

Highlights

This issue of the *Natural Gas Monthly* contains estimates of natural gas data through March 2002 for many data series at the national level. National-level natural gas prices are available through November 2001 (electric utilities), December (residential, commercial, and industrial), and February (wellhead). State-level data generally are available through December 2001, although underground storage data are available through January 2002.

Recent analyses of the natural gas industry are available on the EIA web site, under "Featured Topics" to the right side of the home page. The first two reports listed below are updated regularly, while the third is a one-time report that was released in December 2001. These reports are:

- *Natural Gas Weekly Update* - a current analysis of the industry each week, including information on natural gas spot and futures prices and storage activities. This page also provides links to numerous other EIA sites dealing with natural gas.

- Short-Term Energy Outlook - projections of energy consumption, supply, and price by type of fuel, including natural gas, for the next 18 months.
- U.S. Natural Gas Markets: Mid-Term Prospects for Natural Gas Supply – This study updates the June 2001 EIA study, *U.S. Natural Gas Markets: Recent Trends and Prospects for the Future*, and provides a more detailed examination of four topics requested by Secretary Abraham. These include: (1) the impact of drilling on wellhead natural gas supply, (2) the potential for future imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG), (3) the impacts of removing limitations on access to Federal lands and offshore areas, and (4) an analysis of data improvements that would support a better understanding of natural gas markets.

Other natural gas data and analyses may be found through the "Natural Gas" section of EIA's web site. In the center section of the home page, the user should place the cursor on "By Fuel," then click on "Natural Gas" in the drop-down menu.

A *Federal Register Notice* dated February 25, 2002, announced the first of two public comment periods for Clearance of the Natural Gas Data Collection Program Package. The Package includes Forms EIA-176, "Annual Report of Natural Gas Supply and Disposition," EIA-191, "Monthly Underground Gas Storage Report," EIA-857, "Monthly Report of Natural Gas Purchases and Deliveries to Consumers," EIA-895, "Monthly and Annual Quantity and Value of Natural Gas Production Report," EIA-910, "Monthly Natural Gas Marketer Survey," and EIA-912, "Weekly Underground Natural Gas Storage Report."

EIA proposes significant revisions to Form EIA-176 and instructions. Less extensive format and instructions changes are proposed for the Forms EIA-191, EIA-857, and EIA-895. Form EIA-910 is included in the Package in order to coordinate the expiration date with the rest of the data collection forms. Form EIA-912 is included for a standard, non-emergency clearance.

The *Federal Register Notice* as well as the draft forms and instructions are available on the EIA website under fuel: natural gas, "Featured Topics." The public comment period ends April 26. Comments should be directed to Sylvia Norris at sylvia.norris@eia.doe.gov or at 202-586-6101.