

BATTERY VEHICLES AND BR - AN ASSESSMENT OF THE OPPORTUNITIES

This memorandum describes some of the changes which electric road vehicle technology could bring about in the British Rail transport infrastructure in the foreseeable future. With regard to the developed world's transport systems, the overall patterns for the future are already established by the greedy nature of world energy demands, and the paucity of the proven reserves. By the year 2025 it is estimated that the bulk of the nation's energy requirements will be supplied directly or indirectly from coal and nuclear electricity. This presupposed a freely developing nuclear power programme without political or technical constraint.

It is concluded that:

- Electric road vehicle technology could successfully be incorporated in the BR travel network.
- Extensions to 'Motorail' are likely to be more profitable than the development of an electric hire-car system.
- Light electric goods vans and battery buses will not be fully developed before 1990, cars before at least 2000.

A trial is recommended of an electric vehicle shuttle service between the London termini, for passengers who are unable to use the Underground service.