

BIO – PAUL L. CRAIG

Paul L. Craig became an Alaskan energy sector entrepreneur in 1993 when he founded Trading Bay Energy Corporation. Craig has owned, operated, and sold working interests in various oil and gas prospects and producing fields in Alaska such as the north half of the Umiat Oil Field (see *Oil & Gas Journal*, January 2010, p. 30-38) and the Nicolai Creek Unit – a gas field in the Cook Inlet basin.

In 2020, Craig transferred his knowledge and skills in oil and gas to geothermal by founding **GeoAlaska, LLC** – a company established to acquire, explore, and develop geothermal energy resources in Alaska. GeoAlaska's mission is to provide Alaskans with sustainable and affordable green energy. GeoAlaska owns two geothermal prospects on the west side of the Cook Inlet – Mt. Spurr and Augustine Island. Both stratovolcanoes are prospective for traditional hydrothermal systems. GeoAlaska is partnered with **Ignis Energy** to develop these prospects.

Craig's family heritage in the energy business harkens back to Great Uncle Roy J. Turner – the founder of Turner Oil Company in Oklahoma. Turner was subsequently elected to serve as Governor of Oklahoma (1947-1951) and is the namesake of Turner Turnpike connecting OKC with Tulsa. The Turner Ranch – near Sulphur, Oklahoma – was frequented by John Wayne, Roy Rogers, Dale Evans and many other notables during the 1940s and 50s.

Similar to Armand Hammer's life path which involved being trained as a physician before taking over Occidental Petroleum and growing it into one of the largest companies in the USA; Craig was first trained in clinical neuropsychology before launching into the energy business. Based on his work in healthcare, Craig was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve on the Department of Health & Human Services' *Rural Health & Human Services Advisory Committee* (RHHSAC). Craig also served as Treasurer of the American Psychological Association (2008-2010) where he helped guide the organization through the financial crisis of 2008.

Craig is committed to advancing scalable geothermal power technology to the benefit of humanity and considers himself “a practical visionary.” Craig's “practical” plans begin with developing the traditional hydrothermal resource at Augustine Island. His “visionary” idea involves advancing Dr. John Eichelberger's dream of engaging in the R&D required to extract gigawatts of power from magma – or near magma at Augustine Island (see *New Scientist*, January 3, 2023, cover story).

The magma chamber at Augustine is only 2 km subsurface – making it an ideal field laboratory to complete the R&D needed to reify Dr. Eichelberger's dream. Assuming success, technology emerging from this R&D will be scalable – creating a paradigmatic shift in how sustainable baseload power is produced worldwide, to the benefit of humanity.

See:

www.geoalaska.com

www.ignisenergy.com