## Non-technical barriers in Tuscany

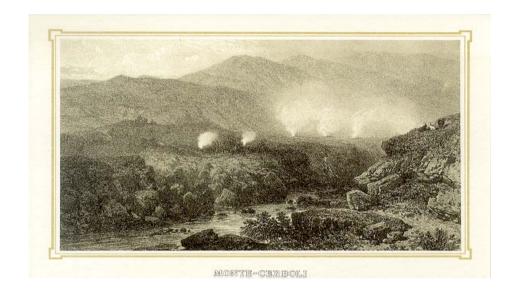
Speaker: Adolfo Fiordelisi

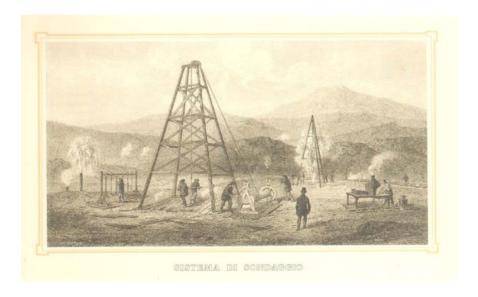
#### **Paolo Romagnoli**

Renewable Energy Business Area Geothermal Generation Dept. Potsdam, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007



## Tuscany is the birthplace of the geothermal industry



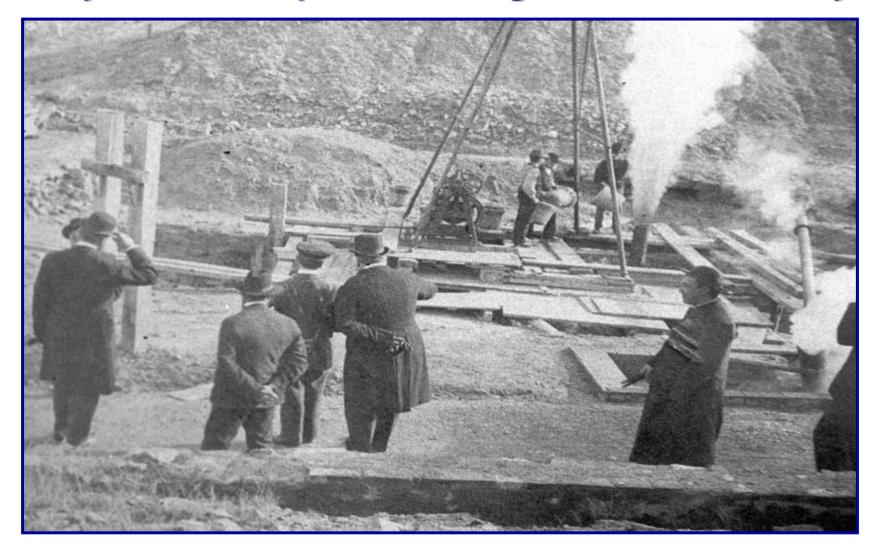


Geothermal resources utilisation for industrial purposes began in Larderello (Italy):

- in the early1800 with the boric salts production and the direct use of steam;
- in 1904 the first experiment of electric energy generation;
- in 1913 the first 250 kW unit, marking the beginning of this new industrial activity.



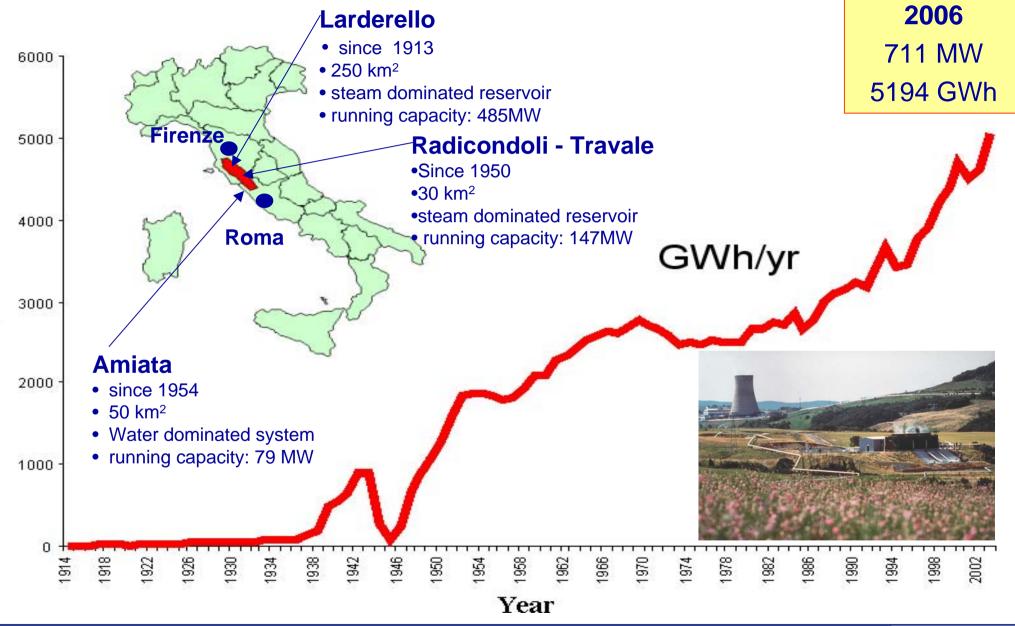
## Tuscany is the birthplace of the geothermal industry



Well testing at the beginning of 1900 ...



## **Geothermal highlights in Italy**





## **Geothermal highlights in Italy**

Data updated on 31/12/2005

• GEO Total generation (TWh) 5.0

• Supplied Heat (Tcal ) 285

Avoided CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (Mt)
 3,4

• Oil saving (MOET) 1,13



### **GEO** Generation in Italy

1.7% of total generation

4.5% of ENEL generation

10.4% of Renewable energy generation

Geothermal generation covers

25% of the Tuscany Region consumption

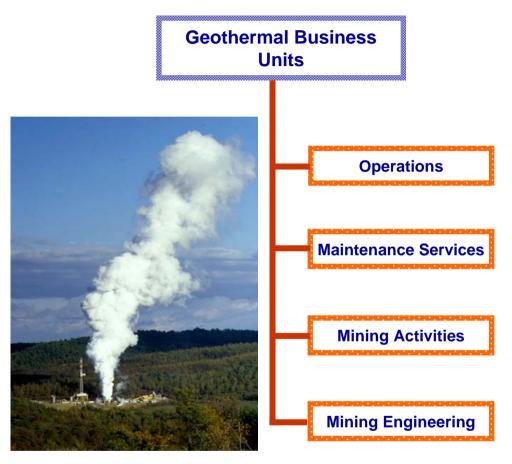


## **Geothermal highlights in Italy**

#### Data updated on 31/12/2005

|  |     | * |
|--|-----|---|
| <ul> <li>Generation capacity (MW)</li> </ul> | 699 |   |
| <ul> <li>Power plants</li> </ul>             | 31  |   |
| • Units                                      | 32  |   |
| • Wells                                      | 508 |   |
| <ul> <li>Gathering systems (km)</li> </ul>   | 480 |   |
| <ul> <li>District heating systems</li> </ul> | 26  |   |
| <ul> <li>Fluid treatment systems</li> </ul>  | 36  |   |
|  |     |   |

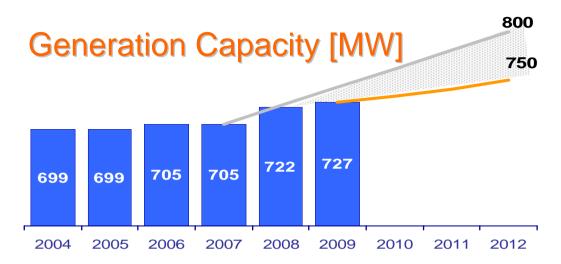




1004 employees



#### **Forecasts**

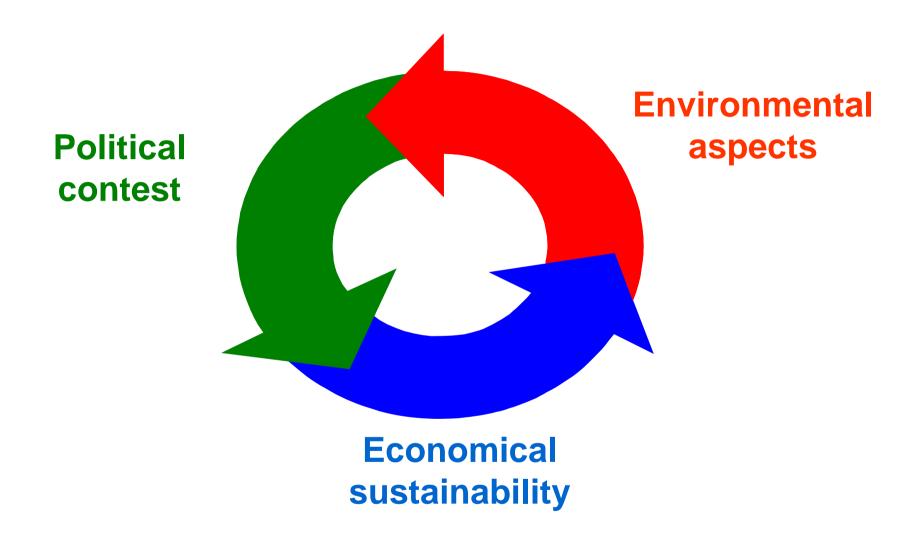




For the next few years, Enel has planned an increase of geothermal generation resulting from specific projects, but.....



#### Non-technical barriers: the main issues



Each issue has a specific weight in different contests



#### **Economical sustainability**

Geothermal exploitation is characterized by high investment costs that are required to locate the resource (mining investment) and build gathering systems and power plants

Without incentives there is no possibility to realize a geothermal project

## In Italy there are two favourable circumstances:

- Enel background (in terms of experience and exploration techniques) allows the reduction of mining risk and hence of required investment;
- the Italian regulation provides incentives that allow the economical sustainability

At present, economical sustainability is not an issue, but.....



### **Environment**

## The landscape in many geothermal areas











## **Environment**

## The landscape in Tuscany ....









#### **Environment**

#### A geothermal project needs a large land use



**Production wells** 



Steam gathering system



**Geothermal power plant** 

#### in a regional contest characterized by:

- high population density
- historical, artistic and landscape peculiarities



## **Environment:** <u>real</u> main issues

Landscape Visual impact

**Noise** 



From power plants
From wells during drilling & production tests

**Air quality** 



Smell nuisance due to H<sub>2</sub>S emissions



#### **Environment: the "induced" issues**

Statements of some "scientists" cause unjustified worries

**Induced seismicity** 



Geothermal activities increase the macro-seismicity

Water consumption



Geothermal exploitation causes reduction of the drinking water reserves

**Effects on health** 



Geothermal activities are dangerous for health



Uso: Riservato aziendale

#### The political climate: some excerpts from the News



Roggiolani: «La Regione si faccia dare da Enel 65 milioni l'anno»

Intervento del consigliere regionale dei Verdi sulla geotermia L'ingegner Trivella si augura che non venga dimenticata la Larderello

"Enel has to give to the local communities 65 M €yr"

**Geotermia** Il sindaco di Santa Fiora allontana le polemiche e assicura: "Niente passi avventati"

## "Non svenderemo il territorio"

Verdi: "Nuova centrale solo se avremo precise rassicurazi

"We are not willing to sell off our lands"



#### The political climate: some excerpts from the News

## Geotermia: oltre 350 firme di protesta

Spopolamento del territorio e crisi del lavoro: i Ds attaccano Enel

More than 350 signatures

Region depopulation and job crisis: Ds party attacks Enel

AMIATA

«Comitato» contro la proposta che punta sullo sfruttamento dell'energia endogena

# Geotermia, no alla Regione

Amiata
Local committees against geothermal exploitation

Amiata "Allarmante la situazione emersa dallo studio presentato da Macchia Faggeta"

# Nessuna mediazione per la geotermia

I comitati: "Si cominci a pensare i usura"

Amiata: no compromise for geothermal energy

The local committees: "It is time to think about the stop of geothermal activities"



#### What local administrations want

**R & D** 

The regional energy planning forecasts:

- an increase of the use of geothermal resources
- the implementation of research centers.

Both goals shall be achieved with financial resources coming from geothermal activities

## **Money**

The "geothermal law" already provides a share linked to the generation. The value of this share is about 1.7 €/MWh.

The Regional Administration has the intention to increase the share up to 15 -20 times



#### What local administrations want

#### Job

About 1000 Enel employees are at present involved in the geothermal activities.

Local administrations would like to increase this number up to 1800.

# **Environmental Care**

Reduce the environmental impact (emissions, landscape,....)

Each request needs a high money consumption.

Accepting all the requests at the same time contrasts with the economical sustainability



## What ENEL is already doing

To reduce the environmental impact

- Decrease H<sub>2</sub>S and Hg emissions
- Eliminate the typical smell associated with geothermal field exploitation
- More effective landscape and architectural compliance

To increase the social acceptance

- New local communities relationships for a sustainable geothermal development
- Agreement with the Tuscan Council requirements about environmental issues and knowledge diffusion

#### **AMIS**©

- Innovative Enel technology
- Highly reduces H<sub>2</sub>S and Hg emissions

#### **Environmental plan**

Over 30 M€ for land recovery issues

New architectural solutions

#### **Communication & knowledge**

- All the power plants are ISO 14001 certified
- Diffusion of technical data
- Cooperation with local communities



#### AMIS: a technical answer to a non-technical issue



An Innovative technology entirely designed and developed by Enel:

AMIS (Abbattimento Mercurio e Idrogeno Solforato)

Abatement of Mercury and Hydrogen Sulfide

16 power plants from 2005 to 2007 will be equipped with AMIS



**About 40 M€ of investment** 

#### 80% of the emissions will be treated

**Expected abatement** Hg > 90% H<sub>2</sub>S 70-80%



## **Environmental impact mitigation: some examples**

#### Power plant evolution ...











Over 30 M€ for land recovery issues



#### Uso: Riservato aziendale

#### **Environmental impact mitigation: some examples**



Lower height above ground level



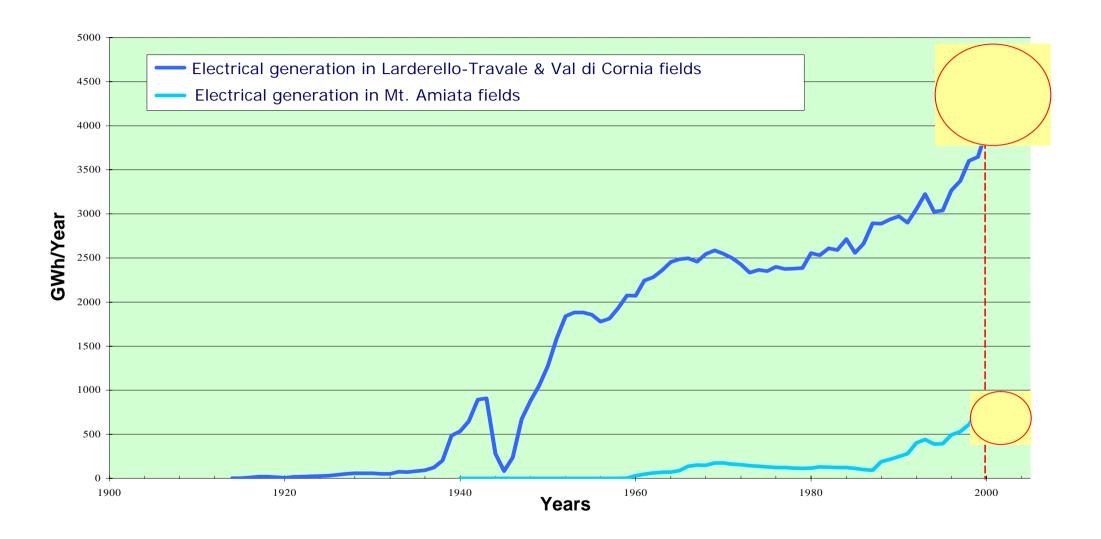
Choice of appropriate colors



Design of gathering system paths using the land morphology to reduce the visual impact



## Where the opposition increases...



... energy generation decreases



#### **Conclusions**

At present, in Tuscany, the main non-technical barrier in the development of geothermal exploitation is linked to people worries about environmental aspects.

#### What the scientific community can do

The scientific community can help the geothermal industry to overcome unjustified worries:

- supporting knowledge spreading;
- assuming unambiguous positions, thus avoiding to feed unjustified fears of the populations about negative effects deriving from the presence of geothermal plants in their lands;
- emphasizing the uncertainties of geo-scientific interpretations in order to avoid their incorrect use or ill-exploitation



