



Task Force on Strategic Unconventional Fuels

NEWS

Task Force Completes Strategy and Program Plan to Advance Development of U.S. Unconventional Fuels Resources

October 8, 2007 - Washington, D.C. The Task Force on Strategic Unconventional Fuels, established by the Secretary of Energy under Section 369 (h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, has completed an integrated strategy and program plan to coordinate and accelerate the commercial development of strategic unconventional fuels within the United States, including oil shale and tar sands, heavy oil, enhanced oil recovery, and coal-derived liquids.

The integrated plan details proposed program objectives, strategies, key activities, and timelines providing the basis for subsequent program implementation planning.

A three volume report has been transmitted to policymakers for their review and consideration. These volumes include:

- ▯ • **Volume I: Preparation Strategy, Plan and Recommendations**
- ▯ • **Volume II: Resource-Specific and Crosscutting Plans**
- ▯ • **Volume III: Resource and Technology Profiles**

TASK FORCE FINDINGS:

Declining domestic oil production and rising U.S. demand for oil increase the nation's dependence on imports of foreign oil. This growing import dependence represents challenges to the strategic interests of the United States, particularly as global conventional oil production may soon fall short of global demand.

Significant opportunities exist for producing fuels from the nation's vast unconventional resources, including: oil shale and tar sands, heavy oil, enhanced oil recovery, and coal-derived liquids. Domestic production of fuels from unconventional resources could reduce import dependence and the potential impacts and strategic risks posed by global oil supply and demand trends.

While the Task Force expects that these resources should and will be developed primarily by industry, the report identifies a range of policy options to be considered by Federal, state, and local policy makers to stimulate timely investment with an objective to achieve aggregate production levels in excess of 7 million barrels per day by 2035.

Significant challenges constrain the development of these abundant and strategically important domestic energy resources. The nature of these challenges, depending on the resource, can include technology readiness, access to resources on public lands, development economics, environmental concerns, socio-economic effects, water resources, markets, and infrastructure among others. These challenges are summarized in Volume I and addressed in greater detail in the program plans provided in Volume II. Volume I also amplifies the recommendations made by the Task Force in its recent Initial Report and provides a list of specific executive and legislative actions that would be required to implement the proposed plan. The profiles provided in Volume III offer an overview of the extent and potential of each of the resources considered by the Task Force, including the state of the technology, expected economics, and challenges that constrain investment and development.

The Integrated Plan provides an approach for evaluating and addressing each of these challenges and proposes an integrated strategy for achieving production from this suite of resources that could reach approximately 7 million barrels/day of oil equivalent by 2035. The three-volume report can be downloaded in .pdf format from the website of the Task Force on Strategic Unconventional Fuels: <http://www.unconventionalfuels.org>.



Task Force on Strategic Unconventional Fuels

NEWS

Task Force Completes Strategy and Program Plan to Advance Development of U.S. Unconventional Fuels Resources

(continued)

About the Task Force:

The Task Force is comprised of the Secretaries of Energy, the Interior, and Defense, five governors (CO, WY, UT, KY, MS) and three representatives from potentially impacted communities. It was initiated by Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman in March 2006.

Task Force Mission:

Section 369(h) of the Act directed the Secretary of Energy to form a Task Force to:

§ "...develop a program to coordinate and accelerate the commercial development of strategic unconventional fuels, including, but not limited to, oil shale and tar sands resources within the United States, in an integrated manner" [Sec 369(h)(1)], and to

§ "make such recommendations regarding promoting the development of the strategic unconventional fuels resources within the United States as it may deem appropriate" [Sec 369 (h)(3)]; and to

§ "make recommendations with respect to initiating a partnership with the Province of Alberta Canada for ... sharing information relating to the development and production of oil from tar sands, and ... with other nations that contain ... oil shale resources." [Sec 369 (h)(4)]

For More Information:

Please address inquiries about this report or Task Force to info@unconventionalfuels.org. A representative of the Task Force will respond promptly.