

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910973825303321
Titolo	Coal : energy for the future // Committee on the Strategic Assessment of the U.S. Department of Energy's coal program
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, D.C., : National Academy Press, 1995
ISBN	9786610193271 9780309176460 0309176468 9781280193279 1280193271 9780309556408 0309556406 9780585022468 0585022461
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (302 p.)
Altri autori (Persone)	LongwellJohn P RubinEdward S
Disciplina	333.8/215/0973
Soggetti	Coal - United States Coal - Government policy - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	John P. Longwell, chair; Edward S. Rubin, vice-chair.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Coal -- Copyright -- Preface -- Contents -- Executive Summary -- THE DOE COAL PROGRAM -- STRATEGIC PLANNING -- POWER GENERATION -- Technology Development -- CLEAN FUELS FROM COAL -- SYSTEMS ANALYSIS -- EPACT -- REFERENCES -- PART I Strategic Planning for Coal -- 1 Introduction and Scope of the Study -- THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 1992 -- STUDY SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES -- THE COMMITTEE'S APPROACH -- COAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT -- Private Sector Activities -- International Activities -- ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT -- REFERENCES -- 2 Overview of U.S. Department of Energy Programs and Planning -- MAJOR TRENDS IN THE DOE COAL PROGRAM -- THE DOE COAL PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND BUDGET -- Fossil Energy Research and Development -- CCT Program -- DOE'S

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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.