

PROJECT LIFECYCLE IN THE OFFICE OF GEOTHERMAL



U.S. DEPARTMENT
of ENERGY

Hydrocarbons and
Geothermal Energy Office

The Office of Geothermal follows U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) guidelines to fund research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) that advances geothermal energy. Here's how that works.

1

Research Priorities

The Office of Geothermal collects input from stakeholders to understand RD&D gaps and priorities and develop its strategic plans.

Budget and Funding

The President issues a budget request for the upcoming fiscal year.

Congress negotiates and establishes a budget that determines the Office of Geothermal's funding for that fiscal year and may direct specific RD&D.

2

Pre-Application

Applicants review the solicitation for requirements, eligibility, and deadlines. If required, applicants submit Letters of Intent or Concept Papers.

Opportunity

The Office of Geothermal issues competitive solicitations such as Notices of Funding Opportunity, Partnership Intermediary Agreements, and prizes. The best way to stay apprised of solicitations is subscribing to the Office of Geothermal's emails. The Office of Geothermal cannot discuss upcoming or open solicitations with external parties.

4



3

5

Application

Interested and eligible parties develop and submit applications, which must adhere to solicitation requirements and be submitted by the deadline.

Merit Review

The Office of Geothermal convenes subject matter experts to support the merit-based, impartial selection process. Reviewers score applications based on pre-established criteria made available to applicants in the solicitation.

6

7

Notifications/Negotiations

The Office of Geothermal notifies applicants of DOE's decision and begins negotiations with selected projects.

- Selectees may be asked to submit additional documentation, revise objectives and milestones, or modify budgets.
- Finalizing negotiations includes signing a contract with DOE, after which DOE authorizes funding and selectees are considered funding recipients.



Selections

Based on the results of the merit review, the Office of Geothermal makes selections.

Research, Technology, and Economic Security (RTES) Reviews

Applications are subject to a review of disclosures, certifications, and all project participants' resumes/biosketches.

9

8

10

Performance and Evaluation

Recipients execute their RD&D, submitting deliverables and invoices to DOE. The Office of Geothermal conducts project oversight, monitoring progress and ensuring adherence to objectives.

When projects are complete, recipients work with DOE to provide necessary documents or reports, receive final payments, and close the contract.

Data and Information Sharing

Office of Geothermal-funded projects upload project data to the Geothermal Data Repository, making data publicly available. Projects also provide technical reports, which are available via DOE's Office of Scientific and Technical Information. The Office of Geothermal and project participants might also present RD&D at technical conferences and other events.



11

More details are available on the Office Geothermal's website, in DOE's guide to merit review, and in the opportunity documentation.

DOE/EE-2907 • June 2026



APPROPRIATIONS

FUNDING RELEASE & APPLICATION

SELECTION

PROJECTS