## IAF Advisors Energy Market Outlook Kyle Cooper, (713) 722-7171, Kyle.Cooper@IAFAdvisors.com September 21, 2012

**Price Action:** Prices slipped as temperatures remain moderate and injections rose. Prices fell 5.8 cents (2.0%) to \$2.885 on a 24.6 cent range. The October contract will expire on Wednesday.

Price Outlook: Prices slipped as the storage injection was above market expectations and supply indications are suggesting production is now above pre-storm levels. Although this week witnessed another large reduction in the yearly storage surplus, the injection was above market consensus and storage injections will likely increase in coming weeks. As temperatures moderate, cooling or heating demand remains absent and power burn, the main supply and demand balancing factor throughout 2012 has fallen. Even on a temperature adjusted basis, natural gas electricity related demand appears to have weakened, a bearish situation if sustained. CFTC data indicated yet another reduction in the speculative net long position, although at a slower pace. Total net length has now been reduced over 100,000 contracts since late July. Total open interest slipped, but remained above 5.0 million contracts as of September 18. Money flow could easily drive prices in either direction in coming weeks.

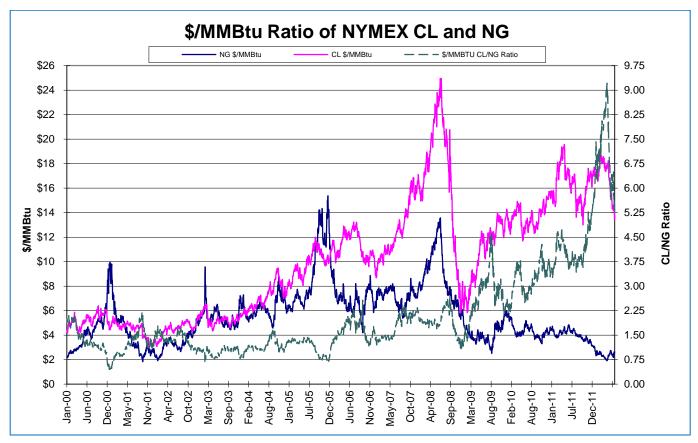
**Weekly Storage:** US working gas storage rose 67 BCF for the week ending September 14. Current inventory levels of 3,496 BCF now rise 295 BCF (9.2%) above last year while surpassing the 5 year average by 275 BCF (8.6%).

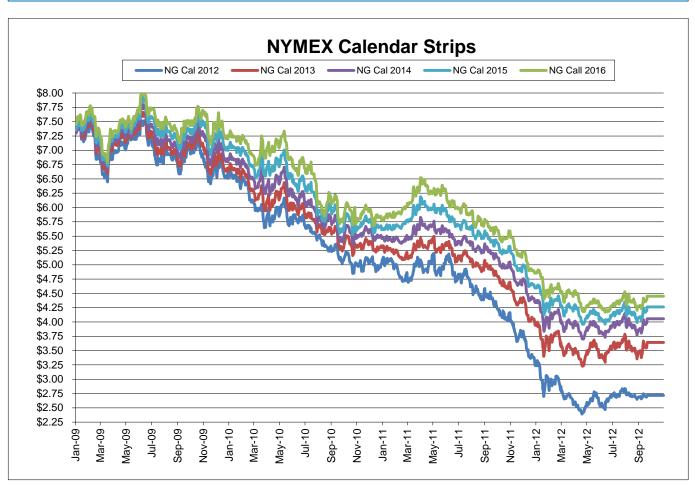
Storage Outlook: After reaching a YOY storage surplus peak of 893 BCF on March 31, the power generation demand and well above normal temperatures have combined to eliminate the threat of storage containment issues. Still, inventories are easily on track to establish a new record level and the recent power burn indications and supply measurements are considered bearish.

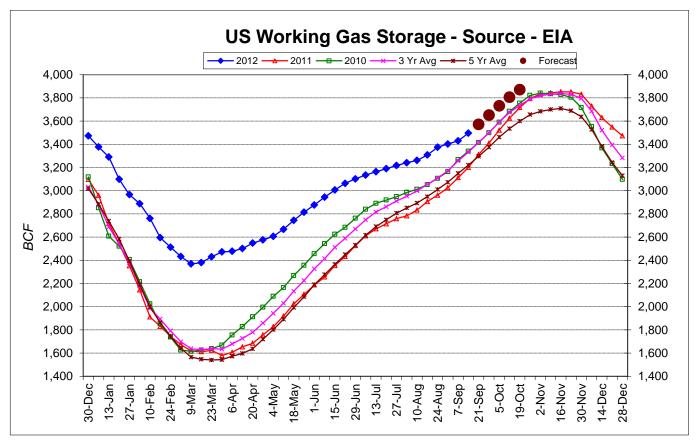
**Supply Trends:** Total supply rose 1.3 BCF/D to 67.3 BCF/D. US production surged and more than offset lower Canadian imports. LNG imports and Mexican exports were again unchanged. The US Baker Hughes rig count witnessed a lower oil count not completely offset by higher natural gas activity, a reversal of the 2012 trend. Canadian activity rose and lifted the total North American rig count 4 and at 2,222 now trails last year by 274. **The higher efficiency US horizontal rig count rose 16 and at 1,149 now again surpasses last year by 9.** 

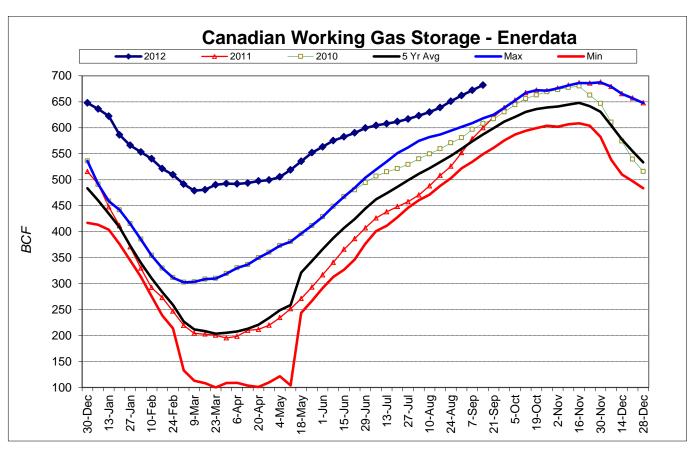
**Demand Trends:** Total demand dropped 4.8 BCF/D to 56.4 BCF/D. A plunge in power demand more than offset higher R&C and industrial consumption. Electricity demand fell 7,820 gigawatt-hrs to 79,881 which trails last year by 1,409 (1.8%) and the 5 year average by 2,072 (2.6%). **Below normal temperatures in coming weeks are to be considered bullish.** 

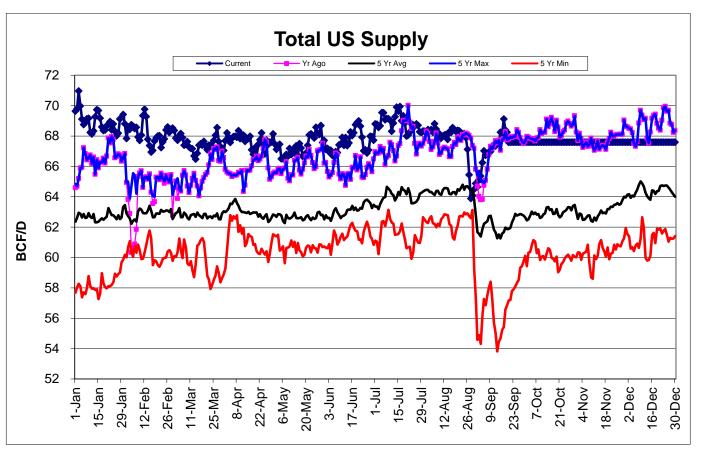
**Other Factors:** The S&P 500 index slipped as economic indicators remain lackluster. Equity strength appears supported solely by central bank monetary policy.

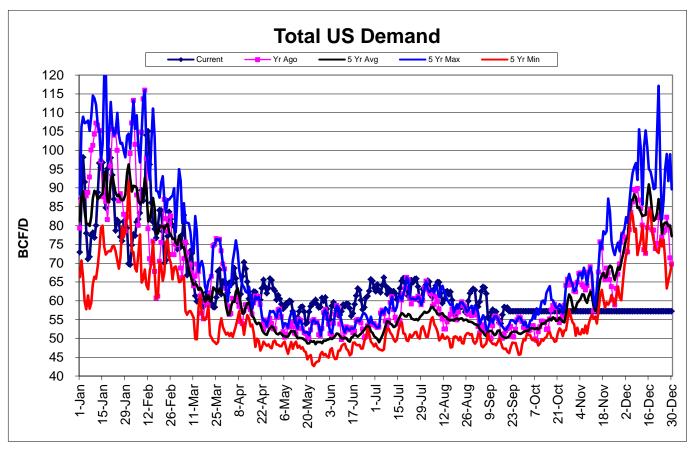












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