

## **Shale Oil, The USA's New Strategic Petroleum Reserve**

Stephen Sewalk  
University of Colorado, Boulder, Golden, CO.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), created in the 1970s, represents an investment in energy that no longer serves its original purpose. Created by the United States as a response to energy insecurity and instability, the original goal for this reserve was the creation of a one billion barrel reserve to offset supply insecurity. This original goal has slowly changed downward to the point where today the reserve could be depleted within 90-180 days in a national security event. This paper proposes a change to develop a new policy with a significant investment in the energy sector to develop the domestic shale oil fields. Concurrently, the paper emphasizes how the energy sector has long represented a significant opportunity for the construction industry workforce. From oil fields to conventional power plants and nuclear energy generation, the construction industry has benefitted from the energy sector. Today, an opportunity exists to not increase energy security, but also economic security, by investing in shale oil, and in the process create significant job opportunities during the current recession.