This is a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document regarding the proposed unification of the Geothermal Resources Council (GRC) and the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA).

**What is the proposed GRC-GEA Unification?**
The GRC-GEA Unification is a proposed union of two primary United States-based geothermal organizations into a single organization. Both organizations would become members of a single organization. A new Executive Director will be hired with input from a mix of Board and key members of the unified organization. The technical aspect of the unification is that GEA members will join as members the GRC, combined with some changes to GRC’s bylaws to assist GRC members in conducting governmental relations and geothermal policy influence through a new special committee called the “Policy Committee.” Other activities accomplished by the GEA in the past will be new items for the GRC to initiate, e.g., white papers, 1-day networking meetings, and membership action items.

**Why should the two organizations join?**
It is more logical to have a single United States-based geothermal trade organization, akin to other renewable energy industries. The U.S. is the largest geothermal generating capacity in the world. Still, there is value in our organizations to keep improving as we meet the need to for the most efficient use of geothermal industry related funds and resources. The combination will eliminate duplicate spending and give the Geothermal industry a more powerful, cost effective, and unified U.S. - based voice.

The GRC has always had a steady international presence and this unification establishes a stronger focus from which to grow our international membership and cooperatively expand our relationships with geothermal organizations in other countries. Overseas interactions offers the GRC the ability to continue to be a source of cutting-edge technology as geothermal development expands around the world. The relevance of these organizations is well established and working with other country organizations’ efforts, we can continue to expand background knowledge about geothermal resources, technologies, and energy innovation.

**What are the primary changes in the proposed union?**
GRC will create a special committee, called the “Policy Committee” that any GRC member can join through an additional membership payment. This committee will focus on governmental relations and geothermal policy, with funds primarily for lobbying and policy advancement. It will be funded by the fees paid by its members and have several levels of leadership or management. The Policy Committee will appoint one of their members to the GRC Board of Directors each year to fill a designated seat. The unification and new Policy Committee provide opportunities for improved organizational branding and outreach with additional member support.

**How will funding of the new Policy Committee be accomplished?**
For federal tax reasons, and to ensure a separation between the general GRC funds and those of the Policy Committee, the Policy Committee will have its own bank account. The Policy Committee will receive initial funding from the funds transferred into the new Policy Committee account with the closing of the GEA accounts.
How will the unification be accomplished (what is the process)?
The governing boards of both organizations have voted to approve going forward with the unification. The next step is for the members of each organization to vote to approve changes to their respective organization’s bylaws and to vote in the affirmative to support the unification. Once the members of each organization vote to approve the unification (in accordance with each organization’s rules of process) then the two organizations will be on a path to complete the unification. Member votes are anticipated in October of 2017 and if the majority vote is for unification, then the process will be completed by December of 2017. The hiring of the new Executive Director will coincide with the expected changes in workload and be responsible to evaluate staffing requirements.

Why is this being called a “unification”?
The word “unification” best describes the nature of the transaction. The members of GEA are joining the GRC, if not already a member (many are already). All members will now have an opportunity to become members of the new Policy Committee taking on a governmental relations function. GEA will transfer funds to the new Policy Committee as they wind down and dissolve.

Is GRC going to change its name as part of this process?
One term of the unification requires GRC to undergo a process wherein members will work towards a new name for the GRC to demonstrate unity within the geothermal community. This process will occur if the unification is approved by the members of both GRC and GEA. The new combined membership will then have the opportunity to vote on a choice of names.

Will the GRC governing board be involved in the policy decisions?
The highest level of the Policy Committee will include, as non-paying members, the President of the GRC Board of Directors and the Executive Director. Each year the Policy Committee will submit a Policy Plan to the GRC Board of Directors outlining its intended activities and expenditures for that year for Board approval. The Policy Committee will pursue policy matters under the direction of the Board’s goals. If the policy position does not conform with the original intent agreed upon by the annual goals, the Policy Committee will seek timely Board approval prior to implementing.

Will GRC Members’ Dues be used for Lobbying?
Member Dues will not be used to fund the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee will be funded by members who choose to pay an additional sum to join that committee and will use a separate bank account from which it can use funds for governmental relations and geothermal policy advocacy including, possibly, activities defined as lobbying in various jurisdictions. The Policy Committee will receive initial funding from the funds of the GEA and receive a share of proceeds from the 2018 Trade Show. The amount is provided to assist during this transition year.

Why do the proposed changes to the GRC bylaws include changes to the section defining membership types and rights?
Current GRC bylaws provide specific and restrictive types of members and their rights. The changes broaden the Board of Directors’ ability to define and organize membership categories and rights to match the changing involvement of members and services offered. This is a change that is reflective of the current trend and structure for many not-for-profit organizations.