



## CanGEA's **"Hot off the Press"**

### **Update of Activities – Fall 2008**

#### **Fasten your seatbelt, we are moving Geothermal Energy forward!**

Between opportunities to offer policy direction to key decision makers to chaos in the investment markets, CanGEA and the geothermal industry have had a very entertaining couple of months! In this Fall 2008 "Hot off the Press" we will walk you through some of the highs and the lows. These are definitely tumultuous times for the industry, but there is a lot to be encouraged by.

#### **Investment Market Chaos!!**

For anyone who was at the Geothermal Resource Council meeting in Reno last month, it was clear that the geothermal industry was not immune to the global investment crisis. There were a number of key financial institutes present and during one of the presentations on financing it was made very clear that the market was currently "closed". High-risk exploration project financing would come at a premium, if at all, and many projects may have to wait for the markets to stabilize to finalize on their financing.



During the conference we also saw a collapse of the banking community in Iceland, a leader in geothermal energy financing. We offer our support to all those involved with former CanGEA member Glitnir Bank as they are closing their Canadian office.

The US election of Democratic candidate Barack Obama has done little to stabilize the energy markets as of yet, but his promises of extending the Production Tax Credit and investing \$150 billion over 10 years for alternative energy are definitely supportive of the renewable energy sector. Should be an interesting 2009!



#### **CanGEA working for change in Canada**

All the uncertainty in the markets and the demand for long-term renewable energy solutions has opened some doors for CanGEA. In early 2008, we acquired a grant from BC Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources (BC EMPR) which allowed the organization to commission a thorough analysis of international geothermal policy and formation of proven policy recommendations. In August 2008, we had the opportunity to meet with government representatives and other key organizations in Vancouver and present some of the findings of the report. Thanks to all the CanGEA members who were attendance, as this meeting was fundamental to increasing awareness of the over-all potential of geothermal in BC's energy mix.

The August meeting led to a workshop in October to discuss the geosciences needs for the geothermal industry in Western Canada. There were representatives in attendance from BC EMPR, Geological Survey of Canada, Alberta Geological Survey, Yukon Energy, BC Hydro and many key geothermal companies. This meeting had a very impressive collection of Canada's

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geothermal early leaders (Dr. Woodsworth, Dr. Majorowicz, Dr. Jessop.... ) and many new faces that seemed to be catching the excitement of geothermal energy in Canada. Proceedings from the workshop will be mailed out to all CanGEA members.

### Outreach & Education:

#### The message is getting out there!

In the past, many in the geothermal industry have said "no one knows about geothermal energy, it is always 'wind and solar'". That is starting to change. The message is getting out there.



In the last few months we have seen some "HUGE" players get involved in the geothermal energy industry and that only increases general public awareness. Google has provided over \$10 million in geothermal research and big financial players like Warren Buffet, Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs have invested in the sector. According to New Energy Finance, \$3 billion was invested in 2007 in disclosed deals in the sector; an increase of 183 percent from 2006. The investment community is beginning to understand the opportunity, and that has led to more and more press coverage. The LA Times, CBC, ABC, Reuters, CNBC, Vancouver Sun, Toronto Star.... (the list goes on) have all written about the potential of geothermal energy in the last three months. As outreach director, I look forward to the day when we will talk about renewable energy as geothermal, wind and solar (not the other way around).



### CanGEA's Outreach Activities

With geothermal starting to get the press it deserves, it has been a great opportunity for CanGEA to talk about the companies and geothermal potential in Canada. With more invitations to talk about geothermal than we can attend, here are some of our recent events:

- **Geothermal Resource Council** – October: CanGEA presented a Canada Country Update and had the opportunity to sit on an international panel with other geothermal countries including Mexico, Italy and New Zealand.
- **Vancouver Meeting, with BC EMPR & GSC** - August & October: CanGEA presented on both policy and geosciences needs and was thanked numerous times for helping putting the event together.
- **Western Alliance Distributed Energy (WADE)** - September 08, Conference in Calgary; spoke about the opportunity for geothermal to provide local power to Canadian communities. There was lots of interest in electricity from geothermal energy and most common question "Why aren't we doing this already?"
- **SPE Thermal Operations Conference** - October 20-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008: Impressive!! Talk about building international relations in the geothermal energy community. As a favour to the Chair of the, Australian Geothermal Energy Group (AGEG), Alison Thompson, CanGEA's executive director, agreed to present on behalf of AGEG and got rave reviews (all this as a volunteer!)





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- **Sustainability 2008** - October 08: CanGEA exhibit at Vancouver Convention Center: Over 1,000 people in attendance. It was a very busy two days with lots of questions about the energy potential in Western Canada and how people could get involved. CanGEA corporate members Sierra Geothermal Power Corp, Nevada Geothermal and Christopher James were all in attendance, so geothermal energy was well represented.



### Upcoming Events

- **Geothermal Finance & Investment Summit:** Palm Springs, California, Nov 17-19<sup>th</sup>  
CanGEA has accepted an invitation to be a supporting organization to the summit and will have the opportunity to speak. This is a great opportunity to learn more about geothermal investment and CanGEA members receive a 10% registration discount. For the conference agenda please see:  
<http://www.infocastinc.com/index.php/conference/geothermal>
- **Calgary Chamber of Commerce:** CanGEA Board Member Michal Moore will be speaking at the Calgary Chamber of Commerce Environment and Natural Resource Committee meeting on November 18th, 2008. Please contact the Calgary Chamber of Commerce if you are interested in attending.

### To new members, THANK YOU!

As a non-profit organization, CanGEA obtains large percentage of its operating revenue from its membership dues and we always appreciate new members. The best compliment that our volunteer based organization can get is our current members telling others about our accomplishments and having new members come on board. We have far exceeded our membership goals for 2008, so we say: "Thank you!"

A big WELCOME to all new individual members and corporate members: Magma Energy, Oski Energy, Alamar Land Professional Services, TransPacific EnviroEnergy, Meridian Environmental Inc. and the following organizations.



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**Warning!** Signing up with CanGEA means that we are likely going to ask for your help and support over the coming year. Whether it is getting individual members to help with some of our outreach and grassroots campaigns, or requesting that corporate members assist with our work on TSX reporting code (special thanks to volunteer Lee Deibert with Meridian Environmental), the organization is successful when we work together toward our common goal of geothermal energy development in Canada.

**Thank you for your continued support of Geothermal Energy!**