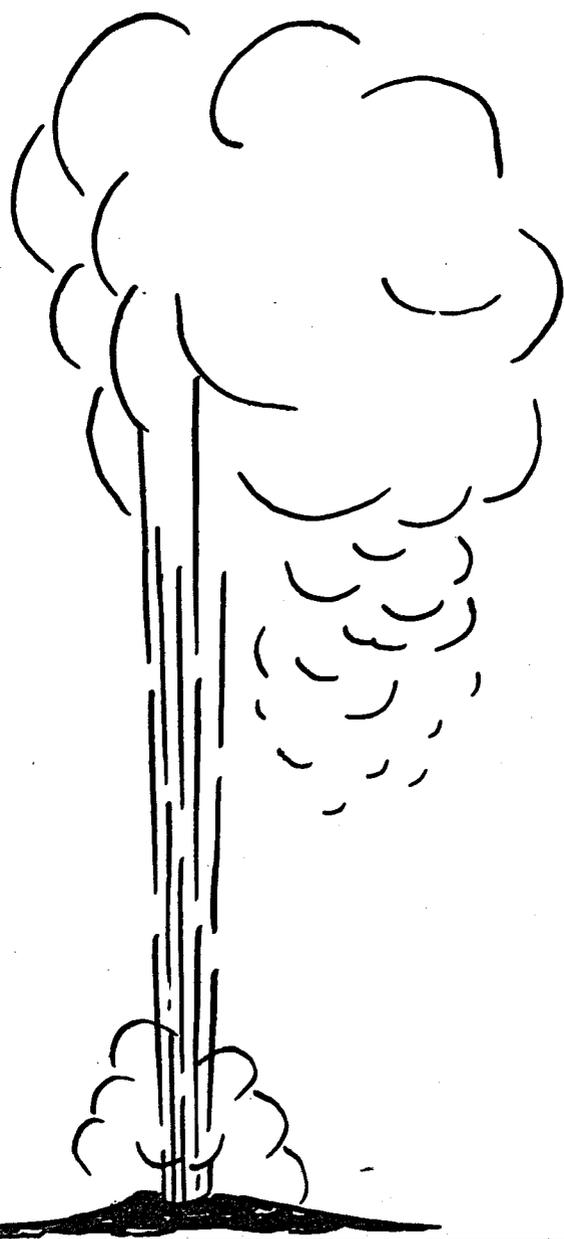


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**EVALUATION AND TARGETING OF GEOTHERMAL  
ENERGY RESOURCES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN  
UNITED STATES**

Progress Report, October 1, 1978—March 30, 1979

By  
John K. Costain  
Lynn Glover III  
A. Krishna Sinha

Work Performed Under Contract No. ET-78-C-05-5648

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Blacksburg, Virginia



**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Geothermal Energy**

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IN THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES**

**Progress Report**

**John K. Costain, Lynn Glover III, and A. Krishna Sinha**

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**Blacksburg, VA 24061**

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## Lithologic Analysis of Sediment Samples from the Intermediate Drilling Program

Michael Svetlichny

During the period October 1, 1978 - March 15, 1979, 32 holes were completed as part of the Atlantic Coastal Plain drilling program. In each of the 300 m deep holes, drill cuttings were collected at 3.0 m intervals and sealed in airtight plastic bags to prevent sediments from drying out.

At least two attempts were made to recover core in each hole. A minimum of 15 m was cored. Recovery of unconsolidated, clean sand frequently was poor because material tends to be washed away by the coring process, and sediments were not always retained in the core barrel by the core catcher. In an effort to maximize core recovery and minimize drilling costs, one coring interval was selected to be within a thick (15 m) sequence of clayey, silty, or consolidated sediments, and the other coring attempt was made near the maximum depth of 300 m. Detailed analyses of the cores has begun, but there are no results to report as yet.

Lithologic descriptions of the drill cuttings have been completed for each hole; the results are presented as a table following this text. The descriptions are based on Folk's (1974) classification. Each category reflects the proportion of gravel, sand, and silt plus clay in that sample. In cases where well-sorted gravel was present, a distinction was made between granules, pebbles, and cobbles. Similarly, the sand fraction was subdivided into very fine, fine, medium, coarse, and very coarse sand. If silt and clay occurred in equal proportion, they were collectively referred to as mud. Whole and fragmented macrofossils were reported as shells.

Selected samples from each hole are being wet sieved with a number 230 U.S. standard sieve to determine the proportion of sediment that is finer than 4.0 phi. This work began recently so that the data set is incomplete. The results to date are included in the table that follows this text.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The following Gruy Federal Personnel assisted in sample descriptions and sieving: Kenneth Hurst, Ronald Herzick, Paul Caprio, Michael Hoffman, and Donald Hostvedt.

NO. 48 Wattsville, VA

INTERVAL (METERS)	FORMATION-AGE	DESCRIPTION	COMMENTS	SAMPLES SIEVED	RATIO COARSE/FINE	PERCENT FINES
0-18.3		Fine to medium sand				
18.3-21.3		Fine-medium sand with some clay				
21.3-24.4		Fine-medium sand				
24.4-27.4		Fine-medium sand with some clay				
27.4-128.0		Fine-medium sand with some clay	Shells			
128.0-137.2		Fine-medium sandy clay	Shells			
137.2-143.3		Clayey fine-medium sand	Shells			
143.3-164.6		Fine sandy clay. Some silt at end of interval	Shells			
164.6-173.7		Silty fine sand with some clay				
173.7-228.6		Missing				
228.6-283.5		Fine sandy clay with silt	Shells throughout but more abundant at mid interval			
283.5-295.7		Fine sand with some clay	Shells			

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