



## T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 1.13.10

### Total of 64 Placements

- Print: 27
- Blog/Online: 31
- Broadcast: 5

### Coverage Summary:

More than 30 members of the media participated in a teleconference today with Pickens and John Podesta to launch Pickens' new ad campaign and highlight the progress of natural gas legislation in Congress.

The *New York Times* blog focuses on Pickens and Podesta's call to lawmakers to get together behind natural gas to replace oil imports from hostile or unfriendly nations.

*Reuters* reported on Pickens' prediction that oil prices will reach \$85 by the middle of this year and will reach \$90 by the end of the year. The piece also mentions the launch of Pickens' new ad campaign.

*The Hill*, *Dallas Morning News* and *Talk Radio News Service* pieces describe the new ad, with quotes from Pickens saying the oil crisis is not over and now is the time to act.

The *Wall Street Journal* and *Bloomberg* pieces look at Pickens' plans for his wind project, pointing out that cheap natural gas, the lack of transmission lines and the lingering credit crisis have caused him to make some changes. Pickens believes that the transmission lines will be in place by 2013 or 2014, in which case the project in Pampa would be back on.

Last night, Clean Energy CEO Andrew Littlefair appeared on *CNBC's Mad Money*. He discussed the NAT GAS Act and incentives that will be offered if this legislation passes. The interview can be viewed here: <http://www.cnbc.com/id/34826853/site/14081545>

### Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Podesta and Pickens Stump for Natural Gas** – *NY Times Blog* – 1/13/10
- **Pickens Says Oil To Hit \$90/Bbl By End Year** – *Reuters* – 1/13/10
- **Pickens: 'We've Had Our Wake-Up Call'** – *The Hill* – 1/13/10
- **Pickens Launches New Ad Campaign** – *The Dallas Morning News Blog* – 1/13/10
- **T. Boone Pickens Touts Natural Gas With New Ad Campaign** – *Talk Radio News Service* – 1/13/10
- **Pickens Shelves Texas Wind Project** – *Wall Street Journal* – 1/13/10
- **GE Says Pickens' Mesa Cuts Wind Turbine Order in Half (Update1)** – *Bloomberg News* – 1/13/10
- **Clean Energy Still Got Fuel to Run?** – *CNBC* – 1/12/10

### Print Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Pickens Reduces Order for Wind Turbines, Puts Panhandle Wind Farm on Hold** – *Dallas Morning News* – 1/13/10
  - *Denton Record Chronicle*
- **Oilman Pickens cuts GE wind turbine order by 50%** – *Associated Press* – 1/13/10
  - *Austin American Statesman*
  - *Bemidji Pioneer*

- *Business Insider*
- *BusinessWeek*
- *Charleston Daily Mail*
- *Cleveland Plain Dealer*
- *CNBC*
- *Dallas Morning News*
- *Duluth News Tribune*
- *Forbes*
- *Grand Forks Herald*
- *Houston Chronicle*
- *In-Forum*
- *KFDA*
- *KOSA*
- *KSWO*
- *KTBS*
- *KTTC*
- *KTVL*
- *KVIA*
- *MLive.com*
- *News 8 Austin*
- *NewsWest9*
- *North American Windpower*
- *Odessa American*
- *Palestine Herald Press*
- *Patriot-News*
- *Product Design & Development*
- *REVE*
- *San Francisco Examiner*
- *Syracuse Post-Standard*
- *The Daily Sentinel*
- *The Oregonian*
- *Victoria Advocate*
- *Washington Examiner*
- *West Central Tribune*
- *WKBT*
- *Worthington Daily Globe*
- *WQOW*
- *WXOW*
- **Area Stocks: Starwood Hotels Dips** – *News Times* – 1/12/10

**Blog/Online Placements** (Full Articles Below)

- **Pickens, Podesta Introduce New Ad Campaign** – *Clean Skies* – 1/13/10
- **Pickens Ditches Texas Wind Project, Cozies Up to Natural Gas** – *BNET* – 1/13/10
- **Pickens Halves GE Turbine Order as Texas Project Falts** – *Recharge* – 1/13/10
- **T. Boone's Wind Plans Halved & Headed North** – *Earth2Tech* – 1/13/10
- **Green Ink: Oil Slumps and T. Boone Punts** – *WSJ Blog* – 1/13/10
- **E2 Round-Up: Gore Defends EPA, Chamber Considers Climate Lawsuit, and Pickens Pulls Back on Wind** – *The Hill* – 1/13/10
- **Branstad "Pleased" with 2009 Fundraising** – *Des Moines Register Blog* – 1/12/10

## HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

### **Podesta and Pickens Stump for Natural Gas** – *NY Times Blog* – 1/13/10

By Clifford Krauss

T. Boone Pickens, the billionaire Texas financier, and John Podesta, President Clinton's White House chief of staff, are not exactly political soul mates.

But Mr. Pickens and Mr. Podesta did hold a joint press briefing Wednesday to talk about legislation that would grant large tax breaks to fleets of heavy trucks if they switch from diesel fuel to natural gas.

Both men called on Republican and Democratic lawmakers to get together behind natural gas to replace oil imports from hostile or unstable nations.

"It is clean, you don't need a refinery," Mr. Pickens said of natural gas. Mr. Podesta agreed, and added that a fifth of the oil that comes to American shores comes from countries that the State Department deems are dangerous or unstable for travelers. "And that does not include Venezuela," Mr. Podesta added.

Mr. Podesta said bills that would support more natural gas use in heavy trucks could be passed alone, as part of a jobs bill, or as part of the climate change legislation highlighted by cap-and-trade.

If the natural gas legislation passes, it would mean that within seven years, enough heavy-duty trucks and buses would be fueled by natural gas to reduce oil imports by up to 700,000 barrels a day, or about 8 percent of total oil imports, according to calculations from Mr. Pickens' staff.

The two men also unveiled the first of three new television commercials that will kick off a new round of the "Pickens Plan" in support of natural gas.

"I am really pleased he has come back to try to tee this up again," Mr. Podesta said of Mr. Pickens.

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### **Pickens Says Oil To Hit \$90/Bbl By End Year** – *Reuters* – 1/13/10

Billionaire oilman T. Boone Pickens said on Wednesday U.S. crude prices should reach \$90 per barrel by the end of the year on demand from developing countries

"Oil at \$85 mid-year and \$90 end of the year," Pickens told reporters in a teleconference.

U.S. crude oil futures on Wednesday fell \$1.14 to settle at \$79.65 a barrel, but have steadily risen through the latter months of 2009. Oil is still well below its high of \$147 set in 2008 before the economic crisis cut energy demand.

Pickens will launch a television advertisement campaign on Thursday in support of his plan to convert automobiles and trucks to run on natural gas to cut dependence on foreign oil and boost domestic jobs.

He would not detail the cost of the ads, which will run for 10 days on national cable stations, but he said they come on top of tens of millions of dollars spent on previous campaigns for his plan to cut foreign oil dependence.

Last July, U.S. lawmakers unveiled legislation that would provide incentives for the use of vehicles fueled by natural gas. The bill, which Pickens supports, may be taken up with climate or energy legislation some time this year. (Reporting by Timothy Gardner; Editing by Marguerita Choy)

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### **Pickens: 'We've Had Our Wake-Up Call' – *The Hill* – 1/13/10**

By Jim Snyder

“Go back to sleep America. The oil crisis is over.”

And so begins T. Boone Pickens reentrance in the energy policy debate. The line, translated by Pickens as Arabic is splayed across the screen, is part of a new, national television ad campaign to promote natural gas as an alternative to foreign oil.

To the statement that the oil crisis is over, Pickens responds with a sharp, “I don’t think so. Our economy is bleeding billions for foreign oil.”

When he started the Pickens Plan campaign two years ago, the famous financier and author of "The First Billion is the Hardest" had an ambitious goal of taking all the natural gas now used to generate electricity, replacing it with wind power and then using the natural gas to power cars and trucks.

The plan seems a bit more modest, promotion of the NAT GAS Act. The legislation (Hr. 1835, and S. 1408) uses tax credits to encourage replacing the 8 million heavy-duty trucks powered by diesel or gasoline with ones that run on natural gas.

To add some kick to the campaign, Pickens seems to be tying the effort to the recent terrorist scare on the Detroit-bound airliner.

“We’ve had our wake-up call,” Pickens says in the ad. “It’s time to act.”

The failed attack "reminds us that we are still at war," Pickens told reporters on a conference call announcing the new ad campaign. "There is an enemy out there."

He said the ad would run nationally on cable TV over the next 10 days. Washington DC residents will see it for three weeks. Pickens declined to say how much the ad buy was costing.

Joining Pickens on the conference call was John Podesta, the former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton and now CEO of the Center for American Progress. CAP has also also likes natural gas as way to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

CAP released another report today that noted the United States imported 4 million barrels of oil a day from “dangerous or unstable” countries in 2008.

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### **Pickens Launches New Ad Campaign – *The Dallas Morning News Blog* – 1/13/10**

By Elizabeth Souder

Energy investor T. Boone Pickens is launching a new television ad as part of his personal campaign to convince the U.S. to switch heavy-duty trucks to natural gas from diesel.

Pickens, who has spent \$62 million of his own money on the campaign so far, said Wednesday the new ad will begin running on Thursday on cable television. The ad focuses on energy security, with an image of soldiers in a burning field.

"Go back to sleep America. The oil crisis is over ... I don't think so," Pickens says in the commercial.

Pickens wouldn't say on Wednesday how much he spent on the ad.

"The health care debate is nearly over and it's time now to go back and look at the energy situation," he said on a conference call with reporters.

The ad is also part of a campaign to urge Congress to pass legislation to support natural gas vehicles.

The Pickens Plan has morphed since he first announced it in 2008. Originally, he called on all Americans to use natural gas in their vehicles. The second plank of his plan was for wind farms to displace natural gas in the power industry.

Now, Pickens has all but dropped the wind portion of the plan. When natural gas prices tanked last year, it became difficult to finance wind farms, he said. Investors won't finance wind farms if natural gas costs less than \$5 per million British thermal units, he added, and until recently, it did.

And Pickens is focusing on heavy duty truck fleets, rather than cars, since he met Al Gore, who supports using electricity for light-duty vehicles.

"Al said, 'I'll go for heavy duty for gas if you'll go for electric for light,'" Pickens said on Tuesday during a speech at a Big Brothers Big Sisters event. "I said, 'I'll go for anything that's American.'"

Pickens on Tuesday offered some advice to anyone planning a meeting with Gore.

"If you ever go to lunch with Al, let him order for you," Pickens said.

When he walked into the meeting room, Gore offered him a cheeseburger and fries. Pickens, who works out with a trainer every morning, said he won't order junk food for himself, but he'll eat it.

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### **T. Boone Pickens Touts Natural Gas With New Ad Campaign – *Talk Radio News Service* – 1/13/10**

T. Boone Pickens, the billionaire oil tycoon turned energy activist, is spearheading a new ad campaign to shore up legislative support for natural gas.

The campaign, which premieres Thursday on cable channels nation-wide, invokes national security concerns to make the case for moving away from foreign oil.

Pickens, who has thus far spent \$60 million promoting energy independence, cites natural gas as a key factor in aiding the U.S. unemployment situation. The national embrace of natural gas, Pickens says, will prompt a new natural gas vehicle industry in the U.S.

According to Pickens, the U.S. currently spends a billion each day on imported oil.

"At least half can be, should be, retained in the U.S. economy," Pickens said during a conference call with reporters Wednesday.

The ad campaign will focus on the Nat Gas Act, a piece of legislation that will provide businesses with incentives for using natural gas powered vehicles. The bill has found bipartisan support in both the Senate and the House.

The campaign will run for 10 days nationally and 3 weeks in Washington, D.C.

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## **Pickens Shelves Texas Wind Project – *Wall Street Journal* – 1/13/10**

By Keith Johnson

T. Boone Pickens, the oilman and clean-energy booster, shelved his massive wind-power project in Texas even as he stepped up his push to increase the use of natural gas for transportation.

Cheap natural gas, the lack of electricity-transmission lines and the lingering credit crunch have combined to take the shine off large-scale renewable-energy projects, and those factors led Mr. Pickens to halve his \$2 billion wind-turbine order with General Electric Co., said a spokesman for Mr. Pickens's Mesa Power LP.

Mr. Pickens in May 2008 announced plans for the biggest wind farm in the U.S., to be located in the Texas panhandle. But Tuesday he said he would cut his order with GE to 333 turbines from 667 machines and use them for wind farms in Canada and Minnesota.

That means the Pampa Wind Farm slated for north Texas—and postponed last summer until at least 2013—won't happen under current conditions.

"It's off the table," Mr. Pickens said Wednesday in a conference call. If Texas makes more investments in transmission lines to carry power from the remote wind farm to towns and cities, he said, "we'll be back."

A GE spokesman said the two parties mutually renegotiated the terms of the 2008 deal.

Natural-gas prices have fallen sharply since the summer of 2008, when Mr. Pickens announced the big wind farm and the "Pickens Plan," which calls for using natural gas to power big rigs, buses and other large vehicles to lessen U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

Cheap natural gas hurts wind farms, because cheaper gas makes gas-fired power plants a more attractive option for electricity generation. "You can't finance wind farms very well when natural gas is under \$6" per million British thermal units, Mr. Pickens said. Natural-gas futures settled at \$5.733 Wednesday afternoon on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The effects of the credit crunch and the economic slowdown also slowed growth in the wider U.S. wind-power industry in 2009, after a record year for wind-power installations in 2008.

But cheaper natural gas, due to a boom in U.S. production over the last two years, has given fresh impetus to Mr. Pickens's transport plans. Mr. Pickens announced Wednesday a new national television ad calling on America to "wake up" to the cost of importing oil. He also called on Congress to pass pending legislation that would offer fresh incentives for greater use of natural gas in the heavy-duty transport fleet.

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## **GE Says Pickens' Mesa Cuts Wind Turbine Order in Half (Update1) – *Bloomberg News* – 1/13/10**

By Rachel Layne and Christopher Martin and Dan Whitten

General Electric Co., the biggest wind-turbine maker in the U.S., said T. Boone Pickens' Mesa Power LLP cut its order for a wind farm off the Texas panhandle in half, to 333 machines, because of the area's shortage of transmission capability.

"GE and Mesa Power mutually agreed to renegotiate the terms of the original order placed in May 2008," GE spokesman Dan Nelson said. Pickens in May delayed plans to build the \$10 billion Pampa Wind Farm project because the region lacks sufficient transmission lines. The remaining turbines in Mesa's order, to

be delivered starting next year, will be used for projects in Minnesota and Canada, Jay Rosser, a spokesman for Pickens, said today in a telephone interview.

"You are going to have transmission in there by 2013 or 14," Pickens said on a conference call with reporters today.

"If that happens, we'll be back on."

GE, the world's second-biggest wind-turbine maker behind Denmark's Vestas Wind Systems A/S, shipped more than 2,000 turbines last year through the third quarter, based on figures provided during earnings conference calls for the Fairfield, Connecticut-based parent company.

The wind unit provided \$6.7 billion of the parent company's

\$183 billion in sales in 2008. It's part of the Atlanta-based GE Energy Infrastructure segment, whose equipment generates about one-third of the world's electricity.

The Dallas Morning News reported the order reduction yesterday.

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### Clean Energy Still Got Fuel to Run? – CNBC – 1/12/10

By Tom Brennan

Cramer has time and again made his case for natural gas: It's cleaner than crude oil and coal. The US sits on trillions of cubic feet of potential reserves. And the transition to nat gas could create millions of jobs, which would be a crucial piece to a full economic recovery here in the States.

And just look at the stocks' returns: Over the last 10 years, natural gas plays XTO Energy [XTO 47.89 ▼ -0.14 (-0.29%) 📉], Chesapeake Energy [CHK 27.85 ▲ 0.27 (+0.98%) 📈] and Range Resource [RRC 52.01 ▲ 1.28 (+2.52%) 📈] are up 3,355%, 1,159% and 2,488%, respectively.

Moves into the sector by both Exxon Mobil [XOM 69.67 ▼ -0.28 (-0.4%) 📉] and Total [TOT 65.75 ▼ -0.32 (-0.48%) 📉] seem to portend the Cramer's called-for transition, and there's a nat-gas bill working its way through Congress right now. All of this could translate into a big bump in business for Mad Money's favorite speculative play on the sector: Clean Energy Fuels [CLNE 18.49 ▲ 0.65 (+3.64%) 📈]

CLNE designs, builds, finances and operates fueling stations that supply compressed natural gas and liquefied natural gas, mainly to heavy-duty vehicles involved in public transport, refuse hauling and trucking. Speculative or not, the business seems to be doing well. Clean Energy in November reported a strong third quarter, with volumes up 58% year-over-year, and the company has received \$34 billion in stimulus money to build 11 natural-gas fueling stations.

Then there's the Natural Gas Act. The bill would push through a 50-cent tax credit per gasoline gallon equivalent of compressed or liquefied natural gas, which could cover as much as 50% of the cost of converting a vehicle's engine to run on nat gas. If President Obama signs this legislation, then CLNE would surely benefit.

Oh, and here's a news peg: The big talk this week is Detroit's auto show and its focus on battery-powered cars. But Cramer was more concerned with Clean Energy's new contract to build airport-adjacent filling stations at Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston and Las Vegas for their respective shuttle operators.

CLNE has enjoyed a big run, climbing 89% since CEO Andrew Littlefair's Aug. 11 visit to Mad Money. And over the past 14 months, the stock is up 412%. Given recent events, Cramer wanted to check in with the chief executive to discuss where the company – and natural gas – goes from here.



## **PRINT COVERAGE**

**Pickens Reduces Order for Wind Turbines, Puts Panhandle Wind Farm on Hold** – *Dallas Morning News* – 1/13/10

By Elizabeth Souder

T. Boone Pickens has cut his massive order for wind turbines from GE by more than half.

The energy investor, who made wind power a key part of his plan to wean Americans off foreign oil, said Tuesday he will now take delivery of 300 turbines, which he will use for wind farms in Canada and Minnesota.

None of the turbines will come to Texas, as originally planned.

Meanwhile, Pickens continues his campaign to persuade Americans to use natural gas to fuel heavy trucks, rather than diesel. Doing so, he said, could cut Middle East oil imports in half.

"You only have one resource in America that will compete with oil, and it's natural gas," he said Tuesday at an America's Future Series event that benefited Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Texas.

In May 2008, Pickens announced that his company, Mesa Power LP, would order 687 wind turbines, or 1,000 megawatts of capacity, from GE for about \$2 billion. That's about the size of a nuclear power plant.

Those turbines were originally meant to become the world's largest wind farm, in the Texas Panhandle.

Now, Pickens says none of the turbines will go to Texas.

He said the Panhandle will still lack transmission lines to carry the power when he begins to take delivery of the turbines in 2011.

Pickens said he will build a wind farm in the Panhandle when transmission is built.

When Pickens announced his energy plan in 2008, he offered two suggestions: Use natural gas for vehicles, and use wind for electric power.

On Tuesday, Pickens said part of the reason wind has become less important to him is the drop in natural gas prices. Natural gas-fired power plants have become so cheap to operate that other types of plants have been displaced.

He also acknowledged it's not possible to use wind exclusively for power generation because of the cost of building wind farms and the fact that the wind sometimes stops blowing. Those who think otherwise he called "foolish."

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**Oilman Pickens cuts GE wind turbine order by 50%** – *Associated Press* – 1/13/10

DALLAS - Oilman T. Boone Pickens said Wednesday he has cut in half an order for General Electric Co. wind turbines and plans to use the rest in other areas instead of Texas, where he once planned a massive wind farm.

Pickens, who heads the hedge fund BP Capital Management LP in Dallas, purchased 333 turbines from GE, which was about half his initial order of 687 turbines.

"We are pursuing projects in Minnesota and Canada to place a number of the 333 turbines," BP Capital spokesman Jay Rosser said in a statement.

Pickens' scrapped his plan for a 1,000-megawatt wind farm in West Texas last summer because of technical problems in getting power from the site to transmission facilities.

The oilman still believes the Texas project will be developed when transmission and other issues are resolved, Rosser said.

Shares of GE rose 11 cents to \$16.88 in afternoon trading.

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### **Area Stocks: Starwood Hotels Dips – *News Times* – 1/12/10**

Gamco stumbles

Area stocks fell Tuesday, led by Priceline.com Inc. and Gamco Investors.

The Hearst/Bloomberg Southwest Connecticut Index dropped 1.23 to 107.01, as 16 stocks gained, 56 fell, and eight were unchanged.

Norwalk-based Priceline.com, an online discount travel service, lost \$4.93 to close at \$213.98. Gamco Investors of Rye, N.Y., whose chairman, Mario Gabelli, lives in Greenwich, lost \$1.24 to close at \$45.40.

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc., which plans to move from White Plains, N.Y., to Stamford, lost 63 cents to close at \$37.10, despite reporting that it plans to add more than 12,000 jobs to its global work force this year, with half being in the United States.

Among the gainers, PartnerRe, an international insurer with its U.S. headquarters in Greenwich, led the way, adding \$1.06 to close at \$73.06.

General Electric Co. of Fairfield, gained 1 cent to close at \$16.77, after signing contracts to provide 88 wind turbines to HECIC New Energy Co. for three projects in China.

That news came as The Dallas Morning News reported that investor T. Boone Pickens will take delivery of 300 GE turbines for wind farms in Canada and Minnesota -- half of those originally ordered.

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### **BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE**

#### **Pickens, Podesta Introduce New Ad Campaign – *Clean Skies* – 1/13/10**

Oil man turned wind proponent, T. Boone Pickens is cutting back plans to build the world's biggest wind farm in the Texas Panhandle.

He has cut his GE order in half and will now take delivery of 300 turbines in 2011.

Pickens says those turbines will be built in Canada and Minnesota because Texas still hasn't put up the necessary transmission lines needed to build his project.

Pickens says wind is now on the back burner, partially due to the drop in natural gas prices. He says natural gas fired power plants have become so cheap to operate, other plants have been displaced.

Later today, Pickens will unveil a new ad campaign and joins John Podesta, President and CEO of the Center for American Progress Action Fund, to talk about natural gas legislation pending in Congress.

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### **Pickens Ditches Texas Wind Project, Cozies Up to Natural Gas – BNET – 1/13/10**

By Kristen Korosec

So is it a drop in natural gas prices or the lack of available transmission lines that caused billionaire T. Boone Pickens to ditch plans to build the world's largest wind farm in Texas? Turns out, a combination of both.

Pickens, as part of his grand plan to wean the U.S. off of foreign oil, announced in May 2008 that his company Mesa Power LP would order 687 wind turbines from GE for about \$2 billion. The turbines were supposed to all end up in the Texas Panhandle to create a \$10 billion wind farm with 1,000 megawatts of capacity — the largest in the world. The project was originally envisioned at 4,000 megawatts, as fellow BNET Energy blogger Chris Morrison noted last year.

Pickens has back peddled ever since and now has cut his order for wind turbines by more than half, according to a blog post on Pickens' Web site and a report Wednesday by the Dallas Morning News. The remaining 300 turbines won't even make it to Texas. Canada and Minnesota will now be the lucky recipients of the turbines.

Pickens plan focuses on two main domestically produced elements: natural gas and wind. His idea is to upgrade the electrical transmission grid; use natural gas as a transportation fuel; and use wind and solar — not coal — to generate electricity.

But less than a year after Pickens announced plans for his so-called Pampa project, credit markets dried up and the delays began. By July, Pickens had postponed his project until 2013 when a \$4.9 billion transmission line project in Texas was expected to be completed. And here's where the miscalculation — an expensive one at that — started.

Transmission projects are a sticky, expensive business. And they're a huge obstacle to building wind capacity in the United States. Aside from the cost, a lot of folks simply don't like the idea of a transmission line going through their backyard.

No worries, though. Pickens is still cozy with natural gas. And based on comments he made in the Dallas Morning News report, low natural gas prices are the straw that ultimately broke the massive wind project's back. The low prices have encouraged companies to switch from coal to natural gas-fired power plants. So, in Pickens' mind, why bother with the headache of raising funds to build a transmission line to support a wind farm if natural gas is abundant and cheap?

This means Pickens will be pushing harder than ever to ensure the NAT Gas Act, otherwise known as the New Alternative Transportation to Give American's Solutions Act, is passed. And he'll be on the prowl to protect the natural gas industry, namely keeping efforts to regulate hydraulic fracturing, a technique used in unconventional gas production, at bay.

On a side note: Pickens, along with John Podesta, president and CEO of the Center American Progress Action Fund, are scheduled Wednesday to give an update via teleconference on the energy and natural gas legislation.

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### **Pickens Halves GE Turbine Order as Texas Project Falter – Recharge – 1/13/10**

Energy investor T. Boone Pickens says he has halved his huge order for 1.5 megawatt wind turbines from General Electric from 667 to 333, and will now try to place some of them in projects in Canada and Minnesota, not the Texas Panhandle as originally planned.

In May 2008, the veteran oilman-turned-clean-power-advocate announced that his company, Mesa Power, would place the turbine order worth about \$2bn with GE. At the time, it was believed to be among the largest ever such deals. Delivery of the remaining turbines will begin in 2011.

“Boone's plans for an expansive wind farm in the Panhandle have been delayed for a number of reasons, chief of them being the lack of transmission in that region,” Jay Rosser, spokesman for Pickens, tells Recharge.

“He believes projects there will be developed once the transmission problem is resolved, the natural gas market improves and other issues are resolved,” adds Rosser. “And he believes the considerable funds he has invested in that region for wind power will pay off.”

The Panhandle project near Pampa, Texas, was targeted to become the world's largest wind farm at an eventual 4,000MW, enough electricity for 1.3 million homes. The GE order was to cover the first 1,000MW phase.

Pickens,81, says he will build a wind farm in the Panhandle when transmission is built. The project was also torpedoed by last year's economic crisis that reportedly hurt the billionaire's ability to finance it.

The venture was a core element of the Pickens Plan that he unveiled and promoted with great fanfare in the past several years to less US dependence on foreign oil.

Pickens now says that the sharp decline in natural gas prices has made wind power less important in the nation's energy mix.

“You only have one resource in America that will compete with oil, and it's natural gas,” he said on Tuesday. The Pickens Plan now focuses on promoting gas as a replacement for diesel in vehicles.

Pickens says the intermittent nature of wind precludes its use alone for power generation, while the cost of building wind farms remains expensive compared to gas-fired thermal stations.

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## **T. Boone's Wind Plans Halved & Headed North – *Earth2Tech* – 1/13/10**

By Josie Garthwaite

Two years ago energy baron T. Boone Pickens had visions of building the world's largest wind farm in the Texas Panhandle, starting with a \$2 billion order of wind turbines from General Electric. That project was put on hold indefinitely last year, but there's new details from the Dallas Morning News this morning: Pickens' Mesa Power will still buy the turbines from GE, but the order has been cut by more than half (to 300 turbines, down from 667) and will now go toward wind projects it plans to build in Canada and Minnesota.

This latest change of plans highlights a choke point for renewable energy projects: transmission. According to the Dallas Morning News, Pickens said yesterday at an America's Future Series event in Texas that the Panhandle will not have transmission lines to carry electricity from the project when he's slated to begin taking deliveries of the turbines next year. After transmission lines get built, he said he will also build a wind farm in the region, but it's unclear when or how big that might be.

Texas leads the nation in wind power, boasting large stretches of windswept rural plains and a regulatory environment that can fast-track wind projects. Yet drawing that power from remote areas to more

populated regions is both expensive (a 2008 report estimated the state could spend between \$2.95 billion and \$6.38 billion building new transmission lines) and time consuming.

The high price shouldn't come as a surprise to Pickens. Back in 2008, he said he'd be willing to spend another \$2 billion building transmission lines for the Texas project (originally envisioned with a 4,000-megawatt capacity) so he wouldn't have to wait for the state or a utility. Well, that was before the debt markets cramped his style.

Now we'll see if Pickens can get his wind farms built up North in the shorter term and later on in Texas in the longer term. But as he put it on *Living on Earth*, "[E]verything has gotta happen fast for me, because I'm 80 years old." In the wind business, it looks like there are some things even a billionaire energy baron can't buy. Swift transmission construction is one of them.

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### **Green Ink: Oil Slumps and T. Boone Punts – *WSJ Blog* – 1/13/10**

By Keith Johnson

Crude oil futures fell below \$80 a barrel after Chinese banking rules raise fears the country might slam the brakes on growth. "The Chinese decision doesn't affect physical oil demand, but it does affect sentiment, and that's the most important thing for driving prices," an analyst tells Bloomberg.

In Washington, the fate of energy and climate legislation hangs in the balance. The question: Is it wiser to try to pass stand-alone energy legislation, without all the controversial climate-change bits, or push for the whole enchilada? In *Politico* and *Green Wire*.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's position is clear: Climate legislation now would strangle U.S. businesses still struggling with the recession, also in *Green Wire*. NASA's James Hansen also hates cap-and-trade, and plans more acts of civil disobedience, in *The Guardian*.

So what about geo-engineering? Scientists will convene a conference this March to study emergency options for checking temperature increases, also in *The Guardian*.

More fallout post-Copenhagen: China's Janus-faced approach to international affairs reveals a "dragon in sheep's clothing," says a NYT op-ed: "As Copenhagen revealed, China is not the self-touted rising superpower but a scheming power that uses poor states as a front to obstruct progress through procedural wrangling."

Either way, China and other developing countries will meet later this month to detail their voluntary actions on climate change, part of the follow-up to the much-attacked Copenhagen Accord, in Reuters.

The NYT's Room for Debate looks at "green civil war," or the battle between preservation and the development of new clean-energy sources.

T. Boone Pickens gets colder feet: The oilman-cum-wind maven halves his wind-turbine order and now says plans for a big Texas wind farm are shelved, in the *Dallas Morning News*.

From the Detroit Auto Show, General Motors has a recipe for success: Build more trucks. China's BYD has electric cars, but isn't sure yet how to attack the U.S. market. And more video on Tesla's electric roadster, all in the *WSJ*.

Finally, Venezuela may be oil-rich, but it's energy-poor. The country will start five months of rolling blackouts to deal with electricity shortages, in Bloomberg.

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## **E2 Round-Up: Gore Defends EPA, Chamber Considers Climate Lawsuit, and Pickens Pulls Back on Wind** – *The Hill* – 1/13/10

By Jim Snyder

Former Vice President Al Gore joined Democrats on the Environment and Public Works Committee to urge the Senate to oppose the effort to keep EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions, in Bloomberg.

Yesterday, Ben also wrote up a piece about the letter from Gore and EPW Dems here.

U.S. News & World Report has a piece about the U.S. Chamber of Commerce considering taking EPA to court to block it from regulating carbon dioxide.

More Ben: here's his blog on the group's outspoken president Tom Donohue gloating a bit over the troubles the climate legislation seems to be facing in the Senate.

T. Boone Pickens, who later today is giving a news conference to support legislation to promote natural gas, is apparently a bit less enthusiastic about wind. Dallas Morning News has a story about Pickens deciding to halve his purchase of turbines from General Electric.

I've always wanted to visit Hong Kong, but this short Q&A on the New York Times' Green, Inc. blog has me reconsidering.

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## **Branstad "Pleased" with 2009 Fundraising** – *Des Moines Register Blog* – 1/12/10

By Tom Beaumont

Former Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad said he was happy with the money he raised last year toward his comeback campaign for governor.

"We're pleased," the Republican told The Des Moines Register about campaign contributions he received from mid-October, when he announced plans to seek his old office, and the end of the year.

Branstad is scheduled Tuesday to begin a four-day, 17-city tour in Des Moines ceremonially kicking off his bid for the 2010 GOP nomination for governor. Branstad is scheduled to start the swing at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the Iowa Historical Building.

It is the same day 2009 fundraising reports are due to the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board for candidates for governor. Branstad declined to say how much money he had raised since stepping down as president of Des Moines University in October to run for governor.

Branstad dismissed criticism from Iowa Family Policy Center Chairman Danny Carroll about the former governor's attention to social conservative concerns.

"Iowans are concerned about job creation. They are concerned about fiscal responsibility," he said. "And they do want a governor that's pro-life, pro-family. And I think I represent that and I'm not afraid to defend my record."

Branstad was attending an event with about 150 supporters at a West Des Moines restaurant where he was unveiling the new features of his campaign Web site, GovernorBranstad2010.com. The site is aimed at encouraging on-line networking of Branstad supporters. It is modeled on one produced by Texas oil and renewable energy executive T. Boone Pickens.

Iowa Gov. Chet Culver, a Democrat expected to seek a second term this year, unveiled his campaign Web site, also aimed at connecting supporters, last month.

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## BROADCAST COVERAGE

### 1. Daybreak

KVII-TV CH 7 (ABC) Amarillo

01/13/2010 06:00 AM - 07:00 AM

DMA: 131

Spot Cost: \$64

Est. Audience: 9,270

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:06:02 And speaking of **wind energy**. . -**Boone Pickens** has cut back on his **wind** turbine order from General Electric. He only wants three hundred of them half what he once envisioned. He's going to use those for **wind** farm projects in Minnesota and Canada. And none of them will come to the Texas panhandle. Not long ago, he was planning to build the world's largest **wind** farm in parts of Moore and Roberts County. 00:07:33

### 2. Daybreak

KVII-TV CH 7 (ABC) Amarillo

01/13/2010 05:30 AM - 06:00 AM

DMA: 131

Spot Cost: \$20

Est. Audience: 3,791

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:06:28 And speaking of **wind energy**. **T. Boone Pickens** has cut back on his **wind** turbine order from General Electric. He only wants three hundred of them half what he once envisioned he's going to use those for **wind** farm projects in Minnesota and Canada. And none of them will come to the Texas panhandle. Not long ago, he was planning to build the world's largest **wind** farm in parts of Moore and Roberts County. 00:08:03

### 3. Pronics

KVII-TV CH 7 (ABC) Amarillo

01/12/2010 10:00 PM - 10:35 PM

DMA: 131

Spot Cost: \$190

Est. Audience: 18,060

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:04:42 **T. Boone Pickens** has cut back on his **wind** turbine order, from General Electric. He only wants three hundred of them half what he once envisioned. He's going to use those for **wind** farm projects, in Minnesota and Canada. And none of them will come to the Texas panhandle. 00:05:55

### 4. Good Morning West Texas

KMID-TV CH 2 (ABC) Odessa/Midland

01/13/2010 05:30 AM - 06:00 AM

DMA: 155

Spot Cost: \$20

Est. Audience: 352

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:10:57 **T. Boone Pickens** has cut a massive order in half for **wind** turbines from General Electric. He says the reason **wind energy** has become less important has to do with the drop of **natural gas** prices. The **energy** investor says he now plans to use those turbines for **wind** farms in Canada and Minnesota. 00:11:20

### 5. KMID ABC2 News At 10

KMID-TV CH 2 (ABC) Odessa/Midland

01/12/2010 10:00 PM - 10:35 PM

DMA: 155

Spot Cost: \$59

Est. Audience: 4,852

Available formats: QuickView, DVD, CD, digital link, videotape, transcript, NewsBoard

[CC] 00:05:53 **T. Boone Pickens** has cut a massive order in half for **wind** turbines from General Electric. He says the reason **wind energy** has become less important has to do with the drop of **natural gas** prices. The **energy** investor says he now plans to use those turbines for **wind** farms in Canada and Minnesota. 00:08:28