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ABSTRACTS

In alphabetical order - author's last name.

DOES RECENT HISTORY BEST FIT *HUBBERT'S CURVE* OR *MCCABE'S PYRAMID?*

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POSTER PRESENTATION

As the earth's population continues to grow, and people in emerging economies enter the middle class, world demand for energy is predicted to increase by 35 percent by 2030. Some, who believe the earth has a finite amount of resources, believe this will lead to shortages, and that we are nearing an unsustainable tipping point. Others believe that new technology and market factors will allow us to exploit fuels that were previously considered unreachable, or develop entirely new sources of power, that will allow us to meet increased global demand. We argue that to measure total resources McCabe's pyramid is more accurate than the Hubbert Curve, because it recognizes changes in resource availability due to the development of new technology or changes in price.

This paper will use hydraulic fracking as an example of how new technology can expand a resource base, and whether that expansion contradicts the Hubbert Curve often used to measure progress toward resource depletion. It will also examine the extent to which new production in natural gas is affecting utilities decisions regarding fuel choice, and what obstacles, whether technological or political, affect the decision point and point of competition among fuel usage in the United States.