
Abstract

Driven by plentiful natural gas reserves in the Middle East, large expansions of natural gas prodn. are anticipated based on supply and environmental concerns and an increasing industrialization (e.g., cement manuf.) of Middle East countries that would rely on cheap natural gas fuel. For example, natural gas consumption of Persian Gulf-based Middle East countries in 1992 was 113.42 x 109 m3 (required mainly for power generation/water desalination, petrochems./fertilizers, aluminum smelting); by the year 2000, gas consumption is expected to increase to 219.47 x 109 m3.