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China's leaders throw their weight behind West-East Gas Pipeline

Nowhere is gas development more political than in China – and never more so than now, writes Alex Forbes from Beijing. Increasingly, China is in the throes of change. Internally, the government is busy formulating a five-year plan that will drive policy for the years 2001 to 2005, a key element of which is a new thrust in energy policy that will – as we have said before – see increasing emphasis on the use of natural gas at the expense of dirtier fuels such as oil and coal.

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