

Essential Guide to Project Plowshare: Nuclear Explosives for Peaceful Purposes - Excavation, Dam Construction, and Mining, Reports on Gnome and Sedan Tests, Chronology and Lists of Proposed Projects (Paperback)



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Independently Published, United States, 2019. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English. Brand new Book. Three official government reports about the Plowshare peaceful nuclear explosion program are reproduced in this unique compilation: Plowshare Program Summary Report, Plowshare AEC Document, and Projects Gnome and Sedan Defense Department report. The United States Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), now the Department of Energy (DOE), established the Plowshare Program as a research and development activity to explore the technical and economic feasibility of using nuclear explosives for industrial applications. The reasoning was that the relatively inexpensive energy available from nuclear explosions could prove useful for a wide variety of peaceful purposes. The Plowshare Program began in 1958 and continued through 1975. Between December 1961 and May 1973, the United States conducted 27 Plowshare nuclear explosive tests comprising 35 individual detonations. Conceptually, industrial applications resulting from the use of nuclear explosives could be divided into two broad categories: 1) large-scale excavation and quarrying, where the energy from the explosion was used to break up and/or move rock; and 2) underground engineering, where the energy released from deeply buried nuclear explosives increased the permeability and porosity of the rock by massive breaking and fracturing. Possible excavation applications included: canals, harbors, highway and railroad cuts through mountains, open pit mining, construction of dams, and other quarry and construction-related projects. Underground nuclear explosion applications included: stimulation of natural gas production, preparation of leachable ore bodies for in situ leaching, creation of underground zones of fractured oil shale for in situ retorting, and formation of underground natural gas and petroleum storage reservoirs. On June 6, 1958, the Atomic Energy Commission publicly announced the establishment of the Plowshare Program, named for the biblical injunction to ensure peace by beating swords into plowshares. "And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning..."



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