Foreword

This volume discusses the Federal Prototype Oil Shale Leasing Program that began in 1974 when the U.S. Department of the Interior sold leases to four tracts in the oil shale regions of Colorado and Utah. A prior leasing attempt in 1968 is also described because it provides an historical perspective about the imperatives that have encouraged the development of Federal oil shale lands by private industry and the restraints that have inhibited such development.

The report includes discussions of political, economic, environmental, and energy-related factors that affected both the 1968 leasing attempt and its successor—the current Prototype Program. The Program’s goals are identified, and its progress and status are examined to determine if those goals have been met or are likely to be met in the foreseeable future.

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