



## Drumbeat: June 15, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on June 15, 2010 - 9:18am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Facing a freeze:](#) *Governments are reviewing plans to open Arctic waters to oilmen*

WHEN BP's Macondo well began spewing oil into the Gulf of Mexico, the firm was in the midst of an effort to persuade Canada's energy regulator that safety standards for offshore drilling in the Canadian Arctic were expensive, impractical and should be relaxed. Hearings on the subject were promptly suspended and the regulator declared that no new drilling permits would be issued pending a review of existing rules. "We have a duty to pause, to take stock of the incident," says Gaétan Caron, head of the National Energy Board.

For a time it looked as though the Arctic would be the next frontier for Western oil firms, which have only limited access to the most promising prospects in sunnier climes. The retreat of the polar ice cap is making the region easier to work in, and there is thought to be lots of oil and gas to tap. But Canada is not the only country now thinking twice: America, Norway and even Russia are all contemplating tighter rules for drilling.

---

ting experts to help the communist-run island.

[Republicans accused Obama of 'exploiting' oil](#)

WASHINGTON (CNN) - As President Obama prepared for a primetime address on the oil spill and Democrats presided over a hearing on Capitol Hill with oil company CEOs, Congressional Republicans accused the President and his allies in Congress Tuesday of "exploiting" the disaster in the Gulf of Mexico to push for their comprehensive energy legislation. GOP leaders argue the Democrats' proposals would have a devastating impact on the struggling U.S. economy.

[Vermont congressional delegation calls to end tax breaks for oil industry](#)

WASHINGTON – The Senate could vote today on a measure by Sen. Bernie Sanders to end more than \$35 billion in tax breaks for the oil and gas industry.

The Vermont independent has proposed putting \$25 billion in savings toward reducing the deficit and \$10 billion toward the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

program over five years. Such funds help municipalities build windmills, make energy efficiency improvements or improve sewer treatment plants.

### [Norwegian Oil Workers May Strike at Statoil, Shell Platforms](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Norwegian offshore oil workers may strike starting on June 17 if mediation fails, affecting Statoil ASA's Gullfaks and Royal Dutch Shell Plc's Draugen platforms.

Two-day government-mediated talks affecting 6,700 offshore workers in Norway will end midnight on June 16, possibly triggering a strike, according to employers and unions. Initial talks between three unions, Industry Energy, Safe and the Norwegian Organization of Managers and Executives, and the Norwegian Oil Industry Association, broke down on May 6.

### [POET cellulosic ethanol cuts greenhouse gas emissions by 111 percent over gasoline](#)

Ethanol produced by Project LIBERTY, POET's first planned commercial cellulosic ethanol plant, will reduce carbon emissions by 111 percent over gasoline, an independent lifecycle analysis shows.

### [Facing a freeze: Governments are reviewing plans to open Arctic waters to oilmen](#)

WHEN BP's Macondo well began spewing oil into the Gulf of Mexico, the firm was in the midst of an effort to persuade Canada's energy regulator that safety standards for offshore drilling in the Canadian Arctic were expensive, impractical and should be relaxed. Hearings on the subject were promptly suspended and the regulator declared that no new drilling permits would be issued pending a review of existing rules. "We have a duty to pause, to take stock of the incident," says Gaétan Caron, head of the National Energy Board.

For a time it looked as though the Arctic would be the next frontier for Western oil firms, which have only limited access to the most promising prospects in sunnier climes. The retreat of the polar ice cap is making the region easier to work in, and there is thought to be lots of oil and gas to tap. But Canada is not the only country now thinking twice: America, Norway and even Russia are all contemplating tighter rules for drilling.

### [Oil industry 'double checking' deep drilling safety](#)

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico has triggered fresh questioning inside the oil industry about the safety of deep offshore drilling, one of Britain's top inspectors has told the BBC.

## [For BP, Toll Likely to Extend Past Cleanup](#)

On the face of it, BP can easily afford to pay the short-term costs of the oil well that is leaking millions of gallons into the Gulf of Mexico. Last year, the company earned \$17 billion, and it ended the year with more than \$8 billion in cash.

But concerns about BP's ability to meet all its obligations over the long haul — or even survive the crisis intact — are rattling the government, Gulf Coast residents and investors.

## [How to Think about Oil Spills](#)

This article needs to begin with a big mea culpa. In the April 26 edition of The Weekly Standard (which went to press on April 16), I wrote: "Improvements in drilling technology have greatly reduced the risk of the kind of offshore spill that occurred off Santa Barbara in 1969. . . . To fear oil spills from offshore rigs is analogous to fearing air travel now because of prop plane crashes in the 1950s." On April 20, the Deepwater Horizon platform exploded, touching off the worst oil spill in American history.

Ouch. I've understandably been receiving indignant emails from environmentalists wondering whether I care to opine about the seaworthiness of the *Titanic* while I'm at it. The basic point was nonetheless correct. While we still don't know the precise cause of the failure of the blowout preventer on the Deepwater Horizon (a technology that has successfully prevented spills in more than 150 offshore drilling accidents over the last 40 years), early accounts suggest that the same factors that cause most airplane crashes came into play: complacency and sloppy maintenance.

## [Could the BP oil spill increase GDP?](#)

Annie Lowrey notes a J.P. Morgan Chase analysis suggesting the BP spill will actually raise the country's GDP, at least in the short term. "Cleaning up the spill will likely be enough to slightly offset the negative impact of all this on GDP, J.P. Morgan said," summarizes Luca Di Leo. "The bank cites estimates of 4,000 unemployed people hired for the cleanup efforts, which some reports have said could be worth between \$3 and \$6 billion."

## [The gulf tragedy doesn't negate the fact that oil is a green fuel](#)

A rolling "dead zone" off the Gulf of Mexico is killing sea life and destroying livelihoods. Recent estimates put the blob at nearly the size of New Jersey.

Alas, I'm not talking about the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. As terrible as that

catastrophe is, such accidents have occurred in U.S. waters only about once every 40 years (and globally about once every 20 years). I'm talking about the dead zone largely caused by fertilizer runoff from American farms along the Mississippi and Atchafalaya river basins. Such pollutants cause huge algae plumes that result in oxygen starvation in the gulf's richest waters, near the delta.

### [Pickens pushes natural gas after oil spill](#)

Texas billionaire T. Boone Pickens is warning Americans that the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico may make the country even more dependent on foreign oil.

In a statement Tuesday, he said, "In the wake of the tragic Gulf Coast oil spill, we need to recognize that any U.S. reserves lost will invariably increase our foreign oil dependency, further jeopardizing our national and economic security."

### [The Moral Imperative of the BP Oil Spill: Drive 20 Percent Less](#)

So what can be done in the immediate future to rectify the whole mess? I propose that we can offset the moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico by driving 20 percent less. What follows is an outline of how I came to this conclusion, and what government can do to achieve it quickly.

### [US share of Saudi 2009 crude exports dips to 14% from 20%: Aramco](#)

(Platts) - Saudi Arabia sent 14.3% of its 5.646 million b/d of crude exports last year to the United States, down from 20% the previous year, state-owned oil and gas company Saudi Aramco said Tuesday in its annual review.

The kingdom has been focusing increasingly on oil markets in Asia, which is expected to account for the bulk of future oil demand. The Aramco figures show that Asian countries accounted for 55.7% of crude exports in 2009, up from 52.7% in 2008.

Exports to Europe, including the Mediterranean, accounted for 9.8% of total Saudi crude exports last year, down from 12.2% in 2009.

### [LUKOIL cedes much of Saudi gas block, appraising finds](#)

KHOBAR Saudi Arabia (Reuters) - Luksar, a joint venture between Russia's LUKOIL and state oil giant Saudi Aramco, has relinquished 90 percent of a gas exploration block in Saudi Arabia, Aramco said on Tuesday.

Luksar relinquished most of the 29,900 square kilometre area in Saudi's vast Empty

Quarter last October and has decided not to go ahead with a second phase of exploration there, Aramco said in its annual review on Tuesday.

### [PDVSA and Aruba's Valero](#)

Speculation is what is been roaming the globe with this business of PDVSA taken over Valeros' Aruba refinery. It would not fit PDVSA's strategies at all, Aruba's never has been a target for PDVSA, is a very old refinery and needs a lots of money to be able to process Venezuelan heavy crude.

I could be dead wrong, but PDVSA is on the verge of collapse, not money to buy anything.

### [Bangladesh saves power for World Cup TV coverage](#)

Factories in Bangladesh have been asked to stop work in the evenings so there is enough electricity for people to watch World Cup football on TV.

The government's request follows protests over power cuts which have interrupted coverage. Angry fans have attacked several distribution centres.

### [Russia can help Pakistan overcome energy crisis](#)

KARACHI: Pakistan can look to Russia for assistance in overcoming its energy crisis. This was said by Russian Consul General in Karachi Andrey V Demidov at a reception hosted at the consulate to celebrate the National Day of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Consul General said his country was blessed with vast energy resources and Pakistan could utilize these resources and their expertise. He said Russia was willing to help Pakistan exploit its vast coal reserves in Baluchistan and Thar.

### [Saudi unveils 1st domestically made car](#)

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia—The desert kingdom whose oil reserves help fuel the world has developed its first car -- an SUV that named after nimble desert deer found in Saudi Arabia.

### [The Larger Struggle](#)

We in the democratic world tend to assume state capitalism can't prosper forever.

Innovative companies can't thrive unless there's also a free exchange of ideas. A high-tech economy requires more creative destruction than an authoritarian government can tolerate. Cronyism will inevitably undermine efficiency.

That's all true. But state capitalism may be the only viable system in low-trust societies, in places where decentralized power devolves into gangsterism. Moreover, democratic regimes have shown their vulnerabilities of late: a tendency to make unaffordable promises to the elderly and other politically powerful groups; a tendency toward polarization, which immobilizes governments even in the face of devastating problems.

### [California Org Brings Solar Savings to Low-Income Families](#)

In March, we introduced you all to GRID Alternatives, the non-profit, California-based organization that provides free solar photovoltaic (PV) home energy systems to low-income communities. In order to do so, GRID Alternatives combines California's alternative energy incentives with its own fundraising dollars.

Today, we begin a three-part series, taking a closer look at the people and process behind GRID Alternatives' installations.

### [Stop baying for BP blood. Nationalise oil instead](#)

If Obama's post-spill proclamations are to be believed, the US administration bears no responsibility for the catastrophe, and instead is wholeheartedly committed to environmental protection, developing alternative energies, and all the other buzzwords so beloved by politicians and voters alike. BP can be instantly cast in the role of pantomime villain by opportunistic senators, set up as the fall-guy for a society which – when the going was good – lauded BP and its peers to the heavens for their work.

In that respect, a better comparison would have been to the collapse of Lehman Brothers and Bear Stearns rather than the twin towers, at least in the way that the credit crisis and the Deepwater spill have brought out the worst hypocrisy in those scrambling for political cover after the event. It is no secret that politicians and diplomats have been in the pocket of energy companies almost since the first oil was struck in Pennsylvania in the 1850s, and the murky relationship has continued ever since.

### [BP is isolated as rivals hit out over leak](#)

BP is bracing itself to be hung out to dry by rivals in the oil business, when they give evidence to US politicians on safety procedures today.



### [Lawmakers slam Big Oil over 'boilerplate' emergency plans](#)

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- Executives from five of the world's largest oil companies are under fire on Capitol Hill Tuesday for having cookie-cutter contingency plans for dealing with disasters like the Gulf Coast oil spill.

### [BP gets OK to burn off captured oil, gas at sea](#)

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. – BP won permission to start burning oil and gas piped up from its broken seafloor well as part of a pledge to more than triple how much crude it stops from spewing into the Gulf of Mexico.

Federal authorities gave permission late Monday for BP PLC to use a new method that involves pumping oil from the busted wellhead to a special ship on the surface, where it would be burned off rather than collected.

### [After delays, U.S. begins to tap foreign aid for gulf oil spill](#)

Four weeks after the nation's worst environmental disaster, the Obama administration saw no need to accept offers of state-of-the-art skimmers, miles of boom or technical assistance from nations around the globe with experience fighting oil spills.

### [Will Obama 'go big' in primetime speech?](#)

WASHINGTON - Tomorrow night, in his 20 minute address to the nation, will President Obama go big? Or will he go small? Will he use the auspicious moment to argue for the imperative of carbon pricing, or will he greet the nation by announcing new regulations on part of the energy sector?

### [Poll: Obama not tough enough on BP](#)

Washington (CNN) - When it comes to the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, a new national poll indicates that most Americans don't think President Barack Obama's been tough enough on BP.

### [Engulfed in damages:](#) *Get ready for years of ugly litigation once the BP oil spill disaster hits the courts*

I am waiting for Act Two. That is when the PR flacks go home and the lawyers take over. Lawyers are an unsentimental lot. It's all very sad about the pelicans and the groupers, but as several attorneys explained to me: Fish can't sue. Only people can. And once the oil spill hits the courts, the public is in for a rude awakening.

### [Gas Rally Boosts Coal's Allure for Power Plants](#)

(Bloomberg) -- The 16 percent jump in natural gas prices in the past month may prompt U.S. power producers to move to coal, as rising temperatures boost air-conditioning demand.

### [Merrill Hires European Power, Gas Traders, SparkSpread Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Bank of America Corp.'s Merrill Lynch unit hired two traders for its European power and natural gas desk, SparkSpread said yesterday on its website, without saying where it got the information.

### [Caymans Move Cut Transocean's Tax by \\$2 Billion, Magazine Says](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Transocean Ltd., owner of the Deepwater Horizon offshore rig leaking oil in the Gulf of Mexico, reduced its U.S. tax bill by almost \$2 billion since 1999 when it moved its headquarters to the Cayman Islands, a published report said.

Tax Notes magazine, a weekly journal published by Tax Analysts, said Transocean's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission show it cut its overall global tax rate to 16.9 percent in 2009 from 31.6 percent a decade earlier after moving from Houston.

### [Setbacks cloud U.S. plans to leave Afghanistan](#)

WASHINGTON - Six months after President Obama decided to send more forces to Afghanistan, the halting progress in the war has crystallized longstanding tensions within the government over the viability of his plan to turn around the country and begin pulling out by July 2011.

### [Can Buried Treasure Save Afghanistan?](#)

In February 1975, Mobil Oil Corp. announced a stunning find. The U.S. petroleum giant's exploratory drillers had struck oil in the Bach Ho (White Tiger) field off the South Vietnamese coast. Saigon officials, scarcely believing their luck, hastily called a press conference. They displayed a small vial of black gold from the test well and declared it was a turning point in the war. Presidential Palace spokesman Hoang Duc Nha joked that he was growing a mustache to look more like Saudi Arabia's oil minister at the time, Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani. U.S. Embassy officials were just as cheerful and vocal, believing that the prospect of South Vietnam becoming an East Asian Saudi Arabia would rally the country's war-weary troops and civilians and revive U.S. congressional



support for the war. The euphoria was short-lived. A few weeks later, Hanoi's Soviet-made tanks crashed through the gates of Saigon's Presidential Palace, defeating the U.S.-backed regime.

### [Wind farm officially opened off Essex coast](#)

An offshore wind farm situated off the coast of Essex has been officially opened.

Gunfleet Sands wind farm, in the Thames Estuary, is made up of 48 turbines, each standing 130 metres high.

### [Why we may never be able to say goodbye to oil](#)

As recently as 1990, China got through around two million barrels of oil every day. That figure is pushing seven million now and set to rise to twice as much again by 2030.

As America's Energy Information Administration points out, that extra demand alone will add 10% to the world's consumption.

Another way of looking at it is that the Chinese currently consume just one litre of oil a day per head, compared with 11 litres in the United States.

If the country's oil demand were to reach US proportions, total world consumption would double.

As so called "peak oil" theorists have it, such levels of production would be impossible to achieve, now that the rate of worldwide extraction is already in, or close to, terminal decline.

### [Crude Oil Futures Rise on U.S. Stockpiles Outlook, Euro Rebound](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Crude oil rose in New York before a report that may show growing U.S. demand for the fuel and as the euro recovered against the dollar, boosting the appeal of commodities.

U.S. crude stockpiles probably fell for a third week, a Bloomberg survey showed. The Energy Department is scheduled to release its weekly report tomorrow at 10:30 a.m. in Washington. The euro rebounded to \$1.2257 and the benchmark Stoxx Europe 600 Index rose 0.4 percent.

### [A Look At BP's World Energy Review](#)

The study found that world energy consumption fell by 1.1% in 2009, the first decline

since 1982. This decline in consumption was led by OECD countries, which saw a 5% decline in consumption in 2009. Emerging countries led by China and India grew energy consumption by 2.7%, but this was not enough to trump the much larger users in the OECD.

The statistics on worldwide oil demand mirrored the overall energy trends, with a large decline in OECD demand overwhelming the high demand growth regions of the world. Total oil demand fell by 1.7%, or 1.2 million barrels per day, in 2009. Oil demand has now fallen for two consecutive years, and is below the level of demand in 2006.

### [Saudi output slashed in 2009](#)

State oil company Saudi Aramco's crude output fell by a million barrels per day in 2009 from the previous year as the kingdom led Opec in making steep production curbs, data from Aramco showed today.

Aramco's crude output was 7.9 million barrels per day in 2009, the company said in an annual review released today, down from 8.9 million bpd in 2008, reported Reuters.

### [Saudi Aramco's Khursaniyah gas plant online in June](#)

(Reuters) - Saudi Aramco's gas processing plant at the 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) Khursaniyah oilfield will be fully operational in June, the state oil giant said on Tuesday.

The gas plant has capacity to process around 1 billion cubic feet per day (cfd) of raw sour gas from the Abu Hadriya, Fadhili and Khursaniyah fields, producing around 560 million cfd of gas.

### [What The Gulf Spill Means For The Future Of Oil](#)

Since the spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the government has announced a series of measures aimed at restricting new drilling activity. The short term measures include a six-month extension on a ban on permits for new drilling in deep water. New drilling in other parts of the country remains on hold.

### [Fitch slashes BP rating owing to oil spill](#)

LONDON (AFP) – International ratings agency Fitch said on Tuesday it had slashed BP's credit rating by six notches from "AA" to "BBB", citing the impact of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill disaster.

"Fitch Ratings has downgraded BP plc's long-term issuer default rating and senior

unsecured rating to 'BBB' from 'AA'," it said in a statement. The 'BBB' rating is just two notches above junk status.

### [Magnitude of Gulf of Mexico oil spill fuels concerns that BP may be bankrupted](#)

As President Barack Obama made his case for BP to escrow \$20 billion to ensure that environmental and economic damages from the undersea Gulf Coast oil gusher are paid, fears heightened that the company may seek bankruptcy protection in the face of claims that grow every day as more oil billows into the ocean.

### [BP denies bankruptcy rumors, seeks advice](#)

NEW YORK (AFP) – BP has tapped financial advisers at Goldman Sachs, Blackstone Group and Credit Suisse as pressure mounts on the British energy giant over the devastating Gulf of Mexico oil spill, US media reported on Monday.

A BP spokesman denied the reports, saying the group did not want to reveal "who are our advisors and on what they are advising us."

### [Poll: Oil spill's economic impact worries public](#)

WASHINGTON — Americans overwhelmingly view the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico as an economic and environmental catastrophe that will reverberate for a decade and more, a USA TODAY/Gallup Poll finds.

When President Obama addresses the nation Tuesday, he'll face a public that is pessimistic about the future of Gulf coastal areas and their wildlife. Half of those surveyed say some beaches will never fully recover, and even more predict some species of fish and birds will never return to normal levels.

Eight in 10 expect the spill to hurt the U.S. economy and drive up the cost of gas and food.

### [BP engineer called doomed rig a 'nightmare well'](#)

WASHINGTON – BP took measures to cut costs in the weeks before the catastrophic blowout in the Gulf of Mexico as it dealt with one problem after another, prompting a BP engineer to describe the doomed rig as a "nightmare well," according to internal documents released Monday.

The comment by BP engineer Brian Morel came in an e-mail April 14, six days before the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion that killed 11 people and has sent tens of millions of

gallons of oil into the Gulf in the nation's worst environmental disaster.

### [Efforts to Repel Gulf Oil Spill Are Described as Chaotic](#)

For much of the last two months, the focus of the response to the Deepwater Horizon explosion has been a mile underwater, 50 miles from shore, where successive efforts involving containment domes, “top kills” and “junk shots” have failed, and a “spillcam” shows tens of thousands of barrels of oil hemorrhaging into the gulf each day.

Closer to shore, the efforts to keep the oil away from land have not fared much better, despite a response effort involving thousands of boats, tens of thousands of workers and millions of feet of containment boom.

### [BP faces grilling in Congress, Obama to speak on TV](#)

WASHINGTON/HOUSTON (Reuters) – BP Plc's U.S. chief faces accusations in Congress on Tuesday that the energy giant caused the worst oil spill in U.S. history with a calculated strategy to cut costs, hours before President Barack Obama uses a televised address to defend his handling of the disaster.

### [White House: Obama ready to seize claims process](#)

PENSACOLA, Fla. – President Barack Obama is reassuring people in Gulf Coast states that he's up to the enormous job of helping them recover from the disastrous oil spill, laying the groundwork for a prime-time speech Tuesday night. His chief spokesman said Obama is poised to seize the handling of damage claims from BP, if necessary.

### [Gulf Coasters skeptical of Obama, BP promises](#)

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. – President Barack Obama promised that life would return to normal for people living on the stricken Gulf Coast, and BP said new efforts will more than triple the amount of oil it captures from a ruptured undersea well. But the pledges don't reassure some residents.

"I think that as long as BP is still in control, there's not a lot he can do other than show support for the residents of these Gulf states," Jennifer Jenkins, 34, of Long Beach, said of Obama.

### [Oil-processing gear's U.S. route sparks fears](#)

HELENA, Mont. — As the nation anxiously watches the catastrophic continuing Gulf oil spill, one portion of the country is growing concerned about another oil-related issue — a plan to transport the enormous machinery required to build an oil-processing plant in Canada.

The immediate issue is not the plant itself — which would extract oil from sand — but the disruptions and environmental issues involved with trucking more than 200 massive pieces of Korean-built processing equipment along the path of Lewis and Clark and adjacent to famed wild and scenic rivers in Northern Rockies.

### [It Doesn't Matter What Obama Says About the Oil Spill](#)

The irony was that BP's latest discovery was the mother lode of oil reservoirs. Vladimir Kutcherov is a Russian specialist in the theory of the abiogenic deep origin of oil, the view that it is not created from the activity of living organisms; that oil is the result of dead dinosaurs.

Oil, it would appear, is created deep within the Earth. Kutcherov believes that BP drilled into "a migration channel", a deep fault on which hydrocarbons generated in the depth of the planet migrate to the crust.

The other irony is that the BP disaster should put an end to the widely disseminated "peak oil" theory that says the Earth is running out of oil. If Kutcherov is right—and I think he is—that means the "hole" that President Obama and BP wants "plugged" is comparable to trying to plug a volcano. The effort could take months, if not years.

### [Chevron: Oil in Utah leaked from quarter-size hole](#)

SALT LAKE CITY — Chevron Corp. said Monday it believes an electrical arc from a power line torched a quarter-size hole in a pipeline that spilled thousands of gallons of crude oil into a Salt Lake City creek over the weekend.

Rocky Mountain Power said the chain of events began with a tree limb that fell onto a power line late Friday, but the utility said it would be highly unusual for an arc to drill a hole in a buried pipeline by traveling through a metal fence post.

### [Far from U.S. Gulf, Nigerian thieves mop up oil spills](#)

BODO, Nigeria (Reuters) - Using two large yellow tubes to funnel polluted water into his small wooden boat, Nigerian teenager Daniel Muukor helps to "mop up" the latest oil spill in the creeks of the Niger Delta.

But Muukor is not part of Nigeria's federal response effort to contain the spill -- the 15-year-old is stealing the oil to sell on the black market.

### [EU to ban investments in Iranian gas and oil](#)

EUOBSERVER / BRUSSELS – EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg on Monday (14 June) agreed on a fresh batch of sanctions against Iran aimed at halting its nuclear program, with the new measures to target the country's massive oil and gas industry.

### [The inflation/deflation debate: The complete list of arguments for hyperinflation and deflation](#)

The peak oil debate has nothing to do with inflation or deflation. If the price of oil will go up because the supply went down it will not signal inflation or deflation. We are going to see one of the biggest depressions ever, and in those environments you get all kinds of disruptions, and cutoffs of fuel are going to be one of those disruptions. But nobody was going apoplectic over the world running out of oil back when it was eleven dollars a barrel. You didn't hear any of that. Everyone was complacent in 1998. So when you get near tops, you get all the wild forecasts and, just as with Google, everyone tries to outdo the other and one guy says we are going to run out of oil in 2060, and the other guy says no it will be 2030 and another guy says it will five years from now. So it's the same kind of psychology that went on at that peak.

### [Tennessee: Fine Levied for Coal Ash Spill](#)

The Tennessee Valley Authority has been hit with penalties totaling \$11.5 million for the December 2008 coal ash spill at one of the utility's plants, partly to pay for oversight of the cleanup.

### [China Nuclear Plant's 'Very Small Leakage' Contained](#)

(Bloomberg) -- China's Daya Bay nuclear power plant had a "very small leakage" from a fuel rod last month that has been contained, CLP Holdings Ltd., Hong Kong's biggest electricity supplier, said in a statement.

### [Sweden: Greenpeace Activists Breach Nuclear Plant](#)

The police arrested dozens of Greenpeace activists on Monday after they broke into the Forsmark nuclear power plant north of Stockholm before a planned vote this week on whether to replace the country's existing reactors, many of which were built in the 1970s.

### [Toledo reinvents itself as a solar-power innovator](#)



TOLEDO — This city is trying to swap its Rust Belt image for a new identity as a hub of solar-energy research and production.

The mission is being led by an unusual partnership of business, academia and government that could be a model for other aging industrial cities. "We are ready to do anything; we are ready to try anything," says University of Toledo President Lloyd Jacobs.

### [Peak Metals - What happens when we run out?](#)

We can't live without metals. They seem to be in almost everything we use, and we've been digging them up for thousands of years.

But virgin metal supplies are finite.

### [Wollongong gets poor green rating](#)

Wollongong is the worst ranked of all Australian cities when it comes to coping with emerging environmental pressures such as climate change, a national report has revealed.

The Australian Conservation Foundation's Sustainable Cities Index, which measured the eco-credentials of the nation's 20 largest cities across 15 indicators, found Wollongong was Australia's least "resilient" city - the most likely to falter under major environmental stress.

The unflattering result was due to a low education rate, comparably poor public health, a scarcity of volunteers and a lack of local food production, the index showed.

### [Tomato lovers sound off on heirlooms vs. hybrids](#)

Is Garza talking about heirlooms or hybrids? The tomato-obsessed have firm, sometimes fanatical, opinions as to which is superior, with heirlooms getting most of the snooty vote. But Garza is talking about both.

She and a growing number of tomato aficionados are challenging tomato lovers to sample certain hybrids that burst with flavor and thumb their noses at diseases. "There are a few carefully selected hybrids that are just as good as heirlooms," she says. "I taste everything I sell. Tomato love is something we do not take lightly."

### [Travel without money poses challenges that make holidays more fun](#)

To say that travel is the luxury – and not necessity – of the fossil fuel generation is an over-simplification. Globalisation has rapidly scattered close family and friends across the world, and the increasingly stressful jobs we seem to create for ourselves often mean we "need" to get away from it all, regularly. These holidays are often paid for on credit, resulting in even more stress once the fun is over, perpetuating the need for more temporary freedom and debt in the future.

Although this is all very understandable, our collective contribution to climate change through the way we travel is astronomical. Travel does not have to cost the Earth – or even money. There are two main expenses: getting somewhere, and staying there. To save yourself both of these, the only prerequisite is a sense of adventure.

### [Rahm Emanuel persuaded Obama to play it cool on climate bill. Post-spill, will the game plan change?](#)

Two months earlier, she had prepared a policy document based on a short-lived interagency process designed to reach an internal consensus on climate policy, but the document had been languishing on Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel's desk. Browner wanted to dust it off and use it to prep the president on a deeper level of policy detail, so the Iowa speech could send signals to Congress about his position on the design of a climate bill.

Emanuel and strategist David Axelrod didn't think that was a good idea. Better to stick to our basic clean-energy message, they argued, and stay out of the policy weeds. It was the sort of fight that happened all the time in the Obama White House, and the True Believers ended up losing every time. "It was lather, rinse, repeat, a thousand times in a thousand ways," said one. "You had this incredible green cabinet of really committed people, but the only thing that really matters is what the president says -- so everyone was trying to get words into his mouth. And Rahm was trying to keep the words out of his mouth. It was just a chronic pattern of infighting."

### [Climate panel chief welcomes climate debate](#)

The head of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Rajendra Pachauri, says he welcomes "the development of a vigorous debate" on climate science.

### [Scientists want clear message on climate](#)

REPRESENTATIVES of scientific organisations, including the CSIRO and the Bureau Of Meteorology, will meet today to discuss better communication of the science behind man-made climate change as the political and public consensus on global warming crumbles.

### [Scientists on hunt for climate-change clues explore rare tropical glacier](#)

Bangkok, Thailand – Indonesia's towering Puncak Jaya mountain on the island of Papua straddles one of the world's richest and most inaccessible gold and copper mines. But the scientists currently prospecting on the 16,000-ft peak are digging for a different kind of treasure: fragile ice cores that can yield clues to the climatic past and give pointers on the future.

### [As Humans Advance, Andean Glaciers Recede](#)

QUITO (IPS) - The spectacular glacier Number 15 of Antisana, one of the Ecuadorean capitals' sources of potable water, lost at least 36 percent of its original mass in the last 50 years. The Antisana is a snow-capped peak of the eastern branch of the Andes range whose three humps can be seen from Quito on clear days. It is located at the same latitude as the capital, 50 kilometres to the east.

### [Himalayan glacial melting still a threat](#)

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, June 14 (UPI) -- While the Himalayan glaciers may not be in danger of disappearing as claimed by an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, they are still affected by global climate change, threatening food security for 60 million people, a new study shows.

### [Much food goes to waste, which squanders resources and adds to greenhouse gases](#)

To make that calculation, researchers at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, began by tallying up how much food, expressed in calories, per person -- was available for human consumption in the United States in 2003. Then they estimated how many calories the average person ate that year. The difference between the two figures -- roughly 1,400 calories per person, or about 38 percent of the original supply -- represents the amount of food energy lost in the farm-to-fork journey.

### [Intensive farming has slowed climate change, say US researchers](#)

Agriculture is often cited as a major source of greenhouse gases because of the reliance on fertilisers, pesticides and mechanisation in conventional farming systems.

However, a report published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, has concluded without the adoption of such technologies even more greenhouse gases would have been emitted.



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