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# COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Virginia's Geothermal Future**

**Charlottesville, Va.-** The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) is nearing completion of a three year investigation of geothermal energy resources in Virginia.

Beneath our feet, thousands of megawatts of geothermal heat works its way to Earth's surface. This geothermal heat can be harnessed to heat, cool or even power homes, businesses and industries. Similar to wind and solar, geothermal presents a sustainable energy resource.

The project results are a significant contribution to a national database called the National Geothermal Data System (NGDS). It is a massive resource that stores millions of records of geothermal data for all 50 states. This database provides information that can be used by scientists, industry, government and the public to better understand the potential for geothermal energy resources for future development.

The NGDS was organized by the Association of American State Geologists with funding support from the U.S. Department of Energy's Geothermal Technologies Office. In addition to Virginia's data contributions, DMME compiled geothermal data on behalf of other mid-Atlantic states including Delaware, Maryland, Georgia, and North Carolina. The data is now available from the NGDS State Geothermal Data Project web site: <http://www.stategeothermaldata.org/>.

DMME has a web page that describes geothermal resources in the Commonwealth, available at <http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dgmr/geothermal.shtml>.

Additional map products are available for viewing at the DMME Mapping and Resource Center <https://maps.dmme.virginia.gov/flexviewer/DGMR/>. These maps include geothermal suitability layers depicting heat flow, locations of thermal springs, thermal conductivity data, and locations of wells with temperature data.

**MORE**

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