

Chasing the Shadow of Green Energy Transition: Ineffective Policy Advocacy Towards Dieng 2 Geothermal Mining

Anala Ahimsa

Department of Public Policy and Management, FISIPOL UGM

(email: anala.ahimsa@ugm.ac.id)

Abstract. Despite the green energy transition efforts accelerating geothermal energy development, geothermal mining throughout Indonesia has encountered significant community resistance due to the detrimental environmental impacts. In Indonesia, the resistance movement that became the community's tool for advocating policy most of the time failed to accommodate the issue. Using the case study of Dieng geothermal mining and the expansion project of Dieng 2, this study examines why community resistance as a means of policy advocacy remains ineffective in addressing community interest. Through field observations, semi-structured in-depth interviews, and an additional literature review, this study found that the key internal and external factors contributing to the policy advocacy's ineffectiveness are the poor coalition solidity that emerged from the rooted socio-economic ties with the corporations, as well as an impaired democratic decision-making process. Blurring out the dynamic inside the coalition can hinder what this study has found, the significance of the coalition's solidity for the movement's success. Yet, whereas other studies assume that community resistance emerged from shared values and interests, this study found that the movement extends beyond the dichotomy of corporations against local communities, as the community itself cannot be considered a monolithic coalition with uniform beliefs or equal material interests.

Keywords

Energy Transition, Bottom-up Policy Advocacy, Community Resistance, Geothermal Energy