

# WOMEN IN GEOTHERMAL

Promoting the education, professional development, and advancement of women in the geothermal community.



## ALISSA SANCHEZ ORMAT TECHNOLOGIES

Alissa Sanchez, Director of Business Development at Ormat Technologies, has over 20 years of experience in environmental project management. Starting her career with the Bad River Chippewa Tribe in Wisconsin, she has managed diverse environmental projects across the Midwest and Western U.S.

She holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Northland College, WI, and an M.S. in Atmospheric Science from the University of Nevada, Reno, specializing in air quality analysis, permitting, and teaching environmental professionals.

As Director of Business Development at Ormat Technologies, Alissa plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of geothermal energy. With over 20 years of experience in environmental project management, she leads with a rare blend of technical expertise, strategic vision, and deep-rooted commitment to sustainability and community.

At the heart of her work is a complex and critical responsibility: overseeing all environmental permitting for Ormat's geothermal projects in California and Hawaii. These regions are not only rich in geothermal potential but also home to diverse ecosystems and communities. Alissa ensures that every project is developed with care, compliance, and collaboration.



“Permitting takes time and patience. I use the word respect because it doesn't happen overnight. It requires a thoughtful process, strong communication, and a deep understanding of what it takes to bring a project to life.”

From conducting environmental assessments and coordinating with regulatory agencies to engaging with local stakeholders and tribal communities, Alissa's work is both technical and deeply human. She emphasizes the importance of site suitability, timing, and community alignment—ensuring that each project is not only viable but also welcomed and supported.

“It's not just about checking boxes. It's about building trust, listening to concerns, and making sure our projects reflect the values of the people and places they impact.”

Alissa's journey began with the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe in Wisconsin, where she first immersed herself in environmental stewardship. Since then, she has led projects across the Midwest and Western U.S., specializing in air quality analysis and permitting. Her academic background—a B.S. in Chemistry from Northland College and an M.S. in Atmospheric Science from the University of Nevada, Reno—has equipped her with the scientific rigor needed to navigate the evolving landscape of clean energy.

Throughout her career, Alissa has benefited from the guidance of influential mentors, but one stands out from the rest. As a woman in the field of environmental project management, Alissa draws immense strength and inspiration from her late mother. Her mother, who pursued a Master's degree later in life, was a true rock star in Alissa's eyes, embodying empowerment both as a woman and within the native community. She worked tirelessly to assist and educate others, preserving her language and ensuring that people were well taken care of. Her belief in the world as a community and her dedication to sustainability deeply influenced Alissa. These values, along with her mother's unwavering work ethic, continue to guide Alissa in her career, driving her to always give back and make a positive impact in the world.

This foundation of values and mentorship has shaped not only Alissa's path but also the advice she offers to others navigating similar journeys. When asked what guidance she would share, Alissa emphasizes the importance of continuous learning and not being afraid to take risks. With the rapid expansion of geothermal energy, she sees countless opportunities for innovation. She encourages others to seek mentors, build strong networks, and embrace new challenges with confidence.



PROFILES

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Looking ahead, Alissa sees the geothermal industry entering a pivotal phase. With emerging technologies unlocking new potential, she envisions geothermal energy playing a central role in the global shift toward clean, sustainable power.

“In five years, I see myself continuing this journey at Ormat—mentoring new talent, championing innovation, and helping scale geothermal energy to meet our global needs. There’s so much work to be done, and I’m excited to be part of it,” she says.

Alissa is profoundly driven by her family and heritage. Her passion for environmental project management is deeply intertwined with her commitment to sustainability and community. Outside of her professional life, Alissa is a skilled seamstress who enjoys attending tribal events, where she connects with her culture and honors her roots.

Alissa’s forward-thinking mindset and dedication to sustainability make her a standout leader in the geothermal space. As the industry evolves, she remains focused on innovation, mentorship, and impact—helping shape a cleaner energy future, one project at a time.



## Author: Marisol Collons



Marisol is a communications professional dedicated to driving positive change through impactful storytelling and effective communication. With a degree in Journalism from the University of Nevada, Reno, and an MBA, she blends strong writing skills with business acumen.

Starting her career in broadcast news and marketing, Marisol developed a passion for crafting compelling narratives and disseminating vital information. She excels in creating communication strategies that align with business objectives, fostering meaningful connections to help businesses achieve their goals.

Marisol authors Spotlight Articles for the WING committee, celebrating industry leaders' achievements. Passionate about the geothermal industry and her community, she is eager to contribute to their growth and development. Outside of work, Marisol enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her husband and two dogs.

