

# Natural Gas Readiness Forum

December 16-17, 2024  
Atlanta, GA



# Natural Gas Readiness Forum

## Weather & Energy Outlook





# Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency

## 2024-2025 Winter Seasonal Outlook

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Will Lanxton  
State Meteorologist



# Winter Seasonal Outlook

- Seasonal Temperature Outlook
- Seasonal Precipitation Outlook
- El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO)
- Arctic Oscillation
- North Atlantic Oscillation

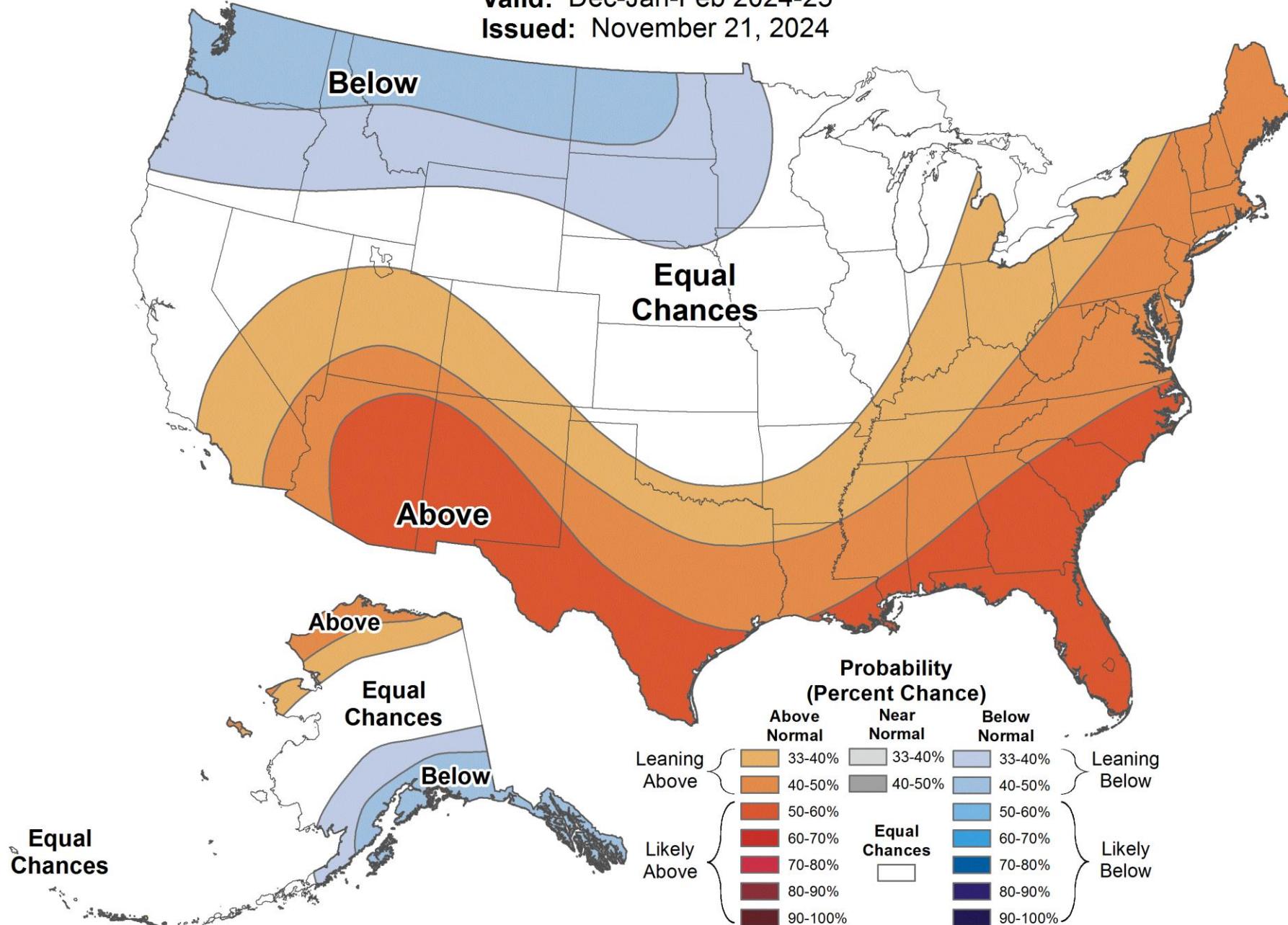


# Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2024-25

Issued: November 21, 2024

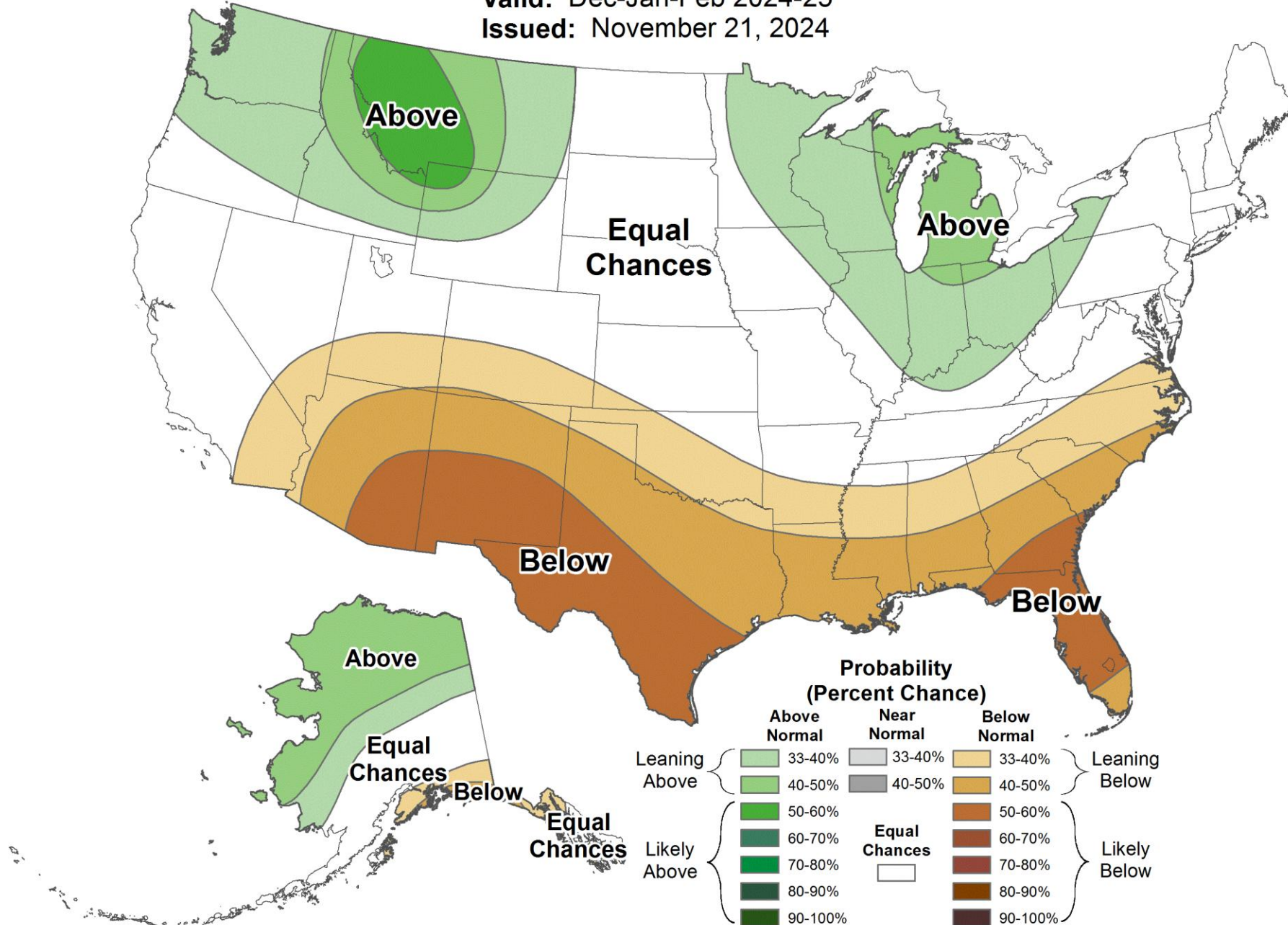




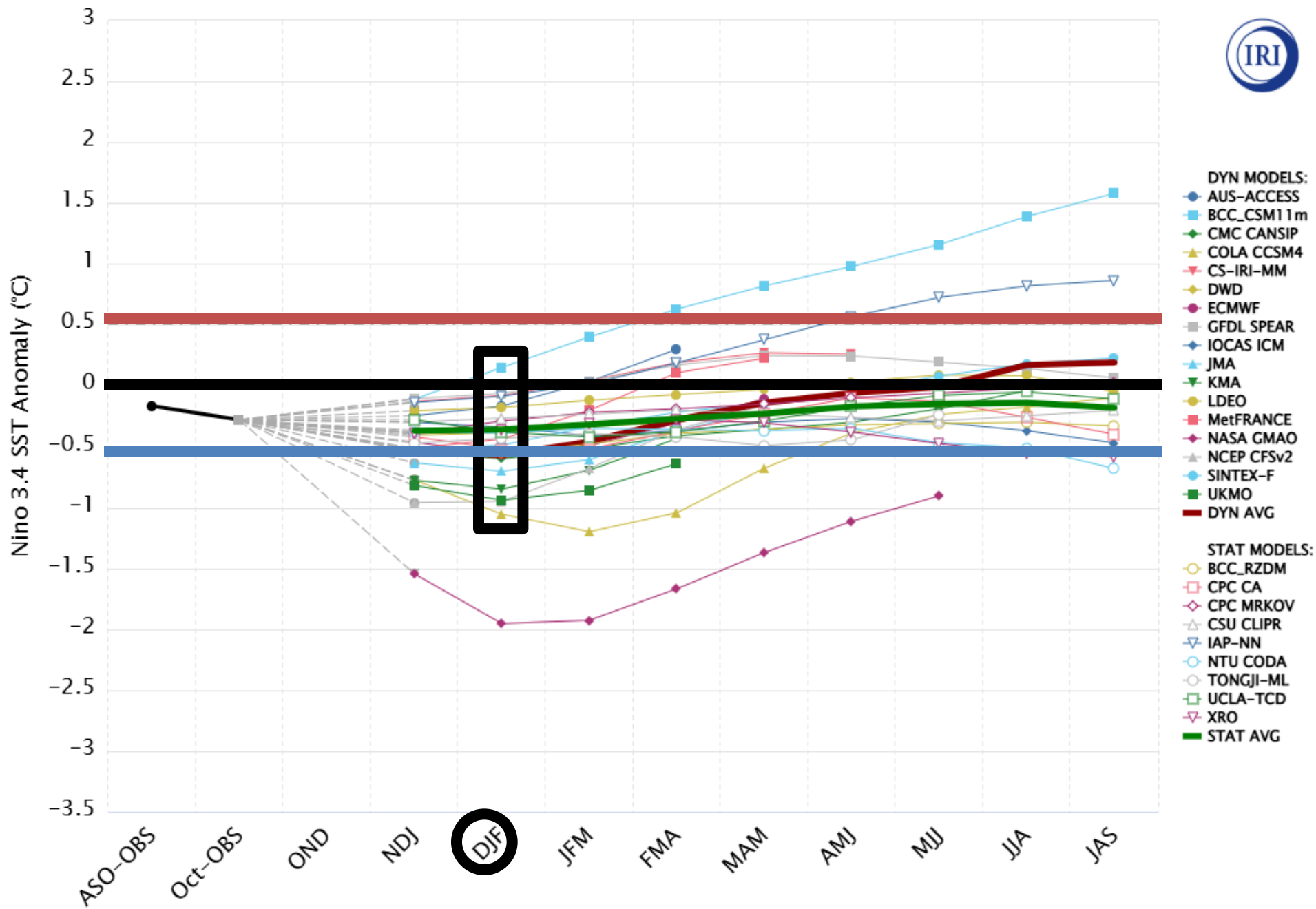
# Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2024-25  
Issued: November 21, 2024

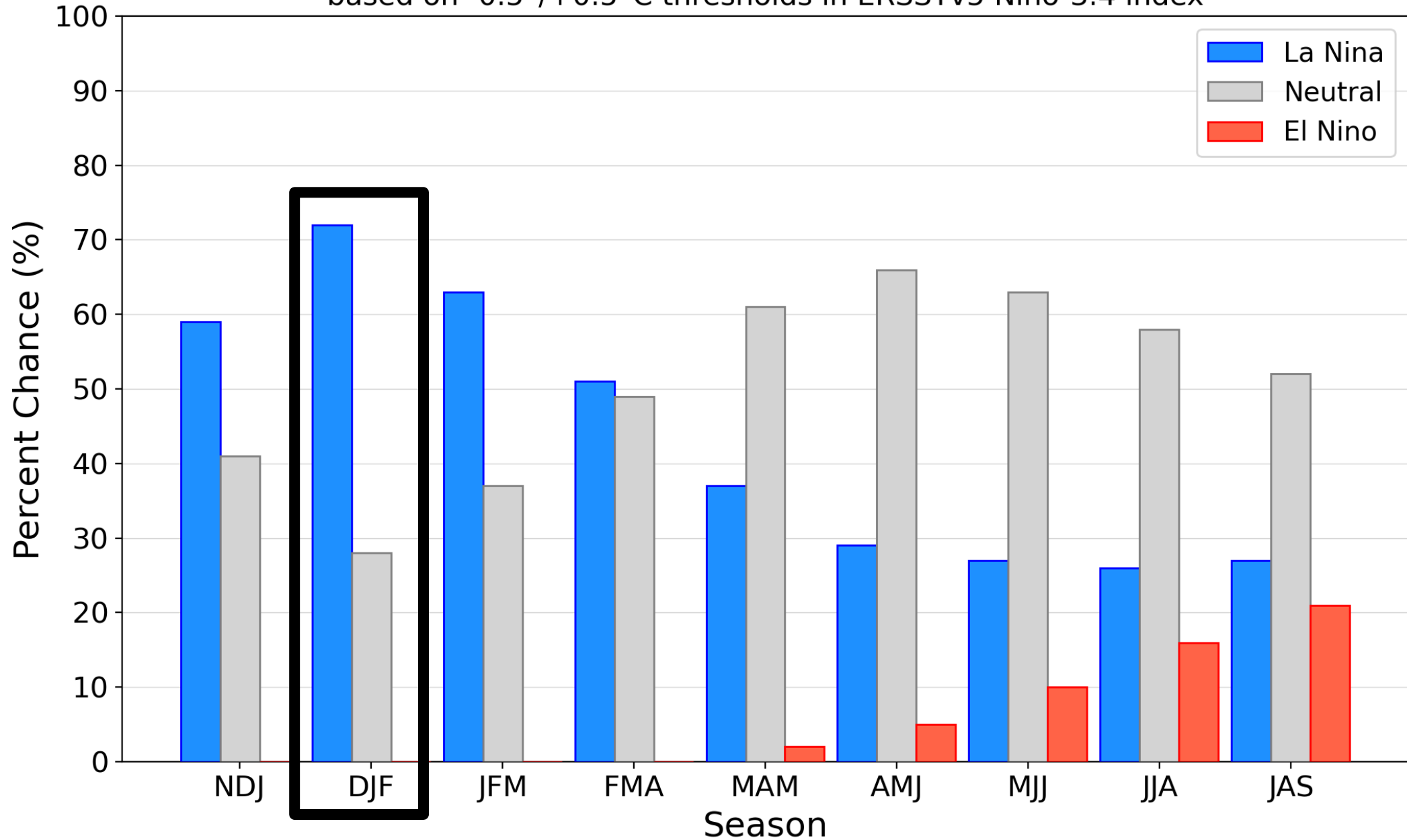


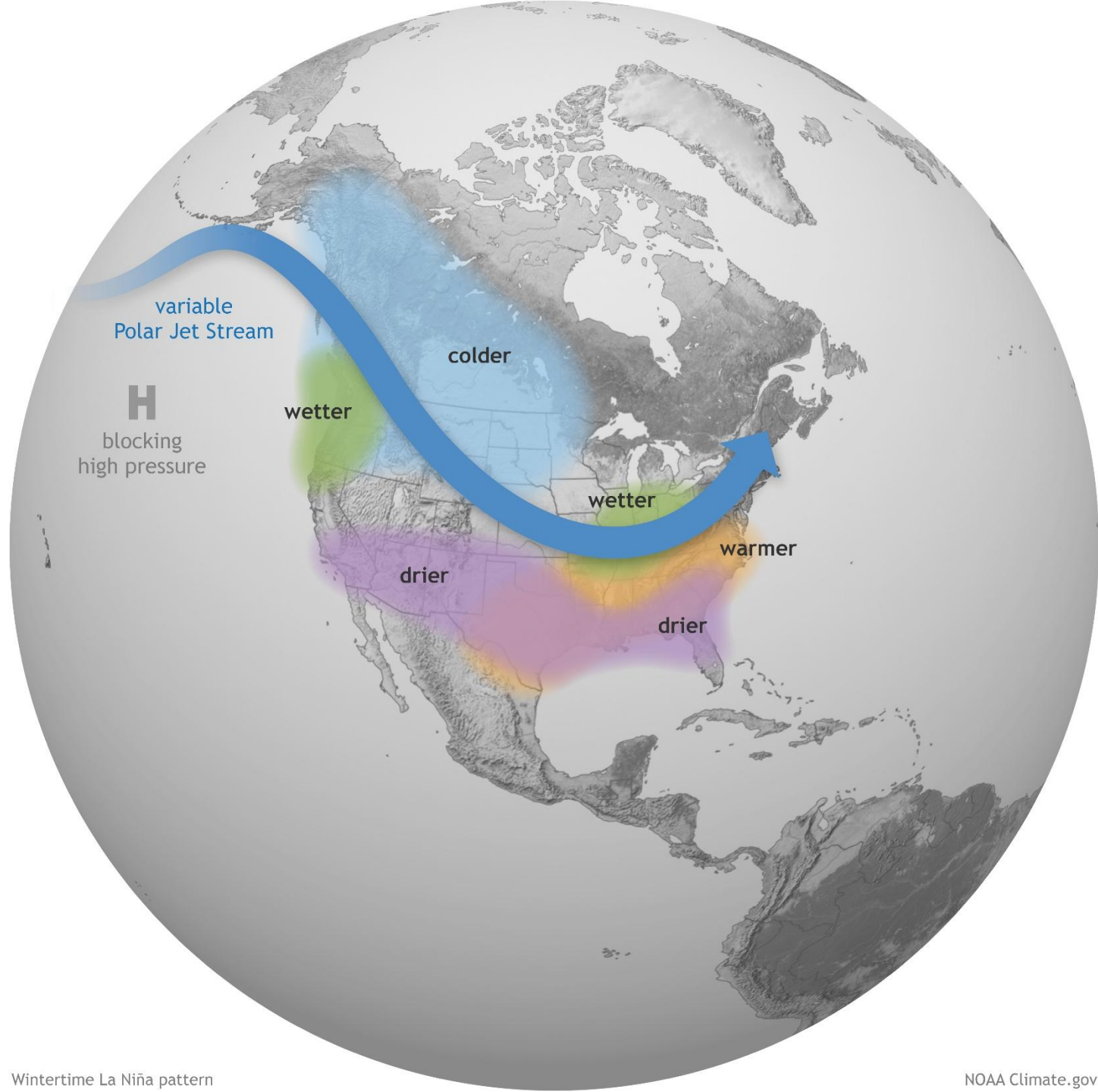
# Model Predictions of ENSO from Nov 2024



# Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued December 2024)

based on  $-0.5^{\circ}/+0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  thresholds in ERSSTv5 Niño-3.4 index





Wintertime La Niña pattern

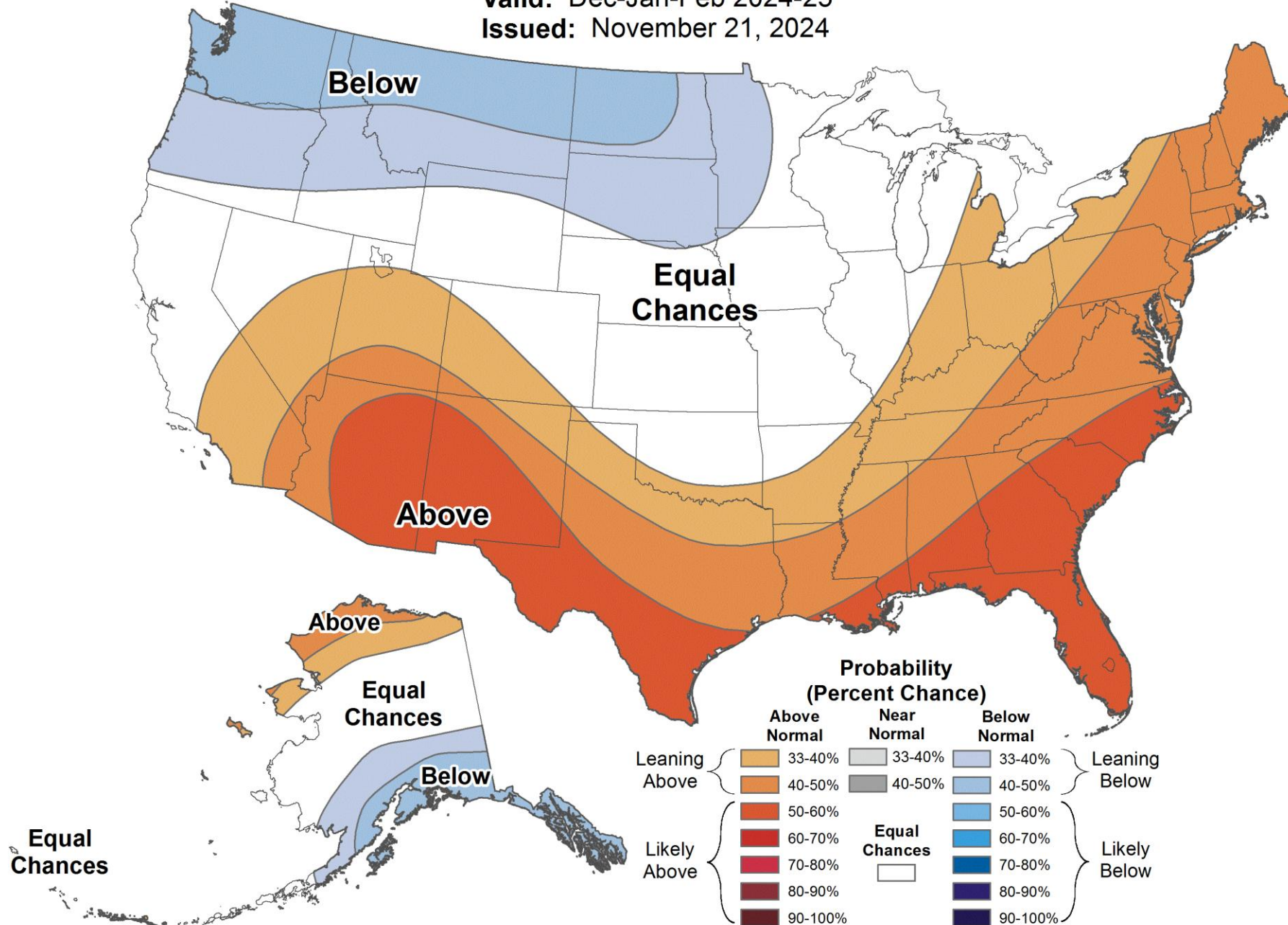


# Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2024-25

Issued: November 21, 2024



### Probability (Percent Chance)

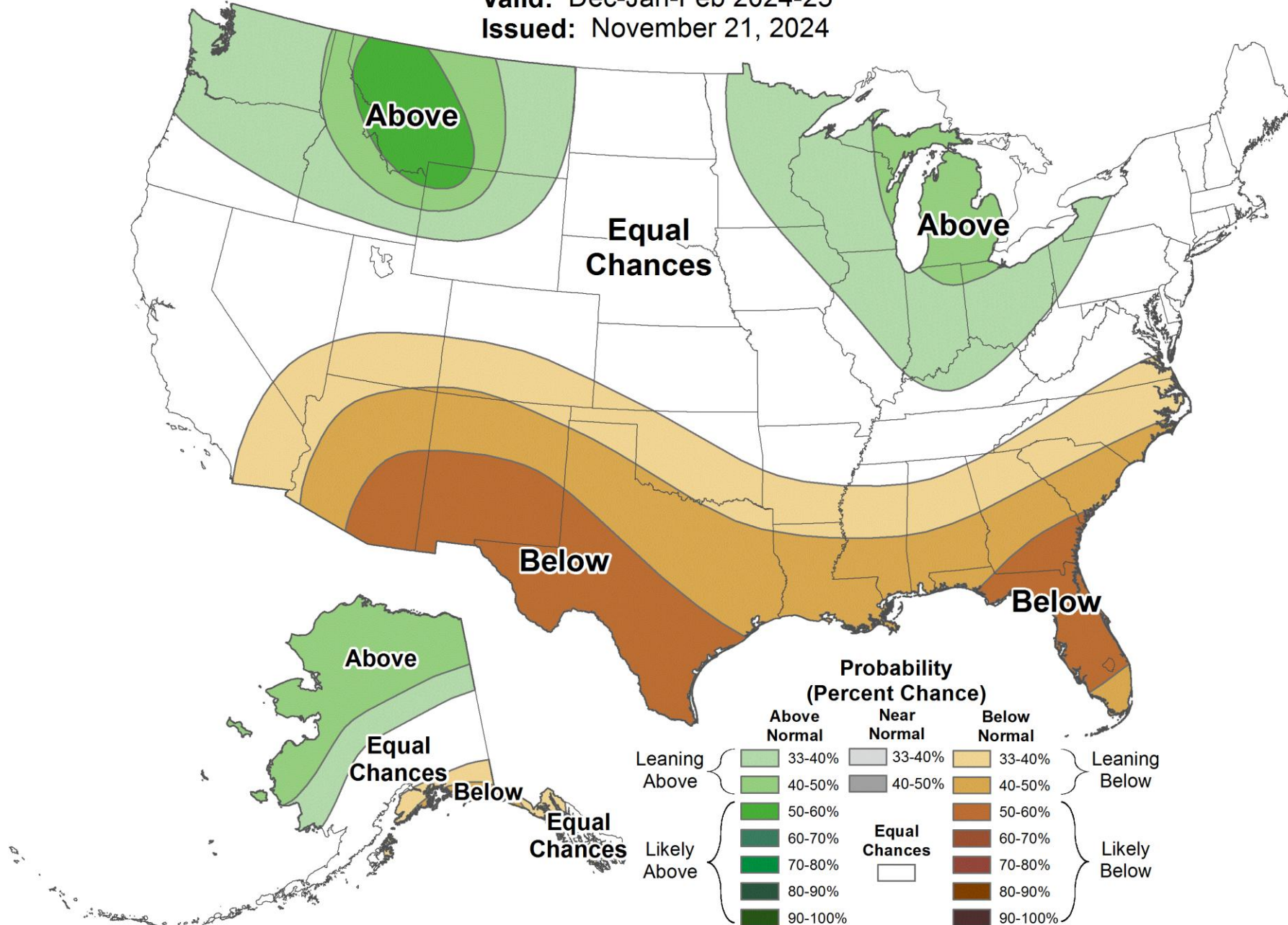
	Above Normal	Near Normal	Below Normal	
Leaning Above	33-40%	33-40%	33-40%	Leaning Below
	40-50%	40-50%	40-50%	
Likely Above	50-60%	Equal Chances	50-60%	Likely Below
	60-70%		60-70%	
	70-80%		70-80%	
	80-90%		80-90%	
	90-100%		90-100%	



# Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2024-25  
Issued: November 21, 2024

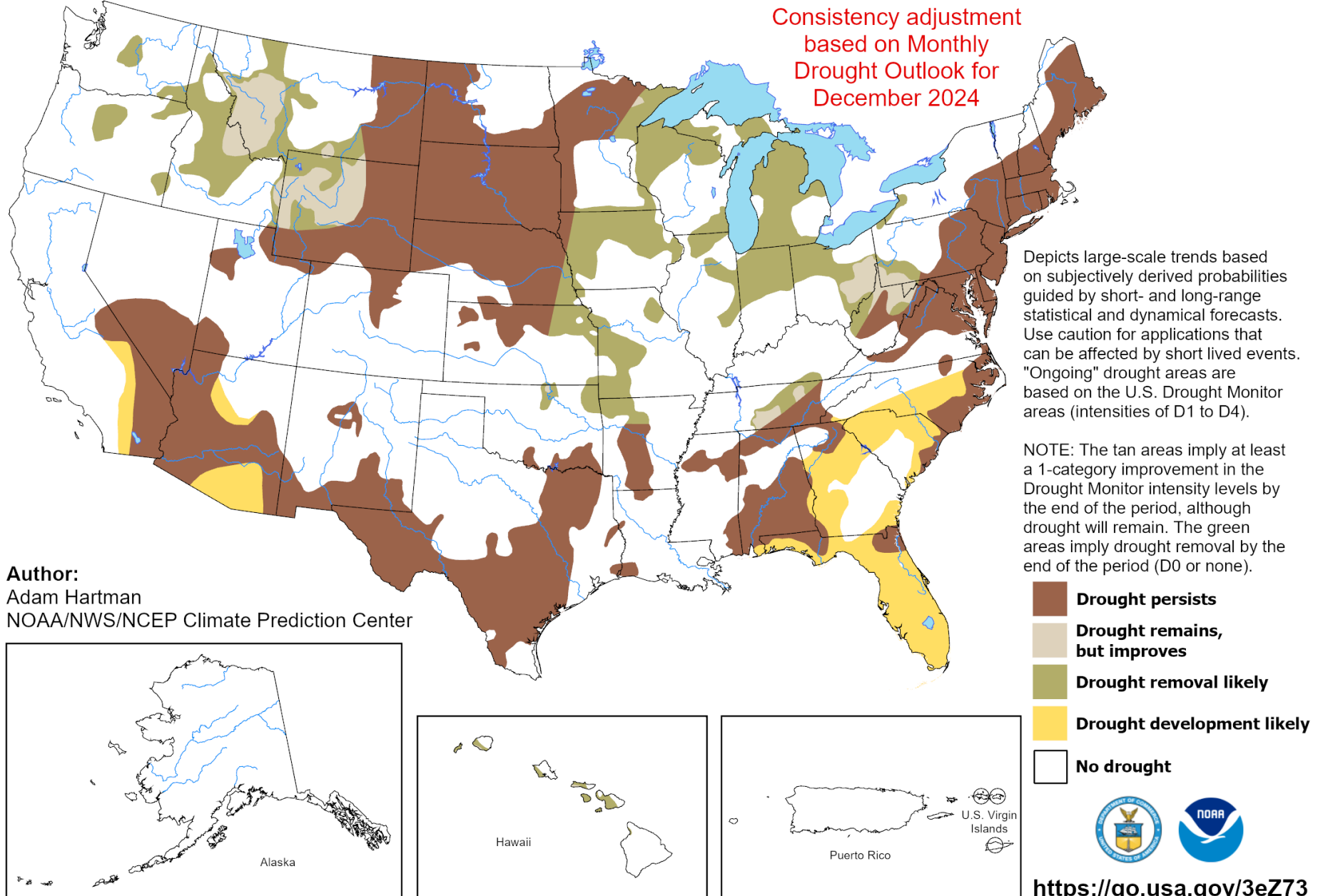


# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for December 1, 2024 - February 28, 2025

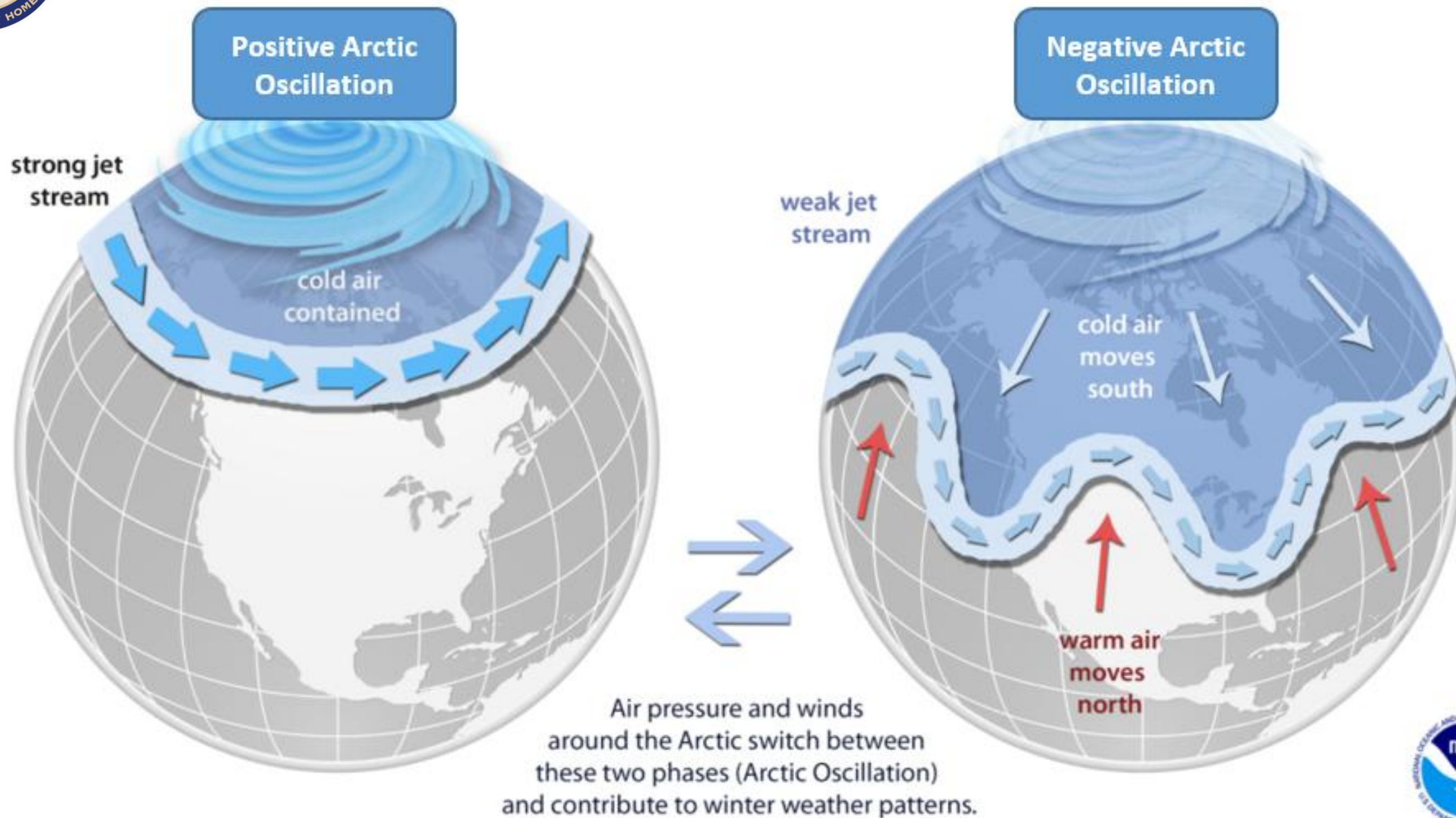
Released November 30, 2024



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

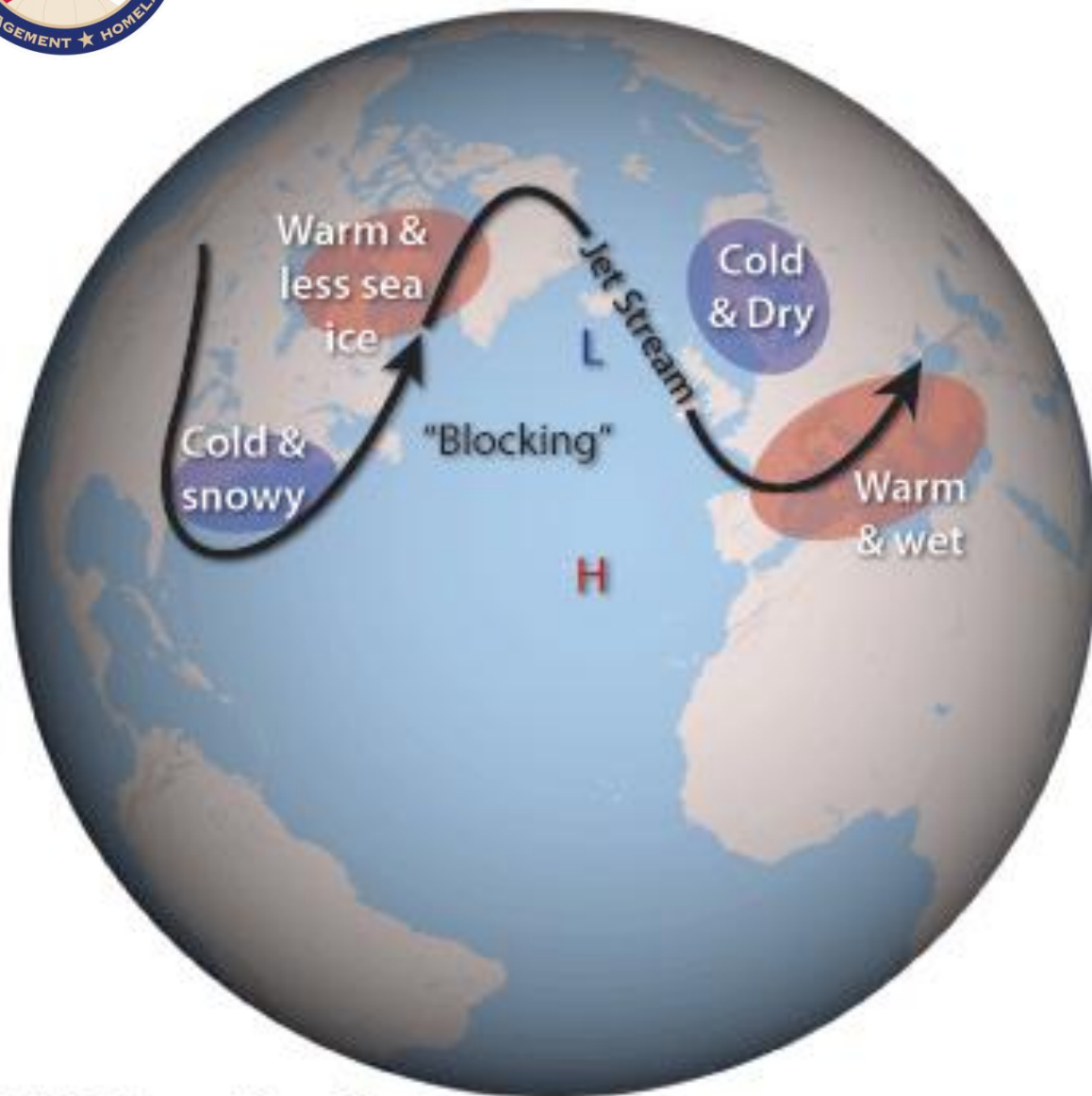


# Arctic Oscillation

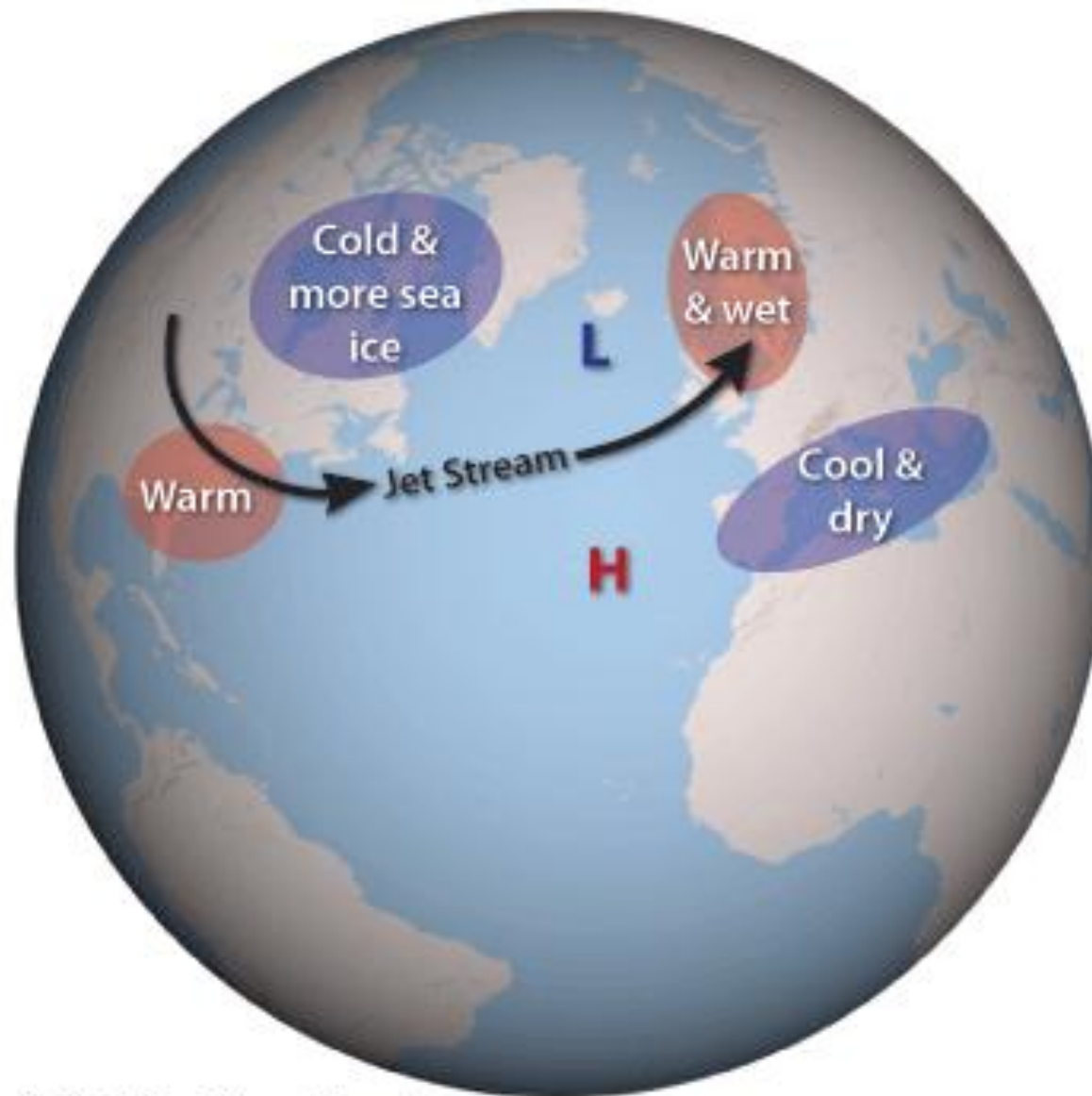




# North Atlantic Oscillation

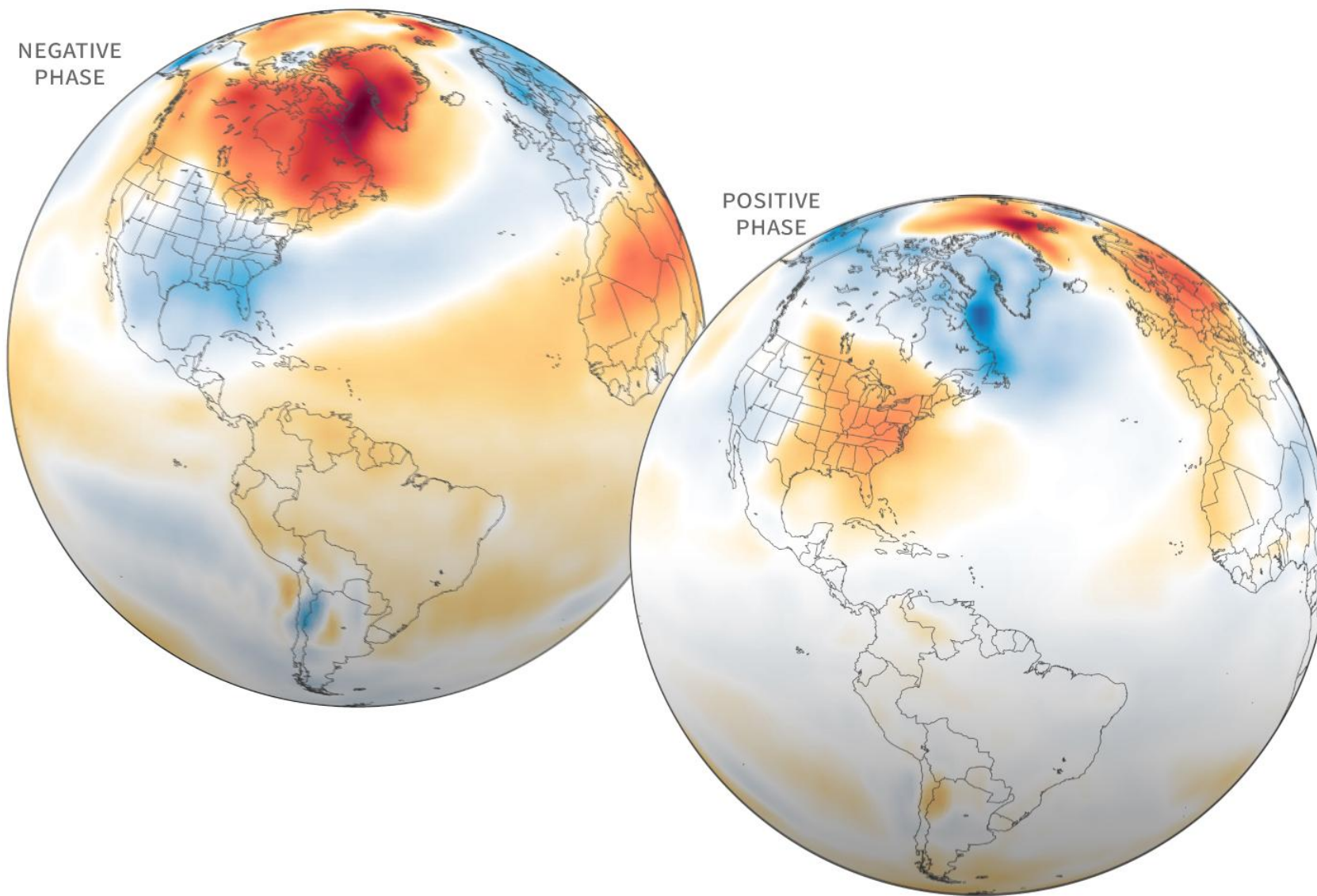


NAO Negative Mode



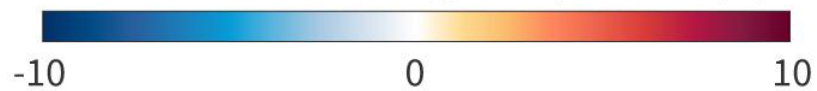
NAO Positive Mode

# NAO TEMPERATURE PATTERNS



Jan-Mar 2010 (left)  
Jan-Mar 1990 (right)

**Difference from average temperature (°C)**



NOAA Climate.gov  
Data: NCEP/NCAR

cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

*AAO, AO, NAO, PNA*

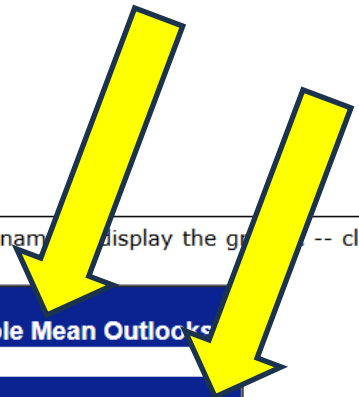
On February 16, 2023, several updates were made to the CPC Monthly Teleconnections products. The updates primarily include changes to filenames and formats. The graphics quality have also been improved. [Learn more »](#)

On March 3, 2022, several updates were made to the CPC Daily Teleconnections products. While the methodology used to calculate the teleconnection indices is unchanged, the statistics displayed in these graphics have changed slightly due to script updates and the utilization of the full ensemble size. Furthermore, filenames and formats have been updated and graphics quality has been improved. [Learn more »](#)

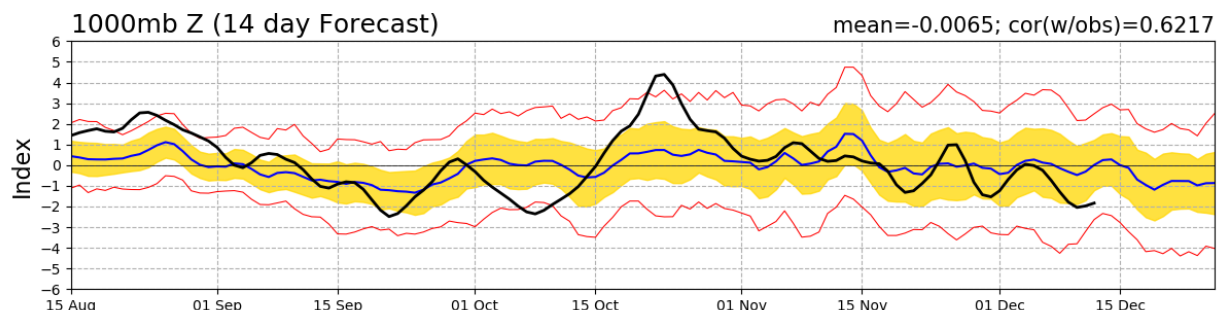
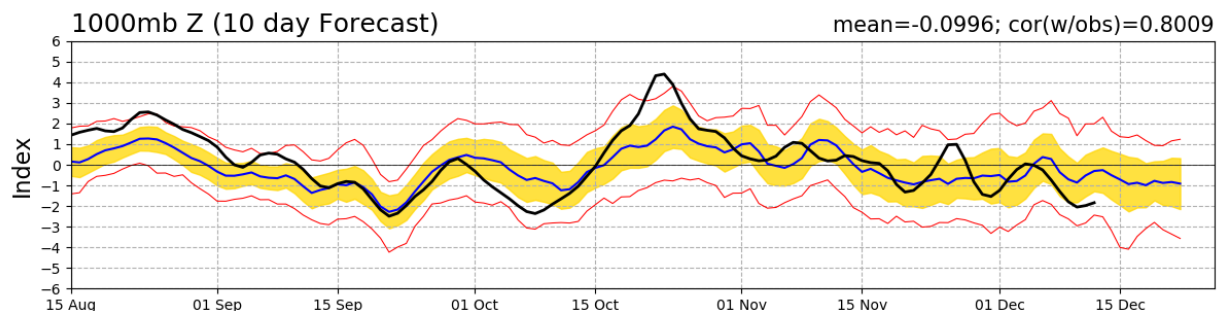
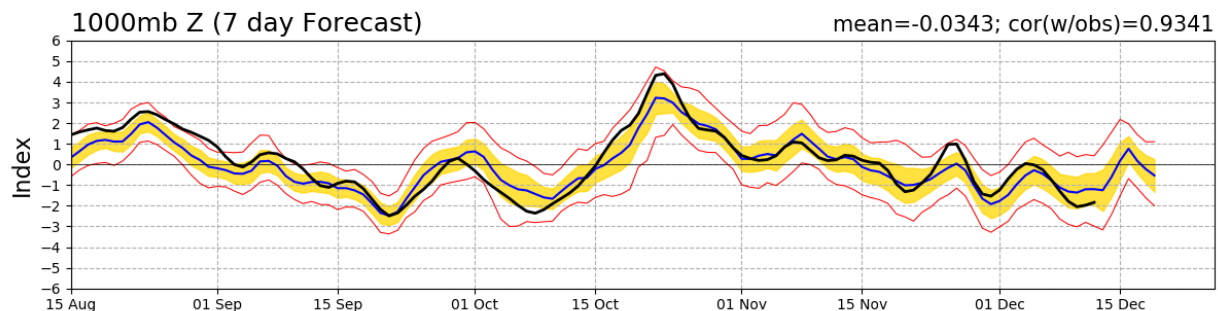
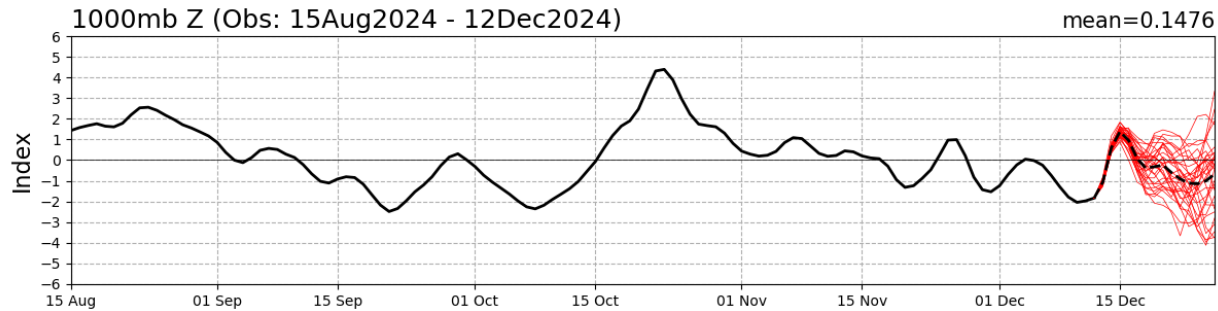
- [AO \(Arctic Oscillation\)](#)
- [NAO \(North Atlantic Oscillation\)](#)
- [PNA \(Pacific-North American Pattern\)](#)
- [AAO \(Antarctic Oscillation\)](#)
- [Archive of Daily Indices](#)
- [Monthly Teleconnection Indices](#)

Click on product title to go to product page. Move cursor over product parameter name to display the graphics. -- click to enlarge. Links to these same products are also available below.

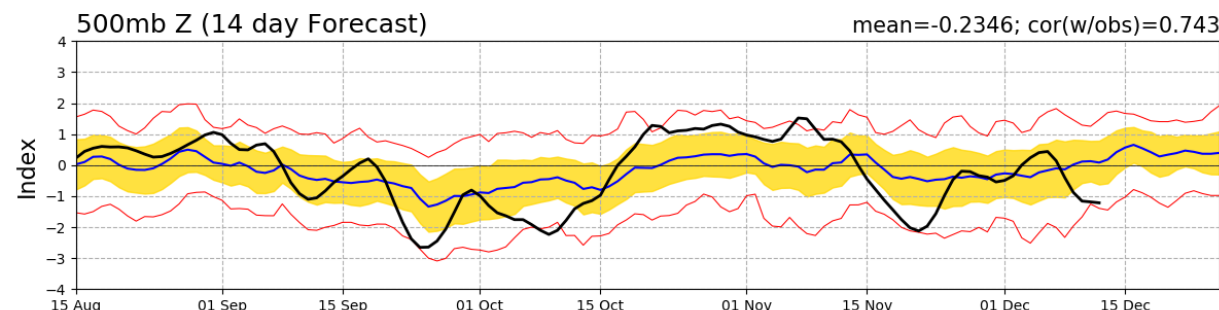
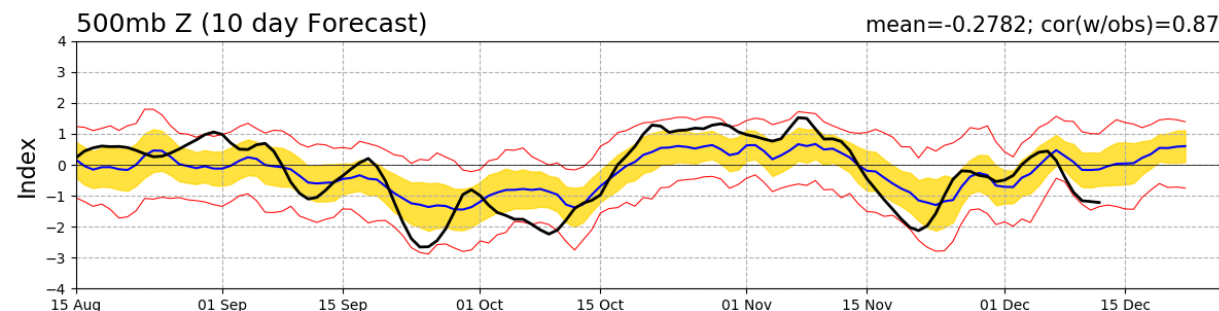
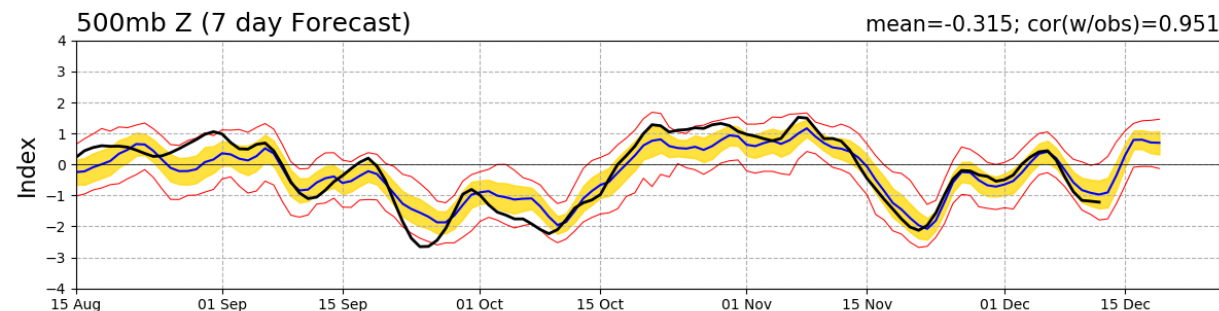
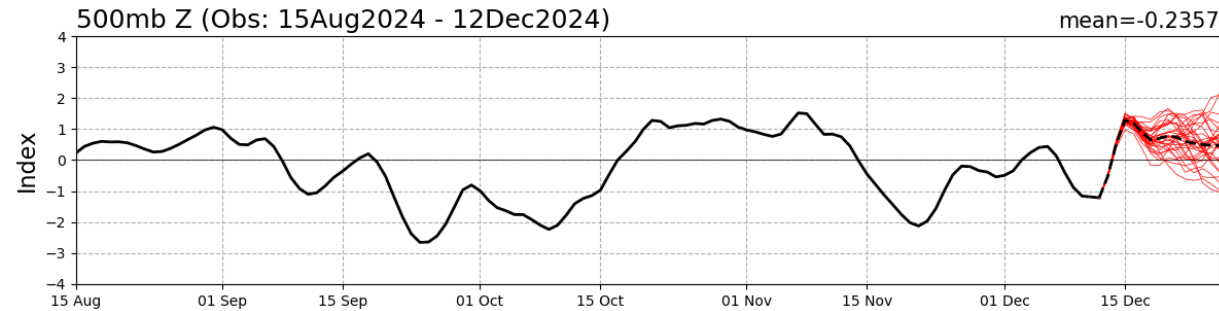
<b>AAO</b>		<b>NAO</b>	
<a href="#">GFS Outlooks</a>	<a href="#">Ensemble Mean Outlooks</a>	<a href="#">GFS Outlooks</a>	<a href="#">Ensemble Mean Outlooks</a>
<b>PNA</b>		<b>AO</b>	
<a href="#">GFS Outlooks</a>	<a href="#">Ensemble Mean Outlooks</a>	<a href="#">GFS Outlooks</a>	<a href="#">Ensemble Mean Outlooks</a>



# AO Index: Observed & GEFS Forecasts



# NAO Index: Observed & GEFS Forecasts





# A final word of caution on weather models...

- “Live by the model, die by the model”
- Be extremely wary of model output more than 5 days out...
  - Use ensemble models (many runs producing a range of possible outcomes) more than 3 to 5 days out
  - Only use deterministic models (single solutions of single runs) within a few days to refine details



# Questions?

# U.S. Natural Gas Market Fundamentals and Outlook

Natural Gas Readiness Forum | December 16, 2024

Richard Meyer

Vice President, Energy Markets, Analysis, and Standards



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# State of Play



## **Growing Demand**

Industrial reshoring, growing electric power requirements, and new consumers



## **Lower Prices**

Return to historical natural gas pricing trends



## **Exports poised to climb**

New LNG export terminals and infrastructure to serve them

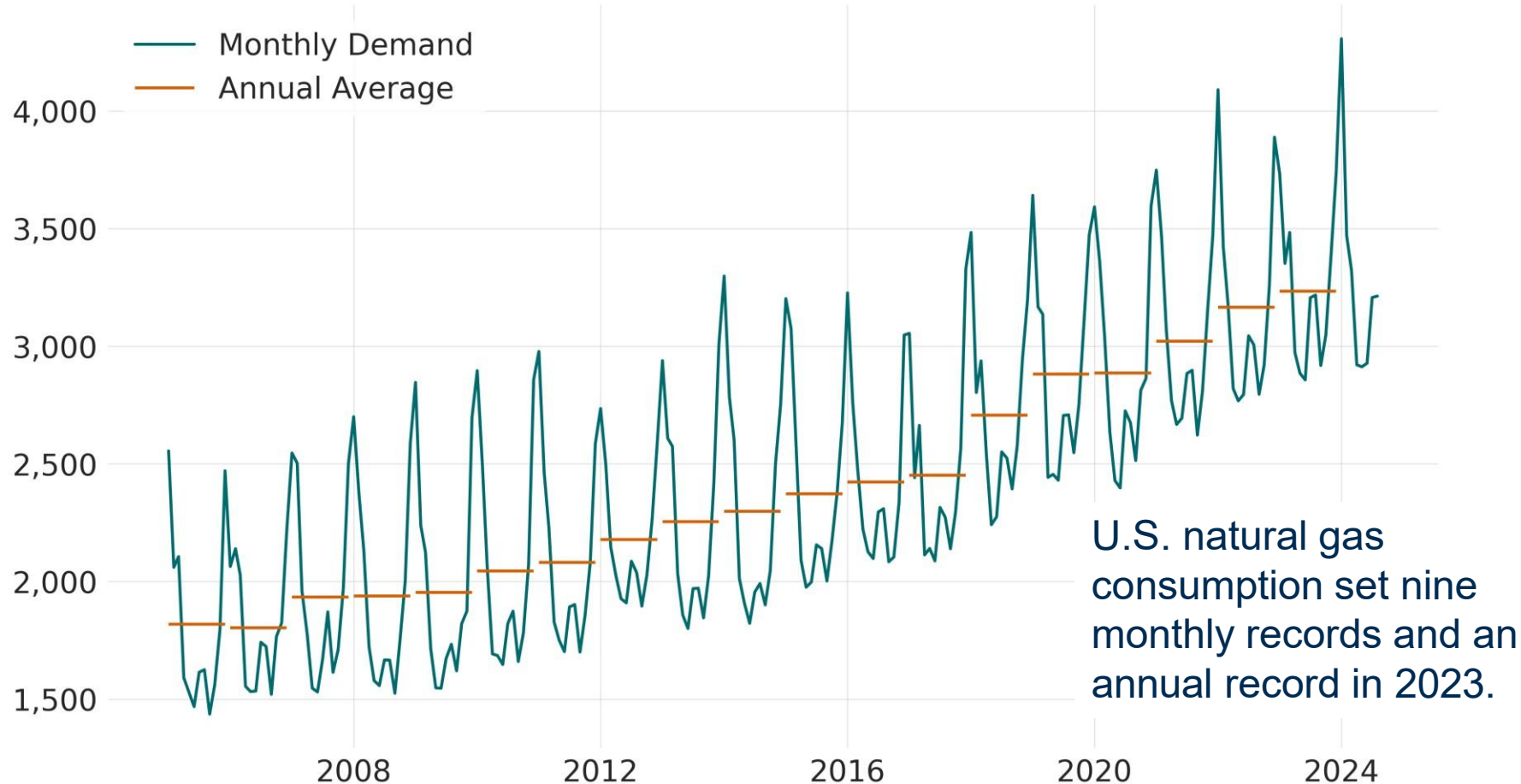


## **Readiness**

Gas industry planning and preparedness for the winter heating season

# Average and peak demand growth continues to grow

U.S. Monthly Natural Gas Consumption, incl. Exports  
Bcf per Month



Source: S&P Global Commodity Insights, ©2024 by S&P Global Inc., Chart: American Gas Association

Source: S&P  
Global  
Commodity  
Insights

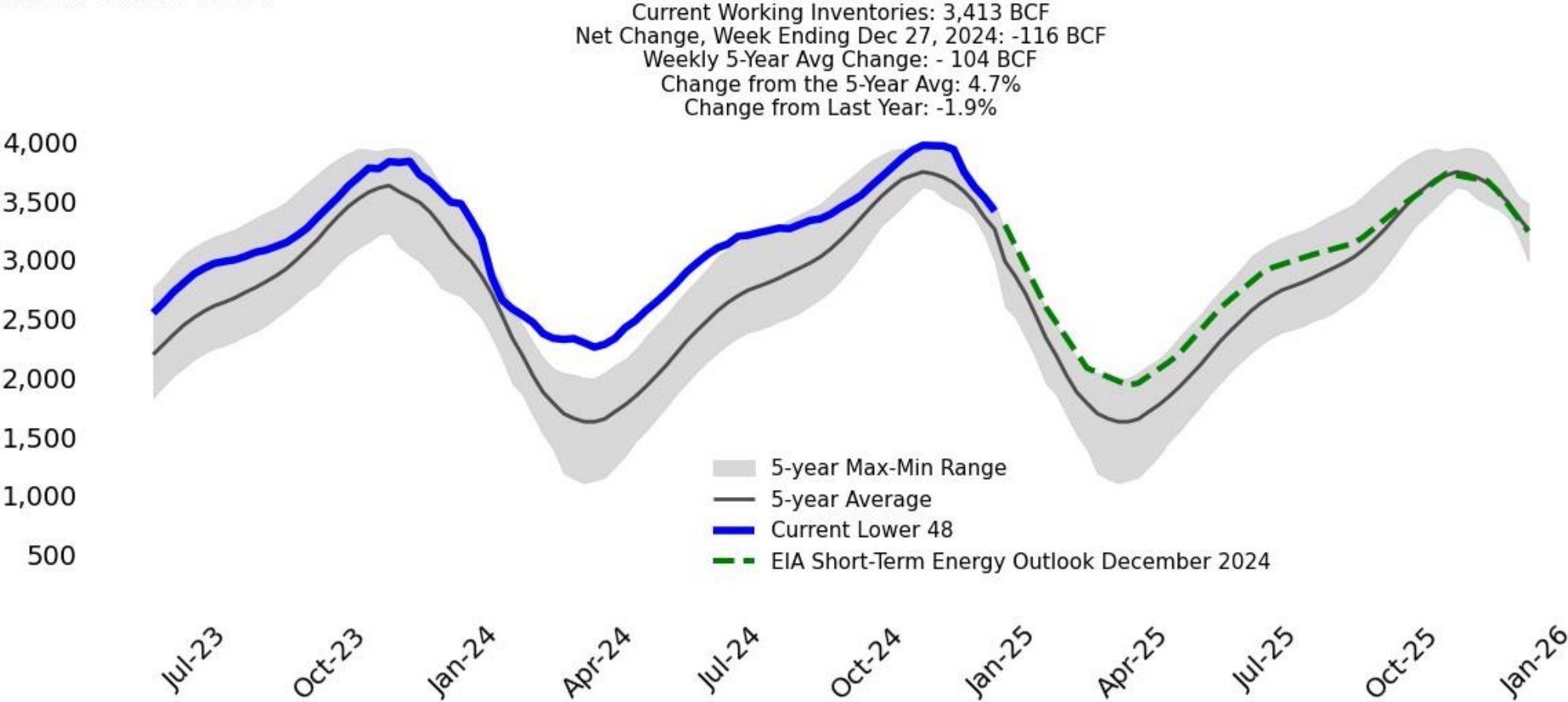
©2024 by S&P  
Global Inc.

Chart: American  
Gas Association



# Storage inventories remain above the five-year average even as storage injections slowed this summer

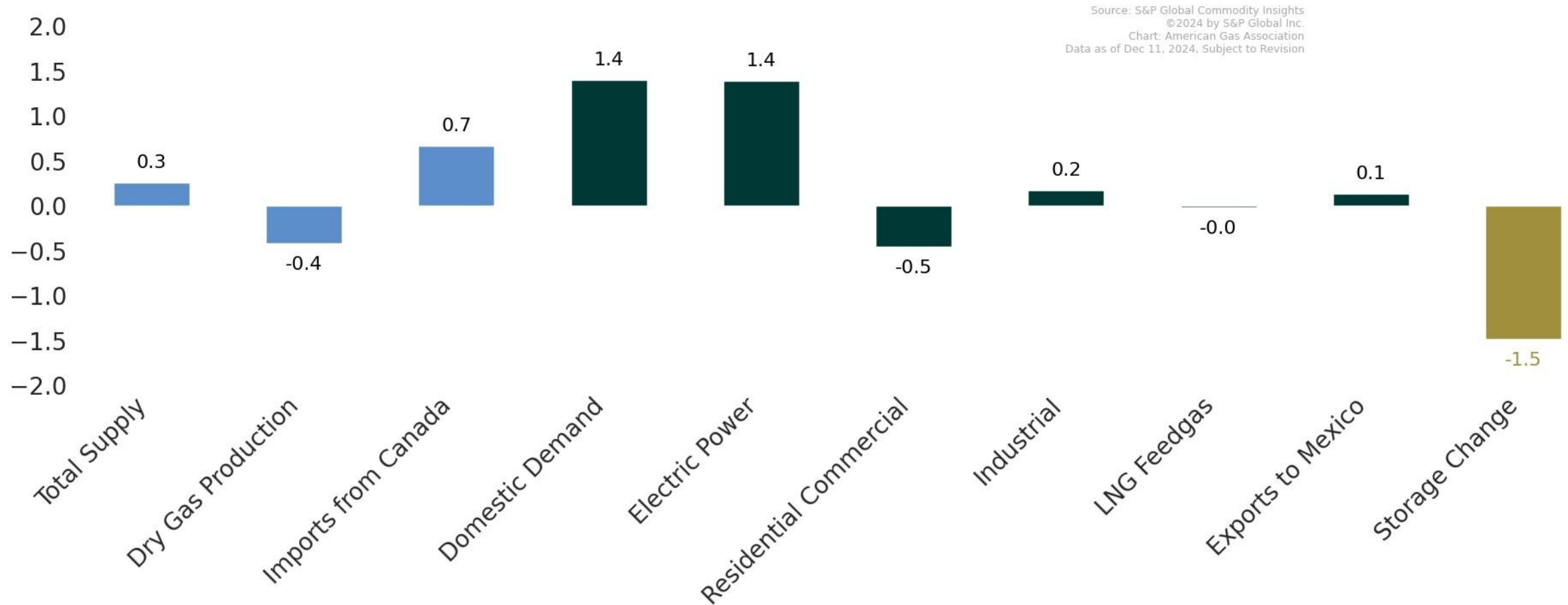
## U.S. Working Gas in Underground Storage Compared with the Five-Year Minimum and Maximum Billion cubic feet



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Chart: American Gas Association, Data as of Jan 03, 2025, Subject to Revision  
The shaded region represents the five-year range relative to the reporting period for the historical data. Projections utilize current five-year data available.  
EIA STEO Release: December 2024

# Natural gas demand is outpacing supply growth year to date given strong storage inventories and relatively low prices.

U.S. Lower 48 Supply and Demand, Year over Year Change  
Year to Date through Dec 11, 2024  
Bcf per Day

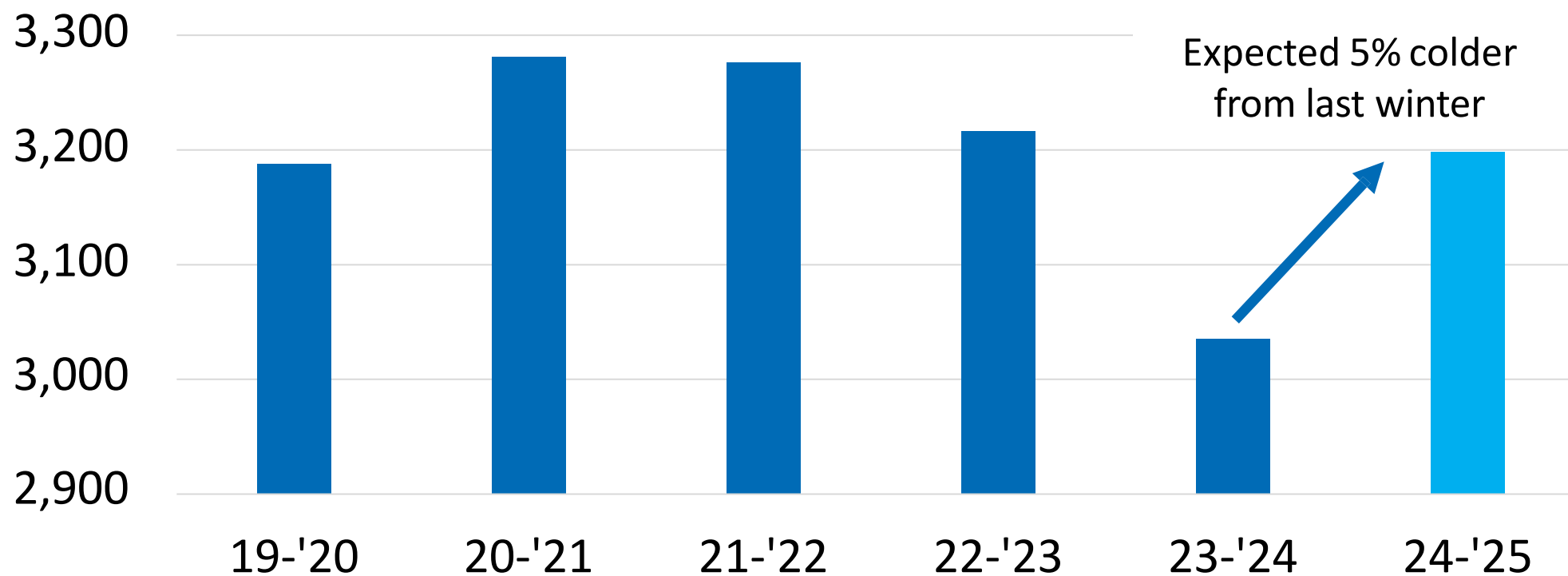


# NOAA forecasted 2024-2025 winter temperatures expected to be 5% colder than last year

## U.S. Heating Degree Days

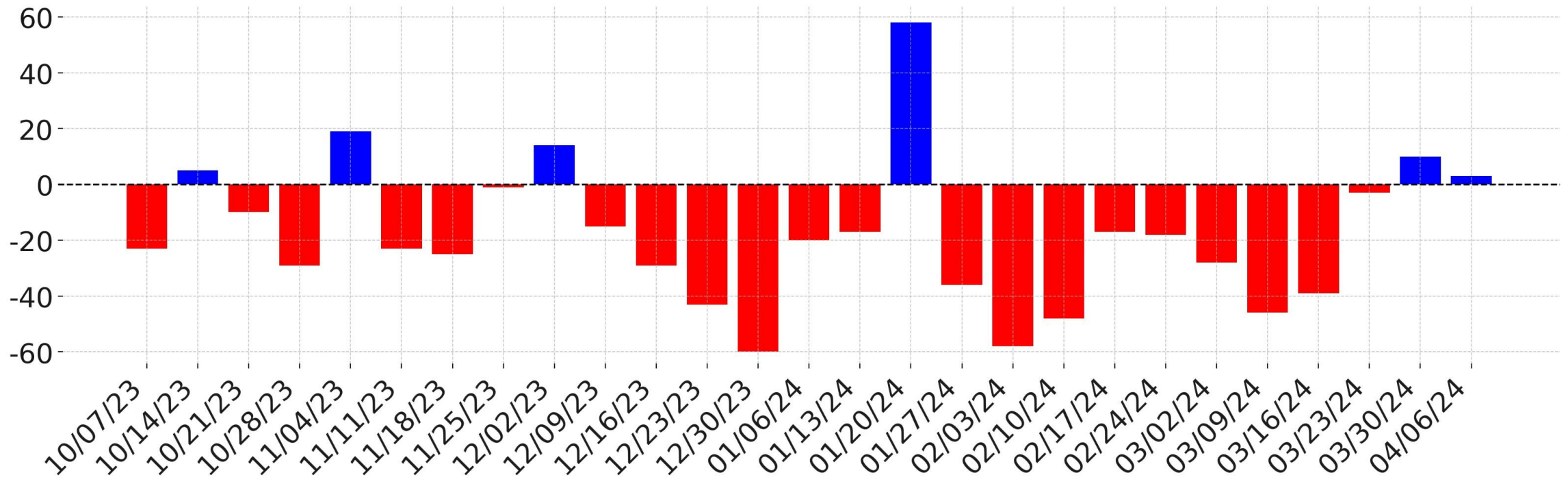
November-March

\*Natural Gas Households Historically 8% Higher HDD Than National Average



# Last winter (2023-2024) was generally warmer than normal with short-term cold events.

## U.S. Gas-Weighted Heating Degree Days, Winter 2023-2024 Weekly Change from 30-Year Normal



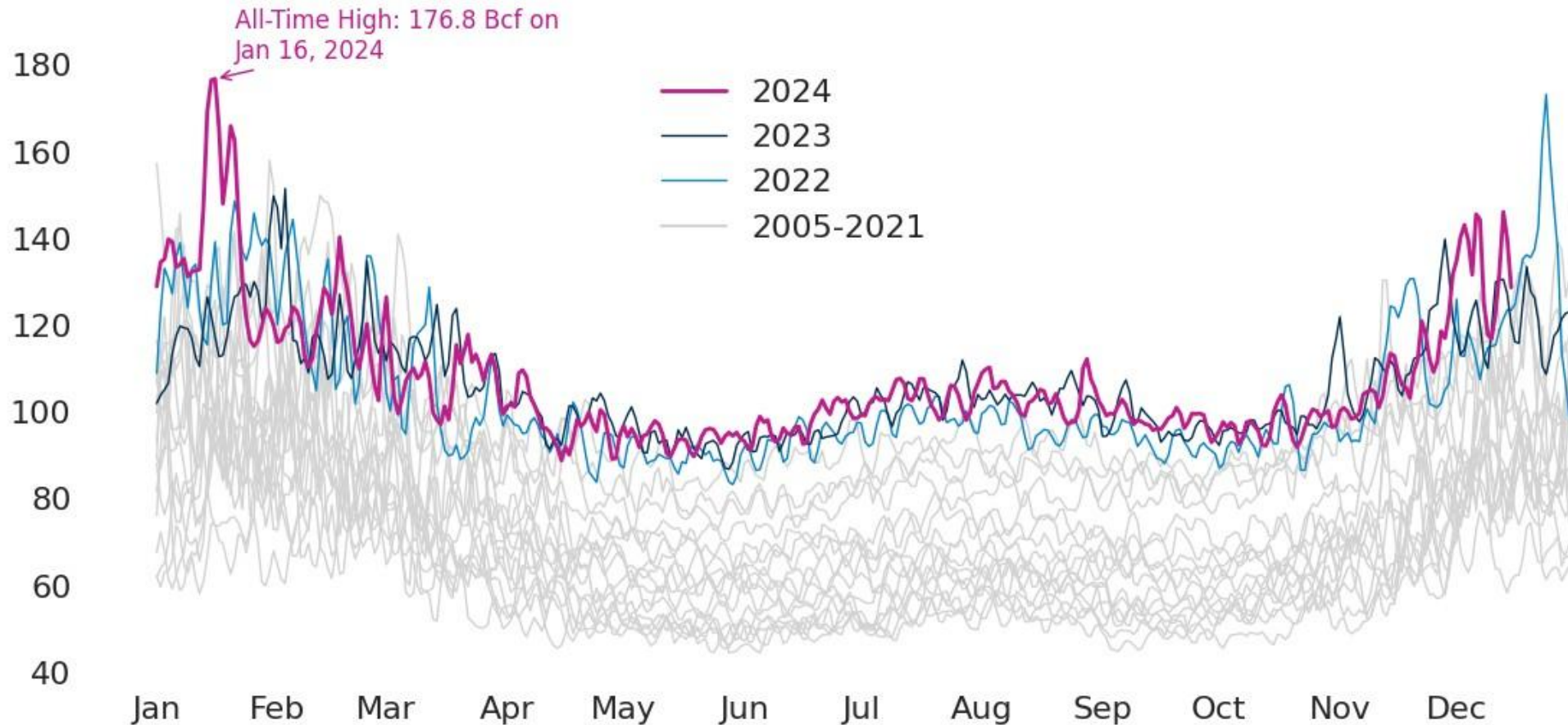
Source: NOAA, Chart: American Gas Association, Data as of Apr 6, 2024, Subject to Revision

The regional degree day statistics are weighted by gas home heating customers instead of by population. A heating degree day measures the coldness of the weather, based on the extent to which the daily mean temperature falls below 65 degrees Fahrenheit. A daily mean temperature represents the sum of the high and low readings divided by two. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



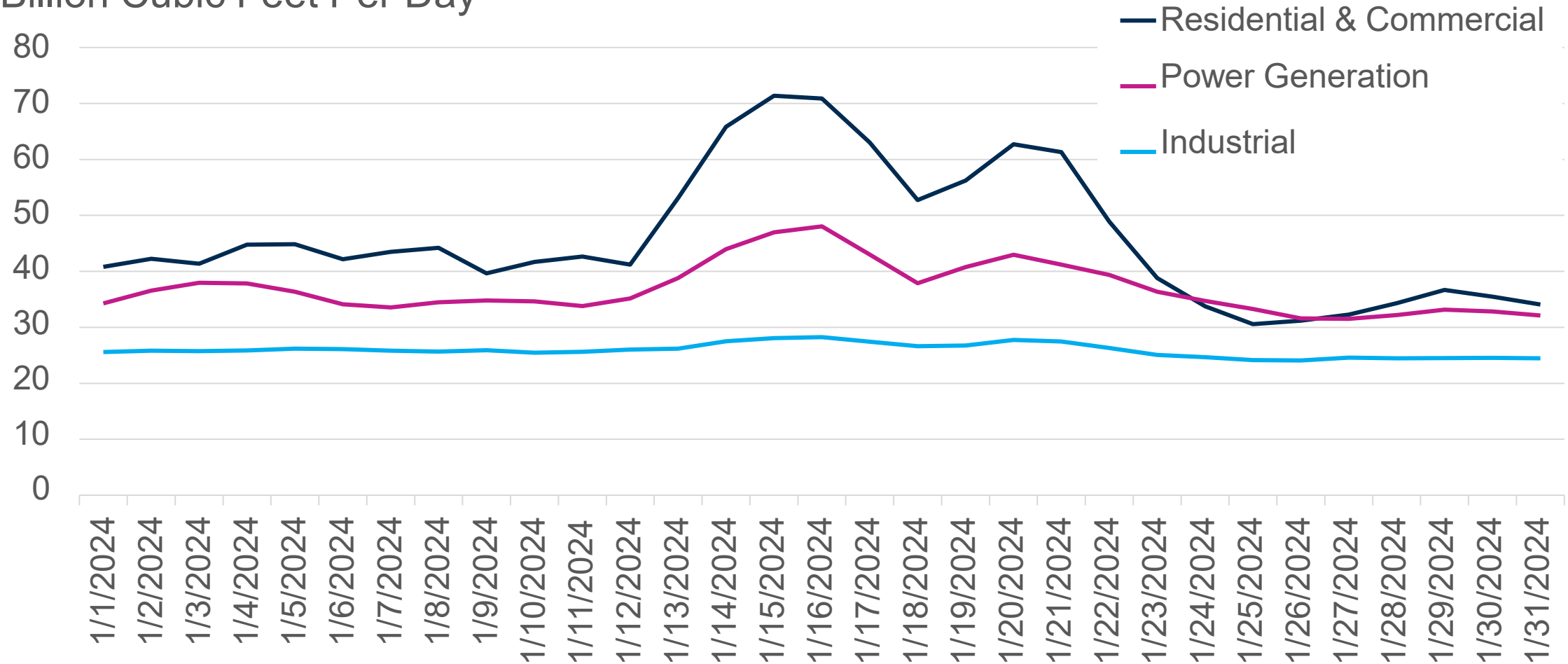
# U.S. natural gas demand set a new daily record during Winter Storm Heather (Jan 2024)

Total U.S. Natural Gas Demand, Lower-48  
(Bcf per day)



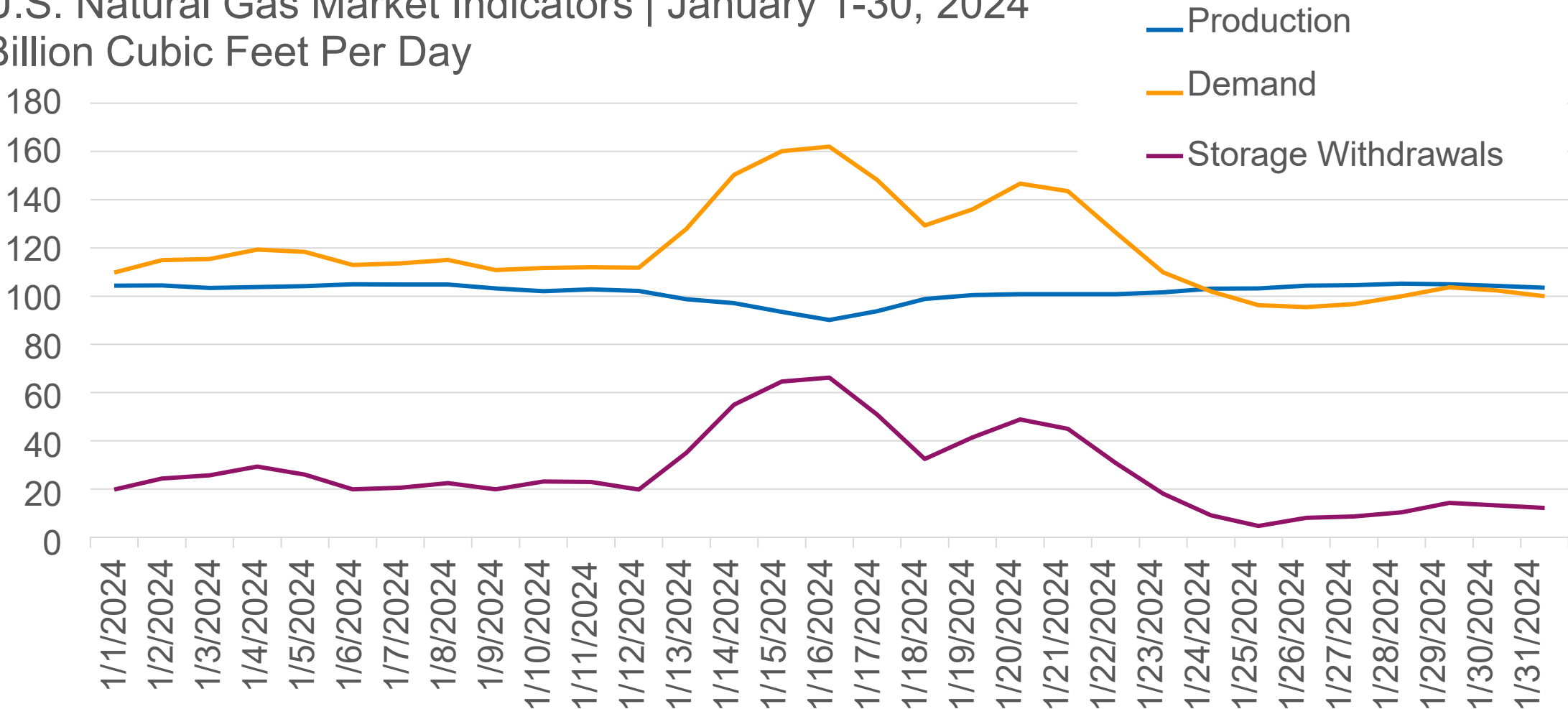
# Domestic sector demand increases during Winter Storm Heather (Jan 2024)

U.S. Natural Gas Demand by Sector | January 1-30, 2024  
Billion Cubic Feet Per Day



# Market flexibility during peak events

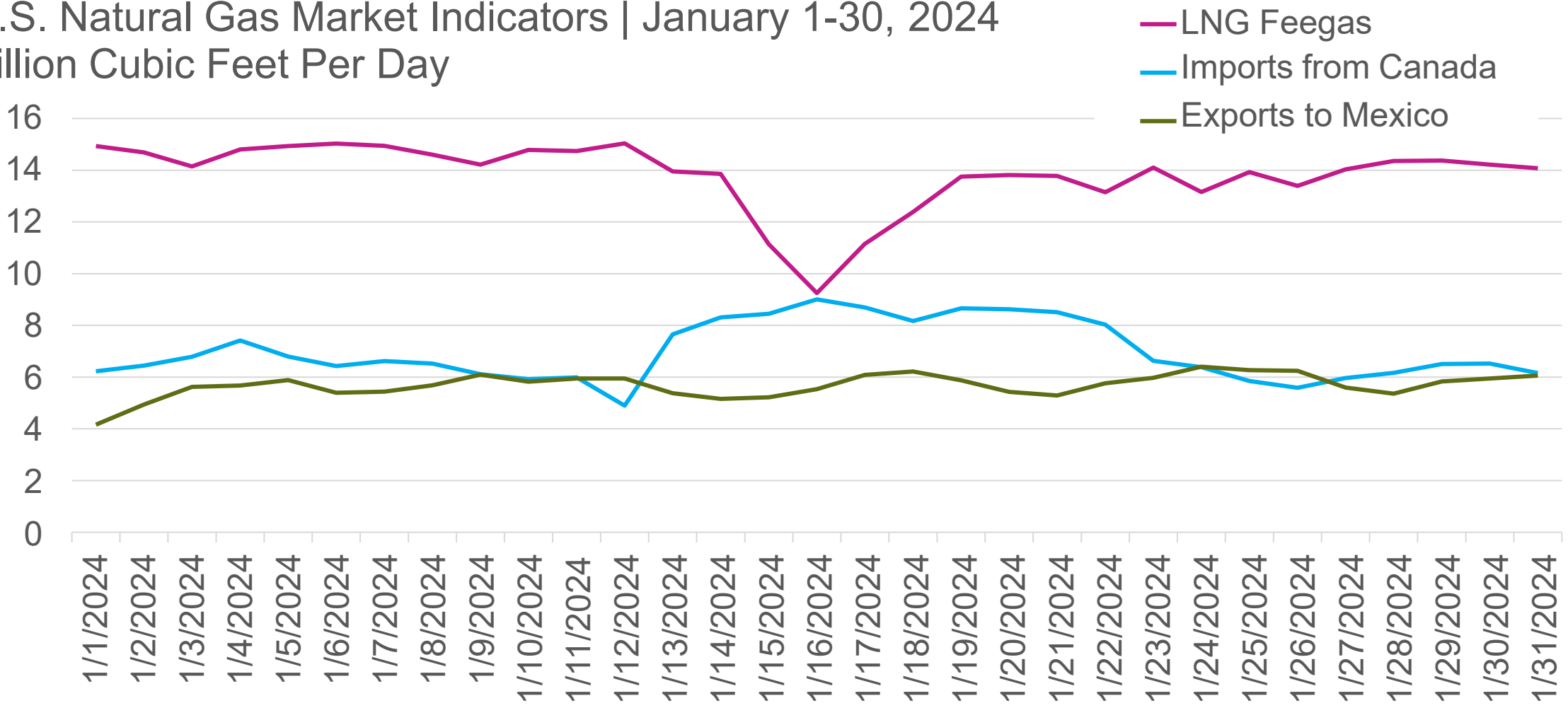
U.S. Natural Gas Market Indicators | January 1-30, 2024  
Billion Cubic Feet Per Day



Source: S&P Global Commodity Insights, ©2024 by S&P Global Inc., Chart: American Gas Association

# Market flexibility during peak events

U.S. Natural Gas Market Indicators | January 1-30, 2024  
Billion Cubic Feet Per Day

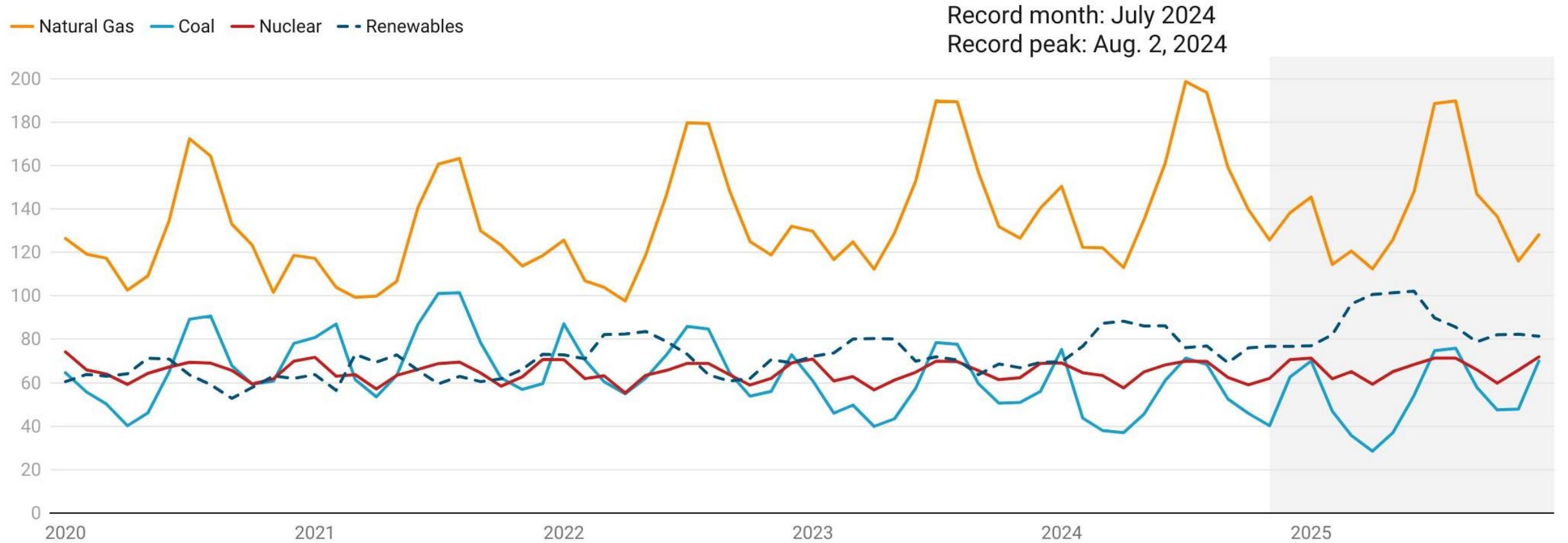


Source: S&P Global Commodity Insights, ©2024 by S&P Global Inc., Chart: American Gas Association

# Natural Gas remains the leading fuel source for electricity generation

## Monthly U.S. Electricity Generation by Top Energy Sources

Billion kilowatthours (BkWh)



Subject to revision

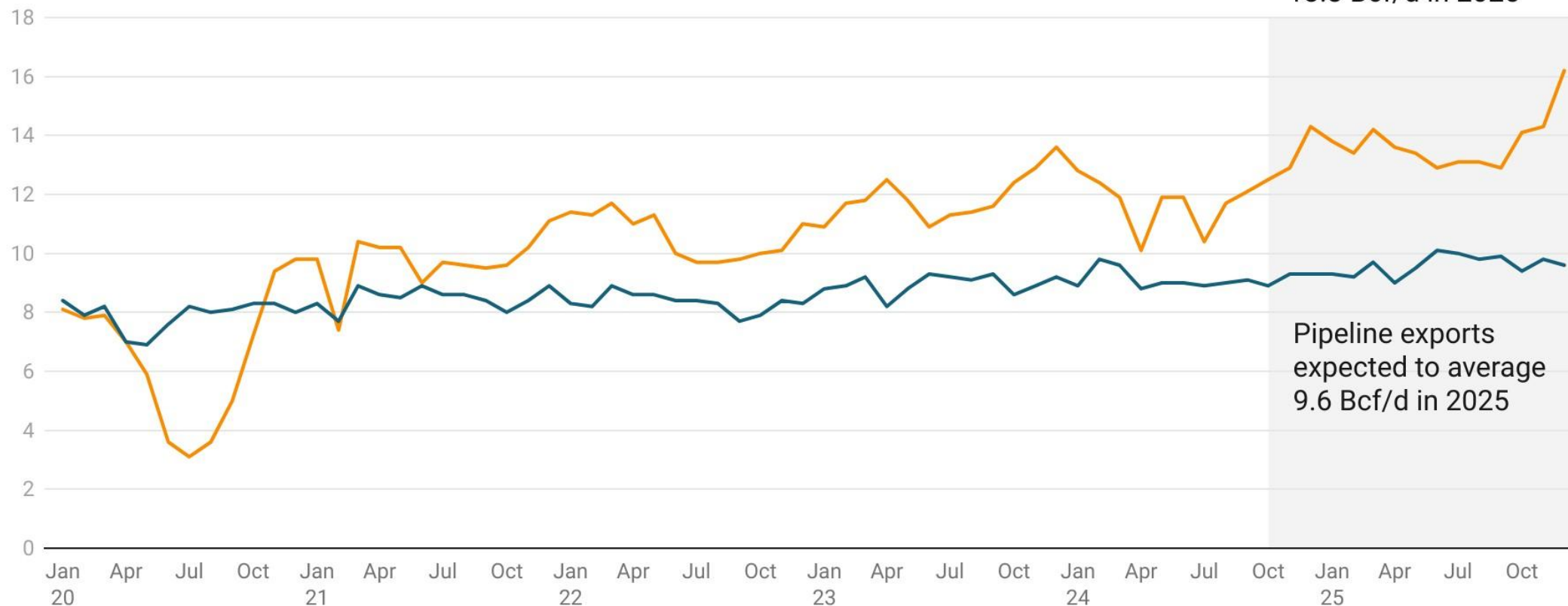
Chart: American Gas Association • Source: EIA November 2024 Short-Term Energy Outlook • Created with Datawrapper

# LNG export demand expected to grow as new facilities come online

## Monthly U.S. Gross Natural Gas Exports

Billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d)

— LNG — Pipeline



LNG exports  
expected to average  
13.8 Bcf/d in 2025

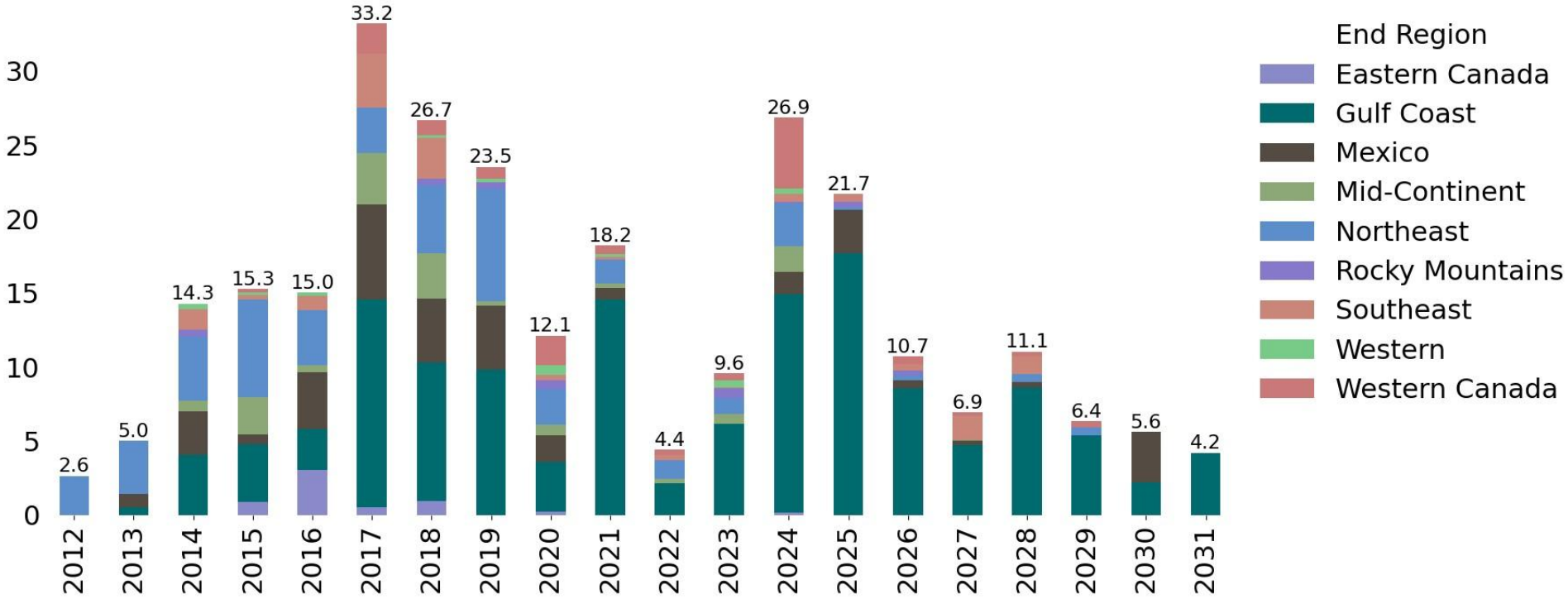
Pipeline exports  
expected to average  
9.6 Bcf/d in 2025

Subject to revision

Chart: American Gas Association • Source: EIA November 2024 Short-Term Energy Outlook • Created with Datawrapper

# New pipeline projects under construction or planned will support growing demand

North American Natural Gas Pipeline Capacity Expansions by End Region  
Billion Cubic Feet per Day

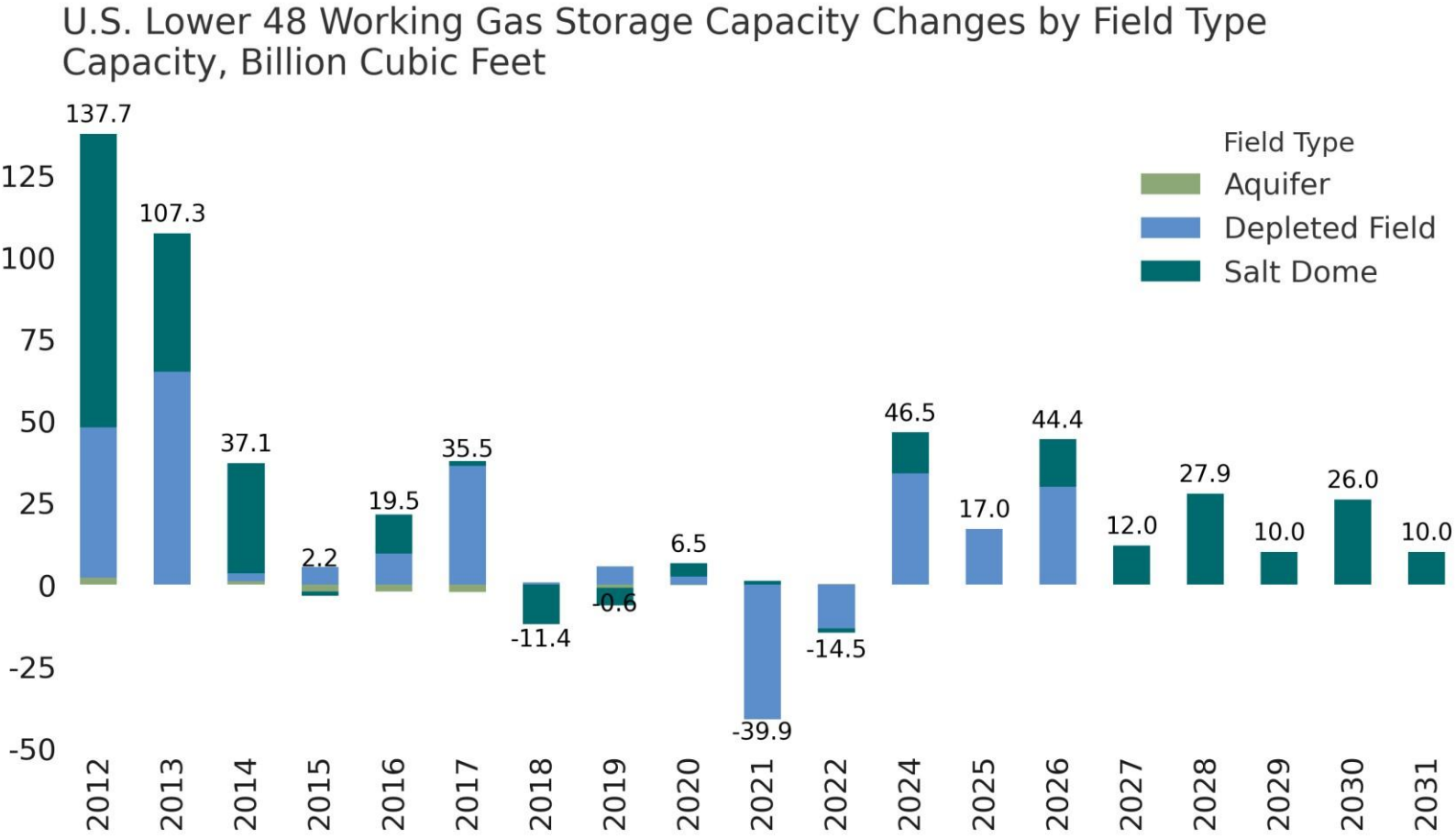


Source: S&P Global Commodity Insights, ©2024 by S&P Global Inc., Chart: American Gas Association

Projects shown in 2025 and beyond include pipelines under construction, announced, filed a regulatory application or received approval, or undergoing an open season.



# New pipeline projects under construction or planned will support an evolving market



Source: S&P Global Commodity Insights, ©2024 by S&P Global Inc., Chart: American Gas Association, Data as of Dec 11, 2024, Subject to Revision

Projects shown in 2025 and beyond include pipelines under construction, announced, filed a regulatory application or received approval, or undergoing an open season.



# Demand growth is expected to exceed supply in 2024 & 2025

## Natural Gas Balances (Bcf per Day)

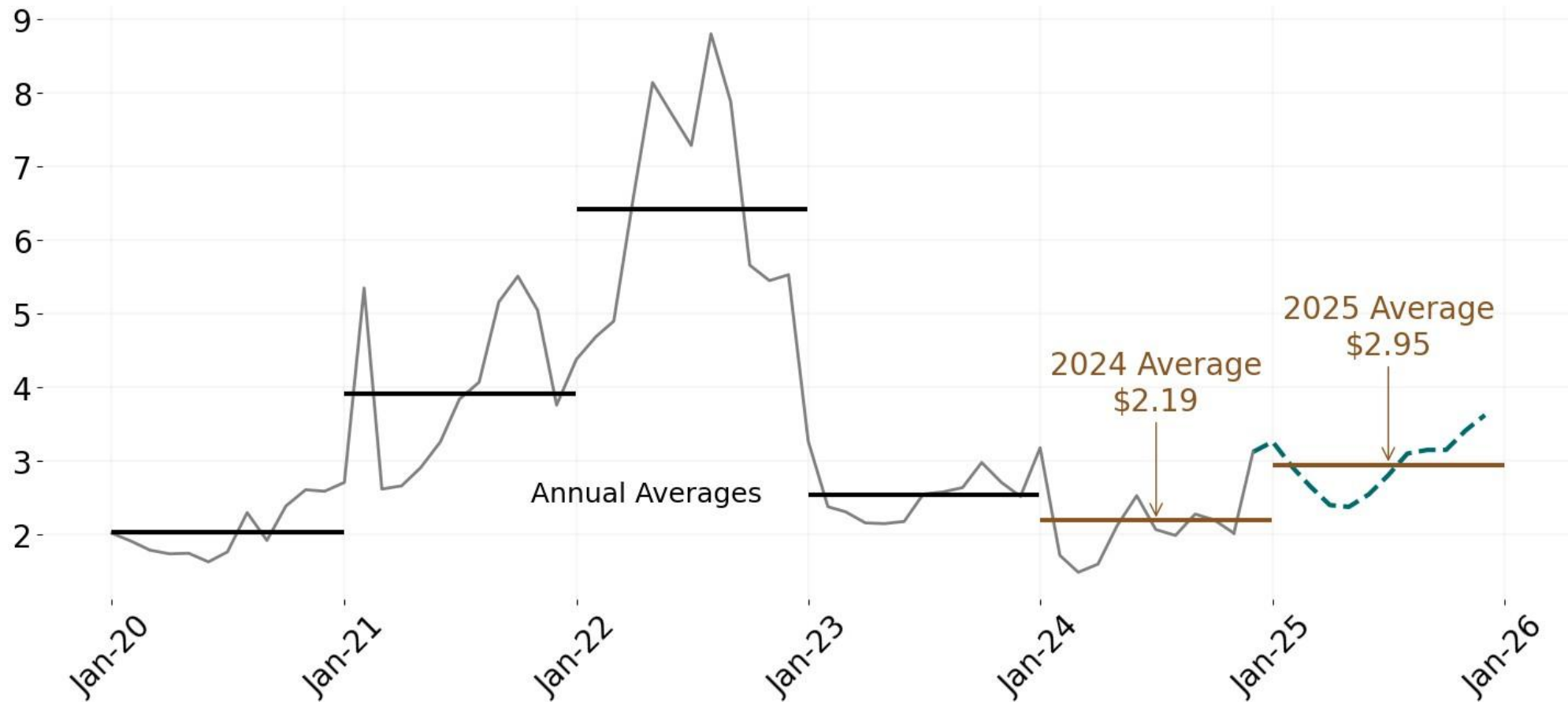
	Forecast			
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Dry Gas Production	99.6	103.8	103.2	103.7
LNG Net Exports	10.5	11.9	11.9	13.6
Pipeline Net Exports	0.1	0.9	0.9	1.7
Total Consumption	88.5	89.1	90.5	90.2
Dec. Working Gas Inventories (Bcf)	2,925	3,457	3,371	3,160
Net Inventory Change	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.6</b>

*Short-Term  
Energy  
Outlook,  
Energy  
Information  
Administration*

*December  
2024*

# Average Henry Hub spot prices expected to soften in 2024, projected to increase 34% in 2025

Monthly Henry Hub natural gas spot price (Jan 2020-Dec 2025)  
Dollars per MMBtu

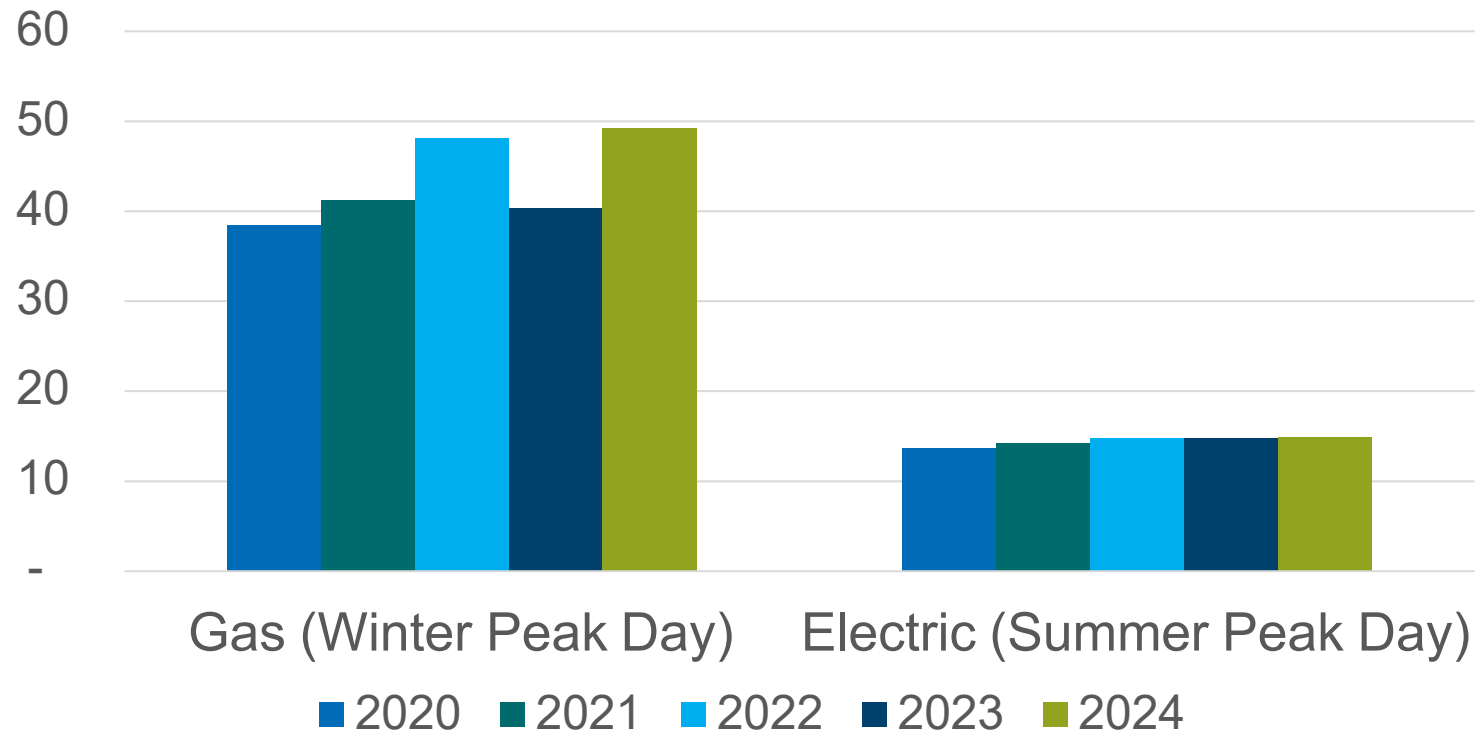


# Gas Utility Planning and Readiness



The natural gas system delivered 3.3 times as much domestic energy last winter compared with the electric grid during peak conditions.

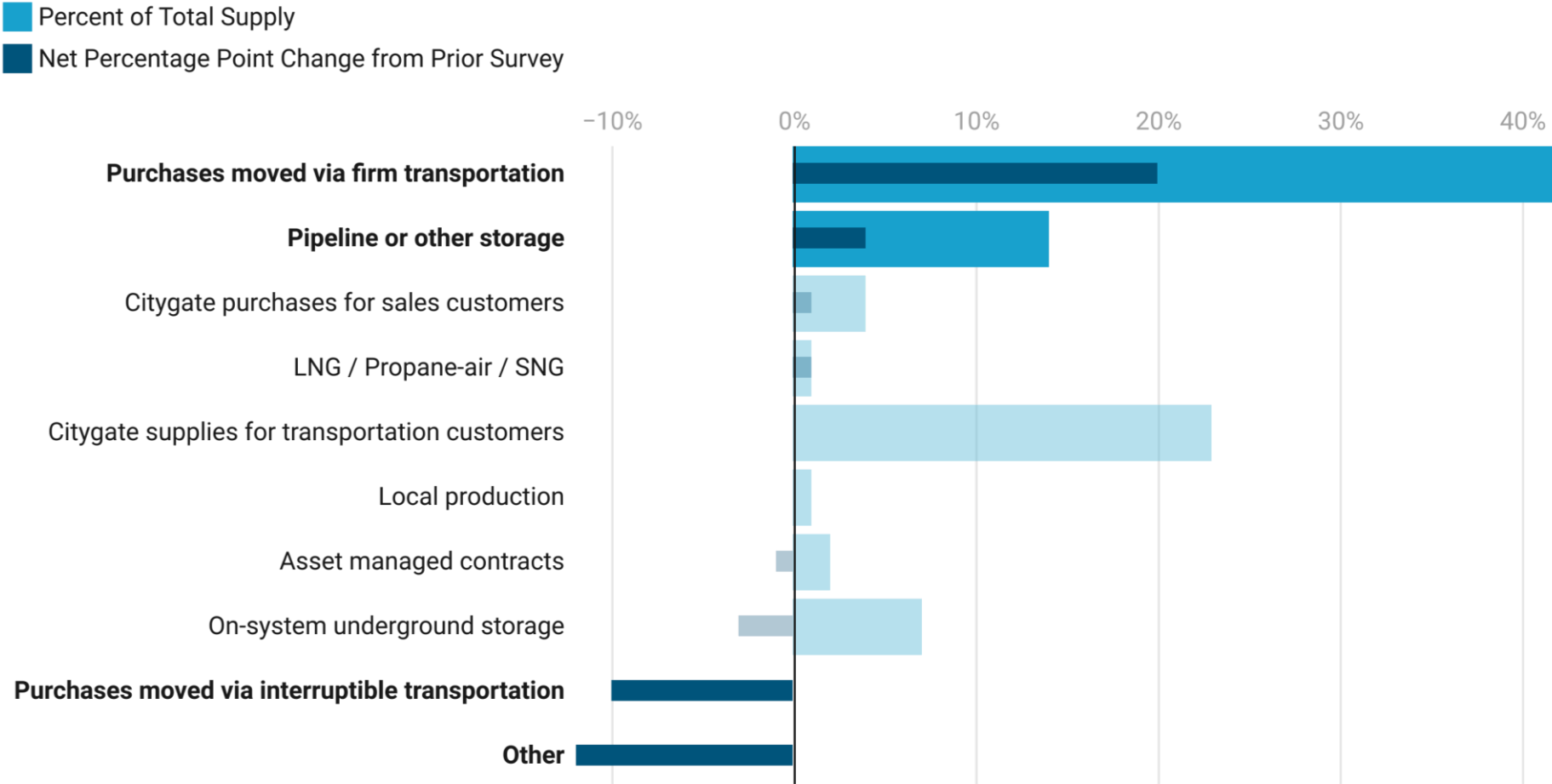
Peak Natural Gas Delivered and Electricity Daily Sales  
Thousand GWh of Energy per Day



\*Natural gas volumes delivered for all end-use consumers were converted from MMBtu to GWh for comparison only and do not reflect natural gas use in generation.

# Local gas utilities build and manage a portfolio of supply, storage, and transportation services to meet requirements

## Aggregate Peak Month Gas Supply



AGA Winter Heating Season Performance Survey 2021-22 & 2022-23  
Note: 'Other' category includes supply sources such as linepack, transporter imbalances, and off-system displacement

# Final Thoughts

- The natural gas market is set to be **well-supplied** headed into the winter heating season. **Gas utilities plan and prepare** to meet their obligations to consumers.
- **Gas for electric power** remains essential for meeting load growth and peak requirements. Maintaining generation, fuel deliverability, and infrastructure is essential for reliability.
- **The market may tighten** into 2025, but the outlook will be sensitive to production response.
- **New infrastructure will be necessary** to meet growing demand and maintain price stability.

**NERC**

NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY CORPORATION

# 2024-2025 Winter Reliability Assessment

John Moura, Director, Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis  
National Natural Gas Readiness Forum Meeting  
December 16, 2024

RELIABILITY | RESILIENCE | SECURITY

**Rapidly Changing Resource  
Mix**



**Accelerating Demand Growth**

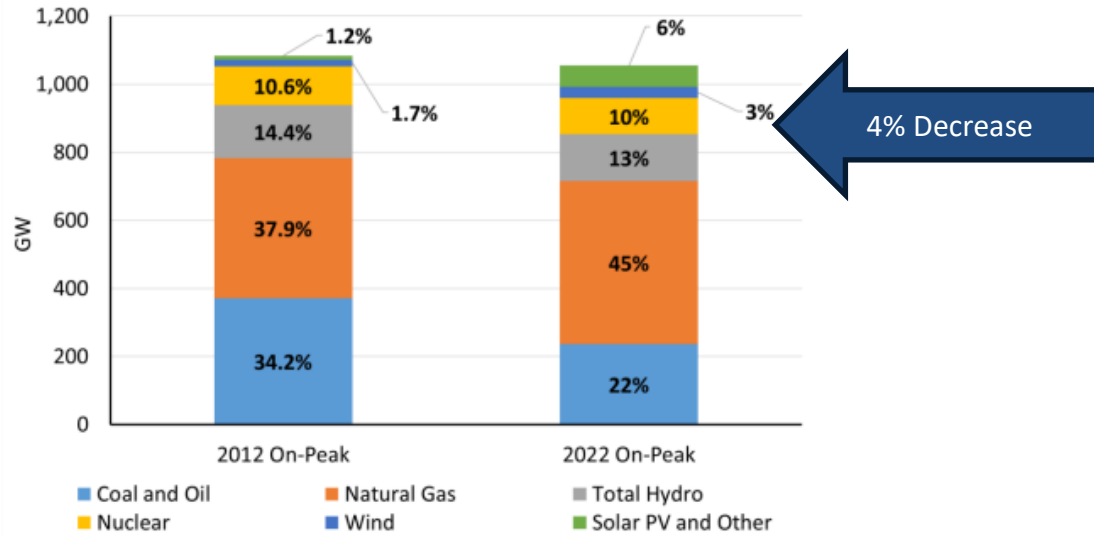
**Extreme Weather  
Complexities**



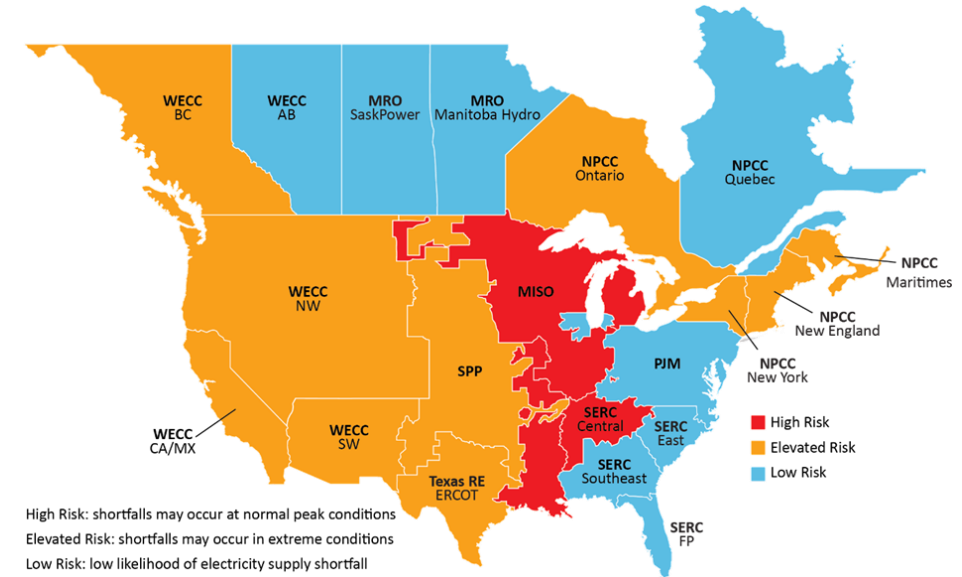
**Evolving Threat landscape**

# Across an Interconnected System: Less Resources Means More Reliance on Neighbors

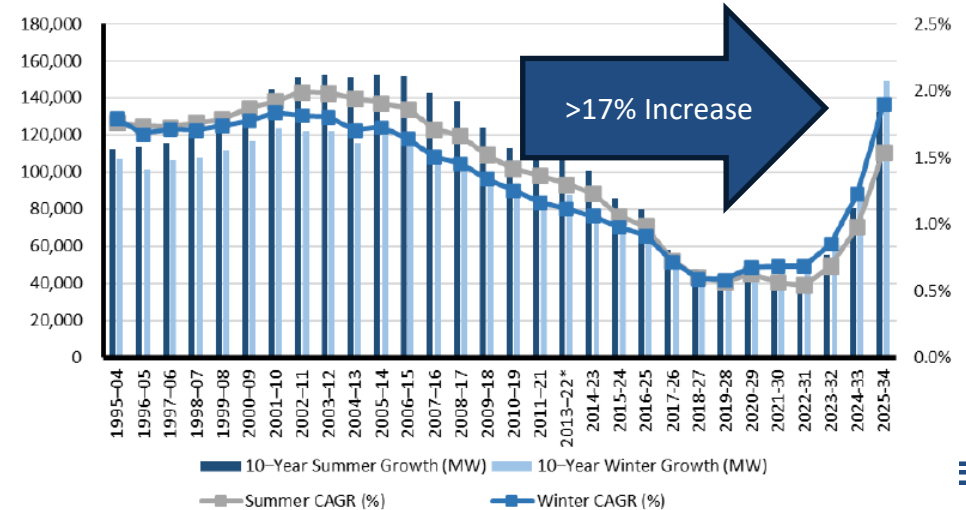
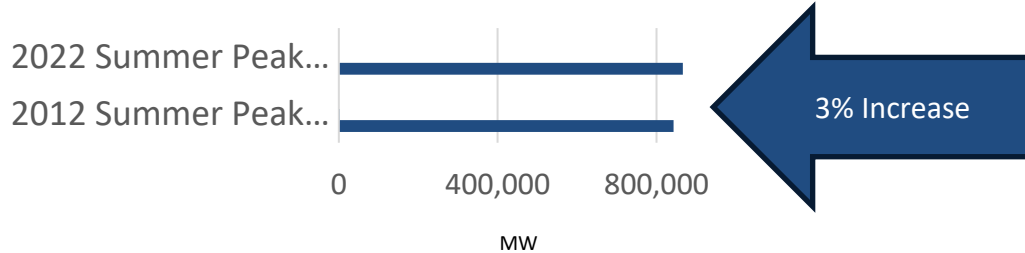
### 2012 and 2022 Peak Capacity Resource Mix NERC-Wide



### 2024-2033 Risk Areas

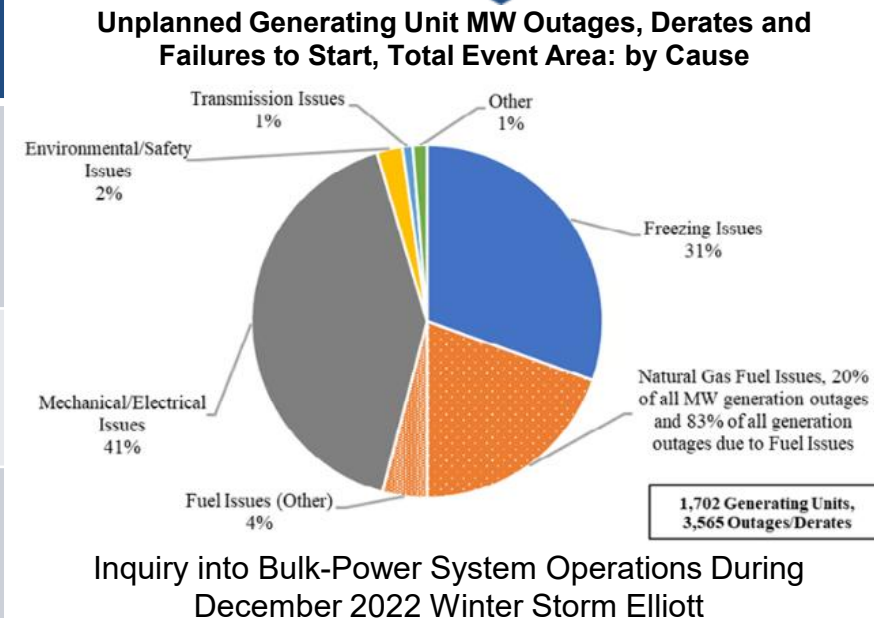


### NERC-Wide Summer Peak Demand Changes 2012 and 2022



# Similarities in Past Extreme Cold Weather Events

	2011 Event	2014 Event	2018 Event	2021 Event	2022 Event
Significant levels of incremental unplanned electric generating unit losses with top causes found to be mechanical/electrical, freezing, and fuel issues.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Significant natural gas production decreases occurred, with some areas of the country more severely affected.	✓			✓	✓
Short-range forecasts of peak electricity demands were less than actual demands for some BAs in event area	✓		✓	✓	✓



Extreme Winter Events		
Event	Geographic Area	Unavailable Generation (MW)
February 1–5, 2011	Texas and Southwest	14,702
January 6–8, 2014 (Polar Vortex)	Midwest, South Central, East Coast	9,800
January 15–19, 2018	South Central	15,600
February 8–20, 2021 (Winter Storm Uri)	Texas and South Central	65,622
December 21–26, 2022 (Winter Storm Elliott)	Central, Midwest, large parts of Southeast and Northeast	90,500

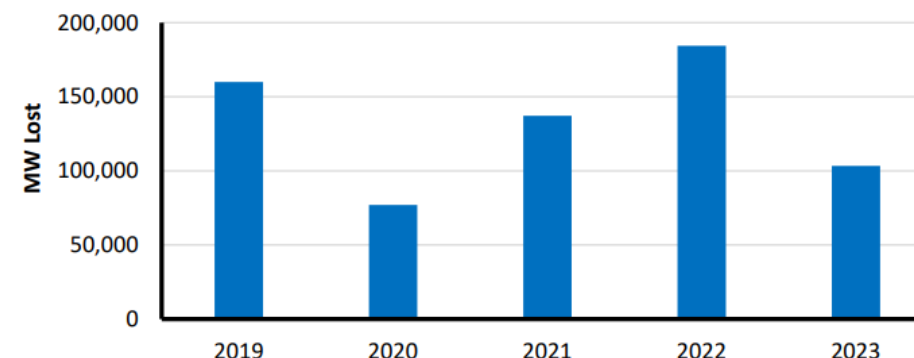


Figure 3.6: Natural-Gas-Fired Outages Due to Lack of Fuel

## Key Takeaways

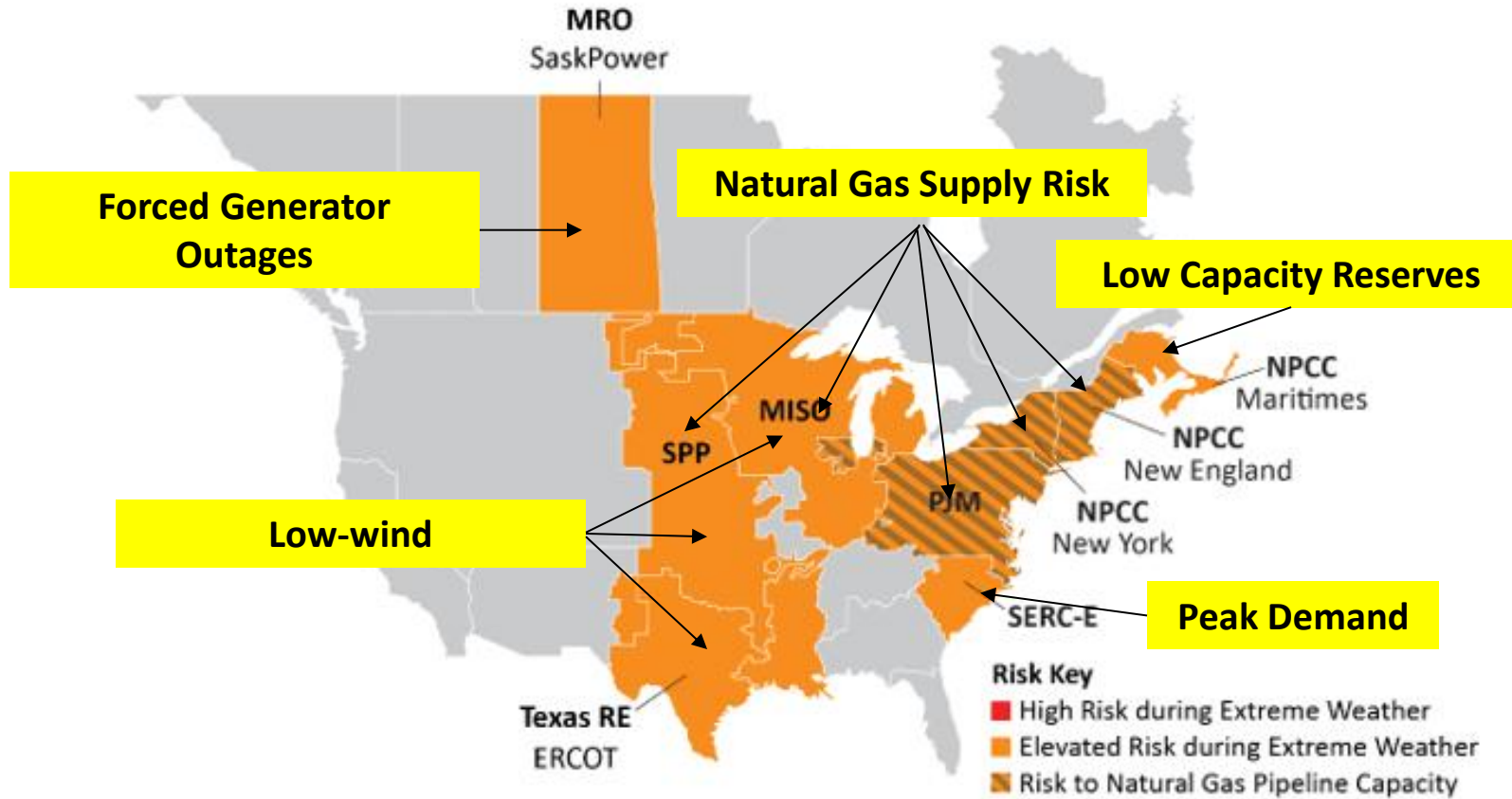
- Resources are adequate across North America for expected peak conditions
- Extreme winter conditions pose familiar challenges for bulk power system reliability
  - High electricity demand and forecasting challenges
  - Generator performance
  - Fuel supply issues
- Regulatory and industry initiatives are reducing winter reliability risks



The WRA examines resource adequacy, risk scenarios, and industry preparations for the winter season

# Key Risk Elements During Extreme Winter Conditions

## Results of WRA Probabilistic Analysis and Operational Risk Scenarios

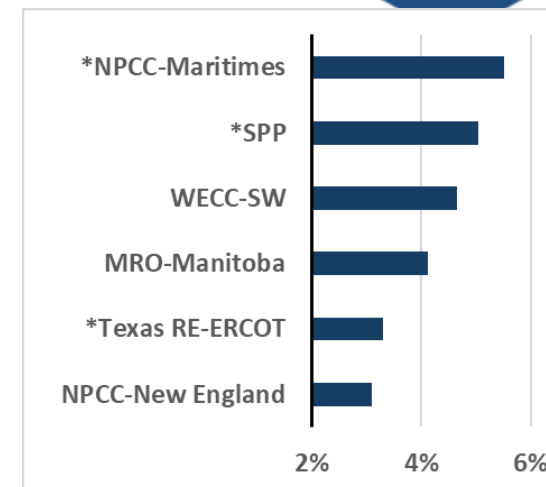


2024-2025 Winter Reliability Risk Map

- **MISO**
  - 5 GW retirements
- **NPCC-NE & NY**
  - 5 GW retirements
- **SERC-East**
  - 1 GW retirement
- **SPP**
  - 4 GW retirement
- Natural Gas Risk amplified by challenges to deploy new infrastructure

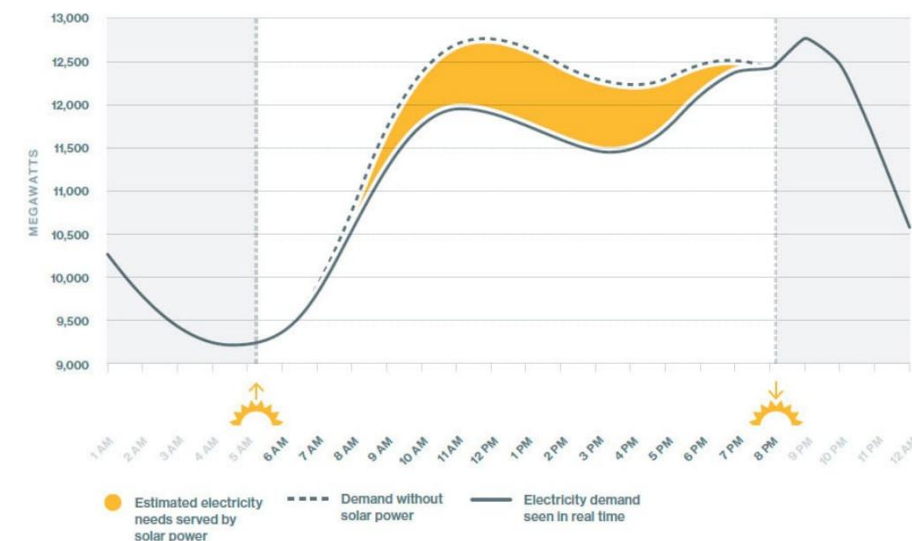
# Rising Winter Demand

- Winter demand increases exceeding 2% are seen in most assessment areas
- Home heating, transportation systems, and new data centers
- Solar resources do not provide output during many hours when winter electricity demand is at its highest.
- New battery resources can extend the output from solar PV for short durations, but winter's longer hours of darkness, cloud cover, and precipitation will push the limits of today's battery storage capabilities
- Winter resource adequacy depends on dispatchable generation, reliable fuel supplies, and firm transfer agreements



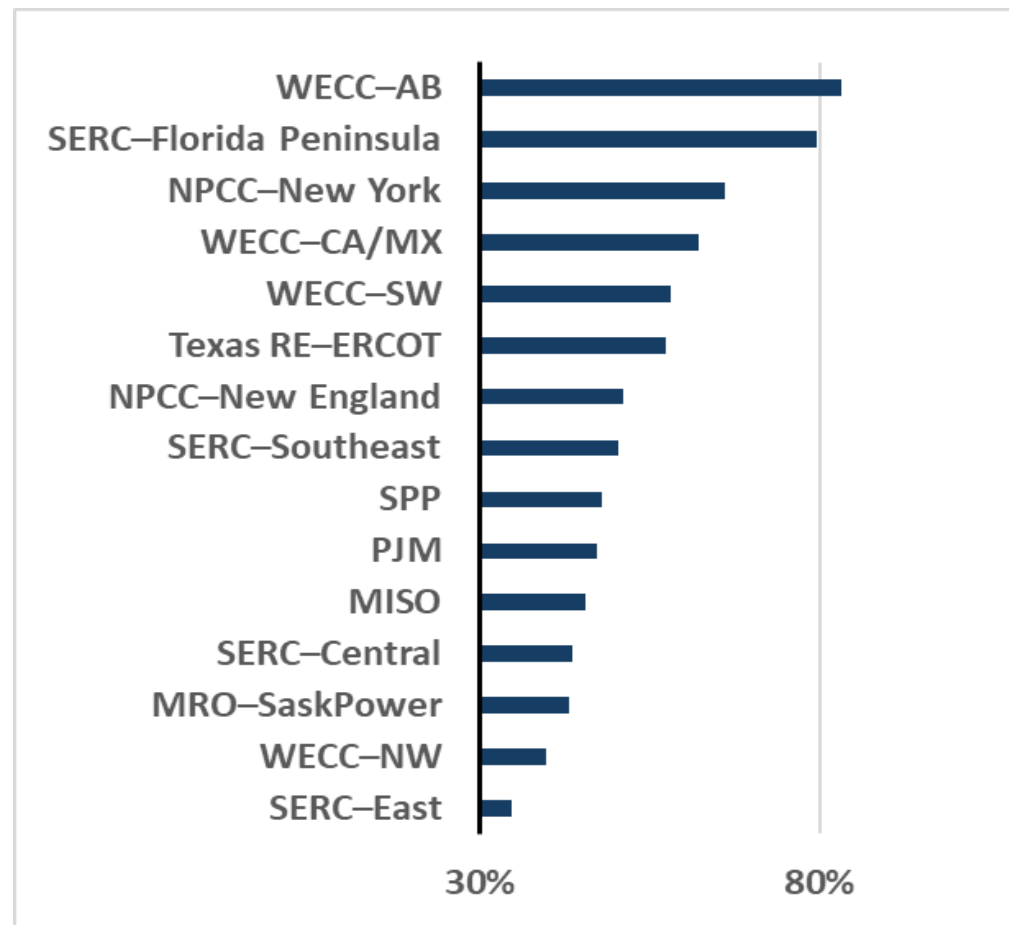
## Annual Increase in Peak Winter Demand (3% or More) Since 2023

\*Among the higher growth areas for consecutive years



# Natural Gas Is Essential

- Generators that use natural gas as primary fuel are the main winter resource across the U.S. and in Alberta
- In winter storm Elliott (2022) 26% of all generator outages were due to fuel issues
- Fuel supply issues during extreme cold are a concern in MISO, SPP, PJM, New England, and New York
- Regional pipeline capacity faces limitations in the Mid-Atlantic to New England



**Natural Gas-fired Generation Capacity  
In Winter (Percent of Total Capacity)**

### Regulatory Highlights

- Reliability standards implemented in 2023 require generator cold weather plans and operator coordination
- Rules in Texas respond to Winter Storm Uri (2021) generator and fuel supply issues
- FERC and NERC continue monitoring winter storm report recommendations
- NERC Generator Cold Weather Preparedness and Constraint Data

### Industry Initiatives

- January 2024 Arctic Storms resulted in no load-loss events
- Improved generator performance attributed to weatherization, early warning and unit commitment

- **Cold Weather Preparations** – Operators should review seasonal operating plans, communications protocols, and lessons-learned
- **Generator Readiness** - Generator Owners should complete winter readiness preparations, deploy weatherization packages in advance of winter storms, and frequently check cold-weather mitigations
- **Fuel** – Balancing Authorities (BA) should implement generator fuel surveys to monitor the adequacy of fuel supplies
- **Load Forecasting** – BA should anticipate load forecasts uncertainty and be prepared to take early action to manage potential reserve deficiencies
- **State regulators and policy makers** – support environmental and transportation waivers when requested to manage potential emergencies
- **Address gas/electric interface** through more gas infrastructure, increased information sharing, appropriate market-based incentives and consideration of accountability mechanisms



**Questions Welcome**

The background of the slide is a photograph of several large, parallel industrial gas pipelines. The pipes are supported by blue metal brackets and run into the distance. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, orange and yellow glow in the sky. In the background, there are blurred industrial structures, possibly towers or chimneys, and some trees. The overall mood is industrial and serene.

# Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline Communications

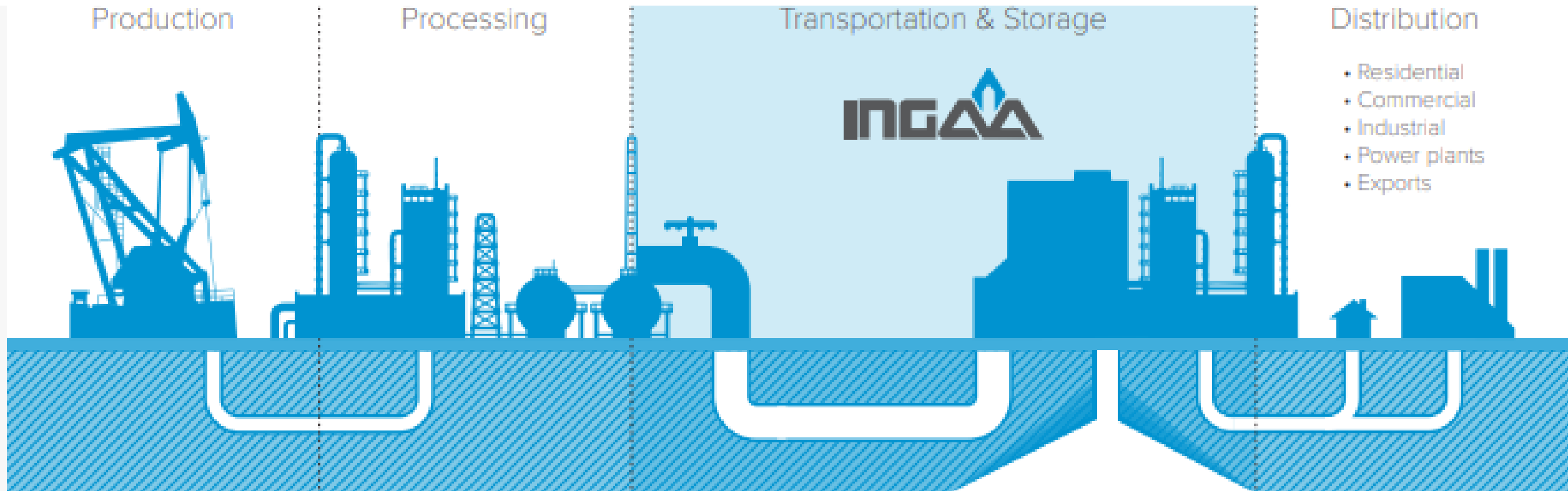
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Natural Gas Readiness Forum  
December 17, 2024

# Communication Protects the Pipeline System and Our Firm Customers.

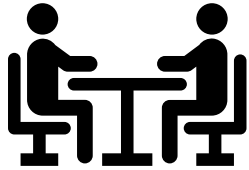
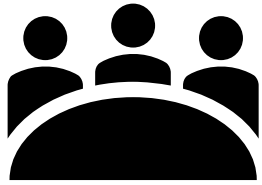
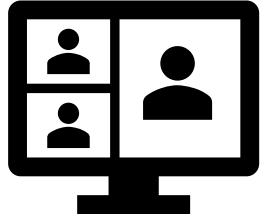
Interstate natural gas pipelines' top priority is maintaining a reliable and safe pipeline system while meeting commitments to firm transportation and storage customers.

Communication advances this priority by promoting awareness and advanced planning.



# Ahead of Event Preparation: Advance Communication

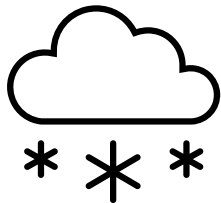
Pipelines proactively address known challenges and set expectations through stakeholder coordination meetings and publicly posted critical notices.



- Pipelines meet with RTOs, LDCs and interested parties.



- **INGAA Voluntary Winter Preparation Survey.** Accountability in ensuring safe and reliable operations through assessment of critical equipment.



- Pipelines monitor weather throughout the year and typically will post weather advisories or notices in advance of event.



## Critical Notices

**Publically posted notices to point operators, shippers, and other interested stakeholders:**

- Inform of expected conditions on the pipeline during a weather event
- Reinforce the pipeline's expectations that shippers abide by the tariff and their contracts.
- Should also prompt shippers to review their supply, transportation arrangements.
- Indicate limited flexibility due to anticipated high system utilization.



## Monitoring Flows and Pressure

**Increased monitoring of locations off rate indicating potential of underperformance**

A pipeline's response to underperformance varies by pipeline, system conditions, and quantity of the underperformance.

Pipes might post an underperformance notice based on analysis of the circumstances.

**End users must communicate with their suppliers and/or marketers to understand how production shortfalls affect them.**

# Pipelines Communicate 24-7-365.



- **FERC has taken several steps to promote transparency and gas-electric coordination:**
  - 18 C.F.R. §§ 284.12, 13 requires regular, public posting of substantial operational information.
  - Order 698 requires communication procedures between pipes and generators and pipes and RTOs/ISOs.
  - Order 787 permits sharing of non-public, operational information between pipes and RTOs/ISOs.
- **FERC Regulations and NAESB Standards govern how interstate pipelines post and deliver “notices” to shippers and the public.**
  - Notices can cover a variety of issues ranging from capacity constraints to maintenance updates to pipeline conditions to weather.
  - Pipelines must designate a notice as “critical” if the conditions described in the notice affect scheduling or adversely affect scheduled gas flow.
  - NAESB Standards dictate the form, content, and method of delivery (e.g., email, EDI) for these notices.

# Recent Changes: Pipelines Propose New Standards for Public Postings.

NAESB convened a forum in 2024 to review and, as needed, modify its Business Practice Standards to enhance situational awareness during extreme weather events.

Stakeholders identified changes to pipelines' notices to help more quickly identify relevant data.



## *Pipelines proposed to*

- add geographic information (county, state, etc.) for locations identified in critical notices; and
- collect on a dedicated page scheduled quantity information for power plants directly connected to the pipeline

***The proposal continues to move through the NAESB and regulatory approval process.***