Orkustofnun

The Icelandic National Energy Authority

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EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC SUPPORT MODELS FOR GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT IN ICELAND



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Geothermal map of Iceland. (Basemap: Geological map of Iceland by Haukur Jóhannesson and Kristján Sæmundsson 1999. Iceland. 1:1.000.000. Icelandic Institute of Natural History

Role of Orkustofnun

- Public administration of the energy sector and advisors to the government
- Long term planning of energy use, utilisation of the resources and the energy infrastructure
- Contracting and conducting research on resource utilisation
- Accumulating and maintaining databases on energy utilisation and forecasts for future trends





Role of Orkustofnun

- Issues permits for exploration and utilisation of energy and earth based resources
- Issues power plant licences
- Is the regulator for the national grid
- Is the official monitoring body of issued licenses
- Fuel sector administration and work on transition to low carbon fuels
- Administrates The Energy Agency, The Energy Fund and special initiatives for geothermal exploration
- Hosts the UNU University Geothermal Training
 Programme



Role of Orkustofnun









Painting by Haukur Stefánsson 1930

Energy Security during the Great Frost Winter 1917–1918

- Due to the First World War, 1914–1918, the market price for coal increased and coal was rationed.
- Combined with extremely cold weather conditions when temperatures measured minus 25 degrees Celsius in Reykjavik at the most on January 21,1918 possibilities of geothermal based DHS was discussed.
- At that time the farm Suðurreykir had been heating buildings with geothermal for a decade.
- The Prime Minister, Jón Þorláksson, an engineer, initiated the discussion on building a district heating system in Reykjavik in 1926. He later became the Major of Reykjavik in 1933–1935.









Laugarveitan First Geothermal based DHS in 1930

Laugarnes Production Field 3 km away

- After two years of drilling in Laugarnes14 shallow wells where drilled. The result was 14 l/s of artesian flowing water at 87° C (deepest 246 m).
- The water was transported 3 km in a pipeline from the geothermal field to the Laugarveitan District Heating System.
- Two primary schools, a swimming hall, the main hospital, public buildings and 60 family homes in the capital area where connected over the next decade with good success.



Drilling in Laugarnes



The primary school Austurbæjarskóli



District Heating in Reykjavik

- Great Frost Winter 1917–1918
 - Market price for coal increased and coal was rationed.
 - Minus 25 degrees Celsius in January 21,1918
 - The farm Suðurreykir had been heating buildings with geothermal for a decade.
- Laugarveitan First Geothermal based DHS in 1930
- Expansion of the DHS 1934–1955 Reykir Production Field 18 km away









Political and legal milestones

- 1937–1938 Bill for Geothermal Research introduced to the parliament which didn't pass.
- 1938 Expansion of the DHS was an influential part of the municipality elections in Reykjavik
- 1940–1945 National Research Council supported exploration drilling into high temperature systems.
- **1944** DHS in Olafsfjordur inaugurated.
- 1948 DHS in Selfoss & Hveragerdi
- **1953** The parliament passed a law allowing the state to finance up to 80% of the total investment cost of drilling and building a DHS outside of the capital area.
- 1953 DHS at Saudarkrokur
- **1961** Geothermal Energy Fund and State Drilling Company established offering financing for research and drilling.
- **1961–1983** Over 350 loans issued for drilling and building DHS across the country and over 20 DHS where built.





Geothermal Boreholes in Reykjavik





Geothermal District Heating Storage Tanks in Reykjavik





Space Heating by Source from 1970





Impact on Economy

From an economical perspective, the present value of the estimated savings of house heating with geothermal instead of oil between 1970 and 2008 is estimated at 880.000 million ISK

In 2008 the estimated savings of that year amounted to about 12% of the value of imported goods or almost equivalent to the total imports of refined oil products.



Avoided cost



From an economical perspective, the present value of the estimated savings of house heating with geothermal instead of oil between 1914 and 2013, using 2% real interest rate over the cost price index, is estimated at 2,500 billion ISK (132 ISK/US\$). In 2014 the estimated savings of that year amounted to about 5.5% of the GDP of Iceland or 2,300 US\$ per capita.



Comparison of Energy Prices for Residential Heating Mid year 2014



USD cents/kWh



ICELAND 1945 - 2005



http://www2.stjr.is/frr/thst/rit/sogulegt/english.htm



http://www.os.is/

A Game Changer for Public Health

Reykjavík 1933

Reykjavík today







Geothermal Heat 2014















Electricity Generation and Use 2014

General use3 TWh17%Large industries14 TWh77%System loss0,4 TWh2%and plant use100 minute









Electricity Generation with Geothermal



National Energy Authority

Implicit Support for Geothermal

- Scientific research
- Surveying
- Early power plant development
- Legal and regulatory framework
- Central data register



- Financial Backup
- International cooperation
- GEORG
- The Deep Drilling
 Project
- The Master Plan

Installed capacity in hydro power plants





Masterplan - The vision

Prepare an overview of the various potential energy projects

Hydro and geothermal (+?)

Evaluate and rank the projects based on their

- energy and economic potential,
- national economy
- estimated impact on nature, environment, cultural heritage and the society
- potential for other uses of the areas in question.







Figure 8: Flow diagram illustrating the processes around the Master Plan.



Results from Master Plan Phase II

A total number of 84 potential power projects were evaluated during the second phase in 2011

Master Plan ranking 28 hydropower projects and 38 geothermal projects approved by the Parliament in 2012.



2nd Master plan Class Sizes in Final Resolution		
Electric Power Potential	Hydro GWh/a	Geo- thermal GWh/a
Electricity Production (2010)	12,592	4,465
Appropriate for Development	1,024	8,801
Existing & To be developed	13,616	13,266
Appropriate for Protection	7,745	17,765
Awaiting further Consideration	8,310	4,205
Total – Existing & Master Plan	29,671	35,236



The Deep Drilling Project



Lessons learned from Iceland

Important to lower the risk of projects in the beginning by supporting exploration and test drilling

Grants to homeowners for transformation to GeoDH

Important for financial institutions to recognize opportunities with GeoDH

Longterm savings for the economy tremendous by using domestic resources







- Preliminary Survey, Permits, Market Analysis, etc. 1%
- Exploration 1.5%
- Test Drilling, Well Testing, Reservoir Evaluation 9.2%
- Feasibility Study, Project Planning, Funding, Contracts, Insurances, etc. 3.6%
- Drilling of boreholes 35.7%
- Construction (power plant, cooling, infrastructure, etc.) 38.3%
- Steam Gathering System and Substation, Connection to Grid. 8.2%
- Start-up and Commissioning 2.6%

Conclusion

- Utilisation of geothermal power has expanded rapidly during the last decades.
- Global crises effect national policies.
- Loans important to support exploration drilling to lower the risk of GeoDH operations.
- Iceland's long-term objective is to ensure long term utilisation of the resource and the legal amendments as future implementation of the Master Plan are steps in maintaining and sustaining this objective.
- The legal framework is extensive.
- Effective policy making and official monitoring for sustaining a renewable energy society is crucial for a long-term sustainable yield of the resource.



Thank you