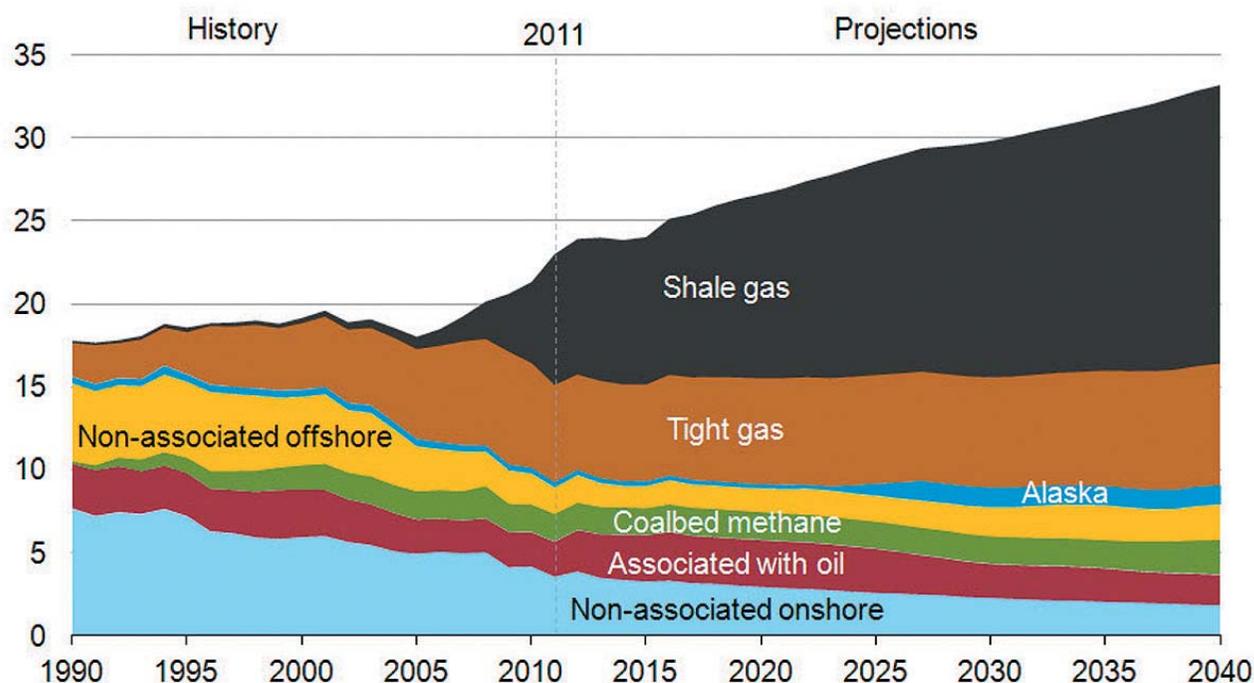


Bakken, North Dakota's tank may be only half full. According to a research report by Allied Market Research the global shale gas market is forecast to reach \$104.1 billion by 2020 and the U.S. Energy Information Administration expects natural gas consumption to reach nearly 73 billion cubic feet per day in 2014, which is an increase of 1.7 percent from 2013.

These projected numbers, combined with the Bakken's unique shale play, are still attracting potential natural gas manufacturers, according to Hoeven. Hoeven teased that the abundance of ethane in the Bakken could attract a potential plastics manufacturer to the state in the near future.

"There's a lot more that can be done in North Dakota," Hoeven said. "I think there is a pretty exciting future with natural gas." ■

U.S. dry natural gas production trillion cubic feet



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook 2013 Early Release

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