



DrumBeat: January 25, 2007

Posted by [threadbot](#) on January 25, 2007 - 11:43am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[California bans dirty power sources](#)

California regulators approved rules Thursday banning power companies from buying electricity from high-polluting sources, including most out-of-state coal-burning plants.

The rules _ aimed at reducing emissions of heat-trapping gases linked to global warming _ could have a far-reaching effect on the energy market across the West.

[Nuclear energy's French connection](#)

With help from the allies it funds in Congress and legions of highly paid lobbyists, the U.S. nuclear power industry won billions of dollars in tax breaks and subsidies for its promised "renaissance." But the biggest winner of all could be a French firm that most Americans have never heard of.

[Is there enough corn for Bush ethanol plan?](#)

Of all the proposals in President Bush's State of the Union speech, the call for massive increases in subsidized ethanol production stands the best chance of winning Congressional support. With the campaign season getting under way, both parties are eager to boost federal funds to the Farm Belt.

But even as the president hit the road Wednesday to highlight his plan at an ethanol plant in Delaware, some were already asking: Where is all the corn needed to make that ethanol going to come from?

[Bodman: U.S. Needs More Ethanol Imports](#)

The U.S. "will need to have more imports of ethanol," if it is to meet the new mandate to cut gasoline use, the Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said Thursday.

[Creating Myths About Oil Production is Easy, Too Easy](#)

On 18th Jan 2007, the news agency the Associated Press issued a story which stated that Saudi Arabia intends to increase its oil production capacity by 40% by 2009. In fact, it intends to do no such thing.

[Climate change 'fanning conflict, terror'](#)

Global warming could exacerbate the world's rich-poor divide and help to radicalise populations and fan terrorism in the countries worst affected, security and climate experts said today.

[Climate change: Public concern is rising fast](#)

Thirty years ago, global warming was an issue restricted to a handful of climatologists who, clamouring in the wilderness, warned that uncontrolled burning of fossil fuels would damage Earth's climate.

Today, opinion polls in many countries say climate change is now a concern that citizens often place just after unemployment, terrorism or a similarly key issue of prosperity or survival.

[Developing nations dig in heels on climate change](#)

Developing countries stand to suffer the worst effects of global warming, and should not have to pay for a problem created mainly by the rich, executives and experts said on Thursday.

[Leaders not sold on global warming](#)

Despite warnings from President Bush about global warming -- and in the face of what many experts and even industry leaders describe as overwhelming scientific consensus on the issue -- top leaders in Texas have continued to question the validity of man-made climate change.

[Stern favours world carbon tax](#)

Sir Nicholas Stern has spoken out in favour of a global carbon tax, warning that global warming represents "the biggest market failure the world has ever seen".

[Harper: Canada won't follow Bush on reducing oil consumption](#)

Canada won't follow the Bush administration's lead in setting hard targets for reducing oil consumption, but will instead impose tougher emissions standards on the auto sector and other industries, says Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

[Merkel calls for tough emissions controls](#)

The twin demands of action to prevent climate change and enhance energy security requires Europe to commit to challenging mandatory controls on greenhouse gasses after 2012, Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, said on Wednesday.

[ConocoPhillips' Woes Mount in Venezuela; 'A Difficult Situation'](#)

U.S. oil major ConocoPhillips (COP) is licking its wounds in Venezuela as President Hugo Chavez tightens the noose on two of the firm's showboat projects.

[Is the sun setting on oil sector's heyday?](#)

Global pledges to slash use may put long-term pressure on prices.

[Shell Canada Announces Plans for Oil Sands Growth](#)

Shell Canada on Wednesday updated its long-term oil sands growth plans to increase minable bitumen production to approximately 770,000 barrels a day, while increasing upgrading capacity to approximately 700,000 barrels a day.

[Militants kidnap oil workers in Nigeria](#)

LAGOS, Nigeria - Gunmen attacked a Chinese oil company in restive southern Nigeria on Thursday, abducting at least two employees and stealing a large amount of cash, police said.

[California agency sues over air pollution](#)

The South Coast Air Quality Management District sued California public utility officials, claiming the liquefied natural gas that officials approved for use in the state could worsen air pollution.

[Ford posts record loss of \\$12.7B in 2006](#)

Ford Motor Co. lost \$5.8 billion in the fourth quarter amid slumping sales and huge restructuring costs, pushing the fabled automaker's deficit for the year to \$12.7 billion, the largest in its 103-year history.

[The god of small things](#)

After unlocking the secrets of the human genome, the controversial scientist Craig Venter now is trying to engineer a microbe to liberate us from our dependence on oil.

[Eat To Live: Food or fuel in future?](#)

Already, land for food is competing with land for biofuels. The decrease in land available to supply the food chain will result in global food shortages, which in turn will force food prices to rise.

[Switching to snake oil](#)

Bush wants America to reduce its oil consumption - but subsidising ethanol production isn't the answer.

[South Africa: Biofuel Demand Good for Farmers](#)

[One Planet Agriculture – preparing for a post-peak oil food and farming future](#)

The Soil Association is the UK's leading campaigning and certification organisation for organic food and farming. This recent interview with Soil Association director, Patrick Holden, talks about the potential impacts of peak oil, the role of organic food.

[Bangladesh: Quick Remedy to Energy Crisis Not in Sight](#)

No light is seen at the end of the tunnel immediately for the solution to the current severe energy crisis, which has already taken a heavy toll on the country's economy, according to sources.

[Bush ignored energy crisis](#)

An energy crisis is steadily approaching, and swift and decisive action is imperative.

In the 2006 State of the Union address, President Bush said "America is addicted to oil."

One year later, we are just as hooked.

[Picking Poison over Petroleum](#)

Though poisonous when eaten, the jatropha genus and its species hold immense potential for improving human life in this new age of biologically-derived fuel.

[Higher Angola Oil Output Not Seen Affecting Oil Market](#)

A move by new Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries member Angola to raise its crude production to record levels is unlikely to have a long-term impact on the group's production quotas or the West African cash crude market, traders said Wednesday.

John Michael Greer: [The Hesperotechnic Phase](#)

The neoprimitivist movement seeks to replace the myth of progress with a myth of fall and redemption in which technology plays the role of original sin. It's a clear and compelling narrative, and has the advantage of recasting our current predicament as a cause for optimism. I'm far from convinced that their myth makes any more sense of our actual situation than the myth of progress does, and a myth that defines the mass death of six billion people and the loss of every trace of eight thousand years of human culture as good things has obvious problems of its own, but at least they have taken the mythic dimension seriously.

[Banana drama](#)

Declining oil reserves will impact hugely on energy prices and the way we eat and farm. Is Britain ready for a new agri-culture?

[Russia's oil habit hampers economy](#)

Oil prices have been falling and western European customers, rattled by disruptions of Russian supplies, are looking for other sources of oil and natural gas.

That might be a wakeup call for Russia to stop relying almost exclusively on hydrocarbon exports as the backbone of its economy. Yet Russia is doing little to diversify -- and analysts say its dependence on energy resources is only getting stronger.

[Nigerian Oil, Curse of the Black Gold](#)

The Niger Delta holds some of the world's richest oil deposits, yet Nigerians living there are poorer than ever, violence is rampant, and the land and water are fouled. What went wrong?



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