



Drumbeat: December 9, 2009

Posted by [Leanan](#) on December 9, 2009 - 8:55am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Economics, politics chill Arctic pipeline dreams](#)

INUUVIK, Northwest Territories (Reuters) - Driving by industrial yards along Inuvik's icy Navy Road, Jackie Jacobson, an aboriginal guide, hunter and politician, pointed out fleets of idle trucks and clusters of unused oil field equipment.

They are the tangible evidence of an economy in limbo, waiting for one of the world's biggest unbuilt energy projects -- the C\$16.2 billion (\$15.3 billion) Mackenzie natural gas pipeline -- to get underway.

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essary to contain carbon emissions. It will probably be another 50 years before we will know whether global warming has been contained or whether we have gone over the legendary tipping point beyond which the situation will be beyond man's ability to control. In the meantime get ready for hard times, sell your beach front property, and start thinking about higher ground.

[Oil sector watches Mexican strategy](#)

Mexico's decision to spend more than \$1bn to guarantee that it will earn a minimum of \$57 a barrel on all its 2010 net oil exports appears to suggest it is pessimistic about the outlook for prices and demand next year.

After all, it hedged its 2009 output at \$70 a barrel – a strategy which has netted it a profit of more than \$5bn.

That deal, struck in mid-2008 as oil rocketed towards \$150 a barrel, was bravely contrarian when forecasts for a price peak of \$200 a barrel were widespread.

So should its view about 2010 set alarm bells ringing among oil market analysts?

[Japan to protest against China if gas development report true: Hirano](#)

TOKYO — Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Hirano said Wednesday that Japan will protest against China if it has completed a drilling facility on its own in a gas field in the East China Sea, as reported. “This is a sensitive issue for Japan too and we will watch (the development) closely,” the top government spokesman said at a news conference. “If it is true, we will state our opinion clearly.”

[Pemex sees Chicontepec at 40,000 bpd by end of year](#)

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Mexico's state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) expects production at its Chicontepec field to rise to 40,000 barrels per day (bpd) by the end of 2009, a Pemex official said Wednesday.

[Iraq opens big slice of oil riches to outside bids](#)

BAGHDAD - It's been a strained courtship between Iraq and oil companies jockeying for its untapped riches — complicated by jitters about insecurity, lack of a legal rule book to govern investments and Baghdad's tightfisted bargaining that turned last summer's much-hyped bidding round into a failure.

Even as the same security and political concerns remain unresolved, they appear ready to give it another go.

[U.S. Makes 'Urgent' Safety Recommendations to Citgo](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The U.S. Chemical Safety Board urged Citgo Petroleum Corp. to quickly improve an emergency water spray system at its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery in the event of another “potentially deadly” chemical release at the plant.

[Gulf economy 'strong' says Saudi oil chief](#)

DUBAI — Saudi Arabia's oil minister told a Dubai conference Wednesday that Gulf economies remain strong, even as the emirate's stock market spiralled downwards over debt default fears.

"I want to emphasise that the overall economy of the Gulf region as a whole remains strong," Ali al-Naimi told the fourth Gulf Petrochemicals and Chemicals Association Forum.

[Phil Flynn: The Energy Report for Wednesday](#)

Remember that the major reason oil is trading anywhere near current levels is because

of the weak dollar. As the economy improves, interest rates will go up and that should put pressure on oil. The price of oil, like the economy as a whole, is being supported by outside means. Even the former peak oil bulls and other formerly wildly bullish analysts are coming to that same conclusion. The economy and the price of oil have training wheels on. At some point when the Fed gets some confidence that they can stand on their own, those wheels will come off. When they do we know there will be a fall in price but then eventually the price and the economy will start to ride on its own. Still the EIA forecast for US GDP is a modest 1.9 percent in 2010 and world oil-consumption-weighted real GDP grows by 2.6 percent. Perhaps they feel that this growth is not going to be enough to see much higher interest rates.

[Engineers say stimulus slow, Canada oil sands back](#)

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Leading U.S. engineering companies do not expect much federal stimulus money to flow in their line of sight any time soon, but believe opportunities in Canada's oil sands are ripe with the recovery in crude prices.

Executives said on Wednesday the local and shovel-ready nature of many stimulus-funded projects meant their companies might not see much of the money, and anyway the U.S. government expects only a fraction more of it to start moving next year.

[UK's Darling unveils aid for greener homes, cars](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - British finance minister Alistair Darling announced plans on Wednesday to support new low carbon industries, cut gas emissions from homes and boost the embryonic electric car sector.

Keen to burnish the government's green credentials, Darling scrapped taxes on company electric cars for the next five years.

[Demystifying green jobs](#)

NEW YORK (CNN) -- "Green jobs." You may have heard President Obama use this phrase often. But what does it really mean? It's one of those phrases that isn't really specific -- so we set out to demystify the phrase -- digging down into the sectors of business that people are referring to and actual job titles when they reference green jobs.

[The home of the future: smaller, simpler, more affordable](#)

Though Cusato's 300- to 1,800-square-foot Katrina Cottages -- now for sale at Lowe's - are an extreme example of the smaller-is-better mentality, the movement appears to be more than a fad, especially now that the economy has tanked.

A slew of surveys shows that homeowners are looking to slim down, hoping for less space to heat, cool and clean, and cheaper mortgage payments. A recent CNN poll found 69% of respondents felt homes had gotten too big and Kermit Baker, an American Institute of Architects economist, reported in October that while people want a home office more than ever (reflecting in part the growing number of self-employed and telecommuting workers), special-function rooms such as home theaters, exercise rooms, guest wings and three-car garages have become less popular.

Consumers are also abandoning some of the excesses that had come to define the modern home before the housing bubble burst: living rooms in addition to family rooms, big master bedrooms with big master baths, walk-in showers that are adjacent to standalone Jacuzzi tubs, pantries the size of closets and closets the size of bedrooms.

[Climate deal likely to cost trillions of dollars](#)

WASHINGTON - If negotiators reach an accord at the climate talks in Copenhagen it will entail profound shifts in energy production, dislocations in how and where people live, sweeping changes in agriculture and forestry and the creation of complex new markets in global warming pollution credits.

So what is all this going to cost?

[‘Greening’ the Royal Bank of Scotland](#)

Environmental and anti-poverty campaigners had hoped that the taxpayer’s majority shareholding in the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) would mean the bank, which has styled itself until recently as the ‘Oil and Gas Bank’, would now have to cut unethical investments linked to climate change and human rights abuses. However, during a recent preliminary hearing to take the Treasury to a judicial review over the matter, government lawyers viewed such environmental and social considerations as a “burden” to the financial sector.

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After decades of setbacks, work on the pipeline has not started, and it’s not entirely clear it ever will.

[Aramco Drills Record Number of Wells, Adds Gas Output](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Saudi Aramco, the world's largest state-owned oil company, is drilling a record number of wells to find more resources and boost natural gas output to meet industrial demand, Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi said.

Saudi Arabia's state producer aims to discover a minimum 5 trillion cubic feet (142 billion cubic meters) of so-called non-associated gas reserves annually, he said at a conference in Dubai today.

The country, which had gas reserves of 263 trillion cubic feet at the end of 2008, has opened areas for exploration in the south in partnerships with Royal Dutch Shell Plc, China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., known as Sinopec, Lukoil OAO and Eni SpA, al-Naimi said.

[INTERVIEW - Oil price over \\$70-80 risky for recovery - IEA](#)

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - Oil prices above \$70-80 a barrel could be risky for global economic recovery, the chief economist of the International Energy Agency said on Wednesday.

Birol told Reuters in an interview that current oil price levels were good for investment.

Oil prices have more than doubled from the lows near \$30 a barrel at the end of 2008 to around \$75 a barrel as investors eye signs of wider economic recovery which could boost oil demand. Oil was trading at \$73.79 at 1045 GMT.

"Price levels we see today between \$70-80 dollars is a good price level for almost all investment," said Fatih Birol, chief economist of the IEA, which advises 28 industrialised countries.

[Sinopec May Build 240,000-Barrel-a-Day Refinery in Shanghai](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., the nation's largest oil refiner, may build a 240,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Shanghai to meet the rising fuel demand along the eastern coast, said a company official.

Sinopec Gaoqiao Petrochemical Corp. is conducting initial design work of the plant, said an official from the Gaoqiao refinery in Shanghai, declining to be named because of company rules. The company aims to receive state approval for the project in 2011, he added.

[Eletrobras Says It Plans to Pay Dividends Next Year](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Centrais Eletricas Brasileiras SA, Latin America's biggest power utility, said it plans to pay overdue dividends of 10 billion reais (\$5.71 billion) next year, according to a regulatory filing today.

Eletrobras, as the state-controlled company is known, owes shareholders dividends dating back to the 1970s. The company is seeking government funds to help make the payments, which were deferred to fund projects such as the Itaipu hydroelectric dam on the Paraguay border.

['No financial reason for gas crisis'](#)

No basis exists for a new crisis with Russia over supplies of natural gas, Ukraine's Naftogaz said today.

[Outlook bleak, says Caltex](#)

CALTEX has disappointed the market by predicting a soft start to next year, as profits are eroded by refining margins weakened by fierce regional competition.

A week after the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission said it would block Caltex's purchase of 300 petrol stations from ExxonMobil, the only listed refiner said it continued to hold a "weak outlook" for the first half of 2010.

[South Africa: Don't be fooled by power price](#)

SOUTH Africans had been falsely led to believe that there was enough electricity, but that it was just going to cost more, Minister in the Presidency Trevor Manuel said in Pretoria yesterday.

After a national stakeholder advisory council meeting on electricity, also attended by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, Manuel said it was accepted that energy was the "life blood" of any economy.

"There will have to be some kind of price adjustment. It's inevitable. We have all been lulled into a false sense of security. We think that there is sufficient energy. Life is not, actually, as easy as it seems."

[You may have to pay up for wasting food](#)

MUMBAI: Yadnyesh Narkar and his friends, who often dine at various restaurants in

Matunga and Dadar, recently witnessed a new campaign; there were notices pasted on restaurant walls explaining why the rates of delicacies had gone up.

Customers were warned against wastage of dal, vegetables, water and power as they were very “expensive”. This campaign is not confined to Dadar and Matunga restaurants. Lakhs of Mumbaikars will soon face such a campaign in around 7,000 restaurants across the city and other urban pockets in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR).

[Kazakh uranium output growth set to decline](#)

ALMATY - (Reuters) - Kazakhstan's uranium output growth is set to moderate in 2010 after a leap in recent years that has made it the world's largest producer, analysts said, citing technological and economic considerations.

The former Soviet republic, which sits on a fifth of global uranium reserves, plans to produce 13,800 tonnes this year, up from 8,500 tonnes in 2008. But 2010 production is seen at 15,000 tonnes, a much smaller increase.

[Is nuclear the low carbon future?](#)

With a predicted shortage of energy by 2015, should we build more nuclear power stations?

Surprisingly some environmentalists believe nuclear power is an acceptable way of making electricity - without the carbon emissions that comes from burning coal and gas.

[Kansas tries to tap cow manure as a smelly source of electricity](#)

Kansas has plenty of cow manure, with two cows for every human in the state. Over the course of a year, just one cow's manure contains the same amount of energy found in 140 gallons of gasoline.

[Thomas Homer-Dixon and Andrew Weaver: Responding to the skeptics](#)

Despite wide agreement among scientists on the basic facts of global warming, many people remain confused about the issue. The vigorous efforts of skeptical commentators have raised doubts about the scientific consensus. These skeptics use four arguments most commonly. Here we offer a short refutation of each.

[Messenger of doom](#)

JAMES HANSEN IS NOT an easy man to pin down. He may be the world's most renowned climate scientist, and almost certainly its most confrontational, but he keeps his tracks well camouflaged.

[Randy Udall: Copenhagen and the new American reality](#)

We may already have most of the climate policy we are ever going to have, an accidental assemblage of energy policies and economic realities that may prove surprisingly effective at further reducing emissions.

[Is six children a blessing or three a crowd?](#)

As the Copenhagen summit gets under way, we meet a large and a small family to assess their carbon footprints.

[Immigrants prop up metro areas](#)

"We've been a nation on the move ever since people settled here from Europe, and we've been moving westward," Frey says. "All of a sudden, this stopped because of external forces. People stopped moving for housing reasons. People stopped moving for jobs reasons. The exurban growth stopped."

What's not clear is whether the itch to move will return when the economy rebounds.

Scenarios abound, Frey says. Among them: Sun Belt areas that boomed because of cheap housing — from Las Vegas to Orlando — may never boom again. Suburbanization may slow as the environmentally conscious balk at living in big homes on cheap farmland. Others believe Americans may just stop moving so much.

"Migration overall is going to slow just for the simple reason that the population is getting older," says Joel Kotkin, a fellow at Chapman University in Orange, Calif., and author of the upcoming *The Next 100 Million: America in 2050*. "People will be moving less for lots of reasons."

[These Revolutionary Times](#)

Central to the problems we face is our reluctance to see them as anything more than temporary downturns in the usual up and down cycles of economics and climate. They are not. World production of oil in the past three years has remained steady—85 million barrels per day— while the price has more than doubled in that time, and in early July had reached as high as \$145 per barrel. A human slave, on the other hand—of which there are now approximately 27 million in the world, more than at any other time in history—can be purchased for a mere \$40. Add another 3 billion people to the planet in

40 years while simultaneously trying to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 80 percent. Find livelihoods, food, fresh water and shelter, as well as education, health care and stable governments for these numbers without causing species extinction, soil degradation, civil wars, nuclear wars and mass migrations. Try running any of the world's major cities—their subways, waste water plants, transportation, lighting and heating—for even a few days on low density solar and wind power.

[Available Now! The 2 Disc Special Edition of 'In Transition 1.0'!](#)

You saw the online test screening, you've seen it shown at a Transition initiative near you, you may even be in it, but now it is properly released.... 'In Transition' is the first detailed film about the Transition movement filmed by those that know it best, those who are making it happen on the ground. The Transition movement is about communities around the world responding to peak oil and climate change with creativity, imagination and humour, setting about rebuilding their local economies and communities. It is positive, solutions focused, viral and fun.

[Sharon Astyk: Jared Diamond Done Drunk the Kool-Aid](#)

Finally, the executive I'd been speaking with all this time asked me why it was that the Ford Corporation got so little credit in the media for all of its efforts to become more environmentally sustainable. Why did people pay so little attention to how hard they were working? It was a sincere question, and a legitimate one.

I answered him. "Well, you do make cars, you know." He looked at me blankly. I continued "We can't have a world where everyone has a private vehicle and still have a viable planet, right?"

That was pretty much the end of our discussion. The level of difference in our assumptions was simply too great - to the Ford Executives, reducing waste but continuing to make more cars made a lot of sense - and ideally, making more and more of them. The problem, however, is that as we've seen over the years, waste reduction in the absence of constraint leads to more efficient products - and more of them, for a net increase in energy use. What is needed, if we are to soften the simultaneous blows of climate change and energy depletion is to use dramatically fewer fossil fuels - and that's only possible with fewer cars on the road.

[Living without money](#)

It was always Schwermer's belief that the homeless didn't need money to re-enter society: instead they should be able to empower themselves by making themselves useful, despite debts, destitution or joblessness. "I've always believed that even if you have nothing, you are worth a lot. Everyone has a place in this world."

But the homeless of Dortmund seemed not to take to Schwermer's plan, few ever

turned up to the Tauschring. Some, they told her angrily to her face, felt that a middle-class woman with some education would never be able to relate to the circumstances of the dispossessed. Instead it was mainly the unemployed and the retired who began, in snowballing numbers, to flock to the Tauschring, their arms full of things that had been lying around their homes unused for years, or skills that they possessed but no longer exercised: retired hairdressers volunteered to cut the hair of out-of-work electricians, who would wire their kitchens in return; retired English teachers gave language lessons in return for the services of a dog-walker. The point was, not a single pfennig changed hands.

[Iraqi oil power may shake Iran more than Saudi](#)

BAGHDAD/DUBAI (Reuters) - The geopolitical power balance in the Middle East faces upheaval if Iraq succeeds in tripling oil output, and fellow Shi'ite power Iran will feel more threatened than rival Sunni oil giant Saudi Arabia.

Iraq's potential leap into the ranks of the top three global oil producers could result in a strengthened Shi'ite Muslim front within OPEC if Baghdad aligns supply policy with Tehran.

That would rattle Riyadh, already suspicious of the rise to political supremacy of Iraq's Shi'ite majority since the fall of Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein. Disunity within OPEC could increase, undermining efforts to present an image of harmony.

But oil development in Iraq is more likely to feed tensions with Iran, draw away potential foreign investment from Iraq's neighbour and fuel social discord by depriving Tehran of much-needed money should it result in lower oil prices.

[As oil production fades, Mexico is losing its clout](#)

Over the past 20 years, oil functioned as a type of life jacket for Mexico's economy. It hid economic distortions, allowing governments to postpone needed structural reform as it financed the status quo. Mexico was able to float along, buoyed by billions of dollars of oil revenue, without having to swim more quickly than its competitors in the sea of emerging markets. But now that oil production at Pemex, the state-owned oil monopoly, is plummeting, the country faces some hard truths that the oil bonanza obscured. The government had become too dependent on a non-renewable resource and therefore did little to widen the tax base. Moreover, the manufacturing sector had become too dependent on U.S.-driven export demand, and the population had become too dependent on remittances from emigrants working in the U.S.

[Oil rises on surprise inventory drop](#)

LONDON (Reuters) -- Oil rose more than \$1 towards \$74 a barrel on Wednesday, rallying after several days of falls, on industry data showing a big drop in U.S. crude

stocks and on a weaker U.S. dollar.

The American Petroleum Institute (API) said in a report late on Tuesday that crude inventories in the world's top oil consumer fell 5.8 million barrels last week, bucking expectations for a rise, as refiners boosted fuel production.

[Oil May Tumble Below \\$65, Commerzbank Says: Technical Analysis](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil may tumble toward its 200- day moving average near \$65 a barrel in New York after breaking through the bottom of a supporting channel, according to technical analysis by Commerzbank AG.

Crude is set to extend this month's 5.3 percent loss after dropping below an ascending price channel that has buoyed prices this year, the Frankfurt-based bank said in a report yesterday. Breaching this barrier opened the way for a further slide towards a price range between \$65.23 and \$64.88, it said.

[Gas Exporters Defend Oil-Price Link as Glut Grows](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Natural gas exporters, meeting today in Qatar, may discuss how to maintain the link to oil prices that's supported revenue this year amid a glut in supply.

The connection between prices for the two fossil fuels is essential to attract investment in gas export projects, Algerian Oil Minister Chakib Khelil said yesterday after arriving in Doha for the Gas Exporting Countries Forum. Qatar's ruler, who's hosting the meeting, said the forum needed to act to keep oil and gas prices together.

[Russia takes gas Opec helm](#)

Stroytransgaz executive Leonid Bokhanovsky will take the helm of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) grouping of gas producers, Libya's Shokri Ghanem announced this morning.

The Russian was elected secretary general of the so-called "gas Opec" this morning, a Reuters report said.

[Jeff Rubin: Will tumbling natural gas prices fell oil as well?](#)

With the price of gas now trading at a record low — one third that of oil (per unit of energy) — its hold over the price of its hydrocarbon cousin should be its strongest ever. Yet oil prices have not only resisted gas' gravitational pull but have moved in the

opposite direction over most of the year.

And with good reason.

[Poland 'Bubbles Up' as Marathon Target for Next Shale-Gas Boom](#)

(Bloomberg) -- ConocoPhillips and Marathon Oil Corp. are betting that Poland, which gets half of its natural gas from Russia, can yield a development boom in shale formations like those that drove a jump in U.S. output of the heating fuel.

The third- and fourth-biggest U.S. oil companies obtained exploration licenses this year covering hundreds of thousands of acres in Poland. The country, which imports 72 percent of its gas, could become an exporter of the fuel, said Maciej Wozniak, chief adviser on energy security to Prime Minister Donald Tusk.

[Poland confident of winter supplies](#)

Poland is confident it will not run out of gas this winter despite prolonging negotiations with Russia on a new gas deal, an economy ministry official said today.

[China, India LNG Imports May Rise Sevenfold, Santos CEO Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Demand for liquefied natural gas in China and India may surge more than sevenfold by 2025 as the nations boost their use of cleaner-burning fuels, said the chief executive officer of Santos Ltd.

Consumption of gas chilled to liquid form in Asia's two fastest-growing major economies may increase to 75 million tons a year in 2025 compared with 10 million tons a year currently, Santos's David Knox said in an investor briefing today.

"Those are very, very significant growth rates," Knox said. The Adelaide-based company expects a "considerable and sustained rise in LNG demand," he said.

[Lukoil Cuts Production Growth Targets on U.S. Shale Gas, Demand](#)

(Bloomberg) -- OAO Lukoil cut its 10-year output targets as Russia's biggest non-state crude producer postponed some natural-gas projects on a decrease in European fuel demand and unconventional gas developments in the U.S.

"It looks like our country will face serious problems with gas exports as early as the next decade," Deputy Chief Executive Officer Leonid Fedun said in Moscow today.

An "acute glut" of gas may arise in the next few years because of rising production of so-

called unconventional fuel in the U.S. and Canada, the International Energy Agency said last month. Lukoil plans to boost gas production to about 26 percent of total output by 2019, from about 10 percent now. Its previous 10-year plan to 2016 had targeted 33 percent.

[Medvedev: changing Ukraine gas deals "irresponsible"](#)

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said on Wednesday it would be "irresponsible" to amend gas supply contracts with Ukraine, in a sign that Moscow will offer no more concessions to its ex-Soviet neighbour on gas payments.

Medvedev, addressing a media forum, said Ukraine had shown it was capable of paying for Russian gas under the terms agreed in a 10-year pact signed in January to end the "gas war" which damaged industry and left millions of Europeans without heating.

"We have signed a treaty this year for 10 years ... I think that proposals to change them are irresponsible," Medvedev said. He made no reference to any specific moves to alter the contract.

[Norway's prelim oil production rose in November](#)

OSLO (Reuters) - Norway's oil production rose to a preliminary 2.06 million barrels per day on average in November from 2.01 million in October, the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate said on Wednesday.

[Mongolia Coal Winners Should Sell Domestically, Lawmaker Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Peabody Energy Corp., China Shenhua Energy Co., Vale SA and other companies interested in mining a coal deposit in Mongolia should expect to produce fuel for domestic consumption if they're awarded the development rights, a lawmaker said.

The winning group of investors, to be selected by April, will be required to convert some of the thermal coal in the Tavan Tolgoi deposit into clean-burning fuel, Batkhua Gavaa, deputy speaker of Mongolia's parliament, said in an interview today in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. Lawmakers want to include the provision into any agreement to help cut Mongolia's dependence on foreign fuel and create jobs, Gavaa said.

[Renault Says LPG Car Demand May Triple on Pricing](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Renault SA, the French automaker that plans to roll out the first of its electric cars in 2011, says demand for liquid petroleum gas-powered vehicles in Europe may triple within five years because its fuel is more affordable.

Sales of new cars using LPG will increase to as much as 6 percent of the total vehicle sales in the 27-member European Union from about 2 percent now, Philippe Schultz, head of energy and environment planning at France's second-biggest carmaker said in an interview at the global climate summit in Copenhagen.

[Farm tractors go electric: Model from 1940s in demand](#)

APPLEGATE, Ore. - At Blue Fox Farm, the tractor is old but the fuel is new.

Like a small but growing number of organic farmers around the country, Chris Jagger has converted an Allis-Chalmers Model G tractor built in the 1940s to run on electricity at his farm in southwest Oregon.

[EDF to Lead French Group Bidding for U.A.E. Nuclear Contracts](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Electricite de France SA, Europe's biggest power generator, will lead a group of French companies bidding for nuclear contracts in the United Arab Emirates, Chief Executive Officer Henri Proglio said.

[Vestas to Temporarily Halt Output at Colorado Plant](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Vestas Wind Systems A/S, the world's biggest maker of wind turbines, said it will halt production at its Windsor, Colorado, blade manufacturing plant until at least the second quarter of 2010.

Historically low sales during the first quarter have been exacerbated by tight credit markets caused by the recession, Peter Kruse, the Denmark-based company's spokesman, said today in a telephone interview. Vestas opened the plant in March 2008.

[Siemens Expects Solar Earnings to Swell, Match Wind-Unit Growth](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Siemens AG, the manufacturer planning to supply turbines to the Sahara desert's biggest solar project, expects its solar-equipment earnings to leap during the next few years, the company's head of technology and research said.

Sales and earnings will each match the growth of its wind- energy unit, whose profit has risen an average 71 percent a year since 2004, Reinhold Achatz said, without estimating a figure. Wind-equipment income was 382 million euros (\$565 million) in fiscal 2009, about 5 percent of Siemens's total.

[Constellation to build solar plant in Md.](#)

NEW YORK (AP) -- Constellation Energy Group, Inc. said Tuesday it would build a solar power plant in Maryland that will be the state's largest when completed in 2012.

The company, which is headquartered in Baltimore, said it would construct a 15.9-megawatt thin-film solar power plant that will sit on 100 acres. The plant will be part of a \$60 million energy facility that's run by Constellation in Emmitsburg, Md.

[California leads with 36% growth in 'green' jobs](#)

Jobs in California's so-called green economy increased by 36% from 1995 to 2008, beating the state's 13% job growth, a study out Wednesday says.

The research, by Silicon Valley-based research firm Collaborative Economics, underscores California's lead in the "green economy" and may indicate where other states can expect green-job growth.

[Bellingham council considers impact of energy shortage, will develop resolution](#)

BELLINGHAM - After a task force's 18 months of work and more than 100 meetings, City Council members heard how limited energy resources globally could have an impact locally.

Members of the Bellingham/Whatcom County Energy Resources Scarcity/Peak Oil Taskforce recommended tying their work to how the county manages emergencies, especially if there is a shortage of oil and other energy resources, as well as things that need fuel to get here, like food.

No recommendations were approved or adopted by the council Monday night, Dec. 7, after the presentation. Instead, Councilman Jack Weiss, who worked toward initiating the task force's assignment, will work with the group to bring a resolution back to the council for approval.

[Pollution from rail feared](#)

The city's proposed \$5.3 billion rail system could increase greenhouse gas emissions in Hawaii by as much as 28,000 tons by 2030, according to a study commissioned by rail opponents.

[EPA chief: US will regulate CO2 with common sense](#)

COPENHAGEN — The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says she will take commonsense steps to regulate carbon emissions to protect the health of Americans.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said her newly declared power to regulate greenhouse gases will be used to complement legislation pending in Congress, not replace it.

She said "this is not an either-or moment. It's a both-and moment."

[China Exports to U.S. May Be Cut by Climate Plan, Report Finds](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Legislation pending in the U.S. Congress to cut greenhouse-gas emissions may reduce imports of Chinese goods by 20 percent, a World Bank study said.

The provision, included in the measure passed by the U.S. House in June, would tax imports from countries that don't enact curbs on carbon-dioxide emissions.

[Copenhagen climate summit: global warming 'caused by sun's radiation'](#)

As the world gathered in the Danish capital for the UN Climate Change Conference, more than 50 scientists, businessmen and lobby groups met to discuss the arguments against man made global warming.

Although the meeting was considerably smaller than the official gathering of 15,000 people meeting down the road, the organisers claimed it could change the course of negotiations.

[Poor nations' fury over leaked climate text](#)

(CNN) -- A leaked document known as the "Danish text" has driven an even deeper wedge between rich and poor countries embroiled in U.N. climate talks in Copenhagen.

The document, subtitled "The Copenhagen Agreement," proposes measures to keep average global temperature rises to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

Developing countries have reacted angrily to the text, alleging developed countries have worked behind closed doors to draft a document slanted in their favor.

[Hottest Plan at Climate Talks Never Got Onto Table](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The proposal drawing the most attention and criticism at the United

Nations climate-change talks in Copenhagen never got put on the table.

The formula for slowing global warming, circulated by Denmark before the two-week negotiations started Dec. 7, has generated a stir because Denmark is the host country for more than 190 nations, striving to be neutral.

The plan, leaked more than a week ago, is flawed because it was drawn up outside the UN process without input from poorer nations, said Kim Carstensen, head of the global climate initiative at environmental group WWF. UN climate chief Yvo de Boer issued a statement saying the paper is "informal" only.

[Insurers at core of climate change fallout](#)

COPENHAGEN (MarketWatch) -- With the number of extreme weather events continuing to grow around the world the insurance industry is finding itself at the very center of efforts to avert the worst effects of climate change.

But as drought and demand for water intensify; heat waves become more severe; downpours more violent; and destructive coastal flooding more frequent, some even in the industry say its traditional risk-management tool may not be up to the task.

[A lingering pool of disbelief: Despite a decade of record drought, Australian farmers refuse to buy into climate change](#)

What all this means for 2 million Australians who live on farms and in towns along the Murray is that communities must die, families must move and a hugely overbuilt irrigation system will have to shrink, experts said.

The government is ready and willing to make the exodus happen, with \$3.1 billion in the bank to buy out irrigators and \$5.8 billion to upgrade infrastructure. New laws have stripped farmers of guaranteed access to water from the Murray, while creating a market for buying and selling water allocations. As a result, the cost of water has soared and waste of water has sharply declined.

Yet in town after town along the Murray River, residents have been shying away from the future as predicted by scientists and planned for by politicians.

"They really do face a bleak future," said Chris Miller, a social scientist who teaches at Flinders University in Adelaide and has been interviewing farmers along the Murray for 15 months. "But they do not yet believe the water isn't coming back."



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