



National Oil Shale Association

Oil Shale
Energy to Fuel our Future

Oil Shale is America's Energy Answer

The world is rapidly approaching its limit for production of conventional petroleum according to "Peak Oil" experts. Our cars, trucks and planes run on liquid fuels made from petroleum, and there are no viable substitutes for liquid fuels from petroleum other than liquid fuels from oil shale, oil sands, biomass and coal. Therefore it is imperative that the U.S. develop its unconventional fuel resources.

OIL SHALE IS AN IMMENSE DOMESTIC RESOURCE

Oil shale deposits in the United States are estimated to contain over 2-trillion barrels of oil from oil shale averaging over 25-gallons per ton. The three states of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming alone contain an amount of oil from oil shale that is comparable with the conventional oil reserves in the Middle East. According to the

Department of Energy, "The oil shale deposits in these three states . . . contain approximately 1.2-trillion barrels of oil equivalent. Recovery of even a small fraction of this resource would represent a significant energy supply to supplement the Nation's oil supply for many decades."

U.S. oil Shale is the most concentrated hydrocarbon accumulation on Earth. As Dag Nummedal, the Director of the Colorado Energy Research Institute, puts it, "The numbers are just astounding. There is five times the amount of oil per acre in the Piceance Basin (Colorado) as within a rich oil field like Prudhoe Bay (Alaska)". Certain locations in Colorado may yield as much as 1.5-million barrels of oil from a single acre. One would need to cover more than 3,000 acres of land with solar panels for 25 years to produce as much energy (both resources calculated on an electricity basis) to equal the productivity of that one acre.

Renewable sources of energy are needed (e.g. hydroelectric, wind, solar-voltaic), but they produce electricity, not transportation fuels, and fuels from biomass provide virtually no new net energy. Ultimately, we have no choice but to turn to unconventional fuels, as the oil sands industry in Alberta, Canada, has already proven. Oil from this source currently amounts to over 1-million barrels per day. The Canadian success can serve as a model for oil shale development in the U.S.

COMMERCIAL-SCALE OIL SHALE DEVELOPMENT IS NOT A RISKY BUSINESS

The threats to people's health, communities, and the environment from oil shale extraction are manageable and not dangerous. Environmental regulations enacted by Federal, State and local governments insure public

safety. The hidden costs and national security implications of importing 60% of our oil from foreign countries makes it imperative that the U.S. develop its unconventional fuel resources from oil shale, coal, heavy oil and tar sands.

Industrial firms are conducting costly and deliberate research, development and demonstration programs to prove oil shale extraction technologies that are environmentally compliant, economically

viable and sustainable. A commercial industry will commence only when these goals are achieved. It will be well into the next decade before commercial oil shale projects will begin, assuming the research is successful. The challenges are great, but the potential rewards for the nation are substantial. Therefore, the National Oil Shale Association seeks your support in endorsing a national strategy for the responsible development of unconventional fuels.

