

MTM PROCESS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY  
SHELL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

A DIVISION OF SHELL OIL COMPANY

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March 7, 1974

Dr. W. F. Libby  
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Dear Bill:

Thanks for your letter of February 15, 1974 on the EPRI Conference Report. It arrived only this week.

With respect to the Conference recommendation 2.1 on Mechanism of Lewis Acid Catalysis, I must agree with Everett Gorin's recommendation, i.e., for backing of a pilot plant on the zinc chloride or another zinc halide process as top priority. Corrosion problems and improved methods of regeneration of the catalyst should be accentuated. It is the opinion of our chemists that so many Friedel-Crafts catalysts have been investigated for coal liquefaction that the probability of finding one significantly better than those already investigated is small. Nevertheless, a basic study of Lewis Acid Catalysis for coal liquefaction might be worthwhile, though I would not place it in the highest priority area.

I now support all of the other recommendations of the Conference and consider them a very good set. I have no further recommendations to make at this time.

Sincerely yours,



Wm. A. Bailey, Jr.  
Director

WAB:ae

cc: Dr. Everett Gorin  
Consolidation Coal Company, Research Division  
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