

FOREWORD

The 23rd Oil Shale Symposium was made possible by the support of the U.S. Department of Energy and those authors and their companies who provided the papers and made the presentations at the Symposium. Although there were fewer papers than in past years, the quality of the presentations was excellent and the material covered was very valuable to those attending. The attendance was better than that for the 22nd Oil Shale Symposium even though there has been no renewal of interest in alternate liquid fuels by the U.S.

The United States has become increasingly dependent upon imported crude oils and, during 1989, imports averaged over 46% of the total crude demand. Also, U.S. crude oil reserves fell for the 19th straight year. In spite of these trends, the low prices and easy availability of crude oils have prevented the reawakening of interest for a synthetic fuels program and the reopening of research and development programs in the fuels and energy industry.

An informal survey of those participating in this symposium showed a desire to continue with the symposia even though oil shale research and development is at a low level. The continued operation of the Unocal plant at Parachute and the continuation of the Occidental program at Tract Cb (see papers in these Proceedings) lend support to the hope that sufficient worthwhile papers will be available in 1991 to have a two-day symposium. Consequently, the 24th Annual Oil Shale Symposium is scheduled for April 23 - 24, 1991.

The Tell Ertl Oil Shale Collection of The Colorado School of Mines Library is off to a very good start with the receipt of a number of donations of material from pioneers in the oil shale industry. This is a significant program to preserve the results of programs and processes to commercially produce shale oil from oil shale. Material donated to this collection will be cataloged, indexed, and placed in computer files so information can be readily accessed and made available to future workers in this field. This will provide a much needed base for future work which will minimize duplication of effort and shorten the time to develop economic processes. In the past, much of the information learned during periods of interest in oil shale development was lost because it was stored in out-of-the-way places and then forgotten. If any of you are aware of any collections of information that could be of value to future workers, please let the Director of Acquisitions, Colorado School of Mines Library, know. The library will try to obtain this material for the Tell Ertl Collection. In some cases, the donator can receive tax benefits.

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