

Preface

The *Weekly Petroleum Status Report* (WPSR) provides timely information on supply and selected prices of crude oil and principal petroleum products in the context of historical data and forecasts. It serves the industry, the press, planners, policymakers, consumers, analysts, and State and local governments with a ready, reliable source of current information. The supply data contained in this report are based primarily on company submissions for the week ending 7:00 a.m. the preceding Friday. Weekly price data are collected as of 8:00 a.m. every Monday. The daily spot and futures prices are provided by Reuters, Inc. Data are released electronically after 10:30 a.m. each Wednesday, and hard copies of the publication are available for distribution on Thursday (on demand). For some weeks which include holidays, publication of the *WPSR* is delayed by one day.

General information about this document may be obtained from the National Energy Information Center (NEIC) (202) 586-8800, (202) 586-0727 (fax), and email: infoctr@eia.doe.gov.

New Stock Bands

This issue of the *Weekly Petroleum Status Report* presents updated average stock ranges on the stock graphs for U.S. total crude oil and petroleum products, crude oil, motor gasoline, distillate fuel oil, and residual fuel oil found on pages 7, 9, 11, and 13. The stock ranges have been recomputed in accordance with the procedure described in the Appendix. The Appendix also presents the values for the new ranges.

Lower Operational Inventory

Lower operational inventory (LOI) levels for crude oil, total motor gasoline, distillate fuel oil, residual fuel oil, jet fuel, propane, and total petroleum will no longer be displayed beginning with this issue of the *Weekly Petroleum Status Report*. The LOI concept has proven useful for explaining the role of inventories in petroleum supply and we will continue to use it for that purpose. However, we believe average inventory ranges, displayed as shaded bands on charts, provide a better frame of historical reference for analysts to assess the inventory component of U.S. and regional petroleum supply. Display of lower operational inventories on graphs does not add significant analytic value.

This report is available on the World Wide Web at:

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html