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April 11, 1979

PRESS RELEASE

President Carter, in his energy speech Thursday, April 5th, did not mention the prominent role that geothermal energy can play in solving the nation's energy crisis. The U. S. Geological Survey estimates that about 2400 "quads" of energy exist in geothermal systems. A "quad" is a quadrillion (1 followed by 15 zeros) BTU's. U. S. consumption for 1979 will be about 80 quads. This estimate means that 95,000 to 150,000 megawatts of electricity might be producible from geothermal water, and at least 230 to 350 quads of energy for direct heat applications might be available.

Geothermal energy is presently being used in many areas of the U. S. Geothermal water and steam, with a temperature above 400°F, may be used in place of fuel oil to generate electricity. At the Geysers area of California, 608 megawatts of electricity are produced from natural steam. This is more than enough to meet the electricity needs for a city the size of San Francisco. Moderate and low temperature geothermal water may be used instead of fuel oil and natural gas for direct heat applications such as industrial processing and space heating. Klamath Falls, Oregon; Boise, Idaho; and Reno, Nevada are three cities using geothermal waters for direct heat applications.

Here in Utah, geothermal energy will soon be used to generate electricity and provide heat for a wide variety of buildings including offices and homes.

Roosevelt Hot Springs near Milford has been the site of extensive geothermal exploration in recent years and two 50 megawatt electrical generation stations are scheduled to be producing electricity by 1984. Other sites in southern Utah are also being investigated to determine if geothermal systems capable of producing electricity are present. Numerous hot springs throughout much of central and western Utah indicate the wide spread presence of low temperature geothermal systems that will be used for a variety of space heat applications including office space, greenhouses, warehouses, and homes. The town of Monroe will soon be heating a school and a number of other public and private buildings using geothermal water that is 160°F. The Utah State Prison at Draper is presently investigating the possibility of heating the minimum security portion of the prison with geothermally heated water. Utah Roses, a major greenhouse facility in Sandy, is also looking to replace a heating system that uses expensive fossil fuel with a geothermal space heating system.

The Utah Geological and Mineral Survey is aiding in the evaluation of the low temperature resources under a program funded by the Department of Energy. Over the past 2 years a number of geological and geophysical investigations of known, but unexplored low temperature resources, have been in progress. Over 20 geothermal test holes have been drilled, along the Wasatch Front from southern Salt Lake County to the Utah-Idaho state line. Investigations by UGMS will continue into 1980 and will provide increasing information on the nature of low temperature geothermal resources.

Utah is fortunate to have a number of low temperature systems close to major population centers where maximum use of the resource can be made.

Although energy derived from geothermal systems will never be put into the gas tanks of automobiles, geothermal energy can and will displace large quantities of fossil fuel presently being used to generate electricity and heat the offices and homes of Utah.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL

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