



Technical Article

Alternative Carrying Media and Agglomeration Processes for Transportation of Coal

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Such terms as Colloil, COM (Coal in Oil Mixtures) and Methacoal have become a common feature in the literature. More recent deliberations, examinations, and publications also in respect of contemporary projects have been tending towards alternative carrying media such as oil and methanol to an ever increasing extent. One of the main reasons for this trend is the shortage or non availability of fresh water as the carrying medium for coal in pipeline transportation.

Presupposing an economic coal liquefaction and gasification technology in the future, these alternative carrying media would have the great advantage over water that they can be produced in part from the coal itself, do not freeze at subzero temperatures - i.e. the pipelines need not be buried - and represent in themselves substances of value for transportation and not ballast.

In addition, the use of ethanol and LNG slurries is discussed.

This should not be confused with methods whereby up to 10% oil is added to ultra fine grained argillaceous coking coals before hydraulic handling whereby an agglomeration effect is obtained for the coal, a separating effect for the clay components upon leaving the pipeline and an improvement in the coking properties of the coal.