

*Patterns and Trends in Federal Coal Lease
Ownership, 1950-80*

April 1981

NTIS order #PB81-188484

**PATTERNS
AND TRENDS IN
FEDERAL COAL LEASE
OWNERSHIP
1950-80**

A TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

MARCH 1981



Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 81-600029

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents,
U.S. Government Printing Office Washington, D.C. 20402

Preface

The Office of Technology Assessment is carrying out an assessment on current Federal coal leases. The assessment is in response to Public Law 94-377 which required OTA to perform a complete analysis of all activities on current Federal coal leases. The final assessment report, which will focus on the development and production potential of these leases, is in preparation.

This technical memorandum on the patterns and trends in Federal coal lease ownership between 1950 and 1980 was prepared prior to the full Federal coal lease assessment at the request of Sen. James McClure, Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

This memorandum traces the history of the 538 Federal coal leases in existence at the end of 1979. It focuses on the coal lessees themselves: who they are, what they do, how and when they acquired Federal coal leases, and what they have done with those leases. It identifies the participants in the Federal coal leasing program between 1950 and 1980, traces the ownership on a lease-by-lease basis, and discusses the business activities and organizational structures of the lessees.

This memorandum does not discuss anticipated production from Federal coal leases, nor does it discuss factors, including Federal policies, that could affect development of and production from Federal coal leases. These topics will be covered in the final report.



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