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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

memorandum

DATE:

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

SUBJECT: Followup on Meeting of February 21-23, 1979

TO: State Coupled Project-Resource Assessment Teams

The meeting in Salt Lake City was the most valuable for me that I have attended since coming to Washington. I greatly appreciate the time and effort on the part of each of you to participate and to give all of us an insight into your project.

The progress of individual projects varies, obviously, since some groups have only recently started their assessment of the geothermal resource potential in their state while others are rapidly advancing to detailed site studies. As a result of the presentations we at headquarters have come to the following conclusions:

(1) The program is a very good one, but has suffered from the continual change in the office I now occupy. As a result of this, we believe, an overall strategy for the program which would provide consistency among the individual state projects, while formulated, has not been carried forward in all cases.

(2) From the reviews presented and because of (1) above, the all-important task of collecting and analyzing data for preparation of geothermal resource maps and reports is progressing at varying rates. DOE feels that this part of each State Coupled project should receive at least an emphasis equal to the more scientifically rewarding site studies.

(3) The original plan of the Program called for a joint analysis by the individual State teams and DOE of data gathered for the selection of specific sites for detailed geological investigations, with the added input from the USGS and DOE contractors. I surmise that in practice such procedure is not being carried out. Such consultation becomes essential before the expense of exploratory drilling is incurred.

To insure that each project is being conducted to provide the best chance of success and the most judicious expenditure of State and Federal funds, we propose to do the following:

(1) Initiate detailed program reviews with all DOE State Coupled Program partners, and to begin these reviews late this Spring. These reviews will probably be conducted at our Idaho Operations Office

in Idaho Falls. Each State team should start now to prepare for the review, and plan to bring all data, maps, plans, etc., to support and illustrate what they are planning for the future and what has already been accomplished.

(2) Each State team will be contacted individually concerning the timing of the review. Obviously we will not be able to meet with all teams before the beginning of the field season so it is our plan that those States which are into or approaching site specific studies be given priority in the review process. We have already completed such a review with VPI prior to selecting the deep test hole on the Atlantic Coastal Plain as I reported to you at the February meeting. With the energy crisis worsening it is essential that we all work expediously and prudently to achieve our common goal.

Thank you for your patience in reading this communication.

Gerald P. Brophy
Program Manager
Division of Geothermal Energy

cc:
Roy Mink, IDO
Donald Klick, USGS