

Application of the Australian Geothermal Reporting Code to “Conventional” Geothermal Projects

Jim Lawless*, Zim Aunzo and Jose Seastres, Jr

*SKM PO Box 9806 Newmarket, Auckland, NZ

JLawless@skm.co.nz

Abstract

The Geothermal Reserves and Resources Reporting Code was developed in Australia with the intention of it being principally applied to Australian geothermal projects, though it was framed in such a way as to apply to geothermal projects of all types. Recently, SKM has applied the Code to a number of “conventional” high temperature magmatic-related geothermal projects outside Australia. This paper describes how the Code principles and the underlying resource estimation methodology have been applied in those cases. Some of the major issues which had to be addressed included:

- What conversion efficiencies are applicable when the project is to include a flash steam cycle ?
- How are resources and reserves to be categorised when estimates are based on numerical simulation models ?
- How is energy already extracted to be dealt with in the case of project with an existing production history ?
- How is energy remaining after the assumed project life to be categorised ? Although these projects have been based on magmatic-related resources which do not occur in Australia, some of the insights gained in the process will have application as Australian projects move towards commercialisation, and as Australian listed companies develop this type of system elsewhere in the world.