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STRATEGIC PLANNING -- The Department of Energy Strategic Plan -- Clean Coal Technologies Research, Development, and Demonstration Program Plan -- SUMMARY -- REFERENCES -- 3 Trends and Issues for Future Coal Use -- DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS -- Overview of Coal Markets -- Markets for Coal Utilization Technology -- COAL USE FOR DOMESTIC ELECTRICITY GENERATION -- Changing Structure of the Electric Utility Industry -- Introduction of New Technology -- The Availability of Coproducts -- Projected Electricity Requirements -- Energy Sources for Power Generation -- Coal -- Natural Gas -- Liquefied Natural Gas -- Oil -- Nuclear Power -- Renewable Energy -- COAL USE FOR LIQUID AND GASEOUS FUELS -- Resource Base for Petroleum and Bitumen -- OTHER USES OF COAL -- ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FOR COAL USE -- SUMMARY -- REFERENCES -- 4 The Strategic Planning Framework -- BASELINE STRATEGIC PLANNING SCENARIOS -- ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS -- Near-Term -- Mid and Long-Term -- SCENARIO IMPLICATIONS FOR RDD&amp; -- C PLANNING -- ADDITIONAL CRITERIA TO SET NATIONAL COAL RDD&amp; -- C PRIORITIES -- General criteria -- Economic criteria. Environmental criteria -- The DOE role -- REFERENCES -- PART II Overview of Current DOE Coal Programs -- 5 Coal Preparation, Coal-Liquid Mixtures, and Coalbed Methane Recovery -- COAL PREPARATION -- Description of Technology -- Development History -- State of the Art -- Current Programs -- Technical Issues, Risks, and Opportunities -- Findings -- COAL-LIQUID MIXTURES -- Background -- Development History -- State of the Art -- Current Programs -- Findings -- COALBED METHANE RECOVERY -- Background -- State of the Art -- Current Programs -- Issues, Risks, and Opportunities -- Findings -- REFERENCES -- 6 Clean Fuels and Specialty Products from Coal -- GASIFICATION OF COAL -- Background -- State of the Art -- Gasification Technology and IGCC Performance -- Technical Issues and Opportunities -- Current Programs -- PRODUCTS FROM COAL-DERIVED GAS -- Hydrogen Production -- Synthetic Natural Gas Production -- Liquid Products from Synthesis Gas -- Methanol -- Methanol-Derived Fuels -- F-T Synthesis -- PRODUCTS FROM DIRECT LIQUEFACTION AND PYROLYSIS OF COAL -- Direct Liquefaction -- Background -- State of the Art -- Current Programs -- Technical Issues, Risks, and Opportunities -- Coal Pyrolysis -- COAL REFINERIES AND COPRODUCT SYSTEMS -- Cogeneration -- Indirect Liquefaction -- Direct Liquefaction -- Current Programs -- FINDINGS -- Coal Gasification Technology -- Gaseous Products -- Liquid Fuels from Coal -- Coal Refineries and Coproduct Systems -- REFERENCES -- 7 Electric Power Generation -- PULVERIZED COAL SYSTEMS -- Background -- State of the Art -- Current Programs -- Advanced Pulverized Coal -- Indirectly Fired Cycle -- Direct Coal-Fired Heat Engines -- Technical Issues, Risks, and Opportunities -- Findings -- FLUIDIZED-BED COMBUSTION -- Background -- State of the Art -- Current Programs -- Technical Issues, Risks, and Opportunities -- Findings. INTEGRATED GASIFICATION COMBINED-CYCLE SYSTEMS -- Background -- State of the Art -- Technical Issues, Risks, and Opportunities -- Current Programs -- Findings -- INTEGRATED GASIFICATION FUEL CELL SYSTEMS -- Background -- State of the Art -- Technical Issues, Risks, and Opportunities -- Current Programs -- Findings -- MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMIC POWER GENERATION -- Background -- State of the Art -- Technical Issues, Risks, and Opportunities -- Current Programs -- Findings -- COMBUSTION TURBINES -- Background -- State of the Art -- Technical Issues, Risks, and Opportunities -- Current Programs -- Findings -- EMISSION CONTROL TECHNOLOGIES -- Background -- State of the Art -- Technical Issues,

Risks, and Opportunities -- Current DOE Programs -- Findings --  
REFERENCES -- 8 Technology Demonstration and Commercialization --  
COMMERCIALIZATION ISSUES -- CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM  
-- ADVANCED POWER SYSTEMS DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS --  
Advanced Emission Control Systems -- Integrated Gasification  
combined-cycle -- Pressurized Fluidized-Bed Combustion -- Direct-  
Fired Systems -- Indirectly-Fired Systems -- Advanced Pulverized Coal  
Systems -- Fuel Cells -- FUTURE DIRECTIONS -- Additional CCT  
Solicitations -- International CCT Initiative -- ADVANCED FUEL  
SYSTEMS DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS -- FINDINGS -- REFERENCES -- 9  
Advanced Research Programs -- PROGRAM ORGANIZATION AND  
BUDGETS -- THE ROLE OF ADVANCED RESEARCH -- DOE Perspective --  
The Committee's Perspective -- COMBUSTION AND GASIFICATION --  
COAL CONVERSION AND CATALYSIS -- MATERIALS -- General  
Comments -- Advanced Gas Turbines -- Heat Exchangers --  
Membranes -- FINDINGS -- REFERENCES -- PART III Recommendations  
for DOE's Future Coal Program -- 10 Conclusions and  
Recommendations -- STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR COAL -- Conclusions  
-- Recommendations -- COAL PREPARATION, COAL-LIQUID MIXTURES,  
AND COALBED METHANE RECOVERY.  
Conclusions -- Recommendations -- ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION --  
Power Generation Systems -- Efficiency and Cost Targets -- Group I  
Systems -- Group 2 and 3 Systems -- Magnetohydrodynamics --  
Emissions Control Technologies -- Targets -- Technology  
Development Needs -- Conclusions -- Power Generation Systems --  
Emissions Control Technologies -- Recommendations -- Power  
Generation Systems -- Emissions Control Technologies -- CLEAN  
FUELS AND SPECIALTY PRODUCTS FROM COAL -- Coal Gasification --  
Products from Coal-Derived Gas -- Hydrogen Production -- Synthetic  
Natural Gas Production -- Methanol from Syngas -- Liquid  
Hydrocarbons from Syngas (Fischer-Tropsch Synthesis) -- Products  
from Direct Liquefaction and Pyrolysis of Coal -- Direct Coal  
Liquefaction by Hydrogenation -- Direct Coal Liquefaction by Pyrolysis  
-- Coal Refineries and Coproduct Systems -- Conclusions --  
Recommendations -- SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND STRATEGY STUDIES --  
Conclusions -- Recommendations -- TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATION  
AND COMMERCIALIZATION -- Conclusions -- Recommendations --  
ADVANCED RESEARCH PROGRAMS -- Conclusions -- Recommendations  
-- THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 1992 (EPACT) -- Conclusions --  
Recommendations -- REFERENCES -- APPENDICES -- APPENDIX A  
Project Description Strategic Assessment of DOE's Coal Program --  
INTRODUCTION -- TITLE XIII COAL -- TITLE XX GENERAL PROVISIONS  
-- REDUCTION OF OIL VULNERABILITY -- PROPOSED ACTIVITY --  
ANTICIPATED RESULTS -- APPENDIX B The Energy Policy Act of 1992 --  
TITLE XIII-COAL -- Subtitle A-Research, Development, Demonstration,  
and Commercial Application -- Subtitle B-Clean Coal Technology  
Program -- Subtitle C-Other Coal Provisions -- TITLE XX--GENERAL  
PROVISIONS -- REDUCTION OF OIL VULNERABILITY -- Subtitle A--Oil  
and Gas Supply Enhancement -- APPENDIX C DOE Budget Data --  
APPENDIX D Environmental Issues Affecting Coal Use -- Air Quality  
Standards.  
Sulfur Dioxide -- Particulate Matter -- Nitrogen Dioxide -- Ozone --  
Acid Deposition -- Air Toxics -- Global Warming -- Water Quality  
Standards -- Solid and Hazardous Wastes -- Externalities and Siting  
Issues -- REFERENCES -- APPENDIX E Clean Coal Technology  
Demonstration Projects -- APPENDIX F Committee Meetings and  
Activities -- APPENDIX G Biographical Sketches of Committee Members  
-- NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL STAFF -- Glossary and Conventions

Sommario/riassunto

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) was given a mandate in the 1992 Energy Policy Act (EPACT) to pursue strategies in coal technology that promote a more competitive economy, a cleaner environment, and increased energy security. Coal evaluates DOE's performance and recommends priorities in updating its coal program and responding to EPACT. This volume provides a picture of likely future coal use and associated technology requirements through the year 2040. Based on near-, mid-, and long-term scenarios, the committee presents a framework for DOE to use in identifying R&D strategies and in making detailed assessments of specific programs. Coal offers an overview of coal-related programs and recent budget trends and explores principal issues in future U.S. and foreign coal use. The volume evaluates DOE Fossil Energy R&D programs in such key areas as electric power generation and conversion of coal to clean fuels. Coal will be important to energy policymakers, executives in the power industry and related trade associations, environmental organizations, and researchers.