Western Natural Gas Assessment
List of Questions and Issues
Updated May 26, 2004

A. Demand for Natural Gas

1. What is the outlook for natural gas demand for Western states and Canadian provinces?
2. More specifically, what is the outlook for natural gas demand for power generation in Western states and provinces?
3. Provide a stylized qualitative assessment of the influence energy efficiency, conservation, and renewable resource utilization has on natural gas demand.

B. Natural Gas Resource Availability

1. What will be the characteristics of supply from each of the North American producing basins during the next 10 years?
2. Will the North American producing basins be affected by land access issues, where are they located, and how much of the natural gas reserves estimate will be affected?
3. How much of a difference is there between the forecast demand and supply available from the existing infrastructure?
4. How will resource availability and costs change as technology improves?
5. What are the receipt and deliverability characteristics of the current LNG importation facilities and of proposed facilities to help satisfy natural gas demand?
6. How much of the demand in the Western states and Canadian provinces could be met by proposed LNG facilities?
7. Would LNG be a peak or baseload supply component?

C. Natural Gas Infrastructure

1. Interstate Pipelines:

   A. What new proposed interstate pipelines are planned to serve Western states and provinces?
   B. To what extent can expansions of the existing natural gas interstate pipelines in the Western region provide reliable supplies of natural gas to meet increased demand?
   C. Is there adequate pipeline infrastructure to deliver natural gas to each Western U.S. state and Canadian province?
   D. Do production regions have enough pipeline capacity to serve forecasted demand in WIEB and non-WIEB regions?

E. How large should the interstate pipeline capacities be to ensure reliable supplies under annual average and peak conditions?
F. Discuss how much "slack capacity" might be built to meet abnormally high demand and/or to prevent market power and manipulation.

2. Storage Facilities:

A. What is the current storage capacity of Western local distribution companies and independent storage facilities?
B. How can and should storage capacity be expanded to complement interstate pipeline capacity in order to meet seasonal demand in the Western States?
C. Is there a strategy to balance and optimize the natural gas delivery system using storage and pipelines?
D. How should storage be optimized to reduce pipeline constraints and minimize volatility in natural gas prices?
F. Are there problems in ensuring that new and/or expanded storage facilities have access to interstate pipelines? If so, what are the possible solutions?
G. At what location and in what time period could natural gas storage facilities help serve forecasted demand?