

and we cannot now be certain what the pollution problems in connection with future facilities and processes will be. In the case of some existing operations, present technology leaves a number of problems to be solved to achieve "essentially nonpolluting status." We believe these problems can be overcome, although to do so might require replacement of some facilities. We cannot now estimate the costs which would be involved, but they would undoubtedly be substantial.

We would be glad to undertake a demonstration along the lines envisaged by the committee, but could do so only if we were provided with the necessary funds.

Question 2: How much of a "pollution abatement credit" would the best SO₂ removal process require today in order to sell the byproduct sulfur or other chemicals competitively?

Answer: As indicated in the answer to question 1, present technology leaves many questions unanswered, and we believe that the testing of small scale plants is necessary before answers can be provided. It is not possible, for example, to identify at the present time the "best" process for recovering SO₂ from power plant gases or to predict costs with accuracy. Subject to these reservations, we have averaged some very rough estimates made for what are generally regarded as the three leading processes for the recovery of sulfur dioxide from coal-fired generating plants, based on the present state of technology with respect to these processes. On this basis, we estimate that at a 1,000 megawatt coal-fired steam-electric generating plant, about 80 percent of the sulfur dioxide could be captured to produce about 700 tons per day of sulfuric acid, assuming full round-the-clock operation of the generating plant for that day. We further estimate, also on a very rough basis, that the cost of producing the sulfuric acid would be in the neighborhood of \$25 per ton, and that it might be sold under contracts covering the large quantities involved for perhaps \$16 per ton under present conditions. Obviously, there are many uncertainties surrounding these estimates. For example, if sulfuric acid were to be produced at a large number of coal-fired generating plants and offered for sale, the market for it would be glutted and the price would decline.