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Reviews

A review on the natural gas potential of Pakistan for the transition to a low-carbon future

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ABSTRACT

Natural gas is the world's fastest growing and widely used fossil fuel which can be targeted for transitioning to a low-carbon future. Pakistan was ranked at seventh position among the utmost harmfully affected countries by climate change. It is, therefore, important to develop an effective energy policy toward the reduction of greenhouse gases in the country. This study evaluates the Pakistan's natural gas industry development by reviewing reserves, production, consumption, infrastructures, and natural gas agreements in place. The total proven natural gas reserve of Pakistan is estimated to be 0.5 Tcm by the end of 2016. There are many active fields in Pakistan among which Sui gas reservoir is the largest. Currently, Pakistan's natural gas industry is well matured with average size reserves, production capacity, and advanced and

organized infrastructure for transmission and distribution network. Therefore, natural gas can be used to feed different sectors of the country, to decrease the financial burden of importing oil, and to reduce CO_2 emissions. However, increasing the gap of demand–supply for natural gas in the future, declining the average gas reserves, and postponing the gas import may challenge the natural gas industry, climate, and performance of Pakistan's economy. Thus, these concerns must be addressed to help the natural gas industry for an easy transition to a low-carbon future.

KEYWORDS:

GHG emissions | low-carbon future | natural gas potential | Pakistan

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