)	715	855	705	774	582 <sup>5</sup>			
Porosity	0.221	0.203	0.170	0.176	0.157			
<u>Well 16-29</u>								
Sand (ft.)	---	---	---	780 <sup>6</sup>	910	555	360 <sup>7</sup>	
Porosity	---	---	---	0.166	0.175	0.170	0.133	
<u>Well 18-28</u>								
Sand (ft.)	---	---	---	480 <sup>8</sup>	880	654	328 <sup>9</sup>	
Porosity	---	---	---	0.190	0.173	0.137	0.121	
<u>Well 38-30</u>								
Sand (ft.)	710	785	468	460	880	640	604	142 <sup>10</sup>
Porosity	0.159	0.198	0.195	0.215	0.207	0.225	0.146	0.107
Average Sand (ft.) <sup>11</sup>	713	824	753	845	924	637	627	330
Average Porosity <sup>12</sup>	0.194	0.205	0.167	0.175	0.173	0.175	0.130	0.107

<sup>1</sup>Depth interval 5,500' - 6,000'.

<sup>2</sup>Depth interval 7,500' - 8,000'.

<sup>3</sup>Depth interval 5,500' - 5,924'.

<sup>4</sup>Depth interval 5,500' - 6,186'.

<sup>5</sup>Depth interval 5,500' - 6,180'.

<sup>6</sup>Depth interval 4,660' - 5,500'.

<sup>7</sup>Depth interval 7,500' - 7,960'.

<sup>8</sup>Depth interval 5,020' - 5,500'.

<sup>9</sup>Depth interval 7,500' - 7,980'.

<sup>10</sup>Depth interval 8,500' - 8,930'.

<sup>11</sup>Sands measured in intervals less than 1,000 feet, have been adjusted to reflect 1,000 foot intervals.

<sup>12</sup>Porosity of sands measured in intervals less than 1,000 feet, have been adjusted to reflect 1,000 foot intervals.

Table 1.2. Estimate of Btu's contained in fluid above 300°F (relative to 60°F) to a depth of 7500 ft for USBR leaseholds 1, 2, and 4 at East Mesa.

Interval	385°F	375°F	365°F	355°F	350°F	345°F	330°F	310°F	Total Volume of Fluid (ft. <sup>3</sup> )	Total Pounds of Fluid	Total BTUs in Fluid
<u>2,500' - 3,500'</u>											
Average Sand Thickness: 824'											
Average Porosity: 0.205											
Volume of Fluid (ft. <sup>3</sup> )				3.58x10 <sup>8</sup>		1.33x10 <sup>9</sup>	5.20x10 <sup>9</sup>	6.86x10 <sup>9</sup>	1.37x10 <sup>10</sup>		
Pounds of Fluid <sup>1</sup>				2.03x10 <sup>10</sup>		7.55x10 <sup>10</sup>	2.95x10 <sup>11</sup>	3.90x10 <sup>11</sup>		7.81x10 <sup>11</sup>	
BTUs of Fluid <sup>2</sup>				6.02x10 <sup>12</sup>		2.16x10 <sup>13</sup>	8.00x10 <sup>13</sup>	9.80x10 <sup>13</sup>			2.06x10 <sup>14</sup>
<u>3,500' - 4,500'</u>											
Average Sand Thickness: 753'											
Average Porosity: 0.167											
Volume of Fluid (ft. <sup>3</sup> )			5.58x10 <sup>8</sup>		3.06x10 <sup>9</sup>		4.41x10 <sup>9</sup>	5.31x10 <sup>9</sup>	1.33x10 <sup>10</sup>		
Pounds of Fluid <sup>1</sup>			3.17x10 <sup>10</sup>		1.74x10 <sup>11</sup>		2.50x10 <sup>11</sup>	3.02x10 <sup>11</sup>		7.56x10 <sup>11</sup>	
BTUs of Fluid <sup>2</sup>			9.72x10 <sup>12</sup>		5.07x10 <sup>13</sup>		6.78x10 <sup>13</sup>	7.59x10 <sup>13</sup>			2.04x10 <sup>14</sup>
<u>4,500' - 5,500'</u>											
Average Sand Thickness: 845'											
Average Porosity: 0.175											
Volume of Fluid (ft. <sup>3</sup> )		4.81x10 <sup>8</sup>	2.01x10 <sup>9</sup>		4.63x10 <sup>9</sup>		6.70x10 <sup>9</sup>	6.72x10 <sup>9</sup>	2.05x10 <sup>10</sup>		
Pounds of Fluid <sup>1</sup>		2.73x10 <sup>10</sup>	1.14x10 <sup>11</sup>		2.63x10 <sup>11</sup>		3.80x10 <sup>11</sup>	3.82x10 <sup>11</sup>		1.17x10 <sup>12</sup>	
BTUs of Fluid <sup>2</sup>		8.64x10 <sup>12</sup>	3.49x10 <sup>13</sup>		7.67x10 <sup>13</sup>		1.03x10 <sup>14</sup>	9.60x10 <sup>13</sup>			3.19x10 <sup>14</sup>
<u>5,500' - 6,500'</u>											
Average Sand Thickness: 924'											
Average Porosity: 0.173											
Volume of Fluid (ft. <sup>3</sup> )		2.21x10 <sup>9</sup>	3.55x10 <sup>9</sup>		7.00x10 <sup>9</sup>		8.44x10 <sup>9</sup>	8.84x10 <sup>9</sup>	3.00x10 <sup>10</sup>		
Pounds of Fluid <sup>1</sup>		1.25x10 <sup>11</sup>	2.02x10 <sup>11</sup>		3.97x10 <sup>11</sup>		4.79x10 <sup>11</sup>	5.02x10 <sup>11</sup>		1.71x10 <sup>12</sup>	
BTUs of Fluid <sup>2</sup>		3.96x10 <sup>13</sup>	6.19x10 <sup>13</sup>		1.16x10 <sup>14</sup>		1.30x10 <sup>14</sup>	1.26x10 <sup>14</sup>			4.74x10 <sup>14</sup>
<u>6,500' - 7,500'</u>											
Average Sand Thickness: 637'											
Average Porosity: 0.175											
Volume of Fluid (ft. <sup>3</sup> )	1.65x10 <sup>9</sup>	2.45x10 <sup>9</sup>	4.59x10 <sup>9</sup>		5.61x10 <sup>9</sup>		6.95x10 <sup>9</sup>	7.55x10 <sup>9</sup>	2.88x10 <sup>10</sup>		
Pounds of Fluid <sup>1</sup>	9.37x10 <sup>10</sup>	1.39x10 <sup>11</sup>	2.61x10 <sup>11</sup>		3.19x10 <sup>11</sup>		3.95x10 <sup>11</sup>	4.29x10 <sup>11</sup>		1.64x10 <sup>12</sup>	
BTUs of Fluid <sup>2</sup>	3.06x10 <sup>13</sup>	4.40x10 <sup>13</sup>	8.00x10 <sup>13</sup>		9.30x10 <sup>13</sup>		1.07x10 <sup>14</sup>	1.08x10 <sup>14</sup>			4.63x10 <sup>14</sup>
									1.06x10 <sup>11</sup>		
										6.06x10 <sup>12</sup>	
											1.67x10 <sup>15</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Average fluid density: 70.91 gm/ml.  
<sup>2</sup>Mean specific heat: 1.005 BTUs/lb°F

Table 1.3. Estimate of Btu's contained in sand above 300°F (relative to 60°F) to a depth of 7500 ft for USBR leaseholds 1, 2, and 4 at East Mesa.

Interval	385°F	375°F	365°F	355°F	350°F	345°F	330°F	310°F	Volume of Sand (ft. <sup>3</sup> )	Total BTUs in Sand
<u>2,500' - 3,500'</u>										
Average Sand Thickness: 824'										
Average Sand Volume Factor: 0.795										
Volume of Sand (ft. <sup>3</sup> )				1.39x10 <sup>9</sup>		5.16x10 <sup>9</sup>	2.02x10 <sup>10</sup>	2.66x10 <sup>10</sup>	5.34x10 <sup>10</sup>	
BTUs in Sand <sup>1</sup>				1.31x10 <sup>13</sup>		4.71x10 <sup>13</sup>	1.75x10 <sup>14</sup>	2.13x10 <sup>14</sup>		4.48x10 <sup>14</sup>
<u>3,500' - 4,500'</u>										
Average Sand Thickness: 753'										
Average Sand Volume Factor: 0.833										
Volume of Sand (ft. <sup>3</sup> )			2.78x10 <sup>9</sup>		1.53x10 <sup>10</sup>		2.20x10 <sup>10</sup>	2.65x10 <sup>10</sup>	6.66x10 <sup>10</sup>	
BTUs in Sand <sup>1</sup>			2.71x10 <sup>13</sup>		1.42x10 <sup>14</sup>		1.90x10 <sup>14</sup>	2.12x10 <sup>14</sup>		5.71x10 <sup>14</sup>
<u>4,500' - 5,500'</u>										
Average Sand Thickness: 845'										
Average Sand Volume Factor: 0.825										
Volume of Sand (ft. <sup>3</sup> )		2.27x10 <sup>9</sup>	9.48x10 <sup>9</sup>		2.19x10 <sup>10</sup>		3.16x10 <sup>10</sup>	3.17x10 <sup>10</sup>	9.69x10 <sup>10</sup>	
BTUs in Sand <sup>1</sup>		2.29x10 <sup>13</sup>	9.25x10 <sup>13</sup>		2.02x10 <sup>14</sup>		2.73x10 <sup>14</sup>	2.54x10 <sup>14</sup>		8.44x10 <sup>14</sup>
<u>5,500' - 6,500'</u>										
Average Sand Thickness: 924'										
Average Sand Volume Factor: 0.827										
Volume of Sand (ft. <sup>3</sup> )		1.06x10 <sup>10</sup>	1.70x10 <sup>10</sup>		3.35x10 <sup>10</sup>		4.03x10 <sup>10</sup>	4.23x10 <sup>10</sup>	1.44x10 <sup>11</sup>	
BTUs in Sand <sup>1</sup>		1.07x10 <sup>14</sup>	1.66x10 <sup>14</sup>		3.11x10 <sup>14</sup>		3.48x10 <sup>14</sup>	3.38x10 <sup>14</sup>		1.27x10 <sup>15</sup>
<u>6,500' - 7,500'</u>										
Average Sand Thickness: 637'										
Average Sand Volume Factor: 0.825										
Volume of Sand (ft. <sup>3</sup> )	7.78x10 <sup>9</sup>	1.16x10 <sup>10</sup>	2.17x10 <sup>10</sup>		2.65x10 <sup>10</sup>		3.28x10 <sup>10</sup>	3.56x10 <sup>10</sup>	1.36x10 <sup>11</sup>	
BTUs in Sand <sup>1</sup>	8.09x10 <sup>13</sup>	1.17x10 <sup>14</sup>	2.11x10 <sup>14</sup>		2.46x10 <sup>14</sup>		2.83x10 <sup>14</sup>	2.95x10 <sup>14</sup>		1.22x10 <sup>15</sup>
								4.97x10 <sup>11</sup>		
										4.35x10 <sup>15</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Specific heat of sandstone: 0.197 BTU/lb°F; 32 BTU/ft<sup>3</sup> F°

Note that these calculations pertain to fluid and heat in the reservoir. The question of recovery of fluid is discussed elsewhere in this report.

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## SECTION 2: SEISMICITY

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### INTRODUCTION

The results obtained to date from the East Mesa seismic study are summarized below. The purpose of the present study of seismological data from the USBR East Mesa Network is threefold: (1) to obtain further details of the faulting and associated stress fields as defined by the occurrence of local microearthquakes; (2) to infer the properties of subsurface rocks from the characteristics of the P- and S-waves generated, including wave velocities, Poisson's ratio, and attenuation; and (3) to provide USBR personnel, and others, a set of procedural guidelines for subsequent analysis of network data. Three progress reports (McEvelly and Schechter, 1977a, 1977b and 1978) have also been completed.

Report No. 1 (McEvelly and Schechter, 1977a) details the techniques employed in the data analysis including hypocenter locations and magnitudes and summarizes the initial 35-day period of observations. Reports No. 2 and No. 3 (McEvelly and Schechter, 1977b and 1978) summarize observations made since that date. Included in Report No. 3 is a detailed review of present and past observed local seismicity.

The salient result obtained from the study has been the complete absence of detectable local microearthquakes within the geothermal field during the study period (1977-1978), which contradicts the findings of previous investigations.

### REVIEW OF SEISMIC STUDIES AT EAST MESA

In this section we present a review of has been the previous seismic studies at East Mesa, emphasizing the conclusions that pertain to the local seismicity and comparing them with our results.

#### General Seismicity Before 1973

Before the installation of the U. S. Geological Survey-California Institute of Technology (USGS-CIT) Imperial Valley network in April 1973, minor earthquakes in the region could be located only approximately. Despite the low sensitivity of the systems before 1973, major swarm

activity was detected in 1934, 1949, 1950, and 1955. The Imperial Valley earthquake of 1940, the largest event ever recorded in the region (located about 20 km west of East Mesa), broke the ground for over 60 km along what has become known as the Imperial fault. A maximum ground displacement of almost 6 m was reported (Richter, 1958).

Of more immediate interest is a swarm of events in 1938, located approximately 10 km north of East Mesa, the largest of which had a magnitude of 5.0 on the Richter scale. Two other interesting events occurred in 1972 with magnitudes of 2.9 and 3.1 and were located about 15 km east and 20 km west of East Mesa, respectively.

Two microearthquake studies of the Imperial Valley conducted in 1967 and 1971, with two days and three weeks respective recording time in the East Mesa region, failed to detect any local seismic activity. The 1967 study, however, revealed intense swarm activity in the Obsidian Buttes region near the then-inferred Brawley fault. The East Mesa station was located about 25 km north of the present array in 1967 (Brune and Allen, 1967).

#### The USGS-CIT Imperial Valley Array

A network of 16 high-gain vertical seismic stations was installed throughout the Imperial Valley in April 1973, with good coverage in all directions around East Mesa. The results of the first year of operation have been summarized by Hill (1975).

The major events of the first year were four earthquake swarms in June and July 1973, which occurred along the Brawley/Imperial fault system. Combs (1974) and Combs and Hadley (1977) reported microearthquake activity at East Mesa coincident with the Brawley swarm. Hill noted that most of the events reported by Combs (1974) were too small to be located by the USGS-CIT network, which provided uniform coverage for events down to about  $M_L = 2.0$ . A small event ( $M_L = 1.5-2.5$ ) was located at East Mesa, as indicated by Hill (1975).

Swarm activity along the Brawley/Imperial fault zone has been detected by the USGS-CIT network every year since 1973, but no significant seismic activity has been located at or associated with the East Mesa KGRA. It is interesting to note that although Hill reported



earthquake activity at the Salton Sea and Brawley geothermal fields (associated with the Brawley fault), no evidence for seismic activity at the Dunes and Glamis KGRAs was apparent.

#### Results of the 1973 Microearthquake Study

The results of a five-week microearthquake study at East Mesa in 1973 have been reported by Combs (1974) and Combs and Hadley (1977). Their array consisted of 6 high-gain, portable, vertical seismometers deployed in roughly the same configuration as the present array, although the station separation was somewhat larger. The normal background seismicity was characterized by one or two locatable events per day (recorded on at least four stations) and 100 or more small events during days of swarm activity.

The pattern of seismicity suggested the existence of a fault (the Mesa fault) running west-northwest through the geothermal field across the zone of highest heat flow. Focal mechanism studies, coupled with the coincidence of swarm activity at both East Mesa and the Brawley/Imperial fault zone, indicated that the Mesa fault was linked tectonically to the more extensive fault system (see Elders et al., 1972, for a discussion of the regional tectonics). Continuous "nanoequake" activity (defined as events too small to be located) persisting even during "quiet" times was recorded at a site close to the present MBR Station 9.

The magnitudes of microearthquakes at East Mesa during the June-July activity, as determined by coda length, ranged up to an  $M_L = 2.9$  event with roughly half of the events having a magnitude  $\geq 1.5$ . It is not immediately clear why the bulk of this activity was not better recorded by the USGS-CIT array, with six stations in the vicinity of East Mesa.

#### Results of the 1974-1975 Microearthquake Study

An array of nine three-component seismographs was deployed at East Mesa from December 1974 to December 1975, recording microearthquake activity before, during and after the withdrawal and injection of geothermal fluids. Combs (1976) reported no significant change in seismicity

throughout the entire period. The pattern of seismicity was found to be essentially the same as that found during the 1973 study--several locatable microearthquakes per day plus intermittent periods of swarm activity.

The seismicity is divided into discrete events and swarm activity. Discrete events are further subdivided, based on characteristic S-P times, as shown in Table 2.1.

Combs noted several differences between events appearing to originate within the field and those from without:

1. Arrivals for local events appear more emergent and are of lower frequency than external "tectonic" events.
2. Local events appear to originate at shallower depths than tectonic events.
3. Brawley earthquakes show significant attenuation of high-frequency content as the wavefront travels across the array (through the zone of high heat flow).

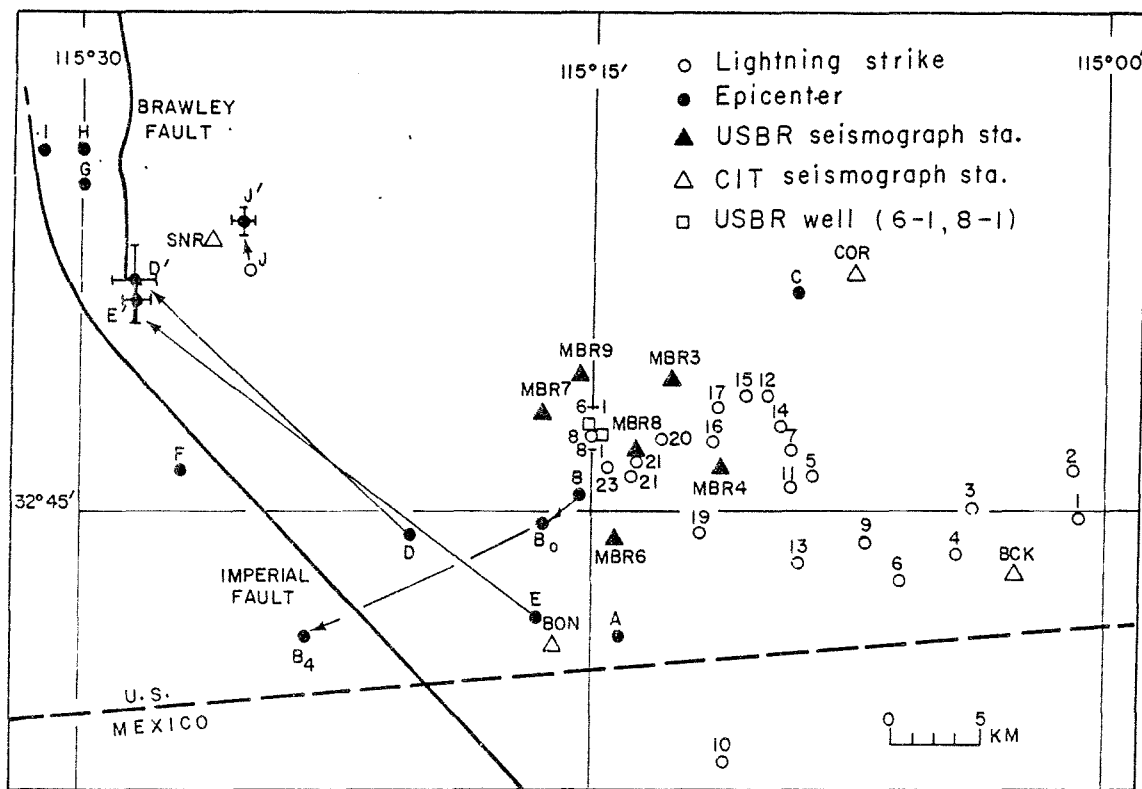
#### The Brawley Swarm

The Brawley swarms of October-November 1977 were well recorded at East Mesa. In December 1977 at the American Geophysical Union Meeting in San Francisco, Dr. Carl Johnson of the Seismological Laboratory at CIT presented the preliminary results for the swarm activity, based on the data from the Imperial Valley USGS-CIT seismic array. We report here only on those aspects of interest in the present field-specific study. With one exception (discussed below), no earthquakes were detected during the swarm activity at East Mesa by either the USGS-CIT or East Mesa arrays.

As seen on the regional map (Figure 2.1), several stations of the USGS-CIT Imperial Valley array lie in close proximity to East Mesa. Two more stations are just off the map to the north. Considering the station deployment, it seems that any significant seismic activity at East Mesa would have been recorded at these stations, although it is not inconceivable that highly localized, low-magnitude activity might pass undetected. A search of the USGS files for the period of

Table 2.1. Seismic events recorded at East Mesa during the 1974-1975 microearthquake study.

S-P time (sec)	Type of event	Location	Depth (km)	No. per day
<1.5	nanoearthquake	not locatable	-	10s-100s
1.5-3.0	microearthquake	in field	2-4	~5
3-10	microearthquake	outside field	4-10	~5
>10	microearthquake	regional	-	a few



XBL785-795

Figure 2.1. Regional map showing East Mesa network stations, epicenters located, and USGS-CIT epicenters for larger events.

days 178-364, 1977, within a range of lat.  $32^{\circ}40'$ - $32^{\circ}52'$  N., long.  $115^{\circ}05'$ - $115^{\circ}21'$  W., yielded events A-E, listed in Table 2.2.

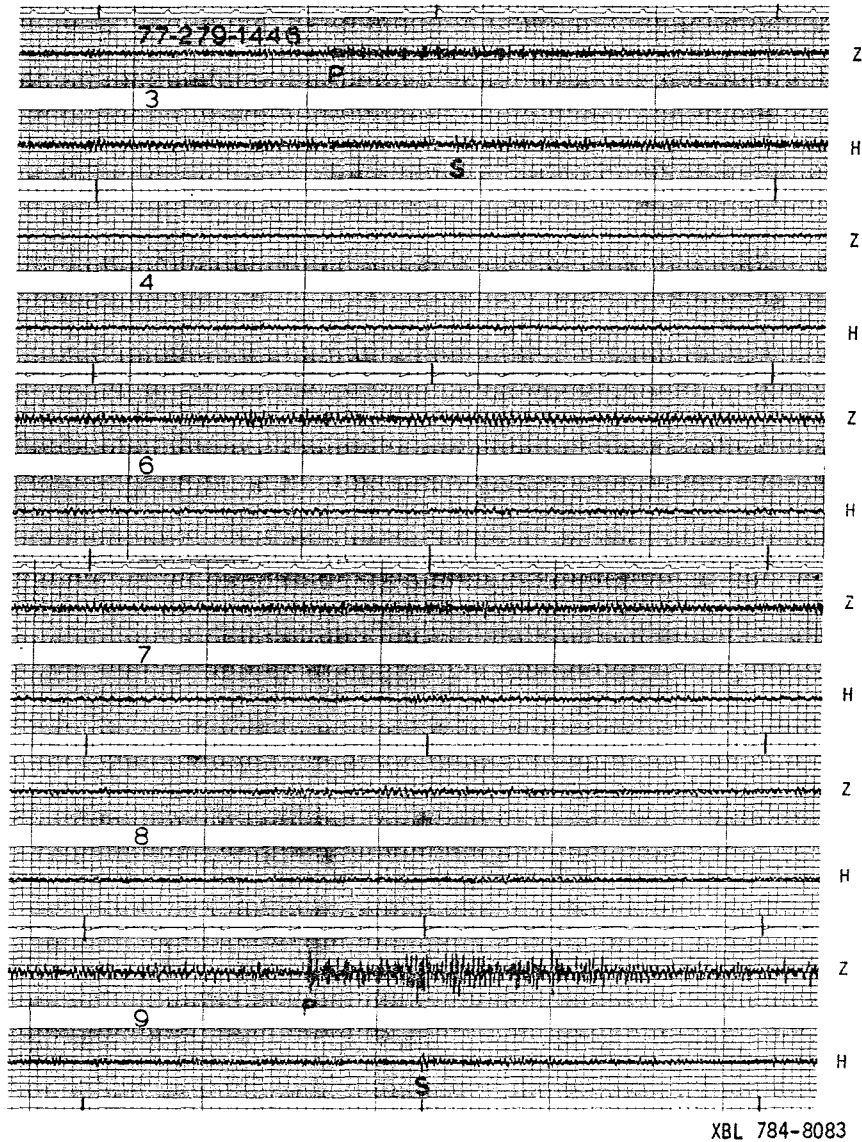
All these events, with the exception of A, have a quality factor of 4, which indicates only a rough location (not known within 15 km). (The quality of a location decreases with increasing quality factor from 1-6, a quality 4 is a poorly constrained solution). Events B-E were therefore examined in further detail.

Event B. As shown in Figure 2.2, the signal-to-noise ratio of this event is unusually low, especially for a local event that was well-recorded by the USGS-CIT array (although effects of attenuation and local ground noise should be considered). Using the S-P distance constraints of MBR stations 3 and 9, probable locations for this event at fixed focal depths of 0 and 4 km are shown on Figure 2.1 (labeled  $B_0$  and  $B_4$ , respectively). Since a focal depth of 4 km seems more likely, based on USGS-CIT results, it appears that this event is actually associated with the Imperial fault.

Event C. Based on the East Mesa records, this event does not appear to be seismic in origin. Only slowly traveling surface waves propagating west to east are apparent.

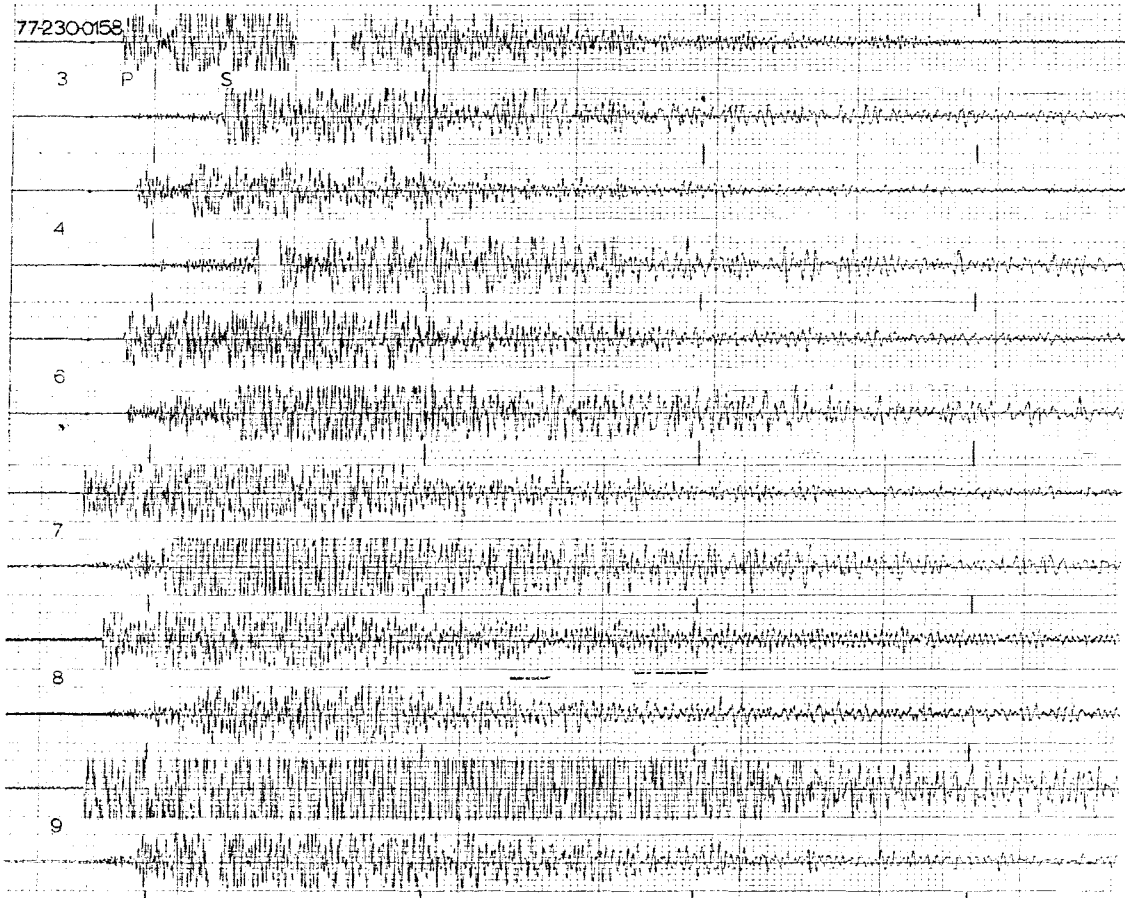
Events D and E. These were well recorded (both P- and S-waves) and were relocated as shown on Figure 2.1 at  $D'$  and  $E'$  (with error bars for latitude and longitude). The new locations clearly associate these events with the Brawley/Imperial fault system. Thus, within the sensitivity of the USGS-CIT array, no events appear to have occurred in the immediate vicinity of the East Mesa geothermal field during the period. This supports the conclusion reached from a study of the East Mesa array data.

An event of magnitude 2.8, which occurred on day 230, 1977 (see Figure 2.3), is also plotted in Figure 2.1, with the USGS-CIT location at point J and the East Mesa solution at  $J'$  (shown with standard error bars for latitude and longitude). This appears to be the largest event east of the Brawley/Imperial fault zone and close to East Mesa that has been detected by the Imperial Valley array since the beginning of the present study. The event had a minimum S-P time of 3.0 seconds (observed at MBR station 7).



XBL 784-8083

Figure 2.2. Seismograms for day 279 earthquake, located within East Mesa KGRA by USGS-CIT network. (See Figure 2.1, symbols B, B<sub>0</sub>, B<sub>4</sub>.) Stations 3Z, 3H, 6Z, 7Z, 9Z and 9H are high-pass filtered at 4.5 Hz and displayed at 50 mv/div; other stations are not filtered and are displayed at 100 mv/div. Time lines are a 10-sec intervals.



XBL 784-8059

Figure 2.3. Seismogram for M = 2.8 event west of array for day 230, 1977.

Table 2.2. Events recorded by USGS for days 178-364, 1977.

Event (Map symbol)	Day	Origin time (UTC)	Latitude	Longitude	Depth (km)	Qual.
A	202	0517 04.4	32°41.8'	115°14.1'	5.0	3
B	278	1446 25.7	32°45.3'	115°15.4'	4.9	4
C	315	2155 02.1	32°50.5'	115°09.1'	5.0	4
D	318	0311 24.4	32°44.4'	115°20.3'	5.1	4
E	318	0416 17.6	32°42.3'	115°16.7'	5.0	4

### Combs-Hadley Hypothesis Tested

On the basis of their 1973 study, Combs and Hadley (1977) located microearthquakes within the East Mesa geothermal field for the period June-July 1973. They reported that the microearthquakes appeared to be tectonically associated with the more extensive and simultaneous swarm activity occurring along the Brawley/Imperial fault system. The larger events occurred on the Brawley fault, while the smaller events occurred at East Mesa and were associated with the Mesa fault.

During the same period, no earthquakes were detected at East Mesa by the USGS-CIT network, although as Hill (1975) points out, most of the events discussed by Combs were too small to be detected on at least four stations of the Imperial Valley array. In the East Mesa array used by Combs, station separation was greater than that of the present array and thus was even closer to the Imperial Valley array. Therefore, the question arises whether the microearthquakes actually occurred at East Mesa or farther to the west along the Brawley fault.

To test the Combs-Hadley hypothesis of Brawley-East Mesa interaction, seven hours of high activity, characterized by a large occurrence ratio of small to large events, were examined in detail. The period studied runs between 0720 and 1420 (Universal Time Code) on day 293. Forty-three events were identified on the visual records, which comprise a complete sample of the data since the signal-to-noise ratio observed on these records normally exceeds that of the data tape. The magnitudes of the events ranged from  $M_L = 4.0$  to  $M_L = 2.0$ . All of the larger events with S-P times greater than 3 sec (as determined by visual inspection) were discarded. All others were played out and analyzed. The events fell into three categories:

1. Large events clearly associated with the Brawley/Imperial fault.
2. Small events clearly associated with the Brawley/Imperial fault.
3. Small events, usually recorded only on stations 3Z and 9Z, which could not be located.

Figures 2.4 through 2.7 illustrate each type of event. Every locatable event was found to originate along the Brawley/Imperial fault. The locations of the smallest events (see Figure 2.7), having magnitudes probably on the order of zero, are unresolved.

Attempts to increase the sensitivity of the records by means of filtering have been only partially successful. A comparison of the filtered versus unfiltered signals from station 7H in Figure 2.5 shows a considerable amount of ground noise in the 4-10 Hz bandwidth, a characteristic of S-wave arrivals.

In summary, no local seismic events were detected at East Mesa by either the USGS-CIT Imperial Valley or the USBR East Mesa seismic arrays down to estimated thresholds of at least  $M_L = 2.0$  and  $M_L = 1.0$ , respectively, during the recent Brawley swarm activity. This contradicts the observations of Combs and Hadley (1977) and may indicate that the East Mesa geothermal field is not tectonically linked with the Brawley/Imperial fault system. The location of smaller events detected at East Mesa remains unresolved, but normal seismicity characteristics suggest extremely low activity. It is quite possible that previous investigators, confusing secondary P arrivals on vertical components with S-waves, mislocated Brawley or Imperial fault events at erroneously short distances.

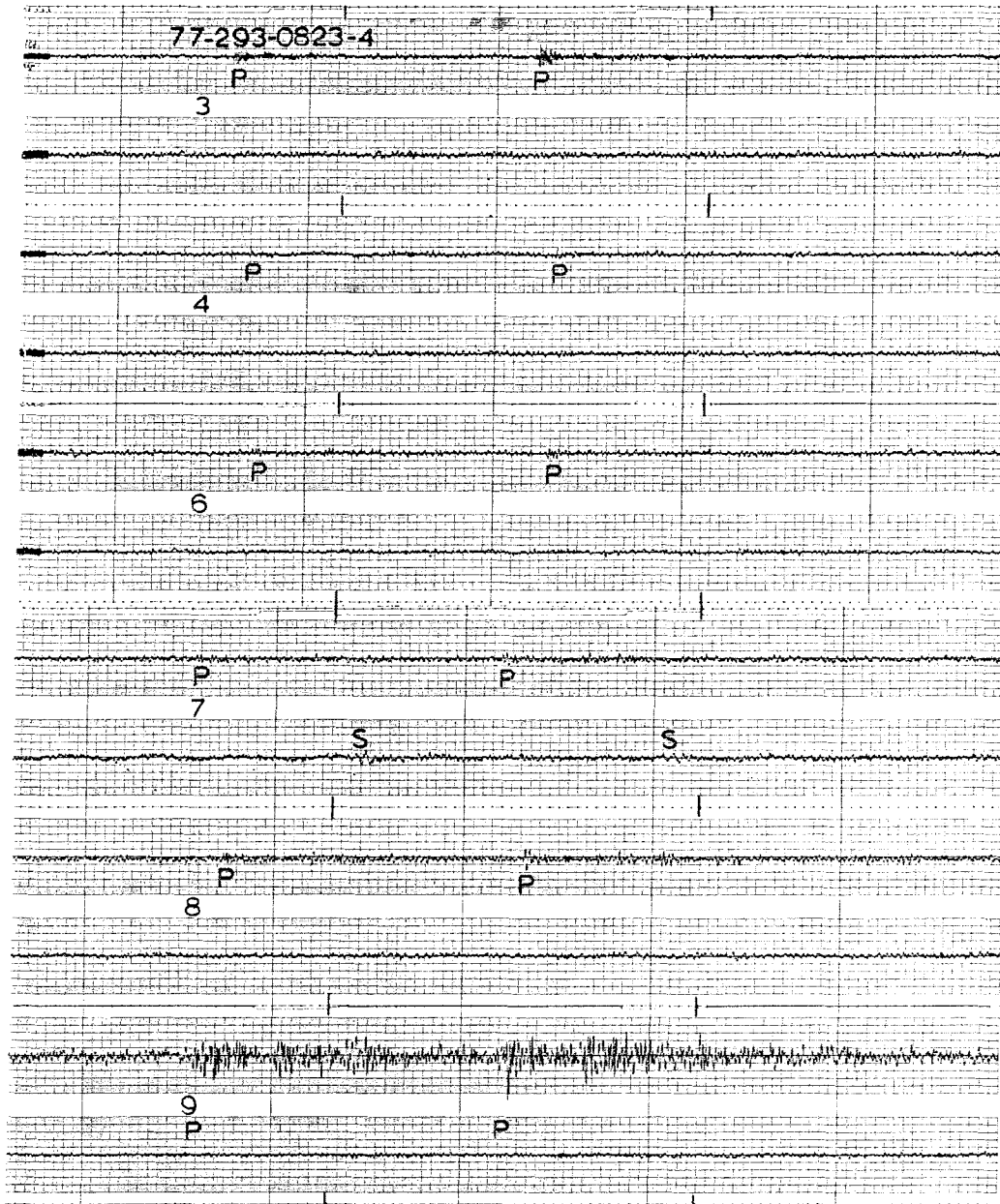
#### OBSERVATION PROCEDURES OF UC-LBL

Data from 1.0-Hz geophones (two horizontals in parallel and one vertical) are radio-telemetered to a control recording site. Data are recorded with time and tape speed compensation on a 14-channel FM tape recorder at 15/160 ips with 0- to 34-Hz bandwidth (Geotech No. 19429).

The data-processing routine consists of four phases: event identification, playback, location, and analysis.

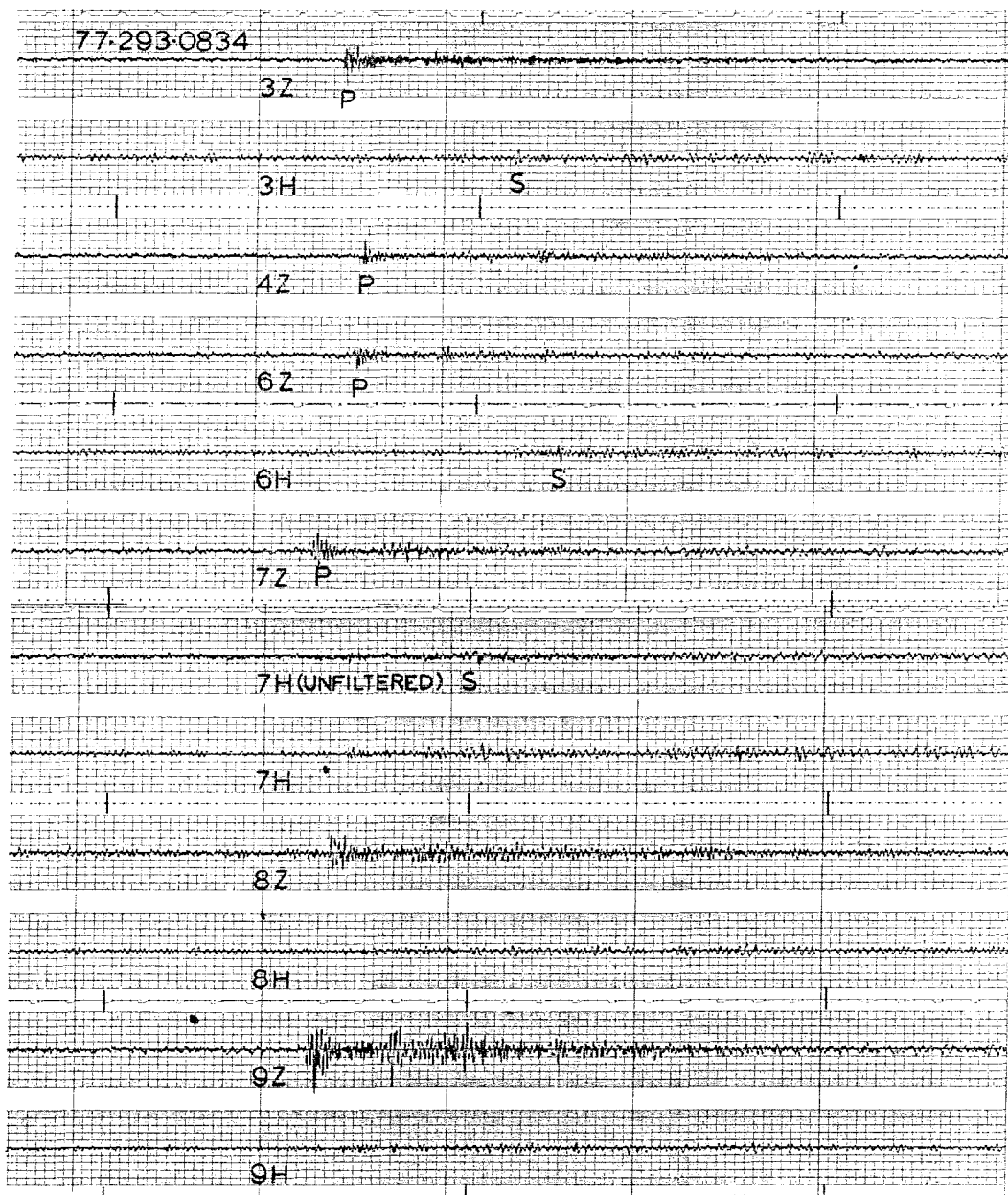
Local microearthquakes are routinely located using EPIC, an iterative linear regression hypocentral location program at the Seismographic Station, University of California, Berkeley. Input parameters include station locations, velocity model (P- and S-wave velocities in two layers over a half-space), P and S arrival times for each station, and an initial trial location based on relative arrivals. Initial,





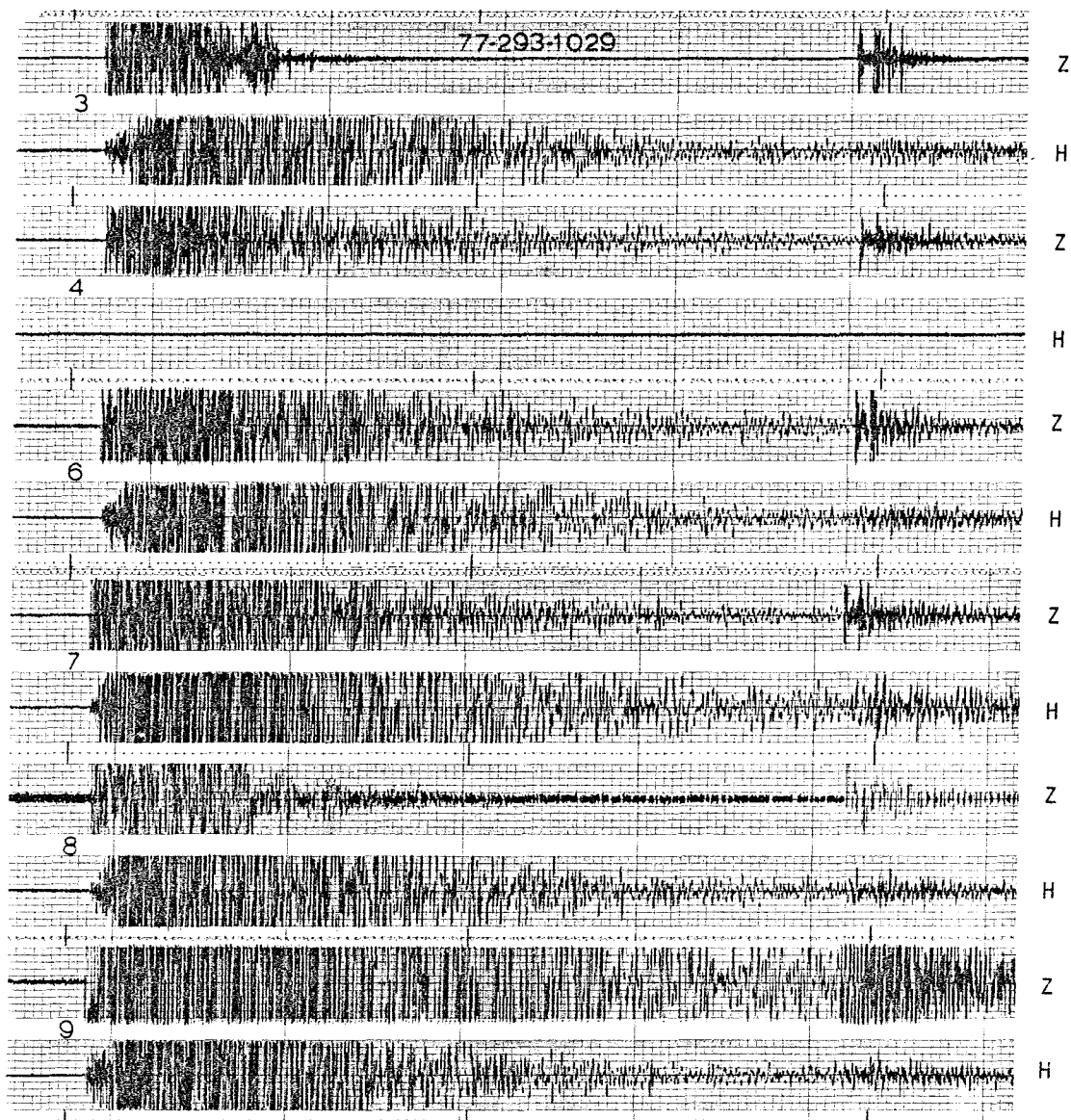
XBL 784-8084

Figure 2.4. Seismogram for two small earthquakes in the Brawley swarm (H in Figure 2.1), 100 mv/div. These are the smallest locatable events. Time lines are at 10-sec intervals.



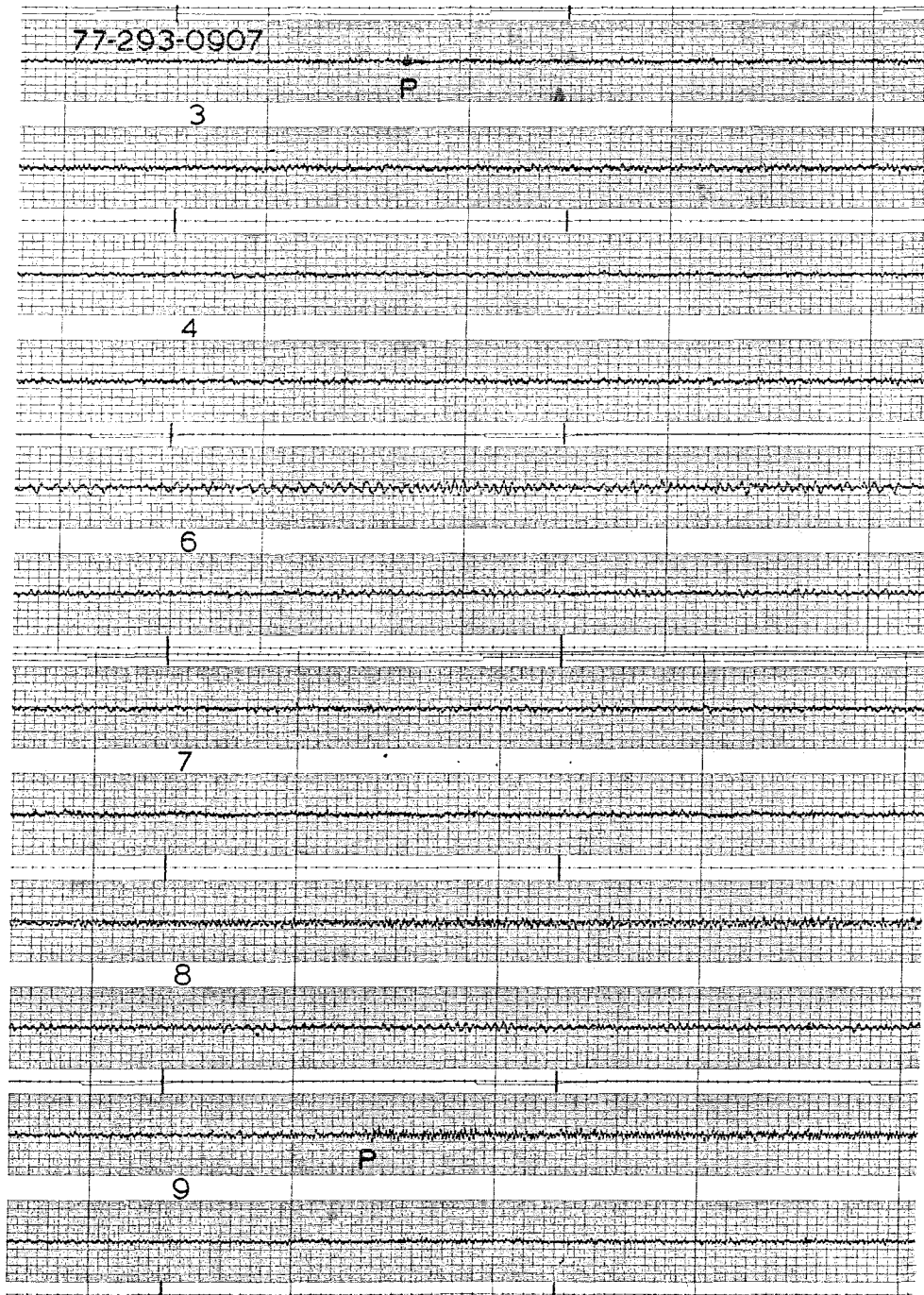
XBL 784-8079

Figure 2.5. Seismogram for filter tests on small Brawley swarm event (1 in Figure 2.1). Verticals unfiltered at 100 mv/div. except 9Z, 200 mv/div. Horizontals at 50 mv/div are band-pass filtered at 4-10 Hz. Time lines are at 10-sec intervals.



XBL 784-8085

Figure 2.6. Seismogram for two Brawley swarm events (first one is magnitude 4.0) illustrating defective vertical seismometers at 3Z and 8Z, reducing low-frequency response. Time lines are at 1-min intervals. (Symbol G in Figure 2.1.)



XBL 784-8080

Figure 2.7. Seismogram for small event during the 7-hr test of Brawley swarm, the smallest presently detectable at East Mesa. Visible arrivals are only at stations 3Z and 9Z. Horizontals are at 100 mv/div except 9Z at 200 mv/div. time marks are at 10-sec intervals.

final, and incremental trial depths and the numbers of free (depth) versus fixed iterations, are selected by the user. The program then lists calculated hypocenters and residuals at each depth selected, with the final solution chosen to minimize the residuals. For a typical run, an initial depth of 2 km, a final depth of 8 km, and increments of 2 km were chosen, with seven fixed and three free iterations for each depth.

As determined from the USBR base map, with translation into angular coordinates, the present station locations are as given in Table 2.3.

The following model was used for hypocentral location estimation:

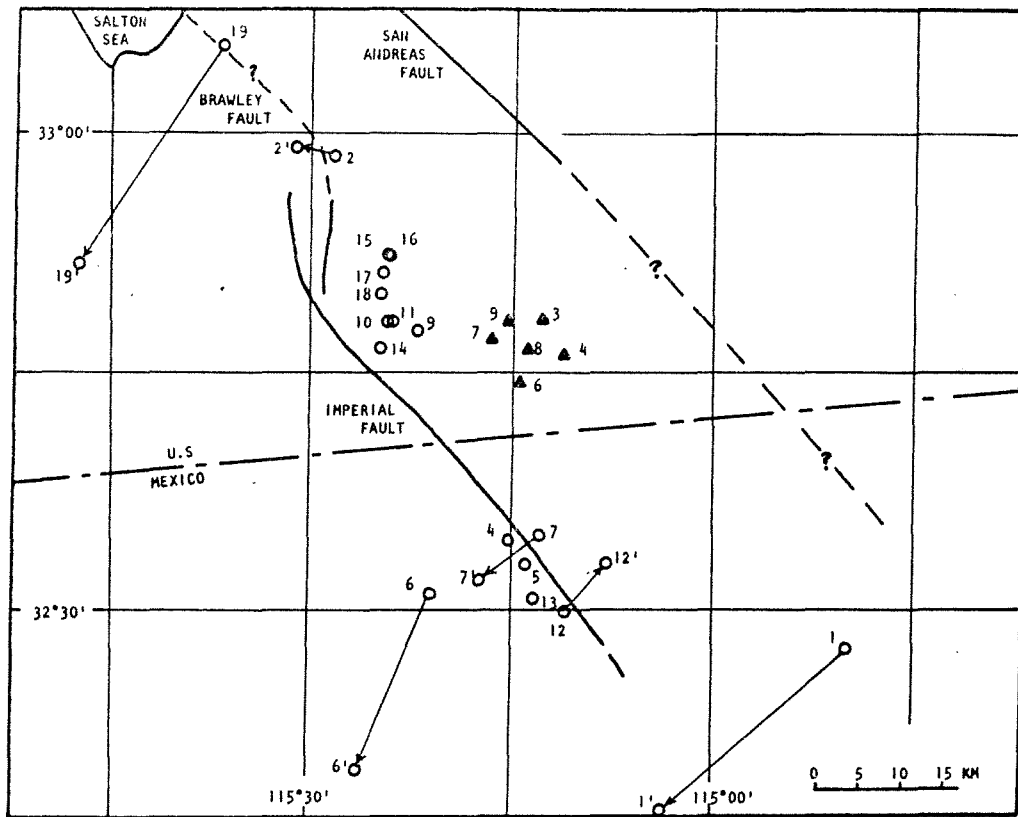
<u>Thickness (km)</u>	<u><math>\alpha</math>(km/sec)</u>	<u><math>\beta</math>(km/sec)</u>	<u><math>\sigma</math></u>
1	2.0	0.8	0.40
2.5	3.1	1.7	0.30
$\infty$	6.0	3.5	0.25

All earthquakes detected were located outside the array, ranging in distance (as determined by S-P times) from about one to nearly six array diameters. At these distances, a linear regression location program using P-waves is poorly conditioned and generally will not converge to a valid solution. Other techniques are available for location in this case. The method used involves first measuring S-P times for each station, then, using a relationship between S-P times and distance, swinging arcs from each station to determine the epicenter. This scheme yields a well-defined distance from the epicenter to the array, but often leaves the azimuth poorly defined. In such cases, relative P-arrival times are used to estimate the azimuth, assuming plane waves.

The normal to the apparent wavefront, centered at station MBR 8, was chosen as the azimuth. The epicenters that have been located are listed in Table 2.4 and plotted in Figure 2.8. The locations determined as above were compared with those reported by the USGS-CIT Imperial Valley network, which was possible for six events. This verified that the computed values of distance are generally reliable, but the azimuths are not. In five of the six cases, when the epicenters as determined

Table 2.3. Locations of USBR seismograph stations.

Station	Latitude	Longitude
MBR 3	32°48.24'N	115°12.66'W
MBR 4	32°46.04'N	115°11.14'W
MBR 6	32°44.28'N	115°14.19'W
MBR 7	32°47.38'N	115°16.42'W
MBR 8	32°46.50'N	115°13.72'W
MBR 9	32°48.33'N	115°15.26'W



XBL 7710-6804

Figure 2.8. Regional map showing East Mesa network stations (triangles), epicenters located (circles--numbers refer to Table 2.4), and USGS-CIT epicenters for larger events (primed numbers).

Table 2.4. Microearthquake summary.

	Day	Time	Latitude	Longitude	Magnitude
1.	184	0558	32°28'	114°50'	
2.	184	1218	32°58'	115°28'	
3.	184	1407			
4.	184	1841	32°34'	115°15'	
5.	184	1902	32°33'	115°14'	
6.	190	2200	32°31'	115°13'	
7.	191	2305	32°35'	115°13'	
8.	192	1200			
9.	196	1453	32°48'	115°22'	
10.	200	0833	32°47'	115°25'	
11.	200	0839	32°47'	115°25'	
12.	207	0820	32°30'	115°11'	
13.	211	0236	32°31'	115°14'	
14.	211	0325	32°46'	115°25'	
15.	211	0333	32°46'	115°24'	
16.	211	0347	32°46'	115°24'	
17.	211	0349	32°51'	115°25'	
18.	211	0355	32°50'	115°25'	
19.	211	1024	32°06'	115°37'	

USGS-CIT Locations

1.	184	0558	32°17'	115°03'	2.8
2.	184	1218	32°59'	115°31'	2.2
6.	190	2200	32°20'	115°27'	2.5
7.	191	2305	32°32'	115°17'	2.7
12.	207	0820	32°33'	115°08'	2.7
19.	211	1024	32°52'	115°47'	3.3

by USGS-CIT were shifted to the southwest relative to East Mesa by azimuths of  $4^{\circ}$ - $30^{\circ}$ , the distance remained approximately unchanged, as seen in Figure 2.8.

Apparent distortion of the azimuth across the array was also observed in the case of surface waves from a known source. This azimuthal distortion may be explained by two assumptions. First, a change in the velocity structure occurs across the Brawley-Imperial fault system with lower velocity to the southwest. Five of the six earthquakes located by both East Mesa and the USGS-CIT arrays lie close to the fault system. Such a lateral discontinuity refracts ray paths crossing the boundary obliquely, which results in a more southwesterly "virtual" azimuth being indicated as the rays sweep past East Mesa. The larger networks, with good coverage at all azimuths, would be less affected. Second, local variations in seismic velocities occur within or surrounding the East Mesa array. If, in general, velocities increased to the east, apparent azimuths would be shifted as observed.

Independent evidence for local variations in velocity comes from the large scatter observed in S-P versus P times for individual events. More data are required, especially for earthquakes within the array, before station corrections can be determined and applied with any confidence.

#### RESULTS OF THE PRESENT STUDY

A major result of the present study has been the total absence of detected local microearthquakes originating within the East Mesa geothermal field. This is consistent with early microearthquakes in the Imperial Valley and with the findings of the USGS-CIT network, but inconsistent with two microearthquake studies at East Mesa in 1973 and 1974-75.

Three possible explanations might account for the discrepancies.

First, the Mesa fault was active from 1973 to 1975 but has been inactive since July 1977. This does not seem likely, since local activity was assumed to be tectonically linked to the broader zone of seismicity associated with the Brawley-Imperial fault system, which has continued to be active throughout the period. According to this hypothesis,



one would have expected to see local events during the recent Brawley swarms.

Second, the microearthquakes used to define the Mesa fault in 1973 were actually located along the Brawley fault. Only vertical-component instruments were then available to locate these events. In Report No. 2 (McEvelly and Schechter, 1977b) we demonstrated the problems of accurately locating events using only P arrivals, especially for events located outside the array. A comparison of station deployment with epicenter distribution shows the station distribution heavily weighted to the east of the epicenters--a situation that could easily lead to mislocations. Relocation of these events farther to the west would also increase the computed focal depth to values more compatible with those reported by Johnson and Hadley (1976) for Brawley events. Only a reevaluation of the actual data can resolve this problem.

Finally, "geothermal events" may actually be nonseismic in origin. Figures of these events in Combs (1976) appear to be more consistent with air-coupled Rayleigh waves than with microearthquakes, featuring emergent low-frequency arrivals and similar waveforms that appear simultaneously on both vertical and horizontal records. The local velocity structure (very low velocities in the near-surface) constrains the ray paths even for local events to propagate almost vertically near the surface, clearly separating P and S waves as vertical and horizontal motions, respectively. The "geothermal event" waveforms (Combs, 1976, p. 34), if body waves, are not consistent with such characteristics. In addition, the manner in which the S-wave arrival was determined is often ambiguous. Improper determination of S-P times, more than any other error, would heavily influence the determination of local seismicity.

The observation that local seismicity remained unaffected by withdrawal and injection of geothermal fluids could be interpreted as evidence that the observed seismicity is not of local origin. A reexamination of the data appears necessary to resolve these questions. Of specific interest are the determination of the apparent velocities associated with the "geothermal events" and the temporal correlation of these events with the records of the USGS-CIT Imperial Valley array.

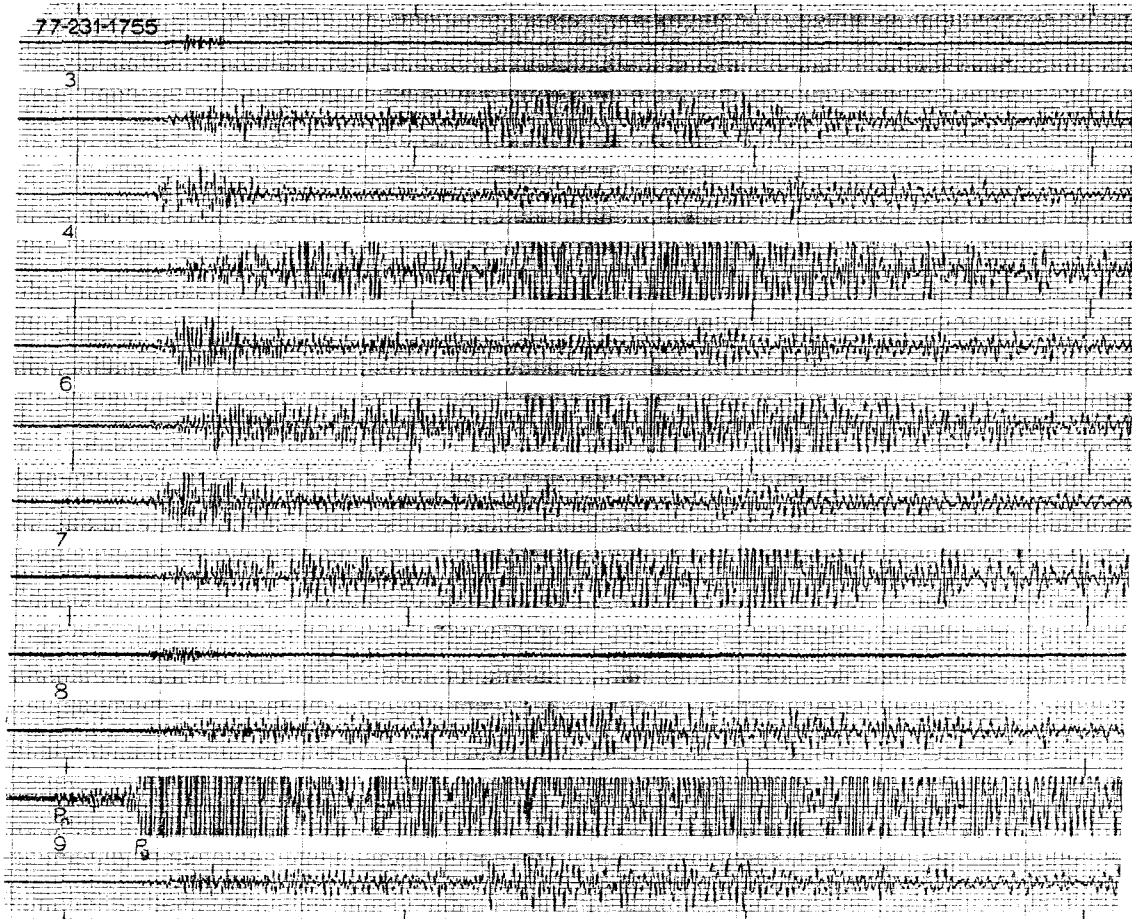
The small events detected at East Mesa during the present study (Figure 2.7) may be analogous to the nanoearthquakes discussed by Combs (1974 and 1976), since they were observed at roughly the same location now as then (MBR station 9 lies close to Combs' MGA #3). The S-P time of 1.5 sec assigned by Combs to these events, indicating a local origin, has not been observed (no S-wave arrivals are, in fact, seen for these events). Because these events appear only in MBR 9Z and 3Z, we may speculate that they are actually the smallest members of the Brawley earthquake swarms with origins to the northwest of East Mesa. One would also expect the signals to show up on STA 7Z. However, a map of seismic ground noise (Combs 1974, p. 33) shows high noise levels in the vicinity of MBR 7 relative to levels around MBR 3 and 9. Hopefully, records from the 4.5-Hz buried geophones soon to be installed will enable an S-P time to be resolved and the sources of these events to be located without ambiguity.

#### NETWORK PERFORMANCE

The quality of data has slowly deteriorated over the past year, although the network can still detect local events up to an estimated threshold of  $M_L = 1.0$  and within the previously mentioned bandwidth (0-35 Hz).

One problem persisting throughout most of the period has been the loss of low-frequency response of station MBR 3Z and 8Z. Station 9Z has recently succumbed to this problem, which is well illustrated by the response of these stations to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) explosion on day 231, 1977 (see Figure 2.9). In addition, MBR station 4H has been inoperative during much of the period, and recently, 4Z has become inoperative as well.

The time code has generally been adequate, although spotty in places. In its present condition, the seismic array is operating far below its potential capability. Inoperative or poorly operating geophones should be replaced, and it would be best to plan geophones in 100- to 150-m-deep holes to reduce surface noise.



XBL 784-8060

Figure 2.9. Seismogram of a nuclear explosion at nuclear test site;  
 $M_L = 5.5$ .

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

The primary result obtained to date in the East Mesa seismic study has been the complete lack of detectable local microearthquakes to an estimated detection threshold of at least  $M_L = 1.0$ . The detection of smaller shocks has been hampered by the high level of low-frequency surface noise in the field.

Regional seismic activity, events of magnitude 2.0 or less, is well-recorded at East Mesa and is distinguished from local events by S-P constraints (and less accurately by relative P-wave arrivals). The quality of the data makes possible the accurate location of larger ( $M \geq 2.0$ ) events, although local station corrections are not determined. Several phases, in addition to the initial P- and S-wave arrivals, are routinely observed. Most of the events are associated with the active Brawley/Imperial fault system to the west and southwest. The closest events recorded, based on S-P time intervals, are located along this fault zone about 20 km west of the array. Other events have been recorded at distances exceeding 500 km (NTS for example) and at all azimuths in the two western quadrants. (A set of sources at varying distances and azimuths may provide data on subsurface properties within the network in the absence of local events.)

Other local disturbances not of earthquake origin have been detected and identified, including meteorological disturbances, drilling activity, and weapons testing. Although these may have been previously identified as local seismic events, they are distinguished by their waveform, frequency content, and most importantly, by their slow (subseismic) apparent velocities.

The major Brawley swarms of October–November 1977 were well recorded at East Mesa. Again, no local microearthquakes were recorded during this period—a result contrary to the findings of a previous investigation in which local seismicity was reported to have peaked during swarm activity. Our results lead to the conclusion that there is no evidence that the local stress regime is associated with the Brawley–Imperial fault system.

The origin of small events remains unresolved, but they are believed to represent the smallest members of the Brawley fault swarm activity

observable at East Mesa. Installation of a 4.5-Hz three-component geophone into a 300-ft borehole may help determine the source of these events and result in detection of small "geothermal events" not presently observable because of the high level of surface noise in the seismic bandwidth. We estimate that improvement of at least one order of magnitude in the threshold of detectability is required for serious study of the field seismicity.

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### SECTION 3: WELL TESTS

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#### INTRODUCTION

Since 1976, LBL has conducted numerous well tests at the East Mesa KGRA. These include production, injection, and interference tests using all the available wells in the northern, central, and southern portions of the reservoir. From analyses of interference tests data, it has been possible to: locate hydraulic barriers; infer reservoir recharge; prove continuity between the northern and southern ends of the field; and provide global estimates of reservoir parameters, transmissivity ( $kh/\mu$ ), and storativity ( $\phi ch$ ). Analysis of production tests data has also provided information about the condition of individual wells and local estimates of transmissivity.

#### WELL TESTS AT EAST MESA

Well-testing activities before 1976 consisted of measuring stabilized wellhead and downhole pressures for various flow rates of wells 6-1, 6-2, 5-1 and 8-1 (Mathias, 1975; Earlogher, 1977) and conducting transient pressure tests of relatively short duration (~10 hours) on wells 6-1, 5-1, 8-1, and 31-1. In addition, well 6-1 was flowed for several months under compressed-liquid conditions in a desalting test, during which the wellhead pressure was monitored. Injection and production tests, both using a downhole pressure gauge, were run on well 5-1 in which the injectivity and productivity indices were measured as functions of time (Mathias, 1975; Earlogher, 1977). Productive indices for wells 6-1, 6-2, 5-1, and 8-1, having a single flow rate (unrestricted flow) were calculated from the available data and are presented in Table 3.1. The well 6-1 desalting test data and the 5-1 injectivity index data provide additional estimates of transmissivity for these two wells. These estimates are included in a summary of the pre-1976 transient pressure test results, shown in Table 3.2. The test results shown in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 are compared with the latest production test results later in this section.

From 13 February 1976 to 29 September 1977, several interference and production tests were conducted by LBL in the USBR, Republic

Table 3.1. Productivity indices for full flow (after Mathias, 1975).

WELL	P <sub>Shut In</sub> (Downhole) bars	P <sub>Flowing</sub> (Downhole) bars	ΔP bars	Q kg/min	Q/ΔP		
					$\frac{\text{kg/min}}{\text{bar}}$	$\frac{\text{gpm}}{\text{psi}}$	$\text{m}^3/\text{sec}/\text{Pa}$
6-1	219	159	60	1600	26.7	0.590	$5.40 \times 10^{-9}$
6-2	169	134	35	1134	32.4	0.715	$6.54 \times 10^{-9}$
5-1	169	156	13	800	61.5	1.35	$1.23 \times 10^{-8}$
8-1	168	157	11	1394	126.	2.79	$2.55 \times 10^{-8}$



Table 3.2. Transmissivity values from pre-1976 pressure transient tests (after Mathias, 1975).

WELL	DATE	TEST TYPE	DURATION (hours)	TRANSMISSIVITY-kh/ $\mu$ md-ft/cp ( $m^3/sec/Pa$ )
31-1	7/21/75	Drawdown Recovery	5.5 4.7	123,000 ( $3.70 \times 10^{-8}$ )
31-1	7/30/75	Recovery	10.0	166,000 ( $5.00 \times 10^{-8}$ )
5-1	1/8/75	Drawdown	10.0	32,000 ( $9.6 \times 10^{-9}$ )
5-1	2/28/75	Injection	10.0	37,000 ( $1.1 \times 10^{-8}$ )
8-1	4/21/75	Drawdown Recovery	5.7 5.0	75,000 ( $2.3 \times 10^{-8}$ )
6-1	12/28/72	Recovery (before perforation)	16 days	1,600 ( $4.8 \times 10^{-10}$ )
6-1	1/24/73	Recovery (before perforation)	2.5	1,600 ( $4.8 \times 10^{-10}$ )
6-1	9/17/74	Desalting run drawdown (after perforation)	3 mos.	70,000 ( $2.1 \times 10^{-8}$ )

Geothermal, Inc., and Magma Power Co. portions of the East Mesa field (Narasimhan et al., 1977a, 1977b; Witherspoon et al., 1978). Contractual well tests for USBR were begun on 1 December 1977 and completed on 4 May 1978. Table 3.3 presents the chronology of these well tests.

#### CONTRACTUAL WELL TESTS FOR USBR

According to our contractual obligations with USBR, we agreed to perform well tests in order to: (a) determine productivity indices for wells 6-1, 6-2, 8-1, and 31-1 at various flow rates; (b) perform a long-term interference test by flowing well 8-1 and recording pressure changes at appropriate observation wells; and (c) determine the injectivity index of well 5-1 at various injection rates and evaluate its current condition.

Production tests were carried out on wells 6-1, 6-2, and 8-1 and an injection test was performed on well 5-1. Because no satisfactory method was found for disposing of the produced fluid, well 31-1 was not available for testing. An interference test using well 8-1 as the flowing well and wells 48-7 and 6-1 as observation wells was also completed.

#### USBR PRODUCTION TESTS

##### Flow Rate Measurements

Production rates of wells 6-1, 6-2, and 8-1 were measured using an atmospheric flash tank and a weir box equipped with a v-notch weir plate and a clock-driven water-level recorder. The liquid flow was measured and the total flow was calculated by assuming a stream quality of 11% for unflashed brine. This value was measured previously using temperature and pressure data of unflashed brine. The uncertainty of the flow measurements is about 10%. Rate changes were accomplished using existing wellhead gate values. For the well 5-1 injection test, two positive displacement pumps of 150 and 220 gpm ( $9.5 \times 10^{-3}$  and  $1.4 \times 10^{-2}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec) capacity were used singly and in combination to attain various injection rates.

Table 3.3. Summary of all tests by LBL at East Mesa KGRA.

Well Date of Test	38-30	56-30	31-1	16-29	78-30	18-28	16-30	6-1	6-2	5-1	8-1	44-7	46-7	48-7
2/13/76 to 2/24/76								WF	OBS		OBS			
4/1/76 to 4/16/76	OBS		WF											
1/28/77 to 2/20/77			OBS					OBS	WFO		OBS	OBS		
2/20/77 to 4/13/77	OBS		OBS						WF	WF		OBS		
7/14/77 to 7/28/77	WFO	OBS	OBS	OBS		INJO								
7/26/77 to 8/30/77		OBS	OBS	WFO		INJO	OBS							
8/26/77 to 10/05/77	WF	OBS	OBS		OBS	INJO	OBS							
9/29/77												WF	OBS	OBS
12/1/77 to 12/6/77										INJO				
12/15/77 to 12/20/77											WFO			
1/6/77 to 1/27/77								OBS			WF			OBS
1/27/78 to 3/9/78								OBS			WF <sup>1</sup>	WF	INJ	OBS
4/17/78 to 4/21/78								OBS	WFO					
5/1/78 to 5/4/78								WF						

1) well 8-1 was shut in 2/9/78

SYMBOLS: WF = well flowing  
WFO = well flowing, pressure recorded (production test)  
INJ = water injected

INJO = water injected, pressure recorded (injection test)  
OBS = pressure recorded (interference test)

### Pressure Measurements

Changes in downhole pressure were measured by using a small-diameter steel capillary tube (0.054-in. I.D., 0.094-in. O.D.) filled with silicon oil or nitrogen gas. The tube was placed in the well at an appropriate depth and a sensitive pressure transducer, accurate to 0.01 psi, was attached to it at the well head. The fluid in the tube reacted to changes in downhole pressure, which was sensed by the transducer. The transducer signal was then fed to a digital readout device and a paper printer. Pressures were continuously monitored. Readings could be taken at intervals of from one second to one hour.

### Production Test Design

All production tests consisted of a series of step changes in the flow rate. Consideration of transient temperature effects on the downhole pressure-monitoring system strongly influenced production test design and data analysis. All production test wells were first flowed at a rate that would provide close to a steady-state temperature profile in the well. Subsequent small rate changes and pressure readings resulted in transient pressure data relatively free of temperature effects and therefore amenable to analysis. A flow-rate change was initiated when the downhole pressure had not changed appreciably with time. The average duration of the flow periods is about 18 hours, and the average rate change is about 60 gpm.

### Production Test Analysis Techniques

Transient pressure data of selected test segments were analyzed for  $kh/\mu$  and  $\phi chr_e^2$  using conventional isothermal oil-field techniques (Matthews and Russell, 1967; Earlougher, 1977; and Lippmann et al., 1978). The quantity  $\phi chr_e^2$  is the storativity ( $\phi ch$ ) multiplied by the the square of the effective well radius ( $r_e$ ). The effective well radius is related to the skin-effect value by  $r_e = r_w e^{-s}$  where  $r_w$  is the nominal well radius, and  $s$  is the skin effect value. Because production-test analyses directly yield the lumped parameter  $\phi chr_e^2$ , it is necessary to know  $\phi chr_w^2$  to estimate skin values. Unfortunately,  $\phi chr_w^2$  for each well is not known with sufficient accuracy to permit

calculation and comparison of skin-effect values. However, productivity indices corresponding to equal periods of production can be calculated from the  $kh/\mu$  and  $\phi chr_e^2$  estimates and used for comparison of damage and reservoir permeability among wells.

Productivity indices corresponding to 18 hours of flow were calculated analytically rather than using measured stabilized pressures and flow rates. The latter calculation is redundant and provides less information than the former when transient-pressure data are available. Furthermore, for the instrument system used in these tests, stabilized pressure values do not reflect downhole conditions at late times. Although they are small, pressure changes at the top of the capillary tube (caused by transient temperature effects along its length) partially obscure the reservoir response. These temperature effects, however, do not appreciably affect the transient-pressure data.

Productivity index values increase with increasing permeability and/or the quality of well completion. The productivity index value therefore combines the influence of the skin effect and reservoir permeability.

#### Production Test Results

The final  $kh/\mu$ ,  $\phi chr_e^2$ , and productivity index values found for each well are given in Table 3.4. These results are average values obtained from several test segments of each well test. The accuracy of  $kh/\mu$  is governed by the accuracy of the flow-rate measurements and the quality of the pressure data. In general, the accuracy of the pressure data and its interpretation far exceeds that of the flow-rate measurements. Therefore,  $kh/\mu$  values are believed to be correct to within the accuracy of the flow-rate values, which is on the order of 10%. Because values of  $\phi chr_e^2$  are predicated on  $kh/\mu$  values, their accuracy is also within 10%. Figure 3.1 shows, schematically for the USBR wells, the casing size, completion intervals (slotted and perforated), percentage net sand, and seismic marker horizons O and Y (see Figures 1.8 and 1.9 in the Geology section above). Also shown are permeability values in millidarcies for the net sand percentage of the completion interval and the average permeability value of the full

Table 3.4. Summary of production test results.

WELL	kh/μ	$\phi_{chr}^2$	P.I.
	md-ft/cp (m <sup>3</sup> /sec/Pa)	ft <sup>3</sup> /psi (m <sup>3</sup> /Pa)	(@ 18 hrs) gpm/psi (m <sup>3</sup> /sec/Pa)
5-1	43,000 (1.3x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	7.14x10 <sup>-8</sup> (2.93x10 <sup>-13</sup> )	.79 (I.I.) (7.23x10 <sup>-9</sup> )
8-1	60,000 (1.8x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	.028 (1.15x10 <sup>-7</sup> )	2.47 (2.26x10 <sup>-8</sup> )
6-2	73,000 (2.2x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	.105 (4.31x10 <sup>-7</sup> )	3.39 (3.10x10 <sup>-8</sup> )
6-1	14,000 (4.2x10 <sup>-9</sup> )	.101 (4.15x10 <sup>-7</sup> )	.83 (7.59x10 <sup>-9</sup> )

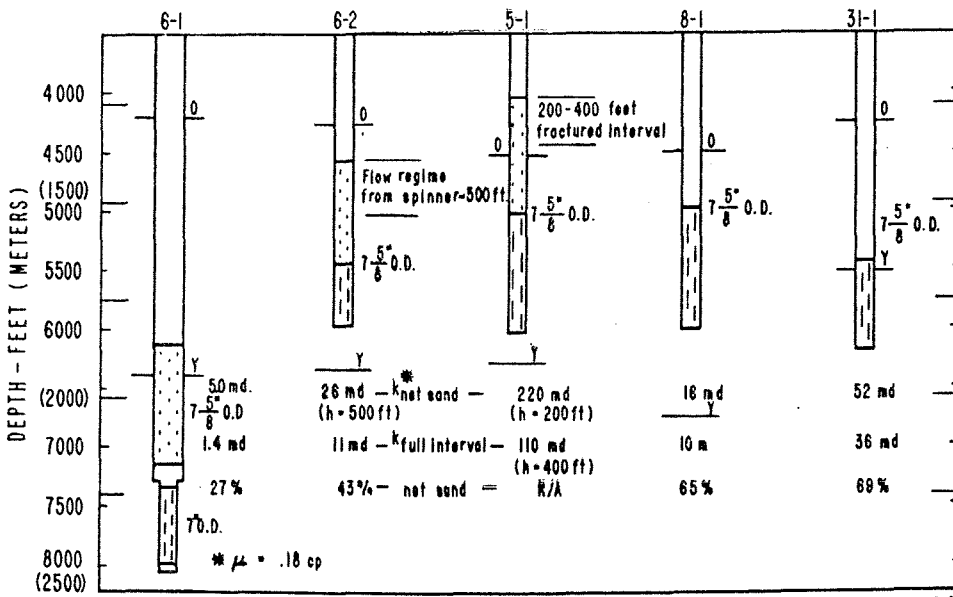


Figure 3.1. Schematic of completion intervals, casing sizes, net sand and full interval permeabilities and seismic marker horizons O and Y for the USBR wells.

completion interval. Appendix A contains detailed information about each production test.

#### Discussion of Production Test Results

The pressure data records for wells 8-1 and 6-1 are typical of a single production-zone reservoir, and the results from each segment of each well test are generally consistent. However, well-test data for wells 5-1 and 6-2 display atypical behavior.

The injection test data from well 5-1 show evidence of a vertical fracture. Three independent lines of evidence support this conclusion:

1. A spinner survey shows all flow exiting the well in a 400-ft (122-m) section at the top of the perforated interval. (See Appendix A, Figure A.5.)
2. The well 5-1 injection log for 26 December 1976 (U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, 1977) shows a rapid decrease in wellhead pressure from 1200 to 400 psi ( $8.3 \times 10^7$  to  $2.8 \times 10^7$  Pa) concurrent with a constant injection rate of 100 gpm ( $6.3 \times 10^{-3}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec). Well head pressure of 1200 psi is enough to cause a vertical fracture at the depth of the perforations.
3. The increase of the measured injectivity index with an increased rate of injection suggests a dilation process in the well that is indicative of a fracture. The value of 43,000 md-ft/cp ( $1.3 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa) is representative of a fractured interval, and the value of  $7.14 \times 10^{-8}$  ft<sup>3</sup>/psi ( $2.93 \times 10^{-13}$  m<sup>3</sup>/Pa) is associated with a large positive skin effect probably caused by plugging the fracture surface during injection. The low value of the injectivity index is associated with scaling or plugging at the fracture surface.

Pressure data for well 6-2 suggest that two distinct production zones of widely different  $kh/\mu$  are present. The more permeable zone exists in the upper 500 ft of perforation (see Appendix A, Figure A.13, a spinner survey of 6-2), and the lesser permeable zone is located deeper in the well. Well-log permeability data are consistent with the

existence of two production zones in well 6-2 and their relative locations as stated above. The value of 73,000 md-ft/cp ( $2.2 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}/\text{Pa}$ ) given for well 6-2 is characteristic of both production zones acting together. Because the productivity index is calculated from the analysis of early-time pressure behavior, it is valid only for those times when both zones act together. However, as the semilog plots in Appendix A indicate, the influence of the less permeable zone becomes dominant at later times when the two zones do not act together as a single reservoir. Thus the pressure changes are greater than those that would be extrapolated solely from early-time pressure behavior. For this reason a productivity index value of 3.8 gpm/psi ( $3.5 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}/\text{Pa}$ ) represents an optimistic upper bound value that is applicable only to early-time behavior.

It is clear from Figure 3.1 and the results of the production tests for wells 6-1 and 6-2 that the seismic marker beds O and Y do not correspond to the vertical boundaries of different aquifers. Well 6-1 showed no evidence of two-production-zone behavior, yet the Y horizon is located in the well's perforated interval. Conversely, well 6-2 does show two-zone behavior, and its interval lies completely between the O and Y horizons. From a comparison of the latest test results (Table 3.4) with the pre-1976 test results (Table 3.1 and 3.2), we draw the following conclusions.

1. Well 8-1 has not changed its character significantly since 1975. Both its transmissivity and productivity index values agree closely between the tests.
2. Well 6-1 has been damaged. The transmissivity has decreased five-fold from 70,000 md-ft/cp ( $2.1 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}/\text{Pa}$ ) measured from the desalting test (after perforation) to 14,000 md-ft/cp ( $4.2 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}/\text{Pa}$ ) given by the LBL well test. This decrease may be due to plugging or scaling caused by chemical incompatibility of produced fluids.



3. Well 5-1 has an increased transmissivity value due to the presence of a vertical fracture. The injectivity index has decreased, however, due to plugging of the well by some chemical precipitate mechanism. This plugging mechanism was probably a contributing cause of the initial fracturing of the well.

#### EAST MESA INTERFERENCE TESTS

Since early 1976, LBL has completed numerous interference tests at the East Mesa KGRA (Table 3.3). Pressure data were obtained in most instances using Paros scientific wellhead pressure transducers, accurate to 0.01 psi, which recorded pressures at intervals of from 4 to 20 minutes on a continuously operating paper printer. Test design ideally included: a stabilized shut-in pressure at all observation wells; a production-well flow rate large enough to create significant drawdowns at all observation wells; and a test of sufficient duration to indicate reservoir inhomogeneities at each of the observation wells. Analysis of the well-test data employed a least-squares pressure-matching computer program developed at LBL (McEdwards and Tsang, 1977) by which data showing the effects of more than one production well, each of a variable flow rate, may be analyzed. The program computes an analytical solution to the well-test data using properly adjusted values of  $kh/\mu$ ,  $\phi ch$ , and image-well distances, where the distance between an image well and an observation well (image-well distance) may be used to locate either barrier or recharge boundaries. In the program, the production wells are modeled as line sources and the reservoir is considered to be isotropic, laterally infinite, and of constant thickness.

A summary of the chronology, details, and results of all interference tests conducted by LBL at the East Mesa KGRA is presented in Table 3.5. More detailed information concerning these tests is given in Appendix B.

Two production tests and one injection test were conducted in conjunction with the interference test at the northern end of the field. Table 3.6 lists the details of these tests. More detailed information is given in Appendix C.

Table 3.5. Interference test and results at East Mesa.

Producing Well	Date	Flow Rate(s)	Observation Well	kh/ $\mu$ md-ft/cp (m <sup>3</sup> /sec/Pa)	cH ft/psi (m/Pa)	Image Well	Comments
Test 1 6-2	2/13/76 to 2/24/76	90 gpm	6-1	62,000 (1.9x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	5.7x10 <sup>-3</sup> (2.5x10 <sup>-7</sup> )	leaky	Vertical offset between producing well and observation well makes analysis uncertain
Test 2 31-1	4/1/76 to 4/12/76	130 gpm	38-30	136,000 (4.09x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	2.1x10 <sup>-3</sup> (9.3x10 <sup>-6</sup> )	barrier	
Test 3 6-2	2/10/77 to 2/20/77	60 gpm	6-1 8-1	111,000 (3.34x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	6x10 <sup>-3</sup> (2.6x10 <sup>-7</sup> )		Uncertain initial pressure when production commenced No observable drawdown indicative of hydraulic barrier
Test 4 6-1, 6-2	2/20/77 to 4/13/77	Combined Rate ~110 gpm	31-1 38-30 44-7	147,000 (4.41x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	2x10 <sup>-3</sup> (8.8x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	10,000 ft (3,000 m) leaky	Total drawdown .2 psi No observable drawdown Uncertain initial pressure when production commenced
Test 5 38-30	7/14/77 to 7/18/77	Variable (step) 500 gpm, 750 gpm 900 gpm, 750 gpm 500 gpm, 250 gpm	56-30 31-1 16-29	146,000 (4.40x10 <sup>-8</sup> ) 194,000 (5.85x10 <sup>-8</sup> ) 117,000 (3.52x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	6x10 <sup>-4</sup> (2.6x10 <sup>-8</sup> ) 2x10 <sup>-3</sup> (8.8x10 <sup>-8</sup> ) 4x10 <sup>-3</sup> (1.6x10 <sup>-7</sup> )	4,630 ft (1,410m) barrier 2,600 ft barrier	
Test 6 16-29	7/26/77 to 7/30/77	Highly variable 200-700 gpm	56-30 31-1 16-30				No drawdown observed*** No drawdown observed*** No drawdown observed***
Test 7 38-30	8/24/77 to 10/5/77	~400 gpm	56-30 31-1 16-30 78-30	131,000 (3.94x10 <sup>-8</sup> ) 176,000 (5.30x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	6.4x10 <sup>-4</sup> (2.8x10 <sup>-8</sup> ) 2.4x10 <sup>-3</sup> (1.1x10 <sup>-7</sup> )	3,470 ft (1,060m) barrier 2,250 ft (750m) barrier	No observable drawdown Non-typical behavior, partial barrier inferred
Test 8 44-7	9/29/77		48-7 46-7	uncertain			Small drawdown observed No effect seen, shallow injection well (not conclusive)
Test 9 8-1, 6-2	1/6/78 to 1/27/78	Variable Rate 8-1 ~ 200 gpm 6-7 ~ 50 gpm	48-7 6-1				No observable drawdown No observable drawdown
Test 10 8-1, 6-2 44-7	1/27/78 to 3/9/78	Highly Variable 8-1 ~ 200 gpm 6-2 ~ 50 gpm 44-7, 0-750 gpm	6-1* 48-7**	140,000 (4.2x10 <sup>-8</sup> ) 250,000 (7.5x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	2x10 <sup>-3</sup> (8.8x10 <sup>-8</sup> ) 3x10 <sup>-3</sup> (1.3x10 <sup>-7</sup> )		

\* No communication between Wells 44-7 or 8-1 and 6-1

\*\* Effect of 6-2 production and 46-7 injection not certain. Concurrent production of Well 44-7 obscures the effect, if any, of 8-1 production on the drawdown in Well 48-7.

\*\*\* Interpretation remains ambiguous due to an unknown quantity of cold water influx into Well 16-29 during production.

Table 3.6. Production tests in the northern portion of East Mesa KGRA done by LBL.

Well	Description of Test	Instrumentation	kh/ $\mu$ md-ft/cp (m <sup>3</sup> /sec/Pa)	Comments
38-30	Four days Variable rate Artesian flow 500 gpm, 750 gpm, 900 gpm 750 gpm, 500 gpm, 250 gpm	Tubing to 6100 ft, (Nitrogen gas filled)  Sperry Sun pressure monitor	133,000 (4.01x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	P.I. is 5 gpm/psi.
16-29	Four days Variable rate Artesian flow 200-700 gpm	Tubing to 6100 ft. (Nitrogen filled) Sperry Sun pressure monitor	178,000 (5.35x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	Only build-up data available Cold water influx into well from top 150 meters.
18-28	Injection Test 7/1/77 to 9/22/77 Variable rate	Hewlett Packard Downhole pressure monitor	76,000 (2.3x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	Wellhead temperatures range from 150° to 200°F.

### Discussion of Interference Test Results

Interference tests conducted in the northern and central portions of the field yielded transmissivity estimates ranging from 105,000 to 175,000 md-ft/cp ( $3.2 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $5.3 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa) and storativity estimates ranging from  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  to  $6.4 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi ( $8.8 \times 10^{-8}$  to  $2.8 \times 10^{-7}$  m/Pa).

Transmissivity estimates obtained for the northern portion of the field are consistently larger than those obtained for the central portion. This reduction of transmissivity may be associated with higher grades of metamorphism in the hotter central portion of the field.

### Hydrologic Boundaries and Continuity Between Wells

The presence of several hydrologic boundaries have been inferred from the numerous interference tests conducted. A barrier (no-flow) boundary with a northeasterly trend is believed to exist between well 16-30 and the remainder of the field. Another barrier, possibly discontinuous, is inferred to exist between wells 56-30 and 16-29. A partial barrier positioned between wells 38-30 and 78-30 is also thought to exist.

Hydrologic continuity between the USBR wells 6-1, 6-2, and 31-1 was established when wells 6-1 and 6-2 were produced and 31-1 was observed. Interpretation of the test results suggest the existence of a recharge boundary in the area. Due to the small drawdown, low flow rate, and large distance between the observation and the production wells, this interpretation must be reviewed cautiously. Well 8-1 was also monitored. The absence of pressure response at 8-1 while 6-2 was producing, and its lack of response during a previous test (Narasimhan et al., 1977a), indicates a lack of hydrologic continuity between wells 8-1 and 6-2.

In the southern portion of the field, hydrologic continuity between wells 8-1 and 48-7 remains uncertain. If communication does exist, it is of a limited nature. Well 8-1 and both wells 44-7 and 8-1 were producing while well 48-7 was monitored for pressure changes. Interpretation of the test data yields transmissivity estimates that are anomalously large. However, the interpretation of pressure changes in

well 48-7 are complicated by the unknown effects of concurrent fluid injection into well 46-7, a shallow (3000-ft, 900-m) well located 1/4 mile away from well 48-7, and by the unknown fluid conductive properties of a geophysically inferred fault that intersects well 44-7 (see Figure 1.21).

Well 6-1, which was also monitored, showed a total drawdown of 2.5 psi for the duration of the test. In addition to this anomalously low drawdown, well 6-1 did not show any build-up after wells 8-1 and 44-7 ceased production. The analysis of this result is complicated by the fact that well 6-2 was producing about 50 gpm during the entire time. Although analysis is complicated by the different perforation intervals of wells 6-1 and 6-2, late-time pressure data can be approximated by assuming a transmissivity of 140,000 md-ft/cp and a storativity of  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi. Indications are that wells 8-1 and 44-7 do not communicate with well 6-1.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The injection well (5-1) measurements indicate that the well is fractured and that the injection interval is a small portion of the open zone in the well (near the top of the perforations). The injectivity index,  $Q/\Delta P$ , is about 0.75 gpm/psi ( $\sim 6 \times 10^{-9}$  m<sup>3</sup>/s/Pa). The reservoir parameters cannot be clearly defined due to the fracture and the apparent formation damage caused by solids plugging and precipitation. The latter material was deposited during early injection tests and resulted in the accidental hydraulic fracturing of the injection well.

The productivity indices of the USBR production wells vary--as would be expected in different wells completed in different ways. Well 8-1 has the highest productivity index ( $\sim 2.8$  gpm/psi) and well 6-1 has the lowest index ( $\sim 0.6$  gpm/psi). However, well 6-1 is currently damaged (scaled), probably due to mixing of fluids from different strata (see Section 5, below).

The most reliable values for the mean, effective material parameters--which determine both how readily fluids move and how much fluid is stored in the reservoir--have been obtained from interference tests. The results

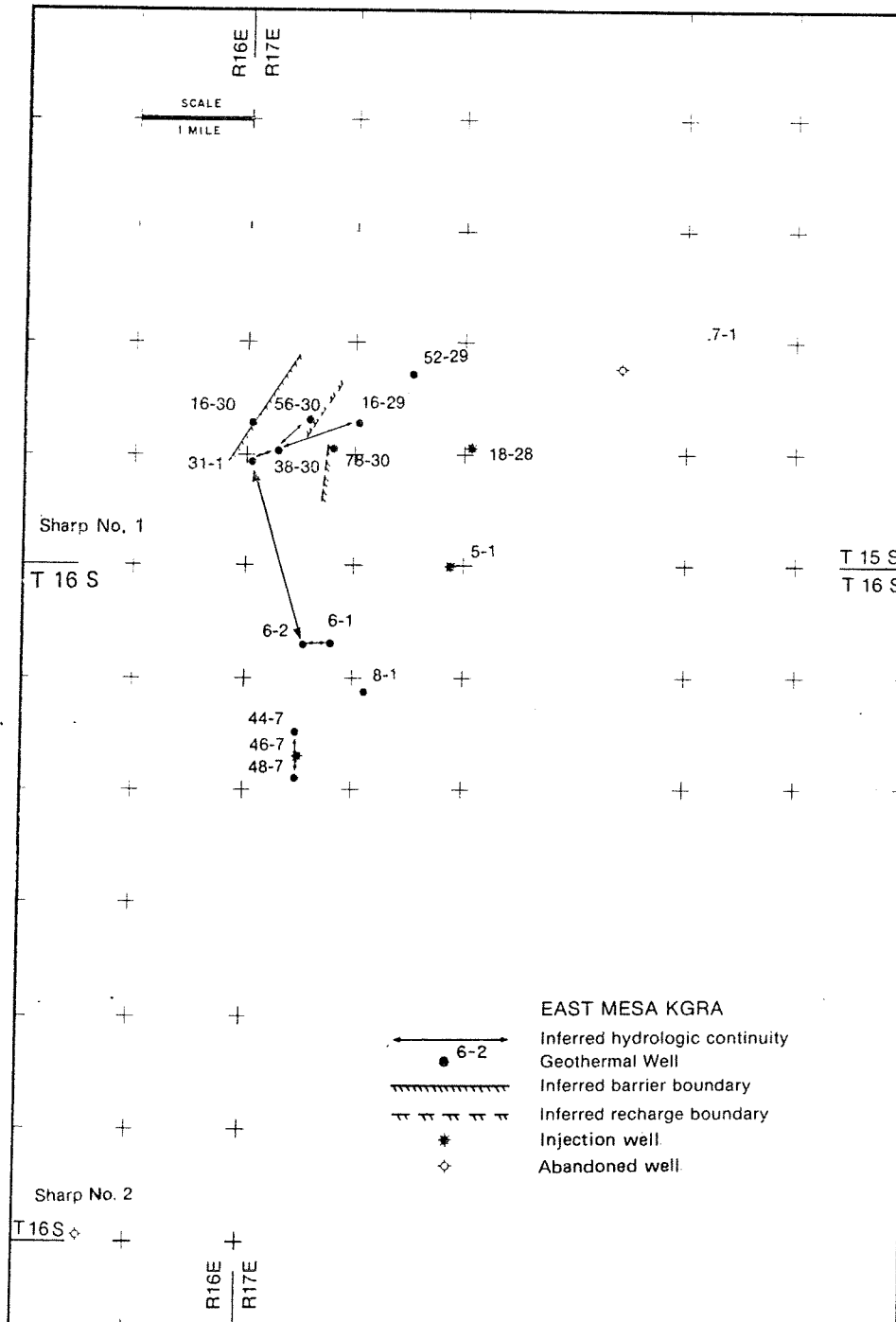
from these tests show that the transmissivity ( $kh/\mu$ ) ranges from about 100,000 to 160,000 md-ft/cp in the central and northern portions of the field (USBR) to possibly 250,000 md-ft/cp in the southern portion (Magma). Since the viscosity ranges from 0.18 to 0.2, the high and low values of the permeability thickness ( $kh$ ) are ~50,000 md-ft and ~18,000 md-ft, respectively. Because the highest value was obtained from sparse data, it would be prudent to use ~30,000 md-ft as an optimistic mean value for  $kh$ . When the short-term production data are analyzed, the value of  $kh/\mu$  are consistently lower than the interference values. This is probably due to a combination of several complicating factors associated with the well-test analyses. These factors include: wellbore damage; partial penetration; partial hydrological barriers (shale layers, closed factors, etc.); leaky caprock; and shale dewatering. None of these are included in the analyses from which our estimates are derived. The most important effects are probably due to the well damage, partial penetration, and hydrological inhomogeneities.

An estimate of the hydrological continuity is presented in Figure 3.2 and shows possible isolation of well 16-30 from the remainder of the field, and apparent isolation of wells 8-1 and 44-7 from 6-1. The general picture is one of localized barriers and recharge regions, which might be associated with the numerous local features seen in Figures 1.8 to 1.10 of this report.

The parameter that is related to the amount of fluid stored is the quantity  $\phi ch$ , sometimes referred to as storativity. To obtain a value of storativity from production tests using our existing analysis methods, the well must not have any damage--or skin. For the USBR East Mesa wells, this requirement is not met and the estimates for  $\phi ch$  from interference tests vary widely. The most estimates from tests that had the least complications give a range of  $\phi ch$  from  $6 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $6 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi.

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Figure 3.2. Schematic of hydrologic continuity among wells at the East Mesa KGRA. The values of transmissivity (md-ft/cp) are from interference tests.

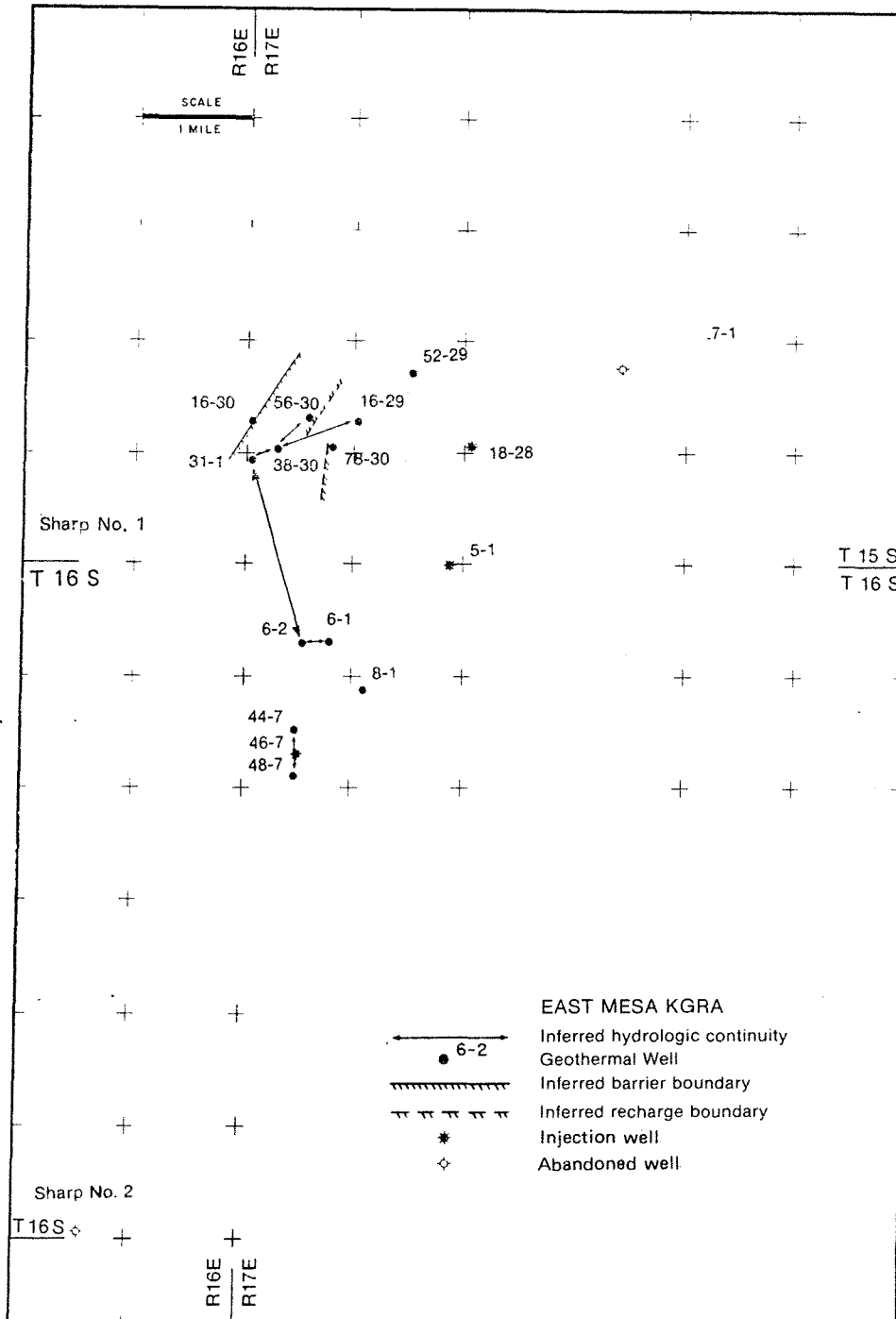
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## SECTION 4: RESERVOIR SIMULATION

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### INTRODUCTION

This chapter is concerned with certain aspects of the deliverability, at the surface, of the East Mesa geothermal resource in connection with the Colorado River augmentation scheme proposed by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The primary purpose of the project is to produce fresh water and to use the thermal energy contained in the geothermal fluids for desalination and system operation. In order to optimize system efficiency and cost benefits, the desalting operation requires maximum volume of fluids at maximum temperature. Basically, the simulation studies address the following questions posed by USBR. Will the part of the East Mesa reservoir underlying USBR's lands be able to yield: 100,000 acre-ft/yr of water; 50,000 acre-ft/yr of water; or 25,000 acre-ft/yr of water?

As will become apparent in the following pages, the answer to the question of whether a reservoir can yield water at a certain rate is very much related to economics. Therefore, the final answer can be arrived at only after a detailed economic analysis, duly considering the response of the reservoir to various extraction strategies. The purpose of this simulation study is to provide the relevant reservoir engineering input needed for economics analysis. The actual economics study, however, is beyond the scope of this work.

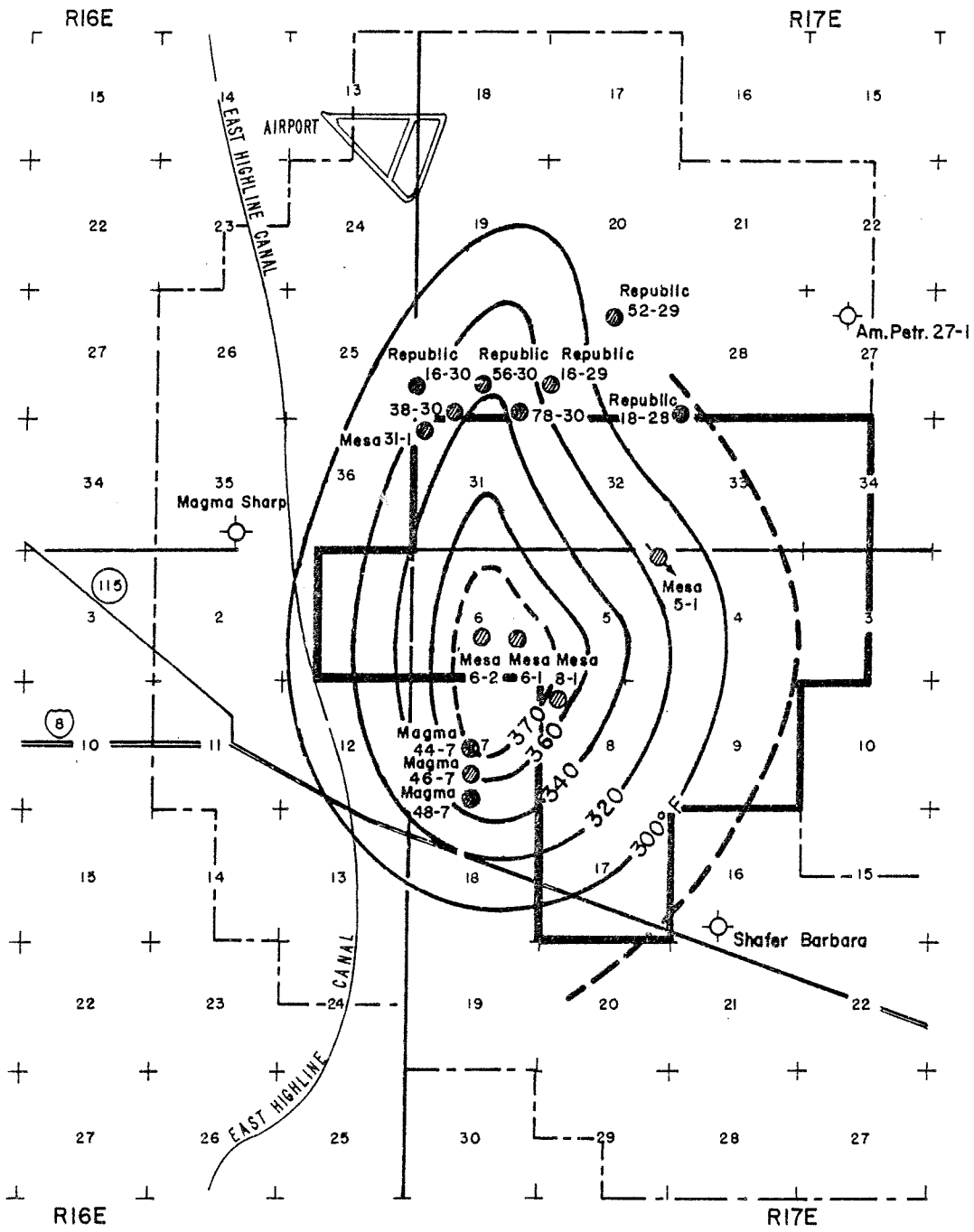
In charging LBL with the task of answering the above questions, USBR stated the following additional conditions:

- fluid production is to be achieved by downhole pumping, if needed;
- the reservoir will be replenished by injection of Salton Sea water;
- at the wellhead, water will have heat content equivalent to that of 300°F water; and
- the reservoir shall remain single-phase (water).

Inasmuch as the task of the present study is to provide technical input for an overall decision-making process, LBL and USBR decided on the following approach. Based on the available knowledge of the East Mesa geothermal reservoir, a favorable set of reservoir parameters will be assumed. For the assumed favorable conditions, the response of an idealized reservoir under different production and injection scenarios will be computed and the results so obtained will then be presented, along with a discussion of their implications with reference to various important economic factors.

Within the East Mesa Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA), USBR owns about 6720 acres (Figure 4.1), about 40% of which overlies relatively colder regions of the reservoir (if we consider the 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth). Also, as seen from Figure 4.1, hotter portions of the reservoir extend beyond the limits of USBR's lands, toward the north, northwest, and southwest. Much valuable reservoir data have been collected from these parts of the reservoir lying outside USBR's holdings. In carrying out the simulations, therefore, we will also consider those parts of reservoir extending beyond USBR's lands and interpolate the results to evaluate the potential of the latter. Considering this larger area is also meaningful when studying the peripheral injection scenario, since sweeping heat by peripheral injection has to be planned for the reservoir as a whole rather than for any portion of the reservoir. In particular, we will consider for simulation the area enclosed within the 300°F isotherm at a depth of 6000 ft below surface (Figure 4.1), as given by TRW/Intercomp (1976). Additionally, we will consider the area enclosed by the 300°F isotherm at 7000 ft, as given in Figure 1.1 of this report. According to our current knowledge, these two cases include a substantial portion of the East Mesa reservoir. However, if further exploration should extend the isotherms beyond these limits, then the potential of the reservoir will indeed increase.

The material in this section will be organized as follows. First, we will set forth the factors that are most relevant from the point of view of reservoir economics. Then, we will state the assumptions used in the simulations and describe the different methods employed



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Figure 4.1. Map of USBR leaseholds at East Mesa. Solid contours show the isotherm at 6000-ft depth; dashed contour shows the 300°F isotherm at 7000-ft depth.

in the computations. Last, we will present our results and discuss their implications.

#### FACTORS RELEVANT TO ECONOMICS

As water is produced from a geothermal reservoir, the fluid pressure within the reservoir falls. The decline in the fluid pressure is a direct function of the production rate. Many of the economic factors of interest concern the functional relationship between flow rate and pressure decline, since there are technical and economic limits to the pressure declines that may be acceptable. Furthermore, when one seeks to inject relatively cold water into the geothermal reservoir, in order to either minimize pressure declines or sweep heat energy contained in the rock matrix, the colder water will eventually reach the producing well, causing a deterioration in the production-well temperature. Therefore, there are several economic factors related to the parameters governing the breakthrough of the injected water to the production well. The various factors that govern the production vs pressure-decline relationship and the breakthrough of the injected water are discussed below.

The factors that affect the relationship of production to pressure decline include: the number of wells (production or injection) and their depth; their spacing and pattern; the flow rate or injection rate per well; the depth at which deep-well pumps have to be set to attain the desired flow rate; and the energy required to lift water from depth or inject water under pressure. In regard to the breakthrough of the injected fluid at the production well, the important factors include the thermal breakthrough of the colder fluid and the hydrodynamic breakthrough. The term hydrodynamic breakthrough denotes the physical arrival of the injected water at the production well. In a groundwater mining problem such as this one, hydrodynamic breakthrough is of fundamental importance. In this case, the Salton Sea water, which is to be used for injection, is of much poorer quality than the reservoir fluid, which is to be extracted to augment the Colorado River.

The reservoir parameters that are crucial to the pressure-decline vs flow-rate relationship include: the permeability of the reservoir,

k; the thickness of the reservoir, H; the total compressibility of the reservoir material,  $c_T$ ; the porosity of the reservoir rock,  $\phi$ ; viscosity of the flowing water,  $\mu$ ; geometry of the reservoir; the flow rate, Q; the diameter of the well, d; and the boundary and initial conditions of the reservoir. The parameters critical to breakthrough include flow rate, Q; porosity,  $\phi$ ; thickness of the reservoir, H; thermal conductivity of the reservoir rock,  $K_r$ ; specific heat of the rock,  $c_r$ ; and specific heat of water,  $c_f$ .

The different factors of interest and the various reservoir parameters considered in the simulations to study those factors are presented in Table 4.1.

A reservoir simulation study, somewhat similar to the present study, was carried out by Intercomp, Inc., as a subcontractor to TRW, which in turn was a subcontractor to the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. The study, however, was focussed more toward energy extraction than groundwater mining. The results of the Intercomp study are presented in the report by TRW/Intercomp (1976).

#### ASSUMPTIONS

The validity of the present study is intimately related to the various assumptions that need to be made in setting up the simulation model. These assumptions fall into the following categories:

- limits of the production-well field,
- limits of the geothermal reservoir,
- reservoir properties,
- fluid properties, and
- other assumptions.

In accordance with the approach to the problem set forth in the Introduction, we will choose a favorable set of model assumptions.

#### Limits of the Production-Well Field

As already mentioned, we will consider an area much larger than the lands controlled by USBR and interpolate from the results in order to evaluate the potential of USBR's holdings. Accordingly, we will consider two cases: one in which all the production wells are uniformly distributed within the 300°F isotherm at a depth of 6000 ft below ground level, and the other in which they are uniformly distributed within the 300°F isotherm at a depth of 7000 ft. The first case will imply that the wells have a mean depth of 6000 ft while the second will imply a mean depth of 7000 ft.

#### Limits of the Geothermal Reservoir

For this study we will assume that the reservoir is homogeneous, horizontal, and extends infinitely beyond the 300°F isotherm. This assumption implies that the reservoir has unlimited supplies of stored fluids. This is a favorable assumption from the point of view of providing pressure support during production. To the north of USBR's holdings, interference tests have indicated the presence of one or more "barrier" boundaries of unknown continuity. Within USBR's holdings, interference tests have suggested the possible existence of a "leaky" boundary (Figure 3.2). The disposition of this boundary, however, is difficult to establish. If such a boundary indeed exists, it would provide additional pressure support to production.

Although the reservoir is assumed to be infinite in lateral extent, we will assume that it is vertically bound by impermeable and insulated surfaces. This implies that there is no leakage of water into the reservoir from strata located above or below it. This assumption is reasonable since the interference tests conducted so far have not suggested the presence of an extensive source of leakage, apart from the possibility of a leaky boundary within USBR's holdings already mentioned.

Based on regional geological and geophysical studies, some workers have hypothesized the influx of water into the reservoir from depths through large vertical faults acting as conduits (Goyal, 1978). However, well tests conducted so far have not established the existence of such a regional phenomenon. Although it is conceivable that such a mechanism



Table 4.1. Factors relevant to economics and the parameters used in the simulations.

Number of wells	15, 30, 60, 120
Mean depth	6000 ft; 7000 ft
Pattern	No injection; peripheral injection, and five-spot
Spacing	Wells located within 300°F isotherm at 6000 ft Wells located within 300°C isotherm at 7000 ft
Flow rate:	
Per well (gpm)	250; 500; 1000; 2000
Total	100,000 acre-ft/yr 50,000 acre-ft/yr 25,000 acre-ft/yr
Injected water	100% volumetric injection 90% volumetric injection 80% volumetric injection

Table 4.2. Model assumptions used in the reservoir simulations.

Reservoir geometry	Areally infinite, homogeneous, uniform thickness, bounded on top and bottom by impermeable, insulated boundaries
Material properties	$kH = 30,000$ md-ft $\phi c_r H = 0.001$ ft/psi $\phi = 0.1; 0.2$ $H = 1000, 1500; 2000$ ft $\rho_r = 2650$ kg/m <sup>3</sup> $c_r = 200$ cal/kg°C
Properties of the fluid	Produced water $\rho_w = 920$ kg/m <sup>3</sup> $\mu = 0.2$ cp $c_w = 830$ cal/kg°C
Temperature of water	Produced water = 360°F (182°C) Injected water = 167°F (75°C)
Initial conditions	Hydrostatic

may be operative on a regional, geological time frame, its importance to the present study does not appear to be significant.

The assumption of the existence of insulated boundaries implies that there is no influx of heat into the system from outside. Although the possibility that some heat influx from the bottom exists, little quantitative information is currently available. Whatever heat influx may take place from below will be beneficial in that it will tend to retard the thermal breakthrough times.

In this analysis, we will also ignore the effects of the layers of fine-grained material (clays, silts, shales) that may occur within the reservoir. These interbeds will have two different effects on reservoir response. First, they will drain fluids from storage far more slowly than the sands and experience a more gradual pressure drop than the sands. In shallow groundwater systems fine-grained materials will gradually consolidate, frequently leading to ground subsidence. At East Mesa, however, little is known at present about the compressibility of the fine-grained interbeds within the reservoir. Therefore, no attempt has been made to include these interbeds in the simulations.

The second effect that the interbeds have on the reservoir response relates to extractable energy. During the process of fluid energy production, these interbeds will release the energy stored in them to the produced fluids by conduction. The energy so released will have to retard thermal breakthrough times. In the simulations, the presence of the interbeds has been ignored.

#### Reservoir Properties

Perhaps the most important parameter governing the pressure vs. flow-rate relationship is  $kH$ , the product of reservoir permeability and thickness. Several production and interference tests conducted so far (Tables 3.4 through 3.6) have shown that within the general area of USBR's holdings, the  $kH$  varies from 11,000 to 20,000 md-ft.\* To the north, in the general area of Republic Geothermal Incorporated's holdings,

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\* See Appendix D, Conversion Tables, for alternate units.

the  $kH$  product varies from 23,000 to 35,000 md-ft. In the present study, we will assume a  $kH$  value of 30,000 md-ft. This assumption is optimistic with reference to USBR's holdings.

The storativity parameter,  $\phi c_t H$ , is a measure of the ability of the reservoir to release water from storage due to decline in pore pressures. The well tests conducted at East Mesa (Tables 3.4 through 3.6) have yielded a range of  $6 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $6 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi for  $\phi c_t H$ . For purposes of simulation, we will use a value of  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi. When the flow field goes to a steady state or a quasi-steady state, as will be the case when 100% volumetric injection is considered, the storativity parameter loses importance and the pressure behavior is independent of  $\phi c_t H$ . Hence the assumption of  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi for storativity is a reasonable one.

In studying the hydrodynamic and thermal breakthroughs under injection scenarios, the parameters  $\phi$  and  $H$  are important. Unfortunately, these parameters are hard to estimate from well tests and have to be estimated from borehole geophysical and lithological logs. These estimates are subject to considerable uncertainty since very little information is available on the disposition of the sand zones and other intervals that primarily transmit water within the reservoir. For this reason, we will not choose a unique set of  $\phi$  and  $H$  values to characterize the reservoir. Instead we will choose a few plausible combinations of these parameters. Thus we will consider values of 10% and 20% for  $\phi$  and 1000, 1500, and 2000 ft for reservoir thickness,  $H$ .

In regard to the thermal properties of the reservoir rocks, we will assume a thermal conductivity ( $K_r$ ) of  $4.5 \times 10^{-3}$  cal/cm·sec $^{\circ}$ C for the sandstones comprising the reservoir. As given by Kappelmeyer and Haenel (1974), the thermal conductivity of sandstones ranges from 5 to  $12 \times 10^{-3}$  cal/cm·sec $^{\circ}$ C. Although the assumed value is slightly smaller than the lower limit given by Kappelmeyer and Haenel, it will tend to reduce the spread of the thermal-breakthrough profile and hence will yield a slightly optimistic estimate of the thermal-breakthrough time. Furthermore, during fluid production, the reservoir will be dominated by forced convection and hence conduction effects will be very small. In the simulations, the reservoir rock was assumed to

have a density of  $2.65 \text{ gm/cm}^3$  and a specific heat of  $0.2 \text{ cal/g}^\circ\text{C}$ , both of which correspond to the mean values available in the literature.

#### Fluid Properties

Fluid density, viscosity, and specific heat are three parameters of the fluid that are required for the simulations. For these quantities, we will assume values of  $0.92 \text{ g/cm}^3$ ,  $0.2 \text{ cp}$ , and  $0.83 \text{ cal/g}^\circ\text{C}$ , respectively, all of which correspond to the properties of water at approximately  $340^\circ\text{F}$ . The conductivity of water is in general negligible and hence is ignored.

#### Other Assumptions

We will assume that the wells are perfect hydraulic systems. In other words, there will be no "well losses" at the production or injection wells due to degradation of the near-well environment. This assumption is optimistic since, during long-term operation of geothermal wells at large flow rates, increased pressure losses are likely at the wellbore due to such varied causes as scaling, plugging, corrosion, and turbulence. For purposes of simulation, we will assume that the wells have a diameter of 1 ft.

The temperature of the injected water is taken to be  $167^\circ\text{F}$ . In point of fact, the Salton Sea water, which is to be used for injection, will be much colder than  $167^\circ\text{F}$ . Since water viscosity increases with decreasing temperature and increased viscosity retards water movement, the assumption of higher injection temperature will lead to optimistic estimates of pressure declines or buildup.

In all the simulations, the reservoir was assumed to be initially under hydrostatic condition and at a uniform temperature of  $360^\circ\text{F}$ . The various model assumptions are given in Table 4.2.

#### METHODS OF ANALYSIS

The simulations carried out fall into three categories. These include: pressure transient, thermal breakthrough, and wellbore thermodynamic calculations. The methods used in each of these are discussed below.

### Pressure-Transient Calculations

A majority of these calculations were made with a technique that essentially superposes the analytical solution of radial flow to a single well in a homogeneous, infinite aquifer. The computer program implementing this technique is called MAXDRAW. As a check of these calculations, some of the scenarios considered were repeated using an independent numerical technique embodied in a computer program called TERZAGI. It is pertinent here to briefly describe these two techniques.

The central equation in program MAXDRAW is the exponential integral solution,

$$\Delta p = 2420.666 \frac{Q_L \mu}{kH} W(u) \quad (1)$$

where  $\Delta p$  is pressure drawdown in psi;

$Q_L$  is liquid rate of production in gpm;

$\mu$  is dynamic coefficient of viscosity in cp;

$k$  is permeability in md;

$H$  is reservoir thickness in ft.

In Eq. (1),  $W(u)$  is the exponential integral, defined by

$$W(u) = \int_u^{\infty} \frac{e^{-u}}{u} du \quad (2)$$

in which

$$u = 56,887.45 \left( \frac{\phi \mu c_t H r^2}{k H t} \right) \quad ; \quad (3)$$

$\phi$  is porosity;

$c_t$  is total compressibility, vol/vol per psi;

$r$  is distance to point of observation, in ft, from the producing well; and

$t$  is time in min.

As given in Eq. (1),  $\Delta p$  is the pressure drawdown at a distance  $r$  from the producing well at time  $t$ . By convention,  $Q_{\ell}$  is positive for production and negative for injection. When several production and injection wells operate simultaneously in a well field, the pressure drawdown at a desired point in the field at time  $t$  can be computed by adding the effect of each well at that point according to Eq. (1). Thus, for a well field with  $N$  wells, the superposition principle yields,

$$\Delta p = 2420.666 \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{Q_{\ell, i} \mu}{kH} W(u_i) \quad (4)$$

where

$$u_i = 56,887.45 \frac{\phi c_t H \mu r_i^2}{kHt} \quad (5)$$

and the subscript  $i$  denotes the  $i^{\text{th}}$  well.

The program assumes constant values of  $kH$ ,  $\phi c_t H$ ,  $\mu$ , and  $Q_{\ell}$ , although it can handle variable flow rates. Other input data to the program include the parameters  $r_i$  and  $t$ .

The superposition principle can be extended to handle barrier or leaky boundaries, which may be idealized as vertical planes cutting the reservoir. Such boundaries can be treated as planes of reflection giving rise to image wells. The simulation then reduces to superposing the effects of real and image wells.

As a check on this model, consider a well fully penetrating a homogeneous, areally infinite, horizontal reservoir, with  $kH = 30,000$  md-ft,  $\phi c_t H = 1 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi, and with water viscosity of 0.2 cp. The well produces at the rate of 500 gpm. For these conditions, program MAXDRAW was used to compute drawdowns at two different points 500 and 1000 ft from the producing well. The drawdowns so computed are presented in Figure 4.2, as a log-log plot of  $t/r^2$  vs  $\Delta p$ . As shown in the figure, the computed data agree extremely well with the analytical solution. If one were to use the computed drawdowns and back-compute  $kH$  and  $\phi c_t H$ , the results (as indicated in Figure 4.2) would be  $kH = 30,260$  md-ft

and  $\phi_{ct}H = 1.01 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi, which agrees with the known values within limits of graphical errors.

Some of the pressure transient calculations were also carried out with a numerical model called TERZAGI, partly as an additional check on MAXDRAW calculations and partly to carry out other calculations (e.g., viscosity effects, skin effects) that could not be carried out with MAXDRAW. Program TERZAGI, which was developed from the code TRUMP (Edwards, 1969), employs an Integrated Finite Difference Method (IFDM) in conjunction with an iterative technique to simulate transient fluid flow in multidimensional systems. Computations validating this approach in regard to the exponential integral solution and other problems have been presented by Narasimhan and Witherspoon (1976) and will not be repeated here.

Briefly stated, the program applies the equation of mass conservation to a multidimensional flow region with complex geometry, heterogeneity, and initial conditions in which the material properties may vary with fluid pressures and the boundary conditions may vary with time. In order to solve a specific problem, the flow region is first divided into a convenient number of subregions (volume element). Over each subregion, the fluid pressure (or equivalently, fluid potential) does not vary too rapidly, so that one could associate an "average" value of fluid pressure and other properties with each such volume element. The average value is thus specified at a representative nodal point within the volume element. Having done this, the computer program is used to conserve mass within each volume element as a function of time according to the general equation,

$$G_{V,\ell} + \int_{\Gamma} \frac{k}{\mu} (\rho_w g \nabla z + \nabla P) \cdot \vec{n} d\Gamma = \rho_w V_{\ell} \phi_{ct} \frac{Dp}{Dt} \quad (6)$$

As indicated by Narasimhan and Witherspoon (1976), the surface integral can be split up to handle boundary conditions while the pressure term within the integrand on the left-hand side will duly account for the initial conditions.

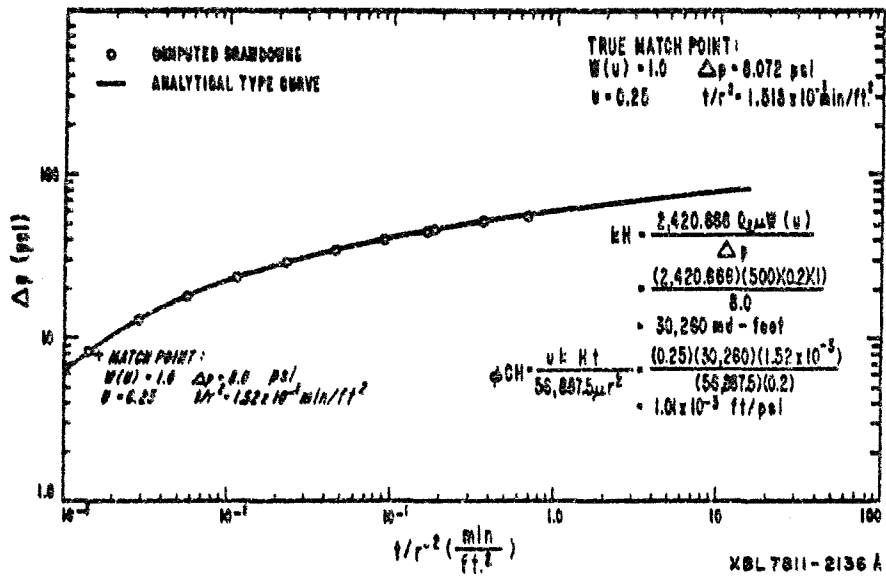


Figure 4.2. Verification of program MAXDRAW. Comparison of computed drawdowns with analytical solution.

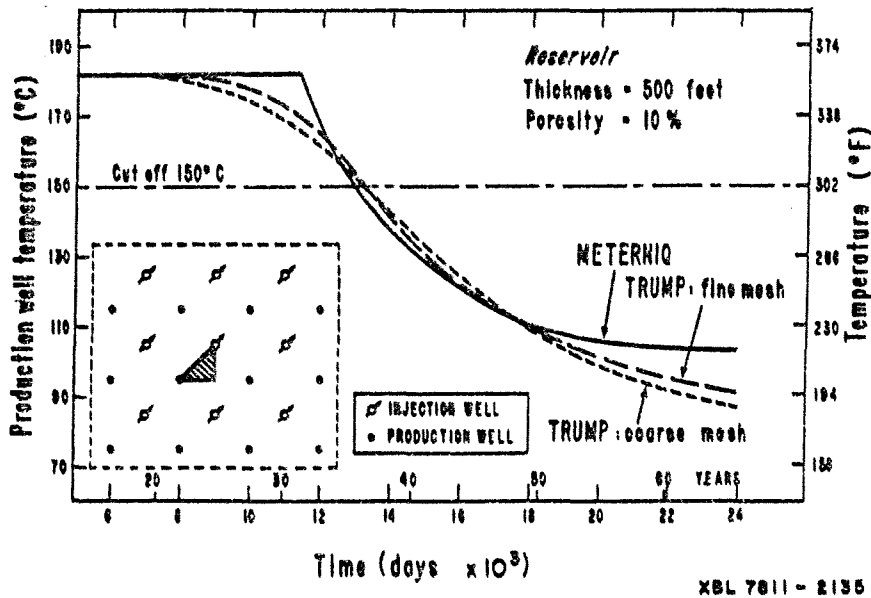


Figure 4.3. Thermal breakthrough calculations for five-spot pattern. Comparison of METERNIQ and TRUMP results. Inset shows five-spot array: production wells; injection well.



### Thermal Breakthrough Calculations

Two techniques were used to compute thermal-breakthrough times under different production-injection scenarios. Both methods consider the transport of heat in a porous medium with a steady fluid-flow field, an assumption that is reasonable when considering 100% volumetric injection. The first of these methods, by Gringarten and Sauty (1975), is incorporated into a computer program called METERNIQ developed at the Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières (BRGM) in France. This method is based on computing the fluid velocity field within a prescribed number of stream tubes and transporting heat by pure convection along the stream tubes. In other words, heat conduction is neglected along the path of flow (plug flow). However, leakage of heat into the system (which consists of an areally infinite, horizontal, homogeneous reservoir) across the upper and lower boundaries can be accounted for as known source terms. When a number of wells produce or inject within the reservoir, the velocity field is evaluated by a technique of superposition, which is implemented within the computer program. Because it is based on analytic solution, METERNIQ can be efficiently used for considering well fields with a large number of wells, a task which is difficult with numerical models.

The second method involves the use of program TRUMP developed by Edwards (1969). While METERNIQ neglects heat conduction within the reservoir, TRUMP duly takes it into account. As a check on the METERNIQ calculations and to study the effects of heat conduction within the reservoir, some of the calculations relating to the five-spot pattern were repeated with TRUMP.

Consider an infinite array of production and injection wells distributed in a five-spot pattern (inset Figure 4.3). Under 100% volumetric injection, the flow field will attain steady state in a short time. Due to symmetry considerations, the heat-transport problem can be studied numerically by considering the shaded region in the inset in Figure 4.3, as was done using program TRUMP. For practical purposes, the infinite five-spot array can also be reasonably well simulated by METERNIQ by considering a reasonably large number of production and injection wells and directing attention to the results obtained

for the central portion of the array. A comparison of METERNIQ and TRUMP results is presented in Figure 4.3.

Specifically, the problem considered relates to a five-spot array with the injection and production wells separated by a distance of 2120 ft. The various input parameters were as follows:

Flow rate per well	1000 gpm
Production temperature	182°C
Injection temperature	75°C
Specific heat capacity of water	830 cal/kg°C
Density of water	920 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Density of rock	2650 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Specific heat capacity of rock	200 cal/kg°C
Thickness of reservoir	500 ft

The numerical simulation was carried out assuming the presence of a 6-in.-radius well, using two different meshes: a coarse mesh with 47 volume elements and a finer one with 261. The METERNIQ simulation was carried out with 40 stream tubes.

The results in Figure 4.3 show the variation of production-well temperature as a function of time. Note in this figure that both the coarse and the fine mesh give reasonably close results, indicating that discretization errors in the numerical model are fairly small. A comparison of METERNIQ and TRUMP results in the figure show different breakthrough times, as one would expect. Time of breakthrough is defined as the time at which production-well temperature starts to fall. Thus, due to the presence of heat conduction in the numerical model, temperature fall-off starts much earlier ( $\approx 23$  years) than in the other model, which neglects heat conduction in the reservoir ( $\approx 33$  years). However, the rate of temperature fall-off, once breakthrough is initiated, is more gradual in the presence of heat conduction than in the absence of it. Interestingly, if we look at the time taken for the production-well temperature to drop to 150°C ( $\approx 300^\circ\text{F}$ ), both cases (with or without heat conduction) agree very closely with each other. This example

establishes the reasonableness and validity of the two approaches in analyzing the problem of heat transport under steady fluid-flow conditions.

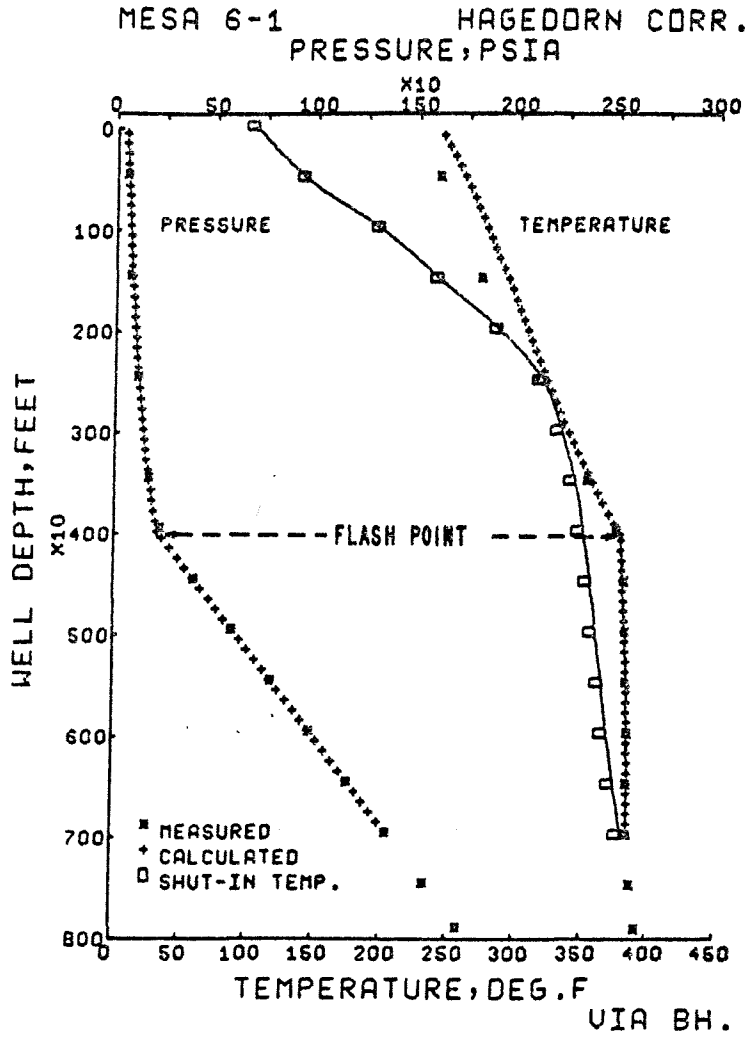
#### Wellbore Thermodynamics

The purpose of a geothermal wellbore model is to estimate, under conditions of reservoir pressure decline, the wellhead properties (pressure, temperature, enthalpy, steam quality) and the depth to the flash point within the well. Flash point denotes the pressure-temperature condition at which boiling is initiated and steam begins to form from the liquid.

The wellbore model used in the present study was developed by Juprasert and Sanyal (1977). It uses two-component, two-phase pressure-drop correlations that have been used for two-phase flow in oil and gas wells. This model is applied to the one-component, two-phase geothermal system, taking into account heat transfer from the wellbore to the surroundings, phase transfer (vapor-liquid equilibrium), hold up ("slip") that liquid and vapor may have at different velocities, and the possible existence of several flow regimes along the pipe for a given set of operating conditions. These are single-phase liquid flow, bubble flow, slug flow, transition flow, and annular mist flow. The model uses Duns and Ross (1963), Orkiszewski (1967), Beggs and Brill (1973), and Hagedorn and Brown (1965) correlations.

Given the sand-face flow rate; flowing bottom-hole temperature and pressure; the diameter, length, and friction factor of wellbore; and the static temperature profile and overall heat-transfer coefficient, the model calculates a continuous profile of the flowing pressure, temperature, enthalpy, and steam quality in the wellbore.

As an example of the application of the wellbore model, a simulation of the conditions in well 6-1 at East Mesa is presented in Figure 4.4. The simulation was an attempt to duplicate the tests conducted in January 1973 by USBR. During the tests, the well flowed at a constant rate of 250 gpm. The computed and measured flowing pressure, temperature, and shut-in temperature profiles are presented in Figure 4.4. The reasonable comparison between the calculated and measured profiles shows that the model is indeed a valid tool of analysis for the present study.



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Figure 4.4. Temperature and pressure regimes within well 6-1 at East Mesa. Comparison of computed and measured results.

## CASES STUDIED

A large number of possible production-injection scenarios were studied. The various cases were selected to quantitatively estimate the influence of the different system parameters on different economic factors, as summarized in Table 4.1.

The cases studied can be divided into three categories: pressure transient calculations, wellbore thermodynamics, and thermal breakthrough calculations. Under each of these categories the scenarios included: no-injection, peripheral-injection, and five-spot configurations. Within each of these scenarios, numerous cases were considered by varying the number of wells, well spacing, flow rates and other parameters. Table 4.3 is a summary of the various cases in the simulation studies.

## RESULTS OF SIMULATION

### Pressure Transient Calculations

The pressure transient calculations were carried out for two well-field limits. In the first, all the production wells were distributed within the 300°F isotherm inferred at the depth of 6000 ft (Figure 4.1). In the second, all the production wells were distributed within the 300°F isotherm inferred at a depth of 7000 ft Figure 1.29. In each case, the wells were distributed uniformly at equal spacing, in an idealized fashion. The spacing between the production wells varied depending on the number of wells. In general, the spacing for the 7000-ft case was 1.4 times the corresponding spacing for the 6000-ft case. The production-well spacing for the various cases is presented in Table 4.4.

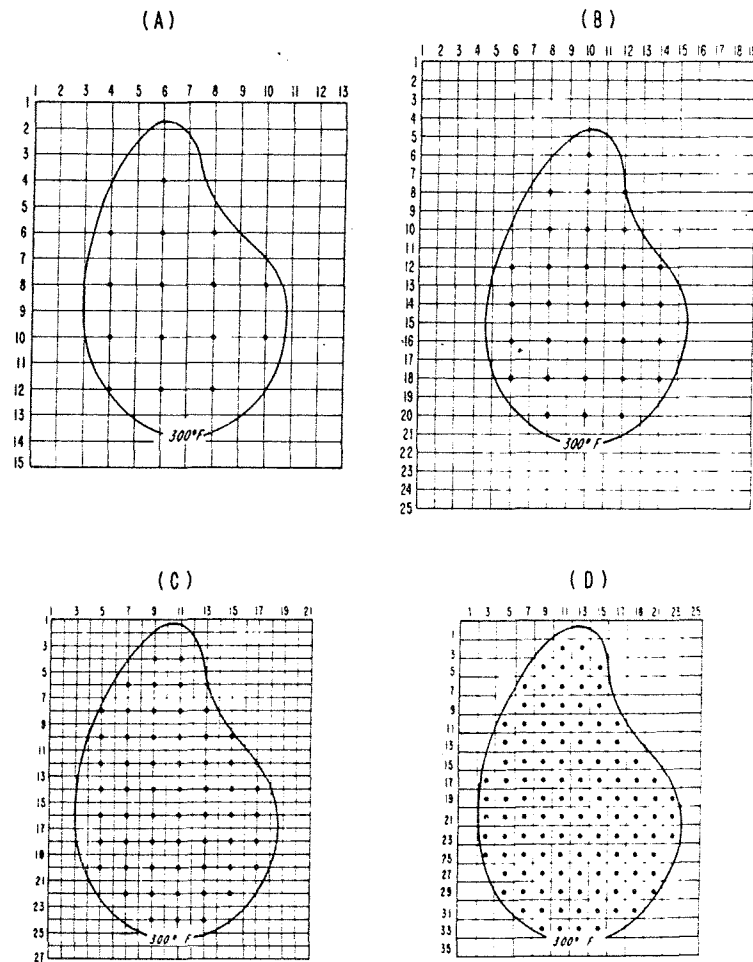
No injection. First consider the simplest case, assuming no reinjection. The configuration of the production wells for this case is illustrated in Figure 4.5, for 300°F isotherm at 6000 ft. As an example of the output obtained, Figure 4.6 shows the drawdowns computed at the different wells after 1.4 years for the 30-production-well case. In Figure 4.7 a contour map and an isometric view of the drawdown data are shown for the cases considered in Figure 4.6.

Table 4.3. Summary of the cases studied in the reservoir simulation.

PROBLEM TYPE	TECHNIQUE	NUMBER OF PRODUCTION WELLS	NO INJECTION				PERIPHERAL INJECTION				FIVE-SPOT PATTERN			OTHER			
			SPACING		FLOW RATE		NUMBER OF INJECTION WELLS	DISTANCE FROM THE NEAREST PRODUCTION TO THE INJECTION WELL (feet)	INJECTION RATE PER WELL (gpm)	PERCENTAGE INJECTION	NUMBER OF INJECTION WELLS	SPACING		PERCENTAGE INJECTION	VISCOSITY EFFECTS	WELL-BORE DAMAGE	EFFECT OF IMPERMEABLE BARRIER
			(feet)	(acres)	per well (gpm)	Total (acre-ft/yr)						(feet)	(acres)				
PRESSURE TRANSIENT	ANALYTICAL (MAXDPAN)	15	4,200	405	1,000 (2,000) (4,000)	25x10 <sup>3</sup> (50x10 <sup>3</sup> ) (100x10 <sup>3</sup> )	14	4,200	1,071.43 (2,142.86) (4,285.71)	100	15	2,970	203	100 90 80			One Impermeable Barrier Boundary.
		30	3,000	207	(500) 1,000 (2,000)	(25x10 <sup>3</sup> ) (50x10 <sup>3</sup> ) (100x10 <sup>3</sup> )	20,24	3,000;4,743.42	(750;625) 1,500;1,250 (3,000;2,500)	100	30	2,120	103	100 90 80			One Impermeable Barrier Boundary.
		60	2,100	100	(500) 1,000	(50x10 <sup>3</sup> ) (100x10 <sup>3</sup> )	27	2,100	(1,111.11) 2,222.22	100	60	1,405	51	100 90 80			One Impermeable Barrier Boundary.
		120	1,500	52	(500) 1,000	(100x10 <sup>3</sup> ) (200x10 <sup>3</sup> )	39	1,500	(1,538.46) 3,076.92	100	120	1,060	26	100 90 80			One Impermeable Barrier Boundary.
	Numerical (TERZAGI)	30 60									30 60	2,120 1,405	103 51	100 100	Studied Studied	Studied Studied	
WELL-BORE THERMO-DYNAMICS	WELL-BORE MODEL	Two cases were studied: I. a well representative of the central, hot portion of the reservoir, with the bottom-hole temperature of 367°F. II. a well representative of the peripheral, cooler portion of the reservoir, with the bottom-hole temperature of 320°F. Both cases were conducted with two different sizes of casing ID - 8.72; 11.15 inches, the flow rate of 1,000 gpm, and the bottom-hole pressure varied from 2,500 to 2,000 psi.															
THERMAL BREAK-THROUGH	METER-NIQ	β=10% H=1,000ft	30				20, 28	3,000	1,500 1,070	100	30	2,120	103	100			
		β=10% H=2,000ft	30				20, 28	3,000	1,500 1,070	100	30	2,120	103	100			
		β=20% H=1,000ft	30				20, 28	3,000	1,500 1,070	100	30	2,120	103	100			
		β=20% H=2,000ft	30				20, 28	3,000	1,500 1,070	100	30	2,120	103	100			
		TRUMP	30 60									30 60	2,120 1,485	103 51	100 100		

Table 4.4. Production-well spacing used in pressure-transient calculations for wells distributed within 300°F isotherm.

No. of wells	Well spacing (ft) at	
	6000-ft depth	7000-ft depth
15	4200	5880
30	3000	4200
60	2100	2940
120	1500	2100



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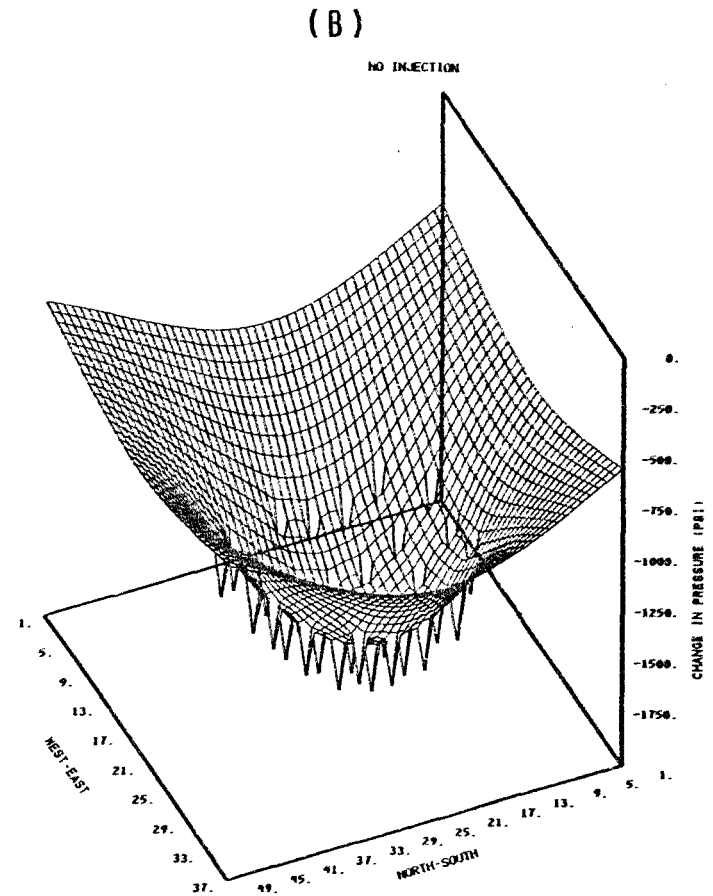
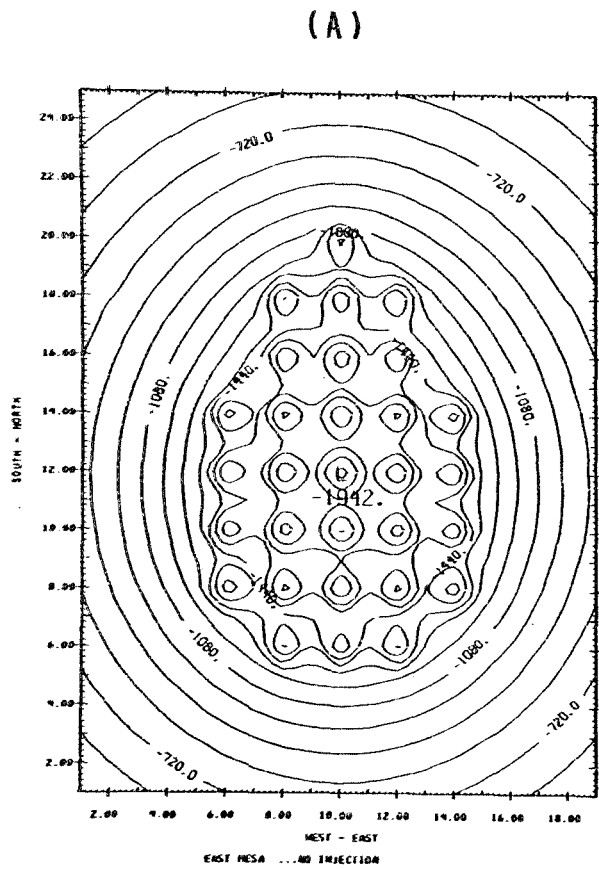
Figure 4.5. Distribution of wells within the 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth for the no-injection case: (A) 5, (B) 30, (C) 60, and (D) 120 production wells.

PRESSURE(PSI) DRAWDOWN(+) AND BUILDUP(-) AFTER 1.40 YEAR(S)																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	464	493	521	547	573	595	614	629	638	642	638	629	614	595	573	547	521	493	464
2	502	534	567	598	628	655	679	697	709	714	709	697	679	655	628	598	567	534	502
3	541	578	615	652	688	721	750	774	790	796	790	774	750	721	688	652	615	578	541
4	581	623	666	709	752	792	829	861	883	892	883	861	829	792	752	709	666	623	581
5	622	670	719	769	820	869	916	957	992	1009	992	957	916	869	820	769	719	670	622
6	662	716	772	831	890	951	1010	1063	1111	1379	1111	1063	1010	951	890	831	772	716	662
7	702	762	826	892	962	1035	1111	1181	1227	1252	1227	1181	1111	1035	962	892	826	762	702
8	740	806	877	953	1033	1118	1212	1538	1344	1605	1344	1538	1212	1118	1033	953	877	806	740
9	775	848	927	1011	1101	1196	1297	1388	1433	1456	1433	1388	1297	1196	1101	1011	927	848	775
10	807	886	972	1066	1167	1271	1379	1712	1520	1781	1520	1712	1379	1271	1167	1066	972	886	807
11	834	918	1012	1116	1230	1348	1449	1537	1580	1602	1580	1537	1449	1348	1230	1116	1012	918	834
12	855	944	1044	1156	1286	1656	1514	1834	1636	1896	1636	1834	1514	1656	1286	1156	1044	944	855
13	869	961	1065	1183	1316	1450	1545	1624	1663	1684	1663	1624	1545	1450	1316	1183	1065	961	869
14	875	969	1075	1195	1333	1710	1567	1883	1683	1941	1683	1883	1567	1710	1333	1195	1075	969	875
15	873	967	1073	1193	1328	1463	1557	1635	1672	1692	1672	1635	1557	1463	1328	1193	1073	967	873
16	862	955	1058	1176	1312	1685	1540	1854	1652	1910	1652	1854	1540	1685	1312	1176	1058	955	862
17	844	933	1032	1145	1272	1400	1490	1565	1600	1620	1600	1565	1490	1400	1272	1145	1032	933	844
18	819	902	995	1100	1221	1582	1430	1742	1539	1797	1539	1742	1430	1582	1221	1100	995	902	819
19	788	865	949	1042	1144	1248	1335	1410	1446	1465	1446	1410	1335	1248	1144	1042	949	865	788
20	752	821	896	977	1061	1146	1233	1547	1342	1599	1342	1547	1233	1146	1061	977	896	821	752
21	712	774	840	909	979	1049	1117	1176	1206	1220	1206	1176	1117	1049	979	909	840	774	712
22	671	726	783	841	899	956	1007	1048	1074	1083	1074	1048	1007	956	899	841	783	726	671
23	628	676	726	775	824	869	909	940	960	967	960	940	909	869	824	775	726	676	628
24	586	628	671	712	753	789	821	845	861	866	861	845	821	789	753	712	671	628	586
25	544	581	618	653	687	717	743	762	774	778	774	762	743	717	687	653	618	581	544

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Figure 4.6. Sample printout of drawdowns computed for the no-injection case showing 30 wells within 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth. Flow rate is 1000 gpm per well.





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Figure 4.7. Two-dimensional (A) and three-dimensional (B) plots of pressure drawdown contours for the no-injection case considered in Figure 4.6.

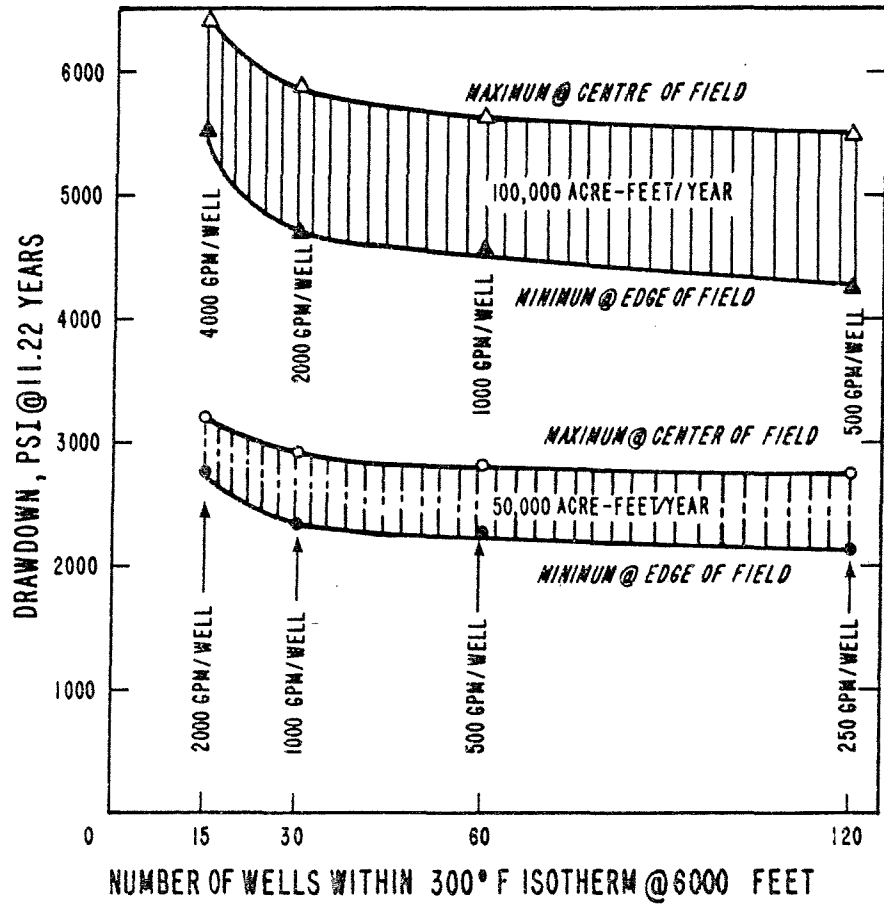
The results from all the different runs studied for the no-injection case are summarized in Figure 4.8. Since there is no replenishment by injection, the flow field will forever be nonsteady. The results in Figure 4.8 are presented at an arbitrary time of 11.22 years after production started. The banded regions indicate the range of drawdowns computed for the different parts of the well field. Note the following in Figure 4.8.

1. The computed drawdowns are consistently in excess of 2100 psi for the 50,000 acre-ft/yr case and 4250 psi for the 100,000 acre-ft/yr case. Although the 25,000 acre-ft/yr case is omitted in Figure 4.8 for clarity, the drawdowns for this case will be equal to 50% of the corresponding 50,000 acre-ft/yr run. If we consider that 1 psi is approximately equivalent to 2.5 ft of water, it immediately becomes apparent that for drawdowns in excess of 2000 psi, the flash-point depth in the well should drop below the top of the reservoir, initiating boiling within the reservoir, which will invalidate the basic single-phase assumption of the present study. Therefore, the actual significance of Figure 4.8 is to show that production has to be suitably scaled down if the reservoir is to sustain it. Conversely, if large production is forced on the reservoir, the production will eventually decline due to the inability of the reservoir to transmit enough fluids to match the discharge.

2. Both the drawdown bands are more or less horizontal when the number of wells is greater than or equal to 30. This simply shows that, by and large, withdrawal of water at a given total rate from an area will lead to approximately the same pressure drawdowns, irrespective of the number of wells.

In summary, then, for an annual flow rate of 25,000 acre-ft, one could expect average drawdowns of about 1250 psi in the production wells. For the 50,000 and the 100,000 acre-ft/yr cases, the drawdowns will be proportionately higher.

Peripheral injection. From the point of view of sweeping heat into the central portions of the well field, peripheral injection is a very good strategy. Several possible scenarios were considered in this regard. In the basic case, the injection wells were located beyond



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Figure 4.8. Summary of results for the no-injection case. Wells located within 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth. Drawdowns for 25,000 acre-ft omitted for clarity (see text).

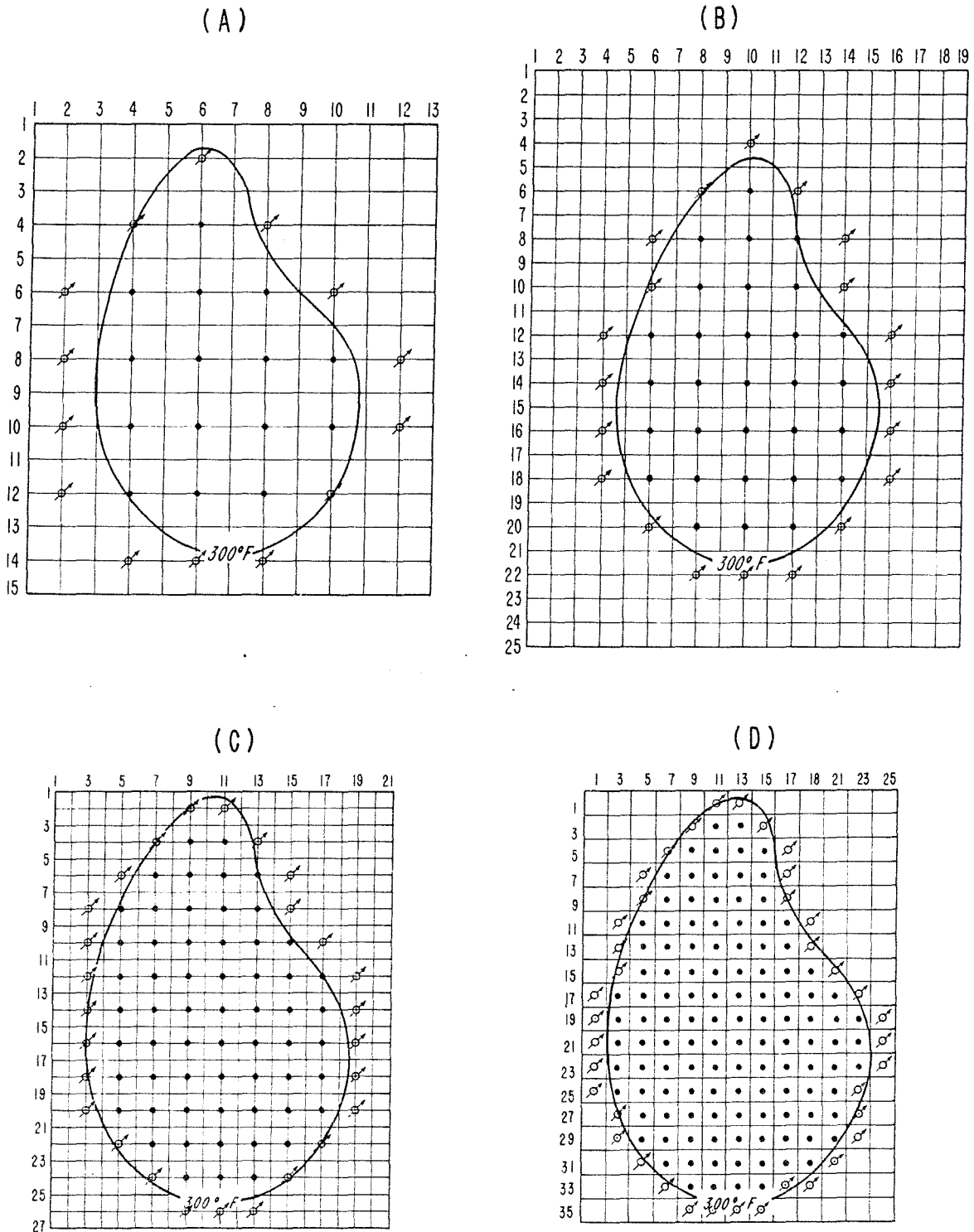
the outermost producing wells at a spacing equal to the production well spacing within the well field. We will call this case the close-in injection ring, as illustrated in Figure 4.9. Although this configuration leads to fewer injection wells, in order to assure 100% injection, the per-well injection flow rates have to be proportionately large.

In order to evaluate the effects of the proximity of the injection ring to the production wells, a few simulations were carried out with the injection wells located much farther away from the outermost production wells than is seen in Figure 4.9. A comparison of the results quickly showed that although moving the injection wells farther away increases thermal breakthrough times, it greatly reduces pressure support to wells within the reservoir. Since, in the present study, pressure drawdowns appear to be of greater concern than temperature breakthroughs, we will direct our attention primarily to the close-in peripheral injection case, which is more advantageous for reservoir pressure support than a more distant ring of injection wells.

A sample computer printout of the quasi-steady static pressure drawdowns and injection pressures in excess of the static pressures are presented in Figure 4.10 for the particular problem of 30 production and 20 injection wells within the 300°F isotherm at 6000 ft. A contour plot and an isometric view of the data from Figure 4.10 are shown in Figure 4.11.

A summary of the various cases studied is presented in Figure 4.12. In this figure, the drawdowns for the 25,000 acre-ft/yr case are omitted for clarity. The drawdowns for the 25,000 acre-ft/yr case will be 50% of the corresponding 50,000 acre-ft/yr case.

One can easily see from Figure 4.12(A) that for the 50,000 acre-ft/yr case, the average drawdowns decrease from about 950 psi for 15 production wells to about 300 psi for 120 production wells, while corresponding maximum drawdowns of 1000 to 700 psi could be expected in the central portions of the well field. These values are to be multiplied by a factor of 2 for the 100,000 acre-ft/yr case. Similarly, Figure 4.12(B) shows that for an annual injection rate of



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Figure 4.9. Configuration of production and injection wells for close-in peripheral injection. (A) 15, (B) 30, (C) 60, (D) 120 production wells. Production wells located within 300°F isotherms. at 6000-ft depths.

PRESSURE (PSI) DRAWDOWN (+) AND BUILDUP (-) AFTER 11.22 YEAR(S)																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	-6	-7	-9	-11	-14	-18	-22	-26	-30	-31	-30	-26	-22	-18	-14	-11	-9	-7	-6
2	-5	-6	-8	-10	-14	-18	-23	-30	-37	-41	-37	-30	-23	-18	-14	-10	-8	-6	-5
3	-4	-5	-6	-9	-12	-16	-23	-32	-47	-61	-47	-32	-23	-16	-12	-9	-6	-5	-4
4	-2	-3	-4	-6	-9	-13	-20	-29	-48	-428	-48	-29	-20	-13	-9	-6	-4	-3	-2
5	0	0	-1	-3	-5	-8	-15	-22	-7	-1	-7	-22	-15	-8	-5	-3	-1	0	0
6	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	-356	55	332	55	-356	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
7	4	5	5	4	1	6	47	96	148	178	148	96	47	6	1	4	5	5	4
8	6	8	11	12	5	-343	103	439	250	514	250	439	103	-343	5	12	11	8	6
9	8	12	17	24	32	60	163	271	326	352	326	271	163	60	32	24	17	12	8
10	9	13	21	37	60	-252	226	585	403	667	403	585	226	-252	60	37	21	13	9
11	9	11	16	36	103	194	304	406	459	484	459	406	304	194	103	36	16	11	9
12	8	9	5	-331	139	513	377	706	515	777	515	706	377	513	139	-331	5	9	8
13	7	8	10	41	164	308	413	500	544	566	544	500	413	308	164	41	10	8	7
14	6	7	7	-318	174	569	438	762	566	827	566	762	438	569	174	-318	7	7	6
15	5	6	10	46	176	327	433	518	559	581	559	518	433	327	176	46	10	6	5
16	4	4	2	-325	165	557	421	742	544	804	544	742	421	557	165	-325	2	4	4
17	4	3	2	29	146	283	380	459	498	518	498	459	380	283	146	29	2	3	4
18	4	2	-4	-347	114	477	327	642	442	700	442	642	327	477	114	-347	-4	2	4
19	4	4	5	19	75	149	236	316	352	371	352	316	236	149	75	19	5	4	4
20	6	7	12	22	35	-299	142	460	252	506	252	460	142	-299	35	22	12	7	6
21	6	8	12	17	21	30	65	95	115	120	115	95	65	30	21	17	12	8	6
22	6	7	9	12	14	15	7	-366	2	-361	2	-366	7	15	14	12	9	7	6
23	5	6	7	7	7	4	-7	-21	-20	-24	-20	-21	-7	4	7	7	7	6	5
24	4	4	4	4	3	0	-6	-12	-15	-16	-15	-12	-6	0	3	4	4	4	4
25	3	3	3	2	0	-1	-5	-9	-11	-11	-11	-9	-5	-1	0	2	3	3	3

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Figure 4.10. Sample printout of drawdowns and injection pressures in excess of static for close-in peripheral injection with wells within 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth. Negative numbers indicate injection pressure in excess of static pressure.

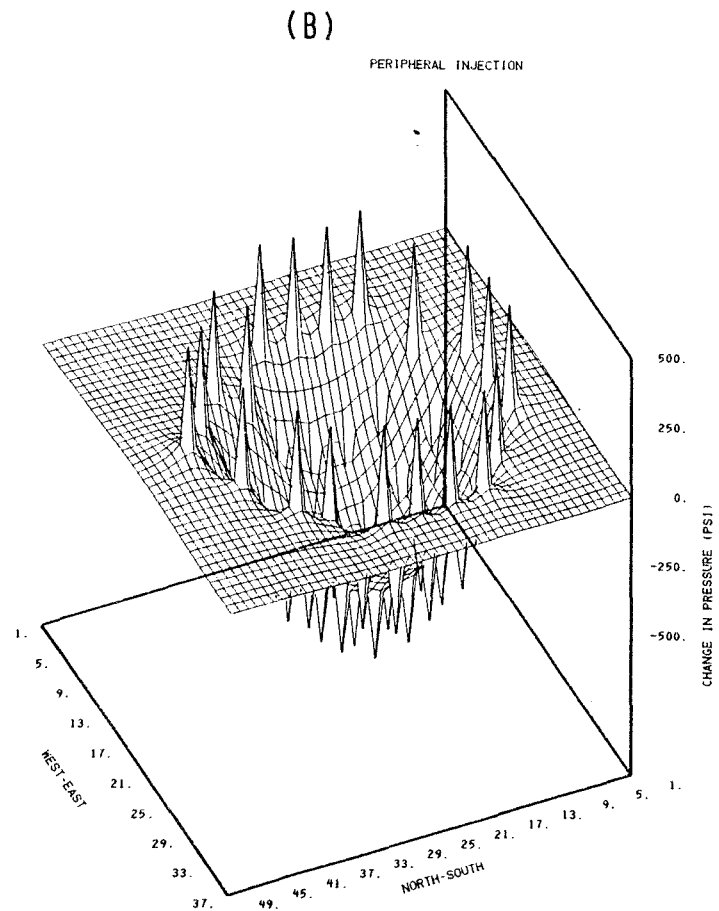
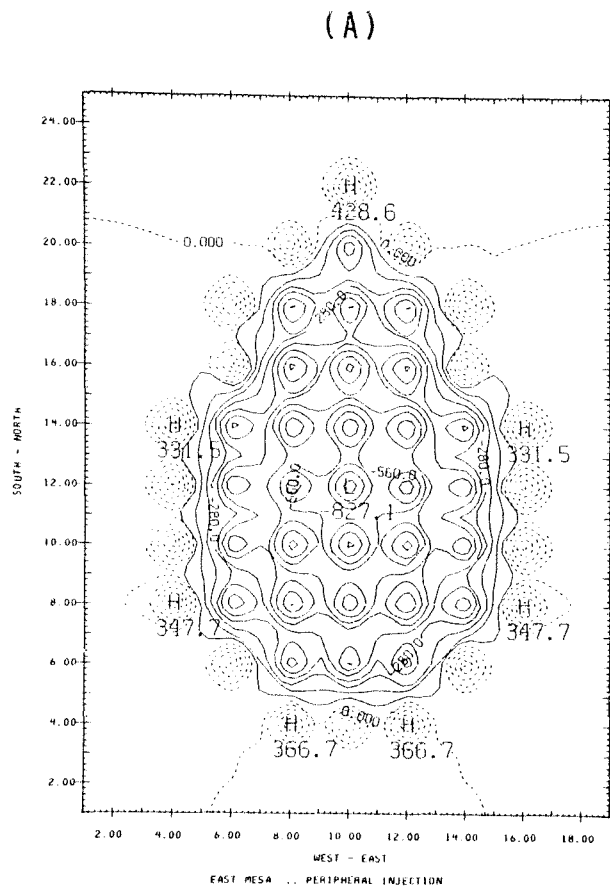
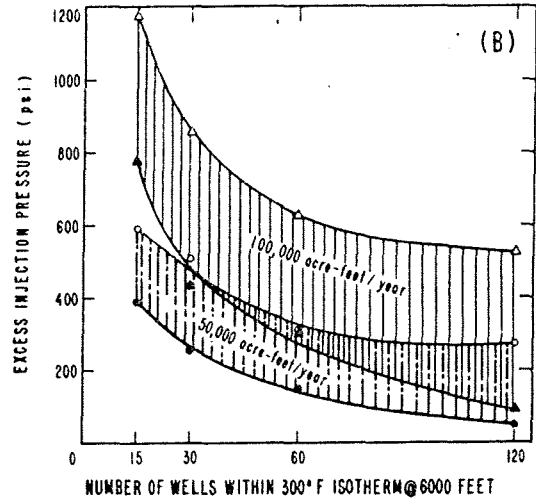
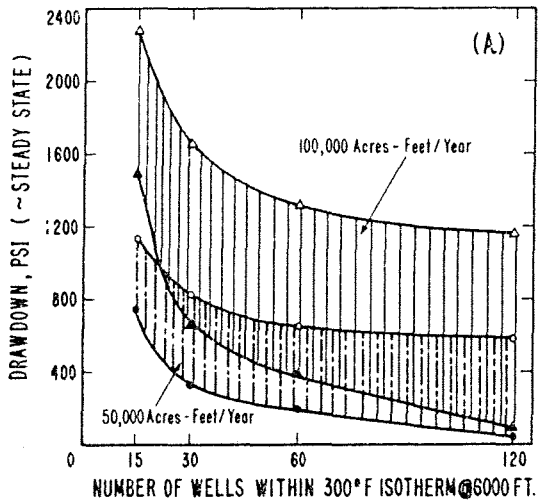


Figure 4.11. Two-dimensional (A) and three-dimensional (B) contour plots of the results shown in Figure 4.10 for peripheral injection.

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Table 4.5. Close-in peripheral injection case: comparison of drawdown ranges for production well within 300°F isotherm at 6000- and 700-ft depth. Total production is 50,000 acre-ft/yr in all cases.

No. of Wells	Minimum Drawdown				Maximum Drawdown			
	6000-ft depth		7000-ft depth		6000-ft depth		7000-ft depth	
	Spacing (ft)	Drawdown (psi)	Spacing (ft)	Drawdown (psi)	Spacing (ft)	Drawdown (psi)	Spacing (ft)	Drawdown (psi)
15	4200	748	5880	768	4200	1138	5880	1156
30	3000	332	4200	341	3000	827	4200	835
60	2100	196	2940	200	2100	660	2940	663
120	1500	43	2100	44	1500	580	2100	580



XBL 7811-2167

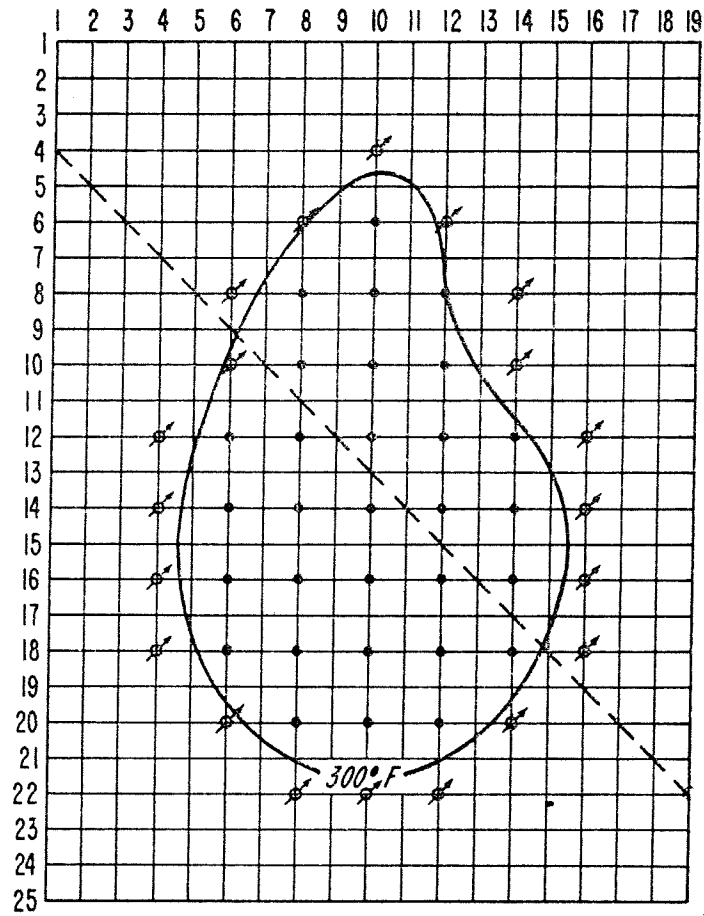
Figure 4.12. Summary of results for the close-in peripheral injection case. Production wells are within 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth. Drawdowns for 25,000 acre-ft/yr are omitted for clarity. (A) Drawdowns, (B) injection pressures in excess of static pressure.



50,000 acre-ft, the excess injection pressures over static pressures decrease from about 450 to about 150 psi, as the number of wells increases.

In another series of peripheral injection scenarios, the wells were distributed within the 300°F isotherm inferred at a depth of 7000 ft below land surface. Since the area enclosed by this isotherm is about 1.9 times the size of the area enclosed by the same isotherm at 6000 ft, the well spacing in this case had to be 1.4 times the spacing used in the other case (Figure 4.9). The results of these simulations are summarized in Table 4.5. These studies reveal that insofar as peripheral injection is concerned, enlarging the area with the same well-field configuration has no effect on the pressure distribution. As shown in Table 4.5, although the spacing between the production wells is increased when considering 300°F isotherm at 7000 ft (and hence interference effects should decrease), the injection wells are pushed farther back and the pressure support from them decreases. Quantitatively these two effects seem to complement each other exactly, so increased spacing of wells does not lead to reduction in drawdowns. As an added check on the calculations, a few of the simulations were repeated by increasing the spacing to 1.9 times that in Figure 4.9. These also gave almost the same results as are presented in Table 4.5.

In a third series of models, the possibility of a barrier boundary was considered. It is well known that wells located close to barrier boundaries will experience higher pressure drawdowns than would be the case if no barrier boundaries were present. In the case of peripheral injection, the actual location of the barrier and its orientation will have a great effect on the system response. However, inasmuch as we are simulating an idealized reservoir, let us consider the effect of a barrier trending northwest-southeast, as in Figure 4.13. In this case, the barrier divides the well field into two parts, each of which have 10 injection wells. Of the 30 production wells, the northern part has only 13 production wells and the southern block the remaining 17. The drawdown and excess injection pressures (over static pressure) calculated are presented in Figure 4.14. As can be seen from the figure (in comparison with Figure 4.10), the block to the south of the barrier is characterized in general by higher drawdowns and lower injection



XBL7810-2129

Figure 4.13. Effect of barrier boundary on close-in peripheral injection: disposition of the assumed boundary.

PRESSURE(P.S.I) DRAWDOWN(+) AND BUILDUP(-) AFTER 11.22 YEAR(S)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	-154	-158	-162	-166	-171	-177	-182	-189	-194	-198	-197	-195	-191	-188	-184	-181	-178	-175	-172
2	-158	-162	-166	-171	-176	-182	-190	-198	-208	-213	-211	-205	-200	-195	-191	-187	-184	-181	-178
3	-162	-166	-170	-175	-180	-187	-195	-207	-224	-240	-229	-215	-207	-202	-197	-194	-190	-187	-184
4	-170	-174	-178	-183	-189	-198	-209	-231	-614	-237	-220	-213	-207	-203	-200	-197	-193	-190	
5	166	-177	-181	-185	-189	-198	-207	-196	-194	-204	-221	-217	-211	-208	-206	-203	-200	-196	
6	171	178	-184	-187	-185	-188	-546	-138	132	-148	-565	-212	-212	-214	-212	-209	-206	-203	
7	176	183	191	-193	-183	-141	-96	-51	-28	-66	-123	-175	-218	-224	-219	-216	-213	-210	
8	180	188	197	206	-535	-81	247	46	298	25	207	-133	-582	-233	-225	-223	-221	-218	
9	184	193	203	215	224	-2	84	117	126	88	24	-88	-194	-221	-226	-230	-230	-227	
10	187	196	208	226	244	-86	399	183	426	147	319	-43	-524	-210	-230	-240	-241	-238	
11	189	197	206	229	295	381	489	217	221	180	118	11	-99	-186	-248	-261	-257	-250	
12	191	198	200	-132	342	722	597	948	487	207	390	58	196	-173	-635	-288	-274	-264	
13	193	200	210	248	379	534	654	763	834	197	150	63	-36	-172	-283	-302	-290	-277	
14	195	204	212	-104	399	808	694	1041	874	1173	376	53	192	-189	-667	-324	-306	-290	
15	196	206	219	266	408	574	699	806	876	930	945	4	-85	-217	-326	-340	-322	-302	
16	197	206	214	-101	401	809	692	1035	863	1153	930	1171	106	-262	-724	-366	-337	-313	
17	197	206	215	254	385	537	652	752	815	863	875	872	830	-321	-396	-383	-349	-321	
18	198	205	209	-121	353	731	598	933	754	1037	806	1037	755	945	-795	-400	-355	-323	
19	198	207	218	244	313	400	503	601	657	697	701	689	635	574	523	-386	-348	-319	
20	198	209	223	245	269	-52	404	738	546	819	583	811	512	86	431	414	-333	-310	
21	196	207	220	236	252	273	320	364	399	420	430	424	407	383	379	371	353	-297	
22	194	204	215	227	239	252	254	-106	274	-76	299	-57	325	341	342	336	326	311	
23	190	199	208	218	227	233	232	228	240	246	260	268	290	306	310	308	302	292	280
24	185	193	201	209	216	221	224	227	234	241	250	260	272	281	285	285	281	274	265
25	181	188	195	201	208	213	217	222	227	234	241	249	256	262	266	266	263	257	251

XBL 7811-2165

Figure 4.14. Effect of barrier boundary on close-peripheral injection.  
Sample printout of drawdowns.

pressures; the northern block is characterized by higher excess injection pressures and lower drawdowns. The presence of barriers tends to increase drawdowns and excess injection pressures. An isometric view of the results in Figure 4.14 are presented in Figure 4.15.

In summary, for peripheral injection, pressure drawdowns may vary from about 950 psi for 15 production wells to about 300 psi for 120 production wells for a total annual flow rate of 50,000 acre-ft. The pressure drawdowns can be directly scaled for 25,000 and 100,000 acre-ft/yr. Distributing the same number of wells over a larger area will not enhance pressure support. Finally, barrier boundaries, if present, will increase drawdowns and excess injection pressures.

Five-spot pattern. In a five-spot pattern, the injection wells are interspersed uniformly with production wells, as in Figure 4.16. Because of the proximity of production and injection wells, the five-spot pattern is perhaps the most beneficial for reservoir pressure support.

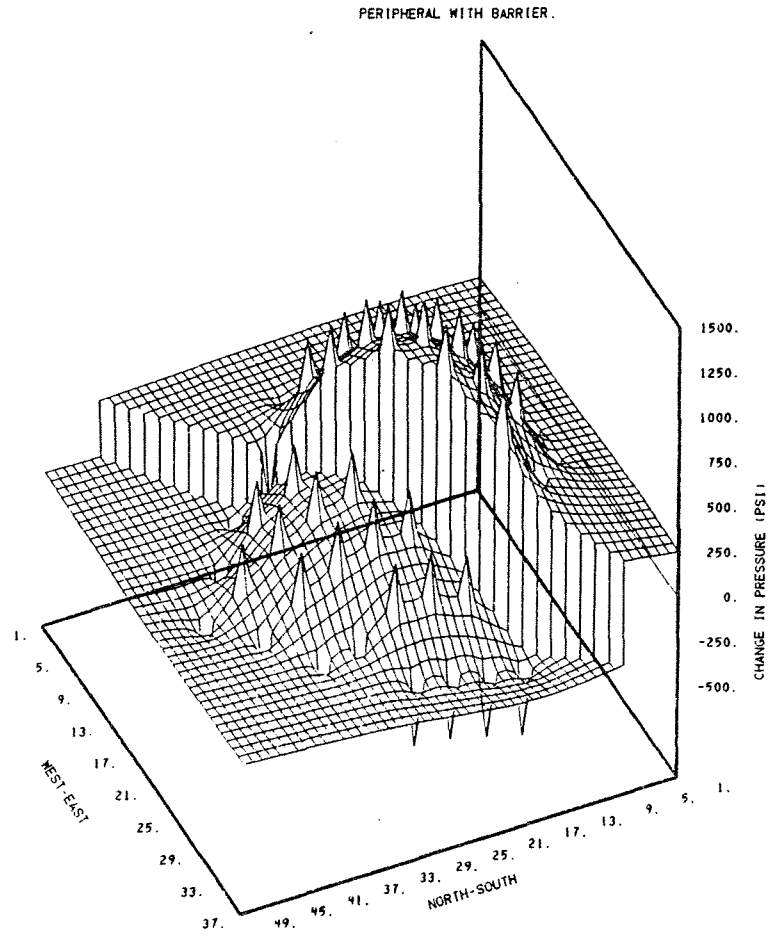
In dealing with five-spot pattern, one commonly uses the term "acre per well," as a quantitative measure of well spacing. By convention, acreage per well is given by the equation

$$\text{Acreage per well} = D_i^2 / 9 \times 4840$$

where  $D_i$  is the distance, in feet, between a production well and the nearby injection well in the five-spot configuration.

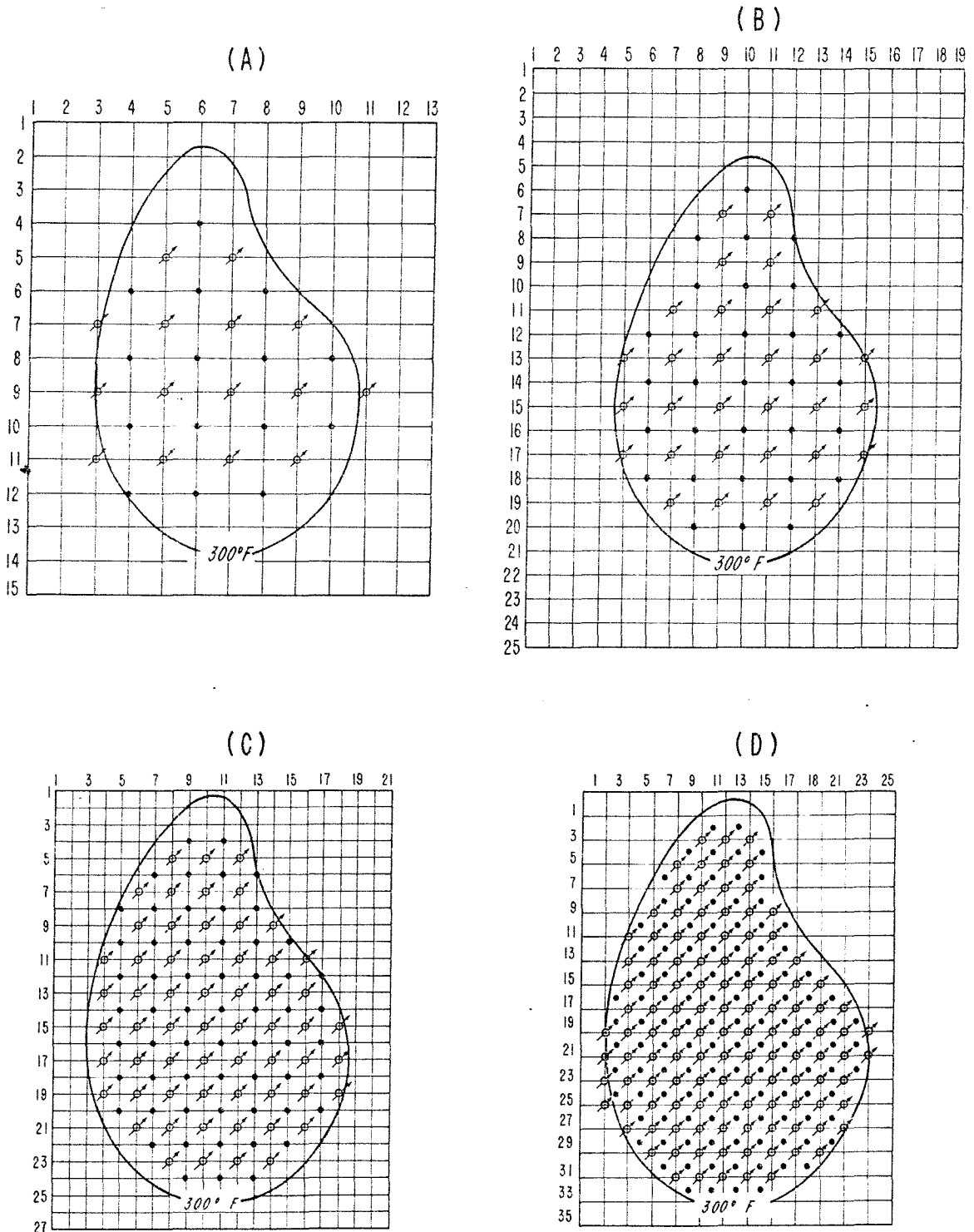
A sample printout of the drawdowns and excess injection pressures computed for a five-spot case with 30 pairs of wells is given in Figure 4.17. A contour map and an isometric view of the same results are given in Figure 4.18.

The results obtained with various five-spot simulation studies are presented in Figures 4.19 through 4.21. The results presented in Figures 4.19 and 4.20 relate to 100% volumetric reinjection; those in Figure 4.21 show the effect of unbalanced injection on pressure drawdowns.



XBL 7812-14018

Figure 4.15. Effect of barrier boundary on close-in peripheral injection. Three-dimensional plot of data in Figure 4.14.



XBL 7811-2133A

Figure 4.16. Production and injection well configurations for five-spot pattern: (A) 15, (B) 30, (C) 60, and (D) 120 production wells. Wells are located within 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth.

PRESSURE (PSI) DRAWDOWN (+) AND BUILDUP (-) AFTER 11.22 YEAR(S)																			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	7	8	10	12	14	15	17	19	20	20	20	19	17	15	14	12	10	8	7
2	6	8	10	12	15	17	19	21	23	23	23	21	19	17	15	12	10	8	6
3	6	8	10	13	15	18	22	24	27	28	27	24	22	18	15	13	10	8	6
4	5	7	10	13	16	20	24	28	33	35	33	28	24	20	16	13	10	7	5
5	4	6	9	13	17	21	26	31	40	49	40	31	26	21	17	13	9	6	4
6	2	4	7	12	17	23	29	31	37	295	37	31	29	23	17	12	7	4	2
7	0	2	5	10	16	25	35	36	-215	37	-215	36	35	25	16	10	5	2	0
8	-3	-1	1	6	13	24	43	293	36	284	36	293	43	24	13	6	1	-1	-3
9	-7	-6	-3	0	7	17	33	42	-217	29	-217	42	33	17	7	0	-3	-6	-7
10	-12	-12	-11	-7	-2	2	14	272	21	270	21	272	14	2	-2	-7	-11	-12	-12
11	-17	-19	-20	-19	-11	-7	-251	6	-240	10	-240	6	-251	-7	-11	-19	-20	-19	-17
12	-23	-27	-32	-36	-28	232	-11	244	0	250	0	244	-11	232	-28	-36	-32	-27	-23
13	-28	-34	-43	-57	-299	-32	-270	-12	-257	-6	-257	-12	-270	-32	-299	-57	-43	-34	-28
14	-31	-39	-50	-64	-64	207	-27	231	-12	239	-12	231	-27	207	-64	-64	-50	-39	-31
15	-32	-41	-52	-70	-314	-44	-278	-18	-262	-10	-262	-18	-278	-44	-314	-70	-52	-41	-32
16	-31	-39	-50	-64	-63	208	-25	234	-8	242	-8	234	-25	208	-63	-64	-50	-39	-31
17	-29	-35	-43	-57	-299	-30	-267	-7	-250	1	-250	-7	-267	-30	-299	-57	-43	-35	-29
18	-24	-28	-33	-37	-28	234	-6	253	10	262	10	253	-6	234	-28	-37	-33	-28	-24
19	-19	-21	-22	-20	-12	-5	-246	18	-222	30	-222	18	-246	-5	-12	-20	-22	-21	-19
20	-15	-15	-14	-10	-4	1	17	287	52	302	52	287	17	1	-4	-10	-14	-15	-15
21	-11	-10	-8	-4	1	11	27	47	53	59	53	47	27	11	-4	-8	-10	-11	
22	-7	-6	-3	0	5	13	24	34	40	43	40	34	24	13	5	0	-3	-6	-7
23	-5	-3	0	2	7	13	20	26	31	32	31	26	20	13	7	2	0	-3	-5
24	-3	-1	1	4	8	12	17	21	24	25	24	21	17	12	8	4	1	-1	-3
25	-1	0	2	4	7	11	14	17	19	20	19	17	14	11	7	4	2	0	-1

XBL 7810-11850

Figure 4.17. Sample printout of five-spot pattern for 30 pairs of wells within 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth.

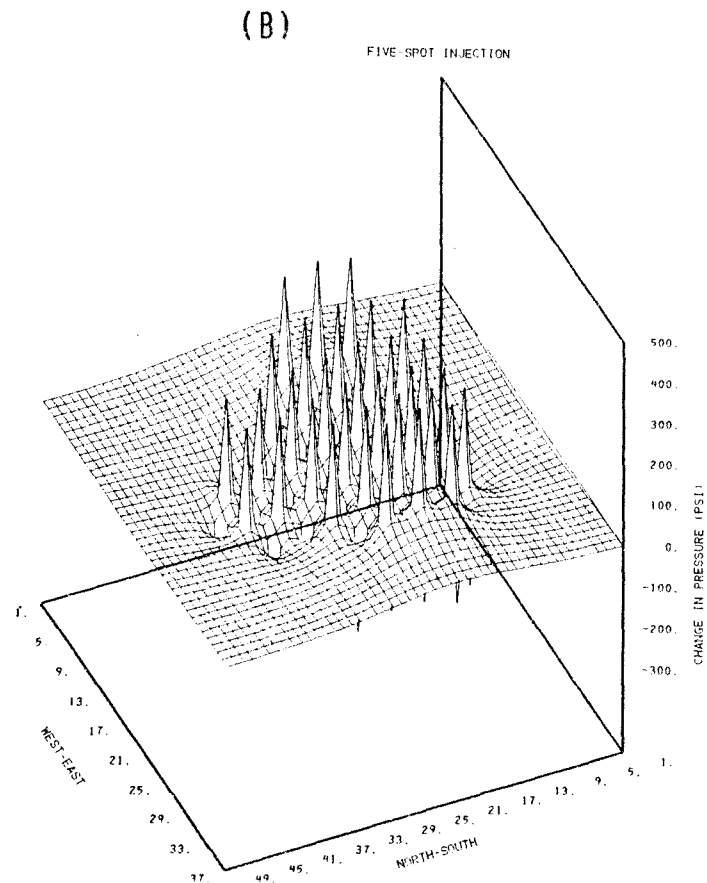
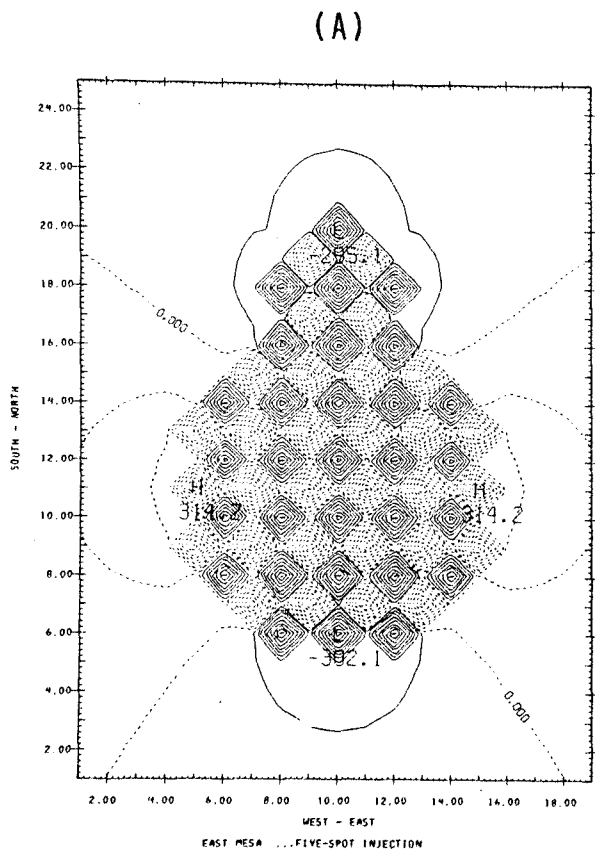


Figure 4.18. Five-spot pattern. Two-dimensional (A) and three-dimensional (B) plots of results shown in Figure 4.17. XBL 7811-12935



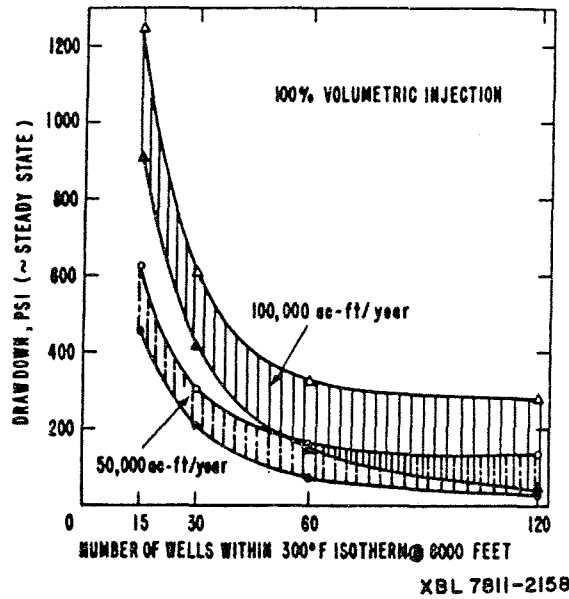


Figure 4.19. Five-spot pattern. Drawdowns as a function of total flow rate for production wells located within 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth.

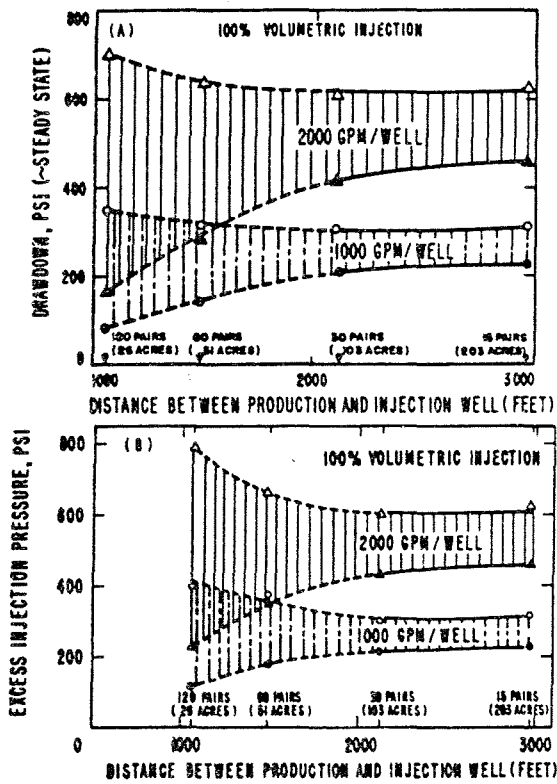
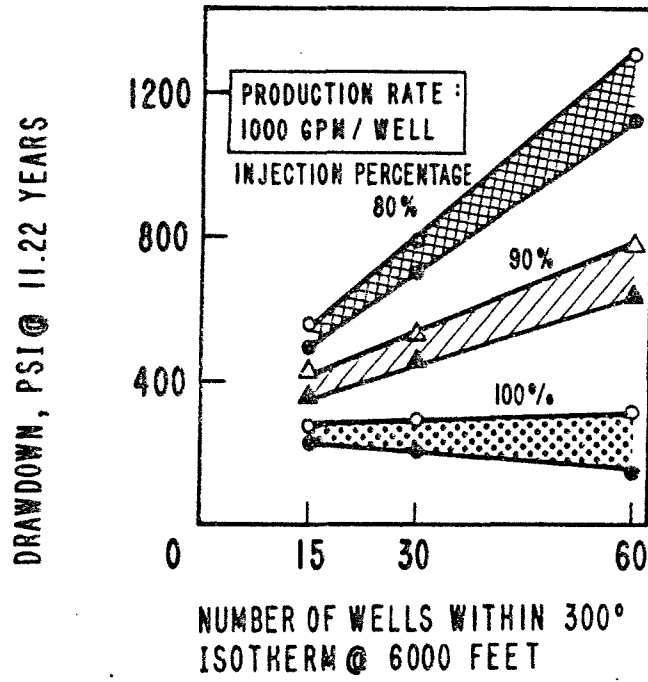


Figure 4.20. Five-spot pattern. Relation of pressure response to two different, per-well flow rates. (A) Drawdown, and (B) excess injection pressure, assuming same viscosity for produced and injected water. Wells are located within 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth.



XBL 7811-2159

Figure 4.21. Study of unbalanced injection for five-spot pattern.

The results presented in Figure 4.19 show that for a given total production, the average drawdown in production wells declines as the number of wells increases. The rate of this decline is rapid as the number of wells is increased from 15 to 30, but tends to stabilize as the number of wells is increased from 30 to 120. For a total annual flow rate of 50,000 acre-ft, the drawdown declines, on an average, from 520 psi for 15 wells, to 260 psi for 30 wells, to about 90 psi for 120 wells. However, an annual rate of 50,000 acre-ft from 120 wells means 250 gpm per well. It seems reasonable to expect that there may be certain lower limits to acceptable production rates from individual geothermal wells in a well field. In such an event it is perhaps more desirable to study the pressure response at given production rates per well than the total production from the field. This implies that for a given flow rate per well the total production will increase with the number of wells.

The drawdown response for different spacings in the five-spot configuration is presented in Figure 4.20(A). The ranges of drawdown suggested by the hatching result from the fact that the arrays used in the simulation were finite. Consequently, wells in different parts of the array responded differently to production. The hatched bands in Figure 4.20(A) are very nearly horizontal, indicating that in a five-spot pattern, drawdowns are generally insensitive to spacing. Thus, one could theoretically increase the number of production-injection pairs in a given well field, and enhance total production without unduly increasing pressure drawdowns. Note also from Figure 4.20(A) that for a flow rate of about 1000 gpm, one could expect drawdowns of approximately 250 psi or about 500 psi for flow rates of 2000 gpm per well.

For the same conditions considered in Figure 4.20(A), the excess injection pressure over static pressure are presented in Figure 4.20(B), assuming that both produced and injected water have the same viscosity. Since viscosity effects are ignored, it is not surprising that the range of excess injection pressures are approximately the same as the drawdowns. The effect of viscosity changes on injection pressures will be analyzed in a subsequent section.

The fact that pressure drawdowns are insensitive to well spacing [Figure 4.20(A)] in the five-spot configuration suggests that one could greatly increase total production by merely increasing the number of production-injection pairs and reducing the spacing within a given area. In choosing to increase the number of wells and decrease the spacing, it is important to consider whether or not enough fluid is available for 100% injection. The calculations presented so far are based on the assumption of 100% volumetric injection. It is worthwhile to explore the possible consequences, in the event that the required volumes of fluids are not available for reinjection. Toward this end, several simulations were carried out to study the pressure response at injection rates that were 90% and 80% of total production. The results of such unbalanced injection scenarios are presented in Figure 4.21. Note from this figure that unbalanced injection indeed leads to increased drawdowns and, the greater the number of production-injection pairs, the greater the increase in the drawdown. Thus, for the case of 30 production-injection pairs, the average drawdown increases from about 250 to about 480 psi when volumetric injection is reduced from 100 to 90%. Under the same conditions, when there are 60 pairs of wells, the drawdown increases from about 240 psi to about 700 psi. The results presented in Figure 4.21 stress the fact that (a) ideally one would require 100% volumetric injection for maximum pressure support; and (b) if one cannot assure 100% volumetric injection, the effects of unbalanced injection can be reduced by increasing the spacing between wells and decreasing the total number of production wells.

A few simulations were also carried out, in the five-spot configuration, to study the possible effect of a barrier boundary, if one should exist. The results, not presented here, showed that the pressure drawdown pattern over the well field was not affected significantly by the barrier. This is to be expected since the five-spot array is more or less symmetrical and the pattern of images will be very similar to the real well distribution.

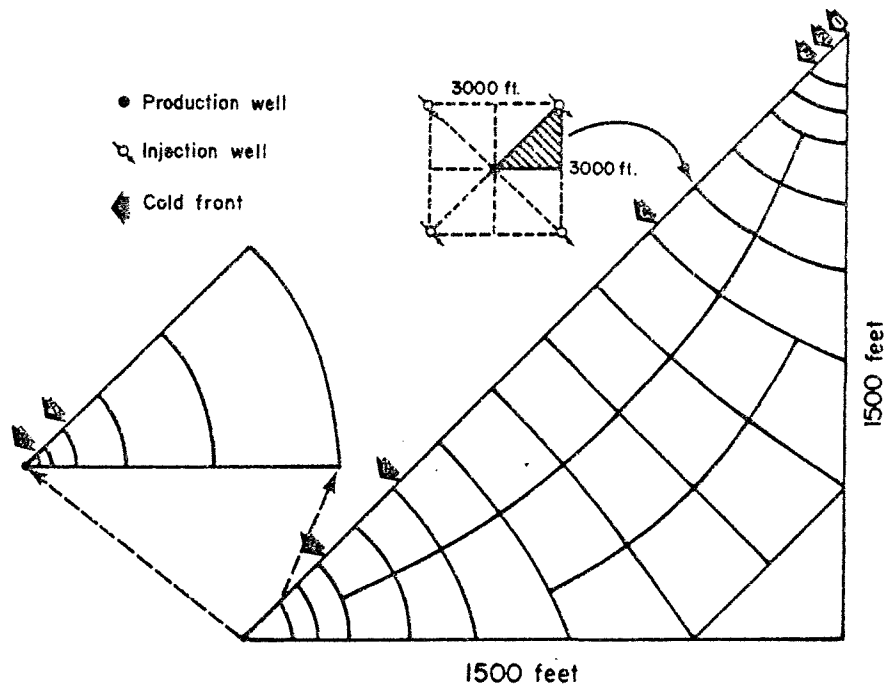
Effect of viscosity on pressure distribution. In all the discussions so far, we have assumed that the injected water and the produced water have the same viscosity of 0.2 cp, which corresponds to the viscosity

of water at approximately 340°F. However, the viscosity of water is very much dependent on temperature. At the assumed injection temperature of 167°F (75°C), the viscosity of water is about 0.38 cp or, about 1.9 times that of hot water. If we refer to Eq. (1), which relates  $\Delta p$  to the other parameters, we immediately see that pressure drawdown is directly proportional to viscosity, other factors remaining constant. Physically this simply means that colder water moves more slowly through a porous medium than hot water due to increased viscosity. To be realistic in the pressure transient calculation, therefore, it is necessary to have a quantitative appreciation of the role of water viscosity on the drawdown and injection pressures.

Perhaps the most rigorous way to study the influence of viscosity on the pressure behavior is to carry out coupled energy-mass transport calculations. We will take a less rigorous approach using decoupled calculations that are adequate for our purpose, which is to get some quantitative idea of the role of viscosity on fluid pressures. This approach was implemented using the program TERZAGI for the five-spot pattern.

As the injection of cooler water proceeds, a region of cool water will form around the injection well. Within this region, the reservoir has essentially cooled down to the temperature of the injected fluids. The outer boundary of this region can be idealized as the isotherm corresponding to the temperature of the injected water. As injection continues, this boundary will migrate toward the production well. The region occupied by the injected water will have a mobility (defined as the ratio  $k/\mu$ ) about 1/1.9 times that of the region occupied by hot water. For simulation purposes, the flow region can be treated as a heterogeneous one, containing materials of contrasting mobility. The expansion of the colder region as injection progresses can be approximated by several steady-state runs with the colder region occupying larger and larger portions of the flow field.

Specifically, viscosity effects were numerically studied for the five-spot pattern configuration. On symmetry consideration (e.g., inset Figure 4.3), only a triangular region need be considered, as in Figure 4.22. The flow region was discretized into 47 volume elements



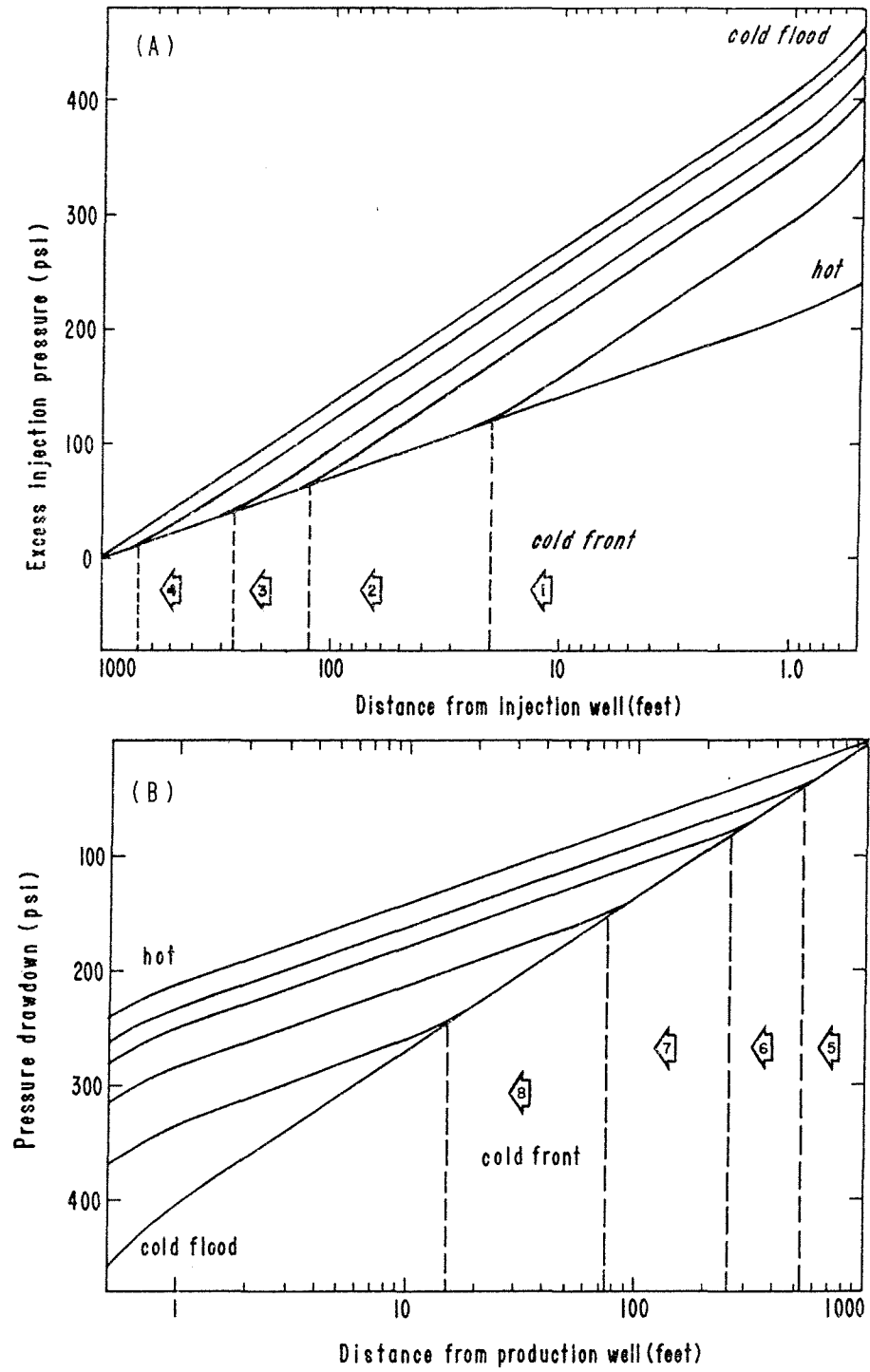
XBL 785-2540

Figure 4.22. Five-spot pattern. Triangular region numerically modeled for evaluating viscosity effects.

and the wells themselves were modeled as volume elements represented by a 45-degree arc of a 6-in. radius circle. The calculations were carried out assuming that the injected water had a viscosity 1.9 times that of hot water. The results are summarized in Figure 4.23. Figure 4.23(A) shows the pressure build-up (excess injection pressure) profiles from the injection well to a point approximately midway between the production and injection wells along a line joining them. The family of curves shows the profiles corresponding to the position of the cold front 20, 125, 265, 690 and 1000 ft from the injection well. As the cold region expands, the pressure at the injection wells builds up quickly and attains a theoretical maximum 1.9 times the value of the hot reservoir by the time the cold front reaches a point midway between the wells. As the cold front migrates further toward the production well, the drawdown in the production well gradually begins to increase, as in Figure 4.23(B). (Pressure profiles are shown with the cold front at 530, 262, 75, 15, and 0 ft from the production well.) Thus, although one would expect the pressure field to stabilize with 100% volumetric injection, it is probably realistic to expect gradual increase in drawdowns and excess injection pressures as a function of time. These values will gradually tend toward those corresponding to the higher viscosity case.

The drawdown and excess injection pressures of the hot reservoir in Figure 4.23 were found to agree very closely with the values calculated with the program MAXDRAW.

Effect of wellbore damage. Another important assumption made in the preceding calculations was that the geothermal well was a perfect mechanical system. In practice this is likely to be an unrealistic assumption. More commonly, one would expect a geothermal well to be damaged, either during construction or during production. In the petroleum literature, it is customary to treat wellbore damage in terms of an equivalent "skin" effect. A skin can be thought of as a region of reduced permeability immediately surrounding a well. Due to this reduced permeability, additional head losses (pressure drawdowns or excess injection pressures) will be induced as water crosses this region. Based on the width of this region and its permeability, it is customary



XBL 7812-2191

Figure 4.23. Effect of viscosity on pressure regime for five-spot pattern: (A) effect on excess injection pressure; (B) effect on pressure drawdown.



to define a skin factor (Earlougher, 1977) as

$$S = [(k/k_s) - 1] \ln(r_s/r_w) \quad (8)$$

where  $S$  is skin factor,  $k_s$  is permeability of skin,  $r_s$  is radius of skin,  $r_w$  is radius to well, and  $\ln$  is the natural logarithm.

In order to gain a quantitative idea of the effect of skin on pressure drawdown, the same mesh used in Figure 4.22 (five-spot case) was used here. The computations were made for different skin factors assuming the produced and injected waters to have the viscosity of hot water. The results are presented in Figure 4.24. As seen from this figure, drawdown varied linearly with skin factor. For a skin factor of 3, the drawdowns increase by as much as 42%. Although we do not have any reliable estimate for the range of skin factors found in geothermal wells, skin factors of 5 or more are common in the petroleum literature.

#### Wellbore Pressure-Temperature Calculations

In order to efficiently operate a geothermal well and decide on the depths of downhole pumps, it is necessary to know the pressure and temperature profiles within the well under expected conditions of flow. Toward this end, a few computations were made using the wellbore model of Juprasert and Sanyal (1977). Two cases were considered: (a) a well representative of the central, hot portion of the reservoir, synthesized from the shut-in temperature profiles of wells 6-1, 6-2, and 8-1; and (b) a well representative of the cooler, peripheral portion of the reservoir, synthesized from the shut-in temperature profiles of wells 5-1, 31-1, and Republic 16-29. The synthesized temperature profiles are given in Figure 4.25. In both cases, the static bottom-hole pressure was assumed to be 2500 psi at a depth of 6000 ft. The calculations were made for a flow rate of 1000 gpm for two different casing diameters: 8.75 in. and 11.15 in. I.D. The downhole flowing temperatures for the two cases were 367°F and 320°F, respectively. In the different simulation runs, bottom-hole pressures were allowed to decline from 2500 to 2000 psi. The results, summarized in

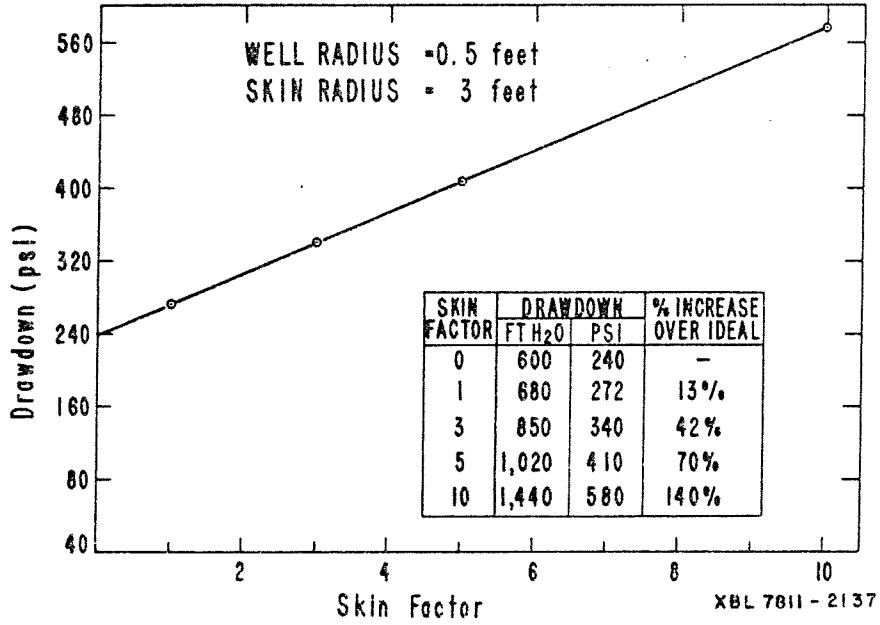


Figure 4.24. Effect of skin factor on drawdown for five-spot pattern.

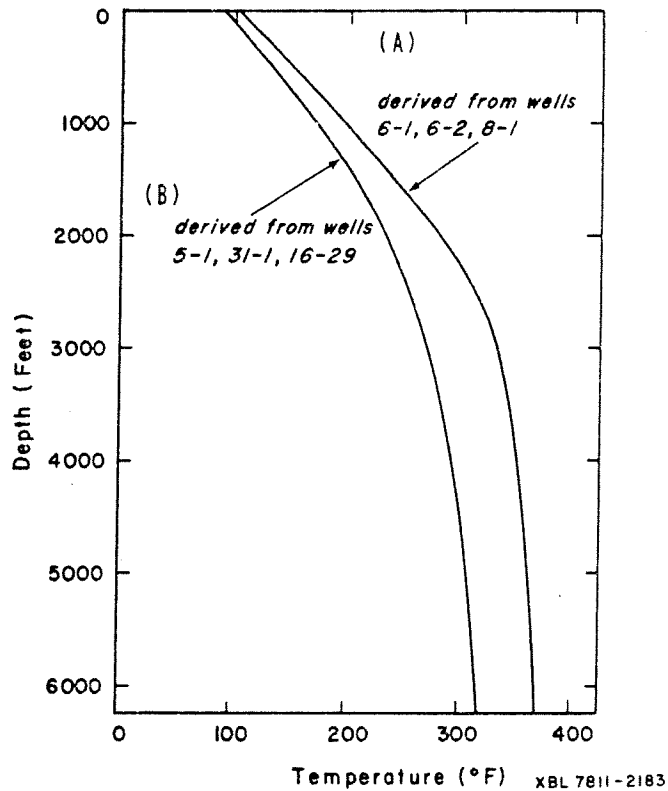


Figure 4.25. Wellbore simulation showing synthesized shut-in temperature profiles: (A) well representative of hotter part of the reservoir; (B) well representative of colder part of the reservoir.

Figures 4.26 and 4.27, show flash-point depth as well as temperature, pressure, and steam quality at the wellhead as functions of reservoir pressure decline. For example, the values of these parameters for a bottom-hole pressure of 2200 psi (drawdown of 300 psi) can be read off from the figures as indicated by the arrows.

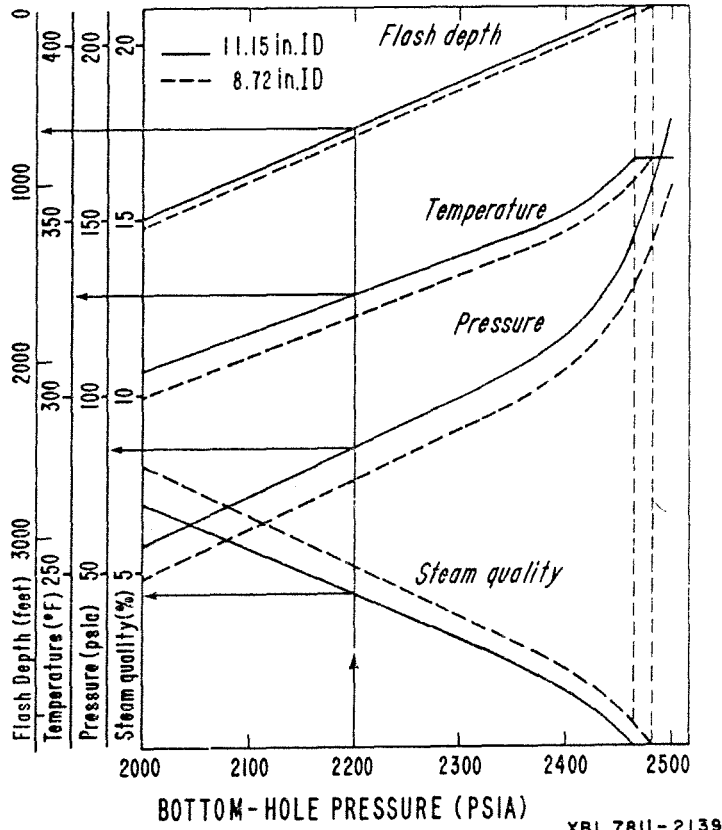
Note that in both cases, the wellhead pressures corresponding to a reservoir pressure of 2500 psi are in excess of 100 psi and are realistic with reference to East Mesa field conditions. Also, as seen from the figures, flash-point depth increases linearly with decreasing bottom-hole pressures. Quantitatively, a pressure drawdown of 500 psi approximately corresponds to a flash depth of 1200 ft. Therefore, when drawdowns are in excess of a few hundred psi, it seems reasonable to estimate flash-point depth by simply multiplying drawdown (in psi) by 2.4. Incidentally, the factor 2.4 corresponds roughly to head of hot water in ft/psi.

The aforesaid calculations took into account water salinity but not the presence of noncondensable gases such as carbon dioxide. Noncondensable gases will be released from the fluids when the fluid pressure declines below the "bubble point." In fact, to avoid cavitation, the pump has to be set below the bubble-point depth, which may be greater than the flash-point depth. Also, the calculations did not consider "net positive suctionhead," which should be properly included in the pump design.

#### Hydrodynamic and Temperature Breakthrough Calculations

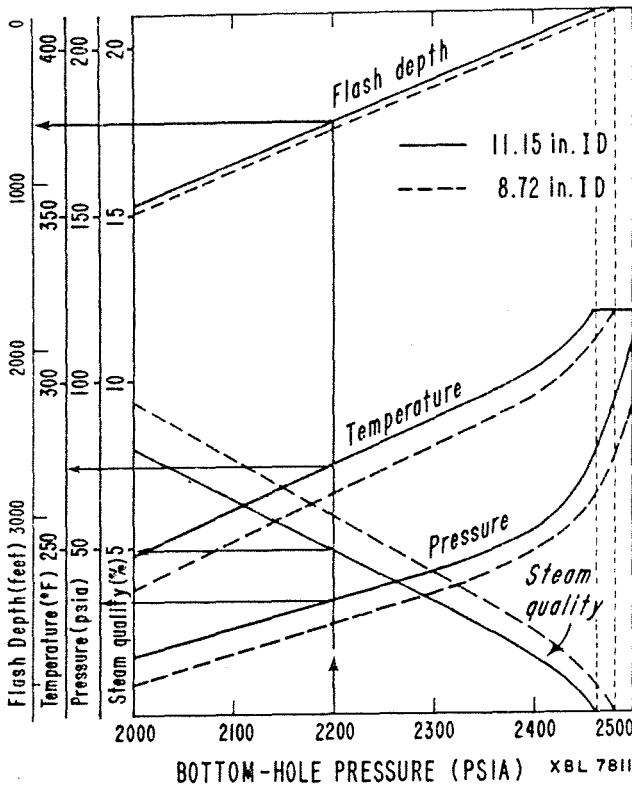
Hydrodynamic breakthrough occurs when the injected fluid arrives at the production well; thermal breakthrough occurs when the production-well temperature begins to drop. Because the desalination project includes mining the better-quality geothermal reservoir water at the expense of Salton Sea water, consideration must be given to hydrodynamic and thermal breakthroughs.

Hydrodynamic breakthrough. Theoretically, the life of the groundwater mining scheme depends on the total volume of reservoir water present within the system limits and the rate at which fluid is produced.



XBL 7811-2139

Figure 4.26. Wellhead temperature and pressure calculations for a well in the relatively hotter portion of the reservoir.



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Figure 4.27. Wellhead temperature and pressure calculations for a well in the peripheral parts of the field.

If we assume, for simplicity, that the injected water and the reservoir water do not mix chemically and that the injected water will, given sufficient time, fully displace all the reservoir water, then the total "mineable" life of the reservoir can be computed by dividing the volume of fluid in the reservoir by the injection rate. The volume of the fluid contained in the reservoir depends on the reservoir thickness and the effective porosity of the reservoir rocks. If we consider the effective portion of the reservoir contained within the 300°F isotherm at 6000 ft, its area can be measured to be approximately 12.0 square miles or 7680 acres. Therefore, the mineable reservoir life can be computed by

$$R_L = \frac{7680 H \phi}{Q_{TAF}} \quad (9)$$

where  $R_L$  is mineable reservoir life in years,

$H$  is reservoir thickness in ft,

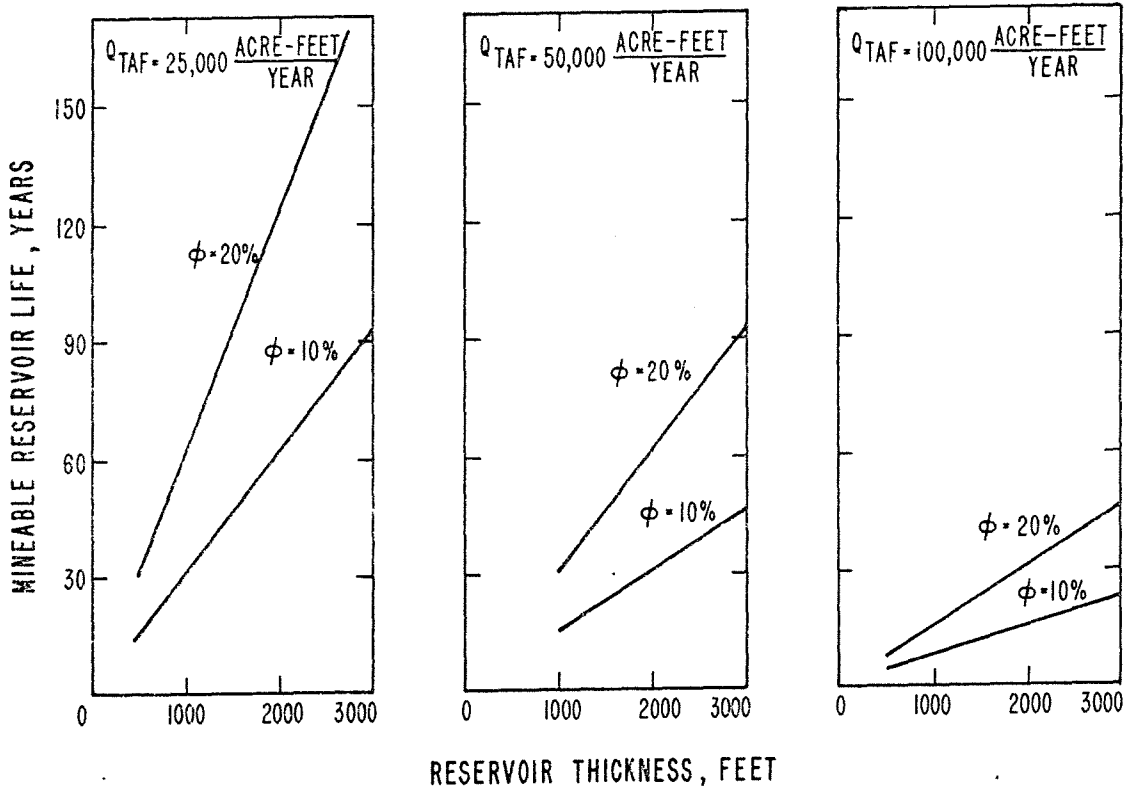
$\phi$  is porosity expressed as a fraction, and

$Q_{TAF}$  is total field production in acre-ft/year.

The relation between  $H, \phi$  and  $Q_{TAF}$  according to Eq. (9) is depicted in Figure 4.28. As can be seen from the figure,  $R_L$  may vary from a few years to as much as 150 years depending on the combination of  $\phi, H$  and  $Q_{TA}$ . If the reservoir has a thickness of 1500 ft and a porosity of 15%, then for 50,000 acre-ft/yr production and injection rate, the mineable reservoir life will be about 36 years.

Note that the above calculations assume the region within 300°F isotherm at 6000 ft. Instead, if one were to include the deeper parts of the reservoir within the 300°F isotherm at 7000 ft, the  $R_L$  values in Figure 4.28 would be multiplied by a factor of 2 since the 7000-ft region encompasses an area almost twice as large as the 6000-ft region.

The  $R_L$  values in Figure 4.28, are very optimistic. In reality, there will be some chemical mixing of produced and injected water and the production-well water quality will gradually decline with time, Moreover, it is highly unlikely that the injected water will ever com-



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Figure 4.28. Mineable reservoir life,  $R_L$ , as a function of  $\phi$ ,  $H$  and  $Q_{TAF}$ . Region is within  $300^\circ\text{F}$  isotherm at 6000-ft depth. For the case of  $300^\circ\text{F}$  isotherm at 7000-ft depth, indicated  $R_L$  values are to be multiplied by 2.

pletely displace all the reservoir fluid. Therefore it is very likely that the actual reservoir life, insofar as mining fresh water is concerned, may be far smaller than the  $R_L$  values indicated in Figure 4.28.

Thermal breakthrough. Thermal breakthrough calculations were carried out for the peripheral injection as well as the five-spot pattern scenarios using programs METERNIQ and TRUMP. In all the calculations, 30 production wells were distributed within the 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth, with a spacing of 3000 ft between production wells. The simulations were carried out for different combinations of  $\phi = 10\%$ , 20% and  $H = 1000$  and 2000 ft. The flow rate was assumed to be 50,000 acre-ft/yr and the production and injection temperatures were 360°F (182°C) and 167°F (75°C), respectively.

At the outset, the calculations revealed that for a given thickness ( $H$ ) varying the porosity had very little effect on the thermal breakthrough pattern. This is to be expected, since changing the porosity only slightly alters the heat capacity of the fluid-filled porous medium. Furthermore, for the steady fluid-flow conditions considered, increasing the reservoir thickness proportionately increased the thermal breakthrough. Thus, most of the simulation results could be conveniently scaled to obtain estimates for other parameter combinations. Depending on the local disposition of production and injection wells, the breakthroughs varied from one part of the reservoir to the other.

A map showing the well configurations and well numbers used in the METERNIQ simulations is given in Figure 4.29.

Thermal breakthrough is not sensitive to porosity, other factors remaining constant (see Figure 4.30 for the case of peripheral injection). In this case, two values of  $\phi$  were considered:  $\phi = 10\%$  and 20%, other features remaining constant. It is clear from the figure that the results are insensitive to  $\phi$ , within the range of values considered. Other results, not included here, showed that the same was true for wells in the five-spot configuration.

Thermal breakthrough is significantly affected, however, by reservoir thickness ( $H$ ). If porosity is constant, increased reservoir thickness proportionately increases the heat capacity of the rock-water mixture and hence the breakthrough time scale is altered proportionately.

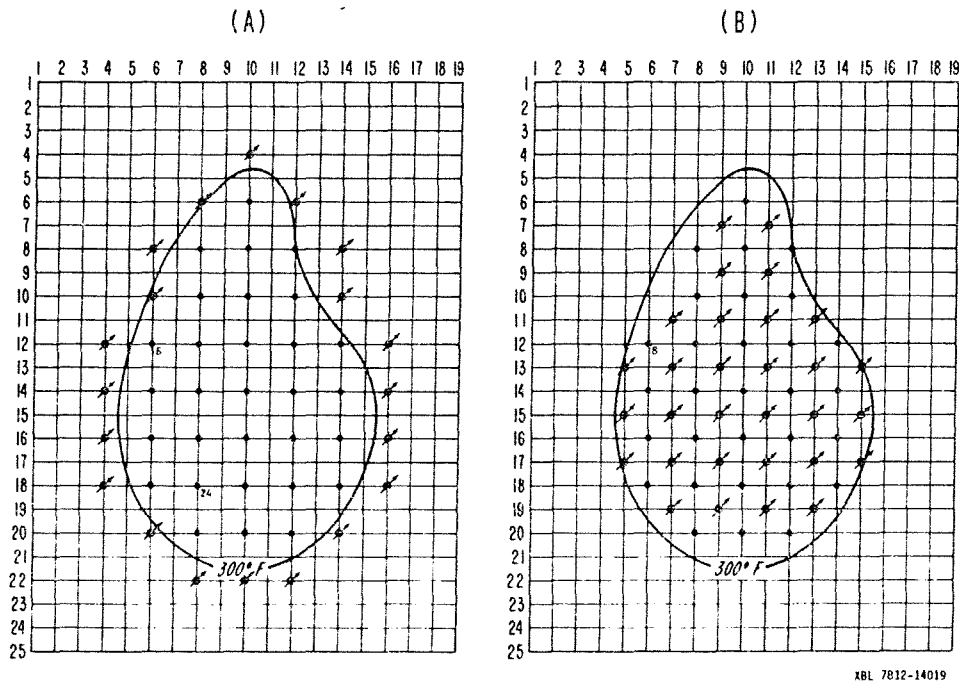


Figure 4.29. Thermal breakthrough calculations for well configurations and numbering used in simulation: (A) close-in peripheral injection; (B) five-spot pattern.

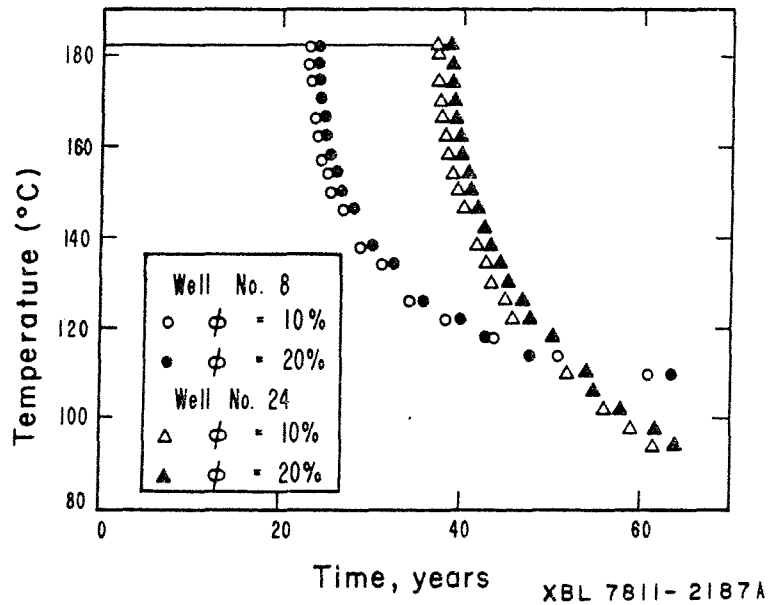


Figure 4.30. Temperature decline in two wells as a function of time for two values of porosity in peripheral injection case (production = 50,000 acre-ft/yr, H = 500 ft).



This is illustrated in Figure 4.31, where the results of two computer runs are plotted on a time scale normalized with reference to reservoir thickness (production-well temperature as a function of time/H).

We have seen (Figure 4.3) that the actual pattern of temperature decline in a production well may vary with the nature of heat conduction present. For the purposes of the present study, these variations are inconsequential. It is far more relevant, however, to know the time elapsed before the production-well temperature declines from 360°F to some critical temperature. Figure 4.32 plots the time for temperature to decline to 300°F versus H, for peripheral injection and five-spot pattern cases. The annual flow rate is assumed to be 50,000 acre-ft. Note that the times seen in Figure 4.32 are generally much larger than the corresponding mineable life of the reservoir (Figure 4.28). This means that if good quality water can be used for reinjection, it can be recycled several times to sweep the heat from the rock. Because groundwater mining is the prime theme here, hydrodynamic breakthrough is of greater concern than thermal breakthrough (compare Figures 4.28 and 4.32).

In the foregoing, we have used the parameters H and  $\phi$ . It must be emphasized here that these parameters actually denote the "effective" reservoir thickness and "effective" reservoir porosity. The former denote the net sand (or pay section) while the latter represents the interconnected pores through which the reservoir waters move.

#### GROUND SUBSIDENCE

In considering the potential of ground subsidence at East Mesa due to geothermal fluid withdrawal, two basic questions have to be addressed: (a) what the maximum subsidence is likely to be, and (b) what will be the spatial configuration of the subsidence bowl?

The magnitude of subsidence that is likely in a sedimentary system such as East Mesa depends on the pressure drawdown, the compressibility of the reservoir rocks and associated fine-grained materials (clays, shales), and the manner in which the volumetric deformations occurring in the reservoir are transmitted to the land surface through the overburden. The spatial distribution of the subsidence bowl is a function of the

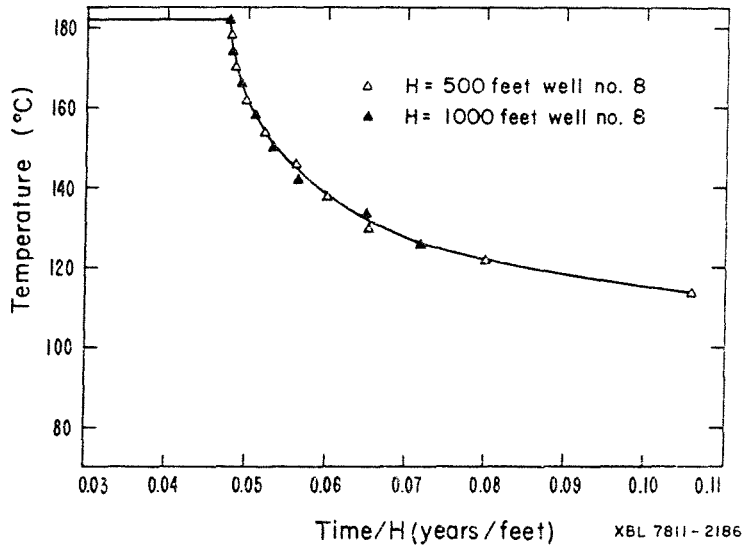


Figure 4.31. Temperature decline as a function of time/H for five-spot pattern.

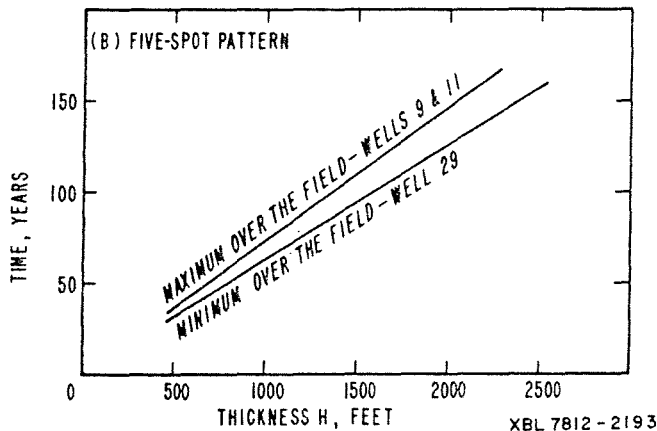
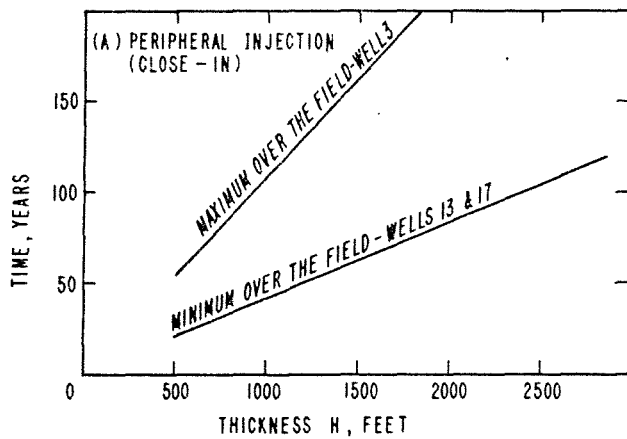


Figure 4.32. Effect of H on time elapsed for production temperature to decline to 300°F: (A) peripheral injection, (B) five-spot pattern. Flow rate is 50,000 acre-ft/yr.

production-injection strategy used, and the heterogeneity and geological structure of the reservoir. Thus, if the reservoir were homogeneous, a single large subsidence bowl could form over the center of the field under the peripheral injection scenario. If, however, a five-spot pattern is followed, several isolated subsidence bowls, distributed through the field, may result.

In general, experience in shallow groundwater systems indicates that fine-grained sediments such as clays are far more compressible (by a factor of 10 or more) than sands (Helm, 1975). In such environments, most of the subsidence can be accounted for by the gradual consolidation of the clay zones, as they release water into the depressuring aquifer.

At the present time, estimates of the magnitude and distribution of ground subsidence over the East Mesa reservoir cannot be made reliably for two reasons. First, very little in-situ or other data are presently available on the properties and subsurface distribution of the materials constituting the reservoir. Second, the simulation studies carried out in the present project have assumed a highly idealized system. In the absence of refined field data, it is not worthwhile to attempt sophisticated computations with an idealized model. We will therefore attempt to arrive at a very rough estimate of the land subsidence potential at East Mesa caused by the proposed desalination project.

Recent studies of the subsurface geophysical logs at East Mesa (Peter Van de Camp, personal communication) suggest that the density of shales and other fine-grained sediments in the 5000- to 8000-ft depth range vary between 2.4 and 2.6. If we consider that the density of minerals making up the shales is approximately 2.6 to 2.7, the high density of the shales implies that they have drained most of their contained water and have already compacted significantly. If we could ignore the possibility of shale compaction, then subsidence at East Mesa would be governed mainly by reservoir compressibility.

The interference tests conducted over the East Mesa field (Table 3.5) have yielded  $\phi c_t H$  values varying from  $6 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $6 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi. The term  $c_t$  in  $\phi c_t H$  denotes the "total compressibility" (Earlougher, 1977) of the saturated reservoir, given by

$$c_t = c_w + c_f \quad (10)$$

where  $c_t$  is total compressibility (vol/vol)/psi;  $c_w$  is compressibility of water given by

$$c_w = \frac{1}{\Delta p} \frac{\Delta V_w}{V_w}, \quad (\text{vol/vol})/\text{psi} \quad (11)$$

where  $V_w$  is volume of water, and  $c_f$  is pore volume compressibility of the formation given by

$$c_f = \frac{1}{p} \frac{\Delta V_v}{V_v}, \quad (\text{vol/vol})/\text{psi} \quad (12)$$

where  $V_v$  is volume of voids in the rock.

In view of Eq. (10), we could estimate  $c_f$  provided that we know  $\phi$  and  $H$ . Thus,

$$c_f = c_t - c_w = [(\phi c_t H / \phi H) - c_w] \quad (13)$$

It is known empirically (Earlougher, 1977, p. 231) that the compressibility of water is approximately  $3 \times 10^{-6}$  1/psi at temperatures in excess of 220°F. If we assume this value for  $c_w$ , then,

$$c_f = \left( \frac{\phi / c_t H}{\phi H} - 3 \times 10^{-6} \right), \quad \text{psi}^{-1} \quad (14)$$

For computing volume changes in the reservoir (and hence, subsidence), it is more convenient to use the "coefficient of volume change" ( $m_v$ ) defined by Lambe and Whitman (1969)

$$m_v = \frac{1}{\Delta p} \frac{\Delta V_b}{V_b} \quad (15)$$

where  $V_b$  is bulk volume and  $\Delta V_b = \Delta V_v$  if rock gains are assumed to have negligible compressibility.

In view of Eqs. (13) and (15), one could show by simple algebra that

$$m_v = \phi c_f = \phi \left( \frac{\phi c_t H}{\phi H} - 3 \times 10^{-6} \right), \quad \text{psi}^{-1}$$

If we assume, for simplicity, a vertical prism of the reservoir with unit cross-sectional area and thickness  $H$ , with all the reservoir deformation in the vertical direction, then, in view of the definition of  $m_v$ ,

$$d_v = (m_v)(H)(\Delta p), \quad \text{ft} \quad (17)$$

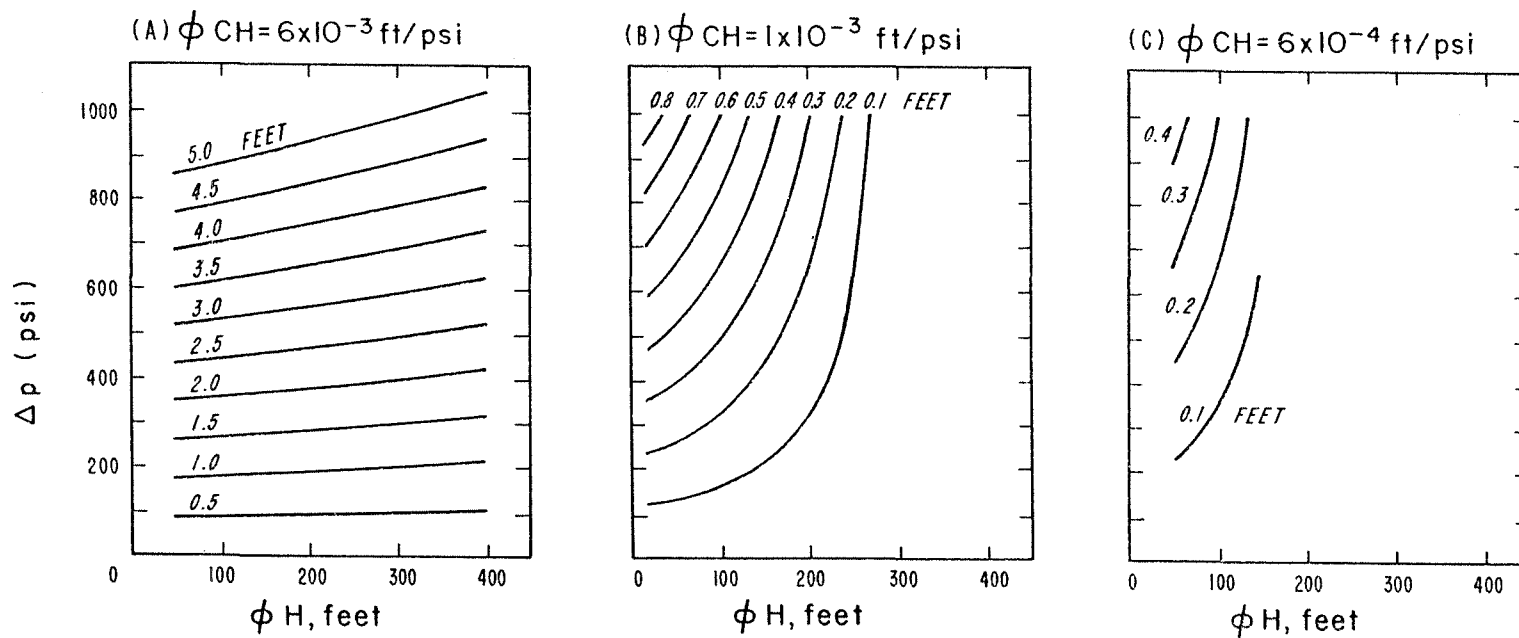
where  $d_v$  is vertical reservoir deformation in ft and  $\Delta p$  is reservoir pressure drop in psi. Combining Eqs. (16) and (17) we finally get

$$d_v = [\phi c_t H (3 \times 10^{-6} \phi H)] \Delta p, \quad \text{ft} \quad (18)$$

Based on the interference tests,  $\phi c_t H$  is known to vary between  $6 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $6 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi while subsurface geological data suggests that  $\phi$  and  $H$  may vary from 10 to 20% and 500 to 2000 ft, respectively. Or,  $\phi H$  may vary from 50 to 400 ft. The variation of vertical reservoir compaction  $d_v$  as a function of  $\phi H$ ,  $\Delta p$ , and  $\phi c_t H$ , according to Eq. (18) is presented in Figure 4.33.

Figure 4.33 shows that the reservoir compaction may range from less than 0.1 ft to a little more than 5 ft over the range of values considered for the various parameters. For example, if the reservoir thickness is 2000 ft,  $\phi = 10\%$  ( $\phi H = 200$ ), and  $\phi c_t H = 6 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi, then for a pressure drawdown of 500 psi, the expected compaction may be about 2.7 ft. If  $\phi c_t H$  were  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi, then the expected compaction will only be about 0.2 ft.

Note, in Figure 4.33(B) that the compaction contours are restricted to the region to the left  $\phi H = 400$ . This simply means that for a  $\phi H = 400$ , water expansivity alone should give rise to a  $\phi c_t H > 1 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi and that the assumed value of  $\phi c_t H$  is too low to be



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Figure 4.33. Variation of estimated reservoir compaction as a function of  $\Delta p_t$  and  $\phi H$ .  
 (A)  $\phi cH = 6 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi; (B)  $\phi cH = 1 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi; and (C)  $6 \times 10^{-4}$  ft/psi.

realistic. The same explanation applies to Figure 4.33(C) for the region with  $\phi H > 200$ .

The results in Figure 4.33 only represent reservoir compaction. Whether all the reservoir compaction will be expressed at the land surface as ground subsidence or whether there will be some alternation of the displacements as they are transmitted through the overburden cannot be predicted at present due to lack of data for describing the overburden.

#### INDUCED SEISMICITY

A very real environmental concern in large-scale reinjection of fluids into geological systems is that of induced seismicity. The association between seismicity and fluid injection has been dramatically established at Rangely, Colorado (Evans, 1967). In geologic systems where structural discontinuities (faults) are present, increase of pore fluid pressure within the discontinuities may often lead to decreased normal stresses and a reduction in the shear-strength of the discontinuity leading to seismic activity. The quantitative prediction of such movements is a problem of great complexity and is beyond the scope of the present study. Among the important factors that govern induced seismicity, one should mention in situ tectonic stresses, magnitude of the injection pressures and shear strength of individual planes of discontinuity. If we consider that lithostatic pressures increase at the rate of about 1 psi per foot depth and hydrostatic pressures increase at the rate of about 0.4 psi, the effective vertical stresses at a depth of 5000 ft may be expected to be about 3000 psi. Compared with this, an injection of 600 psi implies a perturbation of in situ stresses by as much as 20%. Under the circumstances, considerable caution is warranted if injection pressures of several hundred psi are contemplated. The caution is particularly relevant at East Mesa, which lies very close to the geologically active San Andreas fault system.

#### DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

In this section we will study the results presented in the previous sections in regard to an overall economic analysis.

### Pressure Transient Calculations

Basically, the pressure transient calculations led to estimates of pressure drawdowns and excess injection pressures at the various production and injection wells. These results raise two important issues. The first is whether or not currently available downhole pumps can bring up the required quantities of water from appropriate depths (dictated by pressure drawdowns). The second issue is the availability of the power required to operate downhole and injection pumps. In our discussions we will not be concerned with the technical feasibility of installing and operating the pumps. We will assume that pumps are available and can move the required quantities of fluid from the relevant depths. We will therefore restrict our discussion to the pressure changes in relation to power requirements for pump operation.

In our discussion of wellbore thermodynamics (Figures 4.26 and 4.27) we showed that the depth of flash point is a function of reservoir pressure decline; and a pressure drawdown of 300 psi corresponds to a flash-point depth of roughly 720 ft. That is, for approximate calculations one could estimate flash-point depth by multiplying pressure drawdown by a factor of 2.4. Physically, flash point in the wellbore is the depth at which water begins to boil and steam begins to form at the prevalent temperature. As a result, the bowl assembly (impellers) of downhole pumps have to be placed at a safe depth below the flash point in order to prevent steam entry into the impellers and consequent cavitation.

The purpose of having a downhole pump is to assure single-phase fluid at the wellhead, and additional head to transmit the fluids beyond the wellhead. In order to achieve this, the pump has to develop enough pressure to maintain the wellbore pressure corresponding to single-phase water flow at the wellhead. Computations based on the wellbore model suggest that for a given flow rate, this pressure could be effectively achieved by developing a pressure at the pump equal to the reservoir pressure drop. The work done by the pump in developing this pressure is equivalent to lifting the produced water against gravity from the flash-point depth.



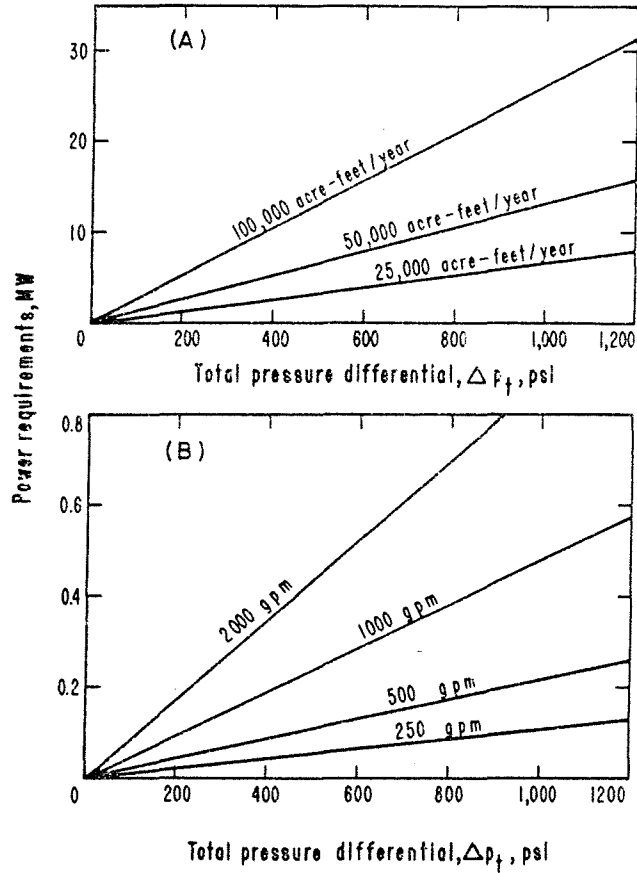
The excess injection pressure is the amount of pressure required, in excess of the static reservoir pressure, to push the injected water into the reservoir. If we convert the excess pressure into an equivalent injection head, then the work done by the injection pump can be treated as equivalent to moving the fluids against gravity over a distance equivalent to the injection head.

If we consider a scenario involving 100% volumetric injection, and if we know the combined average drawdown and injection heads, then we can easily estimate the overall power required to produce and inject the geothermal fluids at the flow rate of interest. Suppose the flow rate is  $Q_\ell$  (production and injection). For simplicity assume that the average weight of water is 8 lb/gal. Corresponding to this case, let 1 psi of water be equivalent to 2.4 ft of water. Then, if the total head (drawdown + injection) is  $\Delta p_t$ , the power required (in MW) can be derived by

$$P_{MW} = \frac{1}{1000} \frac{(8 Q_\ell)(2.4) \Delta p_t}{44,236} = 4.3404 \times 10^{-7} Q_\ell \Delta p_t \quad (16)$$

where  $P_{MW}$  is power required in MW at 100% pump efficiency,  $Q_\ell$  is the rate of fluid flow in gpm, and  $\Delta p_t$  is total pressure differential (drawdown + excess injection pressure in psi). Thus, for example, the power required to move 1000 gpm at 800 psi pump differential pressure is 0.347 MW.

The power requirements for different total annual flow rates are given in Figure 4.34(A). Suppose we are interested in finding the total power requirements for the peripheral injection case, for an annual flow rate of 50,000 acre-ft of water (or 30,000 gpm) with 60 production wells and 40 peripheral injection wells. From Figure 4.12(A), the average drawdown is about 450 psi and the average excess injection pressure is about 230 psi at a viscosity of 0.2 cp, corresponding to water at approximately 347°F. Since injected water at 75°C has a viscosity about 1.9 times that of hot water, the total pressure differential is  $\Delta p_t = 450 + (1.9 \times 230) = 887$  psi. For this set of circumstances



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Figure 4.34. Power requirement for lifting and injection water as a function of flow rate and total pressure differential,  $\Delta P_T$ : (A) total flow rate from field, (B) flow rate per injection-production pair in the five-spot case.

we can see (Figure 4.34) that the total power requirement is about 11.6 MW at a pump efficiency of 100%.

For the five-spot case under similar circumstances (50,000 acre-ft/yr, 60 production wells) the average drawdown is about 120 psi (Figure 4.19). Once again, considering viscosity effects,  $\Delta p_T$  for this case is  $(120 + 120 \times 1.9) = 350$  psi. Figure 4.34 shows that the total power requirements are about 4.5 MW at 100% pump efficiency.

In considering the power requirements for a five-spot case, it is important to consider production-injection pairs. Since these pairs may have lower minimum flow rates, the viability of the five-spot configuration may depend on their economics. The power requirements for production-injection pairs are given in Figure 4.34(B).

Suppose we consider a 1000 gpm flow rate for a doublet at 51-acre spacing (which is equivalent to 100,000 acre-ft/yr from 60 wells). The average drawdown and excess injection pressure for this case (Figure 4.20) is approximately 225 psi. Including effects of viscosity, this implies a total pressure differential of about 650 psi. For this case, the power requirements per pair are 0.31 MW at 100% pump efficiency. [Figure 4.34(B)].

As was pointed out earlier, pressure drawdowns for five-spot injection patterns are relatively insensitive to spacing (Figure 4.20). Thus if an optimal five-spot spacing is chosen, one could use it throughout the well-field to obtain maximum possible flow rates, assuming that the reservoir is uniform and extensive.

#### Hydrodynamic and Temperature Breakthroughs

Because groundwater mining is proposed in this project, the mineable reservoir life ( $R_L$ ) is a critical aspect in the overall development of the fracture. As seen from Eq. (9),  $R_L$  is directly related to reservoir thickness and porosity ( $\phi$ ). Because the injected fluid cannot fully displace all the reservoir fluids, we are primarily concerned with the effective reservoir thickness ( $H$ ) and porosity ( $\phi$ ), characteristic of those stratigraphic layers through which most of the injected or produced water moves. Moreover, even if the effective porosity is known, it is doubtful if the injected Salton Sea water can displace all the reservoir fluids from the effective pores. Rather, we expect

some portion of the reservoir fluid to be permanently locked up in the pores and remain unavailable for mining. At present, we cannot predict what portion of the total resource this unavailable reservoir fluid may constitute. We can only state that the mineable life presented in Figure 4.28 is a possible upper bound.

Yet another factor in hydrodynamic breakthrough is the possibility of mixing between the injected and produced fluids. As the injected fluid begins to arrive at the production well through various flow paths, the salinity of the produced fluids will gradually begin to increase. The rate at which the salinity increases will considerably influence the desalination process itself. Although we cannot predict this salinity variation as a function of time with the limited data currently available, it is reasonable to state that the practical life of the project will be shorter than the upper bound provided by mineable reservoir life. If careful water quality monitoring is carried out during the life of the proposed project, a better and clearer picture may emerge.

The thermal breakthrough calculations provide insight into the possible energy-producing life of the reservoir. From this point of view, the acceptable lower limit for temperature (or heat content) of the produced fluids will determine the project life. Of course, the time taken for the temperature of the produced fluids to fall below the critical level will vary from one part of the reservoir to another, depending upon the particular production-injection strategy used.

We have to recall that energy production is of secondary importance here. Energy is a by-product of the primary objective--groundwater mining. In general, under a given set of conditions, the thermal breakthrough will lag significantly behind the hydrodynamic breakthrough, by a factor of 2 to 5 or more. As a result, it is reasonable to infer that the life of the desalination project will depend more on the hydrodynamic than the thermal breakthrough. Hence, the latter is less important in the present study.

### Ground Subsidence

Ground subsidence includes horizontal and vertical displacements caused at the land surface due to fluid production at depth. In a location such as the Imperial Valley, where civil engineering structures such as canals have very close alignment and gradient tolerances, subsidence is an important environmental consideration. The effect of subsidence on engineering structures will depend on its absolute magnitude and on the spatial variation of subsidence (differential subsidence). Thus, large values of subsidence over a wide area may sometimes be acceptable and rapid variation of even small absolute subsidence over short distances may not be. Thus the magnitude as well as the pattern of subsidence are important environmental considerations.

Because of the paucity of data on material properties and distributions within the East Mesa reservoir, the estimates of subsidence presented earlier are very preliminary. Here again, a detailed subsidence monitoring program during the operation of the reservoir will be the only way to achieve a proper subsidence management program for the project. The results presented earlier in this chapter do, however, show that due to the large fluid withdrawals planned and the large pressure declines (of the order of several hundred psi), subsidence is likely to be an important environmental problem. Also, due to the proximity of the site to the San Andreas fault system, induced seismicity is a real concern if large fluid injection is to be implemented.

### INTERPOLATION OF RESULTS TO USBR'S LEASEHOLD

All the results presented so far were developed for a much larger portion of the East Mesa reservoir than is held by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. The total area of the reservoir contained within the 300°F isotherm at 600 ft is approximately 7700 acres; the area contained within the same isotherm at a depth of 7000 ft is approximately 14,000 acres. Of this, USBR holds about 4400 acres within the limits of the 300°F isotherm at the 600-ft depth and about 5900 acres within the limits of the same isotherm at the 7000-ft depth (Figure 4.1). Therefore, the quantity of water that could be produced from USBR's property will only constitute a portion of the larger area.

The results of the calculations carried out so far clearly show that without any reinjection whatsoever, the pressure drawdowns are likely to be too large to be economical. Hence, some form of injection has to be carried out. The calculations also show that for maximum pressure support to the reservoir, 100% volume injection is most desirable.

In general, two injection patterns can be considered: peripheral injection and five-spot injection. The peripheral injection scheme seeks to sweep the reservoir fluids and heat toward the center of the reservoir. Considering the fairly regular, oval shape of the East Mesa thermal anomaly, it is clear that to be most successful, the injection wells have to be placed along a line parallel to and outside of the required isotherm (300°F here). Many of these injection wells will necessarily lie outside of the USBR's leasehold. Along with these, many production wells will also lie outside of the USBR's property. If the peripheral injection strategy is implemented in collaboration with other leaseholders, then the actual portion of the reservoir production assignable to USBR's lands can be estimated as equal to the ratio of the area of USBR's holdings to the total area within the 300°F isotherm. If we consider the 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth, this ratio works out to be approximately 60% of the total. For the same isotherm at 7000-ft depth, the ratio amounts to about 42%.

The implication of this is as follows. In Figure 4.12(A) for the case of 60 production wells and 50,000 acre-ft/yr production, the average drawdown is approximately 440 psi. Therefore, for about the same average drawdown, one could expect about 30,000 acre-ft/yr (60% of 50,000 acre-ft/yr) from the wells located within USBR's holdings. Conversely, if 50,000 acre-ft/yr of water are needed from USBR wells, the total production (and hence, the total drawdowns) will have to be suitably increased. That is, production of 50,000 acre-ft/yr from the USBR wells implies a mean pressure drawdown of  $440/0.6 \approx 730$  psi. For 25,000 acre-ft/yr production under the same conditions, the mean drawdown can be expected to be 365 psi.

For the five-spot production-injection strategy, the productivity of USBR's property is easier to evaluate. If we neglect the fact that

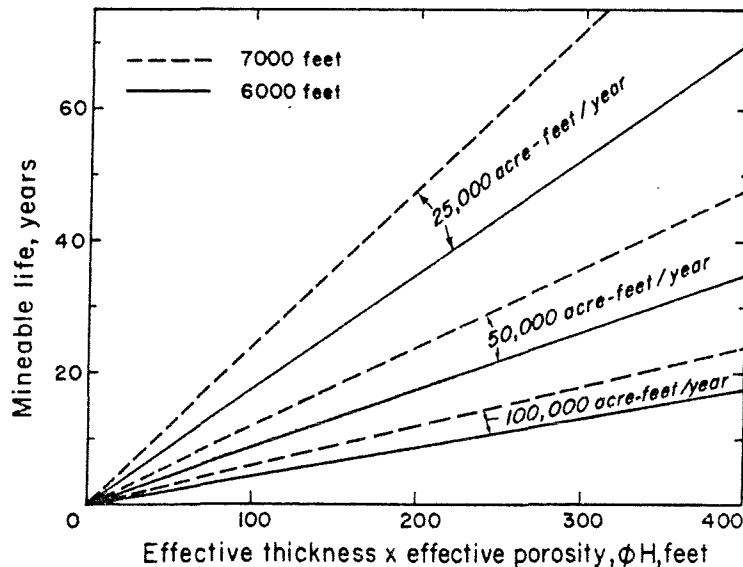
the peripheral wells in a finite five-spot array will have pressure responses slightly different from those in the center of the array, then we could associate an average pressure drawdown (or excess injection pressure) with each production-injection pair. The total production from USBR's property will be equal to the flow rate per well times the number of pairs within the USBR property. A study of the well distributions in conjunction with a map showing the limits of USBR's holdings (Figure 4.35) shows that about 60% of the total number of production-injection pairs occur within the USBR's holdings. Hence, in order to estimate the quantity of flow that can be obtained from USBR's lands, one can take the flow rate per pair of wells for a given spacing (Figure 4.20) and multiply this by the number of wells that can be accommodated within the USBR's lands. For example, in Figure 4.20(A) consider the 51 acre spacing case at 100 gpm per well. This corresponds to 60 production-injection pairs in the total area. For this case, the average pressure drawdown is about 230 psi. Since 36 such pairs (60% of 60) can be accommodated within the USBR's lands, it follows that about 36,000 gpm of water (60,000 acre-ft/yr) can be produced at an average drawdown of 230 psi. Conversely, the 36 wells within USBR's lands may be able to yield about 50,000 acre-ft/yr at an average drawdown of 192 psi.

The various flow rates that can be obtained from wells distributed solely within USBR's leasehold and the corresponding pressure-transient and breakthrough implications are summarized in Tables 4.6 and 4.7, respectively. The results in Table 4.7 are graphically presented in Figures 4.35, 4.36 and 4.37. The figures and tables show that producing fluids at a certain rate from the reservoir can lead to different pressure responses, reservoir life, and temperature breakthroughs depending on the number of wells, their spacing, and pattern. The final economic decision will lie in choosing the best combination of the number of wells, their spacing, pattern, and flow rates so that for a given flow rate the outcome will be acceptable. Tables 4.6 and 4.7 strive to provide the information required to do this. In attempting this optimization, one has to define the acceptable limits of each condition (e.g., the amount of money that can be set aside for drilling wells;

Table 4.6. Flow rates obtainable from within the USBR leasehold at East Mesa for various reinjection schemes. A summary of pressure-transient results.

Total Flow rate from wells restricted to Burec's Leasehold		PERIPHERAL INJECTION (CLOSE-IN)				FIVE - SPOT PATTERN					
		Number of Production wells within 300°F isotherm at 6,000 feet spacing between Production Wells).									
		15 (4,200 feet)	30 (3,000 feet)	60 (2,100 feet)	120 (1,500 feet)	9 (2,970ft) (203 acres)	18 (2,120ft) (103 acres)	36 (1,485ft) (51 acres)	72 (1,060ft) (26 acres)		
Assume 100% Volumetric Injection	25,000 acre-feet/year 15,000 gpm	sp, Drawdown (psi)	Range	625 - 950	275 - 685	170 - 550	35 - 500	375 - 520	170 - 250	65 - 135	25 - 110
			Average	790	480	360	270	450	210	100	70
		ΔP <sub>i</sub> , Excess injection pressure (no viscosity effects) (psi)	Range	325 - 495	210 - 395	125 - 275	45 - 225	375 - 520	170 - 250	65 - 135	25 - 110
			Average	410	305	200	135	450	210	100	70
		ΔP+1.5 p <sub>i</sub> <sup>(b)</sup> , combined average total pressure differential (including viscosity effects) (psi)	Range	1,405	935	660	470	1,120	525	245	170
			Average	1,405	935	660	470	1,120	525	245	170
	Power requirements corresponding to total pressure differential, Mw at 100% pump efficiency	Range	9.1	6.1	4.3	3.1	7.3	3.4	1.6	1.1	
		Average	9.1	6.1	4.3	3.1	7.3	3.4	1.6	1.1	
	50,000 acre-feet/year 30,000 gpm	sp, drawdown (psi)	Range	1,250-1,900	550 - 1,370	335 - 1,100	65 - 1,000	750 - 1,035	335 - 500	125 - 265	50 - 215
			Average	1,575	960	720	535	895	420	195	135
		ΔP <sub>i</sub> , excess injection pressure (no viscosity effects) (psi)	Range	650 - 985	415 - 790	250 - 550	85 - 450	750 - 1,035	335 - 500	125 - 265	50 - 215
			Average	820	605	400	270	895	420	195	135
ΔP+1.5 p <sub>i</sub> <sup>(b)</sup> , combined average total pressure differential (including viscosity effects) (psi)		Range	2,805	1,870	1,320	940	2,240	1,050	490	340	
		Average	2,805	1,870	1,320	940	2,240	1,050	490	340	
Power requirements corresponding to total pressure differential, Mw, at 100% pump efficiency	Range	36.5	24.4	17.2	12.2	29.2	13.7	6.4	4.4		
	Average	36.5	24.4	17.2	12.2	29.2	13.7	6.4	4.4		
100,000 acre-feet/yr (60,000 gpm)	sp, drawdown, (psi)	Range	Unrealistic	1,100-Unrealistic	670 - 2,200	130 - 2,000	1500 - 2,070	670 - 1,000	250 - 530	100 - 430	
		Average	Unrealistic	1,920	1,440	1,070	1,790	840	390	270	
	ΔP <sub>i</sub> , excess injection pressure (no viscosity effects) (psi)	Range	Unrealistic	830 - 1,580	500 - 1,100	170 - 900	1500 - 2,070	670 - 1,000	250 - 530	100 - 430	
		Average	Unrealistic	1,210	800	540	1,790	840	390	270	
	ΔP+1.5 p <sub>i</sub> <sup>(b)</sup> , combined average total pressure differential (including viscosity effects) (psi)	Range	Unrealistic	3,740	2,640	1,880	4,475	2,100	975	690	
		Average	Unrealistic	3,740	2,640	1,880	4,475	2,100	975	690	
Power requirements corresponding to total pressure differential Mw, at 100% pump efficiency	Range	Unrealistic	97.4	68.7	49	116.5	54.7	25.4	18		
	Average	Unrealistic	97.4	68.7	49	116.5	54.7	25.4	18		

Note: A. It has been assumed in preparing this Table that at the 6,000 ft. level, 60 percent of the area within the 300°F isotherm falls within the Bureau's Holdings.  
 B. Although the injected water has a viscosity which is about 1.9 times that of the reservoir water at 345°F, we will use a smaller factor of 1.5 in accounting for viscosity effects on pressure drawdown. This is a favorable assumption.



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Figure 4.35. Mineable life of the reservoir contained within the USBR's leasehold as a function of φH and rate of fluid production.



Table 4.7. Flow rates available from USBR leaseholds: hydrodynamic and temperature breakthrough implications.

ANNUAL FLOW RATE FROM WELLS RESTRICTED TO THE BUREC'S LEASEHOLD	ASSUMED EFFECTIVE RESERVOIR THICKNESS (feet)	ASSUMED EFFECTIVE RESERVOIR POROSITY (Percent)	MINEABLE RESERVOIR LIFE, $R_L$ YEARS		TIME ELAPSED BEFORE RESERVOIR TEMPERATURE DECLINES FROM 360°F TO 300°F <sup>(B)(D)</sup>							
			Considering 300°F Isotherm at 6,000 ft. depth (4,400 acres)	Considering 300°F Isotherm at 7,000 ft. depth (6,000 acres)	Peripheral (close-in) injection				Five-spot pattern			
					4,200ft <sup>(C)</sup> 405 acres	3,000ft <sup>(C)</sup> 207 acres	2,100ft <sup>(C)</sup> 100 acres	1,500ft <sup>(C)</sup> 52 acres	2,970ft <sup>(D)</sup> 203 acres	2,120ft <sup>(D)</sup> 103 acres	1,485ft <sup>(D)</sup> 51 acres	1,060ft <sup>(D)</sup> 26 acres
25,000 acre-feet (15,000 gpm)	1,000	10	17.6	24	105.2 to	52.6 to	26.3 to	13.2 to	161.8 to	80.9 to	40.5 to	20.2 to
		20	35.2	48	210.4 to	105.2 to	52.6 to	26.3 to	183.4 to	91.7 to	45.8 to	22.9 to
	1,500	10	26.4	36	157.6 to	78.8 to	39.9 to	20 to	242.6 to	121.3 to	60.6 to	30.3 to
		20	52.8	72	315.2 to	157.6 to	78.8 to	39.9 to	275.0 to	137.5 to	68.8 to	34.4 to
	2,000	10	35.2	48	210.4 to	105.2 to	52.6 to	26.3 to	323.6 to	161.8 to	80.9 to	40.5 to
		20	70.4	96	420.8 to	210.4 to	105.2 to	52.6 to	366.8 to	183.4 to	91.7 to	45.8 to
50,000 acre-feet (30,000 gpm)	1,000	10	8.8	12	52.6 to	26.3 to	13.2 to	6.6 to	80.9 to	40.5 to	20.2 to	10.1 to
		20	17.6	24	105.2 to	52.6 to	26.3 to	13.2 to	91.7 to	45.8 to	22.9 to	11.5 to
	1,500	10	13.2	18	78.8 to	39.4 to	19.2 to	9.6 to	121.6 to	60.8 to	30.4 to	15.2 to
		20	26.4	36	157.6 to	78.8 to	39.4 to	19.2 to	137.6 to	68.8 to	34.4 to	17.2 to
	2,000	10	17.6	24	105.2 to	52.6 to	26.3 to	13.2 to	161.8 to	80.9 to	40.5 to	20.2 to
		20	35.2	48	210.4 to	105.2 to	52.6 to	26.3 to	183.4 to	91.7 to	45.8 to	22.9 to
100,000 acre-feet (60,000 gpm)	1,000	10	4.4	6	26.3 to	13.1 to	6.6 to	3.3 to	40.5 to	20.2 to	10.1 to	5.1 to
		20	8.8	12	52.4 to	26.2 to	13.1 to	6.6 to	45.8 to	22.9 to	11.5 to	5.8 to
	1,500	10	6.6	9	39.4 to	19.7 to	9.9 to	5.0 to	60.6 to	30.3 to	15.2 to	7.6 to
		20	13.2	18	78.8 to	39.4 to	19.7 to	9.9 to	68.8 to	34.4 to	17.2 to	8.6 to
	2,000	10	8.8	12	52.6 to	26.2 to	13.1 to	6.6 to	80.9 to	40.5 to	20.2 to	10.1 to
		20	17.6	24	105.2 to	52.6 to	26.3 to	13.1 to	91.7 to	45.8 to	22.9 to	11.5 to

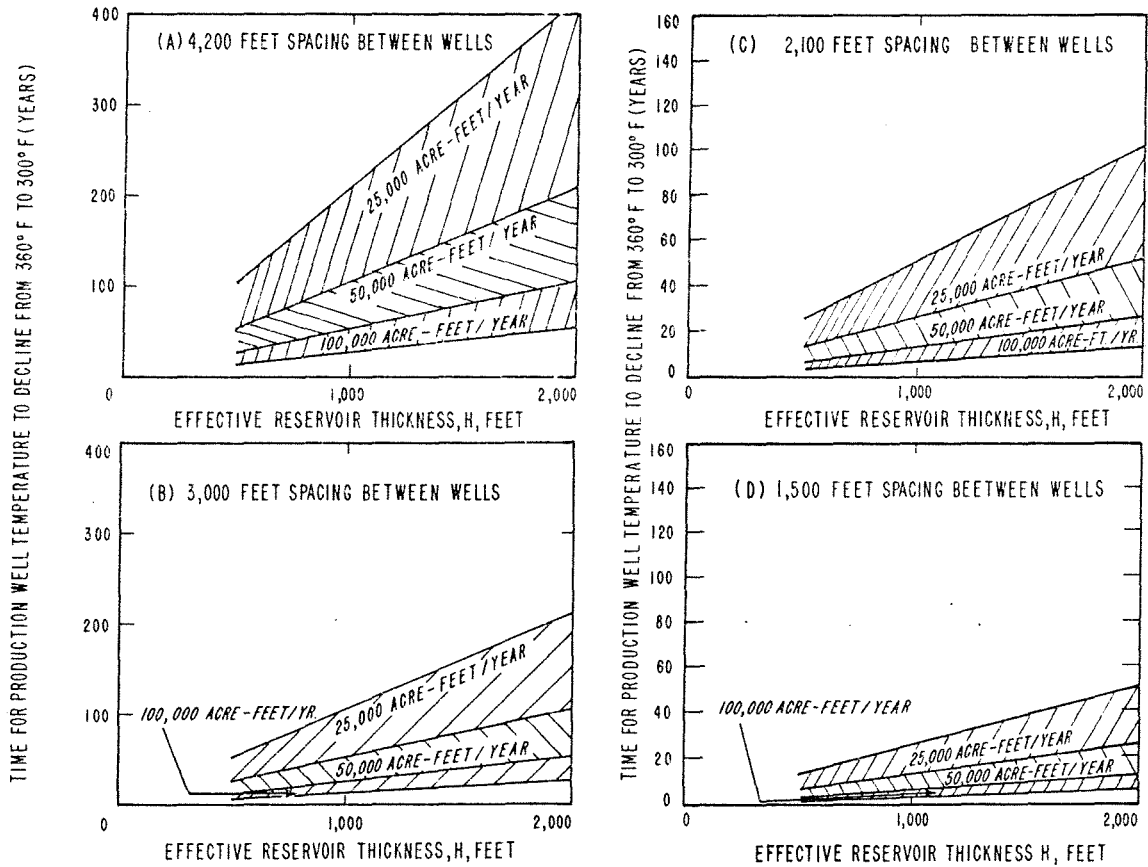
<sup>(A)</sup>  $R_L$  pertains, in this table, only to BuRec Lands.

<sup>(B)</sup> Simulations were carried out for 50,000 acre-feet/year flow rate for 30 production wells within 300°F isotherm at 6,000 ft. depth. (103-acre spacing). Results for 25,000 acre-feet and 100,000 acre-feet annual flow rates obtained by scaling 50,000 acre-feet results by factors of 2 and 0.5 respectively. Results for other spacings obtained using the fact that breakthroughs are inversely proportional to the square of well spacing.

<sup>(C)</sup> Spacing between adjacent production wells.

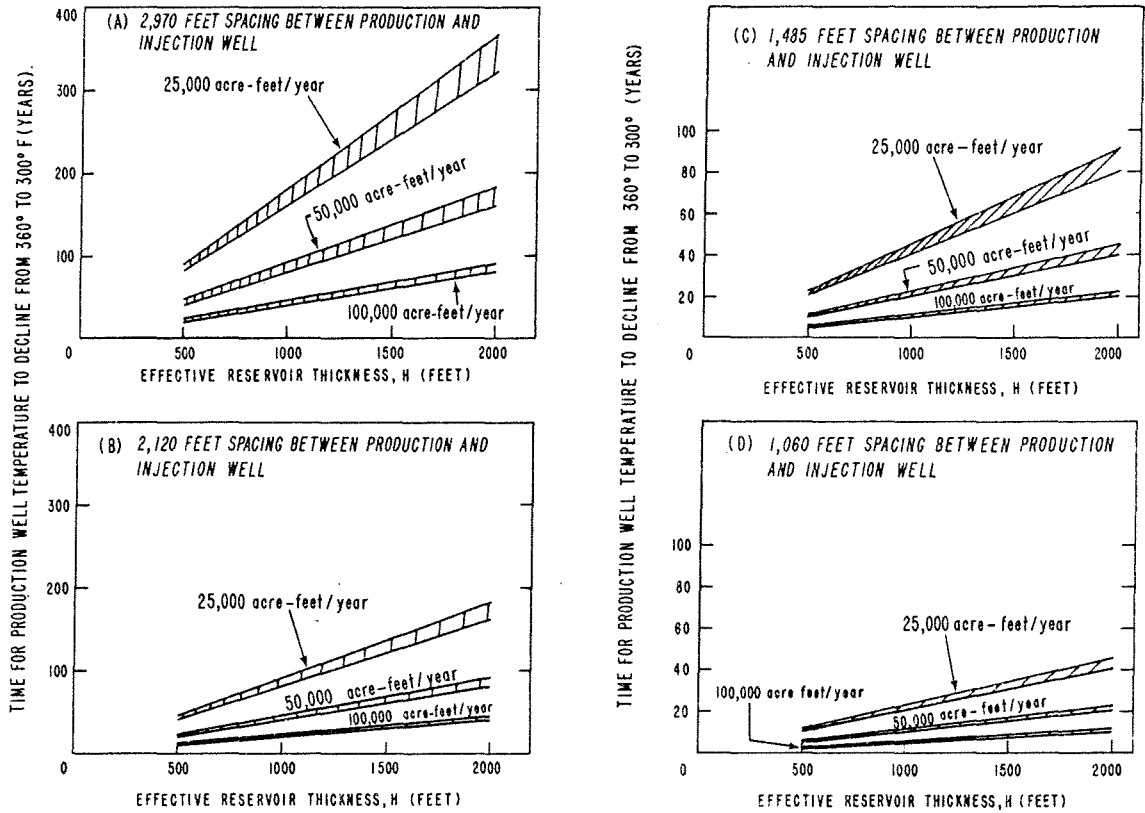
<sup>(D)</sup> Spacing between adjacent production and injection wells.

<sup>(E)</sup> All thermal breakthrough calculations are for the 20% porosity case.



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Figure 4.36. Time for production-well temperature to decline from 360°F to 300°F as a function of H, well-spacing, and total production rate from wells located within the USBR leasehold for peripheral injection case: (A) 4200-ft, (B) 3000-ft, (C) 2100-ft, and (D) 1500-ft well spacing.



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Figure 4.37. Time for production-well temperature to decline from 360°F to 300°F as a function of H, well-spacing, and total flow rate from wells within USBR leasehold for five-spot pattern: (A) 206-acre, (B) 103-acre, (C) 51.5-acre, and (D) 26-acre well spacing.

the depth at which pumps could be successfully installed and operated; the lower limit for acceptable flow rates from individual wells, and so on). As we have pointed out at the beginning of this chapter, optimization and economic evaluation are outside the scope of this study.

#### LIMITATIONS OF THIS STUDY

We have attempted to provide a realistic evaluation of the East Mesa reservoir performance under various production rates to help USBR evaluate the feasibility of the desalination project. Because of the nature of the decision to be made, our task has not been to model the East Mesa reservoir in precise detail. Rather, our task has been to study a great many possible scenarios with relatively simple mathematical models--emphasising variety rather than sophistication. Hence, the calculations have been made on a highly idealized model. This limitation has to be recognized at the outset in interpreting the various results presented in this chapter. Because the system parameters chosen represent the reservoir optimistically, the results presented should be considered as indicating the reservoir performance under favorable conditions.

In discussing the other limitations of this study, it is perhaps best to answer the following questions. Is it possible for the reservoir to perform better than the idealized model indicates? What level of risk should be associated with the ranges of results obtained?

First, there are two aspects in which the reservoir performance may improve. The reservoir pressure response may prove to be better, or the mineable reservoir life may increase. Insofar as pressure response is concerned, the model assumptions are extremely favorable: kH of 30,000 md-ft as compared with 10,000 to 20,000 md-ft within the USBR leasehold; ignore barrier boundary effects; areally infinite aquifer; ignore well-bore damage, and so on.

Perhaps the only model that might be less favorable for pressure support is the assumption of no water influx from the top or bottom of the idealized reservoir. In fact, if the sediments below the reservoir were to possess significant (fracture?) permeability and exist at a relatively high hydraulic potential, it is quite conceivable that large

influx of hot fluids may migrate upward to the reservoir and provide strong pressure support. Interference tests conducted in 1976 and 1977 between wells 6-2, 6-1, 31-1, and 8-1 have suggested a possible "leaky" boundary within the USBR leasehold area. Nevertheless, very little data are currently available to establish this leaky boundary with any degree of confidence. For practical purposes, therefore, it is reasonable not to rely on this leaky source in making the final decision. It is very likely that the other favorable assumptions will more than compensate for the leaky source uncertainty.

The question of uncertainty and risk assessment is even more difficult to answer. It is certainly extremely difficult to quantitatively associate a "factor of safety" or "factor of risk" with the results so far presented. However, considering the favorable assumptions made and the general lack of experience in pumping large amounts of fluids over prolonged periods of time, it is likely that the actual reservoir performance will be less optimistic than that suggested by the results of the present study. Consequently, some risk factor needs to be incorporated into the final decision-making procedure in this regard. This factor will also be governed in part by the risk that the decision maker is willing to associate with the overall desalination project.

#### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The present study is an attempt to provide the necessary reservoir engineering input on the feasibility of augmenting the Colorado River with desalted geothermal fluids from the East Mesa reservoir. Specifically, the study seeks to predict the response of the reservoir under various production-injection scenarios for annual flow rates varying from 25,000 to 100,000 acre-ft (15,000 to 60,000 gpm).

We propose a method of obtaining the desired annual flow rates by using downhole pumps with simultaneous reinjection of Salton Sea water to replenish the reservoir and provide pressure support. The reservoir will remain single-phase (water) at all times.

Our philosophy of analysis is to choose a set of reservoir parameters that are optimistic, given the present status of knowledge of East Mesa, and to study the response of an idealized reservoir to different

exploitation strategies. The responses will then be presented to illustrate their significance on the economics of the overall project. The actual economic analysis, however, is beyond the scope of the present study.

The factors that are most relevant to economic analysis include: pressure drawdowns and excess injection pressures; hydrodynamic breakthroughs; and thermal breakthroughs. The parameters that strongly affect these factors are the limits of the well field; the pattern of well distribution; well spacing; the geometry and size of the reservoir; total rate of fluid production; reservoir permeability, storativity; and the effective reservoir thickness and porosity. The assumptions made in regard to these parameters are summarized in Table 4.2.

The simulations carried out in the present study fall into three categories: pressure-transient calculations, well-bore thermodynamic calculations and thermal breakthrough calculations. The pressure-transient calculations were carried out with program MAXDRAW, which essentially superposes a set of analytic solutions. Some of these calculations are also carried out with a numerical model TERZAGI. The wellbore two-phase calculations were carried out with a model developed by Juprasert and Sanyal (1977). The thermal breakthrough calculations were carried out with a program called METERNIQ, based on an analytic approach. To check the results, some calculations were repeated with an independent numerical model called TRUMP.

All the simulations pertained to a homogeneous, infinite, horizontal reservoir. A majority of the calculations were directed to the case in which the production wells were distributed within the 300°F isotherm at a depth of 6000 ft. Some simulations were also run with the production wells distributed within the 300°F isotherm at a depth of 7000 ft.

Three types of production-injection scenarios were considered: no injection peripheral injection; and five-spot pattern. For each of these scenarios, the following spacings between production wells were considered: 4200, 3000, 2100, and 1500 ft. In addition, calculations were carried out to study the effect of viscosity changes, wellbore damage, and barrier boundary effects. The various cases studied are given in Table 4.3.

The results of pressure transient calculations are summarized graphically in Figures 4.8 through 4.21. Results of the no-injection scenario given in Figure 4.8 show that for 50,000 acre-ft annual production the average drawdown declines from about 3000 psi for a spacing of 4200 ft to about 2500 psi for a spacing of 1500 ft between production wells. For annual flow rates of 25,000 and 100,000 acre-ft, the drawdown range can be scaled by factors of 0.5 and 2, respectively. The computed drawdown ranges are unrealistic since, at these drawdowns, the reservoir will flash and become two-phase, which violates the basic assumption of a single-phase system. Rather, the large drawdown ranges computed simply show that the indicated flow rates are too large for the reservoir to sustain under single-phase flow conditions.

The aim of peripheral injection is primarily to sweep the heat from the reservoir toward the central portion of the well field, where fluid is extracted. To a lesser extent, peripheral injection will also help minimize the pressure drawdowns by providing reservoir pressure support. Although three different peripheral injection rings were studied (close-in, intermediate, and farthest), the close-in ring (where the injection ring was closest to the production field) was found to be most favorable for providing reservoir pressure support and hence, is of greatest interest.

Results summarized in Figure 4.12(A) show that for close-in peripheral injection scheme, the average drawdown varies from about 950 psi for 4200-ft spacing to about 310 psi for 1500-ft spacing for an annual flow rate of 50,000 acre-ft. For 25,000 and 100,000 acre-ft annual rates, the aforesaid values could be scaled by factors of 0.5 and 2, respectively. Figure 4.12(B) shows that for an annual flow rate of 50,000 acre-ft, the excess injection pressure ranges from 480 to 150 psi depending on well spacing.

In another series of simulations, the peripheral injection scenario was repeated with the production wells distributed within the limits of the 300°F isotherm at the 7000-ft depth. The results showed that the pressure drawdowns and excess injection pressures in these were essentially the same as the corresponding cases for the 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth (Table 4.5). This shows that as far as peripheral

injection is concerned, distributing the same number of wells over a larger area will not significantly increase pressure support.

It is known that the existence of barrier boundaries will lead to pressure drawdowns and excess injection pressures that are greater than when such boundaries are absent. In the case of peripheral injection, the actual pattern and magnitude of such increases will depend on the location and orientation of such boundaries. However, computations do show that if such boundaries are present, they could significantly increase pressure drawdowns and excess injection pressures (compare Figures 4.14 and 4.10).

Calculations carried out for the five-spot pattern (Figure 4.19) show that for 50,000 acre-ft annual production, the average pressure drawdowns decline rather significantly from about 530 psi at a spacing of 203 acres to about 800 psi for a spacing of 26 acres. This suggests that for a given annual rate of production it is more efficient to have a large number of closely spaced wells. In this regard, two points should be borne in mind. First, obtaining the same total flow rate from a large number of wells implies decreased flow rates per well. For example, 50,000 acre-ft annual production from 206-acre spacing implies 2000 gpm per well, whereas obtaining the same flow rate from a 26-acre spacing implies 250 gpm per well. Secondly, reduction of well spacing will lead to faster thermal breakthrough times.

For five-spot pattern injection, it is also instructive to study the response of a single pair of production and injection wells to different flow rates. These responses are illustrated in Figure 4.20. These figures show that for a given flow rate per well (e.g., 1000 or 2000 gpm) the average pressure drawdown (or excess injection pressure) is insensitive to spacing. Thus for a flow rate of 1000 gpm, the average pressure drawdown is approximately 250 psi, for well-spacing ranging from 26 to 203 acres.

This finding is encouraging in that one could conceivably increase the total number of well pairs to increase overall flow rate from the well field. A word of caution is in order here: the calculations are based on 100% volumetric injection. However, it is pertinent to examine the consequences if 100% volumetric injection cannot be assured.



The influence of unbalanced injection on pressure drawdowns for various well spacings for 100 gpm production well is presented in Figure 4.21. This figure implies that (a) pressure drawdowns increase as injection decreases below production; and (b) for a given, decreased injection, drawdowns increase more for smaller well spacing and larger number of wells than for larger well spacing and smaller number of wells.

The pressure-transient calculations were all carried out with the assumption that the viscosity of the injected water was the same as that of the produced hot water (0.2 cp). However, viscosity of water at 167°F (75°C) is about 1.9 times higher than that of water at approximately 340°F. Higher viscosity means decreased water mobility and implies proportionate increase in pressure drawdowns. The effect of viscosity on pressure drawdowns for the five-spot pattern is illustrated in Figure 4.23. As the cold front migrates outward from the injection well, the excess injection pressures increase rather rapidly above the value of hot-water pressures and reach their peak when the cold front is midway between the production and injection wells. At this maximum value, the injection well behaves as though the entire reservoir were filled with the colder injected fluid. As the cold front migrates beyond the midway point to the production well, the production well drawdowns will begin to increase due to the advance of the less mobile cold water toward it. Although one could normally expect the pressure field to stabilize under 100% volumetric injection, in actuality the viscosity effects will render it unsteady. As a result, one should expect the injection pressures and drawdowns to gradually increase with time throughout the life of the project. This should have important implications on the design and setting of different pumps needed for operating the well field.

An important assumption made in the pressure-transient simulations is that the wells are perfect hydraulic systems. However, experience from hydrogeology and petroleum engineering shows that significant head losses at production or injection wells invariably occur in almost all field situations. Such losses are especially likely to occur in geothermal wells due to such causes as corrosion, scaling, and formation plugging. To provide some clues to the role of well losses in pressure

drawdowns, a few calculations were carried out for the five-spot pattern. The results, given in Figure 4.24, indicate that a skin factor of 5 can increase pressure drawdowns by as much as 70%. A skin factor of 5 may not be unusual for geothermal wells.

An important feature of producing geothermal wells is that the fluid invariably flashes, boils, or migrates up the well bore. The depth at which boiling begins (with the formation of steam) may be called the flash point. When downhole pumps are contemplated, the flash-point depth is of critical importance since the bowl assembly of the deep-well pump has to be lowered safely below the flash point. The location of flash point within the wellbore is a function of flowing reservoir temperature and pressure, well diameter and friction factor, and flow rate. Computations on well-bore thermodynamics (Figures 4.26 and 4.27) suggest that for the conditions likely at East Mesa, flash-point depth varies directly as reservoir pressure drops. Moreover, as a rough approximation, one could estimate flash-point depth by multiplying pressure drawdown in psi by a factor of 2.4.

Because the proposed desalination project includes groundwater mining at the expense of relatively poor-quality Salton Sea water, the feasibility of the project depends on hydrodynamic and thermal breakthroughs. In regard to hydrodynamic breakthrough, the "mineable reservoir life" ( $R_L$ ) is the time required, at a given flow rate, to mine all the fluid contained within the reservoir. Obviously,  $R_L$  is equal to the volume of water within the reservoir divided by the flow rate. Thus,  $R_L$  is a function of the effective reservoir porosity, extent, and thickness. Very little data are currently available on the overall values of effective reservoir porosity and thickness. The values of  $R_L$  corresponding to a range of values of  $\phi$  and  $H$  are given in Figure 4.28 for the portion of the reservoir contained within the 300°F isotherm at 6000-ft depth. Because the area enclosed by the 300°F isotherm at 7000-ft depth is roughly twice as large as the area at 6000-ft depths, one could easily scale the results in Figure 4.28 by a factor of 2 to obtain  $R_L$ s for the 7000-ft depth. As shown in Figure 4.28,  $R_L$  may vary from a few to as many as 150 years, depending

on the combination of parameters chosen. For example, assuming  $H = 1500$  ft,  $\phi = 15\%$ , and annual flow rate = 50,000 acre-ft, then  $R_L$  is 36 years for the 6000-ft case.

It must be noted here that  $R_L$  suggests only an upper bound for the reservoir life. The actual life is likely to be much smaller. It is extremely doubtful that the injected water can successfully displace all the in situ reservoir fluids from the reservoir pores. And, with the arrival of the poor-quality injected fluid at the production wells along flow paths of increasing lengths, there will ensue a gradual decline in the chemical quality of the produced fluids. Thus, long before the entire quantity of reservoir fluid is mined out, the chemical quality of the produced fluids will so deteriorate as to seriously affect the efficiency of the desalination process.

Thermal breakthrough occurs when cold injected fluid reaches the production well and production-well temperature begins to decline. The life of a geothermal production well very much depends on the time elapsed before the production-well temperature falls below an acceptable level. This depends on the effective reservoir porosity and thickness, flow rate, initial reservoir temperature, well spacing, and so on. All the thermal breakthrough simulation runs assumed an initial reservoir temperature of 360°F. The computations showed that, other factors remaining constant, thermal breakthroughs were not very sensitive to porosity. However, for a given set of conditions, thermal breakthroughs were directly proportional to effective reservoir thickness ( $H$ ) and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between production and injection wells. The effect of  $H$  on the time elapsed for production well temperature to decline to 300°F from 360°F is illustrated in Figure 4.32 for peripheral injection and five-spot scenarios. Increasing  $H$  by a factor of 2 also increases the time elapsed by a factor of 2. In this connection,  $H$  is the effective reservoir thickness rather than the total thickness.

Ground subsidence denotes the displacements occurring at the land surface due to various causes such as tectonic movements and fluid withdrawal from the subsurface. Our concern here is the potential for ground subsidence caused exclusively by geothermal fluid withdrawal.

Ground subsidence occurs due to the reduction in the bulk volume of the reservoir rocks due to fluid withdrawal and transmission of the effects of volume change to the land surface through the overburden. The magnitude of reservoir volume change depends on the compressibility of the reservoir rocks and the pressure changes caused by fluid withdrawal. Experience with shallow groundwater systems indicates that, in general, fine-grained sediments such as clays and shales are far more compressible than coarse-grained materials such as sands. Nevertheless, study of geophysical logs from boreholes at East Mesa suggests that the shales within the reservoir are quite dense and may not be very compressible. If this is indeed correct, then reservoir compaction at East Mesa should be largely governed by the compressibility of the coarse-grained reservoir rocks. Interference tests so far conducted indicate the reservoir  $\phi c_t H$  ranges from  $6 \times 10^{-4}$  to  $6 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi. Computations based on this range (Figure 4.33) indicate that reservoir compaction may vary from less than 1 ft to as much as 5 ft, depending on  $\phi$ ,  $H$ , and pressure drawdown.

Because there are costly irrigation structures close to the geothermal field at East Mesa, the effects of subsidence are of significant environmental interest. In this regard, the magnitudes of maximum and differential subsidence are equally important. Unfortunately, the idealized models used in this study do not incorporate the details of reservoir geometry and heterogeneity needed for predicting land subsidence very accurately. The detailed data of the reservoir that are needed to attempt a sophisticated subsidence model are not available. Due to the several hundred psi of drawdown likely to occur at East Mesa, if 25,000 to 100,000 acre-ft/yr of water are produced, ground subsidence could be a significant environmental problem. A carefully controlled subsidence-monitoring program is essential from the beginning of the exploitation program if ground subsidence is to be kept under control.

Considering that the East Mesa site lies close to the geologically active San Andreas fault system, induced seismicity may be a real concern if injection pressures of several hundred psi are contemplated.

So far, we have summarized the reservoir response for various scenarios for wells distributed within the 300°F isotherm, which occupies a region larger than the area under the USBR leasehold. To get an idea of the reservoir response for wells restricted to the USBR leasehold, one has to interpolate from the results presented so far. About 4400 acres of USBR's property falls within the 300°F isotherm at 6000 ft. This area is about 60% of the total area within the 300°F isotherm at that depth. For the peripheral injection scenario (which has to be considered for the reservoir as a whole) and the five-spot pattern, one could therefore calculate only about 60% of the total flow rate from wells located within USBR's lands for the pressure drawdown ranges presented earlier. For example, looking at Figure 4.12(A), which relates to peripheral injection, the average pressure drop for 60 production wells for an annual flow rate is approximately 410 psi. Of these 60 production wells, about 36 lie within USBR's lands and should yield, at the same average drawdown, about 30,000 acre-ft/yr (60% of 50,000 acre-ft/yr). Conversely, if one desires to obtain 50,000 acre-ft/yr from the 36 wells within USBR's lands, the production rate has to be stepped up by a factor of 1.67. This increased production rate will lead to an average drawdown of  $440 \times 1.67 = 730$  psi. Similar reasoning will also apply when interpolating hydrodynamic or thermal breakthrough. The results of these interpolations are summarized in Tables 4.6, 4.7, and Figures 4.35 through 4.37.

The various mathematical simulations carried out in this study have provided quantitative information on the response of the geothermal reservoir to annual flow rates of 25,000, 50,000, and 100,000 acre-ft/yr under a variety of production and injection scenarios. The answer to whether or not the reservoir will sustain a given annual flow rate can only be obtained through a process of optimization and economic analysis. The optimization has to evaluate trade-offs among several alternate possibilities. For example, should one obtain a given total flow rate with a few widely spaced wells at large drawdowns or with many closely spaced wells? Several factors must be considered to make this decision: the cost of drilling, installing, and maintaining pumps; the faster breakthrough times; the possibility of enhanced drawdowns

due to unbalanced injection; wellbore damage; viscosity effects; and the minimum acceptable economic flow rate per well. In addition, maximum acceptable drawdowns and power required to lift or inject water against gravity must be considered. Apart from the economic considerations, there are technical problems such as whether efficient pumps could be installed and maintained effectively over prolonged periods of time at the desired depths.

In a study such as the present one where an idealized reservoir has been considered, it is necessary to be aware of the limitations of analysis. Almost all of the reservoir parameters used in the simulation have been chosen optimistically in the light of available field data, especially with reference to the USBR leasehold. The actual reservoir response should normally be expected to be poorer than what the results might indicate at the outset. Hence, a risk factor should be considered when using the results for economic analysis. Quantitatively, this risk factor is very difficult to establish. This difficulty is attributable to several reasons, not the least of which is that very little information is currently available on the operation of large well fields in geothermal reservoirs with downhole pumps and with reinjection at large flow rates over prolonged periods of time. To some extent, the risk involved will also depend on how much effort one is willing to spare to get this new technology of geothermal resource utilization to a workable stage.

We must consider whether or not the response of the reservoir could be much better than the results presented in this study would suggest. Specifically, the simulation studies have ignored the possible influx of geothermal fluids from greater depths as the reservoir pressure drops due to production. Although such a possibility exists, field evidence is lacking at present to establish the magnitude of such influx. It may be necessary to wait until the reservoir is stressed sufficiently before the existence of such influx and its magnitude can be established. At present, therefore, one cannot rely on this possibility in evaluating the overall feasibility of the desalination project.

The choice of the 300°F isotherm does not clearly limit the geothermal reservoir at East Mesa. According to our present knowledge, it encompasses a reasonable portion of the geothermal reservoir and provides a basis for interpolating to the USBR's property. If future exploration reveals that the isotherms extend much beyond their present inferred positions, then a more favorable picture of the reservoir will emerge.

Finally, we have concentrated on the problem of groundwater mining and replenishing the reservoir fluids with relatively cold Salton Sea water. We have not addressed the problem of energy extraction from the geothermal fluids through recycling, by injection of relatively warm (210°F) fluids. In this case, the responses should be somewhat better due to diminished viscosity effects and the absence of the chemical quality problem associated with Salton Sea water. Caution should therefore be exercised in extrapolating the results of the present study to the problem of energy extraction. It is advisable to carry out an independent evaluation of that issue.

In conclusion, we have strived to present, in as clear a fashion as possible, the expected response of the geothermal reservoir at East Mesa to various flow rates under different exploitation strategies. We hope that these results will help USBR arrive at a rational decision on the feasibility of the desalination project.

## NOMENCLATURE

Symbol	Property	Dimensions	Units
$c_f$	Specific heat of water	Energy/mass·deg	cal/kg <sup>o</sup> C
$c_p$	Pore volume compressibility of rock	LT <sup>2</sup> /M	1/psi
$c_r$	Specific heat of reservoir rock	Energy/mass·deg	cal/kg <sup>o</sup> C
$c_w$	Compressibility of water	LT <sup>2</sup> /M	1/psi
$d$	Diameter of the well	L	
$D_i$	Distance between production and injection well	L	ft
$D/Dt$	Total derivative		
$g$	Gravitational constant	L/T <sup>2</sup>	
$G_{v,l}$	Volumetric generation rate from volume element l	L <sup>3</sup> /T	gpm
$H$	Thickness of the aquifer	L	ft
$k$	Permeability of the reservoir	L <sup>2</sup>	md
$k_s$	Permeability of skin		
$K_r$	Thermal conductivity of rock	Energy/LT·deg	
$K_f$	Thermal conductivity of the fluid	Energy/LT·deg	cal/cm·sec <sup>o</sup> C
$\vec{n}$	Unit outer normal		
$p$	Reservoir pressure	M/LT <sup>2</sup>	psi
$p_i$	Initial reservoir pressure	M/LT <sup>2</sup>	psi
$\Delta p$	Change in reservoir pressure	M/LT <sup>2</sup>	psi
$P_t$	Total pressure differential, drawdown + excess injection pressure		psi
$P_D$	Dimensionless pressure used in petroleum literature. $P_D = 0.5 W(U)$		
$Q_m$	Mass flow rate	M/T	
$Q_l$	Liquid flow rate	L <sup>3</sup> /T	gpm
$Q_{TAF}$	Total fluid production	L <sup>3</sup> /T	acre-ft/yr



Symbol	Property	Dimensions	Units
$r_s$	Radius of skin	L	ft
$r_w$	Radius of well	L	ft
$t$	Time	T	min
$u$	Dimensionless constant $u = (\phi c_t H \mu r^2 / 4kHt)$ where all the quantities are expressed in their fundamental units $u = 56,887.45(\phi c_t H \mu r^2 / kHt)$ as actual units used in this report.		
$V_l$	Volume of a volume element	$L^3$	
$V_v$	Volume of voids	$L^3$	
$V_w$	Volume of water	$L^3$	
$V_b$	Bulk volume	$L^3$	
$W(u)$	Well function of $u$ . $W(u) = \int_u^\infty \frac{e^{-u}}{u} du = 2P_D$		
$z$	Elevation	L	ft
$\Gamma$	Surface bounding a volume element	$L^2$	
$\rho_r$	Density of rock	$M/L^3$	$kg/m^3$
$\rho_w$	Density of water	$M/L^3$	$kg/m^3$
$\phi$	Porosity	1	
$\mu$	Viscosity	$M/LT$	cp

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## SECTION 5: GEOCHEMISTRY

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### INTRODUCTION

The East Mesa geothermal field has been under development by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) since 1968 with the goal of producing fresh water and power (USBR, 1971, 1973, and 1974). Since the drilling and testing of the first well in 1972, production and desalting of geothermal fluids has been hindered by formation of mineral scales consisting primarily of calcite. Table 5.1 lists the principal activities at East Mesa during the last 10 years. The table is by no means complete but emphasizes those tests that contribute to the background information on scaling. Five geothermal wells have been drilled by the USBR at East Mesa, referred to as 6-1, 6-2, 31-1, 8-1, and 5-1, respectively. The locations of these wells at the test site are given in Figure 5.1. The depth, bottom-hole temperature, and approximate salt content of the well fluids are summarized in Table 5.2.

The proposed desalination plant at East Mesa is intended to produce approximately 25,000 acre-ft of distilled water per year. Geothermal fluids from a number of wells would be combined before entering the desalination plant. Chemical evidence from existing producing wells at East Mesa suggests that mixing may lead to precipitates, possibly causing scaling in the production pipelines feeding the plant. Geothermal fluids would be recovered from wells through the use of downhole pumps, obviating carbonate scaling due to flashing\* in the wellbores, however, rapid scaling would be expected upon steam separation in the desalination plant.

The exploitation of geothermal fluids would probably lead to subsidence of the land surface above the reservoir. Because of the flatness of the terrain and the proximity of agricultural land served by irrigation canals, subsidence would have to be prevented by injecting residual fluids and make-up water from the Salton Sea. Salton Sea water would be pumped to East Mesa using the power produced incidentally to the desalination process. The

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\*The term "flashing" is used here in the sense of vapor separation from the aqueous phase. Limited flashing of East Mesa geothermal fluids will result in a vapor phase consisting primarily of carbon dioxide. More extensive flashing will produce a vapor phase in which water is dominant.

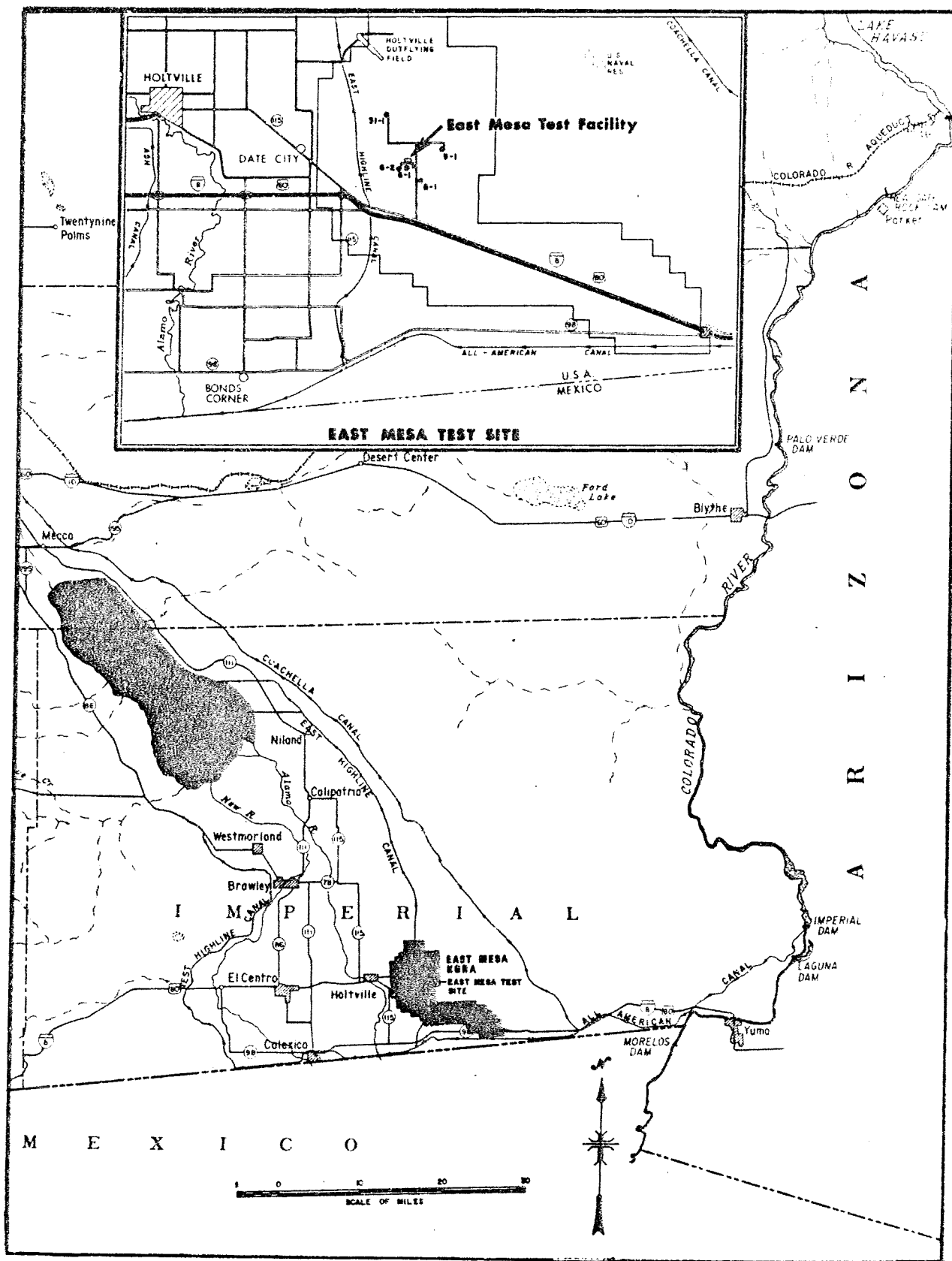


Figure 5.1. Map of southeastern California showing location of East Mesa, a Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA), and locations of U.S. Bureau of Reclamation leaseholds (source, USBR).

Table 5-1. Principal activities at the East Mesa geothermal field 1968 to 1978.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Activities</u>
1968	USBR and Division of Saline Water authorized to appraise geothermal resources for fresh-water production.
1969	U.C. Riverside geophysics defines anomaly at East Mesa.
1970	Holes drilled to measure temperature gradient. U.C. Riverside geophysics report (1970).
1971	First USBR status report (1971b). Resistivity survey by U.C. Riverside. Site location for report for 6-1 (USBR, 1971a). U.C. Riverside report (1971) on desalination potential.
1972	Well 6-1 drilled and tested. Well 6-1 flashed to 4000 ft at 100 gal/min. Development concepts report (U.C. Riverside, 1972).
1973	Well 6-2 drilled and tested. MSF shakedown test produced 10,000 gal fresh water. Report on 6-1 testing (USBR, 1973b) Site selection report for well 6-2 (USBR, 1973a).
1974	Wells 5-1, 8-1 and 31-1 drilled. Well 6-1 tested and perforated. Single-stage VTE tested 900 hr using well 6-1. Contract to Bechtel for desalting. Wahl (1975) report on Garrett scaling, USBR status report (USBR, 1974).
1975	Commercial interest in East Mesa, Republic and Magma drill-wells. Second perforation of well 6-1. Eight day test of MSF. Well 5-1 tested and injection started. USBM operates materials test-facility on well 6-1, which seals itself. Well 6-2 perforated.
1976	Bechtel operates VTE and MSF. Injection into well 5-1, from wells 6-2 and 8-1.
1977	USBR status report (1977a); and desalting report (1977b). Fluted Ti tubes scaled (VTE). Reports on site operation by Bechtel Corp. (1977a, 1977b). Battelle PNL corrosion studies in well 6-1, which plugs; Watson initiates Round Robin sample. LBL starts production tests. Aerojet and Allied test heat-exchangers on well 6-1.
1978	LBL reservoir testing. BNL tests polymer pipes in well 6-2. Turbine tests by DDS Engineering Co. ORNL tests condensers. Turbine tests (DSS). Down-hole pump tests by Barber Nicols. DOE takes over site; Westec managing.

Table 5.2 East Mesa well data (USBR)\*

Well number	Depth		Reservoir (formation) temp (°C)	Total dissolved solids (TDS) (mg/l)
	(m)	(feet)		
6-1	2448 †	8030	204	20,000
6-2	1830	6005	193	4,000
31-1	1899	6231	154	2,000
8-1	1891	6205	179	2,500
5-1	1834	6016	157	2,000

\* See USBR, 1977, and Appendix E.

† Presently open only to a depth of 1294 m (7200 ft).

water would also be used to cool the desalination-plant heat exchangers. Several problems might arise from the use of Salton Sea water. These include scaling in the heat exchangers, scaling due to mixing with residual brines, and scaling due to heating by and reaction with the rocks in the reservoir after injection. Scaling may even occur in the transmission pipelines between the Salton Sea and the desalination plant.

Potential problems in the operation of a desalination plant can thus be summarized as scaling:

- (a) due to mixing of incompatible geothermal fluids, whether in the production wells or in the production pipelines;
- (b) caused by flashing, concentration and cooling of the geothermal fluids in the desalination plant;
- (c) caused by heating Salton Sea water in heat exchangers;
- (d) by mixing Salton Sea water with residual geothermal fluids; or
- (e) by injecting residual geothermal fluids and Salton Sea water in the geothermal reservoir.

Scaling may or may not be operationally significant depending on where it occurs, its quantity, and physical characteristics. With this knowledge USBR can take corrective action, either by modifying plant design, or treating the working fluids to prevent or retard precipitation of scale formers.

The purpose of this section is to evaluate the potential for scaling under the conditions expected in an operating desalination plant at East Mesa. This section is divided into eight parts. The second part reviews



the available data on the chemical compositions of geothermal well fluids at East Mesa and the Salton Sea. Succeeding parts deal with the problem of flashing and fractionation of volatiles from East Mesa geothermal fluids; the potential for scaling caused by the use of geothermal fluids and Salton Sea water, respectively; scaling predictions compared with operating experience obtained from pilot-plant studies at East Mesa; and scale control techniques. Finally, our conclusions and recommendations are presented.

## CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF FLUIDS FROM EAST MESA AND THE SALTON SEA

### Selection Criteria and Sampling Problems

Many samples of fluid have been taken for chemical analysis from the East Mesa wells, particularly wells 6-1 and 6-2. Chemical analysis of wellhead samples taken in an "unflashed" condition are tabulated in Appendix E.

Actual concentrations of key scale-forming elements remain uncertain due to difficulties in taking samples, sample instability, and to a lesser extent, inaccurate analytical techniques. During early investigations at East Mesa, only flashed samples were collected; some of these are included in the tabulations. Some downhole samples are also included, even though most of them seem to have been mixed with drilling mud. Also, recent analyses of flashed fluids from Republic wells are included, data for unflashed samples not being available (Michels, 1978).

In retrospect it probably was not known if a well being sampled was flowing as a single phase (unflashed) or if the sample remained a single phase in the sampling tube (Riley et al., 1979). Occasionally the individuals collecting samples commented in their notebooks that gas bubbles were seen escaping from the sampling tube. Even so, such samples were classified as unflashed.\*

Flashing can change the chemical composition of the fluid in several ways. Loss of steam results in a general concentration of all nonvolatile elements. This can lead to the precipitation of solid phases, particularly

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\* Chemistry laboratory notebook and data sheets, and records of wellhead temperature, pressure, and flow rate are presently stored at USBR, Boulder City, Nevada.

those that have a decreasing solubility with decreasing temperature, for flashing cools the fluid. The loss of carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) during the flashing causes carbonate precipitation, as discussed below. The formation of calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ) while a sample is being taken results in a low value for the calcium (Ca) concentration. Once solid  $\text{CaCO}_3$  is present as scale, particles may be carried into the sample resulting in a high Ca concentration. This is one reason for the variability of the tabulated values for Ca and other scaleforming elements.

The most recent and most common sampling technique used by USBR at East Mesa is fluid removal through a coil of tubing submerged in an ice bath. The cooled fluid is released (depressurized) through a valve at the end of the tube. Both copper and stainless steel have been used, and both have disadvantages: copper reacts with the fluid and stainless steel is a poor conductor of heat.

Another sampling method was occasionally used. The hot fluid was discharged through a 0.4-mm-diameter hole directly into a weighed amount of ice and water. Wells 6-1 and 6-2 were sampled by both methods on 30 April 1974 (Appendix E). The sample collected by the cooling-coil method had lower concentrations of calcium, magnesium (Mg), strontium (Sr), and silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) than the other method (Appendix E, wells 6-1 and 6-2). It is possible that precipitation took place in the cooling coil. The differences observed by the two sampling methods range from 10% for Sr to nearly 60% in the case of Ca. Thus it appears that sampling remains an unsolved problem (Battelle, 1978; Kryukov and Larionov, 1970; and Hill and Morris, 1975). It is the greatest source of error in determining concentrations of scale-forming elements at East Mesa.

#### Change in pH with Sample Age

Measurements of the pH of samples from well 6-2, said to be "unflashed," show a range from 5.9 to 7 and higher. This depends mostly on the amount of gas released before the measurement was made. Loss of  $\text{CO}_2$  occurs even in "sealed" sample bottles. Table 5.3 shows the increase in pH of "unflashed" samples between the time they were collected (field pH) and the time laboratory measurements were made, an interval of approximately 20 days.

Table 5.3. Change of pH of well 6-2 fluid samples with time ("sealed" containers).\*

Sample description	Field pH	Laboratory pH (20 days)
"Unflashed" pipeline	6.2	6.7
	6.1	6.9
	6.2	6.8
Flashed transfer pump	9.4	9.1
	9.2	9.1
	9.3	9.1
Flashed injection well (5-1)	9.3	9.0
	9.1	9.0
	9.1	9.1

\*USBR, 1977a; Tables 5.7 and 5.8.

#### Analytical Errors vs. Sampling Problems

In addition to sampling techniques and aging, different ways of measuring the concentration of an element give different results. Even the "same" method applied by different analysts in different laboratories yields different results. This was demonstrated by an analysis of a prepared control sample and a single sample of well 6-2 fluid by 18 different laboratories in an experiment by J. C. Watson of Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories (unpublished data). The scatter of the analyses of the control sample was much less than for the geothermal fluid. Some of the results for the fluid are shown in Table 5.4.

The variability is so large in some cases, (Ca and Ba, for instance), that the problem is almost certainly precipitation of solids rather than analytical errors. The variability in the value of suspended solids among laboratories,  $9 \pm 9$  mg/l, also suggests this possibility. By comparison, the control sample contained 13.0 mg/l Ca. The value determined by 10 laboratories using atomic absorption spectroscopy (AA) was  $13.0 \pm 2$  with extreme values of 10.1 and 17.3. Four laboratories measured the Ba in the control sample by atomic absorption spectroscopy; the mean was  $0.32 \pm 0.02$ . The sample was made up to contain 0.30 mg/l Ba.

Table 5.4. Partial chemical composition of well 6-2 fluid, sampled on 8 July 1977.\*

Parameters	No. of labs reporting	Concentration (mg/l)		Note
		Mean value	Extreme values	
pH	14	6.38 + 0.31	5.95 to 7.32	Field = 5.7 + 1
Suspended solids	10	9 ± 9	0.29 to 32	
HCO <sub>3</sub>	11	605 ± 100	475 to 889	Field = 580
Ba	4	0.26 ± .04	0.21 to 0.30	AA
B	4	7.48 ± 1.0	8.12 to 6.0	Curcumin colorimetric
Ca	11	11.8 ± 4	3 to 18.3	AA
Sr	6	2.11 ± 0.07	2.0 to 2.2	AA
SO <sub>4</sub>	11	149 ± 22	130 to 194	6 methods
CO <sub>2</sub> "entrained"	4	4434 ± 1317	2489 to 5320	Acid titration
NH <sub>3</sub>	4	14.4 ± 4	10.47 to 17.9	Nesslerization
TDS	13	4239 + 147	3883 to 4360	

\*Source: J.C. Watson, Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories

#### Composition Trends

In order to design plants to use the East Mesa fluids, it is important to know if the fluids change in composition with time or with volume of fluid produced. The total volume of fluid removed from each well is known as a function of time on a monthly basis (Westec Services, Inc., 1978). This information is shown in tables of chemical composition for each well in Appendix E. We see no systematic change in fluid composition with either time or production.

From 2 to 25 October 1974, well 6-1 was produced at a relatively steady rate of 290 l/min (63 gal/min) at a wellhead pressure of 0.74 to 0.76 MPa<sup>†</sup> (92 to 96 psig), and a temperature of 165°C (330°F). The fluid stream was sampled every 4 hours, and the chloride (Cl), calcium, bicarbonate (HCO<sub>3</sub>), silica, sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub>), total dissolved solids (TDS), and pH were measured in each sample. Variations in some parameters were large but not systematic with time or production (Cl = 12,684 to 15,305 mg/l, Ca = 500 to 1100 mg/l, and pH = 6.9 to 7.7).

During 1976 and early 1977, well 6-2 was produced most of the time, but at variable rates, as shown in Figure 5.2. The Na, Ca, and CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in the fluid are also shown in the figure. No clear trends

<sup>†</sup>Megapascals (MPa). The S.I. pressure unit is pascal (Pa); to convert from standard atmospheres to Pa, multiply by 1.013 x 10<sup>5</sup>.

are evident. During September 1976, when the well was closed each day and then opened to a flow of 4 l/min (9 gal/min), the Ca concentration exceeded 100 mg/l at times, probably due to transient dissolution of previously precipitated calcite scale.

The minimum values of the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration (1500 mg/l) are independent of the flow rate. The greatest variable in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration occurred at the highest flow rates. This is consistent with the view that at high flow rates the well was flashing and bubbles of CO<sub>2</sub> were sampled more frequently.

### Conclusions

In view of the uncertainty in fluid composition due to sampling, aging, and analytical errors, it is difficult to choose one analysis over another as typical of the fluid from a given well. We have, however, selected a set of analyses to represent various wells, as shown in Table 5.5. The analyses selected were arbitrary. We chose the most recent chemical analysis for each well, providing the analysis was nearly complete and was not very different from most previous analyses.

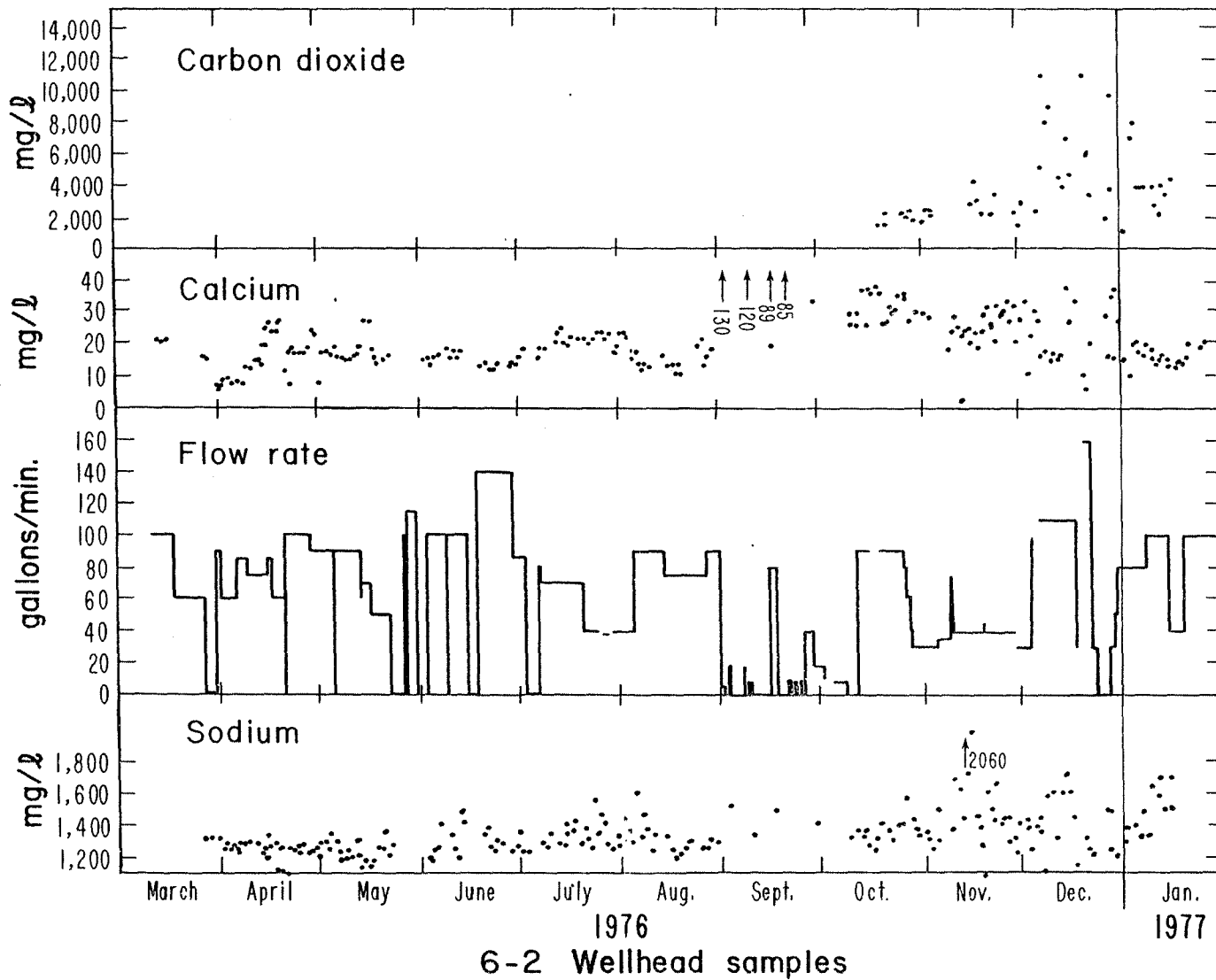
### Chemical Composition of the Salton Sea

Development of the East Mesa geothermal field for fresh water and power production will require a source of additional water for cooling and to replace fluid lost by the reservoir. This is necessary to maintain reservoir pressure and to prevent subsidence of the land surface.

Table 5.5 Chemical analysis selected to represent wells.\*

Well	Date of sampling	Comments
6-1	12 April 1977	CO <sub>2</sub> probably ~760 mg/l
6-2	12 July 1977	Ba assumed to be 0.25 mg/l and Sr = 6 mg/l based on other analyses
1-1	18 August 1976	
8-1	15 April 1977	H <sub>2</sub> S assumed to be ~1.5 mg/l on basis of other analyses
5-1	31 May 1974	Probably flashing

\*See Appendix E.



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Figure 5.2. Flow rate and composition of well 6-2 fluids.

The Salton Sea, originally a fresh-water lake formed by the flood of the Colorado River in 1905, was almost as saline as ocean water by the year 1929. This was a result of solution of salts that existed in the basin before the flood and also because of intense evaporation from the surface of the lake (Henley et al., 1966).

Figure 5.3 shows changes in major chemical components from 1907 through 1977. The Sea was chemically monitored by the Carnegie Institute of Washington from 1907 through 1929. The Imperial Irrigation District of the Imperial Valley has monitored the Salton Sea from 1945 through the present time. Although Na and Cl appear to have been stabilized since 1945, there has been a slow continual increase in the concentration of Ca, Mg, and  $SO_4$  to the present time. Table 5.6 shows a more complete chemical analysis obtained in June 1967, which will be used in the subsequent parts of this report.

#### FLASHING AND FRACTIONATION OF VOLATILES

Flashing takes place when the vapor pressure of the fluid exceeds the confining pressure. Because it provides the heat for vaporization, the fluid cools during flashing. Without heat exchange the maximum fraction of East Mesa fluids that can be flashed to steam is 19% per 100°C of cooling, as shown in Figure 5.4. (The salt concentration is too low to make much difference in yield.) With heat exchange, desalting plants have been tested that convert as much as 70% of the geothermal fluid into fresh water. However, because of the potential for silica scale formation when fluids are concentrated more than a factor of 2, a yield of 50% was common during testing (Figure 5.5).

#### Contribution of $CO_2$ to Flashing

Flashing of East Mesa fluids can be predicted from temperatures and  $CO_2$  content alone since they are low in volatile components (except for  $CO_2$ ). The pressure below which flashing occurs is given in Figure 5.6 as a function of temperature and  $CO_2$  concentration. The solubility of  $CO_2$  at high temperatures was taken from Helgeson (1969). If a well at 160°C (320°F) and 0.6 MPa (73 psig) were sampled, and the sample contained 1500 mg/l

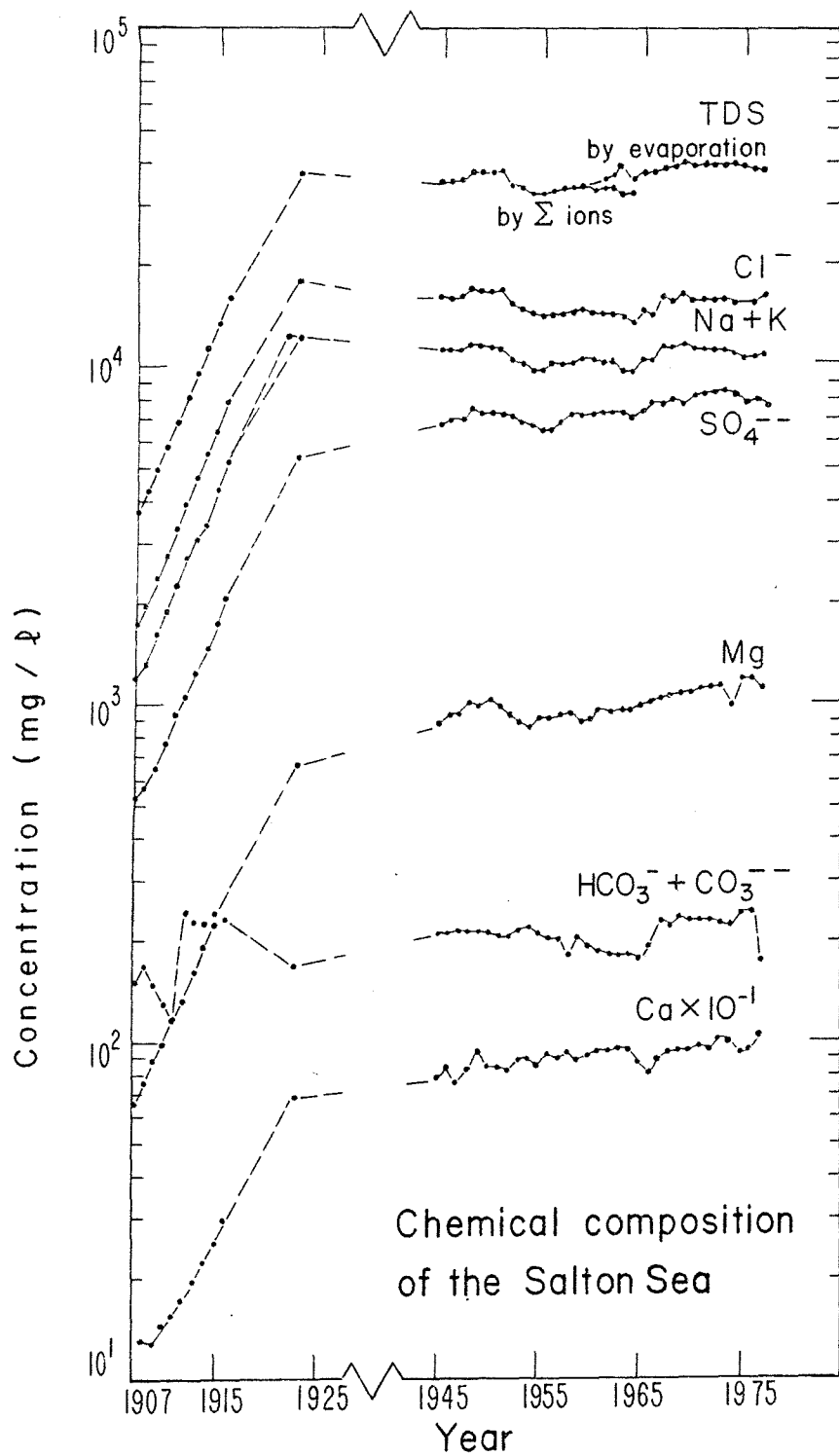
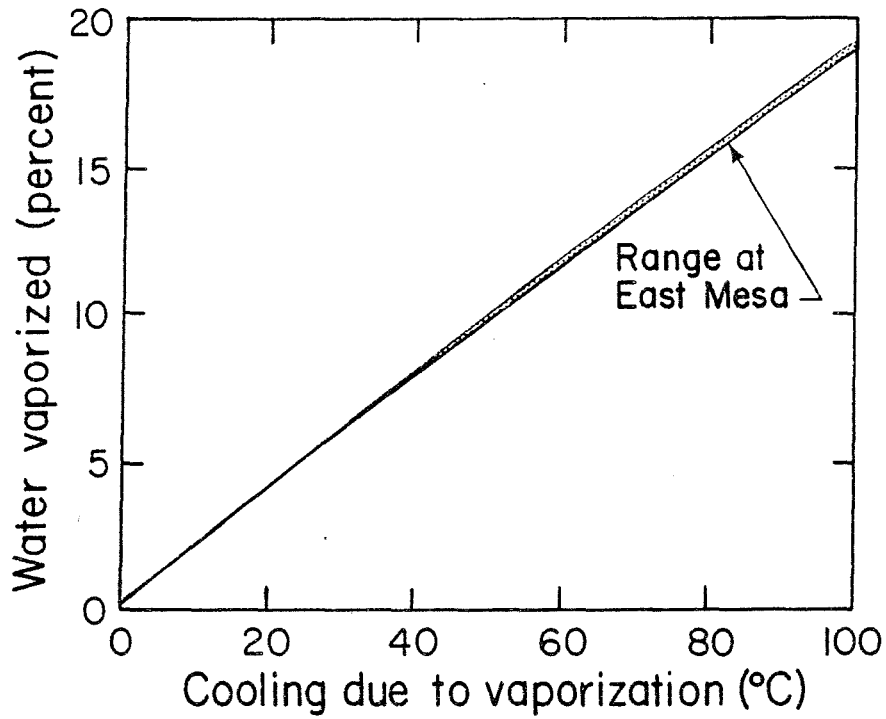


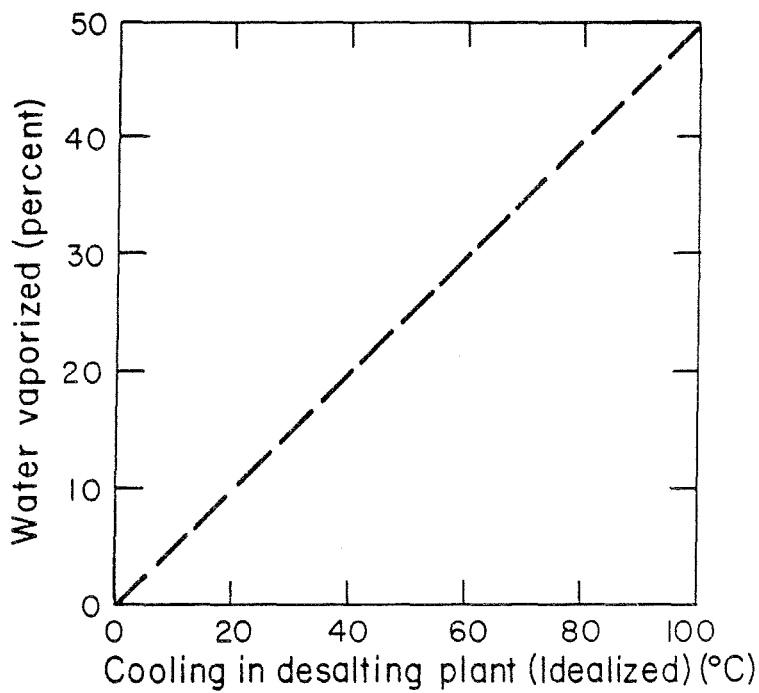
Figure 5.3. Trends in chemical composition of Salton Sea water from 1907 to 1977.





XBL 788-1627

Figure 5.4. Self-vaporization of hot geothermal fluid by expansion.



XBL 788-1612

Figure 5.5. Idealized relation between cooling and percent of water vaporized in a desalination plant.

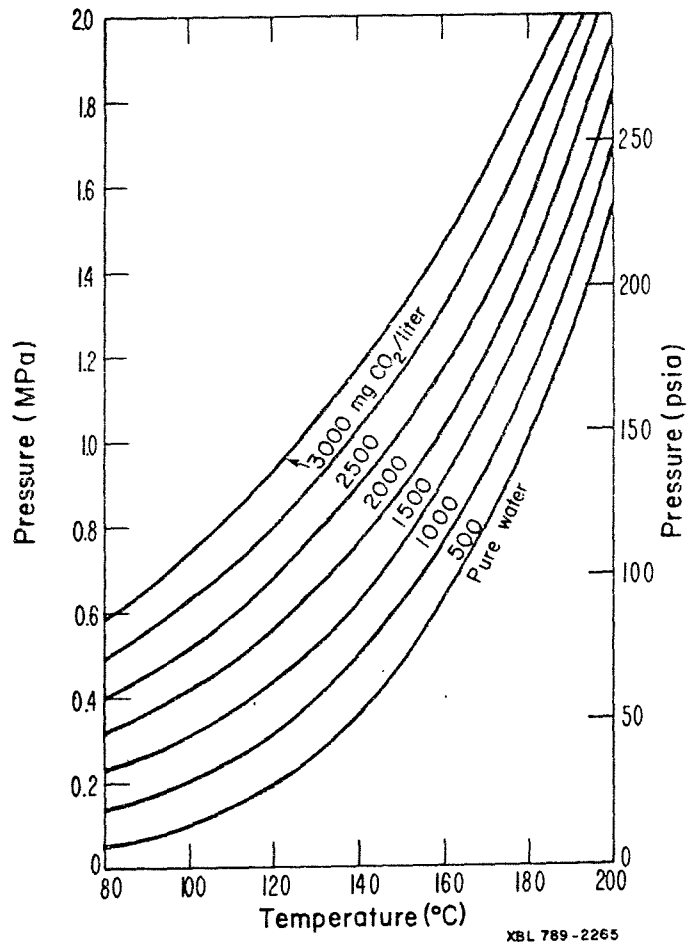


Figure 5.6. Pressure-temperature relations for the system H<sub>2</sub>O-CO<sub>2</sub> showing boundaries between the single-phase (liquid) and two-phase (liquid + gas) regions, data from Helgeson (1969).

of CO<sub>2</sub>, the well would probably be flashing below the sampling point. Conversely, if one could determine the flow rate where flashing occurs by other means (for example, pH measurements), the CO<sub>2</sub> content could be estimated from the temperature and pressure using Figure 5.6.

Table 5.6. Chemical composition of the Salton Sea, 8 June 1967.\*

Parameter	Concentration (mg/l)
Na	10,500.
K	172.
Ca	954.
Mg	1,078.
Li	3.2
Cl	15,000.
CO <sub>3</sub>	0.
HCO <sub>3</sub>	203.
SO <sub>4</sub>	8,146.
NO <sub>3</sub>	14.
NH <sub>4</sub>	-
B	9.20
F	3.20
As	0.0
Ba	<1.
Cd	<0.005
Co	0.0050
Cu	0.0100
Fe	<.2
Mn	0.01
Ni	0.003
Pb	<0.002
Rb	-
Se	-
Sr	11.
Zn	0.062
Total dissolved solids (TDS)	37,082.0
Specific conductance at 25°C ( mho)	42,100.0
Temperature (°C)	25.0
pH	7.7

\* California Department of Water Resources, 1970.  
Location: T11S, R11E.

### Fractionation of CO<sub>2</sub> and NH<sub>3</sub> During Flashing

Flashing results in loss of volatiles by the fluid. The distribution of volatile materials between liquid and vapor can be calculated by assuming that the vapor phase is in equilibrium with the liquid phase. It is, of course, necessary to take into account the increase in volume of the vapor phase due to nonsteam components. In the present case, such calculations were made with the assistance of a computer program named FLOCAL (D. D. Jackson, unpublished data). The degree of saturation of a fluid with respect to the principal scaleforming minerals can be calculated during flashing by this code as well as the fractionation of CO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>S between fluid and vapor phases. The data base and the methods of calculating activity products are those of Helgeson. Minor flashing results in the loss of most of the dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> to the vapor phase as shown in Table 5.7 and Figure 5.7. The figure is expressed in terms of degrees of cooling to make it generally applicable to flashing at East Mesa.

Because ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) is more soluble in water than CO<sub>2</sub>, it is not as rapidly fractionated into the vapor phase during flashing, as shown in Figure 5.7. Likewise when the product gas stream is condensed, NH<sub>3</sub> will tend to redissolve. This explains the absence of NH<sub>3</sub> in the gas analyses reported below and the high concentrations of NH<sub>3</sub> in the product water, 50 mg/l (USBR, 1977a). In fact, NH<sub>3</sub> will be retained by the liquid phase to a greater extent than shown here because its interaction with dissolved carbon dioxide has not been taken into account.

Table 5.7. Fraction of dissolved CO<sub>2</sub> in vapor phase due to flashing from 200°C.

Temperature drop (°C)	Final temperature (°C)	Fraction of total CO <sub>2</sub> in vapor phase (%)
0	200	0
5	195	84.1
10	190	92.2
20	180	96.9
40	160	99.0
60	140	99.6
80	120	98.8
100	100	99.9

Table 5.8. Dry gas composition flashed from well 6-1 in 1977.\*

Element	Concentration (mole %)			
	4 March †	17 March	12 April	5 May
CO <sub>2</sub>	62.5	87.5	85.6	90.3
Ar	0.29	0.04	0.05	0.04
O <sub>2</sub>	5.53	0.02	0.03	0.07
N <sub>2</sub>	23.0	2.12	2.36	1.56
CO	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10
He	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01
H <sub>2</sub>	0.23	0.12	0.36	0.11
CH <sub>4</sub>	8.44	10.2	11.6	7.77

\* Battelle analyses, collected at separator (Parry and Sullivan, 1977).

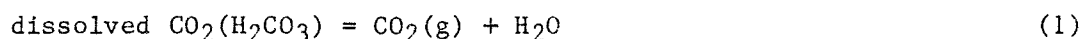
† Possible air leak.

#### Observed Composition of Dry Gas From Well 6-1

The composition of water-free gas flashed from well 6-1 fluid is shown in Table 5.8. The sample was collected at the separator; and the absence of NH<sub>3</sub> is probably due to its solution in condensed steam. The principal component is CO<sub>2</sub>. The well was flashing even at a 56 l/mm (15 gal/min) flow (Perry and Sullivan, 1977). The relatively high concentration of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) was unexpected and has not been taken into account in estimating vapor pressure; thus the actual vapor pressure of 6-1 fluid may be a little higher than estimated when based on CO<sub>2</sub> content alone. Nitrogen has also been found in the Republic wells at East Mesa at approximately the same range of concentration as methane (Michels, 1978).

#### Chemical Change in a Flashing Fluid

The loss of CO<sub>2</sub> by flashing leads to the following chemical reactions among dissolved species:



The ratio of the concentration of H<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> to HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> is related to H<sup>+</sup> by K<sub>2</sub>, the equilibrium constant for Equation (2) as follows:

$$(\text{H}^+) = (\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3) / (\text{HCO}_3^-) K_2 \quad (3)$$

The value of K<sub>2</sub> at 25°C is 4 x 10<sup>7</sup>. Equation (3) is plotted as a function of temperature in Figure 5.8.

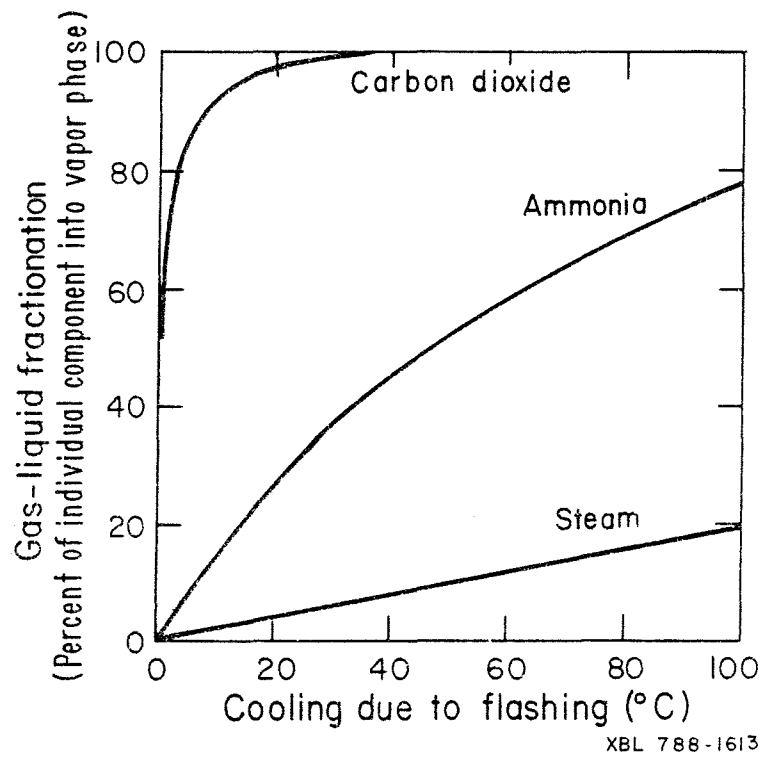


Figure 5.7. Fractionation of  $\text{CO}_2$  on  $\text{NH}_3$  in its vapor phase when the geothermal fluid at East Mesa is flashed.

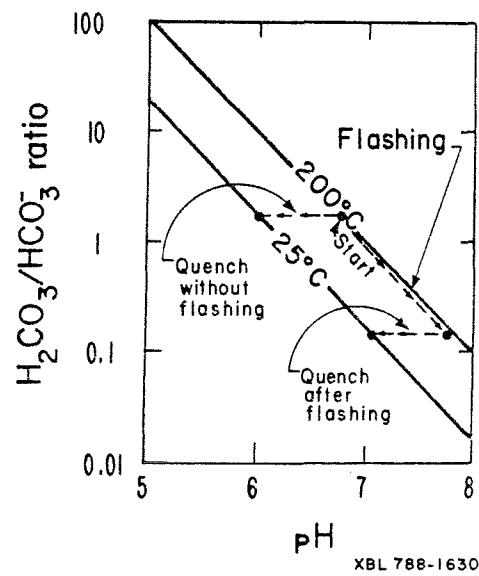


Figure 5.8. Schematic diagram showing relations among pH, temperature, and the distribution of dissolved carbon dioxide in East Mesa fluids.

As shown above, "unflashed" East Mesa fluids tend to have a pH of ~6 and some have a  $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3/\text{HCO}_3^-$  ratio of 2, as predicted. (In practice, the concentration of dissolved  $\text{CO}_2$  is often calculated from measured pH and  $\text{HCO}_3^-$  concentration, particularly when the concentration of dissolved  $\text{CO}_2$  is high and loss of  $\text{CO}_2$  cannot be avoided during sampling.)

Measured only at ambient temperature, the pH at reservoir temperature can be estimated from Figure 5.8 because the  $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3/\text{HCO}_3^-$  ratio changes little when East Mesa fluids are quenched. This was found by calculating species distribution as a function of temperature using the computer code EQ3 (Wolery, 1978). Thus an East Mesa fluid of pH 6.0 at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  has a pH of ~6.75 at  $200^\circ\text{C}$ . Flashing  $10^\circ\text{C}$  reduces the  $\text{H}_2\text{CO}_3/\text{HCO}_3^-$  ratio from ~2 to 0.2 and the pH increases accordingly. Quenched, the measured pH would be ~7, as shown in the figure.

Equations (4) and (5) show that a decrease in the concentration of  $\text{H}^+$  by flashing results in an increase in the amount of  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ , even though there is an overall removal of  $\text{CO}_2$  from the fluid.



$$K_5 = (\text{H}^+)(\text{CO}_3^{2-})/(\text{HCO}_3^-) \quad (5)$$

$$K_5 = 10^{-10.4} \text{ at } 25^\circ\text{C}$$

Thus the precipitation of calcite by reaction (6) takes place upon flash cooling in spite of an increasing solubility with decreasing temperature:



## SCALING POTENTIAL OF GEOTHERMAL FLUIDS

Computational Methods

When a fluid becomes supersaturated with respect to a mineral, scaling can take place. Supersaturation does not necessarily mean that the mineral will precipitate, or actually form a scale. Some precipitation rates, such as that of silica from solution, can be exceedingly slow at moderate levels of supersaturation. Others can be very fast. Unfortunately, we cannot predict the kinetics of many reactions of interest to geothermal plant operations at this time, and therefore, we must base our evaluation on thermodynamic criteria. On the other hand, if thermodynamic arguments indicate that a potential scale former will be undersaturated, there is no conceivable way in which a scale could form.

The potential for scaling by a particular mineral can be expressed as the ratio of activity product to solubility product. A ratio of 1 represents saturation values,  $>1$  indicates supersaturation, and  $<1$ , undersaturation. For example, Figure 5.9 is divided into a lower unsaturated field and an upper supersaturated field by a horizontal dashed line. Using the methods and data of Helgeson (1969), calculations of scaling potential were facilitated by the FLOCAL computer program.\* FLOCAL uses thermodynamic properties of steam to calculate composition, volume, enthalpy, and mass of the vapor phase at each degree centigrade of volume, enthalpy, and mass of the vapor phase at each degree centigrade of cooling during flashing. Increasing salt concentration and decreasing temperatures in the residual field are taken into account to calculate new activity-product to solubility-product ratios for each mineral during flashing.

The number of minerals treated by Helgeson is large but by no means exhaustive. To look for other potential scale-forming minerals, three other aqueous-solution computer codes were used: SOLMNEQ (Kharaka and Barnes, 1973), MINEQL (Westall et al., 1976), and EQ3/EQ6 (Wolery, 1978). At least 30 solid phases (minerals) could form from East Mesa-Salton Sea fluids during production. Most of them are possible only if the trace of aluminum (Al) in some of the chemical analyses is taken into account and

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\*Written by D. D. Jackson



would produce only small amounts of solids. Only six minerals have sufficient stability and can be formed in significant amounts to be of practical importance. These minerals are calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ), barite ( $\text{BaSO}_4$ ), celestite ( $\text{SrSO}_4$ ), anhydrite ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ), and gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).

The ions  $\text{Ba}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Sr}^{2+}$  were assumed to have the same dependence of stoichiometric individual ion activity coefficients on  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ , as Helgeson gives for  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ . Although solid solutions among  $\text{CaSO}_4$ ,  $\text{SrSO}_4$ , and  $\text{BaSO}_4$  are known, and in fact were found as scale at East Mesa, no thermodynamic data exist for them.

The minerals dolomite [ $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ ], magnesite ( $\text{MgCO}_3$ ), and talc [ $\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{10}(\text{OH})_2$ ] may also be "scale formers" if magnesium-rich Salton Sea water is injected into the reservoir to balance fresh water production.

#### Scaling Potential of Individual Wells During Production and Flashing

To calculate the scale-forming potential of fluids in pipelines and the desalination plant, both conductive cooling and flash cooling must be taken into account. Flashing, the self-vaporization of hot geothermal fluid by reduction of pressure, produces an amount of steam that varies with fluid temperature, salt content, and the design of the desalting plant.

This section presents results of calculations of the scale-forming compositions of fluid samples collected on the dates given in Table 5.5.

Calcite and quartz saturation at reservoir temperatures ( $\sim 200^\circ\text{C}$ ) are clearly implied by the occurrence of these minerals in the reservoir rocks (Fournier, 1973, 1976; Hoagland, 1976a, 1976b). This was confirmed by calculations. Calcite supersaturation results from flashing. Carbonate-scale formation at flash points has been a particularly troublesome feature of production at East Mesa. In addition, saturation was found with respect to amorphous silica at lower temperatures. All unflashed wells were unsaturated with respect to  $\text{CaSO}_4$  and  $\text{SrSO}_4$ .

Some fluid analyses show traces of aluminum, zinc (Zn), and iron (Fe) (Appendix E). On this basis East Mesa fluids were calculated to be supersaturated with many aluminosilicates, sphalerite ( $\text{ZnS}$ ), smithsonite ( $\text{ZnCO}_3$ ), pyrrhotite ( $\text{FeS}$ ), and siderite ( $\text{FeCO}_3$ ). The results of one calculation for

an aluminium-bearing fluid are shown to illustrate the point, but one should bear in mind the questionable significance of these analyses. The total amount of scale which these elements can form is small.

Considering the chemical analysis of well 6-1 (sampled on 12 April 1977) as typical, the degree of calcite saturation is shown in Figure 5.9. The lower solid curve shows a decreasing activity-product to solubility-product ratio as the fluid is cooled without flashing. This is due to the increasing solubility of calcite with decreasing temperature. Flash-induced cooling, on the other hand, leads to a sudden pH increase and supersaturation, as shown by the upper curve. Thus wherever flashing takes place, calcite scale formation is possible, be it in a producing well, pipeline, or desalting plant.

Fluid from well 6-1 is calculated to be supersaturated with quartz at all temperatures, but supersaturation with respect to amorphous silica occurs only below 80°C (Figure 5.10). Well 6-1, however, is unsaturated with  $\text{CaSO}_4$  and  $\text{SrSO}_4$  (Figure 5.11).

The upper, dashed curves in Figures 5.10 and 5.11 show how the ratio of activity to solubility products changes with temperature when flashing occurs augmented by the use of heat exchangers. By this means approximately half of the fluid is reclaimed as fresh water, as discussed above. Both the role of temperature and concentration have been taken into account and there is an increase in the minimum temperature for saturation by amorphous silica and  $\text{BaSO}_4$ .

Well 6-2 is calculated to be supersaturated with calcite and approximately saturated with respect to quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) at the bottom-hole temperature (180°C), as shown in Figures 5.12 and 5.13. Saturation with amorphous silica at <190°C is shown. Unsaturation with  $\text{BaSO}_4$ ,  $\text{SrSO}_4$ , and  $\text{CaSO}_4$  is calculated for 6-2 fluid at all temperatures--even when the concentration of these minerals in the fluid doubles due to flash-evaporation in a desalination plant.

Figure 5.14 shows the effect of traces of Al on saturation calculations for geothermal fluid from well 6-2. The fluid is supersaturated with respect to several aluminosilicates at all temperatures below ~150°C (based on EQ6 calculation). Similar results can be expected for other well fluids. The Al concentration in well 6-2 fluid, measured by four laboratories using atomic absorption, was 0.0, 0.11, 0.24, and <0.7 mg/l

J.C.Watson, unpubl. data). Thus analyses for trace amounts of Al are uncertain. In any case, the total amount of aluminosilicate that can precipitate is small.

Only one complete chemical analysis of unflashed brine from well 31-1 is available. Of the principal scale formers at East Mesa, this well appears to be saturated only with respect to  $\text{SiO}_2$  (both forms) and  $\text{CaCO}_3$  (Figures 5.15 and 5.16). The fluid is calcite-saturated at bottom-hole temperature and when the well is flashed. Under the latter conditions the fluid demonstrates a high calcite scaling potential. Saturation with respect to  $\text{BaSO}_4$  is probable at temperatures below  $50^\circ\text{C}$ --for example in the concentrated waste stream of desalination plants.

The chemical composition of fluid from well 8-1 is similar to that from well 31-1. Quartz exists at saturation temperatures at the bottom of the well, and the degree of supersaturation increases with cooling, as shown in Figure 5.17. Based on a single Ba analysis, the fluid appears to be unsaturated with  $\text{BaSO}_4$ . The saturation temperature for amorphous silica increases from  $\sim 80^\circ$  to  $125^\circ\text{C}$  with flashing.

The 8-1 fluid, like the other East Mesa geothermal fluids, is saturated with calcite at reservoir temperatures: it becomes supersaturated when it is flashed, and undersaturated when cooled without flashing (Figure 5.18).

#### Potential for Scaling Due to Mixing Geothermal Fluids

In order to produce fresh water or power economically at East Mesa, simultaneous production and mixing of fluids from many wells will be necessary. Evaluation of the effects of mixing fluids from different wells indicates that serious scaling may result. In particular, mixing well 6-1 fluid with fluid from other wells increases the degree of saturation both with respect to carbonates and sulfates. Figures 5.19, 5.20, and 5.21 show that a 1/1 mixture of well 6-1 and well 6-2 fluids has a higher potential for scaling with respect to calcite, barite, quartz, and amorphous silica than either fluid alone. Figure 5.22 shows that only at temperatures above  $150^\circ\text{C}$  can fluids from wells 6-1 and 6-2 be mixed together in all proportions without the risk of  $\text{BaSO}_4$  scale formation. At  $50^\circ\text{C}$ , for example, the addition of more than 10% fluid from well 6-1 to fluid from well 6-2 results in  $\text{BaSO}_4$  saturation.

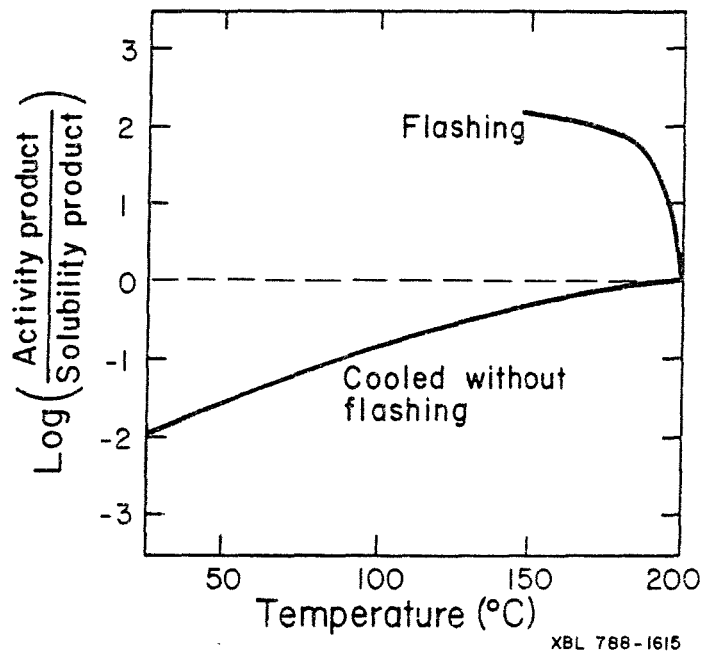


Figure 5.9. Calcite supersaturation due to flashing-induced  $\text{CO}_2$  loss, and and calcite undersaturation when well 6-1 fluid is cooled with flashing as shown by upper and lower curves, respectively.

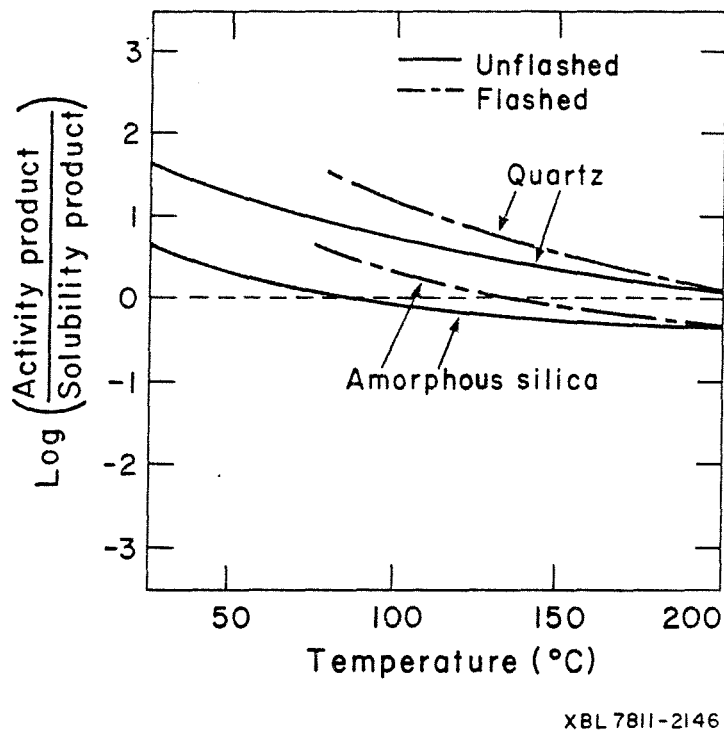


Figure 5.10. Silica scaling potential of geothermal fluid from well 6-1 showing quartz saturation at all temperatures below  $200^\circ\text{C}$  (formation temperature).

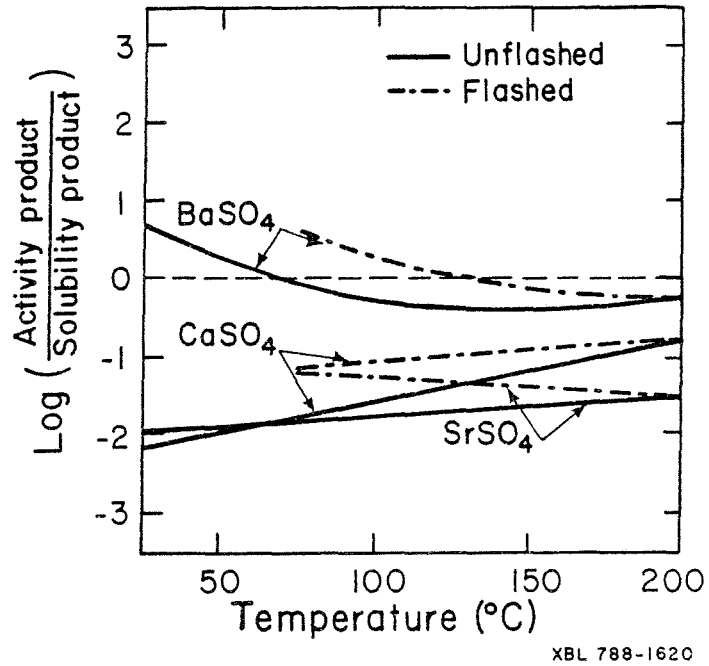


Figure 5.11. Scale-forming potential of geothermal fluid from well 6-1 with respect to three sulfate minerals.

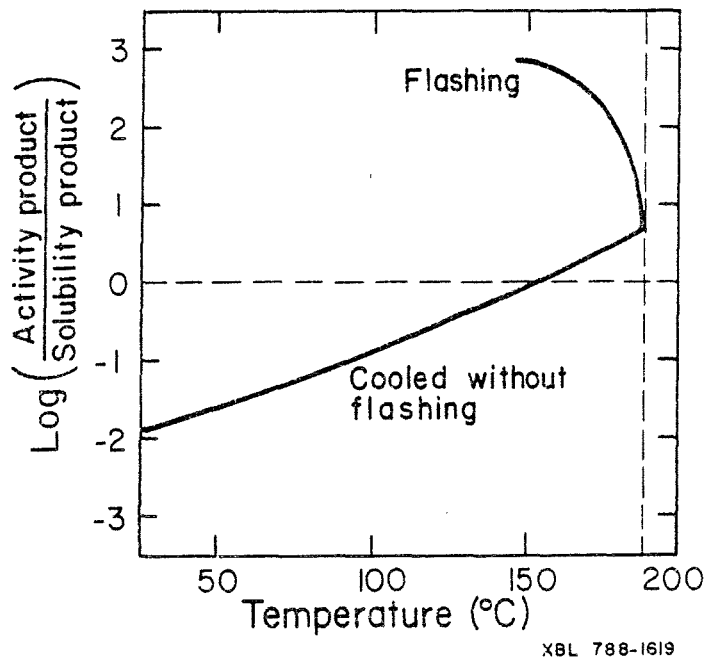


Figure 5.12. Calcite scaling potential of geothermal fluid from well 6-2 (downhole temperature indicated by vertical dashed line).

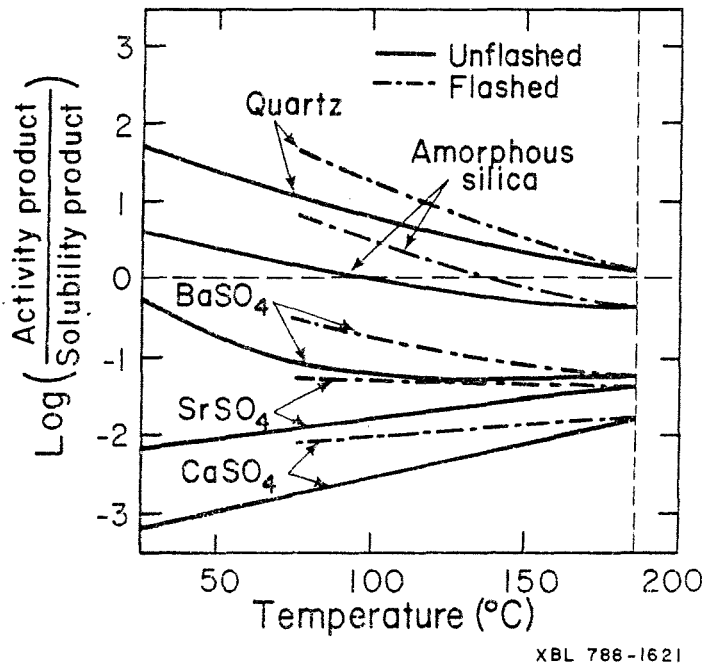


Figure 5.13. Scale-forming potential of geothermal fluid from well 6-2 with respect to quartz, amorphous silica, and sulfate minerals.

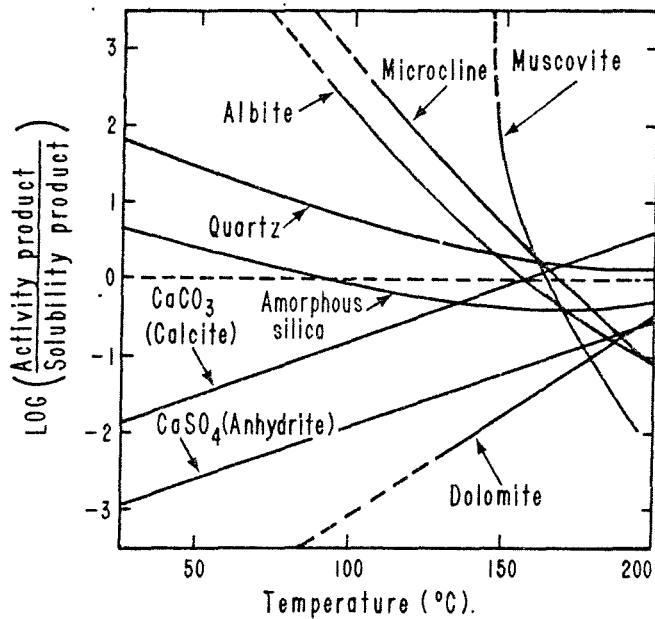


Figure 5.14. Scale-forming potential of geothermal fluids from well 6-2, calculated on the assumption that well 6-2 fluid contained 0.06 mg Al, using the EQ6 code.

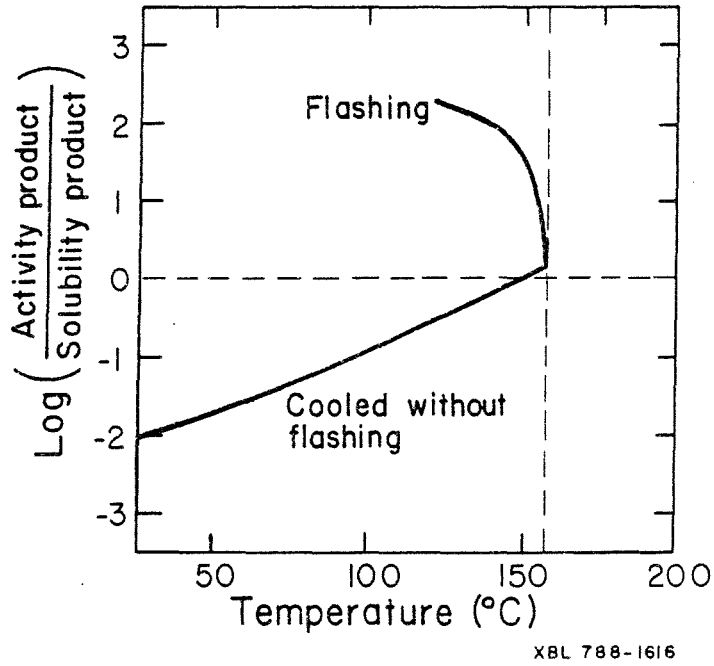


Figure 5.15. Calcite scaling potential in well 31-1 geothermal fluid.

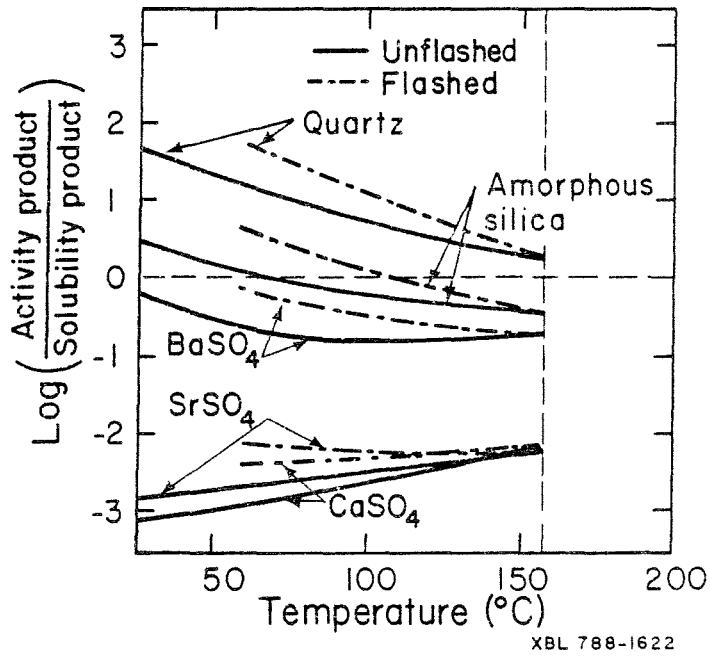


Figure 5.16. Scale-forming potential for geothermal fluid from well 31-1.

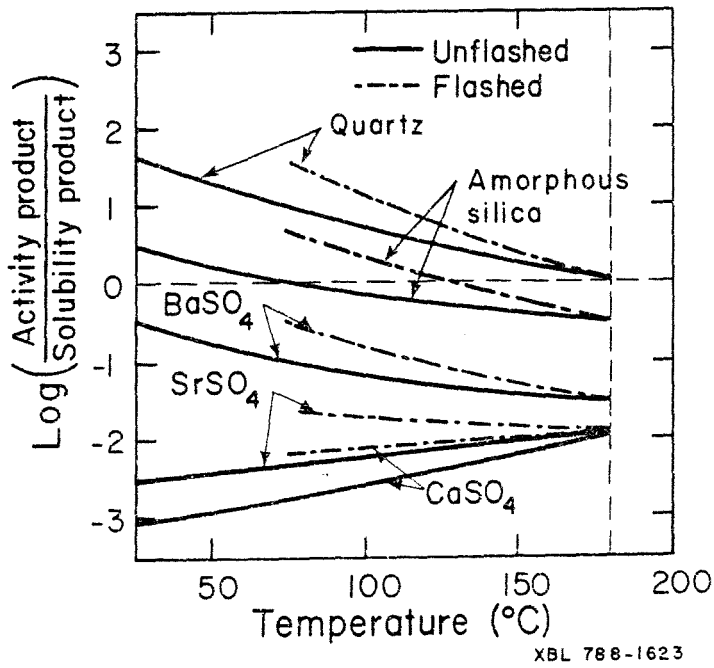


Figure 5.17. Scale-forming potential for geothermal fluid from well 8-1.

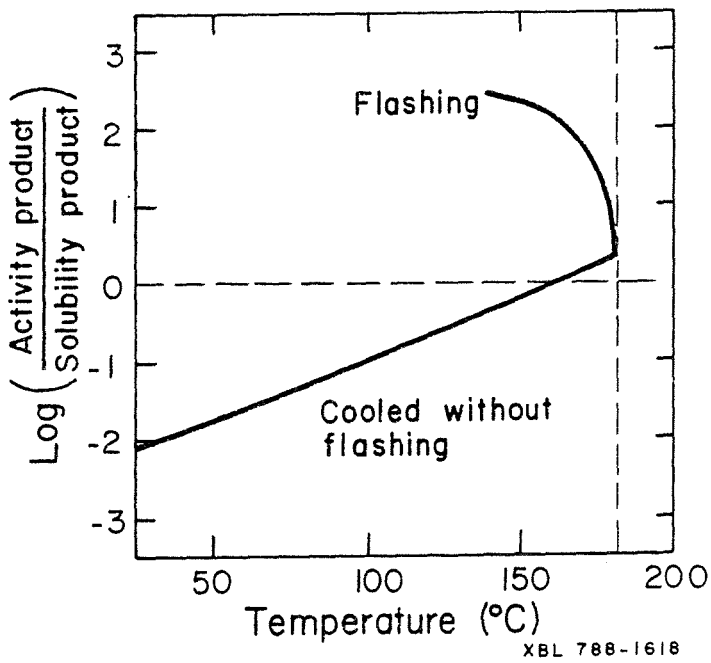


Figure 5.18. Calcite scaling potential in well 8-1 geothermal fluid.



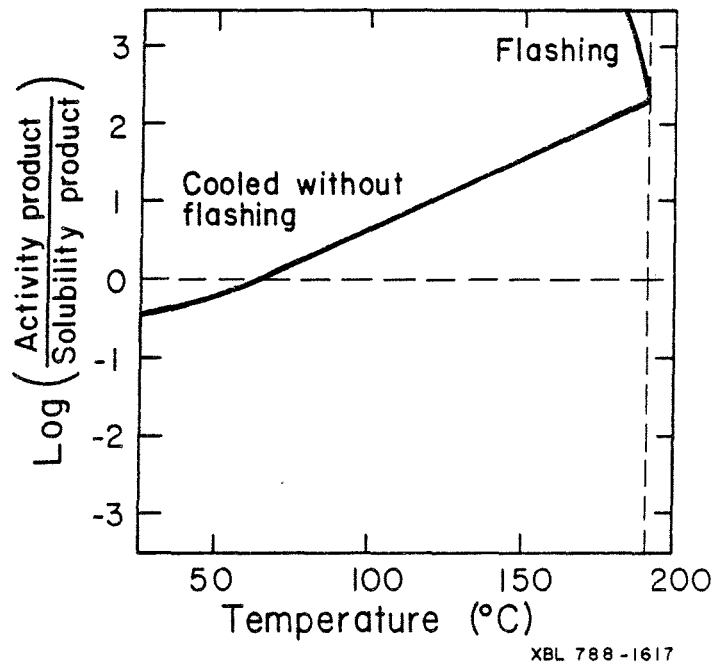


Figure 5.19. Calcite scaling potential for a 1/1 mixture of well 6-1 and well 6-2 geothermal fluids.

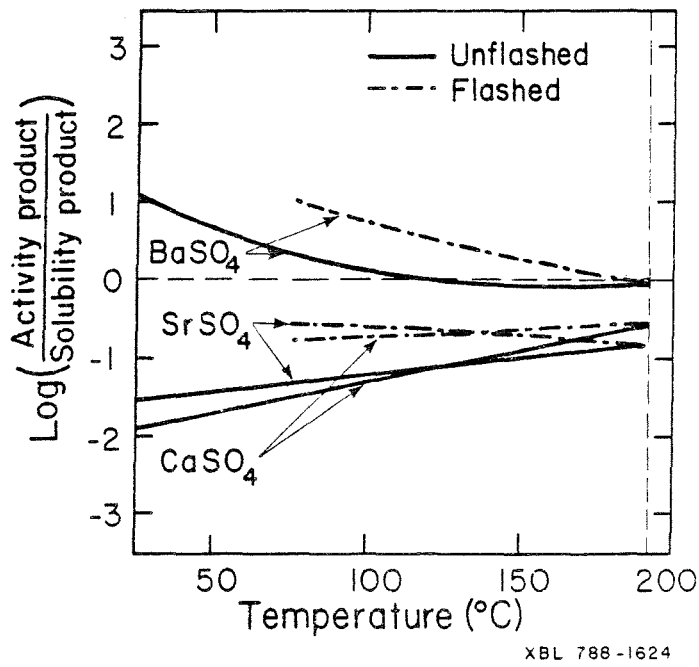
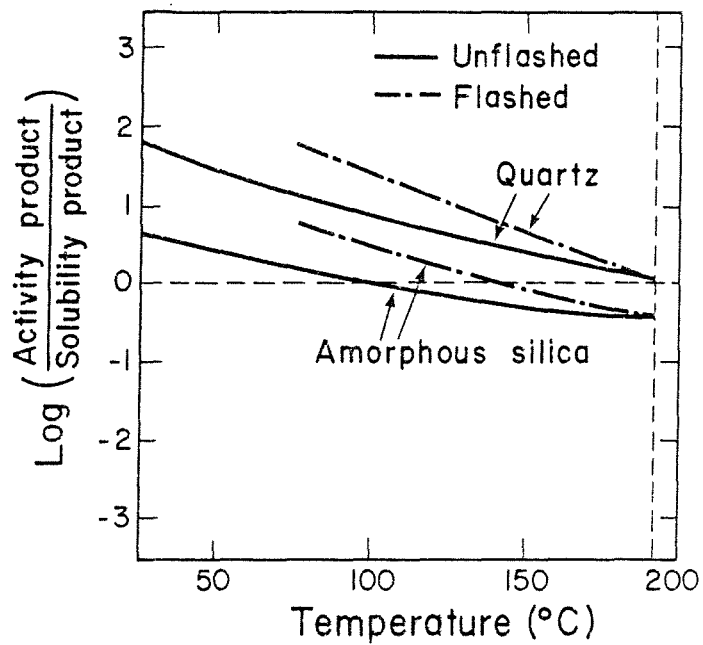
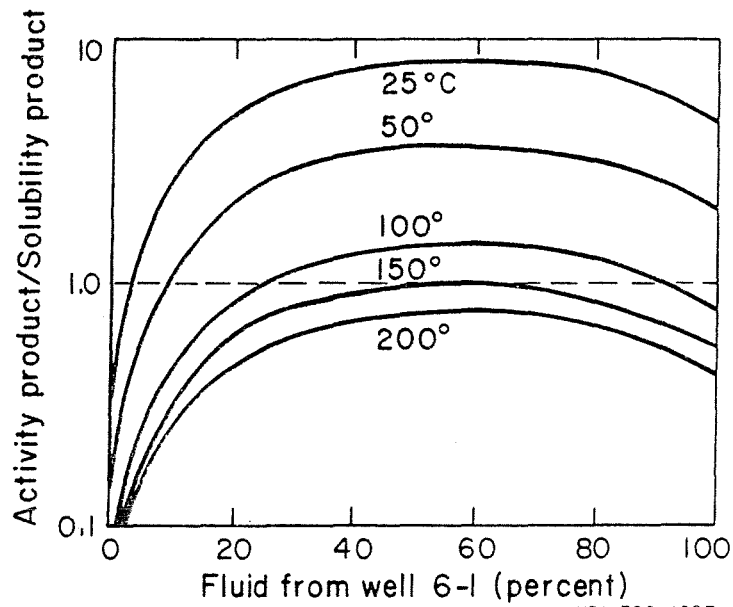


Figure 5.20. Sulfate scaling potential for a 1/1 mixture of well 6-1 and well 6-2 geothermal fluids.



XBL 7810-6580

Figure 5.21. Silica scaling potential for a 1/1 mixture of well 6-1 and well 6-2 geothermal fluids.



XBL 788-1607

Figure 5.22. Barite ( $\text{BaSO}_4$ ) saturation between  $20^\circ$  and  $200^\circ\text{C}$  in mixtures of well 6-1 and well 6-2 geothermal fluids.

## POTENTIAL FOR SCALE FORMATION FROM THE USE OF SALTON SEA WATER

Development of East Mesa for the production of either power or fresh water will require a supply of additional water. Cooling water is needed for power production and when fresh water is produced from geothermal fluids, an equivalent volume of fluid should be injected to maintain reservoir pressure and to prevent ground subsidence.

The Salton Sea is the principal potential source of available water for these purposes. Thus it is necessary to consider the chemical characteristics of this water, and in particular, the potential problems of transporting, heating, and mixing it with spent geothermal fluids, and injecting it into the geothermal reservoir.

The Salton Sea is calculated to be saturated with respect to at least 10 minerals. The principal ones are gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), magnesite ( $\text{MgCO}_3$ ), dolomite [ $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ ], calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ), and celestite ( $\text{SrSO}_4$ ). These minerals are potential scale formers in the transport and low-temperature concentration of Salton Sea water. At temperatures above  $\sim 90^\circ\text{C}$ , anhydrite ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ) becomes the stable phase rather than gypsum.

Two different computer codes using different sources of information were used to make this prediction. In all cases the two codes were in agreement on the calculated saturation with respect to the same mineral. For example, Table 5.9 shows the distribution of species in Salton Sea water at  $25^\circ\text{C}$ . Saturation by a mineral is indicated by capital letters. This calculation is based on MINEQL (Westall, 1976). A partly different array of possible saturating phases was examined by EQ3/EQ6. Those that saturate the fluid are shown in Table 5.10. The code EQ3/EQ6 does not consider celestite, and MINEQL does not consider dolomite, gypsum, and some of the other less abundant minerals.

Supersaturation with respect to the iron oxides (Table 5.10) is probably fictive, because analyses of dissolved iron in natural waters are usually too high due to interference from colloidal ferric hydroxide. Supersaturations with respect to the carbonates are probably real, because these are well documented for surface ocean water. The small gypsum supersaturation may also be real.

Table 5.9. Species distribution in the Salton Sea at 25°C\*

Component	Concentration (ppm)	Concentration (mole/kg)	Species or phase†	Distribution (%)
Ca	945.0	$2.36 \times 10^{-2}$	ANHYDRITE	65.8
			$\text{CaSO}_4^0$	16.9
			CALCITE	8.9
			$\text{Ca}^{2+}$	8.3
			$\text{CaHCO}_3^0$	-
Mg	172.0	$4.43 \times 10^{-2}$	$\text{MgSO}_4^0$	71.3
			$\text{Mg}^{2+}$	27.8
			$\text{MgHCO}_3^+$	-
K	172.0	$4.42 \times 10^{-3}$	$\text{K}^+$	88.5
			$\text{KSO}_4^-$	11.5
Na	10,500.0	$4.57 \times 10^{-1}$	$\text{Na}^+$	95.1
			$\text{NaSO}_4^-$	4.9
Sr	11.0	$1.26 \times 10^{-4}$	CELESTITE	96.1
			$\text{Sr}^{2+}$	3.9
Li	3.2	$4.61 \times 10^{-4}$	$\text{Li}^+$	96.0
			$\text{LiSO}_4^-$	4.0
Fe	0.1	$1.79 \times 10^{-7}$	$\text{Fe}(\text{OH})_3(\text{S})$	100.0
Zn	0.062	$9.48 \times 10^{-7}$	$\text{ZnSO}_4^0$	60.2
			$\text{Zn}^{2+}$	29.6
			$\text{ZnCl}^+$	3.9
			$\text{ZnCl}^-$	2.2
			$\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_3$	2.3
			$\text{Zn}(\text{OH})_2$	1.2
Mn	0.01	$1.8 \times 10^{-7}$	$\text{MnCl}^+$	48.4
			$\text{MnCl}_2^0$	20.3
			$\text{MnSO}_4^0$	18.8
			$\text{Mn}^{2+}$	9.2
			$\text{MnCl}_3^0$	2.7
			$\text{MnHCO}_3^+$	-
Cu	0.005	$7.81 \times 10^{-8}$	$\text{Cu}[\text{B}(\text{OH})_4]_2$	84.7
			$\text{Cu}(\text{OH})_2$	1.6
			$\text{Cu}(\text{CO}_3^0)$	-
B	9.2	$8.51 \times 10^{-4}$	$\text{HB}(\text{OH})_4^0$	96.1
			$\text{B}(\text{OH})_4^-$	3.9
Cl	15,000.0	$4.23 \times 10^{-1}$	$\text{Cl}^-$	100.0

\* Calculated by MINEQL from the chemical composition given in Table 5.6.

† Capital letters indicate saturation.

Table 5.9. Species distribution in the Salton Sea at 25°C\* (continued)

Component	Concentration		Species or phase†	Distribution (%)
	(ppm)	(mole/kg)		
SO <sub>4</sub>	8,146.0	8.48 x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	MgSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>0</sup>	37.3
			NaSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup>	26.6
			ANHYDRITE	18.3
			SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	12.4
			CaSO <sub>4</sub> <sup>0</sup>	4.7
CO <sub>2</sub>	146.0	3.32 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	CALCITE	63.2
			HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	24.8
			MgHCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup>	7.6
			MgCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>0</sup>	1.5
			CaHCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>+</sup>	1.2
			CaCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>0</sup>	-
			NaCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>0</sup>	-
			H <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>0</sup>	-
F	3.2	1.68 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>	F <sup>-</sup>	55.8
			MgF <sup>+</sup>	42.8
			CaF <sup>+</sup>	1.4
			FLUORITE	-
NO <sub>3</sub>	14.0	2.26 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	100.0

\* Calculated by MINEQL from the chemical composition given in Table 5.6.

† Capital letters indicate saturation.

Table 5.10. Minerals saturating Salton Sea water at 25°C.\*

Mineral	Formula	Log	Activity product Solubility product
Magnetite	Fe <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>		7.51
Hematite	Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		13.8
Calcite	CaCO <sub>3</sub>		0.59
Aragonite	CaCO <sub>3</sub>		0.49
Huntite	CaMg <sub>3</sub> (CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>4</sub>		0.50
Dolomite	CaMg(CO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>		2.18
Magnesite	MgCO <sub>3</sub>		0.40
Gypsum	CaSO <sub>4</sub> ·2H <sub>2</sub> O		0.27
Anhydrite	CaSO <sub>4</sub>		-0.23

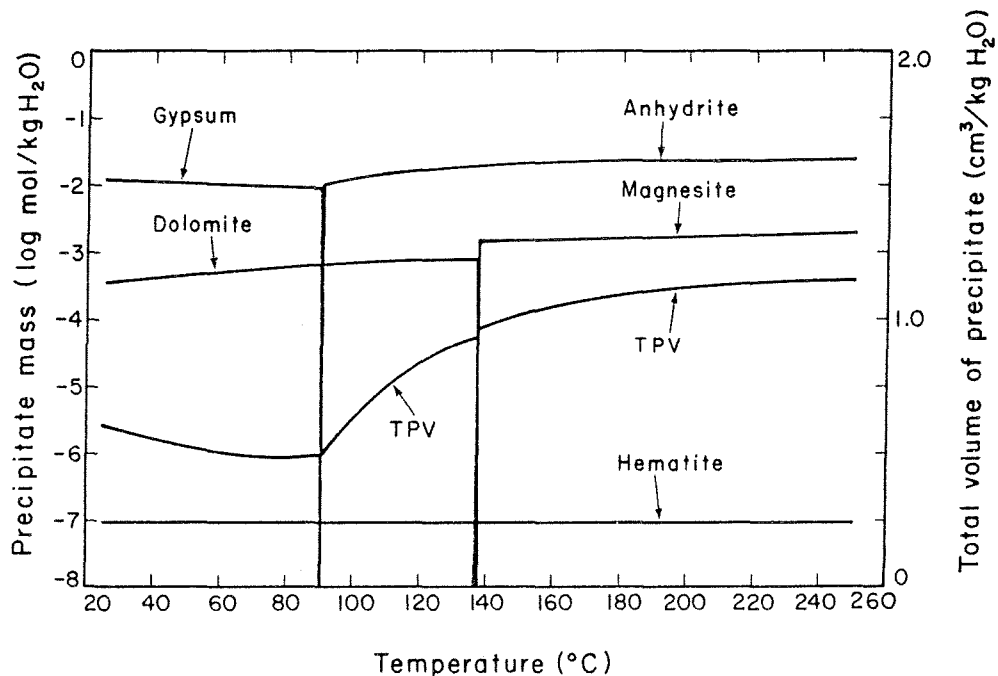
\* Based on EQ3/EQ6 calculations.

#### Scale Formation by Heating Salton Sea Water

Precipitation of phases from Salton Sea water during heating to 260°C in a closed system (as in a sealed laboratory pressure vessel) is shown in Figure 5.23. The mass of each precipitate is plotted semilogarithmically according to the scale on the left; the combined precipitate volume is shown by the scale on the right. Gypsum is replaced by anhydrite near 96°C, and dolomite by magnesite near 135°C.

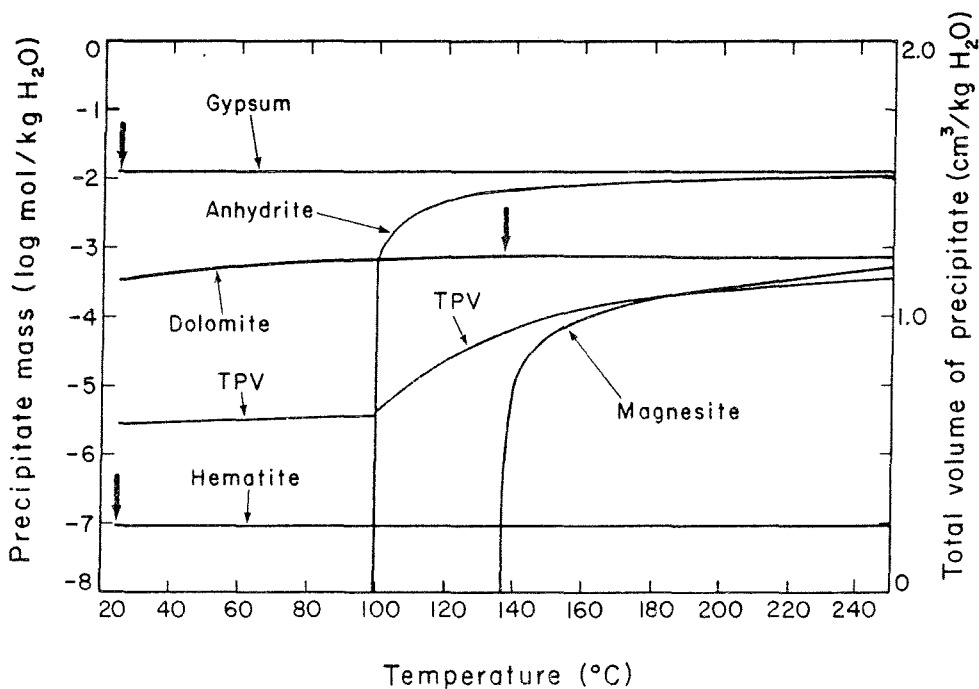
The use of Salton Sea water as a cooling fluid in power production will almost certainly lead to the formation of scale deposits composed of some or all of these minerals, and the same appears to be the case during injection.

As a fluid flows through a heat exchanger or the reservoir and is heated, equilibrium causes those minerals that precipitate and form scales to be left behind as the fluid moves on through the temperature gradient. For example, in the case of the Salton Sea water, gypsum will form, but will not be heated to the temperature for transformation into anhydrite. The precipitation sequence based on this "flow-through" heating has also been calculated and the results are shown in Figure 5.24. The amounts of minerals that form are shown with the total volume of precipitate. This prediction is a thermodynamic (equilibrium) sequence--not necessarily kinetically favored. For additional information on mass transport of this kind see the pioneering work by Helgeson et al. (1970) and Needham et al. (1976).



XBL 789-2075

Figure 5.23. Closed-system heating of Salton Sea water showing precipitate masses.



XBL 789-2074

Figure 5.24. Precipitation sequence of minerals from heated Salton Sea water based on a flow-through model in which precipitates are removed from the system and cannot redissolve.

### Mixing Salton Sea Water with Geothermal Fluids

Mixing Salton Sea water with geothermal fluids can lead to supersaturation even when one of the fluids alone is undersaturated. The amount of Salton Sea water that can be added to spent fluid from well 6-1 before  $\text{CaSO}_4$  saturation results is shown in Figure 5.25. For example, mixtures of the two fluids containing more than 35% Salton Sea water become  $\text{CaSO}_4$  saturated at temperatures above  $50^\circ\text{C}$ .

When more than 55% Salton Sea water is mixed with well 6-2 fluid at  $50^\circ\text{C}$ , saturation with respect to  $\text{CaSO}_4$  will occur (Figure 5.26). The potential for  $\text{CaSO}_4$  precipitation increases with increasing temperature for all mixtures, a fact that could lead to a plugging of the reservoir during injection.

If more than 10% Salton Sea water is mixed with well 6-2 fluid at  $50^\circ\text{C}$ , the mixture becomes saturated with  $\text{BaSO}_4$ ; above  $100^\circ\text{C}$  no saturation is predicted for any mixture (Figure 5.27). These mixtures will become unsaturated with  $\text{BaSO}_4$  when injected into the reservoir and heated to reservoir temperature.

Mixtures of well 6-1, well 6-2, and Salton Sea water with a high potential for scale formation are shown by shaded areas in Figures 5.28 and 5.29. Because the fluid from wells 8-1 and 31-1 is similar in composition to that of well 6-2, these qualitative diagrams can also be considered to apply to fluid mixtures from well 8-1 or 31-1, rather than 6-2.

When fluid mixtures are injected, they will be heated as they flow. Scale-forming precipitates will be removed from the fluid. A "flow-through" model has been applied to a 1/1 mixture of spent well 6-2 fluid and Salton Sea water. Figure 5.30 shows the amounts of various minerals that could separate upon heating. Barite and celestite may also form, but they are not presently available for consideration in the EQ6 data base. Only when anhydrite becomes stable does the total volume of precipitate (scale) become significant. Antigorite is a serpentine mineral having the composition  $\text{Mg}_3\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4$ .

### Reactions of Injected Fluids with Reservoir Minerals

The minerals composing the reservoir rocks can react with injected fluids, creating new minerals and altering others. The mineralogy of the



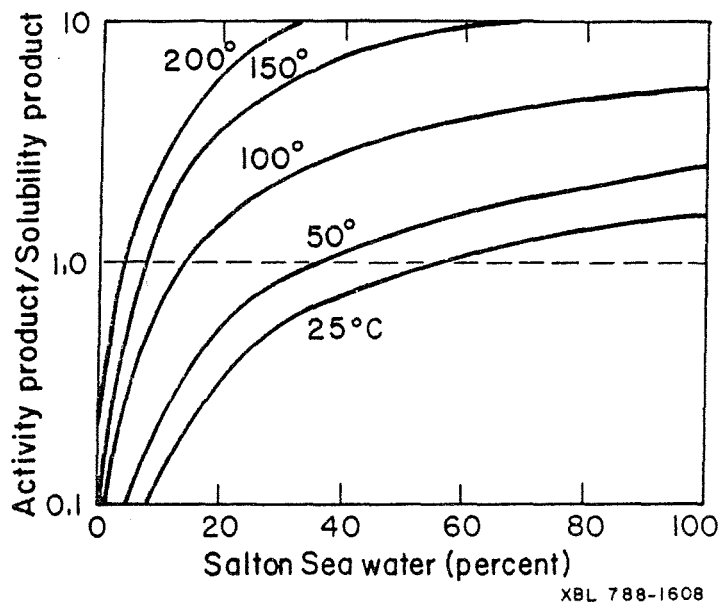


Figure 5.25. Anhydrite ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ) saturation between  $25^\circ$  and  $200^\circ\text{C}$  in mixtures of Salton Sea water and well 6-1 geothermal fluid.

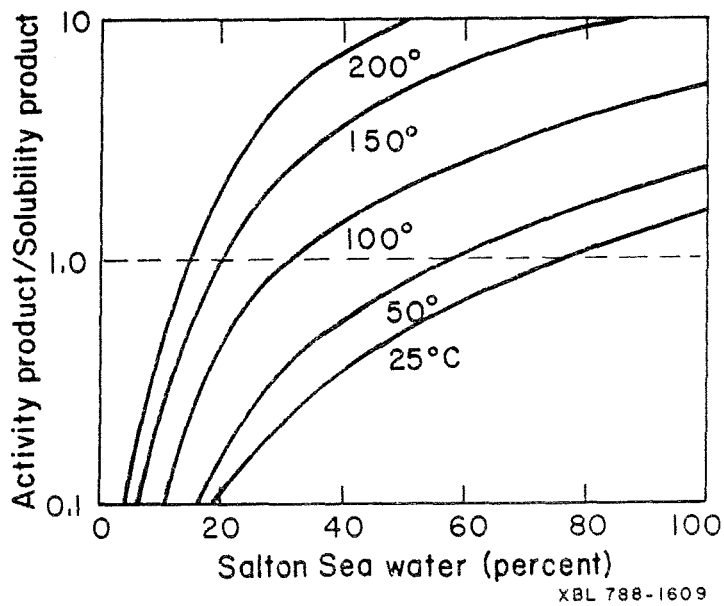


Figure 5.26. Anhydrite ( $\text{CaSO}_4$ ) saturation between  $25^\circ$  and  $200^\circ\text{C}$  in mixtures of Salton Sea water and well 6-2 geothermal fluid.

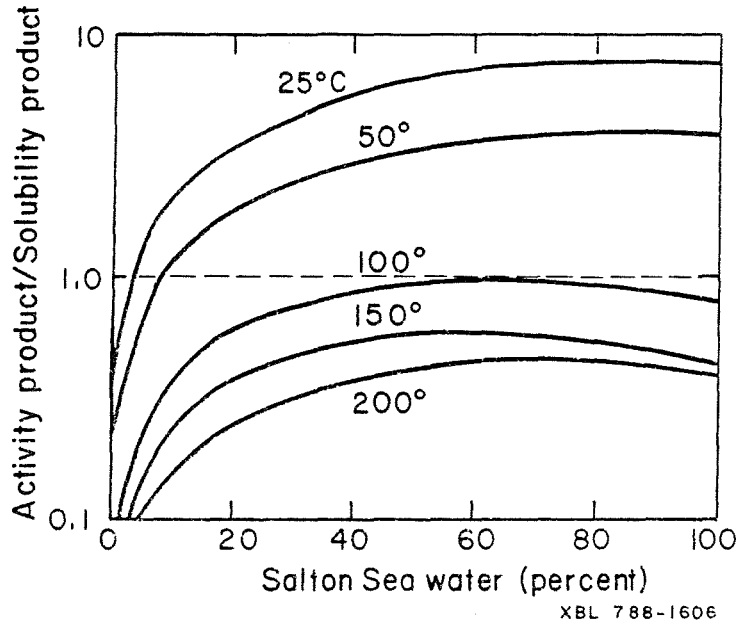


Figure 5.27. Barite (BaSO<sub>4</sub>) saturation between 25° and 200°C in mixtures of Salton Sea water and well 6-2 geothermal fluid.

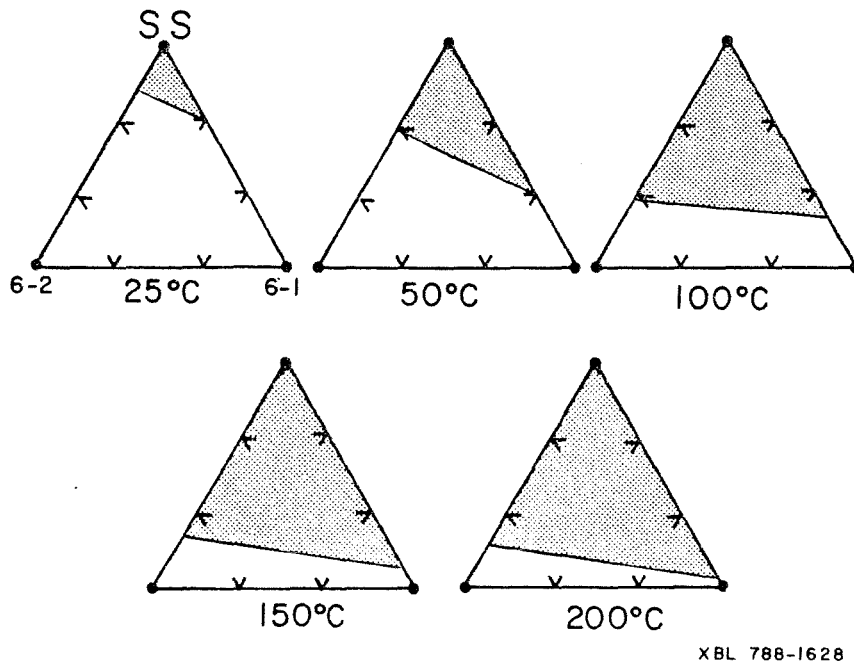
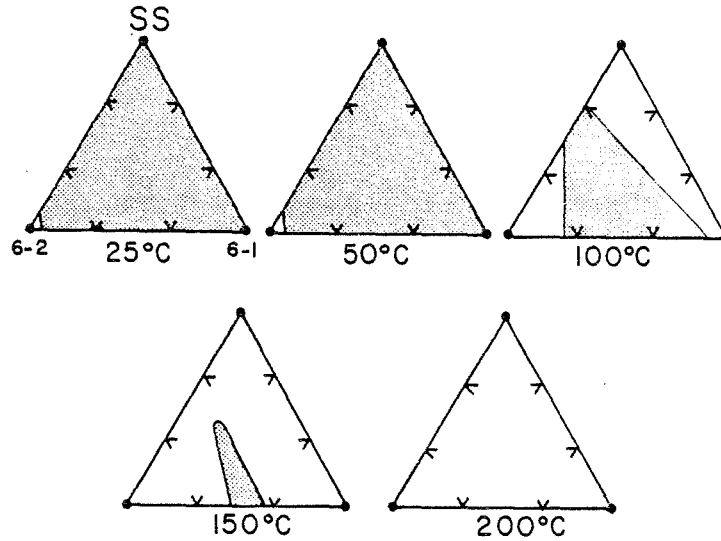
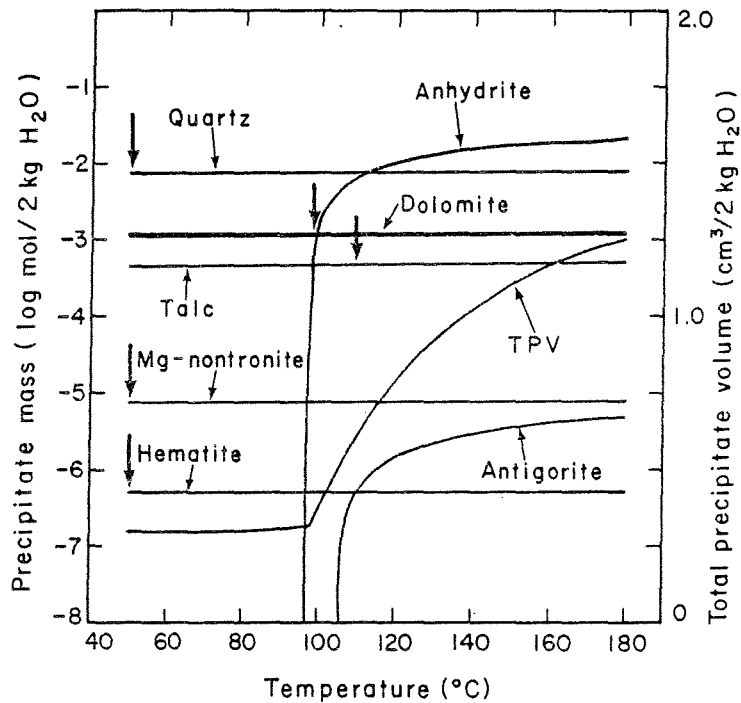


Figure 5.28. Anhydrite (CaSO<sub>4</sub>) saturation in mixtures of fluids from well 6-1, 6-2, and the Salton Sea (SS) at various temperatures.



XBL 788-1629

Figure 5.29. Barite ( $\text{BaSO}_4$ ) saturation in mixtures of fluids from well 6-1, 6-2, and the Salton Sea (SS) at various temperatures. Stippled areas show composition supersaturated with barite.



XBL 789-2073

Figure 5.30. Minerals precipitating by heating a 1/1 mixture of Salton Sea water and spent 6-2 fluid (calculated assuming a flow-through model in which each mineral is removed when it forms).

Table 5.11. Estimated mineralogy, well 5-1.\*

Mineral	Concentration	
	(g/kg)	(mole/kg)
Quartz	485	8.072
Calcite	175	1.748
Dolomite	41	0.222
Microcline	175	0.629
Albite	124	0.473

\* Fournier, 1973, 1976; Hoagland, 1976a, 1976b

geothermal reservoir near injection well 5-1 has not been studied. Table 5.11 is an estimate based on studies of samples recovered from other East Mesa wells (Fournier, 1973, 1976; Hoagland, 1976a, 1976b). The concentrations in the table represent typical mineral proportions and reflect neither the probable error in analyses nor the observed scatter among various samples.

Figure 5.31 shows the mass transfer of minerals by the irreversible reaction between original rock components and fluid at a constant temperature of 180°C. The fluid is a 1/1 mixture of Salton Sea and spent 6-2 fluid.

Saturation of fluid by the minerals originally present in the rock is shown by an arrow (↓) along the bottom of the diagram. The net dissolution of a reacting solid is shown by (-), and net precipitation by (+). When enough rock has been added to reach albite saturation, there is a net creation of two original reactants, quartz and calcite, and there was previously a transient net creation of dolomite. At the end, all reactants are saturated and calcite is formed at the expense of anhydrite and dolomite.

Since calcite and quartz precipitate as cements, the rock would presumably become less permeable. But the solution of anhydrite helps lead to a small net mineral-volume decrease of 1 cm<sup>3</sup>/2 kg H<sub>2</sub>O. In the early part of the reaction, cement minerals are dissolving and hydrous minerals such as muscovite are precipitated. During this phase, the rock probably weakens and a net increase in mineral volume occurs. This may cause plugging of the reservoir and loss of permeability. However, changes in reservoir permeability are not directly related to the amount of solid that is added or removed any more than permeability is related to porosity. It is the way

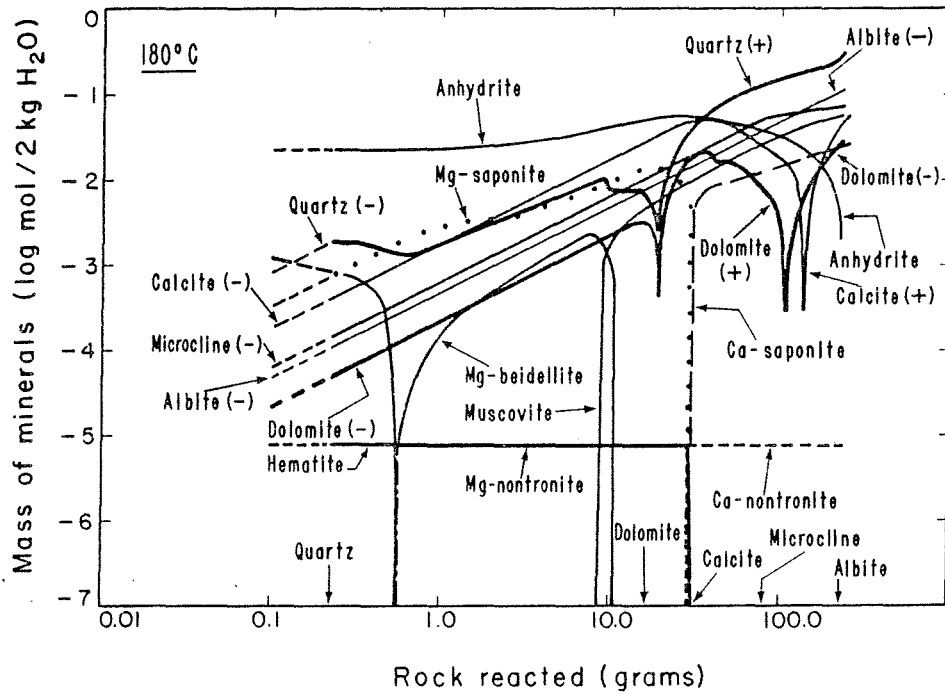


Figure 5.31 Diagram simulating closed system reaction of a 1/1 mixture of Salton Sea water and spent fluid from well 6-2 with reservoir minerals at 180°C. The equilibrium calculation was made assuming a "reaction" of 2 kg of fluid with increasing amounts of reservoir rock.

Table 5.12. Chemical compositions of clay minerals formed by reaction of injected fluid with reservoir rock.

Formula	Mineral
$Mg_{0.165}Al_2Al_{0.33}Si_{3.67}O_{10}(OH)_2$	Mg-beidellite
$Ca_{0.165}Mg_3Al_{0.33}Si_{3.67}O_{10}(OH)_2$	Ca-saponite
$Mg_{0.165}Mg_3Al_{0.33}Si_{3.67}O_{10}(OH)_2$	Mg-saponite
$Ca_{0.33}Fe_2Al_{0.33}Si_{3.67}O_{10}(OH)_2$	Ca-nontronite
$Mg_{0.33}Fe_2Al_{0.33}Si_{3.67}O_{10}(OH)_2$	Mg-nontronite

solution or deposition changes the geometry of the fluid flow that is important. At the present time we do not know the geometry of the paths of fluid flow at East Mesa. Table 5.12 gives the chemical composition of clay minerals formed during injection.

#### SCALE-FORMING EXPERIENCE

In this section we review the history of scaling at East Mesa and compare these data with the predictions of the first parts of this report. The comparisons are not as valuable as they might be if the chemical composition and structure of scales were better known.

Our ability to predict downhole scaling in nonflashing wells is poor. For example, we find supersaturation of well 6-1 fluid only with respect to quartz and amorphous silica, yet the scale found was partly  $BaSO_4$  - with which the well is not calculated to be saturated except at  $<60^\circ C$ .

We are able to predict carbonate and sulfate scale formation in desalting plants. Estimates of scaling rates based on equilibrium precipitation of minerals agree with observed scaling rates.

The conditions under which silica scale forms remains poorly understood. It seems possible that quartz sand, carried by the fluid from the reservoir, may be the source of some of the quartz scales found at relatively low temperatures at East Mesa.

### Downhole Scaling in Well 6-1

Well 6-1 has a history of sealing itself at a depth of ~1860 m, a depth too great for scaling to have occurred by flashing-induced precipitation (Mathias, 1976). Called plugging or bridging, it first happened after the initial zone of production was doubled in length by two subsequent wellcasing perforations. The history of production, perforation, and plugging in well 6-1 is outlined in Table 5.13.

Little is known about the structure, chemistry, or mineralogy of the plugs of scale--which is surprising in view of the cost and inconvenience they have caused. Table 5.14 shows what is known about this downhole scaling. From samples taken at the time the first plug was drilled out, the U.S. Bureau of Mines has learned the plug was probably half calcite, and the remainder contained barite, mica, and quartz (Needham et al., 1976, Bechtel Corp, 1977a). No direct samples of the second plug were recovered. A tool located near the plug for 22 hours was covered with scale when brought to the surface. An x-ray diffraction analysis showed that the acid insoluble fraction was a single mineral; the chemical analysis gave the composition  $Ba_{0.46}Sr_{0.38}Ca_{0.14}SO_4$ . The carbonate content of this plug was not determined.

The best guess that can be made with this limited information is that two scale plugs were formed of the same material, which was approximately half calcite and half  $(Ba,Sr,Ca)SO_4$ .

Table 5.13. Downhole plugging history of well 6-1.

Events	Dates
Production, $10 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^3*$	Aug 1972 to Jan 1974
Perforation, 2075 to 2179 m <sup>+</sup>	Jan 1974
Production, $7.2 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^3*$	Jan 1974 to May 1975
Perforation, 1868 to 2075 m	May 1975
Production, $2.1 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^3*$	May 1975 to Sep 1975
Plugged 1860 to 870 m <sup>‡</sup>	Sept 1975
Production, $5.3 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^3*$	Sept 1975 to May 1975
Plugged, 1861 m <sup>§</sup>	May 1977
Production, $0.5 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^3*$	May 1977 to Apr 1978
Plugging, $5 \times 10^4 \text{ m}^3$	?

\*Production records (Westec, 1978).

+Original casing was slotted from 2222 to 2433 m (7292 to 8015 ft).

See USBR, 1977a.

‡Drilled out (USBR, 1977a).

§Treated with  $19 \text{ m}^3$  of 10% HCl (USBR, 1977a).

Table 5.14. Chemistry and mineralogy of scale in well 6-1.

Depth of sample (m)	First plugging*			Second plugging <sup>†</sup>	
	0	80 to 90	182	2164 to 2286	1830
Sample type	Scale on flange surface	Recovered during recording		Scale on tool in well at depth for 24 hr	
CaCO <sub>3</sub> TGA (wt%)	95	97	92	50	Unknown
Other minerals (X-ray)	Quartz <sup>‡</sup>	Aragonite	Quartz	Barite Mica Quartz	Acid insoluble fraction was (Ba <sub>0.46</sub> Sr <sub>0.38</sub> Ca <sub>0.14</sub> )SO <sub>4</sub>

\*Analysis by U.S. Bureau of Mines, College Park Metallurgy Research Center

<sup>†</sup>Chemical and x-ray analysis by E. M. Gordon, LBL, June 1977.

<sup>‡</sup>Quartz is not generally formed as scale in geothermal fluids, the more common form of silica is amorphous.

Chemical analyses of fluid from well 6-1 before and after the second perforation show no clear changes. (Analyses before the first perforation are far too variable to set a trend.) However, a probable cause of this plugging is the mixing of incompatible fluids from different levels in the reservoir. Recall, for example, that well 6-1 contains 4 to 5 times more dissolved solids than the other wells--clear evidence that fluids of very different concentrations exist in the reservoir.

It seems possible that surface pH measurements may aid in predicting downhole scaling. Further work is clearly needed, but evidence in the case of well 6-1 is as follows.

During March through May 1977, well 6-1 was produced at a rate of 6000 to 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> (5 to 8 acre-ft) per month at a wellhead pressure of 0.77 MPa (97 psig; USBR, unpublished data). On 27 May, the well partly sealed itself, as noted.

Four chemical analyses of fluid taken up to 45 days before "plugging" showed a pH of ~6, HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> contents of 80 to 130 ppm, and Ca contents between 720 and 900 ppm. These fluids are calculated to be supersaturated with respect to calcite at temperatures above ~115°C, that is, "down-hole" (shown by the upper band in Figure 5.32).



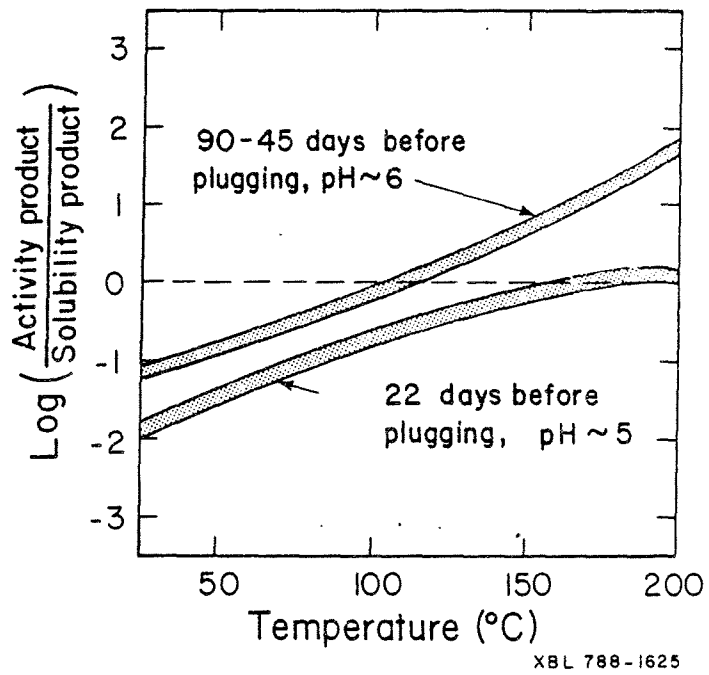


Figure 5.32. Degree of calcite saturation before plugging of well 6-1.

Sometime between 45 and 22 days before the plug was found, the pH changed to ~5 and the fluid no longer demonstrated such a high calculated downhole calcite supersaturation. This condition was documented by three chemical analyses up to and on the day the well bridge was found (shown by the lower band in the figure).

#### Scale Formation in the Multistage Flash-Evaporator Plant

In the multistage flash-evaporator (MSF) plant, hot fluid is flashed to steam in a series of three tanks (stages) by the reduction of pressure. Approximately 10% of the fluid is flashed per cycle through the three stages, and 90% of the spent fluid is recycled. Recycling is accomplished by reheating the fluid in a series of three heat exchangers. Each heat exchanger is a condenser for the product steam. As much as 60% of the fluid is converted to fresh water by recycling (Bechtel Corp., 1977a, 1977b).

In the MSF plant, flashing takes place in separator tanks where large thicknesses of carbonate scale can accumulate without restricting flow. The inlet nozzles do require an occasional cleaning with acid, however. In another type of desalting plant tested at East Mesa, using vertical tube evaporators (VTE), flashing takes place on heat exchange surfaces where even thin deposits of scale seriously reduce plant efficiency. The MSF process therefore possesses a major advantage over the VTE when scaling is possible.

Each MSF heat exchanger contains a total of 40 tubes, which are 4.6-m (15-ft) long and 2.29-cm (0.901-in.) inside diameter. The inner surface of each tube has an area of 3310 cm<sup>2</sup>. During one test, the flow rate through each tube was 0.15 kg/sec (2.3 gal/min) corresponding to an average flow velocity of ~0.36 m/cc (1 ft/s).

The approximate fluid temperature increase in each heat exchanger was 8.3°C (15°F) as shown in Table 5.15. Scaling on heat-exchange surfaces can be expected by those phases with which the fluid is just saturated as it enters the heat exchanger if also the phases become less soluble as temperature is increased. Only calcite appears to meet both of these criteria. The fluid is probably saturated with calcite because of flashing and because calcite has a retrograde solubility. The decrease in the equilibrium amount

of calcite (no supersaturation allowed), which can be dissolved by the fluid as it is heated by each successive heat exchanger, is given in Table 5.15. The calculated average monthly accumulation of calcite scale would be equivalent to a layer 0.1-mm thick, assuming a uniform scale coating.

The heat-exchanger tubes should be expected to be covered with a uniform thickness of calcite over the entire inner surface because of the uniform temperature gradient. A scale thickness of 0.1 mm is equal to 10% of the thickness of the tube wall. The thermal conductivity of calcite is 15 times less than that of steel. Thus, the calcite layer is easily noticed because it will reduce the heat transfer by approximately half.

Observations on scaling of the MSF heat exchangers support these theoretical calculations only in part. The principal scale found was indeed calcite. It was "thin" (no thickness measurements were reported), it was uniformly deposited along all of the tubes, and it decreased the heat transfer 30% (and increased the heat exchange pressure drop) during the first 30 days of testing. However, silica was also reported in the scale and the heat-transfer coefficient decreased very little during subsequent tests at higher temperatures. (No actual scale analyses were reported; the method of determining the scale composition is not known.)

Table 5.15. Calculated calcite-scale thickness in VTE heat-exchange tubes.

Heat exchanger number	Fluid temperature*		Decrease in calcite solubility (mg/kg fluid) <sup>†</sup>	Calculated thickness of monthly calcite scale accumulation (mm) <sup>‡</sup>
	In (°C)	Out (°C)		
307	115	124	0.26	0.13
308	124	132	0.21	0.11
309	132	140	0.18	0.094

\* Average, Bechtel, 1977a, pp. 57, 59, and 61.

† Helgeson, 1969.

‡ Based on a calcite density of 3 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

Silica scale formation cannot be due to simple equilibrium crystallization because silica becomes more soluble with increasing temperature. The form of the silica was not identified, but because the silica concentration in the fluid stream was 600 to 900 mg/l, the fluid was supersaturated with respect to quartz and amorphous silica. Two factors may have contributed to the formation of this silica scale. The nucleation and growth of calcite could have formed surfaces on which colloidal amorphous silica could adhere. The scale in the heat exchangers also contained some iron. This may have been simply contamination of the scale by the tubes-iron carried along by the scale samples when they were chipped off during sampling. On the other hand, the fluid contains some iron in solution at the wellhead and doubtless picks up more during recirculation through the plant. Rapid precipitation of amorphous silica from iron-hydroxide-containing solutions has been previously noted when the silica concentration is in excess of the amorphous silica (Wahl et al., 1975; Fournier and Rowe, 1962) concentration limit of 400 mg/l at 100°C (Figure 5.33).

The heat transfer coefficient did not decrease much during the second high temperature test. The tubes were not cleaned between tests, and the second 0.1 mm of scale layer cannot reduce the heat transfer by the same fraction as the first. Another possibility is that the scale layer did not grow as rapidly during the test at higher temperature because the differential solubility of calcite decreases with increasing temperature.

#### Scaling in the Vertical-Tube Evaporator Plant

Fresh water has been produced from geothermal fluids at East Mesa by means of a vertical tube evaporator (VTE) pilot plant. Resembling a tube-type heat exchanger mounted vertically, a VTE can be used with either downward or upward fluid flow. In the East Mesa plant, three evaporators or "effects," as they are called, were used in series. The first two were of the down-flowing type--a film of fluid cascaded down along the inside tube walls. In the third effect, fluid was passed upward and evaporated by a percolating action. In all three effects, steam was introduced to the outside of the tubes, where it condensed, contributing heat to flash the fluid. Each effect obtained steam from the next upstream (hotter) effect and the first effect was heated by steam from the wellhead separator (Bechtel Corp., 1977a, 1977b).

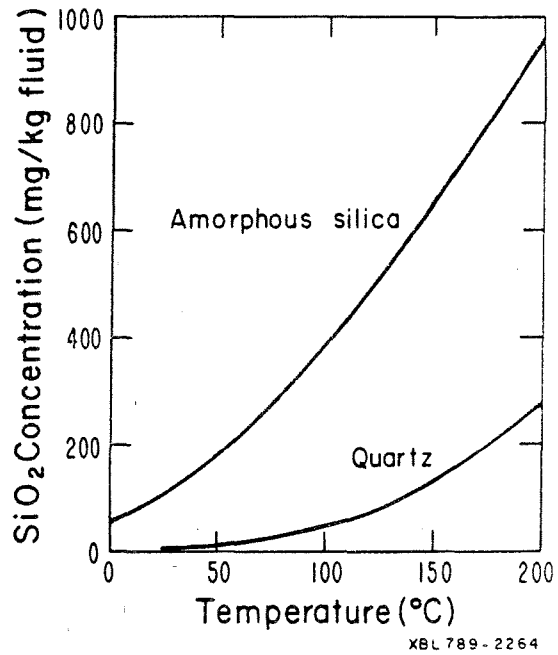


Figure 5.33. Solubility diagram for quartz and amorphous silica (data from Fournier and Rowe, 1962).

It is essential to prevent scale from forming on the tube wall because it reduces the flow of heat and thus the rate of fresh-water production. Three scale-forming processes take place on the inner surfaces of the tubes, making scale control difficult. Vaporization releases  $\text{CO}_2$ , causing continued  $\text{CaCO}_3$  supersaturation. Loss of fresh water causes a concentration of salt in the remaining fluid. The fluid cools as it flows through the plant so that minerals that become less soluble at low temperatures may precipitate.

When a single effect was tested for 900 hours in 1974 by flowing fluid from well 6-1 upward through it, a tenacious layer of barite formed inside all of the tubes. When all three effects were operated using 6-1 fluid,  $\text{BaSO}_4$  formed in all effects, but the scaling was most severe in the lowest temperature effect (E-3). When fluid from well 6-2 was used, no  $\text{BaSO}_4$  scale was formed in the VTE.

This experience agrees with predictions (shown in Figures 5.10 and 5.12); well 6-1 fluid becomes saturated with  $\text{BaSO}_4$  during flashing at temperatures below  $130^\circ\text{C}$  ( $265^\circ\text{F}$ ), and well 6-2 fluid remains unsaturated with  $\text{BaSO}_4$  during flashing. The composition of the barite scale was not reported; it is said to have contained "trapped"  $\text{SrSO}_4$  (Bechtel, 1977a). It seems possible that this is the same  $(\text{Ba}, \text{Sr}, \text{Ca})\text{SO}_4$  phase that was found in the downhole plug. Fluid from well 6-1 is not saturated with  $\text{SrSO}_4$ , yet it appears that Sr may contribute to scale-forming this solid solution with barite.

As predicted,  $\text{CaSO}_4$  did not form scale during the use of fluids from either well 6-1 or 6-2.

Quartz supersaturation in all fluids was calculated, which defines a potential for quartz scale formation. Quartz is known to be very slow to form, and we expected to find amorphous-silica scale. We found quartz, which will be discussed later.

During the 900-hour test with well 6-1 fluid, calcite scale was not formed inside the tubes. However, the fluid was flashed to  $150^\circ\text{C}$  in a wellhead separator before it was passed up through the evaporator. Presumably, most of the available calcite was deposited in the separator and the

fluid may have become unsaturated with respect to calcite by the time it entered the evaporator due to cooling. This behavior may be similar to that of the fluid from the Namafjall and Svartsengi wells in Iceland, as discussed by Arnorsson (1978).

When fluid from well 6-2 was used without wellhead separation, rapid calcite scaling resulted in the evaporator tubes. In order to overcome this serious problem, well 6-2 fluid was flashed to 140°C in a separator before use--a strategy which appears to have been only partly successful because the use of calcite scale inhibitors was tested extensively during the next year. Without inhibitors, 70 to 90% of the Ca is reported to have been deposited as calcite in the separator. The addition of 10 mg/l of threshold-type scale inhibitor upstream of the separator greatly reduced calcite scaling in the separator (Bechtel, 1977a). Scaling on heat-transfer surfaces was also said to be reduced by the use of scale inhibitors, but this is not certain due to lack of baseline data showing the heat-transfer coefficient using flashed fluid without additives.

Thirteen minerals have been identified in scales of the VTE plant when it was operated on flashed 6-2 fluid from March to June 1976. During this period, all three effects were used and the tubes were made of smooth titanium. The principal objective of these tests was to evaluate various scale inhibitors. Nineteen samples of scale were taken for x-ray and chemical analysis. The results are included in Appendix F.

There seems to be no relation between the scale inhibitor used and the scale mineralogy. In order to find trends of scale mineralogy with temperature (with the hope of casting some light on the occurrence of silica scales) the minerals are tabulated in terms of the temperature zones in which they were found (Table 5.16).

The principal scale-forming minerals are calcite, magnetite, and aragonite ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ , a polymorph of calcite). One sample contained a major amount of noncrystalline material, presumably amorphous silica. Most of the samples that contained iron oxides in abundance were taken from the head or bottom plates of the evaporators (which were made of steel). Thus these minerals are probably corrosion products rather than phases precipitating from the fluid.

Table 5.16. Scale distribution in the VTE using well 6-2 fluid.

Scale minerals <sup>‡</sup>	Presence in temperature zones (effects)									
	E-1 <sup>†</sup>	Major			Moderate			Minor		
		E-2	E-3	E-1	E-2	E-3	E-1	E-2	E-3	
Calcite	oo++o	+oo	+			+	...	+	o	
Magnetite	oooo+	++	+				+	+	.+	
Quartz	...	+		.		+	o++	+	+	
Aragonite	.+					+				
Hematite			+				++++oo	++oo	.+	
Feldspar							++	+	+	
Halite							...+	+	++	
Noncrystalline			.							
Maghemite			+				.++	+		
Dolomite							...			
Magnesite							..			
Siderite				.			.			
Clay							++	+		

\* See Appendix E.

† Temperature in E-1 was 120°C, E-2 was 110 to 120°C, and E-3 was 100 to 110°C.

‡ Identified by x-ray diffraction.

• Plant running at a concentration factor of 2.

+ Plant running at a concentration factor of 3.

o Plant running at an unknown concentration factor.

Major amounts of quartz seem to occur more frequently (compared with calcite) in the highest-temperature (120°C) effect, and the sample with major concentrations of amorphous silica was taken from E-3, the lowest-temperature (100°C) effect. Major amounts of quartz were not found in E-3. Quartz was also found in scale scraped from well 6-1 after it had plugged. Scale sampled by Wahl (1975) downstream from the 6-1 separator was a black glass with an Fe/Si atom ratio of 1, which is similar to glass found at the Salton Sea geothermal field. Quartz has not been found in the scales formed by the very hot fluids from the Salton Sea field, and it was not expected at East Mesa.

It is possible that this quartz did not precipitate from the fluid but was carried as sand grains from the reservoir to be trapped in the scale. Indeed, feldspar was a pervasive minor "scale" mineral in all effects, an observation that can also be explained by this mechanism. The occurrence of insects in one scale sample (Appendix F) shows that samples could have been contaminated by wind-blown minerals.



In any case, silica scaling was not a significant problem, for at the conclusion of each of these tests the scale could be cleaned out of the evaporator tubes with acid. The rate of scaling was slow; it was estimated that a full-sized VTE desalting plant would have to be cleaned only yearly if it were designed to handle a certain amount of scale.

A striking acceleration in the rate of scaling was observed when the smooth Ti tubes were replaced by fluted Ti tubes in a final VTE test. After only four days, the heat transfer decreased by half--more than projected for a year of operation with smooth-wall Ti tubes. The scale was reported to be "more than 80 percent silica," and difficult to remove (Wahl, 1975). It is not known if this scale was amorphous silica or quartz, and the actual chemical composition has not been published.

The reason for this rapid formation of silica scale is puzzling. It has been assumed that silica scale starts to form when the silica concentration exceeds 500 mg/l, corresponding to a concentration factor of ~2.5 at East Mesa. This is saturated with respect to amorphous silica at 130°C, as shown in Figure 5.33. During testing of fluted Ti tubes, the silica concentration in the second effect was as high as 520 mg/l and the spent fluid at the end of the third effect (blown down) reached 813 mg/l. However, the highest measured concentration of silica in the first effect was 428 mg/l, and the average of 13 daily measurements was 342 mg/l. The rate of scale formation in all three effects was approximately equal, based on the measured decrease in heat-transfer coefficient. The addition of NaOH to the fluid in the third effect maintained a high heat-transfer coefficient by preventing silica-scale formation (USBR, 1977b).

The growth rate of scale (silica?) has been estimated as 0.022 mm/day (0.00087 in./day) based on the rate of decrease of heat transfer. This rate is from 1 to 10% of the maximum rate of scaling that would have occurred with equilibrium precipitation of silica due to the temperature drop through the effects.

The increased surface area of the fluted tubes no doubt resulted in a higher initial heat flux and vaporization rate than observed for smooth tubes. Perhaps very high local silica concentrations resulted. The initial rate of scaling with fluted tubes was so rapid that no values of heat transfer were observed corresponding to what was expected for clean tubes.

The correct explanation for this unexpected and serious silica scaling may be discovered with more experience at East Mesa and from results of the recent experimental work on the kinetics of silica precipitation by O.Weres, LBL, and by H.Barnes (unpubl. data; Phillips et al., 1977). Examination of the scale by scanning electron microscopy might also be helpful.

#### Scaling During Transport and Injection of Spent Fluids

Injection of spent geothermal fluids into the East Mesa geothermal reservoir is necessary in order to avoid expensive surface ponding, to prevent subsidence of the ground surface, to maintain reservoir pressure and production, and to increase the fraction of the heat energy in the reservoir that can be recovered. (The reservoir is ~80 volume-percent rock, which contains 44% of the enthalpy of the reservoir.)

Well 5-1 was selected as the injection well because it is at the edge of the field. The temperature at the bottom of well 5-1 was 170°C (335°F) before injection of spent brine began. This well is located 2.1 km (1.4 miles) northeast of the East Mesa Test Site, to which it is connected by a buried asbestos-cement pipeline 25.4-cm (10-in.) in diameter. Fluid is pumped through this pipeline by a transfer pump at the test site. A second high-pressure injection pump is located at the 5-1 wellhead.

Approximately 89,000 m<sup>3</sup> (2.3 x 10<sup>7</sup> gal) of fluid were injected into well 5-1 before January 1977. One-third of this came from the storage pond and two-thirds came from wells 6-1 and 6-2, as shown in Table 5.17.

Table 5.17. Volume of fluid injected into well 5-1.

Time intervals	Fluid source	Volume	
		(m <sup>3</sup> )	(gal x 10 <sup>6</sup> )
28 Feb to 12 Mar 1975	Pond (pH=7.5)	7,200	1.9
12 Mar to 2 Apr 1975	(booster pump used)	4,200	1.1
12 Apr to 14 Jan 1975	Pond ?	~15,000*	~4.
14 Jan to 28 Jun 1976	Well 6-2	7,200	1.9
29 Jan to 3 Jun 1976	Wells 6-3 and 8-1	24,000	6.3
7 Jun to 14 Dec 1976	Well 6-2	17,000	4.2
15 Dec to 12 Jan 1977	Wells 6-2 and 8-1	14,000	3.6
Total volume		89,000	23

\* Estimate based on a 3.2 l/sec (~50 gal/min) flow rate for 40 hours each week (USBR, 1977a, p. 47).

During early 1976, well 6-2 was produced for the principal purpose of testing the capacity of well 5-1 for injection. The chemical composition of fluids sampled at three key locations during the production, flashing, and injection of fluid from well 6-2 is shown in Table 5.18. Sampling at all three locations was repeated on three consecutive days (26, 27, and 28 January 1976).

The Ca concentration decreased ~50% and the Na concentration increased 15% as the fluid passed from the pipeline sampling point to the sampling point at the injection transfer pump. These changes in concentration are the result of flashing. Some 36 kg of calcite probably accumulated at the flash points in the system and the separator during January 1976 when 7260 m<sup>3</sup> of fluid was flashed before being injected. Unfortunately no measurements of the rate of calcite accumulation were made during this period to confirm this estimate.

The flashed fluid cooled 10° to 20°C during the 5 hours it took to flow through the 2.1-km-long pipeline from the test site to the injection well. Because of the increasing solubility of calcite with decreasing temperature, the calcite-saturated fluid that left the test site should have arrived at the injection well unsaturated. However, this was not the case because filters at the injection well were plugged by calcite. In addition, the chemical composition of the spent fluid at the wellhead shown in Table 5.18 indicates that calcite and quartz were supersaturated, based on the data of Helgeson (1969). (The activity-product to solubility-product ratio for calcite is calculated to be 1.4.)

Saturation of the fluid with respect to calcite may have been due to the entrainment of small calcite crystals.

Calcite precipitation can be expected as the injected fluid is heated by the hot rocks in the reservoir. Soon after the start of injection, the fluid will be heated within the well, particularly when the flow rate is low. Once the well has been cooled, the injected fluid will be heated within the reservoir.

There are many factors that can change the permeability of the reservoir during injection. Factors that tend to plug up the reservoir are the

Table 5.18. Chemistry of reinjection of well 6-2 fluid during 1976  
(three-day sampling, 100 gal/min flow rate).

		Sampling location		
		"Unflashed" pipeline	Injection transfer pump	Wellhead tank (5-1)
26 Jan	Temp (°C)	170	73	52
	pH	6.2	9.4	9.3
	TDS (mg/l)	3860	4560	4620
	Ca (mg/l)	5.0	3.0	2.6
	Na (mg/l)	1306	1542	1546
	HCO <sub>3</sub> (mg/l)	595	383	458
	SiO <sub>2</sub> (mg/l)	240*	158*	150*
27 Jan	Temp (°C)	170	79	66
	pH	6.1	9.2	9.1
	TDS (mg/l)	3920	4580	4540
	Ca (mg/l)	4.8	2.4	2.0
	Na (mg/l)	1317	1534	1524
	HCO <sub>3</sub> (mg/l)	623	462	464
	SiO <sub>2</sub> (mg/l)	191*	152*	147*
28 Jan	Temp (°C)	170	76	68
	pH	6.2	9.3	9.1
	TDS (mg/l)	3880	4560	4580
	Ca (mg/l)	5.0	1.8	2.6
	Na (mg/l)	1314	1540	1542
	HCO <sub>3</sub> (mg/l)	611	449	461
	SiO <sub>2</sub> (mg/l)	221*	152*	152*

\* Note loss of SiO<sub>2</sub> at T >80°C and no loss at T <80°C, in spite of slow cooling in pipeline.

precipitation of calcite and alteration of reservoir mineralogy that result in a net volume increase (Figure 5.31). Factors that tend to increase the permeability are dissolution of silica and alteration of reservoir minerals that result in net volume decreases.

If chemical equilibrium were the only consideration, the volume of silica that would be dissolved by the injection of cool fluid (as it is heated by the reservoir) would exceed the volume of calcite that can be deposited due to the same change in temperature. In fact, injected fluid is not at equilibrium with silica but contains a considerable excess due to the slow rate of silica precipitation at low temperatures. One cannot overlook the possibility that coprecipitation of silica and calcite can take place in

the reservoir as the fluid is heated, but before it is hot enough to be undersaturated with silica (behavior similar to that observed in the MSF heat exchangers). It is a good idea to reduce the silica concentration of injection fluids to as low a value as possible.

Changes in reservoir permeability are not directly related to the amount of solid that is added or removed any more than permeability is related to porosity. It is the way solution or deposition changes the geometry of fluid flow that is important, and this is presently an unknown factor.

#### Precipitation of Scale-Forming Minerals in Fluid-Mixing Experiment

In this report, we have pointed out that fluids from many wells will have to be mixed in order to develop the East Mesa field. We have also shown the theoretical scale-forming potential that resulted from mixing. In this section we report on laboratory experiments in which the amounts and kinds of scale formed as a result of mixing were measured. (This work was done at East Mesa before the current contract.)

Before to collecting samples for these mixing tests, wells 31-1 and 8-1 were flowed for 24 hours through a 5-cm-diam pipeline ~24 m long. Well 6-1 was flowing at a very low rate for 3 to 4 days, and 6-2 was flowed for several months at 380 l/min.

Approximately 5.7 liters of unflashed, "flashed-at-the-wellhead," and "pipeline-flashed" fluid samples were taken at each well. The unflashed fluid was taken using the usual cooling-coil method; the wellhead-flashed fluid sample was taken without a cooling coil; and the pipeline-flashed sample was taken from the end of the 5-cm pipeline for wells 31-1 and 8-1. For well 6-1, the pipeline-flashed sample was taken from the open flash tank in use on the well. A pipeline-flashed sample of well 6-2 was obtained from the line after the separator. These two kinds of flashed-fluid samples were taken because the degree of flashing is not related to the length of pipe through which the fluid flows, and can indicate scale deposition along the pipe. The sample of Salton Sea water used in the mixing experiments was collected about 1.6 km offshore at a depth of 3 m. The sample had a conductivity of 60,000  $\mu$ mhos and a pH of 8.2. (Similar values were measured for five other water samples taken in the southeastern portion of the Salton Sea.)

A 400-ml sample of each kind of well fluid from the four wells and from the Salton Sea was set aside as a standard. By this means, the amount of precipitation resulting from mixing could be compared with the amount formed without mixing.

Fluids were mixed in equal amounts to make up a total volume of 800 ml. Well fluids were mixed while still above ambient temperature. After standing for 24 hours under ambient conditions, each container was examined and any precipitate that had formed was filtered, dried in an oven at 110°C, and weighed. Most of the precipitates were investigated by x-ray diffraction and the results are given in Table 5.19.

The flashed samples from well 6-1 were gray-black colored and had a black precipitate. After standing for about one hour, the fluid became yellow and a yellow precipitate formed; it was mostly calcite. Another sample was taken at the well and filtered during the gray-black phase. A black precipitate was obtained on the filter paper. Upon drying the filter paper in the oven, the fluid became yellow, and the precipitate gave a positive test for  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  and a negative test for  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ . During this same period, well 6-1 fluid was used in a heat exchanger where a black precipitate formed. About 20% of this precipitate was magnetic and assumed to be magnetite. The remainder contained  $\text{FeS-ZnS}$ .

Unflashed fluid from well 6-1 was clear but with a yellow tint. After boiling for two minutes a yellow precipitate formed, equivalent in concentration to 70 mg/l; it was identified as calcite.

The occurrence of quartz and sphalerite in flashed wells 6-2 and 8-1 fluids but not in well 6-1 may only mean that the larger quantity of calcite found in well 6-1 hid these less abundant minerals.

Quartz, although predicted by equilibrium calculations, was not expected. This has been discussed in connection with the identification of quartz in the VTE scale and in scale from within the 6-1 wellhole. In only one x-ray pattern did we find broad peaks associated with amorphous silica. It probably was not a major phase in these precipitates.

Table 5.19. Amounts and kinds of precipitates formed by sampling and mixing fluids.

Sample	Unflashed (mg/l)	Wellhead flashed (mg/l)	Pipeline flashed (mg/l)
6-1	clear	14C	27C
6-2	clear	2Q,C,S	3
31-1	clear	clear	clear
8-1	clear	trace	trace C,Q,H
SS*, 6-1	22B	58B	63B
SS, 6-2	clear	27C,B	clear
SS, 8-1	clear	clear	30C
SS, 31-1	clear	clear	30C
6-1, 6-2	clear	95C,B	88C
6-1, 8-1	clear	69C,B	166C,B
6-1, 31-1	22C,B	88C,B	123C
6-2, 8-1	clear	clear	4
6-2, 31-1	clear	trace	clear
8-1, 31-1	clear	trace	2H
6-1, 6-2, 8-1	clear	38C,B	141C
6-1, 6-2, 31-1	cloudy	122C,B	‡
6-1, 8-1, 31-1	trace	96C	155C
6-2, 8-1, 31-1	clear	2	2
6-1, 6-2, 8-1, 31-1	clear	90C,B	110C

\* X-ray identification by H. Ruben, LBL, 1977, as follows:

C = calcite ( $\text{CaCO}_3\text{E}$ )

Q = quartz ( $\text{SiO}_2$ )

B =  $(\text{Ba}, \text{Sr})\text{SO}_4$

H = hematite ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ )

S = sphalerite ( $\alpha + \beta \text{ZnS}$ ).

+ SS = Salton Sea water.

‡ Not tested.

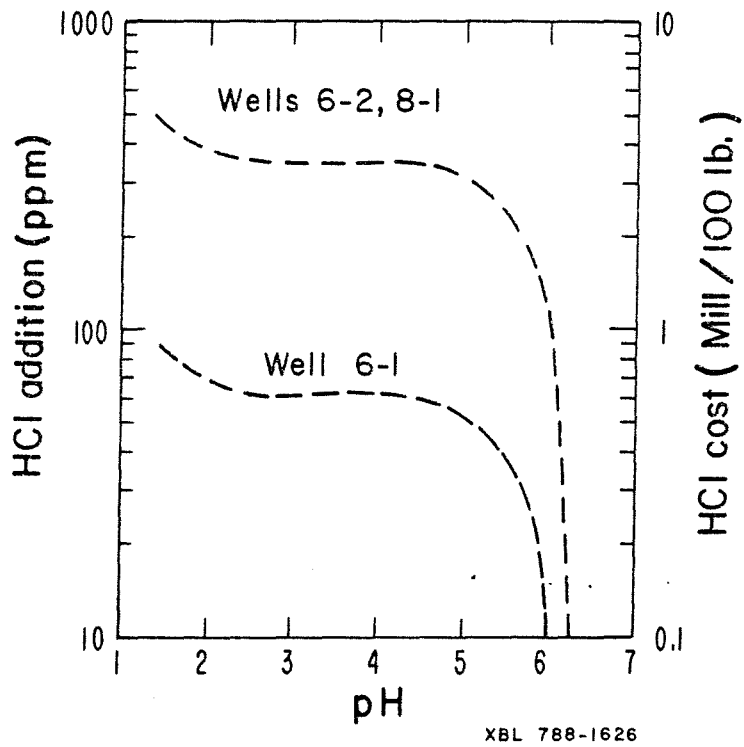


Figure 5.34. Calculated titration curves for East Mesa fluids.



The general trends observed in these mixing experiments are in agreement with predictions. The amount of precipitate formed by mixing is greater than that formed by the component fluids themselves. Fluid from well 6-1 appears to be incompatible with the other fluids. Fluids from wells 6-2, 8-1, and 31-1 have very similar scaling tendencies. The major minerals that were observed to form are the minerals predicted from calculations - with a few exceptions. Salton Sea water was predicted to be saturated with gypsum and anhydrite. Even when boiled for several minutes to increase the degree of supersaturation, neither mineral precipitated.

The geothermal fluids were calculated to be saturated both with FeS and ZnS. However, because of the questionable significance of the iron analyses of geothermal fluids produced from iron pipes, and because of the very small concentration of Zn (0.1 mg/l) the amounts calculated to form were not considered to be significant. The occurrence of a mineral with the sphalerite structure, in amounts that were detectable by x-ray diffraction, was unexpected. The chemical composition of this phase should be determined.

#### SCALE CONTROL

The most effective first step in scale control is knowing the chemistry and structure of the scales that form, the rate at which they form, and where they form under known conditions of well flow rate, temperature, and pressure. With our present knowledge, we can suggest certain measures for reducing scaling and plugging.

Prevention of carbonate-scale formation in flashing geothermal fluids can be accomplished by adding acid. Hydrochloric acid (HCl) is preferred over less expensive sulfuric acid (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>) in order to avoid aggravated sulfate precipitation. The amount that must be added to East Mesa fluids to prevent calcite scaling upon flashing is the amount necessary to lower the pH to ~4. For well 6-1 this is 60 mg/l HCl (Figure 5.34). The cost would be 0.6 mill/100 lb of fluid if HCl costs \$0.10/lb. Wells 6-2, 8-1, and 31-1 contain considerably more HCO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> than well 6-1, and calcite-scale prevention requires ~400 mg/l HCl, at a cost of 4 mill/100 lb. This is probably far too expensive and other ways must be explored to prevent scaling in these high-bicarbonate brines.

Carbonate scale inhibition by the use of phosphonate-type materials, particularly "Dearborn 8010" was explored by Bechtel (1977a). They concluded that although longer term testing was needed, 10 to 12 mg/l added to unflushed well 6-2 fluid reduced scaling in the vertical-tube evaporator. The cost of this inhibitor is 1 mill/100 lb of fluid.

Thus, the cost of carbonate-scale prevention by acidification is more than the cost of phosphonate inhibitors in high- $\text{HCO}_3^-$  wells. In well 6-1 the reverse may be true, but no experimental work has been done. However, inhibitors probably only delay scaling and it may occur later in the formation, where it is inaccessible.

Removal of carbonate scale by thermal shock was demonstrated in small heat exchangers by Wahl et al. (1975) and Phillips et al. (1977), but further work is needed to find out whether it would be practical to subject larger equipment to such treatment.

Silica scaling can generally be avoided by keeping the concentration of  $\text{SiO}_2$  below ~500 mg/l. This rule is based on experience but it can be rationalized by the following facts: the rate of precipitation of silica at temperatures below  $130^\circ\text{C}$  tends to be slow compared with the time a fluid remains in most processing equipment; amorphous silica, not quartz, is usually precipitated during the production and processing of geothermal fluids; and the solubility of amorphous silica at  $130^\circ\text{C}$  is 500 mg/l compared to a quartz solubility of 90 mg/l at the same temperature (Figure 5.33).

This rule appears to have been violated at East Mesa during the testing of fluted Ti tubes in the VTE when rapid silica scaling occurred at  $T \leq 110^\circ\text{C}$  from fluids containing  $\leq 500$  mg  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{l}$ . It is not known if this scale was amorphous silica or quartz. During earlier experiments (also using well 6-2 fluid but with smooth Ti tubes in the VTE) quartz was found in the scale although the rate of deposition was slow. Quartz was also discovered in scale from deep in the 6-1 well and in laboratory mixing experiments (Table 5.19). It is possible that this quartz came from the reservoir as solid particles rather than in solution. Further studies of these scales need to be made to learn the origin of the quartz.

Plugging of the geothermal reservoir during injection of spent fluids can also be considered to be a scaling problem. It may be prevented by the removal of all particulate matter and as much dissolved calcite and silica as possible at the surface. Calcite is removed by flashing and silica may be removed (to a certain extent) in the holding pond, if the residence time is long and where the formation of other precipitates can form nuclei for accelerated silica precipitation.

Removal of  $\text{SiO}_2$  by the addition of  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$  to precipitate calcium silicates is a well-known and reliable method, but it is probably too expensive for this application.

#### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The chemical composition of fluid produced from each East Mesa well often varied from sample to sample. The variability was greatest for the scale-forming elements Ca, C, Sr, Ba, Fe, and S. These changes showed no clear trends with time or with the total volume of fluid taken from a given well.

The main reason for this variability was probably the formation of scale in the well and in the sampling tube. Scale can cause either an increase or decrease in the concentration of some elements in the fluid depending upon whether scale is forming or dissolving. This causes considerable difficulties in predicting the scale-forming potential of geothermal fluids. The samples on which the predictions are based are not representative of the reservoir because of the formation of the very scales being predicted.

Relations among scaling, fluid composition, flow rate in the well, fluid temperature, and fluid pressure may be postulated, but they must be systematically explored. As yet no well testing dedicated to this purpose has been done; this is needed. Continuous on-line measurements of as many variables as possible, including conductivity, pH, and  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration, would be helpful in this task.

Downhole scaling and plugging have been troublesome in well 6-1. On two occasions the well plugged at a depth of ~1820 m. This problem appears to be the result of mixing of incompatible fluids in the wells.

The presence of various fluids in the East Mesa reservoir was first indicated by the striking difference of well 6-1 fluid (20,000 mg/1 TDS) from other well fluids (2000 to 5000 mg/1 TDS). When the initial producing zone of well 6-2 was extended upward, the salt concentration of the fluid doubled. New evidence for downhole scaling due to the mixing of different fluids was the high degree of calcite supersaturation found in well 6-1 fluid before the well plugged.

In order to confirm this mechanism for downhole scaling, samples of fluids should be taken as a function of depth within producing zones. This information, in addition to detailed chemical analyses of downhole scale, can be used to design scale-prevention techniques. It is possible, for example, that periodic injections of small amounts of HCl or other chemicals at the bottom of wells will prevent downhole plugging.

If incompatible fluids are found, and if downhole chemical modification is too costly, methods should be considered to produce these fluids separately.

When all East Mesa wells are flashed, immediate calcite supersaturation results. Less than 5°C cooling, due to flashing, is all that is necessary. Because of the very small amount of flashing necessary for supersaturation, calcite scale forms in limited zones--it does not pervade fluid-processing equipment when formed by this mechanism.

Bechtel experiments showed that the formation of flash-induced scaling was inhibited by the use of phosphonate additives to well 6-2 fluid. The cost was 1 mill/45 kg (100 lb) of fluid. Carbonate scale formation can probably be prevented in flashing well 6-2 fluid by the addition of HCl at cost of 3 mill/45 kg of fluid. The cost for carbonate scale prevention in well 6-1, by HCl, would be less (~0.6 mill/45 kg). The Bechtel results need to be confirmed by longer term testing and HCl addition should be tested.

Calcite scaling is not expected during production and use of East Mesa fluids as long as flashing is avoided, for example by using pressurized heat exchangers and downhole pumps.

All East Mesa fluids are saturated with quartz at formation temperature, and they become gradually supersaturated with quartz as they cool. Thus, in principle, quartz scale should pervade the walls of wells, pipes, and geothermal plants. Practical experience in other geothermal areas shows

that amorphous silica rather than quartz is the scale former in silica-rich fluids. Furthermore, amorphous silica scale forms only when the silica concentration exceeds the saturation value for quartz many times (the factor increases with decreasing temperature as shown in Figure 5.33). The discovery of quartz in scales at East Mesa is therefore puzzling. The microstructure of quartz-bearing scales should be studied to be certain that the quartz came from solution and was not simply sand grains carried in the fluid.

According to our calculations, well 6-1 fluid becomes supersaturated with respect to  $\text{BaSO}_4$  at  $T < 75^\circ\text{C}$ ; when concentrated by flashing this supersaturation occurs at  $T < 125^\circ\text{C}$ . This is in agreement with the occurrence of  $\text{BaSO}_4$  scale in the VTE. The scale that formed the plugs deep in well 6-1 probably contained a mineral with the composition  $\text{Ba}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Ca}_{0.1}\text{SO}_4$ . We did not expect this, for two reasons: the temperature was too high for  $\text{BaSO}_4$  saturation, and the fluid is undersaturated with respect to both  $\text{SrSO}_4$  and  $\text{CaSO}_4$ . This discovery suggests that the solubility data for  $\text{SrSO}_4$  may be in error, or that this complex sulfate mineral may be less soluble than its end-member components.

Mixing hot or cold East Mesa fluids with one another or with Salton Sea water increases chances for scaling. In particular, mixing unflashed fluid from well 6-1, which is unsaturated with  $\text{BaSO}_4$ , with unflashed fluid from well 6-2 (or other wells) which are also unsaturated with  $\text{BaSO}_4$ , will result in a large  $\text{BaSO}_4$  supersaturation and great potential for scale formation. Indeed, when mixed in the laboratory, water from wells 6-1 and 6-2, and from well 6-1 and the Salton Sea did form a barite-like scale, which also contained Sr.

Salton Sea water has a calculated potential for scale formation that may complicate its use at East Mesa. When heated (for example if injected into the reservoir or used as a cooling fluid in a heat exchanger), it becomes saturated with  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{CaSO}_4$ ,  $\text{BaSO}_4$ ,  $\text{SrSO}_4$ , and  $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$ . However, when Salton Sea water was boiled for several minutes and allowed to stand, no precipitation of solids was observed. Further experiments need to be made simulating the specific use of the Salton Sea water before its scale-forming potential is discounted.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Ken Mathias, Jack Haynes, and Sus Suemoto of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for help in sorting out early chemistry and production records of East Mesa.

Bill Riley and Frank McCawley gave us unpublished information on the U.S. Bureau of Mines work at East Mesa, and we also thank Donald Michels of Republic Geothermal, Inc., for recent unpublished chemical analyses of their wells.

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## SECTION 6: SUMMARY

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A comprehensive project study has been completed for the U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Energy, Imperial Magma Co., and Republic Geothermal, Inc., on the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation leaseholds at the East Mesa KGRA. The purpose of the study was to assess the resource, determine the production and injection capacities of the resource, and assess the likelihood of chemistry-related problems during fluid production and injection, and during desalination. The resource assessment and production behavior studies depend heavily upon the geological and hydrothermal model of the reservoir. Because no coherent model of the reservoir was available, one of the important tasks was to review all available geological and geophysical data and to construct a comprehensive geological model of the resource. To determine the maximum rate of fluid withdrawal requires both well-testing information and reservoir-simulation calculations. The well-test data provide estimates for well behavior, reservoir flow characteristics, and material parameters--such as permeabilities. When the geological model and the flow characteristics are estimated, calculations can be made to study the implications of various production/injection strategies, and different choices of well completions and patterns. Since the chemical stability of geothermal brines depends strongly upon temperature and pressure, the chemistry studies are dependent not only on fluid sampling and analysis, but also on the thermodynamic state of the brine during crucial phases of production and injection. The reservoir definition (geology, geophysics), reservoir engineering, and geochemistry are interdependent, and each contributes to the accurate assessment of the capacity, productivity, and associated chemistry of the resource.

The major conclusions reached during the geological synthesis and modeling are that at least three marker horizons can be mapped (as shown in Figures 1.8 to 1.10). A deep, poorly reflecting zone (for seismic signals) was identified on the basis of velocity analyses and well logs as relatively dense rocks. This poorly reflecting zone (PRZ) was penetrated by a few wells and showed significantly lower

porosity and permeability compared with shallower zones. Since the PRZ corresponds to both the gravity high and the thermal high, it is interpreted to be a dense, thermally altered region that could, however, be substantially fractured.

In Section 1, a volumetric calculation was made to estimate the heat content of the fluid and the heat content of the rock within the boundaries of the USBR leasehold. Since the 300°F isotherm is inside the lease boundary (in some places) the volume included in the calculation is smaller than the volume of the entire leasehold to the depth chosen (7500 ft). A much larger volume would result by including rock and fluid to a greater depth, but the tables in Section 1 show that: (a) the porosity decreases significantly below 7500 feet; and (b) there is very little information available below this depth. Including deeper zones would simply increase the estimates proportionately. For example, if evidence of substantial fractures were obtained, it might be appropriate to extend the estimates accordingly.

The specific conclusions from the volumetric study are that the total volume of fluid at temperatures above 300°F is  $\approx 3 \times 10^9 \text{ m}^3$  ( $1.1 \times 10^{11} \text{ ft}^3$ ); the total mass of fluid is  $\approx 2.8 \times 10^{12} \text{ kg}$  ( $6.1 \times 10^{12} \text{ lb}$ ); the total heat in the fluid is  $\approx 1.8 \times 10^{18} \text{ J}$  ( $1.7 \times 10^{15} \text{ Btu}$ ); the total volume of sand is  $\approx 1.4 \times 10^{10} \text{ m}^3$  ( $5 \times 10^{11} \text{ ft}^3$ ); and the total heat in the sand is  $\approx 4.6 \times 10^{18} \text{ J}$  ( $4.4 \times 10^{15} \text{ Btu}$ ). The volume of sand was obtained by including all formation material having porosity greater than 10% (from the SARABAND logs). The heat contents were calculated relative to 60°F.

The geophysical work covered in this report (Section 2) is based upon data acquired in 1977 and 1978 from the microseismic net shown in Figure 2.1. The interesting and somewhat surprising observation from these studies is that there is an apparent total lack of any current microseismic activity within the East Mesa KGRA. This holds for all observable activity above a Richter magnitude,  $M_L = 1$ . Most of the observed microseismic activity was identified with events such as the major Brawley swarms (1977). At present there does not appear to be any relationship between the seismic activity believed to originate near the Imperial-Brawley fault system and the East Mesa KGRA.

The well testing portion of the report (Section 3) includes analyses of data from well tests before 1978, and a review of tests carried out under contract to the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. A comprehensive picture of the reservoir's hydrological characteristics has emerged from these measurements and analyses. The picture is one of scattered hydrological discontinuities within the anomaly as a whole. This is demonstrated in Figure 3.2, where apparent barriers to flow have been found near wells 16-30 and 6-1. In Figures 1.8 through 1.10, numerous features have been mapped, suggesting that the geological and hydrological discontinuities may be related to one another. In addition to the inhomogeneous nature of the geology, the flow parameters also indicate a nonuniform distribution of permeability and porosity. In the central portion of the field, the early well-test analyses gave relatively low values for the transmissivity,  $kh/\mu$ . More recently--from data obtained during well tests at higher flow rates--the analyses gave values of transmissivity in the central portion of the anomaly that were not as low as the preliminary estimates. Nevertheless, the center of the anomaly appears to have relatively low  $kh/\mu$  compared with the northern and southern extremes. Figure 1.24 through 1.29 show that the central portion of the KGRA corresponds to a relatively high-temperature region. The temperatures are relatively lower in the northern and southern portions of the anomaly, at a given depth. The crude correlation of temperature, depth, and transmissivity may be related to hydrothermal mineralization, although this has not been verified.

The well testing has also provided indications of the conditions of the wells in the USBR leasehold. The wells have been tested only in a self-flowing mode, and at greater than 120 gpm these wells flash in the wellbore. In addition to the temperature drop due to vaporization, there is also a large amount of  $CO_2$ , which is released from solution during flashing. As a result, the wells have all scaled to some degree. This was quite apparent during the production testing and resulted in difficulty removing the downhole tools that had been used to monitor transient pressure. It appears that all of the USBR wells are damaged (scaled) to some extent, and 6-1 has had additional

problems below 3600 ft, where a scale plug formed--apparently due to mixing of fluids from different strata (see discussion of chemistry, below). The well with the highest productivity index is 8-1 (PI  $\approx$  2.8 gpm/psi), and well 6-1 has the poorest (PI  $\approx$  0.6 gpm/psi). The well testing throughout the anomaly has indicated that the transmissivity is probably at least 100,000 md-ft/cp throughout most of the anomaly, and could be twice that number in the northern and southern portions of the KGRA.

Section 4, the reservoir simulation portion of the report, covers calculations made to determine the conditions that would exist in the reservoir and boreholes when specified amounts of water are withdrawn for desalination. The desalinated water would be used for augmenting the Colorado River and makeup water is assumed to be available (from the Salton Sea, for example). Specifically, the study seeks to predict the response of the reservoir for annual flow rates of 25,000 to 100,000 acre-ft (15,000 to 60,000 gpm).

The calculations included three types: pressure transient, thermal breakthrough, and wellbore flow. The calculations were made assuming several simplifications--such as homogeneity--as discussed in Section 4, above. The principal transient pressure considerations are related to well patterns (number of wells), type of injection (peripheral or regular pattern), and effects of viscosity (for cold-water injection). The effect of gravity on the thermal breakthrough has not been included in the calculations. The wellbore-flow calculations were made to determine the flash point in the well for the given reservoir conditions obtained from the pressure-transient calculations.

Two cases were included in the numerical transient-pressure calculations. One was for average well depths of 6000 ft and the second for well depths of 7000 ft. The values of the material parameters and the assumptions used in the numerical calculations are summarized in Table 4.2. The thermal breakthrough calculations were made for a quadrant of a five-spot well pattern and for both peripheral injection and for five-spot patterns. The material and thermal properties used in the calculations are also given in Section 4.

Three injection strategies were studied numerically: no injection, peripheral injection, and injection in a uniform five-spot well pattern.

In Figure 4.8, the drawdowns after 11.2 years are shown as functions of the number of wells, and for both 50,000 and 100,000 acre-ft/yr withdrawal rates. The withdrawal for both 6000- and 7000-ft wells is from within the 300°F temperature contour. This was chosen as the calculation area because USBR required this minimal temperature constraint as input to their desalination system. For the 100,000 acre-ft/yr withdrawal rate, the drawdowns are more than 5500 psi at the center of the field, and more than 4250 psi at the edge of the field. For 50,000 acre-ft/yr these numbers decrease by about a factor of 2.

For peripheral injection, the injection wells can be located at arbitrary distances from the production field. When the wells are placed farther from the field, more wells must be drilled to give similar sweep patterns and pressure support. Since pressure support was shown to be desirable for the "no-injection" case, peripheral injection was calculated using injection-well spacings equal to the production-well spacing. In Figure 4.12 the production-well drawdowns and injection-well excess pressures are shown as functions of the number of wells and rate of production (injection equals production). In these cases the dependence of the maximum drawdown on the number of wells is important. The spread between the minimum drawdowns and maximum drawdowns is also more pronounced, although the absolute magnitudes are reduced appreciably in comparison with the no-injection case. However, the center of the field still shows greater than  $\approx 1200$  psi drawdown for the 100,000 acre-ft/yr case. For the 50,000 acre-ft/yr case, the drawdowns do not exceed 1200 psi even for the case of 15 producing and 15 injection wells. Drawdowns are much less than 1200 psi in most of the field. From Table 4.5, we see that the above summary conclusions hold for the case of 7000-ft and 6000-ft well depths. The assumptions inherent in these conclusions give a "best-case" result. When barriers, shale lenses or layers, and other complications are considered, the results will probably be less favorable with respect to the magnitude of the drawdowns. An example of a barrier dividing the entire field is given in Figures 4.13, 4.14, and 4.15 as an example.

For the five-spot calculations, the well spacing was dictated by the combination of the bounding 300°F isotherm and the number of wells in the pattern. The drawdowns and excess injection pressures are shown in Figures 4.19 and 4.20. For 1000 gpm/well, the drawdowns do not exceed 350 psi (even for 100,000 acre-ft/yr) anywhere in the field. Although 2000 gpm/well is also shown, the results from well testing do not make this case a serious possibility in the East Mesa field. For 60 wells the flow rates are 500 gpm/well. The excess injection pressures are of the same magnitude as the drawdowns (excluding any complications due to scaling or plugging). Calculations were made to quantitatively show the effects of a skin factor. For evaluation of the results we note that a "skin factor" of 5 is quite large. Figure 4.24 shows that the skin effect for large skin factor could double the drawdowns.

Wellbore calculations were made for wells similar to 6-1 or 8-1, and the results are given in Figures 4.26 and 4.27. They show that the flashpoint depth in feet is approximately 2.4 times the drawdown in psi for typical USBR wells at East Mesa. When pumps are used they must be set deeper than the flash-point depth, since CO<sub>2</sub> is released from solution below the phase-change point, and a static heat is also required for most pumps to operate.

In the calculations for breakthrough from injection to production wells, both the hydrodynamic and thermal breakthrough were calculated since the desalination requires known chemical composition, and the composition (at least initially) would be the current brine chemistry. The estimated hydrodynamic breakthrough times were greater than 36 years for a reservoir of from 1500- to 6000-ft thick, or 12 years for a reservoir thickness of 500 ft. The number is about twice as large when the 300°F isotherm bounds the reservoir at a depth of 7000 ft.

Thermal breakthrough was calculated for both peripheral and five-spot well patterns. The parameters used in the calculations are summarized in Section 4, and the results are presented graphically in Figures 4.29 and 4.30 for peripheral injection and five-spot injection, respectively. The figures show that, for the parameters and assumptions described in the text, the thermal breakthrough does not occur until



after at least  $\approx 22$  years for peripheral injection and at least  $\approx 42$  years for five-spot injection. These calculations were for the case of 50,000 acre-ft/yr production-injection and a reservoir height of 500 ft. Clearly, anisotropies or inhomogeneities might result in very different values. The minimum numbers quoted here are for the minimum likely "average" reservoir height in the field (500 ft). Note that this is the thickness of permeable sand, not the geometric height. It may be possible that the effective reservoir thickness is two or more times this number, in which case the breakthrough may be 60 to 80% longer (see Figure 4.32). The numbers for drawdowns and breakthrough times can be scaled (approximately) to estimate the withdrawal within the USBR leasehold, rather than the entire volume bounded by the 300°F isotherm at either 6000 or 7000 ft. The approximate scaling factor is 60% for the volume and  $\approx 1.67$  for drawdowns or breakthrough times.

The chemistry section of this report (Section 5) is devoted to determining the conditions to be expected during desalination to East Mesa. The important aspects include evaluation of existing data, the potential for scaling, a comparison of predictions with the experience from the demonstration desalination plant, and scale-control techniques.

The existing chemistry data show great variability and the conditions associated with the sampling were not always known. In addition, scaling and gas evolution occurred during some of the sampling periods. There are data, however, that suggest mixing of incompatible fluids during production of East Mesa brines. Both the change in chemical composition when extending the production interval and the high degree of calcite supersaturation have been cited as examples in wells 6-2 and 6-1, respectively.

Calcite scaling will not occur if flashing is prevented through the use of downhole pumps and pressurized heat exchangers. However,  $\text{BaSO}_4$  scaling may be a possible problem even for unflashed mixtures of brines from different production zones. The potential scaling

problems when injecting Salton Sea water into the reservoir require additional studies, since calculations indicate possible supersaturation of  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ,  $\text{BaSO}_4$ , and  $\text{CaMg}(\text{CO}_3)_2$  under typical injection conditions (i.e., eventual heating of the injected fluid).

## APPENDIX A: PRODUCTION TEST DATA AND DISCUSSION

### WELL 5-1 INJECTION TEST

A plot of the injection rate, wellhead pressure, and downhole pressure measurements made during the well test is shown in Figure A.1. The injected water was at about 70°F. No unusual difficulties were encountered during the test. The injection pump(s) quit for a short time on several occasions due to a lack of feed water from the storage tank, but these flow interruptions did not seriously affect the test as a whole. The flow rate, measured injectivity index, and analytical results for each test segment are listed in Table A.1.

Test segments 3, 4 and 5 display good pressure behavior. Annotated semilog plots of pressure vs elapsed time used in these analyses are given as Figures A.2, A.3, and A.4. The disparity of  $kh/\mu$  values among the test segments can be explained by the dilation process of a hydraulic (vertical) fracture that is believed to communicate with the well in a 400-ft section at the top of the perforations. Figure A.5 shows the results of a spinner survey taken in well 5-1 on 8 December 1977. This survey, combined with hysteretic behavior of the injectivity indices and the drop of 1200 to 400 psi wellhead pressure recorded in the injection log on 26 December 1977, indicates that the well is fractured.

Test segment 3 best represents well operating conditions. The measured injectivity index (I.I.) of 0.84 gpm/psi agrees closely with the calculated 18 hour I.I. of 0.79 gpm/psi. The test results of segment 3 are therefore believed to most closely represent the behavior of the well in its present condition.

### WELL 8-1 PRODUCTION TEST

A plot of wellhead temperature and pressure, flow rate, and downhole pressure measurements made during the production test is shown in Figure A.6. The flow rate variation, calculated productivity index, and results for each analyzable test segment are given in Table A.2.

Constant flow rates could not be maintained because the well is artesian, and when free flowing it suffers a progressive pressure

decline concurrent with a decrease in flow rate. In addition, flashing occurs in the well bore so that the resultant scale build up contributes to progressive flow rate decay. For these reasons, the three build-up tests, test segments 4, 7 and 11, are considered the best representative well tests. Annotated semilog plots of pressure vs elapsed time for these three tests are given as Figures A.7 through A.9. The results of these three tests are in close agreement. Average parameter values for well 8-1 based on these tests are:  $kh/\mu = 60,000$  md-ft/cp ( $1.8 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa),  $\phi_{chr_e}^2 = 0.037$  ft<sup>3</sup>/psi ( $1.52 \times 10^{-7}$  m<sup>3</sup> Pa); and P.I. = 2.54 gpm/psi ( $2.32 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa).

#### WELL 6-2 PRODUCTION TEST

A plot of production rate, wellhead pressure and downhole pressure is shown in Figure A.10. As the graph indicates, constant flow rates could not be maintained. That flashing occurred in the well is evidenced by the small, apparently random fluctuations in wellhead pressure recorded at the higher flow rates.

Flashing caused the deposition of carbonate scale on the capillary tube (nitrogen filled) to a depth of approximately 400 ft. Scale deposited during previous flow periods narrowed the base of the wellhead to 3 inches in diameter. (This was determined by running dummy tools of various sizes into the well.)

Results of all useful test segments are given in Table A.3.

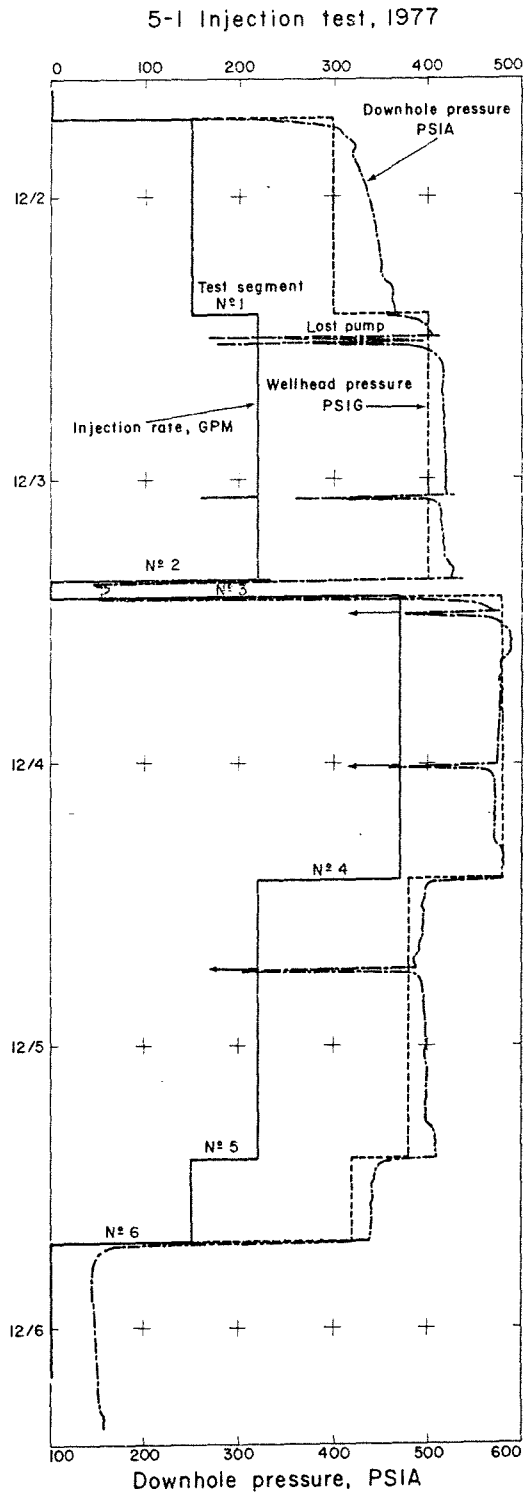
Test segments 5 and 7 are the most representative and the average reservoir parameter values were obtained from the results of these two segments. Semilog plots of pressure vs elapsed time for these segments are given as Figures A.11 and A.12. The average reservoir parameter estimates are:  $kh/\mu = 73,000$  md-ft/cp ( $2.2 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa);  $\phi_{chr_e}^2 = 0.105$  ft<sup>3</sup>/psi ( $4.31 \times 10^{-7}$  m<sup>3</sup>/Pa); and P.I. = 3.38 gpm/psi ( $3.09 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa).

Figure A.13 shows the results of a spinner survey. The figure indicates that the flow occurs in the upper 500 ft (150 m) of perforations. Well log porosities and permeabilities for this interval agree closely with the production test estimates.

## WELL 6-1 PRODUCTION TEST

A plot of wellhead temperature and pressure, production rate and downhole pressure measurements is shown in Figure A.14. The absence of wellhead pressure and temperature response during periods of production rate changes, combined with the low wellhead temperature value, indicate that flashing occurred in the well throughout the entire test. The well also produced considerable amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> and small quantities of sand and organic material. Scale was deposited on the capillary tube (oil filled) to a depth of approximately 800 ft (240 m).

The results of usable test segments are presented in Table A.4. Semilog plots of pressure vs elapsed time for segments 2, 5, and 7 are shown in Figures A.15, A.16, and A.17. Average reservoir estimates for these segments are:  $kh/\mu = 14,000 \text{ md-ft/cp}$  ( $4.2 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^3/\text{sec/Pa}$ );  $\phi_{chr_e}^2 = 1.01 \text{ ft}^3/\text{psi}$  ( $4.15 \times 10^{-7} \text{ m}^3/\text{Pa}$ ); and P.I. = 0.83 gpm/psi ( $7.6 \times 10^{-9} \text{ m}^3/\text{sec/Pa}$ ).

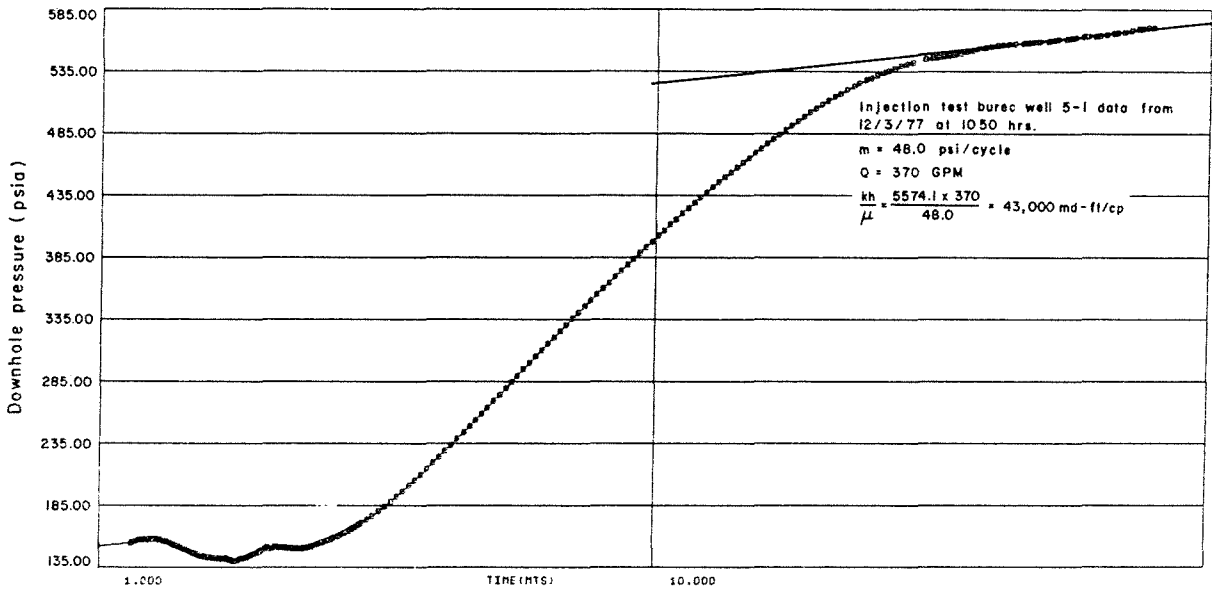


XBL 789-2057

Figure A.1. Plot of injection rates, wellhead pressures, and downhole pressures recorded during the well 5-1 injection test. Top scale is injection rate (gpm) and wellhead pressure (psig).

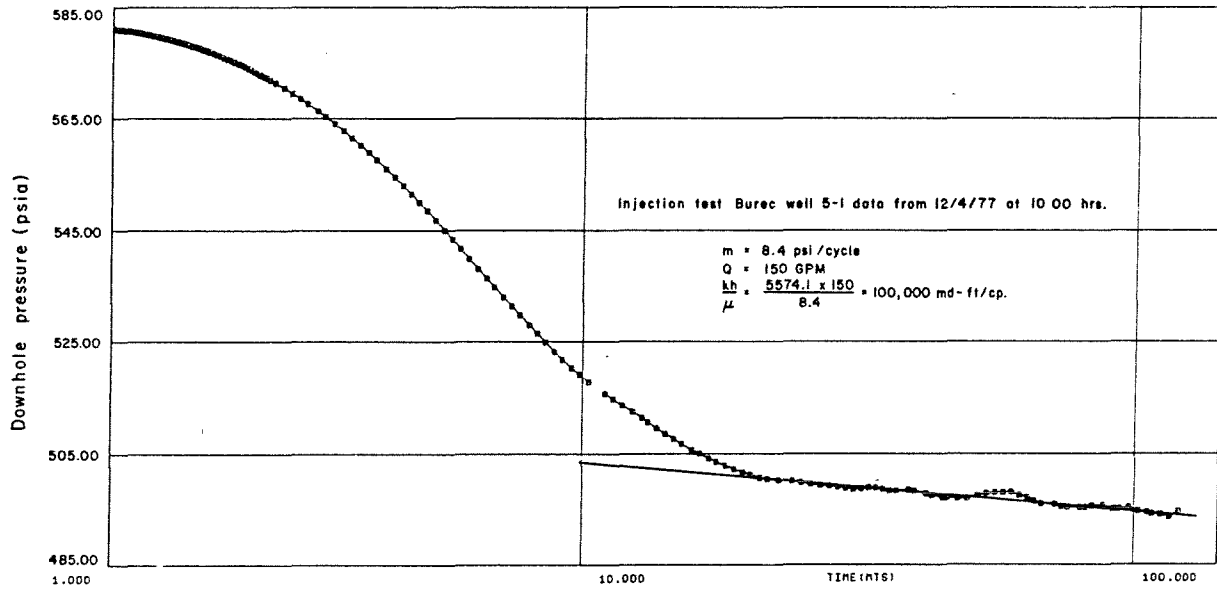
Table A.1. Well 5-1 injection test segments and test results, December 1977.

DATE	SEGMENT	INJECTION RATE-gpm	kh/ $\mu$ md-ft/cp (m <sup>3</sup> /sec/Pa)	$\phi c h r_e^2$ ft <sup>3</sup> /psi (m <sup>3</sup> /Pa)	I.I. gpm/psi (m <sup>3</sup> /sec/Pa)
12/1	-	0-150	-	-	.47 (4.3x10 <sup>-9</sup> )
12/2	1	150-220	-	-	.58 (5.3x10 <sup>-9</sup> )
12/3	3	0-370	43,000 (1.3x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	7.14x10 <sup>-8</sup> (2.93x10 <sup>-13</sup> )	.84 (7.7x10 <sup>-9</sup> )
12/4	4	370-220	100,000 (3.0x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	6.74x10 <sup>-9</sup> (2.77x10 <sup>-14</sup> )	.60 (5.5x10 <sup>-9</sup> )
12/5	5	220-150	57,000 (1.7x10 <sup>-8</sup> )	2.15x10 <sup>-8</sup> (8.83x10 <sup>-14</sup> )	.51 (4.7x10 <sup>-9</sup> )



XBL 789-2063

Figure A.2. Downhole pressure vs log of elapsed time for test segment 3 of the well 5-1 injection test.



XBL 789-2064

Figure A.3. Downhole pressure vs log of elapsed time for test segment 4 of the well 5-1 injection test.



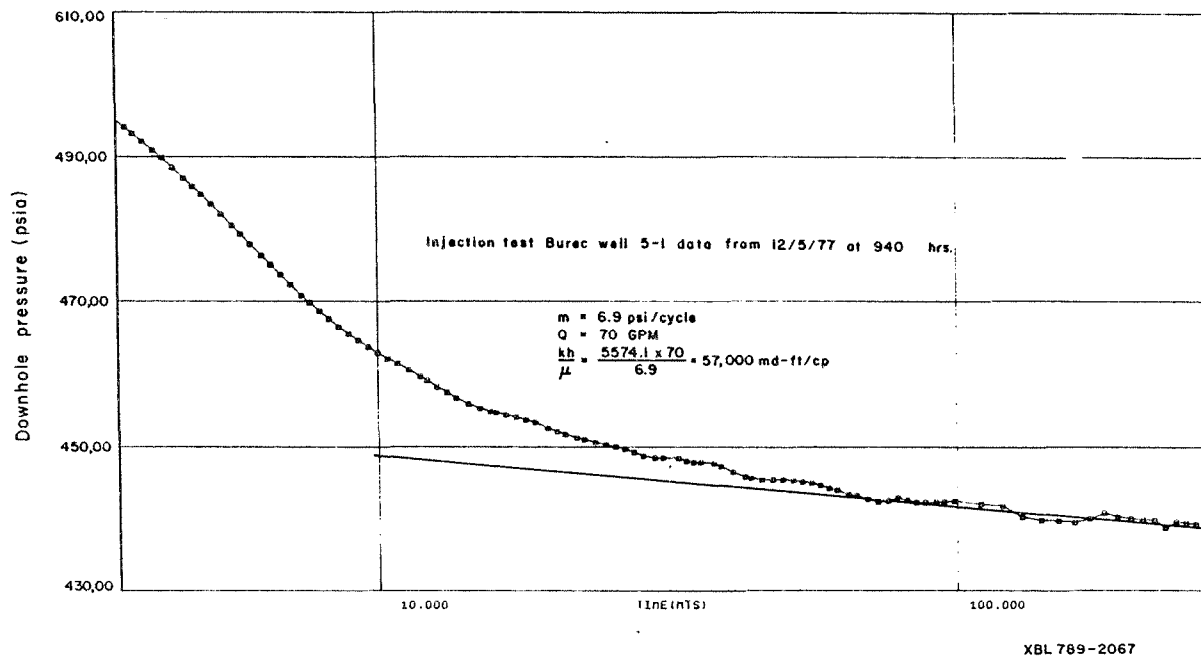
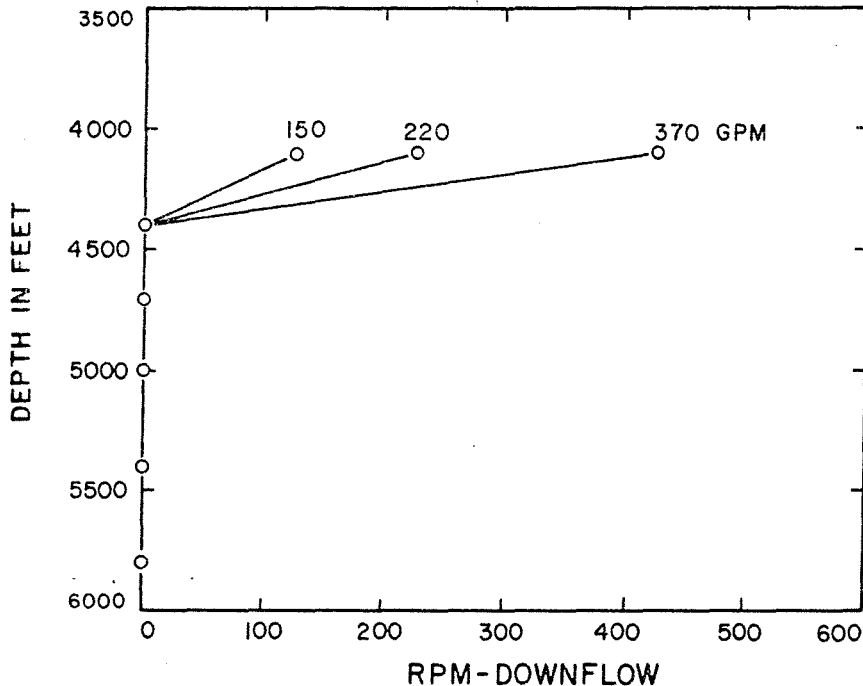


Figure A.4. Downhole pressure vs log of elapsed time for test segment 5 of the well 5-1 injection test.



XBL 789-2082

SURVEY DATA - well injecting

	RPM - low rate	medium rate	high rate	
Stops	4100	125	225	425
	4400	0	0	0
	4700	0	0	0
	5000	0	0	0
	5400	0	0	0
	5800	0	0	0

Open intervals 4061' to 5276' perforations  
 5003' to 6003' slotted

Figure A.5. Results of a spinner survey taken in well 5-1.

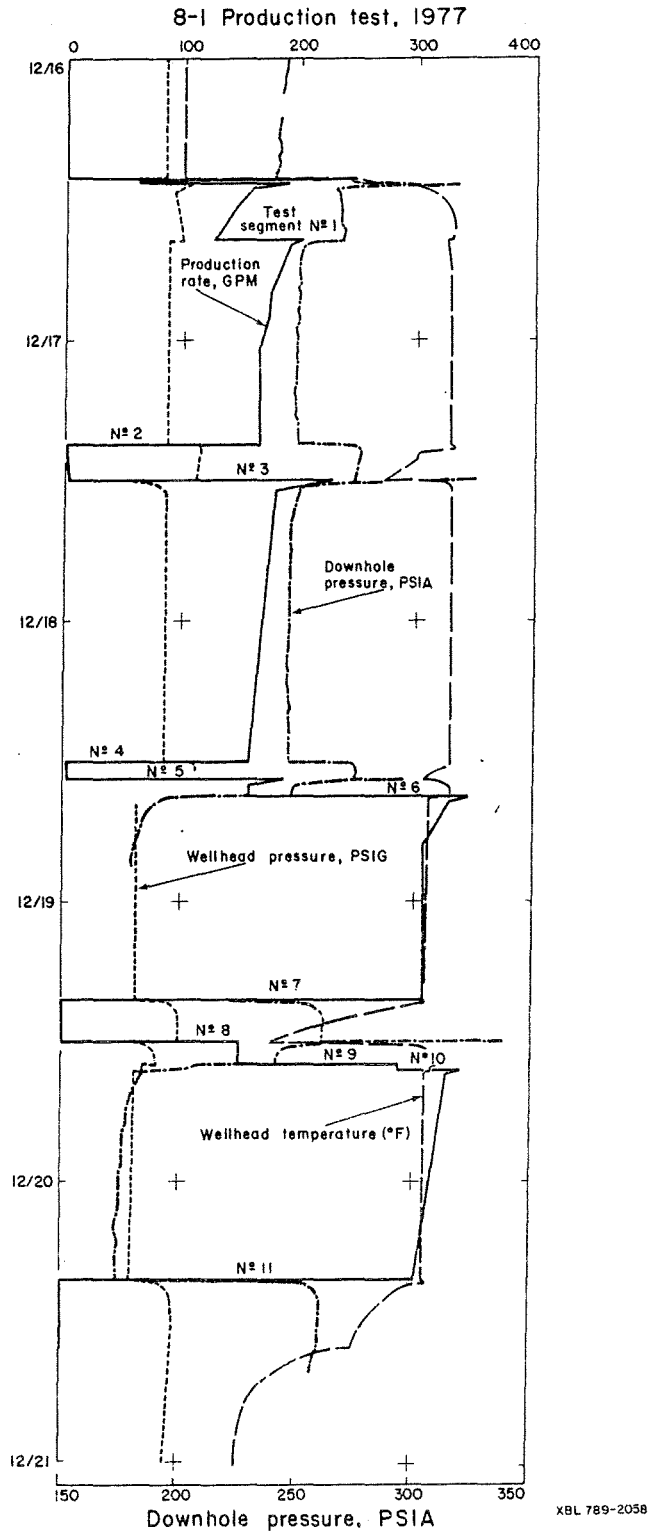
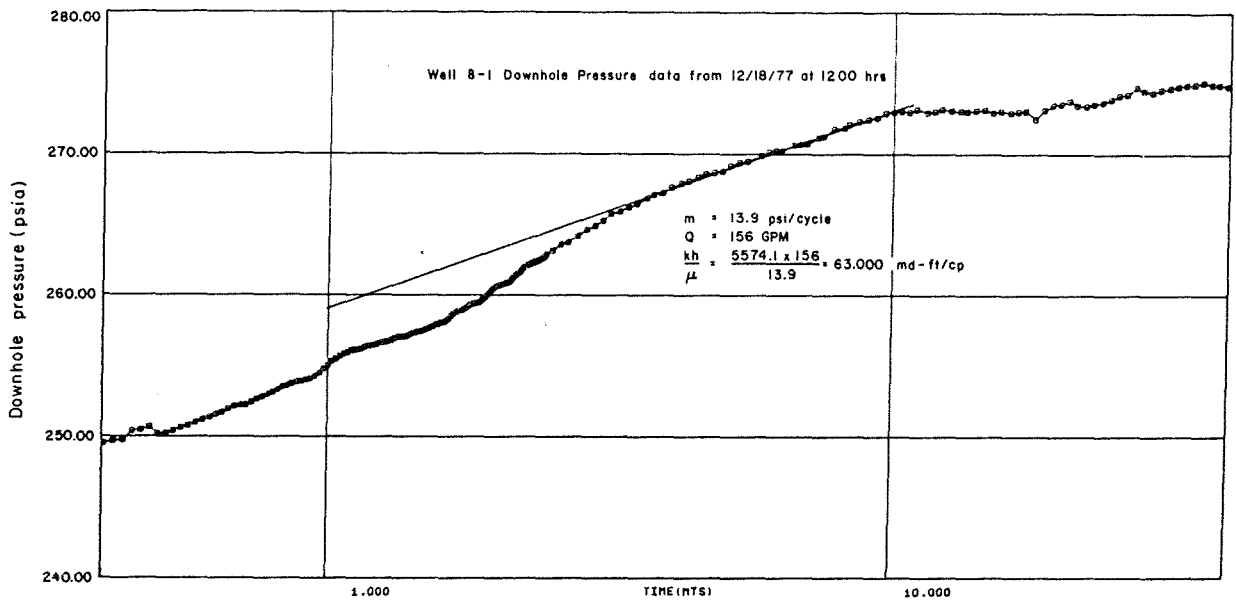


Figure A.6. Plot of wellhead temperatures and pressures, production rates, and downhole pressures recorded during the well 8-1 production test. The top scale is production rate (gpm), wellhead pressure (psig), and wellhead temperature (°F).

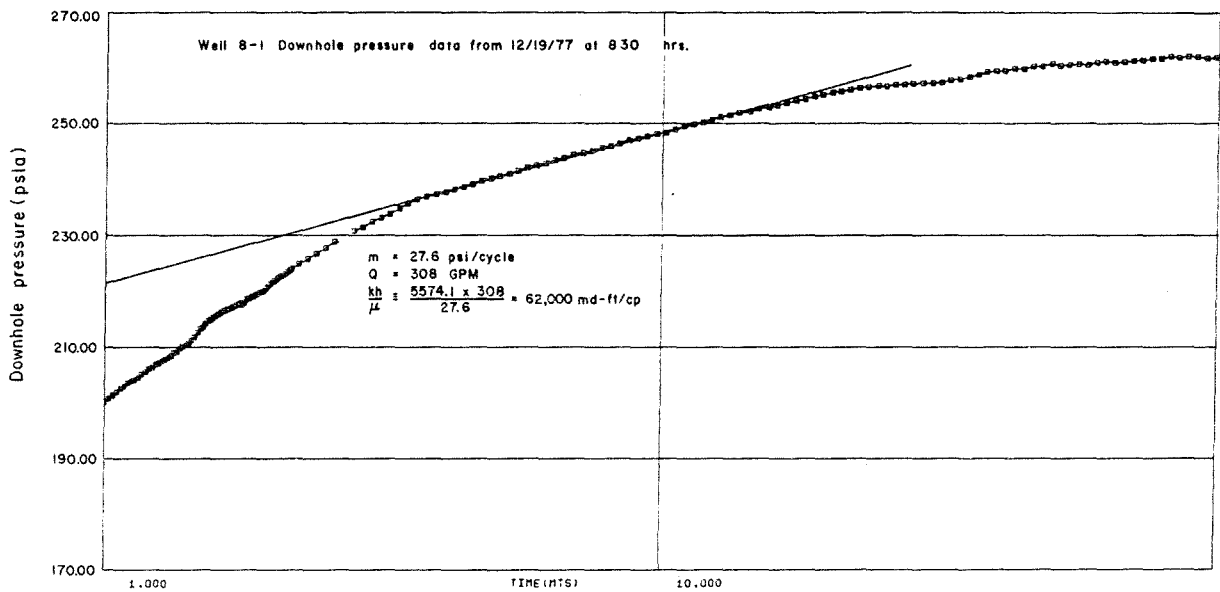
Table A.2. Well 8-1 injection production test segments and test results,  
December 1977.

DATE	SEGMENT	PRODUCTION RATE-gpm	kh/ $\mu$ md-ft/cp ( $m^3/sec/Pa$ )	$\phi_{chr}^2$ ft <sup>3</sup> /psi ( $m^3/Pa$ )	P.I. gpm/psi ( $m^3/sec/Pa$ )
12/16	1	0-165	45,000 ( $1.3 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.224 ( $9.20 \times 10^{-7}$ )	2.42 ( $2.21 \times 10^{-8}$ )
	2	165-0	120,000 ( $3.6 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.007 ( $3.0 \times 10^{-8}$ )	4.09 ( $3.74 \times 10^{-8}$ )
12/18	4	180-0	63,000 ( $1.9 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.075 ( $3.1 \times 10^{-7}$ )	2.86 ( $2.62 \times 10^{-8}$ )
12/19	6	158-308	92,000 ( $2.7 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.013 ( $5.3 \times 10^{-8}$ )	3.38 ( $3.09 \times 10^{-8}$ )
	7	308-0	62,000 ( $1.9 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.015 ( $6.2 \times 10^{-8}$ )	2.40 ( $2.20 \times 10^{-8}$ )
12/20	11	303-0	55,000 ( $1.6 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.023 ( $9.4 \times 10^{-8}$ )	2.24 ( $2.05 \times 10^{-8}$ )



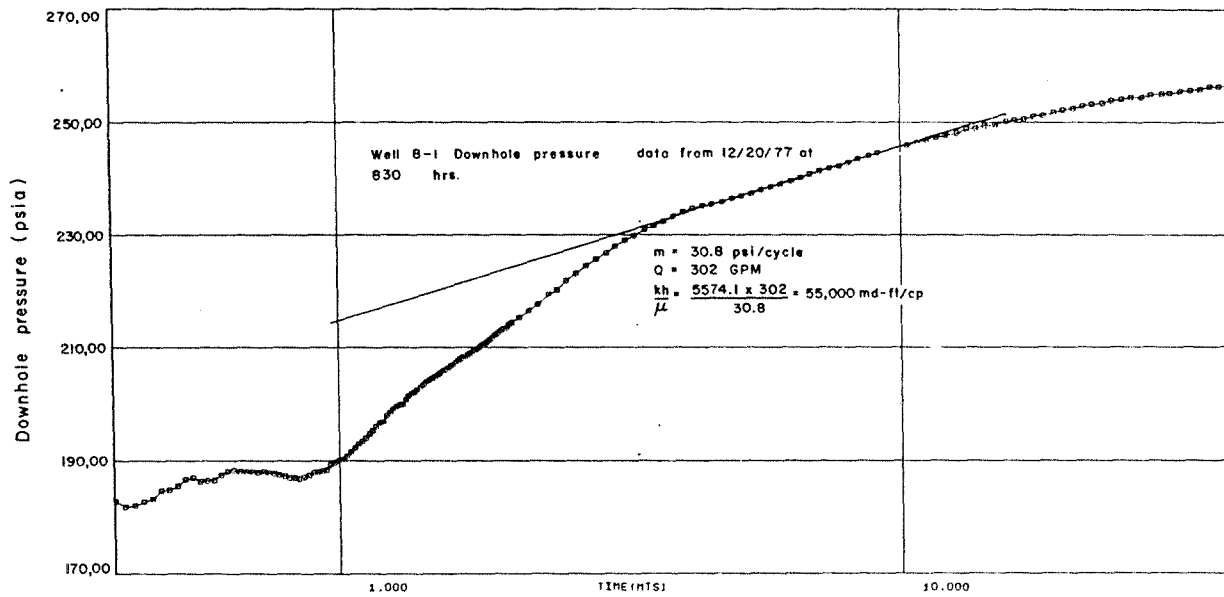
XBL 789-2062

Figure A.7. Downhole pressure vs log of elapsed time for test segment 4 of the well 8-1 production test.



XBL 789-2071

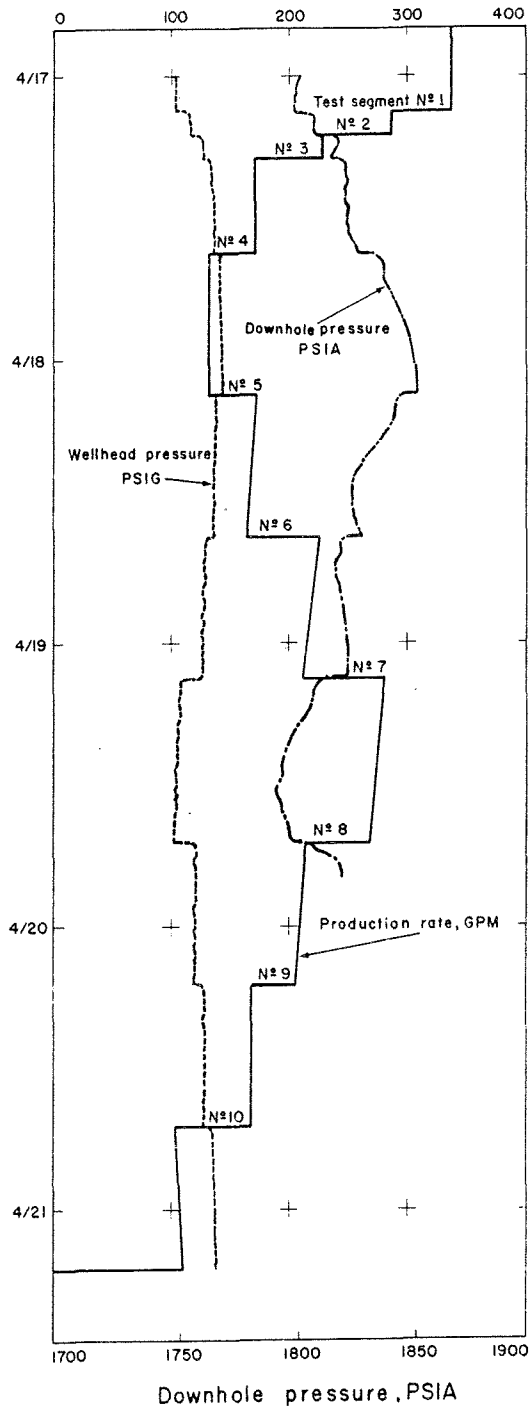
Figure A.8. Downhole pressure vs log of elapsed time for test segment 7 of the well 8-1 production test.



XBL 789-2068

Figure A.9. Downhole pressure vs log of elapsed time for test segment 11 of the well 8-1 production test.

6-2 Production test, 1978



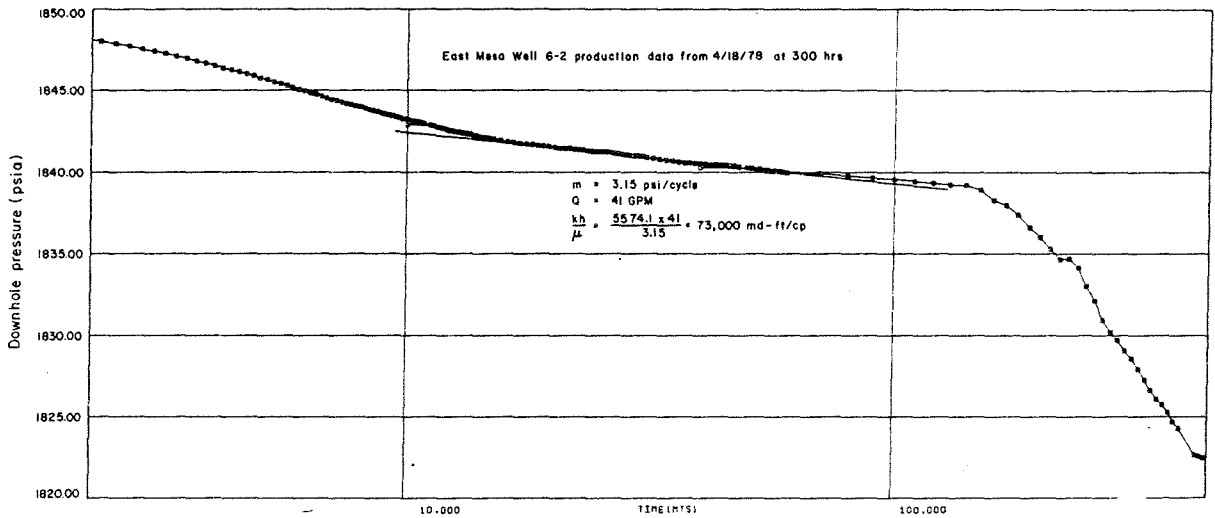
XBL 789-2060

Figure A.10. Plot of wellhead pressures, downhole pressures, and production rates recorded during the well 6-2 production test. Top scale is production rate (gpm), wellhead pressure (psig), and wellhead temperature ( $^{\circ}$ F).

Table A.3. Well 6-2 production test segments and test results, April 1977.

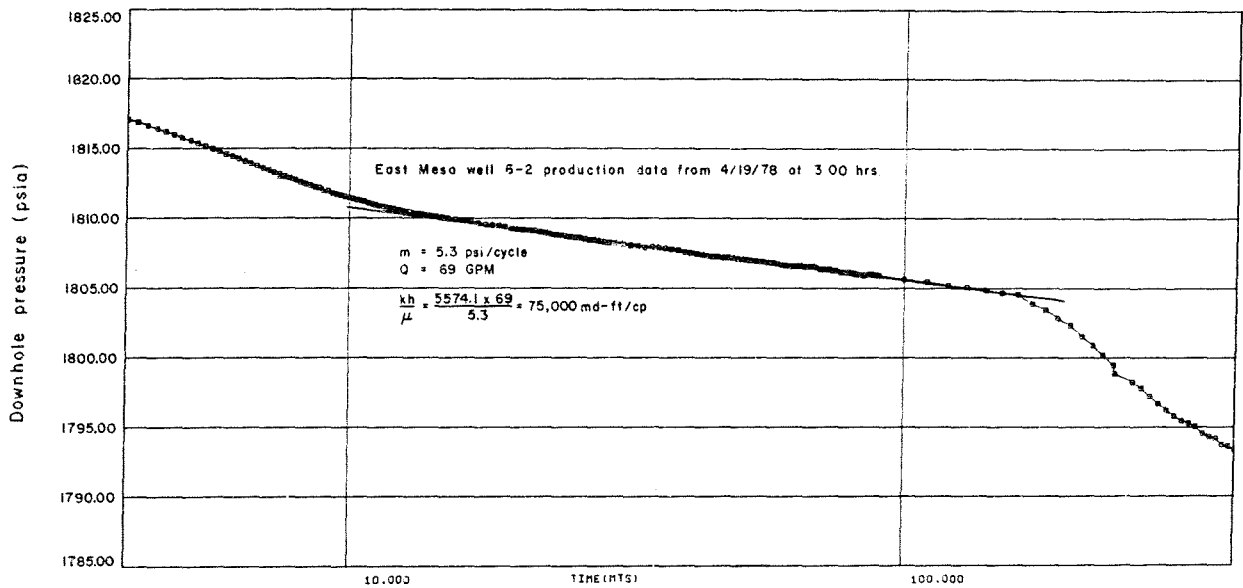
DATE	SEGMENT	PRODUCTION RATE-gpm	kh/ $\mu$ md-ft/cp ( $m^3/sec/Pa$ )	$\phi c h r_e^2$ ft <sup>3</sup> /psi ( $m^3/Pa$ )	P.I. gpm/psi ( $m^3/sec/Pa$ )
4/17	1	339-286	70,000 ( $2.1 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.966 ( $3.97 \times 10^{-6}$ )	4.35 ( $3.98 \times 10^{-8}$ )
	3	228-169	111,000 ( $3.3 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.075 ( $3.08 \times 10^{-7}$ )	4.74 ( $4.34 \times 10^{-8}$ )
	4	169-131	47,000 ( $1.4 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.010 ( $4.11 \times 10^{-8}$ )	1.79 ( $1.64 \times 10^{-8}$ )
4/18	5	131-172	73,000 ( $2.2 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.099 ( $4.07 \times 10^{-7}$ )	3.36 ( $3.07 \times 10^{-8}$ )
	6	164-225	142,000 ( $4.27 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.010 ( $4.11 \times 10^{-8}$ )	4.92 ( $4.5 \times 10^{-8}$ )
4/19	7	212-281	73,000 ( $2.2 \times 10^{-8}$ )	.111 ( $4.56 \times 10^{-7}$ )	3.41 ( $3.12 \times 10^{-8}$ )





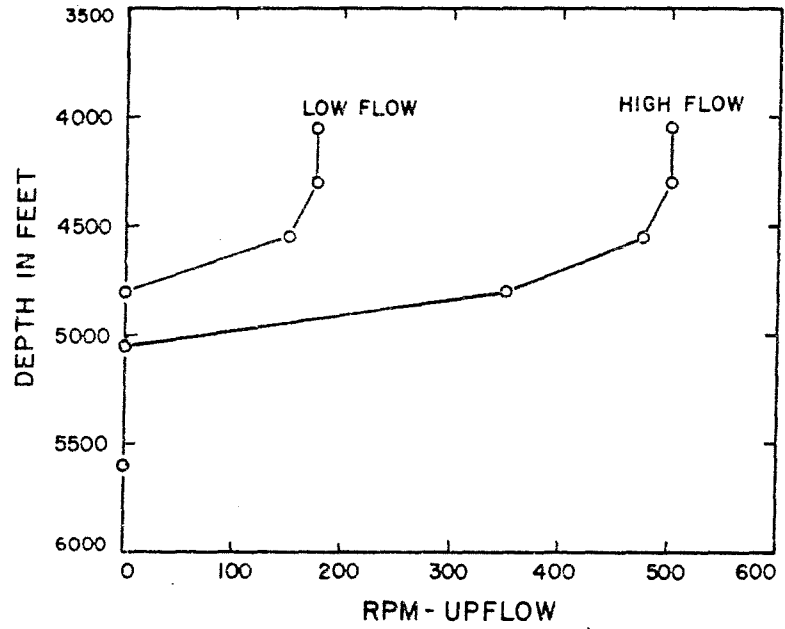
XBL 789-2070

Figure A.11. Downhole pressure vs log of elapsed time for test segment 5 of the well 6-2 production test.



XBL 789-2069

Figure A.12. Downhole pressure vs log of elapsed time for test segment 7 of the well 6-2 production test.



XBL 789-2083 A

SURVEY DATA - WELL FLOWING

	RPM - low rate		high rate
Stops	4050	175	500
	4300	175	500
	4550	150	475
	4800	0	350
	5050	0	0
	5600	0	0

Open intervals 4567' to 5455' perforations  
 5456' to 5957' slotted

Figure A.13. Results of a spinner survey taken in well 6-2.

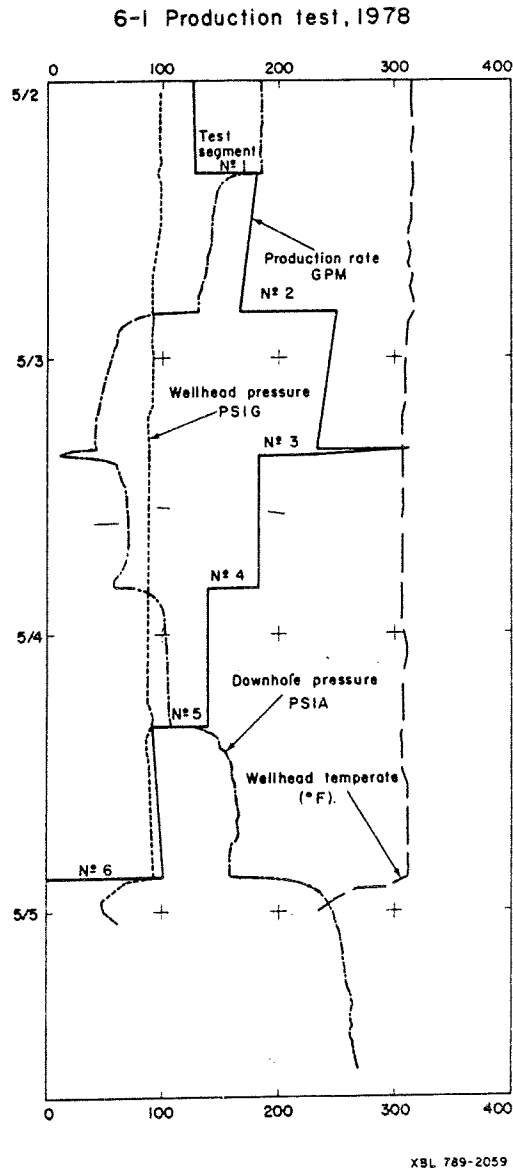
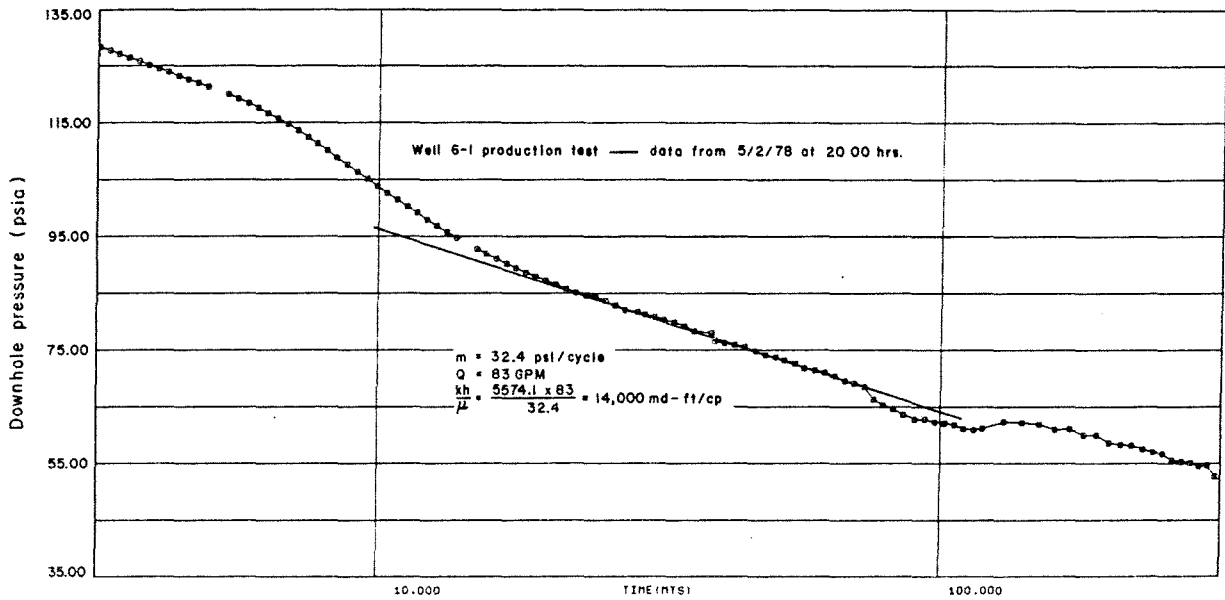


Figure A.14. Plot of wellhead temperature and pressure, production rate and downhole pressure recorded during the well 6-1 production test. Both scales refer to production rate (gpm), wellhead pressure (psig), wellhead temperature ( $^{\circ}$ F), and relative downhole pressure (psia),

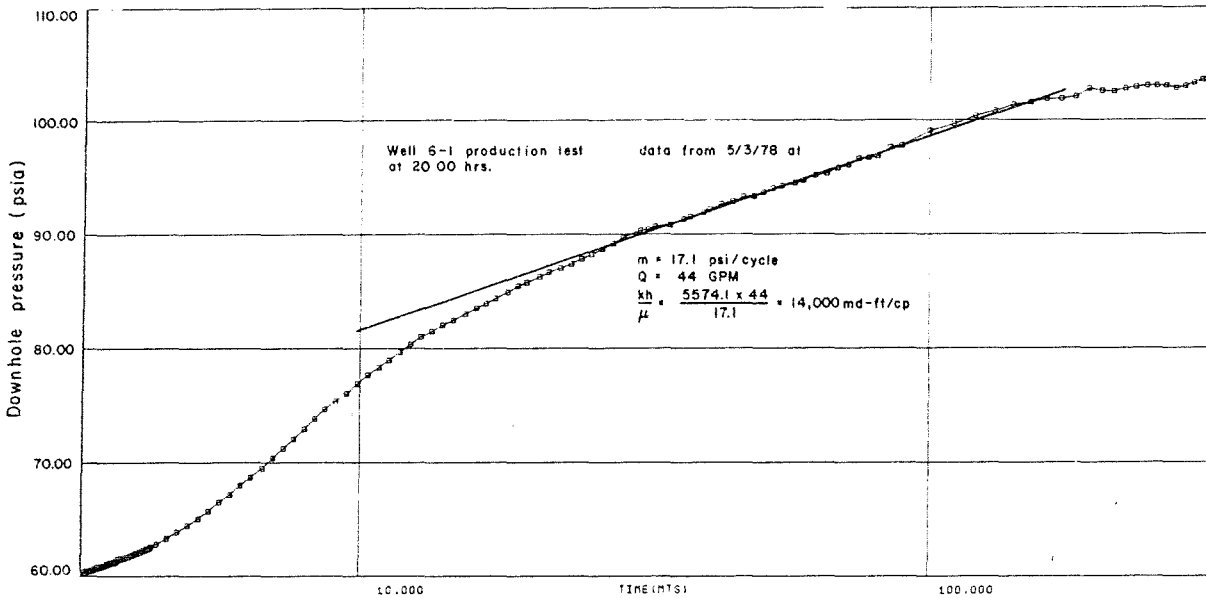
Table A.4. Well 6-1 production test segments and test results, May 1977.

DATE	TEST SEGMENT	PRODUCTION RATE-gpm	kh/ $\mu$ md-ft/cp (m <sup>3</sup> /sec/Pa)	$\phi_{chr_e}^2$ ft <sup>3</sup> /psi (m <sup>3</sup> /Pa)	P.I. gpm/psi (m <sup>3</sup> /sec/Pa)
5/2	1	123-183	15,000 (4.5x10 <sup>-9</sup> )	.142 (5.83x10 <sup>-7</sup> )	.88 (8.1x10 <sup>-9</sup> )
	2	167-250	14,000 (4.2x10 <sup>-9</sup> )	.142 (5.83x10 <sup>-7</sup> )	.83 (7.6x10 <sup>-9</sup> )
5/3	5	183-139	14,000 (4.2x10 <sup>-9</sup> )	.081 (3.33x10 <sup>-7</sup> )	.77 (7.1x10 <sup>-9</sup> )
5/4	6	139-91	13,000 (3.9x10 <sup>-9</sup> )	.109 (4.48x10 <sup>-7</sup> )	1.11 (1.0x10 <sup>-8</sup> )
	7	91.0	12,000 (3.6x10 <sup>-9</sup> )	0.59 (2.42x10 <sup>-6</sup> )	.65 (6.0x10 <sup>-9</sup> )



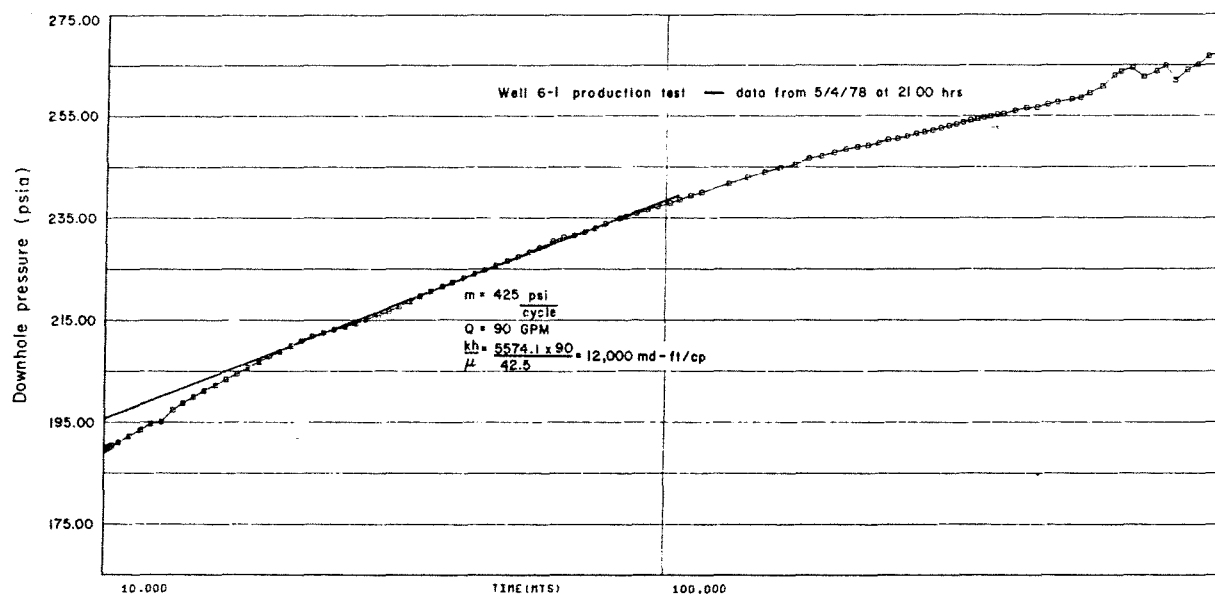
XBL 789-2065

Figure A.15. Downhole pressure vs log of elapsed time for test segment 2 of the well 6-1 production test.



XBL 789-2061

Figure A.16. Downhole pressure vs log of elapsed time for test segment 5 of the well 6-1 production test.



XBL 789-2066

Figure A.17. Downhole pressure vs log of elapsed time for test segment 7 of the well 6-1 production test.

## APPENDIX B: INTERFERENCE TESTS

### INTRODUCTION

Interference test data are analyzed using a least-squares computer matching program that can solve for transmissivity, storativity, and the distance to an image well.\* The program employs an analytical solution, which models the well as a line source that fully penetrates the reservoir. In addition, it assumes the reservoir is isotropic, vertically bounded, of constant thickness, isothermal, and areally infinite. Using the superposition principle, the program can analyze pressure data that are affected by the production of many wells, each with a variable production rate.

Interference data are obtained using a sensitive (0.01 psi) wellhead transducer. Wellhead pressure is recorded continuously by a digital paper printer for the duration of the test. Diurnal pressure variations of approximately 0.2 psi, assumed to be caused by earth tides, are present in the data. Data processing before analysis consists of smoothing the data by eye to eliminate these diurnal variations. Representative pressure points are then selected for analysis.

Flow rate data are obtained using orifice flow meters with chart recorders or weir plate flow meters with chart recorders. Due to the difficulties inherent in measuring two-phase flow and the problem of scaling in geothermal systems, the accuracy of the flow rate data is far less than the accuracy of the pressure data. Thus the accuracy of reservoir parameters obtained from any analysis can be, at best, only as accurate as the flow-rate measurements.

Interference test data analyses are complicated by the effect of different completion and perforation intervals between observation and production wells. In this case, lateral inhomogeneities such as

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\* An image well is used to mathematically represent a linear hydrologic vertical boundary in the reservoir. The sign of an image well and its distance to an observation well is equivalent information about the type (barrier or leaky) and location of a linear boundary.

shale lenses can strongly effect the local vertical permeability of the reservoir, leading to misinterpretation of the data. The analytical solution employed by the program does not account for partially penetrating production wells or inhomogeneity of any kind in the reservoir. Thus it must be used cautiously to avoid misinterpretation of the data. Conversely, in some cases the lack of a good match of pressure data has led to the inference that the reservoir model used by the program is not accurate enough to permit meaningful analysis.

#### INTERFERENCE TESTS IN USBR AND MAGMA POWER PROPERTIES

Interference tests in this area are complicated by the different completion and perforation intervals of the wells. They are further complicated by the complex geology, the different local permeabilities associated with each well, and the complex fault system in the area. Two interference tests have been conducted in the USBR and Magma Power portions of the East Mesa KGRA. They are discussed in separate sections below.

#### TEST 1

Test 1 involved six wells; two producing wells (6-1 and 6-2) and five observation wells (8-1, 38-30, 6-1, 44-7 and 31-1). Table B.1 is a schematic of the various production and observation periods of these wells and Table B.2 is a summary of the characteristics of the observation data obtained.

Due to the low production rates of wells 6-1 and 6-2, observed drawdowns at all observation wells were small. Wells 8-1 and 38-30 experienced no observable drawdown due to the production of wells 6-1 and 6-2. Wells 6-1, 44-7, and 31-1 had noticeable drawdowns. However, for none of these wells were the pressure data readily analyzable.

#### Well 6-1

Analysis of pressure data from well 6-1 was complicated because it was flowed briefly before the test. When production of well 6-2 began (10 February 1977), well 6-1 was still losing wellhead pressure due to the cooling of the well, thus causing uncertainty in its initial



pressure (Figure B.1). Analysis is further complicated by the different completion intervals of well 6-1 (1980 m to 2444 m) and well 6-2 (1460 m and 1816 m). The best estimates of the transmissivity and storativity of the reservoir between these two wells, ignoring the abovementioned difficulties, are 140,000 md-ft/cp ( $4.2 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}/\text{Pa}$ ) and  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi ( $9.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}/\text{Pa}$ ).

#### Well 44-7

Interpretation of pressure data from well 44-7 is not straightforward due to the unknown effects of injection into and production from well 46-7 before and during the test. Well 46-7 is a shallow (934 m) well located approximately 400 m from well 44-7. The increase in wellhead pressure at well 44-7 after injection into well 46-7 (see Figure B.2), creates uncertainty in the initial pressure of 44-7 and seems to indicate communication between the shallow and deep zones of the reservoir. In a separate test, designed to determine whether such vertical communication does exist, well 44-7 was produced and wells 48-7 and 46-7 were monitored. Whereas well 48-7, a deep well located approximately 800 m from well 44-7, showed a drawdown of approximately 0.2 psi, well 46-7 showed no pressure response. However, due to the short duration of this test (~12 hours of production) no conclusion was drawn regarding communication between the shallow (well 46-7) and deep (well 44-7) reservoir zones. In addition, a later test (Interference Test 2) indicates that well 6-1 does not communicate with well 44-7, thus indicating that well 6-2 production alone is responsible for the pressure response of well 44-7.

#### Well 31-1

During the test, well 31-1 experienced a drawdown of 0.2 psi (Figure B.3). Although this indicates hydraulic continuity between the northern and southern portions of the reservoir, it is difficult to obtain estimates of the reservoir parameters or reservoir geometry for such small drawdowns. In addition, diurnal and bi-weekly fluctuations of the reservoir pressure, presumably caused by earth-tides, partially obscure the pressure response. If an homogeneous reservoir

with a transmissivity of 160,000 md-ft/cp ( $4.8 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa) is assumed, it is necessary to postulate the existence of recharge in the reservoir to account for the small drawdown observed.

#### TEST 2

Test 2 involved six wells; four production wells (6-2, 8-1, 44-7, and 46-7) and two observation wells (6-1 and 48-7). Table B.3 is a schematic of production and observation periods of the wells and Table B.4 summarizes the characteristics of the observation data obtained.

#### Well 6-1

Well 6-1 had a maximum drawdown of 2.5 psi during the test (Figure B.4). Calculations using the actual flow-rate data from wells 44-7, 6-2, and 8-1 were made. Assuming a reservoir transmissivity of 160,000 md-ft/cp ( $4.8 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa); a reservoir storativity of  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi ( $9.8 \times 10^{-8}$  m/Pa); and reservoir homogeneity, calculations predict maximum drawdowns of 4 psi due to well 8-1 production, 7 psi due to well 44-7 production, and 2.1 psi due to well 6-2 production. The small drawdown actually observed at well 6-1, combined with the absence of any build-up at the cessation of production of wells 8-1 and 44-7 (see Table B.3) indicate a lack of communication between well 6-1 and both wells 44-7 and 8-1. Assuming that the drawdown at 6-1 is caused only by well 6-2, the analysis still remains difficult due to the different completion intervals of wells 6-1 and 6-2. Production tests on well 6-1 yield anomalously low values of the reservoir transmissivity in the vicinity of well 6-1, thus further complicating analysis. Late-time pressure data can be matched assuming a transmissivity of 140,000 md-ft/cp ( $4.2 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa) and a storativity of  $2 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi ( $9 \times 10^{-8}$  m/Pa) for the reservoir between wells 6-1 and 6-2.

#### Well 48-7

Well 48-7 experienced a maximum drawdown of 17 psi (Figure B.5). It is not clear whether there is communication between wells 8-1 and 48-7. A test of longer duration or with higher flow rates and with well 8-1 as the sole producer would be necessary to determine this.

Analysis of pressure data from well 48-7 was done first by assuming that only wells 44-7 and 8-1 affected the drawdown. A reservoir transmissivity of 250,000 md-ft/cp ( $75 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}/\text{Pa}$ ) and a reservoir storativity of  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi ( $5 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}/\text{Pa}$ ) were obtained. The analysis was repeated with the assumption that only well 44-7 communicated with well 48-7. The values of the reservoir parameters obtained were similar. Analysis of well 48-7 data in both cases did not indicate the presence of any recharge or barrier boundaries in the reservoir. As injection into well 46-7 was not accounted for in the analysis, the relatively good match of the pressure data by the computer matching program lends credence to the assumption that there is limited communication between the shallow and deep reservoirs.

#### INTERFERENCE TESTS IN THE REPUBLIC GEOTHERMAL PROPERTY

Three interference tests were conducted on the Republic Geothermal, Inc. (RGI) wells in 1977. Each test consisted of producing a single well at variable flow rates of up to 1000 gpm. Several observation wells were monitored during each test. Produced fluids were injected into well 18-28, which is located far enough from the observation wells to assure that the effect of injection on observed pressures is negligible. In each test, analysis of pressure data was facilitated by sufficiently large drawdowns at each of the communicating observation wells.

##### Test 1

Well 38-30 was produced for four days with a variable flow rate, which consisted of seven step-rate changes (250, 500, 900, 750, 500, 250 and 0 gpm). Wells 56-30, 31-1, and 16-29 were monitored for pressure response (Figures B.6, B.7, and B.8). Table B.5 lists the distance from well 38-30 and maximum drawdowns recorded for each of the observation wells.

Analysis of pressure data gives reservoir transmissivity values ranging from 120,000 md-ft/cp ( $3.6 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}/\text{Pa}$ ) to 160,000 md-ft/cp ( $4.8 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}^3/\text{sec}/\text{Pa}$ ) and a reservoir storativity ranging from  $6 \times 10^{-4}$  ft/psi ( $3.7 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}/\text{Pa}$ ) to  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  ( $4 \times 10^{-8} \text{ m}/\text{Pa}$ ). The analysis of pressure data from both wells 56-30 and 31-1 indicates the presence

of a barrier boundary in the reservoir. Good computer matches to observed pressure data were obtained from all of the observation wells.

### Test 2

Well 16-29 was produced at a variable rate for four days. Wells 56-30, 31-1, and 16-30 were monitored for pressure response (Figures B.6, B.7 and B.9). None of the observation wells incurred any drawdown due to the production of well 16-29. Wells 31-1 and 16-30 are far enough (1330 m and 1610 m) from the production well that the lack of pressure response can be expected. Well 56-30 however, is 800 m from well 16-29 and the lack of response (Figure B.6) seems to indicate the presence of an hydraulic barrier between the two wells. This interpretation must be viewed cautiously because of the uncertainty of the flow rate data of 16-29 caused by the influx of an unknown quantity of cold water into the well from the upper 150 m during production.

### Test 3

Well 38-30 was pumped at a rate of approximately 400 gpm for 40 days. Wells 56-30, 31-1, 16-30, and 78-30 were monitored for pressure response (Figures B.6, B.7, B.9, and B.10). Table B.6 lists the distances to well 38-30 and the maximum drawdown recorded for each of the observation wells.

Analysis of pressure data from wells 56-30 and 31-1 yield reservoir transmissivity ranging from 140,000 md-ft/cp ( $4.2 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa) to 160,000 md-ft/cp ( $4.8 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa) and reservoir storativity values ranging from  $6 \times 10^{-4}$  ft/psi ( $3 \times 10^{-8}$  m/Pa) to  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi ( $4 \times 10^{-8}$  m/Pa). As in Test 1, analysis of data from these two wells indicates the presence of a barrier boundary in the reservoir. Well 16-30 showed no pressure decline due to the production of well 38-30 (Figure B.9). The transducers used during the test were switched to verify the lack of communication. The lack of communication between wells 16-30 and 38-30, together with information obtained about image well distances in the analysis of wells 56-30 and 31-1, indicated that a barrier is located between wells 31-1 and 16-30 (see section 3, Figure 3.2).

Analysis of pressure data from well 78-30 yielded a reservoir transmissivity of 115,000 md-ft/cp ( $3.5 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa). The

anomalously low value of the reservoir transmissivity and the poor computer match of the pressure data indicate that the assumption of reservoir isotropy is incorrect. Clearly communication exists between wells 78-30 and 38-30 but there appears to be some impediment to the communication. The existence of a partial barrier between the wells is thus inferred.

#### SUMMARY

Reservoir transmissivity values obtained from interference tests in the northeastern portion of the East Mesa KGRA range between 120,000 md-ft/cp ( $3.6 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa) to 160,000 md-ft/cp ( $4.8 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa). Reservoir storativity values obtained range from  $6 \times 10^4$  ft/psi ( $3 \times 10^{-8}$  m/Pa) to  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  ft/psi ( $4 \times 10^{-8}$  m/Pa). Several hydraulic barriers have been located in the northern portion of the reservoir. The repeatability of the test and the consistency of the results give credibility to the values obtained for the reservoir parameters.

The southern portion of the East Mesa KGRA is more perplexing than the northern part of the reservoir. The low flow rates of the production wells and the small drawdowns observed at the observation wells made analysis more difficult at less credible. Analysis was also complicated by pressures at observation wells being affected by the production of more than one well. An estimate of the reservoir transmissivity of 140,000 md-ft/cp ( $4.2 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa) is obtained for the reservoir between wells 6-1 and 6-2. The transmissivity in the Magma property to the south appears to be higher, approximately 250,000 md-ft/cp ( $7.5 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa).

Table B.1. Schematic of Interference Test 1.

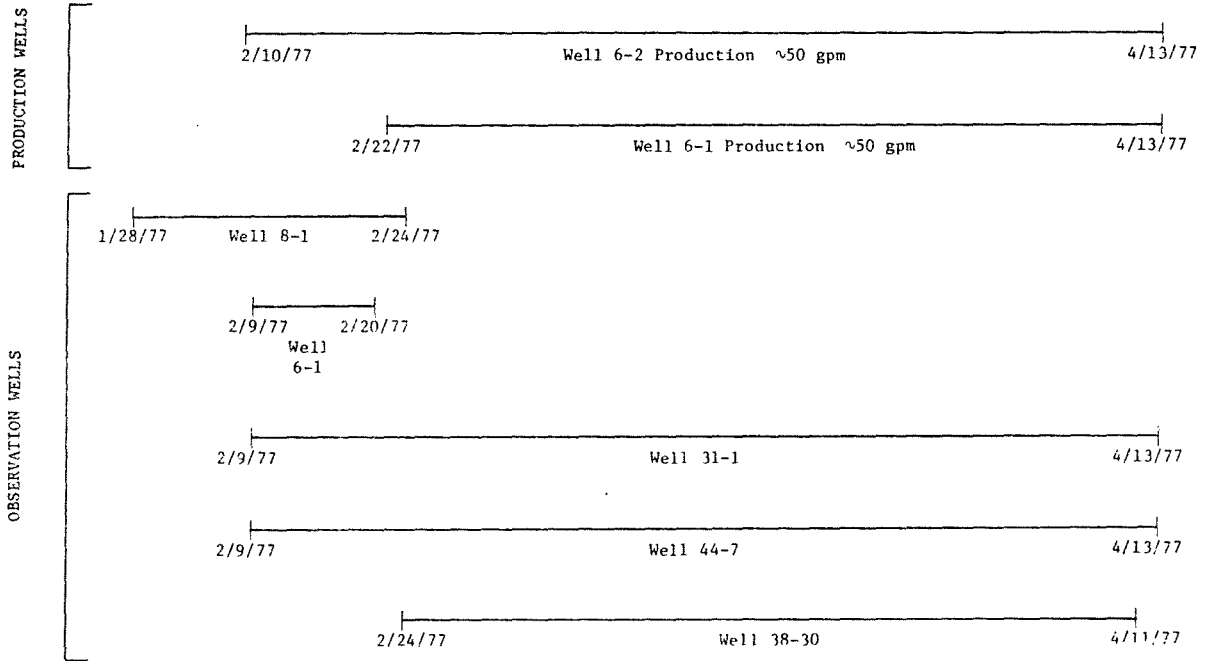
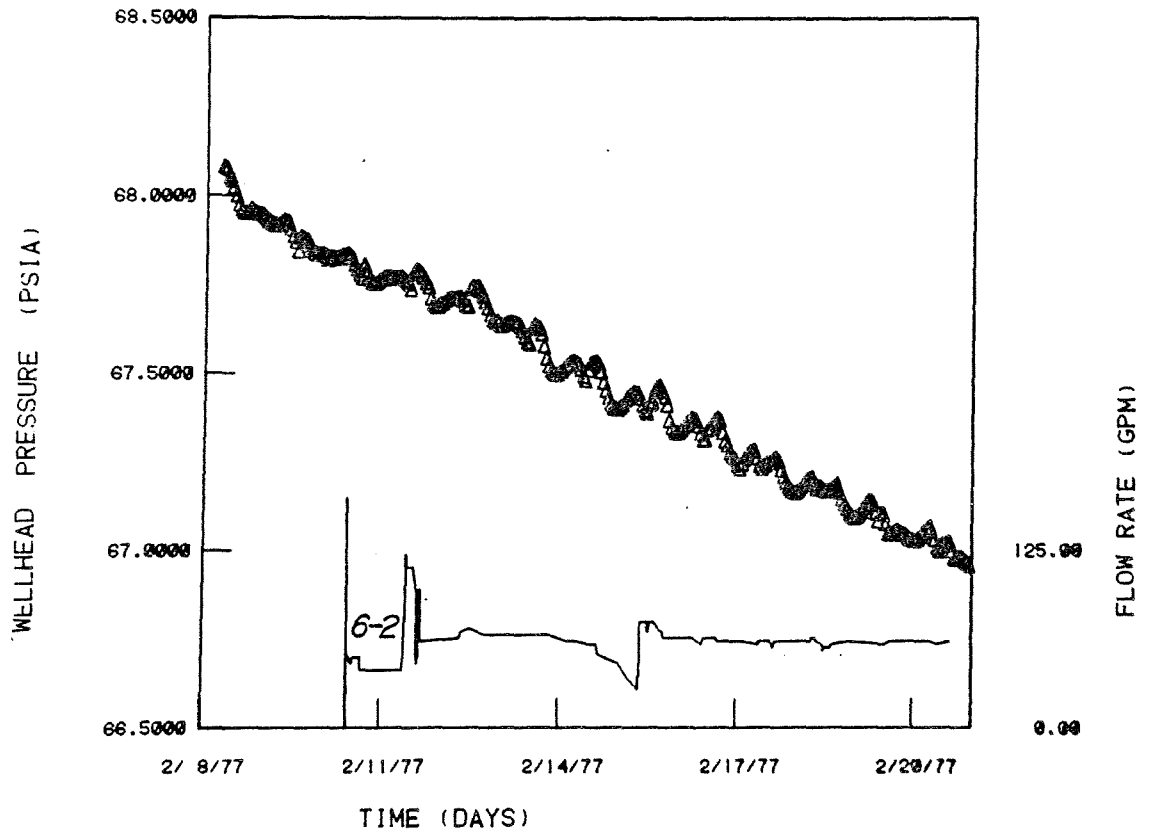


Table B.2. Summary of observation data of Interference Test 1.

OBSERVATION WELL	DISTANCE TO PRODUCTION WELL		MAXIMUM ΔP (psi)	COMMENTS
	6-1	6-2		
6-1		450m	0.7	Uncertain initial pressure. Different completion intervals between observation and produc- tion wells.
8-1	710m	1,120m	0.0	Hydraulic barrier inferred.
31-1	2,900m	2,700m	0.2	
44-7	970m	900m	0.7	Uncertain initial pressure.
38-30	3,000m	2,900m	0.0	Too far from the production wells to have observable drawdown with given production rates.



XBL 789-10778 A

Figure B.1. Wellhead pressure of well 6-1 and flow rate of well 6-2 during Interference Test 1, USBR and Magma properties.

WELL 44-7, 2/9/77 to 3/10/77

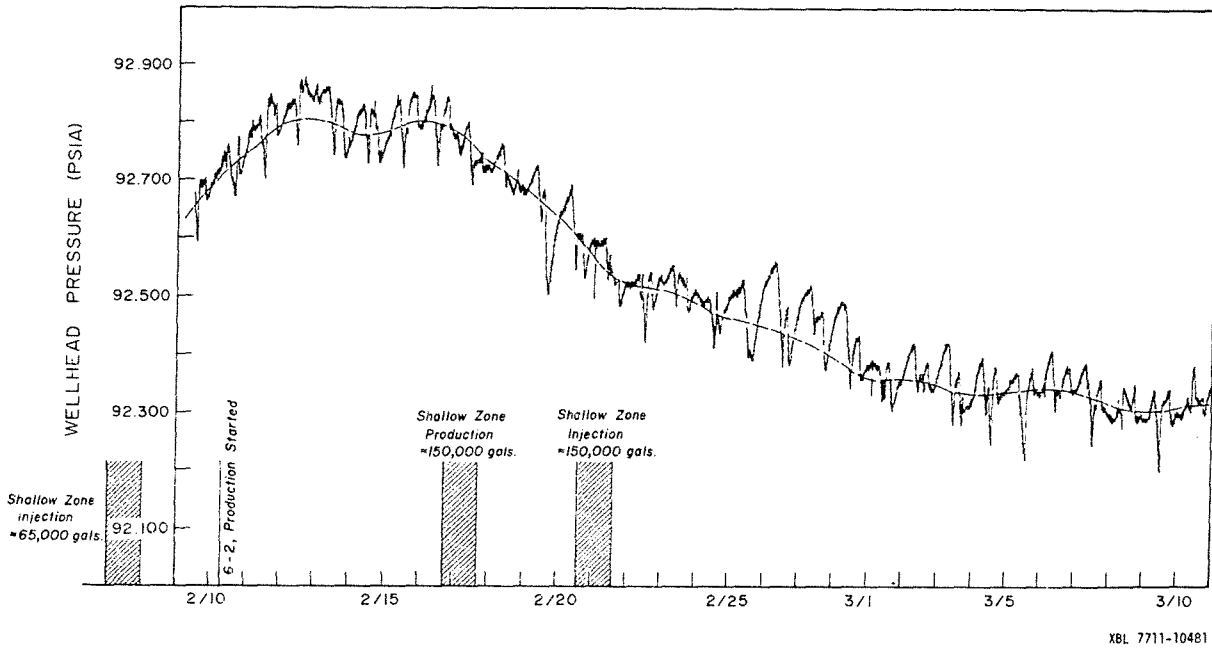
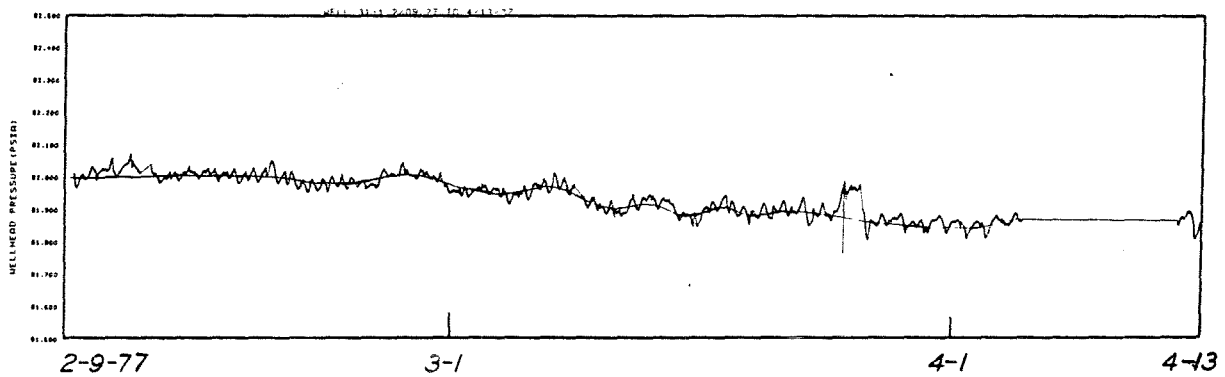


Figure B.2. Wellhead pressures of well 44-7 during Interference Test 1, USBR and Magma properties.



XBL 789-10773-1

Figure B.3. Wellhead pressure of well 31-1 during Interference Test 1, USBR and Magma properties.



Table B.3. Schematic of Interference Test 2.

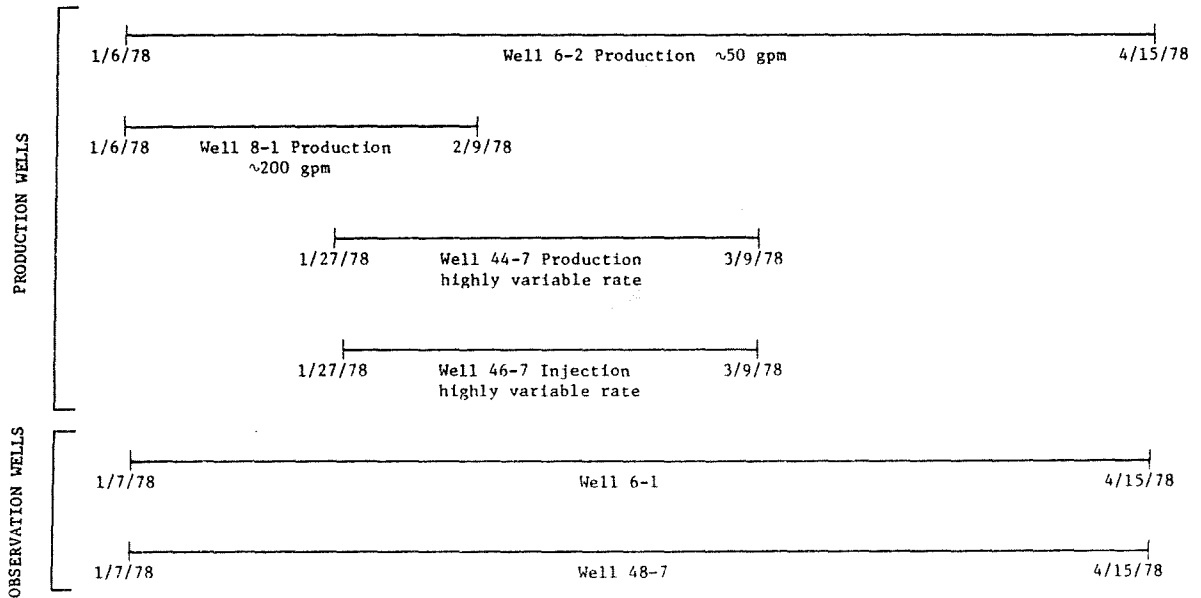
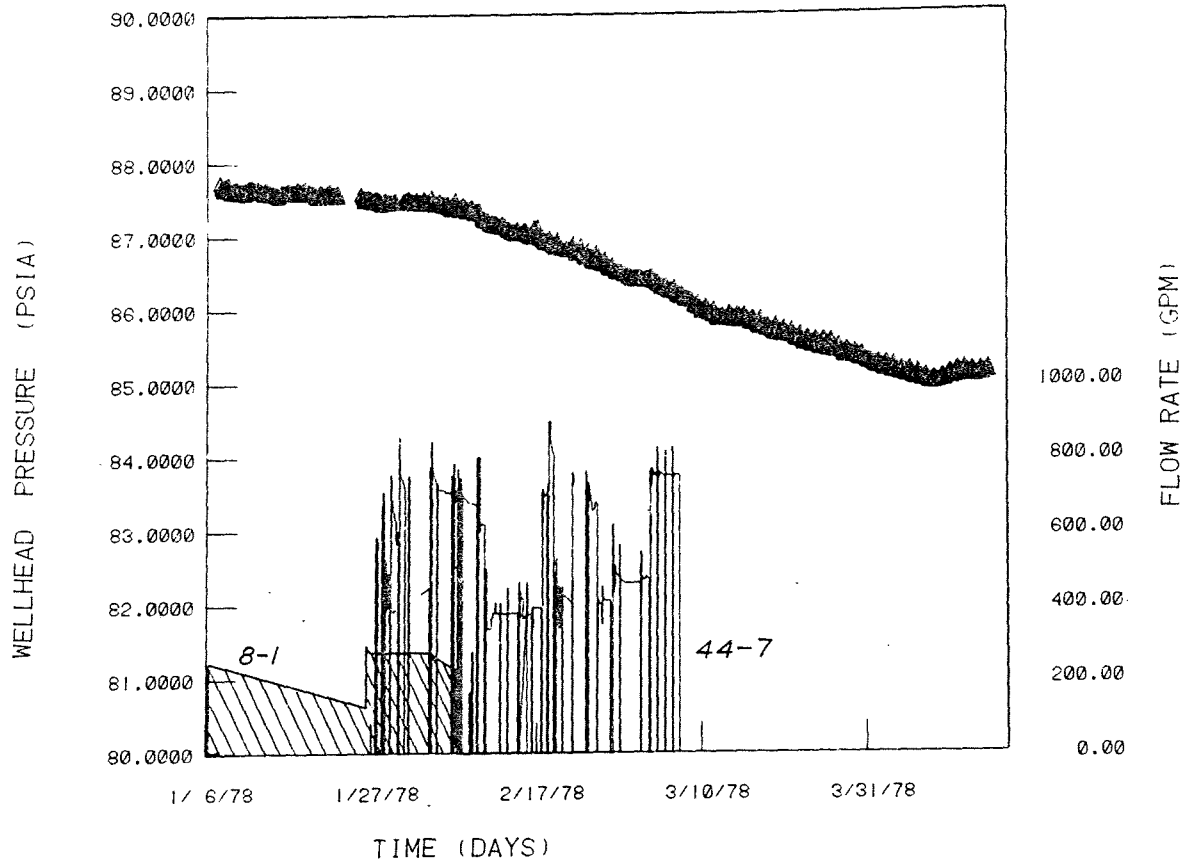


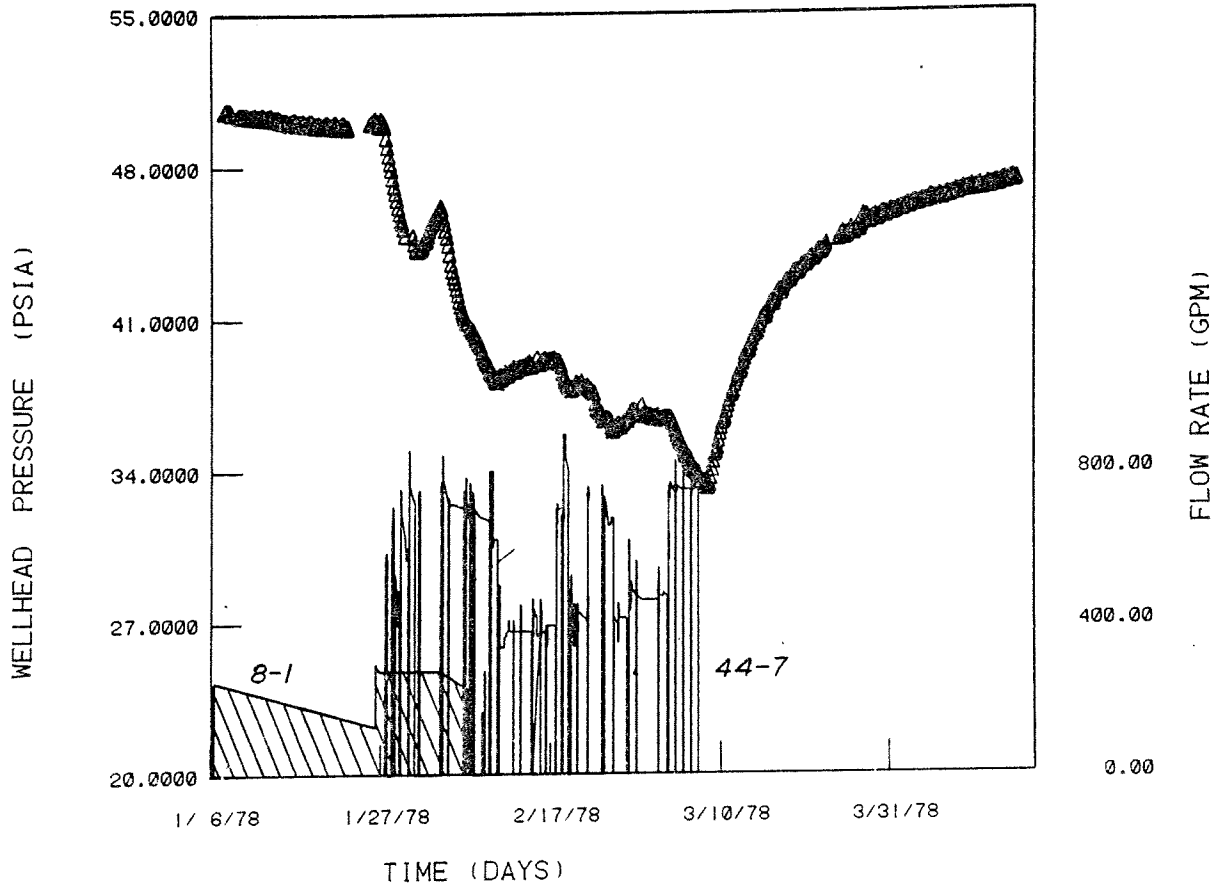
Table B.4. Summary of observation data of Interference Test 2.

OBSERVATION WELL	DISTANCE TO			MAXIMUM $\Delta P$	COMMENTS
	6-2	8-1	44-7		
6-1	450m	710m	970m	2.5 psi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No response to 8-1 production.</li> <li>No response to 44-7 production.</li> </ol>
48-7	1900m	1600m	800m	17 psi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too far from Well 6-2 to have noticeable drawdown due to 6-2 production.</li> <li>The existence of hydraulic continuity between Well 8-1 and 48-7 remains uncertain.</li> <li>It is uncertain what the effect of concurrent injection into the shallow Well 46-7 (930m deep) is on Well 48-7.</li> </ol>



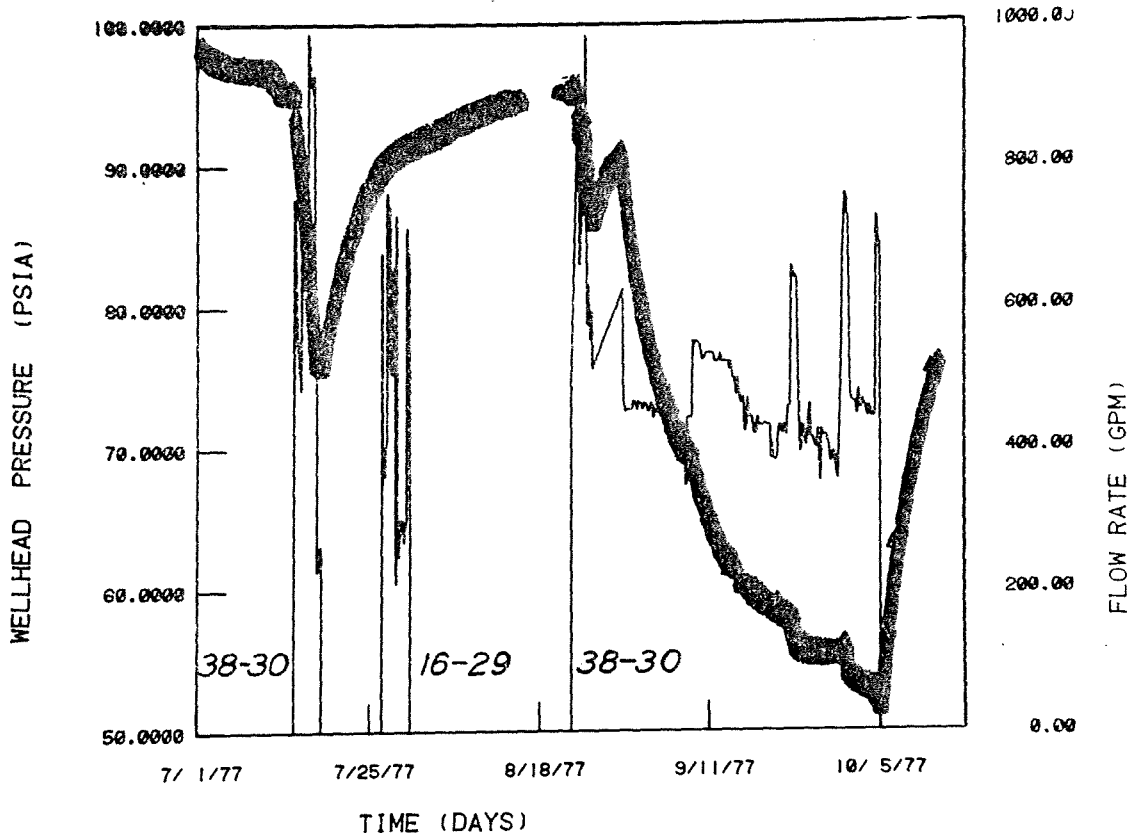
XBL 7810-11832 A

Figure B.4. Wellhead pressure of well 6-1 and flow rates of wells 8-1 and 44-7 during Interference Test 2, USBR and Magma properties.



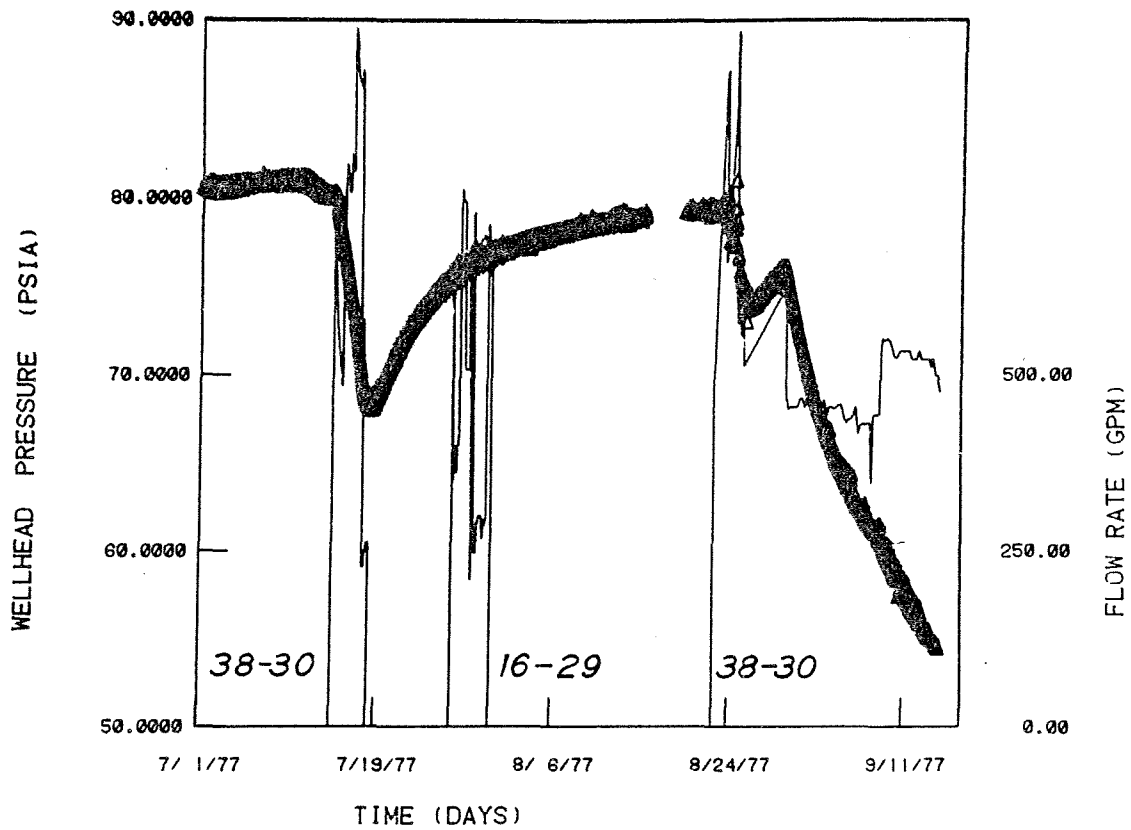
XBL 7810-11831A

Figure B.5. Wellhead pressure of well 48-7 and flow rates of wells 8-1 and 44-7 during Interference Test 2, USBR and Magma properties.



XBL 789-10777A

Figure B.6. Wellhead pressure of well 56-30 and flow rates of wells 38-30 and 16-29 during Interference Tests 1, 2, and 3, Republic property.



XBL 789-10773A

Figure B.7. Wellhead pressure of well 31-1 and flow rates of wells 38-30 and 16-29 during Interference Tests 1, 2, and 3, Republic property.

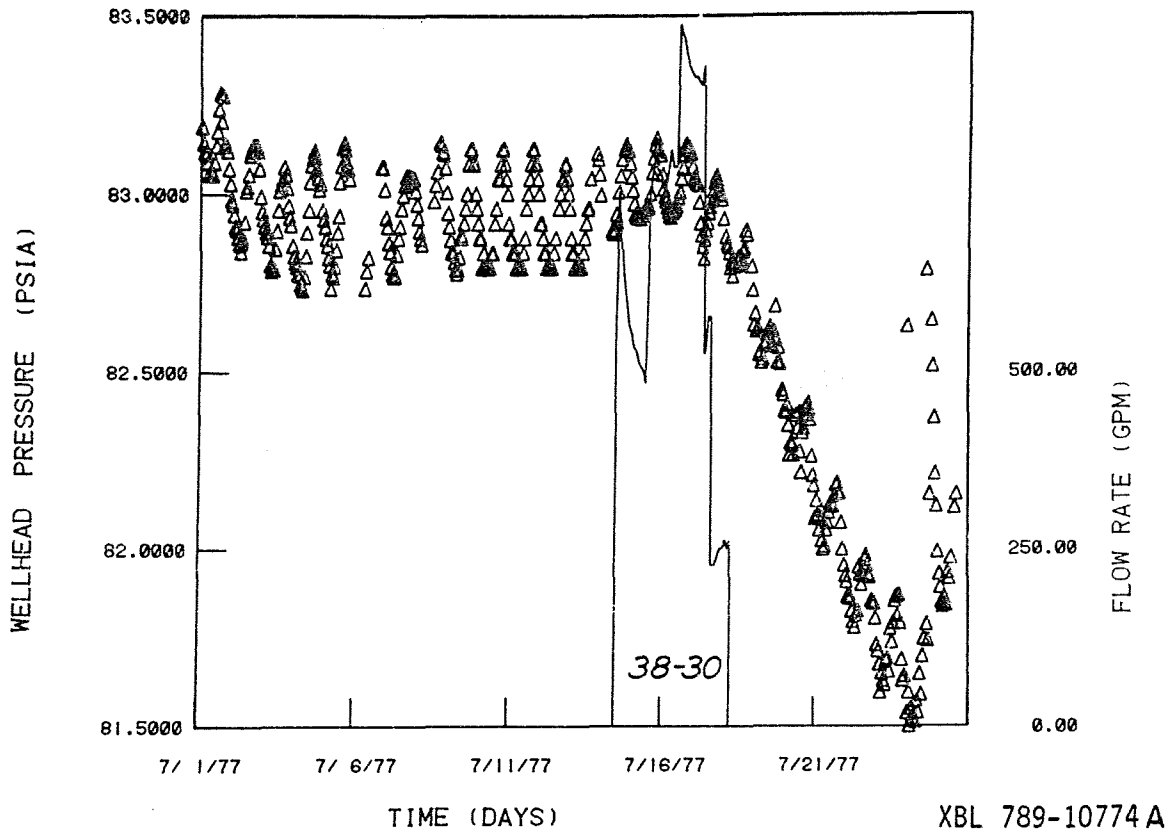
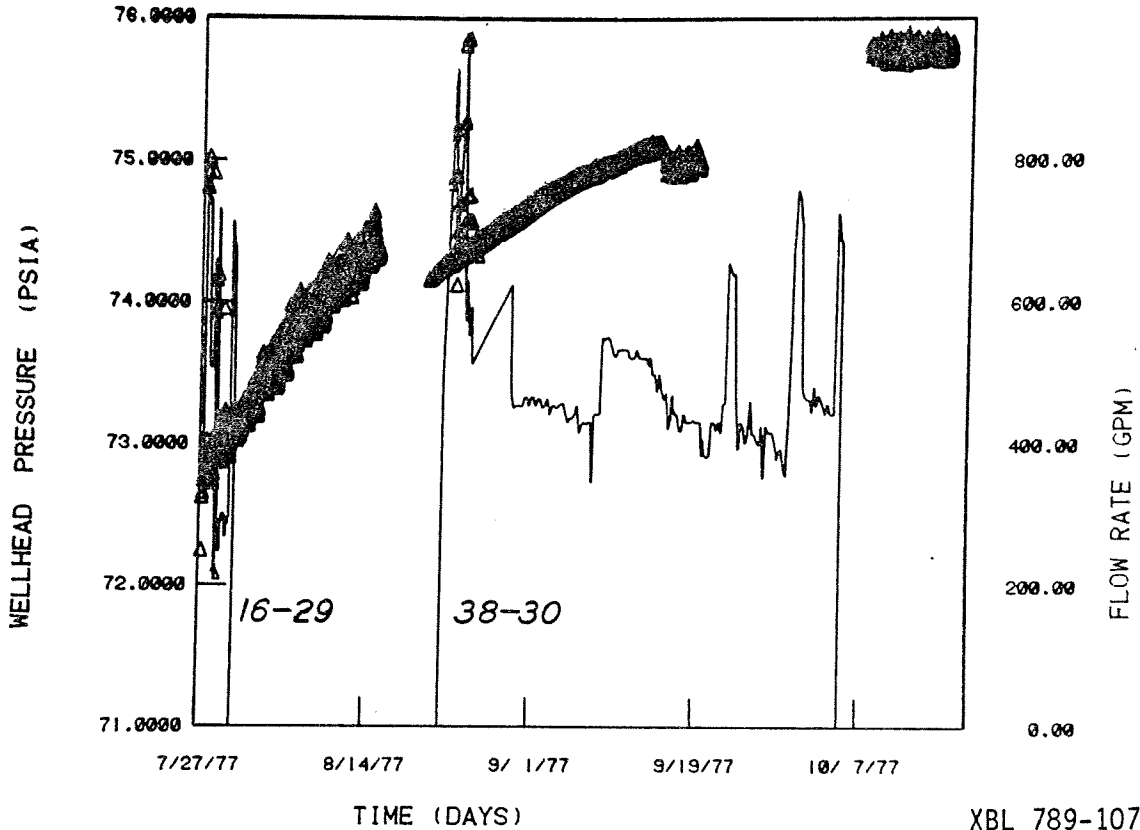


Figure B.8. Wellhead pressure of well 16-29 and flow rates of wells 38-30 during Interference Test 1, Republic property.

Table B.5. Distance to well 38-30 and maximum drawdown recorded for each observation well used in Interference Test 1 (Republic Geothermal property).

OBSERVATION WELL	DISTANCE TO 38-30	MAXIMUM ΔP
56-30	580m	23 psi
31-1	380m	12 psi
16-29	1280m	1.5 psi

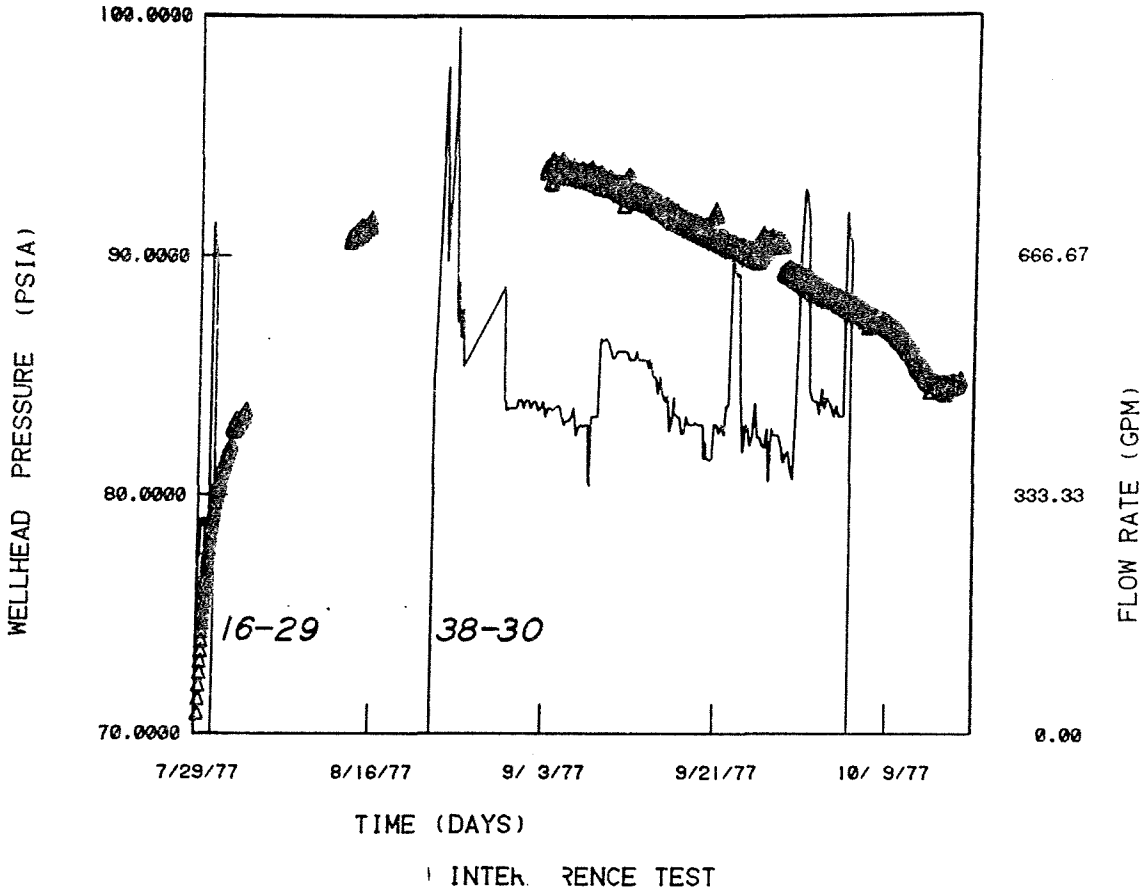


XBL 789-10776 A

Figure B.9. Wellhead pressure of well 16-30 and flow rates of wells 16-19 and 38-30 during Interference Tests 2 and 3, Republic property.

Table B.6. Distance to well 38-30 and maximum drawdown recorded for each observation well used in Interference Test 2 (Republic Geothermal property).

OBSERVATION WELL	DISTANCE TO 38-30	MAXIMUM ΔP	COMMENTS
56-30	580m	45 psi	
16-30	580m	0.	No communication
31-1	380m	25 psi	No data after 9/20/77
78-30	800m	12 psi	Atypical pressure response to 38-30 production



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Figure B.10. Wellhead pressure of well 78-30 and flow rates of wells 16-29 and 38-30 during Interference Test 3, Republic property.



## APPENDIX C: PRODUCTION TESTS IN THE NORTHERN PORTION OF THE EAST MESA KGRA DONE BY LBL

### WELL 38-30 PRODUCTION TEST

Well 38-30 production data (Figure C.1) were obtained using nitrogen-filled tubing to a depth of 6100 ft. Pressure was taken from a Sperry Sun pressure gauge and recorded by hand at 15-sec intervals at the time of rate changes, and less frequently as the pressure changes occurred more slowly. Early-time data are not considered very reliable due to the slow response of the nitrogen gas to large pressure changes. Analysis of late-time data was done with the computer matching program. Analyses yielded a  $kh/\mu$  value of  $\sim 140,000$  md-ft/cp ( $4.2 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa) and a  $\phi_{chr_e}^2$  of  $0.477$  ft<sup>3</sup>/psi ( $2.37 \times 10^{-6}$  m<sup>3</sup>/Pa).

### WELL 18-28 INJECTION TEST

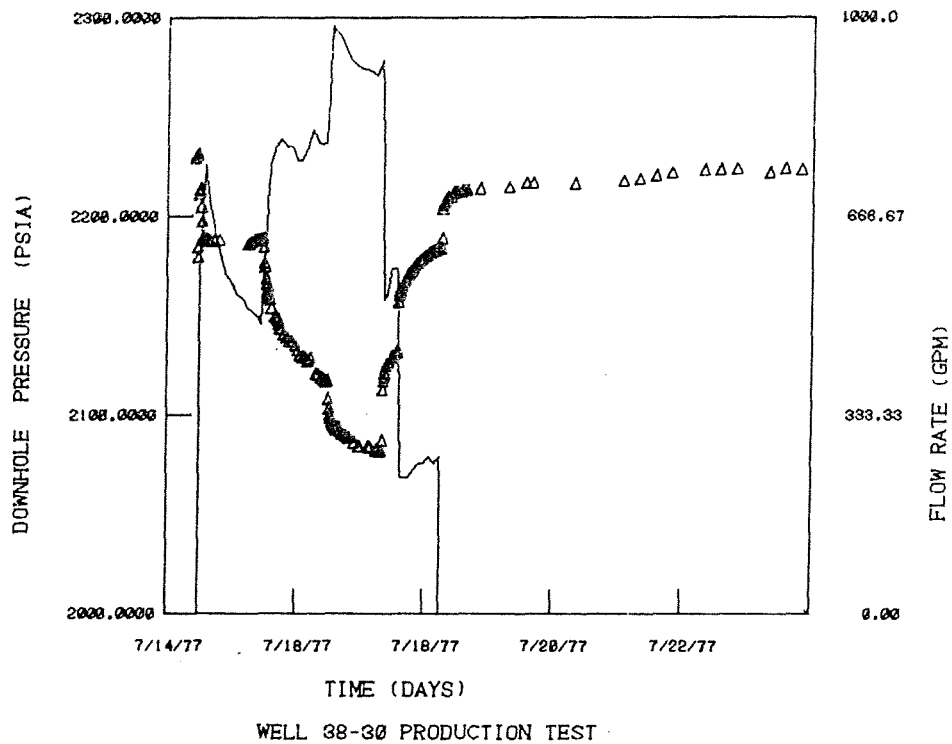
Well 18-28 injection data (Figure C.2) were obtained using a Hewlett Packard downhole pressure gauge at a depth of 5000 ft. Pressure data were recorded at 10-min intervals on a digital paper printer. Flow data were obtained using orifice plate meters and circular chart recorders. The injection temperature at the wellhead ranged from 150°F to 200°F.

The injection test consisted of three separate segments. The first two were each of 4 days duration and the third of 40 days duration. The data were analyzed for the reservoir transmissivity ( $kh/\mu$ ) and relative skin values associated with each test segment. All three segments of the test yielded reservoir transmissivity values of  $\sim 76,000$  md-ft/cp ( $2.3 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa). As one would expect during injection, skin values obtained became increasingly positive for successive segments of the test, thus indicating that a scaling or plugging mechanism was occurring in the well. The skin values obtained for three segments ranged from 0.28 to 1.96. These skin values were calculated by assuming the value of  $2.0 \times 10^{-3}$  ft<sup>3</sup>/psi for  $\phi_{chr_w}$ .

### WELL 16-29 PRODUCTION TEST

A transmissivity value of  $178,000$  md-ft/cp ( $5.3 \times 10^{-8}$  m<sup>3</sup>/sec/Pa), given in Table 3.6 for this test, is a very approximate estimate. These

results are of poor quality because of complications such as cold water flux and lack of pretest stabilized pressures. The test result is given for completeness only.



XBL 788-10124

Figure C.1. Downhole pressure and flow rate of well 38-30, Republic property.

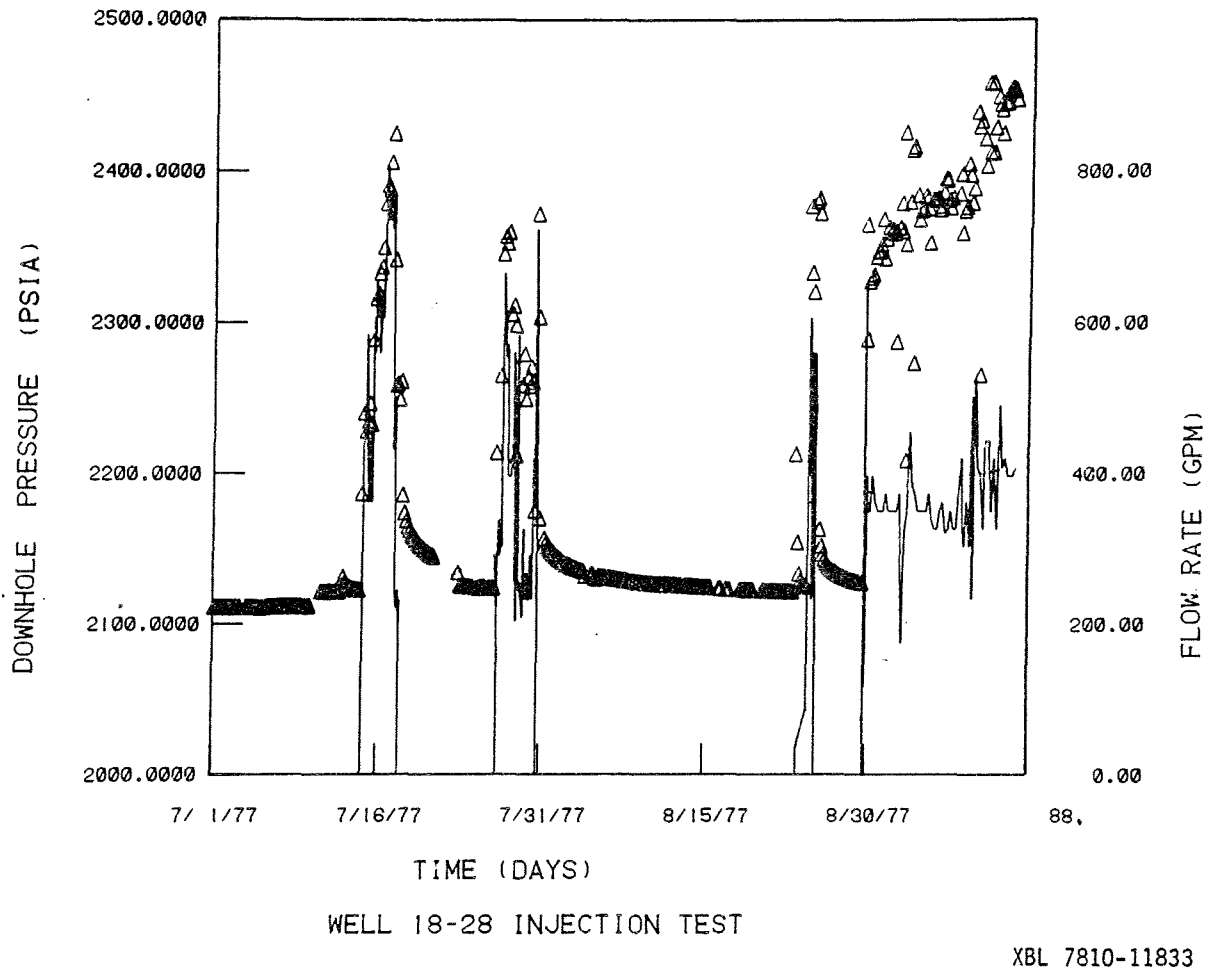


Figure C.2. Downhole pressure and injection flow rate of well 18-28, Republic property.



## APPENDIX D: CONVERSION TABLES

Table 1.

PERMEABILITY  
 $\rho_w = 1$  viscosity = 1 centipoise

	cm <sup>2</sup>	m <sup>2</sup>	ft <sup>2</sup>	Darcy	cm/sec	ft/sec	ft/year	litres/ sec·m <sup>2</sup>	gpd[U.S.]/ft <sup>2</sup> (Meinzer)	Ebhlm <sup>*</sup>
cm <sup>2</sup>	1	10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.076×10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.014×10 <sup>8</sup>	9.804×10 <sup>4</sup>	3.216×10 <sup>3</sup>	1.015×10 <sup>11</sup>	8.698×10 <sup>5</sup>	1.845×10 <sup>9</sup>	0.9
m <sup>2</sup>	10 <sup>4</sup>	1	1.076×10 <sup>1</sup>	1.014×10 <sup>12</sup>	9.804×10 <sup>8</sup>	3.216×10 <sup>7</sup>	1.015×10 <sup>15</sup>	8.697×10 <sup>9</sup>	1.845×10 <sup>13</sup>	0.8
ft <sup>2</sup>	9.294×10 <sup>-2</sup>	9.294×10 <sup>-2</sup>	1	9.417×10 <sup>10</sup>	9.109×10 <sup>7</sup>	2.988×10 <sup>6</sup>	9.430×10 <sup>13</sup>	8.080×10 <sup>8</sup>	1.714×10 <sup>12</sup>	0.7
Darcy	9.862×10 <sup>-9</sup>	9.862×10 <sup>-13</sup>	1.062×10 <sup>-11</sup>	1	9.66×10 <sup>-4</sup>	3.173×10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.001×10 <sup>3</sup>	8.58×10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.82×10 <sup>1</sup>	0.6
cm/sec	1.020×10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.020×10 <sup>-9</sup>	1.097×10 <sup>-8</sup>	1.035×10 <sup>3</sup>	1	3.281×10 <sup>-2</sup>	1.035×10 <sup>6</sup>	9.985×10 <sup>0</sup>	2.118×10 <sup>4</sup>	0.5
ft/sec	3.109×10 <sup>-4</sup>	3.109×10 <sup>-8</sup>	3.347×10 <sup>-7</sup>	3.152×10 <sup>4</sup>	3.048×10 <sup>1</sup>	1	3.156×10 <sup>7</sup>	2.704×10 <sup>2</sup>	5.736×10 <sup>5</sup>	0.4
ft/year	9.852×10 <sup>-12</sup>	9.852×10 <sup>-16</sup>	1.060×10 <sup>-14</sup>	9.990×10 <sup>-4</sup>	9.662×10 <sup>-7</sup>	3.169×10 <sup>-8</sup>	1	8.570×10 <sup>-6</sup>	1.818×10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.3
litres/sec·m <sup>2</sup>	1.150×10 <sup>-6</sup>	1.150×10 <sup>-10</sup>	1.238×10 <sup>-9</sup>	1.166×10 <sup>2</sup>	1.001×10 <sup>-1</sup>	3.698×10 <sup>-3</sup>	1.167×10 <sup>5</sup>	1	2.121×10 <sup>3</sup>	0.2
gpd[U.S.]/ft <sup>2</sup> (Meinzer)	5.420×10 <sup>-10</sup>	5.420×10 <sup>-14</sup>	5.834×10 <sup>-13</sup>	5.494×10 <sup>-2</sup>	4.721×10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.743×10 <sup>-6</sup>	5.500×10 <sup>1</sup>	4.714×10 <sup>-4</sup>	1	0.1
Ebhlm <sup>*</sup>	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.1	1

<sup>\*</sup> Standard Ethiopian buckets per hectare per lunar month.

Dimensions: k, Absolute Permeability [L<sup>2</sup>]  
 K, Hydraulic Conductivity [L/t]  
 k/μ, Mobility [L<sup>3</sup>/M]

Table 2.

COMPRESSIBILITY  
 [Lt<sup>2</sup>/M]

	m <sup>2</sup> /N (Pascals) <sup>-1</sup>	m <sup>2</sup> /kg <sub>f</sub>	in <sup>2</sup> /lb <sub>f</sub> (psi) <sup>-1</sup>	Bars <sup>-1</sup>	Atm <sup>-1</sup>	(ft of water) <sup>-1</sup> at 68°F	(m of water) <sup>-1</sup> at 68°F
m <sup>2</sup> /N (Pascals) <sup>-1</sup>	1	9.807	6.897×10 <sup>3</sup>	10 <sup>5</sup>	1.0133×10 <sup>5</sup>	2.984×10 <sup>3</sup>	9.794×10 <sup>3</sup>
m <sup>2</sup> /kg <sub>f</sub>	1.020×10 <sup>-1</sup>	1	7.031×10 <sup>2</sup>	1.0197×10 <sup>4</sup>	1.0332×10 <sup>4</sup>	3.042×10 <sup>2</sup>	9.980×10 <sup>2</sup>
in <sup>2</sup> /lb <sub>f</sub> (psi) <sup>-1</sup>	1.450×10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.4223×10 <sup>-3</sup>	1	14.504	14.696	0.4327	1.419
Bars <sup>-1</sup>	10 <sup>-5</sup>	9.8068×10 <sup>-5</sup>	6.895×10 <sup>-2</sup>	1	1.01325	2.984×10 <sup>-2</sup>	9.790×10 <sup>-2</sup>
Atm <sup>-1</sup>	9.8692×10 <sup>-6</sup>	9.6787×10 <sup>-5</sup>	6.805×10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.98692	1	2.945×10 <sup>-2</sup>	9.662×10 <sup>-2</sup>
(ft of water) <sup>-1</sup> at 68°F	3.351×10 <sup>-4</sup>	3.287×10 <sup>-3</sup>	2.311	33.512	33.956	1	3.281
(m of water) <sup>-1</sup> at 68°F	1.021 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.002 10 <sup>-3</sup>	7044	10.214	10.349	0.3048	1

Table 3.  
TEMPERATURE  
°C to °F

°C	°F	°C	°F	°C	°F	°C	°F	°C	°F
0	32	100	212	200	392	300	572	400	752
5	41	105	221	205	401	305	581	405	761
10	50	110	230	210	410	310	590	410	770
15	59	115	239	215	419	315	599	415	779
20	68	120	248	220	428	320	608	420	788
25	77	125	257	225	437	325	617	425	797
30	86	130	266	230	446	330	626	430	806
35	95	135	275	235	455	335	635	435	815
40	104	140	284	240	464	340	644	440	824
45	113	145	293	245	473	345	653	445	833
50	122	150	302	250	482	350	662	450	842
55	131	155	311	255	491	355	671	455	851
60	140	160	320	260	500	360	680	460	860
65	149	165	329	265	509	365	689	465	869
70	158	170	338	270	518	370	698	470	878
75	167	175	347	275	527	375	707	475	887
80	176	180	356	280	536	380	716	480	896
85	185	185	365	285	545	385	725	485	905
90	194	190	374	290	554	390	734	490	914
95	203	195	383	295	563	395	743	495	923

Table 4.  
VOLUME  
[L<sup>3</sup>]

	m <sup>3</sup>	litre	bb1	Gallon (U.S.)	Gallon (Imp.)	ft <sup>3</sup>
m <sup>3</sup>	1	10 <sup>3</sup>	6.289	2.642×10 <sup>2</sup>	2.20×10 <sup>2</sup>	35.315
litre	10 <sup>-3</sup>	1	6.289×10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.2642	0.220	3.5315×10 <sup>-2</sup>
bb1	.1590	1.590×10 <sup>2</sup>	1	42.0	34.97	5.6146
gallons (U.S.)	3.7854×10 <sup>-3</sup>	3.7854	2.381×10 <sup>-2</sup>	1	0.8327	0.13368
gallons (IMP)	4.546×10 <sup>-3</sup>	4.546	2.860×10 <sup>-2</sup>	1.2009	1	0.16054
ft <sup>3</sup>	2.832×10 <sup>-2</sup>	28.32	0.178	7.481	6.229	1

Table 5.

FLOW RATE [L<sup>3</sup>/t] or [M/t]

	m <sup>3</sup> /sec	litres/min	bbl/day	gallons/min (U.S.)	gallons/min (Imp.)	ft <sup>3</sup> /sec	klb/hr ( $\rho_w=1.0$ )	klb/hr ( $\rho_w=.9$ )
m <sup>3</sup> /sec	1	$6 \times 10^4$	$5.434 \times 10^5$	$1.585 \times 10^4$	$1.320 \times 10^4$	35.315	$7.94 \times 10^3$	$7.15 \times 10^3$
litres/min	$1.667 \times 10^{-5}$	1	9.058	0.2642	0.220	$5.885 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.32 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.19 \times 10^{-1}$
bbl/day	$1.840 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.10 \times 10^{-1}$	1	$2.917 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.428 \times 10^{-2}$	$6.498 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.46 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.31 \times 10^{-2}$
gallons/min (U.S.)	$6.31 \times 10^{-5}$	3.785	34.28	1	0.8327	$2.2280 \times 10^{-3}$	0.50	0.45
gallons/min (Imp.)	$7.58 \times 10^{-5}$	4.546	41.19	1.2009	1	$2.676 \times 10^{-3}$	0.601	0.541
ft <sup>3</sup> /sec	$2.8317 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.699 \times 10^3$	$1.539 \times 10^4$	$4.488 \times 10^2$	$3.737 \times 10^2$	1	$2.25 \times 10^2$	$2.03 \times 10^2$
klb/hr $\rho_w=1.0$	$1.26 \times 10^{-4}$	7.56	68.5	2.00	1.66	$4.45 \times 10^{-3}$	1	0.900
klb/hr $\rho_w=0.9$	$1.40 \times 10^{-4}$	8.42	76.2	2.22	1.85	$4.93 \times 10^{-3}$	1.11	1

Table 6.

PRESSURE  
[M/Lt<sup>2</sup>]

	N/m <sup>2</sup> (Pascals)	kg <sub>f</sub> /m <sup>2</sup>	lb <sub>f</sub> /in <sup>2</sup> (psi)	Bars	Atm	ft of water (at 68°F)	m of water (at 68°F)
N/m <sup>2</sup> (Pascals)	1	$1.020 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.450 \times 10^{-4}$	$10^{-5}$	$9.8692 \times 10^{-6}$	$3.351 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.021 \times 10^{-4}$
kg <sub>f</sub> /m <sup>2</sup>	9.804	1	$1.4223 \times 10^{-3}$	$9.8068 \times 10^{-5}$	$9.6787 \times 10^{-5}$	$3.287 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.002 \times 10^{-3}$
lb <sub>f</sub> /in <sup>2</sup> (psi)	$6.895 \times 10^3$	$7.031 \times 10^2$	1	$6.895 \times 10^{-2}$	$6.805 \times 10^{-2}$	2.311	0.7042
Bars	$10^5$	$1.0197 \times 10^4$	14.504	1	0.98692	33.512	10.214
Atm	$1.0133 \times 10^5$	$1.0332 \times 10^4$	14.696	1.01325	1	33.956	10.349
ft of water (at 68°F)	$2.984 \times 10^3$	$3.042 \times 10^2$	0.4328	$2.984 \times 10^{-2}$	$2.945 \times 10^{-2}$	1	0.3048
m of water (at 68°F)	$9.794 \times 10^3$	$9.980 \times 10^2$	1.419	$9.790 \times 10^{-2}$	$9.662 \times 10^{-2}$	3.281	1

Table 7: Viscosity (dynamic)

<u>Pa·s</u>	<u>lbf·s/in<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>lbf·s/ft<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>kgf·s/m<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>lbm/ft·s</u>	<u>dyne·s/cm<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>cP</u>	<u>lbm/ft·h</u>
Pa·s	6.894 757 E+03	4.788 026 E+01	9.806 650*E+00	1.488 164 E+00	1.0* E-01	1.0* E-03	4.133 789 E-04

Table 8: Viscosity (kinematic)

<u>m<sup>2</sup>/s</u>	<u>ft<sup>2</sup>/s</u>	<u>in<sup>2</sup>/s</u>	<u>m<sup>2</sup>/h</u>	<u>cm<sup>2</sup>/s</u>	<u>ft<sup>2</sup>/h</u>	<u>cSt</u>
m <sup>2</sup> /s	9.290 304*E+04	6.451 6* E+02	2.777 778 E+02	1.0* E+02	2.580 64* E+01	1

Table 9: Diffusivity

<u>m<sup>2</sup>/s</u>	<u>ft<sup>2</sup>/s</u>	<u>cm<sup>2</sup>/s</u>	<u>ft<sup>2</sup>/h</u>
m <sup>2</sup> /s	9.290 304*E+04	1.0* E+02	2.580 64* E+01

Table 10: Thermal Conductivity

<u>W/m·K</u>	<u>cal/s·cm<sup>2</sup>·°C/cm</u>	<u>Btu/h·ft<sup>2</sup>·°F/ft</u>	<u>kcal/h·m<sup>2</sup>·°C/m</u>	<u>Btu/h·ft<sup>2</sup>·°F/in</u>	<u>cal/h·cm<sup>2</sup>·°C/cm</u>
W/m·K	4.184* E+02	1.730 735 E+00	1.162 222 E+00	1.442 279 E-01	1.162 222 E-01

Table 11: Density (liquids)

<u>kg/m<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>lbm/U.S. gal</u>	<u>lbm/U.K. gal</u>	<u>lbm/ft<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>g/cm<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>°API</u>
kg/m <sup>3</sup>	1.198 264 E+02	9.977 633 E+01	1.601 846 E+01	1.0* E+03	
	1.198 264 E-01	9.977 633 E-02	1.601 846 E-02	1	

Table 12: Specific Heat Capacity (mass basis)

<u>J/kg·K</u>	<u>kW·h/kg·°C</u>	<u>Btu/lbm·°F</u>	<u>kcal/kg·°C</u>
J/Kg·K	3.6* E+03	4.186 8* E+00	4.184* E+00

Table 13: Enthalpy Calorific Value on (mass basis)

<u>J/kg</u>	<u>Btu/lbm</u>	<u>cal/g</u>	<u>cal/lbm</u>
J/kg	2.326 000 E-03	4.184* E+00	9.224 141 E+00
	2.325 000 E+00		
	6.461 112 E-04		



**APPENDIX E:**

**CHEMICAL ANALYSES OF FLUIDS FROM EAST MESA WELLS**



Table E.1 (continued)

Date Sampled	Conduct. $\mu$ mhos	pH	TDS	Minor Components														Comments	Total Production ACRE-FEET		
				In	Ir	Mo	Nb	Ni	NO <sub>3</sub>	Pb	Pd	PO <sub>4</sub>	Pt	Sb	Se	Sn	Ta			Ti	W
7-2-72	2,630	-	1,850	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.G.S. Taken at 5608' } Probably mixed	
7-2-72	8,400	7.7	5,720	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " 4500' } with drilling	
7-8-72	10,100	7.12	7,520	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " 2500' } mud	
7-17-72	2,600	7.2	1,850	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. (Soil & Water Lab) Drill String 5557-5607'	
8-15-72	12,620	6.2	12,620	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " 7292-8030	3.2
8-18-72	Well completed			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " Flashed, Uncorrected	"
8-26-72	43,390	7.5	28,110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
8-27-72	42,800	7.8	28,110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
8-28-72	43,840	7.8	28,970	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
8-29-72	44,440	7.9	29,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
8-30-72	44,891	7.9	29,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
8-31-72	45,890	8.1	30,130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
12-28-72	43,400	6.8	27,770	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " " Kuster Sample From 1985', Not Flowing	35.8
12-29-72	41,300	6.5	26,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " " " 7900', " "	"
1-23-73	25,700	6.1	16,180	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " " " 7900', Flowing	45.6
7-31-73	50,800	7.4	32,247	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<.005 D.R.I. Univ. of Nev. Outlet of Separator (Flashed uncorrected)	55.2
1-16-74	Well perforated 6,809 - 7,150'			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " " " "	"
2-19-74	30,520	6.8	19,360	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. (Soil & Water Lab) "Unflashed"	81.7
2-19-74	30,664	6.66	18,847	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	D.R.I. Unflashed	"
3-16-74	-	5.75	19,960	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Garrett Research and Development, La Verne, Cal. (Flowing at 10 gpm)	82.9
3-16-74	-	5.75	20,712	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
3-17-74	-	5.50	21,950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
3-18-74	-	5.70	23,262	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
3-19-74	-	6.00	22,836	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
3-20-74	-	5.90	23,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
3-21-74	-	5.80	23,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
3-22-74	-	5.80	23,900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
6-11-74	-	-	24,845	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R., East Mesa Sampled, Collected in ice water	87.2
6-11-74	-	-	21,967	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " " Sampled through Cooling Coil	"
7-16-74	-	5.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " " " "	89.2
5-7-75 to 5-9-75	Reforated 6,131 - 6,808'			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " " " "	"
8-21-75	-	5.4	20,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R., " "	157.8
6-9-76	40,000	5.45	26,300	<0.1	<0.1	<0.005	0.4	0.10	<0.02	-	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	5.5	<0.1	-	0.14	<0.10	<0.1	G.H.T. Laboratories, Brawley, Calif.	171.8
3-4-77	28,200	5.5	21,980	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	Battelle N.W. Lab. At Separator	183.8
3-17-77	-	5.6	21,131	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.7	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
3-31-77	-	5.6	22,059	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.8	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
4-12-77	-	5.8	21,804	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	190.4
4-15-77	-	5.9	21,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
4-21-77	28,700	5.8	21,110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
5-3-77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	195.2
5-4-77	26,500	5.0	19,727	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
5-5-77	24,500	5.0	20,808	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R., East Mesa	"
5-6-77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " "	"
5-27-77	26,000	4.95	19,208	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " " Flow reduced by plug of scale	"
5-31-77	31,000	6.3	25,904	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	" " " " " Well shut in	"

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Table E.2 (continued)

DATE SAMPLED	CONDUCT. $\mu$ mhos	pH	TDS	Minor Components																				Comments	Total Production Acre-Feet					
				Co	Cr	Cu	Fe	Ge	Hg	H <sub>2</sub> S	In	Ir	Mo	Nb	Ni	NO <sub>3</sub>	Pb	Pd	PO <sub>4</sub>	Pt	Sb	Se	Sn			Ta	Ti	W	Zn	
8-6-73	-	7.2	2,030	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. Soil and Water Lab. Drill Stem Test	4.5
8-6-73	-	8.6	2,760	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. Soil and Water Lab. Drill Stem Test	4.5	
10-23-73	-	7.4	2,130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. Soil and Water Lab. Drill Stem Test	17.0	
10-23-73	-	7.7	2,377	-	<0.04	0.88	0.06	-	<0.007	-	-	-	-	<10	<0.02	<0.1	<0.02	-	0.80	-	<0.2	<0.001	0.2	<0.5	-	-	0.08	D.R.I. Univ. of Nevada, Boulder City	17.0	
4-30-74	-	-	2,687	-	-	-	2.6	-	-	0.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa (sample collected in ice water)	17.2	
4-30-74	-	-	2,470	-	-	-	1.0	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa (sample through cooling coil)	17.2	
4-24-75	Well Perforated		4567' to 5455'																											
5-28-75	-	5.6	3,998	-	-	-	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa	38.9	
8-21-75	6510	5.9	3,987	-	0.001	-	0.9	0.004	-	-	-	-	-	0.39	0.01	<0.2	0.004	-	<0.05	-	0.02	-	<0.01	-	0.16	-	-	D.R.I. Univ. of Nevada, Boulder City	49.2	
1-23-76	6640	6.9	3,940	-	-	0.03	0.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.12	-	-	0.02	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<0.02	U.S.B.R. Soil and Water Lab. 11:00 am	77.2		
1-23-76	6730	8.2	4,040	-	-	<0.00	0.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	<0.00	-	-	0.03	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<0.09	U.S.B.R. Soil and Water Lab. 3:30 pm	77.2		
1-26-76	6520	6.7	3,860	-	-	<0.00	0.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	<0.00	-	-	0.03	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.02	U.S.B.R. Soil and Water Lab.	77.2		
1-27-76	6560	6.9	3,920	-	-	0.03	0.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	<0.00	-	-	0.03	0.25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.01	U.S.B.R. Soil and Water Lab.	77.2		
1-28-76	6560	6.8	3,880	-	-	<0.00	0.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	<0.00	-	-	0.03	0.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<0.00	U.S.B.R. Soil and Water Lab.	77.2		
6-3-76	6000	6.12	5,000	<0.01	<0.01	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.002	1.5	<0.10	<0.10	<0.005	0.40	<0.10	0.10	-	<0.10	<0.20	<0.10	0.9	<0.10	-	0.17	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	G.H.T. Lab, Brawley, Calif. and U.S.B.R.	120.7	
6-28-76	-	6.16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa	120.7	
6-29-76	-	6.31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa	120.7	
9-21-76	7000	5.95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa	138.6	
10-19-76	-	6.24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa	144.4	
10-20-76	-	6.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa	144.4	
10-21-76	-	6.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa	144.4	
10-22-76	-	6.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa	144.4	
10-26-76	-	5.94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa	144.4	
10-27-76	-	6.12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R. East Mesa	144.4	
7-12-77	6500	6.25	4,400	-	-	0.15	0.3	-	<0.0005	3.	-	-	-	-	-	0.03	-	-	-	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	<0.1	U.S.B.R. East Mesa (Round Robin Sample)	208.0		
11-30-77	6230	6.0	4,192	-	-	-	-	-	-	<1.0	-	-	-	-	-	<0.1	-	0.14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Univ. Calif., Lawrence Berkeley Lab.	233.6	



Table E.3 (continued)

Date Sampled	Conduct. $\mu$ mhos	pH	TDS	Minor Components																	Comments	Total Production Acre-feet				
				Ge	Hg	H <sub>2</sub> S	In	Ir	Mo	Nb	Ni	NO <sub>3</sub>	Pb	Pd	PO <sub>4</sub>	Pt	Sb	Se	Sn	Ta			Ti	W	Zn	
4-22-76	2800	8.9	1907	-	0.002	-	-	-	-	-	-	<0.03	-	<0.05	-	0.7	-	<0.1	<0.01	-	-	-	-	<0.02	Br content was 0.7 mg/kg	-
6-7-76	2750	6.9	1700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7-25-77	3050	9.3	2092	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6-27-76	-	8.3	2950	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6-14-76	3100	9.0	1978	-	0.006	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<0.05	-	0.9	-	-	<0.01	-	-	-	-	-	<0.05	-	-
3-29-78	-	8.4	1900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.31	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Flashed, uncorrected for 10.7% loss	-
3-23-78	-	9.3	1836	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Flashed, uncorrected for 10.8% loss	-
2-16-76	-	9.2	2026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Flashed, uncorrected for 9.9% loss	-
1-29-78	-	6.2	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3-3-77	-	8.9	1759	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Flashed, est. loss ~ 9%	-

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Table E.4. Chemical analyses of wells 8-1, 31-1, and 44-7 (concentration mg/l).

Date Sampled	Conduct. $\mu$ mhos	pH	TDS	Major Components																		Minor Components								
				B	Ba	Ca	CO <sub>2</sub>	CO <sub>3</sub>	Cl	Cs	F	HCO <sub>3</sub>	K	Li	Mg	Mn	Na	NH <sub>4</sub>	Rb	SiO <sub>2</sub>	SO <sub>4</sub>	Sr	Ag	Al	As	Au	Be	Bi	Cd	Co
<u>Chemical Analyses, Well 8-1</u>																														
9-12-74	-	7.68	2463	3.3	-	41	-	-	556	-	-	668	42	2.0	1.6	-	723	-	-	201	225	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6-22-76	3200	6.27	1670	1.6	0.15	8.5	-	0	500	0.14	1.6	417	70	1.1	<0.05	-	610	4.95	-	389	173	2.1	-	0.02	0.053	0.024	<0.02	<0.005	<0.01	<0.01
4-15-77	2300	6.5	2900	-	-	6.0	-	0	515	-	-	428	42	-	-	-	530	-	-	246	185	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
6-1-77	2700	6.5	1772	-	-	8.8	-	0	515	-	-	451	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	195	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<u>Chemical Analyses, Well 31-1</u>																														
9-10-74	-	7.72	2311	2.2	-	9.66	-	-	490	-	-	467	25	1.8	1.1	-	782	-	-	89	172	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6-18-75	4700	6.27	2900	2.5	0.15	8.9	-	0	510	0.20	1.4	845	85	0.6	<0.05	<0.05	730	-	2.45	274	183	1.4	-	0.02	0.025	0.000	<0.01	<0.005	<0.02	<0.01
<u>Chemical Analyses, Well 44-7</u>																														
7-26-77	11,700	7.1	17,200	-	1.3	17.3	-	0	6588	-	-	365	-	-	-	-	1710	-	-	289	-	5.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



Table E.4 (continued)

Date Sampled	Conduct. $\mu$ mhos	pH	TDS	Minor Components																			Comments	Total Production Acres-feet				
				Cr	Cu	Fe	Ge	Hg	H <sub>2</sub> S	In	Ir	Mo	Nb	Ni	NO <sub>3</sub>	Pb	Pd	PO <sub>4</sub>	Pt	Sb	Se	Sn			Ta	Ti	W	Zn
9-12-74	-	7.68	2463	-	-	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R., East Mesa	2.2
6-22-76	3200	6.27	1600	<0.01	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	0.014	1.0	<0.10	<0.1	<0.005	0.40	<0.1	0.43	<0.5	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	1.2	0.5	-	0.12	<0.1	<0.1	<0.01	U.S.B.R., East Mesa and G.H.T. Lab, Brawley	13.4
4-15-77	2300	6.5	2000	-	-	<0.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R., East Mesa	27.7	
6-1-77	2700	6.5	1772	-	-	0.6	-	-	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R., East Mesa	41.2	
9-10-74	-	7.72	2311	-	-	2.4?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	U.S.B.R., East Mesa	3.7	
6-18-75	4700	6.27	2900	<0.01	<0.10	<0.10	<0.10	0.008	0.3	<0.10	<0.10	<0.005	0.40	<0.10	0.43	<0.1	<0.1	<0.10	1.0	1.8	-	0.10	<0.10	<0.10	<0.01	U.S.B.R., East Mesa and G.H.T. Lab, Brawley	18.4	
7-26-77	11,700	7.1	17,200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

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Table E.5 (continued)

Date Sampled	Conduct. $\mu$ mhos	pH	TDS	Minor Components																	Comments	Total Production Acre - Feet			
				Be	Hg	H <sub>2</sub> S	In	Ir	Mo	Nb	Ni	NO <sub>3</sub>	Pb	Pd	PO <sub>4</sub>	Pt	Sb	Se	Sn	Ta			Ti	W	Zn
4-25-74	-	6.7	2390	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Drill Stem Test	0
4-25-74	-	6.7	2390	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Drill Stem Test	0
5-20-74	-	-	1567	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Flowing (2-phase)	2.6
5-20-74	-	-	1572	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2.6
5-31-74	-	9.12	1575	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		2.6
1-9-75	-	5.99	1161	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		17.9

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# APPENDIX F: RESULTS OF LABORATORY STUDIES OF SCALE SAMPLES TAKEN FROM THE VTE

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
MAY 1962 EDITION  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Head, Physical Sciences and Chemical  
Engineering Section *ESB*

Denver, Colorado  
DATE: September 23, 1976

FROM : E. F. Monk

SUBJECT: Scale Samples - VTE Operations - East Mesa Geothermal Site, Holtville,  
California  
(see letters dated June 29 and August 26, 1976)

Petrographic referral code: 76-39

### INTRODUCTION

Nineteen scale samples were received from Mr. James C. Watson, East Mesa Geothermal Site, for examination and identification.

The scale samples and their locations are as follows:

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Location</u>
A	E-3 tubes after Test 1-4 day Test on Dearborn 8010 1800 hrs 3/15 to 1100 hrs 3/19
B	Orifice plate - Downstream after Test 3-4 day Test on Calgon Chelant SL-500 3/24 - 3/28
C	E-1 deposit around carbon steel hold down bolts for the nozzles after Test 3
D	E-1 deposit on top head near the tubes after Test 3
E	E-1 loose fluffy deposit near the tubes - after Test 3
F	E-3 deposit scraped 2-6 feet down from the top - after Test 3
G	E-3 deposit as per <u>F</u> after Test 4 Drewplex 502
J	Nozzles from E-1 after Test G-3 6/14
K	Nozzles from E-2 after Test G-3 6/14
L	All 4 tubes E-1 6/14 after Test G-3
M	All 4 tubes E-2 6/14 after Test G-3

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Location</u>
N	Two tubes - E-3 6/14 after Test G-3
O	Scale from Bottom Head E-1, 6/14
P	Scale from Bottom Head E-2, 6/14
Q	Scale from Bottom Head E-3, 6/14
R	Deposit from E-1 8/25 Test B, all tubes (4) 3-4 feet from top
S	Deposit from E-2 8/25 Test B, all tubes (4) 3-4 feet from top
T	Deposit from E-3 8/25 Test B, 2 tubes 3-4 feet from top
U	E-2 8/24 Test B, 2-3 inches from top where nozzles fit

The purpose of the examination is to ascertain the chemical compositions of the scale samples.

#### EXAMINATION AND RESULTS

The scale samples were examined by X-ray powder diffraction (XRD) analyses for their crystalline compounds and by X-ray spectrographic (XRS) analyses for their elemental compositions.

The results of the analyses are enclosed in table 1.

#### DISCUSSION AND REMARKS

The scale samples varied from white to gray to brown to black in color,

The white and gray samples are slightly to nonmagnetic. The brown and black samples are moderately to highly magnetic.

The white and gray samples consist chiefly of calcium carbonate. The brown and black samples consist chiefly of iron oxides ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  - magnetite  $\gamma$   $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  - maghemite and  $\alpha$   $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$  - hematite) and vary from well to poorly crystalline.

Most samples contain some organic fiber strands and bundles (clear, pale yellow, and pale green in color) and fresh, silvery metallic colored fragments. The metal fragments vary from flat to curved to curled in shape, are highly magnetic to nonmagnetic, and probably were obtained from the pipe walls during the scale sampling process. Sample M contained (about

30 percent by volume) some small bugs or insects (one (1) gray "locust-like" insect and eight (8) black "beetle-like" bugs).

Moderate to minor amounts of potassium (K) were detected in the elemental form, but no potassium crystalline compounds were detectable by X-ray diffraction analysis. The potassium probably occurs in minor amounts as the halide mineral, sylvite (KCl).

No phosphates were detected (reference your letter on samples O, P, and Q).

No sulfates were detected by X-ray powder diffraction analyses; however, minor amounts of elemental sulfur (S) were detected by X-ray spectrographic analyses. The sulfur present is probably combined with barium, strontium, and/or calcium, but is below detectable limits of our X-ray diffractometer.

Samples J, K, and L contained minor amounts of unidentified interlayered clay minerals with broad peaks at 12-14Å, 4.55Å, and 2.56Å. These X-ray diffraction peak positions and characteristics did not change when the samples were treated with glycerol.

The mineralogy (crystalline compounds) and elemental analyses results are reported in table 1 in relative amounts (i.e., major, moderate, and minor) rather than in percent. Reliable percentage estimations could not be made because of poor crystallinity of some of the compounds, contamination materials, and the heterogeneous mixture of minor to trace amounts of numerous elements and compounds.

*E. F. Monk*

Enclosure

Copy to: 1523 (Petrographic Files)

TABLE 1

RESULTS OF X-RAY ANALYSES OF SCALE SAMPLES  
VTE Operations - East Mesa Geothermal Site, Holtville, California

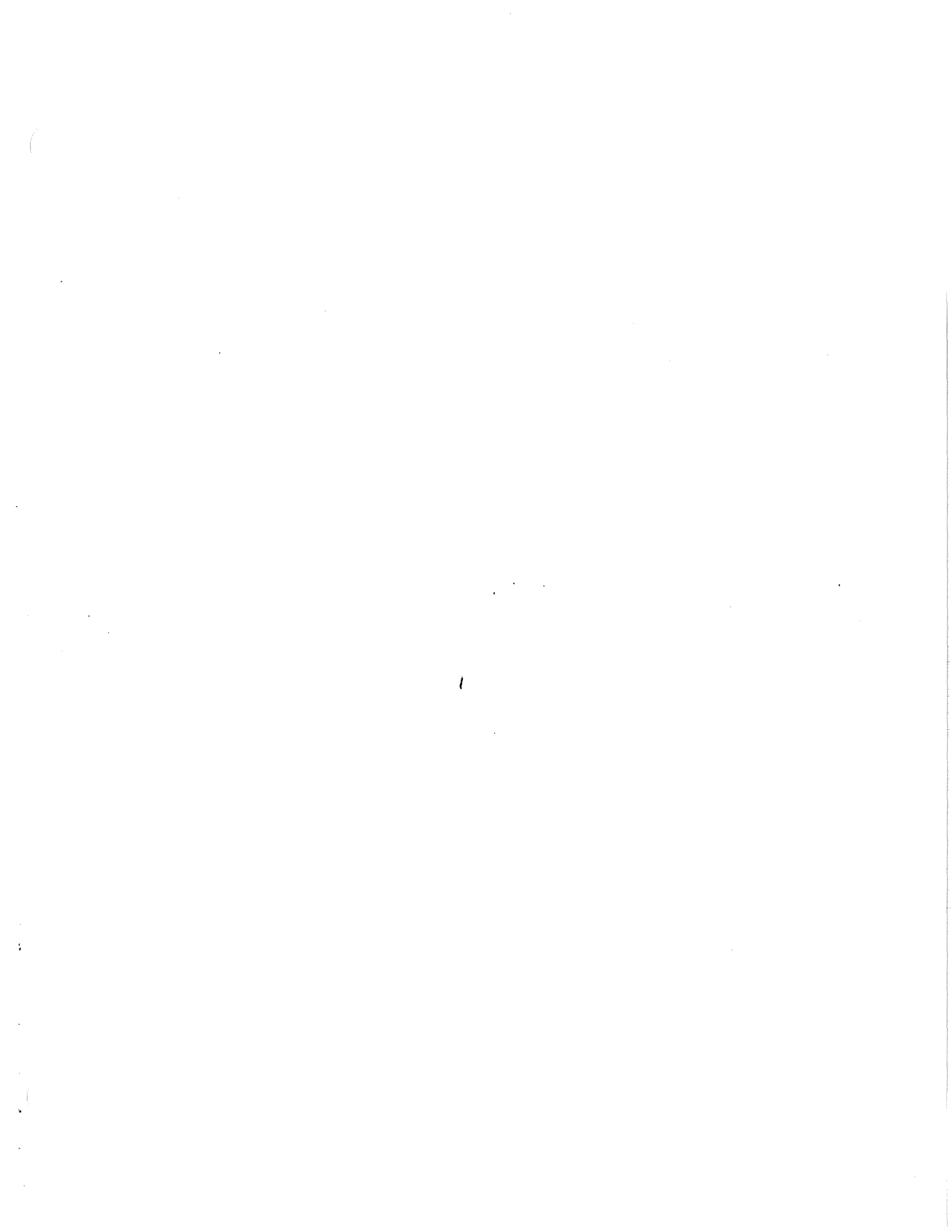
Sample	Estimated amounts	XRD - X-ray diffraction analyses (crystalline compounds or mineralogy)	XRS - X-ray spectrographic analyses	
			(heavy elements)	(light elements)
A	Major	Noncrystalline	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Sr	K
	Minor	Hematite, magnetite, calcite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Zn, Mn, and Ti	Si
B	Major	Calcite and aragonite	Sr	Ca
	Moderate	None	None	None
	Minor	Dolomite, halite, magnesite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba and Fe	K, Cl, and Si
C	Major	Magnetite	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	Siderite	None	K
	Minor	Hematite, calcite, quartz, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Sr, Zn, Cu, Ni, Mn, and Ti - ?	Si
D	Major	Magnetite	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	Quartz	None	None
	Minor	Calcite, feldspar, hematite, siderite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Sr, Cu, Zn, Ni, Mn, and Ti	K and Si
E	Major	Magnetite and quartz	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	None	K
	Minor	Calcite, feldspar, hematite, maghemite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Sr, Zn, Cu, Ni, and Ti - ?	Cl and Si
F	Major	Calcite and quartz	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Sr	K
	Minor	Feldspar, hematite, magnetite, dolomite - ?, halite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Zn, Cu, Ni, Mn, and Ti	Cl and Si
G	Major	Calcite and quartz	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Sr and Zn	None
	Minor	Feldspar, hematite, magnesite, halite, dolomite, and trace of miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Cu, Ni, Mn, and Ti	K, Cl, and Si
J	Major	Calcite and aragonite	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Mn	None
	Minor	Quartz, feldspar, clays and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Sr, Cu, Ni, and Zn	K
K	Major	Calcite	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Sr	None
	Minor	Quartz, feldspar, magnetite, clay, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Zn, Cu, Ni, and Mn	K, Cl, and Si
L	Major	Calcite	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Sr and Mn	None
	Minor	Quartz, feldspar, hematite, clay, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Zn, and Ti	K, Cl, and Si

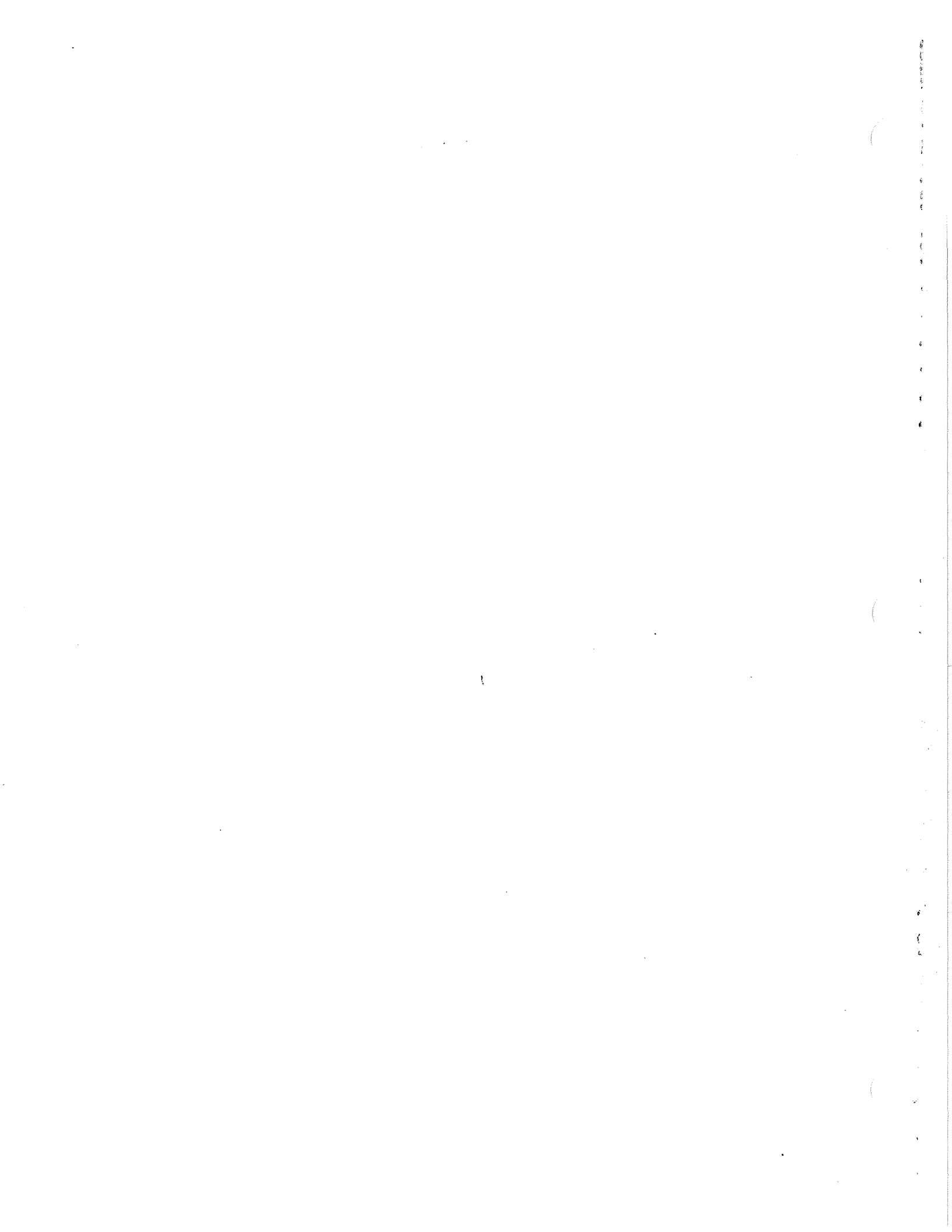


Table 1 - Continued

Sample	Estimated amounts	XRD - X-ray diffraction analyses (crystalline compounds or mineralogy)	XRS - X-ray spectrographic analyses	
			(heavy elements)	(light elements)
H	Major	Magnetite and quartz	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Ti	None
	Minor	Calcite, halite, hematite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Sr, Zn, Cu, Ni, and Mn	K, Cl, and Si
N	Major	Calcite	Fe and Sr	Ca
	Moderate	Quartz	None	K
	Minor	Feldspar, magnetite, hematite, halite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Zn, Cu, Ni, Mn, and Ti	Cl and Si
O	Major	Magnetite	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Mn	None
	Minor	Hematite, maghemite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Sr, Cu -? and Zn	K, Cl, and Si
P	Major	Magnetite	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Mn	None
	Minor	Hematite, maghemite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Sr, Zn, Cu, and Ni	K, Cl, and Si
Q	Major	Magnetite, hematite, and maghemite	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	Calcite and aragonite	None	K
	Minor	Quartz, halite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Sr, Cu, Zn, Ni, Mn, and Ti	Cl, S, and Si
R	Major	Calcite	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Sr and Mn	None
	Minor	Hematite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Zn, Cu, and Ti	K, Cl, S, and Si
S	Major	Calcite	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Sr	K
	Minor	Hematite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Zn, Cu, Ni, Mn, and Ti	Cl and Si
T	Major	Calcite	Fe	Ca
	Moderate	None	Sr and Ti	K
	Minor	Halite, hematite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Zn, Ni, and Mn	Si
U	Major	Calcite	Sr	Ca
	Moderate	None	None	None
	Minor	Hematite, and miscellaneous and unidentified	Ba, Sb - ?, Mn, Fe, and Ti	K, Cl, and Si







This report was done with support from the Department of Energy. Any conclusions or opinions expressed in this report represent solely those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of The Regents of the University of California, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory or the Department of Energy.

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