



Physics Seminar

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Friday September 19, 2008
PSC 3046
4:00 pm

Geothermal Potential in Canada: Dirty Secrets about Clean Energy

Rising energy prices and concern about greenhouse gas emissions have created an increase in geothermal energy utilization for both electricity generation and direct-use applications. Such projects have an enormous potential to alleviate our dependence on fossil fuels with existing technology. However, there has been little assessment of the long-term sustainability of geothermal energy utilization from both thermal and environmental perspectives and the legal framework governing these projects is poor in most jurisdictions. Recent studies from both North America and Europe suggest that there are significant issues pertaining to long-term performance of individual systems and the opportunity for more widespread development. Current research is focusing on providing improved modeling techniques to assist management of this resource.

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