OIL SHALE
COAL
OIL SANDS
NATURAL GAS

the sinor synthetic fuels report

VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 2 APRIL 1995

quarterly

J.E. SINOR CONSULTANTS INC.
THE SINOR SYNTHETIC FUELS REPORT is published by J.E. Sinor Consultants Inc. as a multi-client service and is intended for the sole use of the clients or organizations affiliated with clients by virtue of a relationship equivalent to 51 percent or greater ownership. THE SINOR SYNTHETIC FUELS REPORT is protected by the copyright laws of the United States. No part of the report may be copied, stored in an electronic data retrieval system, or transmitted to third parties unless expressly authorized by J.E. Sinor Consultants Inc.

We welcome your comments concerning THE SINOR SYNTHETIC FUELS REPORT.

J. E. Sinor Consultants Inc. has provided alternative energy consulting and reporting services since 1985. The company's experience includes resource evaluation, process development and design, technical evaluations, expert witness testimony, marketing studies, environmental planning, and economic analysis.

For additional information concerning company qualifications, capabilities and experience, please contact:

J.E. SINOR CONSULTANTS Inc.
Suite 1
6964 North 79th Street
Post Office Box 649
Niwot, Colorado 80544
USA

Telephone (303) 652 2632
Facsimile (303) 652 2772

The Sinor Synthetic Fuels Report is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October by J.E. Sinor Consultants Inc., 6964 North 79th Street, Suite 1, Niwot, Colorado, USA 80544, (303) 652 2632.
CONTENTS

GENERAL

GOVERNMENT
Commerce Department Finds That Oil Imports Endanger U.S. National Security 1-1
GAO and DOE Reviews Call for Changes at National Laboratories 1-1

ENERGY POLICY AND FORECASTS
Improved Technology Leads EIA to Lower Energy Price Projections 1-3

TECHNOLOGY
IGT's RENUGAS Biogasification Process Being Commercialized 1-3

ENVIRONMENT
Carbon and Energy Taxes Seen Ineffective in Accomplishing Environmental Goals 1-5

COMING EVENTS

OIL SHALE

PROJECT ACTIVITIES
Oil Shale Mining Accommodates Environmental Concerns in Brazil 2-1

CORPORATIONS
SPP/CPM Oil Shale Projects Marked Time in 1994 2-3
Greenvale Mining and Esperance minerals Continue Oil Shale Interests 2-8

TECHNOLOGY
Solvent Swelling of Green River Kerogen Studied 2-9
New Retorting Technology Reported 2-12

INTERNATIONAL
New Shale Oil Facility Reported in China 2-13
Morocco Oil Shale Scheduled for Tests in Israel 2-13

OIL SANDS

PROJECT ACTIVITIES
Suncor Oil Sands Group Saw Big Jump in Earnings in 1994 3-1
Solv-Ex Reveals Project Plans 3-4
Canadian Oil Sands Production Sets New Records 3-5

CORPORATIONS
ELAN Energy Buys Amoco's Elk Point Properties 3-5

GOVERNMENT
BLM Plans Sliding-Scale Royalty Rates for Heavy Oil 3-6
Oil Sands Orders and Approvals Listed 3-8
Energy Research Council Established in Alberta 3-8

THE SYNTHETIC FUELS REPORT, APRIL 1995
ENERGY POLICY AND FORECASTS
Texaco Urges Increased Role of Heavy Oil in World Energy Markets 3-8
Alberta Study Sees Doubling or Tripling of Oil Sands Production in the Future 3-12

ECONOMICS
Cost Estimate Made for the Development of Trinidad’s Tar Sands 3-14

INTERNATIONAL
Thermal Recovery of Heavy Oil Growing in China 3-16
Thermal Mining Proposed for Siberian Oil Field 3-18

RESOURCE
DOE Report to Congress Assesses U.S. Tar Sand Resources 3-19

COAL

PROJECT ACTIVITIES
Great Plains Will Make Strategic Move to Anhydrous Ammonia Production 4-1
Eastman Will Demonstrate Liquid-Phase Methanol Process at Gasification Complex 4-2
Sasol Enters MIBK Business 4-4
Kennecott Slows Down Puron Project 4-5
British Coal’s Point of Ayr Liquefaction Plant to Finish Final Run in May 4-5

GOVERNMENT
New Coal Research Center Established in Australia 4-6
NRC Suggests That DOE Coal Program is Not Conforming With EPACT 4-6
Status of Clean Coal Technology Projects Updated 4-9

ECONOMICS
Electricity From IGCC Found Competitive After 2000 4-10

TECHNOLOGY
Optimized Gasification Combined Cycle Proposed 4-11
Upgraded Low-Rank Coal Promoted for Slurry Fuel 4-14
Alcohol/Coal/Water Mixtures Would Allow Pipeline Operation in Cold Climates 4-16

INTERNATIONAL
Texaco Signs Agreement for Nine More Gasification Plants in China 4-16
IGCC Complex Studied for Brazil 4-17
IGT Will Provide Turbine for Shanghai Gasification Project 4-18
New Zealand Underground Gasification Project Under Way 4-18

NATURAL GAS

PROJECT ACTIVITIES
Additional Methanol Distillation Unit Due at New Zealand Synfuels 5-1
Future of Mossgas Project in South Africa Unclear 5-1

TECHNOLOGY
Improved Process Devised for Oxidative Coupling of Methane 5-2
Opportunities Seen for Improving Natural Gas to Liquids Processes 5-3