



Drumbeat: July 17, 2010

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Topic: [Miscellaneous](#)

[Fires rage for 15 hours after oil pipeline in China explodes](#)

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res Saturday, July 17, from 8 to 10 PM and Sunday, July 18, from 8 to 10 PM (ET/PT). Hosted by Dr. M. Sanjayan, lead scientist at The Nature Conservancy, the special closely examines where our energy could come from and how we are striving to create a clean, limitless, secure supply of energy.

From economics and climate change to national security and global politics, energy is the driving force behind most everything on the planet. POWERING THE FUTURE puts energy on the national stage, addressing the challenge from every angle and cutting through the noise by establishing a target: identifying a clean, limitless, secure energy supply and addressing how it could possibly be delivered. Producers traveled to more than 30 different locations around the world—from an offshore oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico to the oil sands of Canada, from Washington, D.C., to Beijing, China—to meet with the people at the heart of the issue. *Charlie Hall will be in this. He doesn't know how much or what the quality will be, but says they took "many, many hours of raw footage."*

[Iran, Russia to establish joint oil bank](#)

Tehran and Moscow have agreed to establish a joint bank to help fund bilateral projects and expand cooperation in natural gas deliveries and oil products.

According to Deputy Oil Minister Javad Oji, the joint bank will finance oil and gas projects and work out a mechanism for using the currencies of both countries for payments, Mehr news agency reported Thursday.

[Two arrested at oil installation](#)

DAMMAM – Two persons have been arrested over suspicious behavior close to Aramco facilities in Abaqaiq in the Eastern Province, with security sources saying the incident was drug-related. Al-Watan Arabic daily reported on Friday that two persons fled the site when their behavior aroused the suspicions of company's security patrols in the area. "What occurred close to an oil installation is being treated as a criminal issue, not a security one," Al-Watan was told by a police spokesman.

[Cheers, Worries Greet New Cap on Oil Well](#)

For more than two months, Americans have endured live television footage of oil billowing from the underwater leak. That image finally disappeared Thursday evening, as valves on the new seal were gradually closed, choking off the flow from the ruptured well.

"This is a landmark event," said Dan Yergin, chairman of HIS Cambridge Energy Research Associates. "It means that an infinite problem has become finite."

[How BP's oil spill mess could be much worse](#)

Imagine if BP were a state-owned oil company. Instead of reasoning with an incompetent chief executive, we'd be reasoning with a protectionist prime minister. Regarding BP, this is a thought experiment. But there are plenty of state-owned companies drilling in U.S. waters and abroad. The next oil spill could be more than just an economic and environmental crisis. It could be a diplomatic one.

[More Delicate Diplomacy for the Overseer of the Compensation Fund](#)

NEW ORLEANS — Kenneth R. Feinberg, hopping in and out a Learjet, a helicopter and several S.U.V.s, took his gift for oratory to four towns in southern Louisiana on Thursday to make his pitch to locals: The \$20 billion fund from BP to compensate those harmed by the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, and they should get their share.

Even with that kind of bankroll to pay claims, he was playing the role of salesman and politician.

[Gulf Crabbers Seek Eco-Endorsement](#)

Faced with possible ruin as a result of the oil spill, Louisiana blue crab producers are doing what 209 other fisheries around the world have done in recent years: seek to improve their standing by having their catch certified as environmentally sustainable by

[Bloomberg Reporter Totally Misinterprets Bloomberg Polling on Offshore Drilling](#)

Without looking at the poll's topline (PDF), you might not realize what is wrong with these two paragraphs. As it turns out, Bloomberg's poll did not ask about President Obama's temporary ban on deepwater drilling. Here is the question they actually asked:

[Slide Show: Green Energy](#)

To supply the United States with power without destroying the earth in the process we need radical changes in the way we think about energy consumption and our energy infrastructure.

[Are We Happy Yet?](#)

Even if the good times were going to roll again, in the sense of our having more consumables, how well has that worked as a formula for happiness? And if it turns out that we have even less stuff in the future, can we find a source of felicity other than the mall? The good news is that alternatives are available. The more challenging news? Alternatives may emerge not where we normally look, but as the hidden complements of some of our dominant virtues.

[Book Review – World Made By Hand](#)

Kunstler expanded on this in his book *The Long Emergency: Surviving the Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-First Century*. But what might the collapse look like? To answer this question Kunstler turns to fiction, *World Made by Hand*.

[It's Time to Start Worrying Again](#)

Even more than "An Inconvenient Truth," the new film — titled "Countdown to Zero" and opening Friday — is designed to demolish viewer apathy. The rise of global terrorism, the expanding nuclear club, the increased availability of fissile material on the black market: all point to a higher likelihood of nuclear attack than ever before. But to judge from the public conversation, not to mention the popular cinematic imagination, the end of the cold war was synonymous with the end of the nuclear age.

[The PSM Program in Advanced Energy and Fuels Management](#)

SIUC's Professional Science Masters in Advanced Energy and Fuels Management is the

first of its kind in the country to focus on energy and fuels. The PSM-Energy program will prepares students for interdisciplinary careers in a team-oriented work environment undergoing rapid change. The flexibility of the curriculum allows students to address the aspects of the energy and fuel sector that interests them or their employers.

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[Gas prices trend upward before the weekend](#)

Filling up for a trip to get some respite from the summer heat may cost a few cents more this weekend.

The national average for a gallon of unleaded regular gasoline hit \$2.723 Friday, one penny more than a week ago and about 2 cents more than a month ago, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service. It's nearly a quarter higher than it was a year ago.

[Iran threatens to blacklist foreign oil firms](#)

TEHRAN (AFP) – Oil Minister Massoud Mirkazemi warned on Saturday that Iran will blacklist foreign firms like Russian energy giant Lukoil that pull out of projects because of sanctions against Tehran.

"If one of the companies acts against Iran, we will be forced to consider the reality and put that company on a blacklist," the Mehr news agency quoted Mirkazemi as saying.

"They will no longer work in our country," he said.

[Nigeria Plans to Encourage Oil Companies to List on Local Stock Exchange](#)

Nigeria will encourage large companies operating in the country to list their shares on the local stock exchange, said Arunma Oteh, director general of the Securities and

Exchange Commission.

The addition of foreign companies in industries such as oil-exploration and production would diversify the Nigerian stock exchange, Oteh told reporters in Lagos yesterday. She was accompanied by Minister of Finance Olusegun Aganga and Fola Daniel, the Commissioner for Insurance.

[Lula Has 'Final Word' on Oil for Petrobras Share Swap](#)

(Bloomberg) -- Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's administration will have the "final word" on the price of oil reserves that Petroleo Brasileiro SA will buy from the government, Energy Minister Marcio Zimmermann said.

The government may set a different price on the deepwater reserves than is recommended in an audit by the National Petroleum Agency, known as the ANP, Zimmermann said today in a telephone interview from Guarulhos, outside of Sao Paulo.

[Bulgaria, Russia agree on gas pipeline](#)

SOFIA, Bulgaria—Bulgaria and Russia have agreed on the details of a planned undersea gas pipeline project aimed at transporting Russian natural gas under the Black Sea to Bulgaria and other European countries.

[Russia Gazprom denies RWE invitation to South Stream](#)

Bulgaria (Reuters) - Gazprom, Russia's gas export monopoly, denies on Saturday it has invited the German utility RWE to join its South Stream pipeline in order to weaken the rival Nabucco project.

RWE is one of the key participants of the EU-backed Nabucco pipeline, which is meant to help Europe cut reliance on Russian gas, and Russia has been stepping up efforts to undermine the competing pipeline project.

[BP waits to see if Gulf leak fix will hold](#)

NEW ORLEANS — Engineers kept vigil Saturday over the massive cap holding back oil from BP's busted Gulf well, their eyes glued to monitors in a faraway control room that displayed pressure readings, temperature gauges and underwater images.

Their round-the-clock work deciphering a puzzle of data from undersea robots and instruments at the wellhead is helping BP and the government determine whether the cap is holding tight as the end of a critical 48-hour testing window approaches. Signs so

far have been promising but inconclusive.

[Hayward to Get 'Life Back' as BP Shrinks Following Spill](#)

BP Plc Chief Executive Officer Tony Hayward, who drew fire for saying he wanted his life back at the peak of the U.S. oil spill crisis, may get his wish.

With its Gulf of Mexico well under control for the first time in three months, Europe's largest oil producer may look to change leadership as it starts rebuilding its reputation, management experts, industry analysts and investors said.

[U.S. Shallow-Water Drilling Delay May Be Nearing End, Hercules's Noe Says](#)

Shallow-water drilling companies hope a meeting with the U.S. Interior Department will help end delays in approval of new permits, Hercules Offshore Inc. executive Jim Noe said.

"We are hopeful that today was a solid first step in resolving this issue and getting shallow-water drilling rigs back to drilling new wells," Noe, senior vice president and general counsel of Hercules, said in a statement after meeting yesterday with Michael Bromwich, director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement.

[Chevron hit with more bills for Utah oil leak](#)

SALT LAKE CITY – Salt Lake County has billed Chevron Corp. more than \$53,000 for the government response after a pipeline leaked crude oil into Red Butte Creek last month.

The county says it expects to demand more money from the oil company because it's still monitoring health hazards and caring for birds caught in the oil spill. The county's first bill covers expenses through June 24.

[Director Accepts Limits on Chevron to Footage](#)

When a judge ordered a documentary filmmaker in May to turn over to Chevron all the unused footage from his 2009 film about an environmental controversy in Ecuador, the director, Joe Berlinger, called the ruling "a trampling of the First Amendment and the journalist's privilege."

But when an appeals court modified that ruling on Thursday, ordering Mr. Berlinger to

hand over some of those outtakes to Chevron, he applauded. The new ruling, he said, had "preserved the basic standards for nonconfidential material." He said he did not expect to pursue any further appeals.

['Dallas' Actor Hawks Solar Power, But Billionaire Who Inspired J.R. Ewing Is Focused On Natural Gas](#)

Larry Hagman, the actor best known as J.R. Ewing on TV's "Dallas" has gotten way too much attention this week for his new gig as spokesman for German solar maker SolarWorld. Hagman has garnered hundreds of internet headlines for quotes like: "When affordable oil gives out, we're in real trouble--I mean the collapse of civilization, within 15 to 20 years."

That's the standard line from the Peak Oil crowd, no more interesting when coming from an actor. (see Jon Fahey's take on this: [Why Is This So Hard? Solar Doesn't Replace Oil.](#)) More interesting is to consider what the "real life" J.R. Ewing has been up to recently.

[Peak Oil Plan](#)

uring the oil crisis of the 1970s and the rapid rise of oil prices during the early part of the twenty-first century, concerns surrounding the use and availability of this non-renewable resource greatly increased in the minds of many. One theory that always seems to creep up when oil prices rise is the idea of peak oil, which is a hypothetical date at which the world's crude oil production will peak. Every day after this would mean lower production levels and an ever decreasing supply.

Simply put, when the world's oil producers combined can no longer increase their oil output, we will have reached peak oil. Oil will be increasingly difficult to find and extract because there will be less of it and fewer deposits to find.

[Some Marin residents prepare for brave new world altered by oil and the lack of it](#)

(The Marin Independent Journal - McClatchy-Tribune Information Services via COMTEX) -- Andre Angelantoni of San Rafael sees a future in which global warming and dwindling oil supplies result in spiraling unemployment, food shortages and rising poverty; that's the bad news.

The good news, said Angelantoni, is that there are steps people can take to prepare.

[The end of suburbia: Transition Asheville's planning for the future](#)

Ever ponder what life would be like without your car, a large grocery store with countless food items from around the globe, and dozens of box stores providing every gizmo you might need at any moment — much of it shipped from China?

The group Transition Asheville does, and they have a plan.

[Fusion reactor set to raid Europe's research funds](#)

European nations hope to divert more than a billion euros that were earmarked for research grants to make up a budget shortfall at the experimental ITER fusion reactor, Nature has learned.

The proposal has alarmed scientists, who say that it will rob researchers of vital funds at a time when governments are planning to scale back domestic research budgets in response to the global economic downturn. "I think it's a small catastrophe in the present situation," says Helga Nowotny, the president of the European Research Council, which funds research across Europe. "It's bad for European research," she says.

[The Flying Prius](#)

The future of the passenger jet may look surprisingly like a larger version of the hybrid automobile.

[Is the Tide Turning on Deforestation?](#)

For decades, logging has eaten away at the Brazilian Amazon, often called the "earth's lungs" for its ability to generate vast amounts of oxygen through photosynthesis. Experts estimate that roughly 20 percent of the rain forest has been destroyed, with much of it turned into ranchland or farms. Other primeval forests around the world, from Indonesia to Cameroon, are similarly threatened.

Now signs are growing that international efforts to clamp down on illegal logging and strengthen timber harvesting regulations are succeeding in slowing the destruction of these forests.

[Is the Population Bomb Ever Going To Explode?](#)

World Population day was July 11, 2010. Did you even know that? Environmentalists and human rights advocates regularly point to a growing world population as a potential source of strife. But one environmental author doesn't agree. Fred Pearce is an environmental and investigative journalist. His books include "Confessions of an Eco-Sinner" and "PeopleQuake," in which he argues the fears of a population explosion are

overblown.

[Germany to levy up to \\$33 per flight](#)

BERLIN – Germany plans to levy up to euro26 (\$33) for each passenger on flights under a plan aimed at taxing air traffic's impact on the environment and bolstering government finances.

A draft bill obtained by The Associated Press Thursday says airlines will have to pay euro13 per passenger on flights of up to 1,553 miles (2,500 kilometers) — which includes the whole European Union — and euro26 for longer-haul flights taking off in Germany.

[National Academies Report Warns of Climate Emissions Crisis](#)

Washington, DC (Vocus) -- Today, the National Academy of Sciences issued a landmark report on climate change science that underscored the depth of the climate crisis and serves as a call to action for serious comprehensive solutions to reduce emissions. "Climate Stabilization Targets: Emissions, Concentrations, and Impacts" marks the fourth Academy report in just two months that, taken together, make an incredibly compelling case for immediate and aggressive action to limit carbon emissions.

[Deutsche Bahn blames heat nightmare on climate change](#)

Travelling on Germany's high-speed ICE trains has often been a harrowing experience recently. Horror stories circulated in the German media throughout the week, following an incident Saturday when the air-conditioning broke down in a train travelling from Berlin. Temperatures reached 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees F) inside the train, and several people were hospitalized in the western German town of Bielefeld.

"A conductor came into our compartment with a doctor because a young boy was lying on the floor numb," one anonymous passenger told reporters. "His mother was really worried. Then she tried to smash a window, but thank God someone stopped her. It was like in a disaster movie."

[Dripping away](#)

The water problem in some form or another has been evident in the Indus river system for at least 150 years, and challenges of water management have dogged governments since 1857. Those with long memories will recall the problems associated with waterlogged land in the late 1940s, the rising of the water table and the increases in salinity coupled with a drop in agricultural production. Today the problems we face are even more complex. Global warming is eating away at the Himalayan glaciers that feed

much of the Indus system and both Pakistan and India are set to become seriously water-poor nations. Water has become political. At an international level there is a rising level of tension between us and India as this diminishing resource is predicted by some as a likely trigger for a future conflict.

[Study says global warming will mean less water in rivers](#)

A National Academy of Sciences study released this morning quantifies potential impacts of climate change - linking water in rivers, crop yields and wildfire damage to specific temperature increases.

For example, for every 1.8 degrees of warming, Colorado can expect 5-10 percent less water in the Arkansas and Rio Grande rivers, the study found.

The study on likely future effects of climate change also anticipates 5-10 percent less total rain in Colorado and other southwestern states. And forest fires are considered likely to devour 3 times more land for each 1.8 degrees of warming .



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