

DOD SYNTHETIC FUELS R&D PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

The DOD is now, and will remain so over the foreseeable future, extremely dependent upon an adequate supply of petroleum products. This dependency, when coupled with the politico-economic and source availability uncertainties of conventional petroleum supplies, has led the DOD to seek alternative sources of liquid hydrocarbon fuels. The DOD Synthetic Fuels R&D Program is primarily directed towards optimizing the production of military specification fuels from domestic sources of coal, oil shale, and tar sands, and assessing the suitability of these fuels for service use. To date, several synthetic fuels derived from coal, oil shale, and tar sands have been examined. Over the next several years, the DOD, in cooperation with other federal agencies, plans to continue programs directed towards the production and utilization of synthetic military fuels. Only through this effort will the military departments be able to keep pace as an informed customer with the development of national synthetic fuels industry-an industry which will provide a viable alternative to our present and ever increasing dependence upon imported oil.