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Solicitation of Comments on the Draft Specifications for the Application of UNFC-2009 to Geothermal Energy Resources

The UNECE Expert Group on Resource Classification is pleased to present for public comment the draft document “Specifications for the Application of the United Nations Framework Classification for Fossil Energy and Mineral Reserves and Resources 2009 (UNFC-2009) to Geothermal Energy Resources”.

The intended use of the specifications is in conjunction with UNFC-2009 and the Specifications for the Application of UNFC-2009 to Renewable Energy Resources (Renewables Specifications). The Renewables Specifications represent ‘rules of application’ of UNFC-2009 to Renewable Energy Resources, while the specifications issued for public comment represent ‘rules of application’ of UNFC-2009 to Geothermal Energy Resources, via the Renewables Specifications. Growing interest in renewable energy has highlighted a need to harmonize the way in which renewable energy potential is reported. Investors, regulators, governments and consumers need a common comparison framework for both renewable and non-renewable energy resources to assess energy sustainability scenarios at project, company, country, region or world levels. With no globally agreed geothermal standards, guidelines or codes existing prior to the development of these specifications, the inclusion of geothermal energy within UNFC will improve global communication in the geothermal sector as part of the larger energy sector. Twelve application examples from Australia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines and Russia, are included with the Specifications to facilitate understanding of the applicability of UNFC-2009 to Geothermal Energy Resources.

UNFC-2009 is applicable to all extractive activities worldwide (including coal, gas, oil and uranium). Significant progress has been made to broaden application to encompass renewable energy with the initial focus on geothermal and bioenergy. Work is now starting on hydro, wind and solar.

It should be noted that the draft Geothermal Specifications have been prepared as the basis for public comment in order to receive input from all stakeholders to ensure development of a robust set of specifications that could be used by governments, regulators, industry and financiers. The public comment period will run from 6 June until 4 August 2016. Comments may be provided via e-mail or mail. Full details are available on the UNECE website at: www.unece.org/energy/se/reserves.html.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the members of the Geothermal Working Group and the International Geothermal Association for their efforts in preparing the Geothermal Specifications.

Yours sincerely

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