GEOTHERMAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN: PINAL COUNTY

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Arizona Geological Survey
Open-File Report 79-11

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Work performed under
Contract No. DE-FC03-80RA50076, Modification No. A-001
Evaluation of Geothermal Energy in Arizona
U.S. Department of Energy San Francisco Office Region IX

Subcontract 114-80 with
Department of Chemical Engineering
University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona 85721

This report is preliminary and has not been edited
or reviewed for conformity with Arizona Geological Survey standards

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

Alternative sources of energy will have to be developed as the availability of traditional energy resources continues to diminish. Arizona is supplied with geothermal reserves which could potentially supplement the existing energy supplies. Consequently, planning efforts have concentrated on estimating the potential of geothermal energy utilization in Arizona and in providing information necessary for its prospective commercialization.

Geothermal commercialization plans were prepared for seven distinct intrastate subdivisions. The geothermal resource prospect and the potential geothermal uses for each area are discussed in separate Area Development Plans (ADPs). The major objective of the ADP is to provide information for the prospective development and commercialization of geothermal energy in the specified area. Attempts are made to match the available geothermal resources to potential residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural users.

This ADP is concerned with geothermal potential in Pinal County. Wells drilled in the county provide evidence of geothermal energy sufficient for process heat and space heating and cooling applications. Annual energy consumption was estimated for industries whose process heat requirements are less than $105^{\circ}C$ ($221^{\circ}F$). This information was then used to model the introduction of geothermal energy into the process heat market. Also, agriculture and agribusiness industries were identified. Many of these are located on or near a geothermal resource and might be able to utilize geothermal energy in their operations.

AREA DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Arizona has been divided into seven distinct single or multicounty subdivisions for which Area Development Plans (ADPs) for geothermal commercialization have been developed. A map of Arizona presented in Figure 1 shows these areas which are numbered in order of planning priority.

This ADP is concerned with Pinal County. Both metric and English units are provided in the text. However, only metric units appear in the tables and figures. For convenience, some common conversion factors are listed in Table 1.

TABLE 1: SOME COMMON CONVERSION FACTORS

Length and Volume Conversions:

To Convert:	Multiply By:	To Obtain:
meters	3.281	feet
kilometers	0.6214	miles
cubic kilometers	0.2399	cubic miles
liters	0.2642	gallons

Temperature Conversions: $^\circ F = (1.8 \times {}^\circ C) + 32$

GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

Four areas of proven geothermal resources of less than $90^\circ C$ ($194^\circ F$) are located within Pinal County. Numbered boxes in Figure 2 identify these areas; Table 2 gives the location of each of these areas along with rough depth, volume and temperature estimates.

Thirty-eight wells drilled in Pinal County have surface water temperatures ranging from $35.0^\circ C$ ($95^\circ F$) to $71.7^\circ C$ ($161^\circ F$); well depths range from 84 m (276 ft) to 995 m (3265 ft). Most of these wells are located in

Priorities

I)   Maricopa
II) Pima
III) Graham/Greenlee
IV) Pinal
V)   Yuma
VI) Cochise/Santa Cruz
VII) Northern Counties
     (1,3,4,8,9,13)

County Names

1. Apache
2. Cochise
3. Coconino
4. Gila
5. Graham
6. Greenlee
7. Maricopa
8. Mohave
9.- Navajo
10. Pima
11. Pinal
12. Santa Cruz
13. Yavapai
14. Yuma
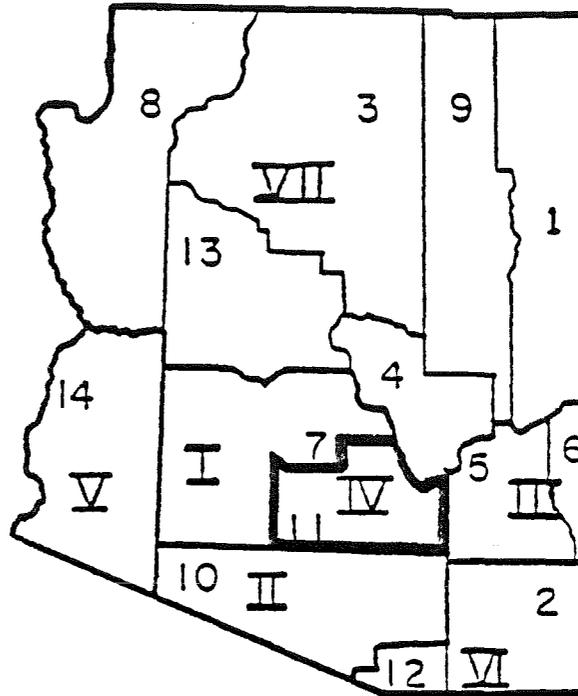
Figure 1: Area Development Plans for Arizona.

INDEX MAP OF ARIZONA
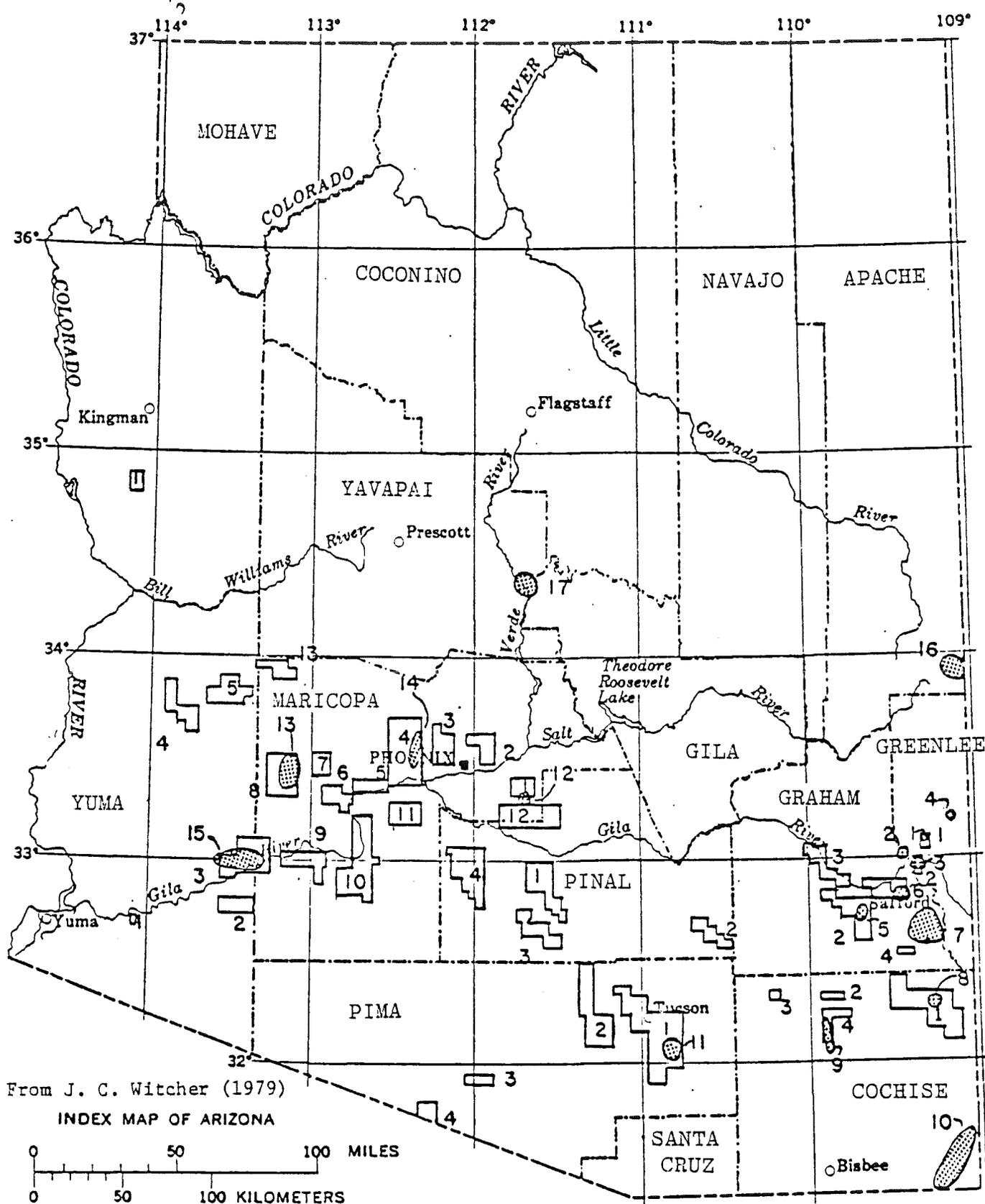
Figure 2: Arizona's Proven, Potential and Inferred Resources.

TABLE 2: PROVEN AND POTENTIAL RESERVOIRS OF PINAL COUNTY OF LESS THAN 1.2 KM DEPTH

Modified from Witcher (1979) Tr - Average Reservoir Temperature

Area	Location	Volume (km^3)	Measured (^{o}C) Temperature	Depth (km)	Tr (^{o}C)	Geothermometry Temperature (^{o}C)	Method
1	R5-8S, R7-9E	126.9	30-45	<0.76	55	40-80	Chalcedony
2	T8-10S, R16-18E	61.9	30-45	<0.31	60	50-70	Chalcedony
3	T8-9S, R6-8E	80.5	30-45	<0.76	55	40-80	Chalcedony
4	T4-7S, R2-4E	164.1	30-40	<0.46	55	-	Reservoir Temp, for Gradient = $35^{o}C/km$

the Coolidge area. Twelve wells in this area discharge water at less than
$50^{\circ}C$ ($122^{\circ}F$); seven wells discharge water at greater than $50^{\circ}C$ ($122^{\circ}F$).

Fluids discharged during a production test of a 2500-m (8200-ft)
geothermal test well drilled in the Picacho Basin reached a maximum tem-
perature of $82^{\circ}C$ ($180^{\circ}F$). This temperature is not sufficient for electric
power production but could be applicable to space and process heating.

A forthcoming state geothermal map compiled by the Arizona Bureau of
Geology and Mineral Technology and published by the National Oceanographic
and Atmospheric Administration will provide a complete and updated listing
of data concerning thermal well and spring locations as well as temperature
and depth estimates, flow rates and total dissolved solids. This map
will be available in late 1981.

ECONOMY

Population

The 1980 population of Pinal County was 90,918. The total land area
of 5,386 square miles give the county a population density of 17 persons
per square mile. Ethnic breakdown of the population is 50 percent white,
36 percent Hispanic, 9 percent Indian and 4 percent black.

Growth

Historically, the population of Pinal County has grown at a 2.6 percent
annual rate since 1950. Future projections place growth at a 1.6 percent
annual rate to 2020. Figure 3 presents population projections for Pinal
County.

Pinal County, situated between Maricopa and Pima counties, is pre-
dominantly rural. The major cities and their populations are listed in
Table 3.
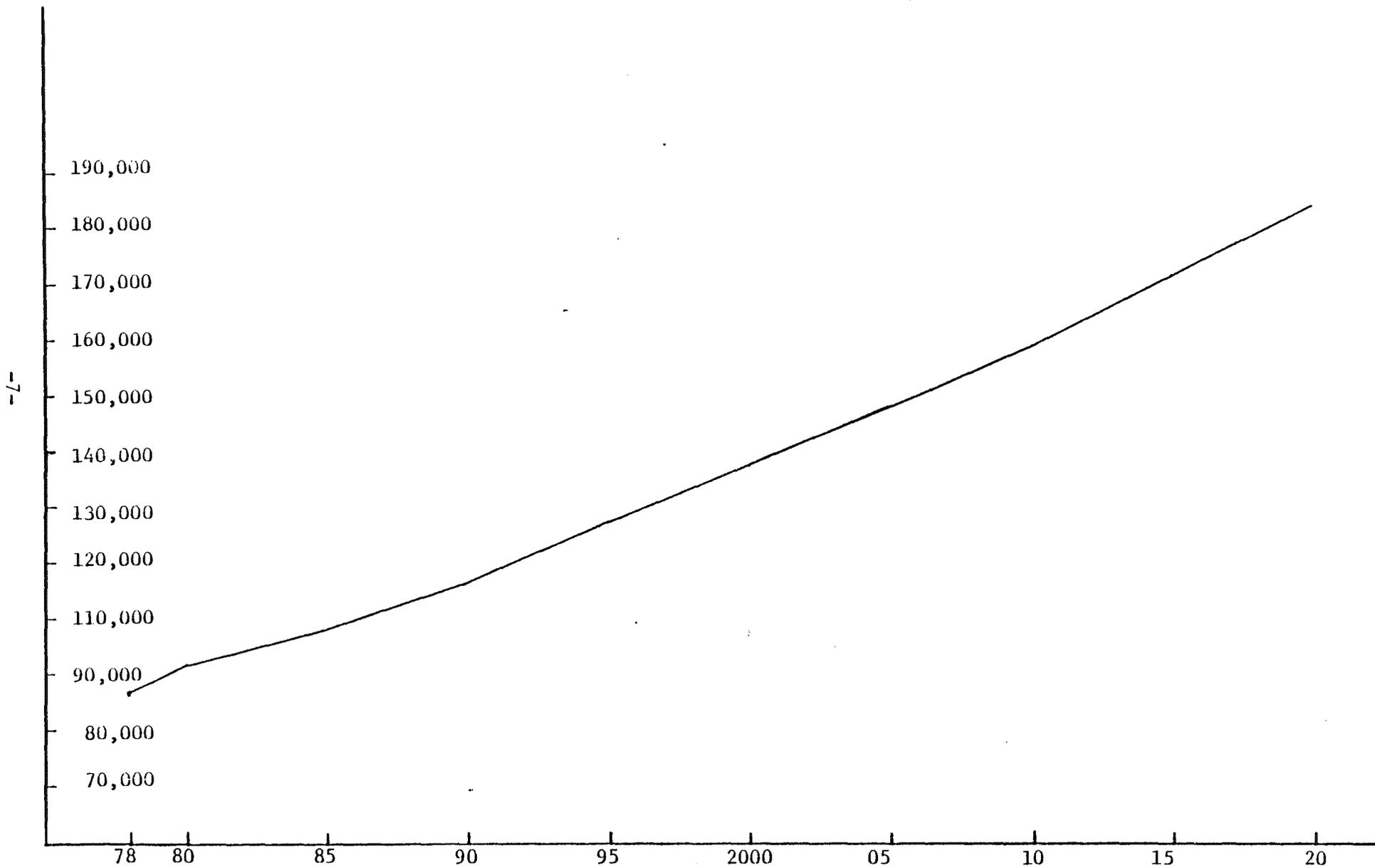
Figure 3: Population Projections for Pinal County.
Source: Technical Advisory Committee (DES)

TABLE 3: MAJOR TOWNS IN PINAL COUNTY AND THEIR CURRENT AND
PROJECTED POPULATIONS

	1979	2020
Apache Junction	9,979	34,466
Arizona City	1,239	7,757
Casa Grande	16,908	33,539
Coolidge	7,427	13,949
Eloy	7,039	11,691
Florence	3,181	5,287
Kearny	2,703	5,189
Mammoth	2,228	3,316
Oracle	2,206	10,200
San Manuel	4,708	6,823
Superior	5,629	7,979

Casa Grande, located between Phoenix and Tucson, is the largest city in Pinal County. It is expected to grow at a 1.8 percent annual rate with residential expansion occurring to the north and industrial expansion occurring to the west. Coolidge, the second largest city, is growing at a 1.5 percent annual rate with expansion occurring primarily to the west.

Industry and Employment

Pinal County is well balanced in terms of employment options. Mining, agriculture and manufacturing are all important sectors of the economy. Mining output contributed nearly $400 million to the Pinal County economy in 1977. Estimated mining employment for 1979 in Pinal County was 6282 workers. Projections place mining employment at 9124 by the year 2000, an annual growth rate of 1.8 percent.

Value added by manufacturing amounted to $88 million in 1977, a

decline from the 1972 level. Manufacturing employed 2320 persons in 1979; projections place manufacturing employment at 5891 by 2000.

Total value of agricultural production in 1977 was $244 million, down from the 1976 levels. Agriculture employed a total of 3782 workers in 1979. By 2000, the number of agricultural workers is expected to decline to 3014.

Tourism is also somewhat important in Pinal County. In 1978, expenditures on tourism in Pinal County were estimated at over $28 million.

Figure 4 summarizes employment in 1979 in Pinal County and provides projected employment information to the year 2000. According to the figures, the fastest growing employment sectors are mining and manufacturing.

Income

Personal income and per capita income are both projected to grow at real annual rates of 4.3 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively. The current level of personal income is $282 million and per capita income is $3,228. Both are in 1972 dollars.

Other Economic Indicators

Between 1968 and 1978, the value of retail sales steadily increased in Pinal County with a 251 percent increase occurring over the ten-year period. Bank deposits increased by 200 percent over the same time period.

LAND OWNERSHIP

Figure 5 shows a general land ownership map for Pinal County. Acreage breakdowns for each ownership class are presented in Table 4. Procedures for acquiring surface and mineral rights depend upon which sector owns the land.
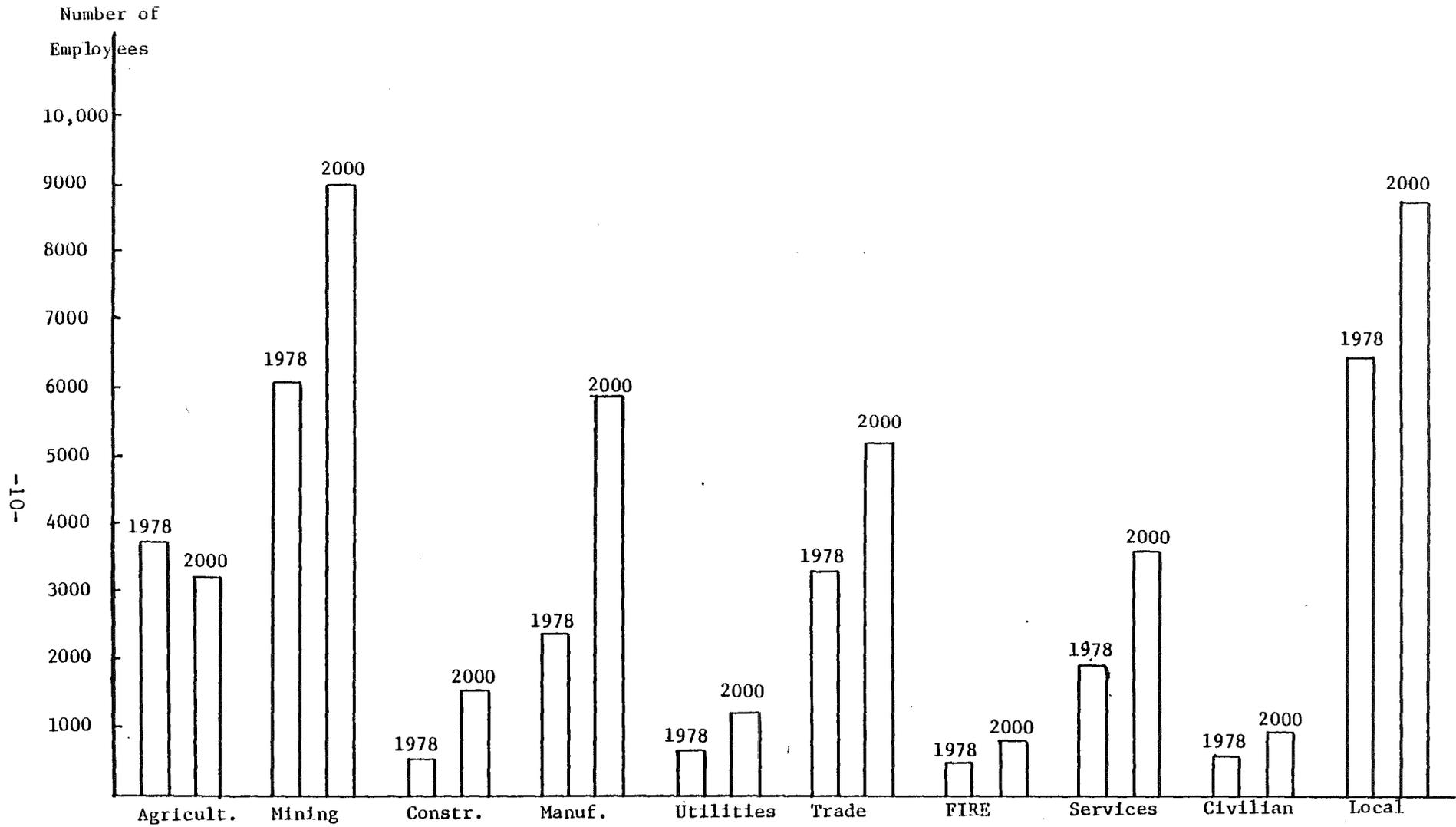
Figure 4: Employment Sector Projections for Pinal County.
        Source: Department of Economic Security

Miles

0   10   20
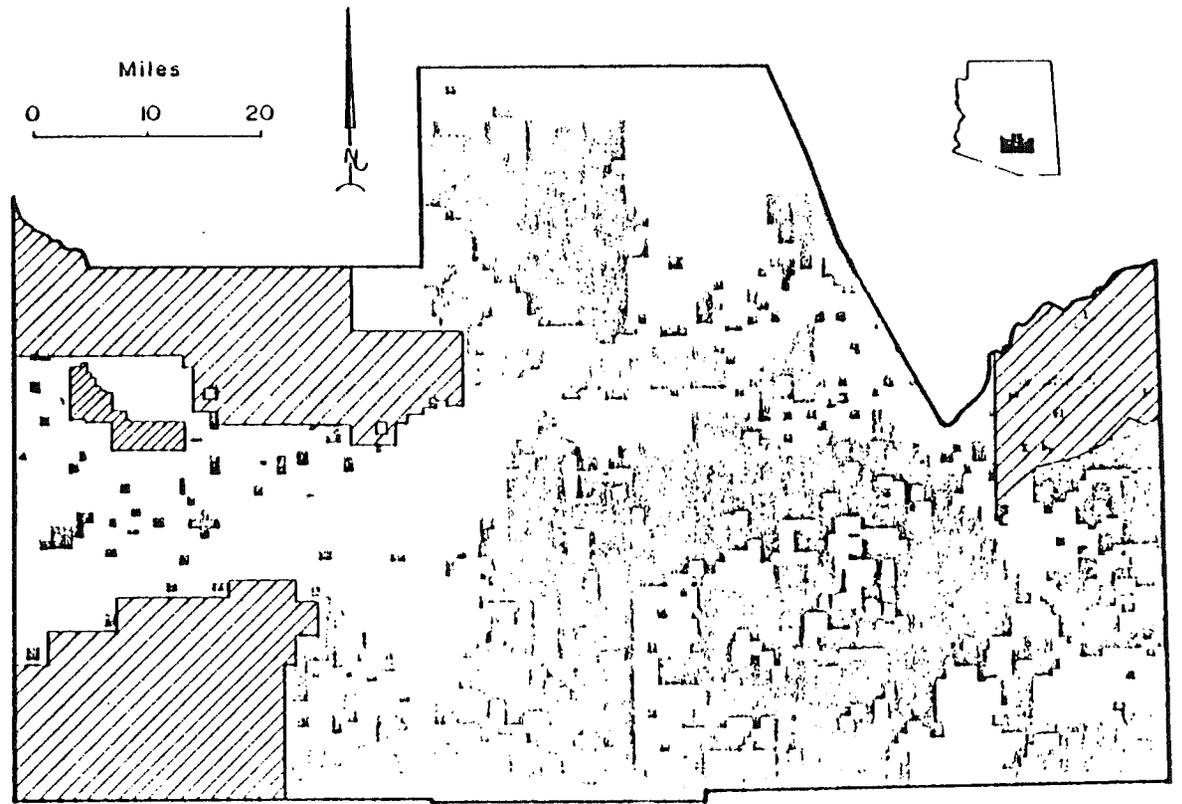
L E G E N D

☐ PRIVATE   ⌞⌟ STATE   ▨ INDIAN   FEDERAL

23%

25%

36%

16%
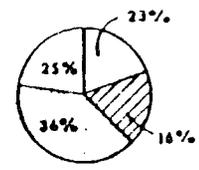
PINAL COUNTY - LAND OWNERSHIP

Figure 5: General Land Ownership Map For Pinal County.
            Source: Arizona Water Commission (1977)

TABLE 4: BREAKDOWN OF LAND OWNERSHIP IN PINAL COUNTY

	Acres	Percent of Total
Federal	791,660	23
State	1,239,120	36
Indian	550,720	16
Private	860,500	25
Total	3,442,000	

ENERGY USE

Electricity, natural gas, distillate fuels and liquid petroleum gas, the energy types that the county most depends upon, are considered here. No attempt has been made to project the impact of the use of alternative energy sources such as wind power and solar energy.

Energy use and projections of energy use to the year 2020 for Pinal County are presented by user class in Table 5.

TABLE 5: ENERGY-USE PROJECTIONS FOR PINAL COUNTY[1] (Trillion Btu)

	1978[2]	1985[3]	2000[3]	2020[3]
Residential	2.19	2.0	1.8	2.0
Commercial	2.58	2.4	2.1	2.3
Industrial	5.0	4.6	4.0	4.4
Total	9.77	9.0	7.9	8.7

(1) Excludes transportation and conversion and transmission losses from the generation of electricity.

(2) 1978 figures for each sector were developed from Arizona Energy Use, 1978 compiled by the Division of Economic and Business Research, University of Arizona.

(3) Projections were developed by the New Mexico Energy Institute by
     making use of growth rates for each user class.

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The figures in Table 5 do not necessarily reflect what actual consumption

will be but do show a general projection of energy-use trends. Energy use,

determined by factors such as personal income and price of energy, is ex-

pected to decline in all three user classes due to consumer responsiveness

to energy price increases. Table 6 shows 1979 energy prices for each user

class per million Btu.

TABLE 6: ESTIMATED AVERAGE ENERGY PRICES BY USER CLASS, 1979 (Per Million Btu)

	Residential	Commercial[1]	Industrial[2]
Electricity	$14.65 - $17.58	$11.70	$8.07
Natural Gas	$3.27	$ 2.48	$2.36
Liquid Petroleum Gas	$3.27 - $4.20	same	same
Distillates	$4.72 - $4.51	same	same

(1) Commercial: includes small industry

(2) Industrial: large industry

Source: Salt River Project Agr. Improvement and Power District, Arizona,
         Feb. 26, 1979; Arizona Public Service Co., Gas Division, 1979 data.

WATER

     Figure 6 shows projections of water availability and use for Pinal

County. The three alternative futures presented in the figure take into

account a variety of factors such as population growth, industrial develop-

ment and consumer habits and lifestyles that will have an effect on the

future level of water use. The alternative futures summary in the figure

PINAL COUNTY
ALTERNATIVE FUTURES

PROJECTED ALTERNATIVE WATER DEPLETIONS
AND DEPENDABLE SUPPLY
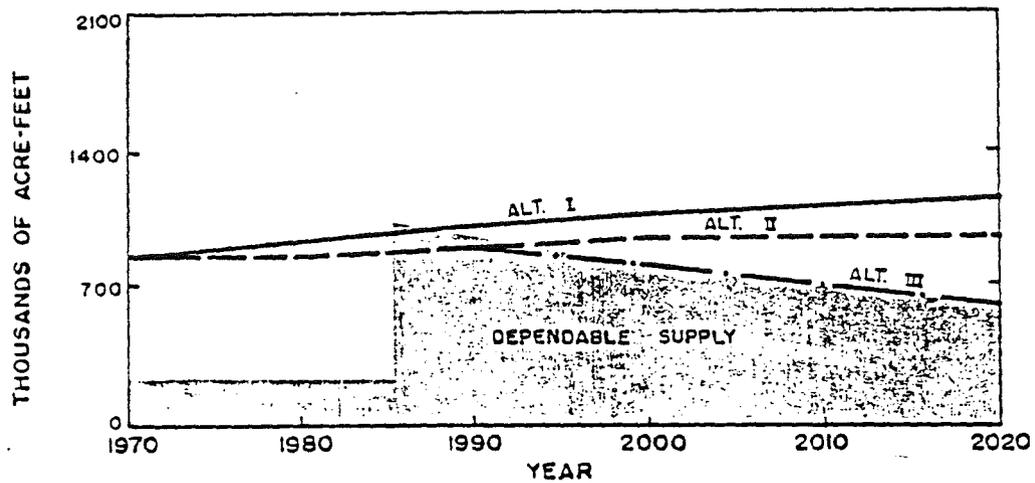
ALTERNATIVE FUTURES SUMMARY

ITEM		ALTERNATIVE				FUTURES	
(Quantities in Thousands)		I		II		III	
	1970	1990	2020	1990	2020	1990	2020
POPULATION	68.6	138.0	218.0	115.0	157.0	115.0	157.0
HARVESTED ACRES	231.0	271.0	292.0	244.0	248.0	244.0	143.0
URBAN DEPLETIONS AF/YR	11.6	18.1	25.5	16.0	19.8	16.0	19.8
STEAM ELECTRIC DEPLETIONS AF/YR	1.4	1.8	5.3	1.4	3.3	1.4	3.3
MINERAL DEPLETIONS AF/YR	31.0	81.0	219.0	79.0	160.0	79.0	160.0
AGRICULTURAL DEPL. AF/YR	830.0	934.0	942.0	839.0	801.0	839.0	462.0
TOTAL WATER DEPL. AF/YR	874	1035	1192	935	984	935	645
DEPENDABLE WATER AF/YR	254	991	645	991	645	991	645
SURPLUS SUPPLY (Def.)	(620)	(44)	(547)	56	(339)	56	0

Figure 6: Projected Alternatives for Water Use in Pinal County.
Source: Arizona Water Commission (1977)

shows that water use for agriculture accounts for 95 percent of projected

water depletions in Pinal County; mineral production, accounting for less

than four percent of total water depletions, is the county's second major

water user. Both projected urban and steam electric water depletions are

relatively small in comparison to total expected depletions.

In Pinal County, the assumed allocation of the Central Arizona Project

(CAP) water is expected to completely satisfy the water needs for a short

period of time after the CAP is complete. However, as agricultural water

supplies from the Project decrease, the dependable supply available to the

county will shrink rapidly. Under Alternative II in Figure 6, the dependable

water supply is projected to decrease from 991,000 acre-feet in 1990 to

645,000 acre-feet in 2020. In 2020, annual deficiencies of 547,000 acre-

feet and 339,000 acre-feet are predicted under Alternatives I and II, res-

pectively; Alternative III predicts a balance between water supply and

demand.

MATCHING GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES TO POTENTIAL USERS

One aim of the development plan is to define a time frame in which

geothermal resources will realize commercial use. A time line was produced

with the assistance of the New Mexico Energy Institute (NMEI). Information

provided by the Solar Energy Research Institute identified industries with-

in Pinal County having process heat requirements less than $105^{\circ}C$ ($221^{\circ}F$).

Annual energy consumption was then estimated for each of these industries

which are identified by a four-digit standard industrial code. This

information, tabulated in Table 7, was then used to model the introduction

of geothermal energy into the process heat market. Figures 7 and 8 show

time line results of this modeling under private development and under city

TOTAL HEAT BY CALENDAR YEAR

```
T 1.06E4  +                                                      C C C C C C C
O
T 1.01E4  +                                                  C C C
A                                                       C C C
L 9.54E3  +                                          C C
                                                  C C
H 9.01E3  +                                     C
E                                            C C
A 8.48E3  +                                C C
T                                      C C
  7.95E3  +                      C C C
I
N 7.42E3  +                                                            P P P P P
                                                                P P
B 6.89E3  +                   C                              P P
I                          C                            P P P
L 6.36E3  +              C                          P P P
L                                              P P
I 5.83E3  +           C                      P P
O               C C                        P P P
N 5.30E3  +          P P                  P P
                                      P P P
B 4.77E3  +
T
U 4.24E3  +              P P
                     C C
P 3.71E3  +
E
R 3.18E3  +        P P                    I I I I I I II I I I I I I I I I I I I
                                     I I I I I
Y 2.65E3  +                   I I I I I
E          C I I II I
A 2.12E3  +     C
R
  1.59E3  +     P P

  1.06E3  +  C C

  5.30E2  +

  0.00E0  C-C-C-P-P-P-P---------+--------+--------+--------+--------+--------+-------
          80        85        90        95        00        05        10        15
                                                  CALENDAR YEAR, BASE IS 1980
```

I=INFERRED   P=POTENTIAL   C=INF. PLUS POT.

STATE: ARIZONA   APPLICATION: INDUSTRIAL
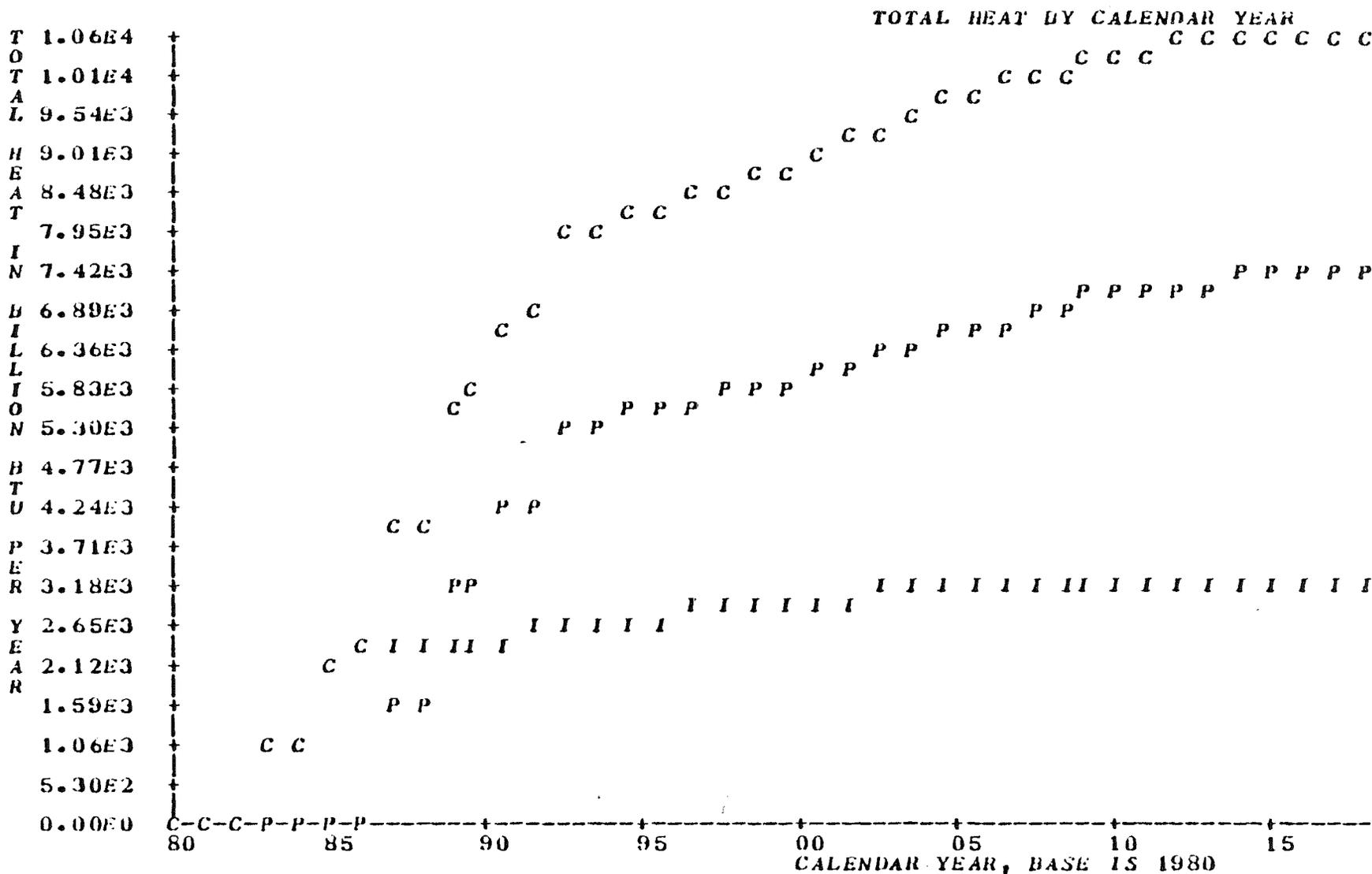   PRIVATE DEVELOPER

Figure 7:   Projected Geothermal Heat On Line Under Private Development.
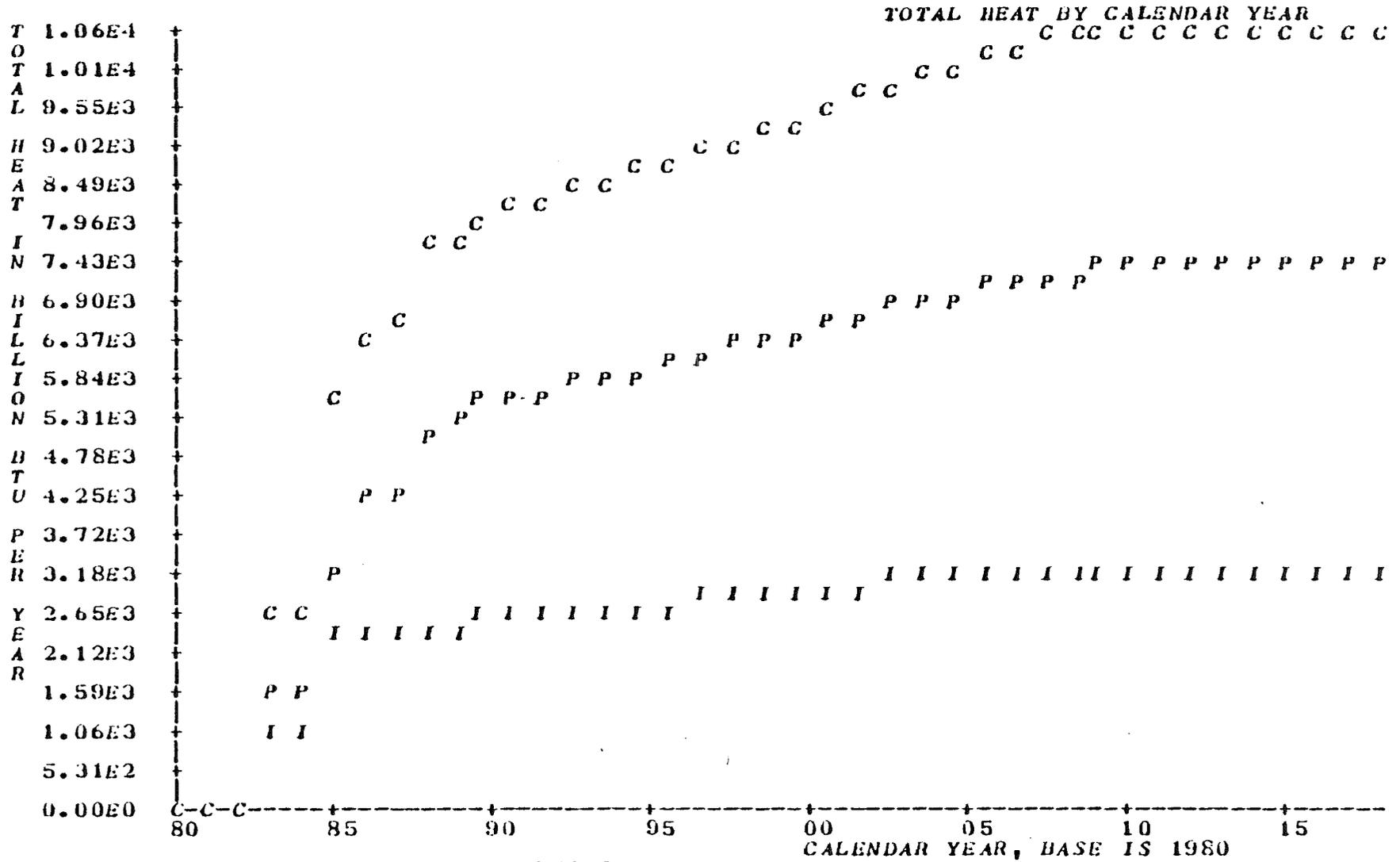   Source: New Mexico Energy Institute

Figure 8: Projected Geothermal Heat On Line Under City Development.
Source: New Mexico Energy Institute

utility development, respectively. The differences primarily are due
to variations in the cost of capital and tax liabilities for each type
of development. Comparison of the figures shows that development of
geothermal energy would occur faster under a city utility than it would
under private development.

TABLE 7: ESTIMATED PROCESS HEAT ENERGY REQUIREMENTS
Assumed Reservoir Temperature: 105°C

SIC Code	Number of Firms	Description	Energy Use Btu/yr x 10^{12}
2048	1	Animal Feed	.323
2086	1	Soft Drinks	.0016
2099	2	Misc. Foods	.0033
2519	1	Household Furniture	.1802
2599	1	Furniture and Fixtures	.1395
3273	2	Ready-Mix Concrete	.0058
3441	1	Structural Metal	.0164
3443	1	Boiler Shops	.0014
3499	3	Misc. Metal Products	.4526
3911	1	Jewelry	.0003
		Total	1.127

For purposes of comparison, the results of the modeling are presented in
summary form in Table 8 in terms of barrels of oil replaced by geothermal
energy annually.

The NMEI model is discussed more fully in Appendix A.

TABLE 8: BARRELS OF OIL REPLACED BY GEOTHERMAL ENERGY PER YEAR·
Process Heat Market

	1985	1990	2000	2020
Private Developer	416,071	1,351,685	1,767,589	2,624,057
City Utility	1,145,695	1,561,599	1,769,551	2,624,057

Specific industries in Casa Grande which may be able to use geothermal energy for their space heating and/or process heat needs include Arizona Textile Corporation, Casa Grande Oil Mill, Casa Grande Valley Newspapers, Champion Products, Hexcel Corporation, Pinal Materials Company Incorporated and Skyline Corporation. Geothermal applications may also exist in Coolidge for Gila Enterprises and Gila River Indian Enterprises, Incorporated.

In matching geothermal resources to potential users, the agribusiness and agriculture industries within Pinal County were identified. Table 9 presents a list of the types of agribusiness industries in the county and the cities in which they are located. Many of these operations are located on or near a geothermal resource and probably could adopt geothermal energy.

TABLE 9: NUMBER OF FIRMS WITHIN VARIOUS AGRICULTURAL
SECTORS FOR SOME CITIES IN PINAL COUNTY

City	Agricultural Chemicals	Feeds	Cotton Products
Casa Grande	4	3	7
Coolidge		1	2
Eloy	1		3
Maricopa		1	2
Picacho			1

Geothermal energy may also have some applications in the prepared feeds industry. The prepared feeds industry is comprised of plants primarily engaged in manufacturing prepared feeds and feed ingredients (alfalfa meal and feed supplements) for livestock and poultry. An estimated 52.8 percent of the total energy consumed by the industry in 1972 was provided by natural gas; 10.6 percent was provided by fuel oil and 27.6 percent by purchased electricity. The remaining energy was obtained from other sources such as gasoline and diesel fuel consumed in harvesting and transporting.

The prepared feeds industry is divided into five segments: prepared feeds, dehydrated alfalfa, sun-cured alfalfa, dehydrated grass and dehydrated citrus pulp. The prepared feeds segment, producing over 97 percent of the total output of the industry, is the most significant segment in terms of tons of feed processed. The type and amount of energy used in this segment for the various manufacturing processes are shown in Table 10.

TABLE 10: ENERGY USE IN THE PREPARED FEEDS SEGMENT

Process	Type Energy Used	Percent of Total
Drying (direct use)	Fuel	1.0
Boiler losses	Fuel to boiler	18.6
Conditioning, flaking and pelleting	Steam	36.6
Plant heating and other steam users	Steam	6.7
Mechanical power	Electricity	35.2
Lighting	Electricity	1.9
		100.0

Source: Energy-Saving Techniques for the Food
          Industry, Noyes Data Corporation, 1977

-20-

As shown in the table, the conditioning, flaking, and pelleting operations and the production of mechanical power consume the greatest amounts of energy. Less than seven percent of the total energy consumed is used for plant heating and other steam uses while only one percent is used for drying.

There is one plant in Pinal County that falls under the prepared feeds industrial classification. Geothermal energy has potential applications in the drying process, in heating boiler feed water and in space heating.

Appendix A

The New Mexico Energy Institute at New Mexico State University has developed a computer simulation model, BTHERM, to assess the economic feasibility of residential and commercial district space heating, hot water heating and industrial process heating using low temperature geothermal energy. Another model, CASH, was developed to depict the growth of geothermal energy on line over the next 40 years as a function of price of competing energy sources. A major assumption of these models is that geothermal energy must be price-competitive with the lowest-cost conventional energy source in order to assure market capture.

Development of a geothermal resource is characterized by large capital outlays, but a long-term geothermal investment has the potential to provide relatively inexpensive energy at a stable price. Unlike natural gas and electricity, however, geothermal energy is an unknown energy involving certain risks such as price and reservoir life and the need for back-up systems. An analysis of the costs and economic competitiveness of geothermal energy must take these uncertainties into account. Thus, costs may be overestimated so that the benefits will not be overstated.

BTHERM models the residential, commercial and industrial sectors of a typical city, each sector having unique energy costs and energy system physical parameters as well as different growth rates. The model possesses the ability to model each sector individually and can analyze the application of geothermal energy to new growth only, to conversion of existing structures or to a combination of both. The model also has the capability to model both private and city-owned utility development of the geothermal resource.

Output of the model includes the levelized price per million Btu of

delivered energy, the discounted present value of investment necessary and the undiscounted values of investments for policy studies. Also, from input of the price and price growth rate of conventional energy, the model determines the discounted or undiscounted values for federal and state taxes, tax credits, royalty rates, property taxes and consumer savings due to conversion from conventional energy to geothermal.

Certain limitations of the model have already been suggested. Costs, for example, may be overestimated due to safeguards built into the model to take into account the risks associated with geothermal energy. This overestimation of costs might result in the exclusion of a potential use of geothermal energy. Another limitation is that the price of natural gas is taken as the price of competitive (conventional) energy, but not all users have access to natural gas.

The output of the model is not a substitute for detailed engineering design studies but it is useful for determining order-of-magnitude costs and potential benefits of geothermal energy development.

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