

Nominal price: The price paid for a product or service at the time of the transaction. Nominal prices are those that have not been adjusted to remove the effect of changes in the purchasing power of the dollar; they reflect buying power in the year in which the transaction occurred.

Non-biomass waste: Material of non-biological origin that is a byproduct or a discarded product. "Non-biomass waste" includes municipal solid waste from non-biogenic sources, such as plastics, and tire-derived fuels.

Non-combustion use: **Fossil fuels (coal, natural gas, and petroleum products)** that are not burned to release energy and instead used directly as construction materials, chemical feedstocks, lubricants, solvents, waxes, and other products. Sometimes used synonymously with "nonfuel use (of energy)."

Nonhydrocarbon gases: Typical nonhydrocarbon gases that may be present in reservoir **natural gas** are **carbon dioxide**, helium, hydrogen sulfide, and nitrogen.

Nonrenewable fuels: Fuels that cannot be easily made or "renewed," such as **crude oil, natural gas, and coal**.

Normal butane (C₄H₁₀): A straight-chain saturated (paraffinic) **hydrocarbon** extracted from both **natural gas** and **refinery gas** streams, which is gaseous at standard temperature and pressure. It is a colorless gas that boils at a temperature of 31 degrees Fahrenheit. See **Paraffinic hydrocarbons**.

Nuclear electric power (nuclear power): Electricity generated by the use of the thermal energy released from the fission of nuclear fuel in a reactor.

Nuclear electric power plant: A single-unit or multiunit facility in which heat produced in one or more reactors by the fissioning of nuclear fuel is used to drive one or more steam turbines.

Nuclear reactor: An apparatus in which a nuclear fission chain reaction can be initiated, controlled, and sustained at a specific rate. A reactor includes fuel (fissionable material), moderating material to control the rate of fission, a heavy-walled pressure vessel to house reactor components, shielding to protect personnel, a system to conduct heat away from the reactor, and instrumentation for monitoring and controlling the reactor's systems.

OECD: See **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development**.

Offshore: That geographic area that lies seaward of the coastline. In general, the coastline is the line of ordinary low water along with that portion of the coast that is in direct contact with the open sea or the line marking the seaward limit of inland water.

Oil: See **Crude oil**.

Oil from algae: Oil processed from unicellular and multicellular algae harvested specifically to produce biofuel.

Olefinic hydrocarbons (olefins): Unsaturated **hydrocarbon** compounds with the general formula C_nH_{2n} containing at least one carbon-to-carbon double-bond. Olefins are produced at crude oil refineries and petrochemical plants and are not naturally occurring constituents of oil and natural gas. Sometimes referred to as alkenes or unsaturated hydrocarbons. Excludes aromatics.

Olefins: See **Olefinic hydrocarbons (olefins)**.

OPEC: See **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries**.

Operable unit (nuclear): In the United States, a nuclear generating unit that has completed low-power testing and been issued a full-power operating license by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or equivalent permission to operate.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): An international organization helping governments tackle the economic, social and governance challenges of a globalized economy. Its membership comprises about 30 member countries. With active relationships with some 70 other countries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, it has a global reach. For details about the organization, see <http://www.oecd.org>.

Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC): An intergovernmental organization whose stated objective is to "coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of member countries." It was created at the Baghdad Conference on September 10–14, 1960. Current and former members (with years of membership) include Algeria