

Estimates of Undiscovered Conventional Natural Gas Resources of South America and North America

*Thomas S. Ahlbrandt, U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25046, MS 939 DFC, Denver, CO 80225-0046, phone: 303-236-5776, fax: 303-236-8822, ahlbrandt@usgs.gov and **Christopher J. Schenk**, U.S. Geological Survey, MS 939, Box 25046, Denver, CO 80225.*

The increasing demand for natural gas and favorable economics for the exploration, development, and transport of natural gas has led to considerable interest in estimates of undiscovered natural gas resources in South America and North America. In South America, estimates of undiscovered conventional natural gas resources by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in 2000, exclusive of reserve growth, are dominated by Brazil (mean of 194 trillion cubic feet of gas, or TCFG), Venezuela (mean of 101 TCFG), Argentina (mean of 36 TCFG), Suriname (mean of 36 TCFG), Trinidad and Tobago (mean of 32 TCFG), and Bolivia (mean of 25 TCFG). Not all basins in South America and Central America were assessed in this study, and new data might result in increases in undiscovered resources in some assessed areas such as the Columbus Basin, Trinidad and Tobago. In North America, undiscovered conventional natural gas resources of Mexico were estimated by the USGS to be about 70 TCFG exclusive of reserve growth, of which a mean of 20 TCFG were in the Burgos Basin. In the U.S., undiscovered conventional gas resources onshore were estimated by the USGS in 1995 at a mean of 258 TCFG exclusive of reserve growth, and the Minerals Management Service estimated the offshore U.S. gas resources in 2000 at a mean of 362 TCFG. The Canadian Gas Potential Committee estimated undiscovered conventional gas resources (termed nominal initial marketable gas resources) of both onshore and offshore Canada in 2001 to be about 342 TCFG at the mean.
