T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 10.9.09

Total of 25 Placements

- Print: 15
- Blog/Online: 10

Coverage Summary:

The Associated Press included a question about natural gas, referencing the Pickens/Rep. Harry Teague op-ed that appeared in the *Albuquerque Journal*. *AP* Energy Writer Mark Williams responded to the question by giving several examples for the use of natural gas, including heating half the country's homes. He goes on to say that the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel has grown, but still makes up a tiny part of the overall consumption because use has not expanded past corporate fleets, city buses, trash collection trucks and other government vehicles.

Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Ask AP: Natural Gas, How NFL Players are Paid** – *Associated Press* – 10/9/09
  - *Anchorage Daily News*
  - *BlueRideNow.com*
  - *Centre Daily Times*
  - *El Paso Times*
  - *eTaiwan News*
  - *Hendersonville Times News*
  - *iStockAnalyst*
  - *KSL*
  - *KTUU*
  - *Lompoc Record*
  - *Orangeburg Times Democrat*
  - *Santa Maria Times*
  - *Santa Rose Press Democrat*
  - *The Columbian*
  - *The Daily Advertiser*
  - *The Wichita Eagle*
  - *Tuscaloosa News*
  - *Washington Examiner*
  - *WLBT*
  - *WSAV*
  - *WTOP*

Print Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Electricity, Natural Gas Lead Fuel Revolution** – *Las Vegas Review-Journal* – 10/9/09

Blog/Online Placements (Full Articles Below)

- **Speculate on Demise of Dollar at Your Own Risk... –** *Motley Fool* – 10/8/09
- **Clean Energy Debate Heads to White House with Corporate Executives –** *Phoenix Green Business Examiner* – 10/8/09

HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

Ask AP: Natural Gas, How NFL Players are Paid – *Associated Press* – 10/9/09

One natural resource the United States has a lot of is natural gas. So why not just start using it in place of oil, to reduce the nation's dependence on imported energy?

Curiosity about the potential of natural gas to become America's fuel of choice inspired one of the questions in this edition of "Ask AP," a weekly Q&A column where AP journalists respond to readers' questions about the news.

If you have your own news-related question that you'd like to see answered by an AP reporter or editor, send it to newsquestions(at)ap.org, with "Ask AP" in the subject line. And please include your full name and hometown so they can be published with your question.

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How are NFL players paid? Do they just get regular paychecks during the football season, or is their pay spread throughout the year?Do they get paid separately for preseason activities, training camps and postseason play, or is that all included in their overall salary?

What if they have incentive clauses in their contracts - is that money paid as it is earned, or in a lump sum at the end of the season?

Tom Jeffs

Edison, N.J.

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Typically, a player gets paid his whole annual salary during the 17 weeks that make up the regular season, according to the NFL. That doesn't cover what they do with the team before and after the season - they get separate compensation for those activities.

As for signing and other bonuses: They can be paid as a lump sum or spread out over multiple weeks, depending on the terms of a player's contract. And if an athlete earns incentive payments - say, by playing a certain number of games or achieving other goals specified in his contract - he usually has to wait until the season ends to cash in.

Barry Wilner

AP Football Writer

New York

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There was an op-ed piece in the Albuquerque Journal by Rep. Harry Teague and energy tycoon T. Boone Pickens that said the solution for our dependence on imported oil is natural gas, which is clean and plentiful enough in the U.S. to last 118 years.

What would it take for us to start using natural gas in place of oil? If we have so much natural gas, why haven't we been using it all along?

Judy Crane

Tijeras, N.M.

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We do use natural gas extensively. Half the country's homes are heated with gas. Industries that make steel, plastics and chemicals also count on gas. Utilities' reliance on gas to make electricity has gone up

more than 50 percent over the past 10 years or so, with gas now used to make more than a fifth of the nation's electricity.

More energy-efficient homes, businesses and appliances, coupled with declining industrial consumption, has kept the use of natural gas at relatively flat levels recently. At the same time, new estimates of U.S. reserves are 35 percent higher than just two years ago, thanks to new technology that has allowed drillers to get gas from shale rock.

The American Clean Skies Foundation, which is backed by the natural gas industry, said a year ago that the U.S. has a 118-year supply of natural gas at 2007 production levels.

The use of gas as a transportation fuel has grown, but still makes up just a tiny part of overall consumption. Quite simply, promoters have not been able to get gas to catch on as a key transportation fuel beyond use in corporate fleets, city buses, trash collection trucks and other government vehicles.

Lack of refueling stations is one problem. Extremely volatile and unpredictable pricing is another. Still, there has been some progress in making equipment that could refuel natural gas vehicles at home.

Using gas as a transportation fuel is "clearly doable," said Chris McGill of the American Gas Association.

"It's not a technological issue. It's a choice issue."

Mark Williams

AP Energy Writer

Columbus, Ohio

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One of your readers sent you a question regarding fewer veterans, and you said there are 1.4 million people in the active-duty, all-volunteer Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force. What about the Coast Guard, also one of the armed services?

Lowell Gibbs

Albuquerque, N.M.

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The Coast Guard has 42,000 active-duty volunteers, agency spokesman Tony Russell says. That number has gone up slightly each year over the past few years, he says.

The Coast Guard, while a military service, is part of the Homeland Security Department. In times of war, the Coast Guard may be transferred to the Department of the Navy.

Eileen Sullivan

AP Homeland Security Writer

Washington

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Have questions of your own? Send them to newsquestions(at)ap.org.

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PRINT COVERAGE

Electricity, Natural Gas Lead Fuel Revolution – *Las Vegas Review-Journal* – 10/9/09

The Las Vegas Regional Clean Cities Coalition and the Alternative Fuel Vehicles Institute recently joined forces to host a one-day workshop, entitled "The A to Z of AFVs."

The discussion panel provided encouraging news about the growing availability of replacement fuels that, working in combination, could help change U.S. reliance on imported crude oil to fuel its economy.

U.S. citizens comprise about 4 percent of the world's population, yet consume about 22 percent of the world's crude oil supply on a daily basis. This creates long term geopolitical, economic and environmental problems for the United States and the world if the primary source of transportation fuel for every nation is based on crude oil.

In 2008, the U.S. imported 70 percent of its crude oil needs by paying out $700 billion to overseas producers. As a comparative reference, Travis Johnson of NV Energy stated that the U.S. federal government had a budget of $2.9 trillion that year to run the entire country. What if the money being sent overseas to purchase crude oil could be reinvested into the U.S. economy?

In Southern Nevada, the electrical grid receives electricity from a relatively clean array of power generation plants. About 71 percent of the electrical energy comes from power plants burning natural gas, 17 percent comes from coal and renewable energy and other sources make up the remaining 12 percent. The Southern Nevada electric system will peak at about 5,500 megawatts of total power consumption on a daily basis, and about 2,000 megawatts will likely be available each night during nonpeak hours. Johnson projected that this excess electricity could be used to recharge 1 million GM Chevy Volt plug-in hybrid electric vehicles without making significant changes to the existing state electrical grid infrastructure. By late 2010 in Northern Nevada, nearly half the energy available at night will be from geothermal sources and there will be ample capacity to charge a quarter million GM Chevy Volts (or equivalents).

Given that the state's total population is under 3 million, there is a lot of potential room to grow a robust electric vehicle transportation industry that would significantly improve the state's economy. At an equivalent price of 70 cents per gallon for electrical energy (winter off-peak EV rate), it is simply a matter of time before this will happen.

The international automotive industry is ready to comply. During the recent Frankfurt Auto Show in Germany last month, industry analysts projected that international automobile manufacturers will be producing at least 200 different models of vehicles for consumers that have hybrid electric, plug-in hybrid electric or pure battery-powered electric drivetrains by 2014.

Although electric vehicles powered by clean renewable energy are perceived as the best way for consumers to help resolve transportation problems, the limitations of battery range and recharging infrastructure will still take time to overcome during the next five years by the automotive industry, electric utilities and local governments. These engineering problems become even more difficult to resolve with heavy-duty vehicles, such as the national trucking fleet or public transit buses. Ethanol, biodiesel and natural gas are perceived as shorter term "bridge fuels" that offer a cleaner burning internal combustion engine technology than gasoline, yet still retain similar range, power density and distribution infrastructure.

Natural gas, in either a compressed or liquid form, can be a very strong player in this new alternative fuel marketplace to provide sufficient power for heavy-duty vehicles.

During the Clean Energy Summit 2.0 staged at the UNLV campus in August, Sen. Harry Reid invited Oklahoma billionaire T. Boone Pickens to participate with former Vice President Al Gore in a round table discussion and a town hall meeting. These former political rivals have found common ground in their joint crusade to wean the U.S. off its addiction to imported crude oil.

The Pickens Plan is based on newly discovered reserves of natural gas within the United States that can be extracted from carbon shale deposits. If the price of a barrel of crude oil once again starts to climb to the $100 mark, it will make the cost of extracting natural gas from carbon shale more competitive. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that this country has approximately 1,770 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas with 238 trillion cubic feet of proven reserves. At current production rates, these reserves could provide transportation power to the U.S. for the next 90 years.

Locally, the MGM Mirage Corp. is betting on this technology with its new City Center development that will begin opening in Las Vegas during the next few months. As part of its business practices to achieve a Silver or Gold LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, the company will maintain a fleet of stretch limousines that run on compressed natural gas. The original fleet will begin with 26 silver Lincoln Town Cars. Additional fleet capacity will be added over the next few years for an expected total of 100 vehicles. Guests arriving at City Center in alternative fuel vehicles will have access to preferred parking spaces.

Stan Hanel has worked in the electronics industry for more than 30 years and is a long-time member of the Electric Auto Association and the Las Vegas Electric Vehicle Association. Hanel writes and edits for EAA's "Current Events" and LVEVA's "Watts Happening" newletters. Contact him at stanhanel@aol.com.

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BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE

Speculate on Demise of Dollar at Your Own Risk... – *Motley Fool* – 10/8/09

...And That Risk Might Be Higher Than You Think

The past week's speculation on the demise of the dollar has hit a frenzied pace. Articles pointing to "secret meetings" of nations, many of them American allies, of dethroning the dollar as the international reserve currency has spiked interest in dumping the dollar. The hot report is that several nations are conspiring to price oil in terms other than the dollar. I suppose this is probably true that some basket of currencies or special drawing rights (IMF) is being developed for trading commodities and doing various forms of international commerce. This concept actually makes sense as the emerging economies consume more as a percentage of the global output, and the United States is no longer near over half the world economy as it was about twenty years ago.

I doubt this all means the dollar will collapse, and if it does, that it will stay collapsed. What is more likely in my view is that the dollar settles in a long lasting range somewhere between the current levels and a level somewhat near where we spiked too late in 2008 to early 2009.

That the dollar is falling so far versus nations that have smaller populations, less stable governments, less peaceful populaces, inconsequential military force, depleting resources or few resources and limited productive capacity is frankly, astounding to me. While dollar bears thump their collective chests that U.S. debt is going to bury the nation, I can not help but agree with Ken Fisher and Nobelaureate Paul Krugman, that the debt is not that big of a deal if we tap the breaks in the next few years- and, as President Obama opines, reform healthcare and energy policy with a longer term vision.

On Fisher's point, I will point out this simple fact, if you can borrow for less than the return on the investment you make with that money, you should borrow as much as you can projecting out for a lifetime of production. The problem with the borrowing done under the previous Administration and Congress was that it did not go into investments with a positive return (as Krugman points out). That anybody truly thinks that the return on debt that the United States is incurring NOW, is going to not return better than the interest paid, demonstrates a fundamental lack of understanding of business. Clearly, the government could borrow for non-productive endeavors, as the U.S. government did from 2002-2006, however, nothing I have heard recently (I actually had nice opportunities in D.C. and S.F. this summer to talk to some higher-up muckity-mucks and ask a few pointed questions) makes me think that is now the case.

For the United States, a lifetime of production, now that we have four generations alive at a time, is about 80 years (read the Fourth Turning for even more insight on generational issues). So long as we don't burden our great-great-grandchildren with debt, and keep it to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and maintain a return on what we are borrowing, we are fine. If we don't use up our margin of safety, that is, our great-grandchildren's productive lives- we will in fact have a superboom sooner than most think. Though the boom is not yet quite visible, and I am in some disagreement with Fisher but in agreement with the Fool for reasons of the time frame for consumer retrenching, my public pronouncements to groups I speak to is that we will see large incremental improvements in the economy about three to seven years from now.

Regardless of a likely bright future, foreign investors are pouring more into gold anticipating (hoping for?) American collapse. Domestically, newsletters declaring hyper-inflation imminent in the U.S. (which I disputed about a month ago) and promoting the idea of buying gold bullion are flooding email boxes coast to coast. The falling dollar has inflated the price of many other commodities, particularly oil, even as there have been massive new finds this year, alternative energy development globally and record inventory. The dollar is dead, long live the dollar, is the cry of the day.

There are several key reasons why the dollar is much stronger than it is being given credit for today.

First and foremost, we are and will remain among the most stable nations on the planet for a very long time. Our government, for all of its imperfections, is better than most and in no danger of being overthrown. Our population, while it struggles with disturbing pockets of crime and silly political rhetoric, is by and large, peaceful and tolerant of each other.

Second, and only talked about in hushed tones, though Maria Caruso-Cabrera mentioned it on CNBC today, the United States has the strongest military in the world. With our borders and military, we are not going to be invaded anytime soon, even though we appear ready to scale back our world police role the next few years (which I note will save a billion here and a billion there).

Third, we are loaded with natural resources. Going back to the 1950s it has been the policy of the nation to not use those resources if possible, and be one of the last nations standing with several important resources. Reference ANWR and the massive gas "finds" that we've actually known about for decades. While the Rush Dumbos of the world can blame us not drill, drill, drilling on some hippie tree-hugging economically ignorant (non)fools, it is actually a policy that was developed under Eisenhower and serves us well. In a real emergency, we can turn on the spigots.

Fourth, we have an extremely gifted workforce that is transitioning (for I believe the third time since World War II) into again being the most productive in the world- by a lot- pushed in the right direction in part to the recent government actions to promote job training, education and fund various forward looking economic endeavors (we will see another slug of financing for that from the stimulus money next year).

Finally, as the economy recovers over the next several years- and it will- and return on debt becomes more apparent, the financial components underpinning the dollar will clearly firm. I just wonder when the market will realize that. If you are a speculator (guesser) posing as an investor, I will leave that to you.

So, while I still have some money in commodities and alternative energy investments (for the same reasons of Ted Turner and T. Boone Pickens), it seems to me that going against the crowd on the dollar might be a great thought very soon. Remember, today is over quickly and tomorrow lasts a long time. Tomorrow does not appear to be that far away in my opinion. And, for what it's worth, this fool, is for the first time in a decade seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

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Clean Energy Debate Heads to White House with Corporate Executives – *Phoenix Green Business Examiner* – 10/8/09

By Brian Coppa

As the health care debate winds down, the next major national debate will focus on energy reform. The investor coalition Ceres and the Clean Economy Network organized a clean energy lobbyist forum this week at the White House including corporate executives from more than 100 companies, representing a wide variety of industries including renewable energy, information technology and athletic apparel. The business leaders met with Senators Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), who introduced a clean energy finance bill this past summer, Mark Pryor (D-Ark.) and Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), all of whom are critical to passing the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act introduced last week by Senators John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.).

The full list of companies represented is available at the official Department of Energy (DOE) site, and one glimmering fact, is the lack of representation from a company located in the state of Arizona, which is a state with enormous solar power potential. Even though Phoenix, Arizona is hosting the Greenbuild International Conference and Expo November 11-13 of this year, where former Vice President Al Gore is the keynote speaker, the state lacks significant corporate development in the clean energy sector, and manufacturing in general.

During the forum in Washington, executives also met with Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy Director Carol Browner. Chu warned that if Congress does not pass climate change and energy reform legislation soon, the U.S. will likely be surpassed by China as a global leader in the production of wind turbines, solar panels, solid state lighting and other clean energy technologies. According to the DOE, China invests approximately $12.6 million in clean energy every hour, and the nation is ratcheting up to generate 100 gigawatts from wind turbines by 2030. In essence, if the U.S. lapses in building a competitive clean energy infrastructure, including complete supply chains for related technology, while signing onto a new United Nations (U.N.) greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reductions treaty, which will require significant reductions in fossil fuel energy usage, it may simply be exchanging foreign oil imports for Chinese or other country's green energy imports. Thus, foreign oil dependence and ramifications for national security will be simply transferred to leading foreign clean energy manufacturing countries. Currently, the U.S. ranks behind Germany, Japan and China in terms of solar capacity.

Mainly, the business leaders descending on Washington this week have urged members of Congress to pass a comprehensive climate change bill, which they forecast will foster billions of dollars in clean energy investments and ease the nation's dependence on foreign oil, which has been a cause for natural gas advocates such as T. Boone Pickens, while creating millions of green jobs in the process. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the original related House bill entitled the American Clean Energy and Security Act would only increase energy costs for the average household by the price of a postage stamp, 44 cents, each day. The White House has welcomed the corporate involvement and its financial backing for this capstone climate change legislation, which is one of the major prongs of Obama's overall agenda, including the green energy stimulus, as it will face a heated battle with Congressmen and lobbyists associated with the oil and coal industry in the coming months.

Moreover, a related business group called We Can Lead is heading a campaign on Capitol Hill this week including 150 business leaders from utility companies and the clean energy industry that involves 35 lobbying meetings. Twenty-eight companies and labor and green advocacy groups such as: United Technologies, Johnson & Johnson, GE, Weyerhauser, the Nature Conservancy and the Environmental Defense Action Fund are launching a seven-figure advertising campaign in support of comprehensive clean energy and climate change legislation. A barrage of television commercials is expected to attract national support, analogous to the heath care reform initiative.

Amidst the lobbyist activity and legislative discussions in Washington, a vast majority of Americans, across all political parties, strongly support development and funding of solar energy, and their support for solar has remained relatively unchanged over the last year. These and other findings were reported today

in the 2009 SCHOTT Solar Barometer (TM), which is a nationally representative survey conducted by independent polling firm Kelton Research.

The survey stated that 92 percent of Americans consider it important for the U.S. to develop and use solar energy. This strong support for solar is essentially the same as the 94 percent figure indicated by the June 2008 poll result with the same question being posed. The difference is within the margin of error for both polls. This support for solar power is consistent across political party affiliation with 89 percent of Republicans, 94 percent of Democrats and 93 percent of Independents agreeing that it is important for the U.S. to develop and use solar power.

In addition, 77 percent, nearly eight of ten, of Americans feel that the development of solar power, and other renewable energy sources, should be a major priority of the federal government, including the necessary funding for bringing it to fruition. This sentiment also remains the same since June 2008 with a tally of 77 percent. What's more, the study also showed that if people had to choose one energy source to financially support if they were President, 43 percent of Americans would opt for solar over other sources such as wind (17%), natural gas (12%) and nuclear (10%).

According to a recent study conducted by the environmental group Greenpeace and the European Renewable Energy Council, clean energy will create more jobs than coal. By 2030, there will have been 2.7 million more jobs created than if countries were to retain their current coal and other fossil fuel energy production levels. These findings provide additional carrots needed for both the U.S. and other major countries to agree to a new United Nations global warming reduction pact in Copenhagen in December.

In comparison to the health care debate, there appears to be a much more unified national sentiment for clean energy technology, which is linked to the overall climate change and energy reform initiative of the Obama administration. The transformation towards a clean energy economy would offer a facelift to America's manufacturing sector, particularly hard hit by the recession beginning in December 2007. Numerous recently closed factories for the production of: automobile parts, chemicals, coatings, raw materials, aerospace turbines, computer components, microchips and other electronic components are excellent candidates for the transition towards the manufacturing of clean energy or energy-efficient products such as: solar panels, advanced batteries, ethanol fuel, innovative hybrid electric vehicles, concentrating solar dishes, wind turbine blades, and carbon storage components. In particular, as more semiconductor companies outsource production to Asia, an emerging opportunity exists for the utilization of idle silicon-based microchip process equipment for the production of silicon-based solar cells due to some overlaps in materials and techniques that are administered.