



## Department of Energy

Golden Field Office  
1617 Cole Boulevard  
Golden, Colorado 80401-3305

September 19, 2008

DOE/EA 1621

### FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PROPOSED OREGON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DEEP GEOTHERMAL WELL AND POWER PLANT, KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON

**AGENCY:** Department of Energy, Golden Field Office

**ACTION:** Finding of No Significant Impact

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzed the potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of a proposed deep geothermal well and power plant. The facilities would be located on the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) campus at 3201 Campus Drive in the City of Klamath Falls in Klamath County, Oregon.

DOE proposes to provide Congressionally Directed Federal Funding to OIT for their proposed deep geothermal well. The power plant will not be constructed with DOE or cost share funding, but was included in the EA as a connected action. All discussion, analysis and findings related to the potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposed deep geothermal well and power plant are contained in the Final EA. The Final EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

The proposed project would be implemented by the OIT Geo-Heat Center. The proposed action includes:

- Installation of a 5,000 to 6,000 foot deep geothermal well to be drilled into a fault along the east side of campus that would encounter an estimated 300 degree Fahrenheit (°F) geothermal resource,
- Construction of a 1.2 megawatt (MW) binary (organic Rankine cycle) power plant,
- Construction of a pipeline connecting the new well to the new power plant,  
and



- Connection of the power plant to existing transformers to supply the electricity generated to campus buildings.

Construction would take place entirely within previously disturbed areas, including an existing paved parking lot, an existing pipeline corridor, and a previously graded area adjacent to the current geothermal heat exchange building. The proposed power plant would provide 100 percent of the electricity demand on campus, and any excess generated electricity would be sold into the grid through a net metering system. The project would serve as a demonstration site and as an educational training facility for OIT students and faculty. Information obtained by students and faculty would be made available in an outreach program to interested developers, communities, and public agencies to assist in the evaluation of similar projects elsewhere in the country.

In accordance with applicable regulations and policies, DOE sent scoping letters to potentially interested local, State, and Federal agencies. Scoping letters were also sent to local Native American tribes. The scoping letters described the Proposed Action and requested assistance in identifying potential issues that could be evaluated in the EA. DOE also sent scoping letters to other potentially interested agencies, organizations, and individuals announcing the availability of the Draft EA for public comment. DOE mailed a scoping notice to adjacent contiguous property owners and posted the notice on the DOE Golden Field Office reading room website. No public comments or comments from individuals or organizations raising specific objections or concerns about the proposed action were received. The environmental document was also duly noticed to adjacent contiguous property owners and interested parties as identified by DOE and was posted on the DOE Golden Field Office reading room website. DOE received no comments during the public review period for the Draft EA.

**DETERMINATION:** DOE determines that providing funding to support the construction and operation of the proposed deep geothermal well and power plant on OIT's campus, Klamath Falls, Oregon, would not constitute a major Federal Action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act.

The applicant-committed measures identified in the Proposed Action of the EA shall be incorporated and enforceable through DOE's funding award documents. The measures include obtaining and complying with all required permits and minimizing potential impacts through the implementation of construction and operation Best Management Practices and other identified design features.

The preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and DOE is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

All discussions and findings related to the project site and the Proposed Action are contained within the Final EA. Copies of the Final EA are available at the following locations:


DOE Golden Field Office Public Reading Room  
Website: [http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/Reading\\_Room.aspx](http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/Reading_Room.aspx)

Oregon Institute of Technology  
Geo-Heat Center  
3201 Campus Drive  
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601  
Website: <http://geoheat.oit.edu/>

For further information of the DOE NEPA process contact:

Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance  
U. S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue. S. W  
Washington, DC 20585  
(202) 586-4600 or 1-800-472-2756

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Rita Wells  
Manager