

U.S. natural gas supplies plentiful to help meet higher demand this winter

As Americans move deeper into the winter heating season, the amount of U.S. natural gas in underground storage reached an estimated 3.9 trillion cubic feet at the end of October. That's up 3 percent from the same time last year and a record high says the U.S. Energy Information Administration in its new monthly short-term energy outlook.

The bigger supply will help meet U.S. residential natural gas demand this winter, which is expected to be nearly 18 percent higher than last year, as temperatures are forecast to be colder than the record warmth seen in much of the country last winter.

Natural gas is the primary heating fuel for half of all U.S. households, with the most users located in the Midwest, where more than two-thirds of households keep warm with natural gas.

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