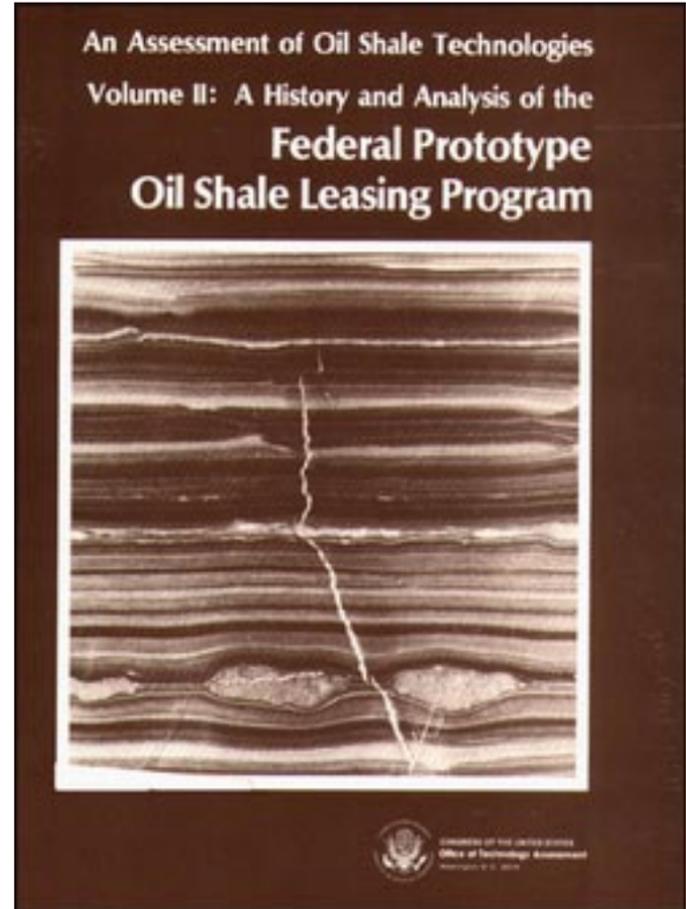


*Assessment of Oil Shale Technologies—Vol.  
II: A History and Analysis of the Federal  
Prototype Oil Shale Leasing Program*

July 1980



Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 80-600102

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C. 20402 Stock No. 052-003 -00763-1

## 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.

**&:N:zf;' -**

Director

# Oil Shale Advisory Committee

James H. Gary, Chairman  
Colorado School of Mines

James Boyd  
Private Consultant

William Brennan  
Rancher  
Rio Manco County, Colo.

Robert L. Coble\*  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Roland C. Fischer  
Colorado River Water Conservation  
District

John D. Haun  
Colorado School of Mines

Carolyn A. Johnson  
Public Lands Institute

Sidney Katell  
West Virginia University

Estella B. Leopold  
University of Washington

Charles H. Prien\*\*  
Denver Research Institute

John F. Redmond  
Retired, Shell Oil Co.

Richard D. Ridley  
Occidental Oil Shale, Inc.

Raymond L. Smith  
Michigan Technological University

Thomas W. Ten Eyck  
Rio Blanco Oil Shale Co.

Wallace Tyner  
Purdue University

Glen D. Weaver  
Colorado State University

---

\*Resigned March 1979.  
\*\*died April 1979.

NOTE: The Advisory Committee provided advice and comment throughout the assessment, but does not necessarily approve, disapprove, or endorse the report, for which OTA assumes full responsibility.

## Oil Shale Technology Project Staff

Lionel S. Johns, Assistant Director, OTA  
Energy, Materials, and International Security Division

Audrey Buyrn, Materials Program Manager

Thomas A. Sladek, Principal Investigator

William E. Davis, Social and Economic Impacts

Patricia L. Poulton, Environmental and Water Availability

Phillip L. Robinson, Economic and Financial

### **Administrative Staff**

Patricia A. Canavan      Margaret M. Connors

Carol A. Drohan      Jackie S. Robinson

### **Contributors**

Bob Fensterheim, Health Program

Mike Gough, Health Program

Donald G. Kesterke, U.S. Bureau of Mines\*

Albert E. Paladino, National Bureau of Standards\*\*

Steven Plotkin, Energy Program

## Publishing Staff

John C. Holmes, Publishing Officer

Kathie S. Boss      Debra M. Datcher      Joanne Heming

---

\*Oil Shale Project Director through January 1979, on detail to (OTA) from the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

\*\*Materials Program Manager through December 1978.

## Acknowledgments

This report was prepared by the Office of Technology Assessment Materials Program staff. A full list of the contractors and consultants who contributed to the assessment will be found in volume I. The staff wishes to acknowledge the special assistance and cooperation in the preparation of volume II of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Land and Water Resources of the Department of the Interior and of the Denver Regional Office of the General Accounting Office.