



Briefing Notice

Geothermal Energy: Heating Up

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

2 PM – 3:30 PM

212-10 Capitol Visitor Center (Senate-Side)

Please RSVP to expedite check-in: www.eesi.org/031616geothermal#rsvp

Live webcast (connection permitting) will be streamed at: www.eesi.org/livecast

The **Geothermal Energy Association** (GEA) and **Environmental and Energy Study Institute** (EESI) invite you to a briefing highlighting the state of the geothermal energy industry and its near-term prospects in the United States and in more than 80 other countries working to expand its use. With demand for clean energy accelerating around the globe, geothermal energy has major potential as a renewable resource that can provide power around-the-clock, complementing intermittent renewable power technologies. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) launched the Global Geothermal Alliance at COP-21 in Paris this past December to achieve a 500 percent increase in global installed capacity for geothermal power generation and a 200 percent increase in geothermal heating by 2030. Speakers for this forum are:

- **Sakari Oksanen**, Deputy Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- **Doug Glaspey**, President and COO, U.S. Geothermal Inc.
- **Jack Thirolf**, Director of Regulatory Affairs, ENEL Green Power
- **Meseret Zemedkun**, Project Manager, African Rift Geothermal Development Facility (ARGeo), Regional Office for Africa (ROA), United Nations Environment Programme
- **Benjamin Matek**, Industry Analyst & Research Projects Manager, Geothermal Energy Association

Global market demand for geothermal development has been growing faster than U.S. demand due to support from Power Africa, the World Bank, IRENA and other multilateral organizations. Kenya now produces 51 percent of its electricity from geothermal sources, and with the formation of the Global Geothermal Alliance, many countries are investing in the expansion of their geothermal programs.

While growth has been slow, the potential for geothermal energy in the United States is significant. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that in 13 western states alone there could be up to 73,286 megawatts (MW) of geothermal resources yet to be discovered. Should these geothermal-rich areas be harnessed, tens of thousands of U.S. jobs would be created. Geothermal plants in states such as California, Nevada, Utah, Hawaii, and Oregon, directly employ about 1.17 permanent workers per MW. This is a considerably higher employment rate than coal plants, which employ approximately 0.18 permanent workers per MW.

This briefing is being held in conjunction with the [U.S. & International Geothermal Energy Showcase](#) in Washington, DC. The showcase will be held on March 17, bringing together participants from across the globe to discuss the future of the geothermal industry, cutting-edge technologies, how to stimulate geothermal industry growth, and more. The showcase will also mark the release of GEA's *2016 Annual U.S. and International Geothermal Power Production Report*.

This EESI briefing is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Laura Small at lsmall@eesi.org or (202) 662-1892.

