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Gas as “transition fuel” – Way of the future or bridge to nowhere?

The idea that gas can be a “transition fuel” on the road to lower (or, for some, zero) carbon emissions has attracted renewed attention in the wake of the COP 21 Paris agreements last December. The industry has been happy to promote the transitional role of gas, but environmentalists argue that, despite gas being a lower CO₂ emitter than coal, the difference is not great enough to make it a long-term solution. And then there are those within the gas industry who feel the argument does not play in its favour. Speaking at the World Gas Conference last year, Woodside CEO Peter Coleman took this line strongly, saying: “Natural gas needs to be a part of the base energy mix... we need to stop talking about gas as just something that will pass by in the night”. Gas Matters reviews the validity of the concept of gas as a bridging fuel and asks how the industry should best present itself.

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