EIA forecasts record 2.6 trillion cubic feet build in U.S. natural gas inventories

With the winter heating season over, U.S. natural gas producers now turn to ramping up output to replenish natural gas inventories that fell to an 11-year low at the end of March.

In its new short-term energy forecast, the U.S. Energy Information Administration expects a record 2.6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas to be injected into underground storage between now and November 1, when demand for gas for heating picks up again.

EIA revised up its forecast of U.S. natural gas production for this year and for 2015.

While bad weather caused gas production to dip during the winter months, output has bounced back to record highs.

Rising natural gas production is expected to cut U.S. natural gas imports next year to the lowest level since 1987.

Jonathan Cogan, for EIA, Washington