

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
NATIONAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

## SCNG POLICY ANALYSIS

### *A Balanced Approach for Addressing Strategic Natural Gas Issues*

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#### STRATEGIC CENTER FOR NATURAL GAS WEBSITE

[www.netl.doe.gov/scng](http://www.netl.doe.gov/scng)

#### Background

Natural gas will become increasingly important to the energy security of the United States because of abundant domestic supplies and its environmental advantages. However, technical and political challenges constrain the development of this valuable resource and limit its deliverability and efficient use. As part of its primary mission, the Strategic Center for Natural Gas (SCNG) provides comprehensive natural gas policy analysis to identify these constraints and evaluate alternative technology solutions. The ultimate goal is to ensure the timely deployment of natural gas technologies to reliably and affordably meet America's energy needs thereby supporting economic growth, preserving our environment, and contributing toward national energy security.

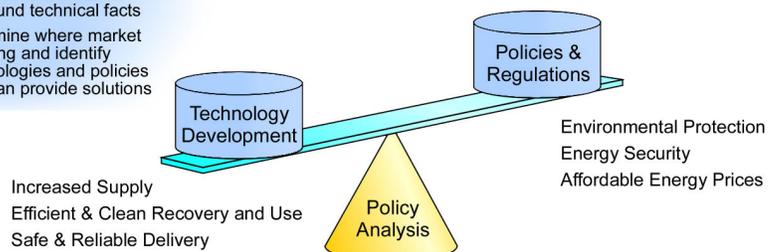
#### Who We Are

SCNG policy analysts have extensive experience in energy production, use, and research. Drawing on this expertise, the analysts design studies to address key issues facing the industry. By continually staying abreast of energy-related market dynamics, business practices, and energy and public policy issues, the policy analysts provide guidance for natural gas research, development, and demonstrations programs. Additionally, the analysts make use of the National Energy Technology Laboratory's (NETL) extensive computer network and modeling expertise, which afford on-line, real-time access to data, reports, and complementary analyses. Data generated by up to 700 NETL contracts provides a wealth of information, as do data from on-site research and development.

#### Balancing Technology and Policy

##### Role of Policy Analysis:

- Ensure policies and regulations are based on sound technical facts
- Determine where market is failing and identify technologies and policies that can provide solutions



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### ADDRESS

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### CUSTOMER SERVICE

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SCNG policy reports and analyses are available on the SCNG web site. "Policy Facts" are accessible on the web for a variety of topics at [www.netl.doe.gov/scng/policy/planning/policy\\_refshelf.html](http://www.netl.doe.gov/scng/policy/planning/policy_refshelf.html).

### What We Do

SCNG assesses natural gas strategic issues from "borehole to burnertip" to ensure that policy and legislation are built on sound principles. SCNG analyses focus on understanding how legislation, regulation, policies, and industry business practices impact natural gas. Policies that impede the supply, delivery, and utilization of natural gas are being evaluated to determine if they are unduly limiting its efficient and environmentally sound use. Industry market trends and business practices are being assessed to provide accurate and timely information about the increasingly important role of natural gas in meeting this nation's energy requirements.

### Why Policy Analysis Is Critical

It is a challenge to ensure affordable natural gas supplies and long-term sustainability and at the same time protect the environment and improve safety and health. The government can provide that balance. Government-sponsored R&D programs can accelerate technology advancements so that less accessible sources of natural gas can be produced economically and used to generate power and heat our homes in the most efficient and environmentally-friendly manner.

SCNG policy analysts build on NETL's many years of natural gas technology development, as well as partnerships with industry, other government agencies, and the research community. SCNG analysts investigate the issues and provide the scientific evidence and unbiased evaluations needed to develop rational energy policy options and provide long-range gas-related research goals. By understanding the interdependencies of policy, regulatory, and technology options, SCNG identifies, develops, and demonstrates new natural gas technologies that will be necessary to meet future energy needs.

