

Newstracker:

-US natural gas spot price changes were mixed from Wednesday, February 21, to Wednesday, February 28 (the Report Week), during which the Henry Hub spot price rose 3 cents to \$1.63/MMBtu.

-The March 2024 NYMEX natural gas futures contract expired on Tuesday at \$1.612 down 16 cents from last Report Week. The April 2024 NYMEX contract price increased to \$1.885/MMBtu, up 2 cents from last Report Week. The price of the 12-month strip averaging April 2024 through March 2025 futures rose 9 cents to \$2.817/MMBtu. International natural gas futures prices decreased this Report Week, with LNG cargoes in East Asia falling 39 cents to a weekly average of \$8.26/MMBtu, and prices at TTF in the Netherlands decreasing 11 cents to a weekly average of \$7.64/MMBtu. In the same week last year, prices were \$14.76/MMBtu in East Asia and \$15.10/MMBtu at TTF.

-Total US consumption of natural gas fell by 13.3% (12.9 Bcf/d) compared with the previous Report Week. Residential and commercial sector consumption declined by 24.9% (9.9 Bcf/d) week over week as temperatures were higher this Report Week compared with last Report Week. Natural gas consumed for power generation declined by 6.0% (1.9 Bcf/d), and industrial sector consumption decreased by 4.4% (1.1 Bcf/d). Natural gas exports to Mexico decreased 1.4% (0.1 Bcf/d). Natural gas deliveries to US LNG export facilities averaged 13.9 Bcf/d, or 0.3 Bcf/d higher than last week.

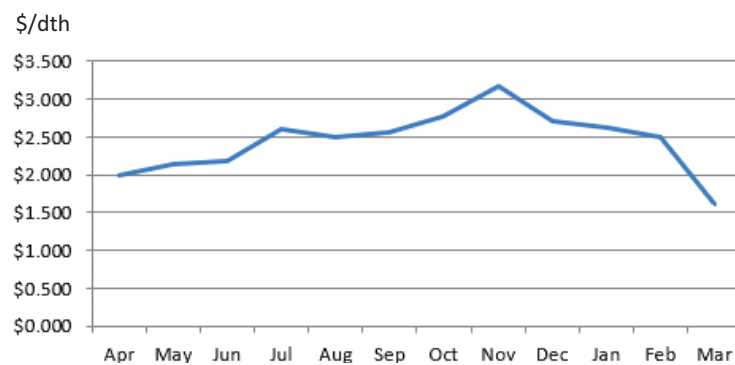
-The natural gas plant liquids composite price at Mont Belvieu, Texas, fell by 16 cents/MMBtu, averaging \$7.46/MMBtu for the week ending February 28. Average weekly propane prices fell 5%, while Brent crude oil prices fell 2%, increasing the propane discount to crude oil by 6%.

-For the week ending Tuesday, February 20, the natural gas rig count decreased by 1rig from a week ago. Oil-directed rigs increased by 6 rigs from a week ago to 503 rigs. The total rig count, which includes 3 miscellaneous rigs, now stands at 626 rigs, 127 fewer rigs than last year at this time.

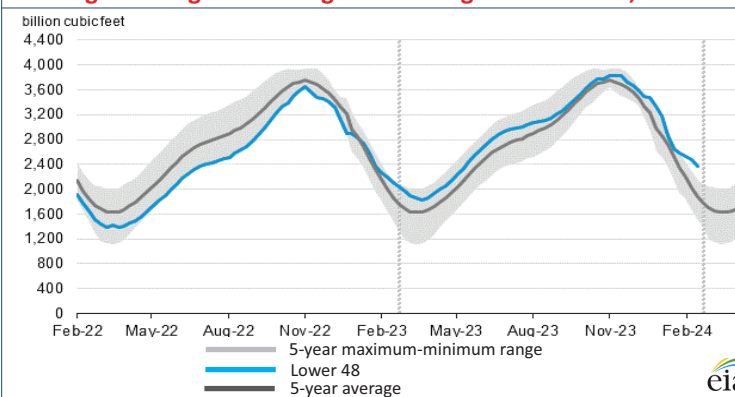
-Net natural gas withdrawals from storage totaled 96 Bcf for the week ending February 23, compared with the five-year average net withdrawals of 143 Bcf and last year's net withdrawals of 79 Bcf during the same week. Working natural gas stocks totaled 2,374 Bcf, which is 498 Bcf (27%) more than the five-year average and 248 Bcf (12%) more than last year at this time.

Excerpted from 

Monthly NYMEX Natural Gas Settle Price: Apr 2023 - Mar 2024:



Working natural gas in underground storage as of Feb. 23, 2024



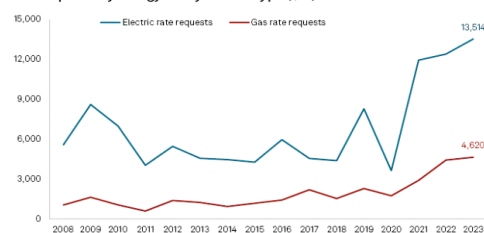
Forward 12-month NYMEX natural gas strip price - Apr24-Mar25:

Process Load-weighted \$2.817/dth - w/o/w = ▲\$0.094
 Typical Heat Load-weighted \$3.127/dth - w/o/w = ▲\$0.088

Rate requests by US energy utilities set record in 2023 for 3rd straight year:

After filing record-setting rate requests in 2021 and 2022, utilities brought an even more ambitious rate case agenda in 2023, with requests totaling more than \$18.13 billion. Rate requests in 2023 were dominated by electric utilities, which requested \$13.51 billion in rate increases, while gas utilities requested \$4.62 billion. The electric rate filings reflect the utilities' significant capital expenditure plans for upgrading transmission and distribution (T&D) systems and installing new renewable generation and technologies to accommodate the clean energy transition. The gas filings continue to reflect investment to replace aging infrastructure. Inflation and rising debt costs have also been highlighted as factors in recent case filings. These general rate cases and limited-issue rider proceedings have been driven by the need to invest in infrastructure to upgrade aging T&D systems; build new gas, solar and wind generation; and implement new technologies, including smart meters, smart grid systems, cybersecurity measures, infrastructure to support electric vehicles and battery storage. The rate requests reflect the need to shutter aging fossil fuel plants amid a nationwide push toward clean energy, protect customers against growing climate-related risks such as wildfires and recover costs incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2023 total of \$18.13 billion exceeded 2022's record-setting \$16.78 billion by 8%. The rate increases requested by utilities in 2022 were more than three times higher than the amount sought in 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic, when many utilities withdrew or postponed rate cases to reduce the economic impact on struggling businesses and residents.

Rate requests by energy utility service type (\$M)



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"Science is the belief in the ignorance of experts." -Richard P. Feynman¹

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