

(E) "GEOHERMAL RESOURCES" MEANS THE NATURAL HEAT OF THE EARTH HIGHER THAN 120 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT OR 49 DEGREES CENTIGRADE, OR THE ENERGY, IN WHATEVER FORM, BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH PRESENT IN, RESULTING FROM, OR CREATED BY, OR WHICH MAY BE EXTRACTED FROM, THIS NATURAL HEAT, THE NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL MEDIUM CONTAINING THAT HEAT, AND ALL MINERALS IN SOLUTION OR OTHER PRODUCTS OBTAINED FROM NATURALLY HEATED FLUIDS, BRINES, ASSOCIATED GASES, AND STEAM, IN WHATEVER FORM, FOUND BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH, BUT EXCLUDING OIL, HYDROCARBON GAS, AND OTHER HYDROCARBON SUBSTANCES.

(F) "PERSON" INCLUDES CORPORATIONS, COMPANIES, ASSOCIATIONS, FIRMS, PARTNERSHIPS, JOINT STOCK COMPANIES, INDIVIDUALS, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

(G) "WELL" MEANS ANY EXCAVATION OR OTHER ALTERATION OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE OR CRUST BY MEANS OF WHICH GEOHERMAL RESOURCE MAY BE OBTAINED.

#### 8-8A-02. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.

(A) GEOHERMAL RESOURCES ARE A NATURAL RESOURCE IN THE STATE WHICH POSSESS GREAT POTENTIAL VALUE FOR THE STATE AND THE NATION AS A WHOLE.

(B) IN EXPLORING AND DEVELOPING GEOHERMAL RESOURCES MAXIMUM POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION SHALL BE AFFORDED TO AVOIDING WASTE AND UNREASONABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TO PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, AND TO OPTIMIZING THE PRODUCTIVE USE OF THE RESOURCE.

#### 8-8A-03. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION OF THE STATE'S GEOHERMAL RESOURCES IN THE STATE.

(B) THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTRACT FOR RESEARCH AND SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE POTENTIAL OF THE STATE'S GEOHERMAL RESOURCES IN THE STATE.

(C) THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONDUCT AND PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE THE FEASIBILITY OF UTILIZING THE STATE'S GEOHERMAL RESOURCES.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT MAY USE ANY FUNDS MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLORING, ANALYZING, AND DEVELOPING AND USING GEOHERMAL RESOURCES.

(E) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ESTABLISH REASONABLE FEES TO COVER THE COST OF PROCESSING PERMIT APPLICATIONS.

(F) THE DEPARTMENT MAY PROMULGATE RULES AND REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBTITLE.

#### 8-8A-04. EXPLORATORY PERMITS.