# GEOTH-FRMAL ENERGY'S ROLE IN AN EVOLVING CAREON REDUCTION WORLD

Dr. Catherine Hickson, CEO, Alberta No. 1 Vice President, Geothermal Canada Sept 28, 2021



Aberdeen Section

#### **Energy Transition in an Oil and Gas World**



https://www.listeningpays.com/how-to-deal-with-theelephant-in-the-room/

There is an "elephant in the room" that is the world's geothermal resource endowment – how do we better understand the challenges to be able to grow this renewable energy source?

What are low enthalpy systems and where do they occur?





Alberta Government has defined "geothermal" as the naturally occurring heat of the earth.

- It gets hotter as we move towards the center of the earth.
- The heat is not the same everywhere.
- There are different types of geothermal systems.

#### A big chunk of the world has significant resources

	Resource Type				
1	Convective Hydrothermal resources	į.			
2	Vapor dominated				
3	Hot-water dominated	2 2			
4	Other hydrothermal resources				
5	Sedimentary basin	19 19			
6	Geopressured				
7	Radiogenic	6			
8	Hot rock resources	e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e			
9	Solidified (hot dry rock)				
10	Part still molten (magma)				



- Enthalpy is the key!
  - Low enthalpy, mostly thermal energy
  - High enthalpy, electricity plus thermal energy

![](_page_5_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Picture_5.jpeg)

Reservoir temp.	Reservoir fluid	Common use	Technology commonly chosen
High temperature >220°C	Water and/or steam	Power generation Direct use	Flash steam Combined (flash and binary) cycle Direct fluid use Heat exchangers Heat pumps
Intermediate temperature 100-220°C	Water	Power generation Direct use	Binary cycle Direct fluid use Heat exchangers Heat pumps
Low temperature 50-150°C	Water	Direct use	Direct fluid use Heat exchangers Heat pumps

#### Let's get away from power only, and think about thermal/heat usage

- Multiple uses for fluids in the 50°C to 120°C range
  - 70°C 100°C range some electrical generation systems but require significant flow volumes.
  - 110°C + range expanding use of binary systems (cf., Organic Rankin Cycle technology)

![](_page_6_Figure_6.jpeg)

### **Heat is Useful Energy**

The importance of heat in a cold climate

Energy consumption: Huge requirement for space heating in Canada, much supplied by natural gas.

![](_page_7_Figure_3.jpeg)

THE POWER OF  $\Delta T$  (TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCES)

# **Heat is Useful Energy**

How much oil does geothermal replace?

Alberta No. 1 is anticipated to flow at least 300 liters/sec. The heat value of the flow @ 120°C is the heat equivalent of 40 barrels of oil an hour or 350,000 barrels a year.

![](_page_8_Picture_3.jpeg)

## 350,000 barrels a year

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**◆**011

# Heat is Useful Energy

How much brine does geothermal flow?

Alberta No. 1 is anticipated to flow from multiple wells, at least 300 liters/sec. This is enough brine to fill more than 10 Olympic sized swimming pools a day.

![](_page_9_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_9_Picture_4.jpeg)

# Why Geothermal?

GHG and ESG credits and other "green" advantages.

![](_page_10_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### **Geothermal Energy** *IS* **the Solution.**

![](_page_11_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_11_Picture_4.jpeg)

Baseload (24/7 – 365) capabilities and available on demand (dispatchable) and lasts more than 40 years. Most prevalent baseload renewable resource (heat & electricity) in many jurisdictions and excellent Environmental, Societal, Governance (ESG) values. Most effective renewable for Green House Gas (GHG) reductions & lowest environmental footprint of all renewables.

![](_page_11_Figure_8.jpeg)

Dual commodity

value (heat &

electricity) plus "add-

ons" such mineral

extraction and CO<sub>2</sub>

sequestration.

![](_page_11_Picture_9.jpeg)

In areas with existing hydrocarbon industry, geothermal **utilizes** oil and gas assets, expertise and data.

![](_page_12_Picture_1.jpeg)

#### Three times green.

![](_page_12_Picture_3.jpeg)

**Baseload** (24/7 – 365 days a year). Does not require backup peaking capacity as a carrying cost, as is required in systems with a significant intermittent renewable load in order to ensure resiliency of the grid.

![](_page_12_Picture_5.jpeg)

**Battery storage is not required**. Intermittent renewables require battery storage on many grids in order to be stable. Current pricing for intermittent renewables with battery back-up is around 30-40 cent/kWhr. Typically, the battery backup is only capable of storage of a few hours of energy. Battery storage is significantly more costly per kWhr than the intermittent renewables. Batteries also add another level of complexity to the grid.

![](_page_12_Picture_7.jpeg)

**Multi-commodity value**. Developments can produce heat & electricity, supporting both nearby industry (food security for example) as well as more distant industries through grid transmission. Additionally, there is an option for "add-ons" such mineral extraction and  $CO_2$  sequestration depending on local geological conditions that would not have been commercially feasible without the geothermal development.

![](_page_13_Figure_0.jpeg)

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# THE OPPORTUNITY

#### Value chain from geothermal energy production

- Helping industries thrive in a carbon neutral world.
  - Carbon sequestration
  - Carbon credits
  - Cascading use of brine

![](_page_14_Picture_6.jpeg)

- Helping global industry get to net zero while assisting in supporting the Oil and Gas industry.
- New industry
  - Growth of greenhouses (food security)
  - Eco agricultural cluster (industrial composting, greenhouses, aquiculture, agricultural drying)
  - Eco industrial cluster (Hydrogen, ammonia/nitrogen fertilizers, petrochemical processing (Methanol, plastics and solvents)
  - Forest product manufacturing (Oriented Strand Board (OSB), timber drying)
  - Mineral extraction (Li and rare earth elements)

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### THE ASK –EMBRACE CHANGE

#### **Financial**

- Creation of financial instruments to support early entrants in order to mitigate exploration risks and up-front CAPEX concerns of private capital.
  - Tax credits and loan guarantees.
  - Support of increasing carbon tax/credit
  - Thermal and electrical PPA that recognize the GHG reduction potential of geothermal.

#### Political

- Meaningful discussion with geothermal development companies on the regulatory framework, red tape reduction and streamlining project approvals.
  - Simplification of the process.
  - Reengagement on the intention of Bill 36 and the associated regulations.

#### Technical

- R&D support for technical issues and transfer of skills/knowledge from the Oil and Gas industry.
  - Recognition that the existing vast wealth of subsurface data does not answer all of geothermal's questions and technical needs.
- Support R&D on industrial offtakes, such as mineral extraction, CO2 sequestration, and innovative direct use heat uses.

# Why the high CAPEX?

Flow Requirements for Conventional Geothermal

![](_page_16_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### **Fluid Flow Requirements for Power Generation**

Power generation (electricity) fluid flow needs exceed the requirements of direct use requirements

- Low enthalpy systems need very high flow rates and volumes to be commercially viable.
- Required volumetric flow rate necessitates wells with wider diameters than O&G
- To obtain the flows required, well bores and equipment need to be significantly larger.

![](_page_17_Figure_5.jpeg)

Generation potential vs. fluid temperature (Sanyal and Butler 2010).

### How to flow all that fluid?

Technical requirements - Power generation requires significant flow of fluids

![](_page_18_Figure_2.jpeg)

- Required volumetric flow rate necessitates wells with wider diameters than on shore Oil & Gas wells
- At 120C to produce 8MWe of power requires 300 liters per second or 4,755 gallons per minute this is 10X larger than the largest Oil & Gas operations (Arabian horse (400 kg) vs Elephant (4000 kg) and 100 times larger than many operations (cat 4 kg).
- To handle the "elephant" sized flow required for power production well bores are 9 5/8" or larger.
- Large ESP pumps required through 7" or larger tubing.

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# **Geothermal Brine production**

#### How Much Is Produced In 24 Hours?

- Alberta No. 1 is anticipated to flow at least 300 L/sec. or 26 million L/day or 163,000 barrels/day through well bores capable of delivering ~100 l/sec
- Individual wells need to be able to flow ~100 l/s in order to justify costs.

![](_page_19_Picture_4.jpeg)

163,000 bbl/day

Oil Well 10 L/s oil and water 860,000 L/day

![](_page_19_Picture_7.jpeg)

5,400 bbl/day

![](_page_19_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_10.jpeg)

Typical sour gas well head

![](_page_19_Picture_12.jpeg)

Geothermal well head at Dixie Valley, Nevada

![](_page_19_Figure_14.jpeg)

# Well design

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Well bores larger all the way down to accommodate high flow rates and large Electrical submersible pumps.

![](_page_20_Figure_2.jpeg)

 Geothermal: wide diameter; large well bore to accommodate deep set, large capacity pump; volumes of pumped fluids >> 30 l/sec.  Oil and Gas: narrow diameters; shallow, small pumps; small diameter tubing often to depth.; volumes of pumped fluids < 30 l/sec.</li>

## **Geothermal production and injection wells**

Larger sized drill bits and casings sizes

- Larger casing sizes require larger sized bits and rigs with higher handling capacity.
- Bit shown is a 609.6 mm (24 inch) TCI (Tungsten Carbide Insert) bit used for drilling the surface hole at the Clarke Lake, BC project. A more typical size for an oil or gas well in Canada would have been 444.5 mm or possibly 311.2 mm.

![](_page_21_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_5.jpeg)

### **Geothermal wellheads**

Wellheads and surface piping are larger and intended to prevent temperature drops

![](_page_22_Picture_2.jpeg)

Typical geothermal well head in a low temperature field, Soda Lake, Nevada, USA

![](_page_22_Picture_4.jpeg)

Typical gas well head in Alberta

# Well drilling and rigs

Alberta has some of the most experienced well drilling experts in the world

- Deep geothermal development for power production in sedimentary basins will utilize some of the largest rigs available, currently used for very deep Oil&Gas exploration and production.
- Direct use developments which are smaller and the wells are narrower in diameter, will make use of the extensive inventory of "standard" rigs. Smaller, shallower well bores and smaller pumps.

![](_page_23_Picture_4.jpeg)

### **Geothermal Pumps**

Wellheads and surface piping are larger and intended to prevent temperature drops

![](_page_24_Picture_2.jpeg)

In Low temperature geothermal fields such as Alberta, large sized Electrical Submersible Pumps (ESPs) and line shaft pumps are required to move the volumes of water needed for electrical production.

## **Geothermal surface piping**

Wellheads and surface piping are larger and intended to prevent temperature drops

![](_page_25_Picture_2.jpeg)

All that flow requires large surface pipes, some of which could be buried using existing pipeline corridors.

![](_page_25_Picture_4.jpeg)

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#### Will geothermal create or trigger earthquakes?

Targeting injection Stimulation of under performing well bores Injection monitoring

![](_page_26_Picture_2.jpeg)

# **Induced Seismicity**

- Fluid injection is known to trigger seismic events.
- Most documented cases have resulted from re-activation of existing faults.
- Factors that impact induced seismicity:
  - Rate and volume of injection
  - In-situ stress conditions
  - Physical and mechanical host rock properties.

![](_page_27_Figure_7.jpeg)

<u>https://www.frontiersin.org/files/Articles/539240/feart-08-00227-HTML-r1/image\_m/feart-08-00227-g001.jpg</u> (He, Li and Li 2020 injection-induced seismic risk management using machine learning methodology – a perspective study)

# **Induced Seismicity - Prevention**

- Understand existing in-situ stress conditions.
- Monitor rate and volume of injection (no pumping above hydraulic limit for depth)
- Physical and mechanical host rock properties.
- Alberta No. 1 is engaged in a research study with University of Waterloo researchers, Dr. Maurice Dusseault and Mr. Ali Yaghoubi to investigate the potential for induced seismicity in the ABNo1 project area.

![](_page_28_Figure_5.jpeg)

<u>https://www.frontiersin.org/files/Articles/539240/feart-08-00227-HTML-r1/image\_m/feart-08-00227-g001.jpg</u> (He, Li and Li 2020 injection-induced seismic risk management using machine learning methodology – a perspective study) © C.J.Hilckson

# **Wellbore Stimulation**

- Aim is to increase flow in a well (either for injection or production) to commercial levels.
  - Hydrofracking (hydraulic fracturing)
  - Acid "dosing" (reactive fluids)
  - Deflagration
  - Thermal fracturing

![](_page_29_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_7.jpeg)

# Wellbore Stimulation – Hydraulic fracturing

- Hydraulic fracturing is pumping into the formation above lithostatic pressure.
- Pumping creates stress that opens pore space and "proppants" are injected to maintain the fracture openings. Often used with acid dosing.
- PROS: in sedimentary basin plays, process is well understood from oil and gas experience.
- CONS: very expensive and hard to do in the large well bores used by geothermal. Can lead to induced seismicity if regional stress field is not understood.

![](_page_30_Figure_5.jpeg)

# Wellbore Stimulation – Hydraulic fracturing

 Hydraulic fracturing has a very poor public perception; even though it, as a technology, has enabled the USA (for example) to become self sufficient in oil and gas production.

![](_page_31_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Figure_3.jpeg)

See for example Julian Matthews and Anders Hansen, "Fracturing Debate? A Review of Research on Media Coverage of "Fracking", Frontiers in Communication, 2018

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# Wellbore Stimulation - Deflagration

- Subsonic combustion propagating through the near bore formation rock that can open fractures.
- Results have been mixed, but several instances a well has been taken from sub-commercial to commercial within a few months of deflagration.
- PROS: relatively cheap; no proppants required.
- CONS: need to be very well targeted. In hot wells, well must be cooled to prevent premature ignition.

![](_page_32_Figure_5.jpeg)

#### Sign in to download full-size image

Figure 3. Illustration of the pressure front preceding the flame front in a subsonic explosion (deflagration).

# Wellbore Stimulation – Thermal fracturing

- Pumping/circulation of cold water through the drill pipe over days to weeks to months.
- PROS: cheap when a source of cold water is close at hand; no proppants required.
- CONS: takes time, need to set up separate pumping system so rig can be released from site. Many well
  documented cases of success, especially in hot fields where the ΔT is large.

![](_page_33_Figure_4.jpeg)

★ Injection well

https://geothermal-energy-journal.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s40517-019-0141-8, Lepillier, Daniilidis, Gholizadeh, Bruna, Kummerow, and Druhn, 2019

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#### Can existing oil and gas wells be used?

Aka abandoned and orphan wells

![](_page_34_Picture_2.jpeg)

### Orphan wells

Legacy of the Oil and Gas industry

![](_page_35_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### Welcome to the Orphan Well Association

- Orphan wells are wells that have been drilled, but now have no ownership.
- With ownership comes the liability to plug and abandon (P&A) the well and restore the site to its original characteristics.
- Without ownership, these wells are a continued liability to complete the plug and abandon (P&A) and environmental restoration of the site.
- Geothermal companies are typically small companies created specifically to carryout geothermal operations; without the financial resources to assume potentially significant liabilities in assuming an orphan well.
- Challenge for governments is the liability issue surrounding environmental concerns.
## Re-purposing wells – wellbores

#### Legacy of the Oil and Gas industry

- Over 600,000 wells have been drilled in Alberta
- Wells could be re-purposed as observation wells, injection wells or production wells.
- Wells must have a high water cut and flow rate (production rate).
- Entering a P&A well and dealing with drilling through the plug *must* be cost effective.
- Well bore conditions (corrosion, erosion or other issues arising from production (or injection) require good existing records and additional logging prior to re-entry.



A typical energy wellbore: integrity of cement casing key to preventing leaking emissions.

https://thetyee.ca/News/2014/06/05/Canada-Leaky-Energy-Wells/

## Re-purposing wells – wellbores – case study

#### Tu Deh-Kah Geothermal, British Columbia

- Case Study from the Clarke Lake gas field, British Columbia Project, known to be highly productive with a significant water cut, over a long time period.
- Very high water cut termed "exceptional" by some.
- Early assessment indicated that one or more wells were worthy of consideration to re-purpose.
- C-87-gas well, originally drilled in 1997, was chosen; well was intermittently producing.
- Well and lease were acquired; re-permitted as a disposal well for reservoir characteristic testing
- Stuck packer became problematic and created cost overruns.
- Well completed with a whip stock around packer and debris. Casing evaluation suggests that well has limited commercial lifespan.
- Outcome cheaper than drilling an exploration well to test reservoir.



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## Re-purposing wells – surface fascilities

#### Legacy of the Oil and Gas industry

- Use of existing sites are a quick pathway to development; saving time and money.
- Wellbores with flows (>10 l/sec), close to existing infrastructure may be considered for re-purposing for small developments (greenhouses, drying fascilities, aquiculture, etc.). Also, in some locations well pads are in close proximity to each other and can be used as a doublet (injector and producer).
  - CONS: Need to acquire existing surface rights <u>and</u> subsurface rights if there is a drilled well on the site (current AE/AER regulations). Beware of "legacy" liabilities related to previous activity. Is continued use of the well dependent on oil and gas revenue? Is there a near-by well that can be used as an injector?
  - PROS: Can speed up site acquisition process (which in some cases can take years). Often less need for additional construction costs. Less disruption of the land.



#### How do we make geothermal financially viable?

Regulations Power sales Thermal (direct use sales) Holistic and integrated developments Carbon credits and politics





https://www.listeningpays.co m/how-to-deal-with-theelephant-in-the-room/

How can government and investors best take advantage of the "elephant in the room" that is the global geothermal resource endowment?

## The keys to the geothermal market

- Economics of projects are very different for oil and gas investors.
- Social acceptance of a "new Industry".
- Helping corporations increase their Environment-Social-Governance (ESG) credits.
- Technology transition while preserving core expertise in Oil and Gas.
- Moving the needle on the value of heat (thermal energy)

Value of hydrocarbons to the economy of Alberta

Current \$ value of electricity

Political

Current \$ value of heat (thermal energy)

Technical

Electricity **Generating Plant** Transmission Heat Exchanger đ District Heating System **Production Well Injection Well** 4,000 Metres 2,000 Hot Reservoir

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**Financial** 

## **Geothermal's commercial hurdles**

- Carbon emitters have not fully grasped the long-term implications of carbon tax on the economics of their operations.
- Challenging to show early returns due to low price of power and natural gas in Alberta.
- "First in kind" seen as too risky for most/many investors.
- Institutional investment wants to come in after drilling risk is removed.
- Skepticism as to the potential for build out of projects.
- Economics of projects are very different for oil and gas investors.
- Inability to get debit financing during early phases of a project.

**Political** 

Technical

• Mezzanine or bridging financing very costly.



#### © C.J.HIckson

Financial

## **Geothermal's commercial hurdles**



#### **Expanding Conventional Geothermal's Value Chain**

Holistic and eco-industrial development





#### (\*Depending on local geological conditions)

## **Power and Heat (thermal) Projects**

How conventional geothermal can be competitive in the global marketplace.



Eundamentals of conventional geothermal are thermal heat recovery and in some place's electricity generation

## Heat (thermal) only projects

Thermal only projects may be able to get a boost by being carbon negative



## **Schematic Development Plans**

PLAN A – Heat, power, CO<sub>2</sub>S, ±minerals PLAN B – Heat, CO<sub>2</sub>S, ± minerals PLAN C – Minerals, CO<sub>2</sub>S PLAN D – CO<sub>2</sub>S (and/or oil field disposal)



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## Schematic Development Plan A: Power



#### + Carbon & Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) Credits



## Hybrid (Holistic) Systems

Scenario A requires geological conditions that provide the commercial viability for all commodities – **RARE!** 



Addition of solar and other forms of hybrid systems (e.g., thermal storage, co-generation) may help economics in • cspecific jurisdictions as well as support of offset parasitic loads providing more green geothermal power to the grid.

### + Carbon & Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) Credits





#### Plan B – Heat infrastructure

If geothermal brines are not commercially viable for geothermal power development, revenue will be generated from **thermal energy sales**.

Value additions of:

- + Mineral extraction from produced brines
- + CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration into injection wells
- + Sale of environmental attributes

#### **Development Efficiencies**

 Cost savings are gained by minimizing the piping length between optimized surface locations and the thermal load.



B

#### + Carbon & Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) Credits

#### European adoption of District Heating is much more widespread than North America

- Need to grow district heating projects in areas where temperatures aren't high enough for power generation.
- Lower CAPEX due to shallower, smaller wells and infrastructure.
- **Possibility to repurpose existing wells and infrastructure.**
- Europe has a high-density population.
- Surface drilling locations (within 5 to 10 km) can be piped to a central generation facility, maximizing the output of the facility.

#### Southampton District Energy Scheme by Southampton Geothermal Heating Company Ltd.



# Q How can we help you?

engie

#### + Carbon & Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) Credits

**Developing Other direct use options** 

JUBILEE POOL



Relax, unwind and enjoy the view in our geothermal pool, the first of its kind in the UK. Bathe in natural salt water heated to between 30-35 degrees by our very own geothermal well.

+ Carbon & Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) Credits

**Developing Other direct use options** 



+ Carbon & Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) Credits

**Developing Other direct use options** 

#### EXPLORING °CELSIUS GEOTHERMAL TECHNOLOGY



1. Sustainable Distillery Research Centre

2. Geothermal Rum Distillery

3. Geothermal Cask Maturation Pods



**Bum distillation!** 

R

Scenario B has greater potential to find locations that provide commercial viability for more than one commodity.



Addition of solar and other forms of hybrid systems (e.g., thermal storage, co-generation) may help economics in © cspecific jurisdictions as well as support of offset parasitic loads providing more green geothermal power to the grid.

#### + Carbon & Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) Credits

#### + Hydro-carbon co-production



identified. Based on the available data of gas contents in geothermal fluids, areas of interest for co-production projects could be selected. Then, different scenarios were considered to assess the techno-economic potential of two sites, based on performance evaluation and a simplified economic model. The preliminary calculations showed that, in all scenarios, methane can be extracted and its combustion can be used for heat and electricity production. The geothermal fluid could also be exploited for heat or power production, depending on the geothermal resource quality and flow volume.

## Futera Power, Swan Hills, Alberta





FutEra Power is developing the first **co-produced geothermal power plant** in Canada, within legacy oil and gas infrastructure in Swan Hills, AB. The region has been long known for its high well head temperatures (~100°C), high water cuts and very high production rates. These are all attributes that are necessary for successful dual use of existing oil and gas infrastructure. The company plans to commission power generation in Q1, 2022 that includes 3MWe geothermal. FutEra will likely be the next company to produce geothermal power in Canada since the 1984 generation at Mount British Columbia. Check out FutEra's Meager web site https://www.futerapower.com/ for more information.



A Subsidiary of Razor Energy Corp.

FutEra power plant under construction. Commissioning is expected Q1, 2022



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Value additions of:

- + CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration into disposal wells
- + Sale of environmental attributes

## **Schematic Development Plan C: Mineral extraction**

Working on Lithium extraction technology from oil field brines



Addition of solar and other forms of hybrid systems (e.g., thermal storage, co-generation) may help economics in capecific jurisdictions as well as support of offset parasitic loads providing more green geothermal power to the grid.

## **Schematic Development Plan C: Mineral extraction**



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## **Schematic Development Plan D: Carbon Sequestration**

#### + Carbon & Environmental, Societal and Governance (ESG) Credits



#### Plan D – No Minerals (project risk mitigation)

*If geothermal brines are not commercially viable for geothermal development, revenue will be generated from:* 

+ CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration into disposal wells
+ Sale of environmental attributes to companies producing Blue hydrogen, Methanol or other GHG generating commodities.

#### **Development Efficiencies**

Sequestration and/or well field brine disposal facilities will require agreements with other companies to develop facilities (JV, earn-in, royalties, etc.).



D

## **Carbon sequestration**

What if we come up with a cold unproductive well?



Addition of solar and other forms of hybrid systems (e.g., thermal storage, co-generation) may help economics in capecific jurisdictions as well as support of offset parasitic loads providing more green geothermal power to the grid.

## **Carbon sequestration provides two options**

- 1. Makes a thermal heating project viable in a sparsely populated region like Canada.
- 2. Provides an economic solution for a well that other values are not achievable Risk mitigation



## **Carbon sequestration – how do we do it?**

Co-injection similar to "Water assisted gravity" disposal used for sour gas.

Concerns – long term impact on permeability of the reservoir; impact on surface and subsurface infrastructure.

Multiple completions into another reservoir

Concerns – break throughs to the geothermal reservoir; completion difficulties; testing; impact on surface and subsurface infrastructure.





Cold fluid after removal of

associated products

## **Carbon sequestration – how do we do it?**

Research collaboration project with one of Canada's national laboratories, CanmetENERGY and University of Alberta researchers who have been heavily involved in Alberta's existing carbon sequestration projects, such as Quest.



**Rick Chalaturnyk PhD** 



Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineerin Principal Investigator, GeoREF Foundation CMG Chair in Reservoir Geomech

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Department: Civil and Environmental Engineering

#### **CanmetENERGY in Ottawa**



#### Clean Energy | Research | Innovation | Leadership

CanmetENERGY Ottawa's mission is to lead the development of energy science and technology (S&T) solutions for the environmental and economic benefit of Canadians. In pursuit of this mission, we:

- apply our scientific expertise and leverage our unique pilot-scale facilities
- accelerate the advancement of clean energy technologies, from the initial research stage through to commercialization
- collaborate with partners, including manufacturers, academia, planners, builders, and all levels of government

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## **Carbon sequestration – CarbFix, Iceland**

- Still challenges to be cost effective
- Basalt appears to be highly reactive
- No reports on reservoir impacts
- Scalability unclear
- Need similar geological conditions close to major CO<sub>2</sub> emitters (carbon capture fascilities).



## We turn CO<sub>2</sub> into stone

Carbfix provides a natural and permanent storage solution by turning CO<sub>2</sub> into stone underground in less than two years.



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## **Upside Opportunities**

Increase in Carbon Pricing

# Canada's carbon price can provide even greater value for investors.

	Upside Case (\$170/tCO <sub>2</sub> )	Base Case (\$50/tCO <sub>2</sub> )
Project IRR	22.6%	16.0%
Equity IRR (if held in perpetuity)	30.0%	20.0%
Operating EBITDA	\$17,223 in 2025	\$13,384 in 2025
EV Increase	\$38,390	

(All monetary values are in \$CAD)

# **Financial upside**



## Microgrids of "Firm" energy for industrial clusters

Developing microgrids for power and thermal energy could create scalable opportunities for geothermal power and heat.

## This leads us to...

Opinion: Microgrids could prevent need for planned power outages

Cornwall and South-West England as an eco-industrial powerhouse.



Micro district and industrial heating grids will be important because of Alberta's population sparsity and low density. https://theclimatecenter.org/opinion-microgrids-could-prevent-need-for-planned-power-outages/

## Project Location M.D. of Greenview No. 16



#### Industrial Setting

- Proximity to "CanMex" transportation routes
  - International Railway link
  - Grand Prairie Airport national hub & Class "E" airspace
  - Paved highways 40 & 43 national connections and Waterways F. (minor target)
- Grovedale and Greenview Industrial Gateway industrial parks.
- Existing industry forestry, agriculture, and hydrocarbon.
- Significant potential for colocation with large CO<sub>2</sub> emitters.

## What's missing?

Getting on with it!


## What's Missing? Why isn't the world drilling?

#### Technical

- Investors wary and uncertain of this new form of energy in the Global marketplace.
- Distraction with other "hot" technologies.

#### Political

- Presenting a compelling case to government for the type of support needed to incentivize a new industry.
- Continued lobbying for government support for direct-use projects and continued support for geothermal projects in general.
- Red tape and bureaucracy around well licensing, subsurface and surface rights.
- In general, geothermal seen as too small to make an impact.
- Distraction with COVID and economic recovery of failing parts of the economy.

#### Financial

• Creation of financial instruments to support early entrants and overcome early project phase CAPEX and cash flow uncertainties.

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## **Canada's Geothermal Development**

- Not try to compete with inexpensive natural gas and low-cost electrical generation – emphasize other values.
- Another tool in the toolbox to help reduce GHGs and encourage the energy transition.
- "Green incentives" (carbon tax) need to continue to be supported to make projects viable and disincentive hydrocarbon-based projects.
- Raising capital based on multi commodity model (e.g., carbon sequestration) applicable for conventional geothermal.
- Focus on thermal energy, hybrid systems and microgrids.
- Provincial financial instruments or incentive support to prove conventional geothermal can become an industry and have a significant pipeline of projects.

#### Western Canada Sedimentary Basin (WCSB)



Based on Bell and Grasby, 2011

## **WCSB Geothermal Development in the Past**

#### 5 years ago, geothermal development in the WCSB was not commercially viable.

- Extremely difficult to raise capital.
- Abundant and cheap fossil fuel alternatives (natu gas, coal).
- No government grants or other low-cost investment funding (or stimulus incentives).

## Some developments possible with geoexchange & hybrid systems (solar).

- CAPEX for solar and wind was reduced, and developments incentivized.
- Led to significant buildout.

Western Canada Sedimentary Basin (WCSB)



Based on Bell and Grasby, 2011

## Has anything Changed?

#### **Highlights for the industry in the WCSB:**

- "Green incentives" (carbon tax) now a reality.
- Interest in renewables (coal generation being phased out).
- Regulatory framework in Alberta introduced.
- Federal matching dollar grants continues.
- Growing interest in geothermal energy- reduce GHGs and put Alberta's work force back to work.

#### **Challenges That Remain:**

- Abundant and inexpensive natural gas.
- Regulatory framework not supportive of geothermal.
- Inexpensive electrical power.

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- Limited provincial grant or incentive support.
- Convincing the Alberta Government to support the energy transition to geothermal in a meaningful way.

#### Western Canada Sedimentary Basin (WCSB)



Based on Bell and Grasby, 2011

## The Role of Government

#### What is really needed to create a geothermal industry in Canada

- Government recognition that geothermal resources fill a basic infrastructure needs of a northern climate such as Alberta and Canada in general.
- Understanding that geothermal can support new development of industries (e.g., increase flood security through home grown "green" food).
- Like bridges, roads, highways, and pipelines, delivery of geothermal thermal energy must be considered "infrastructure" and the costs born across the taxpayer.
- A regulatory framework that is clear and supportive of development of new industry.
- Financial instruments that help overcome early adopter capex and cash flow challenges.
- Support for municipalities (regulatory, technical and financial) to consider geothermal as part of the toolbox for energy transition and GHG reduction.

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# When there's an elephant in the room,



I like to hop on board and ride it around.

Recognize that geothermal is the "elephant in the room" – a perfect fit for many around the globe, assisting in their energy transition – corporations and government need to get behind it and give it a push. Push harder.

## Thanks!



Aberdeen Section



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