



Drumbeat: February 4, 2012

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[Gazprom 'unable to pump extra gas to Europe'](#)

Gazprom said on Saturday it could not pump additional gas to Western Europe amid a cold snap, after EU officials said the Russian giant's deliveries had dropped in several countries.

"Gazprom at the moment cannot satisfy the additional volumes that our Western European partners are requesting," the company's deputy chairman Alexander Kruglov said at a meeting with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, according to Russian news agencies.

Putin told Gazprom at the meeting that the demands of Europe had to be respected but the firm's priority was to supply consumers in Russia, which is also enduring a spell of very cold weather.

[Gazprom says unable to meet greater Europe gas demand](#)

MOSCOW/LONDON (Reuters) - Russian gas exporter Gazprom has brought supplies to Europe back up to normal after reducing them "for a few days," but it is unable to meet increased demand amid freezing weather, a company official told Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Saturday.

European countries had reported that Gazprom, which responsible for around a quarter of European Union's natural gas imports, reduced supplies to them due to a biting cold front, while they also requested more fuel for heating.

[T. Boone Pickens: Rev up the tapping of our own natural gas](#)

If you are going to transform American energy to address the national security and economic risks associated with our OPEC oil dependence, there is only one solution: move our natural gas reserves into transportation, with an emphasis on the heavy-duty truck and fleet-vehicle markets.

[Oil Rises for First Time in Six Days on Decline in U.S. Unemployment Rate](#)

Oil gained for the first time in six days, paring a weekly decline, after the U.S. jobless rate fell to the lowest level in three years.

Futures climbed 1.5 percent after the Labor Department said the unemployment rate dropped to 8.3 percent in January, the least since February 2009. Nonfarm payrolls increased 243,000, the most since April. Oil dropped this week as inventories rose and demand weakened.

[China's electricity supplies to remain tight this year](#)

BEIJING - The China Electricity Council (CEC) said Friday that China will face tightened supplies of electric power this year, with a shortage estimated to reach up to 40 million kilowatts.

Both regional and seasonal power shortages will occur in 2012, the council warned.

[Should gasoline cost \\$10 per gallon or more?](#)

What should the price for gasoline be? That's a huge question with major political, economic and environmental consequences. Some complain about the high price of gasoline and look to expanding oil drilling to bring the price down. Some see the subsidies given to oil companies, and wonder why this happens when the oil companies are immensely profitable. Some see the environmental cost for refining and burning oil, and to incentivize alternatives call for even higher gasoline prices. Some see the immense oil imports and the economic cost of selling dollars to buy oil, and also call for alternatives to oil. Some see the Middle East wars as being an externalized cost to the price of gasoline, see it as about gaining control over oil supplies, and also call for alternatives to oil.

[Will Peak Oil Spell the End of Capitalism?](#)

Capitalism will end when oil runs out, according to *Fleeing Vesuvius*, a collection of essays first published in Ireland in 2010. The US and New Zealand editions came out in mid-2011. The basic theme of *Fleeing Vesuvius*, which is aimed at the growing sustainability movement, is TEOTWAWI (The End of the World as We Know It). The title refers to the volcano that destroyed Pompeii in 79 AD, specifically the large number of residents who failed to save themselves, despite weeks of earthquakes, gaseous clouds and other obvious signs that an eruption was imminent. For more than a decade, a growing body of evidence suggests that the planet is on the verge of economic and ecological collapse. Yet the vast majority of us do absolutely nothing to prepare for the stark conditions ahead.

[Iran will cut oil exports to some European countries: report](#)

(Reuters) - Iran's oil minister said that the Islamic state would certainly cut its oil

exports to "some" European countries, the semi-official Fars news agency reported on Saturday.

"Our oil exports will certainly be cut to some European countries ... We will decide about other European countries later," Fars quoted Rostam Qasemi as telling a news conference.

[Iran begins naval exercises near Gulf strait](#)

TEHRAN — Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard began naval maneuvers Saturday in the latest show of force near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the critical Gulf oil tanker route that Tehran has threatened to close in retaliation for tougher Western sanctions.

Plans for new Iranian war games in the Gulf have been in the works for weeks. But they got under way following stern warnings by Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, about any possible US or Israeli attacks against Tehran's nuclear facilities.

[Iran asks OPEC states not to raise oil output](#)

(TEHRAN) - Iran has asked OPEC members not to raise oil production to compensate for a European Union embargo against the Islamic republic, Oil Minister Rostam Qasemi said on Saturday.

Qasemi said the request was forwarded in a letter to Iraq, the current head of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

[\\$200 a barrel of oil – what would it mean?](#)

If these new warnings were to become reality, oil prices could reach highs never witnessed before, with current records standing at \$150 a barrel in 2008.

But what would such a price rise mean?

[Sinopec, Cnooc Parent Rise in Energy Intelligence Group's Top 100 List](#)

China Petroleum & Petrochemical Corp. and China National Offshore Oil Corp. each advanced four places in the 2012 Energy Intelligence Group ranking of the top 100 oil companies as acquisitions added to production and reserves.

[Rosneft Fourth-Quarter Profit Climbs to \\$2.99 Billion, Beating Estimates](#)

OAO Rosneft, Russia's largest oil producer, increased net income 7.7 percent in the

fourth quarter from the previous three months, beating expectations.

[Brad Pitt & Saudi Arabia Oil Minister Rockin' It! \(Videos\)](#)

Brad Pitt went out of his way in a Daily Show interview with Jon Stewart this week to comment on the insanity of burning fossil fuels to power our cars.

[German Ministers Discuss Solar Subsidies as April Cut Reported](#)

German Environment Minister Norbert Roettgen and Economy Minister Philipp Roesler, who disagreed on solar-power subsidies, are in talks to draw up a joint policy as a local newspaper said payments may be cut as early as April.

[Critics concerned about safety of 'fracking,' shipping of LNG](#)

Liquefied natural gas may not pose the same risk as an oil spill, but it does threaten human safety and the environment - to the point the Canadian government has opposed a U.S. proposal to ship LNG on the east coast.

[Latest Effect of Gulf Spill: Waves of Cash to Aid Coast](#)

Two years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Gulf Coast now stands to benefit as money pours in for restoration.

[Artist/scientist/diplomat wanted](#)

The world is changing quickly and there's no longer denying that big forces like global warming-induced climate change, peak oil and massive population shifts to urban environments are global considerations we can't ignore locally. Vancouver's head planner needs to be a visionary who understands these inevitable considerations and is passionate about adapting past practices to meet future realities.

[Panasonic Targets Clean Power for Homes After Fukushima Disaster](#)

Panasonic Corp. (6752) is focusing on making products to manage renewable power in the home as the Fukushima nuclear disaster last year spurs generation from wind and solar.

[Trash-to-Ethanol Producer Backed by Valero Sets \\$125 Million IPO](#)

Energkem develops refineries that convert trash into gases, which are processed into

ethanol. The fuel will help oil companies meet a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulation to blend into their gasoline products 16 billion gallons (61 billion liters) annually of so-called cellulosic biofuel by 2022.

[China alters controversial Poyang dam plan](#)

NANCHANG - China has altered a plan to build a hydropower dam on the Poyang Lake after the plan was criticized by academicians for its potential damage to the already fragile ecology.

[Donations to Sierra Club Raise Ire](#)

The Sierra Club's president, Michael Brune, has acknowledged in a blog post that beginning five years ago, the club accepted \$26 million from people connected with Chesapeake Energy, the country's second-largest natural gas producer. He added that the club had turned down \$30 million pledged by those donors since August 2010.

[Texas Drought Forces a Town to Sip From a Truck](#)

Officials with the Texas Water Development Board and members of the state's Drought Preparedness Council said they were concerned that what had happened in Spicewood Beach could occur elsewhere. Some wells that supply water to small communities like Spicewood Beach are linked to the state's lakes and reservoirs, where water levels have dropped significantly in the drought. The wells extract water from the underground layers of rock, sand or gravel that are known as aquifers, which are recharged by lakes. As the lakes dry up, the aquifers are affected, some worse than others.

"If the drought continues as it is, we're going to continue to see small communities struggle with their water supplies," said Robert E. Mace, a deputy executive administrator for the water board.

[U.K.'s Climate Plan May Risk Heating-Cost Surge in Cold Snaps](#)

The U.K. faces an additional burden in energy costs from plans to switch to electricity in home heating from natural gas, according to National Grid Plc.

The government, chasing a target to cut carbon emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, may push to heat almost all U.K. homes using electricity by that date, Marcus Stewart, future distribution networks manager at National Grid in Warwick, England, said in an e-mail yesterday. Currently, about 80 percent of the country's homes are heated by gas.

[Putting a Freeze on Arctic Ocean Drilling: America's Inability to Respond to an Oil Spill in the](#)

[Arctic](#)

When the Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded in the Gulf of Mexico in the early morning hours of April 20, 2010 it spawned one of the worst environmental disasters in U.S. history. BP Plc's Macondo well blowout lasted 89 days, spewing nearly 5 million barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, and taking the lives of 11 men. The catastrophe showed the clear need for a massive, well-coordinated response when disaster strikes.

[Al Gore: Antarctic Glaciers and the Global Water Crisis](#)

Nearly 635 million people - one out of every 10 people in the world today - live in low-lying coastal areas that are susceptible to inundation and disruption of the water supply.

Saltwater intrusion has already affected the Shandong Province in China, and water resources on the Caribbean Islands. In the United States, the water supplies of both San Francisco and New York City could be compromised as sea levels rise and the salty oceans intrude on the drinking water.

[So What's A Teacher to Do?](#)

Imagine you're a middle-school science teacher, and you get to the section of the course where you're to talk about climate change. You mention the "C" words, and two students walk out of the class.

Or you mention global warming and a hand shoots up.

"Mrs. Brown! My dad says global warming is a hoax!"

Or you come to school one morning and the principal wants to see you because a parent of one of your students has accused you of political bias because you taught what scientists agree about: that the Earth is getting warmer, and human actions have had an important role in this warming.

[Science behind the big freeze: is climate change bringing the Arctic to Europe?](#)

The bitterly cold weather sweeping Britain and the rest of Europe has been linked by scientists with the ice-free seas of the Arctic, where global warming is exerting its greatest influence.

A dramatic loss of sea ice covering the Barents and Kara Seas above northern Russia could explain why a chill Arctic wind has engulfed much of Europe and killed 221 people over the past week.



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