

Re: Energy from a deep hole

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- *From:* Gary Reichlinger <reichln@xxxxxxxxxx>
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On 8 Aug 2006 21:29:29 -0700, "eromlignod" <eromlignod@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

It seems to me that if we could dig a hole deep enough to reach a point in the earth's crust where the temperature is sufficient, that we could drop in a boiler and have an almost unlimited supply of steam to convert to other forms of energy.

The supply of steam would have a limit imposed by the thermal conductivity of the rock. Most geothermal efforts require actually pumping hot liquids to the surface. You then need to dispose of the brine water just like you must do with oil production. The amount of thermal energy that can be stored in hot water is drastically less than the energy in an equivalent volume of oil or gas. This makes pumping cost (and disposal cost) a big issue. There are probably a few locations where the process could be economic, but it is not a huge source of energy.

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