



Drumbeat: July 10, 2010

Posted by [Leanan](#) on July 10, 2010 - 9:18am

Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Discovery of second pipe in Deepwater Horizon riser stirs debate among experts](#)

For the first time Friday, the Coast Guard and BP acknowledged that a mysterious second pipe, wedged next to the drill pipe in what remains of the Deepwater Horizon's riser, is fouling up the works where the well is spewing hundreds of millions of gallons of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

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levels even BP could not handle.

"My bet is that BP will finally go bankrupt from the tort liability and the environmental liability," she said. "Hypothetically, a bluefin tuna farmer in the Mediterranean could end up with a claim against BP."

[The World's Biggest Oil Companies](#)

Publicly traded giants like Royal Dutch Shell, Chevron, ConocoPhillips and Total may be Big Oil, but they are not Biggest Oil.

[All resources will be used to overcome energy crisis](#)

BEIJING/SHANGHAI: Pakistan will use all resources for power generation to overcome its energy crisis, President Asif Ali Zardari said on Friday while speaking at the Pak-China Economic Forum.

The president also called for increased economic cooperation between the two countries and invited Chinese entrepreneurs to take advantage of the special incentives being offered to them in Pakistan. He invited Chinese investors to invest in Pakistan's engineering, banking, communication, agriculture and energy sectors.

[Kurdistan Region through the eyes of a Middle East expert](#)

I fear that the long-held ties between the American State Department and the Arabian American Oil Company--ARAMCO--will continue to cause America to see the Middle East primarily through Arab eyes. This is very similar to what happened after World War I--the abandonment of former promises to Kurds due to the collusion of British petroleum politics and Arab nationalism.

Arabs see the possibility of an independent Kurdistan as the creation of another Israel--and have said this over the decades themselves; i.e., how dare anyone but Arabs get some bit of justice in the region that they call "purely Arab patrimony."

[America: Too Big To Flail?](#)

"Please stop calling it a *leak*!" Bill McKibben pleaded at the Slow Money conference in Shelburne, Vermont last month. A leak, after all, suggests a kind of dribble. A spill sounds like something you might mop up with a towel.

"We've punched a hole in the bottom of the ocean," McKibben added. "Is a knife wound a '*blood leak*'?"

[Shining a light on the way artificial light has changed our lives](#)

Until the 18th century, night was an impenetrable abyss. Tallow candles, made of rendered animal fat, barely lightened the darkness. The workday was tied to the sun; once you could no longer see your work, labor stopped. Then tallow candles began to be replaced by whale spermaceti candles, which were twice as brilliant, and by lamps that burned cheap and abundant whale oil. Small wonder that this era was later dubbed the Age of Enlightenment.

[Nikola Tesla's Renewable Energy Vision](#)

At the height of his popularity as the key inventor who pioneered commercial electricity, Tesla cautioned the world of the inefficiencies of burning substances to generate energy, especially coal, the predominate fuel source of the day.

Not only did the burning process waste most the potential energy of coal, Nikola Tesla argued, but it was a nonrenewable resource that we would eventually run out of. The same arguments could easily be made about oil.

[For this man, home is where the earth is](#)

Down a dirt road and between thickets of trees, Paul Queen lives inside a grassy, man-made hill.

Deer try to stroll across his rooftop.

Gopher tortoises attempt to tunnel into the walls.

But inside, Queen can barely hear the rain — or deer hoofsteps. His home is earth-sheltered, meaning it's not exactly underground but is surrounded and insulated by a massive mound of soil. National builders of the obscure style, which first grew out of hillsides and rural grasslands during the energy crisis decades ago, say that amid concerns about power bills and natural disasters, more people are burrowing into the earth.

[Easy living: The truth about modern communes](#)

Today's communes are a far cry from the free-loving, dope-smoking hippy havens of the Sixties. But can they really solve the problems of the modern world?

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[Saudi probes 11-year oil smuggling operation: report](#)

RIYADH -Saudi Arabia is investigating a smuggling operation that illegally exported discount-priced oil to Europe for more than 11 years, the Saudi newspaper Okaz reported on Saturday.

Unnamed companies had bought discounted oil under the guise of using it to produce chemicals domestically, but instead they shipped it to unidentified destinations in Europe, the paper said.

[Pump prices end the week lower, oil higher](#)

NEW YORK – Drives to the beach and summer road trips will cost less this weekend, with average gasoline pump prices around the country more than four cents lower than a week ago.

[China Boosts Net Oil Imports to Record 22.14 Million Metric Tons in June](#)

China, the world's second-biggest oil consumer, increased net crude-oil imports to a record in June as demand rose and costs fell.

Net purchases climbed to 22.14 million metric tons, or about 5.39 million barrels a day, from 17.65 million tons a month earlier, according to preliminary data released by the General Administration of Customs today. This was more than the previous record of 20.98 million tons in April.

[What About the Arctic?](#)

It wasn't that long ago that proponents of oil drilling, and even President Obama, were arguing that the threat of spills had been substantially reduced thanks to new advances in drilling technology. It's a claim that sounds humbling in light of the Gulf of Mexico oil spill. But rather than harp on the past, environmentalists are focusing their efforts on the future, specifically this summer, when another round of exploratory drilling is set to begin off the pristine coasts of Alaska.

[Canada missing out on Arctic energy](#)

Canada has dithered and delayed resource development in its high Arctic for more than a generation while other jurisdictions, namely Norway and Alaska, have moved quickly from discovery wells to oil and gas production.

[Syria to Offer 40% of Land for Oil, Gas Exploration, Al-Thawra Reports](#)

Syria's government has offered 74,000 square-kilometers of land, or 40 percent of the country, to international oil and gas companies for exploration, Al Thawra newspaper reported, citing the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources.

In addition to new exploration on the land, the ministry is seeking the restoration of old wells where production ceased in the past several years, the newspaper reported.

[Moscow rivaling OPEC?](#)

MOSCOW (UPI) -- Crude oil deliveries through the East Siberia-Pacific Ocean pipeline are putting pressure on traditional Gulf suppliers of oil, government records suggest.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin inaugurated the ESPO oil pipeline during a ceremony at the Kozmino oil terminal Dec. 28, calling the "strategic project" a victory for Moscow.

[BP Aims to Contain Flow of Gulf Well Within Days](#)

BP Plc may contain all of the flow from its Gulf of Mexico oil gusher within the next four days by accelerating installation of a tight seal between the damaged wellhead and surface production vessels, said Thad Allen, the government's national incident coordinator.

Potential setbacks could lengthen the timeline to nine days, Robert Dudley, chief executive officer of BP's Gulf Coast Restoration unit, said in a letter to Allen, released late today.

[Part owner of blown-out oil well tells BP it won't help fund cleanup](#)

NEW YORK — Anadarko Petroleum Corp. says it won't help BP pay for the worst oil spill in US history.

The Houston company, which owns 25 percent of BP's blown-out well in the Gulf of Mexico, said yesterday that it has refused to send the \$272 million contribution BP requested in June.

[BP spill won't affect Iraq projects: oil minister](#)

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - Iraq's oil minister said on Saturday he sees no impact from the massive oil spill at a BP (BP.L) well in the Gulf of Mexico on Iraq's current or future projects to develop its giant oilfields.

[Japan, Russia agree to build gas plant](#)

Japan and Russia have agreed to jointly build a liquefied natural gas plant in Vladivostok, with five million tonnes of output to be shipped to Japan annually, a newspaper said on Saturday.

[Ecuador Seeks To Nullify Ruling In Chevron Case](#)

QUITO -(Dow Jones)- Ecuador has asked the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague to nullify a ruling that ordered to the Andean country to pay to Chevron Corp. up to \$700 million.

Last March, an international arbitration panel of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague ordered to Ecuador to pay up to \$700 million in damages and interest because its courts took too long to rule on lawsuits brought by the oil giant.

[Protests simmer among Iran's powerful merchants](#)

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Tehran's powerful merchants don't need street protests to make their anger known — the sound of shops being locked up and metal grates clanging shut during a wave of anti-tax strikes this week was enough to unsettle Iranian authorities.

The closures — with Tehran's expansive bazaar as the epicenter — present another dilemma for Iranian leaders still trying to weigh the fallout from wider U.N. and American sanctions.

[Big Money Drives Up the Betting on the Marcellus Shale](#)

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. -- Halliburton is building a permanent outpost here on the edge of a one of the 21st century's biggest energy booms.

[Prosperity requires humility](#)

Pinheads with power who think they know the last detail of how the world works and what it is going to look like, not just over the next couple years – but years down the road.

For them tomorrow is simply a repeat of yesterday. The idea that life is about surprises and the unknown – that what we know is a small splotch compared to what we don't know – takes humility. And humility is the last thing on the radar screen of power brokers who feel they know so much that they are comfortable planning and taking over the lives of their fellow citizens.

Doomsday scenarios dominated thinking about energy in the 1970's. It led to major government interference in these markets that just made things worse.

[Driving: a parent's nightmare](#)

What is his ultimate goal in life? It is not making a million dollars, saving the world, or becoming president – it is heading south on the Pan-American highway, looking for Tierra Del Fuego, not because he is fascinated by Latin American culture but because he wants to go. And go some more. In an age when a 13-year-old is climbing Mount Everest and 16-year-olds are sailing solo around the world, this is a rather modest goal. Peak oil means he'll never get to do it. Peak oil means he shouldn't do it. Peak oil means he should do it soon, while he still has the chance. Peak oil means that he should go by bicycle – even more dangerous.

[No furnace is no problem for Point Reyes passive home](#)

To architect James Bill, "affordable housing" means more than a home with a low purchase price. Truly affordable homes, Bill says, are those with monthly maintenance costs that don't fluctuate with the price of fuel.

"We're past the point of peak oil, and there will be huge pressure for oil prices to escalate rapidly," said Bill, a San Anselmo architect. "By making a super low-energy home, you lock in low costs forever. And it's great for the environment."

[Greg Pahl: Excerpt from The Citizen-Powered Energy Handbook: Community Solutions to a Global Crisis](#)

More and more people are beginning to recognize that it's the predatory, corporate-dominated, global economic system with its mindless pursuit of short-term profits and "shareholder value" that is devouring the planet, its resources—and ultimately us along with it.

[Stephanie leads quest for community tales](#)

A STORYTELLER will visit Bewdley in a quest to collect and share stories of communities making positive changes to tackle climate change and peak oil production.

[New Rules May Cloud the Outlook for Biomass](#)

An energy technology that has long been viewed as a clean and climate-friendly alternative to fossil fuels is facing tough new regulatory hurdles that could ultimately hamper its ability to compete with renewable power sources like wind and solar.

[Ethics and the Greenhouse](#)

One of the toughest realities attending debates over what to do, or not do, about the growing human influence on the climate system is that *more* science does not necessarily clarify society's, or individual's, responses.

[Interview: How Our Economy is Killing the Earth](#)

When Bill McKibben first sounded the alarm about global warming 20 years ago, he was something of a voice crying in the wilderness. Now McKibben, author of *The End of Nature* and *Deep Economy*, is issuing an even more dire warning. His new book, with the science fiction-y title *Eaarth*, paints a picture of a depleted, overheated planet no longer suited to its inhabitants. That planet is our own, the time is now, and the book is non-fiction.

[Feeling the heat: Unlocking the Arctic's frozen secrets](#)

Forecasts suggest that this year will see the amount of sea ice in the Arctic retreat to one of the lowest extents since satellite records began. So what will be the impact of an Arctic devoid of sea-ice during the summer in the future?

[Putting a Price Tag on the Melting Ice Caps](#)

Reports about the melting ice caps are distressing, but for the most part climate change remains abstract. The poor polar bear has been trotted out as the tangible face of global warming so often that we're beginning to see "polar bear fatigue." How about bringing the effects of Arctic melt close to home, as in what it will cost? A new study does just that, and the results are alarming, not just for Arctic dwellers but for all of us. According to lead author Eban Goodstein, Ph.D., over the next 40 years Arctic ice melt will take an economic toll of between \$2.4 trillion and \$24 trillion. Unless we change course — and fast.



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