# Oil and Gas Volatility, Security and Optionality

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#### The Roots of Volatility of Oil and Gas Markets

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#### **1.** Three Drivers of Price Formation

- Fundamental supply and demand
- Speculation and hedging in paper markets

#### 2. Marginal Pricing and Transmission

- Inherent decline rate and investment
  - US decline is 30%+ vs global rate of 7%
- The one-bucket reality guarantees

#### 3. Low Elasticity

- Supply not easily moderated, as subsurface dictates operations
- Nobody drives to work twice

#### 4. Substitution

Band of substitution has narrowed as world has moved to greater efficiency



#### What's the Problem? Availability vs Affordability

- Both producers and consumers seek security.
  - Neither buyer nor seller has more inherent power.
  - Consequences of a stoppage usually more acute and immediate for consumers.
- For consumers, physical shortfalls may be catastrophic: energy is life.
  - But they are also **rare** in the modern context.
- Global, flexible markets usually convert availability risk to affordability risk.
- Most important and immediate energy security measure is already in place: inventories.
- Focusing protection on avoiding physical shortage protection may be like buying an additional lock to protect against a hurricane
- Markets ration energy every day.

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- Recent events have exposed **developed** countries to this phenomenon.





Crises reveal "revealed preferences." Everyone has a hierarchy.



#### **Balancing Energy Security with Efficiency**

- Any system engineered for maximum efficiency is, by definition, **fragile** to volatility and unexpected events.
- Optionality **always** has a cost.
- Finding the right balance is tricky.
  - Humans are not good at assessing risk, especially over time.
  - Total security is **not the right answer**, and correct decisions can have bad outcomes.
  - Expect Monday-morning quarterbacks.
- How does this impact you?
  - Executives: choose a position on the efficient frontier, then adapt the company structures and risk mitigation to that point.
  - Innovators: push the efficient frontier outward: deliver more value and/or more security at any tradeoff.



## Thank You.