

Thermal Springs: An Alternative Source of Energy

S.C. Mahala

D-13/4, Rental Colony, Barmunda
Bhubaneswar - 751 015, INDIA

P. Singh and M. Das

Department of Geology, Utkal University
Bhubaneswar - 751 004, INDIA

S. Acharya

155, VIP Colony
Bhubaneswar - 751 015, INDIA

ABSTRACT

Thermal springs are simple natural phenomena. They are spectacular events on the crust expressing earth's internal energy. This geothermal energy is considered as the non-conventional source that yields heat and power. The geothermal energy is preferred because it is perennial, inexhaustible and pollution free. The geothermal energy includes thermal energy in the form of sub-surface steam, hot water, heated rocks and associated minerals and gas products that can be used directly and for generation of electricity.

Thermal spring, as a significant renewable source of energy can be utilized for sustainable socio-economic development in lieu of energy derived from fossil fuel. This potent, economical and viable source of energy will not only conserve conventional energy resources but also minimize environmental degradation. Further investigations with a commercial approach are needed for better and effective utilization of the thermal fluid.