

13.4 **The Challenge of Oil Shale Exploration in Thailand in the First Period**

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Oil shale in Thailand is considered to be one of the available alternatives to traditional energy sources; therefore, the Thai agencies have created the oil shale project to further study the topic: "The feasibility of development and utilization of Mae Sot oil shale". The investigated area covers 104 km² around Ban Huai Kalok, potential resource area. The oil shale project plans for 4 years during 2008 – 2011 to study development and utilization of oil shale for power generation, oil extraction, and other industries. Furthermore, there are additional studies on the usefulness of oil shale retort ash in the cement industry. In the first year, the project is focused on further study and exploration of issues in drilling, seismic survey and resource quality. Through these studies, the quantity and quality of the resource can be confirmed. The latest progress of work on these first steps of the Thai national program will be reported in this paper.