Natural Gas is an energy-dense gas, which is extracted from reservoirs within geologic formations. Composed mainly of methane, natural gas is a hydrocarbon, made up of compacted organic material and contains high amounts of chemical potential energy. Natural gas is burned to release this energy. Natural gas is used to generate over one-third of the electricity used in the U.S., is responsible for over half of industrial heating, and widely used in manufacturing, cooking, water heating, and vehicle engines.
The United States has vast reserves of natural gas both onshore and offshore. These are currently accessibly through conventional drilling as well as horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. Over time, these reserves can actually increase, as new geologic formations are identified and as technology improves to recover previously unreachable reserves. In addition to being a vital energy resource, natural gas is used as an input, raw material, or feedstock for thousands of household and commercial items used every day.