

EPEI ELECTRIC POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Future of Natural Gas

An Interdisciplinary MIT Study

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Global Gas Supply Cost Curve (Excludes unconventional gas outside North America)

Breakeven Gas Price*

\$/MMBtu



* Cost curves based on 2007 cost bases. North America cost represent wellhead breakeven costs. All curves for regions outside North America represent breakeven costs at export point. Cost curves calculated using 10% real discount rate and ICF Supply Models

** Assumes two 4MMT LNG trains with ~6,000 mile one-way delivery run, Jensen and Associates

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U.S. Gas Supply Cost Curve



Breakeven Gas Price*

\$/MMBtu



Breakdown of Mean U.S. Supply Curve by Gas Type Breakeven Gas Price* \$/MMBtu



* Cost curves calculated using 2007 cost bases. U.S. costs represent wellhead breakeven costs. Cost curves calculated assuming 10% real discount rate and ICF Supply Models



Variation in Shale Well Performance and Per-Well Economics



IP Rate Probability (Barnett 2009 Well Vintage) Impact of IP Rate Variability on Breakeven Price (BEP)* (2009 Well Vintages)



* Breakeven price calculations carried out using 10% real discount rate

** Marcellus IP rates estimated based on industry announcements and available regulatory data

Source: MIT, HPDI production database and various industry sources



System Studies of Gas Futures



- Emissions Prediction and Policy Analysis Model
 - Strength: explore market interactions
 - Limitation: some industry details beneath the level of market aggregation
- Influences on U.S. Gas Futures
 - Size of resource base, and cost
 - Evolution of international gas markets
 - Development of technology over time
 - Greenhouse gas mitigation policy (?)



U.S. Gas Use, Production, Imports and Exports No New Climate Policy



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Energy Mix in Electric Generation Under a Price-Based Climate Policy



Mean Natural Gas Resources and Regional Natural Gas Markets (TkWh)



International Market Evolution





Regional Markets

Global Market





"The U.S. natural gas supply situation has enhanced the substitution possibilities for natural gas in the electricity, industry, buildings, and transportation sectors."



Scale and Location of Fully-Dispatched NGCC Potential and Coal Generation (MWh, 2008)



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Nationwide, Coal Generation Displacement With Surplus NGCC Would:

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- Reduce CO₂ emissions from power generation by 20%
- Reduce CO₂ emissions nationwide by 8%
- Reduce mercury emissions by 33%
- Reduce NO_X emissions by 32%
- Cost roughly \$16 per ton/CO₂

The displacement of coal generation with NGCC generation should be pursued as the only practical option for near term, large scale CO_2 emissions reductions



Industrial Gas Demand



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Industrial Boiler Replacement Costs

Net Present Value Costs (millions \$)

25 **Replacement of** existing NG boilers 20 15 25 10 20 5 15 0 **High efficiency gas Existing coal** Super high 10 boilers w/ postboilers efficiency gas combustion **boilers** controls 5 NG vs. coal boilers with 0 **MACT** standards **Existing Natural High Efficiency Super High Gas Boilers Gas Boilers Efficiency Gas Boilers**



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For buildings, a move to full fuel cycle efficiency (site vs. source) metrics will improve how consumers, builders, policy makers choose among energy options (especially natural gas and electricity).

Efficiency metrics need to be tailored to regional variations in climate and the electricity supply mix.





If the current trend of large oil-gas price ratios continues, it could have significant implications for the use of natural gas in transportation.

Tradeoffs between fuel cost, vehicle cost, fuel infrastructure needs, operational implications?



Years Payback for CNG Light Duty Vehicles



(\$1.50 gallon of gasoline equivalent spread)



LNG Long Haul Truck Limitations



- Low temp onboard fuel storage
- Fueling infrastructure with competitive pricing
- High incremental cost and lower resale value
- Mitigation in hub-to-hub



Conversion of Natural Gas to Liquid Fuels







The potential for gas to reduce oil dependence could be increased by its conversion...into liquid fuels...methanol is the only one that has been produced from natural gas for a long period at large industrial scale.

The U.S. government should implement an open fuel standard, requiring tri-flex-fuel capability for light-duty vehicles.



Large Scale Penetration of Intermittent Wind in Short Term for ERCOT





The principal impacts of increased deployment of intermittent renewable energy sources in the short term are –

- the displacement of NGCC generation
- increased utilization of operating reserves
- more frequent cycling of mid-range or even base load plants.





To view a full copy of this report, please visit

www.web.mit.edu/mitei/research/studies/naturalgas-2011.shtml

For hard copy, email or business card

Supplementary papers only on website

(Future of Fuel Cycle study also)





Backup



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Remaining Recoverable Natural Gas Resources





Global Gas Supply Cost Curve by EPPA Region



2007 Cost Base



Source: MIT; ICF Global Hydrocarbon Supply Model

Key Environmental Issues Associated with Shale Gas Development



Primary environmental risks associated with shale gas development

- Contamination of groundwater aquifers with drilling fluids or natural gas
- 2. On-site surface spills of drilling fluids, fracture fluids and wastewater
- 3. Contamination as the result of inappropriate off-site wastewater disposal
- Excessive water withdrawals for use in high-volume fracturing operations
- 5. Excessive road traffic and degraded air quality

Breakdown of Widely-Reported Environmental Incidents Involving Gas Drilling; 2005-2009



- Methane in groundwater
- Off-site disposal issues
- Air quality issues

- On-site surface spills
- Water withdrawal issues
- Well blowouts



Fracture Growth in the Marcellus



Marcellus Shale Mapped Fracture Treatments (TVD)



Source: Pinnacle Halliburton Service, Kevin Fisher, Data Confirm Safety of Well Fracturing from July 2010

Recommendations



- For optimum long-term development, need to improve understanding of shale gas science and technology
 - Government-funded fundamental research
 - Industry/gov't. collaboration on applied research
 - Should also cover environmental research
- Determine and mandate best practice for gas well design and construction
- Create transparency around gas development
 - Mandatory disclosure of frac fluid components
 - Integrated water usage and disposal plans



Global Gas Market and Geopolitics





- More liquid, integrated global markets
 - In U.S. economic interest
 - Reduce security concerns
- Recommendations
 - Support market integration, supply diversity
 - Aid transfer of shale technology



Levelized Cost of Electricity at Different Carbon Prices







Buildings: Full Fuel Cycle Energy/CO₂





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Price Benchmarks Vs. Observed Prices 1991–2010





Figure 7.2 charts natural gas prices as a function of oil prices. The four straight lines show the four pricing rules-ofthumb. Using the ordering of the lines at the right of the figure, the top line is the burner-tip parity rule based on natural gas competing with distillate fuel oil, the second line is the energy-content equivalence rule, the third line is the burner-tip parity rule based on natural gas competing with residual fuel oil, and the fourth line is the 10-to-1 rule. The slightly curved line is the best-fit line calculated from a statistical analysis incorporating a number of additional variables and dynamics. The scatterplot of data points are the actual price combinations observed over the 1991 to 2010 period. All observed prices are quoted in real terms in 2010 dollars.

RD&D Spending





Shale Gas RD&D Spending and Supporting Policy Mechanisms





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