

When It Comes to Energy, Reliability Matters

Natural Gas Is the Key to Making Wind and Solar Reliable

Renewable energy fuel sources such as wind and solar are an important and growing part of the U.S. energy sector. They are needed to diversify primary fuel sources used to generate electricity including coal, nuclear and other forms of traditional electricity producing fuels.

Although renewable fuels are abundant and their direct emissions are zero, their availability depends on the cooperation of the weather. Consequently, such energy sources tend to be intermittent and cannot provide uninterrupted service.

Therefore, it is wise to have alternative generation available that can ramp up quickly to meet immediate consumer needs. Of all the fuel types, natural gas has the best ability to respond quickly to changes in electricity demand.

Put another way, natural gas serves as the third leg of the renewable energy stool, which features solar and wind. Natural gas can provide immediate electricity

supply in situations where renewable energy sources cannot. Consumer electricity demand cannot be met by renewable fuels alone.

Natural gas is a necessary and viable source of fuel for electricity generation for a variety of reasons. Key advantages include its relatively small generation site footprint, the ability to be sized to fit a specific energy need and others noted in the chart below.

With increased use of renewable energy sources due to clean air legislation and concerns about carbon constraints, natural gas will likely be the fuel of choice to complement wind and solar as sources of clean electricity production.

As the need for reliable sources of energy grows, it will be important that those who explore for and develop natural gas have access to as many areas as possible to ensure that America's energy demands are met.

