



## DrumBeat: December 30, 2006

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

### [Infrastructure is real issue affecting oil prices](#)

Despite the warnings of peak-oil theorists that the world has reached its oil production zenith, we know that crude oil worldwide remains abundant. Reserves have continued to increase and are now 17 per cent higher than in 1994. Production has increased 20 per cent to meet demand.

But can higher levels of production be sustained? Worldwide spare capacity is tight and at its lowest levels in 30 years. The real issue impacting crude oil price are the limitations of worldwide petroleum industry infrastructure.

Investments in oil production infrastructure are estimated by the International Energy Agency at \$800 billion a year to keep pace with projected worldwide demand. This amounts to a massive \$20-trillion investment injection over the next 25 years. And over that period, hundreds of billions more will have to be spent on refining infrastructure to produce the energy products that lubricate world economies.

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### [Explosion In Nuclear Energy Demand Coming](#)

There are a lot of people looking at the supply situation going forward while underestimating future demand. They are very optimistic that mining projects are going to go as planned. We had recent news that Cigar Lake had a problem. There was a flood. There's a couple million pounds shortfall to most people's models for at least two years. All because of one mine's six month delay.

### [The Worst Could Be Over For High Oil Prices](#)

The economy-wrecking nightmare of skyrocketing oil prices may be coming to an end, with cheaper \$50-a-barrel oil becoming the norm through springtime.

Energy analysts say that hair-trigger trading - which had threatened in the summer to send crude soaring to \$100 a barrel - has become virtually obsolete almost overnight as investors have grown immune to bad news.

## [Energy czar rethinks rural Alaska's future from home to generator](#)

As energy czar, he is concerned with rethinking energy. Period. Conservation is central to his solution, which includes searching for alternative energy sources such as wind and geothermal. Even nuclear energy isn't out of the question, he said. These are all intended to achieve one thing: weaning villages from diesel - the rustic elixir of rural Alaska.

## [Motiva shut Port Arthur coker on pipe leak-filing](#)

## [Peak Oil Passnotes: 2006 - A Year of Confusion](#)

When oil was hitting heights in August we here at Resource Investor mansions predicted that crude would be back at \$61 at Christmas. Of course the markets do not open on Christmas Day but when they did on Boxing Day – December 26th - both the Nymex and Brent closed on exactly the same price, \$61.10. You can stop applauding, thank you.

## [India: Razing Farms for Auto Factory Creates Battleground](#)

Just beyond the city limits, a patch of land where an auto factory is planned amid a sprawl of potato fields and rice paddies has become the battleground for the world's longest-running democratically elected Communist government.

## [India: Govt. to allow naphtha as fuel to beat crisis](#)

The State government of Andhra Pradesh on Friday decided to allow the four gas-based power producers in the State to use naphtha as fuel to augment generation to meet the power crisis. Naphtha is costlier, but the State will immediately get 280 MW additional power. Naphtha is also easily available.

## [Dreaming of a Wet Christmas](#)

One of [Tim Flannery's] conclusions is that we are today in an *anthropocene* period, in which human activity is one of the patterns shaping our climate. What may surprise you is when this era began.

## [When is a conspiracy theory not a theory?](#)

While GM was mobilizing the Third Reich, the company was also leading a criminal conspiracy to monopolistically undermine mass transit in dozens of American cities that would help addict the United States to oil.

## [Video games to save the world](#)

At Michigan State University, students are developing "Energy Crisis," which looks at such issues as the consequences of switching to renewable energy sources, said Brian Winn, co-director of the school's Games for Entertainment and Learning Lab.

## [Expansion: Energy Industry in 2006](#)

Strong crude oil and natural gas prices flowed through the Permian Basin's oil fields in 2006 as almost \$20 billion from the production of crude oil and natural gas -- as of October -- funded significantly higher drilling activity and oil and gas well completions.

## [Analysis: U.S. nuke energy expands in 2007](#)

The U.S. nuclear power industry ends 2006 optimistic as what has been dubbed a nuclear renaissance is on the horizon and applications for the first new nuclear plants in more than two decades are expected to be filed in 2007. But the head of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is warning stagnant funding from Congress could slow the regulatory process and push back nuclear energy expansion.

## [Oil prices end 2006 where they started](#)

WASHINGTON - Oil prices settled above \$61 a barrel Friday to finish 2006 roughly where they began, marking another tough year for energy consumers and another stellar one for the petroleum industry. It was the fifth straight year in which oil prices were higher than the year before, on average.

## Byron King: [Strategic Thinking and Strategic Planning](#)

Looking forward, what is the strategy for a Peak Oil world, if not for a post-Peak Oil world? Strategic thinking can look forward and identify a profound problem, as worldwide production of fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas hits a peak, bumps along a plateau and then commences an irreversible decline. But what comes next? Exactly. What comes next? The strategic question is, What is the desired end state?

## [Taking Hubbert Home](#)

We've added a new presentation titled "Taking Hubbert Home: Moving to Regional Energy Models" (ppt, pdf). In this slideshow we start to wrestle with some of the factors that separate one region's energy future from another's. We also introduce our Road Map to the Dynamic City as a framework in which we can nest discussions about

depletion and regional energy planning.

### [Gazprom-Belarus gas talks resume](#)

A Belarusian official said the ex-Soviet republic was hoping for a new agreement on supplies of Russian gas by a Sunday deadline, but there was no outward sign of progress in the bitter price dispute that reflected worsening relations between the two nations.

### [Energy priority as Germany assumes G8 presidency](#)

Analyst: Russia has recognized and discovered that the energy weapon is a far more potent weapon than a nuclear device could ever be.

### [Poll shows Australian PM out of step with public opinion on atomic power](#)

A respected Newspann published in The Weekend Australian newspaper Saturday found just 35 percent of respondents supported the construction of nuclear power plants in Australia — down from 38 percent when a similar poll was conducted in May.

### [Senegalese Head Urges Angola to Contribute to Poverty Reduction in Africa](#)

The Angolan authorities and people have been invited, through an appeal made by the Senegalese Head of State, Abdoulaye Wade, to sponsor a plan aimed at securing electricity supply to the whole continent, at reasonable cost.

### [Seoul to double foreign energy investment in '07](#)

Korea said on Friday it will invest 355 billion won (\$381.9 million) in 2007 to secure foreign energy reserves, more than doubling the amount from this year as part of its push to cut dependency on overseas production.

The amount is up 115 percent from this year's 165 billion won investment, a statement by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy said.

Korea is pushing to produce 18 percent of the country's oil needs from Korean-owned oil fields by 2013, against 4 percent now.

### [Bio-fuel project nominated for energy prize](#)

Biogas for Viet Nam, a project designed to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels by

harnessing fumes from rotting garbage, is in contention for a 2006 Global Energy Prize.

### [President Bush Signs Oil, Gas Pipeline Safety Bill into Law](#)

[October Ethanol Production Ties All-Time High: Yearly Production, Demand up more than 25 percent](#)

[PetroChina '06 Gas Output to Rise 21%, Seen Up 22.7% '07](#)

### [Fossil Fuel Watch - Meet My Solar Dryer](#)

A year ago my wife was firmly in charge the household laundry. Now, not only am I washing and drying all our clothes, including the sheets, towels, and pillow cases, I find myself looking forward to doing it. What is going on here?

### [Researchers: Warming may change Amazon](#)

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil - Global warming could spell the end of the world's largest remaining tropical rain forest, transforming the Amazon into a grassy savanna before end of the century, researchers said Friday.

### [Southeast Asia rains to disrupt palm oil production](#)

Heavy rains and localised flooding in Indonesia, the world's second-largest palm oil producer, may curb output even as demand for the commodity rises, the Indonesian Palm Oil Producers Association said on Friday.

### [Silicon, Solar Power and Corporate Responsibility](#)

Silicon is the second most common mineral element on earth. It has been widely used since antiquity in construction, metals refining and glass manufacturing.

More recently, it has become a fundamental element in the production of an extraordinary range of everyday consumer goods and intermediate industrial products, including healthcare Latest News about healthcare items; fabrics; automotive, marine, aerospace engine and electrical components; telecommunications equipment; semiconductors; and solar PV cells.

Despite its abundance, the production of refined metallurgical silicon -- various grades of which are used to manufacture semiconductors and solar PV cells -- is costly, complicated and energy-intensive.



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