



T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 1.28.10

Total of 19 Placements

-  Print: 2
-  Blog/Online: 14
-  Broadcast: 3

Coverage Summary:

An op-ed by Pickens published on AOL discusses what has happened since the Pickens Plan was launched 18 months ago and how the NAT GAS Act can help address the national security crisis we are faced with due to our dependence on foreign oil.

Prior to last night's State of the Union speech, an email from Pickens was sent out to members of the media detailing Pickens' hope that the President would speak to the dangers of our dependence on foreign oil during his speech. The *Fort Worth Business Press* published the email in its entirety. The *Dallas Morning News* also used parts of the email in a preview piece discussing some of the topics Obama was expected to address. This piece goes on to say there is speculation on the Hill that another energy bill could move forward in lieu of the stalled climate legislation and it is possible for the NAT GAS Act to be included in that.

Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

-  **Opinion: Energy Independence Is Within Reach** – AOL – 1/28/10
-  **Natural Gas Industry Needs to Pay Attention to the State of the Union Address** – *Fort Worth Business Press* – 1/27/10
-  **The Energy Oracle Says Obama Speech Will Contain "Clues and Cues" About Natural Gas Vehicles** – *Dallas Morning News Blog* – 1/27/10

Blog/Online Placements (Full Articles Below)

-  **Obama Speech: Nukes, Offshore Drilling and No Love for Cap-and-Trade** – *BNET* – 1/28/10
-  **Obama's State of the Union: The Energy Industry's Policy, Investment Barometer for 2010** – *BNET* – 1/27/10
-  **How Sandridge Natural Gas Could Turn Oklahoma City Into an Urban Hot Spot** – *Fast Company Blog* – 1/28/10
-  **These 5 Underdogs Are No Dogs** – *Motley Fool* – 1/27/10
-  **Economides Sees Fossil Fuels Remaining Key for U.S.** – *WTRF* – 1/28/10
 - o *WOWK*
 - o *WBOY*
 - o *WVNS*
 - o *State Journal*
-  **Thursday in DC: DOE Chief to Deliver Green Car Loan Announcement** – *Earth2Tech* – 1/27/10
-  **Pennsylvania Gas Wells Booming, But So Are Spills** – *AlterNet* – 1/27/10
-  **US Wind Energy Industry Enjoys Record 2009** – *Business Green* – 1/28/10
-  **Wind Power Grows 39% for the Year** – *Cap Cod Today* – 1/28/10

HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

Opinion: Energy Independence Is Within Reach – AOL – 1/28/10

By T. Boone Pickens

(Jan. 28) -- In his State of the Union speech, President Barack Obama said that "no area is more ripe for such innovation than energy."

I couldn't agree more.

One of my secrets over my 81 years has been to look ahead and not just plan for the best, but work hard to make "the best" the only possible outcome. Sometimes "the best" has been harder and taken longer than I originally thought it should, but I get there with determination.

When I began the Pickens Plan about 18 months ago, oil was just about at its peak of \$147 per barrel. I went on the air talking about sending \$700 billion a year overseas to pay for our imported oil and just about every candidate for president -- including the winner -- picked up the chant: Reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

Then came the financial crisis, the recession deepened, and oil prices collapsed to about \$32 a barrel. With so much else to think about, and to deal with, foreign oil fell off the front pages and out of political speeches.

I haven't stopped working, and neither have the 1.6 million members of the Pickens Plan Army. I have continued to tour the country making speeches, appearing on news and business TV shows, doing radio interviews and visiting members of the House and Senate. Oil has now rebounded to more than \$80 per barrel, and the numbers just released by the U.S. government show we imported more than 4 billion barrels last year at a cost of about a third of a trillion dollars. That works out to approximately \$1 billion every workday of the year.

Our latest ad begins with the words, "Go back to sleep America, the oil crisis is over," written in Arabic script. The oil crisis is not over. We continue to import nearly 70 percent of the oil we use, and two thirds of that is used as a transportation fuel: gasoline for our 230 million cars, SUVs and pickups; and diesel for our more than 8.5 million trucks and bus fleets.

Every mile we drive takes money out of our economy and puts much of it into the economies of countries that don't like us. And the people who hate us -- those terrorists with whom, President Obama has proclaimed, we are at war -- know that our addiction to foreign oil is America's strategic Achilles' heel.

The fact is: We can reduce our need for foreign oil virtually immediately by beginning to fuel heavy-duty fleets with the enormous reserves of natural gas that have been identified in the continental United States. Largely due to advances in drilling technology, the vast amounts of natural gas -- over 100 years' supply -- that is contained in the shale deposits in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Appalachia can be safely and commercially recovered.

There are 10 million natural gas powered vehicles (NGVs) on the world's roads, a tiny percentage of which are in use in the U.S. Why? Cheap gas. Every time we get a head of steam up for replacing our traditional internal combustion engines with a safer, cleaner fuel, the price of oil drops, we forget the pain, and we go right back to our oil-burning ways.

By transitioning even a small percentage of America's heavy-duty vehicles from burning foreign diesel to American natural gas, we can in short order strengthen U.S. national security, enhance our economic security, and create and save American jobs.

The House and Senate have legislation in committee and ready for action: the Nat Gas Act. In the House, it is H.R. 1835. In the Senate, it is S. 1408. The bills provide tax breaks for the purchase of vehicles that will run on natural gas. These companion bills have bipartisan support in both chambers. That alone makes the Nat Gas Act unique.

Every president since Richard Nixon has promised to address the national security crisis associated with our ever-escalating dependence on foreign oil, but none has.

President Obama has a unique opportunity in history to change that.

T. Boone Pickens is an energy executive and creator of the Pickens Plan.

Natural Gas Industry Needs to Pay Attention to the State of the Union Address – Fort Worth Business Press – 1/27/10

[On Jan. 27] President Obama will lay out his agenda for 2010 and beyond. While 2009 was primarily focused on the financial sector and health care, I am hoping that the President will speak to the continuing crisis of our dangerous dependence on foreign oil—the biggest single threat to our national security. In 2009 we imported over four billion barrels of oil at a cost of nearly a third of a trillion dollars.

If you've followed the Pickens Plan over the past 18 months, you know that we have made great strides in supporting and crafting legislation that supports the wind and solar power industries. The third leg of that stool has been, and continues to be, natural gas. Because of enhanced drilling techniques, the natural gas contained in the vast shale deposits under Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Appalachia is available for commercial recovery. This means the U.S. now has more than 100 years of natural gas reserves which puts the U.S. among the top three in the world in that natural resource.

I am hoping the President will note that nearly 70 percent of the oil we import is used as transportation fuel in the form of gasoline or diesel. Half of what we import comes from OPEC nations, many of whom are not friends of the U.S. Both Democrats and Republicans want to provide solutions, and find common ground. There is growing awareness that expanding the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel is an effective approach to address three public expectations...cleaner air, the national security threat of our ever-increasing dependence on foreign oil, and job creation.

We have the best chance in decades to solve this problem. Bipartisan legislation in the House and Senate, The NAT GAS Act (H.R. 1835 and S. 1408), will help jump start a completely new industry sector in the U.S., the natural gas vehicle (NGV) sector. This bill has generated a great deal of support—nearly 130 Members from both sides of the aisle— as evidenced by this comment from the New York Times: “A bill that has the support of Senator Harry Reid, the Democratic leader, and some senior Congressional Republicans, would offer tax incentives to bus and truck fleets to switch to natural gas, a fuel that emits less carbon dioxide than diesel.”

Natural gas has been embraced by virtually every segment of the environmental, economic, and national security domains as the best possible bridge fuel to power heavy trucks (18-wheelers, refuse and recycling trucks) and fleet vehicles (school and municipal buses, etc) because these vehicles are enormous users of diesel fuel and tend to run the same routes and/or go home to the barn every night for refueling.

If the NAT GAS Act is enacted, in seven years we can reduce our dependence on imports from OPEC by 50 percent and create millions of jobs with a new energy economy. I don't expect the President to mention this legislation by name, but I urge you to watch for the clues and cues that he will be supporting it.

- T. Boone Pickens

Pickens is a longtime energy executive who has developed The Pickens Plan as a way for the U.S. to be more energy independent.

The Energy Oracle Says Obama Speech Will Contain "Clues and Cues" About Natural Gas Vehicles – *Dallas Morning News Blog* – 1/27/10

By Dave Michaels

Tonight President Obama will lay out his agenda for 2010 in his annual State of the Union speech. Most of the message will turn on jobs and the economy, but energy interests want to know what Obama will say about climate change and other energy-related legislation.

Dallas' T. Boone Pickens -- oil price oracle and leader of the relentless crusade to use more natural gas -- urges that we listen to Obama's remarks about energy. The president hasn't explicitly said he supports Pickens' pet legislation, the NAT GAS Act, which would provide incentives to move more heavy trucks to run on natural gas instead of diesel fuel. But we are told that Obama will discuss energy policy tonight, and the Obama-allied Center for American Progress has championed the bill.

The legislation fits into at least two holes for the administration -- jobs and national security. Pickens says that natural gas could displace a significant amount of imported oil, while his allies in Congress argue that more natural gas production (and a steady, higher price) would be good for employment in their districts. Perhaps good for Pickens, there is speculation on the Hill that another energy bill could move forward in lieu of the stalled climate legislation. (The NAT GAS Act could theoretically be included in that larger bill.)

In an email just sent out by his P.R. team, Pickens says he doesn't expect Obama to mention the NAT GAS Act. "But I urge you to watch for the clues and cues that he will be supporting it," Pickens says in the email.

BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE

Obama Speech: Nukes, Offshore Drilling and No Love for Cap-and-Trade – BNET – 1/28/10

By Kristen Korosec

President Obama's State of the Union address covered a lot of energy ground last night. At times it seemed like everything was thrown in there. Solar, advanced biofuels, energy efficiency incentives, "clean" coal and the offshore drilling for oil and gas. And of course, we can't forget the call for a "new generation of safe, clean nuclear power plants in this country." What the -?

Heck, he even playfully scolded the folks who disagree with the scientific evidence on climate change, and called for a comprehensive climate and energy bill. Am I missing anything? Oh yes. No continued cuts for oil companies.

Come to think of it, this sounded a lot like what I expect to come out of the tripartisan effort between Sens. John Kerry, D-Mass., Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., to develop a compromise climate and energy bill.

For everything President Obama did say last night, there were some interesting exclusions. There was not one mention of "cap-and-trade" or any vague or specific call for limiting greenhouse gas emissions. The purposeful exclusion of cap-and-trade is a good thing. It basically gives Congress — which is endlessly hung up on the word — a pretty wide area to play in. Whether the Senate will still be able to pass anything is another question. Once the topic of reducing greenhouse gas emissions comes up the "comprehensive" legislation may quickly turn to an energy and jobs bill.

In a post yesterday, I mentioned T. Boone Pickens urged folks to watch for "cues and clues" in his speech that he supports the Nat Gas ACT, legislation that would expand tax credits and incentives to promote the use of natural gas in vehicles. Aside from the mention of "making tough decisions about opening new offshore areas for oil and gas development" I heard, and later read, not a whisper more on natural gas.

Actually, there was very little in his speech on transportation fuels at all. There was a brief mention of a high-speed railroad, a vague reference to advanced biofuels and quick line about a plant that created jobs building advanced batteries. Nothing about our use of fuel in cars and trucks. And not a word about corn-based ethanol.

The response from the oil and gas industry this morning was politely supportive. American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard expressed support for Obama's words on offshore drilling and job creation effort. Gerard then called for policies that allow investment and development — policies that are pro-job, pro-consumer and pro-energy," which sounded like a veiled disapproval of removing tax cuts for oil companies and a caution against pursuing cap-and-trade legislation.

Here's some relevant energy-related snippets from Obama's speech:

"Next, we can put Americans to work today building the infrastructure of tomorrow. From the first railroads to the Interstate Highway System, our nation has always been built to compete. There's no reason Europe or China have the fastest trains, or the new factories that manufacture clean energy products.

And just a bit later a shoutout to energy efficiency:

"We should put more Americans to work building clean energy facilities and give rebates to Americans who make their homes energy-efficient, which support clean energy jobs. And to encourage these and other businesses to stay within our borders, it is time to finally slash the tax breaks for companies that ship our jobs overseas, and give those tax breaks to companies that create jobs right here in the United States of America."

When he throws it all out there:

“But to create more of these clean energy jobs, we need more production, more efficiency, more incentives. And that means building a new generation of safe, clean nuclear power plants in this country. It means making tough decisions about opening new offshore areas for oil and gas development. It means continued investment in advanced biofuels and clean coal technologies. And yes, it means passing a comprehensive energy and climate bill with incentives that will finally make clean energy the profitable kind of energy in America.”

Obama on climate change and the economic reason to support legislation:

“I know there have been questions about whether we can afford such changes in a tough economy. I know that there are those who disagree with the overwhelming scientific evidence on climate change. But here’s the thing — even if you doubt the evidence, providing incentives for energy-efficiency and clean energy are the right thing to do for our future — because the nation that leads the clean energy economy will be the nation that leads the global economy. And America must be that nation.”

Obama's State of the Union: The Energy Industry's Policy, Investment Barometer for 2010 – BNET – 1/27/10

By Kristen Korosec

President Obama’s State of the Union is just hours away, which can only mean one thing: lots of last minute pleas and suggestions as to what he should include and keep out of his address to the American people. Top on the list for energy industry folk is climate-change legislation, clean energy investment, offshore drilling, hydraulic fracturing and legislation to promote natural gas as a transportation fuel, to name a few. And the stakes are high.

This is after all, where Obama is going to set the agenda for the nation. And while he may not spell it out in big, bold letters, the speech can provide clues as to where the administration plans to focus its attention. NOTE: BNET Energy will have a post later discussing what Obama did actually say in the speech.

Case in point: the Hill’s E2 Wire blog reported that a bunch of senators sent Obama a letter urging the president to include clean energy and climate-change legislation as a policy priority for the country.

I have to wonder whether a meeting yesterday between Obama and a number of corporate executives will produce any last minute inclusions in the speech? Who can forget President Bush’s 2006 State of the Union speech where switchgrass made it in at the last minute thanks to a meeting with Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Alab.

In terms of energy, there were two notable figures at the meeting, which is part of series of gatherings the president has held in the past year. ExxonMobil CEO and Chairman Rex Tillerson and Anadarko CEO James Hackett were among the business leaders present at the meeting with Obama, according to a report by the Houston Chronicle.

Obama’s State of the Union will certainly focus on the economy and jobs, two huge areas of concern for Americans. Question is: how does he plan on addressing the problem? The natural gas proponents have been exerting lots of pressure in the past few months, including energy investor and billionaire T. Boone Pickens, who is pushing for passage of the NAT GAS Act, legislation that would expand tax credits and incentives to promote the use of natural gas in vehicles. Pickens also wants to replace diesel and gasoline-powered buses and trucks with ones that run on natural gas.

In a recent e-mail, Pickens urges folks to “watch for clues and cues” in Obama’s speech that he supports the NAT GAS Act, according to a post this afternoon by the Dallas Morning News’s Texas Energy and Environment blog.

How Sandridge Natural Gas Could Turn Oklahoma City Into an Urban Hot Spot – *Fast Company* Blog – 1/28/10

By Greg Lindsay

A one-time cow town, oil town, and even a tent city (when it was founded during the 1889 land rush), Oklahoma City is urgently trying to reinvent itself as the next big city in America. If “America is the Saudi Arabia of natural gas,” as T. Boone Pickens puts it, then Oklahoma City is its Riyadh. It’s home to three of the largest independent producers--Chesapeake, Devon, and Sandridge--which are helping to underwrite its urban ambitions.

This afternoon, Sandridge will unveil an over \$100 million expansion of its downtown headquarters across three city blocks. The plans include a renovated 1960s tower by architect Pietro Belluschi, a restored Braniff Building--built in 1923 by the brothers who started their namesake airline--and a public park recycled from a pair of windswept plazas. The New York-based architecture firm of Rogers Marvel will incorporate features like green roofs, native plantings, and storm-water management to meet LEED standards. Sandridge, which is the youngest and smallest of the city’s gas giants, is touting the project as the largest private downtown development in its history--for the time being, at least.

What’s unusual about the plan by local standards is that Sandridge is reusing existing buildings, rather than relocating to an exurban campus. Part of this has to do with timing--the company acquired a million square feet on the cheap when yet another energy firm, Kerr-McGee, was sold to Anadarko Petroleum in 2007 and immediately left town for Houston. Sandridge CEO Tom Ward had considered a campus, but found it was both too expensive and too inflexible for his plans to grow the company from 600 to 1,500 employees. Ward went against his own employees’ wishes by electing to remain downtown instead. “Their first response was that it was going to be a longer commute, and the idea was not one they embraced originally,” Ward says. “And then the Thunder came to town and a lot of things started changing.” (Ward is also a minority owner in the Oklahoma City Thunder, the city’s two-year-old NBA team.)

Downtown Oklahoma City once boasted trolley lines, grand hotels, and stockyards. Oil was discovered directly below the city in 1928, leading to its first boom. By the 1960s, however, downtown suffered from white flight, suburban sprawl, and an elevated Interstate highways cleaving it in two. Drastic measures to fix the situation only made it worse. “We really messed up in the 1970s with urban renewal,” says Craig Tucker, a senior vice president at the commercial real estate firm Price Edwards. “We tore down buildings we should have kept, going with I.M. Pei plans that left us with generic ones.” Then the oil glut of the 1980s devastated the city’s tax base.

Unable to attract new businesses, the city bottomed out in the early '90s. In response, voters approved the Metropolitan Area Projects Plan (MAPS) to help finance downtown’s reconstruction. The first-of-its-kind one-cent sales tax, with a strict time limit of five years (later extended) raised \$360 million in public funds, supplemented by more than a billion dollars in private money to build a minor-league ballpark, the Bricktown entertainment district, a new central library, and other improvements. A second plan, dubbed “MAPS for Kids,” paid for city schools, and the third, passed by voters in December, will underwrite the city’s “Core to Shore” plan, which calls for rerouting the I-40 Crosstown elevated expressway and expanding downtown toward the Oklahoma River. The centerpiece of the plan is a 70-acre Central Park, and \$777 million has been earmarked for a restored trolley network, mass transit hub, new convention center, running and biking trails, and even sidewalks. (For decades, the city refused to pave them.)

"It's the best possible example of how a populace must tax themselves if they want public works," says Rogers Marvel principal Rob Rogers. "I just wish we would recognize that nationally." The new Sandridge headquarters and adjacent park is only the first piece. "Downtown has nice open spaces, but they're not particularly organized." By contrast, the new park will have restaurants open onto the plaza, on-site daycare for Sandridge employees, and enough furniture, shade, and privacy to stimulate traffic. Downtown needs it; the vacancy rate is still 27%.

"If you're an urbanist, vacancy of any kind is super tough," adds Rogers. "So the decision to go downtown and be a part of the city, to redevelop and reuse, is fundamentally about reinvigorating downtown. Everybody talks about being green, but one of the greenest things you can do is simply reuse things."

Ward's rationale is more practical: "Oklahoma City has become the second largest energy hub in the U.S. We have the ability to recruit people from Houston, and they're finally confident they could live here. We even have some advantages--less traffic, for one."

These 5 Underdogs Are No Dogs – Motley Fool – 1/27/10

By Rich Duprey

Short-sellers and hedge funds may be shadowy, but sometimes they are the smartest guys in the room. They've done their homework, and they're willing to bet their capital against the crowd -- an investing strategy that can be as lucrative as it is contrarian.

On Motley Fool CAPS, we've also got leading analysts who find the chinks in a company's armor and correctly call its fall. Our "Underdogs" have earned 100 or more CAPS points by correctly predicting that one or more stocks would underperform the market.

Let's look at some of the recent calls these All-Star investors have made. Instead of studying more of their pessimistic picks, we'll focus on the stocks that these top members expect will outperform the market. If these CAPS investors have scored big by correctly predicting which stocks will fail, it may be worth our while to see which others they think will succeed.

Underdog	Member Rating	Company	CAPS Rating (out of 5)
AirForceFool	99.94	China Fire & Security (Nasdaq: CFSG)	****
caidencollett07	99.56	Chesapeake Energy (NYSE: CHK)	*****
bigbenjewell	97.87	Clean Energy Fuels (Nasdaq: CLNE)	***
PIGMA	97.13	Life Partners Holdings (Nasdaq: LPHI)	**
XpXp	95.55	OmniVision Technologies (Nasdaq: OVTI)	***

Not every short sale goes as planned, making shorting a risky proposition. Stock prices can be irrational longer than you have money to stay in the game. So don't use this as a list of stocks to sell or buy -- just the launching pad for further research.

Underdogs still wag their tails

There seem to be few companies that subsist on rumors of Apple (Nasdaq: AAPL) business more than OmniVision Technologies. It was recently suggested that its orders for CMOS image sensors would double as the iPhone consumed greater numbers of them in a push for larger sales, and that's getting new life as it's suggested large quantities of 5-megapixel sensors have been secured from OmniVision.

With Google (Nasdaq: GOOG), Palm, and Motorola all offering flash-supported cameras, this new rumor suggests Apple is not ceding any ground to its rivals and will boost the resolution of its 3.2-megapixel

iPhone offering. CAPS member tomorbeck finds OmniVision being able to increase its presence across a number of technology platforms:

Expanding markets (notebooks, auto, security, medical, entertainment) plus image sensor market in transition to new formats/features with OVTI in leading the way. Has potential to be huge in next 1-3 years.

The CAPS community would seem to agree, as 94% of the more than 600 members rating the chip specialist believe it will outperform the market. Why not head over to the OmniVision Technologies CAPS page and engage in a little rumormongering of your own?

Show me more

With T. Boone Pickens cutting in half the number of wind turbines he wants to order, he's turning his attention once again to natural gas and pushing legislation that would help pay for converting trucks. That could help give the alternative fuel a push, though his interest didn't do as much as was hoped for wind energy.

It's going to take a lot more than a brief rally in natural gas to impress highly rated CAPS All-Star member UltraLong on the long-term prospects of Clean Energy Fuels:

Call me the grinch when it comes to renewable energy but as has become my customary phrase here recently, I'm not impressed. I do think natural gas could become a viable play, but it has already had one hell of a rally the past three months. Even with this rally and the huge jump in revenues expected in 2010, CLNE is trading at over 90 times future earnings expectations. This is far too rich for my blood, especially given consumers unwillingness thus far to move to a natural gas based transportation system, outside of mass transit. CLNE won't turn a profit until mid 2010 at the earliest. Over 8 times sales, 3.61 times book... yeah, not impressed.

There's no need to fear ...

Underdogs often shine brightest with their backs against the wall. Still, it takes more than a few All-Star picks and a quick paragraph to make buy or sell decisions. Start your own research on these stocks on Motley Fool CAPS, where your opinion can still save the day. While there, you can read a company's financial reports, scrutinize key data and charts, and examine the comments your fellow investors have made -- all from a stock's CAPS page.

Economides Sees Fossil Fuels Remaining Key for U.S. – WTRF – 1/28/10

By Rob Cornelius

About 87 percent: That's how much of America's energy use comes from fossil fuels.

Oil, natural gas, coal and most anything in between makes up seven-eighths of our energy use. It does today. It did 35 years ago, when we had our first energy crisis inspired by one of the Israeli-Arab conflicts. And that's not going to change anytime soon, according to Michael Economides, a leading domestic expert on energy and geopolitics. He spoke to this week's gathering of the West Virginia Independent Oil & Gas Association in Charleston.

The University of Houston professor and consultant to energy explorers in 70 nations during his career bombarded the crowd with information – some a surprise and some not so much.

- Economides sees any sort of cap-and-trade legislation as dead in the U.S. Congress and compares the current health care reform debate to kindergarten compared to trying to raise the price of the nation's energy.
- The fact is, as much as mainstream media seem to gin up hate for big oil, the vast majority of the world's unproduced oil lies in the hands of state oil concerns in places like Iran or Venezuela. The big multinationals like Exxon just can't replace reserves cheaply and are beginning to shift to natural gas for BTU replacement.
- One third of humans on Earth have no access to fossil fuels of any kind and still only have plant matter or waste to burn for heat or cooking. Their use of fossil fuels can go nowhere but up.
- The 35th largest coal mine in America, located in Kentucky, produces as much energy every year as all the current U.S. solar installations.
- Natural gas as a transportation fuel is future, so Boone Pickens has been to some degree right thus far. But the current infrastructure for diesel/gasoline is 100 years old and will not go away. Somewhere like China will have an easier time switching to NG for transports.
- In many places in Europe where wind power has been installed, local natural gas use for electricity has actually gone up. Wind simply doesn't blow when you need it to do so. And until battery technology moves along a few more decades, the capacity to store energy for electricity long term just isn't there.
- Carbon capture and its variants are "the last refuge of the energy scoundrel" – false and certain to fail. Twenty-five years of CO2 injection from a plant like John Amos or Mountaineer would fill an underground well space equal to the area of Rhode Island. Most places in the U. S. don't have the proper geology to allow that anyway.
- American natural gas production and possible export will become a critical part of the world energy puzzle. Russian gas production is as corrupt and backward as the oil industry in Iraq under Saddam Hussein. The Russians and Canadians have need for more gas than they will be able to produce, quite possibly as soon as 2013. Any major supply overhangs we have worldwide should dissipate by somewhere between 2011 and 2013.
- Iraq currently produces maybe two million barrels of oil a day but could produce anywhere from five million to 11 million with some investment and government stability. Don't necessarily expect the latter.
- China is buying energy everywhere, in every form, and can't believe no one in the west is stepping in to stop it. They have looked at deepest Africa, Argentina and the oil sands of western Canada just for starters to get oil. China's "biggest fear is the West pushing the price of oil back to \$150."
- To remain great as a nation, America needs to "Do what's good for you, and ignore all this climate rhetoric ... the Chinese need our spirit of innovation ... they are much more similar as a society to us than we are with the sclerotic nations of Europe."
- "Alarmism pays," said Economides, of the global warming movement. But he went on to say that he believes they already have failed and thinks the various iterations of climategate have done in that issue for the short term. We need only worry about the unfettered power of the EPA. "No legislature now wants anything to do with that."

Rob Cornelius of Parkersburg writes a column for The State Journal. His e-mail address is robcwv@gmail.com.

Thursday in DC: DOE Chief to Deliver Green Car Loan Announcement – *Earth2Tech* – 1/27/10

By Josie Garthwaite

For at least one green car maker out there, tomorrow may be the lucky day. According to a press advisory from the Department of Energy today, Secretary Steven Chu will — drumroll please — “make a loan announcement” related to the agency’s advanced technology vehicle loan program at noon (EST) Thursday at the Washington Auto Show.

This could go at least a couple of ways, with Chu either announcing the closure of one of the loans that the DOE agreed to last year on a conditional basis. A far more interesting option, of course, would be the announcement of a sixth loan recipient.

Between June and October of last year, the DOE announced conditional loan agreements with Tesla, Nissan, Ford, Fisker and parts maker Tenneco. No awards have been announced in the months since the program got a new director, a former venture capitalist brought on partly to help streamline the operations. So far, only Tesla and Ford’s loan agreements have been finalized.

Since the initial outpouring of awards, the dozens of projects seeking funding under the \$25 billion Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing loan program have been inching through the evaluation process.

Most recently, for example, the stealthy T. Boone Pickens and Kleiner Perkins-backed startup V-Vehicle entered the environmental assessment stage, according to local media reports yesterday. (Back in October 2009, the company said it expected an answer on the loan by November.)

Other companies vying for funds under the ATVM program include Ener1, which in March 2009 said it had progressed to the second stage — financial and technical viability — of a four-stage evaluation process. Last week a spokesperson for Ener1’s battery-making subsidiary, EnerDel, seemed confident that the company will receive funding under the program — just not the amount it originally requested.

Rather than a \$480 million loan, spokesperson Rachel Caroll told us the company expects a total of \$400 million in federal funds, including the still-pending loan and a \$118.5 million stimulus grant awarded last year. We have not heard back from the company yet on our request today for an update.

Norwegian electric car maker Think, in which Ener1 holds a 31 percent stake, is also seeking ATVM funds to support set up of manufacturing for its electric Think City model in Elkhart, Indiana. Yesterday Think named Indiana-based EnerDel as its exclusive battery supplier for models sold in the U.S. through 2012 — a move that could check off one more box for Think’s ATVM application.

A Think spokesperson told us today the arrangement “provides EnerDel with an identified market customer and volume assurance for their lithium ion battery pack and helps us control manufacturing costs.” That could potentially help both company’s bids for government funds.

The raft of other companies hoping for funds under the ATVM program also includes Bright Automotive, Aptera and Chrysler. The latter and largest of those three told the Detroit News late yesterday that it expects the loan this year. But hey, we don’t have a crystal ball — we’ll let you know tomorrow what the Secretary has to say.

Pennsylvania Gas Wells Booming, But So Are Spills – *AlterNet* – 1/27/10

By Sabrina Shankman

Reports of toxic spills are coming on the heels of a string of other incidents that have killed fish in one of the state’s most prized recreational lakes.

As more gas wells are drilled in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale, more cases of toxic spills are being reported. Earlier this month, Pennsylvania's environmental officials fined Pennsylvania-based Atlas Resources after a series of violations at 13 wells, including spills of fracturing fluids and other contaminants onto the ground around the sites. And just last week the agency fined M.R. Dirt, a company that removes waste from drilling sites, \$6,000 for spilling more than 7 tons of drilling dirt along a public road.

The reports come on the heels of a string of other incidents that have killed fish in one of the state's most prized recreational lakes and released toxic chemicals into the environment.

The Atlas spills are significant because they are among the latest and because they happened repeatedly during the routine transfer of fluids. Pennsylvania's Environmental Protection Agency fined [1] Atlas Resources \$85,000 for the offenses, which took place between May and December of 2009. Many of the spills were discovered by DEP inspectors.

The violations [2] (PDF) cited by the DEP include spills of fluids from the hydraulic fracturing [3] process at seven sites, and failure to report a spill at one of those sites. One spill was the result of a faulty pit liner, which is supposed to insulate the ground from hydraulic fracturing fluids after they are pumped out of a well.

Atlas Resources [4] controls more than half a million acres within the Marcellus Shale, the massive gas deposit that stretches from Tennessee to New York. The company, whose total revenue was \$787.4 million in 2008, issued a statement acknowledging that it had entered a voluntary settlement with the DEP and saying that each of the incidents had been corrected. An Atlas spokesman declined a request to answer additional questions about the violations, or about the company's operations in Pennsylvania.

"If you look at this series of violations -- it's not only that there are multiple violations," said DEP spokeswoman Helen Humphreys, pointing to the fact that the same three violations were turning up at each site. "This is a pattern, and it's a problem."

The pattern -- and the problem -- extends beyond Atlas.

In December the DEP fined [5] Chesapeake and Schlumberger, two of the biggest operators in the Marcellus Shale and in gas development nationally, for spilling hydrochloric acid, which is used for hydraulic fracturing and is corrosive. Cabot Oil and Gas, the Houston-based energy company that lists T. Boone Pickens as one of its stockholders, was fined in November [6] for a series of spills, including a fracturing fluid spill by its contractor Halliburton.

In October Pennsylvania fined [7] (PDF) Texas-based Range Resources \$23,500 for spilling nearly 5,000 gallons of wastewater, including hydraulic fracturing fluids, into a tributary of Cross Creek Lake, a protected watershed near Pittsburgh that contains some of the state's most robust fish populations.

A DEP report [8] (PDF) on that spill said, "The creek was impacted by sediments all the way down to the lake and there was also evidence of a fish kill as invertebrates and fish were observed lying dead in the creek."

The Range Resources spill occurred on May 26, when the company was pumping fluids from the hydraulic fracturing of three wells through a six-inch pipe to a DEP-approved impoundment. Along the way, two screws along the pipe came loose, according to the Range Resources report [9] on the incident, allowing thousands of gallons to spill onto the ground before the company was able to shut it down.

Range Resources spokesman Matt Pitzarella said the loosened screws were a result of vandalism and that the company responded by increasing security at its sites. The fish killed in Cross Creek amounted to less than a pound of minnows, he said.

Just three weeks before the fines were announced, Range was penalized by the DEP for another accident -- this time for spilling more than 10,000 gallons of flowback water, which again resulted in a fish kill and a substantial cleanup effort. A DEP spokesman said he could not comment on that spill, because a settlement is still being decided.

"We find both of these to be unfortunate and unacceptable," said Pitzarella, who said that neither spill had any negative impacts on health or property.

Unlike previous spills -- including the recent Atlas spills -- the DEP has not issued press releases for either of the Range Resources spills, and a spokesman has not explained why.

US Wind Energy Industry Enjoys Record 2009 – *Business Green* – 1/28/10

By Danny Bradbury

Wind power projects in the US enjoyed unprecedented growth in 2009, according to new figures from the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) that show total wind energy capacity grew 39 per cent last year.

However, the Association warned that some of the economic benefits associated with this rapid scaling up of wind energy were being lost as a result of insufficient government support for the country's fledgling turbine manufacturing industry.

According to the Association's fourth quarter report [PDF], the stimulus package, passed in January 2009, saw a massive increase in capacity throughout the year with almost 10,000MW of new wind power installed, taking total US installed wind capacity to almost 35,000MW. Encouragingly, the fourth quarter was the strongest to date, with almost 4,000MW of new capacity connected to the grid.

AWEA chief executive Denise Bode credited the Obama administration's stimulus package with accelerating growth in the sector at a time when many renewable energy experts expected the market to slow as a result of the recession.

"The US wind energy industry shattered all installation records in 2009, chalking up the Recovery Act as a historic success in creating jobs, avoiding carbon, and protecting consumers," she said.

The rapid growth in wind energy also provided further evidence that the US is slowly transitioning away from carbon-intensive fuels, with the AWEA noting wind power and natural gas are running "neck-and-neck" in the race to become the leading source of new electricity generation, together accounting for about 80 per cent of new capacity.

However, the report warned that support for new wind farms is not being matched by support for wind manufacturing plants.

"At the same time, the continuing lack of a long-term policy and market signal allowed total investment in the manufacturing sector to drop compared to 2008, with one-third fewer online, announced and expanded wind power manufacturing facilities in 2009," said the report. "The result was net job losses in the manufacturing sector, which were compounded by low orders due to high inventory."

Bode said that the slowdown in new manufacturing projects represented the "the canary in the mine" for the industry and urged the government to "set hard targets, in the form of a national Renewable Electricity Standard [RES], in order to provide the necessary stability for manufacturers to expand their US operations".

Regionally, Texas maintained its historic lead in wind project installations last year, adding 2,292MW of new capacity - 2.5 times its nearest competitor, Indiana. The strong performance came in spite of the postponement of oil baron T Boone Pickens' planned wind farm in the state, which would have added up to 4GW of wind power to the Texan wind portfolio.

Although Texas still leads the field in terms of total wind capacity, the fastest growth last year came from Arizona, which created its first utility-scale wind project. It was followed by Utah, Indiana, Maine and Massachusetts.

Wind Power Grows 39% for the Year – *Cap Cod Today* – 1/28/10

With all of the conflict over Cape Wind and the constant reduction in scope of T. Boone Pickens' wind projects, it's easy to feel discouraged, but here's something to lift your spirits. Great news came from the American Wind Energy Association today. During 2009, 10 GW of new wind power capacity was installed in the U.S., enough to power 2.4 million homes. The last quarter of 2009 saw the installation of 4 GW alone.

The association gives credit to the American Recovery and Investment Act's \$80 billion investment in clean energy for the largest installation for any year so far. With big wind projects on the horizon for the next few years, and if all goes as planned, that annual number should keep going up.

BROADCAST COVERAGE

1. KETK56 News Today **DMA: 109**
KETK-TV CH 56 (NBC) Tyler/Longview/Jacksonville **Spot Cost: \$86**
01/28/2010 **06:00 AM - 07:00 AM** **Est. Audience: 8,580**

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

[CC] 00:36:47 The largest US refinery posts its third straight quarterly loss. Valero Energy Corp lost one point 41 billion dollars. The San Antonio based company said the loss in due to a drop in diesel demand and other fuels. Expect prices at the pump to head back up this year. Energy analysts claim it's simply a matter of supply and demand. The economic recovery in developing countries means more fuel consumption in places like Asia and China. A man whose made billions in energy, **T. Boone Pickens**, says gas will be over three dollars a gallon this year. 00:38:12

2. KETK56 News Today **DMA: 109**
KETK-TV CH 56 (NBC) Tyler/Longview/Jacksonville **Spot Cost: \$20**
01/28/2010 **05:00 AM - 06:00 AM** **Est. Audience: 2,360**

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

[CC] 00:35:17 The largest US refinery posts its third straight quarterly loss. Valero Energy Corp lost one point 41 billion dollars. The San Antonio based company said the loss in due to a drop in diesel demand and other fuels. And expect prices at the pump to head back up this year. Energy analysts claim it's simply a matter of supply and demand. The economic recovery in developing countries means more fuel consumption in places like Asia and China. A man who has made billions in energy, **T. Boone Pickens** , says gas will be over three dollars a gallon this year. 00:36:53

3. KETK56 News Live At 5 **DMA: 109**
KETK-TV CH 56 (NBC) Tyler/Longview/Jacksonville **Spot Cost: \$122**
01/27/2010 **05:00 PM - 05:30 PM** **Est. Audience: 11,132**

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

[CC] 00:05:43 The largest US refinery posts its third straight quarterly loss. Valero Energy Corp lost one point 41 billion dollars. The San Antonio based company said the loss in due to a drop in diesel demand and other fuels. And expect prices at the pump to head back up this year. Energy analysts claim it's simply a matter of supply and demand. The economic recovery in developing countries means more fuel consumption in places like Asia and China. A man who has made billions in energy, **T. Boone Pickens** , says gas will be over three dollars a gallon this year. 00:08:28