

News Tracker:

-Natural gas spot price movements were mixed across the United States because of warmer weather in the western half of the country and colder weather east. With mild weather, prices fell slightly in the West. In the rest of the country, prices increased as temperatures dropped during the report week (Wednesday, December 31 to Wednesday, January 7). The Henry Hub spot price increased from \$3.00/MMBtu to open the week to \$3.07/MMBtu at report week end.

-The February 2015 NYMEX natural gas contract fell slightly by \$0.018/MMBtu from report week start-to-end, beginning the report week at \$2.889/MMBtu and ending at \$2.871/MMBtu.

-Working natural gas in storage decreased to 3,089 Bcf as of Friday, January 2, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report. A net withdrawal from storage of 131 Bcf for the week resulted in storage levels 8.8% above year-ago levels and 2.1% below the five-year average for this week.

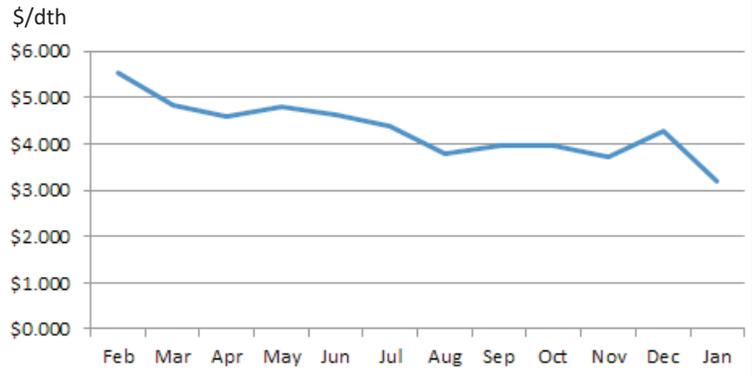
-The total U.S. rotary rig count decreased by 29 units to 1,811 rigs for the week ending January 2, according to data from Baker Hughes Inc. The natural gas rig count decreased by 12 units to 328, while oil rigs decreased by 17 units to 1,482. One miscellaneous rig remained in service.

-The Mont Belvieu natural gas plant liquids composite price fell by 6.0% to \$5.15/MMBtu for the week ending January 2. With the exception of ethane, which closed up 5.3%, all other component prices fell this week. The prices changed as follows: natural gasoline, -7.3%, propane, -11.2%, butane, -4.8%, and isobutane by -4.2%.

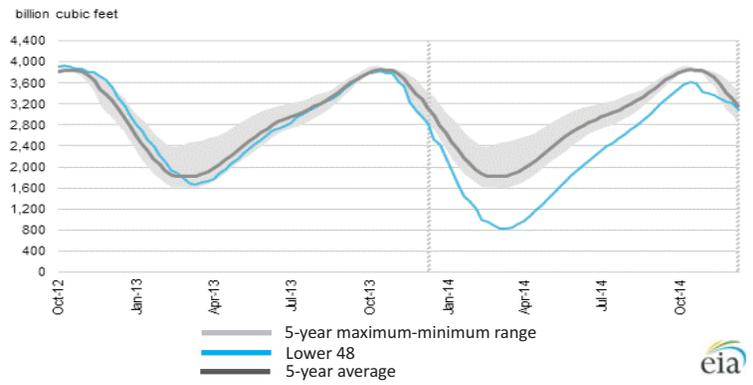
-Temperatures in the Lower 48 states averaged 34.7° for the storage report week, 0.9° warmer than the 30-year normal temperature and 0.7° cooler than the temperatures during the same week last year. There were 214 population-weighted heating degree days during the storage report week, 5 fewer than the 30-year normal and 5 more than during the same period last year.



Monthly NYMEX Natural Gas Settle Price Feb 2014 - Jan 2015:



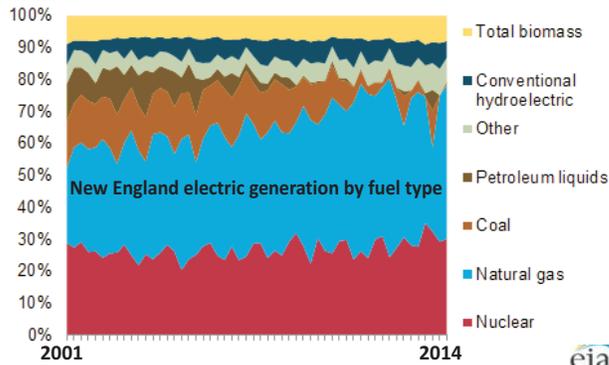
Working nat. gas in underground storage as of January 5, 2015:



Forward 12-month NYMEX natural gas strip price - Feb15-Jan16:

Process Load-weighted - \$3.100/dth
 Heat Load-weighted - \$3.130/dth

Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant closure likely to add natural gas demand:



Entergy Corporation's Vermont Yankee 604 MW nuclear power plant retired last week, after 42 years of service. The closure of the generating station, which provided about 4% of the region's electricity sales, will increase New England's dependence on natural gas for power generation, according to the Independent System Operator of New England (ISO-NE). The U. S. Energy Information Administration estimates that natural gas electric power generation capacity of a similar size to Vermont Yankee could burn about 100 million cubic feet per day (MMcf/d) of natural gas. Entergy cited low wholesale prices, high costs of maintenance, and low prices in regional markets for electric generating capacity as reasons for closing Vermont Yankee. Nonnuclear facilities in New England have also retired or announced their intent to shut down. Dominion Energy Resources retired its nearly 750-MW Salem Harbor coal- and petroleum-fired power plant in Massachusetts in June 2014. Dominion cited a combination of the costs of compliance with new environmental regulations as well as declining profits for coal-fired units in New England. Future

shut downs include the 1,520-MW Brayton Point coal- and natural-gas/oil-fired power plant in Somerset, Massachusetts, expected to be shut down in 2017. Natural gas has increased as a share of fuel for power generation in New England over the past several years, rising to 52% in 2012 when natural gas prices reached record lows. In 2013, natural gas's share of generation fell to 45%, but was still much greater than in previous years. In addition, ISO-NE said in its regional system plan that more than 4,500 MW of natural gas capacity and 3,700 MW of wind capacity has been proposed, as more retirements are expected in the next few years.

“Be at war with your vices, at peace with you neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man.” -Benjamin Franklin