

# PickensPlan

## T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 8.20.10

### Total of 3 Placements

- Print: 1
- Blog/Online: 1
- Broadcast: 1

### Print Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **AREDAY In Aspen: U.S. Military Sold On Threat Posed By Climate Change** – *The Aspen Times* – 8/20/10

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

- **The Perils Of T. Boone Pickens' Energy Plan** – *Denver Post Online* – 8/20/10

## PRINT COVERAGE

**AREDAY In Aspen: U.S. Military Sold On Threat Posed By Climate Change** – *The Aspen Times* – 8/20/10

By Scott Condon

ASPEN — While the fight over the threat posed by climate change rages on at Capitol Hill — not to mention many neighborhood bars — the folks at the Pentagon don't need convincing.

The U.S. military has acknowledged, in two key planning documents released recently, that the effects of global warming will play roles in international events and help shape national security strategy, Col. Mark “Puck” Mykleby, U.S. Marine Corps, said Thursday.

Mykleby is special strategic assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He spoke as part of a panel at an opening presentation at American Renewable Energy Day (AREDay) at the Hotel Jerome in Aspen.

Issues from food shortages and crop failures to migrations of people due to natural disasters will affect world events, Mykleby said. Such events have the potential to cause upheaval and event conflict, and the Pentagon sees a link to national security.

Another panel member, Christine Todd Whitman, said the cataclysmic flooding besieging Pakistan demonstrates the connection between climate change and U.S. national security. While scientists are generally loathe to tie a specific weather event to climate change, it's different with the catastrophe in Pakistan. Extended drought made it difficult for the hardened soil to absorb rain. And the deluge came in epic proportion.

“On this one they're almost all coming together saying, ‘This is what we're talking about,’” said Whitman, former governor of New Jersey and administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under President George W. Bush. She resigned in 2003 and later acknowledged difficulty with some administration policies.

The flooding threatens to further destabilize the country and make it ripe for the terrorist groups the United States are fighting.

“I can't think of anything more scary than a Taliban-controlled Pakistan,” Whitman said. “Right now that is a real possibility because of the stress being put on the government.”

AREDay kicked off with presentations centered around the theme of “Putting Carbon in Context.” The link was explored as part of climate change and food security, politics and political will, as well as national security.

The conference goes through Sunday. There are scores of leading environmental speakers, including Ted Turner and T. Boone Pickens, famed entrepreneurs who have invested in green energy, and movie director and producer James Cameron.

Professor David Orr of Oberlin College got the conference rolling Thursday by noting the challenges the country and the world face in reducing carbon emissions. The world remains essentially “pedal to the metal” on fossil-fuel use, he said. Domestically, President Obama has been diverted from working on climate change because of other major issues.

“We have no policy at this point,” Orr lamented.

Climate change is “the perfect problem” because it is so easy to procrastinate on solutions, Orr said. He challenged the audience to be part of the generation that causes “the great turn.”

Some audience members expressed optimism that the military's acknowledgment of climate change as a problem would convince the global-warming deniers — as skeptics are labeled — to change their opinion. Mykleby and Whitman weren't so certain.

Whitman said there must be an educational effort that strips the emotions out of the climate-change debate and demonstrates to the American people that taking steps to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions can also be steps to provide jobs and keep the air clean. Highly efficient, affordable construction, for example, is not only good for the environment, it benefits home buyers.

If there is a grassroots movement to implement practices that reduce carbon emissions, the politicians will follow, she said.

Mykleby noted that America these days seems so focused on threats and risks that it's lost sight of opportunities. He stressed that he steers clear of political debates and partisan politics. But in the current policy debate on how to get the country out of the recession, the two options are austerity or spending our way out. Mykleby proposed a third step — creating a whole new economic sector based on green energy.

Like Whitman, a step in that direction needs to come from the bottom up.

“That's the beauty of our system, citizens do have a voice,” he said.

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## **BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE**

**The Perils Of T. Boone Pickens' Energy Plan** – *Denver Post Online* – 8/20/10

By Erik Molvar

There natural gas industry likes to cast itself as a green alternative in the fight against global warming, with folks like T. Boone Pickens and his allies at the forefront of the effort to increase gas use for electricity generation and as an automobile fuel.

Now Congress appears ready to provide taxpayer subsidies in a Senate energy bill for parts of the Pickens plan. But let's be sure we're getting good public policy, not just an expensive public relations push.

To date, little evidence has surfaced to support the notion that increasing our use of natural gas will actually help the environment. In fact, an increase in natural gas usage could hurt the environment more than it helps.

Let's start with the concept that natural gas is "clean." If you look at a coal-fired power plant versus a gas-powered plant, gas looks better at first blush because there is less carbon dioxide per kilowatt coming out of the gas plant's smokestack.

But there's a lot more to the climate impacts of natural gas than emissions at the power plant. Leaks of methane occur at every stage of natural gas production and transport - during drilling, at the wellsite, at compressor stations, and in the pipeline. These methane leaks add up, and methane is twenty-five times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. Many leaks are the result of inefficient operations and a lack of trained professionals to employ the simple, cost-effective fixes available through the EPA's Natural Gas STAR program.

Gas production can also cause major methane leaks from outcrops of gas-bearing rock. In the Raton Basin of southeastern Colorado, dozens of these methane seeps have been identified, many of them associated with the gas industry. In the Atlantic Rim of Wyoming, the onset of coalbed methane development has resulted in new seeps rivaling the mud pots of Yellowstone National Park in size, and emitting thousands of cubic feet of gas per minute into the atmosphere.

All these methane leaks, and their emissions of potent greenhouse gases, need to be accounted for when examining the greenhouse gas emissions of natural gas versus coal. When leaks are added in, natural gas is hardly better than coal from a climate change perspective.

A ton of global warming pollution is a ton of global warming pollution; the source really doesn't matter much. So as we talk about natural gas as a tool to combat global warming, let's also talk about ways to clean up all the methane leaks in the gas patch.

Let's keep in mind that natural gas drilling degrades our country's natural heritage, threatening iconic places like Adobe Town in Wyoming, the Roan Plateau in Colorado, or Otero Mesa in New Mexico.

Natural gas fields are like giant landscape-scale factories sprawled across millions of acres, destroying wildlife habitat and polluting our communities' air and water. In the American West, the natural gas industry has overrun the migratory paths of pronghorn and elk, treating them as mere obstacles in the way of "progress."

The massive sprawl of gas development has also obliterated sage grouse habitat across millions of acres, driving the grouse to the brink of Endangered Species listing. Now natural gas has moved east, with a huge push to develop the Marcellus shale play of the Appalachians, which would place a heavy footprint on communities from New York to West Virginia.

The way forward on global warming is really quite clear: we need to shift away from dirty fossil fuels like coal, oil, and oil shale — and natural gas — and toward fuels that don't involve large-scale carbon emissions, like wind and solar.

There is no doubt that natural gas is going to play a major role in our nation's energy portfolio for years to come. America's largest gas reserves are already getting depleted, and a major increase in natural gas use for electricity and transportation will only hasten the day when we run out. But instead of a headlong rush to drill, it behooves us to develop our gas resources carefully and add a healthy dose of respect for the land.

In the end, the Pickens Plan's heavy reliance on natural gas creates as many problems for the environment as it solves. Instead of promoting more natural gas production, we should focus on making sure the gas industry cleans up its act - plugging methane leaks and producing gas with a much smaller footprint- to make sure that, as we seek to satisfy our nation's energy appetite, we don't pump ton after ton of carbon pollution into the sky. Congress should turn away from natural gas as a fuel for the future, and instead focus taxpayer subsidies on clean alternatives like wind and solar.

Erik Molvar is executive director and wildlife biologist of the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, a nonprofit conservation group based in Laramie, Wyo. EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an online-only column and has not been edited.

## **Article Discussion: The perils of T. Boone Pickens' energy plan**

By Rich Galen

If only the perfect fuel had been delivered unto us. It hasn't. Every fuel requires a mature examination of pluses and minuses. T. Boone Pickens has never suggested natural gas as an all-everything, all-the-time, forever fuel. He has specifically stated it is an excellent transition fuel; one which will have immediate and positive impact on our dependence on OPEC oil and which is far, far cleaner than diesel (the only other fuel which will push an 18-wheeler) and significantly cleaner than gasoline. Writing that natural gas is no better than any other fuel from an environmental standpoint is not only incorrect; but it would be useful for Mr. Molvar to have suggested an alternative. According to this essay, his alternative is OPEC oil.

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## **BROADCAST COVERAGE**

### **1. TXCN Overnight News**

**Texas Cable News Network, Dallas/Fort Worth | DMA: 5**

**08/19/2010, 07:00 AM - 08:00 AM**

[EC] 00:26:07 Dallas billionaire Ross Perot is giving 20 million dollars to the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, The gift is one of the largest ever for the hospital. In recent years, **T BoonePickens** gave MD Anderson 50 million and late Houstonian Dan Duncan gave the hospital 35 million and donated another 100 million to the Baylor College of Medicine 00:26:26

**Keywords:**Gift: MD Anderson Cancer Center; **T BoonePickens**; Dan Duncan; Baylor College of Medicine;

**Visuals:**Ross Perot;

**Audience:** N/A **Spot Cost:** N/A