Interpretive Geothermal Heat Flow Map of Colorado

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Explanation and Methods

Heat flow values are a measure of the heat flux moving from the Earth's interior to the surface. They are typically measured in units of milliWatts per square meter (mW/m²). Heat flow can be determined through various methods, including thermal spring/well temperature measurements and temperature-depth logs. These methods help to understand the geothermal gradients, which are the changes in temperature with depth. Geothermal gradients can be geologically recent volcanism or plutonic activity, or Heat flow values are not available. Contour lines are dashed where values derived from temperature-depth measurements can be selectively averaged to generate a representative gradient for intervals between temperature-depth measurements. Geothermal gradients can be determined several ways and are commonly displayed in units of milliWatts (mW) per square meter (m²). Heat flow values are a measure of the heat flux moving from the Earth's interior to the surface.