

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE EARLY PRODUCTION OF FISCHER-TROPSCH DIESEL FUEL IN THE UNITED STATES - - AN OVERVIEW

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Fischer-Tropsch (F-T) diesel fuels have been of interest to a wide range of industries in recent years because of their desirable attributes, including zero sulfur and aromatics and high cetane number. This paper will discuss the highlights of the industrial projects being co-supported by the Office of Fossil Energy within the U.S. Department of Energy. These projects are to analyze the feasibility of, and to develop the technology for, processes to produce F-T fuels from domestic feedstocks, including natural gas and solid hydrocarbons (coal, petroleum coke, and biomass). F-T fuel production is scheduled to begin in 2003 for natural gas feedstock from two commercial demonstration plants located in Oklahoma. The prospect for commercial production of F-T fuels from solid hydrocarbons will also be discussed.