

## **Natural Gas Production Data Collection**

NGSA supports the National Petroleum Council's (NPC) 2007 recommendation to improve the quality and timeliness of the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) natural gas data collection and is encouraged by the EIA's efforts to do so. NGSA believes that improved collaborative efforts by the EIA with the producing states and the Mineral Management Service (MMS) would provide the EIA with all of the available U.S. natural gas production information from all the companies operating in the United States.

While both the states and the MMS collect and report natural gas production data, the EIA has indicated that it has not always received the production data in a timely and reliable manner from these entities. In 2005, the EIA initiated Form EIA-914, the "Monthly Natural Gas Production Report," to obtain natural gas production data directly from a sample of 220 natural gas well operators accounting for approximately 80 percent of total U.S. production. The survey reporting has proven successful in meeting EIA's goal to have timely overall production information. Since 2005, the EIA has been transitioning from collecting monthly natural gas production data from the states and MMS to collecting sample survey data using Form EIA-914.

In October 2007, EIA proposed to expand the number of natural gas production areas to be reported on Form EIA-914 from seven to 14, and to increase the number of natural gas operators surveyed by 130 respondents. NGSA does not believe that the additional proposed states would have a material impact on the quality of the current natural gas data collection. EIA currently collects gross and marketed production volumes for natural gas produced in Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming, the Federal Gulf of Mexico and the U.S. Total.