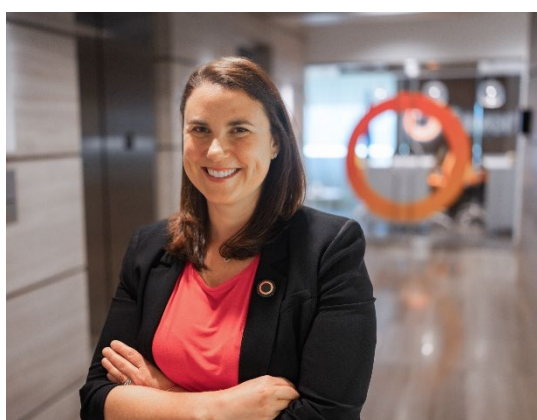




Spotlight on Women in Geothermal USA

Jeanine Vany, Executive Vice President Corporate Affairs at Eavor Technologies



Pioneering Geothermal Energy with Eavor and Beyond

Jeanine Vany's journey in the energy sector is nothing short of inspiring. As a seasoned geoscientist turned strategic leader, she is redefining the future of geothermal energy at Eavor, a company dedicated to making geothermal energy scalable and accessible. Through relentless dedication, ingenuity, and a passion for sustainable energy, Vany has become a vital player in geothermal innovation. This article explores her journey, her role in pioneering geothermal solutions, and her leadership in policy and industry transformation.

From Oil Sands to Geothermal: A Career Pivot Fueled by Passion

Vany's entry into the energy sector was not initially centered on geothermal. With a geology and environmental studies degree from St. Mary's University in Nova Scotia, she began her career working in oil sands in Alberta with companies like Total Energies and GLJ Petroleum Consultants. However, as major oil companies began pulling out of Calgary around 2016, Vany found herself at a crossroads. Although gainfully employed, she felt the pull toward something more sustainable, something that could allow her to utilize her geoscience expertise while contributing to a cleaner energy future.

"I wanted to make geothermal scalable and work on solving problems that could make a real impact on the world's energy landscape," she recalls. Attending geothermal industry nights and meeting like-minded professionals, including Eavor's co-founder, Paul Cairns, Vany realized the potential for geothermal to become a viable, scalable energy source. Her experience in oil sands and her technical skills were directly transferable to geothermal, a revelation that made the transition seem almost serendipitous.



Vany's dedication to Eavor was immediate and wholehearted. In its early days, Eavor operated with limited resources, and she was partnered with a friend to co-lead a small geothermal consulting firm called Castle Rock to support Eavor in its very early days, often working nights for equity rather than pay. Her belief in Eavor's mission and the transformative potential of geothermal energy kept her motivated.

Leading at Eavor: Transformative Roles and Global Expansion

Starting as the Executive Vice President of Geoscience at Eavor, Vany led critical initiatives, including drilling and piloting the first-ever Eavor-Loop™ in Alberta, a revolutionary closed-loop geothermal system. She was not only the sole geoscientist on the team at the time but also an instrumental figure in risk assessment, mapping, and well prognosis. Over the years, Vany built a robust geoscience team and facilitated Eavor's expansion into new markets.

One of her most notable achievements was contributing to securing Eavor's first commercial project in Germany. This required navigating complex regulatory landscapes, understanding the geological potential, and collaborating closely with local stakeholders. "I've always had an eye on the big picture," she explains. "Our project in Germany was made possible because we partnered with local communities and eventually gained the support from the German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz. That support underscored the importance of geothermal in Germany's sustainable energy future."

Under Vany's co-leadership, Eavor grew from a small team to a company with over 150 employees across multiple countries. Her strategic insights, adaptability, and hands-on approach allowed Eavor to transition from a fledgling geothermal company to a recognized leader in sustainable energy solutions.

Balancing Work, Family, and Passion for the Outdoors



While Vany is deeply invested in her work, she makes time for family and outdoor adventures. Living in Calgary, AB, she spends weekends with her family hiking, mountain biking, and exploring nature. She is also an avid reader of historical fiction, using reading to unwind and recharge.

Her ability to balance work, family, and personal interests is a testament to her dedication and resilience. Vany attributes her success to setting clear goals, focusing on the big picture, and constantly seeking growth and learning. "Every three years, I aim to take on something new," she shares. "Whether it's a new skill, role, or project, I believe in continuously challenging myself."

"Say yes to opportunities that challenge you. Be coachable, focus on communication, and don't be afraid to dive into complex problems."

Shifting Focus: Policy, Regulation, and Strategic Advocacy

Recognizing the critical role of policy in advancing geothermal technology, Vany transitioned to her current role in corporate affairs, focusing on policy and regulatory affairs for North America. In this role, she advocates for policy reform that promotes geothermal energy as a viable, scalable energy solution. She collaborates with industry leaders, government officials, and environmental organizations to drive policy changes that can unlock new opportunities for geothermal.

A major initiative Vany currently leads is the [Alberta Drilling Accelerator](#), which aims to establish Canada's first geothermal test bed. The Government of Alberta announced \$50MM in funding for this project on November 25th, 2024. The Alberta Drilling Accelerator is designed to accelerate geothermal innovation by providing a testing ground and working capital for disruptive drilling technologies. "The ADA could be a game-changer," she says. "It would give geothermal companies the space and resources they need to innovate safely and sustainably and could very well unlock innovative drilling solutions for ultra deep geothermal globally. Harnessing the earth's heat at greater depth efficiently and economically is the ultimate form of energy security if we can get there."

Vany's work with industry organizations, such as Geothermal Rising, The European Geothermal Energy Council, and the International Geothermal Association, further amplifies her impact. As a member of Geothermal Rising's policy committee, she collaborates with experts to create unified strategies that benefit the entire geothermal sector. Her advocacy focuses on issues like permitting reform and funding appropriations, both crucial for making geothermal development more accessible and cost-effective.



Eavor founders at the Alberta Drilling Accelerator Announcement



WING Canada Event

Looking Ahead: Inspiring the Next Generation

For Vany, the journey is far from over. She hopes to see geothermal become a mainstream energy source and inspire the next generation of energy professionals to embrace sustainable solutions. Her advice to young professionals is simple yet profound: "Say yes to opportunities that challenge you. Be coachable, focus on communication, and don't be afraid to dive into complex problems."

Vany's journey, from geoscientist to geothermal pioneer, is a powerful reminder of the impact one person can have on an industry. Through her work at Eavor, she is helping to shape a future where geothermal energy plays a central role in the global energy transition, paving the way for a cleaner, more sustainable world.

Authors of Spotlight on Women in Geothermal USA

Please send your suggestions for future editions of Spotlight on Women in Geothermal directly to the authors.



Elizabeth Cambre

North America BDM New Energies
– Geothermal, Vallourec

WING USA Chapter Committee
Member

Elizabeth.Cambre@vallourec.com



Lauren Lopez

Global BDM – Energy Transition,
NOV

WING USA Chapter Committee
Member

Lauren.Lopez2@nov.com



Analiese Andersen

Geothermal BDM – MicroSeismic
Inc.

WING USA Chapter Committee
Member

AAandersen@microseismic.com