



## Drumbeat: March 26, 2011

Posted by [Leanan](#) on March 26, 2011 - 10:23am

### [Five myths about gas prices](#)

Gasoline prices have been steadily climbing for several months, and Americans are feeling the pain at the pump. The possible culprits (from greedy oil execs to Mideast turmoil) are as plentiful as the proposed solutions (more offshore drilling, green energy or government reserves). But what is really driving prices up? And what, if anything, can be done about it? Let's take a moment to fill up on information about our fuel.

### [Follow the money, not the oil, in BP's Russia row](#)

MOSCOW — Forget Arctic oil that may not be produced for decades; the unravelling of the deal between BP and Rosneft is all about controlling cash flows and potentially huge value as Kremlin Oil goes global.

“Komu vygodno?” — who benefits — is the play. It's why BP and Rosneft want to save their proposed US\$16-billion share swap, even at the cost of abandoning their offshore oil hunt, to fend off the tycoons who own half of BP's Russian venture TNK-BP.

It's also why TNK-BP's oligarch shareholders are dug in for a long fight to secure their slice of future profits.

### [Oil hits highest levels since recession](#)

Benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for May delivery settled Friday at \$105.40 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That was down 20 cents for the day, but oil still gained more than 4 percent this week. On Wednesday it hit \$105.75 per barrel, the highest level since September 2008.

Retail gasoline prices have followed oil higher. The national average of \$3.561 per gallon is the highest ever for this time of year. Pump prices are already above \$4 per gallon in Alaska and Hawaii, and they're nearly there in California.

### [Governor's natural-gas panel begins its work](#)

HARRISBURG — Members of Gov. Tom Corbett's Marcellus Shale Advisory

Commission left their first meeting Friday with plenty to think about during the four months they have to recommend how state can best stoke the economic potential of natural-gas drilling and stave off environmental problems within the constraints the Republican governor has imposed.

### [New signs of damage at stricken Japanese nuclear plant](#)

TOKYO — New signs emerged yesterday that parts of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant are so damaged and contaminated that it will be even harder to bring the plant under control soon.

At the same time, Japanese officials began encouraging people to evacuate a larger band of territory around the complex.

### [U.N. agencies hold meeting to discuss Japan's nuclear crisis](#)

NEW YORK — U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon on Friday held a teleconference with senior members of U.N. agencies to respond to the ongoing crisis at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Participants of the conference, the first of its kind, included Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency and Tibor Toth, executive secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

### [Japan's nuclear woes add pressure to invest in green energy](#)

The recent reactor crisis in Japan has highlighted the problems inherent in power stations such as Fukushima I, forcing countries to reassess their future energy investment strategies.

According to Jan Beránek, a nuclear energy campaigner for Greenpeace, the world's governments have harsh lessons to learn about the dangers of using nuclear power to generate electricity.

### [Fresh perspective on the future of energy](#)

Recent global events have prompted a long-overdue assessment of the natural gas industry to ensure the fuel is included in the world's future energy mix.

### [Now is the hour](#)

William Vorobioff envisages a world that celebrates more than Earth Hour. He hopes the world of the future will be made of communities that live sustainably according to Earth Day, Earth Week, Earth Year and Earth Decade.

### [California clean energy: "No on 23" is back](#)

Former Secretary of State George Shultz and San Francisco hedge fund manager Thomas Steyer are resurrecting the successful alliance between clean-tech businesses and environmental groups that defeated Proposition 23 last November.

The new non-partisan group, calling itself “Californians for Clean Energy and Jobs,” will support the rollout of new regulations under the state’s ambitious global warming law, which survived the initiative that would have delayed its implementation.



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 United States License](#).