

SEARCH FOR A NEW COAL TECHNOLOGY. Frank C. Schora, Institute of Gas Technology,  
3424 South State Street, Chicago, Illinois 60616.

Since the beginning of a coal industry, technology — other than for combustion — has evolved through the steps of devolatilization, gas production by the reaction of hot cokes with steam, and lately, coal hydrogenation for the production of both liquids and gaseous fuels. Much of the research today in the United States is dedicated to improving these present concepts and to the development of supporting steps necessary for commercialization. In the midst of these activities, one should not overlook the need for intensive research to uncover better techniques for conversion of coal — techniques which will take advantage of the structure and chemistry of coal so as to yield useable products without undergoing the severe conditions which have been the basis of our technology in the past. New coal technology should seek to allow production of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons by controlled reactions which avoid the rapid and uncontrolled polymerization of intermediate products to coke.