

# Alternate Resources?

## Groups says mineral fuels are the answer

WASHINGTON — A research group, Resources for the Future, says mineral fuels other than oil and renewable sources like the sun could meet all U.S. energy needs by the year 2000 as conventional oil and natural gas resources run out.

The group said coal could be developed as a source of liquid and gaseous fuels in addition to its current use in generating electricity and as a solid fuel.

And the uranium mining industry, "still in its infancy," may be a major source of fuel — possibly in other ways than the controversial nuclear power technology, it said.

The United States must develop a comprehensive strategy if it is to succeed in fighting the looming energy shortage, the group said.

The key stumbling blocks are political and institutional, not economic or technological, it said.

The non-profit organization said in a 65-page report issued Sunday the United States is capable of developing a "high degree of energy self-sufficiency" by the end of the century by tapping little-used natural resources.

The United States is not currently producing enough fuels from domestic resources to meet its own consumption, and we are slipping

into progressively larger deficits. Yet the potential exists to do far better, and even to achieve a high degree of energy self-sufficiency if the nation should choose to do so," it said.

The report listed shale as one of the available alternate mineral resources, and said resolving controversies on the role of nuclear power would make it available on a broader scale once its comparative advantages and disadvantages are understood.

Future technologies could develop methods for extracting energy from uranium without using the present nuclear technology, which has come under attack particularly since the Three Mile Island accident, the report said.

"We do not really know the true ultimate dimensions of our resources. Future discoveries, and the economic extraction of resources we now recognize, will be influenced by new geological knowledge, as well as by price and technological developments," the report said.

But it cautioned the development of new energy sources also must consider the impact on the environment and human health.

"If all energy sources were readily interchangeable and there were no concerns about public or environmental health, there would clearly be no near-term danger of running out of domestic resources to satisfy future U.S. consumption," the report said.

# Carter's '76 campaign committee ordered to repay government \$50,000

WASHINGTON — The Federal Election Commission Monday ordered President Carter's 1976 campaign committee to repay the federal government \$50,000 — nearly half of which was for illegal use of campaign funds.

The repayment, which came after a Sunday audit of nearly three years, was the second largest in the history of the commission, which began with the 1976 election. Former Gov. Milers Shapp of Pennsylvania repaid the federal government \$300,000 he received when it was determined he illegally qualified for federal funds.

FEC auditors originally recommended that the Carter campaign committee repay \$82,000, but the FEC split 3-3 along political lines and \$30,000 in the finding. Because of the tie vote, the money does not have to be repaid.

The commission's three Democrats, Tom Harris, John McGarry and Robert Tiernan voted with Carter, while the three Republicans — Joan Aikens, Max Friedersdorf and Vernon Thomson said the \$30,000 should be recollected.

The \$50,000 came from two principal sources.

The commission found that \$27,000 the Carter committee had received an interest from telephone company deposits should be returned to the government — a relatively routine procedure.

The FEC also ordered repayment of \$23,000 for which the Carter committee could not provide sufficient receipts to explain the expenditures. This amount originally totaled \$48,000 before the commission split 3-3 on what should be repaid.

The unsupported expenditures were part of \$412,000 the Carter campaign committee spent in a get-out-the-vote drive in key states during the election campaign.

One item that the committee was also ordered to repay was \$322 for a chartered airplane flight by first lady Rosalynn Carter on an airplane belonging to a private corporation that cannot under the law make campaign contributions.

The FEC completed an audit of President Gerald Ford's campaign more than a year ago. Of the \$33,000 he was ordered to repay, only \$700 involved improper use of campaign

# 1.5 billion pipeline to bring oil soon

DENVER — Construction is expected to begin soon on a \$1.5 billion pipeline that would bring thousands of barrels of oil and gasoline to three Colorado refineries and other western points.

Corlandt Dietler, president of Denver-based Western Crude Oil Co., said he expects a go-ahead from the federal government in time to begin construction next winter.

The project has been in the planning stage since late 1975, he said. The pipeline would stretch from Puget Sound on the West Coast across the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana and North Dakota to Minnesota.

Dietler said Denver would be a major delivery point. He said the pipeline's customer list will include the Conoco and Asamera Oil refineries in Commerce City and the Gary Western refinery at Fruita, Colo.

The Northern Tier Pipeline would carry nearly one million gallons of crude oil daily from surplus stocks brought in by the Alaska pipeline and tanker from the Mideast. The western terminal of the pipeline would be Port Angeles,

Wash., on Puget Sound. Dietler said the 42-inch pipeline was designed to carry up to 933,000 barrels of crude oil daily to 66 U.S. refineries from the West Coast to Chicago, Minneapolis and St. Louis.

Dietler said the pipeline would bring extra oil to the 22 refineries in Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah, western Nebraska and the Texas Panhandle.

A favorable environment impact statement on Northern Tier has been issued at the federal level, and construction is expected to start late this year, said Dietler.

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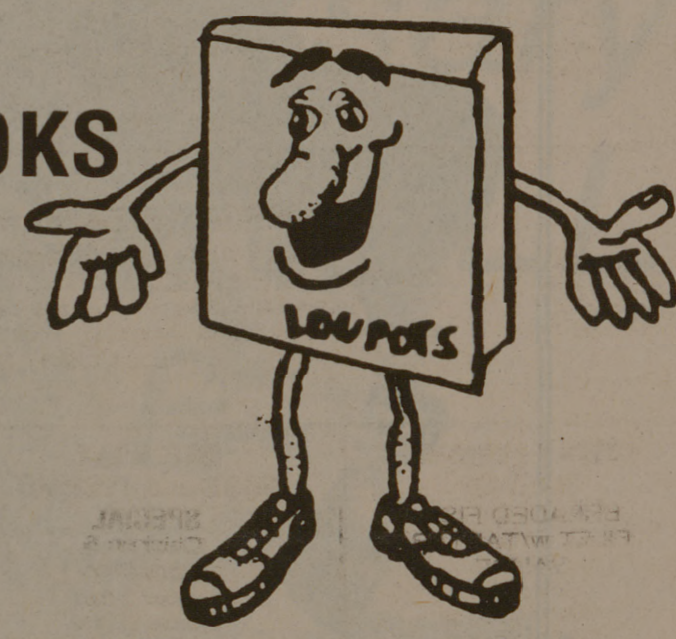


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