



by Peter Tavino, P.E., CGD

It seems like ground source heating and cooling is catching on better, because there's a lot more design and inspection work for me right now. To give WWGR readers a sense of my engineering work, here are the jobs I am juggling right now:

1. We received Wetlands Commission approval three nights ago to drill and trench near a lake. The borehole was moved so its 50-foot setback would not impact the neighbor's future septic reserve area.
2. The same Commission approved three boreholes we just finished a quarter-mile away on the lake, and I must measure the septic tank to ensure it is 26 feet away. We almost used TWISTERS for that job. A local reporter (John McKenna with *Republican-American*) shot me inside a 500-foot loop, giving geothermal good publicity.



3. We have a public hearing next month with another Wetlands Commission for five tons of coil in a 15-foot-deep lake.
4. I figured Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) J loads yesterday for a poorly insulated house that must tighten up before we drill.
5. Complete estimates for heat pumps and boreholes were given to two separate clients, who are mulling them over.
6. The California-based Blu Homes green modular structure breaks ground next week, per my site plan. I will inspect boreholes after the crane uses that area first.
7. An open-loop condo owner with five wells 1500 feet deep is scheduling a meeting with me and a drilling contractor this week to resolve pumping issues.
8. Two do-it-yourselfers, 50 miles apart, paid my two-hour consultation fees last week to get headed in the right direction.

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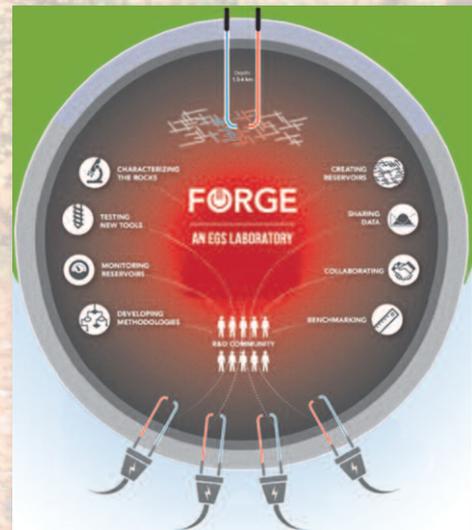


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## EGS Field Observatory Underway

The Energy Department announced it is providing up to \$31 million to establish the initial phases of the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE). FORGE will be a field laboratory dedicated to EGS (enhanced geothermal systems).

According to the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Dave Danielson, this observatory will help accelerate the development of EGS. The research and development (R&D) at FORGE will focus on different techniques to effectively stimulate large fracture networks in various rock types. It would also center on technologies for imaging and monitoring the evolution of fluid pathways, as well as long-term reservoir sustainability and management techniques. FORGE will become a resource for information with an open data policy.



There are three phases associated with the project; the first two will focus on selecting a site and operations team to prepare the site.

Phase 3 will fund full implementation of FORGE at a single site, managed by a single collaborative research strategy and executed with annual R&D applications designed to improve, optimize, and drive down the costs of deploying EGS. In this phase, partners from industry, academia, and the national laboratories will have the opportunity to conduct R&D at the site.

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