A Weekly Analysis of Energy Stocks Using the McDep Ratio August 2, 2004

Merge Energy Income into Meter Reader

Summary and Recommendation

The meters read "opportunity" as we combine the weekly *Meter Reader* with the weekly *Energy Income* analysis that no longer appears separately. The six-year futures meter continues to register new highs in a well-defined trend gaining credibility while widely disbelieved. The one-year futures meter points to rising estimates of next twelve months cash flow and earnings despite consensus to the contrary. The needle on the McDep Ratio meter points to relative values that may suggest added reward in recommended stocks.

Energy Income Reabsorbed by Meter Reader

Modifying the format of our research to more single stock analyses was necessary to qualify McDep Associates as an Independent Research Provider to the investor clients of Wall Street Investment Banks. As a result we are committed to ongoing single stock analysis for up to 31 rated stocks. The actual stocks selected by Independent Consultants are likely to change from time to time.

The shift in emphasis has the practical effect of reducing single stock commentary in our weekly analyses. That leaves industry commentary and relative valuation analysis that we will now combine in one weekly publication rather than two.

Meters for Commodity Price Trends

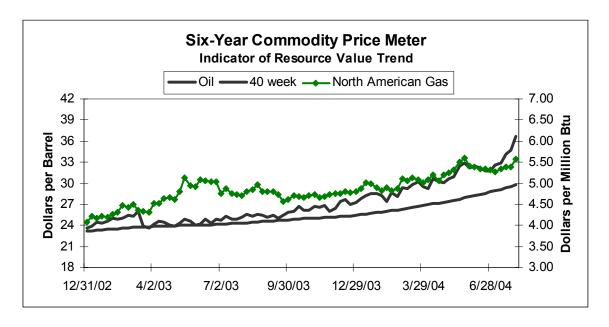
The explanation that follows is a bit technical. It does not blame the failure of common inventory analysis on a "security premium" in oil price. Oil price changes reflect longer term economic, monetary, environmental, and political factors as well as security. Nor do we whine that oil is a "tax" on the population. That is no more the case than for any other price increase. Moreover, higher price has the positive impact of encouraging more supply and more efficient consumption. Nonetheless, we are approaching the point where we become more concerned about a more unfavorable stock market reaction.

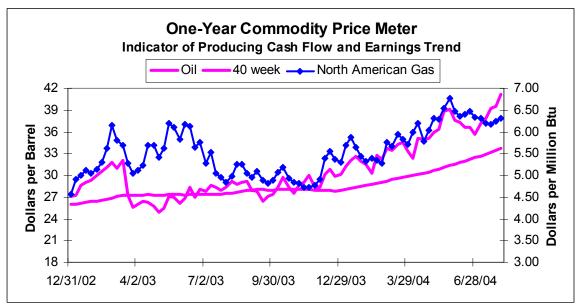
Our unique gauge of the pulse of resource valuation is six-year futures for oil and natural gas. Strictly speaking the measures are not quite perfected which may be one reason why our interpretation is unique. Thanks to the website of the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) we can see quotes for natural gas for every month through March 2010. Beginning this week we need quotes through August 2010 for our average of the next 72 months to be thoroughly supported. We assume that April 2010 through August

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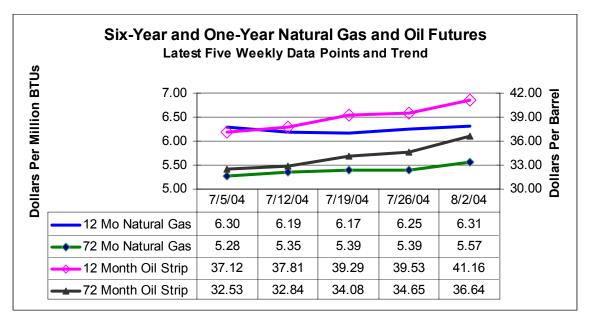
2010 have the same monthly price as March 2010. Oil futures are quoted only for December for the years 2007 through 2010. We interpolate for the intervening months to come up with a 72-month average (see Six-Year Commodity Price Meter).

Our gauge of one-year outlook is not unique as the "strip" for oil and gas is widely used (see One-Year Commodity Price Meter). Our use of one-year futures for estimating next twelve months cash flow and earnings is more unusual. For those who may want to see the numbers in our interpretation we reprint the details for recent weeks (see chart with data table).





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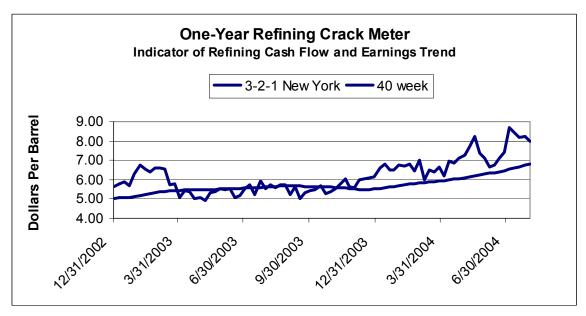
Our third important industry gauge is the one-year refining crack. Again our calculation is sometimes unique as not all the quotes are always public. While combining products and crude on the 3-2-1 basis is common, there are other combinations in use. The three refers to crude oil for which 12 months of quotes are readily available. The two is for unleaded gasoline which is only quoted through March 2005 currently. By setting April 2005 though August 2005 equal to March 2005 we introduce some distortion unavoidably. The one is for heating oil for which quotes are readily available through August 2005. The 3-2-1 combination is two-thirds times the gasoline price plus one-third times the heating oil price minus the crude oil price. The one-year refining crack is the monthly average for the next twelve months (see One-Year Refining Crack Meter).

Meter for Relative Valuation

As should be readily apparent, the original meter to read in the weekly publication is the ranking of stocks by the McDep Ratio. The ranking adds nuance to buy and sell ratings also recapped in the tables. In all, 65 stocks are ranked in five groups. Mega cap, producer/refiners, and large cap producers appear in the same set of tables as previously (see Table 1-1 and 1-2). Small cap producers (short life and long life) now appear together with income (MLPs, Canadian royalty trusts, and U.S. royalty trusts) in a newly composed set of tables (see Tables 2-1, 2-2).

Kurt H. Wulff, CFA

A Weekly Analysis of Energy Stocks Using the McDep Ratio August 2, 2004



A Weekly Analysis of Energy Stocks Using the McDep Ratio August 2, 2004

Table 1-1
Energy Producers
Rank by McDep Ratio: Market Cap and Debt to Present Value

	Symbol/		Price (\$/sh) 2-Aug	Shares	Market Cap	Net Present Value	Debt/ Present	МсДер
Mario	K	Rating	2004	(mm)	(\$mm)	(\$/sh)	Value	Ratio
Mega Cap	VOM	D2	16.25	(502	204.000	42.00	0.00	1.07
Exxon Mobil Corporation	XOM	B3	46.25	6,582	304,000	43.00	0.09	1.07
BP plc	BP	B3	56.28	3,681	207,000	60.00	0.13	0.95
Shell Transport and Trading Co. plc	SC	B3	44.22	1,587	70,000	51.20	0.17	0.89
Total S.A.	TOT	B3	96.81	1,246	120,600	113.00	0.16	0.88
Royal Dutch Petroleum	RD	B1	50.11	2,031	102,000	60.00	0.17	0.86
ChevronTexaco Corporation	CVX	B1	96.48	1,066	102,800	125.00	0.14	0.80
Total or Median	351.6				906,000		0.15	0.88
Producer/Refiners - Large Cap and	_	G2	60.25	105	7.540	20.00	0.72	1.54
Kinder Morgan, Inc.	KMI	S2	60.35	125	7,540	20.00	0.73	1.54
Valero Energy Corporation	VLO		74.45	121	8,980	55.00	0.43	1.20
Murphy Oil Corporation	MUR		77.16	93	7,160	62.00	0.20	1.19
Imperial Oil Limited (30%)	IMO	В3	49.22	109	5,350	52.00	0.10	0.95
Marathon Oil Corporation	MRO	В3	37.65	346	13,030	41.00	0.30	0.94
Suncor Energy	SU	В3	29.74	465	13,830	38.00	0.14	0.81
ConocoPhillips	COP	B1	78.91	688	54,300	110.00	0.27	0.79
Petro-Canada	PCZ	В3	46.80	266	12,450	68.00	0.11	0.72
ENI S.p.A.	E		102.30	755	77,300	150.00	0.12	0.72
Petroleo Brasileiro S. A.	PBR		27.99	1,096	30,700	50.00	0.28	0.68
PetroChina Company Ltd (10%)	PTR	B2	50.40	176	8,860	88.00	0.07	0.60
Norsk Hydro ASA	NHY	B1	63.64	256	16,270	120.00	0.12	0.59
Lukoil Oil Company	LUKOY	B2	109.25	210	23,000	208.00	0.05	0.55
Total or Median					279,000		0.14	0.79
Independent Natural Gas and Oil								
CNOOC Limited (19%)	CEO	B2	48.87	78	3,820	55.00	-	0.89
Canadian Natural Resources Limited	CNQ		34.40	271	9,330	44.00	0.30	0.85
XTO Energy Inc.	XTO	B1	30.09	271	8,150	38.00	0.21	0.84
Encana Corporation	ECA	B1	44.47	471	20,900	63.00	0.25	0.78
Unocal Corporation	UCL	В3	37.05	276	10,200	54.00	0.26	0.77
Apache Corporation	APA		46.33	324	15,000	64.00	0.15	0.76
Occidental Petroleum Corp.	OXY	В3	49.40	397	19,600	75.00	0.19	0.72
Devon Energy	DVN	В3	69.70	247	17,200	110.00	0.24	0.72
Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	APC	B1	59.50	254	15,100	94.00	0.21	0.71
Burlington Resources	BR	B1	38.28	397	15,200	58.00	0.14	0.71
Pioneer Natural Resources Company	PXD		35.26	119	4,200	57.00	0.22	0.70
Pogo Producing Company	PPP		43.91	64	2,810	70.00	0.07	0.65
Total or Median					142,000		0.21	0.74

B1 = Buy full unlevered position, B2 = Buy half unlevered position, B3 = Alternative buy

S2 = Short half unlevered position

McDep Ratio = Market cap and Debt to present value of oil and gas and other businesses

A Weekly Analysis of Energy Stocks Using the McDep Ratio August 2, 2004

Table 1-2
Energy Producers
Rank by EV/Ebitda: Enterprise Value to Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Deprec.

			Price (\$/sh)	EV/	EV/		Divd or Distrib	PV/
	Symbol/		2-Aug	Sales	Ebitda	P/E	NTM	Ebitda
W. G	Ra	ting	2004	NTM	NTM	NTM	(%)	NTM
Mega Cap	VOM	D2	46.25	1.2	7.0	12	2.2	
Exxon Mobil Corporation	XOM BP	B3	46.25	1.2	7.0	13	2.2	6.6 5.9
BP plc	TOT	B3 B3	56.28	0.8	5.6	10	2.9	
Total S.A.	-	-	96.81	1.1	5.6 5.2	9	2.9	6.3
Shell Transport and Trading Co. plc	SC	B3	44.22	0.9		10	4.1	5.9
Royal Dutch Petroleum	RD	B1	50.11	0.8	5.1	10	4.3	5.9
ChevronTexaco Corporation	CVX	B1	96.48	0.9	5.0	8	3.3	6.2
Median				0.9	5.4	10	3.1	6.1
Producer/Refiners - Large Cap and Mi	_	G2	60.25	2.0	10.4	1.5	2.7	0.0
Kinder Morgan, Inc.	KMI	S2	60.35	3.0	12.4	15	3.7	8.0
Suncor Energy	SU	В3	29.74	2.9	9.0	18	0.6	11.0
Murphy Oil Corporation	MUR	D.2	77.16	1.4	7.3	15	1.0	6.1
Imperial Oil Limited (30%)	IMO	В3	49.22	1.3	6.0	10	1.4	6.3
Valero Energy Corporation	VLO	D.2	74.45	0.4	5.7	8	0.6	4.8
Marathon Oil Corporation	MRO	B3	37.65	0.4	5.5	11	2.7	5.8
ConocoPhillips	COP	B1	78.91	0.7	4.7	7	2.2	6.0
ENI S.p.A.	E		102.30	1.5	4.3	8	4.5	5.9
Petroleo Brasileiro S. A.	PBR		27.99	1.5	4.0	5	2.7	5.9
PetroChina Company Ltd (10%)	PTR	В2	50.40	2.1	3.9	7	4.3	6.5
Petro-Canada	PCZ	В3	46.80	1.3	3.5	7	1.0	4.8
Norsk Hydro ASA	NHY	B1	63.64	1.0	3.5	7	2.5	5.9
Lukoil Oil Company	LUKOY	B2	109.25	0.9	2.5	4	2.3	4.5
Median				1.3	4.7	8	2.3	5.9
Independent Natural Gas and Oil								
CNOOC Limited (19%)	CEO	B2	48.87	4.8	6.2	12	3.3	7.0
XTO Energy Inc.	XTO	B1	30.09	4.9	6.2	13	0.1	7.4
Pioneer Natural Resources Company	PXD		35.26	3.6	5.2	17	-	7.4
Burlington Resources	BR	B1	38.28	3.5	4.9	10	0.9	6.9
Occidental Petroleum Corp.	OXY	В3	49.40	2.4	4.9	8	2.2	6.7
Encana Corporation	ECA	B1	44.47	2.6	4.7	10	0.9	6.0
Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	APC	B1	59.50	3.4	4.7	9	0.9	6.6
Unocal Corporation	UCL	В3	37.05	1.9	4.6	8	2.2	6.0
Apache Corporation	APA		46.33	3.3	4.6	8	0.5	6.0
Canadian Natural Resources Limited	CNQ		34.40	2.9	4.4	8	0.9	5.2
Devon Energy	DVN	В3	69.70	3.1	3.8	6	0.6	5.2
Pogo Producing Company	PPP		43.91	2.2	3.1	6	0.5	4.7
Median				3.2	4.7	9	0.9	6.3

EV = Enterprise Value = Market Cap and Debt; Ebitda = Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization; NTM = Next Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2005; P/E = Stock Price to Earnings; PV = Present Value of oil and gas and other businesses

A Weekly Analysis of Energy Stocks Using the McDep Ratio August 2, 2004

Table 2-1
Energy Producers - Small Cap
Rank by McDep Ratio: Market Cap and Debt to Present Value

	Symbol/	ıting	Price (\$/sh) 2-Aug 2004	Shares (mm)	Market Cap (\$mm)	Net Present Value (\$/sh)	Debt/ Present Value	McDep Ratio
		J						
Short Life	IUCD		24.20	74.0	2.520	25.00	0.17	1.21
Western Gas Resources	WGR		34.20	74.0	2,530	25.00	0.17	1.31
Unit Corporation	UNT		32.52	44.1	1,430	25.00	0.01	1.30
Southwestern Energy Company	SWN		32.75	36.0	1,180	29.00	0.22	1.10
Penn West Petroleum Ltd. (US\$)	PWT.TO		50.31	54.7	2,750	57.00	0.21	0.91
Denbury Resources Inc.	DNR	D2	21.46	55.7	1,200	25.00	0.21	0.89
Cimarex Energy Company	XEC	B2	32.40	42.6	1,380	38.00	0.00	0.85
PetroKazakhstan Inc.	PKZ		32.73	80.7	2,640	42.00	0.01	0.78
Range Resources Corporation	RRC		16.78	57.0	960	24.00	0.26	0.78
Purcell Energy, Ltd. (US\$)	PEL.TO	ъ.	1.89	62.0	117	2.80	0.27	0.76
Energy Partners Ltd.	EPL	В3	15.39	37.7	580	22.00	0.14	0.74
Chesapeake Energy Corporation	CHK		15.21	220	3,350	24.00	0.29	0.74
St. Mary Land and Exploration Compan	•		34.52	29.0	1,000	50.00	0.10	0.72
Forest Oil Corporation	FST		28.00	53.5	1,500	53.00	0.25	0.64
Total or Median					20,600		0.21	0.78
Long Life								
Ultra Petroleum Corp.	UPL		44.93	78.0	3,510	25.00	0.06	1.75
Quicksilver Resources Inc.	KWK		31.50	50.4	1,590	25.00	0.19	1.21
Abraxas Petroleum Corporation	ABP		1.26	35.8	45	1.50	0.77	0.96
Swift Energy Company	SFY		22.64	27.4	620	32.00	0.29	0.79
Berry Petroleum Company	BRY	B2	30.59	22.3	682	43.00	0.07	0.73
Encore Acquisition Company	EAC	B2	29.52	30.6	902	47.00	0.18	0.70
Whiting Petroleum Corporation	WLL		24.00	18.8	450	40.00	0.21	0.68
Vintage Petroleum, Inc.	VPI		16.48	63.0	1,040	33.00	0.28	0.64
Total or Median					8,800		0.20	0.76
Master Limited Partnerships and Car	nadian Roy	alty T	rusts					
Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.	KMP	S2	43.51	145.0	6,309	15.00	0.49	1.97
Kinder Morgan Management, LLC	KMR	S2	37.80	52.5	1,984	15.00	0.49	1.78
Provident Energy Trust	PVX		7.90	88.0	695	6.20	0.34	1.18
Dorchester Minerals, L.P.	DMLP		19.24	27.0	520	17.00	-	1.13
NAV Energy Trust (US\$)	NVG.UN		8.04	19.0	153	7.00	0.18	1.12
Pengrowth Energy Trust	PGH		14.95	125.0	1,869	14.00	0.14	1.06
Enerplus Resources Fund	ERF		29.63	90.4	2,679	28.00	0.13	1.05
Canadian Oil Sands Trust (US\$)	COSWF	B1	37.33	86.9	3,240	62.00	0.21	0.69
Total or Median					17,400		0.20	1.13
U.S. Royalty Trusts								
Sabine Royalty Trust	SBR		38.96	14.6	568	27.00	-	1.44
Permian Basin RT (41%)	PBT		10.95	19.1	209	7.70	-	1.42
San Juan Basin Royalty Trust	SJT	Н	28.29	46.6	1,319	22.00	_	1.29
Hugoton RoyaltyTrust (46%)	HGT		25.61	18.4	471	22.00	_	1.16
Cross Timbers Royalty Trust	CRT		30.85	6.0	185	30.00	_	1.03
Total or Median					2,800			1.29
					,			

McDep Ratio = Market cap and Debt to present value of oil and gas and other businesses Buy/Sell rating after symbol: B1 - Buy full unlevered position, B2 - Buy half unlevered position S2 - Short quarter unlevered position, H - Hold (neutral)

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Table 2-2
Energy Producers - Small Cap
Rank by EV/Ebitda: Enterprise Value to Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Deprec.

	Symbol/ Rat	ing	Price (\$/sh) 2-Aug 2004	EV/ Sales NTM	EV/ Ebitda NTM	P/E NTM	Divd or Distrib NTM (%)	PV/ Ebitda NTM
Short Life								
Western Gas Resources	WGR		34.20	1.1	11.7	25	_	9.0
Unit Corporation	UNT		32.52	4.1	9.5	23	_	7.3
Southwestern Energy Company	SWN		32.75	4.1	7.1	14	_	6.4
Purcell Energy, Ltd. (US\$)	PEL.TO		1.89	4.1	5.7	13	_	7.4
Range Resources Corporation	RRC		16.78	4.3	5.6	11	0.2	7.2
Denbury Resources Inc.	DNR		21.46	3.5	5.2	10	_	5.9
Penn West Petroleum Ltd. (US\$)	PWT.TO		50.31	3.8	5.2	11	0.8	5.7
Chesapeake Energy Corporation	CHK		15.21	3.3	4.6	9	0.8	6.2
Forest Oil Corporation	FST		28.00	2.9	3.9	17	-	6.1
St. Mary Land and Exploration Company	SM		34.52	2.7	3.9	9	0.3	5.4
Cimarex Energy Company	XEC	B2	32.40	2.9	3.7	8	-	4.4
Energy Partners Ltd.	EPL	В3	15.39	2.5	3.5	11	-	4.7
PetroKazakhstan Inc.	PKZ		32.73	1.9	3.3	6	-	4.2
Median				3.3	5.2	11	-	6.1
Long Life								
Ultra Petroleum Corp.	UPL		44.93	14.8	19.1	31	-	10.9
Quicksilver Resources Inc.	KWK		31.50	8.9	13.4	27	-	11.1
Abraxas Petroleum Corporation	ABP		1.26	6.3	9.3		-	9.7
Swift Energy Company	SFY		22.64	3.9	5.6	12	-	7.1
Encore Acquisition Company	EAC	B2	29.52	3.9	5.3	11	-	7.6
Berry Petroleum Company	BRY	B2	30.59	3.3	5.3	10	1.4	7.2
Whiting Petroleum Corporation	WLL		24.00	3.2	4.9	9	-	7.1
Vintage Petroleum, Inc.	VPI		16.48	2.2	3.7	7	1.1	5.7
Median				3.9	5.5	11	-	7.4
Master Limited Partnerships and Canadian Royalty Trusts								
Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P.	KMP		43.51	2.9	15.8	18	4.8	8.0
Kinder Morgan Management, LLC	KMR		37.80	2.6	14.2	15	5.5	8.0
Dorchester Minerals, L.P.	DMLP		19.24	9.5	10.3	19	9.7	9.1
Enerplus Resources Fund	ERF		29.63	4.9	7.1	14	10.8	6.7
Canadian Oil Sands Trust (US\$)	COSWF	В1	37.33	3.8	6.1	8	4.0	8.9
Provident Energy Trust	PVX		7.90	4.6	5.8	19	13.8	4.9
Pengrowth Energy Trust	PGH		14.95	4.3	5.7	11	12.8	5.4
NAV Energy Trust (US\$)	NVG.UN		8.04	2.6	4.3	12	17.0	3.9
Median				4.0	6.6	15	10.2	7.4
U.S. Royalty Trusts								
Sabine Royalty Trust	SBR		38.96	12.5	13.0	13	7.7	9.0
Cross Timbers Royalty Trust	CRT		30.85	8.4	11.6	12	8.5	11.2
Permian Basin RT (41%)	PBT		10.95	7.6	10.3	11	6.8	7.2
San Juan Basin Royalty Trust	SJT	Н	28.29	8.0	9.7	11	9.1	7.5
Hugoton RoyaltyTrust (46%)	HGT		25.61	6.9	8.9	10	9.6	7.7
Median				8.0	10.3	11	8.5	7.7

EV = Enterprise Value = Market Cap and Debt; Ebitda = Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization; NTM = Next Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2005; P/E = Stock Price to Earnings; PV = Present Value of oil and gas and other businesses