

Following this announcement an offer to cooperate in the development of the benzene-toluene process was submitted by the Aetna Explosives Co., of New York. Action on this offer was deferred till after the demonstration in order that all who so desired might have an opportunity to indicate their willingness to cooperate in like manner.

At the time of this demonstration further announcement was made by the Director of the Bureau of Mines that the bureau was ready to receive and consider offers of cooperation in the development of the processes, in order to demonstrate their practicability in large-scale operations and under the stress of competitive conditions.

AGREEMENT WITH AETNA EXPLOSIVES COMPANY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BENZENE-TOLUENE PROCESS.

The proposal of the Aetna Explosives Co. to cooperate with the Bureau of Mines in demonstrating the commercial practicability of the benzene-toluene process was accepted as of March 9, 1915, and a contract entered into whereby the Aetna company pledged itself to the expenditure of not less than \$200,000 in the development of the process. A copy of the contract follows:

This agreement made and entered into in triplicate this 9th day of March, A. D. 1915, by and between The United States Bureau of Mines, by its duly authorized officers, hereinafter called the first party, and The Aetna Explosives Company, Incorporated, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, and having its principal office at 2 Rector Street, in the city, county, and State of New York, and duly authorized to carry on business in the State of Pennsylvania, hereinafter called the second party.

Whereas the said Bureau of Mines is by the act of February 25, 1913, (37 Stat., 681) especially charged with the duty of conducting scientific and technologic investigations concerning the treatment and utilization of mineral substances with a view to increasing efficiency, economic development, and conserving resources through the prevention of waste, and

Whereas the sundry civil appropriation acts approved August 1, 1914, and March 4, 1915, respectively contain appropriations of twenty-five thousand and thirty-five thousand dollars for inquiries and investigations concerning the mining, preparation, treatment, and utilization of petroleum and natural gas, with a view to economic development and conserving resources through the prevention of waste, and

Whereas Dr. Walter F. Rittman, a chemical engineer in the employ of the first party, has recently discovered a new and valuable process for the manufacture of benzene, toluene, and other aromatic compounds from petroleum hydrocarbons (hereinafter referred to as the process), and

Whereas it is desired to develop said process for the benefit of the people of the United States and to secure the cooperation of the said first and second parties in the development of said process with a view to conserving the petroleum resources of the nation through the utilization of waste and inferior oils, and in promoting efficiency in the treatment of petroleum oils, in which work it is desirable to have the cooperation of chemists, mechanical engineers, electricians, and other employees in the employ of either or both of the aforesaid parties:

Now, therefore, this agreement witnesseth that in consideration of the cooperation of the said first and second parties in the development of the process and of services