NYMEX OIL: US$107.027
+$2.16
April delivery
NYMEX N. Gas: US$2.340
+$0.061 per MMBTU
March delivery

Oilfield NEWS

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Published By *NEWS COMMUNICATIONS* since 1977 | Weekender | Saturday March 17, 2012

SYNTHETIC CRUDE SURGES ON SUNCOR OUTAGE

Canadian light synthetic crude prices surged $10 on Wednesday after Suncor Energy Inc said one of two upgrading units at its northern Alberta oil sands operation would be down for up to five weeks of unplanned repairs. Synthetic for April last sold for $11 a barrel under benchmark West Texas Intermediate, compared with $21 a barrel under on Tuesday. Early deals on Wednesday were done for as narrow a discount as $5 a barrel under. The jump extends weeks of wild volatility in Canadian cash crude markets as processing units at three oil sands ventures tripped off line unexpectedly, repair schedules fluctuated and a U.S. Midwest pipeline run by Enbridge Inc was shut by a drag-racing accident. Meanwhile, overall export pipeline capacity has remained tight. On Tuesday, differentials had widened when Syncrude Canada revised its production forecast upward for April after pushing back planned maintenance on one of three coker units in its upgrading operation. That adds about 137,000 barrels a day of output for the month to its previous outlook. It postponed the upkeep after another coker unit had to be taken down for unplanned work. Later in the day, Suncor said it would shut its Upgrader 2 for three to five weeks to fix a fractionator problem, cutting production to about 140,000 barrels a day. The outage comes after months of record production at the plant. Overall capacity at each of the tar sands plants is about 350,000 barrels a day. Upgraders turn bitumen from the oil sands into refinery-ready light oil. Adding to the mix, Canadian Natural Resources Ltd said late on Tuesday it was restarting its 110,000-barrels-a-day Horizon oil sands plant after shutting it down for repairs in early February. Shipments are expected to begin on Thursday, the company said. As late as December, synthetic sold at a premium to WTI. In heavy crude, Western Canada Select for April delivery was quoted at $33.75 a barrel under WTI, compared with $34 under on Tuesday.

CRESCENT POINT CLOSES WILD STREAM ARRANGEMENT

Crescent Point Energy Corp has closed the previously announced arrangement with Wild Stream Exploration Inc. to acquire approximately 5,400 boe/d of Wild Stream's production, 91 percent of which is contiguous with Crescent Point's assets in the Shaunavon and Battrum/Cantuar areas of southwest Saskatchewan. The Company also acquired more than 200 net sections of land in the Shaunavon resource play, 15 net sections of land in the emerging Beaverhill Lake light oil resource play in the Swan Hills area and 37 net sections of land in the Battrum/Cantuar area of southwest Saskatchewan. The successful completion of the Arrangement further solidifies Crescent Point's position as the largest player in the Shaunavon resource play in southwest Saskatchewan.

CRESCENT POINT TO BUY RELIABLE ENERGY

Crescent Point Energy said it will buy Reliable Energy for C$79.1 million to further boost output from the oil-rich Bakken shale in southwest Saskatchewan, and raised its 2012 production outlook for the third time this year. Crescent, Canada's No.5 independent oil producer and a pioneer in the Bakken shale, bought some PetroBakken Energy Ltd assets in February and acquired Wild Stream Exploration for C$770 million in January. The Reliable Energy deal prompted Crescent to raise its 2012 production outlook to above 86,500 boe/d from its earlier view of 86,000 boe/d. Crescent raised its year-end exit production forecast by about 1,000 boe/d to about 94,000 boe/d. Reliable Energy has proved plus probable reserves of 4.1 million barrels of oil equivalent as of Dec. 31, 2011, and the oil explorer has identified 36 net locations for drilling. Crescent, which already holds 12.8 percent stake in Reliable, will pay Reliable shareholders 0.00794 of its stock for each share. The deal represents a premium of 18 percent to Reliable stock's Wednesday close of 30 Canadian cents. "This deal was just about one third of their quarterly cash flow, and I wouldn't say this was a sizeable acquisition," said Eric Nuttall, the portfolio manager of Canada's Sprott Energy Funds. He thinks the company could buy more during the year. Crescent will also assume Reliable's debt of about C$20 million

ATHABASCA CLOSES SALE OF MACKAY RIVER PROJECT

Athabasca Oil Sands Corp. has closed the previously announced sale of its 40% interest in the MacKay River oil sands project to Cretaceous Oilsands Holdings Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of PetroChina International Investment Limited, for cash consideration of $680 million (Cdn.), net $200 million (Cdn.) after closing adjustments and Athabasca's repayment of two loans provided by Cretaceous. As a result of the sale of its MacKay River interest, Athabasca has retired all outstanding debt. Athabasca retains a 40% interest in the Dover commercial oil sands project. The Dover development work is being carried out by Dover Operating Corp., a company jointly owned by Athabasca (40%) and Cretaceous Oil Sands Holdings Limited (60%). An application for a 50,000 bbl/d oil sands project on Dover was submitted in December, 2010.

PEMBINA PIPELINE RECEIVES CLEARANCE FOR PROVIDENT

Acquisition Pembina Pipeline Corporation and Provident Energy Ltd. have announced that they have received clearance from the Competition Bureau of Canada to proceed with Pembina's proposed acquisition of Provident by way of its previously announced plan of arrangement. The parties previously received clearance to proceed with the Arrangement pursuant to the Canada Transportation Act. The receipt of these clearances satisfies two of the closing conditions of the Arrangement between Pembina and Provident. The remaining conditions to complete the Arrangement are the approval of the Arrangement by at least 66 2/3 percent of holders of Provident shares represented in person or by proxy at the special meeting of Provident shareholders, the approval of the issuance of Pembina shares to Provident shareholders under the Arrangement by a simple majority of the votes cast by the holders of Pembina shares represented in person or by proxy at the special meeting of Pembina shareholders, approval by the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, the receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals, and the satisfaction of certain other closing conditions customary in transactions of this nature. It is expected that the Arrangement will be completed on or about April 2, 2012. The special meetings of Provident and Pembina shareholders will be held on March 27, 2012 in the Metropolitan Ballroom located at the Metropolitan Conference Centre, 333 - 4th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The special meeting of Provident shareholders will commence at 9:00 a.m. (MDT) and the special meeting of Pembina shareholders will commence at 10:30 a.m. (MDT). All shareholders are encouraged to vote in person or by proxy. Pembina and Provident have retained Georgeson Shareholder Communications Canada Inc. ("Georgeson") to act as proxy solicitation agent and to respond to inquiries from shareholders. Georgeson may be contacted by telephone toll free in North America (for Provident shareholders 1-866-656-4123 or, for Pembina shareholders 1-888-605-8413).

TRIOIL CLOSES FINANCING

TriOil Resources Ltd. has announced that it has closed its previously announced offering of 10,000,000 class A common shares of TriOil at a price of $3.55 per Share, which includes the 1,056,450 Shares issued pursuant to the exercise in full of the over-allotment option granted to the underwriters, for aggregate gross proceeds of $35,500,000 through a syndicate of underwriters led by GMP Securities L.P., and including, Canaccord Genuity Corp., Dundee Securities Ltd., Haywood Securities Inc. and AltaCorp Capital Inc. The net proceeds of the Offering will be used to fund the Company's capital expenditure program, which is expected to include the expansion and acceleration of the Company's Cardium light oil drilling program at Lochend, Alberta and the emerging Dunvegan light oil resource play at Kaybob, Alberta, and for general corporate purposes.

CRESCENT POINT YEAR END RESULTS

Crescent Point Energy Corp. has announce its operating and financial results for the year ended December 31, 2011. In fourth quarter 2011, Crescent Point continued to execute its integrated business strategy of acquiring, exploiting and developing high-quality, long-life light and medium oil and natural gas properties. Crescent Point achieved a new production record in fourth quarter 2011 and averaged 81,210 boe/d, weighted 91 percent to light and medium crude oil and liquids. This represents an overall growth rate over fourth quarter 2010 of 16 percent, including more than 15 percent of organic growth. Production increased 12 percent over third quarter 2011. In fourth quarter 2011, the Company spent $458.9 million on development capital activities, including $378.4 million on drilling and development activities and $80.5 million on land, seismic and facilities. Crescent Point drilled 178 (132.3 net) wells targeting oil and 1 (1.0 net) service well with a 100 percent success rate. Crescent Point's funds flow from operations increased by 45 percent to a record $381.9 million ($1.32 per share - diluted) in fourth quarter 2011, compared to $263.2 million ($0.98 per share - diluted) in fourth quarter 2010. In fourth quarter 2011, the Company's netback increased by 19 percent to $53.40 per boe from $44.76 in fourth quarter 2010. Crescent Point maintained consistent monthly dividends of $0.23 per share, totaling $0.69 per share for fourth quarter 2011. This is unchanged from $0.69 per share paid in fourth quarter 2010. On an annualized basis, the fourth quarter dividend equates to a yield of 6.5 percent, based on a volume weighted average quarterly share price of $42.44. 2011 HIGHLIGHTS Crescent Point grew average daily production in 2011 to 73,799 boe/d, a 20 percent increase over 2010. Production was weighted 90 percent to light and medium crude oil and liquids. Despite a prolonged 2011 spring break-up due to unusual flooding in Saskatchewan, Crescent Point exceeded its 2011 annual average and exit production targets. In 2011, the Company spent $1.24 billion on development capital activities, including $951.4 million on drilling and development activities and $287.4 million on land, seismic and facilities. Crescent Point drilled 516 (373.0 net) wells in 2011 with a 100 percent success rate. In 2011, Crescent Point announced success in its new core areas in Alberta's emerging Beaverhill Lake light oil resource play and in the North Dakota Bakken/Three Forks resource play. Within the past two years and including acquisitions to date in 2012, the Company has acquired more than 280 net sections and more than 140 net sections in each play, respectively. In 2012, the Company plans to drill 27 net wells in the Beaverhill Lake light oil resource play and 14 net wells in the North Dakota Bakken/Three Forks resource play. The Company increased proved plus probable reserves by 12 percent to 424.8 million boe ("mmboe") at year-end 2011, weighted more than 92 percent to light and medium crude oil and liquids. Proved reserves also increased by 12 percent to 281.0 mmboe. Crescent Point replaced 248 percent of 2011 production on a proved plus probable basis, excluding reserves added through acquisitions. This is the tenth consecutive year of strong positive technical and development reserve additions. This is also the tenth consecutive year of growth in Net Asset Value ("NAV") per fully diluted share, production and cash flow. NAV per share increased to $38.42 per fully diluted share discounted at 10 percent, representing growth of 7 percent over 2010, not including dividends paid during the year. Including dividends paid in 2011, this represents a 14 percent growth in value per share. Crescent Point achieved 2011 finding and development ("F&D") costs of $18.52 per proved plus probable boe and $23.06 per proved boe of reserves, excluding changes in future development capital ("FDC"). This represents recycle ratios of 2.9 and 2.4 for proved plus probable and proved, respectively. Including acquisitions that are expected to close in first quarter 2012, the Company's proved plus probable reserves increase by 12 percent to 475.8 mmboe, representing a proved plus probable reserve life index of 15.0 years. Proved reserves increase by 12 percent to 314.4 mmboe. Crescent Point's funds flow from operations increased by 46 percent to $1.29 billion ($4.65 per share - diluted) in 2011, compared to $882.9 million ($3.70 per share - diluted) in 2010. Crescent Point maintained consistent monthly dividends of $0.23 per share, totaling $2.76 per share for the year. This is unchanged from $2.76 per share paid in 2010. Since inception in 2001, Crescent Point has paid approximately $2.7 billion in dividends. The Company's balance sheet remains strong, with projected average net debt to 12-month cash flow of less than 1.0 times and approximately $1.0 billion unutilized on its bank lines as at December 31, 2011. Crescent Point continued to implement its disciplined hedging strategy to provide increased certainty over cash flow and dividends. As at March 7, 2012, the Company had hedged 59 percent, 49 percent, 32 percent and 16 percent of its expected oil production, net of royalty interest, for 2012, 2013, 2014 and the first half of 2015, respectively. Average quarterly hedge prices range from Cdn$94 per bbl to Cdn$100 per bbl. Crescent Point is pleased to announce that Mr. Kent Mitchell joined the Company in January 2012 in the role of President of Crescent Point U.S. Energy Corp. Mr. Mitchell most recently held the position of President at Long View USA.

IVANHOE 2011 RESULTS

Ivanhoe Energy Inc. has reported its 2011 financial results and an update on the Tamarack and Ecuador projects. Ivanhoe Energy is a heavy oil exploration and development company with a portfolio of early-stage assets that have significant potential but require more investment before they can achieve production and sustained cash flow. In 2011 the Company initiated a number of exploration activities, including a seismic program in the southern part of the Ecuador block, the drilling of two wells in Mongolia, and testing of two natural gas wells in the Zitong block in China. The Company will build on these important investments in 2012. Overall, in 2011 the Company posted a net loss of $25.3 million, which is down from the $26.6 million loss posted in 2010. The Company closed the year with $16.9 million in cash and cash equivalents. Our cash was impacted both by our ongoing operations and investments and by a requirement to post a $20 million performance bond at the end of 2011 to secure our Supplemental Agreement for the Zitong acreage. Capital expenditures totaled $51.1 million in 2011. These expenditures went to various Ivanhoe Energy projects. At the Zitong Block in China, the Yixin-2 and Zitong-1 gas wells were tested and fracture stimulated. At the Dagang oil field, four wells were drilled and completed in 2011. One additional well started in 2010 was completed in 2011. In the Nyalga Basin of Mongolia two exploration wells were drilled. In Ecuador the Company completed a 190-km 2-D seismic survey of Block 20. In 2011, China-based expenses rose by $6.0 million, primarily due to the windfall profits tax administered by the People's Republic of China, which rises with higher oil prices. Additionally, greater human resources were required to operate the Dagang oil field, conduct testing on the Zitong block and drill wells in Mongolia. The Company also continued to improve our *Heavy to Light* (HTL™) technology. Operating costs increased due to successfully upgrading the heavy oil recovered from the IP-5B well in Ecuador, and planned maintenance associated with enhancements to the HTL Feedstock Test Facility. Additionally, professional fees were incurred to provide engineering for the possibility of placing an HTL facility in an offshore environment. General and administrative expenses in 2011 were $5.6 million higher as compared to 2010. These expenses were largely due to increased human resources to complete the work achieved at each project, in addition to professional fees associated with various financing and corporate activities. Ivanhoe Energy's continued focus is to establish long-term financing at the project level. However, in 2011 and early 2012 the Company took a number of other steps to support liquidity. On June 9, 2011 Ivanhoe Energy announced that it issued Cdn$73.3 million of unsecured convertible debentures which will mature on June 30, 2016. The convertible debentures have an annual interest rate of 5.75%, which is payable semi-annually on the last day of June and December of each year, which commenced on December 31, 2011. On December 30, 2011 the Company entered into an unsecured loan agreement for $10.0 million with Ivanhoe Capital Finance Ltd. The funds were advanced on January 3, 2012 and will incur an annual interest rate of 13.3%. Ivanhoe Energy also announced that it established a $50 million short-term secured credit agreement consisting of an initial tranche of $30 million that is fully underwritten by UBS AG, Canada Branch. The loan will mature after 12 months and includes an accordion feature which allows the Company to increase the total amount by up to an additional $20 million, should that be required. The loan involves customary terms and covenants for a transaction of this nature.

CONNACHER YEAR END RESULTS

Connacher Oil and Gas Limited has released its financial and operating results for 2011, which marked the first full year of operations at the Company's second steam-assisted gravity drainag bitumen project at Great Divide. Record annual bitumen production and solid refinery margins helped drive record adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization. Connacher also sold a number of mature conventional and undeveloped oil and gas properties during the year which enhanced year-end cash balances, positioning the Company to meet all of its financial obligations in 2012. Furthermore, in a year where capital spending was somewhat constrained, the Company's reserves held steady while new technologies achieved favorable results which should lead to increasingly favorable operating performance in the years to come. Production of bitumen in the fourth quarter of 2011 averaged 13,173 bbl/d, effectively equal to the fourth quarter of 2010 bitumen production of 13,238 bbl/d. Revenue in Q4 2011 was $226.5 million, an increase of 28 percent over Q4 2010. Contributing to the improved revenue was increased refinery throughput and an average bitumen price of $53.04 per barrel, up 18 percent from $45.08 per barrel in Q4 2010. Operating cash flow was markedly improved in Q4 2011 at $19.3 million, compared to $9.0 million in Q4 2010. Capital expenditures were $36.7 million in Q4 2011. Because of year-end adjustments for non-cash items, Connacher incurred a loss of $59.5 million or $0.13 per share for Q4 2011, compared with a loss of $25.6 million or $0.06 per share for Q4 2010. Notwithstanding higher adjusted EBITDA, the Company incurred a net loss of $114.1 million or $0.25 per share in 2011 compared to a net loss of $44.7 million or $0.10 per share in 2010. This was primarily due to lower unrealized foreign exchange gains, mainly in respect of U.S. dollar denominated debt, and higher depletion and finance charges, partially offset by gains on the sale of assets and on risk management contracts. Please refer to the Management's Discussion and Analysis ("MD&A") for a more detailed discussion in this regard. At December 31, 2011, cash balances were $117.0 million, working capital was $16.7 million and long term debt totaled $856.0 million. Convertible debentures with face value of approximately $100 million are due for repayment in June of 2012, accounting for the difference between cash and working capital as the debentures are classified as current debt on the balance sheet. Connacher has available bank credit lines of $100 million net of outstanding letters of credit totaling $2.2 million which had been issued by the Company at year end 2011. Total capital expenditures during the year were $163.4 million which was financed from operating cash flow and cash balances.