

LURGI-GASIFIER TESTS OF PENNSYLVANIA ANTHRACITE

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FOREWORD

Anthracite, once the predominant space-heating fuel in large areas of the eastern United States and Canada, has gone through a long period of decline, due in large measure to competition from natural gas and petroleum. Consequently, the overall economy of the anthracite-producing region has been disturbed for many years.

The Bureau of Mines has expanded its research program on Pennsylvania anthracite to assist in solving the technical and economic problems of the industry. The Bureau studies include projects on mining, preparation, and utilization, which are designed not only to increase output per man-day but to provide a better product for a wider variety of uses.

The phenomenal growth in the demand for gas in the heavily populated, industrialized eastern part of the United States has prompted the Bureau to investigate the technology of coal gasification for the purpose of evaluating the technical and economic factors involved in the use of anthracite as a gasification fuel. The Lurgi tests described in this report are part of that evaluation.

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