

Hot rocks drilling in Otways

Hot Rock Ltd has commenced a geophysical trial survey in the Otway Basin in Victoria. It says that it expects the survey will assist in the delineation of targets for exploration drilling for testing the suitability of subsurface geothermal conditions for commercial scale electricity generation. Initial indications from surface exploration studies are for a geothermal recourse potential of some 1750 MW of electricity generation for 25 years over the four tenements areas of 18,294 square kilometres held by Hot Rock. The Department of Primary Industries granted the approval under the new Geothermal Resources Act, enabling the company to commence its trial. The prospective areas will allow for the development of hot wet rock geothermal resources, which are located close to electricity transmission lines, population centres, infrastructure and industry in Victoria. "Temperature of more than 120 degrees can be commercially viable for geothermal electricity generation, depending on well productivity, drilling depths and production pumping requirements. We are seeking hot wet rock resources that can be developed at lower cost than hot dry rock geothermal resources, as they contain in-situ reservoir water, are naturally permeable and are exploitable at shallower drilling depths," says Hot Rock managing director Mark Elliott.

[Source: esaa]