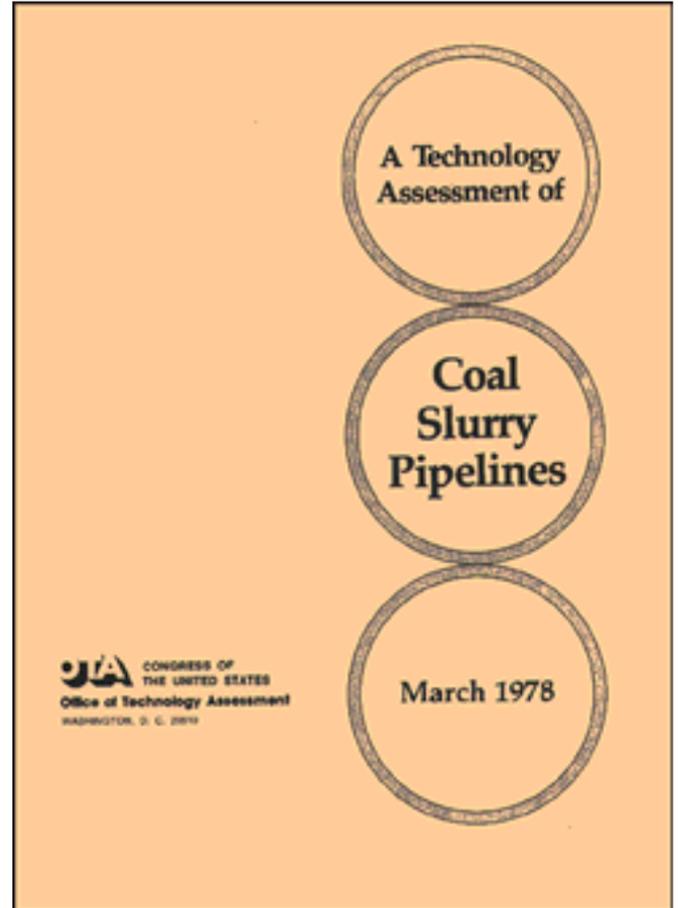


*A Technology Assessment of Coal Slurry
Pipelines*

March 1978

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March 2, 1978

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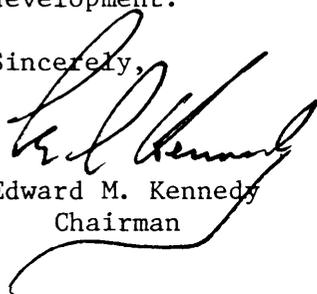
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Washington, DC 20510

Gentlemen:

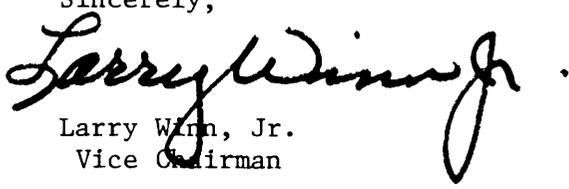
On behalf of the Board of the Office of Technology Assessment, we are pleased to forward the results of the assessment of coal slurry pipelines requested by your committees.

This assessment will aid in congressional deliberation over proposed coal slurry pipeline legislation, and we hope it will contribute to resolving larger questions of transportation policy, water resource allocation, and social costs and benefits of energy development.

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy
Chairman

Sincerely,


Larry Winn, Jr.
Vice Chairman

Enclosure

Foreword

This assessment analyzes the costs and potential economic, social, and environmental impacts of coal slurry pipelines, and it represents the results of a project undertaken in mid-1976 at the request of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. In addition to aiding in congressional deliberation on several bills that propose granting Federal eminent domain to coal slurry pipeline enterprises, the study should contribute to resolving broader questions of transportation policy, western water allocation, and regional conflicts over energy development.

The pages that follow include a discussion of the possible effects on society of coal slurry pipeline development, a comparison of pipeline and unit train costs, and an analysis of relevant legal and regulatory issues. Findings address conditions under which slurry pipelines may be attractive in terms of cost and the influence of transportation regulatory policy. Also evaluated are the potential impacts of Slurry pipeline development on the rail industry, consequences of pipeline water use as contrasted with community impacts of increased coal train traffic, and implications of the power of eminent domain at the Federal, as opposed to State, level.

This report is another in the series of energy assessments that are being provided to the Congress for its consideration in the development of national energy policy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Russell W. Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

RUSSELL W. PETERSON
Director
Office of Technology Assessment

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• Resigned- August 1977

•* Resigned- March 1977

NOTE The Advisory Panel provided advice, critique, and assistance throughout this assessment, for which the OTA staff is deeply grateful. The Advisory Panel, however, does not necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse all aspects of this report. OTA assumes full responsibility for the report and the accuracy of its content.

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