Market Commentary: So far spring weather has done a better job of delivering cold temperature anomalies than this year’s relatively weak winter patterns, as below normal conditions blanket the Eastern half of the country from the Great Lakes up into New England, which saw snow in many areas as recently as this week. The current pattern has persisted longer than it looked like initially and has undoubtedly provided some degree of support to the market, but that is being felt more in local cash prices than in broad Nymex resilience, although it is right where the report came in, so there was minimal reaction initially with a tight two-cent range containing the initial burst of activity that immediately follows the 10:30 AM report, although it fizzled pretty quickly and the market fell back below 2.00 into the upper 1.90’s as the weekly storage report approached. The report was pegged at an injection somewhere in the +12 Bcf vicinity, and that is right where the report came in, so there was minimal reaction initially with a tight two-cent range containing the initial burst of activity that immediately follows the 10:30 AM report, but buyers quickly reasserted the control they had reclaimed early on yesterday morning, and the market rallied back to a few pennies above 2.00 and closed there yesterday, before selling pressure knocked the market back just below there today to finish out the trading week. With just shy of 2.5 Tcf of gas in the ground already as we enter the summer injection season, the market is likely to have a hard time finding a reason to embark on a new bullish trend, although production is beginning to show encouraging signs of a slight decline, but it is still running at a 7-day average of 71.5 Bcf/day which has happened before only to see it reverse back higher toward the 73 Bcf/day level. Part of the reason the market finds itself sitting on such large stockpiles of natural gas in storage is that this year’s weather was extremely mild, and the two graphics from the EIA help to provide a visual of the magnitude of the difference between this season and the prior three winters in New York City. The first plots this year’s temps in red, versus the prior three winter seasons, and the 30-year median level is denoted with the black dashed line, and we only briefly broke below that 30-year median twice this season. The part of the graph to the right shows a different take on the same phenomenon, with this year’s cumulative heating degree days plotted in red, and the 30-year median is again plotted with a dashed black line, and this year clearly fell significantly below the 30-year median and also below each of the prior three seasons. The second graphic plots the market for local NYC electricity prices (in blue), and Transco Z6 NY natural gas prices (in orange), and you can see that each of the prior three seasons produced varying degrees of spikes in prices resulting from extreme weather (the most pronounced of which was from January of 2014), but this season there was almost no blip higher in comparison, as the market has been swimming in gas all season.