# **B. FOSSIL ENERGY TASK GROUP ISSUES LIST**

1. Fossil Energy Objectives . . . . . . 53

Almost all of ERDA's programs in fossil energy contain unrealistically optimistic projections of the energy supplies that can be realized from new technologies in the near term.

#### 2. Primary Oil and Gas Recovery . 54

No Federal agency is engaged in a comprehensive research program for primary oil and gas recovery from new sources; the absence of such a program could lead to delays in the development of these resources.

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The proper role for ERDA in enhanced oil and gas recovery is not well defined.

ERDA's priorities for oil shale R, D&D lack a sense of urgency in meeting the Nation's energy supply needs in the near- and mid-terms.

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New and existing projects in coal liquefaction must be carried through the pilot and demonstration stages in order to determine what technical problems remain and to establish the oil price levels at which commercial production will occur.

#### 6. High-Btu Gasification of Coal . . 61

The construction and operation of a first generation, commercial-sized, high-Btu coal gasification plant is a prerequisite to any decision on a coal-based synthetic natural gas industry.

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The ERDA program on low-Btu coal gasification should give attention to the fuel needs of industrial furnaces, kilns, and ovens.

8. Mining Technology ..... 64

Research on underground mining technology is required if coal production is to double in the next 10 years as projected.

#### 9. Direct Coal Utilization . . . . . . . 66

ERDA's near-term program for direct coal utilization by utilities and industry is narrowly oriented toward fluidized bed combustion.

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The present ERDA program to develop integrated low-Btu gasifier, combined cycle powerplants has underestimated their potential.

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The balance among various advanced energy R&D projects, as indicated by the relative budget allocations, does not reflect the potential of the competing technologies,

12. Interagency Coordination: Coal Cleanup 72

ERDA must coordinate its activities with those of other agencies relating to research and development of fossil energy, This is particularly evident in the problem of coal cleanup.

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Even if mining technology is adequate to support an expanded use of coal and oil shale in the United States, there are potential obstacles associated with environmental, social, and political impacts of a massive increase in mining.

## 14. Manpower ..\*\*\*\*..\*\*\*\*\* 76

ERDA's program for massive expansion of the use of coal will require far more trained personnel at various levels than can naturally be expected to enter those sectors of the labor market.

### 15. Transportation Systems . . . . . . 78

The application of fossil fuel technology research will require improved transportation systems in the United States.

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ERDA has not established a systemsoriented study of water availability related to its energy program.