



Recent Warm Temperatures on Record-Setting Pace

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January 2, 2007, EDMOND, OKLAHOMA. In the wake of two late-season snowstorms that paralyzed much of the Rocky Mountain Front Range with over 2-feet of new snow, it seems peculiar to be discussing record-breaking heat. But that is exactly what seems to be happening, according to Steven Root, President and CEO of WeatherBank, Inc. WeatherBank is a private weather services company that provides data, value-added weather products, and consulting services to many of North America's largest companies.

"There is no question we are seeing strange weather patterns with radically changing weather extremes. These extremes may be due to the affects of Global Warming," Root said. "I expect the number of extreme weather events will continue; in fact, their occurrence frequency will continue to accelerate."

In order to monitor these extreme events and their impact on the energy industry, Root has developed a temperature index, which utilizes daily temperature recordings at major cities across North America. By assigning points to the daily temperature recordings at these locations, Root obtains a real-time description of how warm or cold the current season is. "Basically, the colder a location is, the more points that location earns. By adding all points from all locations, one can obtain a relative description of the current season. Then by comparing the current season to the point totals for the same day of past seasons, one can obtain a relative ranking of the current season to compare with those of the past."

"Applying this index back to 1950 for the period of October 15th through April 15th, we see that coldest winter across the United States and southern Canada was 1978-1979, with a total of 21,685 points. The warmest winter to date was 1997-1998, with 17,665 points. So far, the 2006-2007 season is warmer than the warmest winter on record, with 16,060 points.

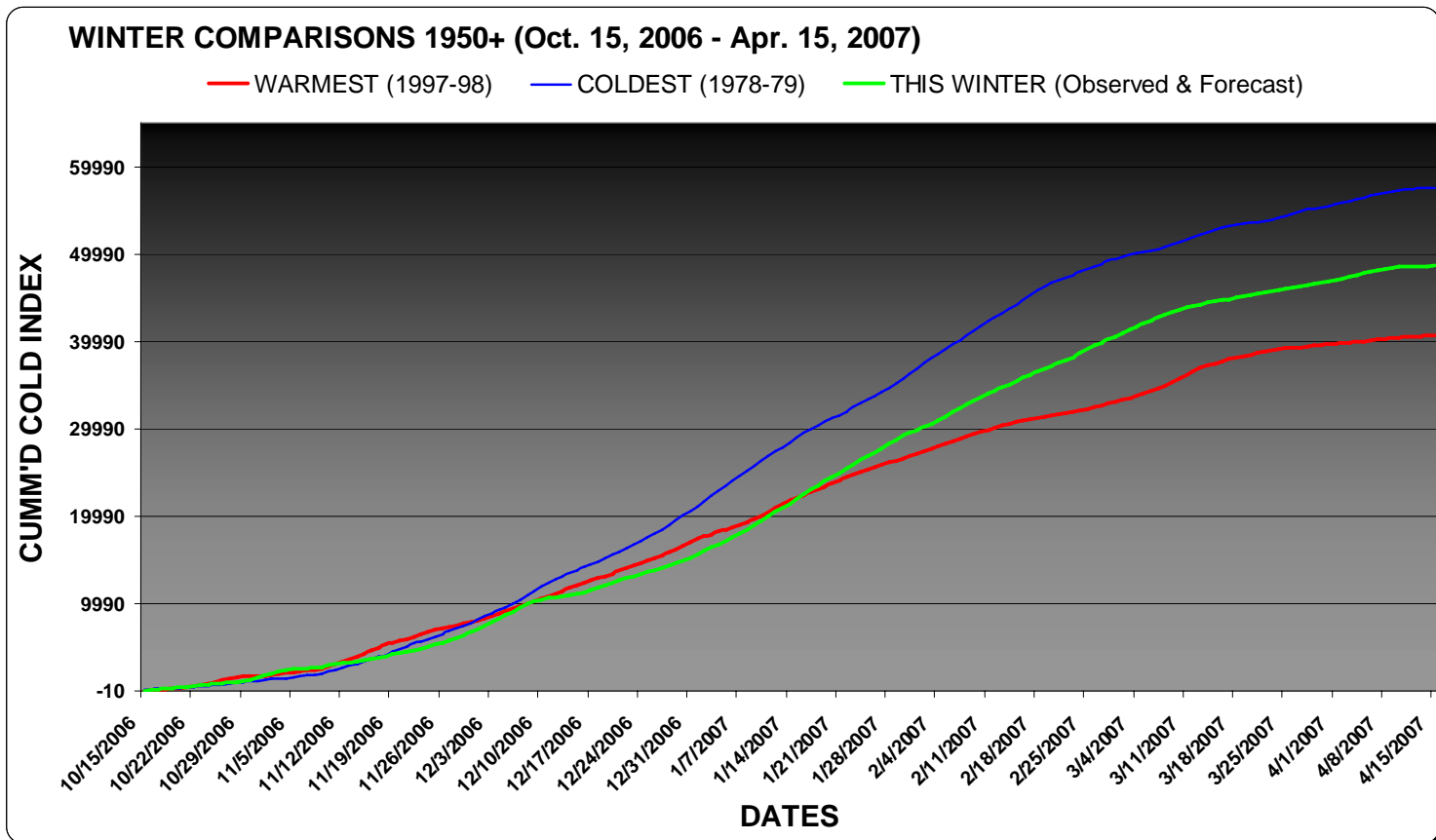
"Current energy market conditions tie very closely with these temperature trends. The levels of natural gas in storage remain high and withdrawals from storage are lower than in past years. Consequently, the prices for natural gas on the futures market have been falling since the end of November 2006," added Root.

Past temperature recordings, and their trends, also serves as input into a long-range weather forecast model developed by WeatherBank. "I'm convinced that historic trends do help predict the future," cited Root. WeatherBank's model accurately predicted the record warm summer of 2006, the cooler October, and the warmer November and December. According to Root, the years of 1976 and 2002, have been strong indicators for this upcoming winter season. "While the December, January and February average will be mild and above normal, we do expect much colder than normal temperatures in February. Weather volatility will be high."

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Regenerating Root's index by combining temperature forecasts for the rest of this winter with observed data collected so far, the 2006-2007 Winter should fall just slightly warmer than the middle point between the warmest and coldest winters since 1950 (see graph below).



WeatherBank, Inc., is located in Edmond, Oklahoma, a suburb of Oklahoma City. The company is a leader in providing custom weather data and products, with applications to all industries. The company also provides programming solutions for all applications.

WeatherBank has one of the largest meteorological teams of any private weather company, and operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We serve clients in all industries, including energy, transportation, emergency management, broadcasting and others. Get more information about WeatherBank's products and services on the World Wide Web at:

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