

Natural Gas Speaker Series

A New Energy Break Point:

The Evolving Character of Natural Gas in North America

Abstract

An energy break point occurs when there is significant change in the way that a society consumes its energy or is supplied its energy. Over the course of history there have been numerous such break points—globally, nationally or regionally. A classic example of an energy break point in the 19th century was the transition from whale oil to crude oil as a fuel for lighting. More recent examples include the emergence of nuclear power and liquefied natural gas into the world's energy supply chains.

Energy break points are not common events, yet today the dynamics unfolding around us – economic, political, technological and environmental – signal that we are once again entering a period of such radical change. While the renaissance in renewable energy is at the forefront of discussion, in the background there is a major break point underway in North America's natural gas supply.

What are the catalysts for energy break points? How is the supply of natural gas changing in the United States and Canada? What are the implications of the current break point to overall energy supply, energy security, environmental sustainability and prosperity? This presentation will explore these and other questions and distil conclusions about future energy scenarios.

Monday March 30, 2009

2pm-4pm

Light snacks and beverages

Room E19-319

50 Ames Street

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA

Peter Tertzakian

Best selling author of *A Thousand Barrels a Second*, published by McGraw-Hill, Peter Tertzakian is the Chief Energy Economist of ARC Financial Corporation, one of the world's leading energy investment firms.

Peter's background in geophysics, economics and finance, combined with his entrepreneurial spirit, helped him rise from the trenches of hands-on oil exploration fieldwork to become an internationally recognized, top-ranked expert in energy matters.

Often seen and heard through media outlets around the world, Peter's been a featured guest on many high-profile radio and television shows including The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. In print and electronic media, Peter has been featured in major publications around the world and contributes editorials to widely read periodicals. He also writes a weekly column, ARC Energy Charts, and is a sought after public speaker.

Peter has an undergraduate degree in Geophysics from the University of Alberta, and a graduate degree in Econometrics from the University of Southampton, U.K. He also holds a Master of Science in Management of Technology from the Sloan School of Management at MIT.

He lives in Calgary, Alberta, one of the world's leading oil and gas centers, with his wife and two children.

The Natural Gas Speaker Series is sponsored by the MIT Energy Initiative