

# NATURAL GAS

**Definition:** A complex gaseous mixture of hydrocarbons, primarily methane, but generally also including ethane, propane and higher hydrocarbons in much smaller amounts and some non combustible gases such as nitrogen and carbon dioxide.

**Explanation:** It includes both "non-associated" gas originating from fields producing hydrocarbons only in gaseous form, and "associated" gas produced in association with crude oil, as well as methane recovered from coal mines (colliery gas) or from coal seams (coal seam gas).

**Remark:** Natural gas, as extracted from oil and gas fields, may contain concentrations of gases other than methane which are higher than acceptable levels in marketable gas. The gas concentrations are reduced in gas separation plants and the resulting natural gas liquids (NGL) are disposed of separately.

Natural gas may be liquefied (LNG) by reducing its temperature in order to simplify storage and transportation when production sites are remote from centres of consumption and pipeline transportation is not economically practicable.

## SUBSTITUTE NATURAL GAS

*Definition:* Methane made from carbon and hydrogen obtained from other fuels.

*Remark:* The process is known as methanation and the source fuels may be of biomass origin. Substitute Natural Gas is sometimes called Synthetic Natural Gas. It is usually blended with natural gas before sale.