



**News Tracker:**

-Natural gas spot price movements were mixed this Report Week (Wednesday, March 30, to Wednesday, April 6). The Henry Hub spot price rose slightly during the Report Week from \$1.84 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) to \$1.86/MMBtu.

-At the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex), the May 2016 natural gas futures contract price fell over the Report Week, starting at \$1.996/MMBtu and finishing at \$1.911/MMBtu.

-Net natural gas injections into working gas storage totaled 12 Bcf for the week ending April 1. At 2,480 Bcf, working gas stocks are 68.5% above the year-ago level and 54.4% above the five year (2011-15) average for this time of year. Analyst expectations for injections in to storage generally ranged between 4 and 15 Bcf, with a median of 7 Bcf. Working gas in storage exceeds the five-year (2011-15) maximum level of 2,474 Bcf by 6 Bcf. This marks the highest level reported for the end of the heating season, which traditionally occurs on March 31. The previous all-time record high for the end of the heating season was in 2012, when working gas stocks totaled 2,473 Bcf. Temperatures in the Lower 48 states averaged 51°F during the report week, 6% higher than normal and 5% above last year at this time. These above-normal temperatures continue the pattern that has occurred since the beginning of the 2015-16 heating season on November 1, 2015. Temperatures were above normal during 19 out of 22 weeks in the 2015-16 heating season.

-For the week ending April 1, the number of both oil and gas rigs continued to decline, according to the Baker Hughes rig count. Gas-directed rigs decreased by 4, to 88, and oil-directed rigs fell by 10, to 362. The total rig count fell by 14, and now stands at 450.

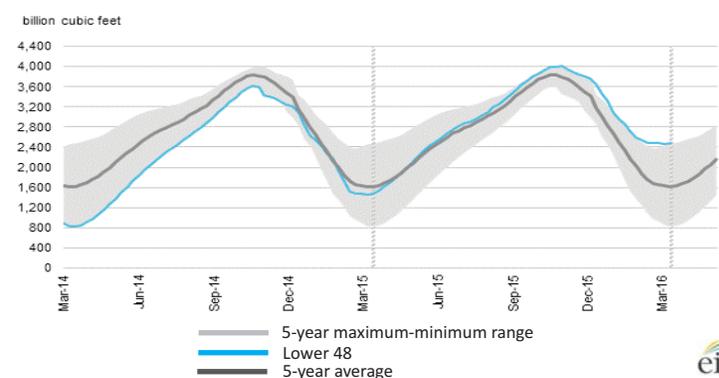
-The natural gas plant liquids (NGPL) composite price at Mont Belvieu, Texas, decreased by 17¢ to \$4.45/MMBtu for the week ending Friday, April 1. The prices of all natural gas liquids products fell this week: ethane fell by 5.5%, propane fell by 4.1%, butane fell by 3.4%, isobutane fell by 3.2%, and natural gasoline fell by 1.5%. This week's decline in liquids prices is likely related to crude oil prices, which fell by 6.0% over the period, averaging \$36.82 per barrel.

Excerpted from eia

**Monthly NYMEX Natural Gas Settle Price: May 2015 - Apr 2016:**



**Working nat. gas in underground storage as of April 1, 2016**

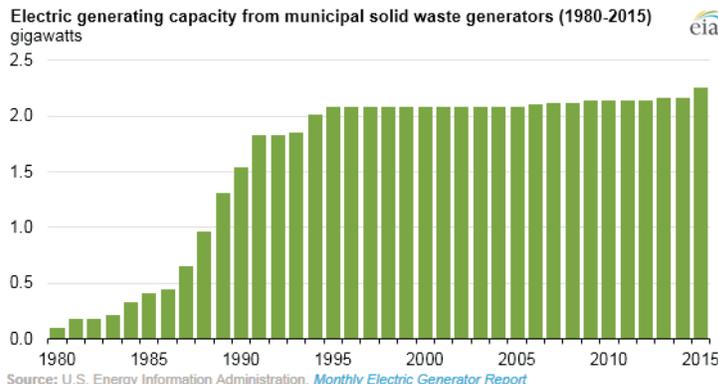


**Forward 12-month NYMEX natural gas strip price - May16-Apr17:**

Process Load-weighted \$2.480/dth (w/w = -\$0.028)  
 Typical Heat Load-weighted \$2.647/dth (w/w = -\$0.030)

**US waste-to-energy electricity generation concentrated in Florida and Northeast:**

At the end of 2015, the US had 71 waste-to-energy (WTE) plants that generated electricity in 20 US states, with a total generating capacity of 2.3 gigawatts. Florida contains more than one-fifth of the nation's WTE electricity generation capacity, and in 2015, Florida's Palm Beach Renewable Energy Facility Number 2 became the first new WTE plant to come online since 1995 and the largest single WTE electricity generator in the US. WTE plants account for a relatively small portion of the total U.S. electric capacity and generation, providing about 0.4% of total U.S. electricity generation in 2015. WTE power plants convert the combustible content of municipal solid waste (MSW) to energy. MSW contains biomass (or biogenic) materials like paper, cardboard, food waste, grass clippings, leaves, wood, and leather products, as well as nonbiogenic materials such as plastics, metals, and petroleum-based synthetic materials. The biogenic component of MSW makes up about 59% of the total tonnage, but because of a lower heat content, it accounts for about half of the total net electricity generation. WTE plants are primarily intended as a MSW management option, with electricity generation a secondary benefit. Burning MSW reduces the volume of waste by about 87%. The remainder is ash from air pollutant emissions control systems, ash from the combusted material, and noncombustible materials. About 90% of WTE electricity generation capacity was added between 1980 and 1995, when landfilling MSW was relatively expensive. In the early 1990s, as the mercury and dioxin emissions implications associated with combusting MSW began to be recognized, most existing facilities had to install air pollution control systems or be shut down, and the construction of new MSW-fired electric generation capacity came to a halt.



“The riches are great, but riches aren’t everything, because when you go you can only take your memories and your word and your honor to the grave with you.” -Michael Thornton<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Michael Thornton Interview - Academy of Achievement,” 2001