



Department of Personnel & Administration

STATE OF COLORADO
Department of Personnel & Administration

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Colorado State Capitol upgrading to geothermal energy

Denver — Friday, June 1, 2012 — The Colorado State Capitol building is being upgraded to use geothermal energy, making it the second state capitol in the country to do so. An energy performance contract finalized today by the Colorado Department of Personnel & Administration and Chevron Energy Solutions will upgrade the Capitol's HVAC system to use a geothermal well that will cool the House and Senate Chambers.

In addition to the upgraded functionality of air conditioning to the building, the project will replace existing pumps and other equipment that date back to the 1940s and are well beyond their estimated useful life, avoiding approximately \$904,000 in replacement costs.

"The construction of a geothermal well at the State Capitol demonstrates Colorado's continued commitment to smart energy use," said Kathy Nesbitt, Executive Director of the Department of Personnel & Administration. "This project illustrates that you can offset energy usage and improve functionality while making necessary HVAC system repairs."

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is providing a \$4.1 million grant toward the overall \$5.5 million project. The State will finance just under \$1.5 million to complete the project.

"Colorado has been a national trend-setter in deploying clean energy technologies, which will be critical to ensuring America's global competitiveness," said Dr. David Danielson, the Department of Energy's Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. "Retrofitting public facilities to operate with renewable energy helps strengthen our economy, saves taxpayers money over the long term and helps reduce pollution. This project serves as a good example of how communities across the country can improve the energy performance of their state and government buildings."

A drilling rig will be placed on the northeast quadrant of the site for four to six weeks, drilling a well into the Arapahoe aquifers below the Capitol building. The Department of Personnel & Administration, which is overseeing the project, will coordinate with the Legislature to ensure the project is timed so as not to disrupt parking or regular business during the legislative session. The 13 month construction project is expected to be completed by late next summer.

The Colorado State Capitol is also the only state capitol to be LEED EBOM (Existing Building Operations and Maintenance) Certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. It achieved that status in 2008.

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