

Status of the South Meager Geothermal Project British Columbia, Canada: Resource Evaluation and Plans for Development

**Ghomshei, M.¹, Sanyal, S.K.², MacLeod, K.³, Henneberger, R.C.², Ryder, A.³, Meech, J.¹,
and Fainbank, B.⁴**

**¹Centre for Environmental Research in Minerals, Metals, and Materials (CERM3),
Department of Mining Engineering, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.**

²GeothermEx, Inc., 5221 Central Avenue, Suite 201, Richmond, CA 94804 USA

³Western GeoPower Corporation, Vancouver, B.C.

⁴Fairbank Engineering Ltd., Vancouver, B.C.

Keywords

Canadian geothermal power, Meager Creek, British Columbia, geothermal resource confirmation, geothermal drilling

ABSTRACT

Potential resources of geothermal power in Canada are principally found in British Columbia, along the costal range, associated with young volcanic activity in the so-called "circum-pacific ring of fire". Other Pacific Rim states have already developed highly commercial geothermal power facilities. Canada has been lagging behind, mostly due to the presence of cheap hydropower in British Columbia. With escalating energy demand and prices, geothermal appears to be the most practical and environmentally clean option to the Province. Early geological, geophysical and gradient drilling activities in the 1970s identified several interesting prospects. " Meager Creek" located 170 km north of Vancouver became the selected site for detailed exploration and deep drilling. Despite encouraging data, the project was frustrated by economical downturns during the early 1980 s and low energy prices. The South Meager project has the goal of becoming the first Canadian commercial geothermal power development. MT surveys followed by three deep slim holes discovered a high-temperature permeable zone associated with the volcanic vents connected to Pylon peak. This information identified a target for two deep production-size wells to be completed in 2004. The capacity of the reservoir is estimated at 100 MW (net), while the probable capacity of the South Meager site is believed to be about 250 MW. The first phase of commercial production is planned to come on line by mid-2007.

For a copy of this paper please e-mail us at mw@geothermex.com