



U.S. expected to become net exporter of natural gas by end of decade

The United States is on track to become a net exporter of natural gas by 2020 as domestic gas production continues to increase faster than consumption through this decade.

Growing production and low prices will help spur exports, according to the new long-term outlook from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Some of that gas will be sent overseas in huge ocean-going tankers carrying super-cooled liquefied natural gas, or LNG. U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas are expected to reach 1.6 trillion cubic feet in 2027, double the export levels projected for that time in last year's outlook .

And, according to EIA Administrator Adam Sieminski:

“Increasing domestic natural gas production, especially from tight shale formations, and lower U.S. natural gas prices compared to costs in most other countries will make American natural gas a good buy in the global market. World markets are expected to use increasing amounts of liquefied natural gas.”

Jonathan Cogan for EIA, Washington.