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MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT FOR JANUARY - ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND CONTROLS FOR COAL-WATER SYSTEMS

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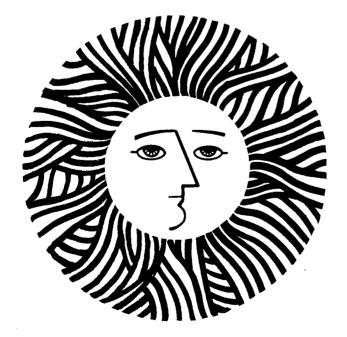
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LAWRENCE BERKELEY LABORATORY Room: 128 Bldg.: 70 Ext.: 6698

February 12, 1981

TO: Charles Grua

FROM: Amos Newton and Phyllis Fox

RE: Monthly Progress Report for January

Environmental Effects and Controls for Coal-Water Systems

LBID-366

This month has been spent in preparation for the studies of low molecular weight and high molecular weight compounds in coal slurry water. The low molecular weight compounds, corresponding in boiling point to C, to C₈ hydrocarbons, are to be studied by a modified head-space analysis. The gas in the rodmill will be pumped by a Toepler pump through a small absorption tube filled with 80-100 mesh Tenax GC absorbent. This should remove all organics. The organics will be desorbed from the Tenax into a cold trap and from there injected directly onto a capillary gas chromatographic column on the GC/MS. Quantification is a problem since it does not appear possible to add an internal standard which will not be partially absorbed by the coal.

Considerable effort has been spent in overhauling and checking a total carbon analyzer to bring its performance up to an acceptable level. Some changes, such as the elimination of all rubber tubing, have reduced the background signal and noise considerably. The performance on standard solutions of organics in water suggest that the determination of 1 ppm organic carbon in water should be possible if the inorganic carbon is not above about 5 ppm. Use of the system is limited by a lack of water which is totally free of organic carbon for making primary standards and establishing a zero response. An organic-free water source has been ordered. Measurements will not, however, be dependent upon the arrival and installation of the organic-free water source.

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