

Gasohol

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GASOHOL

A TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

SEPTEMBER 1979

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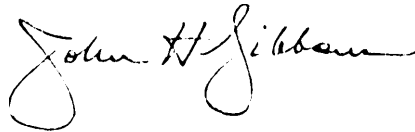
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PREFACE

The Office of Technology Assessment is currently preparing an assessment of energy from biological processes. In the course of this study we have carried out an extensive analysis of alcohol fuels from agricultural products. This technical memorandum presents these findings in response to congressional interest in synthetic fuels. The purpose of the memorandum is to illuminate the technical and non-technical issues surrounding the development of gasohol. It discusses the resource base, production technologies, and economics of gasohol, and its use as a transportation fuel. The report also contains a discussion of the environmental problems and benefits of producing and using gasohol, and the social and institutional issues about using agricultural products for energy.

While the memorandum does not present an analysis of policy issues, it does provide estimates of how much gasohol can be used at what cost, and the long-term prospects for ethanol production. All are important to the current congressional debate over development of a gasohol policy.

The final report on energy from biological processes is scheduled for delivery to Congress in January 1980 and will contain an analysis of policy options about gasohol as well as other bioenergy technologies such as wood and methanol production.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John H. Gibbons". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

JOHN H. GIBBONS
Director

Advisory Panel

Energy From Biological Processes

Dr. Thomas Ratchford, Chairman
Associate Executive Director
American Association for the
Advancement of Science
Washington, D.C. .

Mr. Ralph Kienker
Monsanto Company
St. Louis, Missouri

Dr. Henry Art
Center for Environmental Studies
Williams College
Williamstown, Massachusetts

Mr. Dean Kleckner
President, Iowa Farm Bureau
Federation
West Des Moines, Iowa

Dr. Stanley Barber
Department of Agronomy
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana

Mr. Kevin Markey
Friends of the Earth
Denver, Colorado

Dr. John Benemann
Sanitary Engineering Laboratory
University of California
Richmond Field Station
Richmond, California

Mr. Jacques Maroni
Energy Planning Manager
Ford Motor Company
Dearborn, Michigan

Dr. Paul F. Bente, Jr.
Executive Director
The Bio-Energy Council
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Michael Neushul
Marine Science Institute
University of California at
Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, California

Mr. Calvin Burwell
Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Dr. William Scheller
Department of Chemical
Engineering
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dr. Robert Hirsch
EXXON Research and Engineering
Company
Florham Park, New Jersey

Mr. Kenneth Smith
Office of Appropriate Technology
Sacramento, California

Mr. Robert Hodam
California Energy Commission
Sacramento, California

Dr. Wallace Tyner
Department of Agricultural
Economics
Purdue University
West Lafayette, Indiana

Mr. Kip Hewlett
Georgia Pacific
Washington, D.C.

NOTE: The Advisory Panel provides advice and comment throughout the assessment, but the members do not necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse the report for which OTA assumes full responsibility.

ENERGY FROM BIOLOGICAL PROCESSES STAFF

Lionel S. Johns, Assistant Director

Energy, Materials, and Global Security Division

Richard E. Rowberg, Energy Group Manager

Thomas E. Bull, Project Director

A. Jenifer Robison, Assistant Project Director

Mark Gibson, Federal Programs

Steven Plotkin, Environmental Issues

Richard Thoreson, Economic Issues

Lisa Jacobson Lillian Quigg Yvonne White

SUPPLEMENTS TO STAFF

Stanley Clark

Robert Vernon

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document was prepared in conjunction with OTA'S assessment of Energy from Biological Processes. In addition to reviews by the members of the Advisory Panel for Energy from Biological Processes, this technical memorandum has also been reviewed by the following people, but they do not necessarily approve, disapprove or endorse the report.

Mr. Weldon Barton
Office of Energy
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Prof. Carroll Bottum
Department of Agricultural Economics
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN

Prof. Otto Doering
Department of Agricultural Economics
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN

Prof. Irving Goldstein
Department of Wood and Paper Science
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, NC

Mr. Sanford Harris
Chief, Biomass Branch
Division of Solar Technology
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C.

Ms. Marilyn Herman
Chairperson, Alcohol Fuels Policy Review
Office of Policy and Evaluation
Department of Energy
Washington, D.C.

Prof. Edward Hiler
Department of Agricultural Engineering
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX

Prof. Arthur Humphrey
Department of Chemical and
Biochemical Engineering
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

Prof. Ronald Lacewell
Department of Agricultural Economics
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX

Dr. Edward Lipinsky
Battelle Columbus Laboratories
Columbus, OH

Dr. Dwight Miller
Assistant Center Director
Northern Regional Research Center
USDA
Peoria, IL

Mr. Edward Noland
General Electric Company
Philadelphia, PA

Prof. Richard Pefley
Department of Mechanical Engineering
Santa Clara University
Santa Clara, CA

Prof. Roy Sachs
College of Agricultural and
Environmental Sciences
University of California
Davis, CA

Dr. Frank Sprow
EXXON Research and Engineering Co.
Florham Park, NJ

Dr. R. Thomas Van Arsdall
Office of Energy
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.