

## **Mexico's Non-Associated Gas Production and Its Geological Implications**

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Even with Mexico's great natural resources, its people are still in need of increased gas production. It is currently about 4,500 MMSCFD, of which 31% (1,400 MMSCFD) is non-associated gas. 4,837 MMSCFD of natural gas is consumed in Mexico, leaving an approximate daily volume of 500 MMSCFD to be imported.

Forecasts made thus far show that, in the next fifteen years, demand will always be greater than the supply. By the year 2011, a production of 8,883 MMSCFD will be required. This implies an increase of 84% over the current production; but even if Pemex were to complete all its projects on time and successfully, still that volume could not be attained.

To meet this daunting gas demand challenge, Mexico has a huge potential in its non-associated gas basins, both in producing basins as well as in non-producing ones. Basins such as Burgos, Sabinas and Macuspana still offer great opportunities for reactivation, whereas some basins with a great potential require further exploration and development. This latter category comprises Veracruz, and the Gulf of Mexico Continental Shelf, where the first off-shore discoveries were made in Lankahuasa, Ñu, and some other Tertiary fields.

To develop successful non-associated gas projects, and to reduce the necessity for importing expensive gas, it is critical for Pemex to secure solid financial backing, and to launch fast-track plans providing for a quick, efficient return on the investment in the future of Mexico.

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