#### North American Natural Gas Markets in Transition: The Future of Shale Gas



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# Is Shale Gas Revolution a "Game Changer"?

- Transforming the Energy Market
- Boosting the US Manufacturing Sector
- Endangering Safety (water, earthquakes)
- Protecting Against Greenhouse Gases
- Shifting Geopolitical Power Balances

### Gas Markets as a System

- How high domestic gas prices will rise as US exports expand
- How competitive will US projects be in the world LNG market
- How long will the Asian-North American price "gap" persist
- How long can Russia act strategically in pricing its gas supplies

# Some Environmental Challenges

- Will not increase greenhouse gases unless methane leakages move above current estimates 1.5-3.0%
- Improved well casings could protect groundwater quality
- Better waste water disposal could reduce earthquake risks (Oklahoma)
- Options for protecting pristine rural areas from industrial congestion

# Estimated U.S. shale gas production was 50.6 Bcf/d in February 2018, about 63% of total U.S. dry production (80 Bcf/d)

#### Natural gas production (dry)



Sources: EIA Natural Gas Monthly, STEO through February 2018 and DrillingInfo.

From presentation by Faouzi Aloulou

Shale gas production as a



# Response: US Energy Markets

- Relatively permanent reduction in natural gas prices
- Gas principally displaces coal for power
- Broader fuel competition includes
  - Nuclear: earlier retirement, less construction
  - Renewables: greater pressure on costs
  - May have retarded some energy efficiency options
- Modeling teams consider natural gas prices as one of the largest uncertainties with the strongest future impact

### US Natural Gas Conditions in 2010 and 2017 AEOs



**Source: US Energy Information** 

# Gas + Intensity Shifted US Energy Mix after 2006



Change in Primary Energy (Quad BTU), 2006-2016

#### **Estimates from Combining EMF Scenarios**





S<sub>1</sub>

S 2

Quantity



### US Natural Gas Supply Response to Price

**US Natural Gas Supply Response to Price** 



### US Natural Gas Supply Response to Price

US Natural Gas Supply Response to Price



#### US Natural Gas Demand Response to Price



# Natural Gas, Fuel Diversity and North American Energy Markets

- Working group first met in January 2002.
- 2020 prices could range between 58% and 118% of June 2003 level.
- Investments in resources/technologies play a critical role.
- Fuel-substitution opportunities provide a more stable long-run price path.

#### The New 'Normal' for Natural Gas Prices



# **Concluding Remarks**

- Shale gas likely to dominate future US energy markets
- Lower prices help economy but no manufacturing rebirth
- Environmental challenges remain but are surmountable
- Long-run domestic supplies and demands respond to price
  - Estimates from EMF studies suggest an export expansion increasing total demand by 10% would increase prices by less than 7% in the long run
- Models sometimes provide insights, especially when conditions are changing

#### Thank you