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REVIEWS UKRAINE GAS INDUSTRY

Although the use of gas as fuel is relatively new in the USSR, it has been supplied to millions of people in a short time. The opening up of rich underground gas deposits, the construction of long pipelines for gas transport, and, at the same time, the solution of a number of scientific and technical problems connected with the use of gas as fuel have been factors in the increased development of this branch of industry. Many large cities such as Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, and L'vov have been almost completely supplied with gas.

The gas supplied to cities and populated areas of the USSR may be derived from a number of different sources: natural gas, predominantly methane, obtained from natural-gas deposits; petroleum gas, obtained either during the extraction or refining of petroleum; metallurgical gas, mainly coke gas, formed during the roasting of coke; and manufactured gas, so-called generator gas, made in city plants by processing solid fuels. Although these gases have different physicochemical properties and different calorific values, they can all be used as fuel for the community at large or for individual homes.

The Ukraine has natural-gas reserves adequate to serve as a base for an extensive gas industry for some time to come. Coke by-products plants in the Ukraine produce huge quantities of coke gas and petroleum refineries and oil fields are the source of large amounts of petroleum gas. In addition, almost every oblast of the Ukraine has local solid-fuel reserves of lignite or peat which can be used to manufacture generator gas.

Ukrainian natural gas is the cheapest and best in quality of all known fuel gases. The Carpathian region has a particularly abundant deposit which furnishes gas by pipeline to Kiev, and this is only one of many rich Ukrainian gas deposits. Every day hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of pure, high-grade fuel are carried by pipeline to Kiev, L'vov, Drogobych, and other cities of the Ukraine. In Kiev alone the use of gas saves several trainloads of coal a day.

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As to other types of gas, it is estimated that if only 5-6 percent of the coke gas produced in coke by-products plants were utilized, it would be sufficient to supply gas to 19 of the largest cities of the Donbass and Dnepr area. However, only four cities of the Donbass and Dnepr area have gas facilities, and even there relatively few apartments are supplied with gas and the population consumes less than one percent of the gas produced by coke by-products plants.

In regions located at a distance from coke by-products plants, it is possible to supply the population with generator gas made from local lignite or peat.

Ukrainian scholars are carrying out experiments to determine the best method for mass use in the gasification of fuel. The fuel to be gasified will vary according to different regions of the Ukraine as follows: peat in Lutsk, Rovno, and Chernigov; lignite in Kirovograd, Aleksandriya, Znamenka, and Kremenchug; bituminous coal in Khar'kov and the Donbass.

The Institute of Gas Utilization recently created within the Academy of Sciences Ukrainian SSR, together with the workers of the Planning Institute of the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry, has partially solved the problem of obtaining liquid natural gas. This gas can be widely used as fuel in place of gasoline or other types of fuel in internal-combustion engines; it also can be used to enrich low-calorie gas obtained from lignite and peat. This will make it possible for thousands of motor vehicles and tractors to be converted to gas and will make their operation much cheaper. Because of the Ukraine's extensive natural-gas reserves, the possibility of producing liquid methane in large quantities in many areas of the republic is practically unlimited. The Ministries of Motor Transport and Agriculture, as well as other departments using a large number of motor vehicles and tractors, should immediately arrange for the production and use of liquid methane.

The Ukraine also has rich reserves of liquid propane-butane gases which can be a very effective source of gas supply for cities. Obtained as a by-product in petroleum refining, these gases have the high calorific value of 20,000 calories a cubic meter. The waste gases from one modern cracking plant can supply 15,000 apartments and 500 motor vehicles with liquid gas. Cylinders of this gas can be transported to far distances and are widely used in Kiev, Odessa, and other cities. However, this source of gas supply is also inadequately utilized at present.

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