

## Tell Ertl Oil Shale Repository Arthur Lakes Library Colorado School of Mines

### Thomas A. Sladek Collection

#### Background Information

Thomas A. Sladek

Thomas Sladek showed an interest in oil shale early in his career. He earned a PhD degree in chemical engineering from the Colorado School of Mines where his thesis dealt with the thermal properties of oil shale. After a few years, he was back at the School of Mines as an engineer with CSRMI (the Colorado School of Mines Research Institute) conducting oil shale research and preparing numerous reports on oil shale. In 1979 he worked for the Federal government, directing oil shale projects for the U.S. Office of Technology Assessment in Washington, DC. There, he was the principal author and editor of the report Assessment of Oil Shale Technologies [June 1980]. For the next few years, Tom wrote and lectured on the environmental, economic, and social implications of oil shale developments and the effects of government policies, such as subsidies proposed by the United States Synthetic Fuel Corporation. After the collapse of synfuels in the mid-1980s, Dr. Sladek formed a consulting practice where he continues to provide assessments on renewable energy, uses of municipal and industrial wastes, and independent power assessments worldwide.

#### The Thomas A. Sladek Collection

The Thomas A. Sladek Collection offers a glimpse at the research operations at Anvil Points that were carried out in the 1960s by an industrial consortium headed by the Colorado School of Mines Research Institute (or "foundation" as it was originally called), as well as other oil shale contract work performed by the Institute. It contains more than five hundred photographs and newspaper clippings from those operations as well as numerous Federal oil shale publications.

The Thomas a Sladek Collection also contains nearly complete collection of the Synthetic Fuels Quarterly Report from the early years (1968 to 1978), and a large collection of oil shale reports published by the Colorado School of Mines, some dating back to the 1919s.

Written by Robert Heistand