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Macro Roundup Article

Headline: America's Biggest Power Source Wasn't Built for Extreme Weather

Article Link: https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2023-natural-gas-biggest-us-power-source-al-so-most-vulnerable/?sref=U3dOGIDF

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Tweet: Natural gas now makes up 41% of American power generation, more than solar, wind, hydro and coal combined, but accounts for 47% of outages. @markets

Summary: Given its reputation for low-cost, clean and stable generation, gas dethroned coal in 2016 as the US's No. 1 source of electricity. This year, it will make up a record 41% of power production, more than solar, wind, hydro and coal combined. Although natural gas is often promoted as a "bridge fuel" to span the transition from coal power to renewable energy, the country's vast network of gas plants, pipelines and the regulations that govern them were largely built without the realities of extreme weather in mind. Facilities aren't uniformly winterized, and some rely on a single gas pipeline for supply. Between plant malfunctions and fuel shortages, natural gas accounted for about 47% of outages.

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