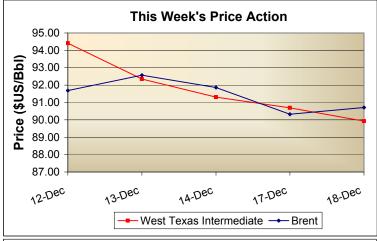
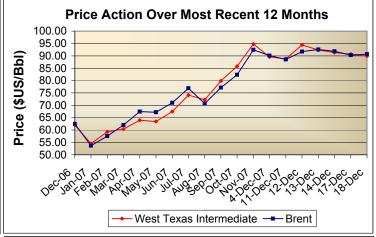
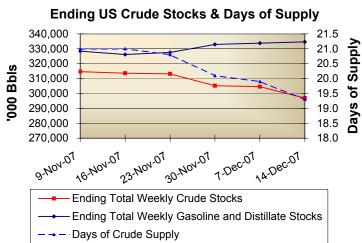
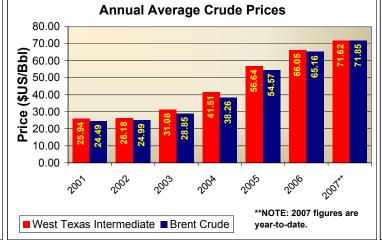
## Weekly Crude Price Report - For the Week Ending December 18, 2007

	Week Ended	Current Week					December 12 -	December	
							December 18	Month-to-	2007 Year-
Benchmark Crudes (US\$/bbl)	11-Dec-07	12-Dec	13-Dec	14-Dec	17-Dec	18-Dec	Average	Date	to-Date
- West Texas Intermediate	88.75	94.41	92.35	91.31	90.69	89.93	91.74	90.01	71.62
- Brent Crude	88.54	91.69	92.57	91.86	90.32	90.71	91.43	89.81	71.85









## COMMENTARY:

- ► For the December 12 December 18 period, West Texas Intermediate closed lower by \$0.19 week-over-week, ending at \$89.93. Brent gained \$2.94 week-over-week to close at \$90.71.
- ▶ US Crude stocks decreased by 7.6 million bbls. At the same time, days of crude supply declined by 0.6 to 19.3 days of supply. Gasoline and distillate stocks increased by 0.8 million bbls.
- ► After last week's report detailing the structural rationale for potentially easing prices, supply concerns seem to be coming to the fore once again. US crude stocks have declined for the fifth straight week and days of crude supply has plummeted to just 19.3, more than 2 days less than last year at the same time. This has halted what appeared to be a trend toward somewhat lower prices heading into 2008 and we have seen both WTI and Crude prices average over \$91/bbl for the last week. This is coupled with reports of a Turkish military incursion into northern Iraq and a subsequent clash with Iraqi Kurdish rebels. This has fueled fears of disruptions in oil supplies from the region. Other fundamentals appear to be holding from last week's report and many analysts are suspecting choppy, sideways movement in markets without any sustained, directional trend taking hold in the coming weeks.

## Sources/Notes:

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Natural Resources Energy Branch Energy Economics Division



<sup>1.</sup> West Texas Infermediate and Brent Crude prices are spot prices as reported weekly by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) of the Department of Energy (DOE) in the United States.

<sup>2.</sup> Inventory stocks are reported weekly by the EIA and include all inventories held with "primary" enterprises such as refiners and wholesalers of crude. Secondary and tertiary inventories held by retailers or end users are not included. Crude stocks include all unrefined crude; gasoline stocks include all grades of gasoline; and distillate stocks include all grades of distillates (including home heating fuel and diesel fuel).

<sup>3.</sup> Annual and monthly average prices for spot WTI and Brent crude from 2001 to 2007 are simple averages calculated from daily prices as reported by EIA.