LIFE CYCLE GREENHOUSE GAS PERSPECTIVE ON EXPORTING LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FROM THE UNITED STATES: 2019 UPDATE

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AGR	Acid gas removal		km	Kilometer
AR5	Fifth assessment report		kWh	Kilowatt hour
AU	Australia		lb	Pound
BOG	Boil-off gas		LC	Life cycle
BOR	Boil-off rate		LCA	Life cycle analysis
Btu	British thermal unit		LNG	Liquefied natural gas
C3MR	Propane pre-cooled mixed refrigerant		m^3	Cubic meter
CH_4	Methane		Mcf	Thousand cubic feet
CN	China		MESA	Mission Execution and Strategic Analysis
CO_2	Carbon dioxide		MJ	Megajoule
CO_2e	Carbon dioxide equivalent		MPa	Megapascal
DOE	Department of Energy		MWh	Megawatt-hour
DZ	Algeria		N_2O	Nitrous oxide
ECF	Energy conversion facility		NETL	National Energy Technology Laboratory
EIA	Energy Information Administration		NG	Natural gas
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency		NL	Netherlands
EU	End use		ORV	Open rack vaporization
GHG	Greenhouse gas		ppmv	Parts per million volume
GHGI	Inventory of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and sinks		PRB	Powder River Basin
GHGRP	Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program		psig	Pounds per square inch of gauge pressure
GWP	Global warming potential		PT	Product transport
H_2S	Hydrogen sulfide		RMA	Raw material acquisition
HHC	Heavy hydrocarbon removal		RMT	Raw material transport
HRSG	Heat recovery steam generator		RU	Russia
I-6	Illinois No. 6		scf	Standard cubic foot
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change		SF_6	Sulfur hexafluoride
kg	Kilogram		T&D	Transport and distribution
kJ	Kilojoule		Tcf	Trillion cubic feet
kW	Kilowatt		U.S.	United States
			ULSD	Ultra low sulfur diesel
			UP	Unit process
			yr	Year

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1 INTRODUCTION

This analysis calculates the life cycle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from imported natural gas and regional coal power in Europe and Asia. The primary research questions are as follows:

- How does exported liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the United States (U.S.) compare with regional coal (or other LNG sources) for electric power generation in European and Asian markets from a life cycle GHG perspective?

- How do those results compare with natural gas from Russia that is delivered via pipeline to the same European and Asian markets?

The National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) employed its characterization of an upstream natural gas production life cycle analysis (LCA) model to represent unconventional natural gas production and transportation to a Gulf Coast (New Orleans) liquefaction facility (NETL, 2019). An updated LCA model of the remaining LNG supply chain was used to represent the liquefaction, transport, and regasification of LNG exported to terminals in Rotterdam, Netherlands (European market representation) and Shanghai, China (Asian market representation). LNG from Oran, Algeria was modeled to represent an alternative regional source of LNG for European markets. LNG from Darwin, Australia was modeled to represent an alternative regional source of LNG for Asian markets. Conventional natural gas extracted from the Yamal region of Siberia in Russia was modeled as the regional pipeline gas alternative for both European and Asian markets. Regional coal production and consumption (e.g., Germany and China) was also modeled. Scenarios were handled using a parametric model that accounted for variability in supply chain characteristics and power plant efficiencies.

This analysis is based on data developed to represent U.S. natural gas production and LNG export and European/Asian import. The NETL natural gas and coal LCA models were adapted to represent the upstream portions of this study (NETL, 2010b; NETL, 2010c; NETL, 2012; NETL, 2019). U.S. natural gas production and average U.S. coal production were modeled as representative of foreign natural gas and coal production. No ocean transport of coal was included to represent the most conservative coal profile (regionally sourced or imported). The specific LNG export/import locations used in this study were chosen to represent an estimate for a region. The specific locations were required to allow for the estimation of LNG transport distances and do not imply the likelihood that LNG export or import will occur from that exact location. The same assumptions hold true for the Russian natural gas cases.

This analysis is an update of the 2014 LNG report (NETL, 2014b). Some aspects of the analysis structure remained the same, though the following updates were made to the prior analysis:

- Incorporation of the updated NETL characterization of upstream natural gas production (NETL, 2019)

- Updated unit processes for liquefaction, ocean transport, and regasification characterization

- Updated 100-year global warming potential for methane to reflect current IPCC, AR5 100-year time period

2 LCA APPROACH

This analysis is a cradle-to-grave LCA that begins with extraction of natural gas or coal and ends with electricity delivered to the consumer. NETL uses five life cycle (LC) stages, beginning with the acquisition of raw materials and ending with energy consumption. These five life cycle stages are listed below:

- **LC Stage 1:** Raw Material Acquisition (RMA) includes extraction of a natural resource and any necessary processing steps that prepare it for transport. The raw materials of this analysis are natural gas and coal.

- **LC Stage 2:** Raw Material Transport (RMT) includes the transport of a raw material between the extraction site and power plant. Natural gas is transported by pipeline and ocean tanker for the LNG cases and pipeline only for the Russian natural gas cases; coal is transported by rail.

- **LC Stage 3:** Energy Conversion Facility (ECF) includes the operation of a power plant that converts fuel to energy. The power plants of this analysis convert natural gas or coal to electricity. The handling and disposal of coal waste products are outside of the boundary of this analysis and are assumed to have minimal GHG emissions relative to the other processes considered in this analysis.

- **LC Stage 4:** Product Transport (PT) moves the product from the ECF to the consumer. In this analysis, electricity is transported over a national electricity grid.

- **LC Stage 5:** End Use (EU) represents the final consumption of a product. This stage serves to anchor the supply chain to the functional unit of 1 MWh of electricity. For the purpose of this study, this stage has no emissions associated with it.

Four scenarios are modeled in this analysis for two different geographies (Europe and Asia)[1]:

- **Scenario 1:** Natural gas is extracted in the United States from Appalachian Shale, transported by pipeline to an LNG facility where it is compressed and loaded onto an LNG tanker, transported to an LNG port in the receiving country (Rotterdam for Europe, Shanghai for Asia) where it is regasified, and then transported to a natural gas power plant. It was assumed that the power plant is located near the LNG import site.

- **Scenario 2:** Same supply chain as Scenario 1, but the source of natural gas is regional relative to the destination (Algeria for Europe, Australia for Asia). It was assumed that the regional gas is produced using conventional extraction methods. The LNG tanker transport distance is adjusted accordingly.

- **Scenario 3:** Natural gas is produced in the Siberian region of Russia utilizing conventional extraction methods and is transported by pipeline to a power plant in Europe or Asia.

- **Scenario 4:** Coal is extracted in the region of study (Europe or Asia) and transported by rail to a domestic coal-fired power plant in China or Germany. This analysis models both

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[1] The goal of this analysis is to model plausible (medium and long-distance) export scenarios while also considering regional fuel alternatives. The purpose of the medium and long-distance scenarios is to establish low and high bounds for likely results.

surface sub-bituminous and underground bituminous coals based on U.S. extraction data.

In all four scenarios, electricity is delivered to end users via existing electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure. The functional unit, which serves as a basis for comparison, is 1 megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity delivered to a consumer. The results of this analysis include only GHG emissions. GHGs in this inventory are reported on the common mass basis of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2e) using the global warming potentials (GWPs) of each gas from the 2013 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) (IPCC, 2013)[2]. The 100-yr GWP is the default timeframe used, though some exhibits display the 20-year timeframe as well. **Exhibit 2-1** shows the GWPs used for the GHGs inventoried in this study (IPCC, 2013).

Exhibit 2-1. IPCC AR5 GWPs

GHG	AR5 (IPCC, 2013)	
	20-yr	100-yr (Default)
CO_2	1	1
CH_4	87	36
N_2O	268	298
SF_6	17,500	23,500

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[2] Table 8.7 in IPCC AR5 gives the GWPs on a 20 and 100-year time frame that includes climate-carbon feedback, but in the case of methane it does not include CO_2 from methane oxidation and mentions that values for fossil methane are higher by 1 and 2 for 20 and 100-year metrics respectively, hence the values of 87 and 36 are used in this report.

3   NATURAL GAS MODELING APPROACH

NETL's natural gas model uses a comprehensive set of parameters within a flexible network of unit processes, allowing the modeling of different sources of natural gas. Key variables include lifetime well production rates, emission factors for episodic emissions (e.g., completions and workovers), flaring rates at extraction and processing, workover and liquid unloading frequency, and pipeline distance. The model is run with 30 scenarios, including 27 onshore scenarios that span 14 production basins. Five types of extraction technologies are considered: conventional, coalbed methane, shale, tight, and associated gas. For additional details on the natural gas model, refer to the *Life Cycle Analysis of Natural Gas Extraction and Power Generation* (NETL, 2019)*.* For Scenario 1 of this analysis, natural gas is modeled as unconventional gas from the Appalachian Shale (one of the 30 upstream natural gas scenarios found in the NETL 2019 work). For the purposes of this analysis, Appalachian Shale gas was used as a proxy for new unconventional natural gas production. Additionally, U.S. onshore conventional gas serves as a proxy for the regional LNG supply options (Algeria for Europe and Australia for Asia) and extraction in Siberia for pipeline transport to the demand centers. U.S. onshore conventional gas is represented by a U.S. conventional production-weighted average of the 9 upstream conventional scenarios (out of the 30 total upstream scenarios found in the NETL 2019 work).

In all three natural gas scenarios for this analysis, the extracted and processed natural gas is transported via pipeline, either to an LNG terminal (Scenario 1 and Scenario 2) or directly to a power plant (Scenario 3). The transmission of natural gas by pipeline involves the combustion of a portion of the natural gas in compressors, intentional venting, and fugitive losses of natural gas. For Scenario 1 and Scenario 2, the pipeline distance from natural gas extraction site to the LNG terminal is 971 km. This is the average distance of natural gas pipeline transmission in the United States (NETL, 2019). This distance is based on the characteristics of the entire transmission network and delivery rate for natural gas in the United States. Note, the same pipeline distance is used for both the U.S. and regional LNG scenarios. This simplification was used to focus on the differences in life cycle GHG emissions from transport of the LNG.

NETL's model captures the LNG supply chain in the following manner: after extraction and processing, natural gas is transported by pipeline to a liquefaction facility. The LNG is then liquified and loaded onto an ocean tanker, transported to an LNG terminal with regasification operations, regasified and then fed to a pipeline that transports it to a power plant. The data for the LNG supply chain accounts for the construction and operation of LNG infrastructure (NETL, 2010a; NETL, 2013b; NETL, 2013c). For this analysis, it was assumed that the natural gas power plant in each of the import destinations is located close to the LNG port, so no additional pipeline transport of natural gas is modeled in the destination country. This analysis assumes the power plant is existing infrastructure and thus does not account for the construction impacts of building the power plant.

For the U.S. (New Orleans) export options, the Panama Canal is a viable option for all ship capacities (150,000 – 180,000 m^3) (IGU, 2017). All other routes are assumed to be able to accommodate these ship sizes as well. The distances used for LNG transport are available in **Section 5.**

For Scenario 3, the pipeline distance was calculated based on the great circle distance between the Yamal district of Siberia, Russia, to a power plant located in Rotterdam, Netherlands, or Shanghai, China. Yamal was chosen as the extraction site because that region accounted for 82.6 percent of Russian natural gas production in 2012 (EIA, 2013a; EIA, 2013b). The great circle distance is the shortest possible distance between two points on a sphere and was, therefore, used to represent the shortest possible pipeline distance between the extraction source and the power plant. An additional 1,000 km of pipeline transport was added to the great circle distance to adjust it to the expected pipeline transport distance. Given the extensive pipeline networks in Europe and Asia, determining an actual distance was not possible. This assumption is tested in the uncertainty analysis section of this analysis. The distances used for pipeline transport of Russian gas are available in **Section 5**.

The efficiency of the destination power plant is an important parameter required for determining the life cycle emissions for natural gas power. Average baseload natural gas-fired power plants in the United States have a net efficiency of 46.4 percent (NETL, 2019). This analysis uses the range of efficiencies that are consistent with the NETL modeling of natural gas power in the United States (NETL, 2019). This analysis assumed the same range of power plant efficiencies in the destination countries as was used for the U.S. model. The efficiency range is designed to be representative of fleet baseload power plants.

The transmission of electricity from the power plant to consumer incurs a 7 percent loss of electricity (NETL, 2013a). The consumption of electricity does not have any energy or material flows. A comprehensive list of the modeling parameters and values for the natural gas scenarios are provided in **Section 5**.

4 COAL MODELING APPROACH

This analysis uses NETL's existing LCA model for the extraction and transport of sub-bituminous and bituminous coal in the United States as a proxy for foreign extraction in Germany and China. Foreign coal production was modeled as having emissions characteristics equivalent to average U.S. coal production.

Raw material extraction for coal incorporates extraction profiles for coal derived from the Powder River Basin (PRB), where sub-bituminous, low-rank coal is extracted from thick coal seams (up to approximately 180 feet) via surface mines located in Montana and Wyoming, and coal derived from the Illinois No. 6 (I-6) coal seam, where bituminous coal is extracted via underground longwall and continuous mining. In general, PRB represents coal from surface mining sources, and I-6 coal represents coal from underground sources. The regionally extracted coal is transported to the power plant by rail in both the European and Asian cases. The expected rail distance for both locations is 725 miles, modeled with uncertainty bounds of 500 miles.

PRB coal is modeled using modern mining methods at the following mines: Peabody Energy's North Antelope-Rochelle mine (97.5 million short tons produced in 2008); Arch Coal, Inc.'s Black Thunder Mine (88.5 million short tons produced in 2008); Rio Tinto Energy America's Jacobs Ranch (42.1 million short tons produced in 2008); and Cordero Rojo Operation (40.0 million short tons produced in 2008). These four mines were the largest surface mines in the United States in 2008 according to the National Mining Association's 2008 Coal Producer Survey (NMA, 2009). For the purposes of this assessment, it is assumed that the coal seam in the area of active mining was previously drilled to extract methane. Based on the NETL *Quality Guidelines for Energy Systems Studies: Methane Emissions from Mining Powder River Basin Coals* and *Quality Guidelines for Energy Systems Studies: Detailed Coal Specifications*, this analysis uses a factor of 8 scf/ton for coal bed methane emissions for surface mining of PRB coal and a higher heating value of 8,564 Btu/lb (NETL, 2010b; NETL, 2012).

I-6 coal is part of the Herrin Coal seam and is a bituminous coal that is found in seams in the southern and eastern regions of Illinois and surrounding areas that typically range from about 2 to 15 feet in thickness. I-6 coal is commonly extracted via underground mining techniques, including continuous and longwall mining. I-6 coal seams may contain relatively high levels of mineral sediments or other materials, and, therefore, require coal cleaning (beneficiation) at the mine site. During the acquisition of I-6 coal, methane is released during both the underground coal extraction and the post-mining coal preparation activities. Based on the NETL *Quality Guidelines for Energy Systems Studies: Methane Emissions from Mining Illinois Basin Coals* and *Quality Guidelines for Energy Systems Studies: Detailed Coal Specifications*, this analysis uses a factor of 360 scf/ton for coal bed methane emissions for underground mining of I-6 coal and a higher heating value of 11,666 Btu/lb (NETL, 2010c; NETL, 2012).

The heating value of coal and the heat rate of the power plant were used to determine the feed rate of coal to the power plant. Average baseload coal-fired power plants in the United States have a net efficiency of 33.0 percent (NETL, 2014a). For consistency, this analysis utilized the range of efficiencies that were previously used for the modeling of coal power in the United

States (NETL, 2014a). This analysis assumed the same range of power plant efficiencies for Europe and Asia as the U.S. model. The efficiency range is designed to be representative of fleet baseload power plants.

Electricity transmission and consumption is modeled using the same data used by the natural gas power scenario. The transmission of electricity from the power plant to consumer incurs a 7 percent loss of electricity (NETL, 2013a). The consumption of electricity does not have any energy or material flows. A comprehensive list of the modeling parameters and values for the coal scenarios are provided in **Section 5**.

5 KEY MODELING PARAMETERS

The following sections detail the key modeling parameters used to model natural gas and coal. For a full report on the modeling of upstream natural gas, reference the *Life Cycle Analysis of Natural Gas Extraction and Power Generation* (NETL, 2019). For additional information on the modeling of downstream natural gas, reference **Appendix B**. For additional information on the modeling of coal, reference the multiple works cited in **Section 4** of this report.

5.1 UPSTREAM NATURAL GAS

When the end use of natural gas is a power plant, there are four key steps in the supply chain:

- **Production:** A natural gas production site has a well pad that holds permanent equipment and provides room for development and maintenance activities. The construction of natural gas wells requires a well casing that provides strength to the well bore and prevents contamination of the geological formations that surround the gas reservoir. Well completions are the activities following well drilling and preceding production and, in the case of unconventional wells, involve the injection and flowback of water to stimulate production. Liquids unloading is an intermittent emission from wells that are affected by wellbore fluid accumulation. Other sources of emissions include the gas vented from pneumatically controlled devices and fugitive emissions from flanges, connectors, open-ended lines, and valves. When vapor recovery units are feasible, vented gas is captured and flared; otherwise, vented gas is released to the atmosphere. Production operations also include the combustion of natural gas by reciprocating engines that drive compressors, as well as combustion of natural gas and diesel to provide heat and energy for other supporting equipment.

- **Gathering and Boosting:** Natural gas gathering and boosting networks receive natural gas from multiple wells and transport it to processing or transmission facilities. Gathering and boosting sites include acid gas removal (AGR), dehydration, compressors operations, pneumatic devices and pumps.

- **Processing:** A natural gas processing facility removes impurities from natural gas, which improves its heating value and prepares it for pipeline transmission. Natural gas processing facilities include AGR, dehydration, hydrocarbon liquids removal, and compression operations. When feasible, vapor recovery units capture vented gas and send it to flares. The size and complexity of processing plants are variable; in some cases, processing occurs near production sites, while in other cases a central processing facility receives natural gas from gathering and boosting facilities.

- **Transmission Stations, Storage Facilities, and Transmission Pipelines:** A natural gas transmission system is a network of large pipelines that transport natural gas from processing facilities to the city gate (the point at which natural gas can be consumed by large-scale consumers or transferred to local distribution companies). A typical natural gas transmission pipeline is 32 inches in diameter and is constructed of carbon steel. Transmission pipelines operate at 1,500 pounds per square inch of gauge pressure (psig).

Transmission stations are located along natural gas transmission pipelines and use compressors to boost the pressure of the natural gas. These stations consist of centrifugal and reciprocating compressors; most pipeline compressors are powered by natural gas, but some are powered by electricity. This stage also includes subsurface storage, which can be wells in depleted oil and gas fields, hollowed-out salt domes, or other geological formations. Storage facilities consist of pneumatic devices and compressors, and fugitive emissions coming from flanges, connectors, open-ended lines, and valves for both the storage station and wellhead.

The above processes define the boundaries of upstream natural gas. Distribution is another supply chain step that can follow transmission, but it is not included in the boundaries of this analysis because it moves natural gas from the city gate to small scale end users (commercial or household consumers). This analysis models natural gas used for large scale power generation. Natural gas power plants receive natural gas immediately downstream from natural gas transmission systems or LNG regasification facilities.

Two upstream natural gas profiles are used in this analysis: Appalachian Shale and a conventional mix. Appalachian Shale is used to represent the share of U.S. natural gas exported as LNG. The conventional mix represents a production-weighted composite of 9 conventional natural gas scenarios in the U.S. and is used as a proxy for the non-U.S. scenarios in this analysis. The emission sources for Appalachian Shale and the conventional mix are based on U.S. industry activity in 2016 (the latest year for which data are available to thoroughly characterize emission sources and supply chain throughputs).

NETL's life cycle natural gas model used in this analysis contains 127 unit processes that account for the emissions from production through transmission. These unit processes comprise vented and fugitive emissions that arise from one-time construction and well completions, steady state operations, and episodic maintenance events. A summary of the key parameters used by these unit processes are provided in **Exhibit 5-1** through **Exhibit 5-4**. These parameters are a partial list of the parameters used by NETL's natural gas model, which holds thousands of parameters across different natural gas technologies and production basins. Additionally, the stage scaling parameters used by the model to represent the non-linear relationship between supply stages are included in **Exhibit 5-5**.

The Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) and the Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks (GHGI) are two data sources that account for most vented and fugitive emissions (EPA, 2016; EPA, 2018). DI Desktop is also used to stratify annual production activity at a basin level (DrillingInfo, 2018). A complete list of parameters and their corresponding uncertainty is provided in NETL's LCA of Natural Gas Extraction and Power Generation (NETL, 2019).

To account for uncertainty, distributions of low, expected, and high values were developed when the data allow. Otherwise, an expected value is given for each parameter. **Exhibit 5-1** through **Exhibit 5-4** display only expected values (despite having parameter distributions) for the sake of brevity. The full parameter tables can be found in the NETL natural gas report (NETL, 2019).

Exhibit 5-1. Key Parameters for Natural Gas Production

Parameter		Units	Basin									
			Anadarko	Appalachian	Arkla	Arkoma	East Texas	Green River	Gulf Coast	Permian	San Juan	Uinta
Basin Mix	Appalachian Shale	fraction	-	1.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Conventional	fraction	0.20	-	0.04	0.03	0.14	0.14	0.07	0.21	0.13	0.05
Estimated Ultimate Recovery		Mcf/well-life	4.37E+06	1.20E+07	2.99E+06	2.74E+06	2.11E+06	4.29E+06	1.07E+07	1.44E+07	1.57E+06	2.21E+06
Production Rate		Mcf/facility-yr*	5.15E+08	7.84E+09	1.43E+08	1.19E+08	1.21E+09	3.09E+08	3.62E+08	4.47E+08	5.72E+08	6.71E+07
CH_4 Content of NG		mass fraction	0.669	0.836	0.849	0.92	0.781	0.766	0.835	0.688	0.719	0.808
Completion Emissions		tonnes CH_4/ facility-yr*	47.3	717	0.545	9.14	19.7	0.150	2.42	52.2	3.20	2.25
Pneumatic Devices[†]	High Bleed	devices/ facility*	62	25.3	11	95.4	117	32.7	74.6	484	162	55.5
	Intermittent Bleed	devices/ facility*	5,390	2,330	412	2,030	5,690	1,220	5,060	1,670	14,300	1,750
	Low Bleed	devices/ facility*	308	315	2.95	4.9	48.1	58.2	132	107	25,900	3,710
Liquids Unloading Emissions		kg CH_4/kg NG	4.50E-04	5.60E-04	9.38E-03	1.17E-02	1.40E-03	7.00E-04	9.80E-04	9.00E-05	1.04E-02	1.76E-03
Reciprocating Compressors		compressors/ facility*	298	38.5	13.1	65.6	38.9	0.589	228	132	547	1.92
		kg CH_4 vented/ compressor-yr*	180	156	116	182	182	23.1	177	168	182	29.4
Fuel Consumption		Mcf NG/ facility-yr*	2.87E+03	9.1E+03	1.69E+02	1.25E+02	3.81E+02	1.00E+01	3.9E+03	4.75E+02	5.74E+03	3.29E+01
		kg CO_2/Mcf NG combusted	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8
		kg CH_4/Mcf NG combusted	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630

* GHGRP defines a production facility as a group of multiple production sites owned by a single operator in a given basin. The GHGRP-based parameters in this table represent a larger production scale than the values used for estimated ultimate recovery. Given this boundary difference, the values for production rate are higher than those for estimated ultimate recovery. NETL's life cycle model normalizes these input parameters to a common basis. Similarly, the equipment counts for the GHGRP data are high under the *conventional* definition for a facility (e.g., 5,390 intermittent bleed devices for an Anadarko facility); however, these counts are reasonable when the GHGRP definition of a facility is understood.

† The following emission factors are applied to pneumatic device counts: high bleed = 622 scf/device-day, intermittent bleed = 218 scf/device-day, low bleed = 23 scf/device-day (EPA, 2018).

Exhibit 5-2. Key Parameters for Natural Gas Gathering and Boosting*

Parameter		Units	Basin									
			Anadarko	Appalachian	Arkla	Arkoma	East Texas	Green River	Gulf Coast	Permian	San Juan	Uinta
Natural Gas Throughput		Mcf/yr	2.06E+08	9.13E+08	3.37E+08	2.78E+08	1.92E+08	2.19E+08	2.3E+08	2.31E+09	2.89E+08	1.06E+08
Pneu-matic Devices	High Bleed	devices/facility	136	29.8	140	3.76	35.1	2.45	190	43.3	33.6	1.09
	Intermittent Bleed	devices/facility	939	515	234	1,874	661	178	1,150	241	535	143
	Low Bleed	devices/facility	420	68	204	203	69	3	352	79	384	30
Fugitive Emissions		tonnes CH_4/facility-yr	3,840	866	535	1,230	884	269	918	3,065	808	2,026
Dehydrator Venting		tonnes CH_4/facility-yr	155	1,689	103	2,096	234	13	91	49	812	7
Fuel Combustion for Compression		Mcf NG/facility-yr	1.04E+07	4.59E+07	1.69E+07	1.43E+07	9.65E+06	1.11E+07	1.18E+07	1.16E+08	1.44E+07	5.33E+06
		kg CO_2/Mcf NG combusted	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8	53.8
		kg CH_4/Mcf NG combusted	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630	0.630

* All parameters in this table are derived from GHGRP. GHGRP defines a gathering facility as a group of multiple gathering sites owned by a single operator in a given basin. The equipment counts and throughput for these data are high under the *conventional* definition for a facility, but they are reasonable within the context of the GHGRP definition of a facility.

Exhibit 5-3. Key Parameters for Natural Gas Processing

Parameter	Units	U.S. Average
Natural Gas Throughput	Mcf/facility-yr	3.36E+07
Acid Gas Removal Venting	kg CH_4/kg NG	3.73E-05
Dehydrator Venting	tonnes CH_4/facility-yr	5.46E+00
Centrifugal Compressor Energy and Fuel Combustion Emission Factors	horsepower	7.65E+04
	operating hours/yr	4,120
	gas-powered turbine thermal efficiency	26%
	lb CO_2 emissions/MMBtu fuel input	110
	lb CH_4 emissions/MMBtu fuel input	8.82E-03
Centrifugal Compressor Venting	tonnes CH_4/facility-yr	2.07E+02
Reciprocating Compressor Energy and Fuel Combustion Emission Factors	horsepower	2.46E+04
	operating hours/yr	4,670
	reciprocating engine thermal efficiency	44%
	lb CO_2 emissions/MMBtu fuel input	110
	lb CH_4 emissions/MMBtu fuel input	1.35
Reciprocating Compressor Venting	tonnes CH_4/facility-yr	9.73E+01
Fuel Consumption	Mcf NG/facility-yr	7.72E+05

Exhibit 5-4. Key Parameters for Natural Gas Transmission, Storage, and Transmission Pipelines

Parameter	Units	U.S. Average
Natural Gas Throughput	Mcf/facility-yr	1.24E+08
Transmission Facility Blowdowns	tonnes CH_4/facility-yr	1.26E+02
Centrifugal Compressor Power	horsepower	2.48E+04
Centrifugal Compressor Venting	tonnes CH_4/facility-yr	6.21E+01
Reciprocating Compressor Power	horsepower	1.11E+04
Reciprocating Compressor Venting	tonnes CH_4/facility-yr	1.18E+02
Equipment Leaks	tonnes CH_4/facility-yr	2.39E+01
Pipeline Length	km	4.84E+05
Pipeline Fugitive Emission Factor	kg CH_4/km	6.96E+02

The life cycle model used in this analysis normalizes natural gas system flows to a single basis, the delivery of 1 MJ of natural gas to consumers. The relationships among supply chain stages do not necessarily represent a single pathway with all stages connected in series. The following pathways are resolved to express results as a unit of delivered natural gas:

- Most (but not all) natural gas goes through gathering and boosting facilities.

- Most (but not all) natural gas goes through processing facilities.

- Natural gas goes through multiple transmission stations.

- Storage facilities do not represent a natural gas throughput, but an internal loop within the transmission network with storage and withdrawal.

Exhibit 5-5. Stage Scaling Parameters

Stage (or sub-stage)	Triangular Distributions			Units	Rationale
	Low	Expected	High		
Production		1		facility count	Natural gas is extracted from a well exactly one time.
Gathering and boosting	0.8	0.9	1	dimensionless	The fraction of natural gas that goes through gathering and boosting is based on a recent measurement study (Marchese et al., 2015).
Processing	0.56	0.61	0.66	dimensionless	The total volume of U.S. annual processing throughput is 61% of annual natural gas delivered (EIA, 2017a).
Transmission	6.8	10.2	14.5	station count	Transmission station count is based on literature review of inter- and intra-state transmission station counts, reconciled by average facility throughput to estimate the number of transmission stations between processing and delivery.
Storage		0.37		dimensionless	The United States has 0.37 units of storage capacity per unit of delivered natural gas. This factor is the ratio of total underground storage capacity (9.2 Tcf) to annual gas delivered (25 Tcf) (EIA, 2017a).
Pipelines	540	600	660	pipeline miles	Data for pipeline blowdown events are translated to an emission factor in terms of emissions per pipeline mile, thus requiring a corresponding activity factor in terms of pipeline miles traveled by average natural gas. The average distance of transmission is 600 miles (NETL, 2016).

The scaling parameters in **Exhibit 5-5** should be interpreted in the context of an average unit of natural gas flowing through the supply chain. For example, using the information from the expected column in **Exhibit 5-5**, the pathway for average natural gas can be described as

follows: After leaving a production site, 90% of natural gas goes through gathering and boosting stations, 61% goes through a processing plant, and travels 600 miles through 10.2 transmission stations.

The Russian natural gas scenario uses the upstream parameters shown in **Exhibit 5-1** through **Exhibit 5-4**, but uses a separate profile for natural gas pipeline transmission. The Russian scenario was modeled using a unit process that allows for the adjustment of pipeline distance and its effect on energy consumption and emissions. Modeling parameters for pipeline distance are included in **Exhibit 5-6**. The pipeline distance was calculated based on the great circle distance between the Yamal district of Siberia, Russia to a power plant located in Rotterdam, Netherlands or Shanghai, China. The great circle distance is the shortest possible distance between two points on a sphere and was therefore used to represent the shortest possible pipeline distance between the extraction source and the power plant. An additional 1,000 km of pipeline transport were added to the great circle distance to specify the expected pipeline transport distance. Given the extensive pipeline networks in Europe and Asia, determining an actual distance was not possible, nor was it required for this level of analysis. This assumption is tested in the uncertainty analysis section of this study.

Exhibit 5-6. Key Modeling Parameters for Natural Gas Export – Russian Cases

Model Parameter		Low	Expected	High	Distribution
Pipeline Distance (km)	Yamal, Russia to Rotterdam, Netherlands	3,792	4,792	5,792	Triangular
	Yamal, Russia to Shanghai, China	5,448	6,447	7,446	Triangular

5.2 LNG Supply Segment

There are four key steps in the LNG segment of the natural gas supply chain:

- **Liquefaction:** This step includes the pre-treatment of pipeline quality gas to make it suitable for liquefaction by removal of CO_2, H_2S, water and heavy hydrocarbons to prevent freezing and plugging in the downstream units. The pre-treated gas is then liquefied by reducing its temperature to approximately -160°C (API, 2015) and stored until it can be loaded. Boil-off gas is generated during storage, which is continuously removed and re-liquefied to maintain the temperature in the storage tanks.

- **Loading and Unloading:** The stored LNG from the liquefaction facility is loaded on an ocean tanker for transportation and unloaded into the storage tanks of the regasification facility after transport. The Boil-off Gas (BOG) generated during loading and unloading is re-liquefied on-site and added back to the supply-chain.

- **Ocean Transport:** Ocean tankers are the transportation method used to move LNG from the U.S. to Asian and European markets (Pace Global, 2015). Approximately 98 percent of an ocean tanker's capacity is able to be loaded with LNG (Hasan et al., 2009). The BOG generated during this journey is compressed and used for fuel, with Ultra Low Sulfur

Diesel (ULSD) used as supplementary fuel. Once the LNG is unloaded at the regasification facility, the ocean tanker begins its ballast voyage with approximately 2.5 percent capacity still onboard, which is used to maintain the temperature of the tanker to avoid cooling it down on arrival at the liquefaction facility for the next journey (Cheniere Energy, 2018).

- **Regasification:** The imported LNG is regasified at the facility to make it suitable for pipeline transportation to the power plant and combustion to generate power. The Open Rack Vaporizer (ORV) technology passes the LNG through a heat exchanger with sea water and regasifies it.

The parameters and modeling choices used in the unit processes corresponding to these steps in the LNG supply chain are provided in detail in **Appendix B.**

Key modeling parameters for the liquefaction through regasification portion of the LNG supply chain are included below in **Exhibit 5-7** through **Exhibit 5-11**. Unless otherwise noted, these parameters are used for all LNG scenarios.

Exhibit 5-7. Key Modeling Parameters for Liquefaction

Model Parameter		Low	Expected	High	Distribution	Units	Reference
Energy Requirement	Adsorption Based HHC* Removal, with HRSG*		2.86		Point Estimate	MJ/kg NG liquefied	Mallapragada et al., 2018
	Adsorption Based HHC, without HRSG		3.08		Point Estimate	MJ/kg NG liquefied	Mallapragada et al., 2018
	Cryogenic Distillation Based HHC removal, with HRSG		2.78		Point Estimate	MJ/kg NG liquefied	Mallapragada et al., 2018
	Cryogenic Distillation Based HHC removal, without HRSG		3.35		Point Estimate	MJ/kg NG liquefied	Mallapragada et al., 2018
Boil-off Rate (temporary storage)		0.02%		0.1%	Uniform	percent volume/day	Dobrota et al., 2013
Storage Time		1.33		1.60	Uniform	days	EIA, 2017b; IGU, 2017
Power Consumption for BOG Recondenser			4,450		Point Estimate	kW/kg BOG condensed	Li & Wen, 2016
Handling Capacity of BOG Recondenser			13.38		Point Estimate	tonne/hour	Kinder Morgan, n.d.; Li & Wen, 2016

HHC stands for heavy hydrocarbon removal and HRSG stands for heat recovery steam generator

Exhibit 5-8. Key Modeling Parameters for Loading/Unloading

Model Parameter	Low	Expected	High	Distribution	Units	References
Standard Loading/Unloading Rate	10,000		12,000	Uniform	m^3/hour	Dobrota et al., 2013
Boil-off Rate		20,000		Point Estimate	kg/hour	Dobrota et al., 2013

The modeling parameters for ocean transport (**Exhibit 5-9**) represent the input parameters for this unit process. These parameters are used to calculate values such as fuel use and boil-off gas generation. Separate combustion emission factors are used to calculate the emissions for ocean transport. These calculations are performed within the model, they are not an input to the model.

Exhibit 5-9. Key Modeling Parameters for Ocean Transport

Model Parameter	Low	Expected	High	Distribution	Units	Reference
Ship Speed, Laden		19.5		Point Estimate	knots	Pace Global, 2015
Ship Speed, Ballast		20.9		Point Estimate	knots	Pace Global, 2015
Ship Capacity	150,000		180,000	Uniform	m^3	IGU, 2017
Available Volume		98%		Point Estimate	percent	Hasan et al., 2009
Percent Heel		2.5%		Point Estimate	percent	Cheniere Energy, 2018
Boil-Off Rate		0.1%		Point Estimate	percent volume/day*	IGU, 2017
Engine Power		31,400		Point Estimate	kW	MAN Diesel and Turbo, 2013
Gas Consumption, 100% Load		7,318		Point Estimate	kJ/kWh	Wärtsilä, 2018
Oil Consumption, 50% Load		0.1904		Point Estimate	kg/kWh	Wärtsilä, 2018
Oil Consumption, 75% Load		0.1844		Point Estimate	kg/kWh	Wärtsilä, 2018
Oil Consumption, 100% Load		0.1896		Point Estimate	kg/kWh	Wärtsilä, 2018

The number of days for a journey is a function of the distance (Exhibit 5-10) and the Ship Speed

Without data to inform the likelihood that any one transportation route is taken, all shipping routes stated below in **Exhibit 5-10** were assumed to be equally likely. The results shown in **Section 6** are reflective of the average impact between any two export and import terminals, where all transportation routes were treated with equal weight. In scenarios with multiple transportation routes, the result with the lowest impact and the result with the highest impact were used to inform the uncertainty bars. This was not necessarily equivalent to the scenarios with the shortest and longest transportation distances.

Exhibit 5-10. Ocean Transport Distances – LNG scenarios

Export Terminal	Import Terminal	Via	Distance (km)	
New Orleans, U.S.	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Direct	8,990	Sea-Distances.org, 2016
New Orleans, U.S.	Shanghai, China	Panama Canal	18,544	Sea-Distances.org, 2016
		Suez Canal	25,436	Sea-Distances.org, 2016
		Cape of Good Hope	27,731	Sea-Distances.org, 2016
		Strait of Magellan	31,606	Sea-Distances.org, 2016
		Cape Horn	31,722	Sea-Distances.org, 2016
Oran, Algeria	Rotterdam, Netherlands	Strait of Gibraltar	2,956	Sea-Distances.org, 2016
		Cape of Good Hope	24,427	Sea-Distances.org, 2016
Darwin, Australia	Shanghai, China	Direct	5,444	Sea-Distances.org, 2016

Exhibit 5-11. Key Modeling Parameters for Regasification

Model Parameter	Low	Expected	High	Distribution	Units	Reference
Energy Requirement		2.14E-01		Point Estimate	MJ/kg LNG regasified	Pace Global, 2015
Electricity Consumption		1.21E-05		Point Estimate	MWh/kg LNG regasified	Papadopoulo et al., 2011
Boil-Off Rate	0.02%		0.1%	Uniform	percent volume/day	Dobrota et al., 2013
Storage Time	1.33		1.60	Uniform	days	EIA, 2017b; IGU, 2017
Fugitive Emission Rate		0.009%		Point Estimate	kg/kg LNG regasified	Papadopoulo et al., 2011

5.3 COAL UPSTREAM

The coal scenario is sensitive to changes in coal type and rail transport distance. The key parameters for the upstream coal supply chain are summarized below in **Exhibit 5-12**.

Exhibit 5-12. Key Modeling Parameters for Coal Upstream

Model Parameter	Low	Expected	High	Distribution	Reference
Coal Mine Methane (scf/ton)	8	8	360	Triangular	NETL, 2010b; NETL, 2010c; NETL, 2012
Coal Type	PRB	PRB	I-6	Triangular	NETL, 2010b; NETL, 2010c; NETL, 2012
Rail Transport Distance (km)	362	1,167	1,971	Triangular	Estimate

5.4 POWER PLANT AND TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION

Lastly, key modeling parameters for the power plant and transmission and distribution portion of the supply chain are included in **Exhibit 5-13.** All scenarios are sensitive to variability in power plant net efficiency.

Exhibit 5-13. Key Modeling Parameters for Power Plant and Transmission & Distribution (All Scenarios)

Scenario/Parameter	Low	Expected	High	Distribution	Reference
All LNG Cases – Power Plant Net Efficiency	41.2%	46.4%	49.2%	Triangular	NETL, 2019
Russian Natural Gas – Power Plant Net Efficiency	41.2%	46.4%	49.2%	Triangular	NETL, 2019
Regional Coal – Power Plant Net Efficiency	28.3%	33.0%	36.7%	Triangular	NETL, 2014a
All Scenarios – Electricity T&D Loss	7%			Point Estimate	NETL, 2013a

6 RESULTS

The LCA results for natural gas and coal power generation in Europe and Asia are shown in **Exhibit 6-1** and **Exhibit 6-2**, respectively. The results in both exhibits are shown on both 100-yr and 20-yr GWP timeframes, which is important due to the uncaptured venting and fugitive emissions of methane in natural gas systems. Detailed results inventory for all of the scenarios in these exhibits are provided in **Appendix A.** It is important to note that the results from this analysis bracket the range of variability based on the cumulative change to the key parameters. **Exhibit 6-1** and **Exhibit 6-2** report an expected value for each of the scenarios. These values should not be interpreted as the most likely values due to the wide range of scenario variability and uncertainty in the underlying modeled data. Rather, the expected values allow for the evaluation of the contribution of each of the major processes to the total life cycle emissions (e.g., extraction, transport, combustion). The results should be interpreted as general guidance to provide perspective on trends only and not as prescriptive, scenario-specific results.

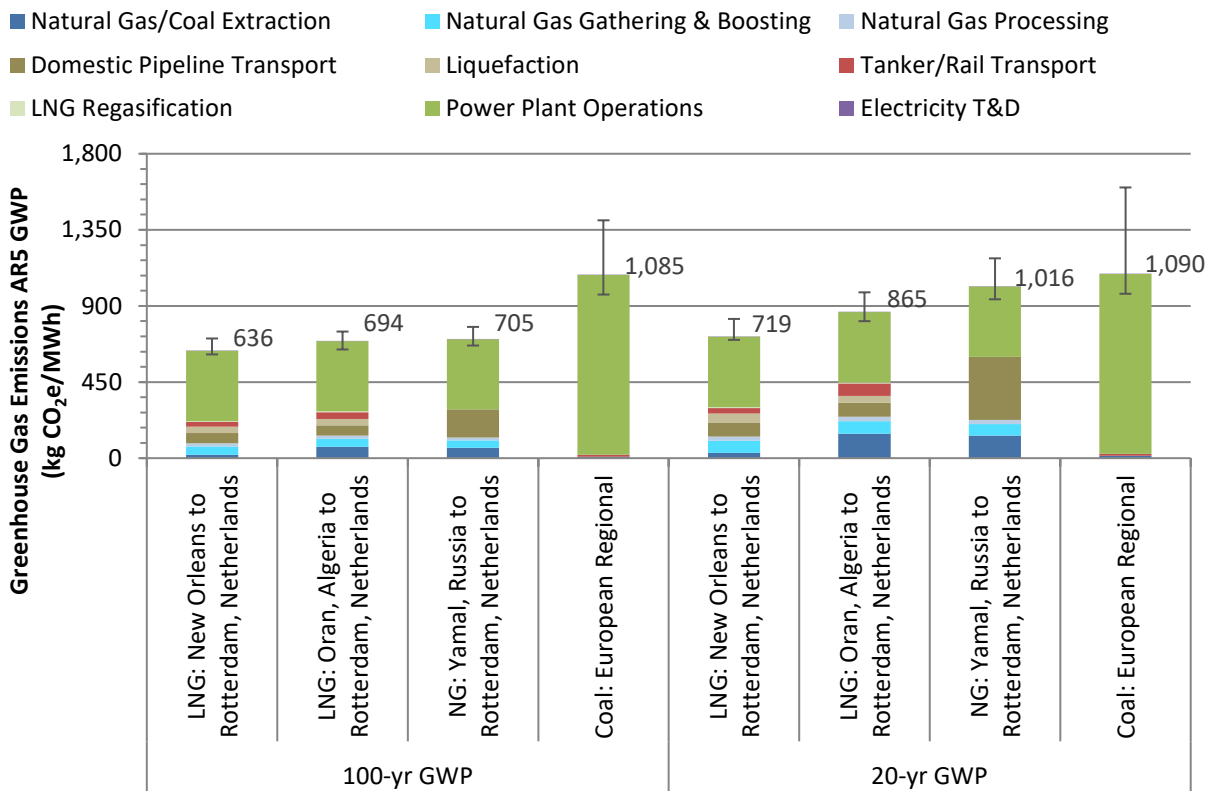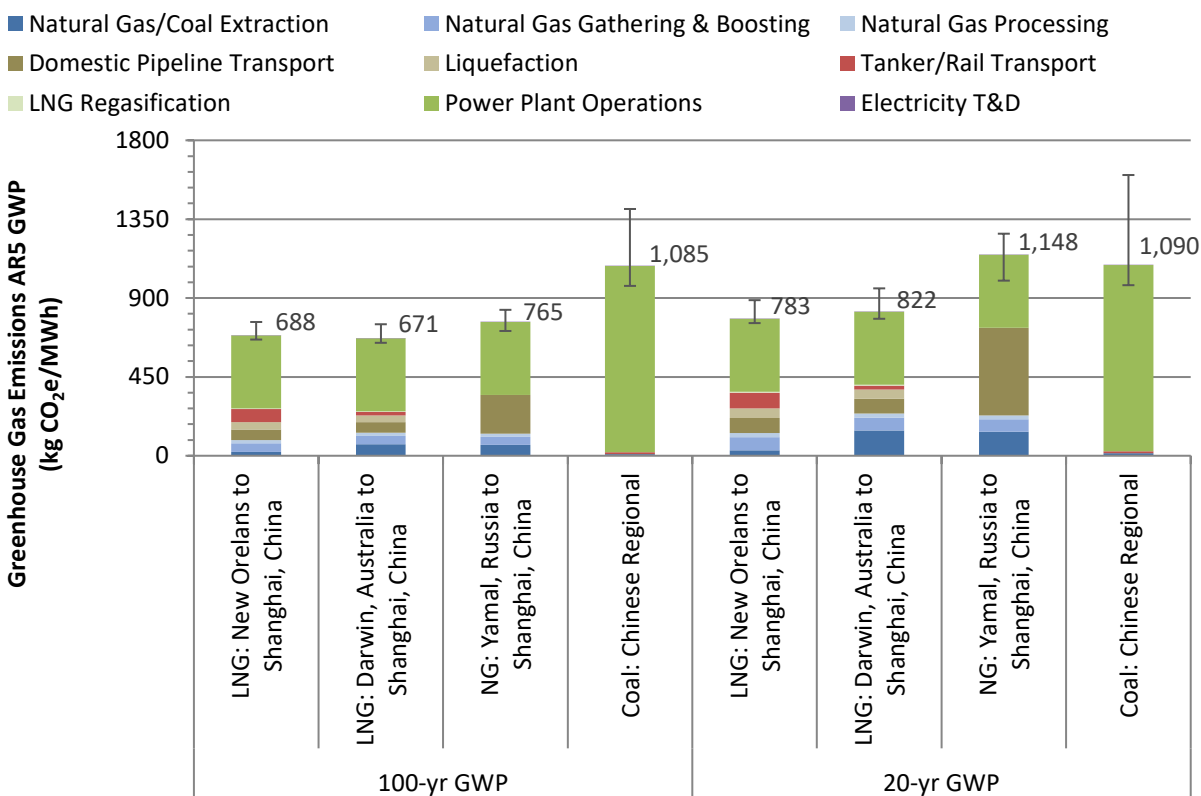*Exhibit 6-1. Life Cycle GHG Emissions for Natural Gas and Coal Power in Europe*

Exhibit 6-2. Life Cycle GHG Emissions for Natural Gas and Coal Power in Asia

The results from **Exhibit 6-1** and **Exhibit 6-2** show that for all 100-yr time horizon scenarios the generation of power from natural gas has lower life cycle GHG emissions than power generation from regional coal. The European and Asian coal scenarios are identical because the same parameter ranges are used for both. The interpretation of the 20-yr natural gas scenarios is more complex due to the tradeoff between upstream GHG intensities and end use efficiencies. Specific conclusions are as follows:

- On a 20-yr GWP time horizon, the Russian natural gas and Algeria LNG scenarios have overlapping error bars with the regional coal scenarios.

- The U.S. LNG to Europe and Asia and the Australia LNG scenarios do not overlap the regional coal scenario on a 20-yr time horizon.

On both time-horizons, uncertainty in the natural gas supply chain obfuscates upstream stage-wise comparisons among scenarios, but confidence in scenario-specific transport distances is a key differentiator.

Exhibit 6-1 and **Exhibit 6-2** show that the majority of GHG emissions come from combustion at the power plant; however, the contributions from the upstream acquisition of the two fuels are very different. For the natural gas scenarios, 34 to 45 percent of the life cycle emissions are from the natural gas supply chain prior to the power plant, compared to 2 percent for coal on a

100-yr basis. On a 20-yr basis, the upstream share (prior to power plant) for the natural gas scenarios increases to 42 to 64 percent, compared to 2 percent for coal, due to the high GWP associated with methane. The results show that the LNG and Russian natural gas cases produce essentially the same amount of GHG emissions on a 100-yr basis, with a significant portion of uncertainty bars overlapping. The emissions from the steps involved in LNG (liquefaction, tanker transport, and regasification) are lower than the pipeline transport emissions for the Russian natural gas cases, and the difference within the LNG scenarios is influenced only by the ocean transport distances. However, when comparing the scenarios on a 20-yr basis, the difference between the LNG and Russian natural gas cases is more significant, but there is still some overlap in the uncertainty bars in the Algeria to Rotterdam scenario. This is driven by the pipeline contribution to the Russian natural gas GHG results. The majority of pipeline emissions are methane, which has a higher GWP on a 20-yr basis.

Compared to domestically produced and combusted gas, there is a significant increase in the life cycle GHG emissions that are attributed to the LNG supply chain, specifically from liquefaction, tanker transport, and regasification processes. **Exhibit 6-3** shows the speciated GHGs from the key stages in the natural gas power production life cycle for the U.S. LNG to Rotterdam scenario on a 100-yr GWP basis. The liquefaction, ocean transport, and regasification of natural gas are energy intensive activities with significant GHG emissions, accounting for 11 percent of the cradle-to-grave emissions in this scenario. For comparison, the natural gas extraction, processing, and transport activities in the exporting country (either United States or regional) account for 23 percent of the cradle-to-grave emissions. In this analysis, Appalachian Shale natural gas is used as an example, but the same patterns would be shown for other types of natural gas. As shown by **Exhibit 6-3**, methane emissions account for 9 percent of the total life cycle GHG emissions, while CO_2 accounts for 90 percent. The total emissions from the plant stack account for 65 percent of the total life cycle GHG emissions.

For comparison, a speciated GHG drilldown is also shown for the Russian natural gas to Rotterdam scenario in **Exhibit 6-4** on a 100-yr GWP basis. In that scenario, methane emissions account for 31 percent of the total life cycle GHG emissions, while CO_2 accounts for 69 percent. In the Russian scenario, 59 percent of the total life cycle GHG emissions are direct emissions from the power plant stack. The increased percentage of methane emissions is the result of larger methane emissions from the longer pipeline transport distance.

Exhibit 6-5 shows a speciated GHG drilldown for the coal power production case on a 100-yr GWP basis. Methane emissions, primarily from releases during coal mining, account for 0.4 percent of the total life cycle GHG emissions, compared to 99 percent for CO_2. The contribution of methane to the total life cycle GHG emissions for the coal scenario is significantly less than for the natural gas scenarios. For the coal power plant, 98 percent of life cycle GHG emissions come directly from the power plant. As shown by the exhibits, the upstream extraction, processing, and transport emissions are much more significant for the natural gas supply chain than for coal.

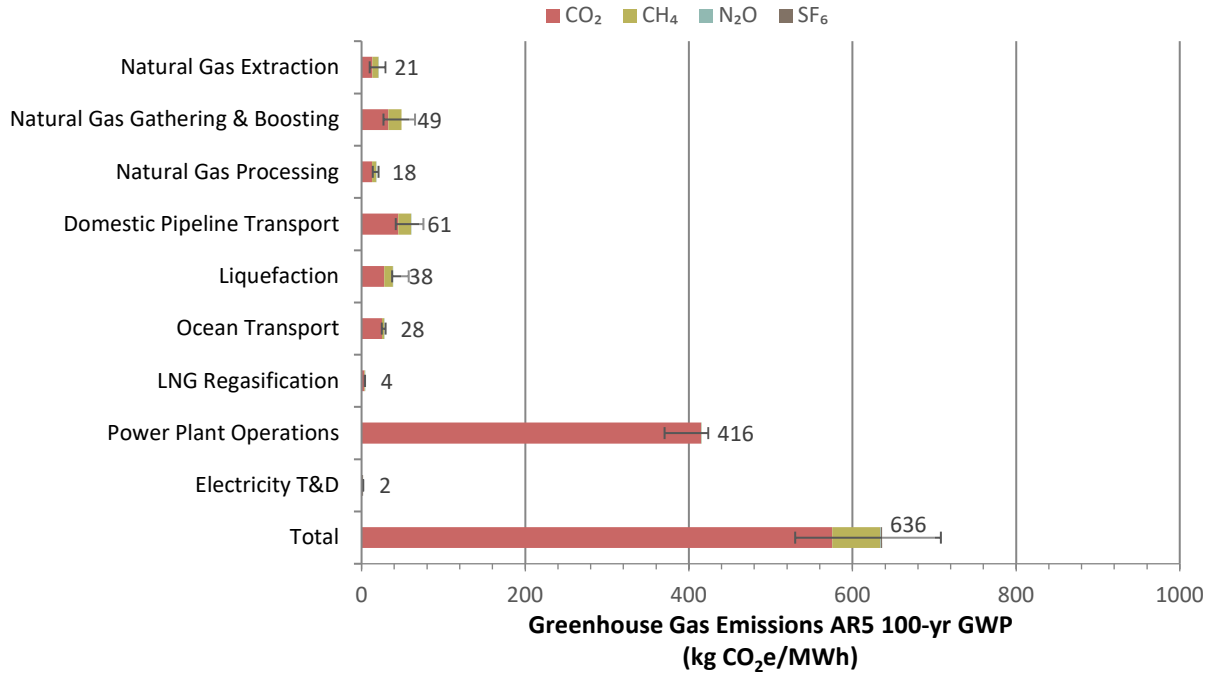*Exhibit 6-3. Speciated Life Cycle GHG Emissions of Natural Gas Power – U.S. LNG to Rotterdam Scenario*

Exhibit 6-4. Speciated Life Cycle GHG Emissions of Natural Gas Power – Russian NG to Rotterdam Scenario
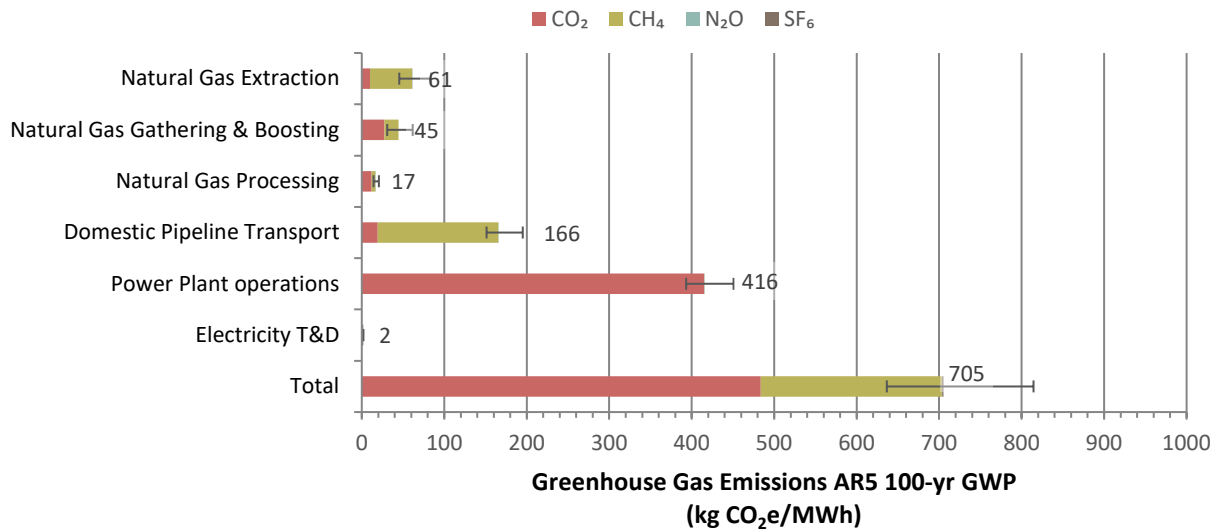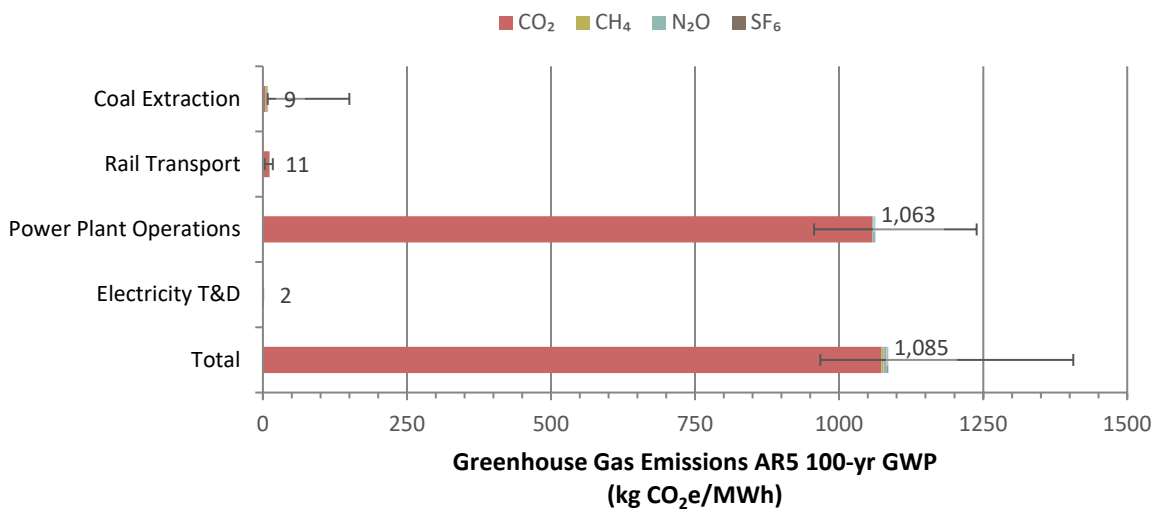
Exhibit 6-5. Speciated Life Cycle GHG Emissions of Coal Power

Exhibit 6-6 and **Exhibit 6-7** use the uncertainty bars shown in **Exhibit 6-1** and **Exhibit 6-2** to compare the range of life cycle GHG emissions for the gas and coal scenarios in Europe and Asia on 100-yr and 20-yr bases. To calculate the range of difference between natural gas and coal scenarios, the minimum GWP of LNG and NG is compared to the maximum GWP of the coal scenario, and then the maximum GWP of LNG and NG is compared to the minimum GWP of the coal scenario. On a 100-yr basis, natural gas power is 20 to 53 percent less than coal for Europe and 14 to 49 percent less than coal for Asia. Liquefied natural gas power is 23 to 56 percent less than coal for Europe and 21 to 54 percent less than coal for Asia. The small difference in the ranges for Europe and Asia is driven by the longer transport distances for natural gas to Asia (both LNG from the United States and pipeline from Russia). On a 20-yr basis, there is still potential for natural gas and liquefied natural gas to have lower GHG emissions than coal, however natural gas and LNG scenario upper-bound results overlap with coal lower-bound results to some extent. LNG to Europe is 56 percent less to 1 percent greater than coal, and LNG to Asia is 2 to 53 percent less than coal. Russian gas to Europe ranges from 41 percent less to 22 percent greater than coal, and Russian gas to Asia ranges from 38 percent less to 30 percent greater than coal. As noted, the 20-yr GWP emissions for the Russian natural gas scenarios are driven by the methane emissions from pipeline transport. The estimated pipeline distances for Russian natural gas transport are roughly four to eight times longer than for the LNG cases.

Exhibit 6-6. 100-yr GWP Comparison of Coal and Natural Gas Power in Europe and Asia
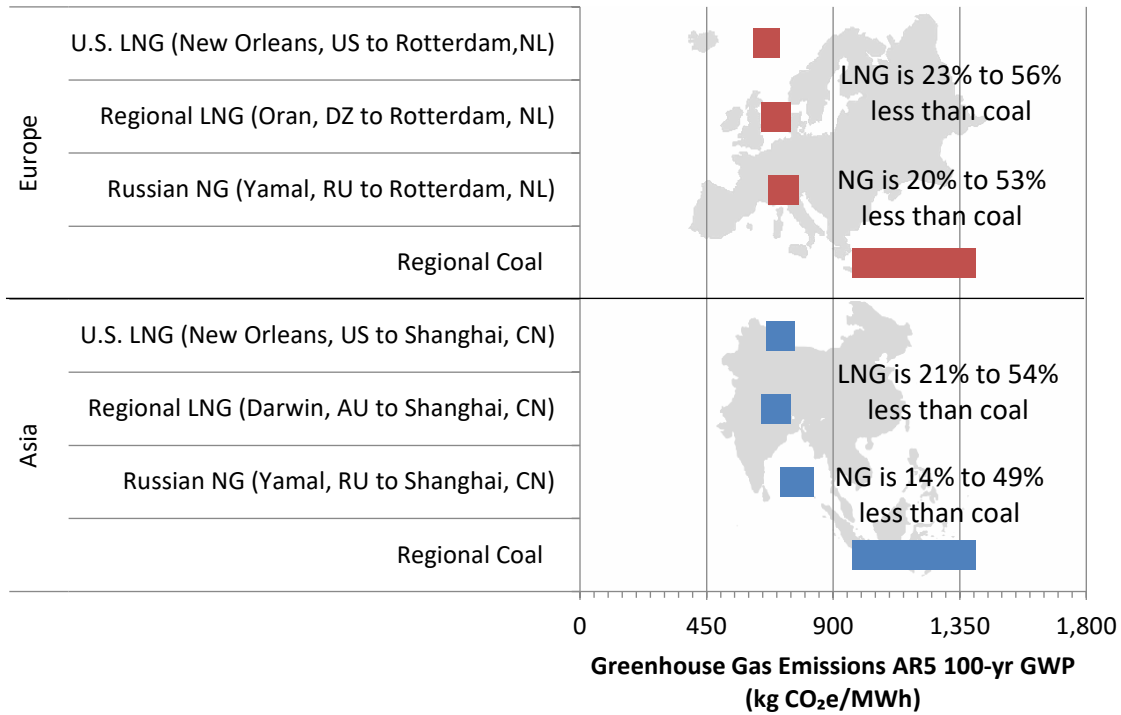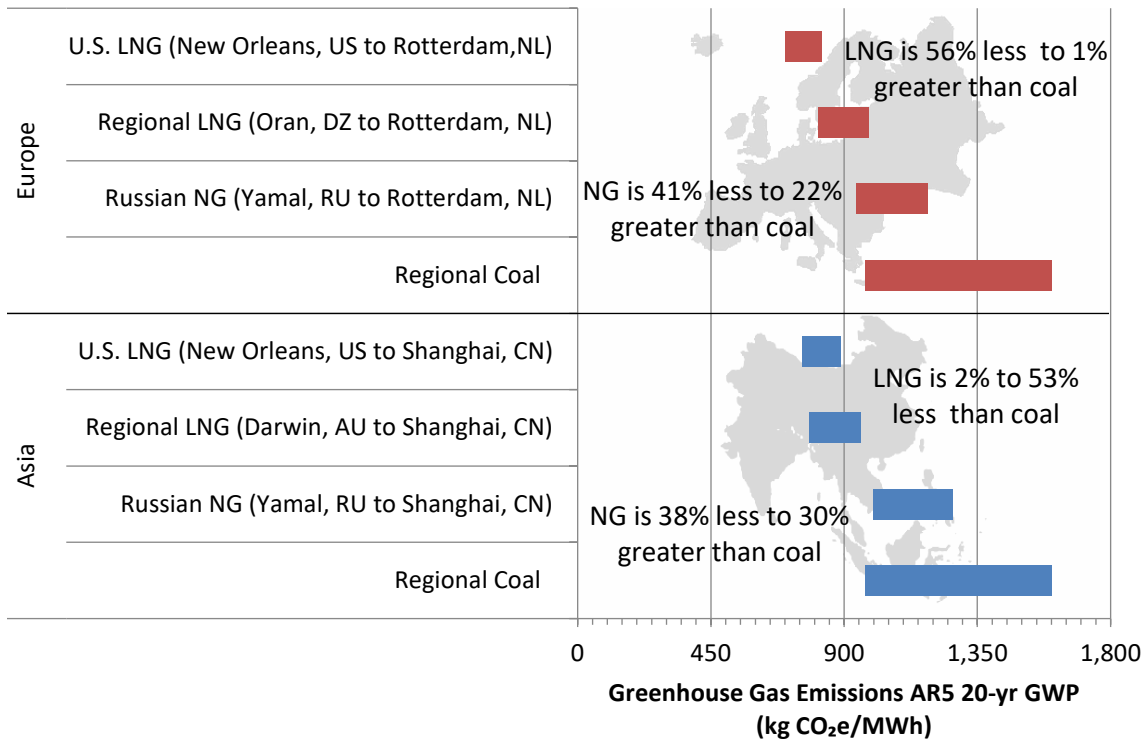

Exhibit 6-7. 20-yr GWP Comparison of Coal and Natural Gas Power in Europe and Asia

The methane emission rates for the natural gas supply chains are presented in **Exhibit 6-8** for two different boundaries, as defined below.

> **Upstream emission rate:** Comprises cradle-through-transmission methane emissions for natural gas delivered to a liquefaction terminal or, for the Russian scenario, natural gas delivered directly to a natural gas-fired power plant. The numerator for this emission rate is methane emissions from production through pipeline transmission. The denominator for this emission rate is natural gas that exits a transmission pipeline.

> **Cradle-through-delivery emission rate:** Comprises cradle-through-delivery methane emissions for natural gas delivered to a natural gas-fired power plant. For the LNG scenarios, this includes upstream emissions plus the emissions from the LNG segment of the supply chain. For the Russian scenario, the upstream emission rate and cradle-through-delivery emission rate have identical boundaries. The numerator for this emission rate is methane emissions from production through regasification. The denominator for this emission rate is natural gas that exits a regasification facility.

This analysis employs the above two emission rate boundaries as a way of reconciling two conventions. *Upstream* emission rate is the most common convention for reporting methane emission rates; it is appropriate for domestic supply chains where additional transport steps (such as those used by the LNG supply segment) are not used. *Cradle-through-delivery* emission rate is used as an alternate definition in this analysis because the LNG supply segment has losses in addition to those from the upstream supply chain, thus changing the numerator and denominator for the emission rate. The life cycle results for this analysis are expressed per MWh of electricity delivered to consumers and do not change when switching between the two methane emission rate definitions.

Exhibit 6-8 shows the upstream and cradle-through-delivery methane emission rates for all scenarios. It also shows the breakeven upstream emission rates for each scenario; breakeven rates were calculated by comparing the expected results for natural gas to the expected results for coal. The breakeven rates for the 20-yr GWP are lower than those for the 100-yr GWP because methane has a higher GWP over 20 years than it does over 100 years.

Exhibit 6-8. Coal and Natural Gas Breakeven for U.S. LNG and Russian Natural Gas Scenarios

Scenario	Upstream Emission Rate	Cradle-through-delivery Emission Rate	Breakeven Upstream Emission Rate		Breakeven Upstream Emission Rate/ Upstream Emission Rate	
			100-yr GWP	20-yr GWP	100-yr GWP	20-yr GWP
U.S. LNG to Rotterdam	0.7%	1.1%	9.1%	3.6%	12.8	5.1
U.S. LNG to Shanghai	0.7%	1.2%	8.2%	3.1%	11.5	4.4
Russia NG to Rotterdam	4.1%	4.1%	11.2%	4.7%	2.7	1.1
Russia NG to Shanghai	5.1%	5.1%	11.1%	4.6%	2.2	0.9
Algeria LNG to Rotterdam*	1.5%	2.1%	8.9%	3.3%	5.9	2.2
Australia LNG to Shanghai*	1.5%	2.0%	9.3%	3.6%	6.2	2.0

*Scenarios not included in Exhibit 6-9 and 6-10

Exhibit 6-9 and **Exhibit 6-10** show life cycle GHG emissions for the U.S. LNG and Russian natural gas scenarios as a function of upstream emission rate. **Exhibit 6-9** shows life cycle GHG emissions using 100-yr GWP, and **Exhibit 6-10** shows life cycle GHG emissions using 20-yr GWP. Both exhibits also include a reference line for the coal power scenario. The diamond-shaped data points represent the emission rate for each scenario and the circular data points represent the breakeven emission rate at which the cradle-through-delivery GHG emissions for natural gas power would equal those for the coal reference case.

The breakeven upstream emission rates for U.S. LNG to Shanghai and Rotterdam are 8.2 and 9.1 percent, respectively. On a 100-yr GWP basis, the upstream emission rate would have to increase by a factor of 11.5 before the expected life cycle GHG emissions matched those for coal-fired power in China. To match coal-fired power in Europe, the upstream emission rate would have to increase by a factor of 12.8 for the U.S. LNG to Rotterdam scenario. This breakeven point is higher than the U.S. LNG to Shanghai scenario due to the shorter transport distance between the U.S. and Rotterdam.

The upstream methane emission rates for Russian natural gas to Shanghai and Rotterdam are 5.1 and 4.1 percent, respectively. On a 100-yr GWP basis, the upstream emission rate would have to increase by a factor of 2.2 before the expected life cycle GHG emissions matched those for coal-fired power in China. To match coal-fired power in Europe, the upstream emission rate would have to increase by a factor of 2.7 for the U.S. LNG to Rotterdam scenario.

Exhibit 6-10 shows breakeven points for the U.S. and Russian scenarios on a 20-yr GWP basis. The upstream emission rate for U.S. LNG (0.7 percent) is still lower than the breakeven upstream emission rates for the corresponding Rotterdam and Shanghai scenarios (3.6 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively). The upstream emission rate for Russian natural gas to Rotterdam (4.1 percent) is also lower than the breakeven upstream emission rate (4.7 percent) on a 20-yr basis, but Russian natural gas to Shanghai scenario has an upstream emission rate (5.1 percent) that is higher than the breakeven upstream emission rate (4.6 percent).

Exhibit 6-9. Coal and Natural Gas Breakeven for U.S. LNG and Russian Natural Gas Scenarios (100-yr GWP)
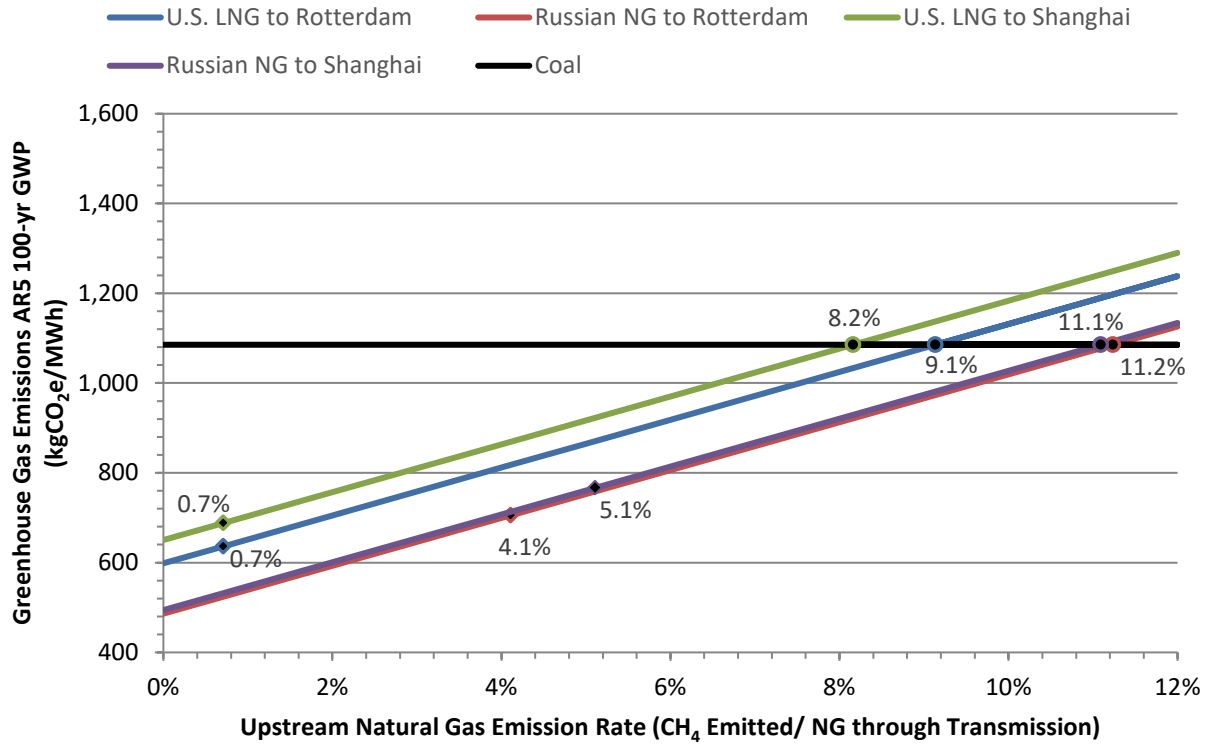

Exhibit 6-10. Coal and Natural Gas Breakeven for U.S. LNG and Russian Natural Gas Scenarios (20-yr GWP)
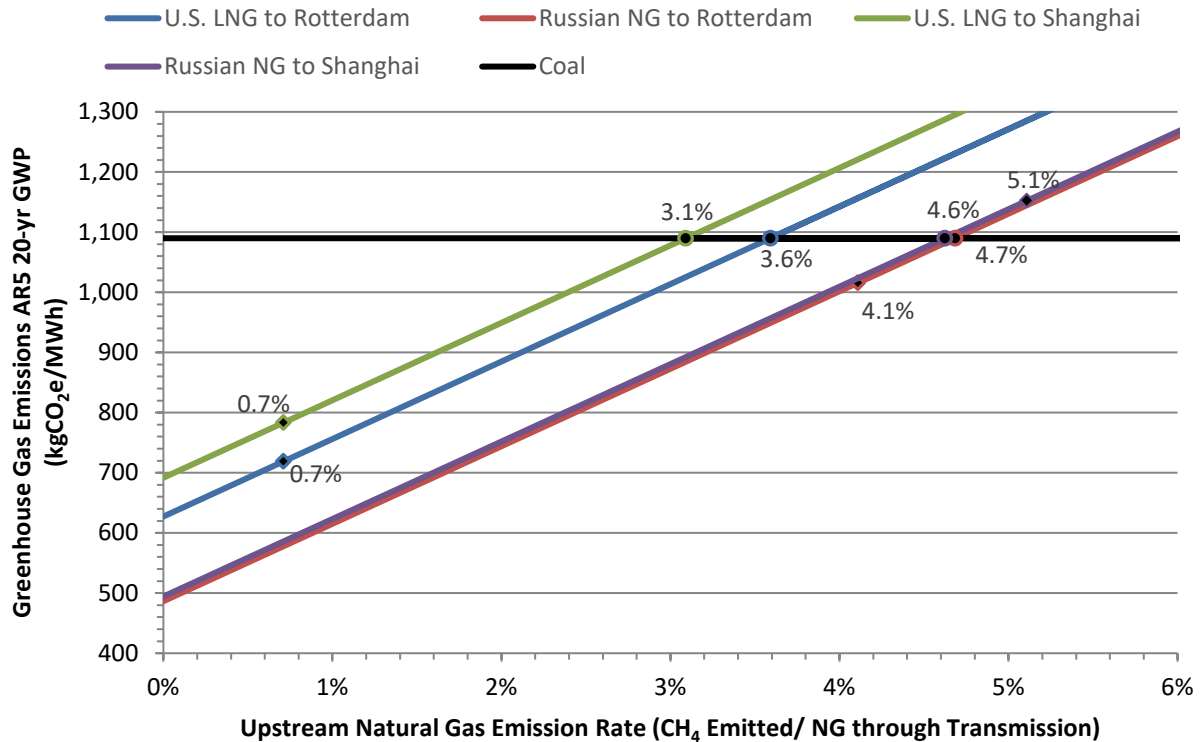
Exhibit 6-11 through **Exhibit 6-17** are uncertainty tornado diagrams for each of the 100-yr GWP scenarios from **Exhibit 6-1** and **Exhibit 6-2**. The parameter ranges for these exhibits are based on the values in **Exhibit 5-1** through **Exhibit 5-13**. These exhibits show the uncertainty in the total life cycle results based on changes to only a single parameter.

As expected, the power plant efficiency contributes a significant fraction of the uncertainty for the natural gas and coal scenarios. **Exhibit 6-11** through **Exhibit 6-17** indicate that the transport of LNG does not have any uncertainty in the New Orleans to Rotterdam and Darwin to Shanghai cases (as only one route is modeled), but contributes significantly in the Oran to Rotterdam and New Orleans to Shanghai cases. In the Oran to Rotterdam and New Orleans to Shanghai scenarios, two and five possible shipping routes are considered, respectively (as described in **Exhibit 5-10**). The base case assumption for these scenarios is the average of all likely routes. The emissions associated with the extraction and processing of natural gas are significant contributors to the uncertainty of the overall emissions in all natural gas scenarios. For more details on the factors that drive the uncertainty of upstream natural gas extraction, refer to the NETL *Life Cycle Analysis of Natural Gas Extraction and Power Generation* (NETL, 2019). For the Russian natural gas cases shown in **Exhibit 6-15** and **Exhibit 6-16**, uncertainty in the pipeline transport distance results is a large driver in the overall uncertainty of the life cycle result. As previously noted, the exact distance the natural gas travels from the extraction point in Yamal to the destination power plant is unknown, so a wide range spanning 2,000 km (1,243 miles) from low to high was used to represent all potential scenarios.

Exhibit 6-17 shows the uncertainty within the coal model used for both the Asian and European cases. The type of coal used at the power plant is one source of uncertainty. The high case uses I-6 coal, which has higher acquisition emissions due to higher methane emissions at the coal mine. The low and expected cases use PRB coal, and so have the same value for coal mine methane emissions.

Exhibit 6-11. Uncertainty Tornado LNG – U.S. LNG (New Orleans) to Rotterdam, Netherlands
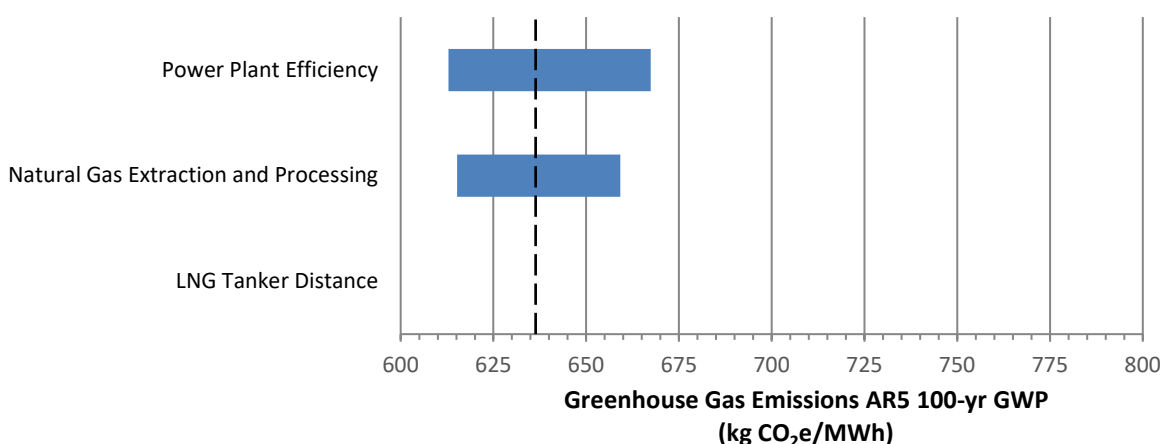
Exhibit 6-12. Uncertainty Tornado LNG – Oran, Algeria to Rotterdam, Netherlands
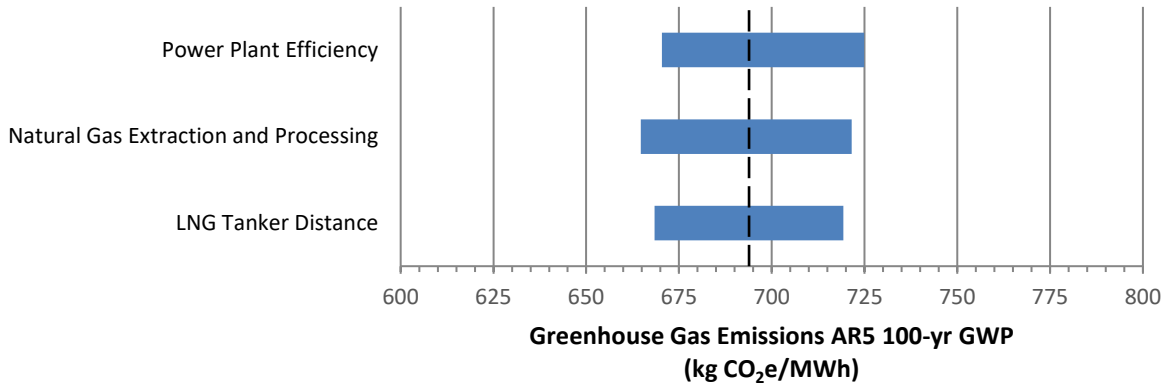

Exhibit 6-13. Uncertainty Tornado LNG – U.S. LNG (New Orleans) to Shanghai, China
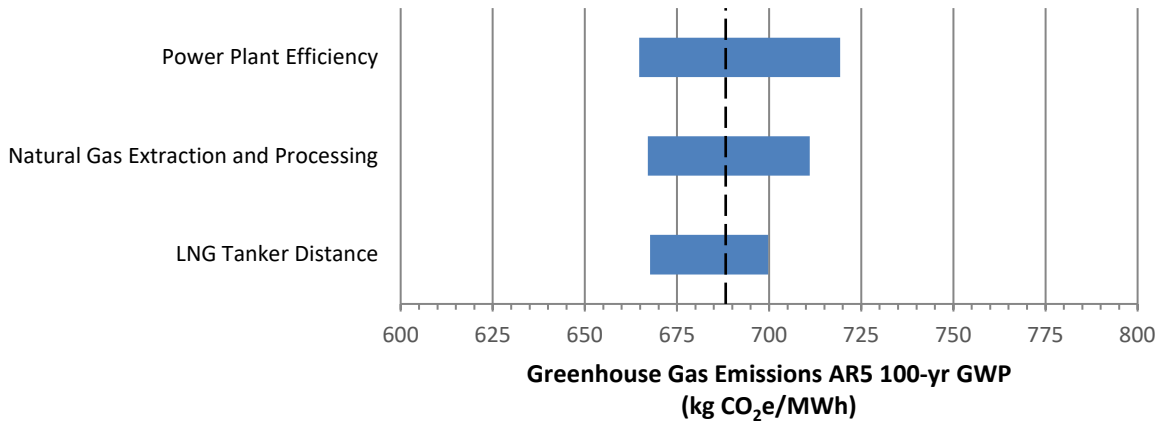

Exhibit 6-14. Uncertainty Tornado LNG – Darwin, Australia to Shanghai, China
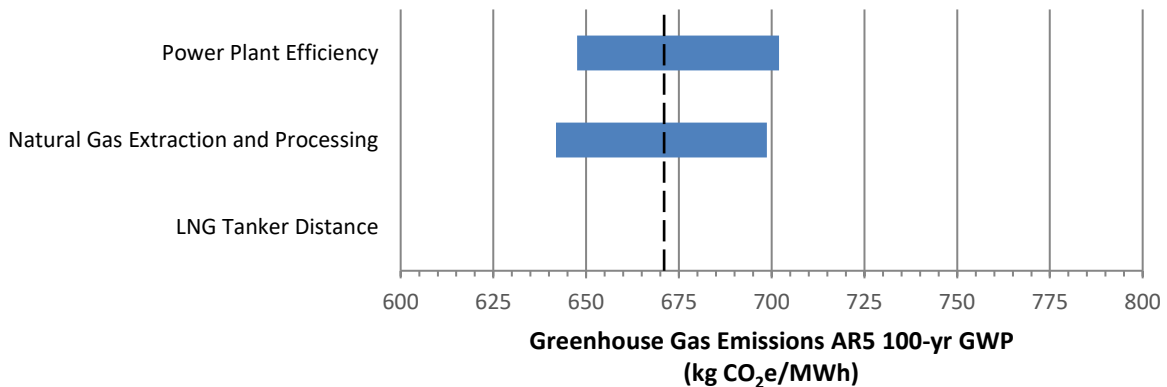
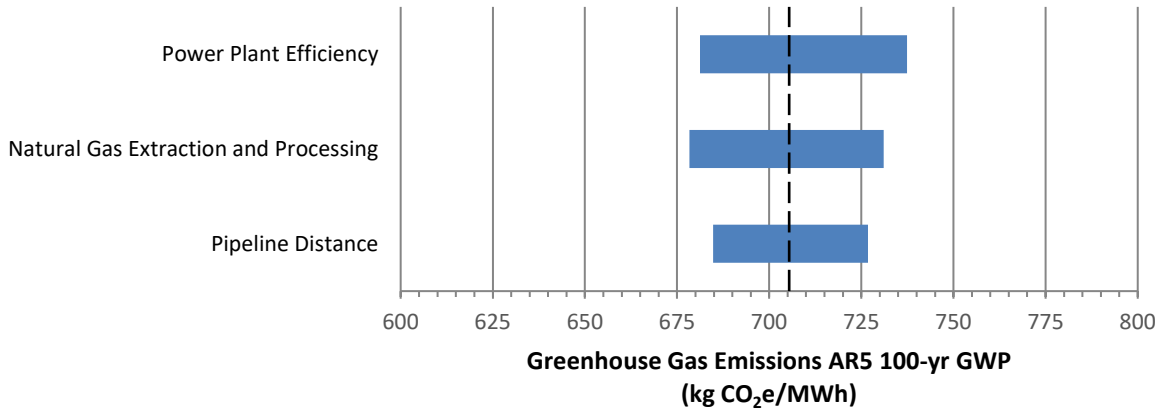*Exhibit 6-15. Uncertainty Tornado Russian NG – Yamal, Russia to Rotterdam, Netherlands*

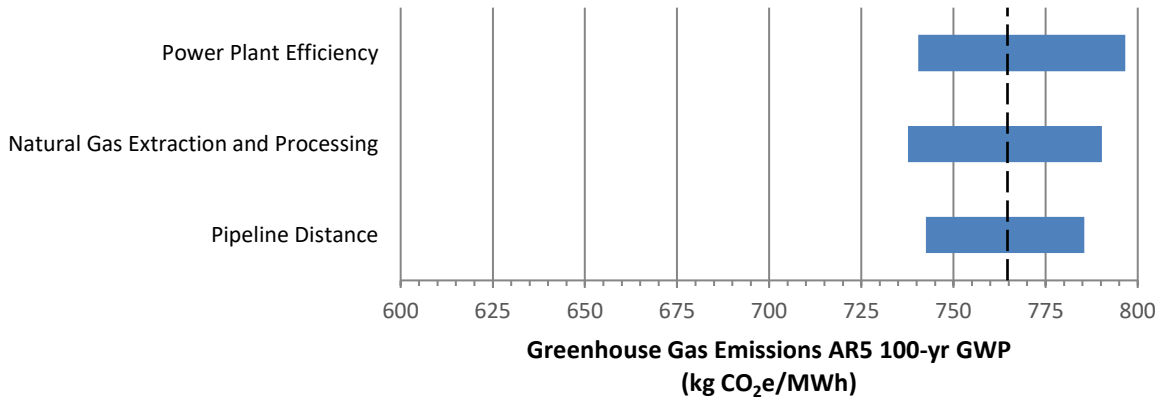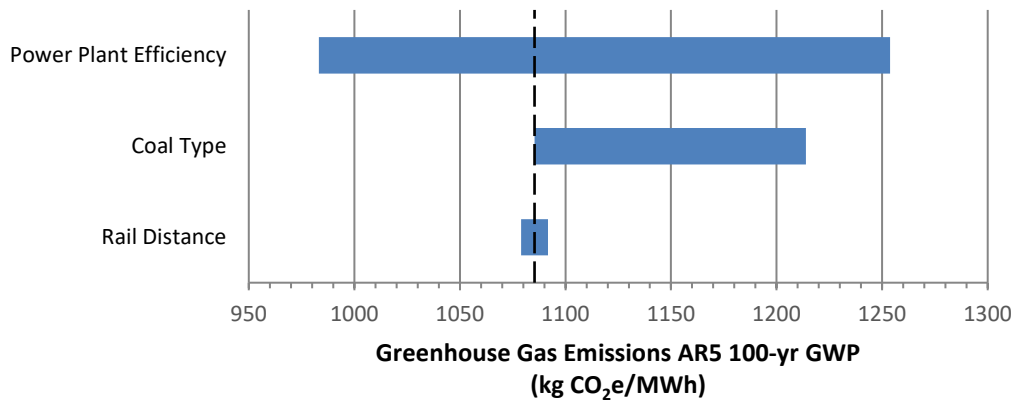*Exhibit 6-16. Uncertainty Tornado Russian NG – Yamal, Russia to Shanghai, China*

Exhibit 6-17. Uncertainty Tornado Coal – Europe and Asia Regional Production

7 SUMMARY AND STUDY LIMITATIONS

This analysis has determined that the use of U.S. LNG exports for power production in European and Asian markets will not increase GHG emissions from a life cycle perspective, when compared to regional coal extraction and consumption for power production.

The results show that for all 100-yr time horizon scenarios the generation of power from natural gas has lower life cycle GHG emissions than power generation from regional coal. The European and Asian coal scenarios are identical because the same parameter ranges are used for both. The interpretation of the 20-yr natural gas scenarios is more complex due to the tradeoff between upstream GHG intensities and end use efficiencies. Specific conclusions are as follows:

- On a 20-yr GWP time horizon, the Russian natural gas and Algeria LNG scenarios have overlapping error bars with the regional coal scenarios.

- The U.S. LNG to Europe and Asia and Australia LNG scenario do not overlap the regional coal scenario on a 20-yr time horizon.

On both time-horizons, uncertainty in the natural gas supply chain obfuscates upstream stage-wise comparisons among scenarios, but confidence in scenario-specific transport distances is a key differentiator.

Study limitations are due to challenges with data availability and LNG market dynamics:

- The upstream data for coal and natural gas are U.S.-based models that were adapted for foreign natural gas and coal production as well as power generation.

- The specific LNG export/import locations used in this study were chosen to represent an estimate for a region (e.g., New Orleans as U.S. Gulf Coast). Specific locations were required to allow for the estimation of LNG transport distances and do not imply the likelihood that LNG export or import will occur from that exact location. The same assumptions hold true for the Russian natural gas cases.

- Power plant efficiencies in destination countries are adapted from work based on U.S. power plants.

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APPENDIX A: LIFE CYCLE RESULTS

Exhibit A-1. Life Cycle GHG Emissions for Natural Gas and Coal Power in Europe (IPCC AR5 GWP) (kg CO$_2$e/MWh)

Life Cycle Process	100-yr GWP				20-yr GWP			
	New Orleans to Rotterdam, Netherlands	Oran, Algeria to Rotterdam, Netherlands	Yamal, Russia to Rotterdam, Netherlands	European Regional Coal	New Orleans to Rotterdam, Netherlands	Oran, Algeria to Rotterdam, Netherlands	Yamal, Russia to Rotterdam, Netherlands	European Regional Coal
Natural Gas/Coal Extraction	21	66	61	9	31	145	134	14
Natural Gas Gathering & Boosting	49	48	45	0	72	74	69	0
Natural Gas Processing	18	18	17	0	25	25	23	0
Domestic Pipeline Transport	61	61	166	0	83	84	373	0
Liquefaction	38	39	0	0	53	39	0	0
Tanker/Rail Transport	28	40	0	11	32	75	0	11
LNG Regasification	4	4	0	0	5	5	0	0
Power Plant Operations	416	416	416	1,063	416	416	416	1,063
Electricity T&D	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Total (Expected)	636	694	705	1,085	719	865	1,016	1,090
Low	615	644	668	969	701	811	941	973
High	709	750	778	1,408	825	982	1,183	1,602

Exhibit A-2. Life Cycle GHG Emissions for Natural Gas and Coal Power in Asia (IPCC AR5 GWP) (kg CO$_2$e/MWh)

Life Cycle Process	100-yr GWP				20-yr GWP			
	New Orleans to Shanghai, China	Darwin, Australia to Shanghai, China	Yamal, Russia to Shanghai, China	Chinese Regional Coal	New Orleans to Shanghai, China	Darwin, Australia to Shanghai, China	Yamal, Russia to Shanghai, China	Chinese Regional Coal
Natural Gas/Coal Extraction	21	66	63	9	32	143	137	14
Natural Gas Gathering & Boosting	50	48	46	0	73	74	70	0
Natural Gas Processing	18	18	17	0	25	25	24	0
Domestic Pipeline Transport	60	61	222	0	85	83	499	0
Liquefaction	41	38	0	0	54	53	0	0
Tanker/Rail Transport	76	19	0	11	91	22	0	11
LNG Regasification	4	4	0	0	5	5	0	0
Power Plant Operations	416	416	416	1,063	416	416	416	1,063
Electricity T&D	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Total (Expected)	688	671	765	1,085	783	822	1,148	1,090
Low	663	644	712	969	757	782	999	973
High	763	750	833	1,408	888	955	1,267	1,602

APPENDIX B: UNIT PROCESS DESCRIPTIONS

B.1 LIQUEFACTION

The pre-treatment, liquefaction and storage unit process (UP) accounts for the pre-treatment of the input pipeline quality gas, liquefaction of the pre-treated gas, and on-site temporary storage of LNG before it is loaded onto an ocean tanker. The pre-treatment processes include:

- Acid gas removal (AGR): removal of CO_2 and H_2S from the pipeline feed gas, to avoid freezing and plugging in downstream units. (~7,050 ppmv (EPA, 1996) to ~50 ppmv CO_2 (Mallapragada et al., 2018))

- Molecular sieve dehydration: removal of water to avoid freeze-up and unplanned shut downs, costly repairs and hazardous working conditions (ensure <0.5 ppmv water (Mallapragada et al., 2018))

- Heavy hydrocarbon (HHC) removal: to protect the main heat exchanger from freezing and plugging. This can be done by either adsorption or cryogenic distillation (~75 ppmv (EPA, 1996) to <10 ppmv C5+ (Smith & Doong, 2016))

The liquefaction facilities in the U.S. predominantly employ two technologies, Propane Pre-cooled Mixed Refrigerant (C3MR) process and Optimized Cascade process. This model represents the C3MR technology in combination with different pre-treatment technologies, represented through four different scenarios. The energy requirement for all scenarios is estimated based on literature (Mallapragada et al., 2018). Based on the publicly available data on plant export capacities (EIA, 2017) and ship capacity assumptions (IGU, 2017), the residence time of LNG on site is estimated, which is treated as the LNG storage time on site. This value is estimated to be between 1.33 days to 1.60 days. During storage, boil-off gas (BOG) is generated at an estimated boil-off rate (BOR) of 0.02% to 0.1% (Dobrota et al., 2013). It is assumed that the BOG generated during storage is re-liquefied, which then enters back into the supply-chain. Literature suggests that the temporary onsite storage unit does not require energy to maintain the LNG in its liquid stage because it uses the concept of auto-refrigeration. The pre-treatment and liquefaction energy requirement is assumed to be met through combusting a parasitic stream of NG as it leaves the pre-treatment facility and before it enters the liquefaction facility. The functional unit of this unit process is the mass of LNG that is stored after being treated and liquefied.

B.2 LOADING AND UNLOADING

The loading and unloading UPs represent the process of loading LNG from the liquefaction facility onto an ocean tanker and the process of unloading the LNG from the ocean tanker into a regasification storage facility after transportation. These UPs model the ship capacity to be in the range of 150,000 m^3 to 180,000 m^3 (IGU, 2017). The BOG generated during loading and unloading is assumed to be re-liquefied and directed back into the supply chain, so the net loss of LNG during loading and unloading is zero. Based on literature, a standard loading/unloading rate of 10,000-12,000 m^3/hour and a BOR of 20,000 kg/hour is modeled (Dobrota et al., 2013).

In any journey only 98% of the total ship capacity is utilized (Hasan et al., 2009). During loading, 0.15% of the volume is still occupied by the heel leftover from the previous ballast voyage, hence 97.85% [98%-0.15%] is to be loaded. During unloading, 2.5% of the capacity is to be left behind as heel for the ballast voyage (Cheniere Energy, 2018). The average time at sea for the scenarios investigated in this analysis is 22.67 days (Sea-Distances.org, 2016) and modeling the BOR to be 0.1 percent volume/day during transportation (IGU, 2017), it is calculated that approximately 93.23% [98%-2.5%-0.1*22.67] of the ship will have to be unloaded on arrival at the port. A sensitivity analysis was performed on this assumption. The same calculation was performed for the shortest shipping distance and the longest shipping distance. Because there are no losses during loading and unloading (all BOG is captured and re-liquified), no change in result was observed. Thus, the 22.67 average days at sea for all scenarios was a simplification used in the unloading unit process only to calculate the energy requirements of unloading. The ocean transport unit process accounts for the true number of days at sea, and thus calculates the appropriate losses that occur at sea. The loading/unloading equipment is modeled as diesel based and the total diesel consumption is estimated by back-calculation from a literature based CO_2 emission data point (Pace Global, 2015). It is assumed that the BOG re-liquefaction compressor operates on purchased grid mix electricity. Compressor specifications from literature are used to estimate the energy requirement to re-liquify 1 kg of BOG (Li & Wen, 2016). The functional unit of this process is the mass of LNG loaded or unloaded from the ocean tanker.

B.3   OCEAN TRANSPORT

The ocean transport UP accounts for the operation of a tanker to transport LNG from a given export country to the import country. The UP is based on specifications for the Wartsila 50DF engine (Wärtsilä, 2018), engine driving propeller, variable speed (ME). The fuel oil and fuel gas consumption rates are equal for all 5 engine configurations identified by Wartsila, so a specific configuration was not chosen to be represented. The model calculates the laden and ballast voyage time based on ship speed and voyage length. A 2.5% volume heel is modeled for the ballast voyage (Cheniere Energy, 2018). BOG from the storage of LNG is compressed and used for fuel, with Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel (ULSD) used as the supplementary fuel. The amount of BOG generated during the laden voyage is dependent on the length of the journey (a boil-off rate of 0.1% volume/day is used (IGU, 2017)). The BOG generated during the ballast journey is taken to be 95% of the heel (i.e. most of the heel is used as energy on the return voyage, leaving only enough to keep the ship cold and ready to load). It is assumed that 100% of the available capacity is loaded onto the ship, and that 98% of the tanker capacity is usable capacity (98% before the heel)(Hasan et al., 2009). The BOG is compressed to 0.6 megapascals (MPa) gauge pressure before it is sent for combustion, as specified by the engine requirements in the product manual (Wärtsilä, 2018). The tanker is assumed to operate 24 hours per day during ocean transport. Full cruise fuel use is calculated using 100% load factors, ramp up/ramp down 75% load factor, and idling/maneuvering 50% load factor (Wärtsilä, 2018). While it is possible for BOG to be generated at any time on the ship, due to the transient conditions and uncertainty in BOR, model limitations do not allow for the estimate of these volumes over short time frames. For simplification, BOG is assumed to be generated only during ramp up/down and

full cruise, and combusted only when the ship is at full cruise. Diesel is assumed to be the only fuel used during non-full cruise operations. Roundtrip travel is accounted for in this unit process (i.e., emissions reported represent total emissions generated during the laden and ballast voyage). The following assumptions were made about the ship's operations: the ship is idling during loading and unloading times, the ship spends one day in maneuvering mode, and the ship spends one day ramping up and one day ramping down for both the laden and ballast journey (4 days total). The distance traveled during ramping up and down counts towards the total distance traveled for the journey. Distance traveled during maneuvering and idling is assumed to be negligible. Travel distances for different scenarios were calculated using SEA-DISTANCES (Sea-Distances.org, 2016). The functional unit for this unit process is taken to be the mass of LNG delivered to the regasification terminal (import terminal). This is taken to be 98% of the ship capacity, minus BOG generation during the laden voyage, minus the 2.5% volume heel that will be left on the ship for the ballast voyage.
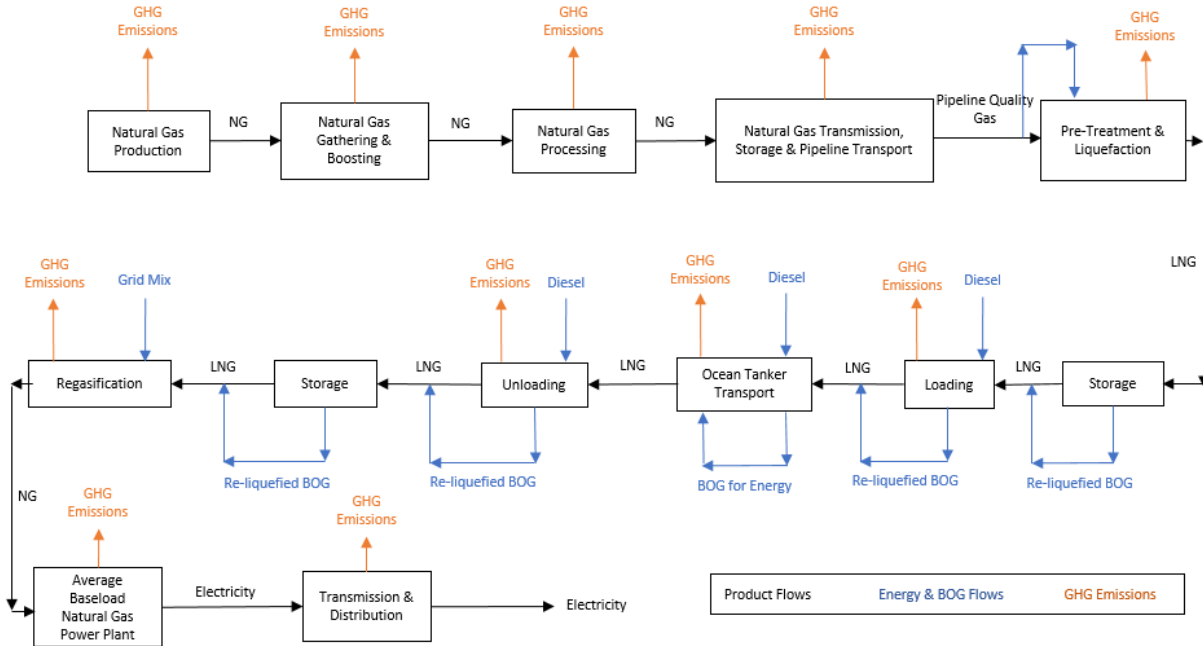
B.4   REGASIFICATION

The regasification UP accounts for the operation of a regasification terminal located in either Europe or Asia. The UP is based on Open Rack Vaporization (ORV) technology, which is utilized in ~100% of Asian and ~60% of European regasification terminals (Agarwal et al., 2017). After unloading from the ship, the LNG is placed in temporary storage for between 1.33 and 1.60 days (EIA, 2017; IGU, 2017). The BOG generated during temporary storage is assumed to be captured and re-liquefied before being sent through the ORV. The BOR is 0.02% of storage volume/day (Dobrota et al., 2013). The required energy for regasification is assumed to be sourced from grid mix electricity. In ORV, the LNG is passed through a heat exchanger with sea water. Emissions results account for emissions from fugitives. Combustion emissions are accounted for in a separate combustion UP. The functional unit of this unit process is the mass of LNG that is regasified.

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APPENDIX C: FLOW DIAGRAMS

Note: The energy flows shown in the following flow diagrams represent energy flows specifically modeled in the LNG analysis. Other unit processes require energy, but have the energy requirements accounted for within the unit process and thus contain the GHGs from energy use.
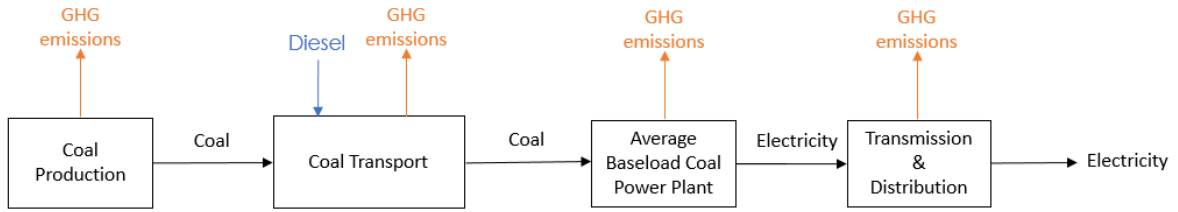
C.1 U.S./REGIONAL LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS

C.2 RUSSIAN NATURAL GAS
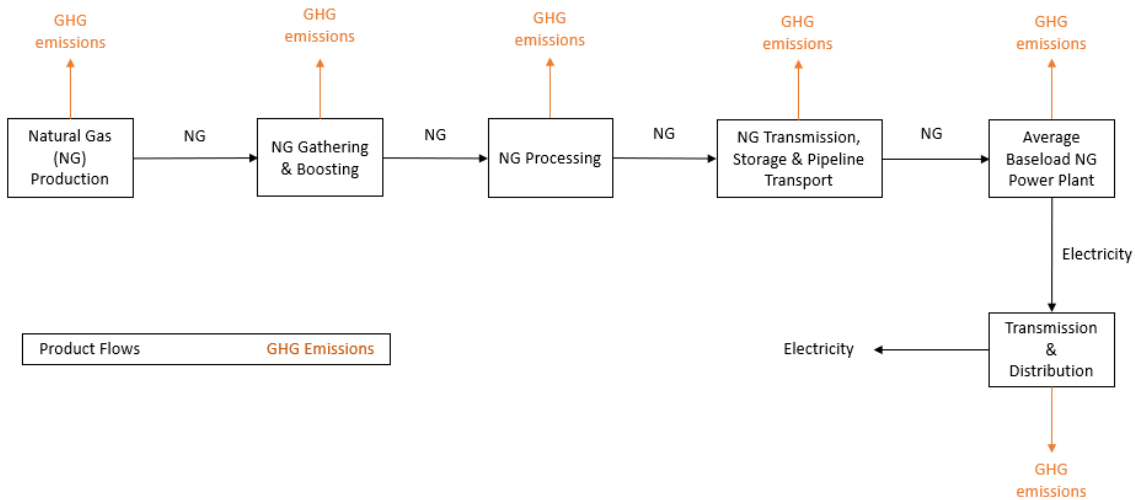
C.3 REGIONAL COAL

APPENDIX D: REFERENCES

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