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A PROGRAM TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL OF THE SYNTHESIS OF CHEMICALS FROM COAL AS AN ERDA RESEARCH PROGRAM

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A PROGRAM TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL OF THE SYNTHESIS OF CHEMICALS FROM COAL AND OIL SHALE AS AN ERDA RESEARCH PROGRAM

FINAL REPORT

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this project is to assess the desirability of facilitating the production of chemical feedstocks from coal and oil shale resources, and to provide suggestions for future ERDA research programs based on the results found. Program suggestions are based on a review of factors critical to the use of coal and oil shale for chemical production and the status of current ERDA program efforts. The approach used in the study consists of the following steps:

- Review of petrochemical feedstock demand and fuel supply demand projections.
- Determination of how coal and oil shale technologies could relate to the processing routes for chemical feedstocks.
- Identification of factors critical to the utilization of coal and oil shale derived petrochemical feedstocks.
- Review of ERDA programs potentially related to producing chemicals from coal and oil shale.
- Suggestions for future ERDA research programs.

The suggestions made for ERDA research programs were in the areas of:

- Catalyst Development
- Processing Techniques
- Characterization of Liquids
- Economics
- Environment, Safety, and Health

Catalyst development is considered to be the most important technological development need for the near term.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

		Page
ABSTRACT		ii
LIST OF FIGURES		v
LIST OF TABLES		vi
1.0	INTRODUCTION	1
2.0	CONCLUSION AND PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS	4
3.0	THE RELATIONSHIP OF PETROCHEMICAL FEEDSTOCKS TO OVERALL U.S. ENERGY SUPPLIES	9
	3.1 Primary Feedstocks for Chemicals Production	9
	3.2 Projected Feedstock Requirements	13
	3.3 Present and Projected Feedstock Sources	14
4.0	CHEMICAL PRODUCTION FROM COAL AND OIL SHALE	20
	4.1 Chemical Nature of Coal and Oil Shale	20
	4.2 Processing Routes and Conversion Technology	25
	4.2.1 Synthesis Gas Production	29
	4.2.2 Olefin Production	31
	4.2.3 Aromatic Production	39
5.0	IDENTIFICATION OF THE CRITICAL FACTORS IN THE UTILIZATION OF CHEMICAL FEEDSTOCKS FROM COAL AND OIL SHALE	47
	5.1 Historical Factors Responsible for Chemical Industry Feedstock Changes	47
	5.2 Factors Affecting Chemical Processing Choices	53
	5.3 Discussion of Factors Affecting the Use of Chemicals from Coal and Oil Shale	55
	5.3.1 Feedstock Price and Availability	56
	5.3.2 Coproduct Value	59
	5.3.3 Operating Cost	61

RADIAN CORPORATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

		Page
5.3.4	Capital Costs	62
5.3.5	Environmental Factors	63
5.3.6	Transportation Costs	64
5.3.7	Technological Development	65
6.0	REVIEW OF EXISTING RESEARCH PROGRAMS	68
BIBLIOGRAPHY		75

RADIAN CORPORATION

LIST OF FIGURES

Number		Page
3-1	Sources of Major Organic Chemicals	10
3-2	Simplified Representations of Processing for Primary Chemicals of the Petrochemical Industry	11
3-3	Comparison of Petrochemical Demands to Other Petroleum Uses	16
3-4	Relationship of Petrochemical Feedstock Demand to Fossil Fuel Availability and Total Energy Demand	18
4-1	Relationship of Conversion Technologies to Petrochemical Feedstocks	28
5-1	Factors Which can Cause Chemical Process Change and/or Development	54

LIST OF TABLES

Number		Page
3-1	Projections of Demand for Major Categories of Petrochemicals (10^9 lb/yr)	13
3-2	U.S. Production of Primary Organic Chemicals from Natural Gas, Petroleum and Coal	15
4-1	Characteristics of Crude Shale Oils	25
4-2	Coal and Oil Shale Conversion Processes	26
4-3	Coal Based Synthetic Ammonia Plants	30
4-4	K-T Gasifier Crude Gas Composition	32
4-5	Product Distribution from Fixed Bed and Synthol Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis on Iron Catalysts	34
4-6	Product Distribution from Naphtha (C_5-C_{11}) Cracking	35
4-7	Steam Coil Cracking of H-Coal Fractions Wt% of Product	37
4-8	H-Coal Yields for Bituminous and Subbituminous Coal	38
4-9	TOSCO II Process Typical Gas Yield after Acid Gas Removal	40
4-10	Typical Shale Oil from TOSCO II Process (33 Gallons Per Ton Raw Shale)	41
4-11	Typical Yields of Coke and Chemicals from High-Temperature Coal Carbonization	44
4-12	Composition of High-Temperature Coke-Oven Tar	45
4-13	Reforming of H-Coal Naphtha Fractions	46
5-1	Changes in Process, Feedstocks and By-Products in the Creation of Acetic Acid from WWI to Present	50