

## **Energy Center receives \$103,000 to fund Fossil Energy Research Working Group**

**March 9, 1979**

The University of California, San Diego Energy Center has received a \$103,000 grant to fund the second phase of the work of the Department of Energy's Fossil Energy Research Working Group (FERWG).

The federally-funded study group was formed last year under the leadership of Dr. Stanford S. Penner, professor of engineering physics and director of the Energy Center at UC San Diego. The eight-member group brings together representatives of both energy research and energy production to identify areas of research that will help make fossil fuel technologies work.

The FERWG studies are designed to support development of critically needed energy supplies for the United States over the intermediate term which, according to Administration plans, will be heavily based on augmented coal utilization.

The studies completed under the first phase of the program dealt with research to support coal-gasification technologies. The new studies will deal with identification of research needs for coal-liquefaction technologies.

In its study of coal gasification, the research group identified a number of important areas of research as needing augmented funding. These included fundamental studies on materials suitable for use in coal-gasification systems, improved understanding of coal chemistry and of catalytic processes involving coals, development of new instrumentation techniques to probe coal gasification devices, fundamental studies on handling solid coals and ash, and methods for scientific scaling and modeling to facilitate the transition from small, bench-scale tests to pilot plants and commercial plants.

FERWG is made up of four university and four industrial members. In addition to Penner, the university participants are: Professors Orville L. Chapman of UCLA, John Ross of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and A. M. Squires of the University of Virginia.

The industrial participants include Seymour Alpert, director of advanced fuels at the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto; L. E. Furlong, director of coal research at Exxon; Eric Reichl, president of the Conoco Coal Company, and John Thomas, president of the Chevron Research Company.

FERWG recommendations on long-term research needs are submitted to the assistant secretary for energy technology and to the director of energy research in the U. S. Department of Energy.

Penner came to UC San Diego in 1964 as professor and the first chairman of the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Sciences after 14 years on the faculty of the California Institute of Technology. Since 1972 he has been responsible for the development of energy-related programs and courses on the UC San Diego campus.

For further information contact: Paul West (452-3120)

(March 9, 1979)