

FOREWORD

This report is the proceedings of the Conference on Synthetic Fuels: Status and Directions held at the Jack Tar Hotel in San Francisco on October 13-16, 1980. The conference focused on the status of technology for producing clean gaseous and liquid fuels that are useful to the power industry from coal and shale oil.

The conference was cosponsored by the Electric Power Research Institute and the Julich Nuclear Research Center, acting on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Research and Technology. Attending the conference were 450 delegates representing the electric power industry, the synthetic fuel development community, and administrators of energy policy; attendees traveled from eight foreign countries. Thirty-five technical papers were delivered by an international body of authors representing relatively advanced synthetic fuel technologies that are operating equipment to provide the technological, economic, and environmental basis for launching a synthetic fuels industry. The new fuel supply will provide an important option for supplementing the supply of petroleum and natural gas. With escalation of imported petroleum prices, synthetic fuels will become competitive and also will become an option for utilities in the generation mix during the 1980s.

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