

Will Gosnold

The title is Refining estimates of geothermal power in sedimentary basins

Estimates of geothermal energy stored in sedimentary basins have evolved in methodology, scale, application, and results. A method common to most estimates has been to calculate: 1) the volume water in specific formations; 2) the percentage of that volume that could be produced with existing technology; and 3) the energy content based on the difference between average formation temperature and a reference temperature. In the first analysis of low-to-intermediate temperature strata bound geothermal resources, the accessible low-temperature resource base in the central United States was determined to be  $27 \times 10^3$  EJ and that the total for all US strata bound resources was determined to be  $100 \times 10^3$  EJ (Sorey et al., 1983; Reed et al., 1983). These initial estimates were based on only the principal well-known aquifers and excluded petroleum-bearing formations. We find that inclusion all formations that have potential for hot water production increases the resource estimate by almost two orders of magnitude. However, these estimates are for thermal