

Winter 2020/21 Weather Outlook

10/16/20

It seems as though everything we attempt to predict these days is effected by things like the upcoming election or the ongoing pandemic; however, we can say with certainty that those factors will not influence the weather this upcoming winter. Last winter, weather was warmer than normal in much of the U.S., but also throughout the northern hemisphere. The primary driver of gas prices during the winter is the weather. Other factors come into play, but in the end, it's all about the weather. A mild or cold winter can dramatically change gas prices. What is in store for us the coming winter?

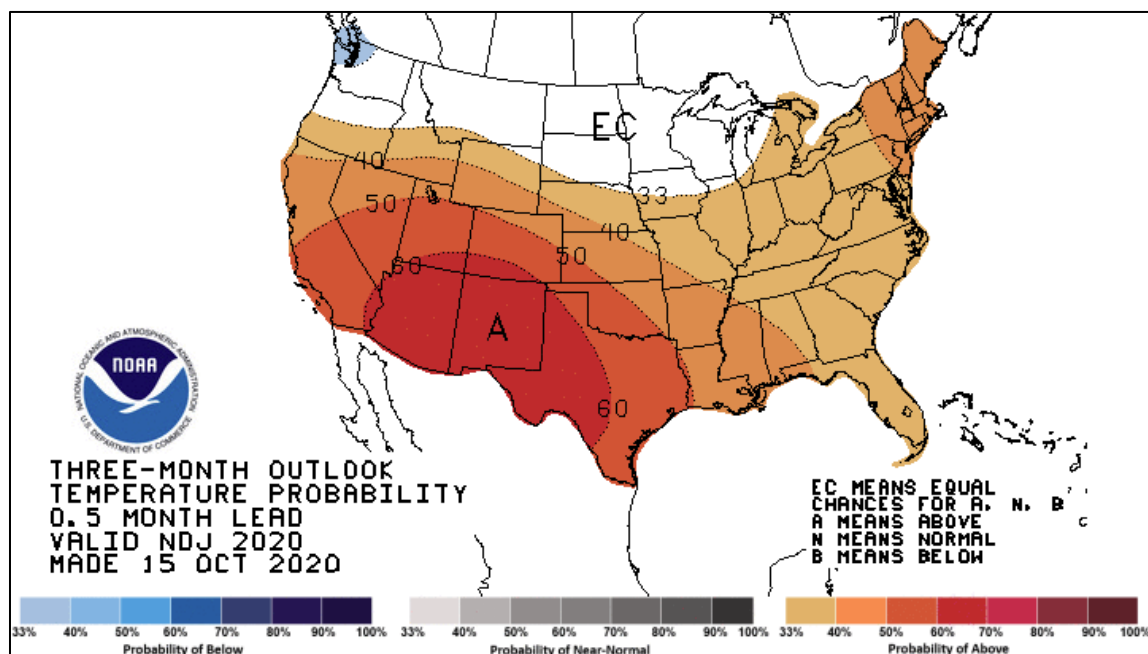
As is often the case, the weather forecast for the upcoming winter is a bit of a mixed bag depending upon which forecasting service one consults and most point towards varying degrees of La Niña conditions. La Niña is a natural ocean-atmospheric phenomenon marked by cooler-than-average sea surface temperatures across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean near the equator, which consequently causes weather impacts across the world.

La Niña typically brings wetter and cooler than average conditions across the Pacific Northwest and northern Plains, while drier and warmer than average conditions typically prevail in the South. Meaning, places such as the desert southwest, that has desperately needed rainfall this year, will most likely continue to stay drier than normal because of a strong La Niña.

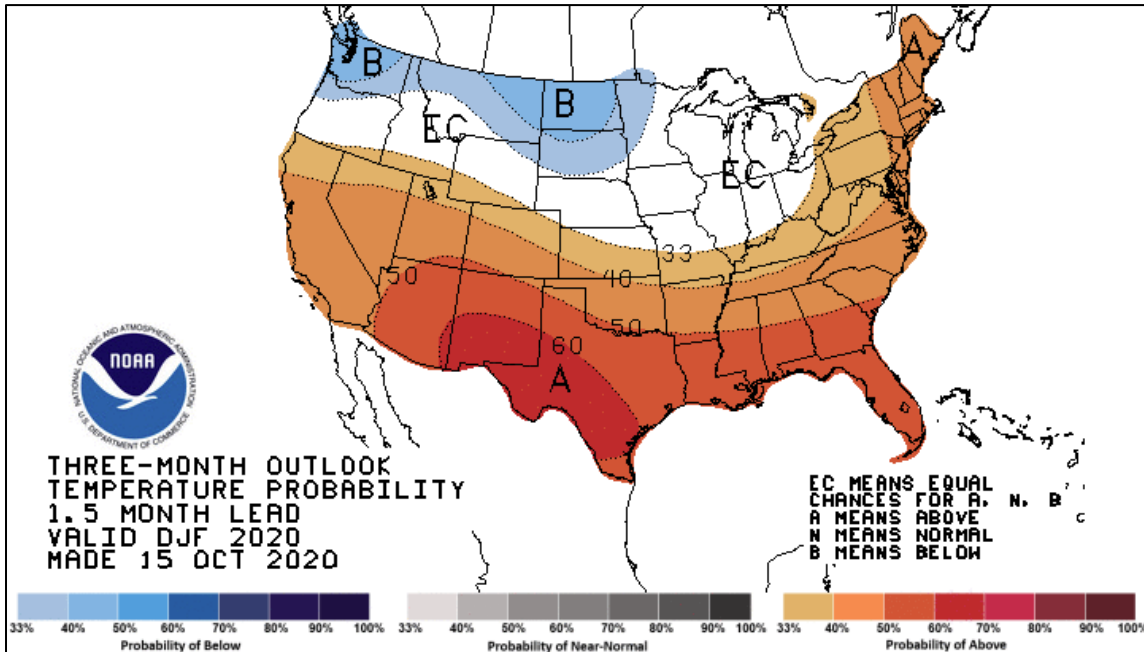
None of the forecasts thus far are calling for a harsh winter across the U.S. Most forecasts show some degree of "below-normal" weather for the northern reaches of the plain states, but not dipping real far to the south.

The latest NOAA forecast graphics below point to a warmer-than-normal winter overall.

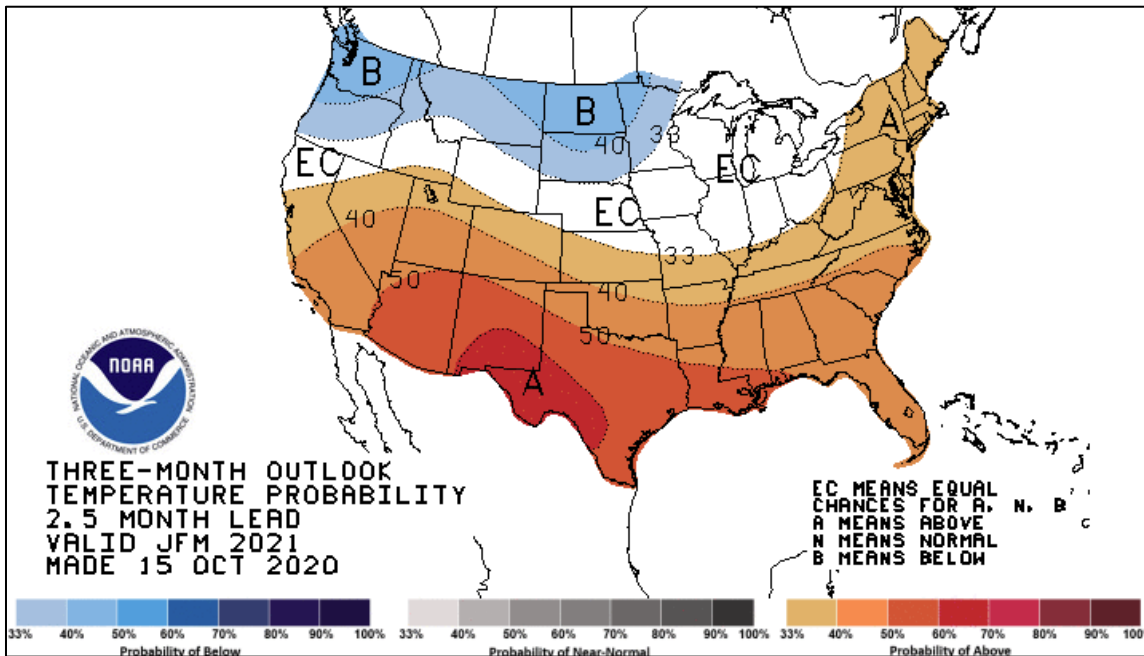
NOAA Nov20-Jan21 Forecast



NOAA Dec20-Feb21 Forecast

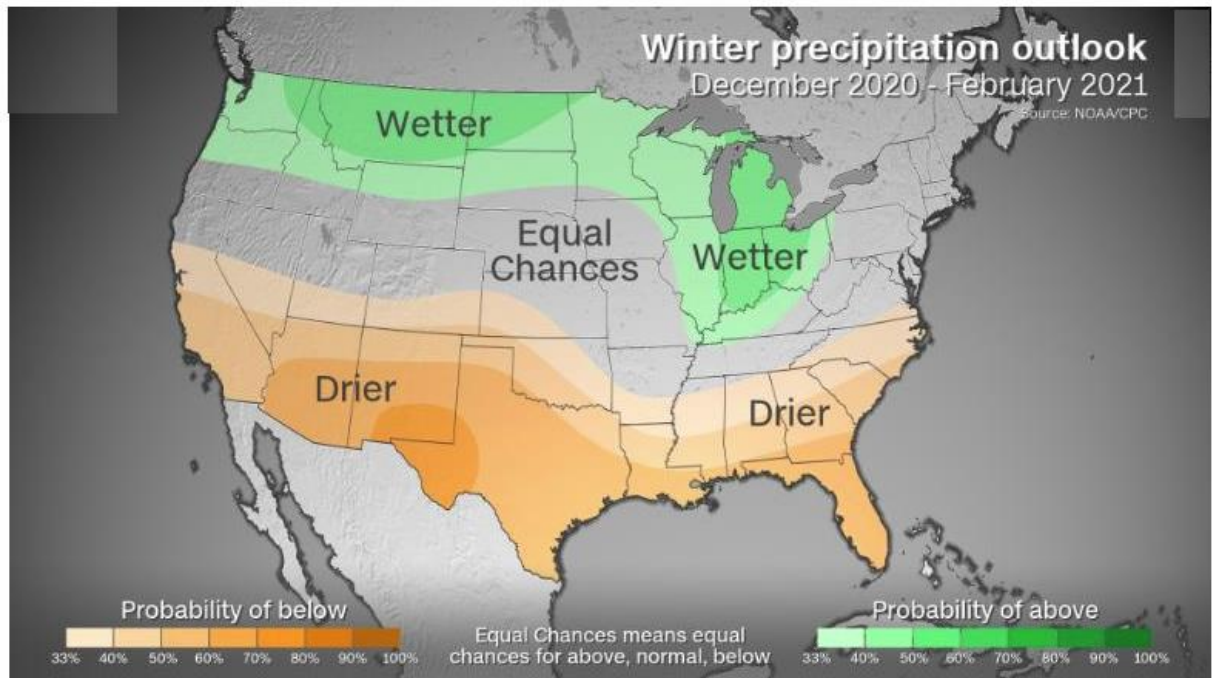
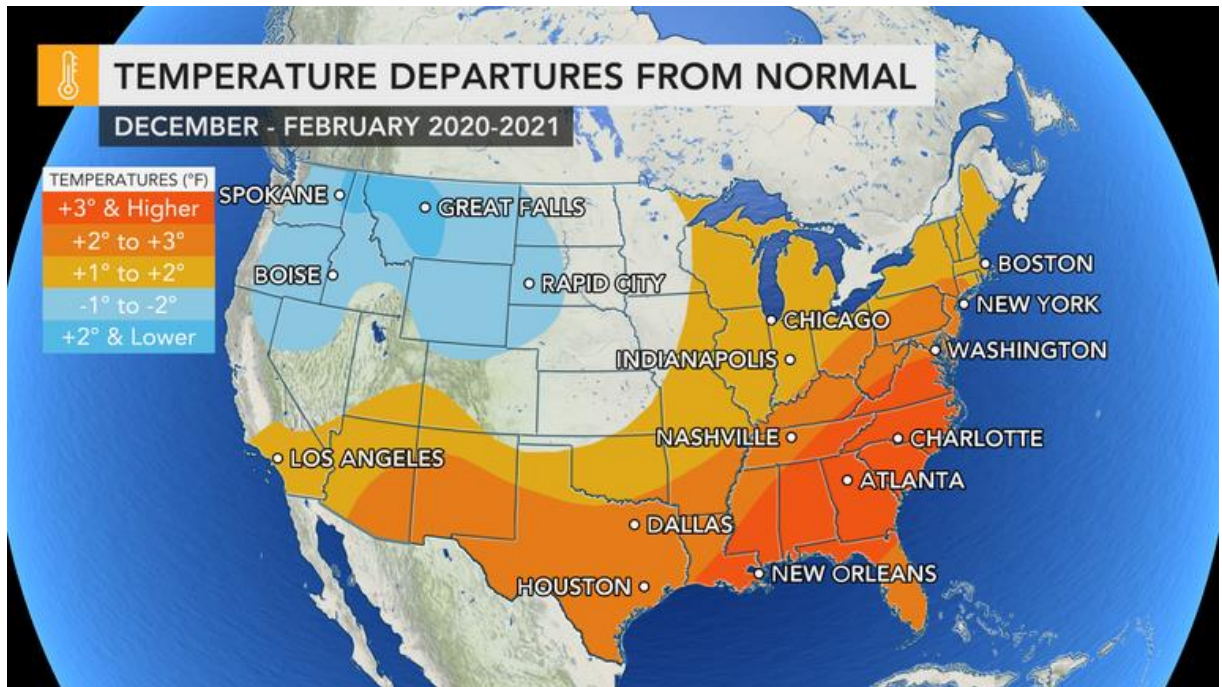


NOAA Jan21-Mar21 Forecast



Images from AccuWeather for the Upcoming Winter





The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicted earlier this month that temperatures would hover near normal and U.S. average heating degree days would be 5% higher this winter than a year earlier.

Regardless of how the winter unfolds, Encore Energy will be on guard and diligently watch over our customers' gas needs to assure timely and adequate gas deliveries. We appreciate your business!