

John Garnish
Comments on IPCC Geothermal Paper
(via e-mail; received: 4 June 2008)

I don't think there is any real disagreement about the future potential of geothermal; it is simply a matter of presentation. You mention the paragraph on p.6 - and the number that jumps out, both in the text and the figure, is '*..a maximum of 140 GW*'. The next sentence, however, states that '*The potential may be estimated orders of magnitude higher based on enhanced geothermal systems (EGS)-technology.*' This is completely in line with what you are saying - it is just that the message is somewhat buried.

I confess that I have only skimmed the paper, but my overall reaction is that - as one would expect with this authorship - it presents a masterly overview of the situation. The problem is that no-one - certainly not those with interests in the other renewables - is going to plough through 36 pages to pick out the buried nuggets. What the paper desperately needs is a brief (1-2 page) executive summary, highlighting the critical numbers - preferably in the form of diagrams. Grab the reader's attention and then perhaps he/she will be motivated to dig into the body of the text. The present abstract fails to do that.

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