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INFORMATION

MEETING WITH AMERICAN SPECIALISTS

The U.S. Department of Energy and Ambassador of the United States in Estonia H.E. Mrs. Melissa Wells took the initiative in organizing a meeting of American and Estonian specialists on oil shale research and utilization in Tallinn on May 25-28, 1999.

American specialists were first of all interested in the state of oil shale chemistry and processing of kukersite oil shale in Estonia.

The roundtable was opened on May 26 by Prof. J. Engelbrecht, President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, H.E. Mrs. M. Wells, and Mr. A. R. Dammer, Director of Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves, U.S. Department of Energy.

Overview on oil shale research in Estonia was given by Prof. M. Veiderma, Vice President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences ("Estonian oil shale: retrospect, present situation, alternatives for development"); by Dr. V. Yefimov, Institute of Oil Shale at Tallinn Technical University, Dr. T. Purre, *Viru Chemistry Group AS*, and Prof. L. Mölder, Institute of Chemistry at Tallinn Technical University ("Oil shale processing"). Prof. A. Ots, Director of the Department of Thermal Engineering, Tallinn Technical University, reported on oil shale energetics.

The reports were discussed by Estonian scientists and U.S. experts Dr. James W. Bunger (J. W. Bunger & Associates, Inc.), Mr. Hugh D. Guthrie (Department of Energy, Federal Energy Technology Center), Dr. Charles H. Lochmüller (Duke University), Dr. Dominic J. Repici (John Francis Co., Inc.). Later there was a reception at the Embassy of the United States of America hosted by H.E. Mrs. Melissa Wells.

On the second day American experts visited Kohtla-Järve and Narva. Director of the *Viru Chemistry Group AS* Mr. J. Haug acquainted them with activities of the plant. In Narva at Estonian Power Plant they took a look at the solid-heat-carrier units which have the throughput rate 3000 t of oil shale per day each. H.E. Mrs. M. Wells also participated in visiting oil shale utilizing enterprises of Ida-Virumaa county.

On May 28, after a short discussion, President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences Prof. J. Engelbrecht and Deputy Assistant Secretary of U.S. Department of Energy Mr. A. R. Dammer signed the document presented below.

The research topics are to be specified in the nearest future.

V. Yefimov



Mr. Hugh D. Guthrie, Federal Energy Technology Center



Prof. M. Veiderma and Prof. I. Öpik, Estonian Academy of Sciences,
Mr. A. Hamburg, Ministry of Economics

US-Estonia Science and Technology Cooperation on Oil Shale Research and Utilization Roundtable

Summary of Discussions

On May 25-28, 1999 the first United States/Estonian Roundtable on Science and Technology Cooperation in Oil Shale Research and Utilization was hosted by the Estonian Academy of Sciences in Tallinn, Estonia. The objective of that meeting was to consider establishing a science and technical exchange program between the two countries. This meeting was conducted under the authorities of the existing inter-governmental cooperation agreement between the United States and Estonia in the fields of science and technology. After several days of technical briefings and field visits to key sectors of the Estonian oil shale industry, the group discovered attractive opportunities for exchange that could lead to a broad range of research and technology activities of potential benefit to both countries.

Drawing from their respective experiences it was concluded there was sufficient synergism in the technology approaches and market opportunities that a cooperative scientific exchange could lead to economic advancement for both countries. Specifically, both oil shale resources possess compositions that offer exceptional value for chemical manufacturing and further that the process sequence for achieving those values is similar.



Jüri Engelbrecht and Anton R. Dammer have signed the document

Of even greater attractiveness is the observation that Estonian oil shale could become a worldwide source of specific oxygen containing products, while U.S.A. oil shale could become a worldwide source of specific nitrogen containing products.

The established oil shale industry in Estonia, for both power generation and oil shale products enhances the potential for success of such a program.

The group agreed that it would be a benefit to both scientific and technical communities to continue a technical dialog and pursue specific scientific objectives, initially in the areas of oil shale chemistry and processing.

May 28, 1999

Tallinn

Anton R. Dammer

Deputy Assistant Secretary (Acting)
Naval Petroleum and Oil Shale Reserves
U.S. Department of Energy

Jüri Engelbrecht

President
Estonian Academy of Sciences