Findings

- Annual natural gas consumption grew nearly 5,000 billion cubic feet (Bcf) from 2006-2013.
- More than 60 percent of this increase was a result of natural gas demanded for power generation, 18.5 percent from added industrial sector use, 9.3 percent from commercial consumption, and 11.4 percent from residences.
- Investor-owned natural gas distribution utilities satisfied most of the growth in the residential and commercial sectors, but accounted for only a small portion of the growth in industrial use.
- Significantly, the local distribution companies handled almost a third of the volume-based increase in gas demand from power generation. As this sector may be the largest future growth market for natural gas, investor-owned distribution companies may be able to participate in this growth.
- Traditionally, electricity generation customers utilize delivery sources other than local utilities, such as pipelines, private companies, storage operators, etc. From 2006 through 2013, this “Other” category accounted for 70 percent of the increased use from electricity generators and 90 percent of that from the industrial customers.
- Municipal distribution utilities met less than ten percent of the total increase in natural gas demand.

Source: Energy Information Administration

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