

PREFACE

My interest in energy began in the 1970's when I obtained degrees in physics from the Universities of Denver (B.S.), Mississippi (M.S.), and Houston (Ph.D.). I did some work in geothermal storage of solar energy as a post-doc in 1978, and then spent many years in the energy industry helping develop oil and gas reservoirs. I became a full time academic in 1998 when I joined the faculty of the Colorado School of Mines as a professor of petroleum engineering.

In the transition from industry to academia, I wanted to find out how long a college graduate today could expect to continue a career in the extraction of fossil fuels. After studying several forecasts of energy production, I was convinced that fossil fuels would continue to be an important part of the energy mix while other energy sources would increase in importance. To help prepare students to function as energy professionals, I developed an energy course at the Colorado School of Mines and published the textbook **Energy: Technology and Directions for the Future** (Elsevier – Academic Press, Boston, 2004).

I realized as I was developing the energy course that much of the material in the textbook is suitable for a general audience. This book, **Energy in the 21st Century**, is a non-technical version of **Energy: Technology and Directions for the Future**. **Energy in the 21st Century** was written to

give the concerned citizen enough information about energy to make informed decisions. Readers who would like more detailed information or a more complete list of references should consult the textbook **Energy: Technology and Directions for the Future**.

I want to thank my students and guest speakers for their comments during the preparation of my energy course. Tony Fanchi helped prepare many of the figures in the book, and Kathy Fanchi was instrumental in the preparation and production of the book. Even though there are many more topics that could be discussed, the material in **Energy in the 21st Century** should expose you to a broad range of energy types and help you develop an appreciation of the role that each energy type may play in the future.

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