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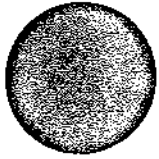
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OIT RECEIVES NORTHWEST GEOTHERMAL STUDY GRANT

Oregon Institute of Technology has been chosen to conduct a study of geothermal resources of six northwestern states. The U.S. Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) awarded a \$383,385 grant to OIT on September 30, 1977. Under terms of the grant, OIT's Geo-Heat Center would be the principal contractor in an analysis of known and potential geothermal resource areas within each of the states of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming.

The study is being initiated to help speed up commercial development of geothermal energy resources in each of the 6 states. The Northwest Region has geothermal resources with predominant temperatures ranging from 100 to 200 degrees Centigrade. Geo-Heat officials at Oregon Institute of Technology point out that most individuals in areas of good geothermal reservoirs are unaware of the potential of these geothermal resources, and have difficulty in placing geothermal energy utilization in a context other than by individual usage.

Their current plan calls for a coordinated regional and national time sequence development plan as a national goal of the U.S. ERDA Division of Geothermal Energy (DGE). DGE's goal is to accelerate commercial use of geothermal energy by developing planned programs for each region. The organized approach will provide a more accurate picture of the geothermal energy inventory of the nation.

The plan calls for the project to be directed by a Principal Investigator from OIT with technical assistance provided by the OIT Geo-Heat Center staff. In addition, OIT will hire a full-time Regional Coordinator who will be retained to act as a coordinator and a liaison officer between the Principal Investigator and field team members in each of the 6 states. The field team members in turn will be selected by mutual agreement between representatives of each state who act as Project Advisory Committee Members.

The field team members will be retained as faculty members of Oregon Institute of Technology while residing and doing research in their respective states. Both geothermal resources capable of providing electrical and non-electrical

uses of geothermal energy will be explored. Once the potentials of geothermal energy have been determined in each area, mass media presentations will be used to alert industry and the public.

Through news media, oral presentations to service organizations, industry and special interest groups will see and hear results of the study, and the goals of state, regional and national geothermal energy projects. Cost benefit analysis, rates of return on investments, and other economic factors will provide a uniform method of determining the most promising prospects for resource development. Prospective geothermal sites which do not show potential for commercial development will be recorded and have their limitations defined. In areas where promising use of the geothermal resource is determined, time-lines will be drawn to establish the activities that will control and effect the development of the resource.

The energy grant to OIT is the largest made to OIT to date among its applied research projects. The duration of the initial contract is for a 12 month period, commencing September 30, 1977. Dr. Donald Karr, professor and department chairman of biological sciences, has been chosen as the Principal Investigator for the project. Paul Lienau, John Lund, Gene Culver and Charles Higbee, Geo-Heat Center members, will assist. A full-time Regional Coordinator to work with geoteam members from each of the 6 states is expected to be announced within the next few days.

Geo-Heat Center Corporation

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