

Title:

Summary of Oil Shale Environmental Issues and Research Needs Workshop

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In conjunction with the 26th Oil Shale Symposium (October 16-20, 2006), a one-day Workshop on Environmental Issues and Research Needs was hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy, Colorado Energy Research Institute and the Colorado School of Mines. The Workshop conducted four break-out groups with each addressing a major category of potential environmental issues. The four areas were: Surface and Ecosystem Impact, Water Quality and Quantity, Social and Economic Impact, and Air Quality Impact. Each group identified challenges facing industry, government, and communities in affected areas.

Numerous groups are investigating environmental issues in and around the Green River Oil Shale resource. Many of these efforts are in response to natural gas production and delivery projects. However, projects related to oil shale are developing and could become dominant in the future as the potential for oil shale to enter the U.S. energy mix grows.

Given the one-day duration of the 2006 Workshop, it is not surprising that the identified challenges, approaches and recommended actions were very broad and general. The 2007 Workshop hopes to better define better focused research areas that would help oil shale meet the Nation's growing demand for liquid transportation fuels in an environmentally friendly manner. This paper summarizes the results of the 2006 workshop, briefly describes some follow on activities in and around the Green River Oil Shale resource, and provides an outline for a 2007 Workshop that will follow the 27th Oil Shale Symposium.

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