

Re: Rigging a Volcano

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.meteorology/2004-07/0054.html>

From: Greg Campbell (*nospam_at_null.net*)

Date: 07/04/04

Date: Sat, 03 Jul 2004 22:03:27 -0700

Mike1 wrote:

>> *Somehow, you would have to find a way to divert the underground magma
>> away from the volcano to somewhere it wouldn't cause problems, or figure
>> out how to release all the dissolved gasses that create the eruptive
>> pressures within the magma.*

> *First you'd need to construct gargantuan pipes and valves...*

> ...

> *The objective is to convert a 600,000yr cycle mega-eruption into a
> controlled, lateral surface venting over decades or even centuries, to
> reduce pressue to a stable level. Of course a fat hunk of eastern
> Wyoming would have to be devoted to "ash storage".*

Alternately, you could allow the magma to degass as it rises, cool it a bit, then pump it back down another hole. (Similar to the CO2 degassing of Monoun and Nyos.) Given the volume of magama involved, you'd need some mighty fat pipes or a bunch of wells.

Of course, you'd wind up dumping a lot of sulfur and other nasty stuff into the air. While objectively a much better option than enduring an eventual magacaldera eruption, I'm sure the local population would raise hell. "I've lived here 70 years, and it ain't erupted once!"

-Greg