

An Overview on Natural Gas

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PERSPECTIVE

Natural gas is known as methane it is a colourless, highly flammable gaseous hydrocarbon consisting primarily of methane and ethane. This is a type of petroleum that is often associated with crude oil. Natural gas, a fossil fuel, is used to generate electricity, heat, cook, and fuel certain vehicles. It is important as a chemical raw material for plastic manufacturing and is required for various other chemical products such as fertilizers and dyes. At the high pressures that spread over the reservoir, natural gas is often dissolved in petroleum and may exist as a tank cover that covers the petroleum. This natural gas is called related gas. Often considered the gas phase of crude oil, it usually contains light liquids such as propane and butane. For this reason, the associated gas is sometimes referred to as "wet gas". Some reservoirs contain gas instead of oil. This gas is known as an unrelated gas. An unrelated gas from a deposit that is not associated with a known liquid oil source is "dry gas".

Improvement of gas pipeline throughout the 19th century, the use of natural gas remained locally restricted as there was no way to transport large quantities of gas over long distances. Natural gas was at stake in industrial development, primarily based on coal and oil. Significant advances in gas transport technology were made possible by the invention of tight coupling of pipelines in 1890. However, materials and construction technology remained so tedious that gas could not be used more than 160 km (100 miles) from the source. For example, related gas was mainly flared (that is,

burned at the wellhead), unrelated gas remained underground, but city gas was produced for the city.

Further advances in pipeline technology brought long-distance gas transport into practical use in the late 1920s. From 1927 to 1931, more than 10 major power transmission systems were built in the United States. After World War II, many longer pipelines were built with larger diameters. It is now possible to manufacture pipes up to 150 cm (60 inches) in diameter. The longest gas pipeline has its origins in Russia since the early 1970s. Rice field as a result, gas from the world's largest field is now being shipped to Eastern Europe for consumption and then to Western Europe. The other gas pipeline, which was shorter and technically more problematic, was a 50 cm (20 inches) Trans Mediterranean pipeline built between Algeria and Sicily in the 1970s and 1980s. In some parts of this route, the sea is over 600 meters deep.

In 1960, the associated gas was still a troublesome by-product of oil production in many parts of the world. The gas was separated from the oil stream and was often eliminated as cheaply as possible by flaring (burn off). Natural gas became an important energy carrier worldwide after the oil shortage in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Even when natural gas is completely burned, carbon dioxide and water are usually produced. In addition, the emission of another important air pollutant, sulfur dioxide, is virtually non-existent. Still, methane is a very powerful greenhouse gas, capable of trapping about 25 times more heat than carbon dioxide.

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