

QUALITY. INDEPENDENCE. IMPACT.

Liquid Markets: Assessing the Case for U.S. Exports of LNG

Dr. Charles K. Ebinger The Brookings Institution Energy Security Initiative May 11, 2012



Research Introduction

- Research Process
 - » Expert input from Natural Gas Task Force
 - » Report reflects task force input but not group consent
 - » Invited expert testimonials on specific topics
 - » Analysis of existing data and additional research/ interviews



Research Introduction

- Study Outline
 - » Part 1: Feasibility of LNG exports
 - Domestic supply, domestic demand, and international gas markets
 - » Part 2: Implications LNG exports
 - "Public interest": impact on other sectors, economic impact, jobs, US energy security, balance of trade, international implications, environment
 - » Part 3: Conclusions and recommendations



Feasibility

- Dependent on:
 - » Size of resource base
 - » Environmental policy and regulations
 - » Sustainability of production
- Given existing knowledge, exports are technically and logistically feasible



Implications: Natural Gas Price Increase

• The price implications of exports on domestic prices is likely to be modest

Study-by-study comparison of the Average Price Impact from 2015-2035 of 6 bcf/day of LNG exports (unless otherwise noted)

Study	Average Price without Exports (\$/MMBtu)	Average Price with Exports (\$/MMBtu)	Average Price Increase (%)
EIA*	\$5.28	\$5.78	9%
Deloitte	\$7.09	\$7.21	2%
Navigant (2010)** (2 bcf/day of exports)	\$4.75	\$5.10	7%
Navigant (2012)***	\$5.67	\$6.01	6%
ICF International***	\$5.81	\$6.45	11%

* Price impact figure for EIA study reflects the reference case, low-slow export scenario.

- ** The Navigant study did not analyze exports of 6 bcf/day.
- *** Navigant (2010 and 2012) and ICF International studies are based on Henry Hub price.

Source: EIA, Deloitte, Navigant, ICF International.



Implications: Electricity and Industrial Sectors

• The electricity and industrial sectors will not see dramatic changes in prices or competitiveness



Increase in Electricity Prices as a Result of 6 bcf/day of exports, 2035

* EIA range does not include high-rapid export scenario Source: EIA, Deloitte, ICF International



Brent-to-Henry Hub Price Ratio, 2000-2012*

* 2012 prices average of prices from January-March 2012



Implications: International Pricing and Geopolitics

7

The market will put a natural cap on how much LNG will be economic to export

S/MMBtu \$18.00 Sensitive to \$16.00 Project Scale \$14.00 Projected 2020 Price \$12.00 Possible Dry Gas \$10.00 Penalty [3] Tanker Transport \$8.00 Liquefaction Into Plant [4] \$6.00 Pipeline to Plant \$4.00 \$2.00 \$0.00 Australia Wortshore Nufralia Coal Seam Japan Line Ex Stille Fillesh Columbia PNGLNG Nasta PA U.S. Gulf Maskalli

Estimated Costs of Delivering LNG to Japan in 2020 (\$/MMBtu)

- [1]: Assumes 1 bcf/day of exports from Valdez, Alaska
- [2]: Assumes 3.1 bcf/day of exports from Valdez, Alaska
- [3]: Dry gas penalty is assumed at 2%
- [4]: Opportunity cost for Alaska and B.C.

Source: Client Presentation by James Jensen, President, Jensen and Associates



Conclusions

- Exports are feasible
- Natural gas prices will increase modestly
- Negligible impact on price and competitiveness of electricity and industrial sectors
- Limited macroeconomic, jobs, or environmental impact
- Exports would erode (but not dramatically alter) oil-linked LTCs in Asia and Europe
- Geopolitical benefits to increased LNG supply and supply diversity
- Market considerations will limit the arbitrage opportunity and economic feasibility of export projects



Recommendations

- The U.S. government should neither prohibit nor promote LNG exports
- Capping exports would distort markets and likely have unintended consequences
- The U.S. has an interest in continuing to promote free trade

