

Dr. Stanford S. Penner selected to head Fossil Energy Research Working Group

March 17, 1978

Dr. Stanford S. Penner, professor of engineering physics and director of the Energy Center at the University of California, San Diego, has been selected to head a federally funded study group formed to identify areas of research that will help make fossil fuel technologies work.

The unique eight-member group, named the Fossil Energy Research Working Group, was formed by the U.S. Department of Energy to bring together representatives of both energy research and energy production. The working group is made up of four university and four industrial members.

The group will seek to identify critical research areas which may affect long-term development of fossil fuels by the Department of Energy. Among the research areas that will be studied are: coal gasification, coal liquefaction, production of transportation fuels from coal, shale oil recovery (both above ground and in situ) and fluidized-bed combustion.

First-hand familiarity with all aspects of the fossil-fuel technologies will be gained through site visits, interviews and examination of studies and reports. Following its evaluation of the various research areas, the group will submit a report on each area to the Director of the Office of Energy Research and to the Assistant Secretary for Energy Technologies.

In addition to Penner, the university participants of the working group are: Dr. L. Lees, professor of environmental science and aeronautics at the California Institute of Technology; Dr. John Ross, professor of chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dr. A.M. Squires, Frank C. Vilbrandt Professor of Chemical Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

The industrial participants include Seymour Alpert, technical director of fuels and advanced fossil power systems at the Electric Power Research Institute in Palo Alto; Eric Reichl, president of Conoco Coal Development Company in Stamford, Conn.; Dr. N. Allen Riley, president of Chevron Oil Fields Research Company in La Habra, Calif., and Dr. Larry Swabb, vice president - synthetic fuels for Exxon Research and Engineering Company in Florham Park, N.J.

Penner came to UC San Diego in 1964 as professor and the first chairman of the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering Sciences after serving for 14 years on the faculty of the California Institute of Technology. He received a B.S. degree from Union College in 1942 and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin in 1943 and 1946, respectively.

Penner is the author or co-author of about 220 articles and of 10 books and monographs. Since 1972, he has been responsible for the development of energy related programs and courses on the UC San Diego campus.

For information contact: Paul W. West, 452-3120

(March 17, 1978)