



Independent Statistics & Analysis

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Active hurricane season expected to shut-in higher amount of oil and natural gas production

An above-normal 2013 hurricane season is expected to cause a median production loss of about 19 million barrels of U.S. crude oil and 46 billion cubic feet of natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico, according to the new forecast from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. That's about one-third more than the amount of oil and gas production knocked offline during last year's hurricane season. Government weather forecasts predict 13 to 20 named storms will form between June and the end of November, with 7 to 11 of those turning into hurricanes.

Production outages in previous hurricane seasons were as high as 107 million barrels of crude oil and 566 billion cubic feet of natural gas because of hurricanes Rita and Katrina in 2005. So forecasting production outages is as uncertain as predicting weather.

However, with the rapid growth in onshore oil and natural gas production, the share of total U.S. oil and natural production originating in the Gulf of Mexico has declined. The growing share of total production from inland areas has reduced the vulnerability of overall U.S. oil and natural gas supply to hurricanes.

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