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Natural gas injections into storage off to slow start, but record refill season still expected

The amount of U.S. natural gas being injected into underground storage has gotten off to a slow startafter this winter's very cold weather depleted much of the supply...but a record amount of gas is still expected to flow into storage by the start of the next heating season in the fall.

The amount of natural gas in underground storage was just under 1 trillion cubic feet in late April, about half the level typically seen for that time of year.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration expects strong natural gas storage additions over the summer and fall...with storage levels just over 3.4 trillion cubic feet by the end of October, according to EIA's new monthly energy forecast.

In order to reach this level, EIA said natural gas injections into storage will have to average about 90 billion cubic feet per week from the last week of April through October....which is 20 billion cubic feet more than the average weekly injection rate over the last five years.

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