chinas-plan-to-add-11-oil-reserve-sites-in-2025-2026-what-matters-for-energy-professionals

THE SHORT ANSWER

What does China's plan to add 11 new oil reserve sites in 2025 and 2026 mean for energy professionals.

China is adding about 26.8 million cubic meters, roughly 169 million barrels, of new crude storage across 11 sites through 2026, split between three inland locations in Shaanxi and Yunnan and coastal terminals. The new capacity covers only about two weeks of China's current crude import needs, but it gives state buyers more flexibility to purchase opportunistically when prices dip. Traders and planners should track the buildout through customs data, satellite observed inventories and price action rather than construction headlines alone.

In this briefing

01

02

FIG.54.02 · DATA

FIGURES AS STATED IN THE FULL DOSSIER; ESTIMATES MARKED AS SUCH.

03

FIG.54.03 · DATA

FIGURES AS STATED IN THE FULL DOSSIER; ESTIMATES MARKED AS SUCH.

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FIG.54.05 · DATA

FIGURES AS STATED IN THE FULL DOSSIER; ESTIMATES MARKED AS SUCH.

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What matters

01 China will add 11 new crude oil reserve sites in 2025 and 2026, adding about 26.8 million cubic meters, roughly 169 million barrels, of capacity, with three sites inland in Shaanxi and Yunnan and the rest coastal.

02 The new capacity equals only about two weeks of China's current crude import needs, so the sites add flexibility rather than transform the country's strategic depth.

03 U.S. EIA estimates put the increase in Chinese crude inventories at about 900,000 barrels per day between January and August 2025, and Reuters calculates a year to date surplus intake of about 930,000 barrels per day through September, both pointing to

04 CNPC's January outlook guided 2025 crude imports to around 11.18 million barrels per day with import dependence near 70 percent through 2030, the baseline against which the new storage is being built.

05 The mixed coastal and inland footprint supports quick line outs and blending at refining hubs while easing pipeline balancing and reducing congestion at coastal terminals during high import months.

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