



DrumBeat: July 3, 2006

Posted by [threadbot](#) on July 3, 2006 - 9:35am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

Update [2006-7-3 9:37:36 by Leanan]: [Russian oil output hits record high in June](#)

Russian oil output recovered from a deep winter slump and reached 9.69 million barrels per day in June to exceed the previous post-Soviet high of December 2005, the energy ministry said on Monday.

June production was 2.7 percent higher than in June 2005, in line with forecasts from the government and analysts.

[BP oil and gas production falls 2.5% in Q2](#)

BP Plc (BP.L) expects its oil and gas production to have fallen 2.5 percent in the second quarter -- more than some analysts had expected -- raising the challenge the oil giant faces in meeting growth plans.

[Thai hunger for cheap energy throws lifeline to Myanmar](#)

Myanmar, one of the world's poorest nations, is under a series of US and European economic sanctions imposed over the junta's human rights abuses and the house arrest of 61-year-old democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

But their effect has been weakened because neighboring China, India and Thailand are spending billions of dollars for a share of Myanmar's vast energy resources to solve their fuel problems at home.

[Malaysia Suspends Biodiesel Effort](#) over concerns that palm oil needed for food will be turned into fuel.

The Dehcho Indians take [A Stand in the Forest](#).

For three decades, the Dehcho have been resisting the \$7-billion project, which is backed by other native groups in the Northwest Territories. But the Dehcho are under mounting pressure to drop their opposition to a project that would serve North American energy markets as the United States strives to reduce dependence on the Middle East. Canada is already the largest foreign supplier of natural gas to the U.S.

The companies that want to build the underground pipeline — Imperial Oil, Shell Canada, ConocoPhillips and ExxonMobil Canada — estimate that it would carry 1.2 billion cubic feet of gas per day, which industry experts say is enough annually to heat more than 3 million homes for a year.

Republican Rep. Dan Lungren of California has a [solution to the energy crisis](#): a \$1-billion prize for the first American automaker to sell 60,000 midsized sedans that could travel 100 miles on one gallon of gasoline.

[1920 treaty holds key to Arctic energy riches](#)

Lawyers, experts and diplomats agree north Barents Sea oil and fishing rights are developing into a diplomatic flashpoint. They also agree that there is no clear answer.

[Gas companies on 'treadmill' of demand](#)

In Nigeria, [Consumers protest power outage](#).

More on the Interstate system: [With so many vehicles using it, America's interstate highway system is overworked](#).

Aging infrastructure The system is also getting old. "We are at the end of the useful life of the lot of the freeway that was built in the late '50s and early '60s," Vieth said. "In the next 10 to 20 years, there is a tremendous amount of work that will have to be done to keep the Interstates as a valuable part of the system."

[Green fears grow as Britons binge on gadgets](#)

Two scientists warn of [The False Hope of Biofuels](#).

Update [2006-7-3 9:59:33 by Leanan]: This may have been posted before, but what the heck, it's worth another mention. *BeyondPeak.org* has the MP3s of May's [Peak Oil and the Environment](#) conference posted. My favorite is Joseph Tainter's [Energy Gain & Social Organization](#), of course. He thinks our political dysfunction is setting us up for "catastrophic change" rather than a smooth transition.

Update [2006-7-3 12:21:34 by Leanan]: [Extreme Commuting Going Global](#)

More Americans than ever are willing to trade time in their car for the dream of a big house and a big yard. Nearly 10 million people now drive more than an hour to work, up 50 percent from 1990. Many are doing what California real-estate agents call "driving 'til you qualify" for a mortgage. In places like southern California, each exit along the interstate saves you tens of thousands of dollars.

...And what's happening in the United States is a harbinger for the world. The long commute is now cementing itself in Europe and spreading from Japan to the rest of Asia as well. Indeed, University of California Urban Planning professor Michael Woo says that Chinese commuters travel as far and spend as much time in cars as Californians — more than an hour a day. And American commerce is right on their tail: McDonald's

opened its first drive-through window in China last December, and plans to open hundreds more.



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