

Friday, February 26 at 12:00pm (noon) Pacific Time

Charlene Wardlow, Geothermal Program Manager for CalGEM

“California Geothermal Resources and Prospects for Growth”

Geothermal energy plays a critical role in California’s energy mix. With more than 650 active, high-temperature (fluids over 212 degrees F) wells that tap into geothermal fields, California is the largest generator of electricity from geothermal energy in the United States. The Geysers Geothermal Field, in the Mayacamas Mountains northeast of Santa Rosa, is the largest producing geothermal field in the world. Today, geothermal energy accounts for about 6% of electricity generated in California—but it has the potential to become even more significant source as California pursues an energy transition.

Charlene Wardlow will present an overview of California’s geothermal resources—current operations and development prospects—and will provide a “primer” on geothermal energy: exploration, drilling methods, well design & construction. The extreme volumes and extreme temperatures in geothermal development will surprise many petroleum engineers unfamiliar with geothermal.

Speaker: Charlene Wardlow



Charlene Wardlow is the Northern District Deputy and Geothermal Program Manager for the California Geologic Energy Management Division. She has a B.S. in geology and a M.S. in Petroleum Engineering from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro, NM. She has over 3 decades of experience in the geothermal industry including 23 years at The Geysers involved in oversight of wellfield and power plant operations. She spent 10-years working for Ormat Technologies, Inc. focused on developing new geothermal projects in California with an emphasis on exploration activities, drilling and well operations, and the power plant construction and operations. She supported environmental compliance for existing projects and coordinated permitting and compliance with the local, state and federal agencies, elected officials including community and public outreach. In May 2018 she was deployed to assist the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency secure the geothermal wells at the Puna Geothermal project during the eruption of Kilauea.

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