



## Don't forget: Live Simmons Chat at WaPo

Posted by [Yankee](#) on August 4, 2005 - 11:01am

If you want to read Matthew Simmons respond to questions, he's participating in a [live chat](#) at the Washington Post at 3pm (ET) today. Post your own feedback to the chat here.

([Liveblogging update](#)) Topics tackled so far:

1. Large oil discoveries in China's Bohai Bay
2. When will Hubbert's Peak occur? (*might have already happened*)
3. Coal gasification and its environmental impact
4. Who's oil/gas reserve estimates are most accurate? (*small oil companies beholden to their creditors*)
5. What is the relationship between peak oil and global warming? (*GW may be put off if we rapidly decrease oil usage*)
6. What does Saudi ARAMCO have to say about you now? (*There's an internal directive not to talk about him*)
7. Awesome! Simmons and 2 other have responded\* to the [Yergin piece](#)! They hope it'll be published in the WaPo soon.
8. Why do the Saudis say they can increase production by 12 mbd? (*Because they think they can!*)
9. How will the new Caspian Sea pipeline affect oil supply? (*It won't*)
10. Won't newly discovered oil in central Africa and the former Soviet states compensate for the decrease in Middle East oil? (*No.*)
11. What country is most likely to take up the Saudi shortfall, if any? (*Libya, maybe Algeria.*)
12. A convoluted question about Saudi King Abdullah. (*He may decrease production not out of greediness, but simply to protect his country's only asset for a little longer.*)
13. What about deep water drilling? (*really expensive, and only at best 1 in 5 wells have any oil*)
14. Gimme a short, medium, long term outlook on Natural Gas in North America. (*It's bad, dude. We've definitely peaked.*)
15. Why do most oil experts seem to ignore the issue of depletion altogether? (*most likely because no company has ever produced any data about their decline rates*)
16. Who'll be more affected by peak oil: US or Europe? (*Europe has a different problem than the US: most transportation of goods is by truck, b/c their waterways are too small and rail is dedicated to transporting people. The US will have a passenger car crisis.*)
17. Isn't competition for resources between China/India and US/Europe going to intensify? (*Of course, which is why we need to give them a greater share of the remaining oil rather than hoarding it, or else they'll get violent.*)
18. If Iraq were peaceful, how much could we expect to see from them? (*At best 2-3 mbd, but only after 10-15 years*)

The transcript will be available at the same WaPo page when the chat is over.

\*Simmons wrote: "I'm one of three co-authors of an op-ed piece that we have just submitted to

The Washington Post that hopefully will get published. What the three of us collectively feel is that it is a very unrealistic assesment, it is not a detailed, bottom up field by field, they ignore by and large depletion issues, and it's based on an enormous belief that technology and enthusiasm and urgency will create new oil supplies. That is precisely the same logic that CERA used very loudly in 2001 and 2002 to dispute the critics views that natural gas in North America was running into trouble. And it took less than 24 months after they had dismissed any problems in natural gas before they made a discovery that we had a natural gas crisis. I think what they're doing being as casual on future oil supplies, let alone predicting we're headed toward another oil glut, is doing the world a great disservice."

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