

Empirical Analysis of the OCS Pipeline Network in the Gulf of Mexico

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Oil and gas production in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico is transported almost exclusively by pipelines with 45,000 miles (72,500 km) installed mileage circa 2017, enough to circle the earth at the equator about twice. In water depth less than 400 ft, many of the bulk lines and export systems are no longer needed as shallow water oil and gas production continues to decline, and about half of the pipeline network has now been decommissioned. In deepwater, the active pipeline network has grown at about 500 miles per year over the past decade and about 90% of installed pipeline is utilized. In this presentation I will highlight pipeline installation and decommissioning activity in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico by product type and water depth and active inventory trends. Correlations that quantify pipeline activity in terms of system attributes and can serve as a forecast tool will also be illustrated.