



**APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION**

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**press  
message**

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WASHINGTON, D. C. -- The Appalachian Regional Commission has approved a grant of \$750,000 for the development of a low-Btu gasification plant in Pikeville, Kentucky. The gasification plant will be the source of a suitable fuel supply for the Douglas site. On this site is a local industrial park, one of the first whose foundation comes from earth taken from an Appalachian Commission highway project.

Alabama

Georgia

Kentucky

Maryland

Mississippi

New York

North Carolina

Ohio

Pennsylvania

South Carolina

Tennessee

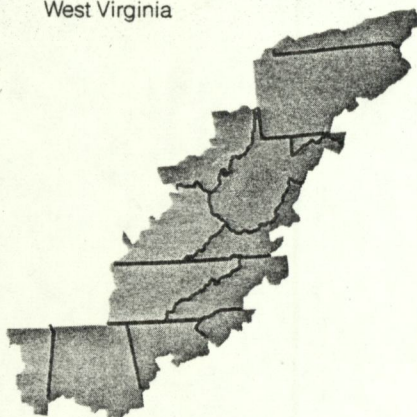
Virginia

West Virginia

The development of the Douglas site will initially consist of a fire station, an intermediate health care unit, a community building, and housing, with provisions for industrial users in the near future. The initial government and commercial category users will occupy 23 acres of the total 65 acres on the site. The remaining 43 acres are allocated to industrial clients. This man-made acreage is flat and above the flood plane.

The fuel source for the industrial site will be dual, air-blown, 6½-foot diameter, fixed bed gas producers. They will be equipped with rotating agitators so that a wide variety of coals can be used. Each producer is capable of producing up to 217,000 SCF of low Btu gas per hour from 2900-3000 lbs. of coal. At maximum capacity one producer will produce 38.1 million Btu's per hour. The low Btu gas from one producer will provide fuel for two conventional steam boilers. The

boilers will generate steam to produce hot water for winter heating from steam-hot water generators, and chilled water for summer cooling from steam-absorption refrigeration units. The energy system will be housed in an energy plant from which the hot/chilled water will be piped to a distribution point where users will connect for their individual needs. The energy plant is structured so that when the need arises for low Btu gas to support the industrial users, the boilers will be converted to direct firing with coal and the gasifiers will be diverted to producing gas for industrial purposes.





The utilization of a coal gasification plant is ideally suited to the Pike County, Kentucky, area because of its abundant, high quality, low sulphur coal; yet with a decreasing availability and increasing cost of natural gas.

The total cost of the energy plant will be \$5,900,000 of which 50 percent of the funding will be from the Energy Research Development Administration and 50 percent from local sources. The \$750,000 grant from ARC will be part of the local funding.