

# **STATE GETS GEOTHERMAL MONEY**

Clarissa M. Quinlan, Director of the Alaska Division of Energy & Power Development, today announced that the State of Alaska has been awarded \$99,892 from the U.S. Department of Energy to initiate a Geothermal Development Program.

The objectives of the Program are to identify and conduct resource evaluation for 12 sites in Alaska for geothermal development. Statutes and regulations that currently hinder geothermal projects will be investigated. In addition the Geothermal Program will coordinate Federal, State, local, and private geothermal efforts.

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# • Geothermal projects studied

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Don Markle, Geothermal Specialist for the Division of Energy commented "Little site specific geothermal evaluations have been conducted in Alaska and this program will allow the State to conduct a site by site review of currently available physical data in 12 priority sites, and develop exploration and reservoir analysis plans for them.

Clarissa Quinlan stated, "Most of Alaska's 367 million

acres of land is undergoing some kind of change in classification or ownership. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, the Alaska Statehood Act and Federal classification of lands under the Antiquities Act, Federal land Management and Policy Act and d-2 land legislation will affect geothermal development. A major object of this effort will be to determine which acts are going to effect geothermal energy and make the appropriate entities aware of this

effect.

"The implementation of this program will benefit the people of Alaska by speeding the development of geothermal energy instead of using increasingly expensive, non-renewable fossil fuels."

The Alaska Division of Energy is also undertaking a geothermal demonstration project at Pilgrim Hot Springs, 50 miles northeast of Nome.