



DrumBeat: April 15, 2007

Posted by [Leanan](#) on April 15, 2007 - 8:58am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Global Warming Called Security Threat](#)

For the second time in a month, private consultants to the government are warning that human-driven warming of the climate poses risks to the national security of the United States.

A report, scheduled to be published on Monday but distributed to some reporters yesterday, said issues usually associated with the environment — like rising ocean levels, droughts and violent weather caused by global warming — were also national security concerns.

[We Can't Go On Feeding - And Breeding - Like This](#)

In the Road Runner cartoons there is usually a scene where Wile E. Coyote, chasing the Road Runner, runs off a cliff. He continues on a horizontal line for a couple of seconds, looking increasingly puzzled and concerned, until he realizes his predicament, tries vainly to reverse course, and falls to the desert below.

This is symbolic of the situation ecologists call "overshoot." Overshoot is when a species reproduces to a number that its environment can't sustain.

[Saudi Aramco, Developers Tie Up in Khursaniyah Mega Oil, Gas Project](#)

It's an amazing enterprise — one of several ongoing Saudi Aramco mega-projects intended to add new increments to Saudi Arabia's production. The output of these projects will rival the entire production capacity of many oil-exporting nations.

[Crop prices soar, push food costs up globally](#)

Soaring prices for farm goods, driven in part by demand for crop-based fuels, are pushing up the price of food worldwide and unleashing a new source of inflationary pressure.

The rise in food prices is already causing distress among consumers in some parts of the world - especially relatively poor nations such as India and China.

[Russia commences construction of floating nuclear power plants](#)

Russia has launched the construction of floating nuclear power plants, the head of Russia's nuclear power agency said Sunday.

[Stopping climate change: tomorrow is too late!](#)

Unfortunately, the goal being proposed by the ALP premiers is woefully inadequate for an Australian contribution to achieving the reductions that the Stern and IPCC reports say are necessary, especially given that Australian per capita greenhouse gas emissions is over four times the global average.

[U.S. Report Predicts Peak Oil by 2040](#)

Many analysts say peak oil production will occur before 2040; some say it's already happened. Even some big oil producers say peak production will happen prior to 2050. Now, a U.S. report confirms the validity of Hubbert's theory.

[Russian gas giant moves in on British consumers](#)

Gazprom is planning to sell energy direct to UK households using its own brand name, undercutting British Gas and other gas and electricity suppliers.

[Water instead of gas](#)

James D. Hunt, a student at Carl Sandburg College, believes his on-demand, hydrogen fuel generation system can save consumers thousands of dollars. Hunt said large-scale versions could be converted into power generation plants, eliminating the exorbitant cost residents currently pay for electricity, as well as offering substantial savings for fuel for vehicles of all kinds. Hunt has a patent pending.

[Global Warming Pollution Up in 48 States Since 1990](#)

Global warming pollution increased in all but two states nationwide between 1990 and 2004, according to "The Carbon Boom," a new analysis of state fossil fuel consumption data released today by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG). This is the first time that 2004 state-by-state data on carbon dioxide emissions have been

released.

[Bolivia's Gas Problems](#)

Much of the recent news in Bolivia has been about the ongoing problems of the Morales Administration in implementing its much-heralded "gas nationalization" decree. The musical chair dramas of coming and going government gas officials, revelations about poorly drawn contracts, and a basic lack of professional capacity at the highest levels have cast real doubt over how much Morales can really deliver on the centerpiece of his government so far.

[SPE official sees oil and gas as 'sunrise, not sunset' industry](#)

"Some call us a sunset industry, like we're over the hill," commented Bill Cobb, who will assume the presidency of the Society of Petroleum Engineers International in November. "I say 'Hey, we are a sunrise industry.' I know of no other industry that utilizes higher technology than the oil and gas industry, from computers to drilling wells."

[Australian Oil Body Seeks Tax Breaks for Exploration, Projects](#)

Australia's oil and gas companies need better tax incentives to encourage exploration in new areas and to help develop large natural gas projects, the industry's biggest lobby group said.

[Natural gas 'future' for oil industry](#)

QUADRUPLING Australia's natural gas capacity could be both an environmental and economic solution to the challenges facing the industry, a major international conference will hear this week.

India: [Oil prices risk to financial stability](#)

"While I see good prospects for the global economy, there are a number of risks emanating from the behaviour of oil prices, adverse developments in the US housing market, persistence of global imbalances and possible emergence of inflationary pressures," Rakesh Mohan has said.

The Philippines: [Time to revisit nuclear energy](#)

We could have succeeded and would have been miles ahead if we had a different public

and more daring leaders. The credit for the idea of a nuclear power plant goes to Marcos during the oil crisis of 1973. But the idea went to nothing. Instead it became the most flagrant example of corrupt lending (note that: not borrowing).

[Russia To Display Alternative Energy Projects](#)

It has been learnt that for the first time Russia for the first time will exhibit alternative energy projects including Hydrogen at the Hanover Fair, the famous industrial fair in Germany.

[Report blames coal-fired plants for carbon dioxide increases](#)

A report released Thursday by an Illinois environmental group blames coal-fired power plants for nearly half the country's increase in carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels between 2000 and 2004.

[Don't argue about climate change, plan for it](#)

Interneccine scientific struggles over defining and measuring global climate change are obscuring more important questions about the policy dimensions of such change. Exacerbating the problem are ostrichlike government attitudes toward climate change that fail to focus attention on the more serious challenges facing society.

[Eye on Iran, Rivals Pursuing Nuclear Power](#)

Two years ago, the leaders of Saudi Arabia told international atomic regulators that they could foresee no need for the kingdom to develop nuclear power. Today, they are scrambling to hire atomic contractors, buy nuclear hardware and build support for a regional system of reactors.

[Canadian Rail Workers Reject Contract Offer](#)

A 15-day strike in February led to plant closings and shipping disruptions throughout North America, but the union said on Wednesday that it would try to limit the current walkout's impact on rail customers.

[Facing Points](#)

The strategy for the air and road transport industry is perplexing. The renewable fuels obligation means that a percentage of biofuels will be added to oil and gas based fuels, but shortage of agricultural land and competition to food producers will restrict their

universal application.

Even at the current level of activity, road traffic would consume more than 3 times all the electricity we generate to produce a hydrogen equivalent. With the end of North Sea gas looming and as the de-commissioning of nuclear power gets under way, electricity will be at a premium and only rail can make use of the limited amount of renewable electricity efficiently.

[Energy crisis? Not for the Danes](#)

The country was almost totally dependent on the imported fuel for its energy needs when the world was struck by an oil crisis.

War in the Middle East and an oil embargo sent the country a painful wake-up call — oil isn't forever.

A series of such shocks quickly tripled the price of heating.

Things were so bad that during some winters, people closed off rooms and lived in the dining area, remembers engineer and energy specialist Niels Bahnsen. It shocked the country into rethinking its energy policy and every Dane into just how much he was using.

[Myanmar cashes up on energy](#)

Military-ruled Myanmar has recently signed off on a raft of energy deals with its power-hungry neighbours, winning the junta a desperately needed income stream.

But Chinese and Thai dams to be built on Myanmar's rivers to power their own economies and Asian companies drilling for natural gas off the coast to boost fuel exports are cold comfort for impoverished locals.

..."Now we average about four hours per day with power in our industrial zone, about a 50 percent decline from eight hours per day in March," a businessman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP.

[Shrinking oilfields alarm observers](#)

Almost a year ago, this column reported the conceivable implosion of Mexico's Cantarell Oilfield, second largest in the world. This prediction proved to be correct as Cantarell lost a fifth of its production from January 2006 through February 2007. This meant a loss of 400,000 daily barrels of production from this field, dropping from two million daily barrels to 1.6 million during this time period.

[Lighting up Pakistan](#)

According to the government's own figures, by 2015, energy demand will be nearly 22 percent greater than projected supply. By 2030, this shortfall will be 64 percent. What do these figures mean for Pakistanis? Higher prices, fewer jobs in a slowed economy, reduced opportunities, less comfort, heightened political turmoil.

[Area drivers slowly warming up to E85](#)

More flex-fuel vehicle options and places to fill up with E85 fuel are finding their way to Northwest Indiana, but drivers have yet to fully embrace the locally produced gasoline replacement.

[Hydrogen Fuel Cell Jet](#)

An unmanned hydrogen fuel cell powered jet made history this week as it took to the skies over the hills of Bern, Switzerland. The Hyfish astonished its creators as it flawlessly performed vertical climbs, loops and other aerial acrobatics at speeds reaching 200 km/h.

[Cal Poly Wins First Shell Eco-marathon Americas with 1,902.7 MPG](#)

[Saudi king says he wants to boost kingdom's oil production, help ensure 'fair' prices](#)

Saudi Arabia wants to increase its oil production so it can meet domestic and international demand while ensuring "fair" world prices, King Abdullah said.

Now pumping just over 11 million barrels a day, the kingdom is the world's largest oil producer and the biggest supplier of petroleum to the United States.

The king did not say Saturday how much Saudi Arabia might increase production, but it has repeatedly said it was prepared to do so. Last May, Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi spoke of raising output to 12.5 million barrels a day by 2009.

[The Quest for Community](#)

Our modern world is one of televisions, computers, big houses, long commutes, and superstores. We might be better off with smaller houses and more family interaction. Main St. stores and farmer's markets with higher prices and more human interaction might provide more happiness than big-box stores and supermarkets with impersonal service and low, low prices.

[Petrobras May Buy Ethanol Tankers as Part of Brazil Ship Plans](#)

Petroleo Brasileiro SA, Brazil's state-controlled oil company, may purchase tankers from Brazilian shipyards to export ethanol as the company moves to quadruple foreign sales of the biofuel.

[Kerry backs focus on renewable energy](#)

The United States has been outpaced by European and Asian nations in developing technology that conserves energy and protects the environment and must encourage new incentives for creating renewable energy sources, Sen. John F. Kerry said this week.

[G7 ministers give nuclear energy a nod](#)

Finance chiefs from the G7 industrialized countries have endorsed nuclear energy, an increasingly attractive power source as governments confront global warming and over-dependence on fossil fuels.

[Venezuela Pays Off IMF, World Bank Debt, Finance Minister Says](#)

Venezuela said it paid off \$3 billion in loans owed to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank this week, ending ties to two multilateral lenders it says curtailed its ``economic sovereignty" for decades.

[MPG realism](#)

The bad news is that the new testing procedure makes gas-electric hybrid vehicles look less attractive in comparison with conventional gas-only cars and SUVs, which also will see their mileage ratings drop, but by a smaller amount.

[The race to build really cheap cars](#) - *Hot new trend is sturdy, inexpensive — and probably not American-made*

How cheap is cheap? Renault-Nissan Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn is betting that for autos, the magic number is under \$3,000. At a plant-opening ceremony in India Apr. 4, he was already talking up the industry's next challenge: a future model that would sport a sticker price as low as \$2,500 — about 40 percent less than the least expensive subcompact currently on the market.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/us/).