

ENERGY NEWS AND NOTES

Demand For Natural Gas Expected To Grow

(NAPSA)—The growing demand for natural gas is fueling interest in the way it's processed and transported.

Natural gas accounts for almost one-fourth of all energy consumed in the United States and is vital to the economy.

Experts predict that the demand for natural gas will grow more than 38 percent by 2025. The good news is that new facilities and technology for transporting this fuel to processing facilities are being developed.

That's important, because about 96 percent of the world's proven natural gas reserves are outside of North America. At the same time, the U.S. is consuming about 25 percent of the world's annual natural gas production.

To make transport easier, natural gas is often transported as a liquid. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is natural gas that has been cooled to an extremely cold temperature so that it becomes liquid, which reduces its volume significantly. Experts say this makes it much more cost efficient to transport over long distances, particularly where pipelines do not exist.

Specially designed ships and cryogenic road tankers are used to transport LNG to U.S. terminals. Ships unload LNG at specially designed terminals where the LNG is pumped from the ship to storage tanks. The liquefied natural gas is then converted back to a gas and then transported by pipeline to where it is needed.

To ensure maximum safety, the Coast Guard prevents other ships from getting near LNG tankers,



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while in transit or docked at a terminal. In addition, they have to be escorted by special ships, such as the Voith Water Tractor.

Many believe the Voith Water Tractor is now setting the standard for safety, reliability, speed and precision in ship handling and escort applications, and also in recovery, fire fighting, oil-spill control and offshore work.

More than 830 Voith Water Tractors are in operation in over 120 ports throughout the world. Classification as Best Available Technology (BAT) by the Alaskan environmental authority confirms the success of this design.

While Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean currently provide 66 percent of the U.S. LNG imports, new LNG terminals are being contemplated in the United States. Experts believe liquefied natural gas from overseas and Alaska will play an increasingly important role in the future energy needs of the U.S. This will require construction of new LNG import terminals.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.Voithturbo.com/marine.