

Energy Cost of Producing Energy – Why Thermodynamics Tell Us It Is Time for Unconventional Fuels from Oil Shale

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Anton R. Dammer, Director Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserve, USDOE



Unconventional vs. Conventional Oil

- Conventional
 - Significant exploration risk
 - Shrinking availability
 - Subject to decline
 - Well-established markets
 - Variable quality
- Unconventional
 - Little exploration risk
 - Massive and rich resource base
 - High Capital Expenditure (CAPEX)
 - Assured production levels
 - Consistent quality



1st Law Efficiency Syncrude, Canada



Quote

"...estimates of the ultimate amounts of oil to be recovered [must take] into account the effect of the price of oil."

David Nissen (Exxon) to M. King Hubbert (ca. early 80s) in response to Hubbert's use of Ultimate Recovery as the area under the Hubbert Curve.

Quote

"Your statement that [price will govern] the fraction of the original oil-inplace that will be recovered is correct, but the [price] effect may easily be exaggerated. ... So long as oil is used as a source of energy, when the energy cost of recovering a barrel of oil becomes greater than the energy content of the oil, production will cease no matter what the monetary price may be."

M. King Hubbert (Shell) to Nissen (as Referenced by Ivanhoe, 1982). http://www.hubbertpeak.com/hubbert/to_nissen.htm











Implied Remaining reserves within 70% 1st law efficiency

(Remaining = Ultimate less economic and thermodynamic limitations)

- Petroleum = 1.5
- Bitumen = 1.6
- Oil shale = 1.1

Net Total (not including coal or NG) = 4.2 trillion bbl

Percentage in North and Latin America > 50% Should be the target for proving reserves

Green River Formation Oil Shale



Goals

- Provide access to resource
- Demonstrate technologies for:
 - Surface recovery
 - Modified in-situ
 - True in-situ
- Achieve reclassification of resource to proven reserves of at least 400 billion bbls.

Thank You

Jim@jwba.com

Anton.Dammer@hq.doe.gov