



DrumBeat: November 15, 2006

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Update by Leanan on 11/15/06 at 9:12 AM EDT]

[Shale offers U.S. rock-hard fuel prospects](#)

OTTAWA — We should now be confidently able to push back "peak oil" by a few hundred years. In three western states alone, the United States has more than eight trillion barrels of hard-to-pump shale oil, which is roughly eight times the entire consumption of crude oil in human history. This oil has been commercially irrelevant because it is hard as rock and you can't put a furnace in every car. Now, though, the Los Alamos National Laboratory is on the job. This is the once-clandestine lab in New Mexico that delivered the world's first nuclear bomb. It is one of the world's great institutions of advanced scientific inquiry. Can shale be a tougher task than the Manhattan Project?

You can't know for certain, but it's a good bet that, within a decade or two, the rock that burns will flow through pipelines in quantities large enough to make the United States self-sufficient in energy for a very long time.

[Turkey can cut risks for Europe](#)

On the issue of Europe's sense of vulnerability to the risk of interruptions in the supply of energy, based on a spike in hydrocarbon prices or a prolonged period of weakness vis-a-vis major energy suppliers, the report explains, "This is partly a function of higher global prices for hydrocarbons, fears over supply-chain weaknesses, increasing geopolitical competition for resources and growing debate over 'peak oil.'

[Clean energy takes center stage](#)

Mike Tidwell, director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, spoke passionately about climate changes and his vision of a nation no longer reliant on fossil fuels.

U.K.: [Polluting cars face charge rise](#)

Vehicles causing the most pollution in central London are to face huge increases in the

congestion charge, mayor Ken Livingstone has announced.

[ANALYSIS: President-Elect Ortega Faces Daunting Energy Crisis](#)

One of the main challenges facing Nicaragua's president-elect and former revolutionary leader Daniel Ortega is the country's energy crisis, which has caused daily outages in what is one of the western hemisphere's poorest countries.

[Andes Strikes Deal, Ends Tarapoa Protests](#)

Chinese oil consortium Andes Petroleum has struck a deal with residents from Ecuador's Sucumbíos province who occupied installations on the company's Tarapoa block last week, a hydrocarbons ministry spokesperson told BNamericas, confirming a Reuters story.

[Unplugging Thailand, Myanmar energy deals](#)

BANGKOK - Thai Energy Minister Piyasvasti Amranand says he intends to scrap the previous government's controversial multi-billion dollar plans to ramp up imports of hydroelectric power and natural gas from neighboring military-run Myanmar, signaling a potentially significant shift in which direction the region's energy flows and a possible new era of bilateral antagonism between the historical rivals.

[Senegal's Wade wants fairer oil share](#)

DAKAR — Oil companies operating in Africa must plough part of their oil profits into fighting poverty there or risk being expelled from the continent by unrest and turmoil fuelled by inequality, Senegal's president, Abdoulaye Wade, said.

Wade said it was "indecent, immoral" that oil majors should be raking in multi-billion dollar profits from higher oil prices while poor, oil-importing African states saw their energy bills increase by tens of millions of dollars.

[Ministry displeased with Sakhalin Energy ecological steps](#)

[Congressional peak oil caucus responds to CERA study](#)

[More green energy use could cut costs, study finds](#)

Switching the U.S. economy to run more on renewable energy sources rather than

traditional fossil fuels could save money and reduce pollution, and the benefits could be seen within a decade, a think tank said Monday.

[OLF: Hunt for Oil Now Linked to Idle Assets Not High Price](#)

A strong historical link between high oil prices and abundant exploration has disappeared, but attempts to increase circulation of idle acreage could begin to reverse the de-coupling and boost the search for oil, the managing director of Norway's Oil Industry Association, or OLF, said Tuesday.

[Tap U.S. soil, seas for oil, gas; stop buying foreign energy](#)

The public interest in lessening America's reliance on imported fuels requires that we adopt a more rational policy toward production of oil and natural gas on federal land and in coastal waters.

[Vote on oil bill promised this year](#)

WASHINGTON -- Republican leaders in the House of Representatives agreed Monday to take up legislation during a post-election lame-duck session that would expand offshore oil and gas drilling and provide the first meaningful sharing of federal royalty payments with Louisiana and other producing states, Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-Kenner, said.

Jindal said the GOP House leaders for the first time expressed a willingness to pass a Senate measure with more limited drilling options and less revenue sharing, at least for the near future, if no compromise can be reached with Senate leaders on a House version.

[OPEC increases estimate of world oil demand in 2006](#)

VIENNA (AFP) - OPEC has slightly increased its estimate of worldwide demand for oil in 2006 -- now expected to average 84.3 million barrels per day (bdp).

The estimate is an upwards revision of 100,000 barrels per day from a previous forecast of 84.2 million bpd, the powerful cartel said Wednesday.

[Russia to raise gas prices for CIS states](#)

MOSCOW- The majority of the former Soviet countries are almost entirely dependent on energy supplies from Russia. Meanwhile, political realities and current trends on the global energy market do not make a fall in gas prices very likely.

California : <http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-gas14nov14.1.1475055.story?coll=la-headlines-business>

Meanwhile, a consumer group says only three automakers improved the fuel economy of their fleets since 1996.

[Appliances to Face Tighter Energy Rules](#)

New energy-efficiency standards for 22 appliances will be set over the next 4-1/2 years under an agreement settling a lawsuit brought against the Energy Department by the Natural Resources Defense Council, consumer groups and 15 states.

[It heats. It powers. Is it the future of home energy?](#)

Down in Bernard Malin's basement is a softly thrumming metal box that turns natural gas into hot water and generates \$600 to \$800 worth of electricity a year - a bonus byproduct of heating his home.

"It's like printing money," says Mr. Malin, the first person in Massachusetts - perhaps in the nation - to own a residential "micro combined-heat-and-power" system, also known as micro-CHP.

[Annan: Cheaper to cut emissions now](#)

[Scientists: More research needed to balance food, energy needs](#)

DES MOINES — A non-profit consortium of scientists says there is an urgent need to step up research on ethanol production to balance energy needs with climbing corn prices and pressure on food and feed supplies.

[The Last War for Oil?](#)

There should be no doubt that the United States has waged two Gulf wars largely, if not solely, for oil. To ensure that the Iraq war is the last Gulf war, the administration and the Democratic majority in the new Congress must work together to enact an energy-independence bill to address the root-causes of these wars and free America from the shackles of foreign oil.

[Bulgarian nuclear shutdown worries Balkans](#)

Gjergj Bojaxhi, Albania's deputy energy minister, suffers from back pain that gets worse when he sits. He walks around the office, hunching and wincing, absorbing the twinges as he speaks. But one word makes him stand up straight – Kozloduy.

[Head of Russian Oil Fund Shot Dead in Moscow](#)

The head of a Russian fund that says it promotes the development of small oil and gas producers was shot dead on Tuesday in southwest Moscow, the Reuters news agency reports.

Zelimkhan Magomedov, 50, general director of the National Oil Institute Fund, was shot twice in the head.



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