Meager Mountain in B.C. However this project is still in the exploration stage and no reservoir is yet confirmed. There is little private industry involvement in either project. Geothermal energy is regarded only as a long-term prospect for Canada.

The main Canadian capability that might be of interest to other countries in this area is in exploration and prospecting, where the considerable expertise and manufacturing abilities built up in the provision of services to the huge mining industry of Canada is readily adaptable to preliminary geothermal exploration (for example, airborne remote sensing, geophysical prospecting and drilling equipment).

A few smaller Canadian consulting firms have direct experience in geothermal resource assessment, gained both in Canada and in countries of South America and Africa.

2.7 Ocean energy, including tidal

The most important of the various types of ocean energy which may be tapped. (tidal, wave, ocean currents, thermal or salinity gradients) is for Canada. the tides of the Eastern seaboard. The Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia, is one of the most technically promising tidal sites in North America. A feasibility study carried out in 1977, based on a barrage and turbine concept, indicated that supply costs of electricity from one possible site would be 3-4¢/kwh, about double those for conventional nuclear or coal-electric supply - suggesting that future trends in prices and technology might render exploitation economically competitive. The Nova Scotia Tidal Power Corporation, with federal government support, recently began construction of an 18 MW demonstration facility, which should be operational by 1983. The system to be used is a scaled up version of systems in use in European river hydroelectric developments.

It is unlikely that other areas of ocean energy will be exploited in Canada for many years. However, Canada is co-operating in a number of the International Energy Agency projects on large-scale wave generating system design; a Canadian firm which is expert in underwater pipeline technology is developing a small, dispersed wave system with units linked by underwater cables; another firm is experimenting with a novel system for harnessing currents. Canada has little present interest in thermal or salinity gradients. Federal R&D support and incentive programs are concentrated on other areas of renewables which show more short and medium term promise domestically.