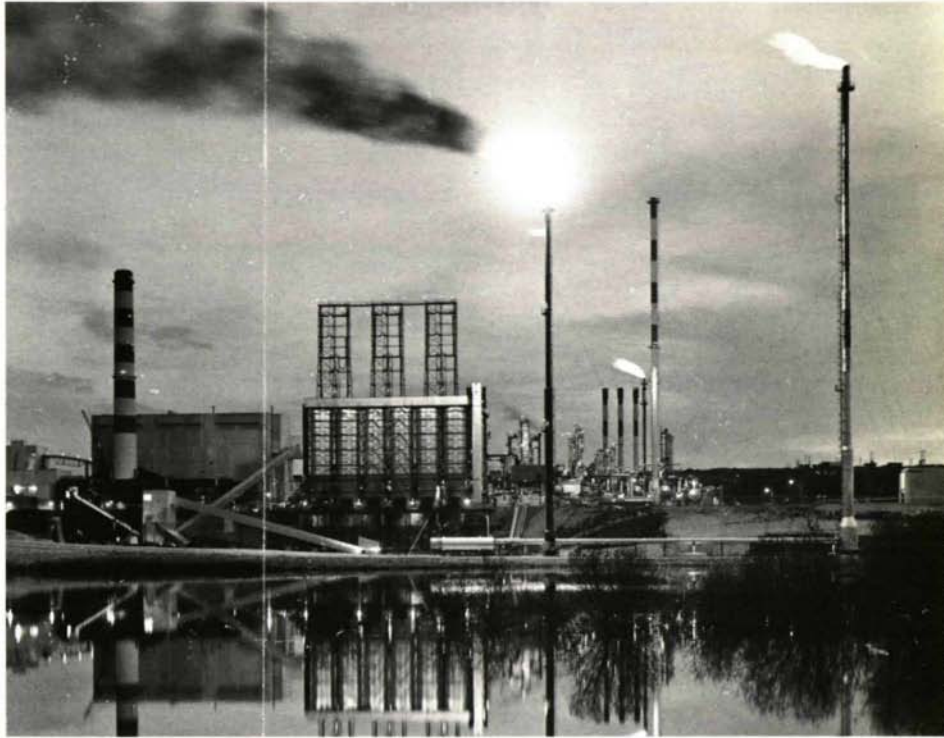


The tar sands processing plant at Fort McMurray in northeastern Alberta began operations in the fall of 1967, producing 45,000 bbl. of oil, 300 tons of elemental sulphur and 2,800 tons of coke daily from 110,000 tons of sand. Locked in the Athabasca tar sands is an estimated 600,000,000,000 bbl. of oil, an amount representing more than the combined reserves of all the oil fields in the world.



The Mining Research Centre of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources concentrates particularly on rock mechanics. At the Elliot Lake laboratories, a borehole instrument is under development for use in studying stresses in rocks in areas being mined.



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