

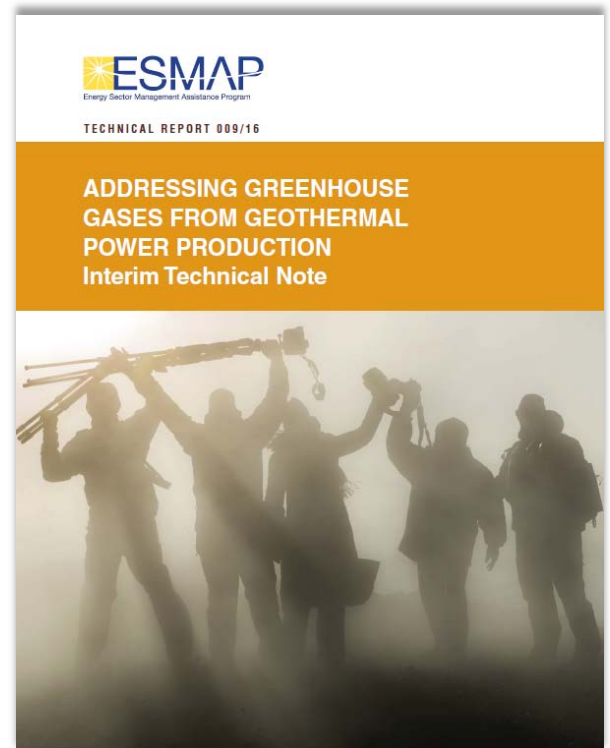
ADDRESSING GREENHOUSE GASES FROM GEOTHERMAL POWER PRODUCTION

In press, 2016

Interim Technical Note

This technical note provides an overview of the current knowledge on GHG emissions from geothermal power plants. Although GHG emissions from geothermal power are relatively small compared to emissions from fossil fuels, such emissions—under specific and rare conditions—can be significant. There are certain geological factors that control different levels GHG emission from geothermal power plants and natural factors that can change emissions over time. Emissions from power plants or via natural pathways may also change with time in response to production. This note discusses these factors; explores the available energy conversion technologies, which can reduce these emissions levels; and presents a cost analysis of options for gas capture and treatment for different commercial purposes—another way to lower overall emissions released into the atmosphere.

This note gives guidance to project developers and financial institutions on to how to estimate emissions, ex ante, from geothermal power projects, especially those being considered for financing by The World and other multilateral development banks, or even the private sector. Recommendations are made towards closing identified knowledge gaps relating to effects of production on GHG emissions over time. More importantly, concessional financing for investments in gas capture and treatment should be considered where GHG emissions from geothermal exceeds the national grid emission factor.



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