

CONSIDERATIONS FOR MANAGING CBNG PRODUCED WATER

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Coal Bed Natural Gas (CBNG), along with other unconventional gas resources, continues to play an important role in the Nation's energy supply picture. One of the keys to CBNG production is effective and efficient management of the produced water, and there are a number of technical, regulatory, and environmental issues that must be considered. Since producing the water is critical to CBNG production, operators need a tool box of management options available in case one management path becomes unavailable. Existing state and federal regulations already define how CBNG produced water can be managed, however, new and pending regulatory requirements such as the EPA's diesel guidance and Effluent Limitation Guidelines may substantially affect the available options. In addition, the water must be managed to minimize environmental impacts but special care must be used to avoid unintended consequences. This paper will explore these considerations and their possible effects on CBNG produced water management.

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