



Congressional Research Service

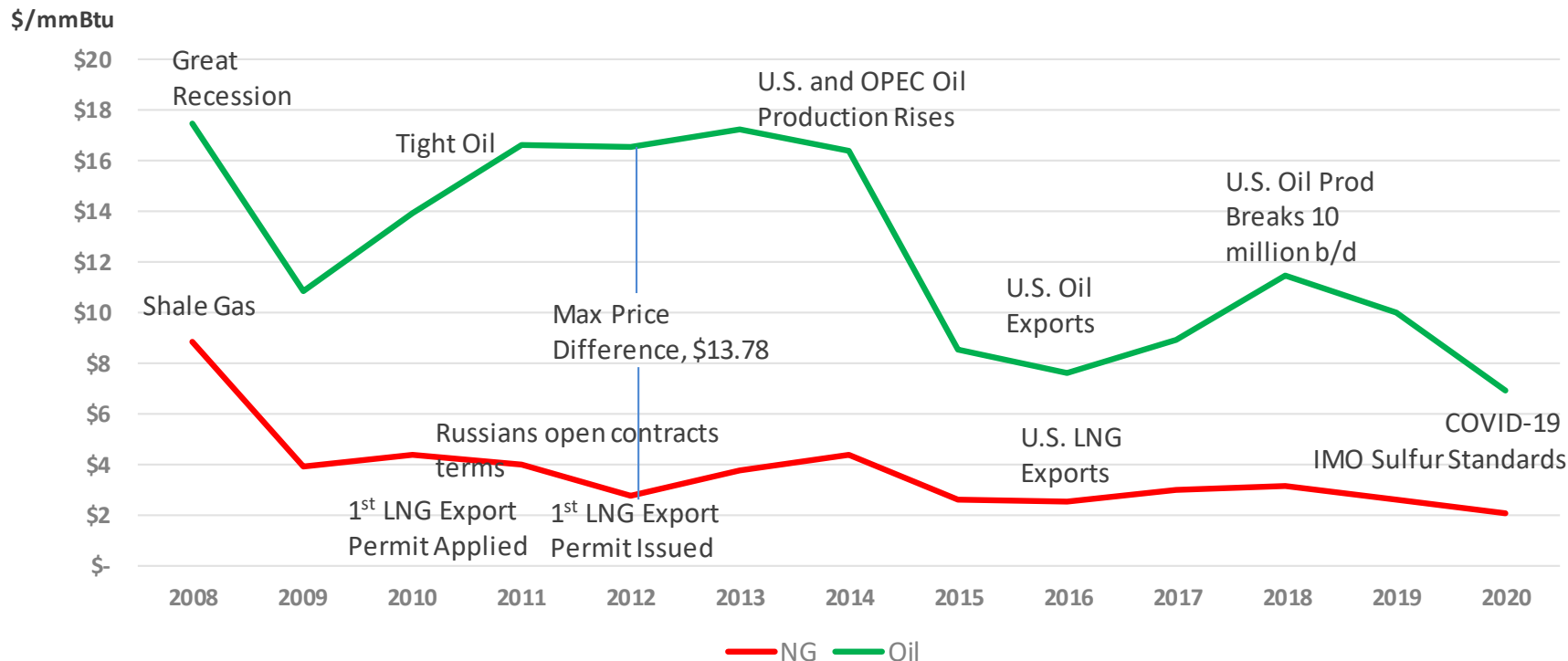
Informing the legislative debate since 1914

U.S. Natural Gas: A Catalyst for Change

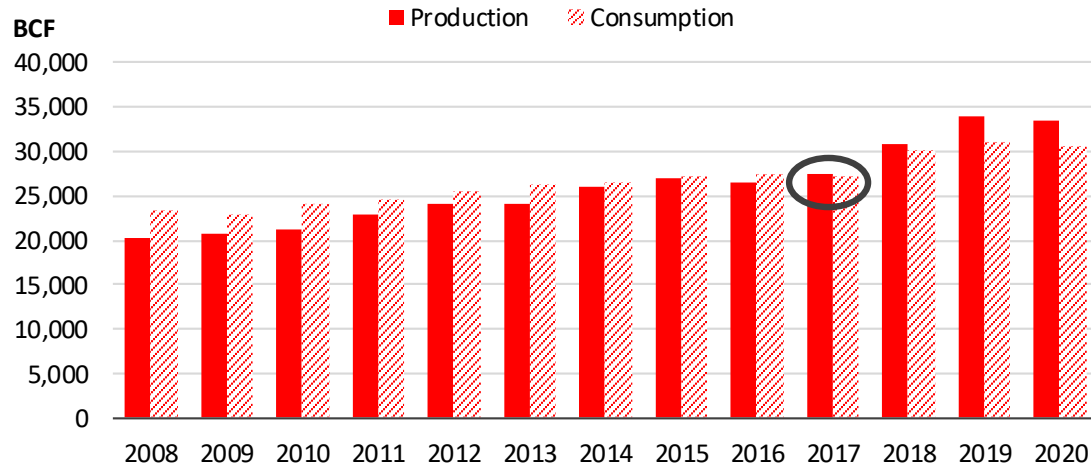
- Michael Ratner, Specialist in Energy Policy

September 20, 2021

Comparative Prices



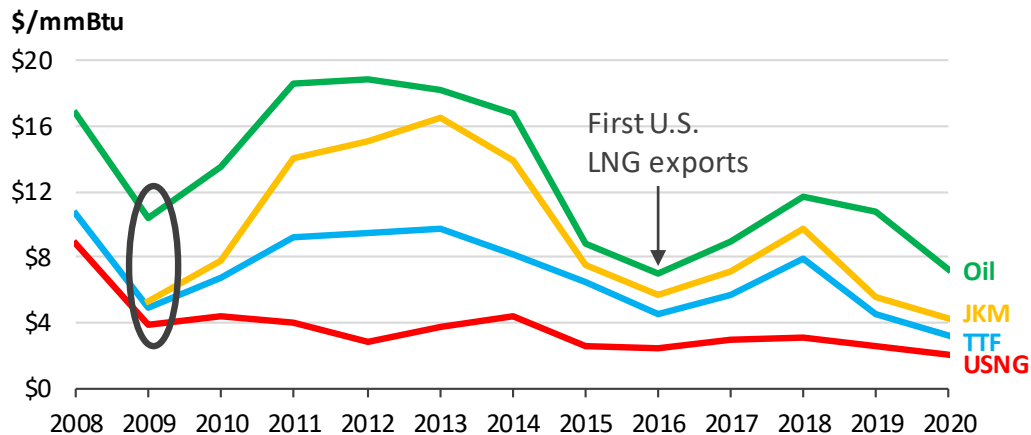
The Rise of Shale Gas



- 🔥 U.S. production and consumption rise
 - Most production now from shale formations
- 🔥 Production rises despite falling prices



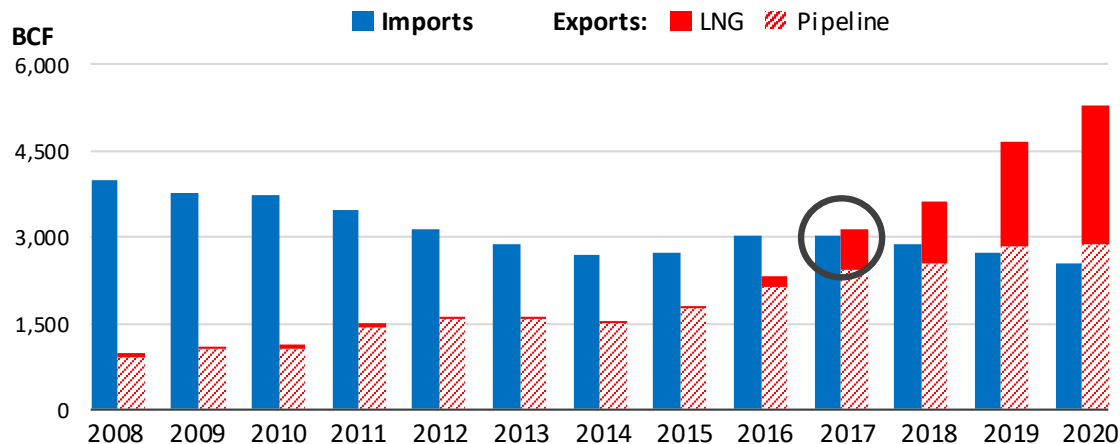
U.S. Price Advantage



- 🔥 U.S. prices stay relatively low compared to the rest of the world, including oil
 - Search for new demand centers
- 🔥 Prices are beginning to converge again



Excess Supply, Then Export

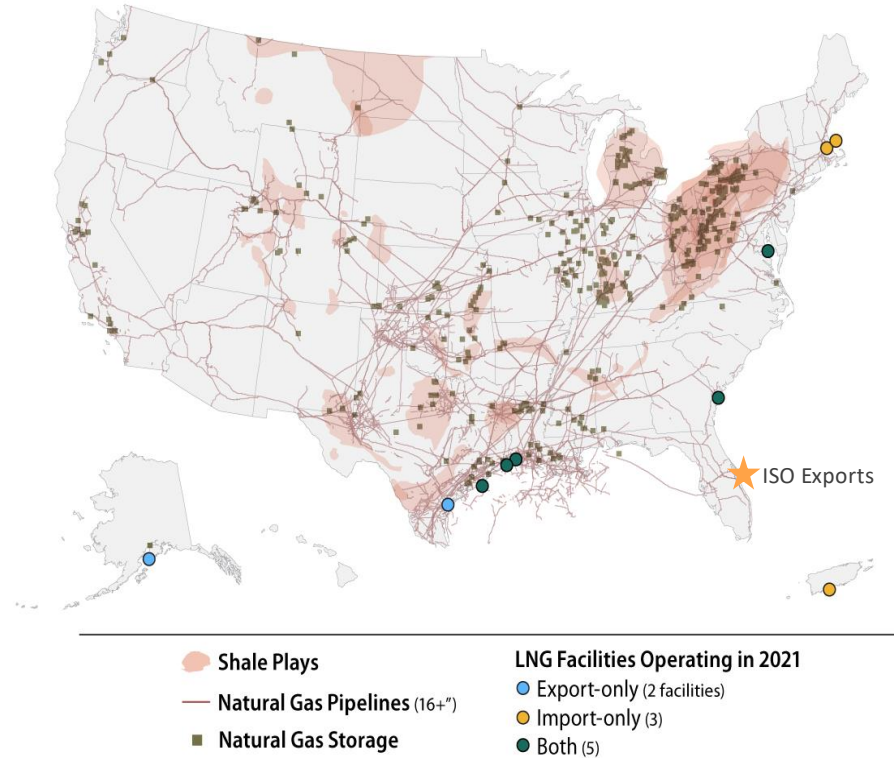


- 🔥 First lower-48 LNG exports in 2016
 - LNG drives exports
- 🔥 Net exporter in 2017
- 🔥 U.S. now third largest exporter of natural gas



U.S. Natural Gas Infrastructure

- 💧 3 million miles of mainline and other pipelines
- 💧 7 LNG export terminals
 - 4 new or expansions approved and under construction
 - 14 new or expansions approved, but not under construction
- 💧 156 LNG cargoes exported by ISO container in 2021
 - Approximately 500 million cubic feet
 - Prices about double of exports by vessel



Oil by Rail

Year	Crude by Rail	Total U.S. Production	Rail as a % of Total Production
2010	15.5	5,484	0.3%
2011	54.0	5,674	1.0%
2012	283.1	6,523	4.3%
2013	587.7	7,498	7.8%
2014	792.1	8,792	9.0%
2015	707.0	9,441	7.5%
2016	376.3	8,844	4.3%
2017	233.0	9,357	2.5%
2018	273.6	10,941	2.5%
2019	342.5	12,289	2.8%
2020	254.3	11,283	2.3%



Source Data: U.S. Energy Information Administration, units = '000 barrels of oil per day, except where noted.

What's Next?

- 🔥 Moving towards a global gas market
 - Rise in spot cargoes, shorter contracts, less destination clauses, and non-oil indexed pricing
- 🔥 Role of natural gas in the energy transition
 - Uncertain
 - Importance of associated gas production
- 🔥 Natural gas pipeline permits are getting more difficult to obtain
- 🔥 LNG by rail may play a part in certain locations for limited amounts of time

