



DrumBeat: August 19, 2006

Posted by [threadbot](#) on August 19, 2006 - 9:10am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Update by Leanan on 08/19/06 at 9:13 AM EDT]

[Economic Impacts of U.S. Liquid Fuel Mitigation Options](#) [PDF]

A new report by the authors of the "Hirsch report": Roger H. Bezdek, Robert M. Wendling and Robert L. Hirsch. It's sponsored by the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

The world is consuming more oil than it is finding, and at some point within the next decade or two, world production of conventional oil will likely peak. Peaking will lead to shortages and greatly increased prices and price volatility. In addition to peaking and its consequences, there are widespread concerns about the growing United States' dependence on oil imports from both an energy security and a balance of payments standpoint.

This study considered four options that the U.S. could implement for the massive physical mitigation¹ of its dependence on imported oil:

- Vehicle fuel efficiency (VFE)
- Coal liquefaction (coal-to-liquids or CTL)²
- Oil shale
- Enhanced oil recovery (EOR)

We've hit the big time! From [National Geographic](#):

...With gas prices high and the future of world oil production uncertain, interest in alternative fuels is surging.

But ethanol, a fuel now widely used in Brazil, has been the subject of an often polarized debate in the U.S.

The controversy has been playing out recently both in science journals and on energy blog sites such as [The Oil Drum](#).

Proponents like Silicon Valley venture capitalist Vinod Khosla argue that ethanol can replace gasoline, while opponents counter that not enough agricultural land exists to meet more than a fraction of the country's energy needs.

...But another outspoken ethanol critic, oil industry analyst and blogger Robert Rapier,

has endorsed the E3 Biofuels approach, calling it "responsible ethanol."

[Natural Resources are Fuelling a New Cold War](#)

Oil and gas supplies are becoming scarcer and more expensive. The hunt for the world's remaining resources is creating new alliances and the danger of fresh conflicts. China is moving aggressively to sate its growing appetite for energy, potentially setting up a confrontation with the United States for the dwindling resources of the Middle East and Africa.

[State subpoenas Prudhoe owners over oil spills](#)

[Zimbabwe changes fuel pricing policy](#)

GOVERNMENT and the oil industry have - with immediate effect - fixed the price of diesel at \$320 and that of petrol at \$335 a litre for all users in the country.

This effectively means that farmers, Government and public transporters, who were accessing fuel from the National Oil Company of Zimbabwe (Noczim) at a heavily subsidised rate, will have to pay the new increased prices, while private motorists, who were being charged around \$700 for a litre of both petrol and diesel, will now pay less.

[Nigerian militants release German worker as government cracks down](#)

[China Power Grids Strained by Heat, Drought](#)

[Petrol \\$2 by Christmas](#)

A WORLD oil expert predicts the price of unleaded petrol in WA will crash through the \$2 mark this summer.

London-based expert Chris Skrebowski arrives in Perth today for talks with the WA Government and to speak at a conference about the oil crisis.

[Pumping the fear factor out of oil](#): As more production comes online over the next few years, prices may ease by as much as \$20 a barrel.

[Oil industry plans for price correction, not crash](#)

[Don't panic; we've been here before](#)



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