



Hotrock Energy Research Organization Commits to Advance The Conversion of Coal to Geothermal

ATLANTA (June 13, 2016) – Hotrock Energy Research Organization (HERO) today launched a three-year "Commitment to Action" at the 2016 Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America meeting for the first of three phases to convert an aging, polluting coal-fired power plant to Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) technology, which emits no CO₂.

"EGS technology has the potential to play an important role in helping replace 50,000 megawatts of coal plants needing to repower or shut down in the next decade," said Susan Petty, HERO Managing Director and Board Chair. "If properly done, it can also help the communities that have come to rely on the coal plants for jobs and property taxes."

Conventional geothermal has long been much cheaper than coal, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. EGS—where the geothermal reservoir is engineered—is an emerging technology, but is economic in the best places. Pilot projects are needed to demonstrate that geothermal could replace coal in areas other than those best places. If existing coal plants across the U.S. are shut down, thousands of skilled workers would lose their jobs and communities would be devastated by the loss of jobs and property taxes. Co-located replacement of the plants with clean, renewable, baseload geothermal energy could save jobs and support affected communities.

HERO has identified four coal plants as good pilot candidates, and will partner with one to conduct a detailed engineering and design study in phase one, which is the focus of the CGI America Commitment to Action. The study results, combined with workforce transition planning, will be used to scale a pilot project in phase two that may be expanded to commercial scale in phase three.

About HERO

Hotrock Energy Research Organization (HERO) is a Seattle-based 501(c)(3) organization founded in April 2015 by Susan Petty, a pioneer in geothermal energy, to further research into technologies that will improve the outcomes, and reduce the costs and risks, associated with development of geothermal energy projects. The Board of Directors consists of Susan Petty, Managing Director and Chairman of the Board, and Timothy MacDonald, Jill Watz, Steven Klein and Britt Ide.

Read HERO's Coal to Geothermal Commitment to Action at the [CGI website](#). For more information, visit the website HotRockHERO.org and follow on Twitter [@HotRockHero](#).

About Clinton Global Initiative America

Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) America brings together leaders from the business, philanthropic, nonprofit, and government sectors to develop solutions that encourage economic growth, support long-term competitiveness, and increase social mobility in the United States. CGI America's annual convening is designed to be a working meeting that promotes collaboration. Each CGI America participant makes a Commitment to Action: a new, specific, and measurable plan that supports increased economic growth and opportunity. To date, CGI America participants have made more than 500 commitments, which have improved the lives of nearly 2.4 million people. For more information, visit cgiamerica.org.