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FEATURE MATERIAL

FROM THE U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Needs for electric power have been increasing rapidly. To meet expanding power requirements, coal and oil must contribute their full share of energy production to be developed. Atomic energy probably will contribute a significant part of geothermal energy - a previously untapped natural resource in the United States - now looms large on the horizon. The following "briefs" on geothermal energy are being prepared by the U. S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior (and material)



Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.

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untapped natural resource that may provide energy for certain parts of the United States. The power production are local in extent, reduces the severity of pollution problems and methods of energy production, especially

generally used to include energy plus any that can be extracted from steam and hot water. An important item - and one of greatest current energy - which is electric power generated by drilling areas through drill holes, and channelling

of heat, and its surface displays "hot spots" or areas of "recent" volcanic activity. In particular along the Pacific Coast, widespread volcanic activity occurred during the past 10 million years; this provides a basis for geothermal power development. Over 80% of geothermal energy are in the United States, most of it stored in rocks in the upper 6 miles of the crust.

- * The U. S. Geological Survey estimates that as much as 1.3 million acres of land, mostly within the western portions of the United States, including Hawaii, and possibly Alaska, may be potentially attractive for geothermal development and may provide an energy source of from 15 to 30 thousand megawatts. Most of the sites that appear promising for geothermal development are on Federal or public lands.

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GEOTHERMAL POWER

A POTENTIAL NEW ALASKAN INDUSTRY

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