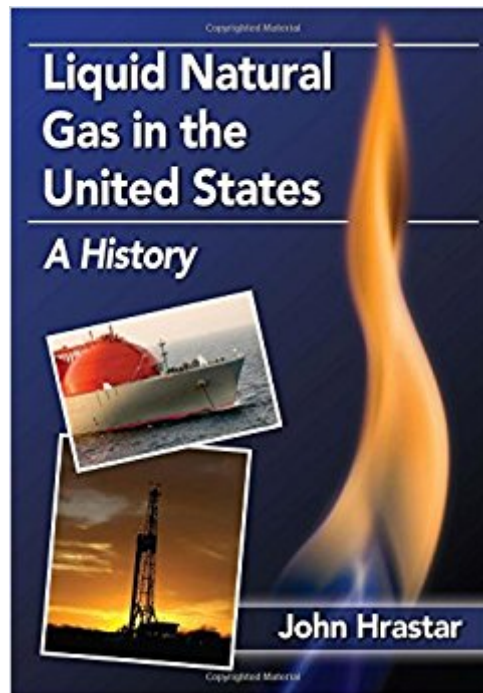




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Liquid Natural Gas In The United States: A History



Synopsis

When natural gas was first discovered in Appalachia in the 19th century, its development as a fuel was rapid. Unlike oil and coal, gas could be moved only by pipeline and required large containers for storage. It was not possible to cope with peak loads without adding excessive pipeline capacity until just before World War II, when two sister gas companies developed a plant to liquefy and store natural gas as a liquid; the liquid was then regasified to deal with peak loads. The liquid is 1/600 the volume of the gas, but it requires storage at an extremely low temperature, 1-260° F. This worked well until 1944, when a liquid natural gas (LNG) tank in Cleveland ruptured and caused a fire with 130 fatalities. The fire did not end the industry but caused it to pause. Over the next few years the problems in materials, design, standards, and siting were solved. The recognition that liquefaction made LNG transportable without a pipeline was the breakthrough. In 1959 a shipload of LNG went from Louisiana to Britain and restarted the LNG industry. It is now a major worldwide energy industry and the topic of this work.

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Customer Reviews

"enlightening, informative...highly recommended"--Choice.

John Hrastar retired from NASA after almost 40 years in engineering and management; he is now an independent aerospace consultant. He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Liquid Natural Gas in the United States
American history is my passion, so anything that has the word history in the title, I am on it. I thought the book presented a fascinating story of liquid natural gas from discovery and experimentation to ultimate delivery to consumers. The history was interestingly presented and I surprised myself by becoming involved in the technical aspects besides the historical perspective. And this is coming from a non-technical person. The scientific and engineering details were explained really well for a non-technical person like me to understand. I recommend it for anyone interested in general American history, science, and engineering. This also makes a great textbook. I judge if a book is good or not by how much I can learn and how easily it flows. It gets an "A" for both. By way of complete disclosure: thanks for the great read, John! Buy my brother's book!
Tim W. Hrastar
July 26, 2014

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