| Benchmark Crudes (US\$/bbl) | January 20 January 26 Average | Current Week |  |  |  |  | January 27 - <br> February <br> 2 Average | February <br> Month-to- <br> Date | $\begin{gathered} 2010 \text { Year } \\ \text { to-Date } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 27-Jan | 28-Jan | 29-Jan | 1-Feb | 2-Feb |  |  |  |
| - West Texas Intermediate | 75.42 | 73.64 | 73.62 | 72.85 | 74.41 | 77.21 | 74.35 | 75.81 | 78.09 |
| - Brent Crude | 73.35 | 72.75 | 70.65 | 71.20 | 71.58 | 73.94 | 72.02 | 72.76 | 75.84 |






## COMMENTARY:

- For the January 27 - February 2 period, the average price for West Texas Intermediate was lower by $\$ 1.07$ week-over-week, at $\$ 74.35$. Brent prices were lower by $\$ 1.33$ week-over-week, averaging \$72.02.
- WTI began the week at $\$ 73.64$ growing to $\$ 77.21$ by February 2. Brent prices began the week at $\$ 72.75$ growing to $\$ 73.94$ by February 2.
- The average crude prices for 2010 year-todate decreased from the previous week with WTI down \$1.17 to \$78.09 and Brent down \$1.19 to $\$ 75.84$
- US crude stocks increased by 2.317 million bbls this week. At the same time, days of crude supply increased by 0.3 from the previous week at 23.7 days of supply. US gasoline and distillate stocks decreased by 2.254 million bbls.
- Russia and Belarus signed a new oil supply deal on January 27. Talks have broken down a number of times and caused a brief supply disruption to refineries in 2010. Media reports that Belarus would get 6.3 million tonnes of dutyfree oil in 2010, but the volumes could be adjusted after September. Also, tariffs for Russian oil transit through Belarus will rise 11\% this year as a part of the deal.
- OPEC has scheduled their next conference for March 22, 2010. Media reports suggest that it is unlikely that output quotas will be adjusted at the next meeting.

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