

NATURAL GAS:

Clean Energy to Keep America Going Strong

Advanced Exploration and Production Technology Meets Consumer and Environmental Needs

"From coast to coast, innovative E&P approaches are making a difference to the environment. With advanced technologies, the oil and gas industry can pinpoint resources more accurately, extract them more efficiently and with less surface disturbance, minimize associated wastes, and, ultimately, restore sites to original or better condition."

- U.S. Department of Energy*

Exploration and production companies apply the latest technology to find and deliver to consumers the natural gas that we have in abundance in geologic formations throughout North America.

- The latest software and hardware technology provide the ability to better "see" subsurface geologic formations by analyzing acoustic waves, and even MRI and radar images of potential gas bearing reservoir rocks and coal formations deep below the surface of the earth, both onshore and under the sea. These technologies increase the likelihood that natural gas will be found and quickly made available to consumers.
- Highly sophisticated directional drilling systems are able to probe below the surface -- even horizontally and for extended distances -- to reach prospective gas reservoirs in less time and with more reliability.

According to the Department of Energy*, technology innovation has led to environmental benefits.

- "Continuing improvements in recovery efficiency per well translate into fewer wells..." (p2)
- "Smaller, lighter rigs and advances in directional and extended-reach drilling shrink the footprint of oil and gas operations and reduce surface disturbance." (p2)
- "Resources underlying arctic regions, coastal and deep offshore waters, sensitive wetlands and wildlife habitat, public lands, and even in cities and airports can now be contacted and produced without disrupting surface features above them." (p13)

*DOE: *Environmental Benefits of Advanced Oil and Gas Exploration and Production Technology*, 1999. (http://www.fe.doe.gov/oil_gas/environ_rpt/index.html)