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8	EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE OF
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10	THE UNITED STATES
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26	U.S. CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE PROGRAM
27	Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.5
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33	November 30, 2006
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1	PREFACE
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SUMMARY

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Climate change is expected to have noticeable effects in the United States: a rise in average temperatures in most regions, changes in precipitation amounts and seasonal patterns in many regions, changes in the intensity and pattern of extreme weather events, and sea level rise. Some of these effects have clear implications for energy production and use. For instance, average warming can be expected to increase energy requirements for cooling and reduce energy requirements for warming. Changes in precipitation could affect prospects for hydropower, positively or negatively. Increases in storm intensity could threaten further disruptions of the sorts experienced in 2005 with Hurricane Katrina. Concerns about climate change impacts could change perceptions and valuations of energy technology alternatives. Any or all of these types of effects could have very real meaning for energy policies, decisions, and institutions in the United States, affecting discussions of courses of action and appropriate strategies for risk management.

This report summarizes what is currently known about effects of climate change on energy production and use in the United States. It focuses on three questions, which are listed below along with general short answers to each. Generally, it is important to be careful about answering these questions, for two reasons. One reason is that the available research literatures on many of the key issues are limited, supporting a discussion of issues but not definite conclusions about answers. A second reason is that, as with many other categories of climate change effects in the U.S., the effects depend on more than climate change alone, such as patterns of economic growth and land use, patterns of population growth and distribution, technological change, and social and cultural trends that could shape policies and actions, individually and institutionally.

The report concludes that, based on what we know now, there are reasons to pay close attention to possible climate change impacts on energy production and use and to consider ways to adapt to possible adverse impacts and take advantage of possible

positive impacts. Although the report includes considerably more detail, here are the three questions along with a brief summary of the answers:

• How might climate change affect energy consumption in the United States? The research evidence is relatively clear that climate warming will mean reductions in total U.S. heating requirements and increases in total cooling requirements for buildings. These changes will vary by region and by season, but they will affect household and business energy costs and their demands on energy supply institutions. In general, the changes imply increased demands for electricity, which supplies virtually all cooling energy services but only some heating services. Other effects on energy consumption are less clear.

• How might climate change affect energy production and supply in the United States? The research evidence about effects is not as strong as for energy consumption, but climate change could affect energy production and supply (a) if extreme weather events become more intense, (b) where regions dependent on water supplies for hydropower and/or thermal power plant cooling face reductions in water supplies, (c) where temperature increases decrease overall thermoelectric power generation efficiencies, and (d) where changed conditions affect facility siting decisions. Most effects are likely to be modest except for possible regional effects of extreme weather events and water shortages.

How might climate change have other effects that indirectly shape energy production and consumption in the United States? The research evidence about indirect effects ranges from abundant information about possible effects of climate change policies on energy technology choices to extremely limited information about such issues as effects on energy prices or energy security. Based on this mixed evidence, it appears that climate change is likely to affect risk management in the investment behavior of some energy institutions, and it is very likely to have some effects on energy technology R&D investments and energy resource and technology choices. In addition, climate change can be

1 expected to affect other countries in ways that in turn affect U.S. energy 2 conditions through their participation in global and hemispheric energy markets, 3 and climate change concerns could interact with some driving forces behind 4 policies focused on U.S. energy security. 5 6 Because of the lack of research to date, prospects for adaptation to climate change effects 7 by energy providers, energy users, and society at large are speculative, although the 8 potentials are considerable. It is possible that the greatest challenges would be in 9 connection with possible increases in the intensity of extreme weather events and 10 possible significant changes in regional water supply regimes. But adaptation prospects 11 depend considerably on the availability of information about possible climate change 12 effects to inform decisions about adaptive management, along with technological change 13 in the longer term. 14 15 Given that the current knowledge base is so limited, this suggests that expanding the 16 knowledge base is important to energy users and providers in the United States. Needs 17 for such research – which should be seen as a broad-based collaboration among federal 18 and state governments, industry, non-governmental institutions, and academia – are 19 identified in the report. 20

**CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION** 1 2 3 4 As a major expression of its objective to provide the best possible scientific information 5 to support decision-making and public discussion on key climate-related issues, the U.S. 6 Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) has commissioned 21 "synthesis and 7 assessment products" (SAPs) to summarize current knowledge and identify priorities for 8 research, observation, and decision support in order to strengthen contributions by 9 climate change science to climate change related decisions. 10 11 These reports arise from the five goals of CCSP (<a href="http://www.climatescience.gov">http://www.climatescience.gov</a>), the 12 fourth of which is to "understand the sensitivity and adaptability of different natural and 13 managed ecosystems and human systems to climate and related global changes." One of 14 the seven SAPs related to this particular goal is concerned with analyses of the effects of 15 global change on energy production and use (SAP 4.5). The resulting SAP, this report, 16 has been titled "Effects of Climate Change on Energy Production and Use in the United 17 States." 18 19 This topic is relevant to policy-makers and other decision-makers because most 20 discussions to date of relationships between the energy sector and responses to concerns 21 about climate have been very largely concerned with roles of energy production and use 22 in climate change <u>mitigation</u>. Along with these roles of the energy sector as a *driver* of 23 climate change, the energy sector is also subject to effects of climate change; and these 24 possible effects – along with adaptation strategies to reduce any potential negative costs 25 from them – have received much less attention. For instance, the U.S. National 26 Assessment of Possible Consequences of Climate Variability and Change (NACC, 2001) 27 considered effects on five sectors, such as water and health; but energy was not one of 28 those sectors, even though the Global Change Research Act of 1990 had listed energy as 29 one of several sectors of particular interest. 30 31 Because the topic has not been a high priority for research support and institutional 32 analysis, the formal knowledge base is in many ways limited. As a starting point for

base is still at an early stage of development.

1 discussion, this product compiles and reports what is known about likely or possible 2 effects of climate change on energy production and use in the United States, within a 3 more comprehensive framework for thought about this topic, and it identifies priorities 4 for expanding the knowledge base to meet needs of key decision-makers. 5 6 1.1 BACKGROUND 7 8 Climate change is expected to have certain effects in the United States: a rise in average 9 temperatures in most regions, changes in precipitation amounts and seasonal patterns in 10 many regions, changes in the intensity and pattern of extreme weather events, and sea 11 level rise [(IPCC, 2001a; NACC, 2001; also see other SAPs, including 2.1b and 3.2)]. 12 13 Some of these effects have clear implications for energy production and use. For 14 instance, average warming can be expected to increase energy requirements for cooling 15 and reduce energy requirements for warming. Changes in precipitation patterns and 16 amounts could affect prospects for hydropower, positively or negatively. Increases in 17 storm intensity could threaten further disruptions of the sorts experienced in 2005 with 18 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Concerns about climate change impacts could change 19 perceptions and valuations of energy technology alternatives. Any or all of these types of 20 effects could have very real meaning for energy policies, decisions, and institutions in the 21 United States, affecting discussions of courses of action and appropriate strategies for 22 risk management. 23 24 According to CCSP, an SAP has three end uses: (1) informing the evolution of the 25 research agenda; (2) supporting adaptive management and planning; and (3) supporting 26 policy formulation. This product will inform policymakers, stakeholders, and the general 27 public about issues associated with climate change implications for energy production 28 and use in the United States, increase awareness of what is known and not yet known, 29 and support discussions of technology and policy options at a stage where the knowledge

1	
2	The central questions addressed by SAP 4.5 are:
3	
4	• How might climate change affect energy consumption in the United States?
5	
6	How might climate change affect energy production and supply in the United
7	States?
8	
9	How might climate change affect various contexts that indirectly shape energy
10	production and consumption in the United States, such as energy technologies,
11	energy institutions, regional economic growth, energy prices, energy security, and
12	environmental emissions?
13	
14	SAP 4.5 is to be completed by the end of the second quarter of CY 2007 (June 30, 2007),
15	following a number of steps required for all SAPs in scoping the study, conducting it, and
16	reviewing it at several stages (see the section below on How the Report Was Developed).
17	
18	1.2 THE TOPIC OF THIS SYNTHESIS AND ASSESSMENT
19 20	REPORT
21	This report summarizes the current knowledge base about possible effects of climate
22	change on energy production and use in the United States as a contributor to further
23	studies of the broader topic of effects of global change on energy production and use. It
24	also identifies where research could reduce uncertainties about vulnerabilities, possible
25	effects, and possible strategies to reduce negative effects and increase adaptive capacity
26	and considers priorities for strengthening the knowledge base. As is the case for most of
27	the SAPs, it does not include new analyses of data, new scenarios of climate change or
28	impacts, or other new contributions to the knowledge base, although its presentation of a
29	framework for thought about energy sector impacts is in many ways new.

As indicated above, the content of SAP 4.5 includes attention to the following issues:

1	<ul> <li>Possible effects (both positive and negative) of climate change on energy</li> </ul>
2	consumption in the United States (Chapter 2)
3	
4	• Possible effects (both positive and negative) on energy production and supply in
5	the United States (Chapter 3)
6	
7	• Possible <i>indirect effects</i> on energy consumption and production (Chapter 4)
8	
9	These chapters are followed by a final chapter which provides conclusions about what is
10	currently known, prospects for adaptation, and priorities for improving the knowledge
11	base.
12	
13	1.3 PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS OF THIS TOPIC
14	
15	As mentioned on page 1, unlike some of the other sectoral assessment areas identified in
16	the Global Change Research Act of 1990—such as agriculture, water, and human
17	health—energy was not the subject of a sectoral assessment in the National Assessment of
18	Possible Consequences of Climate Variability and Change, completed in 2001 (NACC,
19	2001). As a result, SAP 4.5 draws upon a less organized knowledge base than these other
20	sectoral impact areas. On the other hand, by addressing an assessment area not covered in
21	the initial national assessment, SAP 4.5 will provide new information and perspectives.
22	
23	The subject matter associated with SAP 4.5 is incorporated in two chapters of the
24	Working Group II contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
25	(IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report (Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability), scheduled
26	for completion in 2007. Chapter 7, "Industry, Settlement, and Society," section 7.4.2.1,
27	is briefly summarizing the global knowledge base about possible impacts of climate
28	change on energy production and use, reporting relevant research from the United States
29	but not assessing impacts on the United States. Chapter 14, "North America," is
30	summarizing the knowledge base about possible impacts of climate change in this
31	continent, including the U.S., in sections 14.2.8 and 14.4.8.

#### 1.4 HOW THE REPORT WAS DEVELOPED

	5	)	
,	1		

SAPs are developed according to guidelines established by CCSP based on processes that are open and public. These processes include a number of steps before approval to proceed, emphasizing both stakeholder participation and CCSP reviews of a formal prospectus for the report, a number of review steps including both expert reviewers and public comments, and final reviews by the CCSP Interagency Committee and the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC).

The process for producing the report was focused on a survey and assessment of the available literature, in many cases including documents that were not peer-reviewed but the authors determined to be valid. using established analytic-deliberative practices. It included identification and consideration of relevant studies carried out in connection with CCSP, the Climate Change Technology Program (CCTP), and other programs of CCSP agencies (e.g., the Energy Information Administration), and consultation with stakeholders such as the electric utility and energy industries, environmental nongovernmental organizations, and the academic research community to determine what analyses have been conducted and reports have been issued. Where quantitative research results are limited, the process considers the degree to which qualitative statements of possible effects may be valid as outcomes of expert deliberation, utilizing the extensive review processes built into the SAP process to contribute to judgments about the validity of the statements.

SAP 4.5 is authored by staff from the DOE national laboratories, drawing on their own expertise and knowledge bases and also upon other knowledge bases, including those within energy corporations and utilities, consulting firms, non-governmental organizations, state and local governments, and the academic research community. DOE has assured that authorship by DOE national laboratory staff will in no way exclude any relevant research or knowledge, and every effort is being made to identify and utilize all

1 relevant expertise, materials, and other sources. For the author team of SAP 4.5, see Box

2 1.1.

3

#### Box 1.1. SAP 4.5 Author Team

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	Administrative Coordinator

4

5 Stakeholders participated during the scoping process, have provided comments on the

6 prospectus, and will submit comments on the product during a public comment period, as

well as other comments via the SAP 4.5 web site. The development of SAP 4.5 has

included active networking by authors with centers of expertise and stakeholders to

9 assure that the process is fully informed about their knowledge bases and viewpoints.

10

11

7

8

#### 1.5 HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

12 13

14

16

The audience for SAP 4.5 includes scientists in related fields, decision-makers in the

public sector (federal, state, and local governments), the private sector (energy

15 companies, electric utilities, energy equipment providers and vendors, and energy-

dependent sectors of the economy), energy and environmental policy interest groups, and

the general public. Even though this report is unable—based on existing knowledge—to

answer all relevant questions that might be asked by these interested parties, the intent is

- 1 to provide information and perspectives to inform discussions about the issues and to
- 2 clarify priorities for research to reduce uncertainties in answering key questions.
- 3 As indicated above, because of limitations in available research literatures, in some cases
- 4 the report is only able to characterize categories of possible effects without evaluating
- 5 what the effects are likely to be. In other cases, the report offers preliminary judgments
- 6 about effects, related to degrees of likelihood: likely (2 chances out of 3), very likely (9
- 7 chances out of 10), or virtually certain (99 chances out of 100).

- 9 This report avoids the use of highly technical terminology, but a glossary and list of
- acronyms are included at the end of the report (to be completed).

2.1 INTRODUCTION

As the climate of the world warms, the consumption of energy in climate-sensitive sectors is likely to change. Possible effects include: 1) decreases in the amount of energy consumed in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings for space heating and increases for space cooling; 2) decreases in energy used directly in certain processes such as residential, commercial, and industrial water heating, and increases in energy used for residential and commercial refrigeration, and industrial process cooling (e.g., in thermal power plants or steel mills); 3) increases in energy used to supply other resources for climate-sensitive processes, such as pumping water for irrigated agriculture and municipal uses; 4) changes in the balance of energy use among delivery forms and fuel types, as between electricity used for air conditioning and natural gas used for heating; and 5) changes in energy consumption in key climate-sensitive sectors of the economy, such as transportation, construction, agriculture, and others.

CHAPTER 2. EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON

ENERGY USE IN THE UNITED STATES

Michael J. Scott, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Y. Joe Huang, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

In the United States, some of these effects of climate change on energy consumption have been studied to the extent that there is a body of literature with empirical results. This is the case with energy demand in residential and commercial buildings, where studies of the effects of climate change have been occurring for about 20 years. There is very little literature for any of the other effects mentioned above.

This chapter summarizes current knowledge concerning potential effects of climate change on energy demand in the United States. The chapter mainly focuses on the effects of climate change on energy consumption in buildings (including mainly space heating and space cooling, but also addressing net energy use, peak loads, and adaptation) The

- 1 chapter briefly address impacts of climate change on energy use in other sectors,
- 2 including transportation, construction, and agriculture, for which empirical studies are far
- 3 less available. The final section presents conclusions and issues for future research.

5

### 2.2 ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN BUILDINGS

6

- 7 U.S. residential and commercial buildings currently use about 20 quadrillion Btus (quads)
- 8 of delivered energy per year (about 38 quads of primary energy, allowing for electricity
- 9 related losses). This energy consumption accounts directly or indirectly for 0.6 GT of
- carbon emitted to the atmosphere (38% of U.S. total emissions of 1.6 GT and
- approximately 9% of the world fossil-fuel related anthropogenic emissions of 6.7 GT
- 12 (EIA, 2006). The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has projected that
- residential and commercial consumption of delivered energy would increase to 26 quads
- 14 (53 quads primary) and corresponding carbon emissions to 0.9 GT by the year 2030 (EIA
- 15 2006). However, these routine EIA projections do not account for the effects any
- temperature increases on building energy use that occur as a result of global warming,
- 17 nor do they account for consumer reactions to a warmer climate.

18

- 19 To perform an assessment of the impact of climate change on energy demand, it is
- 20 helpful to have as context a set of climate scenarios. The Intergovernmental Panel on
- 21 Climate Change (IPCC) projected in 2001 that climate could warm relative to 1990 by
- 22 0.4°C to 1.2°C by the year 2030 and by 1.4°C to 5.8°C by the end of the 21st century
- 23 (Cubasch et al., 2001). Although additional scenario work has been done since then by
- 24 the IPCC, it is not yet published, so we have adopted the 2001 projections for this
- chapter. In particular, Ruosteenoja et al. (2003) performed a reanalysis of the seventeen
- 26 2001 IPCC climate simulations by seven different climate models at the regional level.
- 27 Their results for the United States are reported for three sub-regions, four seasons, and
- 28 three major time steps, as summarized in Table 2.1. While this is not the only set of
- 29 climate scenarios available, and while the energy calculations in this chapter often used
- 30 other scenarios, Table 2.1 broadly characterizes the range of average temperature

Table 2.1. Seasonal Temperature Increases For Three U.S. Regions In <sup>\*</sup>C In Winter (DJF), Spring (MAM), Summer (JJA), And Fall (SON). Derived From Ruosteenoja et al. (2003).

Darian and	Time Step						
Region and Season	2010-2039 (2020)		2040-2069 (2050)		2070-2099 (2080)		
Season	Median	Range	Median	Range	Median	Range	
Western U.S.							
-DJF	1.6	0.5-2.4	2.3	1.0-4.2	4.1	2.0-7.6	
-MAM	1.4	0.5-1.9	2.5	1.1-4.1	3.8	1.0-7.6	
-JJA	1.8	0.8-2.6	2.8	1.7-5.2	4.2	2.8-9.1	
-SON	1.3	0.5-2.1	2.8	1.4-4.6	3.9	1.6-8.0	
Central U.S	Central U.S						
-DJF	1.6	0.0-2.6	3.0	1.2-4.5	4.2	1.9-7.9	
-MAM	1.8	0.5-2.8	2.9	1.2-5.1	4.4	1.9-8.0	
-JJA	1.8	0.9-2.2	3.0	1.5-5.4	4.4	1.9-8.5	
-SON	1.3	0.4-2.3	2.8	1.2-5.0	4.1	1.8-8.8	
Eastern U.S.							
-DJF	1.8	0.4-2.6	2.6	1.4-5.8	4.6	2.2-10.2	
-MAM	1.7	0.6-3.2	2.7	1.4-6.0	4.4	1.9-9.6	
-JJA	1.6	0.8-1.9	2.8	1.4-5.5	4.2	1.8-8.6	
-SON	1.5	0.6-2.3	2.8	1.4-5.4	4.0	1.8-9.0	

changes that might occur in the United States in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and can provide context for the various energy impact analyses that have been done.

Approximately 20 studies have been done since about 1990 concerning the effect of projected climate change on energy consumption in residential and commercial buildings in the United States. Some of these studies concern particular states or regions, and the impacts estimated depend crucially on local conditions.

Some of the studies analyze only electricity, which is the likeliest form of energy to suffer adverse impacts. Almost all of the studies show both an increase in electricity consumption and an increase in the consumption of primary fuels used to generate it, except in the few regions that provide space heating with electricity (for example, the Pacific Northwest).

1 The few studies that examine effects on peak electricity demand emphasize that increases 2 in peak demand would cause disproportionate increases in energy infrastructure 3 investment. 4 5 Some studies provide demand estimates for heating fuels such as natural gas and distillate 6 fuel oil in addition to electricity. These all-fuels studies provide empirical support for the 7 idea that climate warming causes significant decreases in space heating; however, 8 whether energy savings in heating fuels offset increases in energy demand for cooling 9 depends on the initial balance of energy consumption between heating and cooling, 10 which in turn depends upon geography. Empirical studies show that the overall effect is 11 more likely to be a significant net savings in delivered energy consumption in northern 12 parts of the country (those with more than 4,000 heating degree-days per year) and a 13 significant net increase in energy consumption in the south for both residential and 14 commercial buildings, with the national balance slightly favoring net savings of delivered 15 energy, 16 17 Empirical studies vary in their treatment of the expected demographic shifts in the United 18 States, expected evolution of building stock, and consumer reaction to warmer 19 temperatures. Roughly half of the studies use building energy simulation models and 20 account explicitly for the current trend in U.S. population moving toward the south and 21 west, as well as increases in square footage per capita in newer buildings, and increases 22 in market penetration of air conditioning in newer buildings (See the Appendix at the end 23 of this chapter on methods). However, they do not include consumer reactions to 24 warming itself. For example, the market penetration of air conditioning is not directly 25 influenced by warming in these studies. The other half of the studies uses econometric 26 modeling of energy consumption choices. Many of these studies emphasize that the 27 responsiveness of climate change of energy use to climate change (elasticity) is greater in 28 the long-run than in short run—for example, consumers not only run their air 29 conditioners more often in response to higher temperatures, but may also adopt air 30 conditioning for the first time in regions such as New England, which still feature 31 relatively low market penetration of air conditioning. Commercial building designs may

1 evolve to reduce the need for heating by making better use of internal energy gains and 2 warmer weather. Rising costs of space conditioning could modify the current trend in 3 floorspace per capita. Most econometric studies of building energy consumption estimate 4 effects like this statistically from databases on existing buildings such as the Energy 5 Information Administration's (EIA's) Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS) 6 (EIA 2001b) and Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS) (EIA, 7 2003b). 8 9 When losses in energy conversion and delivery of electricity are taken into account, 10 primary energy consumption (source energy) at the national level increases in some 11 studies and decreases in others, with the balance of studies projecting a net increase in 12 primary energy consumption. When the higher costs per delivered Btu of electricity are 13 taken into account, the national-level consumer expenditures on energy increase in some 14 studies and decrease in others, with the balance of studies favoring an increase in 15 expenditures. 16 17 The various studies include a range of climate warming scenarios as well as different 18 time frames and methods. Table 2.2 summarizes the main qualitative conclusions that can 19 be drawn from an overview of this literature concerning the marginal effect of climate 20 warming on energy use in buildings. These effects are discussed further in Sections 2.3 21 through 2.5. 22 23 The net impact of climate warming on the consumption of delivered heating fuel and 24 electricity is that for regions with more than about 4000 heating degree-days Fahrenheit 25 (EIA Climate Zones 1-3, roughly the dividing line between "north" and "south" in most 26 national studies—see Figure 2.1) is that climate warming tends to reduce consumption of 27 heating fuel more than it increases the consumption of electricity (e.g. Hadley et al. 2004, 28 2006). The reverse is true south of that line. By coincidence, the national gains and 29 losses in delivered energy approximately balance. The existing studies do not agree on 30 whether there is small increase or decrease. The picture is different for primary energy 31 and carbon dioxide. Because the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity

## Table 2.2. Summary of Qualitative Effects of Global Warming on Energy Consumption in the United States

Sector	National Effects	Regional Effects	Other Effects	Comments
Residential and Commercial Buildings Annual Energy Use	Slight decrease or increase in net annual delivered energy; Likely net increase in primary energy	Space heating savings dominate in North; space cooling increases dominate in South	Overall increase in carbon emissions	Studies agree on the direction of regional effects; national direction varies with the study
Peak Electricity Consumption	Probable increase	Increase in summer peaking regions; probable decline in winter peaking regions	Increase in carbon emissions	Most regions are summer-peaking due to air conditioning
Market Penetration of Energy-Using Equipment	Increase in market penetration of air conditioning	Air conditioning market share increases primarily in North		Very few studies. Strength of the effect is not clear.

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is subject to significant energy losses, national primary energy demand tends to increase with warmer temperatures. Finally, because electricity is about 50% generated with coal,

7 which is a high-carbon fuel, and about 3.2 Btu of primary energy are consumed for every

Btu of delivered electricity (EIA, 2006), carbon dioxide emissions also tend to increase.

The extent of this national shift in energy use is expected to depend in part on the

strength of residential adoption of air conditioning as the length of the air conditioning

season and the warmth of summer increases in the north, where the market penetration of

air conditioning is still relatively low. The potential reaction of consumers to a longer

and more intense cooling season in the future has been addressed in only a handful of

studies (e.g., Sailor and Pavlova, 2003) and must be considered highly uncertain. There

15 is even less information available on the offsetting effects of adaptations such as

improved energy efficiency or changes in urban form that might reduce exacerbating

factors such as urban heat island effects.

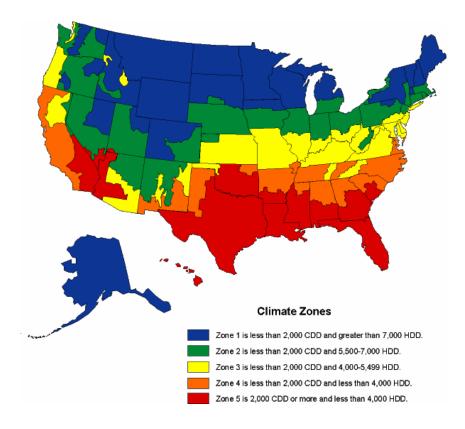
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Box 2.1 provides insight into the recent trends in the intensity of energy consumption in residential and commercial buildings in the United States. There are a number of underlying trends, such as an ongoing population shift to the South and West, increases in the floor space per building occupant in both the residential and commercial sectors, and

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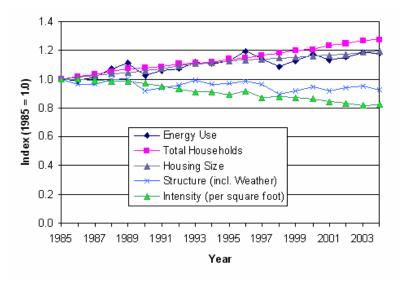


**Figure 2.1. U.S. Climate Zones** (Zones 1-3 are "North," Zones 4-5 are "South"). Source: Energy Information Administration, *Residential Energy Consumption Survey* (EIA 2001c).

improvements in building shell performance, the balance of which have led to overall reductions in the intensity in the use of fuels for heating. Climate warming could be expected to reinforce this trend. At the same time, the demographic shifts to the South and West, increases in floorspace per capita, and electrification of the residential and commercial sectors all have increased the use of electricity, especially for space cooling. This trend also would be reinforced by climate warming.

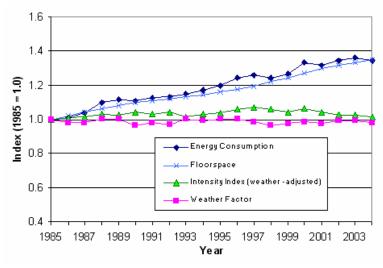
Amato et al. (2005) observe that many studies worldwide have analyzed the climate sensitivity of energy use in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings and have used these estimated relationships to explain energy consumption and to assist energy suppliers with short-term planning (Quayle and Diaz, 1979; Le Comte and Warren, 1981; Warren and LeDuc, 1981; Downton et al., 1988; Badri, 1992; Lehman, 1994; Lam, 1998; Yan, 1998; Morris, 1999; Considine, 2000; Pardo et al., 2002). The number of studies in

Box 2.1. Trends in the Energy Intensity of Residential and Commercial Buildings.



Box Figure 1. Energy Use, Activity, Intensity and Other Factors in the Residential Sector - Delivered Energy, 1985-2004

Total energy use of delivered energy in households increased from 1985 to 2004. While both the number of households and housing size has increased over the period, the weather-adjusted intensity of energy use has fallen. Heating and cooling energy use declined, while appliance energy use increased enough to offset the declines in other end-uses. EIA (2006) projects an increase in building residential floorspace per household of 14% during the period 2003-2030.



Box Figure 2. Commercial Energy Use, Activity, Weather, and Intensity - Delivered Energy

Estimated total floor space in commercial buildings grew 35% during the 1985-2004 period, while weather-adjusted energy intensity remained about constant. Declines in 1991 and since 2001 resulted from recessions, during which commercial vacancies increased and the utilization of occupied space fell. EIA (2006) projects the ratio of commercial floorspace per member of the U.S. labor force to increase by 23% in the period 2003-2030.

(Data from the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, "Indicators of Energy Intensity in the United States," http://intensityindicators.pnl.gov/index.stm) and from EIA's Annual Energy Outlook (EIA 2006).

1	the U.S. analyzing the effects of climate <i>change</i> on energy demand, however, is much
2	more limited. One of the very early national-level studies was of the electricity sector,
3	projecting that between 2010 and 2055 climate change could increase capacity addition
4	requirements by 14-23% relative to non-climate change scenarios, requiring investments
5	of \$200–300 billion (\$1990) (Linder and Inglis, 1989). The Linder-Inglis results are
6	similar to electricity findings in most of the studies that followed. Subsequently, a
7	number of studies have attempted an "all fuels" approach and have focused on whether
8	net national energy demand (decreases in heating balanced against increases in cooling)
9	would increase or decrease in residential and commercial buildings as a result of climate
10	change (e.g., Loveland and Brown, 1990; Rosenthal et al., 1995; Belzer et al., 1996;
11	Hadley et al., 2004, 2006; Mansur et al., 2005; Scott et al., 2005; Huang, 2006). The
12	picture here is more clouded. While the direction of regional projections in these studies
13	are reasonably similar, the net impacts at the national level differ among studies and
14	depend on the relative balance of several effects, including scenarios used, assumptions
15	about demographic trends and building stock, market penetration of equipment
16	(especially air conditioning), and consumer behavior.
17	
18	In the subsections that follow, this chapter discusses the impacts of climate warming on
19	space heating in buildings (divided between residential and commercial), space cooling
20	(again divided between residential and commercial buildings), net energy demand,
21	market penetration of air conditioning, the likely effects of adaptation actions such as
22	increased energy efficiency and changes to urban form, which could reduce the impacts
23	of some compounding effects such as urban heat islands.
24	
25 26 27	2.3 EFFECTS OF CLIMATE WARMING ON ENERGY USE FOR SPACE HEATING
28	2.3.1 Residential Space Heating
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30	Temperature increases resulting from global warming are almost certain to reduce the
31	amount of energy needed for space heating in residential buildings in the United States.

- 1 The amount of the reduction in projected in U.S. studies has varied, mainly depending on
- 2 the amount of temperature change in the climate scenario, the calculated sensitivity of the
- 3 building stock to warming, and the adjustments allowed in the building stock over time
- 4 (Table 2.3).

Table 2.3. Effects of Climate Change on Residential Space Heating in U.S. Energy Studies

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Study: Author(s) and Date	Change in Energy Consumption (%)	Temperature Change (*C) and Date for Change	
National Studies			
Rosenthal et al 1995	-14%	+1°C (2010)	
Scott et al. 2005	-4% to -20%	+About 1.7°C median (varies from 0.4° to 3.2°C regionally and seasonally) (2020)	
Mansur et al. 2005	-2.8% for electricity-only customers; -2% for gas customers; -5.7% for fuel oil customers	+1° C January temperatures (2050)	
Huang 2006	varies by loc. and bldg. vintage average HVAC changes: -12% heating in 2020 -24% heating in 2050 -34% heating in 2080	18 US locations, (varies by location, month, and time of day)  Average winter temperature increases  1.3° C in 2020  2.6° C in 2050  4.1° C in 2080	
Regional Studies			
Loveland and Brown 1990	-44 to -73%	3.7°C to 4.7°C (Individual Cities) (No Date Given)	
Amato et al 2005	-7 to -14%, natural gas -15 to 20%, fuel oil	-8.7% in HDD (2020)	
(Massachusetts)	-15 to -25%, natural gas -15 to -33%, fuel oil	-11.5% in HDD (2030)	
Ruth and Lin 2006 (Maryland) -2.5% natural gas -2.7% fuel oil		1.7°C-2.2°C (2025)	

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In most cases where it is available, the fuel of choice for residential and commercial space heating is natural gas, which is burned directly in a furnace in the building in question. There are some exceptions. In the Northeast, some of these savings will be in fuel oil, since fuel oils still provides about 36 % of residential space heating in that region, according to the 2001 RECS. In some other parts of the country with relatively

1 short, mild winters or relatively inexpensive electricity or both, electricity has a 2 significant share of the space heating market. For example, electricity accounted for 15% 3 of residential heating energy in the Pacific Census Division and 19% in the South 4 Atlantic Census Division in 2001 (EIA 2001) 5 6 In Mansur et al., the impact of climate change on the consumption of energy in 7 residential heating is relatively modest. When natural gas is available, the marginal 8 impact of a 1°C increase in January temperatures in their model is predicted to reduce 9 residential electricity consumption by 2.8% for electricity-only consumers and 2% for 10 natural gas customers. 11 12 Scott et al., 2005, working directly with residential end uses in a building energy 13 simulation model, projected about a 4% to 20% reduction in the demand for residential 14 space heating energy by 2020, given no change in the housing stock and winter 15 temperature increases ranging from 0.4° to 3.2° C, or roughly 6% to 10% decrease in 16 space heating per degree C increase. This is roughly twice the model sensitivity of 17 Mansur et al., 2005. The Scott, et al. analysis utilized the projections seasonal ranges of 18 temperatures in Table 2.1 (Ruosteenoja et al., 2003). Huang, 2006 also found decreases 19 in average energy use for space heating. While these varied considerably by location and 20 building vintage as well, the overall average was about a 12% average site energy 21 reduction for space heating in 2020, or 9.2% per 1°C. 22 23 The regional level studies show similar effects, with a sensitivity of about 6% to 10% per 24 1°C in temperature change among the studies using building models and only about 1% 25 per degree 1°C in studies using econometrics, in part possibly due to reactive increases in 26 energy consumption (energy consumption "take-backs") as heating energy costs decline 27 with warmer weather in this type of model, but also due to choice of region. In two 28 studies with many of the same researchers and using very similar methodologies Amato 29 et al., 2005 projected about a 7% to 33% decline in space heating in the 2020s in 30 Massachusetts, which has a long heating season, while Ruth and Lin, 2006 projected only 31 a 2%-3% decline space heating energy during the same time frame in Maryland, which

has a much milder heating season and many days where warmer weather would have no
 impact on heating degree-days or heating demand.

## 2.3.2 Commercial Space Heating

Although historically, the intensity of energy consumption in the commercial sector has not followed the declining trend in the residential sector (Box 2.1), the effects of climate warming on space heating are in the commercial sector (Table 2.4) are projected in most studies to be similar to those in the residential sector.

Belzer, et al., 1996 used the detailed CBECS data set on U.S. commercial buildings, and calculated the effect of building characteristics and temperature on energy consumption

Table 2.4. Effects of Climate Change on Commercial Space Heating in U.S. Energy Studies

Study: Author(s) and Date	Change in Energy Consumption (%)	Temperature Change (*C) and Date for Change	
Rosenthal et al 1995	-16%	+1°C (2010)	
Belzer et al. 1996	-29.0% to -35.0%	+3.9°C (2030)	
Scott et al. 2005	-5% to -24%	About 1.7°C median (varies from 0.4° to 3.2°C regionally and seasonally) (2020)	
Mansur et al. 2005	-2.6% electricity, -3% natural gas, -11.8% fuel oil	+1°C January temperature (2050)	
Huang 2006	Varies by location and building vintage; average heating savings: -12% in 2020 -22% in 2050 -33% in 2080	5 US locations, (varies by location, month, and time of day) Average winter temperature increases 1.3° C in 2020 2.6° C in 2050 4.1° C in 2080	
Regional Studies			
Loveland and Brown 1990	-37.3% to -58.8%	3.7°C to 4.7°C (Individual cities) (no date given)	
Scott et al. 1994 (Minneapolis and Phoenix)  -26.0% (Minneapolis); -43.1% (Phoenix)		3.9°C (no date)	
Amato et al. 2005	-7 to -8%	-8.7% in HDD (2020)	
(Massachusetts)	-8 to -13%	-11.5% in HDD (2030)	
Ruth and Lin 2006 (Maryland)	-2.7% natural gas	1.7°C-2.2°C (2025)	

1	in all U.S. commercial buildings. With building equipment and shell efficiencies frozen			
2	at 1990 baseline levels and a 3.9°C temperature change, the Belzer model predicted a			
3	decrease in annual space heating energy requirements of 29% to 35%, or about 7.4% to			
4	9.0% per 1°C. Mansur et al., 2005 projected that a 1°C increase in January temperatures			
5	would produce a reduction in electricity consumption of about 3% for electricity for all-			
6	electric customers. The warmer temperatures also would reduce natural gas consumption			
7	by 3% and fuel oil demand by a sizeable 12% per 1°C. This larger impact on fuel oil			
8	consumption likely occurs because warming has its largest impacts on heating degree			
9	days in the Northeast and in some other northern tier states where fuel oil is most			
10	prevalent. Another factor may be the fact that commercial buildings that use fuel oil may			
11	be older vintage buildings whose energy consumption is more sensitive to outdoor			
12	temperatures. In Huang, 2006 similar to its residential findings, this study showed that			
13	the impact of climate change on commercial building energy use varies greatly depending			
14	on climate and building type. For the entire US commercial sector, the simulations			
15	showed 12% decrease in energy use for space heating or 9.2% per 1°C.			
16				
17	Again, the regional level studies produce more dramatic decreases in energy demand in			
18	colder regions than in warmer ones; however, the differences are less between cold			
19	regions and warm regions because commercial buildings are more dominated by internal			
20	loads such as lighting and equipment than are residential buildings.			
21				
<ul><li>22</li><li>23</li><li>24</li><li>25</li></ul>	2. 4 EFFECTS OF CLIMATE WARMING ON ENERGY USE FOR SPACE COOLING			
26	2.4.1 Residential Space Cooling			
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28	According to all studies surveyed for this chapter, climate warming is expected to			
29	significantly increase the energy demand in all regions for space cooling, which is			
30	provided almost entirely by electricity. The effect in most studies is non-linear with			
31	respect to temperature and humidity, such that the percentage impact increases more than			
32	proportionately with increases in temperature (Sailor, 2001). Some researchers have			

- 1 projected that increases in cooling eventually could dominate decreases in heating as
- 2 temperatures continue to rise (Rosenthal et al., 1995), although that effect is not
- 3 necessarily observed in empirical studies for the temperature increases projected in the
- 4 United States during the 21<sup>st</sup> century (Table 2.5).

Table 2.5. Effects of Climate Change on Residential Space Cooling in U.S. Energy Studies

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Study: Author(s) and Date	Change in Energy Consumption (%)	Temperature Change (*C) and Date for Change	
National Studies			
Rosenthal et al 1995	+20%	+1°C (2010)	
Scott et al. 2005	+8% to +39%	About 1.7°C median (varies from 0.4° to 3.2°C regionally and seasonally) (2020)	
Mansur et al. 2005	+4% (electricity only customers); +6% (natural gas customers); +15.3% (Fuel oil customers)	+1° C July Temperature (2050)	
Huang 2006	varies by location and building vintage average HVAC changes: +38% elec 2020 +89% elec 2050 +158% elec 2080	18 US locations (varies by location, month, and time of day) Average summer temperature increases: 1.7° C in 2020 3.4° C in 2050 5.3° C in 2080	
Regional Studies			
Loveland and Brown 1990	+55.7% to 146.7%	3.7°C to 4.7°C (Individual cities) (No date given)	
Sailor 2001 +0.9% (New York) to +11.6% (Florida) per capita		2°C (no date given)	
Sailor and Pavlova 2003 (Four states) +13% to +29%		1°C (no date given)	
Amato et al 2005	+6.8% in summer,	+12.1% CDD (2020)	
(Massachusetts)	+10% to +40% (summer)	+24.1% CDD (2030)	
Ruth and Lin 2006 (Maryland)	+2.5% in May-Sep, (high energy prices); +24% (low energy prices)	1.7°C-2.2°C (2025)	

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Electricity demand for cooling was projected to increase by roughly 5% to 20% per 1°C for the temperature increases in the national studies surveyed. This can differ by location and customer class. For example, Mansur et al., 2005 projected that when July temperatures were increased by 1°C, electricity-only customers increased their electricity consumption by 5%, natural gas customers increased their demand for electricity by 6%,

1 and fuel oil customers bought 15% more electricity. The impact on all electricity 2 consumption is somewhat lower because electricity also is used for a variety of non-3 climate-sensitive loads in all regions and for space heating and water heating in some 4 regions. Looking specifically at residential sector cooling demand (rather than all 5 electricity) with a projected 2020 building stock, Scott et al., 2005 projected nationally 6 that an increase of 0.4° to 3.2°C summer temperatures (Table 2.5) results in a 7 corresponding 8% to 39% increase in national annual cooling energy consumption, or 8 roughly a 12% to 20% increase per 1°C. Huang's, 2006 projections show an even 9 stonger increase of about a 38% increase in 2020 for a 1.7°C increase in temperature, or 10 22.4% per 1°C, perhaps in part because of differences in the in the details of locations 11 and types of new buildings in particular, which tend to have more cooling load and less 12 heating load. 13 14 Among the state studies, Loveland and Brown, 1990 found very high residential cooling 15 sensitivities in a number of different locations across the country. Cooling energy 16 consumption increased by 55.7% (Fort Worth, from a relatively high base) up to 146% 17 (Seattle, from a very low base) for a temperature increase of 3.7°C to 4.7°C. This implies 18 about a 17% to 31% increase in cooling energy consumption per degree C. Using a 19 similar model in the special case of California, where space heating is already dominated 20 by space cooling, Mendelsohn, 2003 projected that total energy expenditures for 21 electricity used for space cooling would increase non-linearly and that net overall energy 22 expenditures would increase with warming in the range of 1.5°C, more for higher 23 temperatures. In such mild cooling climates, relatively small increases in temperature 24 can have a large impact on air-conditioning energy use by reducing the potentials for 25 natural ventilation or night cooling. The residential electricity results in Sailor, 2001, 26 Sailor and Pavlova, 2003 for several locations, and Amato et al., 2005 for Massachusetts 27 are consistent with the national studies, with the expected direction of climate effects and 28 about the expected magnitude, but the Ruth et al., 2006 results for the more southerly 29 state of Maryland turn out to be very sensitive to electricity prices, ranging from +2.5% at 30 high prices (about 8 cents per kWh, 1990\$) prices to +24% if prices were low (about 6 31 cents per kWh, 1990\$).

## 2.4.2 Commercial Space Cooling

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U.S. empirical studies also have projected a significant increase in energy demanded for
 space cooling in commercial buildings as a result of climate warming, as summarized in

6 Table 2.6.

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The commercial sector empirical studies show that the percentage increases in space cooling energy consumption tend to be less sensitive to temperature than are the corresponding energy increases in the residential sector for the same temperature

increase. For example, Rosenthal et al., 1995 found residential cooling increased 20%

but commercial sector cooling only 15% for a 1°C temperature increase. The increase in

Scott et al., 2005 had a range of 9.4% to 15% per 1°C for commercial and 12% to 20%

per 1°C for residential customers. As with heating, in both cases this is likely to be in

part because of the relatively greater sensitivity of space conditioning to internal loads in

commercial buildings. Mansur et al., 2005 econometric results were less clear in this

regard, possibly because geographic and behavioral differences among customer classes

tend to obscure the overall effects of the buildings themselves. With building equipment

and shell efficiencies frozen at 1990 baseline levels, Belzer et al., 1996 found impacts in

the same range as the other studies. A 3.9°C temperature change decreased annual space

cooling energy requirements by 53.9% or about 9.0% to 13.8% per 1°C. Huang, 2006

also showed strong increases in cooling energy consumption at the national level. In

2020, his average increase was 17% for a 1.7°C temperature increase, or +10% per 1°C.

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State-level studies generally show impacts that are in the same range as their national

26 counterparts. Analyses performed with building energy models generally indicate a 10%

27 to 15% electric energy increase for cooling per 1°C. The econometric studies also show

28 increases, but because the numerator is generally the change in consumption of all

electricity (including lighting and plug loads, for example) rather than just that used for

space cooling, the percentage increases are much smaller.

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# **Table 2.6.** Effects of Climate Change on Commercial Space Cooling in U.S. Energy Studies

Study: Author(s) and Date	Change in Energy Consumption (%)	Temperature Change (*C) and Date for Change	Comments
National Studies			
Rosenthal et al., 1995	+15%	+1°C (2010)	Energy-weighted national averages of census division-level data
Belzer et al., 1996	+53.9%	+3.9°C (2030)	
Scott et al., 2005	+6% to +30%	About 1.7°C median (varies from 0.4° to 3.2°C regionally and seasonally) (2020)	Varies by region
Mansur et al., 2005	+4.6% (electric-only customers); -2% (natural gas customers); +13.8% (fuel oil customers)	+1° C July temperature (2050)	A negative effect on electricity use for natural gas customers is statistically significant at he 10% level, but unexplained
Huang. 2006	varies by location, building type and vintage average HVAC changes: +17% in 2020 +36% in 2050 +53% in 2080	5 US locations (varies by location, month, and time of day) Average summer temperature increases: 1.7° C in 2020 3.4° C in 2050 5.3° C in 2080	
Regional Studies			
Loveland and Brown, 1990 (General office building in 6 individual cities)	+34.9% in Chicago; +75.0% in Seattle	3.7°C to 4.7°C (Individual cities) (no date given)	
Scott et al., 1994 (small office bldgs in specific cities)	+58.4% in Minneapolis; -36.3% in Phoenix	3.9°C (no date)	
Sailor, 2001 (7 out of 8 energy- intensive states; one state - Washington - used electricity for space heating)	+1.6% in New York; +5.0% in Florida ( per capita)	2°C (No date given)	
Amato et al., 2005 (Massachusetts)	+2% to +5% summer +4% to +10% summer	+12.1% CDD (2020) +24.1% CDD (2030)	Monthly per employee
Ruth and Lin, 2006 (Maryland)	+10% per employee in Apr-Oct,	+ 2.2° (2025)	

2.4.3 Other Considerations: Market Penetration of Air Conditioning, Heat Pumps (All-Electric Heating and Cooling) and Changes in Humidity

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Although the effects of air conditioning market penetration were not explicitly identified, the late-1990s econometrically-based cross sectional studies of Mendelsohn and colleagues might be argued to account for increased long run market saturations of air conditioning. (This is because warmer locations in the cross sectional studies also have higher market saturations of air conditioning as well as higher usage rates.) However, more recent studies have examined the effects directly. In one example, Sailor and Pavlova, 2003 have projected that potential increases in market penetration of air conditioning in the residential sector in response to warming might have an effect on electricity consumption larger than the warming itself. They projected that although the temperature-induced increases in market penetration of air conditioning had little or no effect on residential energy consumption in cities like Houston (93.6% market saturation), in cooler cities like Buffalo (25.1% market saturation) and San Francisco (20.9% market saturation), the extra market penetration of air conditioning induced by a 20% increase in CDD more than doubled the energy use due to temperature alone. Using cross-sectional data and econometric techniques Mendelsohn, 2003) and Mansur et al., 2005 also have estimated the effects of the market penetration of space cooling into the energy market. Mansur et al., found that warmer winter temperatures were associated with higher likelihood of all-electric space conditioning systems in the sample survey of buildings in EIA's RECS and CBECS datasets. In warmer regions they noted that electricity has a high marginal cost but a low fixed cost, making it desirable in moderate winters. Electric heating is currently more prevalent in the South than in the North (EIA, 2001). In general, however, the effects of adaptive market response of air conditioning to climate change have not been studied thoroughly in the United States. High atmospheric humidity is known to have an adverse effect on the efficiency of cooling systems in buildings in the context of climate change because of the energy penalty associated with condensing water. This was demonstrated for a small commercial building modeled with the DOE-2 building energy simulation model in Scott

- et al., 1994, where the impact of an identical temperature increase created a much greater
- 2 energy challenge for two relatively humid locations (Minneapolis and Shreveport),
- 3 compared with two drier locations (Seattle and Phoenix). The humidity effect does not
- 4 always show up in empirical studies (Belzer et al., 1996), but Mansur et al., 2005
- 5 modeled the effect of high humidity by introducing a rainfall as a proxy variable for
- 6 humidity into their cross-sectional equations. In their residential sector, a one-inch
- 7 increase in monthly precipitation resulted in more consumption by natural gas users of
- 8 both electricity (7%) and of natural gas (2%). In their commercial sector, a one-inch
- 9 increase in July precipitation resulted in more consumption of natural gas (6%) and of
- 10 fuel oil (40%).

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## 2.5 OVERALL EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON ENERGY USE IN BUILDINGS

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### 2.5.1 Annual Energy Consumption

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- Many of the U.S. studies of the impact of climate change on energy use in buildings deal
- with both heating and cooling and attempt to come to a "bottom line" net result for either
- total energy consumed or total primary energy consumed (that is, both the amount of
- 20 natural gas and fuel oil consumed directly in buildings and the amount of natural gas, fuel
- oil, and coal consumed indirectly to produce the electricity consumed in buildings.)
- 22 Some studies only deal with total energy consumption or total electricity consumption
- and do not decompose end uses as has been done in this chapter. Recent studies show
- similar net effects. Both net delivered energy and net primary energy consumption
- 25 increase or decrease only a few percent; however, there is a robust result that, in the
- absence of an energy efficiency policy directed at space cooling, climate change would
- 27 cause a significant increase in the demand for electricity in the United States, which
- would require the building of additional electric generation (and probably transmission
- 29 facilities) worth many billions of dollars.

1 In much of the United States, annual energy used for space heating dominates energy use 2 for space cooling, so net use of delivered energy would be reduced by global warming. 3 Table 2.7 summarizes the results from a number of U.S. studies of the effects of climate 4 change on net energy demand in U.S. residential and commercial buildings. The studies 5 shown in Table 2.7 do not entirely agree with each other because of differences in 6 methods, time frame, scenario, and geography. However, they are all broadly consistent 7 with the finding that, at the national level, expected temperature increases through the first third of 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Table 2.1) would not significantly increase or decrease net 8 9 energy use in buildings. The Linder and Inglis, 1989 projections concerning increases in 10 electricity consumption have been generally confirmed by later studies. However, there 11 are geographical differences. For example, Sailor's state level econometric analyses 12 (Sailor and Muñoz, 1997, Sailor, 2001, Sailor and Pavlova, 2003) projected a range of 13 effects. A temperature increase of 2°C would be associated with an 11.6% increase in 14 residential per capita electricity used in Florida (a summer-peaking state dominated by air 15 conditioning demand), 5% increase per 1°C warming. On the other hand, a 7.2% 16 decrease in Washington state (which uses electricity extensively for heating and is a 17 winter-peaking system), about a 3% decrease per 1°C warming. 18 19 The Rosenthal et al., 1995 projections of reduced net total delivered energy consumption 20 and energy expenditure reductions have not been confirmed. Results of the more recent 21 studies follow. 22 23 Scott et al., 2005 projected that overall energy consumption in U.S. residential and 24 commercial buildings is likely to decrease by about 2% to 7% in 2020 (0.4°C to 3.2°C 25 warming). This amounts to about 2% per 1°C warming, which is in the same direction of 26 the Rosenthal, et al. results, but smaller. This effect takes into account expected changes 27 in the building stock, but not increased market penetration of air conditioning that

# **Table 2.7. Climate Change Effects in Combined Residential-Commercial Studies** and Combined Results from Sector Studies

Study: Author(s) and Date	Change in Energy Consumption (%)	Temperature Change (*C) and Date for Change	Comments
National Studies			
Linder-Inglis, 1989	+0,8 to +1.6% annual electricity consumption; +3.4 to +5.1% annual electricity	0.8°C to 1.5°C (2010)	Results available for 47 state and sub-state
	consumption.	3.5°C to 5.0°C (2050)	service areas
Rosenthal, et al., 1995	-11% annual energy load; balance of heating and cooling nationally.	1°C (2010)	Space heating and air conditioning combined
Mendelsohn, 2001	+1% to +22% Residential expenditures -11% to +47% Commercial Expenditures	1.5°C -5°C (2060)	Takes into account energy price forecasts, market penetration of air conditioning.  Precipitation increases 7%.
Scott et al., 2005	-2% to -7% (Residential and commercial heating and cooling consumption combined. Energy used for cooling increases, heating energy decreases.	About +1.7°C median (varies from +0.4° to +3.2°C regionally and seasonally) (2020)	Varies by region. Allows for growth in residential and commercial building stock, but not increased adoption of air conditioning in response to warming
Mansur et al., 2005	+2% Residential expenditures, 0% commercial expenditures	+1°C Annual temperature (2050)	Takes into account energy price forecasts, market penetration of air conditioning.  Precipitation increases 7%.
Hadley et al., 2004, 2006	Heating -6%, cooling +10% +2% primary energy  Heating -11% cooling +22% -1.5% primary energy	+1.2°C (2025) +3.4°C (2025)	Primary energy, residential and commercial combined. Allows for growth in residential and commercial building stock.
Huang. 2006	Varies by location, building type and vintage average HVAC changes: -8% site, +1% source in 2020 -13% site, +0% source in 2050 -15% site, +4% source in 2080	18 US locations (varies by city, month, & time of day); average summer temperature increases: 1.7° C in 2020 3.4° C in 2050 5.3° C in 2080	
Regional Studies			
Loveland and Brown, 1990	+10% to +35% HVAC load in general offices; -22.0% to +48.1% HVAC load in single-family houses	+3.2°C to +4.0°C (2xCO <sub>2</sub> , no date)	Multiple state study: results are for individual areas
Sailor, 2001 (8 energy-intensive states; electricity only)	Residential: -7.2% in Washington to +11.6 in Florida Commercial: -0.3% (Washington) to +5% in Florida	+2°C (Derived from IPCC; but no date given)	

1 specifically result from climate change. For a 1°C increase in year-round temperatures, 2 Mansur et al., 2005 provide only projections of net energy expenditures—a 2% increase 3 in total residential energy expenditures, and no net change in commercial energy demand 4 for the year 2060. In residences, electricity expenditures (presumably mainly for cooling) 5 generally increase, while use of other fuels generally decreases. Projected commercial 6 sector expenditures show increases in electricity expenditures that are almost exactly 7 offset by declines in the expenditures for natural gas and fuel oil. Since the Mansur et al. 8 analysis claims to estimate long-term climate elasticities that include fuel choices and 9 comfort choices as well as the direct effect of warmer temperatures on building energy 10 loads, the Mansur et al. results likely include at least some of the increased adoption of 11 air conditioning that would be expected in residences in currently cooler climates as 12 temperatures increase. This seems to be the case, since the residential sector electricity 13 use is projected to grow faster than electricity use in the commercial sector, where air 14 conditioning is more common and internal loads such as lighting dominate electricity use. 15 Hadley et al., 2004, 2006 also projects cooling energy consumption increasing and 16 heating energy consumption decreasing. The projected national net effect on delivered 17 energy consumption is slightly negative; but the impact on primary energy consumption 18 is a slight increase. For all three studies, the impact of 1°C to 2°C warming is small. At 19 the individual city level, Loveland and Brown, 1990 projected lower residential energy 20 load in northern cities such as Chicago, Minneapolis, and Seattle and increased energy 21 loads in southern cities such as Charleston, Ft. Worth, and Knoxville. A general office 22 building increased showed increased overall energy loads in all six cities. 23 24 Most recently, Huang, 2006 used results from the HADCM3 global climate model that 25 project the changes in temperature, daily temperature range, cloud cover, and relative 26 humidity by month for 0.5° grids of the earth's surface to produce future weather files for 27 18 US locations. under four IPCC climate change scenarios (A1FI, A2M, B1, and B2M) 28 for three time periods (2020, 2050, and 2080). These weather files were then used with 29 the DOE-2 building energy simulation program to calculate the changes in space 30 conditioning energy use for a large set of prototypical residential and commercial 31 buildings to represent the US building stock. This study looked in detail at the technical

1 impact of climate change on space conditioning energy use, but did not address socio-2 economic factors or adaptive strategies to climate change. 3 4 The simulations showed the overall impact of climate change by 2020 on the US building 5 stock would be a 7% reduction in site energy use, corresponding to a 1% reduction in 6 source energy, when the generation and transmission losses for electricity are taken into 7 account. The savings were noticeably larger for residential buildings (9 % reduction in 8 site and 2% reduction in source energy use) than for commercial buildings (7% reduction 9 in site, but a 3% increase in source energy use). The counterbalancing effect of heating 10 savings in the north tended to mask the appreciable impact that climate change can have 11 on cooling-dominant locations in the south. For example, cooling energy use in single-12 family houses in Miami and New Orleans was expected to increase by around 20%. In 13 the North or West, the percentage increase of cooling was actually much larger, but due 14 to the short cooling season, the savings were more than offset by the reductions in heating 15 energy use. For example, cooling energy use was expected to go up by 100% in San 16 Francisco, 60% in Boston and Chicago, and 50% in New York and Denver. 17 18 Because of their larger internal heat gains and less exposure to the outdoors, commercial 19 buildings tend to require less heating and more cooling than residential houses. 20 Consequently, some building types such as large hotels and supermarkets showed an 21 increase in site energy use with climate change, and almost all showed increases in 22 source energy use. In Los Angeles and Houston, commercial building energy use would 23 increase by 2% and 4% in site energy use, and by 15% and 25% in source energy use. 24 25 Huang 2006 also looked at the impact of climate change out to 2050 and 2080, where 26 there are cumulative effects of further temperature increases coupled with newer, tighter 27 buildings that require much less heating and proportionally more cooling than older 28 existing buildings. By 2050, heating loads were expected to be reduced by 28%, and 29 cooling loads increased by 85% due to climate change, averaged across all building types 30 and climates. By 2080, heating loads were expected to be reduced by nearly half (45%), 31 but cooling loads were expected to more than double (165%) due to climate change,

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averaged across all building types and climates. With falling energy use for heating and rising energy use for cooling, by 2080 the ratio of cooling to heating energy use would be 60% in site energy, and close to 180% in source energy. There are also a number of specific regional-level studies with similar outcomes. For Massachusetts in 2020, Amato et al., 2005 projected a 6.6 % decline in annual heating fuel consumption (8.7% decrease in heating degree days—overall temperature change not given) and a 1.9% increase in summer electricity consumption (12% increase in annual cooling degree-days). Amato et al. noted that per capita residential and commercial energy demand in Massachusetts are sensitive to temperature and that a range of climate warming scenarios may noticeably decrease winter heating fuel and electricity demands and increase summer electricity demands. For 2030, the estimated residential summer monthly electricity demand projected increases averaged about 20% to 40%. Wintertime monthly natural gas demand declined by 10% to 20%. Fuel oil demand was down about 15% to 30%. For the commercial sector, electricity consumption rose about 6% to 10%. Winter natural gas demand declined by 6% to 14%. The Hadley et al., 2006 study used the DD-NEMS energy model. Two advantages of this approach are that it provides a direct comparison at the regional level to official forecasts and that it provides a fairly complete picture of energy supply, demand, and endogenous price response in a market model. One disadvantage is that the DD-NEMS model only forecasted out to 2025 in their work (now, 2030), which is only on the earliest part of the period where climate change is expected to substantially affect energy demand. Hadley's regional results were broadly similar to those in Scott, et al., 2005. For example, they showed decreases in energy demand for heating, more than offsetting the increased demand for cooling in the north (New England, Mid-Atlantic, West North Central and especially East North Central Census Division). In the rest of the country, the increase in cooling was projected to dominate. Nationally, the site energy savings were shown to be greater than the site energy increases, but because of energy losses in electricity generation, primary energy consumption (source energy) increased by about 3% by 2025, driving up the demand for coal and driving down the demand for natural gas. Also,

because electricity costs more than natural gas per delivered Btu, the increase in total energy cost per year was found to be about \$15 billion (2001 dollars).

### 2.5.2 Peak Electricity Consumption

Studies published to date project that temperature increases with global warming would increase peak demand for electricity in most regions of the country. The amount of the increase in peak demand would vary with the region. Study findings vary with the region or regions covered and the study methodology—in particular, whether the study allows for changes in the building stock and increased market penetration of air conditioning in response to warmer conditions. The Pacific Northwest, which has significant market penetration of electric space heat, relatively low market penetration of air conditioning, and a winter-peaking electric system, is likely to be an exception to the general rule of increased peak demand. The Pacific Northwest power system annual and peak demand would likely be lower as a result of climate warming (Northwest Power and Conservation Council, 2005).

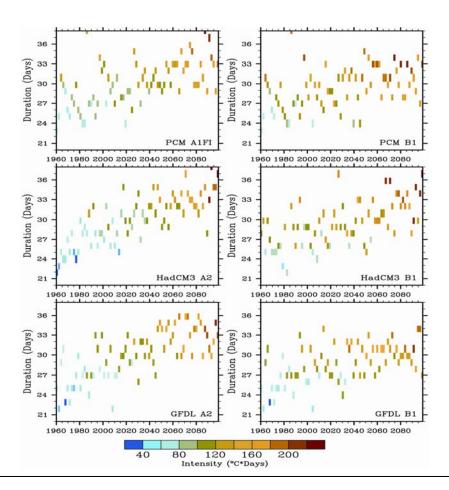
Concern for peak electricity demand begins with the earliest studies of the climate impacts on of building energy demand. Linder and Inglis, 1989, in their multiregional study of regional electricity demand, found that although annual electricity consumption increased from  $+3.4\,$  to +5.1%, peak electricity demand would increase between 8.6% and 13.8%, and capacity requirements between 13.1% and 19.7%, costing tens of billions of dollars.

One of the other few early studies of the effects of climate change on regional electricity was conducted by Baxter and Calandri, 1992. Baxter and Calandri, 1992 used degree day changes from General Circulation Model (GCM) projections for 2010 to adjust the baseline heating and cooling energy uses in residential and commercial models that were derived from building energy simulations of prototypical buildings. Two climate change scenarios were considered - a low temperature increase scenario of 0.72°C in the winter, 0.60°C in the spring and fall, and 0.48°C in the summer, and a high temperature increase

1 scenario of 2.28°C in the winter, 1.90°C in the spring and fall, and 1.58°C in the summer. 2 The results were presented for the 5 major utility districts, and showed a 0.28% decrease 3 in heating coupled with a 0.55% increase in cooling energy use for the low temperature 4 increase scenario, and a 0.85% decrease in heating coupled with a 2.54% increase in 5 cooling energy use for the high temperature increase scenario. The state-wide impacts on 6 energy demand were a 0.34-1.51% increase in cooling electricity demand for the low 7 temperature increase scenario, and a 2.57-2.99% increase in cooling electricity demand 8 for the high temperature increase scenario. 9 10 The authors concluded that the impacts of climate change appear moderate on a 11 percentage basis, but because California's electricity system is so large, moderate 12 percentage increase result in sizeable absolute impacts. For energy use, the 0.6% 13 and 2.6% increases for the two scenarios signify increases of 1741 GWh and 7516 GWh. 14 For electricity demand, the 0.34-1.51% and 2.57-2.99% increases correspond to increased 15 peak demand by 221-967 MW and 1648-1916 MW. To put these impacts in perspective, 16 uncertainties in the state's economic growth rate would have had comparable or larger 17 impacts on electricity demand over this 20-year projected estimation. Actual growth in 18 non-coincident peak demand between 1990 and 2004 was actually 8,650 MW for total 19 end use load and 9,375 MW for gross generation (California Energy Commission, 2006). 20 21 Much more recently, using IPCC scenarios of climate change from the Hadley3, PCM, 22 and GFDL climate models downscaled for California, Franco and Sanstad, 2006 found 23 high correlation between the simple average daily temperature and daily peak electricity 24 demand in the California Independent System Operator region, which comprises most of 25 California. They evaluated three different periods: 2005-2034, 2035-2064, and 2070-26 2099. In the first period, depending on the scenario and model, peak summer demand 27 was projected to increase relative to a 1961-1990 base period before climate change by 28 1.0%-4.8%; in the second, 2.2%-10.9%; in the third, 5.6%-19.5%.

#### Box 2.2. California's Perspective on Climate Change

There has been probably more analysis done in California on the impact of climate change than anywhere else in the US (also see Box 5.1). The reasons for this are: 1) California's relative mild climate has been shown to be highly sensitive to climate change, not only in terms of temperature, but also in water resources, vegetation distribution, and coastal effects, and 2) California is vulnerable to shortfalls in peak electricity demand, as demonstrated by the electricity shortage in 2001 (albeit mostly man-made) and the recent record heat wave in July 2006 that covered the entire state and was of greater intensity and longer duration than previously recorded. The pioneering work by Baxter and Calandri, 1992 on global warming and electricity demand in California has already been described elsewhere in this report (see main text, this section). Mendelsohn, 2003 investigated the impact of climate change on energy expenditures, while Franco 2005, Franco and Sanstad, 2006, and Miller et al., 2006 have all focused on the impact of climate change on electricity demand. Miller et al. 2006 studied the probability of extreme weather phenomena under climate change scenarios for California and other Western US locations. Global Climate Models show that, over time, California heat waves will earlier onset, be more numerous, and increase in duration and intensity. "For example, extreme heat days in Los Angeles may increase from 12 to as many as 96 days per year by the end of the century, implying current-day heat wave conditions may extend the entire summer period". Overall, projected increases in extreme heat by 2070-2099 will approximately double the historical number of days for inland California cities, and up to four times for coastal California cities like Los Angeles and San Diego. The following plots show how the duration of extreme periods in California increases based on GCM results (from Miller et al., 2006)



1 A few U.S. regions could benefit from lower winter demand for energy in Canada. An 2 example is in the New England-Middle Atlantic-East North Central region of the country, 3 where Ontario and Québec in particular are intertied with the U.S. system, and where 4 demand on either side of the international border could influence the other side. For 5 example, since much of the space heating in Québec is provided by hydro-generated 6 electricity, a decline in energy demand in the province could free up a certain amount of 7 capacity for bordering U.S. regions in the winter. In Québec, the Ouranos organization 8 (Ouranos, 2004) has projected that net energy demand for heating and air conditioning 9 across all sectors could fall by 30 trillion Btus, or 9.4 % of 2001 levels by 2100. 10 Seasonality of demand also would change markedly. Residential heating in Québec 11 would fall by 15% and air conditioning (currently a small source of demand) would 12 increase nearly four-fold. Commercial-institutional heating demand was projected to fall 13 by 13% and commercial air conditioning demand to double. Peak (winter) electricity 14 demand in Québec would decline. Unfortunately, Québec's summer increase in air 15 conditioning demand would coincide with an increase of about 7% to 17% in the New 16 York metropolitan region (Ouranos, 2004), so winter savings might be only of limited 17 assistance in the summer cooling season, unless the water not used for hydroelectric 18 production in the winter could be stored until summer and the transmission capacity 19 existed to move the power south (Québec's hydroelectric generating capacity is sized for 20 the winter peak and should not be a constraint). 21 22 Although they discuss the impacts of climate change on peak electricity demand, Scott et 23 al., 2005 did not directly compute them. However, they performed a sensitivity analysis 24 using nuclear power's 90% average capacity factor for 2004 as an upper bound estimate 25 of base load power plant availability and projected that national climate sensitive demand 26 consumption (1.3 quads per year by 2080) would be equivalent of roughly 48 GW, or 48 27 base load power plants of 1,000 MW each. At the much lower 2003 average U.S. 28 generation/capacity ratio of 47%, 93 GW of additional generation capacity would be 29 required. This component of demand would be a factor in addition to any increases due 30 to additional climate-related market penetration of air conditioning and any other causes

of increased demand for electricity the national electrical system will be dealing with for the rest of the century.

# 2.6 ADAPTATION: INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND URBAN FORM

Although improving building energy efficiency should help the nation cope with impacts of climate change, there is relatively little specific empirical information available on the potential impacts of such improvements. Partly this is because it has been thought that warming would already be reducing energy consumption, so that the additional effects of energy efficiency have not been of much interest. Scott et al., 1994 and Belzer et al., 1996 concluded that in the commercial sector, very advanced building designs could increase the savings in heating energy due to climate warming alone. Loveland and Brown, 1990, Scott, et al., 1994, Belzer, et al., 1996 and Scott et al., 2005, all estimated the effects of energy-efficient buildings on energy consumption in the context of climate change, and also concluded that much of the increase in cooling energy consumption due to warming could be offset by increased energy efficiency.

Loveland and Brown, 1990, projected that changes leading to -50% lighting, +50% insulation, +75% window shading would reduce total energy use in residential buildings

insulation, +75% window shading would reduce total energy use in residential buildings by 31.5% to 44.4% in the context of a 3.2° to 4°C warming. This suggests that advanced building designs area promising approach to reducing energy consumption impacts of warming but further verification and follow-up research is needed both to confirm results and design strategies.

Scott et al.,1994, examined the impact of "advanced" building designs for a 48,000 square foot office building in the context of climate change in the DOE-2 building energy simulation model. The building envelope was assumed to reduce heat transfer by about 70% compared to the ASHRAE 90.1 standard. It included extra insulation in the walls and ceiling, reduction in window conductivity by a factor of 6, and window shading devices. The result was that at a 3.9°C increase in annual average temperature, instead of experiencing between an 8% savings in energy use (Minneapolis) and a 6.3% increase in

1 overall energy use (Phoenix), an advanced design building would experience a 57.2% to 2 59.8% decrease in energy used. In addition, the cooling energy impact was reversed in 3 sign-a 47% to 60% decrease instead of a 35% to 93% increase. Cost, however, was not 4 analyzed. 5 6 Belzer et al., 1996, projected that with a 3.9°C increase in annual average temperature, the 7 use of advanced buildings would increase the overall energy savings in EIA's year 2030 8 projected commercial building stock from 0.47 quads (20.4%) to 0.63 quads (27%). Use 9 of advanced building designs in the 2030 commercial building stock would increase the 10 overall energy savings by 1.15 quads (40.6%) relative to a 2030 building stock frozen at 11 1990 efficiency. The cooling component of building energy consumption was only 12 reduced rather than reversed by advanced designs in this study. 13 14 Finally, Scott et al., 2005, explicitly considered the savings that might be achieved under 15 the Department of Energy's energy efficiency programs as projected in August 2004 for 16 the EIA building stock in the year 2020 (temperature changes of about 0.4°C at the low 17 end to about 2.8°C at the high end). This is the only study to have estimated the national 18 effects of actual energy efficiency programs in the context of global warming. (The 19 analysis did not count any potential increase in energy demand due to additional climate 20 change-induced market penetration of air conditioning). The efficiency programs, which 21 mainly targeted heating lighting and appliances instead of cooling, were less effective if 22 the climate did not change; however, buildings still saved between 2.0 and 2.2 quads. 23 This was a savings of about 4.5%, which would more than offset the growth in 24 temperature-sensitive energy consumption due to increases in cooling and growth in 25 building stock between 2005 and 2020. 26 27 Except for Scott et al., 2005, even where studies purport to address adaptive response 28 (e.g., Loveland and Brown, 1990; Belzer et al., 1996; Mendelsohn, 2001), they generally 29 do not involve particular combinations of technologies to offset the effects of future 30 climate warming. Regionally, Franco and Sanstad, 2006 did note that the very aggressive 31 energy efficiency and demand response targets for California's investor-owned utilities

1 such as those recently enacted by the California Public Utilities Commission could, if 2 extended beyond the current 2013 horizon, provide substantial "cushioning" of the 3 electric power system against the effects of higher temperatures. 4 OTHER POSSIBLE EFFECTS, INCLUDING ENERGY USE IN 2.7 5 **KEY SECTORS** 6 7 8 Except for energy used to heat and cool buildings, which is thought to be about 6% of 9 energy use in industry (EIA, 2001), and is generally not analyzed for manufacturing 10 activities in existing studies, it is not thought that industrial energy demand is particularly 11 sensitive to climate change. For example, Amato et al., 2005 stated that "industrial 12 energy demand is not estimated since previous investigations (Elkhafif, 1996; Sailor and 13 Munoz, 1997) and our own findings indicate that it is non-temperature-sensitive." Ruth 14 and Lin, 2006 observe that in contrast to residential households, which use about 58% of 15 their energy for space conditioning, and commercial buildings, which use about 40%, 16 industrial facilities devote only about 6% of their energy use to space conditioning. In 17 absolute numbers, this is about a third of what the commercial sector uses and about 8% 18 of what the residential sector uses for this purpose. According to the 2002 Manufacturing 19 Energy Consumption Survey, among the energy uses that could be climate sensitive, U.S. 20 manufacturing uses about 4% of all energy for directly space conditioning, 22% for 21 process heating, and 1.5% for process cooling (EIA, 2002a). 22 23 This does not mean that industry is not sensitive to climate, or even that energy 24 availability as influenced by climate or weather does not affect industry; clearly it does. 25 Much of the energy used in industry is used for water heating; so energy use would likely 26 decline in industry if climate and water temperatures become warmer. Electrical outages 27 (some caused by extreme weather) cause many billions in business interruptions every 28 year, and large events that interrupt energy supplies are also nationally important (See 29 Chapter 3). However, little information exists on the impact of climate change on energy 30 use in industry. Considine, 2000 econometrically investigated industrial energy use data 31 from the EIA Short Term Energy Forecasting System based on HDD and CDD and

calculated that U.S. energy consumption per unit of industrial production would increase

- for an increase 0.0127% per increase in one heating degree day (Fahrenheit) or by
- 2 0.0032% per increase of one cooling degree day (Fahrenheit). On an annual basis with a
- 3 1°C temperature increase (1.8°F), there would be a maximum of 657 fewer HDD per year
- 4 and 657 more CDD (Fahrenheit basis, and assuming that all industry was located in
- 5 climates that experienced all of the potential HDD decrease and CDD increase). This
- 6 would translate into 6.2% less net energy demand in industry or a saving of roughly 0.04
- 7 quads.

- 9 A few studies have focused on a handful of exceptions where it was assumed that energy
- 10 consumption would be sensitive to warmer temperatures, such as agricultural crop drying
- and irrigation pumping (e.g., Darmstadter, 1993; Scott et al., 1993). While it seems
- 12 logical that warmer weather or extended warm seasons should result in warmer water
- inlet temperatures for industrial processes and higher rates of evaporation, possibly
- 14 requiring additional industrial water diversions, as well as additional municipal uses for
- 15 lawns and gardens, the literature review conducted for this chapter did not locate any
- 16 literature either laying out that logic or calculating any associated increases in energy
- 17 consumption for water pumping. Industrial pumping increases are likely to be small
- relative to those in agriculture, which consumes the lion's share (40%) of all fresh water
- 19 withdrawals in the United States (USGS, 2004). Some observations on energy use in
- 20 climate-sensitive economic sectors follow.

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## 2.7.1 Transportation

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- 24 Running the air conditioning in a car reduces its fuel efficiency by approximately 12% at
- 25 highway speeds (Parker 2005). A more extended hot season likely would increase the
- use of automotive air conditioning units, but by how much and with what consequences
- for fuel economy is not known. Virtually new all light duty vehicles sold (well over 99%
- in 2005) in the United Sates come with factory-installed air conditioning installed (up
- 29 from about 90% in the mid-1990s)<sup>1</sup>, but no statistics appear to be available from public

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Data supplied by Robert Boundy, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, based on Ward's Automotive Yearbooks.

1	sources on the overall numbers or percentage of vehicles in the fleet without air
2	conditioning. No projections appear to be available on the total impact of climate change
3	on energy consumption in automotive air conditioners; however, there are some estimates
4	of the response of vehicle air conditioning use to temperature. Based on a modeling of
5	consumer comfort, Johnson (2002) estimates that at ambient temperatures above 30°C
6	(86°F), drivers would have their air conditioning on 100% of the time; at 21°C-30°C
7	(70°F-86°F), 80%; at 13°C-20°C (55°F-70°F), 45%; and at 6°C-12°C (43°F-55°F), 20%
8	of the time. <sup>2</sup> Data from the Environmental Protection Agency's model of vehicular air
9	conditioning operation suggests that U.S. drivers on average currently have their air
10	conditioning systems turned on 23.9% of the time. With an increase in ambient air
11	temperature of 1°C (1.8°F), the model estimates that drivers would have their air
12	conditioning systems turned on 26.9% of the time, and increase of 3.0% of the time. <sup>3</sup>
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14	Much of the food consumed in the United States moves by refrigerated truck or rail. One
15	of the most common methods is via a refrigerated truck-trailer combination. As of the
16	year 2000, there were approximately 225,000 refrigerated trailers registered in the United
17	States, and their Trailer Refrigeration Units (TRUs) used on average 0.7 to 0.9 gallons of
18	fuel per hour to maintain 0°F. On a typical use cycle of 7200 hours per year (6 days per
19	week, 50 weeks per year), the typical TRU would use 5,000 to 6,000 gallons of diesel per
20	year (Shurepower, LLC 2005), or between 26 and 32 million barrels for the national fleet.
21	Even though diesel electric hybrid and other methods are making market inroads and
22	over time could replace a substantial amount of this diesel use with electricity from the
23	grid when the units are parked, climate warming would add to the energy use in these
24	systems. No data appear to be available on the total impact of climate change on energy
25	consumption in transportation, however.

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Data supplied by Lawrence Chaney, National Renewable Energy Laboratory.
 <sup>3</sup> Data supplied by Richard Rykowski, Assessment Standards and Support Division, Environmental Protection Agency. The model used in this analysis is described in Chapter III of the Draft Technical Support Document to the proposed EPA rulemaking to revise EPA's methodology for calculating the city and highway fuel economy values pasted on new vehicles.

### 2.7.2 Construction

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Warming the climate should result in more days when outdoor construction activities are possible. In many parts of the northern states, the construction industry takes advantage of the best construction weather to conduct activities such as some excavation, pouring concrete, framing buildings, roofing, and painting, while sometimes enclosing buildings, partially heating them with portable space heaters, and conducting inside finishing work during "bad" weather. While the construction season may lengthen in the North, there also may be an increasing number of high-temperature heat stress days during which outdoor work may be hindered. The net effects on energy consumption on construction are not clear. The literature survey conducted for this chapter was not able to locate any studies in the United States that have investigated either the lengthening of the construction season in response to global warming or any resulting impacts on energy consumption.

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## 2.7.3 Agriculture

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Agricultural energy use generally falls into five main categories: equipment operations, irrigation pumping, embodied energy in fertilizers and chemicals, product transport, and drying and processing. A warmer climate implies increases in the demand for water in irrigated agriculture and use of energy (either natural gas or electricity) for pumping.

Though not a factor in many parts of the country, irrigation energy is a significant source 22 23

of energy demand west of the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian, especially in the Pacific Southwest and

Pacific Northwest. For example, irrigation load in one early climate change impact assessment increased from about 8.7% to about 9.8% of all Pacific Northwest electricity

load in July (Scott et al., 1993), even with no change in acreage irrigated.

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In some parts of the country, the current practice is to keep livestock and poultry inside for parts of the year, either because it is too cold or too hot outside. Often these facilities are space-conditioned. In Georgia, for example, there are 11,000 poultry houses, and many of the existing houses are air-conditioned due to the hot summer climate (and all

- 1 new ones are) (University of Georgia and Fort Valley State University, 2005). Poultry
- 2 producers throughout the South also depend on natural gas and propane as sources of heat
- 3 to keep their birds warm during the winter (Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural
- 4 Development, and Research, 2001). The demand for cooling livestock and poultry would
- 5 be expected to increase in a warmer climate, while that for heating of cattle barns in
- 6 North, for example, likely would fall. There are no available quantitative estimates of the
- 7 effects on energy demand.

9 Food processing needs extensive refrigerated storage, which may take more energy in a

warmer climate. However, there seem to be no U.S. studies on this subject.

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### 2.8 SUMMARY OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECTS

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- 14 Generally speaking, the net effects of climate change in the United States on total energy
- demand are projected to be modest, amounting to between perhaps a 5% increase and
- decrease in demand per 1°C in warming in buildings, about 1.1 Quads in 2020 based on
- 17 EIA 2006 projections (EIA, 2006). Existing studies do not agree on whether there would
- a net increase or decrease in energy consumption with changed climate because a variety
- of methodologies have been used, which has taken into account all of the potential effects
- of warming. There are differences in climate sensitivities as well as differences in
- 21 methodological emphasis. For example, econometric models have incorporated some
- 22 market response to warming and fuel costs but not necessarily differences in building size
- and technology over time and space, while the opposite is true of building simulation
- 24 approaches. There are also differences in climate and market scenarios. It appears likely
- 25 that some of the largest effects of climate change on energy use are in buildings,
- 26 however, with other sensitivities being of secondary or tertiary importance.

- 28 Another robust finding is that most of regions of the country can be expected to see
- significant increases in the demand for electricity, due both to increases in the use of
- 30 existing space-cooling equipment and also to likely increases in the market penetration of
- 31 air conditioning in response to longer and hotter summers in Northern regions where

1 market penetration of air conditioning is still relatively low. 2 3 To some extent, it is possible to control for differences in climate scenarios by comparing 4 percentage changes in energy use per a standardized amount of temperature change, as 5 has been done in this chapter. It is also possible to search for a set of robust results and to 6 compare impacts, for example, that come from models that have fixed technologies and 7 no market responses with those that allow technology to evolve and businesses and 8 individuals to respond to higher or lower energy bills. 9 10 Some of the conflicting results are more likely to be correct. Because of compensating 11 market and technological responses, impacts of climate change should be less with 12 models that allow technology to evolve and businesses and individuals to respond to 13 higher or lower energy bills. Because they also assess more realistically the factors 14 actually likely to be in play, they are likelier to be closer to correct. None of the models 15 actually does all of this, but Mansur et al., 2005 probably comes the closest on the market 16 side and Scott et al., 2005 or Huang, 2006 on the technology side. Using the results from 17 these two approaches, together with Sailor and Pavlova, 2003 to inform and modify the 18 Hadley et al., 2006 special version of NEMS probably has the best chance of being 19 correct for buildings. 20 21 Technical Note: Methods for Estimating Energy Consumption in Buildings 22 23 Previous authors have taken a number of approaches to estimate the impact of climate 24 change on energy use in U.S. buildings. Many of the researchers translate changes in 25 average temperature change on a daily, seasonal, or annual basis into heating and cooling 26 degree days, which are then used in building energy simulation models to project demand 27 for space heating and space cooling (e.g., Rosenthal et al., 1995, Belzer et al., 1996, and 28 Amato et al., 2005). Building energy simulation is often done directly with average climate changes used to modify daily temperature profiles at modeled locations (Scott et 29

al., 2005, and Huang, 2006). (See Box 2.2 on heating and cooling degree-days.)

## Box 2.2. Heating and Cooling Degree-Days and Building Energy Use

Energy analysts often refer to concepts called heating and cooling degree-days when calculating the impact of outdoor temperature on energy use in buildings. Buildings are considered to have a minimum energy use temperature where the building is neither heated nor cooled and all energy use is considered to be non-climate sensitive. This is called the "balance point" for the building. Each degree deviation from that balance point temperature results in heating (if the temperature is below the balance point) or cooling (if the temperature is above the balance point. For example, if the balance point for a building is 60°F and the average outdoor temperature for a thirty day period is 55°F, then there are 5x30 heating degree days for that period. Energy demand is usually considered to increase or decrease proportionately with increases in either heating degree-days or cooling degree-days.

Balance points by default are usually considered to be 65°F because many weather datasets come with degree-days already computed on that basis (See Amato et al 2005). However, empirical research on regional datasets and on the RECS and CBECS microdata sets suggests that regional variations are common. In Massachusetts, for example, Amato et al. found a balance point temperature for electricity in the residential sector of 60°F and 55°F for the residential sector. Belzer et al. (1996) found that the newer commercial buildings have even lower balance point temperatures, probably because of tighter construction and the dominance of lighting and other interior loads that both aid with heating and make cooling more of a challenge.

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Building energy simulation models such as CALPAS3 (Atkinson et al., 1981), DOE-2

4 (Winkelmann et al., 1993), or FEDS and BEAMS (PNNL, 2002, Elliott et al., 2004) have

5 been used to analyze the impact of climate warming on the demand for energy in

6 individual commercial buildings only (Scott et al., 1994) and in groups of commercial

and residential buildings in a variety of locations (Loveland and Brown, 1990, Rosenthal

8 et al., 1995, Scott et al., 2005, and Huang,, 2006).

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Other researchers have used econometrics and statistical analysis techniques (most

11 notably the various Mendelsohn papers discussed herein, but also the Belzer et al., 1996

study using the CBECS microdata, and Sailor and Muñoz, 1997, Sailor, 2001, Amato et

al., 2005, Ruth and Lin, 2006, and Franco and Sanstad, 2006, using various state-level

time series.) A sub-category of the econometric technique is cross-sectional analysis. For

example, Mendelsohn performed cross-sectional econometric analysis of the RECS and

16 CBECS microdata sets to determine how energy use in the residential and commercial

- building stock relates to climate (Morrison and Mendelsohn, 1999; Mendelsohn, 2001),
- 2 and then used the resulting equations to estimate the future impact of warmer
- 3 temperatures on energy consumption in residential and commercial buildings.
- 4 Mendelsohn, 2003 and Mansur et al., 2005 subsequently elaborated the approach into a
- 5 complete and separate set of discrete-continuous choice models of energy demand in
- 6 residential and commercial buildings.

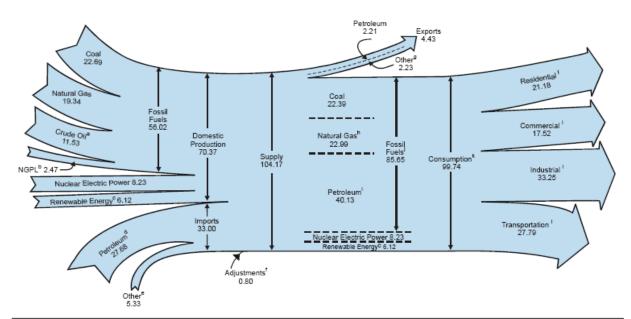
- 8 Finally, Hadley et al., 2004, 2006, directly incorporated changes in heating degree-days
- 9 and cooling degree-days expected as a result of climate change into the residential and
- 10 commercial building modules of the Energy Information Administration's National
- 11 Energy Modeling System, so that their results incorporated U.S. demographic trends,
- changes in building stock and energy-using equipment, and (at least some) consumer
- reactions to energy prices and climate at a regional level. Hadley et al. translated
- 14 temperatures from a single climate scenario of the Parallel Climate Model into changes in
- 15 heating degree days (HDD) and cooling degree-days (CDD) that are population-averaged
- in each of the nine U.S. Census divisions (on a 65° F base –against the findings of
- 17 Rosenthal et al., Belzer et al., and Mansur et al., 2005, all of which projected a lower
- balance point temperature for cooling and a variation in the balance point across the
- country). They then compared these values with 1971-2000 average HDDs and CDDs
- 20 from the National Climate Data Center for the same regions. The changes in HDD and
- 21 CDD were then used to drive changes in a special version (DD-NEMS) of the National
- 22 Energy Modeling System (NEMS) of the U.S. Energy Information Administration,
- 23 generally used to provide official energy consumption forecasts for the *Annual Energy*
- 24 Outlook (EIA, 2006). Table 2.8 contains a summary of methods used in the various
- studies employed in this chapter.

# Table 2.8. Methods Used in U.S. Studies of the Effects of Climate Change on Energy Demand in Buildings

Authors	Methods	Comments	
<b>National Studies</b>			
Linder-Inglis, 1989	Electric utility planning model	Electricity only. Results available for 47 state and sub-state service areas. Calculates peak demand.	
Rosenthal et al .1995	Re-analysis of building energy consumption in EIA Annual Energy Outlook	Energy-weighted national averages of census division-level data	
Belzer et al., 1996	Econometrics on CBECS commercial sector microdata	Used HDD and CDD and estimated energy balance points	
Mendelsohn, 2001	Econometric analysis of RECS and CBECS microdata	Takes into account energy price forecasts, market penetration of air conditioning. Precipitation increases 7%.	
Scott et al., 2005	Building models (FEDS and BEAMS)	Varies by region. allows for growth in residential and commercial building stock, but not increased adoption of air conditioning in response to warming	
Mansur et al., 2005	Econometric analysis of RECS and CBECS microdata	Takes into account energy price forecasts, market penetration of air conditioning. Precipitation increases 7%. Affects both fuel choice and use.	
Hadley et al., 2004; 2006	NEMS energy model, modified for changes in degree-days	Primary energy, residential and commercial combined. Allows for growth in residential and commercial building stock.	
Huang et al., 2006	DOE-2 building energy model	Impacts vary by region, building type.	
Regional Studies			
Loveland and Brown, 1990	CALPAS3 Building Energy Model	Single family detached house, commercial building, 6 individual cities	
Baxter and Calandri, 1992	Building energy model	Electricity only, California.	
Scott et al., 1994	DOE-2 building energy model	Small office building, 4 specific cities	
Sailor, 2001	Econometric on state time series	Total electricity per capita Total electricity per capita 7 out of 8 energy-intensive states; one state (Washington) used electricity for space heating	
Sailor and Pavlova 2003	Econometric on state-level time series	Four States. Includes increased market saturation of air conditioning	
Mendelsohn, 2003	Econometric on national cross sectional data on RECS and CBECS data	Impacts for California only. Residential and commercial. Expenditures on energy.	
Amato et al., 2005	Time series econometric on state data	Massachusetts (North), Winter monthly residential capita consumption, commercial monthly per employee consumption	
Ruth and Lin, 2006	Time series econometric on state data	Maryland (borderline North-South), residential natural gas, heating oil, electricity expenditures	
Franco and Sanstad, 2006	Regression of electricity demand in California Independent System Operator with average daily temperature and daily consumption in the CalISO area in 2004, and the relationship between peak demand and average daily maximum temperature over the period 1961–1990	Electricity only	

CHAPTER 3. EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON 1 **ENERGY PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE** 2 **UNITED STATES** 3 4 5 Stanley R. Bull and Daniel E. Bilello, National Renewable Energy Laboratory 6 James Ekmann, National Energy Technology Laboratory 7 Michael J. Sale, Oak Ridge National Laboratory 8 David K. Schmalzer, Argonne National Laboratory 9 10 11 Energy production in the U.S. is dominated by fossil fuels: coal, natural gas, and 12 petroleum (Fig. 3.1). Every existing source of energy has some vulnerability to climate 13 variability (Table 3.1). Renewable energy sources tend to be more sensitive to climate 14 variables; but fossil energy production can also be adversely effected by air and water 15 temperatures and the thermoelectric cooling process that is critical to maintaining high 16 electrical generation efficiencies also applies to nuclear energy. In addition, extreme 17 weather events have adverse effects on energy production, distribution, and fuel 18 transportation as well. 19 20 This section discusses the specific impacts on energy production and distribution 21 associated with projected changes in temperature, precipitation, water resources, severe 22 weather events, and sea level rise. Overall, the effects on the existing infrastructure 23 might be categorized as modest; however, local and industry-specific impacts could be 24 large, especially in areas that may be prone to disproportional warming (Alaska) or 25 weather disruptions (Gulf Coast and Gulf of Mexico). The existing assemblage of power 26 plants and distribution systems is likely to be more affected by ongoing unidirectional 27 changes, compared with future systems, if future systems can be designed with the 28 upfront flexibility to accommodate the span of potential impacts. Possible adaptation 29 measures include technologies that minimize the impact of increases in ambient 30 temperatures on power plant equipment, technologies that conserve water use for power 31 plant cooling processes, planning at the local and regional level to anticipate storm and 32 drought impacts, and improved forecasting of the impacts of global warming on

Diagram 1. Energy Flow, 2004 (Quadrillion Btu)



Includes lease condensate

rounding. Sources: Tables 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1a, and 10.1.

Energy Information Administration / Annual Energy Review 2004

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Figure 3.1. Energy Flow in the U.S. (EIA, Annual Energy Review 2004)

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renewable energy sources at regional and local levels, and establish action plans, and policies that conserve both energy and water.

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#### 3.1 EFFECTS ON FOSSIL AND NUCLEAR ENERGY

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Climate change can affect fossil and nuclear energy production, conversion, and end-user delivery in a myriad of ways. Average ambient temperatures impact the supply response to changes in heating and cooling demand by affecting generation cycle efficiency, and cooling water requirements in the electrical sector, water requirements for energy

b Natural gas plant liquids.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Conventional hydroelectric power, wood, waste, ethanol blended into motor gasoline, geothermal, solar, and wind.
<sup>4</sup> Crude oil and petroleum products. Includes imports into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Natural gas, coal, coal coke, and electricity.

Stock changes, losses, gains, miscellaneous blending components, and unaccounted-fo supply.

9 Coal, natural gas, coal coke, and electricity

h Includes supplemental gaseous fuels.

Petroleum products, including natural gas plant liquids.
Includes 0.14 quadrillion Btu of coal coke net imports.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Includes, in quadrillion Btu, 0.30 ethanol blended into motor gasoline, which is accounted for in both fossil fuels and renewable energy but counted only once in total consumption; and 0.04 electricity net imports.

electricity net imports.

1 Primary consumption, electricity retail sales, and electrical system energy losses, which are allocated to the end-use sectors in proportion to each sector's share of total electricity retail sales. See Note, "Electrical Systems Energy Losses," at end of Section 2.

Notes: - Data are preliminary. - Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent

Table 3-1. Mechanisms of climate impacts on various energy supplies in the U.S. percentages shown are of total domestic consumption; (T=water/air temperature, W=wind, H=humidity, P=precipitation, and E=extreme weather events)

Energy Impact Supplies		Climate Impact Mechanisms	
	Coal (22%)	Cooling water quantity and quality (T), cooling efficiency (T, W, H), erosion in surface mining	
Fossil Fuels (86%)	Natural Gas (23%)	Cooling water quantity and quality (T), cooling efficiency (T, W, H), disruptions of off-shore extraction (E)	
	Petroleum (40%)	Cooling water quantity and quality, cooling efficiency (T, W, H), disruptions of off-shore extraction and transport (E)	
	Liquified Natural Gas (1%)	Disruptions of import operations (E)	
Nuclear (8%)		Cooling water quantity and quality (T), cooling efficiency (T, W, H)	
	Hydropower	Water availability and quality, temperature-related stresses, operation modification from extreme weather (floods/droughts), (T, E)	
Renewables	Biomass		
(6%)	Wood and forest products	Possible short-term impacts from timber kills or long-term impacts from timber kills and changes in tree growth rates (T, P, H, E, carbon dioxide levels)	
	• Waste (municipal solid waste, landfill gas, etc.)	n/a	
	Agricultural resources     (including derived biofuels)	Changes in food crop residue and dedicated energy crop growth rates (T, P, E, H, carbon dioxide levels)	
	Wind	Wind resource changes (intensity and duration), damage from extreme weather	
	Solar	Insolation changes (clouds), damage from extreme weather	
	Geothermal	Cooling efficiency for air-cooled geothermal (T)	

(Source: EIA 2004).

1 production and refining, and Gulf of Mexico (GOM) produced water discharge 2 requirements. Often these impacts appear "small" based on the change in system 3 efficiency or the potential reduction in reliability but the scale of the energy industry is 4 vast: fossil fuel-based net electricity generation exceeded 2,500 billion kWh in 2004 5 (EIA, 2006). A net reduction in generation of 1% due to increased ambient temperature 6 (Maulbetsch and DiFilippo, 2006) represents a drop in supply of 25 billion kWh that 7 might need to be replaced somehow. The GOM temperature-related issue is a result of 8 the formation of water temperature-related anoxic zones and is important because that 9 region accounts for 20 to 30 percent of the total domestic oil and gas production in the 10 U.S. (Figure 3.2). Constraints on produced water discharges can increase costs and 11 reduce production, both in the GOM region and elsewhere. Impacts of extreme weather 12 events could range from localized railroad track distortions due to temperature extremes, to regional-scale coastal flooding from hurricanes, and to watershed-scale river flow 13 14 excursions from weather variations superimposed upon, or possibly augmented by, 15 climate change. Spatial scale can range from kilometers to continent-scale; temporal scale 16 can range from hours to multi-year. Energy impacts of episodic events can linger for 17 months or years as illustrated by the continuing loss of oil and gas production in the 18 GOM (MMS, 2006a, 2006b, and 2006c) eight months after the 2005 hurricanes. 19 20 3.1.1 Thermoelectric Power Generation 21 22 Climate change impacts on electricity generation at fossil and nuclear power plants are 23 likely to be similar. The most direct climate impacts are related to power plant cooling 24 and water availability. 25 26 Predicted changes in water availability throughout the world would directly affect the 27 availability of water to existing power plants. While there is uncertainty in the nature 28 and amount of the change in water availability in specific locations, there is agreement 29 among climate models that there will be a redistribution of water, as well as changes in 30 the availability by season. As currently designed, power plants require significant

amounts of water and they will be vulnerable to fluctuations in water supply. Regional-

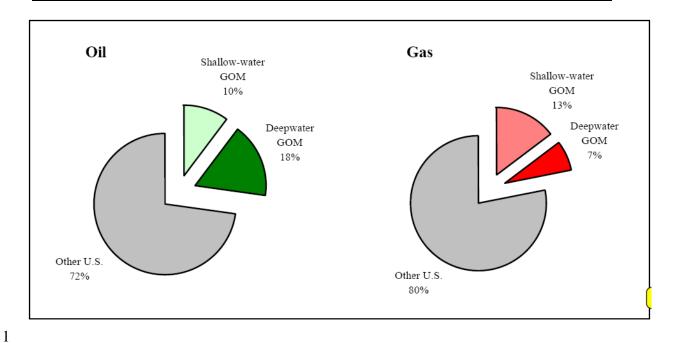
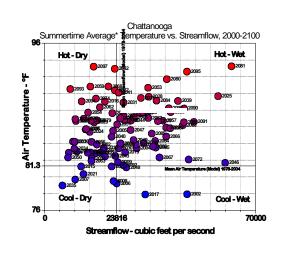


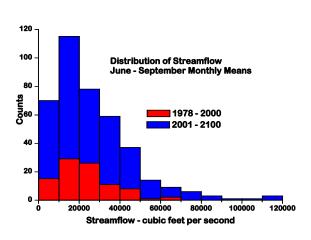
Figure 3.2. Distribution Of Off-Shore Oil And Gas Wells In The Gulf Of Mexico (GOM) And Elsewhere In The U.S.

scale changes would likely mean that some areas could see significant increases in water availability while other regions could see significant decreases. In those areas seeing a decline, the impact on power plant availability or even siting of new capacity could be significant. Plant designs are flexible and new technologies for water reuse, heat rejection, and use of alternative water sources are being developed but at present, some impact—significant on a local level—can be foreseen. An example of such a potential local effect is provided in Box 3.1—Chattanooga: A Case Study, which shows how cooling conditions might evolve over the 21<sup>st</sup> century for generation in one locality. Situations where the development of new power plants is being slowed down or halted due inadequate cooling water are becoming more frequent throughout the U.S. (SNL, 2006).

#### BOX 3.1. CHATTANOOGA: A CASE STUDY OF COOLING EFFECTS

A preliminary analysis of one IPCC climate change scenario (A1B) indicates one example of how cooling conditions might evolve over the 21st century for generation in the Chattanooga vicinity (ORNL work in progress). In this example, a slight upward trend in stream flow would provide a marginal benefit for once-through cooling, but would be offset by increasing summertime air temperatures that trigger limits on cooling water intake and downstream mixed temperatures. Closed-cycle cooling would also become less effective as ambient temperature and humidity increased. Utilities would need to maintain generation capacity by upgrading existing cooling systems or shifting generation to newer facilities with more cooling capacity. Without technology-based improvements in cooling system energy efficiency or steam-cycle efficiency, overall thermoelectric generation efficiency would decrease





In those areas seeing an increase in stream flows and rainfall, impacts on groundwater

levels and on seasonal flooding could have a different set of impacts. For existing plants,

4 these impacts could include increased costs to manage on-site drainage and run-off,

changes in coal handling due to increased moisture content or additional energy

requirements for coal drying, etc. The following excerpt details the magnitude of the

intersection between energy production and water use.

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An October 2005 report produced by the National Energy Technology Laboratory stated,

in part, that the production of energy from fossil fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) is

1 inextricably linked to the availability of adequate and sustainable supplies of water. 2 While providing the United States with a majority of its annual energy needs, fossil fuels 3 also place a high demand on the Nation's water resources in terms of both use and quality 4 impacts (EIA, 2005d). Thermoelectric generation is water intensive – on average each 5 kWh of electricity generated via the steam cycle requires approximately 25 gallons of 6 water (This number is a weighted average that captures total thermoelectric water 7 withdrawals and generation for both once-through and recirculating cooling systems) to 8 produce. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), power plants rank 9 only slightly behind irrigation in terms of freshwater withdrawals in the United States 10 (USGS, 2004), although irrigation withdrawals tend to be more consumptive). Water is 11 also required in the mining, processing, and transportation of coal to generate electricity 12 all of which can have direct impacts on water quality. Surface and underground coal 13 mining can result in acidic, metal-laden water that must be treated before it can be 14 discharged to nearby rivers and streams. In addition, the USGS estimates that in 2000 the 15 mining industry withdrew approximately 2 billion gallons per day of freshwater. 16 Although not directly related to water quality, about 10% of total U.S. coal shipments 17 were delivered by barge in 2003 (USGS, 2004). Consequently, low river flows can 18 create shortfalls in coal inventories at power plants. 19 20 Freshwater availability is also a critical limiting factor in economic development and 21 sustainability and directly impacts electric-power supply. A 2003 study conducted by the 22 Government Accountability Office indicates that 36 states anticipate water shortages in 23 the next ten years under normal water conditions, and 46 states expect water shortages 24 under drought conditions (GAO, 2003). Water supply and demand estimates by the 25 Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) for the years 1995 and 2025 also indicate a high 26 likelihood of local and regional water shortages in the United States (EPRI, 2003). The 27 area that is expected to face the most serious water constraints is the arid southwestern 28 United States. 29 30 In any event, the demand for water for thermoelectric generation will increasingly 31 compete with demands from other sectors of the economy such as agriculture, domestic,

1 commercial, industrial, mining, and in-stream use. EPRI projects the potential for future 2 constraints on thermoelectric power in 2025 for Arizona, Utah, Texas, Louisiana, 3 Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and all of the Pacific Coast states. Competition over water in 4 the western United States, including water needed for power plants, led to a 2003 5 Department of Interior initiative to predict, prevent, and alleviate water-supply conflicts 6 (DOI, 2003). Other areas of the United States are also susceptible to freshwater shortages 7 as a result of drought conditions, growing populations, and increasing demand. 8 9 Concern about water supply expressed by state regulators, local decision-makers, and the 10 general public is already impacting power projects across the United States. For example, 11 Arizona recently rejected permitting for a proposed power plant because of concerns 12 about how much water it would withdraw from a local aquifer (Land Letter, 2004). An 13 existing Entergy plant located in New York is being required to install a closed-cycle 14 cooling water system to prevent fish deaths resulting from operation of its once-through 15 cooling water system (Greenwire, 2003). Water availability has also been identified by 16 several Southern States Energy Board member states as a key factor in the permitting 17 process for new merchant power plants (Clean Air Task Force, 2004). In early 2005, 18 Governor Mike Rounds of South Dakota called for a summit to discuss drought-induced 19 low flows on the Missouri River and the impacts on irrigation, drinking-water systems, 20 and power plants (Billingsgazette.com. 2005). Residents of Washoe County, Nevada 21 expressed opposition to a proposed coal-fired power plant in light of concerns about how 22 much water the plant would use (Reno-Gazette Journal. 2005). Another coal-fired 23 power plant to be built in Wisconsin on Lake Michigan has been under attack from 24 environmental groups because of potential effects of the facility's cooling-water-intake 25 structures on the Lake's aquatic life (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, 2005). 26 27 Such events point towards a likely future of increased conflicts and competition for the 28 water the power industry will need to operate their thermoelectric generation capacity. 29 These conflicts will be national in scope, but regionally driven. It is likely that power 30 plants in the west will be confronted with issues related to water rights, that is, who owns 31 the water and the impacts of chronic and sporadic drought. In the east, current and future

1 environmental requirements, such as the Clean Water Act's intake structure regulation, 2 could be the most significant impediment to securing sufficient water, although local 3 drought conditions can also impact water availability. If changing climatic conditions 4 affect historical patterns of precipitation, this may further complicate operations of 5 existing plants, and the design and site selection of new units. 6 7 EIA reports (EIA, 2004) net summer and winter capacity for existing generating capacity 8 by fuel source. Coal-fired and nuclear have summer/winter ratios of 0.99 and 0.98 and 9 average plant sizes of 220 MW and 1015 MW respectively. Petroleum, natural gas and 10 dual fuel-fired plants show summer/winter net capacity ratios of 0.90 to 0.93, indicating 11 higher sensitivity to ambient temperature. Average sizes of these plants ranged from 12 12 MW to 84 MW, consistent with them being largely peaking and intermediate load units. 13 Although large coal and nuclear generating plants report little degradation of net 14 generating capacity from winter to summer conditions, there are reports (University of 15 Missouri-Columbia, 2004) of plant derating and shutdowns caused by temperature-16 related river water level changes and thermal limits on water discharges. Actual 17 generation in 2004 (EIA, 2004) show coal-fired units with 32% of installed capacity 18 provided 49.8% of generation and nuclear units with 10% of installed capacity provided 19 17.8% of power generated, indicating that these sources are much more heavily 20 dispatched than are petroleum, natural gas and dual-fired sources. To date, this difference 21 has been generally attributed to the lower variable costs of coal and nuclear generation, 22 indicating that the lower average dispatch has been more driven by fuel costs than 23 temperature-related capacity constraints. 24 25 Gas turbines, in their varied configurations, provide about 20% of the electric power 26 produced in the U.S. (EIA, 2006). Gas turbines in natural gas simple cycle, combined 27 cycle (gas and steam turbine) and coal based integrated gasification combined cycle 28 applications are effected by local ambient conditions. These conditions include for the 29 most part local ambient temperature and pressure. Ambient temperature and pressure 30 conditions have an immediate impact on gas turbine performance. Turbine performance 31 is measured in terms of heat rate (efficiency) and power output. Davcock et al.,

1 (Davcock, DesJardins, and Fennell, 2004) found that a 60°F increase in ambient 2 temperature, as might be experienced daily in a desert environment, would have a 1-3 2 percentage point reduction in efficiency and a 20-25% reduction in power output. This 4 effect is nearly linear, so a 10 degree Fahrenheit increase in ambient temperature would 5 produce as much as a 0.5 percentage point reduction in efficiency and a 3-4% reduction 6 in power output in an existing gas turbine. Therefore, the impact of potential climate 7 change on the fleet of existing turbines would be driven by the impact that small changes 8 in overall performance would have on both the total capacity available at any time and 9 the actual cost of electricity. 10 11 Turbines for NGCC and IGCC facilities are designed to run 24 hours, seven days a week 12 but simple cycle turbines used in topping and intermediate service are designed for 13 frequent startups and rapid ramp rates to accommodate grid dispatch requirements. Local 14 ambient temperature conditions will normally vary by 10-20 °F on a 24 hour cycle and 15 many temperate-zone areas have winter-summer swings in average ambient temperature 16 of 25-35 °F. Consequently, any long term climate change that would impact ambient 17 temperature is believed to be on a scale within the design envelope of currently deployed 18 turbines. As noted earlier, both turbine power output and efficiency vary with ambient 19 temperature deviation from the design point. The primary impacts of longer periods of 20 off-design operation will be modestly reduced capacity and reduced efficiency. Currently 21 turbine-based power plants are deployed around the world in a wide variety of ambient 22 conditions and applications, indicating that new installations can be designed to address 23 long-term changes in operating conditions. In response to the range of operating 24 temperatures and pressures to which gas turbines are being subjected, turbine designers 25 have developed a host of tools for dealing with daily and local ambient conditions. These 26 tools include inlet guide vanes, inlet air fogging (essentially cooling and mass flow 27 addition), inlet air filters and compressor blade washing techniques (to deal with salt and 28 dust deposited on compressor blades). These tools could also be deployed to address 29 changes in ambient conditions brought about by long term climate change. 30

## 3.1.2 Energy Resource Production And Delivery

2 3 Other than for renewable energy sources, energy resource production and delivery 4 systems are mainly vulnerable to effects of sea level rise and extreme weather events. 5 6 The IPCC (IPCC, 2001a) estimated a 50 cm. (20 inch) rise in sea level around North 7 America in the next century from climate change alone. This is well within the normal 8 tidal range and would not have any significant effect on off-shore oil and gas activities. 9 On-shore oil and gas activities could be much more impacted which could create 10 derivative impacts on off-shore activities. 11 12 A number of operational power plants are sited at elevations of 3 feet or less, making 13 them vulnerable to these rising sea levels. In addition, low lying coastal regions are being 14 considered for the siting of new plants due to the obvious advantages in delivering fuel and other necessary feedstocks. Significant percentages of other energy infrastructure 15 16 assets are located in these same areas including a number of the nation's oil refineries as 17 well as most coal import/export facilities and liquefied natural gas terminals. Given that a 18 large percentage of the Nation's energy infrastructure lies along the coast, rising sea 19 levels could lead to direct losses such as equipment damage from flooding or erosion, or 20 indirect effects such as the costs of raising vulnerable assets to higher levels or building 21 future energy projects further inland, thus increasing transportation costs. 22 23 IPCC, 2001a and USGS, 2000, have identified substantial areas of the US East Coast and 24 Gulf Coast as being vulnerable to sea-level rise. Roughly one-third of US refining and 25 gas processing physical plant lies on coastal plains adjacent to the GOM, hence is 26 vulnerable to inundation, shoreline erosion, and storm surges. On-shore, but non-coastal 27 oil and gas production and processing activities may be impacted by climate change

primarily as it impacts extreme weather events, phenomena not presently well

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understood.

- 1 Florida's energy infrastructure may be particularly susceptible to sea-level rise impacts.
- 2 (See Box 3.2.a Florida).

- 4 Alaska represents a special case for climate adaptation because of the scale of the
- 5 predicted impacts are expected to be greater in higher latitudes (See Box 3.2.b Alaska: A
- 6 Case Study). Extreme weather events, which could represent more significant effects,
- 7 are discussed in 3.1.4. Coal production is susceptible to extreme weather events that can
- 8 directly impact open-cast mining operations and coal cleaning operations of underground
- 9 mines.

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- 11 Potential impacts on novel resources are speculative at present. Oil shale resource
- development, which is considered to be water intensive, could be made more difficult if
- climate change further reduces annual precipitation in an already arid region that is home
- to the major oil shale deposits. Water availability (Struck, 2006) is beginning to be seen
- as a potential constraint on synthetic petroleum production from the Canadian oil sands.
- 16 Coal-to-Liquids operations also require significant quantities of water.

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# 3.1.3 Transportation of Fuels

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- 20 Roughly 65% of petroleum products supplied in the Petroleum Administration for
- 21 Defense (PAD) East Coast District (Figure 3.3) arrive there via pipeline, barge, or ocean
- vessel (EIA, 2004). Approximately 80% of the domestic-origin product is transported by
- pipeline. Certain areas, e.g., Florida, are nearly totally dependent on maritime (barge)
- 24 transport. About 97% of the crude oil charged to PAD I refineries is imported, arriving
- primarily by ocean vessels. PAD II receives the bulk of its crude oil via pipeline, roughly
- 26 two-thirds from PAD III and one-third from Canada. Both pipeline and barge transport
- has been susceptible to extreme weather events with pipeline outages mostly driven by
- 28 interdependencies with the electrical grid. In addition (see 3.3.2), increased ambient
- 29 temperatures can degrade pipeline system performance, particularly when tied to
- 30 enhanced oil recovery and, if practiced in the future, carbon sequestration. Moreover,

#### Box 3.2.a Florida

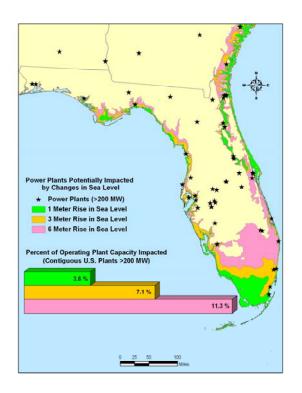
Florida energy infrastructure may be particularly susceptible to sea-level rise impacts. Most of the petroleum products consumed in Florida are delivered by barge to three ports (NASEO, 2005) two on the East Coast of Florida and one on the West Coast. The interdependencies of natural gas distribution, transportation fuel distribution and delivery, and electrical generation and distribution were found to be major issues in Florida Osrecovery from multiple hurricanes in 2004.

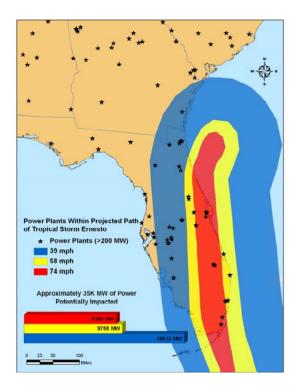
The photo of the St Lucie nuclear power plant illustrates how close to sea level major installations can be in Florida. The map lower left shows major power plants susceptible to sea-level rise in Florida.

The lower right map illustrates power plants in the path of Tropical Storm Ernesto.







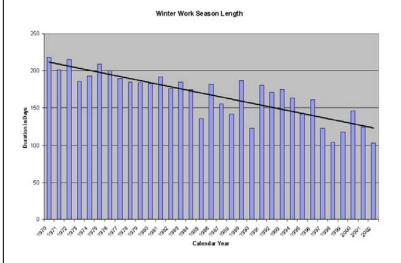


#### **BOX 3.2. ALASKA: A CASE STUDY**

Alaska represents a special case for climate adaptation where temperatures have risen (3°C) over the last few decades, a rate that is almost twice as that of the rest off the world. Some models predict this warming trend will continue, with temperatures possibly rising as much as 4-7C over the next 100 years. <sup>1</sup>

In areas of Alaska's North Slope, change is already being observed. The number of days allowed for winter tundra travel dropped significantly since the state began to set the tundra opening date in 1969, and a chart of that decline has been widely used to illustrate one effect of a warming Arctic. <sup>1</sup> There is a significant economic impact on oil and natural gas exploration from a shorter tundra travel season, especially since exploration targets have moved farther away from the developed Prudhoe Bay infrastructure, requiring more time for ice road building. It is unlikely that the oil industry can implement successful exploration and development plans with a winter work season consistently less than 120 days.

Further, melting permafrost can cause subsidence of the soil, thereby threatening the structural integrity of infrastructure built upon it. It was anticipated that the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System would melt



surrounding permafrost in the areas where it would be buried. Therefore, extensive soil sampling was conducted, and in areas where permafrost soils were determined to be thaw-stable, conventional pipeline building techniques were utilized. But in ice-rich soils, the ground is generally not stable after the permafrost melts. Therefore, unique above ground designs integrating thermal siphons were used to remove heat transferred into the permafrost via the pilings used to support the pipeline. And in a few selected areas where above ground construction was not feasible, the ground around the pipeline is artificially chilled. Such extensive soil testing and unique building techniques add substantial cost to large development projects undertaken in arctic climates, but are necessary to ensure the long term viability of the infrastructure.

Exploration in the Arctic may benefit from thinning sea ice. Recent studies indicate extent of sea ice covering the Arctic Ocean may have reduced as much as 10 percent, and thinned by as much as 15 percent, over the past few decades. These trends suggest improved shipping accessibility around the margins of the Arctic Basin with major implications for the delivery of goods as well as products such as LNG and oil from high latitude basins. A reduction in sea ice may also mean increased off-shore oil exploration.

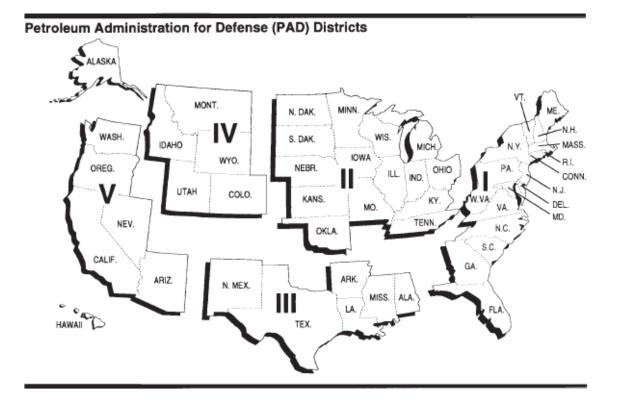


Figure 3.3. Petroleum Administration for Defense (PAD) Districts

(see 3.3.2), increased ambient temperatures can degrade pipeline system performance, particularly when tied to enhanced oil recovery and, if practiced in the future, carbon sequestration. The transportation of coal to end users, primarily electrical generation facilities, is dependent on rail and barge transportation modes (EIA, 2004). Barge transport is susceptible to both short term, transient weather events and to longer-term shifts in regional precipitation and snow melt patterns which may reduce the extent of navigability of rivers and reduce or expand the annual navigable periods. In addition, offshore pipelines were impacted by Hurricane Ivan even before the arrival of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (see 3.1.4).

# 3.1.4 Extreme Events

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Climate change may cause significant shifts in current weather patterns and increase the severity and frequency of major storms (NRC, 2002). As witnessed in 2005, hurricanes can have a debilitating impact on energy infrastructure. Direct losses to the energy industry are estimated at \$15 billion dollars (Marketwatch.com, 2006), with millions more in restoration and recovery costs. Future energy projects located in storm prone areas will face increased capital costs of hardening their assets due to both legislative and insurance pressures. For example, the Yscloskey Gas Processing Plant was forced to close for six months following Hurricane Katrina, resulting in both lost revenues to the plant's owners and higher prices to consumers as alternative gas sources had to be procured. In general, the incapacitation of energy infrastructure – especially of refineries, gas processing plants and petroleum product terminals – is widely credited with driving a price spike in fuel prices across the country, which then in turn has national consequences. The potential impacts of more severe weather are not limited to hurricane-prone areas. Rail transportation lines, which transport approximately 2/3 of the coal to the nation's power plants (EIA, 2002), often closely follow riverbeds, especially in the Appalachian region. More severe rain storms can lead to flooding of rivers which then can wash out or degrade the nearby roadbeds. Flooding may also disrupt the operation of inland waterways, the second-most important method of transporting coal. With utilities carrying smaller stockpiles and projections showing a growing reliance on coal for a majority of the nation's electricity production, any significant disruption to the transportation network has serious implications for the overall reliability of the grid as a whole. Off-shore production is susceptible to extreme weather events. Hurricane Ivan (2004) destroyed seven GOM platforms, significantly damaged 24 platforms, and damaged 102 pipelines (MMS, 2006). Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 destroyed more than 100

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destroyed seven GOM platforms, significantly damaged 24 platforms, and damaged 102 pipelines (MMS, 2006). Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 destroyed more than 100 platforms and damaged 558 pipelines (MMS, 2006). Figures 3.4a, b, c, and d show the typhoon and Mars deepwater platforms before and after the 2005 hurricanes. The \$250 million Typhoon platform was so severely damaged that Chevron is working with the





Figures 3.4a and 3.4b. Hurricane damage at the Mars drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico – Typhoon platform





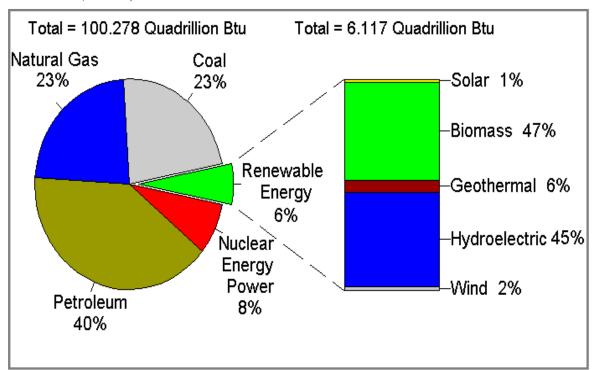
Figures 3.4 c and 3.4d. Hurricane damage at the Mars drilling platform in the

1 **Gulf of Mexico – Mars platform** 2 3 MMS to sink it as part of he artificial reef program in the GOM; the billion dollar plus 4 Mars platform has been repaired, and returned to production about eight months post-5 hurricane. 6 3.1.5 Adaptation to Extreme Events 7 8 9 Energy assets can be protected from these impacts both by protecting the facility or 10 relocating it to safer areas. Hardening could include reinforcements to walls and roofs, 11 the building of dikes to contain flooding or structural improvements to transmission 12 assets. However, the high cost of relocating or protecting energy infrastructure drives 13 many companies to hedge these costs against potential repair costs if a disaster does 14 strike. For example, it is currently estimated to cost up to \$10 billion to build a new 15 refinery from the ground up (Petroleum Institute for Continuing Education, undated) and 16 significant additional costs to fully harden a typical at-risk facility against a hurricane, 17 compared to only a few million dollars in repairs that may or may not be required if a 18 hurricane does strike. Relocation of rail lines also faces a similar dilemma. BNSF's 19 capacity additions in the Powder River Basin are expected to cost over \$200 million 20 dollars to add new track in a relatively flat region with low land prices – changes to rail 21 lines in the Appalachian region would be many times more due to the difficult 22 topography and higher land acquisition costs. 23 24 Industry, government agencies, and the American Petroleum Institute met jointly in 25 March 2006 (API, 2006a) to plan for future extreme weather events. Interim guidelines 26 for jackup (shallow water) rigs (API, 2006b) and for floating rigs (API, 2006c) have been 27 developed. MMS, DOT, and several industry participants have formed a Joint Industry 28 Program (JIP) (Stress Subsea, Inc., 2005) to develop advanced capabilities to repair 29 damaged undersea pipelines. 30

#### 3.2 EFFECTS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION

Renewable energy production accounted for about 6% of the total energy production in the United States in 2005 (Figure 3.5); biomass and hydropower are the most significant contributors (EIA, 2005d) and the use of renewable energy is increasing rapidly in other sectors such as wind and solar. Biomass energy is primarily used for industrial process

(Source: EIA, 2005d)



 $\label{lem:figure 3.5.} \textbf{ Renewable Energy's Share In U.S. Energy Supply} \\ (\text{http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/solar.renewables/page/trens/highlight1.html})$ 

heating, with substantially increasing use for transportation fuels and additional use for electricity generation. Hydropower is primarily used for generating electricity, providing 270 billion kWh in 2005 (EIA, 2005d). Wind power is the fastest growing renewable energy technology, with total generation increasing to 14 billion kWh in 2005 (EIA, 2006). Because renewable energy depends directly on ambient natural resources such as

- 1 hydrological resources, wind patterns and intensity, and solar radiation, it is likely to be
- 2 more sensitive to climate variability than fossil or nuclear energy systems that rely on
- 3 geological stores. Renewable energy systems are also vulnerable to damage from extreme
- 4 weather events. At the same time, increasing renewable energy production is a primary
- 5 means for reducing energy related greenhouse gas emissions and thereby mitigating the
- 6 impacts of potential climate change. Renewable energy sources are therefore connected
- 7 with climate change in very complex ways: their use can affect the magnitude of climate
- 8 change, while the magnitude of climate change can affect their prospects for use.

## 3.2.1 Hydroelectric Power

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- 12 Hydropower is the largest renewable source of electricity in the United States. In the
- period 2000-2004, hydropower produced approximately 75% of the electricity from all
- renewable sources (EIA, 2005d). In addition to being a major source of base-load
- electricity in some regions of the United States (e.g., Pacific Northwest states),
- 16 hydropower plays an important role in stabilizing electrical transmission grids, meeting
- 17 peak loads and regional reserve requirements for generation, and providing other
- ancillary electrical energy benefits that are not available from other renewables.
- 19 Hydropower project design and operation is very diverse; projects vary from storage
- 20 projects with large, multipurpose reservoirs to small run-of-river projects that have little
- 21 or no active water storage. Approximately half of the U.S. hydropower capacity is
- 22 federally owned and operated (e.g., Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, and the
- 23 Tennessee Valley Authority); the other half is at nonfederal projects that are regulated by
- 24 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Nonfederal hydropower projects outnumber
- 25 federal projects by more than 10:1.

- 27 The interannual variability of hydropower generation in the United States is very high,
- especially relative to other energy sources (Figure 3.6). The difference between the most
- 29 recent high (2003) and low (2001) generation years is 59 billion kWh, approximately
- 30 equal to the total electricity from biomass sources and much more than the generation

1 from all other non-hydropower renewables (EIA, 2006). The amount of water available

for hydroelectric power varies greatly from year to year, depending upon weather

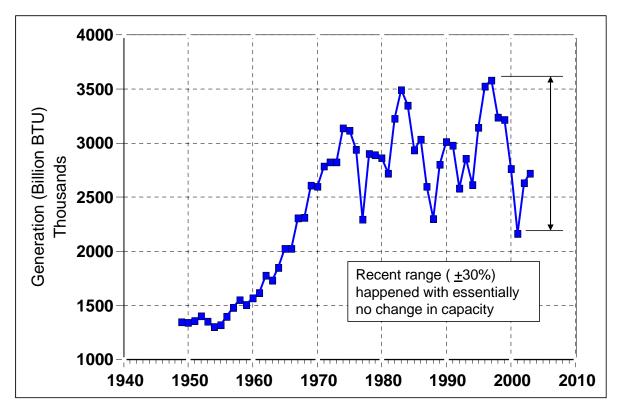


Figure 3.6 Historical variability of total annual production of hydroelectricity from conventional projects in the U.S.

patterns and local hydrology, as well as on competing water uses, such as flood control, water supply, recreation, and instream flow requirements (e.g., conveyance to downstream water rights, navigation, and protection of fish and wildlife). The annual variability in hydropower is usually attributed to climate variability, but there are also important impacts from multiple use operational policies and regulatory compliance.

There have been a large number of published studies on the climate impacts on water resource management and hydropower production (e.g., Miller and Brock 1988; Lettenmaier et al. 1999; Barnett et al. 2004). Significant changes are being detected now in the flow regimes of many western rivers (Dettinger, 2005) that are consistent with the

1 predicted effects of global warming. The sensitivity of hydroelectric generation to both 2 changes in precipitation and river discharge is high, in the range 1.0 and greater (e.g., 3 sensitivity of 1.0 means 1% change in precipitation results in 1% change in generation). 4 For example, Nash and Gleick (1993) estimated sensitivities up to 3.0 between 5 hydropower generation and stream flow in the Colorado Basin (i.e., change in generation 6 three times the change in stream flow). Such magnifying sensitivities, greater than 1.0, 7 occur because water flows through multiple power plants in a river basin. Climate 8 impacts on hydropower occur when either the total amount or the timing of runoff is 9 altered, for example when natural water storage in snow pack and glaciers is reduced 10 under hotter climates (e.g., melting of glaciers in Alaska and the Rocky Mountains of the 11 U.S.). 12 13 Hydropower operations are also affected indirectly when air temperatures, humidity, or 14 wind patterns are affected by changes in climate, and these driving variables cause 15 changes in water quality and reservoir dynamics. For example, warmer air temperatures 16 and a more stagnant atmosphere cause more intense stratification of reservoirs behind 17 dams and a depletion of dissolved oxygen in hypolimnetic waters (Meyer et al., 1999). 18 Where hydropower dams have tailwaters supporting cold-water fisheries for trout or 19 salmon, warming of reservoir releases may have unacceptable consequences and require 20 changes in project operation that reduce power production. 21 22 Competition for available water resources is another mechanism for indirect impacts of 23 climate change on hydropower. These impacts can have far-reaching consequences 24 through the energy and economic sectors, as happened in the 2000-2001 energy crises in 25 California (Sweeney, 2002). 26 27 Recent stochastic modeling advances in California and elsewhere are showing how 28 hydropower systems may be able to adapt to climate variability by reexamining 29 management policies (Vicuña et al., 2006) The ability of river basins to adapt is 30 proportional to the total active storage in surface water reservoirs (e.g., Aspen 31 Environmental Group and M-Cubed, 2005). Adaptation to potential future climate

1 variability has both near-term and long-term benefits in stabilizing water supplies and

- 2 energy production (e.g., Georgakakos et al., 2005), but water management institutions are
- 3 generally slow to take action on such opportunities (Chapter 4).

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## 3.2.2 Biomass Power and Fuels

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- 7 Total biomass energy production has surpassed hydroelectric energy for most years since
- 8 2000 as the largest U.S. source of renewable energy, providing 47% of renewable or 4%
- 9 of total U.S. energy in 2005 (EIA 2006). The largest source of that biomass energy
- 10 (29%) was black liquor from the pulp and paper industry combusted as part of a process
- 11 to recover pulping chemicals to provide process heat as well as generating electricity.
- Wood and wood waste from sources such as lumber mills provide more than 19%
- 13 (industrial sector alone) and combusted municipal solid waste and recovered landfill gas
- about 16%, respectively, of current U.S. biomass energy (EIA, 2005d). Because energy
- resource generation is a byproduct of other activities in all these cases, direct impacts of
- climate change on these or most other sources of biomass power production derived from
- a waste stream may be limited unless there are significant changes to forest or
- agricultural productivity that are a source of the waste stream. There are few examples of
- 19 literature addressing this area, though Edwards notes that climate-change-induced events
- such as timber die-offs could present short-term opportunity or long-term loss for
- 21 California (Edwards, 1991).

- 23 Liquid fuel production from biomass is highly visible as a key renewable alternative to
- 24 imported oil. Current U.S. production is based largely on corn for ethanol and, to a lesser
- extent, soybeans for biodiesel. Because both crops are used primarily for animal feed,
- 26 with only small portions going to fuel production, and because both are currently price
- supported, changes in crop growth rates may not affect their use for fuel in the near term.
- 28 In the longer term, cellulosic feedstocks may supplant grain and oilseed crops for
- transportation fuel production from biomass. Cellulosic crop residues such as corn stover
- and wheat straw would likely be affected by climate change the same way as the crops
- 31 themselves due to a rise in average temperatures, more extreme heat days, and changes in

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1 precipitation patterns and timing, with greater impact on fuel production because that 2 would be their primary use. Potential dedicated cellulosic energy crops for biomass fuel, 3 such as grasses and fast-growing trees, would also be directly affected by climate change. 4 As discussed below, limited literature suggests that for at least one region, one primary 5 energy crop candidate—switchgrass — may benefit from climate change, both from 6 increased temperature and increased atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. 7 8 Approximately 10% of U.S. biomass energy production (EIA 2005d), enough to provide 9 about 2% of U.S. transportation motor fuel (Federal Highway Administration, 2003), 10 currently comes from ethanol made predominantly from corn grown in the Midwest 11 (Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Minnesota, and South Dakota are the largest ethanol 12 producers). Climate change sufficient to substantially affect corn production would likely 13 impact the resource base, but corn is price-supported and currently only about 13% of the 14 U.S. corn crop (livestock feed is the predominant use) (RFA, 2006) is used for fuel.

Although ethanol production did drop in 1996 following a poor corn crop and associated high prices, the combined influence of various agricultural and fuel incentive and regulatory policies would likely overshadow any near-term impacts of climate change on ethanol production. Production of biodiesel from soybeans—growing rapidly, but still very small—is likely a similar situation. In the long term, however, significant crop changes—and trade-offs between them as they are generally rotated with each other would likely have an impact in the future. Looking at Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas, with an eye toward energy production, Brown, et al., 2000, used a combination of the NCAR climate change scenario, regional climate, and crop productivity models to predict how corn, sorghum, and winter wheat (potential ethanol crops) and soybeans (biodiesel crop) would do under anticipated climate change. Negative impacts from increased temperature, positive impacts from increased precipitation, and positive impacts from increased atmospheric carbon dioxide combined to yield minimal negative change under modest carbon dioxide level increases, but 5% to 12% yield increases with high carbon dioxide level increases. This assessment did not, however, account for potential impact of extreme weather events – particularly the frequency and intensity of

1 events involving hail or prolonged droughts – that may also negatively impact energy 2 crop production. 3 4 Although ethanol production from corn can still increase substantially (mandated to 5 double under the recently enacted renewable fuel standard), it can still only meet a small 6 portion of the need for renewable liquid transportation fuels to displace gasoline if 7 dependence on petroleum imports is to be reduced. Processing the entire projected 2015 8 corn crop to ethanol (highly unrealistic, of course) would only yield about 35 billion 9 gallons of ethanol, less than 14% of the gasoline energy demand projected for that year. 10 Biomass fuel experts are counting on cellulosic biomass as the feedstock to make larger 11 scale renewable fuel production possible. A recent joint study by the U.S. Departments of 12 Agriculture and Energy (USDA and DOE), Biomass as Feedstock for a Bioenergy and 13 Bioproducts Industry: The Technical Feasibility of a Billion-Ton Annual Supply, 14 projected that by 2030, enough biomass could be made available to meet 40% of 2004 15 gasoline demand via cellulosic ethanol production and other technologies. The two 16 largest feedstocks identified are annual crop residues and perennial dedicated energy 17 crops (NREL 2006). 18 19 The primary potential annual crop residues are corn stover—the leaves, stalks, and husks 20 generally now left in the field—and wheat straw. Corn stover is the current DOE research 21 focus in part because it is a residue with no incremental cost to grow and modest cost to 22 harvest, but also particularly because of its potential large volume. Stover volume is 23 roughly equivalent to grain volume and corn is the largest U.S. agricultural crop. As such, 24 it would be affected by climate change in much the same way as the corn crop itself, as 25 described above. 26 27 Frequently discussed potential dedicated perennial energy crops include fast-growing 28 trees such as hybrid poplars and willows and grasses such as switchgrass (ORNL 2006) 29 Switchgrass is particularly attractive because of its large regional adaptability, fast 30 growth rate, and minimal adverse environmental impact. The primary objective of the 31 Brown, et. al. (2000) study referenced above for Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas

- 1 was to see how climate change would affect growth of switchgrass. The study projected
- 2 that switchgrass may benefit from both higher temperatures (unlike the grain crops) and
- 3 higher atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, with yield increasing 74% with the modest
- 4 CO<sub>2</sub> increase and nearly doubling with the higher CO<sub>2</sub> increase. Care should be taken in
- 5 drawing definitive conclusions, however, from this one study. One may not expect the
- 6 projected impact to be as beneficial for southern regions already warm enough for rapid
- 7 switchgrass growth or more northern areas still colder than optimal even with climate
- 8 change, but this analysis has not yet been conducted.

## 3.2.3 Wind Energy

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- Wind energy currently accounts for about 2.5% of U.S. renewable energy generation but
- its use is growing rapidly, and it has tremendous potential due to its cost-competitiveness
- with fossil fuel plants for utility-scale generation and has significant environmental
- benefits. In addition, wind energy does not use or consume water to generate electricity.
- 16 Unlike thermoelectric and fossil fuel generation that are inextricably linked to the
- availability of adequate, sustainable water supplies, wind energy can offer communities
- in water-stressed areas the option of economically meeting increasing energy needs
- 19 without increasing demands on valuable water resources.

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- 21 Although wind energy will not be impacted by changing water supplies like the other fuel
- sources, projected climate change impacts, such as changes in seasonal wind patterns or
- 23 strength, would likely have significant positive or negative impacts because wind energy
- 24 generation is a function of the cube of the wind speed. One of the barriers slowing wind
- energy development today is the integration of a variable resource with the utility grid.
- 26 Increased variability in wind patterns could create additional challenges for accurate wind
- 27 forecasting for generation and dispatch planning and for the siting of new wind farms.

- 29 In addition to available wind resources, state and federal policy incentives have played a
- 30 key role in the growth of wind energy. Texas currently produces the most wind power
- followed by California, Iowa, Minnesota, Oklahoma, and Oregon (AWEA,

1 www.awea.org/projects, 9/06). These regions are expected to continue to be among the 2 leading wind-power areas in the near term. Although North Dakota and South Dakota 3 have modest wind development, they also have tremendous wind potential, particularly 4 as technology and economics allow for development of sites further from major load 5 centers. 6 7 The siting of utility-scale wind generation is highly dependent on proximity and access to 8 the grid and the local wind speed regime. Changes in wind patterns and intensity due to 9 climate change could have an effect on wind energy production at existing sites and 10 planning for future development, depending on the rate and scale of that change. One 11 study modeled wind speed change for the United States divided into northern and 12 southern regions under two climate-change circulation models. Overall, the Hadley 13 Center model suggested minimal decrease in average wind speed, but the Canadian 14 model predicted very significant decreases of 10%–15% (30%–40% decrease in power 15 generation) by 2095. Decreases were most pronounced after 2050, in the fall for both 16 regions, and in the summer for the northern region (Breslow and Sailor, 2002). 17 18 Another study mapped wind power changes in 2050 based on the Hadley Center General 19 Circulation Model—the one suggesting more modest change of the two used by Breslow 20 and Sailor above. For most of the United States, this study predicted decreased wind 21 resources by as much as 10% on an annual basis and 30% on a seasonal basis. Wind 22 power increased for the Texas-Oklahoma region and for the Northern California-Oregon-23 Washington region, although the latter had decreased power in the summer. For the 24 Northern Great Plains and for the mountainous West, however, the authors predicted 25 decreased wind power (Segal et al., 2001). Edwards suggests that warming-induced 26 offshore current changes could intensify summer winds for California and thus increase 27 its wind energy potential (Edwards, 1991). Changes in diurnal wind patters could also 28 have a significant impact on matching of wind power production with daily load 29 demands.

## 3.2.4 Solar Energy

Photovoltaic (PV) electrical generation and solar water heating are suitable for much of the United States, with current deployment primarily in off-grid locations and rooftop systems where state or local tax incentives and utility incentives are present. Utility-scale generation is most attractive in the Southwest with its high direct-radiation resource, where concentrating or high-efficiency PV and solar thermal generation systems can be used. California and Arizona currently have the only existing utility-scale systems (EIA

2005d) with additional projects being developed in Colorado, Nevada, and Arizona.

Pan et al. (2004) modeled changes to global solar radiation through the 2040s based on the Hadley Center circulation model. This study projects a solar resource reduced by as much as 20% seasonally, presumably from increased cloud cover, throughout the country, but particularly in the West with its greater present resource. Increased temperature can also reduce the effectiveness of PV electrical generation and solar thermal energy collection. One international study predicts that a 2% decrease in global solar radiation will decrease solar cell output by 6% overall (Fidje and Martinsen, 2006). Anthropogenic sources of aerosols can also decrease average solar radiation, especially on a regional or localized basis. The relationship between the climate forcing effect of greenhouse gases and aerosols are complex and an area of extensive research. This field would also benefit from further analysis on the nexus between anthropogenic aerosols, climate change, solar radiation, and impacts on solar energy production.

## 3.2.5 Other Renewable Energy Sources

Climate change could affect geothermal energy production (6% of current U.S. renewable energy [EIA 2005d] and concentrating solar power Rankine cycle power plants in the same way that higher temperatures reduce the efficiency of fossil-fuel-boiler electric turbines, but there is no recent research on other potential impacts in this sector due to climate change. For a typical air-cooled binary cycle geothermal plant with a

330°F resource, power output will decrease about 1% of rather power for each 1°F rise in

- 2 air temperature. The United States currently does not make significant use of wave, tidal,
- 3 or ocean thermal energy, but each of these could be affected by climate change due to
- 4 changes in average water temperature, temperature gradients, salinity, sea level, wind
- 5 patterns affecting wave production, and intensity and frequency of extreme weather
- 6 events. Harrison observes that wave heights in the North Atlantic have been increasing
- 7 and discusses how wave energy is affected by changes in wind speed (Harrison and
- 8 Wallace, 2005), but very little existing research has been identified that directly addresses
- 9 the potential impact of climate change on energy production from wave, tidal, or ocean
- 10 thermal technologies.

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## **3.2.6 Summary**

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- Of the two largest U.S. renewable energy sources, hydroelectric power generation can be
- expected to be directly and significantly affected by climate change, while biomass
- power and fuel production impacts are less certain in the short term. The impact on
- 17 hydroelectric production will vary by region, with potential for production decreases in
- 18 key areas such as the Columbia River Basin and Northern California. Current U.S.
- 19 electricity production from wind and solar energy is modest but anticipated to play a
- significant role in the future as the use of these technologies increases. As such, even
- 21 modest impacts in key resource areas could substantially impact the cost competitiveness
- of these technologies due to changes in electricity production and impede the planning
- and financing of new wind and solar projects due to increased variability of the resource.

- 25 Renewable energy production is highly susceptible to localized and regional changes in
- 26 the resource base. As a result, the greater uncertainties on regional impacts under current
- 27 climate change modeling pose a significant challenge in evaluating medium to long term
- 28 impacts on renewable energy production.

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# 3.3 EFFECTS ON ENERGY TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION, AND SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE

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- 5 In addition to the direct effects on operating facilities themselves, networks for transport,
- 6 electric transmission, and delivery would be susceptible to changes in stream flow,
- 7 annual precipitation and seasonal patterns, storm severity, and even temperature
- 8 increases, (e.g., pipelines handling supercritical fluids may be impacted by greater heat
- 9 loads if temperatures increase and/or cloud cover diminishes).

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## 3.3.1 Electricity Transmission and Distribution

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- 13 Severe weather events and associated flooding cause direct disruptions in energy
- services. With more intense events, increased disruptions might be expected. Electricity
- reliability might also be affected as a result of increased demand combined with high soil
- temperatures and soil dryness (IPCC, 2001a). Figure 3.3.1 illustrates the major grid
- outage that was initiated by a lightning strike.

18

- 19 Grid technologies in use today are at least 50 years old and although "smart grid"
- 20 technologies exist, they are not often employed. Two such technologies that may be
- 21 employed to help offset climate impacts include upgrading the grid by employing
- 22 advanced conductors that are capable withstanding greater temperature extremes and
- automation of electric distribution (Gellings and Yeager, 2004).

24

## 3.3.2 Energy Resource Infrastructure

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- 27 A substantial part of the oil imported into the United States is transported over long
- 28 distances from the Middle East and Africa in supertankers. While these supertankers are
- 29 able to offload within the ports of other countries, they are too deeply drafted to enter the

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New York City Metro A

Philadelphia Metro Area

Baltimore Metro Area

Washington Metro Area

Grand Rapids

Detroit Metro Area

Dayton

Cincinnati Metro Area

Covington

uisville

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Figure 3.3.1. Approximate Area of Blackout of 2003 In The U.S.

Cleveland Metro Area

Akron Youngstown

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shallow U.S. ports and waters. This occurs because, unlike most other countries, the continental shelf area of the United States extends many miles beyond its shores and territorial waters. This leads to a number of problems related to operation of existing ports, and to programs (such as NOAA's P.O.R.T.S. Program) to improve efficiency at these ports. In addition, the Deepwater Ports Act (1975) has led to plans to develop a number of deepwater ports either for petroleum or LNG import. These planned facilities are concentrated in relatively few locations, in particular with a concentration along the Gulf Coast (Figure 3.7). Changes in weather patterns, leading to changes in stream flows and wind speed and direction can impact operability of existing harbors. Severe weather events can impact access to deepwater facilities or might disrupt well-established navigation channels in ports where keel clearance is a concern (DOC/DOE, 2001).

Approximate Area Of The Blackout of 2003

in the United States

Lightening Strike Location

Pittsburgh Metro Area

Buffalo

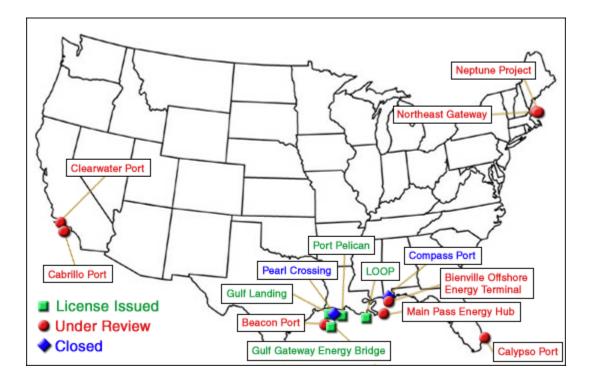


Figure 3.7. Proposed Deepwater Ports For Petroleum And LNG

Climate change may also affect the performance of the extensive pipeline system in the United States. For example, for CO<sub>2</sub>-enhanced oil recovery, experience has shown that summer injectivity of CO<sub>2</sub> is about 15% less than winter injectivity into the same reservoir. The CO<sub>2</sub> gas temperature in Kinder Morgan pipelines during the winter are about 60F and in late summer about 74F. At higher temperatures, compressors and fan coolers are less efficient and are processing a warmer gas. Operators cannot pull as much gas off the supply line with the given horsepower when the CO<sub>2</sub> gas is warm. (source: personal communication from Ken Havens of Kinder Morgan CO<sub>2</sub>).

Efficiencies of most gas injection is similar and thus major gas injection projects like produced gas injection on the North Slope of Alaska have much higher gas injection and oil production during cold winter months. Persistently higher temperatures will have an impact on deliverability and injectivity for applications where the pipeline is exposed to ambient temperatures.

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## 3.3.3 Storage and Landing Facilities

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4 The Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage locations (EIA 2004) that are all along the Gulf

5 Coast were selected because they provide the most flexible means for connecting to the

6 commercial oil transport network. Figure 3.8 illustrates their locations along the Gulf

Coast in areas USGS (2000) sees as being susceptible to sea-level rise. Similarly located

on the Sabine Pass is the Henry Hub, the largest gas transmission interconnection site in

the U.S., connecting 14 interstate and intrastate gas transmission pipelines. Henry Hub

was out of service briefly from Hurricane Katrina and for some weeks from Hurricane

11 Rita, which made landfall at Sabine Pass.

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# 3.3.4 Infrastructure Planning And Considerations For New Power Plant Siting

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Water availability and access to coal delivery are currently critical issues in the siting of

17 new coal-fired generation capacity. New capacity, except on coasts and large estuaries,

will generally require cooling towers rather than once-through cooling water usage based

on current and expected regulations (EPA, 2000) independent of climate change issues.

New turbine capacity will also need to be designed to respond to the new ambient

21 conditions.

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23 Siting of new nuclear units will face the same water availability issues as large new coal-

24 fired units; they will not need to deal with coal deliverability but may depend on barge

transport to allow factory fabrication rather than site fabrication of large, heavy wall

vessels, as well as for transportation of any wastes that need to be stored off-site.

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28 Capacity additions and system reliability have recently become important areas for

29 discussion. A number of approaches are being considered to run auctions (or other

approaches) to stimulate interest in adding new capacity without sending signals that

31 would result in over-building (as has happened in the past). Planning to ensure that both



Figure 3.8. Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage sites

predictions of needed capacity and mechanisms for stimulating companies to build such capacity (while working through the process required to announce, design, permit, and build it) will become more important as future demand is affected by climatic shifts. Similarly, site selection may need to factor in longer-term climatic changes for technologies as long-lived as coal-fired power plants (which may last for 50 - 75 years) (NARUC, 2006).

#### 3.4 SUMMARY OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT POSSIBLE EFFECTS

Significant uncertainty exists about the potential impacts of climate change on energy production and distribution, in part because the timing and magnitude of climate impacts are uncertain. This report summarizes many of the key issues and provides information available on possible impacts; however this topic represents a key area for future analysis.

2 Many of the technologies needed for existing energy facilities to adapt to increased 3 temperatures and decreased water availability are available for deployment; and, although 4 decreased efficiencies and lower output can be expected, significant disruptions seem 5 unlikely. Incorporating potential climate impacts into the planning process for new 6 facilities will strengthen the infrastructure. This is especially important for water 7 resources, as electricity generation is one of many competing applications for what may 8 be a (more) limited resource. 9 10 There are regionally important differences in adaptation needs. This is true for the 11 spectrum of climate impacts from water availability to increased temperatures and 12 changing patterns of severe weather events. The most salient example is for oil and gas 13 exploration and production in Alaska, where projected temperature increases may be 14 double the global average and melting permafrost and changing shorelines could 15 significantly alter the landscape and available opportunities for oil and gas production 16 17 Increased temperatures will also increase demand-side use, and the potential system-wide 18 impacts on electricity transmission and distribution and other energy system needs are not 19 well understood. Future planning for energy production and distribution may therefore 20 need to accommodate possible impacts of climate change.

# CHAPTER 4. POSSIBLE INDIRECT EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON ENERGY PRODUCTION AND USE IN THE UNITED

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**STATES** 

#### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

Changes in temperature, precipitation, storms, and/or sea level are likely to have direct effects on energy production and use, as summarized above; but they may also have a number of indirect effects – as climate change affects other sectors and if it shapes energy and environmental policy-making and regulatory actions (Fig. 4.1). In some cases, it is possible that indirect effects could have a greater impact, positive or negative, on certain institutions and localities than direct effects.

In order to provide a basis for such a discussion, this chapter of SAP 4.5 offers a preliminary taxonomy of categories of indirect effects that may be of interest, along with a summary of existing knowledge bases about such indirect effects. Some of these effects are from climate change itself, e.g., effects on electricity prices of changing conditions for hydropower production or of more intense extreme weather events. Other effects could come from climate change related <u>policies</u>,(e.g., effects of stabilization-related emission ceilings on energy prices, energy technology choices, or energy sector emissions) (Table 4.1).

Most of the existing literature is concerned with implications of climate change mitigation policies on energy technologies, prices, and emissions in the U.S. Because this literature is abundant, relatively well-known, and in some cases covered by other SAPs (such as SAP 2.2), it will be only briefly summarized here, offering links to more

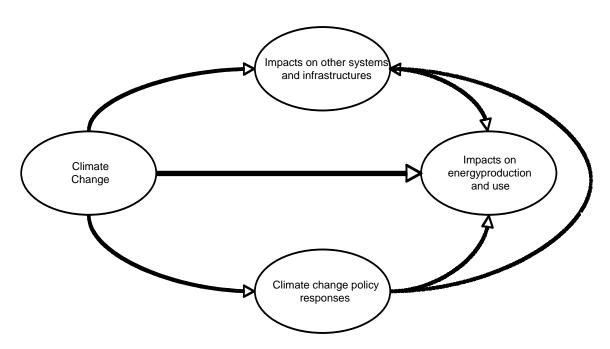


Figure 4.1 This Chapter Is Concerned With The Dashed Lines In This Flow Diagram Of Connections Between Climate Change And Energy Production And Use.

detailed discussions. Of greater interest to some readers may be the characterization of other possible indirect effects besides these.

## 4.2 CURRENT KNOWLEDGE ABOUT INDIRECT EFFECTS

## 4.2.1 Possible Effects On Energy Planning

Climate change is likely to affect energy planning, nationally and regionally, because it is likely to introduce new considerations and uncertainties to institutional (and individual) risk management. Such effects can arise either through anticipated changes in climate-related environmental conditions, such as hydropower potentials, possible exposure to

Table 4.1. Overview Of The Knowledge Base About Possible Indirect Effects Of Climate Change And Climate Change Policy On Energy Systems In The U.S.

Indirect Effect On Energy Systems	From Climate Change	From Climate Change Policy
On energy planning and investment	Very limited	Some literature
On technology R&D and preferences	Very limited	Considerable literature
On energy supply institutions	Very limited	Limited
On energy aspects of regional economies	Very limited	Limited
On energy prices	Almost none	Very limited
On energy security	Almost none	Almost none
On environmental emissions from energy production/use	Very limited	Considerable literature
On energy technology/service exports	Almost none	Very limited

storm damages (see Chapter 3), or changed patterns of energy demand (see Chapter 2), or through possible changes in policies and regulations.

For instance, a pathbreaking study supported by EPRI and the Japanese Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry (CRIEPI) assessed possible impacts of global climate change on six utilities, five of them in the United States (ICF, 1995). The study considered a variety of scenarios depicting a range of underlying climate, industry, and policy conditions. It found that GHG emission reduction policies could cause large increases in electricity prices, major changes in a utility's resource mix related to

1 requirements for emission controls, and significant expansions in demand-side management programs. Major impacts are likely to be on Integrated Resource Planning 2 3 regarding resource and capacity additions and/or plant retirements, along with broader implications of increased costs and prices. In another example, Burtraw et al., 2005 4 5 analyzed a nine-state northeastern regional greenhouse gas initiative (RGGI), an 6 allowance-based regional GHG cap-and-trade program for power sector. They found that 7 how allowances are allocated has an effect on electricity price, consumption, and the mix 8 of technologies used to generate electricity. Electricity price increases in most of the 9 cases. They also note that any policy that increases energy costs in the region is likely to 10 cause some emission leakage to other areas outside the region as electricity generation or 11 economic activity moves to avoid regulation and associated costs. 12 13 Electric utilities in particular are already sensitive to weather as a factor in earnings 14 performance, and they utilize weather risk management tools to hedge against risks 15 associated with weather-related uncertainties. Issues of interest include plans for capacity 16 additions, system reliability assurance, and site selection for long-lived capital facilities 17 (O'Neill, 2003). Even relatively small changes in temperature/demand can affect total 18 capacity needs across the U.S. power sector, especially in peak periods. 19 20 Current policy initiatives hint at what the future might be like, in terms of their possible 21 effects on energy planning. U.S. national and state climate policy actions include a 22 variety of traditional approaches such as funding mechanisms (incentives and 23 disincentives); regulation (caps, codes and standards); technical assistance (direct or in 24 kind); research and development; information and education; and monitoring and 25 reporting (including impact disclosure) (Rose and Shang, 2004). Covered sectors include 26 power generation, oil and gas, residential, commercial, industry, transportation, waste 27 management, agriculture and forestry. These sectors cut across private and public sector 28 facilities and programs, as well as producers and consumers of energy (Peterson and

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Rose, 2006).

1 One key issue involves the provision of financial incentives that create, encourage or 2 force markets to reward GHG mitigation, such as preferential qualifying credit for 3 transportation projects or energy production facilities. At the national level, clean and 4 renewable energy technology deployment is promoted primarily through a federal 5 production tax credit (PTC) and investment tax credit (ITC). Since it was introduced in 6 1992, the PTC – which was designed to spur the deployment of technologies that are near 7 economic competitiveness – has encouraged domestic renewable technologies, such as 8 wind, solar and biomass (NCEP, 2004). The EPAct (2005) extended most of these PTCs 9 to 2007, except to solar technologies that ended in 2005. 10 11 Other incentive mechanisms are potentially important for GHG mitigation. According to 12 Peterson & Rose (2006), cost sharing of fixed or variable mitigation program costs is 13 common, such as payments to farmers for installation of best management practices or 14 waste recovery facilities. These programs support measures that serve as alternatives to 15 more costly energy reduction measures. Extra credit in applications for financing is 16 common, where as preferential treatment in siting decisions can also reduce the time and 17 risk associated with recovery of costs. By providing faster approval of the project than 18 normal, or a higher guarantee of rate recovery, the financing costs to these projects can be 19 substantially reduced due to the time value of money and reduction of risk premiums in 20 financial markets. 21 22 Some of the policy alternatives facilitate differentiating policies to meet special 23 geographic needs, a critical issue given substantial differences among state renewable 24 portfolio standards (RPS); currently 22 states operate RPSs in the U.S. To date, 39 states 25 have developed greenhouse gas inventories, and 30 states have developed some form of greenhouse gas action plan (EPA, 2003). Kousky and Schneider, 2003 note that by 26 27 mid-2003, 140 cities in the U.S. had established GHG reduction targets and had begun 28 mitigation action planning. 29 30 In California, the Governor's Executive Order #S-3-05, calls for an 80% reduction in 31 climate change emissions, relative to 1990 levels, by 2050 (CEPA, 2006). As a result,

1 the state has resolved to a series of extensive market based and policy driven demand and 2 supply side management initiatives (Luers and Moser, 2006). According to Peterson & 3 Rose (2006), a number of sub-federal jurisdictions have developed (or are developing) 4 comprehensive plans that are expected to include numerical goals and timetables and a 5 portfolio of actions across all economic sectors. Coordination with regional agreements 6 in New England (The New England Governors/Eastern Canadian Premiere's Agreement 7 or NEG/ECP), the Northeast (the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI), the 8 West Coast (the West Coast Climate Initiative), and the northern Midwest (the Powering 9 the Plains initiative) are significant steps in this direction. Such regional initiatives, as 10 explained by Kelly et al. (2005) for TX, OK and the Northeast states, promote energy 11 market transformation with the help of public-private partnerships and create 12 implementation projects to reduce GHG footprints. 13 14 Energy efficiency can contribute significantly in reducing market distortions while a cap-15 and-trade framework is in place. Prindle et al. (2006) concluded that doubling the current 16 level of energy efficiency spending in the RGGI region would have several very favorable effects on the carbon cap-and-trade system. It would reduce electricity load 17 18 growth, future electricity prices, carbon emissions, carbon emission prices, and total 19 energy bills for electricity customers of all types. Similarly, in a case-study of New York 20 City, Kelly et al., (2005) show that energy efficiency and urban heat island mitigation 21 strategies can significantly reduce electricity peak load, GHG emissions and energy 22 system cost. 23 4.2.2 Possible Effects On Energy Production And Use *Technologies* 24 25 26 Perhaps the best-documented case of indirect effects of climate change on energy 27 production and use in the United States is effects of climate change policy on technology 28 research and development and on technology preferences and choices. 29 30 For instance, if the world moves toward concerted action to stabilize concentrations of 31 greenhouse gases (GHG) in the earth's atmosphere, the profile of energy resources and

1 technologies being used in the U.S. – on both the production and use sides – would have 2 to change significantly (CCTP, 2005). Developing innovative energy technologies and 3 approaches through science and technology research and development is widely seen as a key to reducing the role of the energy sector as a driver of climate change. Considering 4 5 various climate change scenarios, researchers have modeled a number of different 6 pathways in order to inform discussions about technology options that might contribute to 7 energy system strategies (e.g., Edmonds et al., 1996; Akimoto et al., 2004; Hoffert et al., 8 2002; van Vuuren et al, 2004; Kainuma et al, 2004; IPCC 2005a; Kurosawa, 2004; Pacala 9 and Socolow, 2004 and Paltsev et al, 2005. In addition, there have been important recent 10 developments in scenario work in the areas of non-CO2 GHGs, land use and forestry 11 emission and sinks, emissions of radiatively important non-GHGs such as black and organic carbon, and analyses of uncertainties, among many issues in increasing 12 13 mitigation options and reducing costs (Nakicenovic and Riahi, 2003; IPCC 2005b; van 14 Vuuren et al, 2006; and Placet et al, 2004). 15 16 These references indicate that a high degree of emissions reductions could be achieved 17 through combinations of many different technologies. A large number of scenario-based 18 analyses conducted by different research groups show the importance of technology 19 advancement, especially if R&D support is diversified. Although the full range of effects 20 in the future is necessarily speculative, it is possible that successful development of 21 advanced technologies could result in potentially large economic benefits. When the costs 22 of achieving different levels of emission reductions have been compared for cases with 23 and without advanced technologies, many of the advanced technology scenarios 24 projected that the cost savings from advancement would be significant. Note, however, 25 that there is considerable "inertia" in the nation's energy supply capital stock because 26 institutions that have invested in expensive facilities prefer not to have them converted 27 into "stranded assets." Note also that any kind of rapid technological transformation 28 would be likely to have cross-commodity cost/price effects, e.g., on costs of specialized 29 components in critical materials that are in greater demand.

4.2.3 Possible Effects	SOn Energy Production And	Use Institutions
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- 3 Climate change could affect the institutional structure of energy production and use in the
- 4 United States, although relatively little research has been done on such issues.
- 5 Institutions include energy corporations, electric utilities, governmental organizations at
- 6 all scales, and non-governmental organizations. Their niches, size and structure, and
- 7 operation tend to be sensitive to changes in "market" conditions from any of a variety of
- 8 driving forces, these days including such forces as globalization, technological change,
- 9 and social/cultural change (e.g., changes in consumer preferences). Climate change is
- 10 likely to interact with other driving forces in ways that could affect institutions concerned
- 11 with energy production and use.

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- Most of the very limited research attention to this type of effect has been focused on
- effects of climate change policy (e.g., policy actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions)
- on U.S. energy institutions, such as on the financial viability of U.S. electric utilities
- 16 (see, for instance, WWF, 2003). Other effects could emerge from changes in energy
- 17 resource/technology mixes due to climate change: e.g., changes in renewable energy
- resources and costs or changes in energy R&D investment patterns.

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- 20 Most of these issues are speculative at this time, but identifying them is useful as a basis
- 21 for further discussion. Issues would appear to include (see effects on planning, above).

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#### 4.2.3.1 Effects on the institutional structure of the energy industry

- 25 Depending on its impacts, climate change could encourage large energy firms to move
- 26 into renewable energy areas that have been largely the province of smaller firms, as was
- 27 the case in some instances in the wake of the energy "shocks" of the 1970s (e.g., Flavin
- and Lenssen, 1994). This kind of diversification into other "clean energy" fields could be
- 29 reflected in horizontal and/or vertical integration. Possible effects of climate change on
- 30 these and other institutional issues (such as organizational consolidation vs.
- 31 fragmentation) have not been addressed systematically in the research literature; but

some large energy firms are exploring a wider range of energy technologies and some

- 2 large multi-national energy technology providers are diversifying their product lines to be
- 3 prepared for possible changes in market conditions.

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#### 4.2.3.2 Effects on electric utility restructuring

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- 7 Recent trends in electric utility restructuring have included increasing competition in an
- 8 open electricity supply marketplace, which has sharpened attention to keeping O&M
- 9 costs for infrastructure as low as possible. Some research literature suggests that one
- side-effect of restructuring has been a reduced willingness on the part of some utilities to
- invest in environmental protection beyond what is absolutely required by law and
- regulation (Parker, 1999; Senate of Texas, 1999), although this issue needs further study.
- 13 If climate change introduces new risks for utility investment planning and reliability, it is
- possible that policies and practices could encourage greater cooperation and collaboration
- among utilities.

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#### 4.2.3.3 Effects on the health of fossil fuel-related industries

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- 19 If climate change is associated with policy and associated market signals that
- decarbonization of energy systems, industries focused on the production of fossil fuels,
- 21 converting them into useful energy forms, transporting them to demand centers, and
- 22 providing them to users could face shrinking markets and profits. The coal industry
- seems especially endangered in such an eventuality. In the longer run, this type of effect
- depends considerably on technological change: e.g., affordable carbon capture and
- sequestration, fuel cells, and efficiency improvement. It is possible that industries (and
- regions) concentrated on fossil fuel extraction, processing, and use will seek to diversify
- as a hedge against risks of economic threats from climate change policy.

## 4.2.3.4 Effects on other supporting institutions such as financial and insurance industries

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4 Many major financial and insurance institutions are gearing up to underwrite emission 5 trading contracts, derivatives and hedging products, wind and biofuel crop guarantee 6 covers for renewable energy, and other new financial products to support carbon 7 emission trading and CDM, while they are concerned about exposure to financial risks associated with climate change impacts. In recent years, various organizations have tried to engage the global insurance industry in the climate change debate. Casualty insurers are concerned about possible litigation against companies responsible for excessive GHG emissions, and property insurers are concerned about future uncertainties in weather 12 damage losses. However, it is in the field of adaptation where insurers are most active, and have most to contribute. 200 major companies in the financial sector around the 14 world have signed up to the UN Environment Program's - Finance Initiative, and 95 institutional investment companies have so far signed up to the Carbon Disclosure 16 Project. They ask businesses to disclose investment-relevant information concerning their GHGs. Their website provides a comprehensive registry of GHGs from public corporations. Over 300 of the 500 largest companies in the world now report their

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#### 4.3 POSSIBLE EFFECTS ON ENERGY-RELATED DIMENSIONS OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ECONOMIES

emissions on this website, recognizing that institutional investors regard this information

as important for shareholders (Crichton, 2005).

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It is at least possible that climate change could have an effect on regional economies by impacting regional comparative advantages related to energy availability and cost. Examples could include regional economies closely associated with fossil fuel production and use (especially coal) if climate change policies encourage decarbonization, regional economies dependent on affordable electricity from hydropower if water supplies decrease or increase, regional economies closely tied to coastal energy facilities that could be threatened by more intense coastal storms (Chapter 3), and regional economies

1 dependent on abundant electricity supplies if demands on current capacities increase or 2 decrease due to climate change. 3 4 Attempts to estimate the economic impacts that could occur 50–100 years in the future 5 have been made using various climate scenarios, but the interaction of climate and the 6 nation's economy remains very difficult to define. Significant uncertainties therefore 7 surround projections of climate change induced energy sector impacts on the U.S. or regional economies. Changnon estimated that annual national economic losses from 8 9 energy sector will outweigh the gains in years with major weather and climate extremes 10 (Changnon, 2005). Jorgenson et. al. studied impacts of climate change on various 11 sectors of the U.S. economy from 2000 - 2100. In three optimistic scenarios, they 12 conclude that increased energy availability and cost savings from reduced natural gas-13 based space heating more than compensate for increased expenditures on electricity-14 based space cooling. These unit cost reductions appear as productivity increases and, 15 thus, improve the economy, whereas other three pessimistic scenarios show that 16 electricity-based space conditioning experiences relatively larger productivity losses than 17 does space conditioning from coal, wood, petroleum or natural gas; accordingly its 18 (direct) unit cost rises faster and thus produces no benefits to the economy. Additionally, 19 higher domestic prices discourage exports and promote imports leading to a worsening 20 real trade balance. According to Mendelsohn et al. (2000), the U.S. economy will 21 benefit from the climate change induced energy sector changes. However, Mendelsohn 22 and Williams (2004) suggest that climate change will cause economic damages in the 23 energy sector in every scenario. They suggest that temperature changes cause most of the 24 energy impacts. Larger temperature increases generate significantly larger economic 25 damages. The damages are from increased cooling expenditures required to maintain 26 desired indoor temperatures. In the empirical studies, these cost increases outweighed 27 benefits of the reduced heating expenditures unless starting climates are very cool 28 (Mendelsohn and Neumann, 1999; Mendelsohn, 2001) (also see Chapter 2). 29 30 In California, a preliminary assessment of the macroeconomic impacts associated with 31 the climate change emission reduction strategies shows that the overall impacts of the

1 climate change emission reduction strategies on the state's economy could be positive. Resulting impacts on the economy could translate into job and income gains for 2 3 Californians. Such favorable impacts on the economy are possible because of the 4 reduced costs associated with many of the strategies (CEPA, 2006). On the other hand, 5 the study emphasizes that even relatively small changes in in-state hydropower 6 generation result in substantial extra expenditure burdens on an economy for energy 7 generation, because losses in this "free" generation must be purchased from other 8 sources; a ten percent decrease in hydroelectric supply would impose a cost of 9 approximately \$350 million in additional electricity expenditures annually (Franco and 10 Sanstad, 2006). Whereas electricity demand is projected to rise in California between 3 11 to 20 percent by the end of this century, peak electricity demand would increase at a faster rate. Since annual expenditures of electricity demand in California represent about 12 13 \$28 billion, even such a relatively small increases in energy demand would result in 14 substantial extra energy expenditures for energy services in the state; a three percent 15 increase in electricity demand by 2020 would translate into about \$930 million (in 2000 16 dollars) in additional electricity expenditures (Franco and Sanstad, 2006). Particular 17 concerns are likely to exist in areas where summer electricity loads already strain supply 18 capacities (e.g., Hill and Goldberg, 2001; Kelly et al., 2005; Rosenzweig and Solecki, 19 2001) and where transmission and distribution networks have limited capacities to adapt 20 to changes in regional demands, especially seasonally (e.g., London Climate Change 21 Partnership, 2002). 22 23 Rose and others have examined effects of a number of climate change mitigation policies 24 on U.S. regions in general and the Susquehanna River basin in particular (Rose and 25 Oladosu, 2002; Rose and Zhang, 2004; Rose et al., 1999; Rose et al., forthcoming). In 26 general, they find that such policy options as emission permits tradable among U.S. 27 regions might have less than expected effects, with burdens impacting at least one 28 Southern region which needs maximum permits but whose economy is not among the 29 nation's strongest. Additionally, they discuss Pennsylvania's heavy reliance on coal 30 production and use infrastructure that increases the price of internal CO2 mitigation. 31 They suggest that the anomalies stem from the fact that new entrants, like Pennsylvania,

1 into regional coalitions for cap-and-trade configuration may raise the permit price, may 2 undercut existing states' permit sales, and may be able to exercise market power. 3 Particularly, they raise an issue of the "responsibility" for emissions. Should fossil fuel 4 producing regions take the full blame for emissions or are the using regions also 5 responsible? They find that aggregate impacts of a carbon tax on the Susquehanna River 6 Basin would be negative but quite modest. While Prindle et. al., 2006, suggest that 7 adding energy efficiency savings to such a cap-and-trade scheme will considerably lower 8 the consumer energy bills, increase the economic output and personal income with a 9 positive private-sector job growth by 2021. 10 11 Concerns remain, however, that aggressive climate policy interventions to reduce GHG 12 emissions could negatively affect regional economies linked to coal and other fossil 13 energy production. Concerns also exist that climate change itself could affect the 14 economies of areas exposed to severe weather events (positively or negatively) and areas 15 whose economies are closely linked to hydropower and other aspects of the "energy-16 water nexus." 17 4.4 POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER ENERGY-18 **RELATED ISSUES** 19 20 21 Many other types of indirect effects are possible, although relatively few have received 22 research attention. Without asserting that this listing is comprehensive, such effects 23 might include: 24 25 4.4.1 Effects Of Climate Change In Other Countries On US Energy Production 26 And Use 27 28 We know from recent experience that climate variability outside the U.S. can affect 29 energy conditions in the U.S.; an example is an unusually dry year in Spain in 2005 30 which led that country to enter the international LNG market to compensate for scarce 31 hydropower, which in turn raised LNG prices for U.S. consumption (Alexander's Gas & 32 Oil Connections, 2005). It is important, therefore, to consider possible effects of climate

- 1 change not only on international energy product suppliers and international energy
- 2 technology buyers but also on other countries whose participation in international
- 3 markets could affect U.S. energy availability and prices from international sources, which
- 4 could have implications for energy security (see below). Climate change-related energy
- 5 supply and price effects could be coupled with other price effects of international trends
- 6 on U.S. energy, infrastructures, such as effects of aggressive programs of infrastructure
- 7 development on China and India.

- 9 A particularly important case is U.S. energy inputs from Canada. Canada is the largest
- single source of petroleum imports by the US (about 2.2 million barrels per day) and
- exports more than 15% of the natural gas consumed in the U.S. (EIA, 2005a, 2006). In
- 12 2004, it exported to the U.S. 33 MWh of electricity, compared with imports of 22.5 MWh
- 13 (EIA, 2005b). Climate change could affect electricity exports and imports, for instance if
- 14 electricity demands for space cooling increase in Canada or if climate change affects
- 15 hydropower production in that country.

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## 4.4.2 Effects Of Climate Change On Energy Prices

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- 19 A principal mechanism in reducing vulnerabilities to climate-related (and other) changes
- 20 potentially affecting the energy sector is the operation of the energy market, where price
- variation is a key driver. Effects of climate change on energy prices are in fact
- interwoven with effects of energy prices on risk management strategies, in a dynamic that
- could work in both directions at once; and it would be useful to know more about roles of
- 24 energy markets in reducing vulnerabilities to climate change impacts, along with possible
- adaptations in the functioning of those markets.

- 27 Clearly, climate change could affect energy prices in the U.S. Extrapolating from a
- 28 limited knowledge base, it appears that climate change effects would more likely add to
- 29 pressures for energy price increases than to decreases, although uncertainties are
- 30 considerable. Hurricane Katrina is a recent example of how increased exposure to severe
- 31 storms due to climate change could raise energy prices, at least in the relatively short

term, by disrupting energy production, storage, and transmission. This is one of several reasons why climate change might be associated with greater volatility in energy prices

- (Abbasi, 2005). Another possible example would be reduced production of relatively
- 4 inexpensive hydropower in areas dependent on winter snowfall for production potential,
- 5 where warming reduces annual snowfall. On the other hand, it can be argued that energy
- 6 technology responses to climate change and related policies would reduce energy price
- 7 volatility by diversifying sources, which means that overall effects of climate change on
- 8 energy prices are unclear. Since energy prices in turn affect not only the behavior of
- 9 energy consumers but also other sectors of the economy, it would be useful to be able to
- assess possible roles of climate change relative to other influences on energy prices in
- 11 coming decades.

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## 4.4.3 Effects Of Climate Change On Environmental Emissions

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- 15 Climate change is very likely to lead to reductions in environmental emissions from
- energy production and use in the U.S., although possible effects of climate change
- 17 responses are complex. For instance, cap and trade policy responses might not translate
- directly into lower total emissions. In general, however, the available research literature
- 19 indicates that climate change policy will affect choices of energy resources and
- 20 technologies in ways that, overall, reduce greenhouse gas and other environmental
- 21 emissions (see indirect impacts on technologies above).

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## 4.4.4 Effects Of Climate Change On Energy Security

- 25 Climate change relates to energy security because different drivers of energy policy
- 26 interact. As one example, some strategies to reduce oil import dependence, such as
- 27 increased use of renewable energy sources in the U.S., are similar to strategies to reduce
- 28 GHG emissions as a climate change response (e.g., IEA, 2004; O'Keefe, 2005). As
- another example, energy security relates not only to import dependence but also to energy
- 30 system reliability, which can be threatened by possible increases in the intensity of severe
- 31 weather events. A different kind of issue is potential impacts of abrupt climate change in

energy-intensive products to be affected.

the longer run. One study has suggested that abrupt climate change could lead to very

- 2 serious international security threats, including threats of global energy crises, as
- 3 countries act to defend and secure supplies of essential commodities (Schwarz and
- 4 Randall, 2003).

# 4.4.5 Effects Of Climate Change On Energy Technology And Service Exports

Finally, climate change could affect U.S. energy technology and service exports. It is very likely that climate change will have some impacts on global energy technology, institutional, and policy choices. Effects of these changes on U.S. exports would probably be determined by whether the US is a leader or a follower in energy technology and policy responses to concerns about climate change. More broadly, carbon emission abatement actions by various countries are likely to affect international energy flows and trade flows in energy technology and services (e.g., Rutherford, 2001). In particular, one might expect flows of carbon-intensive energy forms and energy technologies and

#### 4.5 SUMMARY OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT INDIRECT EFFECTS

Regarding indirect effects of climate change on energy production and use in the United States, the available research literature tells us the most about possible changes in energy resource/technology preferences and investments, along with associated reductions in GHG emissions. Less-studied but also potentially important are possible impacts on the institutional structure of energy supply in the United States, responding to changes in perceived investment risks and emerging market and policy realities, and possible interactions between energy prices and roles of energy markets in managing risks and reducing vulnerabilities. Perhaps the most important insight from the limited current research literature is that climate change will affect energy production and use not only as a driving force in its own right but in its interactions with other driving forces such as energy security. Where climate change response strategies correspond with other issue

- 1 response strategies, they can add force to actions such as reduced dependence on
- 2 imported oil and gas and increased reliance on domestic non-carbon energy supply
- 3 sources. Where climate change impacts contradict other driving forces for energy
- 4 decisions, they are much less likely to have an effect on energy production and use.

#### **CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND RESEARCH NEEDS**

#### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

The previous chapters have summarized a variety of currently available information about effects of climate change on energy production and use in the United States. For two reasons, it is important to be careful about drawing firm conclusions about effects at this time. One reason is that the research literatures on many of the key issues are limited, supporting an identification of issues but not a resolution of most uncertainties. A second reason is that, as with many other categories of climate change effects in the U.S., the effects depend on a wide range of factors beyond climate change alone, such as patterns of economic growth and land use, patterns of population growth and distribution, technological change, and social and cultural trends that could shape policies and actions, individually and institutionally.

Accordingly, this final chapter of SAP 4.5 will sketch out what appear, based on the current knowledge base, to be the most likely types of effects on the energy sector. These should be considered along with effects on other sectors that should be considered in risk management discussions in the near term. As indicated in Chapter 1, conclusions are related to degrees of likelihood: likely (2 chances out of 3), very likely (9 chances out of 10), or virtually certain (99 chances out of 100). The chapter will then discuss issues related to prospects for energy systems in the U.S. to adapt to such effects, although literatures on adaptation are very limited. Finally, it will suggest a limited number of needs for expanding the knowledge base so that, when further assessments on this topic are carried out, conclusions about effects can be offered with a higher level of confidence.

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#### **5.2 CONCLUSIONS ABOUT EFFECTS**

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- 4 Based on currently available projections of climate change in the United States, a number
- 5 of conclusions can be suggested about likely effects on energy *use* in the U.S. over a
- 6 period of time addressed by the research literature (near to mid-term). Long-term
- 7 conclusions are difficult due to uncertainties about such driving forces as technological,
- 8 change, institutional change, and climate change policy responses.

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• Climate change will mean reductions in total U.S. energy demand for space heating for buildings, with effects differing by region. (virtually certain)

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• Climate change will mean increases in total U.S. energy demand for space cooling, with effects differing by region. (virtually certain)

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Net effects on energy use will differ by region, with net lower total energy
requirements for buildings in net heating load areas and net higher energy
requirements in net cooling load areas, with overall impacts affected by patterns
of interregional migration – which are likely to be in the direction of net cooling
load regions – and investments in new building stock. (virtually certain)

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• Temperature increases will be associated with increased peak demands for electricity. (very likely)

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 Other effects of climate change are less clear, but some could be non-trivial: e.g., increased energy use for water pumping and/or desalination in areas that see reductions in water supply. (very likely)

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• Lower winter energy demands in Canada could add to available electricity supplies for a few U.S. regions. (likely)

A num	ber of conclusions can be offered with relatively high levels of confidence about
effects	of climate change on energy <i>production and supply</i> in the U.S., but generally the
researc	ch evidence is not as strong as for effects on energy use:
•	Changes in the distribution of water availability in the U.S. will affect power
	plants; in areas with decreased water availability, competition for water supplies
	will increase between energy production and other sectors. (virtually certain)
•	Temperature increases will decrease overall thermoelectric power generation
	efficiency. (virtually certain)
•	In some regions, energy resource production and delivery systems are vulnerable
	to effects of sea level rise and extreme weather events, especially the Gulf Coast
	and the East Coast. (virtually certain)
•	In some areas, the siting of new energy facilities and systems could face increased
	restrictions, related partly to complex interactions among the wider range of water
	uses as well as sea-level rise and extreme event exposures. (likely)
•	Incorporating possible climate change impacts into planning processes could
	strengthen energy production and distribution system infrastructures, especially
	regarding water resource management. (likely)
•	Hydropower production is expected to be directly and significantly affected by
	climate change, especially in the West and Northwest. (very likely)
•	Climate change is expected to mean greater variability in wind resources and
	direct solar radiation, substantially impacting the planning, siting, and financing
	of these technologies (likely)

1	<ul> <li>Increased temperatures and other climate change effects will affect energy</li> </ul>		
2	transmission and distribution requirements, but these effects are not well-		
3	understood.		
4			
5	Overall, the current energy supply infrastructure is often located in areas where climate		
6	change impacts might occur, but large-scale disruptions are not likely except during		
7	extreme weather events. Most of the effects on fossil and nuclear electricity components		
8	are likely to be modest changes in water availability and/or cycle efficiency.		
9			
10	California is one U.S. state where impacts on both energy use and energy production		
11	have been studied with some care (See Box 5.1: California: A Case Study).		
12			
13	About indirect effects of climate change on energy production and use in the U.S.,		
14	conclusions are notably mixed. Conclusions related to possible impacts of climate		
15	change policy interventions on technology choice and emissions can be offered with		
16	relatively high confidence based on published research. Other types of possible indirect		
17	effects can be suggested as a basis for discussion, but conclusions must await further		
18	research.		
19			
20	Conclusions		
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22	Climate change concerns are very likely to affect perceptions and practices related		
23	to risk management behavior in investment by energy institutions. (very likely)		
24			
25	Climate change concerns, especially if they are expressed through policy		
26	interventions, are almost certain to affect public and private sector energy		
27	technology R&D investments and energy resource/technology choices by energy		
28	institutions, along with associated emissions. (virtually certain)		
29			
30	Climate change can be expected to affect other countries in ways that in turn		
31	affect US energy conditions. (very likely)		

#### **BOX 5.1 CALIFORNIA: A CASE STUDY**

California is unique in the United States as a state that has examined possible effects of climate change on its energy production and use in some detail (also see Box 2.2). Led by the California Energy Commission and supported by such nearby partners as the Electric Power Research Institute, the University of California–Berkeley, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, the state is developing a knowledge base on this subject that could be a model for other states and regions (as well as the nation as a whole).

Generally, the analyses to date (many of which are referenced in Chapters 2 and 3) indicate that electricity demand will grow due to climate change, with an especially close relationship between peak electricity demand and temperature increases (Franco and Sanstad, 2006), and water supply – as an element of the "energy-water nexus" – will be affected by a reduction in the Sierra snowpack (by as much as 70-90 % over the coming century: Vicuña et al., 2006). Patterns of urbanization could add to pressures for further energy supplies. Adaptations to these and other climate change impacts appear possible, but they could be costly (Franco, 2005). Overall economic impacts will depend considerably on the effectiveness of response measures, which tend currently to emphasize emission reduction but also consider impact scenarios and potential adaptation measures (CEPA, 2006).

Other relevant studies of the California context for climate change effects reinforce an impression that effects of warming and snowpack reduction could be serious (Hayhoe et al., 2004) and that other ecosystems related to renewable energy potentials could be affected as well (Union of Concerned Scientists, 1999).

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#### **Other Types Of Possible Effects**

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• Climate change effects on energy production and use could in turn affect some regional economies, either positively or negatively. (likely)

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• Climate change may have some effects on energy prices in the U.S., especially associated with extreme weather events. (very likely)

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• Climate change concerns are likely to interact with some driving forces behind policies focused on U.S. energy security, such as reduced reliance on conventional petroleum products. (likely)

2 These conclusions add up to a picture that is cautionary rather than alarming. Since in

3 many cases effects that could be a concern to U.S. citizens and U.S. energy institutions

are some decades in the future, there is time to consider strategies for adaptation to

5 reduce possible negative impacts and take advantage of possible positive impacts.

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#### 5.3 CONSIDERING PROSPECTS FOR ADAPTATION

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9 The existing research literature tends to treat the U.S. energy sector mainly as a *driving* 

10 force for climate change rather than a sector subject to impacts from climate change. As

a result, there is very little literature on adaptation of the energy sector to effects of

12 climate change, and the following discussion is therefore largely speculative.

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Generally, both energy users and providers in the U.S. are accustomed to changes in

15 conditions that affect their decisions. Users see energy prices fluctuate with international

oil market conditions and with Gulf Coast storm behavior, and they see energy

17 availability subject to short-term shortages for a variety of reasons (e.g., the California

energy market crises of 2000/2001 or electricity blackouts in some Northeastern cities in

19 2003). Energy providers cope with shifting global market conditions, policy changes,

financial variables such as interest rates for capital infrastructure lending, and climate

21 variability. In many ways, the energy sector is among the most resilient of all U.S.

22 economic sectors, at least in terms of responding to changes within the range of historical

23 experience. For instance, electric utilities routinely consider planning and investment

strategies that consider weather variables (Niemeyer, 2005); and one important guide to

adaptation to climate *change* is what makes sense in adapting to climate *variability* 

26 (Franco, 2005).

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On the other hand, such recent events as Hurricane Katrina (Box 5.2: Hurricane Katrina

and the Gulf Coast: A Case Study) suggest that the U.S. energy sector is better at

30 responding to relatively short-term variations and uncertainties than to changes that reach

- beyond the range of familiar short-term variabilities (Niemeyer, 2005). In fact, the
- 2 expertise of U.S. energy institutions in reducing exposure to risks from short-term
- 3 variations might tend to reduce their resilience to larger long-term changes, unless an
- 4 awareness of risks from such long-term changes is heightened.

#### BOX 5.2: HURRICANE KATRINA AND THE GULF COAST: A CASE STUDY

It is not possible to attribute the occurrence of Hurricane Katrina, August 29, 2005, to climate change; but projections of climate change say that extreme weather events are very likely to become more intense. If so (e.g., more of the annual hurricanes at higher levels of wind speed and potential damages), then the impacts of Katrina are an indicator of possible impacts of one manifestation of climate change.

Impacts of Katrina on energy systems in the region and the nation were dramatic at the time, and some impacts remained many months later. The hurricane itself impacted coastal and offshore oil and gas production, offshore oil port operation (stopping imports of more than one million bbl/d of crude oil), and crude oil refining along the Louisiana Gulf Coast (Figures 3.4 a-d). Within only a few days, oil product and natural gas prices had risen significantly across the U.S. As of mid-December 2005, substantial oil and gas production was still shut-in, and refinery shutdowns still totalled 367, 000 bbl/d (EIA, 2005) (see Chapter 3).

Possibilities for adaptation to reduce risks of damages from future Katrinas are unclear. They might include such alternatives as hardening offshore platforms and coastal facilities to be more resilient to high winds, wave action, and flooding (potentially expensive) and shifting the locations of some coastal refining and distribution facilities to less vulnerable sites, reducing their concentration in the Gulf Coast. (potentially very expensive).

- 6 Adaptations to effects of climate change on energy *use* may focus on increased demands
- 7 for space cooling in areas affected by warming and associated increases in total energy
- 8 consumption costs. Alternatives could include reducing costs of cooling for users
- 9 through energy efficiency improvement in cooling equipment and building envelopes;
- 10 responding to likely increases in demands for electricity for cooling through expanded
- generation capacities, expanded interties, and possibly increased capacities for storage;
- and responding to concerns about increased peak demand in electricity loads, especially
- seasonally, through contingency planning for load-leveling. Over a period of several

1 decades, for instance, technologies are likely to respond to consumer concerns about 2 higher energy bills where they occur. 3 4 Many technologies that can enable adaptations to effects on energy *production and* 5 supply are available for deployment. The most likely adaptation in the near term is an 6 increase in perceptions of uncertainty and risk in longer-term strategic planning and 7 investment, which could seek to reduce risks through such approaches as diversifying 8 supply sources and technologies and risk-sharing arrangements. 9 10 Adaptation to *indirect effects* of climate change on the energy sector is likely to be 11 bundled with adaptation to other issues for energy policy and decision-making in the 12 U.S., such as energy security: for instance, in the development of lower carbon-emitting 13 fossil fuel use technology ensembles, increased deployment of renewable energy 14 technologies, and the development of alternatives to fossil fuels and effects on energy 15 institutional structures. Issues related to effects of climate change on other countries 16 linked with U.S. energy conditions are likely to be addressed through attention by both 17 the public and private sectors to related information systems and market signals. 18 19 It seems possible that adaptation challenges would be greatest in connection with possible 20 increases in the intensity of extreme weather events and possible significant changes in 21 regional water supply regimes. More generally, adaptation prospects appear to related to 22 the magnitude and rate of climate change (e.g., how much the average temperature rises 23 before stabilization is achieved, how rapidly it moves to that level, and how variable the 24 climate is at that level), with adaptation more likely to be able to cope with effects of 25 lesser amounts, slower rates of change, and less variable climate (Wilbanks et al., 2006). 26 27 Generally, prospects for these types of adaptations depend considerably on the level of 28 awareness of possible climate changes at a relatively localized scale and possible 29 implications for energy production and use – the topic of this study. When the current 30 knowledge base to support such awareness is so limited, this suggests that expanding the 31 knowledge base is important to the energy sector in the United States.

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#### 5.4 NEEDS FOR EXPANDING THE KNOWLEDGE BASE

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- 4 Expanding the knowledge base about effects of climate change on energy production and
- 5 use in the United States is not just a responsibility of the federal government. As the
- 6 work of such institutions as the Electric Power Research Institute and the California
- 7 Energy Commission demonstrates, a wide variety of parts of U.S. society have
- 8 knowledge, expertise, and data to contribute to what should be a broad-based multi-
- 9 institutional collaboration.

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- Recognizing that roles in these regards will differ among federal and state governments,
- industry, non-governmental institutions, and academia and that all parties should be
- involved in discussions about how to proceed, this study suggests the following needs for
- expanding the knowledge base on its topic, some of which are rooted in broader needs for
- 15 advances in climate change science.

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#### **5.4.1** General Needs

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Improved projections of climate change and its effects on a relatively fine-grained geographic scale, especially of precipitation changes and severe weather events:
 e.g., in order to support evaluations of impacts at local and small-regional scales, not only in terms of gradual changes but also in terms of extremes, since many energy facility decisions are made at a relatively localized scale

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 Research on and assessments of implications of extreme weather events for energy system resiliency, including strategies for both reducing and recovering from impacts

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 Research on and assessments of potentials, costs, and limits of adaptation to risks of adverse effects, for both supply and use infrastructures

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 Research on efficiency of energy use in the context of climate warming, with an emphasis on technologies and practices that save cooling energy and reduce electrical peak load

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6 7  Research on and assessments of implications of changing regional patterns of energy use for regional energy supply institutions and consumers

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 Improvements in the understanding of effects of changing conditions for renewable energy and fossil energy development and market penetration on regional energy balances and their relationships with regional economies

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 In particular, improvements in understanding likely effects of climate change in Arctic regions and on storm intensity to guide applications of existing technologies and the development and deployment of new technologies and other adaptations for energy infrastructure and energy exploration and production in these relatively vulnerable regions

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 Attention to linkages and feedbacks among climate change effects, adaptation, and mitigation; to linkages between effects at different geographic scales; and relationships between possible energy effects and other possible economic, environmental, and institutional changes (Parson et al., 2003; Wilbanks, 2005).

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### 5.4.2 Needs Related To Major Technology Areas

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 Improving the understanding of potentials to increase efficiency improvements in space cooling

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• Improving information about interactions among water demands and uses where the quantity and timing of surface water discharge is affected by climate change

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2	• Improving the understanding of potential climate change and localized variability
3	on energy production from wind and solar technologies
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5	• Developing strategies to increase the resilience of coastal and offshore oil and gas
6	production and distribution systems to extreme weather events
7	
8	• Pursuing strategies and improved technology potentials for adding resilience to
9	energy supply systems that may be subject to stress under possible scenarios for
10	climate change
11	
12	• Improving understandings of potentials to improve resilience in electricity supply
13	systems through regional inertie capacities and distributed generation
14	
15	• Research on and assessments of the impacts of severe weather events on sub-sea
16	pipeline systems, especially in the Gulf of Mexico, and strategies for reducing
17	such impacts
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19	Other needs for research exist as well, and the process of learning more about this topic
20	in coming years may change perceptions of needs and priorities; but based on current

knowledge, these appear to be high priorities in the next several years.

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## ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED

## **GLOSSARY**

# LIST OF ACRONYMS