
Iran To Buy Gas Field From Azerbaijan

Jomhuri-Ye Eslami / Iran - 4/8/2008

During some discussions with Azerbaijan, the oil minister [Gholamhoseyn Nowzari] said that we have announced our readiness to buy a section of Shah Deniz field's natural gas. He said: A while ago, during a meeting that was held in the Oil and Gas Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan, some discussions were made regarding the second phase of Shah Deniz gas field. These discussions will continue.

He added: It seems that we may have a chance to compete with other companies, because of Iran's closeness to the Republic of Azerbaijan and the lower costs of natural gas transfer.

According to his remarks, based on a scheduled plan, the development of the second phase of Shah Deniz gas field will be operational after four years, and by then it would be possible for us to buy gas.

Emphasizing that in currently the gas swap is made from the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Naxcivan, the oil minister said: One million cubic meters of natural gas, enters Iran from Azerbaijan on a daily basis and based on Armenia's need, 600-700 thousand cubic meters are transferred to this republic.

Referring to the Oil Ministry's charter, Nowzari reminded: The works in the Oil Ministry have been finalized and presented to the Cabinet. However the changes which have been made in the Oil Ministry have not been finalized in the Cabinet yet. According to a report by ISNA, referring to the fact that by using the gas of phase 7 of the South Pars we would provide the gas for either phase 9 or 10 in the refinery.

He said: At the moment, the drilling operation for wells conducted by the National Drilling Company has been completed on the said platform. Some final details related to the digging operations have remained for completion. This is the job of digging contractors and is not related to the National Drilling Company.

Referring to the development and completion of the operations of Dorud Field [name as published], by Total [company] he merely said that the Iranian Offshore Oil Company, instead of Total, is taking over the installations of this field.
