



**Associated Press**

Hess Corp. CEO John Hess addresses company workers and dignitaries at a celebration of the company's upgraded gas plant in Tioga on May 19. The upgraded plant is set to reduce the company's natural gas flaring in the state from 25 percent to between 15 and 20 percent.

drilling and hydraulic fracturing. And it's the combination of those two which is very technology focused that has unlocked this potential."

Jibson, who, in addition to his leadership role with the AGA, is Chairman, President and CEO of Questar Corp, added his own natural gas historical, saying back in the 1970s president Carter declared the country was running out of gas. Jibson believes Carter was right at the time, but ingenuity and progress developed methods and new technologies to change the natural gas industry.

"We can now look at natural gas beyond just space heating and water heating. We can look at it for enhanced power generation, continue building more and more plants on natural gas, its a backup to all renewable energy and at the same time we can use it as natural gas transportation," Jibson said. "We can do all this and even look at exporting natural gas. Six years ago we were considered an importing, now we are looked at as an exporter of natural gas."

Questar Corporation, based in Salt Lake City, Utah, is a natural gas-focused energy company specializing in retail gas

distribution, interstate gas transportation and gas production, which are conducted through Questar Gas, Questar Pipeline and Wexpro. Jibson believes this rapid shift in the natural gas supply will also transform the natural resource's role as an "abundant foundation fuel" rather than a "bridge fuel." With saying that, Jibson recognized the reality of using all forms of energy.

"Now it probably is not a great situation to have just one fuel be a foundation fuel," Gibson said. "So as people talk about natural gas being that foundation fuel, which we believe we have the abundance for it, but we also have to be cognizant of we need a large portfolio of many supply, and that includes the development and better technology in all the area."

U.S. Senator John Hoeven agrees with Jibson on the importance of a balanced energy portfolio and sees North Dakota's long term approach to natural gas as the role model for other shale plays.

"We are producing huge amounts of natural gas which really is a byproduct of our drilling for oil," Hoeven said. "But the key is we have to capture it rather than

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