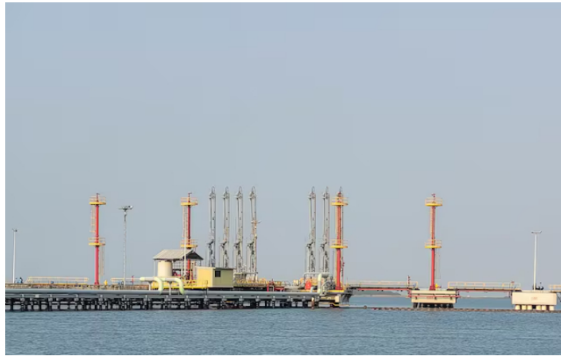


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Ecopetrol hikes forecast Colombia gas deficit for 2025 and 2026

By **Oliver Griffin**

July 24, 2024 1:03 PM GMT-5 · Updated 6 hours ago



A complex of pipes used for the export of crude oil at a dock that is part of the Ecopetrol refinery is seen in Cartagena, Colombia April 12, 2024. REUTERS/Nelson Bocanegra/ File Photo [Purchase Licensing Rights](#)

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BOGOTA, July 24 (Reuters) - Colombia's majority state-owned energy company Ecopetrol ([ECO.CN](#)) expects the country's gas deficit will hit 120 billion British Thermal Units per day in 2025 and around 300 billion BTU in 2026, the company's chief executive Ricardo Roa told journalists on Wednesday.

The new figures represent an increase on earlier estimates of 83 billion BTU for next year and around 160 billion BTU in 2026.

"Those are the deficit balances assuming a medium growth scenario like the UPME (Unit for Mining and Energy Planning) has in gas demand and those are the numbers that are on the table," Roa said at an event celebrating the UPME's 30th anniversary.

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At the end of June, Ecopetrol called for "flexibility" to enable gas block sales that would shore up the country's self-sufficiency in energy, where gas reserves closed 2023 at 6.1 years of consumption.

"A decree will be issued very soon making this regulation more flexible, allowing Ecopetrol to be able to make an offer for gas contracts ... which could enable us to supply those 120 billion to 160 billion BTU per day in gas," Roa said.

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Reporting by Oliver Griffin

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Oliver reports on energy and the environment as well as general news from Bogotá in Colombia. He has a special interest in reporting on Colombia's rampant oil crime, where hydrocarbon theft fueled by the drug trade leads to widespread pollution. He previously worked at Dow Jones Newswires in Barcelona where he covered oil and mining.

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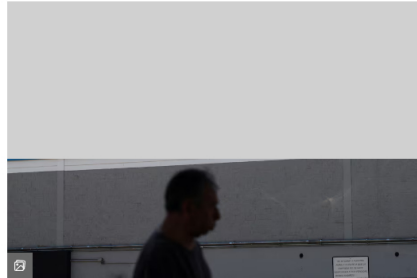
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