



## Drumbeat: May 6, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on May 6, 2010 - 9:19am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

### [America's Energy Crossroads](#)

Daniel B. Botkin, a widely respected ecologist and author of noted books on environmental history, philosophy and science, has turned his attention to energy, with a new book charting one path to a prosperous post-fossil future in which energy is abundant but not a source of environmental ills. The book, "Powering The Future: A Scientist's Guide to Energy Independence" has just been published by Pearson FT Press.

d wants of a much simpler and thus more sustainable kind. It also has the advantage – not a small one – that it's unnecessary to wait for international treaties, or government action, or anything else to begin having an effect on the situation; it's possible to begin right here, right now, by identifying the complex systems on which you depend for the fulfillment of your needs and wants, and making changes in your own life to shift that dependency onto smaller or more local systems, or onto yourself, or onto nothing at all – after all, the simplest way to deal with a need or want, when doing so is biologically possible, is to stop needing or wanting it.

### [A Century of Challenges - Making Sense of Financial Crisis in Era of Peak Oil](#)

**Making Sense of the Financial Crisis in the Era of Peak Oil** - Nicole M. Foss, Energy Consultant and Financial Blogger, to Present "A Century of Challenges" at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, 4700 Grover, Austin, Texas, on Tuesday, May 11 at 7 p.m. Peak Oil and the collapse of global Ponzi finance are a "perfect storm" of converging phenomena that threaten to sink our age of prosperity through wealth destruction, social discontent, and global conflict. The consequences for unprepared individuals and families could be dire.

### [UK: Prepare for blackouts as energy crisis approaches, packaging warned](#)

Packaging companies need to prepare now for rolling power cuts in the coming years, the British Plastics Federation has warned.

BPF director general Peter Davis told delegates at an energy management conference last week that the Labour government's failure to act on energy supply would lead to rolling power cuts from 2016.

### [Petrobras gets more time to decide Cuba oil plans](#)

HAVANA (Reuters) - Cuba has given Brazil's state-owned oil company Petrobras a six-month extension on its May deadline to decide whether it will drill a well in Cuban waters, a Petrobras spokesman said on Thursday.

Petrobras, which has rights to one of 59 exploration blocks in Cuba's part of the Gulf of Mexico, was supposed to notify state-owned oil company Cubapetroleo (Cupet) this month of its intentions but needed more time, said spokeswoman Paula Almada.

### [PDVSA to Sell \\$3 Billion of Bonds in Coming Weeks, Barclays Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Venezuelan state oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA may sell \$3 billion of bonds in "coming weeks" to shore up the bolivar, Barclays Plc said.

### [Venezuela is not Greece](#)

Given the Venezuelan government's low public and foreign debt, the idea the country is facing an 'economic crisis' is plain wrong.

### [Few details left in Iran-Pakistan gas deal](#)

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (UPI) -- There are only minor details left to resolve before Iran and Pakistan commit to sweeping oil and gas deals, the Pakistani natural resources minister said.

Pakistan is racing to shore up oil and gas resources as a looming energy crisis plagues parts of the country with rolling blackouts.

### [Eating Oil? What We Can Do to Protect Our Kids](#)

Every 24 hours, the U.S. spends \$1 billion on imported oil, with food production accounting for 10-17% of our energy consumption.

As oil continues to pour across the Gulf and into our oceans, it is more poignant than ever to remember that our industrialized agricultural system in the U.S. is dependent on fossil fuel.

## [We Need A Road Map to a Coal Free Future: Declaration of Clean Energy Independence](#)

In the wake of the worst coal mining disaster in 40 years, compromise and political machinations this spring have resulted in a regulatory crisis of failure; workplace safety in the mines, including the black lung scandal, has emerged as a national tragedy; toxic coal ash remains uncategorized as hazardous waste; mountaintop removal operations and devastating strip mining in 24 states continue under regulatory plunder, not abolishment; billions of taxpayers' dollars pour down the black hole of carbon capture and storage boondoggles, increasing coal production; climate legislation hangs in the balance of political games.

## [BP Oil Spill Is a Turning Point for America](#)

As the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico spreads to nearly 4,000 square miles, we must see this tragedy as a tipping point to push our country toward clean energy.

Not only should the president reinstate a federal moratorium on new offshore drilling, but this BP disaster should also be seen as a game-changer. We must prevent future disasters through aggressive plans to wean us from dirty oil over the next two decades.

## [Dmitry Orlov: An American Chernobyl](#)

The drawing of parallels between industrial accidents is a dubious armchair sport, but here the parallels are just piling up and are becoming too hard to ignore:

- An explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in 1986 spewed radioactive waste across Europe
- A recent explosion and sinking of BP's Deepwater Horizon oil drilling platform is spewing heavy oil into the Gulf of Mexico

## [What the leak says about the search for oil](#)

The question of what the Deepwater Horizon accident will mean for the future of oil extraction can probably be answered depending on one's views. Jeff Rubin believes it could be a turning point for world oil supply; others are not so sure.

Either way, the disaster highlights the increasing intensity with which oil is being sought.

## [Plumbing the depths](#)

To give an idea of the difficulty of deepwater drilling, Mr Walker uses an analogy.

“Imagine a large offshore oil rig as a matchbox,” he says. Next, imagine the matchbox on top of a two-storey building, with the upper floor filled with water and the lower floor filled with rock, sand and, in some cases, salt. Striking an oil reservoir with a drill pipe is then like hitting a coin at the base of the building with a strand of human hair. The penalties for getting it wrong are enormous. An industry rule of thumb puts the cost of drilling a deepwater “dry hole”—a well that does not strike oil—at around \$100m; BP says it can be as high as \$200m.

### [Obama Administration Offers Loans to Businesses Hurt by Spill](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The Obama administration is offering loans of up to \$2 million to small businesses facing financial losses from the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

### [Obama Tries to Avoid Katrina Comparison in BP Spill](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The Obama administration is trying to head off criticism over its handling of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico with a two-pronged strategy: Showcasing every move in its response and pinning blame squarely on BP Plc.

### [Deep trouble](#)

The oil industry’s hope that more American waters would be opened to drilling is receding as fast as the slick advances. Barack Obama, who had briefly supported the idea, has put all drilling on hold while the causes of the disaster are investigated. The governors of Florida and California have retracted their support too. “Why”, asks California’s Arnold Schwarzenegger, “would we want to take on that kind of risk?”

Because that is where the oil is, oilmen retort. The Gulf of Mexico accounts for almost a third of America’s oil production and the lion’s share of new discoveries. Most dry land has been picked over, and better technology allows exploration in ever deeper waters. Elsewhere too, Western oil firms are being forced offshore as nationalist governments curtail their involvement in big, easily tapped fields on land. The Gulf of Mexico and the waters off Africa and Brazil are among the most enticing prospects to which they still have access. If Americans do not want to hand even more money and clout to the likes of Iran, Russia and Venezuela, the argument runs, they should not curb offshore drilling. Even if they do, rising oil powers such as Angola and Brazil are not going to follow suit.

### [Oil lobby money unlikely to quell storm over BP](#)

(Reuters) - Big Oil's ability to spend huge sums of money lobbying Congress may not deflect the election-year spotlight on oil interests on Capitol Hill after BP Plc's catastrophic spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

## [BP is drilling itself into deep water](#)

Once upon a time, BP stood for plain British Petroleum. Under John Browne, its former chief executive, it was Beyond Petroleum. These days, it is more like Blame the Past.

The eruption of oil from a broken well in the Gulf of Mexico, which threatens immense environmental damage, could cost BP \$10bn (€7.6bn, £6.6bn) in cash terms and a great deal more in terms of tarnishing its brand under Tony Hayward, Lord Browne's successor.

## [BP oil spill not cutting port traffic - officials](#)

HOUSTON (Reuters) - Ships kept entering the Mississippi River and other U.S. ports on the Gulf of Mexico freely on Thursday despite the spreading oil spill in the gulf, the U.S. Coast Guard and port officials said.

"There are no restrictions at this time," a Coast Guard spokeswoman said of Southwest Pass, the deepwater entrance into the Mississippi from the Gulf.

## [Transocean sees \\$200 mln cost growth from rig loss](#)

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Transocean Ltd expects 2010 operating expenses to rise by about \$200 million due to legal and insurance costs related to the sinking of its Deepwater Horizon rig, executives said on Thursday.

"It is difficult to tell at this stage at which point these costs will be incurred during the year," Chief Financial Officer Ricardo Rosa said on a conference call to discuss quarterly earnings.

## [Black storm rising](#)

The Deepwater Horizon disaster will affect everyone from pelicans to politicians.

## [Corks, pillows to plug oil spill?](#)

DAUPHIN ISLAND, Alabama - Here's an idea for stopping all that oil from spewing into the Gulf of Mexico: Put a cork in the blown-out well. If that doesn't work, how about freezing the petroleum to create black oilsicles that can be picked up, refined and sold?

Government officials are being inundated with homespun remedies as they try to prevent the nightmare scenario of oil washing up all over the Gulf Coast, blackening a

region known for its abundant wildlife and white beaches.

### [Energy efficiency means more jobs](#)

Home Star is a common sense idea that would create jobs and provide a boost to local economies, while helping families afford their energy bills. By encouraging homeowners to invest in energy efficiency retrofits, Home Star would create 170,000 manufacturing and construction jobs that could not be outsourced to China. It would also help more than 3 million Americans invest in energy-saving technology, saving families close to \$10 billion on their energy bills over 10 years.

### [A Stirling cure for our energy woes?](#)

LAHORE: A team of local scientists from the Brains for Innovative Research, Development & Strategic Studies (BIRDS) has made the country's first ever high tech model of a low temperature Stirling engine in a bid to curb the prevalent energy crisis. "Using this model, Stirling engines could produce a lot of electricity at a minimum cost, as the engine is even capable of running on solar energy," the organisation told Daily Times.

### [Aramco sees growing role for renewables in global energy mix](#)

Saudi Arabia's national oil company expects solar, wind and other renewable forms of energy to play an increased role in meeting global demand for fuels and power through 2030.

### [Venezuela refutes Enrique Pescarmona](#)

Venezuelan specialist disagrees with the explanations provided by the Impsa Group in a press release this week referring to allegedly inflated contracts and inexperience to increase the power of Macagua I and provide turbines for Tocoma I, two hydroelectric projects built across the lower stretches of the Caroni River.

### [Review: The Biochar Debate by James Bruges](#)

It's called biochar, and if you believe its most ardent supporters, then this unassuming, fine black powder is a vital tool in the solutions to some of humanity's most urgent ecological threats, including climate change, peak oil, soil degradation and water pollution due to agrochemicals. However, if you side with biochar's staunch opponents, then it seems like a fledgling, poorly understood technology with real risks, including the displacement of entire communities and the serious jeopardizing of world food security and biodiversity. Which view is correct? That's the question that sustainability expert

James Bruges, who is cautiously optimistic about biochar, investigates in his book *The Biochar Debate*.

### [Can we feed a “Big Australia”?](#)

The debate on Australia’s future population size has taken a welcome leap forward in early 2010. Much attention is focused on the Treasury estimate of 36 million Australian residents by 2050. Most of the reasons given for why this is not a desirable outcome centre around quality-of-life issues and whether our natural environment can withstand the impact of so many Australians living relatively wealthy lifestyles requiring high levels of consumption. However, one question that is hardly ever raised is whether we can, in fact, feed 36 million people.

### [From meat to wages, economic woes fuel Egypt anger](#)

"The Egyptian people have become the dry wood ready to catch fire," said Mahmoud el-Askalany, who is with the consumer group Citizens Against the High Cost of Living and an organizer of the meat boycott.

"Social peace in Egypt has come under threat," el-Askalany said, citing an increase in theft, homicides and other crimes where money was the motive.

"These are statistics that point to the fact that there is a revolution of hunger in the making."

### [Peak Oil and the Return of the Jet Set](#)

Preparations to electrify much of the country’s ground transportation are under way. But airlines have a problem: No battery is large enough to power a jet.

### [Fliers’ pain is Amtrak’s gain](#)

“There are a zillion flights a day from the Twin Cities,” says Brown, “but I’ve pretty much switched to train travel for all my business trips east of St. Paul.”

He’s in good company these days as the hassles of air travel mount and Amtrak proves to be an increasingly viable alternative. During the first six months of fiscal year 2010, Amtrak trains carried 13.6 million passengers, up 4.3 percent from the same period a year earlier. If the pace holds, the rail operator is on track to beat the record of 28.7 million passengers it set in 2008.

### [Perhaps We’ll See Peak Bunker Oil, Too](#)

Even low-grade oil used to fuel cargo ships is likely to become precious in the age of peak oil.

### [Rob Hopkins: Totnes Energy Descent Action Plan website launched today!!](#)

Ladies and Gentlemen. It gives me the greatest pleasure this morning to launch the [Totnes Energy Descent Action Plan website](#). The site makes the full version of the UK's first EDAP freely available, invites comments and discussion, and will act as a dynamic portal for people to discuss the Plan and reshape subsequent revisions.

### [Would you pay a trillion bucks to save the Earth?](#)

It will take a massive investment to kick our fossil fuel addiction. But we've made such investments before, and profited for it.

### [America's Energy Crossroads](#)

Daniel B. Botkin, a widely respected ecologist and author of noted books on environmental history, philosophy and science, has turned his attention to energy, with a new book charting one path to a prosperous post-fossil future in which energy is abundant but not a source of environmental ills. The book, "Powering The Future: A Scientist's Guide to Energy Independence" has just been published by Pearson FT Press.

### [Kerry, Edison and the Energy Quest](#)

As oil flowed unabated from the Gulf of Mexico seabed, Senator John Kerry used a speech today at a green jobs conference in Washington, D.C., to press the case for an energy bill that speeds the country's journey to a post-fossil future and constrains emissions of greenhouse gases.

### [Arguments to Begin in Arctic Drilling Case](#)

PORTLAND, Ore.—Environmentalists who are challenging plans to drill for oil in the Arctic Ocean say the Gulf of Mexico disaster shows why offshore exploration should be banned in Alaska.

A coalition of conservation groups have opposed exploratory drilling by Royal Dutch Shell this summer in the Chukchi Sea off the northwest coast of Alaska.



### [Brazil Petrobras says cuts subsalt oil costs 50 pct](#)

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) - Brazilian state oil company Petrobras has cut estimated production costs in the offshore subsalt fields by 50 percent over one year, a Petrobras director said, but declined to give a dollar figure per barrel.

### [Iraq says Kuwait reparations are unsustainable](#)

Iraq cannot sustain its reparations payments to Kuwait for Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion, which it says are the highest paid by any country in history, Oil Minister Hussein Al Shahrstani said.

'Iraq has paid Kuwait enormous amounts of compensation for its losses and we do not know of any country in the world that has paid such high sums,' Shahrstani told reporters in Baghdad.

'The sum of money that Germany paid to France and Britain is less than what Iraq has paid to Kuwait, even though that was a world war and the losses were considerable.'

### [Fire forces Shell to cut Nigeria flows](#)

Supermajor Shell has been forced to shut down some oil production in Nigeria after a fire at a major pipeline in the Niger Delta, according to reports.

### [Ukraine's president doubts Gazprom-Naftogaz merger](#)

KIEV, Ukraine—Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich said Thursday he does not support Russia's proposal for its gas giant Gazprom to merge with Ukraine's state gas concern, Naftogaz.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin proposed the merger last week, seemingly catching the Ukrainian government by surprise.

### [BG, Lundin Submit Development Plan for Pi Field](#)

(Bloomberg) -- BG Group Plc and Lundin Petroleum AB submitted a 2.7 billion kroner (\$444 million) development plan for the North Sea's Pi field to Norway's government, Energy Ministry spokesman Haavard Hegna said today.

The companies will start production in the fourth quarter of 2011, the ministry said in a statement. Pi holds an estimated 28 million barrels of oil equivalent in gross reserves. The field is 225 kilometers (140 miles) from the Norwegian mainland and 12 kilometers

south of the Varg field.

### [Deepwater Horizon: A Firsthand Account](#)

On Friday, April 30th 2010, an anonymous caller contacted the Mark Levin Show to clarify the events that preceded the Deepwater Horizon tragedy. Rigzone has transcribed this broadcast for your convenience. To hear the actual radio broadcast please visit [www.MarkLevinShow.com](http://www.MarkLevinShow.com).

### [Gulf oil containment effort goes adrift](#)

Parts of the Gulf Coast remain highly vulnerable to a massive oil spill, and crews of volunteer fishermen sit idle, because energy company BP has failed to get protective barriers to the right places, officials say.

Adm. Thad Allen, who is in charge of the federal response to the spill, said there are now enough booms — tubing that contains oil spills — available in the USA to help protect areas under immediate threat. However, "issues with supply chain and distribution" have prevented booms from reaching some wetlands and marshes in Louisiana and Mississippi, Allen told USA TODAY.

### [BP Spill Suits Might Be Combined, Resolved Quickly, Lawyer Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- About 200 attorneys suing BP Plc over the Gulf of Mexico oil spill met in a New Orleans hotel to devise a strategy for resolving virtually all spill litigation within three months, a lawyer said.

Daniel Becnel, the lawyer who called the meeting, has asked a federal judicial panel in Washington to combine thousands of claims by commercial fishermen, shrimpers, property owners, seafood processors and tourism-related businesses into a single multidistrict case before one judge in New Orleans. That could keep the lawsuits from dragging on for years and would get badly needed cash into victims' hands, Becnel said.

### [Spill raises concerns of health effects](#)

Lawsuits are already being prepared alleging harm to people who are living near or working to clean up the Deepwater Horizon oil spill off the coast of Louisiana. The law firm Smith Stag in New Orleans says it has assembled a group of lawyers in the Gulf states to process such claims.

### [Sopping Up An Oil Slick With Castaway Hair](#)

Commercial booms are usually made of plastic. But an alternative source for the booms is found on the floor of salons across the country.

As it turns out, hair adheres to oil pretty efficiently, which is why your hair gets greasy. Now salons are donating their discarded locks to help with the Gulf Coast cleanup.

### [Shrimpers, Not Oil? A Dead Turtle Inquiry](#)

It is now suspected that shrimpers out at sea before the April 20 rig explosion and spill caught the turtles in their nets, which can suffocate them.

### [Q. and A.: For Oceans, 'Another Big Headache'](#)

Sylvia Earle, a former chief scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is an oceanographer acclaimed for her pioneering deep-sea explorations and research. More recently she has become one of the world's leading advocates for marine conservation, leading efforts to establish marine preserves around the globe.

I spoke with Dr. Earle by phone this week about the oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico, its implications for the health of the local marine environment and the accident's broader significance in the struggle to protect the ocean from the inexorable pressures of human activity.

### [May's New Books: Football Zombies and Votes for Vampires!](#)

Paolo Bacigalupi brings his reservations about Earth's future to the young adult market with *Ship Breaker*. Set on a futuristic, post-peak-oil Gulf Coast, the novel follows Nailer, a teenage boy scraping by scavenging copper wire from discarded oil tankers. His father's an abusive addict and his home lies in the path of massively destructive hurricanes spawned by global warming. It's a rough life, without much potential for improvement. Then one day, he comes along a beautiful clipper ship skippered by a beautiful heiress. Instead of stripping the craft of everything worth taking, he joins the girl and they sail toward New Orleans, journeying through a stratified world plagued by piracy and want. The recent oil spill makes this one a particularly timely read.

### [Toxins causing 'grievous harm,' cancer panel says](#)

Widespread exposure to environmental toxins poses a serious threat to Americans, causing "grievous harm" that government agencies have not adequately addressed, according to a strongly worded report released today by the President's Cancer Panel, a body of experts that reports directly to President Obama.

The American Cancer Society estimates that about 6% of cancer deaths — nearly 34,000 a year — are caused by environmental pollutants.

### [Gardens That Grow on Walls](#)

Vertical gardens — which began as an experiment in 1988 by Patrick Blanc, a French botanist intent on creating a garden without dirt — are becoming increasingly popular at home. Avid and aspiring gardeners, frustrated with little outdoor space, are taking another look at their walls and noticing something new: more space. And a number of companies are selling ready-made systems and all-in-one kits for gardeners like Mr. Riley who want to do it themselves. (For those who prefer to leave it to the professionals, landscape designers can build vertical gardens for a hefty fee.)

### [Urban parks take over downtown freeways](#)

Capping freeways dates to the 1930s. A recent example is the Rose Kennedy Greenway over Boston's "Big Dig," which created open space by putting elevated roadways underground.

The resurgence of downtowns has turned available pieces of land into hot commodities. At the same time, the drumbeat for more parks in smog-choked cities is getting louder.

"It's essentially like creating oceanfront property," says Linda Owen, president of the Woodall Rodgers Park Foundation in Dallas. "It's an economic engine."

### [Mercuria Questions Need for Multipliers in EU Carbon Market](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Mercuria Energy, the Geneva-based trader of oil and emission credits, questioned the need for multipliers in the European Union carbon market that would require the import of extra United Nations credits.

### [Russian special forces storm oil tanker, free ship](#)

ABOARD THE HSwMS CARLSKRONA — Russian special forces rappelled onto a disabled oil tanker taken over by Somali pirates, freeing 23 Russian sailors and arresting the pirates during a dawn raid Thursday, the commander of the EU Naval Force said.

The raid against the Liberian-flagged ship Moscow University came 24 hours after pirates had taken the ship over and the crew locked itself in a safe room. The vessel is carrying 86,000 tons of crude oil worth about \$50 million.

### [Oil hovers near \\$80 as traders eye shakey euro](#)

SINGAPORE – Oil prices fell to near \$79 a barrel Thursday in Asia, extending a three-day sell-off as traders mull a surging dollar and rising U.S. crude inventories.

Benchmark crude for June delivery was down 66 cents to \$79.31 a barrel at late afternoon Singapore time after dropping to as low as \$78.87 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The June contract lost \$2.77 to settle at \$79.97 on Wednesday.

### [OPEC to Let Oil Quota-Busting Persist as Crude Exceeds \\$80](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will keep pumping beyond their quotas rather than alter official production targets after crude touched an 18-month high this week.

### [Gulf Oil Slick Moves Near Southwest Pass, Port Official Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Oil leaking from BP Plc's damaged Gulf of Mexico well has drifted within 1.5 miles of the buoy marking the entrance to Southwest Pass, the main approach to the Port of New Orleans, a port official said.

"I just got a call from the port commissioner, and he said the oil is a mile and a half away from the main entrance," Wayne Mumphrey, secretary treasurer of the Port of New Orleans said in an interview in New Orleans. "Once it passes the buoy, we have to start decontaminating every ship coming into the port."

### [Boat with containment box at oil site](#)

ON THE GULF OF MEXICO – A boat carrying a 100-ton concrete-and-steel contraption designed to siphon off the oil fouling the Gulf of Mexico arrived Thursday at the spot in the sea where a blown-out well is spewing hundreds of thousands of gallons a day.

Another boat with a crane plans to start lowering the box to the seafloor later in the day. Engineers hope it will be the best short-term solution to controlling the leak that has only worsened since it began two weeks ago.

### [Oil Explosion Shows Need for New Technology](#)

Outspoken oil financier Matthew Simmons says the industry needs to admit that "we are in over our heels" when it comes to applying existing technology to the deepest

(30,000 feet), hottest (900 degrees) and highest-pressure (20,000 pounds per square inch) wells. "The easy stuff is over," he says.

### [For oil workers, accidents are 'a risk you take'](#)

While workers in the Port Fourchon area on Tuesday afternoon weren't downplaying the tragic oil rig explosion and huge spill that resulted, concerns about the impact on the fishing industry took a backseat to worries over whether the incident will ultimately lead to less drilling.

"All I know is, I come here from North Carolina to work," said Norman Kent, captain of a supply boat for offshore oil rigs. "Can I get this work in North Carolina? No. So I do not want to see it go away. As tragic as it is, I'd hate to see this one thing make people say, 'Whoa, no more.'"

### [Hurricane Season Could Halt Oil Spill Cleanup](#)

Emergency rescue crews in the Gulf of Mexico are in a race against nature to complete oil spill cleanup operations before the start of hurricane season, which begins June 1.

"This [oil leak] could go on for 60 to 90 days or more," said Doug Helton, coordinator of incident operations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). "There's a lot of things that could go on in that time period that would greatly impact our model, like the fact that hurricane season is starting in a month."

### [Lawmakers seek to get BP to pay more for cleanup](#)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – U.S. lawmakers in the House of Representatives unveiled a bill on Wednesday similar to an effort in the Senate that would force BP Plc to pay hefty damages from the Gulf oil spill, as both the White House and Congressional leadership signaled support.

### [Palin rallies supporters of US drilling despite oil spill](#)

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Right-wing darling Sarah Palin, who championed off-shore oil drilling in Alaska, bashed "foreign" companies Wednesday as the culprits behind the giant oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

### [Oil-Rig Owner Faces Justice Request as Spill Work Continues](#)

Bloomberg) -- The U.S. Justice Department asked Transocean Ltd. to preserve

evidence from an April 20 rig explosion and fire in the Gulf of Mexico, as analysts said the resulting oil pollution is a worse threat to the industry than the slick created by the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill.

### [Beer Flows, Strippers Promote at Offshore Conference](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The world's offshore energy industry is gathered in Houston for its biggest annual conference, where participants are focused on business growth rather than BP Plc's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Beer and wine flow at the Offshore Technology Conference's concession booths, and exhibitors use humor and titillation to get the attention of 67,000 attendees from more than 100 countries. Some guests leaving the exhibit hall May 3 found fliers stuck on their vehicles promoting a strip club. The ads offered free admission and had photos of a rig on one side and a woman removing her clothes on the other.

### [Iraq announces gas field auction](#)

BAGHDAD (AFP) – Iraq on Thursday invited international energy firms to submit bids for a September 1 auction of three of its gas fields, in the war-torn country's third major attempt to develop its oil and gas sector.

### [Eni Lifts Force Majeure on Nigeria Brass Oil Exports](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Eni SpA ended export restrictions on shipments of Nigeria's Brass River crude oil.

The Rome-based company yesterday lifted a force majeure declaration on Brass River exports that had been in place since last week, a company spokesman, who declined to be named citing company policy, said in an e-mailed statement today.

### [Goodluck Jonathan sworn in as Nigeria's president](#)

LAGOS, Nigeria – Nigeria's acting leader Goodluck Jonathan was sworn in Thursday as president of Africa's most populous country, as the body of his predecessor was flown north for a traditional Muslim burial hours after he died following a lengthy illness.

### [Collapse as Certain as Time and the Tides](#)

Peak oil is very real. You need to be investing in well-run energy companies. We're short of water, and investing in water makes sense. And we're short of resources; so, there's

an interest, especially in the last month—I'm getting two or three calls a day from gold and silver mining companies saying they want to advertise. They've been sitting on their wallets for 18 months.

### [Planners lack power and government leadership](#)

A recent nationwide survey shows 75 per cent of us would accept higher density housing to preserve wilderness, but even here Ekelund equivocated, saying "it could be good or bad".

Peak oil, she conceded, is pretty much upon us. But as she also noted, this is an election year. Nobody move.

### [Could CO2 be the green fuel powering tomorrow's cars?](#)

Imagine a green fuel that could power our cars, keep the wheels of industry turning, and wean us off our addiction to oil. A fuel that could stop climate change in its tracks, and send carbon levels plunging to pre-industrial levels. A fuel that allows business as usual to carry on as before – emissions and all. Because that fuel is... CO2.

It sounds like advertising copy from fantasy island. But now a combination of applied solar power and lateral thinking could just turn this into reality.

### [Oil Is Over And Geothermal Is The Way Of The Future](#)

The candle is burning out on fossil fuels to generate electricity, and even for transportation. Oil is a beautiful commodity. It's got so many great uses that it's a crime to use it for electrical power generation, and even for transportation. Natural gas is cleaner and it's going to be with us for a long time, but coal is a dirty, dangerous product, and it also has higher uses in the future. I hope it's phased out as an electricity source.

One thing I do is travel a lot. It's abundantly clear to me that we are very much a finite world. The easy oil has been discovered and is largely depleted. We cannot sustain the quantity of oil consumption that we have today. It's not being matched by new discoveries and it cannot be. Sure, they're finding some new fields here and there but I definitely subscribe to peak oil and another thing I subscribe to is the fact that oil shouldn't be wasted by burning it. There are just too many other uses, like plastics and fertilizers, that will help people a lot more than burning it. I believe it will price itself out of existence as an electricity and fuel source and that can't happen too soon.

### [China Guangdong Nuclear Plans \\$1.2 Billion Wind Farm](#)



(Bloomberg) -- China Guangdong Nuclear Power Group. plans to build an 8 billion-yuan (\$1.2 billion) wind farm in the southwestern province of Yunnan as demand for renewable energy rises in the world's fastest-growing major economy.

### [Food security threat worse than climate](#)

"The central issue in the human destiny in the coming half century is not climate change or the global financial crisis," Prof Cribb told a University of Melbourne Deans lecture in Melbourne last week. "It is whether humanity can achieve and sustain such an enormous harvest."

The world has failed to address the looming food crisis, he said.

### [A dialogue of the deaf with US climate sceptics](#)

In many ways, it was a dialogue of the deaf. Heritage's position on climate change, as Ben Lieberman put it, is that "virtually everything we're told about it is not true". According to him, there has been no increase in temperatures since 1995. "The curve is flat," he said. A bit like the Earth, maybe?

..."We care about the environment," said nuclear specialist Jack Spencer, "and the best way to secure it is by free market measures. Our fear is that if you take a bureaucratic regulatory approach, we'd have economic calamity." Asked about the collapse of the grossly under-regulated financial system, he replied: "That's not my department."

### [Kerry pledges US climate bill with industry](#)

WASHINGTON (AFP) – US Senator John Kerry pledged Wednesday to move soon on legislation to battle climate change and to bring aboard industry, despite criticism of oil companies after the Gulf of Mexico leak.

"I believe that when we roll out a bill -- and we will roll it out very, very soon -- we are going to have a unique coalition," said Kerry, a Democrat from Massachusetts and close ally of President Barack Obama.

### [U.S. Carbon Limits to 'Slightly' Raise Jobless Rate](#)

(Bloomberg) -- U.S. limits on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that scientists have linked to climate change would raise the unemployment rate, the Congressional Budget Office said today.

If greenhouse gas limits were imposed on U.S. industry, "total employment during the

next few decades would be slightly lower than would be the case in the absence of such policies,” the CBO said in a report.

### [Greenhouse-gas numbers up in the air](#)

The state of California is about to become a giant playground for more than 200 atmospheric scientists. Beginning this week and extending into July, aircraft will criss-cross the skies, measuring an array of greenhouse gases, aerosols and other atmospheric properties as they fly over cities, industrial facilities and agricultural areas. Dozens of scientists will man two ground stations, while a ship monitors the air off the coast and two electric vehicles zip about collecting samples upwind and downwind of selected sites.

Organized by the California Air Resources Board and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Boulder, Colorado, the 'CalNex' campaign is designed to take a detailed snapshot of the air above California. Scientists plan to study a host of issues relating to air quality and global warming, but one of the primary goals will be to plug holes and reduce nagging uncertainties in the state's two-year-old inventory of greenhouse-gas emissions.

### [Earth Could Become Too Hot for Humans](#)

Earth's current warming trend could bring deadly heat for humans.

A new study that looked at reasonable worst-case scenarios for global warming found that if greenhouse gases continue to be emitted at their current rate, temperatures could become deadly in coming centuries.

Researchers calculated the highest tolerable "wet-bulb" temperature - equivalent to what is felt when wet skin is exposed to moving air - and found that this temperature could be exceeded for the first time in human history if greenhouse gas emissions continue at their current rate and future climate models are correct. Temperatures this unbearable for humans haven't been seen during the existence of hominids - the primate family that includes ancient humans - but they did occur about 50 million years ago.



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