

Among the many other natural gas pipeline systems operating in Canada, some are devoted exclusively to gathering gas in producing fields, while others distribute gas received from main transmission lines to gas customers. Several large systems combine elements of gathering, transmission and distribution. Among the larger systems, Inland Natural Gas Co. Ltd. distributes gas to a number of centres in interior and southern British Columbia. In west-central British Columbia, the pipeline of Pacific Northern Gas Ltd. serves communities and industries along a 435-mile route between the Westcoast main line at Prince George and the Pacific Coast cities of Prince Rupert and Kitimat. Canadian Western Natural Gas Company Limited and Northwestern Utilities Limited serve markets in central and southern Alberta with a total of more than 8,654 miles of pipeline. Saskatchewan Power Corporation delivers all gas sold in Saskatchewan through a 6,846-mile transmission and distribution system serving most of the populated areas of the province. Northern and Central Gas Corporation Limited operates probably the most geographically widespread distribution system in Canada serving industries and communities adjacent to the TransCanada system from Winnipeg as far east as the Montreal area. Two large utility companies serve the highly populated and industrialized areas of southern Ontario. The Consumers' Gas Company operates in the Toronto area, the Niagara peninsula and eastern Ontario while Union Gas Limited serves the southwestern corner of the province. These are only some of the many gas pipeline systems that make up a growing network of lines serving domestic, commercial and industrial customers in all provinces except Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.

More detailed information on throughput in the Canadian gas pipeline system appears in Table 13.7.

13.2.5 Coal

In 1971, coal used as a primary energy source for thermal electric power generation in Canada totalled 17.3 million tons, up from 15.2 million tons in 1970. This proved to be a slight decrease (from 72.4% to 69.5%) in the rapidly growing total Canadian thermal electric power. In the Prairie Provinces, low rank coal can be economically strip-mined and has become a prime source of electrical energy. Ontario, the prime user of thermal coal, used some 11% more bituminous coal (virtually all imported from the United States) in 1971 than in 1970. Relatively small quantities of coal are used for thermal power generation in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. All other uses, such as for railways, ships' bunkers and for manufacturing plants, continued to decline.

The production and export of metallurgical coal continued to rise. In 1971, export of coking coal to Japan increased to 7.4 million tons from 4.1 million tons in 1970 and this amount is expected to continue to grow. Domestic consumption of imported coking coal decreased to 7.3 million tons from approximately 8 million tons in 1970; this decline is expected to reverse in the future as the demand for steel grows. Production of synthetic fluid fuels from cheaply mined coals is technically feasible and may become viable in the future. Developments in the coal processing industry are dealt with in Section 12.1.5 of the preceding chapter.

13.2.6 Uranium

Canada's proven uranium reserves (about 20% of the world's reserves outside USSR, Eastern Europe and China) should be ample to meet the domestic requirements into the 21st century. With its relatively large reserves and committed production facilities, Canada must look to export markets for uranium especially in the short term, to maintain a viable industry to meet her own requirements in the future.

In 1971 continued world overproduction of uranium and intense competition combined to force uranium prices to an all-time low. The year 1972 saw some improvement in the situation. In November 1972, Denison and Uranium Canada Ltd. confirmed a sales agreement valued at nearly \$60 million, involving 45,000 tons of U_3O_8 . The uranium will be delivered to a group of Spanish utilities over the period 1974 to 1977. The scale was made even before the Canadian government - Denison joint venture stockpile was accumulated and will completely dispose of this stockpile plus part of the government's general stockpile. This development brought total Canadian uranium commitments made since 1966 to over 73,000 tons U_3O_8 of which about 9,500 tons had been delivered by year-end.

Although the uranium industry suffers in the near-term from oversupply, the long-term outlook remains bright as orders for nuclear generating capacity continue to increase