

# Setting Rail Rates for Coal-Fired Power Plants - the New Normal?

Presentation to:

### **2013 EIA Energy Conference**

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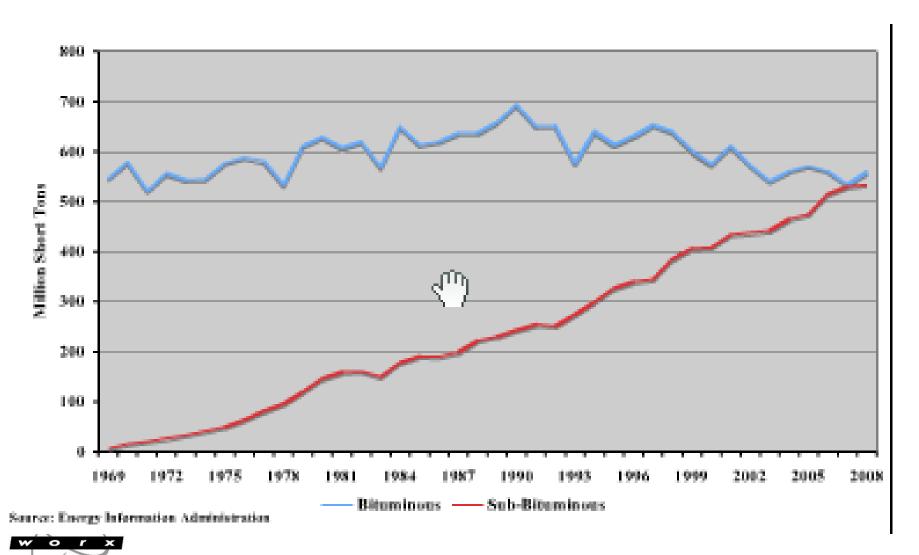
Coal has declined in importance to the rail industry over the past five years.

What will be the future role of coal and rail rates for coal?

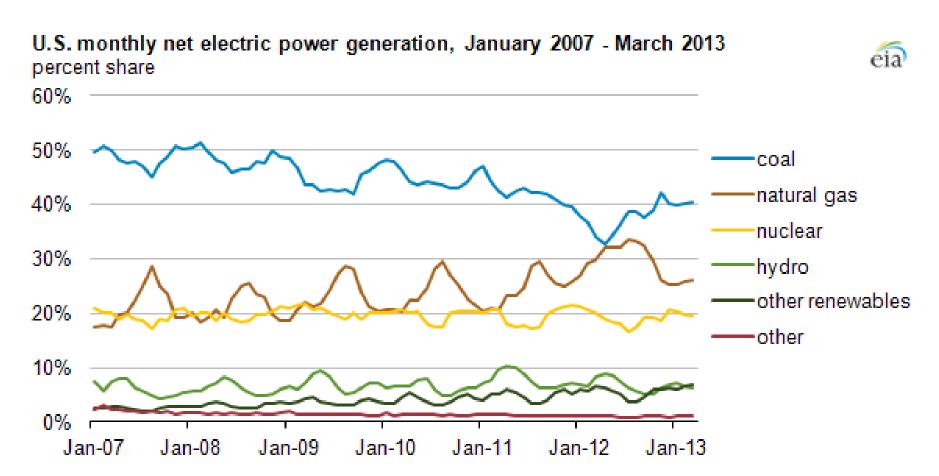
**Answer: Different, very different** 



#### **PRB Growth was US Coal Growth**

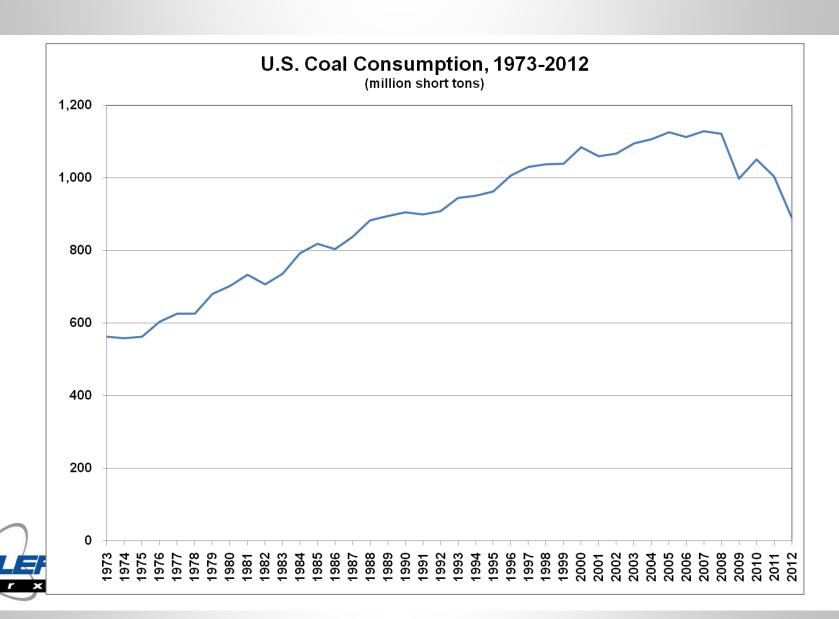


### **Gas Taking Market Share from Coal**





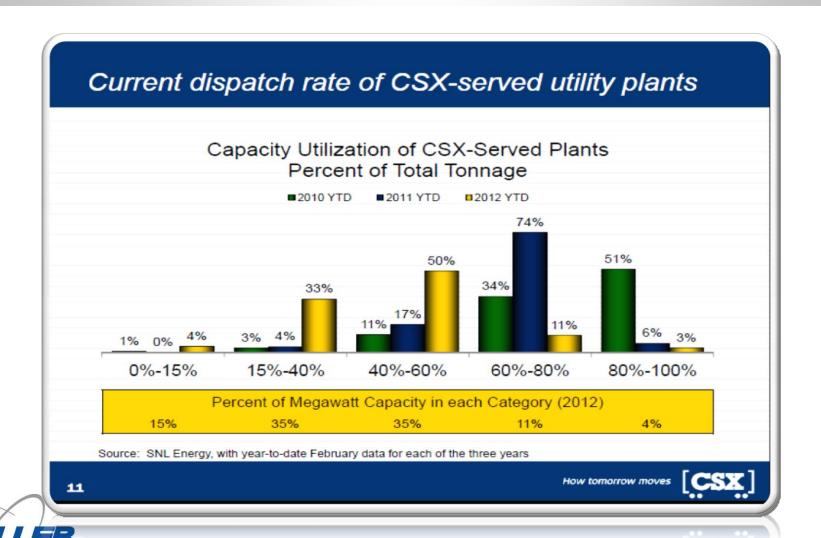
### **U. S. Coal Consumption, 1973-2012**



### What Happened?

- Cheap gas, tough environmental regulations and low power prices have virtually eliminated new US coal plant construction.
- Cheap gas, conservation, renewables and anemic economic growth have reduced rail shipments to existing units.
- High production costs, tougher mining regulations, installation of scrubbers, and low market prices have eviscerated the CAPP steam coal supply industry,

## Base Load Plants are Becoming Intermediate Load



## **Potentially Quite Different Rail Pricing for CAPP and ILB**

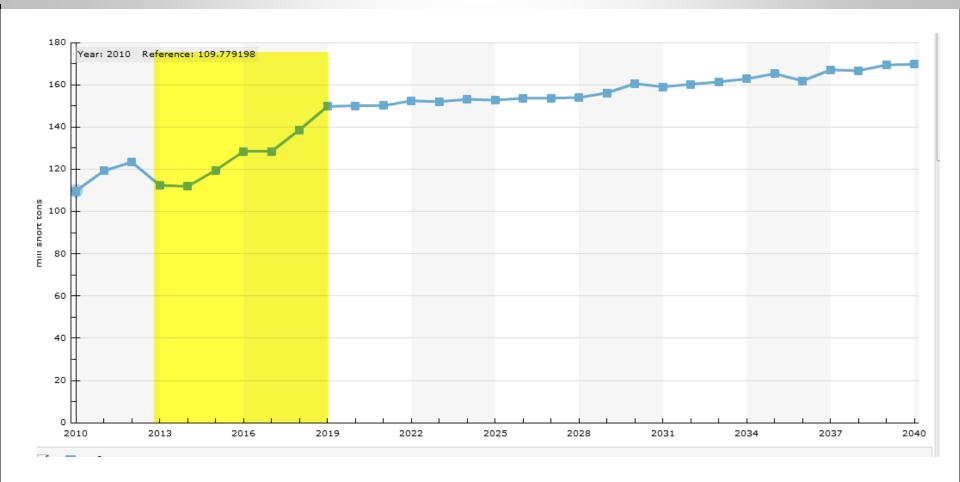
### Calculating the Rail Freight 'Headroom' for CAPP and ILB Coal to Compete with Gas Combined Cycle Power for CY '13

		Gas	CAPP Coal	ILB Coal
Coal ICAP 2Q-4Q '13	\$/t		\$66	\$40
Fuel price	\$/MMBtu	\$4.10	\$2.64	\$1.69
Transport	\$/MMBtu	\$0.30	\$0.46	\$1.41
heat rate	MMBtu/MWh	7.0	10.0	10.0
Fuel for Generation	\$/MWH	31	31	31
Rail price to match gas	\$/ton		\$12	\$33

Gas price May 7, '13 CME Group HH forwards for Jun-Dec '13 Coal price ICAP May 7, 2013. Heat rates are generic.



### **Illinois Basin Production Increase**



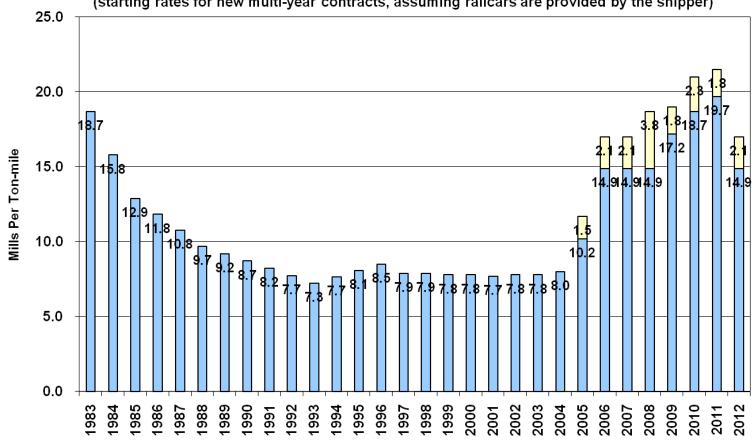


EIA Reference Case AEO 2013

### PRB Rail Rates: Still at High Levels

#### Rail Rates for Shipments of PRB Coal to Competitively-Served Destinations on **BNSF or UP**

(starting rates for new multi-year contracts, assuming railcars are provided by the shipper)



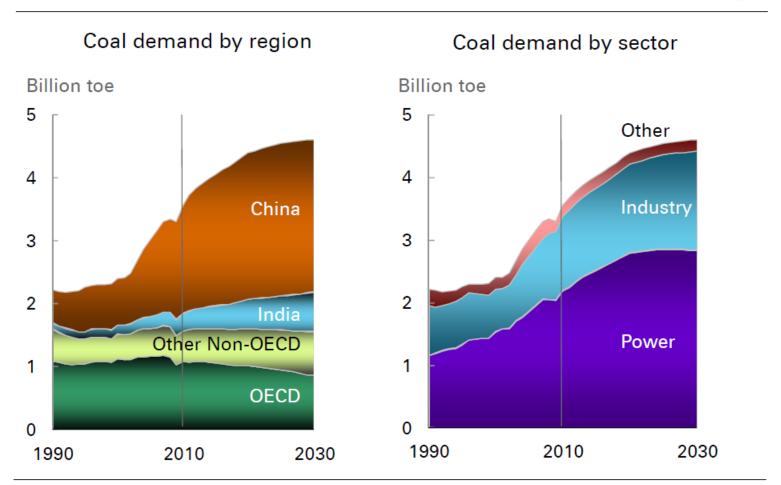


Sources: Estimates by Fieldston Co., Inc., PA Consulting Group, Pace Global Energy Services, and Hellerworx.

■ Base Rate

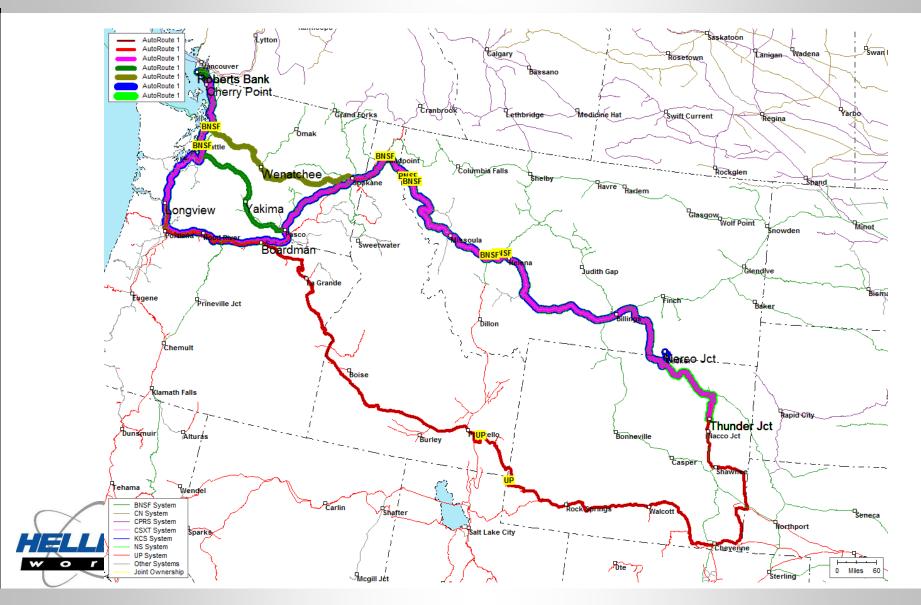
□ Fuel Surcharge (BNSF fuel surcharge is shown)

### For US Coal - Exports Are the Target





## Rail Routes for PRB Coal Exports via Ports in the Pacific Northwest



#### **Conclusions**

Domestic utility coal will become a smaller and more uncertain part of the railroads' commodity mix than it has been in the past due to environmental regs and competition from natural gas.

- 1. An ability to flexibly burn and transport ILB coal will be critical. (NAPP and PRB largely done)
- 2. More flexible approaches to contracting for coal and rail may develop. Would use price and term flexibility to achieve more volume predictability.

