



Drumbeat: June 30, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on June 30, 2010 - 9:19am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Analysis: Doing nothing might have been best for oil spill](#)

(Reuters) - It might have been better for the environment to have done nothing about the enormous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico except to keep the oil out at sea, British scientists said on Monday.

Marine biology and environmental experts said they feared the aggressive cleanup operation, during which oil has been set alight and oil-dispersing chemicals have been dumped into the sea, might be more damaging than the oil itself.

Previous experience suggests that containing the oil out at sea but otherwise leaving it alone to disperse and evaporate naturally is better in the long run but is regarded as politically unacceptable, they said.

8 and by the end of the year had reached 170,000 b/d. Then something unexpected happened; instead of production increasing to the rated 250,000 b/d, production began to drop at 2-3 percent each month so by the end of 2009 production was down to 60 or 70,000 b/d. As BP is under no obligation to tell us what is going on, little news other than mandatory federal production reports have been released.

[TransCanada's Keystone line now delivering oil](#)

Alberta (Reuters) - TransCanada Corp's \$5 billion Keystone pipeline began operating on Wednesday, delivering 435,000 barrels per day of Canadian oil sands crude to Illinois refiners.

TransCanada, the country's No. 1 pipeline company, said it has completed filling the Keystone line with oil and is making commercial deliveries to U.S. Midwest refineries, two years after construction began.

[Ghost of the peak oil theory](#)

The recent BP oil spill in the US Gulf coast is a game changer. It has caught everyone's attention because of the graphic nature of damage. The US government has swung into

action. The media worldwide provides continuing coverage. In fact, even the Indian media carries the story. It is particularly incensed by the double standards of the US government when it comes to another industrial disaster - the Bhopal gas tragedy. There the company was American, not British. And the victims Indians, not Americans.

But in this article let us focus at what the BP oil spill disaster means for crude oil prices.

[Texas on alert as Hurricane Alex sweeps in](#)

US President Barack Obama has declared a state of emergency in Texas as Hurricane Alex bears down on the coast with 80mph (130km/h) winds.

Alex is expected to make landfall near the Texas-Mexico border as a category two hurricane, forecasters say.

[Senate panel lifts spill liability cap](#)

A Senate committee voted today to eliminate any limit on the amount of liability oil companies would face as a result of offshore oil spills like the one now devastating the Gulf of Mexico.

The committee voted to eliminate the current \$75 million cap on the amount of compensation companies would pay local communities for economic losses and the impact of offshore spills on natural resources.

[No working phone number gets BP claim denied](#)

PENSACOLA BEACH, Fla. -- An administrator for BP claims says it hasn't reimbursed leaders in a Florida Panhandle county for about \$75,000 in expenses because it doesn't have the county's phone number.

[NY pension fund has several options for BP suit](#)

(Reuters) - New York's pension fund is analyzing its options about how to sue BP to recoup oil spill-caused investment losses in the wake of a Supreme Court decision on jurisdiction.

[Alberta minister says duck deaths "overpublicized"](#)

(Reuters) - Alberta Energy Minister Ron Liepert played down a verdict that found

Synchrude Canada Ltd, the largest producer in Canada's oil sands, guilty in the deaths of 1,600 ducks that landed on a toxic tailings pond in 2008.

[Nigerians angry at oil pollution double standards](#)

Niger Delta, Nigeria (CNN) -- Nigeria's Niger Delta is one of the most oil-polluted places on the planet with more than 6,800 recorded oil spills, accounting for anywhere from 9 million to 13 million barrels of oil spilled, according to activist groups.

But occurring over the 50 years since oil production began in the Delta, this environmental disaster has never received the attention that is now being paid to the oil-spill catastrophe hitting the U.S. Gulf coast.

[A love of lifelong learning](#)

Consider the enormous and necessary debate now being waged over the role of fossil fuels in our society. The issues in this debate are addressed at every election, and in countless federal, state and local policy decisions between elections.

The duties of citizenship require at least a passing familiarity with the current state of knowledge in such diverse areas as global climate change (and the human contribution thereto); the geological and economic possibilities of "peak oil;" the human and environmental costs of various energy sources, from mining disasters to oil spills; the foreign policy and foreign exchange consequences of continued dependence on imported oil; and the potential contributions of new energy technologies and sources, not excluding conservation.

It is not sufficient to have an opinion on these subjects. Serious citizenship demands an informed opinion. And seniors need such information just as much as today's generation of public school students.

[Analysis: Doing nothing might have been best for oil spill](#)

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Previous experience suggests that containing the oil out at sea but otherwise leaving it alone to disperse and evaporate naturally is better in the long run but is regarded as politically unacceptable, they said.

[BP oil clean-up efforts disrupted by 12-foot waves](#)

New Orleans, Louisiana (CNN) -- BP's efforts to contain the largest oil spill in U.S. history are being disrupted by towering waves reaching up to 12 feet in height, company officials said.

Even though Hurricane Alex -- which was upgraded from tropical storm status late Tuesday night -- is headed away from the area affected by the oil spill, its winds and the waves the storm is producing are forcing BP officials to send oil skimming ships back to shore, from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle.

[Blowout preventers: Drilling's fail-safe failure](#)

NEW YORK (CNMoney.com) -- The Gulf oil disaster isn't the only time a blowout preventer failed to stop an explosion. On June 3, a natural gas well in central Pennsylvania erupted despite the fact that it too was outfitted with a blowout preventer, spewing gas 75 feet into the air for 16 hours before it was brought under control.

Until recently, these so-called BOPs were touted by the industry for their ability to make dangerous drilling operations safer, or at least less dangerous. But although failures are rare, their consequences can be catastrophic.

[The boom and gloom Louisiana economy](#)

FORTUNE -- The closer you get to the sea in Louisiana, the angrier the rhetoric on the homemade signs posted by the side of the road. From, "BP, your mother nature said to clean your room," to, "Cannot fish or swim, how the hell are we supposed to feed our kids now?"

[FACTBOX - How countries have coped with the oil "curse"](#)

Many oil exporters during the 20th century found the rush of energy revenues spurred corruption and pushed up prices and exchange rates so quickly that other domestic industries were left uncompetitive.

Following are brief descriptions of how other countries have dealt with their oil wealth.

[Mexico Energy Profile - A Top Oil Provider For US](#)

In 2009, Mexico was the seventh-largest oil producer in the world, and the third-largest

in the Western Hemisphere. State-owned Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) holds a monopoly on oil production in the country and is one of the largest oil companies in the world. However, oil production has begun to decrease, as production at the giant Cantarell field declines.

The oil sector is a crucial component of Mexico's economy: while its relative importance to the general Mexican economy has declined in the long term, the oil sector still generates over 15 percent of the country's export earnings. More importantly, the government relies upon earnings from the oil industry (including taxes and direct payments from Pemex) for about 40 percent of total government revenues. Therefore, any decline in production at Pemex has a direct effect upon the country's overall fiscal balance.

[US fines BP \\$5 mln for false output on tribal lands](#)

(Reuters) - The U.S. Department of Interior said on Wednesday it fined BP Plc a civil penalty of \$5.2 million for submitting "false, inaccurate, or misleading" reports for energy output on tribal lands in Colorado.

[Iran ready to meet gasoline needs despite sanctions: official](#)

An Iranian oil official said Iran is capable of meeting its gasoline needs under any circumstances without facing any difficulty, despite sanctions against it, the local satellite Press TV reported on Wednesday.

Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Distribution Company (NIODC), Farid Ameri, said Tuesday that Iran has managed to store 500 million liters more in gasoline reserves in the first quarter of the current Iranian year, starting on March 21, the report said.

[Egypt firm wins \\$400 mln Saudi oil tanks contract](#)

CAIRO (Reuters) - An Egyptian company has won a \$400 million project to install petroleum storage tanks at Yanbu in Saudi Arabia, the state news agency quoted Egypt's oil minister as saying on Tuesday.

The company, Engineering for the Petroleum and Process Industries (ENPPI), will build 47 tanks of various sizes with a combined storage space of 12 million barrels, Sameh Fahmy said.

[Obama, Saudi King discuss 2-state Mideast solution](#)

(Reuters) - President Barack Obama and Saudi Arabian King Abdullah on Tuesday stressed the importance of a two-state solution to Middle East peace that secured a Palestinian homeland alongside a strong Israel.

[Israel has eyes on Lebanon's resources](#)

Newswire services have revealed that Lebanese President Michel Sulaiman has raised the super-sensitive offshore oil issue in the Eastern Mediterranean with his Syrian counterpart, President Bashar Al Assad. Sulaiman was quoted commenting: "There is an oil wealth in the sea which Israel began to extract. We think it is essential to take necessary measures to protect Lebanon's rights".

[In 'Faith Misplaced' Palestinian history gets personal](#)

In "Faith Misplaced," Ussama Makdisi, a Lebanese-American professor of history and Arabic studies at Rice University, succeeds in constructing a history that is pointed and deliberate but still represents the larger realities of Arab-American relations over the past two centuries. The book is a welcome and helpful resource for any reader wishing to understand how Arab-American relations have fallen to the nadir they are at now.

[Alaska aviation industry worried by fuel shortage](#)

ANCHORAGE, Alaska -- A jet fuel shortage could cost the state thousands of dollars in landing fees.

The fuel shortage is causing dozens of cargo aircraft to bypass Alaska on their way overseas.

The Department of Transportation estimates that 25 cargo flights out of 600 each week are no longer stopping in Anchorage.

[Woolsey, Khosla: Bullish on biofuels](#)

What should we do with corn?

Shove it into cows that become fatty, high-cholesterol meat that contributes to heart disease? Turn it into cheap sugars that make people fat or sick?

Or use it to produce biofuels that will help reduce the U.S.'s dependence on Middle East oil, improve our balance of payments and create jobs instead of funding terrorists?

That's a loaded question, of course, but that's the way that James Woolsey, the former head of the CIA who is now a venture capitalist, put it to a friendly audience of biotech executives.

[Interactive Map Shows Worldwide Water and Energy Tug-o-War](#)

The water crisis and energy crisis are not necessarily exclusive issues around the globe. The generation of electricity is hugely dependent upon water, which is a quickly disappearing resource. Power plants heavily rely on water to create the power we consume, and the power we also use to create more clean drinking water. So, often the crunch for water and energy come into conflict. With a new interactive map, IEEE has highlighted areas across the globe where water and energy are posing problems, and highlights solutions being explored to alleviate them.

[Richard Heinberg: Solarize the White House](#)

Symbols matter. When Jimmy Carter put solar panels on the White House in 1979, they weren't today's efficient electricity-generating PV panels (they produced only hot water) and the goal wasn't to make 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue energy-independent. Nevertheless, during a historical period remembered for oil shocks and gas lines, this was a way of sending the message that changes were needed in America's energy habits and that the President was ready to lead by example.

The symbolism was just as clear in 1986, when the Reagan White House removed those solar panels. Federal renewable energy tax credits had been rescinded, gas was cheap again, and U.S. energy goals had been refocused on maintaining access to the world's oil —which is to say that they had essentially been militarized.

Pictures of the two occasions were and are worth about a billion barrels' worth of words.

[Despite energy crisis, U.S. slashes mass transit](#)

Just at the moment when the Deepwater Horizon BP oil spill has generated two months of non-stop headlines about the dangers of oil dependency and the federal government in America finally has something of a platform to call for Americans to wean themselves off oil dependency, cities, counties and states across the US are decimating their public transit systems and forcing people, willy-nilly, to return to their cars.

[Palm's productive patch](#)

A training program for the unemployed may solve Palm Island's fresh food shortage.

[Indonesia to cut energy subsidy, carbon emission](#)

Indonesia has decided to join developed countries' move to reduce huge amount of

subsidies on energy, while making efforts to reduce carbon emission as part of global efforts to curb global warming.

The huge amount of energy subsidy has been deemed as a hindrance for Indonesia to convince investors to spur growth. The Southeast Asia's largest economy has struggled to jump to investment grade after Fitch and Moody investor ratings raised the country's risk rating to one notch below the grade earlier this year.

Almost one third of the country's state budget of 1,126 trillion rupiah (some 124.63 billion U.S. dollars) in 2010 is used for subsidy and payment of debt interest. The subsidy for oil and gas reaches over 90 trillion rupiah (some 9.96 billion U.S. dollars) this year.

[Govt. oil companies to discuss petrol pricing - oil secy](#)

NEW DELHI (Reuters) – Oil firms and the government will jointly take a decision on how often petrol prices should be revised, Oil Secretary S. Sundareshan told reporters on Wednesday.

[Brazil eyes shipyards to dodge oil curse](#)

RIO GRANDE - Brazilian politicians are bickering over future revenues from massive offshore oil discoveries, but cities like Rio Grande have already secured the most important benefits of that wealth – thousands of jobs building offshore equipment.

['Gazprom admits \\$32bn Belarus debt'](#)

Russian gas giant Gazprom has admitted to owing Minsk \$32 million for gas transit through Belarus, the former Soviet state's First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Semashko said today.

[Perth 'may step in' over Browse LNG row](#)

The West Australian state government is set to look at the compulsory purchase of a section of land earmarked for Woodside Petroleum's A\$30 billion (US\$25.6 billion) Browse liquefied natural gas project after talks with indigenous landowners failed for a fourth time, it said today.

[Mexico denies refinery project with Reliance](#)

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) – Mexico's energy ministry has denied a media report saying it was planning to construct a new oil refinery in partnership with Indian energy

company Reliance Industries.

India's The Economic Times reported on Monday energy major Reliance and Mexican state-run oil giant Pemex may soon join up to develop a green field refinery in Mexico, but the Mexican government immediately denied the report.

[Saudi to award Yanbu refinery deals soon-sources](#)

KHOBAR, Saudi Arabia (Reuters) - State oil giant Saudi Aramco plans to award deals to build a 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) oil refinery in Yanbu in the coming few days, industry sources said on Wednesday.

Yanbu accounts for just under a quarter of Saudi plans to add around 1.7 million bpd of refining capacity to the current 2.1 million bpd.

[CNR pumps up volume at Horizon](#)

Canadian Natural Resources saw May output from the Horizon Oil Sands project come in ahead of projections, adding it expects June production volumes to rise.

[Gazprom eyes Hunt's Yemen LNG stake](#)

Russian state-run gas giant Gazprom may buy Hunt Oil's stake in Yemen's liquefied natural gas plant, possibly in tandem with Saudi Arabia, Russia's government said today.

[Greater U.S. oil independence a casualty of BP spill](#)

(Reuters) - Another casualty of the BP oil spill may be the quiet shelving of a piece of boilerplate U.S. policy that has weathered eight presidencies: ending America's dependence on foreign oil.

While the ambition to be self-sufficient, or nearly so, in its energy use will likely remain a long-term U.S. goal, the rising anxiety over offshore oil drilling and a raft of new regulations are almost certain to temper the pace of future production from the prolific Gulf of Mexico.

[Gulf beaches hit as distant hurricane pushes oil](#)

GRAND ISLE, La. – Rough seas generated by Hurricane Alex pushed more oil from the massive spill onto Gulf coast beaches as cleanup vessels were sidelined by the far-away

storm's ripple effects.

[Enbridge: natgas force majeure on Gulf](#)

(Reuters) - Enbridge said on Monday that it declared force majeure on its offshore Nautilus natural gas pipeline system after some Gulf of Mexico producers shut in supply as a precaution against Tropical Storm Alex.

Company spokeswoman Terri Larson told Reuters daily gas production approaching 100 million cubic feet was shut in on the 103-mile, 600 mmcf capacity Nautilus line.

[Gulf oil spill: The story so far](#)

Since the Deepwater Horizon rig explosion April 20, BP and the federal government have struggled to control the oil spill that has followed. The complex effort has involved several attempts to stem the flow of oil at the wellhead, amid uncertainty about how much oil, exactly, has been flowing into the Gulf of Mexico. Now in its third month, the Gulf oil spill seems likely to continue at least until August. Here is an accounting of some of the most important – and confusing – developments.

[What will get sick from the slick?](#)

Nature investigates five of the Gulf of Mexico's signature species.

[TNK-BP says may be a buyer in BP asset sale](#)

(Reuters) - Russia's TNK-BP may be a buyer in BP's asset sale if it sees interesting opportunities, including downstream assets in Europe, TNK-BP chief executive Maxim Barsky said on Wednesday.

"If BP starts to sell assets which are of interest to us, we will take part," he told reporters, adding that BP has yet to decide which assets it will sell.

[EnBW chief says hopeful for nuclear tax discussion](#)

BERLIN (Reuters) - German utility EnBW is hopeful that talks with the government over a planned tax on nuclear power production will take place soon and twin any tax to permission to run plants longer, its chief executive said.

[German climate goals tied to nuclear power: lobby](#)

(Reuters) - German energy group BDEW on Wednesday called for an extension of the country's nuclear reactor lifespan, stressing the role of the carbon free technology in helping to meet national climate reduction goals.

[Gas to displace coal on road to clean energy](#)

Vast newly discovered reserves of natural gas could help the United States move to a low-carbon future, says a report by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge.

The assessment — *The Future of Natural Gas* — estimates that the United States could reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from the electricity sector by at least 10% by shutting down the least efficient coal-fired plants and ramping up existing gas-powered generators that are running below capacity. Gas-fired plants emit roughly half as much carbon dioxide as equivalent coal stations.

[Same ol' fossil foolery](#)

When I asked an energy lobbyist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce recently why her organization opposes mandatory restrictions on carbon emissions -- the all-but-doomed cap-and-trade provision -- she replied that such a measure would cause an intolerable rise in our monthly electric bills.

In practically the same breath, she asserted that nuclear power should be part of the nation's portfolio, even while lamenting that the cost of a nuclear plant has multiplied in recent years and could exceed \$10 billion by the time any were built.

[US Farming Should Change To Meet New Challenges, Expanding Needs](#)

U.S. farmers are under pressure to produce more, pollute less, fulfill consumer preferences, and make a living -- all with increasingly scarce natural resources and the uncertain effects of climate change, says a new report from the National Research Council. To help U.S. agriculture evolve to meet these demands, the report concludes, national agricultural policies and research programs should look beyond focusing only on low costs and high production and adopt a holistic perspective to farming that encompasses multiple end goals.

[India Loses to China in Africa-to-Kazakhstan-to-Venezuela Oil](#)

Indian Oil Minister Murli Deora traveled to Nigeria, Angola, Uganda, Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela this year, leading a record number of delegations to gain oil for the world's third-fastest-growing major economy.

The flurry of visits is part of a new drive to find oil for India's 1.2 billion people after losing out to China in at least \$12.5 billion of contracts in the past year. India proposed a sovereign wealth fund to bid for reserves, told state-controlled Oil & Natural Gas Corp. and Oil India Ltd. to make a major acquisition each this year, and raised the amount they can spend without government approval to 50 billion rupees (\$1.1 billion).

[Oil Rises, Heading for Monthly Gain, on Forecast of Declining U.S. Supply](#)

Oil headed for a monthly increase, before a report forecast to show crude inventories declined in the U.S., the world's largest energy-user.

[Alex Becomes First June Atlantic Hurricane Since 1995](#)

Alex became the first June hurricane in the Atlantic since 1995 as oil companies evacuated workers in the Gulf of Mexico and girded for a storm surge that may affect production and refineries in the region.

...The hurricane has halted about 25 percent of crude production in the Gulf of Mexico and 9 percent of natural-gas output, the U.S. government said.

Three rigs and 28 platforms have been evacuated because of the storm, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement said in a statement on its website. Almost 396,000 barrels of daily oil output were shut-in, along with 600 million cubic feet of gas.

[Jeff Rubin - Hurricanes: A knockout blow to Gulf production](#)

It took almost five years for Gulf production to reach to pre-Katrina levels. Consider how much longer it will take Gulf production to recover, if it ever does, from the fallout of devastation caused by a blown-out deep-water wellhead that could remain uncapped over an entire storm season as severe as that of 2005.

Even the impact of a single storm would be catastrophic, forcing BP to disconnect its containment system for a minimum of 10 days, thereby allowing the unfettered discharge of 600,000 barrels. That's a couple of spills the scale of the Exxon Valdez. And storm conditions would also suspend drilling activity of the relief wells, which are still months away from completion.

[Europe must impose tough oil sanctions on Iran: US](#)

BRUSSELS (AFP) – Europe must follow through on its pledge to impose sanctions on

Iran's energy sector in order to coax Tehran back to the negotiating table over its nuclear activities, a top US diplomat said Tuesday.

[Iran fears falling oil sales – not UN sanctions](#)

With poor refining infrastructure and cheaper crude available elsewhere, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad should be starting to panic.

[Fuel Oil Glut in Singapore Widens Price Gap to Dubai Crude](#)

Fuel-oil prices in Singapore, Asia's biggest energy trading hub, may weaken relative to Dubai crude as imports from Russia, Mexico and the Caribbean drive up record stockpiles.

Deliveries to Singapore will rise as much as 20 percent next month from June to 4.2 million metric tons, according to a Bloomberg survey of seven traders from Singapore to Tokyo, who declined to be identified as they aren't authorized to speak on transactions. The discount to crude may widen to \$9 a barrel, the most in a year, from \$4.43 today, the survey showed.

[UK gas down on Troll return, volatility remains](#)

LONDON (Reuters) - British spot wholesale gas prices came off nearly 9 percent on Wednesday following resumption at Norway's Troll gas field, but traders remained nervous about volatility.

[OPEC's Crude Production Fell From a 17-Month High in June, Survey Shows](#)

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' crude-oil output dropped from a 17-month high in June, led by a decline in Nigeria, a Bloomberg News survey showed.

Production slipped 157,000 barrels, or 0.5 percent, to an average 29.23 million barrels a day, according to the survey. Output by members with quotas, all except Iraq, dropped 122,000 barrels to 26.865 million, 2.02 million above their target.

[Shell, Exxon launch German gas storage sale: sources](#)

(Reuters) - Royal Dutch Shell and Exxon Mobil Corp. have launched the sale of their German gas storage business, which could fetch up to 1 billion euros (\$1.22 billion), several people familiar with the matter said.

[Salazar May Provide More Details on New Drill Ban at Congressional Session](#)

U.S. Interior Secretary Kenneth Salazar, who has promised a new ban on deep-water oil drilling after an initial one was ruled illegal, has hinted what a revised moratorium might look like and may provide more details when questioned by members of Congress today.

[BP shares jump amid takeover talk](#)

LONDON — Shares in BP PLC are up more than 9 percent in London, a day after an industry analyst stirred talk of a possible takeover of the British oil company.

[Special Report - BP oil spill a gusher for lawyers](#)

(Reuters) - From a legal perspective, BP's Deepwater Horizon blowout and the 1989 grounding of the Exxon Valdez are in many respects night and day.

"The Gulf is seen to be a systemic breakdown," said Zygmunt Plater, a professor at Boston College Law School and former chairman of the Alaska Oil Spill Commission's legal task force after the Valdez disaster. "It's not just one guy who had some drinks."

[U.S. says accepting foreign help with Gulf oil spill](#)

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – The United States will accept offers from a dozen countries and international agencies to help contain and clean up the BP Plc oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the State Department said on Tuesday.

[Land-based spills add up, too](#)

Human-caused spills send more than 300 million gallons of oil into North American waters every decade, an amount roughly double the highest estimate of the BP spill, according to studies by some of the world's top scientists.

[Gulf's coastal wetlands surviving despite oil](#)

BELLE CHASE, La. -- From a seaplane 1,000 feet above Louisiana's coastal wetlands, the places hit hardest by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill are easy to spot - dark slashes marring a vast expanse of marshes and bayous.

Yet more than two months after the spill started, the view appears to confirm what many scientists are concluding: The wetlands, a haven for fish and seabirds and a flood buffer during the Gulf's notoriously vicious storms, "have come through so far pretty

unscathed," Paul Kemp, director of the National Audubon Society's Louisiana Coastal Initiative, said after a recent 260-mile flight over most of the affected sections.

[Bill Clinton: 'We may have to blow up the well'](#)

Little noticed comments from former President Bill Clinton over the weekend which he made in South Africa are perhaps -- well -- a bit explosive.

"Unless we send the Navy down deep to blow up the well and cover the leak with piles and piles and piles of rock and debris, which may become necessary - you don't have to use a nuclear weapon by the way, I've seen all that stuff, just blow it up - unless we're going to do that, we are dependent on the technical expertise of these people from BP," Clinton said.

[BP meets deadline for oil spill payments to govt](#)

WASHINGTON – BP has met its July 1 deadline to pay the federal government for the initial costs of responding to the Gulf oil spill.

[BP, Transocean Told to Alert U.S. to Acts That Deplete Assets](#)

The U.S. Justice Department asked BP Plc and four other companies associated with the Gulf of Mexico oil spill to give the government advance notice before depleting assets that could cover judgments against them.

[BP floating financial lifeline to station owners](#)

HOUSTON — Gas could become cheaper at some BP pumps after the oil company agreed to measures meant to help distributors and station owners offset a consumer boycott against BP fuel that was sparked by the out-of-control spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

[Gulf Coast tourism officials plead for help](#)

WASHINGTON — A \$500 million marketing campaign will be necessary to combat public perceptions about the Gulf of Mexico oil spill that could ripple for years, tourism officials told congressional staffers Tuesday.

[BP Proposes Emergency Fund to Cover Oil Spill Costs, FT Deutschland Says](#)

BP Plc proposed starting an emergency fund financed by the oil industry to help pay for costs from spills, the Financial Times Deutschland reported, citing Chief Economist Christof Ruehl in an interview.

Smaller companies wouldn't be able to shoulder costs from an oil spill such as the one that followed the sinking of the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon rig in the Gulf of Mexico, the newspaper cited Ruehl as saying.

[Gingrich slams Obama on Gulf gusher and sounds off on climate](#)

A couple of years ago, Newt Gingrich was sounding like a climate activist. The former Republican speaker of the House posed with current Democratic Speaker Nancy Pelosi on a couch in front of the Capitol for a 2008 ad sponsored by Al Gore's organization, the Alliance for Climate Protection. "[O]ur country must take action to address climate change," Gingrich said, calling on Americans to "demand action from our leaders."

In his new book *To Save America: Stopping Obama's Secular-Socialist Machine*, Gingrich pushes a strikingly different view, decrying "the doomsday theory of climate change," which he attributes to the "high-tax, big-bureaucracy, job-killing, and government-centralizing environmentalism of the Left."

[Shares in electric-car maker Tesla soar 40% after IPO](#)

DETROIT — In what may be a 1990s-like blip of irrational exuberance, investors sent shares of unprofitable electric-car maker Tesla Motors soaring more than 40% Tuesday even as the overall stock market fell sharply.

[Solar Start-Up Rakes In Capital](#)

SunRun, a San Francisco start-up that leases rooftop solar arrays to homeowners, said Tuesday it had raised \$55 million from investors.

The equity investment led by Sequoia Capital, a prominent Silicon Valley venture firm, is one of the largest made in a solar leasing firm and a sign that companies are poised for a major expansion beyond the industry's core market in California.

[Solar-powered plane set for pioneering night flight](#)

GENEVA (AFP) – The prototype of a pioneering Swiss bid to fly around the world on solar energy aims to take to the skies on Thursday in the first attempt at a night flight fuelled by the sun, the team said.

[Irving Oil cancels biodiesel project](#)

Weeks after mothballing a tidal energy research project, Irving Oil Ltd. has withdrawn its application for environmental approval to build a biodiesel refinery in Saint John.

[NRC panel: Nuclear waste dump process continues](#)

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- A Nuclear Regulatory Commission legal panel put a proposal for a national nuclear waste dump in Nevada back on track Tuesday, at least until the full commission decides whether the Department of Energy can withdraw its plan.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu doesn't have the authority to pull the plug on a process that Congress started when it passed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act in 1982, the NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board said in a 47-page order issued in Rockville, Md.

[Organic needs global co-operation, says Holden](#)

Organic bodies around the world need to work together more closely to promote the environmental benefits of sustainable farming, the departing director of the UK's Soil Association said yesterday (29 June).

Partick Holden, director of the organic certification body since 1995, plans to step down from the role in September to forward the case for sustainable agriculture around the world.

[White House Energy Session Changes No Minds](#)

WASHINGTON — The senators who emerged from a White House meeting with President Obama on energy policy on Tuesday made no effort to paper over the large differences that remain between them.

Democrats continued to insist on putting some sort of price on greenhouse gas emissions; Republicans continued to insist that to do so would be to impose a tax that would smother the economy.

“We have to take a national energy tax off the table,” said Senator Lamar Alexander, Republican of Tennessee.

[Years wasted in climate battle, study says](#)

A decade has been wasted in the fight to reduce greenhouse gas emissions because

official policies have failed to deliver, according to a critical assessment from the government's Committee on Climate Change.

In a report published today, it says much tougher regulation of businesses is urgently required if enduring cuts are to be made.

[Environment: Province is on track to meet its projected cuts, will now focus on transportation](#)

FREDERICTON - On track to cutting greenhouse emissions to 1990 levels by 2012, the New Brunswick government is now targeting the transportation sector to further reduce emissions.

[Perfect storm warning issued on climate](#)

A perfect storm is coming and we are not ready for it, an international climate change conference on the Gold Coast has been told.

The ingredients are already mixing and the storm could hit communities around Australia within 20 years, says Donovan Burton from the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility.

[Global warming 'solution' could backfire](#)

PALO ALTO, Calif. (UPI) -- A cloud-seeding scheme proposed to combat global warming could change global rainfall patterns and result in water shortages, researchers say.

Whitening clouds over the world's oceans to reflect more sunlight and reduce global warming could in fact increase monsoonal rains over oceans while causing the world's continents to become drier on average, a Carnegie Institute study released Monday said.

[Why Climate Stumps Even the Brightest Scientists](#)

Working climate scientists are almost unanimous in their view that the earth is slowly warming up and that human activity, particularly the combustion of fossil fuels, is the primary cause. But beneath that surface unanimity, predictions vary about how *much* the planet will warm in the future because of rising greenhouse gases. Scientists' best guesses range from mild warming, to which the planet and its people might adapt easily, to temperature increases so extreme that life on earth would be radically altered.

[China sets sail for the Arctic](#)

A Chinese research vessel and ice-breaker is due to set sail this week for the Arctic, a region much coveted by Beijing for its wealth of scientific data and natural resources.

The shrinking of the frozen sheets blanketing the Arctic -- thanks to global warming -- are expected, at least in summer, to allow navigation of the area and access to its as-yet untapped supplies of oil and natural gas.

[Troubled Arctic waters: Canada needs to take immediate action to retain control over the North](#)

Expectations of a better standard of living by both rich and poor have blinded many of us to the consequences, as evident in the failure of the Copenhagen climate-change conference to achieve a firm consensus. Today, leaders of the Arctic countries are faced with a similar conflict as a result of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The risk of such a spill in the Arctic, whether from offshore drilling or commercial shipping, has pitted environmental safety against the insatiable desire for economic growth. Adding to the challenge is China's determination to become a major participant in the economic development and governance of the Arctic.

[IPCC expects big increase in sea-level forecasts](#)

The world's peak climate-change scientific body will "almost inevitably" make a large increase in its predictions of world sea-level rises due to global warming when it releases its next landmark report in four years, says the vice-chairman of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In an interview with the *Herald*, Dr Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, the IPCC's vice-chairman, said recent satellite observations showed extensive melting in the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets.

That will have to be considered in the next IPCC assessment report on climate-change science - regarded by governments and scientific organisations as the world's pre-eminent scientific document on climate change - when it is released in 2014 and should lead to the increase in predictions of sea-level rises, he said.

Dr van Ypersele said the sea-level rises estimated in the panel's last assessment report in 2007 were now known to be on the low side.



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