

## City of Estevan and Southeast Sask Economic Partnership Engage with PTRC to Conduct Geothermal Feasibility Study

The City of Estevan, along with the Southeast Saskatchewan Economic Partnership (SSEP), which is comprised of the RM of Coalfields, RM of Estevan, and the Town of Bienfait, has awarded a grant to the Petroleum Technology Research Centre to conduct a feasibility study examining the potential for developing geothermal heating in the City and nearby municipalities and communities. The study, to be managed by the PTRC, will investigate the best subsurface strata from which to harness heat, and investigate such important features as productive capacities, flow rates and temperatures within eligible formations, optimal well orientations to maximize project longevity, and make recommendations on how best to develop geothermal systems for buildings and businesses.

The grant is being provided via the Municipal Coal Transition Assistance Program (MCTAP), with the aim of creating a viable geothermal source in the region. PTRC – manager of the Aquistore CO<sub>2</sub> Deep Saline Storage Project near Boundary Dam’s CCS facility – has an extensive knowledge of the layers (strata) underlying the region and will tap its considerable network of subsurface experts to conduct the research project. PTRC is already sponsoring a separate geothermal and energy integration research project through the University of Regina in cooperation with Evolution Growers, a First Nations Company planning to build greenhouses in the Estevan area. This larger characterization and proof-of-concept study may assist that particular project and many other businesses looking to tap into geothermal heat.

“We were delighted to be approached by the PTRC, with its stellar research record with proven research results, to direct and complete this feasibility study,” noted Roy Ludwig, the Mayor of Estevan. “The development of geothermal energy could lead to the creation of highly qualified personnel in the growing green energy field and help reduce energy costs for both homes and businesses. It will also help create new geothermal economy for the City of Estevan and surrounding communities.”

Paul Carroll, Chairman of SSEP, indicated, “This study will be useful to identify sites with geothermal potential and be used to assist in attracting industry to the region seeking a competitive advantage over other jurisdictions.”

“Our expertise in subsurface research is extensive,” noted Ran Narayanasamy, CEO of the PTRC. “The Aquistore project, so near Estevan, has allowed us to characterize much of the subsurface in the area, right down to 3500 metres. And our work on making oil recovery in places like Weyburn less environmentally impactful through the injection of CO<sub>2</sub> highlights our commitment to cleaner energy.”

The final feasibility report – complete with a go/no-go decision on front end engineering and design (FEED) of a geothermal well – is expected in spring 2023.

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