

G. LOW-TEMPERATURE CYCLES

Assigned our lowest priority, organic- or ammonia-Rankine (vapor) cycles for low temperatures have potential application as bottoming cycles or with geothermal or solar-thermal energy sources. Bottoming cycles offer either small or zero gain in efficiencies of existing systems, so no work is recommended for this area. These closed conversion systems will improve both efficiency and life of geothermal power systems; some effort is thus worthwhile, the actual magnitude of support depending on the size, kind and location of geothermal energy sources discovered. Any substantial effort on the power conversion systems for solar-thermal sources should be dictated by the general cost and performance of solar thermal collectors, which is yet to be determined; after the cost and performance of the solar collectors have been established, development of the appropriate power conversion system should be a routine operation best carried out then rather than now.