

MNI Gas Weekly: Bearish Pressures Mount on European Gas

By Daniel Dawson & Zach Simon (26/11/2025)

Executive Summary:

- **European Gas Benchmarks** fell on hopes of a Russia-Ukraine peace deal, mild weather and stable supply.
- Asia's **LNG market** remains relatively muted amid subdued demand from Japan and China.
- In the **Middle East & Africa**, Egypt is considering purchasing further cargoes for December.
- **Henry Hub** has oscillated on mixed weather forecasts, high production and strong feedgas demand.
- In the **Americas**, US shale drillers are taking their expertise to Argentina's Vaca Muerta.

European Natural Gas

TTF front month has come under pressure over the past week amid Russia-Ukraine peace hopes, mild weather into December and stable supplies, falling to the lowest level since May 2024 at €28.975/MWh on Tuesday.

- Front month TTF prices traded between €28.975/MWh and €31.445/MWh this week, compared to €30.285/MWh and €31.99/MWh over the previous week.
- Steve Witkoff, the US special envoy, will present the revised peace proposal to President Putin, while National Security Adviser Mike Driscoll travels to Kyiv to meet Ukrainian officials.
- The moves follow Ukraine's statement that it now shares a "common understanding" with Washington on the framework for a peace plan, though significant differences remain over security guarantees and territorial sovereignty.
- Temperatures in NW Europe are forecast to gradually rise to near or above this week and hold steady into early December. CWE wind output has been revised up for most of this week until mid-next week.
- NW European LNG sendout was up to 276.1mcm/d yesterday compared to an average of 273.4mcm/d so far this month, Bloomberg shows.
- European gas storage was down to 78.14% full on Nov. 2, according to GIE data, with net withdrawals still more than normal. The previous five-year seasonal average is 88.4% full.
- Norwegian pipeline supplies to Europe are 333.2mcm/d today. Gassco shows total planned unavailable capacity of 28.4mcm/d until the end of the month but almost no planned outages next month.
- Algeria gas flow to Italy at Mazara is up to 64.8 mcm/d today compared to an average of 50.55mcm/d so far this month, Bloomberg shows.
- ICE TTF futures aggregate trading volume was 422k on Nov. 25.
- Some LNG arrivals in Italy have been delayed after weather-related disruptions, according to ship-tracking and port data cited by Bloomberg.
- Slovakia is considering legal action against the European Union over the planned suspension of Russian gas supplies, Prime Minister Robert Fico said, cited by Bloomberg.

Recent Downside to TTF 'Sustainable': Goldman Sachs

Goldman Sachs sees the recent downside to gas prices driven by peace negotiations as sustainable and expects TTF to average 29 EUR/MWh in 2026 and 20 EUR/MWh in 2027 amid rising global LNG supply.

- Nevertheless, in the event of a peace deal, the bank notes that incremental Russian gas flows to Western Europe are unlikely in the near-to-medium term.

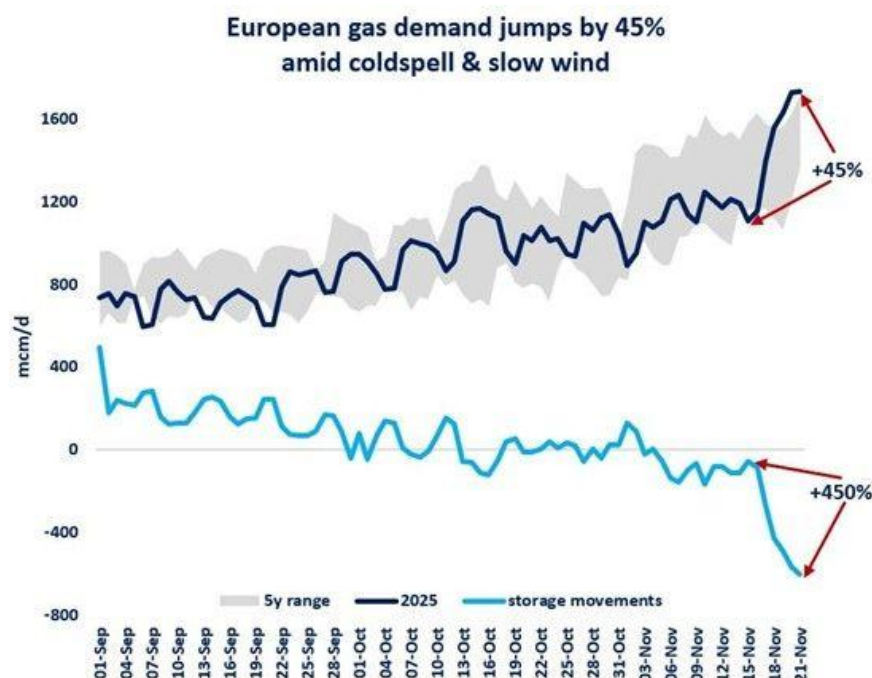
- A unilateral removal by the US of its sanctions on Russian LNG would be possible under a peace agreement, Goldman says.
- Those sanctions currently impact 15.9 mtpa or 60 mcm/d of supply, though 2-4 mtpa have started to reach buyers since summer.
- Such an increase in Russian LNG exports would lead European gas storage to congestion next year, pressuring European gas to the low 20 EURs/MWh, the bank says.
- The measures may therefore not benefit US LNG exporters and are also seen as unlikely.
- A residual loosening that could be seen from a peace deal driven by a gradual restoration of Ukraine's domestic gas production.
- Lower domestic output has led to Ukraine increasing imports by over 7 Bcm/y since July.

European Gas Demand Soared 45% Between Nov. 14-21

European gas demand soared by more than 45% between Nov. 14-21, amid the winter's first coldspell and slower windspeeds, according to IEA analyst Greg Molnar.

- The increase is equivalent to 0.6 bcm/d in absolute terms.
- Colder temperatures boosted space heating requirements and drove-up rescom demand by 75%.
- Heating degree days in the Netherlands stood 35% above the 5-year average.
- In addition, wind speeds slowed during the timeframe, with wind power generation falling 20% over the week, boosting gas-fired power generation by 40%.
- Gas storage played a key role in providing the flex in gas demand, meeting around 90% of the daily demand increase across Nov. 14-21.
- Withdrawals surged by nearly 450% during the period to just over 600 mcm/d on Friday.
- Despite the early coldspell, TTF prices continued their downward trend amid a ramp-up of LNG supplies.
- The relative resistance of gas prices to the demand surge "might indicate that we are entering calmer waters for gas markets," Molnar says.

European Gas Demand - Source (Greg Molnar)



EU LNG Deals Highlight Need for Russia Supply Replacement: Energy Intel

Recent long-term European deals for North American LNG shows the need to replace Russian supply outweighs any concerns over dependencies on one supply source and lack of diversification, according to Energy Intelligence sources.

- The US continues to offer the most competitive contracts in the Atlantic Basin with the best price from long term deals, a source said.
- German's Uniper and UK's Centrica both signed supply agreements for up to 10 years with Tourmaline Oil while Ineos agreed a deal with Kinetik. All three are linked to TTF minus the cost of shipping and handling.
- Spain's Naturgy and Greece's Atlantic-See LNG each signed 20-year agreements with US exporter Venture Global, starting from 2030.
- Hungary's MVM also agreed to 10-year supply delivered ex ship with Engie, predominantly from the US and also working on another five-year deal with an unnamed US company.
- Long term deals pose a potential challenge to net-zero pledges and the EU's deadline for ending long-term contracts by 2049.
- Many deals are on FOB basis with flex to be delivered anywhere and buyers could also opt to sell the contracts in the 2040s if no longer needed, a source said.
- The share of US LNG in EU imports rose to 56% from 43% last year, with 51.6m tons year to date in 2025, Kpler data shows.

German Gas Surcharge to be Scrapped in January: Trading Hub Europe

German gas market coordinator Trading Hub Europe said on Thursday that from January it will scrap a surcharge on gas prices, in line with legislation earlier this year, Reuters reports.

- The removal of the surcharge, currently amounting to 2.89 EUR/MWh, hinges on an energy law change coming into force on that date, THE said.
- The levy was introduced after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 to help cover the costs of replacing Russian pipeline gas with more expensive origins such as seaborne LNG.
- Since then, the German economy ministry has become aware that the moves have added to energy costs for consumers.

Route 1 Capacity Bookings to Ukraine Double for December

Companies doubled the booked capacities for importing natural gas from Greece to Ukraine via the joint Route 1 in December, up to 1.2 mcm/d, according to ExPro Consulting.

- Operators of the Trans-Balkan route offered about 2.2 mcm/d of capacity for December, of which 60% was booked.
- These are the highest booking volumes since the route was launched.
- In November, companies booked half as much – 0.6 mcm/d.
- Consultations continue on new routes for supplying gas from Greece to Ukraine.
- Route 2 and Route 3 could be launched by early December, but a more realistic timeline is now early-January, ExPro says.

- According to ExPro estimates, about 18 mcm of natural gas was imported to Ukraine via Route 1 in July-August 2025, and more than 14 mcm has been imported since the beginning of November.

Transbalkan Route 1 - Source (ExPro Consulting)



APAC LNG

Northeast Asian spot LNG prices have dropped to about \$10.80/MMBtu as buying interest from the region's major importers, Japan and China, remains subdued, according to Bloomberg.

- US tariffs are keeping China and South Korea's industrial activity muted, which means Asian LNG demand should stay downbeat, Bloomberg Intelligence analysts noted.
- Still, India is seeing some demand, with Indian Oil Corp. recently holding a purchase tender for a January shipment while Gail India Ltd looked to swap two US cargoes in exchange for two cargoes to be delivered to India in January and February.
- Meanwhile, the governor of the Niigata prefecture cleared two reactors at Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Kashiwazaki Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant,
- The restart of the Plant's No. 6 unit could reduce LNG demand in Japan by about 130k tons per month, according to Rystad.
- LNG stockpiles held by Japanese utilities fell 4.91% w/w on Nov. 23 to 2.13m tons, but still above the five-year average of 2.05m tons for the end of November.
- Elsewhere, the Dapeng Princess tanker appeared to deliver an LNG shipment to Myanmar's Thilawa port, marking the first LNG cargo to Myanmar in years, according to Bloomberg.

Near-Average LNG Demand Expected in East Asia This Winter

LNG demand in East Asia is expected to be near average, aligning with Dec-Feb weather forecasts, according to Platts.

- Japan, South Korea and China are expecting temperatures near or above the 30-year averages over December-February 2026, according to the latest weather forecasts.
- Japan's LNG inventories are not as comfortable as those of South Korea, but long-term LNG supply looks to be sufficient for winter under the current weather outlook.
- "LNG demand for power supply related to air conditioning operation is also anticipated to be around average levels," said Takayuki Nogami at JOGMEC.
- Korea Meteorological Administration also suggests average temperatures higher than usual in Dec-Feb but with risk of fluctuations and cold spells in December and January.
- Gas-fired power generation in South Korea is expected higher than last year with lower nuclear power generation and policy limiting coal-fired power.
- Most regions in China are expecting at or above normal during December-February, with only a few areas anticipated to have temperatures at or below normal, China's National Climate Center said. "Term contract volumes are filling up the terminals, and I've heard inventory levels are looking quite healthy in the tanks," a Platts source said.

Normal Weather To Pressure Spot LNG Prices: BNEF

Spot LNG prices are expected to remain under downward pressure in normal winter weather amid ample supplies and forecast mild weather in China, according to BNEF.

- Global LNG demand in December is to increase 7% from last month and 8% from last year to 40.1m tons.
- North Asian imports are set to rise as temperatures drop with growth led by South Korea and mainland China, but with moderate gains in Japan. Spot purchases in South Asia could continue as prices look affordable under current futures.
- Europe Perimeter LNG imports are estimated to be 32% above last year to help support storage levels. US netbacks to Northwest Europe remain above levels to North Asia over December 2025 to September 2026.
- Global LNG supply is projected to rise 4% on the month and 8.5% year on year to 41.4m tons in December, led by Qatar following maintenance.
- LNG Canada exports have been revised higher with Train 2 commissioned two months earlier than projected.
- Australia's Darwin backfill plant is assumed to load its first cargo in December while the US Golden Pass start-up is pushed to March from February.

China Nov. LNG Imports Likely Fell Again Year on Year

LNG imports to China in November likely fell for a 13th straight month on an annual basis to about 5.81m tons, according to Kpler data cited by Bloomberg.

- Imports are expected to fall 5.5% from 6.15m tons shown in Chinese Customs data for the same month last year but up slightly from 5.76m tons last month.

- Chinese demand for expensive LNG has been subdued this year by cheaper pipeline imports from Russia and Central Asia as well as strong domestic output.
- Early forecasts for mild temperatures and LNG supplies secured for the next few months via long-term contracts will likely limit the need to turn to the spot market.
- China's LNG imports have eased back from a recent high in the last couple of days amid mixed weather across the country. Near or above normal temperatures are expected in most of the country in December although cold weather is forecast for northern parts this week.
- China 30-day average daily LNG imports are currently at 209k tons having pulled back from the highest since January at 219k tons on Nov 20, according to Bloomberg ship-tracking data.

Y/Y Change in Monthly Chinese LNG Imports - Source (Bloomberg Finance L.P.)



Russian LNG Exports to China Reached Record in September

Russian LNG exports to China reached a new record high of 1.299m tons in Sep. 2025, up from 751k tons a year earlier, and well above the previous record of 1m tons in July 2023, according to General Administration of Customs data cited by Interfax.

- Russia remained China's third largest LNG supplier in September, behind Australia (2.127m tons) and Qatar (1.453m tons).
- Russia exported 2.066m tons of the 2.765m tons of LNG produced in September to China, Japan and South Korea.
- Russia's total gas exports to China, including pipeline gas and LNG, rose 37% y/y to 4.078 bcm in September.
- China's overall LNG imports fell 12% y/y to 5.76m tons in September.

Southbound Arctic LNG 2 Cargo Voyage Bearish for Asian Spot LNG Prices

The first laden southbound voyage for an Arctic LNG 2 cargo via the Red Sea is bearish for Asian spot LNG prices, Platts said.

- Using the route will help the sanctioned Russian project ship more volumes to China's Beihai LNG terminal amid shipping difficulties.
- The Zarya LNG vessel entered the Suez Canal on Nov. 24 and is currently transiting the Red Sea, after loading a cargo from Arctic LNG 2 in early October, according to S&P Global Commodities at Sea.
- The project has been attempting to reopen the route for LNG since it was shut late 2023 due to attacks on ships. The route helps save 12-14 days of shipping, when the NSR is closed in the winter months.
- Red Sea transit would also assist Yamal LNG flows to Asia when European sanctions start.

Osaka Gas Can Cover Sakhalin-2 Disruption via Spot Market

Osaka Gas, which sources about 2% of its LNG from Russia's Sakhalin-2 project, says it can cover any disruption by boosting volumes under existing contracts or by turning to the spot market, Platts said.

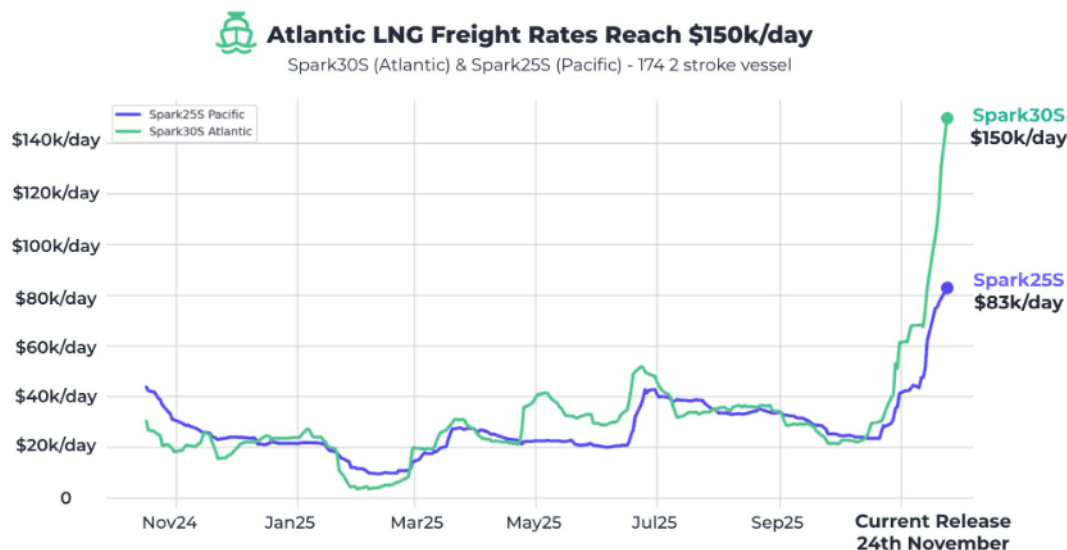
- President Masataka Fujiwara noted that although the share is small, Sakhalin's two-day shipping time offers valuable supply security.
- The company imports around 0.2m mtpa from the project, which supplies more than half its output to Japanese buyers.
- Russia was Japan's fourth-largest LNG supplier in 2024, accounting for 8.6% of national imports.
- Fujiwara warned that a sudden nationwide loss of Russian LNG — roughly 9% of total procurement by power and gas firms — would be difficult but said Osaka Gas has plans to manage its own exposure.
- The comments come amid rising pressure from G7 partners for Japan to cut Russian energy imports, with the EU set to ban Russian LNG from 2027 and the US urging Tokyo to phase out such purchases.

LNG Spot Freight Rates Continue to Surge

Atlantic LNG freight rates have reached \$150k/day for the first time since December 2023, according to Spark Commodities.

- The Spark30 (Atlantic) assessment now sits at \$150k/day, up from \$98k/day last week.
- Meanwhile, the Spark25 (Pacific) assessment has risen to \$83k/day, a two-week increase of over 90%.
- The forward structure is also shifting. Q4 2025 continues to prices as the strongest quarter of the year across both basins.
- This contrasts with the notably flatter profile seen in Q4 2024, when forward levels failed to capture any meaningful winter uplift.
- Rates have rallied as output ramps up from new projects in North America.
- The surge has resulted in some LNG buyers seeking to delay loadings in the Atlantic basin.

LNG Spot Freight Rates - Source (Spark Commodities)



Middle East & Africa

Egypt Considering Four LNG Cargo Purchases in December

Egypt is considering purchasing four LNG cargoes on a DES basis for delivery in December, Bloomberg reports citing traders with knowledge of the matter.

- Egypt was looking to buy three LNG cargoes for November delivery, Bloomberg reported on Nov. 11.
- The North African country, a net LNG exporter until last year, is now a sizeable driver of the global gas market, with traders closely monitoring fluctuations in domestic demand.
- Egypt snapped up large LNG shipments earlier this year, only to then request some delays in October.

Turkey's Botas Books Full TurkStream Capacity for Dec: Platts

Turkey's state gas importer Botas has again reserved all available spot capacity in the TurkStream pipeline's Turkish section for December, Platts said.

- This is maintaining its monthly bookings of 10.8mn cbm/d.
- It also holds the full quarterly capacity of 13.1mn cbm/d for October-December, continuing patterns seen throughout 2024.
- Botas is operating under a four-year, 5.75 bcm/y spot contract with Gazprom, which expires in 2025 alongside its 16 bcm/y Blue Stream contract.
- Negotiations for renewals are under way, though Turkish officials have not disclosed progress.
- The TurkStream string allocated to Turkey has 15.75 bcm/y of capacity, with 9.75 bcm/y held by six private firms that have not imported gas since March.
- Botas also kept full monthly capacity at the Iranian border for Turkmen swap gas, though no flows have occurred since June. At the Turkgozu point for Azeri gas, no December bookings were made, despite Socar previously reserving capacity earlier in the year.

Exxon Lifts Rovuma LNG Force Majeure

Exxon Mobil Corp. is lifting a force majeure on its Rovuma LNG project in Mozambique as security concerns subside, Bloomberg reports.

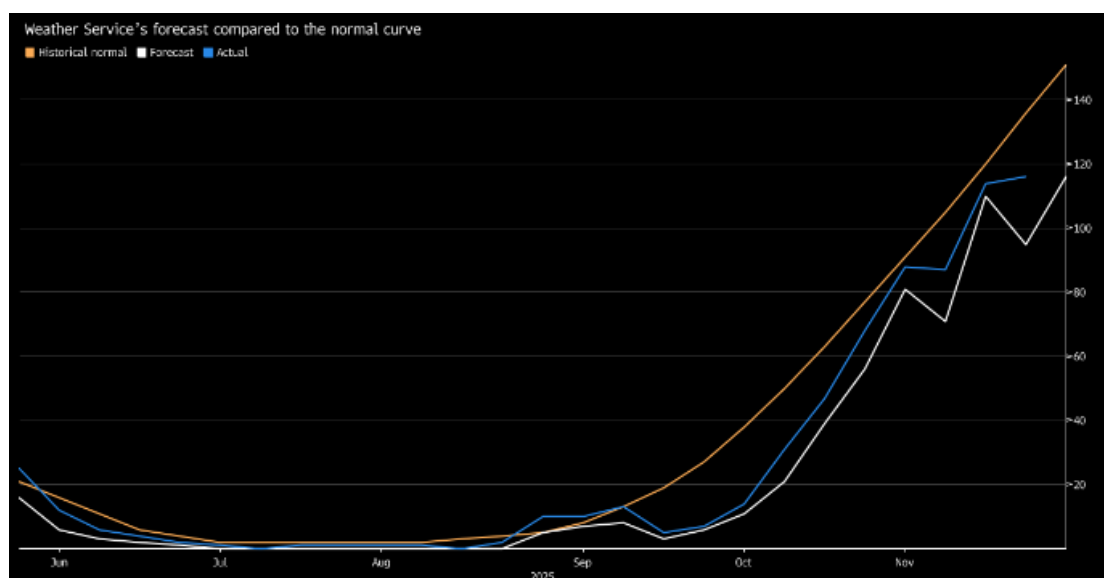
- The company said in an emailed statement that the move would allow the project to remain on track.
- The force majeure was put in place after militant attacks in 2021. Ending the force majeure is a crucial step toward a final investment decision on the project, which is expected next year.
- TotalEnergies, which is building a separate \$20bn LNG plant nearby, ended its own suspension last month.
- The two projects are expected to come online by the early 2030s, assuming no further delays.

US Natural Gas

The Henry Hub front month price oscillated through the week as mixed weather forecasts met strong production and feedgas numbers. The Dec 25 contract rolled off the books on Nov 25 at \$4.424.

- Henry Hub Front Month has traded between \$4.267/MMBTU and \$4.675/MMBTU this week, compared to \$4.235/MMBTU and \$4.688/MMBTU over the previous week.
- Natural gas deliveries to US LNG terminals averaged 17.78 bcf/d in the seven days to Nov-26, compared to the seven-day average of 17.82 bcf/d during the previous period.
- Lower 48 natural gas production averaged 111.63 bcf/d in the 10 days to Nov-25, compared to last week's 10-day average of 111.09 bcf/d.
- Baker Hughes US rig count: Gas: 127 (+2).
- US heating demand for the week ending November 29 is forecast to be 33 heating degree days (HDD) below the long-term normal, according to Bloomberg, citing the NOAA. During the week to Nov 22, the US was 18 HDD below normal.

US HDD Count- Source (Bloomberg Finance L.P./NOAA)



Eiger Express Pipeline

WhiteWater announced plans to expand the mainline capacity of Eiger Express pipeline from 2.5 Bcf/d to 3.7 Bcf/d following an additional round of firm transport agreements.

- Eiger Express will come into service alongside Tallgrass' Permian to REX (2.4 Bcf/d) in 2028 and following an incremental 5.3 Bcf/d in 2026 across the GCX expansion, Blackcomb, and Hugh Brinson.
- This uprating brings total Permian takeaway capacity that is either under construction or made positive FID to 15.4 Bcf/d by 2030.

Williston Production

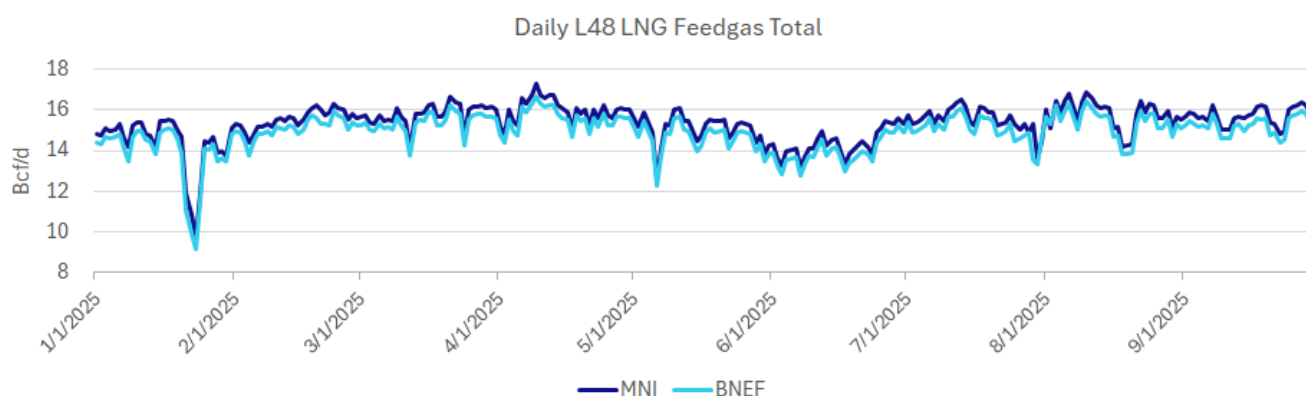
Williston production is set to see its first freeze of the season.

- NOAA forecasts are projecting cooler temperatures over much of the US for November 29-December 3, with the coldest temperatures near North Dakota.
- This would be the first cold spell of the season for Williston producers and could come with production freeze offs.

US LNG

Natural gas deliveries to US LNG terminals averaged 17.78 bcf/d in the seven days to Nov-26, compared to the seven-day average of 17.82 bcf/d during the previous period.

Daily L48 LNG Feedgas Total- Source (Bloomberg Finance L.P./MNI)



Golden Pass

Golden Pass LNG was granted approval to introduce fuel gas into Train 1 one day after request.

- FERC gave Golden Pass permission to introduce fuel gas into the Train 1 gas turbine and dry flare header, which the terminal requested on Nov 24.
- The facility is planning to have first LNG in February and is progressing towards that deadline with the above requests and cooldown cargo in transit.

Cameron LNG

FERC authorized Sempra's Cameron LNG Expansion in Louisiana to continue work through 2033.

- The authorization is in response to an October filing that asked the regulatory agency to delay startup to March 16, 2033.
- Last week, Cameron LNG asked the DOE to overhaul its federal export approvals to adjust for a redesigned one-train expansion project that will bring expansion exports down from 10.6 mtpa to 7.2 mtpa, according to Kpler.

LNG Canada (Canada)

LNG Canada is planning a two-week Train 2 restart in early December.

- Train 2 is expected to undergo a two-week restart starting on Dec 1, according to Bloomberg
- Train 2 flaring was originally planned to last through Nov 20, it will now need the extra time for safe completion of commissioning activities.
- Train 2 came online on Nov 6, which raised BNEF's expectations for winter '25/'26 by 0.4 mtpa through March but remains flat for 2026.

Commonwealth LNG

Commonwealth LNG regained its coastal use permit.

- The LA Department of Conservation and Energy re-issued Commonwealth LNG's coastal use permit, about four weeks after a ruling by the agency to take it away, according to the permit
- The project's permit was yanked on Oct 14 over lack of environmental impact considerations, prompting Commonwealth to seek FERC approval to move the startup date to 2031 from Nov 2027.
- Commonwealth must now meet dozens of revisions outlined in the decision, including addressing environmental concerns.

Aramco

Aramco is set to sign MoUs for potential deals worth \$30bn with US LNG companies, Bloomberg reported.

- These agreements build on 34 MoUs announced in May and involve collaborations and partnerships covering a range of activities including LNG.
- Aramco sees potential for "huge growth" in LNG in US, with MidOcean Energy which has a MoU related to potential investment in the Lake Charles LNG Project and Commonwealth LNG, related to a liquefaction project located in Louisiana, US, and Aramco Trading's potential purchase of LNG and gas.

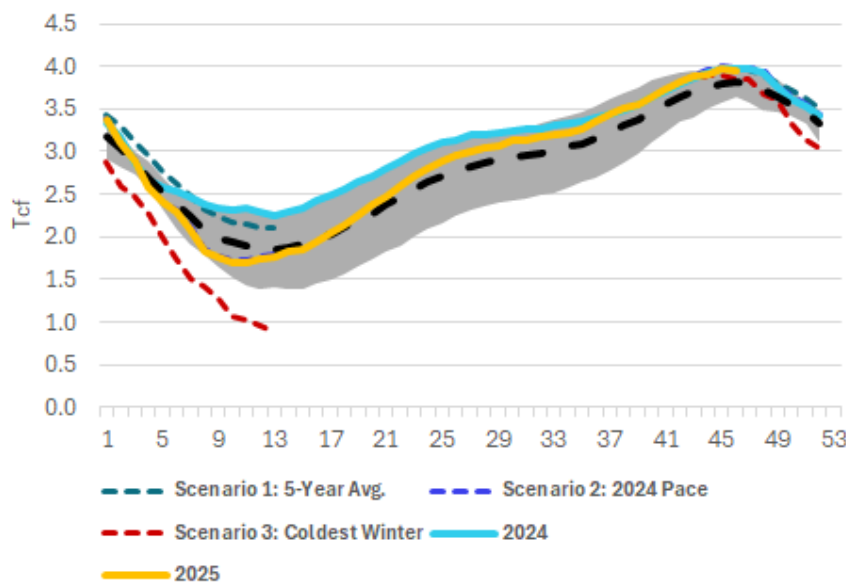
US Natgas Inventories

The EIA weekly gas inventories for the week ending Nov. 14 showed a withdrawal of 14 bcf. The seasonal five-year average shows a net build of 12 bcf.

- The storage report was overestimated by Reuters by 1 (-13), underestimated by BBG by 1 (-15), underestimated by NGI by 3 (-17), spot on by WSJ (-14).
- The Nov 14 withdrawal of 14 bcf was below the five-year average of +12 bcf, which dropped storage to 3,946 bcf, 146 bcf above the five-year average of 3,800 bcf.

- This is the first withdrawal of the season and met survey expectations, which were largely uniform across publishers. Storage activity in the South Central region for week 46 was negative for the first time in the past five years as feedgas demand from LNG export facilities have regularly surpassed 18 bcf/d.
- Consumption also jumped WoW, up 8.6 bcf/d to 96 bcf/d, with res/comm consumption making up the bulk of the change. Supply was largely flat WoW while Haynesville production is down more than 1 bcf/d YoY, and down nearly 2 bcf/d off August highs.

US Gas Inventories and Storage Scenarios – Source (EIA, MNI)



Latam

The US's Continental Resources to Enter Argentina's Vaca Muerta Shale Patch

American firm Continental Resource's CEO Harold Hamm met with President Javier Milei recently, which led to Continental's acquisition of the Los Toldos II Oeste shale field from Pluspetrol SA.

- US independent drillers have begun to take their shale expertise gained in the Permian Basin to Argentina, said Bloomberg.
- Vaca Muerta offers similar geological conditions as the Permian, only recovery rates promise to be 50% higher.