Super Hot EGS Reducing the Cost of Geothermal Through Technology Breakthrough

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ALTAROCK





Statoil



USA Geothermal Resources

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Temperature at 10 km depth, Southern Methodist University

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current conventional
geothermal
3.5 GW

Western US EGS potential 500 GW Continental US EGS Potential 2.3 TW

Energy per Well



Performance Moonshot

Power potential of 60 kg/s of fluid produced from 5 km depth at selected sites



50 MWe/well compared to 5 MWe/well at 200°C

10x output/well

- 5x producing potential compared to liquid water at 200°C
- 2x higher conversion efficiency of thermal heat to electricity



Temperature Matters 100 MW utility-scale plant

Economic Advantage – plants online in 2022

Levelized Cost of Electricity (\$/MW-hr)



LCOE for 100 MW Super-hot project



Revenue 100-83 MW for 20 years 2% annual resource decline With redrills at 10 years

Ongoing Expenses \$6M / year O&M \$42M in year 10 for redrills 6% discount rate

LCOE = \$46/MWh



The International Race to Super Hot Rock is On!

Esni, DeLorme, GEBCO, NOAA NGDC, and other contributors, Sources: Esni, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, DeLorme, HERE, Geonames.org, and other contributors

Super Hot EGS is the ideal energy source

Dependable 95% available

Flexible Peaking available

Widely Deployable 16% world pop. at <10 km 81% world pop. at <20 km

High Energy Density 100 MW/km²



Free Fuel 400°C fluid



Innovations needed: Temperature





Improvement in drilling equipment and techniques at >400°C: bits, coring, & mud Advanced well construction materials: casing, couplings, & cement

Reservoir creation and maintenance techniques in super hot rock: hydraulic, thermal, & chemical



Characterization: Sonic & image logs, fiber optic, stress measures, seismic calibration and sensors

Start in Magmatic Areas

Improvement: Drilling Equipment and Techniques at >400°C:

Current Technology

- Cool well with water/aerated water
- Underbalanced drilling for hole cleaning
- Pressure control through cooling
- Maintain cooling throughout drilling and completion process. Prevent thermal cycling.
- HT mudmotors for directional control cooled with water/aerated water
- Logging while tripping for directional/T/P data
- Roller cone bits with metal/metal seals

Technology Improvement

- Cooling through water/aerated water/liquid nitrogen
- Pressure controlled drilling with HT stable polymer sweeps
- Well casing and cement design to withstand thermal cycling
- HT mudmotors with very HT electronics for directional control cooled with liquid nitrogen
- Solid body bits with cavitation

Improvement: Advanced Well Construction Materials

Current Technology

- Foamed reverse circulation cementing with HT stable cement formulations up to 325C
 - Brittle noncompliant cement can fail with thermal cycling. Foamed cement is compliant
 - At very high temperatures, cement systems will not crystallize
 - Gaps in cement fatal flaw. Foamed cement expands
- Well designs for very HT from thermal heavy oil recovery Well completion designs for very temperature and used with success in geothermal
- Casing connections
 - Connections that seal in compression and tension withstand thermal cycling with foamed complete cement job work
 - Casing connection failures still a large problem
 - Testing at very high temperature has been limited
 - Most connections tested by modeling
- Casing materials
 - Titanium works but is very high cost
 - High strength alloys may not last through thermal cycles
 - Supercritical fluids can be highly corrosive

Technology Improvement

- Ultra high temperature stable compliant cements • very high silica content
 - Superfine sand well sealing systems
 - New very HT cements needed. Must be compliant/elastic to withstand thermal cycling
 - Materials testing facilities for very HT limited •

- Most models can't handle supercritical temperatures
- Lab facilities have limited sample size

Casing connections designed to seal through thermal cycling need testing at scale

- Current testing is through modeling only
- **Connection failure in IDDP-2**
- Casing materials Innovations used in space probes may be extended to very HT geothermal

Improvement: Reservoir Creation And Maintenance Techniques In Super Hot Rock

Current Technology

- Hydroshearing through pressure injection along entire open hole
- Pre-existing permeability needed for good results
- Zonal isolation through diverters in perfed liners or modified oil field packers in open hole
- Multizone stimulations limited to areas with pre-existing permeability
- Can create really large stimulated volumes
- Require large amounts of water and long stimulation times
- Stress changes with depth as brittle/ductile transition is approached a challenge for creating large stimulated volumes

Technology Improvement

- Combine tensile fractures near the wellbore with hydroshearing in the far field
- Fracture initiation in impermeable hard, brittle very hot rock
- Zonal isolation in holes with perforated liners to achieve multizone stimulation with very high flow rates
- Create large stimulated volumes with low water methods, shorter times
- CO2 based stimulation methods
- HT stable targeted explosive fracture initiation
- Cryogenic stimulation to solidify and extend fractures in ductile rock

Improvement: Characterization

Current Technology

Fracture imaging:

- Wellbore cooling above ~250C
- Ultrasonic BHTV (Sandia) temperature limit ~275C. Rotating element fails
- Microresistivity requires cooling to about 175C

Logging cable upper limit 300C (600F) but few available

- Memory tools using lithium batteries for temperatures above 300C in heat shielded tools
- Lithium batteries can explode above 165C. Must be kept cool
- MWD/LWD requires cooling through circulation
 - Logging while tripping in cooled wellbore

Production logging: PTS on wireline up to 300C. Over 300C using memory tools

- Sonic/neutron density/gamma/resistivity in heat shielded tool on HT cable limited to 300C
- Fiber optic DTS/DAS
 - Critical for monitor stimulation

Phillippe, Million, A. S.

Fails above ~250C

Technology Improvement

- Phased array ultrasonic borehole imager using HT electronics in heat shield avoids moving parts. In development.
- Extended HT cable limit using polyaramid for strength and water proofing/weight reduction
- HT stable batteries recent breakthrough needs development/testing
- Ultrasonic flow measurement for no-movingpart velocity logging
- MWD/LWD needs HT batteries plus better connections on wired drill string
- Fiber optic sensors and cable for >350C needed

Innovations needed: Depth





Well completion techniques and materials to economically reach 10-20 km

Next generation drilling equipment, energetic drilling, casing while drilling

Super Hot EGS Anywhere

Super Hot Site at Newberry



- Two Geothermal wells drilled in 2008 • 55-29 and 46-16
- Depth: 3.1 and 3.5 km
 - BHT: 325 °C and 340 °C
 - Gradient: 110 °C/km
 - Target: 500 °C at 4.6 km



Newberry Deep Drilling Project

Project to deepen 46-16 to supercritical temps ICDP Workshop, Bend, OR, Sept. 2017 55 participants from 11 countries

<u>Goals</u>

- test technology for drilling, well completion, and geophysical monitoring in a very high temperature environment.
- test EGS above the critical point of water
- collect samples of rocks within the tectonic brittleductile transition
- investigate volcanic hazards
- study magmatic geomechanics
- calibrate geophysical imaging techniques









Newberry Volcano will power Oregon



Balance intermittent renewable generation

Expand Super Hot EGS when advanced drilling technology ready to drill to >10 km

Achievements – 10 year plan