



## Drumbeat: November 15, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on November 15, 2009 - 9:07am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Deffeyes: Halloween Delivery](#)

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Production in the first seven months of 2009 is down by about two million barrels per day, with OPEC responsible for most of the reduction. I think it unlikely that oil production will ever climb back to the 2005 levels. A large number of projects have been canceled or postponed. If they ever get reinstated, the older oilfields will have declined more than the postponed projects could produce.

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ply never bothered to do their basic homework.

[Iraq expects strong competition in new oil bidding](#)

BAGHDAD (AP) -- Iraq's oil minister said Sunday he expects strong competition among international oil companies in a second round of bidding next month on the country's lucrative oil fields.

Forty-five international oil companies -- including Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron, BP Group PLC., ConocoPhillips and Total SA -- have been cleared to compete for the rights to develop 15 oil fields on offer in 10 projects.

[US firms struggle to gain toehold as Iraq rebuilds](#)

AT IRAQ'S Baghdad Trade Fair, six years and \$US1 trillion (\$A1.07 trillion) after the

US invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, one country was conspicuously absent.

That would be the country that spent \$US1 trillion on the invasion and occupation, but also on training and equipping Iraqi security forces, and on ambitious reconstruction projects in every province aimed at rebuilding the country and restarting the economy.

### [Exxon shares poised to shine - Barron's](#)

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Shares in Exxon Mobil Corp, the world's largest publicly traded oil company, could rise more than 20 percent to \$90 next year if energy prices increase as expected, Barron's reported on Sunday.

Exxon shares have lagged rivals in the stock market rally this year, falling about 10 percent, but futures contracts anticipate higher energy prices next year that would be a major boost to the company, according to Barron's Nov. 16 edition.

### [Why Nigeria Will Miss 6,000MW Power Target By Dec](#)

"People should be educated to some extent on how these things work and how they can manage the system to their own advantage. They can be informed how to buy energy efficient appliances that are of low running cost, instead of second hand items that have been rewired out of specifications. Even developed countries are having energy crisis and they are looking seriously to appliances with standby power capabilities."

### [Let's start facing up to our need for nuclear debate](#)

One of these days someone, somewhere, is going to have a serious discussion about our future energy needs.

Despite the growing crisis of global warming and the demands for low-carbon alternatives - plus the fact that some experts believe we have already passed the point of 'peak-oil' - we remain dependent on imported oil and electricity.

### [Rail upgrades facing £750m cuts in bid to slash public spending](#)

The £5.5bn Thameslink programme to upgrade one of Britain's busiest rail routes is facing £750m worth of cutbacks in a Treasury crackdown on costly infrastructure projects.

### [Energy-hogging house or efficient haven? Do numbers lie?](#)

In the early 1980s, after the first “energy crisis,” we built our energy-efficient house.

I’ve felt pretty good about it. We’ve enjoyed lower utility bills for years. So I was confident when I read James Dulley’s “Cut Your Utility Bills” column in the Oct. 25 Chronicle about calculating home-energy efficiency. I was certain our house would register within the “efficient” range.

But just how efficient would the house be almost 30 years later?

### [Moving Sustainability Forward in Portland](#)

It was standing room only as leaders from government, nonprofit, academic and business groups gathered for two days of meetings in Oregon last week — part of the Portland Metro Climate Prosperity Project, which seeks to promote sustainability in the region.

### [Environmental Agency Warns 2 Staff Lawyers Over Video Criticizing Climate Policy](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency has directed two of its lawyers to make changes to a YouTube video they posted that is critical of the Obama administration’s climate change policy.

### [Turtles Are Casualties of Warming in Costa Rica](#)

Sea turtles are sensitive to numerous effects of warming. They feed on reefs, which are dying in hotter, more acidic seas. They lay eggs on beaches that are being inundated by rising seas and more violent storm surges.

More uniquely, their gender is determined not by genes but by the egg’s temperature during development. Small rises in beach temperatures can result in all-female populations, obviously problematic for survival.

### [Rainforests could be traded on world market](#)

Why would America's largest coal utility and Britain's biggest oil company invest in protecting a remote plot of Bolivian rainforest?

American Electric Power and BP invested in the pilot project alongside environmental groups such as the Nature Conservancy to find out if protecting forests compensates for their own pollution.

### [Howard County highway workers come up with gas-saving device](#)

Extracting hydrogen and oxygen from water and burning the gas in your vehicle engine to boost gas mileage and cut emissions? Crazy, many engineers and other experts say.

But four Howard County highway workers say they've made devices to do just that and successfully used them on their own vehicles, and now they have the OK to test them on a couple of county vehicles.

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### [New China refinery contrasts with U.S. slowdown](#)

For refineries, efforts to limit greenhouse gas emissions threaten to boost operating costs, while stricter fuel economy rules and rising renewable fuel mandates are cutting into gasoline demand. U.S. chemical plants also will struggle as lower-cost plants come online overseas.

By contrast, energy demand is projected to soar in China and other developing nations as more of their vast populations gain wealth in coming years — buying cars, refrigerators and other energy-intensive staples of the middle class.

### [Nigeria militants start peace talks with president](#)

ABUJA, Nigeria — Nigeria's main militant group in the oil-rich Delta region said Sunday that it had started formal peace talks with the country's president for the first time since it declared an indefinite cease-fire last month.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta called Saturday's dialogue with President Umaru Yar'Adua useful.

### [Saudi Consumer Prices Rise for 11th Month as Oil Increases](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Saudi Arabian consumer prices rose for an 11th month in October as oil increased in global markets and the dollar's weakness added to the cost of imported food.

### [Oil & Natural Gas Says India Considering Increase in Gas Prices](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Oil & Natural Gas Corp., India's largest state-owned oil explorer, said the government is considering a proposal to increase the administered price of natural gas, without saying where it got the information.

### [Finding Assets that Out Run Inflation as Bond Yields Move Up](#)

We remember writing about the IEA figure a few years ago. And we remember pointing out that producing 120 million barrels of oil per day would be a 44% increase on producing 83 million barrels per day. And you'd have to find that oil first. You'd have to explore, drill, and produce it. And you'd have to maintain existing production levels at the world's big elephant fields like Cantarell and Ghawar.

In point of fact, production at Cantarell has fallen by 25% since 2004. Energy expert Matthew Simmons says Mexico's days as an oil exporter will end in 18 to 36 months. This makes Mexico's government-which derives 40% of its revenues from oil sales-the most likely candidate for "next failed state."

### [Could This Lump Power the Planet?](#)

Scientists have been trying to produce energy with fusion for decades. So far, they keep failing. It's not that fusion itself can't be achieved. Fusion takes place in every hydrogen-bomb explosion. The trick is controlling fusion so that instead of a one-time blast you get a series of tiny, controllable explosions. The joke is that fusion energy is only 40 years away, and will always be only 40 years away.

Moses believes, however, that his lab, which is called the National Ignition Facility, or NIF, has cracked the problem.

### [Scientists find key to creating clean fuel from coal and waste](#)



Millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide could be prevented from entering the atmosphere following the discovery of a way to turn coal, grass or municipal waste more efficiently into clean fuels.

Scientists have adapted a process called "gasification" which is already used to clean up dirty materials before they are used to generate electricity or to make renewable fuels. The technique involves heating organic matter to produce a mixture of hydrogen and carbon monoxide, called syngas.

### [Crude Awakening](#)

"Deep in the heart of the Amazon rain forest, there are people who have lived off the water for a long time who are now forced to eat canned tuna fish because the fish in the river are dead or diseased," he says. "I got back to my nice house in Westchester County and put my kids to bed in their separate bedrooms and took a drink of my tap water and decided, how could I turn my back on these people?"

### [Homemade Bone Meal: A Partial Solution to Peak Phosphate?](#)

The reason that commercial farmers use bone meal as fertilizer is that it is very high in phosphorous. So purchasing commercially produced bone meal could be argued to be a great way to keep the nutrient cycle going. However, those of us meat eaters who have a problem with factory farming may not be willing to purchase a by-product of the intensive farming industry. So can we make bone meal at home?

### [Oil industry sinkhole threatens to swallow city](#)



Parts of the New Mexico town near Carlsbad Caverns National Park could collapse

because of irresponsible extraction practices by the oil industry.

### [Copenhagen climate summit hopes fade as Obama backs postponement](#)

Barack Obama acknowledged today that time has run out to secure a binding climate deal at Copenhagen and began moving towards a two-stage process that would delay a legal pact until next year at the earliest.

### [Why Are Climate Change and Deficit Reduction Considered Mutually Exclusive?](#)

A carbon tax, for example, could raise revenue and reduce carbon emissions at the same time.

Alternatively, the government could auction off allowances under a cap-and-trade system and then designate some or all of the resulting revenues for deficit reduction.

### [The Real Global Warming Disaster by Christopher Booker](#)

Christopher Booker, *Sunday Telegraph* columnist and bete noir of climate campaigners, has here produced the definitive climate sceptics' manual. That's to say, he has rounded up just about every criticism ever made of the majority scientific view that global warming, most probably caused by human activity, is under way, and presented them unchallenged. If you share his convictions, you'll love it, and will dismiss the rest of this review as part of the cover-up.

### [Ray Mears: We'll struggle to survive climate change](#)

The planet will be fine, whether we are is another matter. What's interesting is that the last time we faced climatic fluctuations as a species, we were hunter-gatherers and could up sticks and move. We can't do that now, and we're only just realising that the result of a static lifestyle is that you have to take greater care of the planet.

...I don't think most people will survive climate change. It will be a disaster. We have to adapt to survive and take lessons from nature. Adaptable things do better - the more specialised you become, the more marginal you are.



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