

Government Role in Fuels R&D -- DOE Perspective.

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The Federal government's perspective on the national energy problem and the role of the Department of Energy in dealing with the problem will be discussed. The basic problem is seen as the increasing U.S. dependence on foreign oil to meet its energy demands and the resultant need to reduce U.S. levels of energy imports.

The Federal government, through the Department of Energy, has three primary tools at its disposal to accomplish its energy policy objectives: tax incentives, regulatory actions, and support of R&D. The problem in any particular situation is to find the most suitable mix of these three tools. The mix will be different for each program, fuel, and technology area. The valid bases for government involvement in R&D in various situations will be discussed.

Specific examples from current DOE fuels programs will be cited to show how the various mixes of these tools are being applied and what the appropriate role is for Federal support of R&D in each case.