At CERAWeek by IHS Markit, held in Houston in March, IEA Director Fatih Birol said that the world would soon see a major second wave of shale gas production from the US in response to higher energy prices and growing demand from India and China. However, the issue remains that US shale plays (FIG. 1) will require infrastructure buildout to continue pumping at high rates. Infrastructure companies traditionally require a commitment of 30 yr or more to build a pipeline, but rapid decline rates for shale wells or the exit of drillers from a region can impact pipeline utilization rates. The IEA expects capital investment in shale drilling over the next 5 yr to significantly impact future production volumes. **GP**

FIG. 1. US shale plays. Source: US EIA.