

Personally, I believe a viable oil shale industry must be implemented as rapidly as possible or the value of it to our present society will be lost. Naturally, there are a few potential disadvantages. I am afraid, Interior hopes with sufficient passage of time, a way can be found to have our cake and eat it too. This is entirely contrary to the whole successful history of this country.

To develop and utilize the resource for the greatest benefit to the country, requires rather drastic revisions in Interior thinking. One way that this might be accomplished would be to establish some sort of Blue Ribbon National and/or Industrial Committee, or engage a group, possibly like the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, to draft an alternative set of proposed regulations. I have no idea how such might be practically initiated and invoked, and legally constituted, but somehow it might start and provide a more realistic and worthwhile approach.

Your committee would at least then have the benefit of proper guidelines completely surrounding the problem.

We welcome your questions at any time and meanwhile will continue to search for new and hopefully better ideas.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: Symposium Paper.

WALTER E. HEINRICHS, JR., *President.*

IMPACT ON DAWSONITE AND NACOLITE ON PICEANCE CREEK BASIN OIL SHALE ECONOMICS

BY WALTER E. HEINRICHS, JR., PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER, HEINRICHS
GEOEXPLORATION COMPANY, TUCSON, ARIZ.

(Presented to Fourth Annual Oil Shale Symposium, Denver, Colo., April 6-7,
1967)

ABSTRACT

Recent identification of major quantities of dawsonite and nacolite oil shale in the Green River Formation of the Piceance Creek Basin may have crucial effect on local oil shale development. The total resource potential has been vastly increased and thus the ultimate importance of early conservative exploitation becomes even more essential.

It is incumbent upon government and industry to cooperate on ways and means to immediately initiate long range programs and begin testing various development methods. It will take the combined know-how of both groups, under a climate of healthy private enterprise incentives and competition to gain maximum public benefit. If this is not done soon, the tremendous value to our economy will soon pass and the opportunity to apply it toward improving our own living standard and that of others will be lost forever.

INTRODUCTION

Another year and here we commiserate again on the status of the oil shale industry. What progress did we make during the past year? How do we stand now? What does the future portend? What facts are available and what is rank speculation? Based mostly on a rather recently crammed birdseye background, and risking contradiction by the more constant experts, I want to outline the more salient factors as I see them.

For over a year, my company has been retained by Mr. Joe Juhan to make certain preliminary studies regarding the association of low grade soda ash and aluminum ores with the oil shale in the Piceance Basin. Other facilities and personnel at the University of Arizona contributed substantially, in particular Dr. John Anthony, who made extensive mineralogical examination of continuous drill core of the pertinent section from Mr. Juhan's well located near the center of the basin.

Seemingly the oil shale record is almost drowned in technical literature, studies and re-studies, dating back to 1920, and older. Although progress has been made each time, there are still important diverging opinions. Finally, now there may be more room for compromise and action.

Everyone agrees we are dealing with a resource potentially of major geo-political magnitude, but this potential will not last forever. If we are to most constructively benefit from this resource, we must move now, regardless of neces-