

**A Kinect Energy Group Webinar presentation  
for APPA International membership****Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017****12:00 noon - 12:50 p.m. Mountain Time Zone (Arizona U.S.A)****Reliability, Competition and Price:  
The Changing Status of U.S. Natural Gas Systems**

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have wrought destruction across the U.S. Gulf Coast echoing storms from prior decades. In 2005, a record four hurricanes reached Category 5 status including Rita and Katrina which spiked natural gas prices to more than \$13.00 per MMBtu. These storms did lasting physical damage and had long-term implications for budgets and psyches of energy consumers.

A decade ago the conventional wisdom was that the United States was running out of natural gas. Nearly 20% of "domestic production" was actually coming from offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico that made supply and prices highly sensitive to weather. Over the ten intervening years technology growth has completely changed how and where domestic natural gas is produced. These changes raise questions with respect to "conventional wisdom" for dealing with risky energy prices. In a new environment, it behooves energy consumers to revisit purchasing practices to ensure the best outcome for their budgets.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Discuss changes in how natural gas is produced, transported, and consumed over the last decade
2. Discuss implications for energy consumers
3. Identify strategic approach to responsibly controlling risk

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Ben is responsible for helping clients navigate the volatility of energy markets through the use of a variety of risk management tools. He helps clients understand market trends that impact near and long-term energy costs, utilizing periodic reports, presentations, and conference calls tailored to the needs and objectives of each client. Ben holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Macalester College in Economics and Political science and an MBA from St. Thomas University.

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