

PickensPlan

T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 6.20.09-6.22.09

Total of 49 Placements

- * Print: 29
- * Blog/Online: 14
- * Broadcast: 6

Coverage Summary:

This week's question on the National Journal's Energy & Environment Expert Blog revolves around the Senate energy bill. Four people have responded so far, including AWEA CEO Denise Bode. Her response discusses support for the Renewable Electricity Standard. Job creation is highlighted in the piece, including one person who mentions Pickens as a reason he decided to enter the wind energy sector. Other responses include American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard who thinks the bill is a step in the right direction; Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman who discusses key provisions of the bill; and Environment America Washington DC Office Director Anna Aurilio who believes there needs to be dramatic improvements to the bill before it is passed.

Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

- * Senate Energy Bill: Love It Or Hate It? - National Journal's Energy & Environment Expert Blog - 6/22/09

Print Placements (Full Articles Below)

- * Investors Flock to Shale Play in Horn River Basin in B.C. Despite Supply Glut - Canadian Press - 6/20/09

- * AOL Canada
- * Brandon Sun

- * Bridge River Lillooet News
- * Canada East
- * Canadian Business
- * CHQR
- * CKRF
- * CKTB
- * Coast Reporter
- * Lethbridge Herald
- * Medicine Hat News
- * Metro Canada Calgary
- * Metro Canada Edmonton
- * Metro Canada Halifax
- * Metro Canada Ottawa
- * Metro Canada Toronto
- * Metro Canada Vancouver
- * New Brunswick Business Journal
- * Oilweek Magazine
- * Squamish Chief
- * Stockhouse
- * The Chronicle Journal
- * The Energy News
- * Winnipeg Free Press

- * Labor, Business Teaming on Two Major Issues - The Oklahoman - 6/21/09
- * Phones Ring for V Vehicle Co. Jobs - Shreveport Times - 6/21/09
- * Where is Jamaica's T. Boone Pickens? - Jamaica Gleaner News - 6/21/09
- * T. Boone Pickens Will Take Spotlight for ADA - Tulsa World - 6/21/09
- * Lyceum Raises \$250,000 for Spohn - Corpus Christi Caller-Times - 6/21/09
- * Just Briefly ... - The Australian - 6/22/09
- * In the Wind - South Bend Tribune - 6/22/09
- * Editor's Mailbag: Yes, We Have an Alternative Fuel if Only We Would Make Use of It - Albany Democrat Herald - 6/21/09

* Corvallis Gazette Times

- * Gas Market is Facing a New World Order - The National Newspaper - 6/22/09

Blog/Online Placements (Full Articles Below)

- * Breaking: Cathy Zoi confirmed as the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy - Technology Review Blog - 6/19/09
- * The Good News on Natural Gas - Motley Fool - 6/19/09
- * Energy Cap and Trade is a Bad Policy - Global Warming Examiner -

6/19/09

- * Driving in Thailand: It's a Gas! - SF Autos Examiner - 6/21/09
- * Upstart Auto Company Lures Designer with Big-Time Resume - Automotive News - 6/22/09
- * V-Vehicle and Nissan Join the Race to Launch a Green Car in the US - Energy Efficiency News - 6/22/09
- * A Missed Opportunity for Texas A&M - The Quad (NY Times Blog) - 6/19/09

HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

Senate Energy Bill: Love It Or Hate It? - National Journal's Energy & Environment Expert Blog - 6/22/09

Last week, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee approved an expansive energy bill that has something for everyone to like -- or hate.

The bill would require at least 15 percent of the electricity sold in America to come from renewable sources. It would allow offshore drilling near Florida, and it includes subsidized loans and loan guarantees for a variety of technologies, including nuclear power. The package also would expand the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's power to pave the way for a national "smart grid" transmission system.

What are the most promising provisions in the legislation? What are the problem spots? Should the Senate consider the energy package on its own, or should the bill be bundled into a bigger climate change bill?

Which provisions should the House embrace as it votes on energy and climate change legislation?

-- Margaret Kriz, NationalJournal.com

Responses:

Jack Gerard, President and CEO, American Petroleum Institute

The Senate energy bill that was approved by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee is a step in the right direction. It allows greater access to oil and natural gas leasing in promising areas of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, which would help the American people by creating new jobs, adding new energy resources, and providing new revenues to federal, state and local governments.

The Eastern Gulf is home to the Destin Dome area, a proven natural gas field, which because it is located near existing pipelines and processing facilities, could allow clean-burning natural gas supplies to be brought to market in relatively short order. The Dome contains at least 2 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas--enough to heat 2 million homes for 15 years--while the potential resources in the entire Eastern Gulf of Mexico are estimated at 3.7 billion barrels of oil and 21.5 Tcf of natural gas.

While the bill acknowledges the importance of producing more of America's own resources to improve U.S. energy security, it does not contain a provision ensuring that coastal states receive a portion of the revenues associated with the development of oil and natural gas off their shores. Providing revenue sharing would give the states an incentive to participate in energy development and help them address any budgetary challenges they might be facing during the economic downturn.

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

The American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009, passed by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee earlier this week, is truly an expansive energy bill. Getting America running on clean energy is one of its central goals. It will help shift our country to cleaner sources of

energy, and more secure sources as well.

The Senate Energy Committee worked for 12 weeks to fashion a set of bipartisan, substantive and forward-looking provisions on a wide range of energy policy questions, with the aim of moving America toward both the clean jobs and economic growth our country needs. The Committee's development of the bill involved 20 hearings, 11 markups, and the consideration of more than 200 amendments.

One of the questions asked is whether Senators can reach a middle ground on the many controversial issues that energy policy entails. The end product of the Committee's deliberations shows that this can be done; even if any given individual Senator or outside group might take issue with some part of the bill. That's inherent in all legislation that truly aims to get broad support.

In the case of this bill, the following list of key provisions shows that the Committee has forged a consensus that is a solid step forward. Even if each reader of this blog might not agree with every item on the list, I think that most would agree that, taken as a whole, the bill will help us both to produce new sources of energy from a wide range of low-carbon sources, and also to use our energy sources wisely and more efficiently.

- The bill sets up a new Clean Energy Deployment Administration to help finance new breakthrough clean energy and energy efficient technologies such as thin solar films, highly fuel efficient and electric drive vehicles, smart grid technology, advanced batteries and ultra-efficient lighting and appliances;
- It requires utilities to meet 15 percent of their electricity sales through renewable energy and efficiency by 2021;
- It improves the planning and siting of new electric transmission lines, and protects our critical electric infrastructure from cyber security threats and vulnerabilities;
- It takes a major step forward for nationwide use of distributed electricity generation by creating a single, consistent national standard for interconnection of residential-sized distributed generation devices, like rooftop solar arrays;
- It improves the energy efficiency of our buildings, homes, appliances, factories, and federal facilities;

- It modernizes the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, creates a new petroleum product reserve to protect our gasoline and diesel supplies from hurricanes and other natural disasters, and opens the eastern Gulf of Mexico, which contains more than 20 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, to exploration and development of those resources;
- It facilitates the demonstration and deployment of carbon capture and storage technologies;
- It gives the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission new enforcement tools to protect energy markets from manipulation; and
- It doubles our national investment in energy innovation and technology over the next 4 years, and enhances energy job training and workforce development.

The full Senate will eventually have an opportunity to consider this bill and to make further improvements to it. How that occurs will be up to the Majority Leader of the Senate, Senator Reid. When the Senate does take up this legislation, I hope to help strengthen a number of its provisions. In a year in which the Senate has had some difficulty in getting to bills and effectively legislating on them, I hope that the bipartisan and collegial manner in which this bill was developed will allow it to be considered on its merits.

Denise Bode, CEO, American Wind Energy Association

Pop quiz on the energy legislation reported out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last week.

Question:

Which provision garners BIPARTISAN and NATIONWIDE support (over 75% of all registered voters including 71% of independents, 62% of Republicans, and over 71% of voters in the South)?

Hint:

This policy is a job creation policy, a trade policy, an energy security policy and a carbon avoidance policy all in one.

It will spur investment in manufacturing facilities in the U.S. The jobs it will create are manufacturing and service jobs like the following:

- Bob Drake

- Metalworker at Cardinal Fastener (nuts & bolts), Bedford Heights, Ohio

- Bob Drake used to work at a fastener supplier for the automotive industry. After being laid off, he found a job using his skills at Cardinal Fastener.

- Tim Eraker

- Production Supervisor, DMI Industries (Otter Tail Corp.), Tulsa, Oklahoma

- Tim Eraker started working for DMI in 2005 after returning from deployment in Iraq. He is the Production Supervisor for three departments: plate processing and receiving; section shipping yard; and interior section movement. "I think that the people working for DMI Industries and Otter Tail Corporation can take even greater pride in knowing that they not only work for a company that cares about the environment, but a company that produces a product that is part of the solution to the energy crisis," says Eraker.

- Alan Toney

- Production engineer, PPG Industries (fiber glass manufacturing plant), Shelby, North Carolina

- "In contrast to the jobs that I have held in textiles, I feel that I have a brighter future at PPG. We are able to see the demand for our products grow in the markets we serve. This is quite a contrast to my former job in textiles, where I was closing plants and seeing people lose their jobs," says Toney.

- Dee Blackwell

- Lead Dispatcher, Landstar Ranger Trucking (logistics support), Mobile, Alabama

- “After hearing news reports from T. Boone Pickens, I decided that wind energy was a growing part of the energy sector that also could provide energy independence and a cleaner environment. I [now] dispatch truckloads of wind components for truck drivers and this work has made it possible for me to move into my own home,” says Blackwell.

Answer:

This policy is the Renewable Electricity Standard (RES). The jobs described above are among the 85,000 that currently exist in the U.S. wind power supply chain, manufacturing some of the 8,000 components that go into a modern wind turbine, transporting wind turbine parts, and otherwise servicing the industry.

The good news is that a national RES is included in the bill. However, the current RES provision has been weakened to the point that it will not drive new renewable energy deployment for several years to come. The wind energy industry is grateful for Chairman Bingaman’s work and the commitment of other Senators on the committee in protecting the RES from being weakened even further, and looks forward to working with Chairman Bingaman and other supporters to strengthen the RES. A strong RES will seize the historic opportunity we have today to build up our nation’s renewable energy industry, and keep jobs and investment right here in the U.S., in line with the desire of the majority of Americans.

Anna Aurilio, Washington DC Office Director, Environment America

When it comes to energy policy in the United States, we’re still stuck on the dirty technologies of the past that sap our economy, threaten our national security and pollute our air, land and water. The good news is we have solutions at our fingertips. With a high performance homes and building technologies we have the technology to dramatically reduce energy used to heat, cool and light our lives. With more efficient cars and a 21st Century transportation system we can slash our dependence on oil. Finally, we have the potential to power the entire country with wind and solar power.

Despite worthy national efficiency targets set for residential and commercial buildings and improve appliance standards, the rest of the bill passed by the Senate last week does not do enough to embrace clean technologies and has several policies which could keep us stuck on the mistakes of the past. In particular, the bill does little or nothing to spur renewable energy in this country. The proposal risks sensitive coastal ecosystems to pollution and spills from off-shore drilling, while opening the door to high-carbon fuels such as tar sands, and could encourage taxpayer subsidies of dirty, expensive nuclear power plants and nuclear waste reprocessing. .

First, when it comes to clean renewable energy such as wind and solar, the bill fails to capture the momentum created by 28 states with renewable electricity standards and the incentives in the economic recovery package signed by President Obama earlier this year. The bill would require large electric utilities to achieve 15 percent of their sales by 2020 from a combination of "renewable" energy generation and energy efficiency improvements. States could allow their utilities to meet up to 27 percent of the total standard each year with energy efficiency (i.e., 4 percent of sales in 2020.) Considering that all but the largest utilities are exempt from the standard, the Union of Concerned Scientists estimates that the renewable electricity standard would require less renewable energy than the 9.9 percent renewables the Department of Energy projects the nation will already achieve under policies already in place.

Environment America supports a 25 percent by 2025 renewable standard that according to another analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists would generate 300,000 new clean energy jobs and consumer savings of nearly \$65 billion in lower electricity and natural gas bills by 2025.

However, the bill doesn't just fall short when it comes to renewable energy, it takes us in the wrong direction by opening up Florida's coast to oil drilling as close as 10 miles from the shore. Despite the risk of oil spills and pollution and the potential enormous impact on Florida's vibrant tourist economy, this bill would open tens of millions of acres of pristine Gulf waters to dirty and dangerous drilling operations and does nothing to reduce our dependence on oil. The bill also weakens Section 526 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 which could allow federal agencies to purchase high-carbon fuels such as Canadian tar sands.

Finally, several provisions in the bill, including the 21st Century Energy Technology Deployment Act provisions would encourage taxpayer

subsidies of dirty, expensive nuclear power plants and nuclear waste reprocessing.

There's still time to deliver on the promise of a clean energy future. This bill must be dramatically improved before it is passed by the Senate by: increasing the renewable electricity standards, stripping the wrong-headed drilling and dirty fuels provisions and further encouraging the cleanest energy technologies by strengthening incentives in the bill for loan guarantees and building codes.

PRINT COVERAGE

Investors Flock to Shale Play in Horn River Basin in B.C. Despite Supply Glut - Canadian Press - 6/20/09

By Brenda Bouw

VANCOUVER, B.C. - An oversupply of natural gas and weak prices have not deterred investors from snapping up rights to drill and explore in the hot Horn River shale rock basin in British Columbia, betting the commodity will soon recover.

Oil and gas companies continue to clamour for a piece of the action at Horn River in the northeastern corner of the province, an area hailed as the largest shale-based natural gas play in Canada.

A recent monthly sale of land rights netted the B.C. government more than \$178 million in the Horn River area alone, which is triple total sales for the past five months and the ninth-largest monthly tally in history.

B.C. had been hauling in record sales for months from Horn River and its nearby Montney formation, until the recession caused some energy companies to pull back their spending.

While the price of oil has been climbing steadily in recent months, natural gas prices have stayed weak due to a glut of new gas supply coming from unconventional gas sources such as the shale plays.

The United States has a total resource base of 1,836 trillion cubic feet, according to a recent report by the Potential Gas Committee, the highest resource evaluation in the committee's 44-year history.

It's the large Barnett and Haynesville shale formations in Texas that are behind the surge, with Horn River still in its early stages of development.

The resource report came alongside another report showing natural gas storage is about 32 per cent above last year's level as of mid-June, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

In a visit to Calgary last week, Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens predicted a rebound to about US\$7 for 1,000 cubic feet next year, nearly double today's price of around US\$4.

Pickens touts natural gas as a way to help reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil and cut emissions that lead to global warming, since natural gas emits about half of the heat-trapping greenhouse gas than coal.

Such outlooks are believed to be partially behind the recent surprise investment resurgence in the Horn River basin.

B.C. Energy Minister Blair Lekstrom said the June sale results show investor confidence is returning.

"What it really tells me is that there is significant investor confidence in B.C.," Lekstrom said, adding that the risk is low and government incentives to invest in the area are high.

Imperial Oil Ltd. (TSX:IMO) and its parent Exxon Mobil Corp. (NYSE:XOM) were buyers in the June land rights sale, adding to their current holdings in Horn River.

"We regard it as a highly prospective area which has a lot of potential," said Imperial Oil spokesman Pius Rolheiser.

"We are looking to the potential in the Horn River basin to strengthen and expand our position as a gas producer."

As for the glut on the gas market, Rolheiser said they have a "long-term view" on the investment.

Horn River has an estimated 250 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the formation. Experts predict up to 20 per cent of it is recoverable.

Natural gas is extracted from the shale rock by either horizontal drilling or fracturing wells.

Shale gas production was long considered too expensive until new technologies were developed in recently years to tap into the hard-to-access resource at lower costs.

That, coupled with the maturing sources for conventional gas, has led to increased interest in newly discovered areas such as Horn River.

Calgary-based EnCana Corp. (TSX:ECA) discovered the Horn River natural gas play in 2003 and is believed to be the largest landholder in the

area along with its partner, U.S. oil and gas giant Apache Corp. (NYSE: APA).

While the companies have reduced drilling this year, EnCana said it has adopted a "more efficient" approach to production by increasing the number of well fractures.

"We're working hard to bring our costs (down) and if we do, we think the Horn River can compete nicely in our portfolio," EnCana executive vice-president Michael Graham told investors during a recent conference call.

Nexen Inc (TSX:NXY), a major Calgary company with oil operations in Yemen and the Gulf of Mexico and an oilsands business in Canada, also has a big investment in the Horn River basin, recently calling it a "world class play."

Tim Thomas, a senior vice-president at Nexen, told investors at a recent meeting that Horn River is "low risk" and "provides steady cash flow."

"We recognize the impact of current gas prices but what we want to do is maintain optionality," Thomas said, adding the company is working to reduce costs and "control our pace of investments."

Other large oil and gas companies with an investment in Horn River include Talisman Energy Inc. (TSX:TLM) and Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. (TSX:CNQ) as well as U.S. producer EOG Resources Inc. (NYSE:EOG).

Calgary-based Questerre Energy Corp. (TSX:QEC) is one of many juniors with a presence in the Horn River area, having recently expanded its holdings in the area.

"We now have a great toe-hold in this highly prospective area," said its president and CEO Michael Binnion.

Labor, Business Teaming on Two Major Issues - The Oklahoman - 6/21/09

BUILDING bridges between big business and organized labor is a dog-bites-man story. Yet it's happening now on two fronts and we don't think business or labor is necessarily barking up the wrong tree.

Business is playing a role in health care reform and it's no longer the role of outright opposition. Rising costs are a prime reason business leaders are at least open to new ways of insuring workers. We can't say big business is perfectly aligned with big labor on this issue, but the two appear closer than they've ever been in pushing for change.

The bridge between the oil and gas industry and organized labor is much more pronounced. The American Petroleum Institute announced Wednesday a partnership with 15 unions to promote a lessening of foreign oil dependence through greater exploration of domestic resources and a resistance to more federal regulation of exploration activities.

API's chairman is Larry Nichols, who is chairman and CEO of Oklahoma City-based Devon Energy Corp. Nichols said the new coalition will promote "effective, environmentally sound development of the nation's energy reserves" to maintain and increase employment in a high-paying field that's vital to the economy and national security.

Mark H. Ayers, president of the AFL-CIO Building and Construction Trades Department, said one goal of the alliance is to "support policies that protect and promote job security and growth in the natural gas industry."

The coalition was announced as oil prices continued to rise from the cellar of recent months and T. Boone Pickens predicted oil and gas prices will remain on an uptrend. This is great news for Devon, for Oklahoma's economy and state revenues and for the thousands of Oklahomans who work in the industry, including unionized employees.

Big labor and big business are usually on opposite sides of issues such as health care and trade. Unions are anti-consumer (in opposing free trade) and anti-democracy (in supporting elimination of secret ballots in union organizing elections). Unions are reliable supporters of Democratic candidates but differ on environmental issues. That's demonstrated by this new coalition pairing labor with the energy industry.

The prevailing view among Democratic Party leaders is that the energy industry must be punished because of its recent success (but not aided during downturns). The current run-up in oil and gas prices will fan the flames of punishment with stricter environmental regs and tax policy.

In this case, the unions get it: Success in the energy industry is good for executives, shareholders and unionized employees – not to mention the country.

Here's hoping big labor's clout with the Obama administration will unleash policies that reward success rather than punish it.

Phones Ring for V Vehicle Co. Jobs – Shreveport Times – 6/21/09

MONROE -- A startup automobile company won't be taking applications for its promised 1,400 jobs for at least six months. But that hasn't stopped a flood of interest from job seekers near and far interested in working at the V Vehicle Co. plant in Monroe.

"Our (Davison Transport) switchboard has been lit up ever since the announcement with people who want jobs," said James Davison, who bought the vacant Guide Corp. facility in 2007 where V Vehicle will assemble its high-mileage, gasoline-powered cars.

"I think that's a tremendous sign," said the Ruston-based trucking magnate who also is an investor in V Vehicle. But he won't participate in the hiring process.

Tim Brown, of Bastrop, was there -- resume in hand -- when company and government officials and others, including energy investor T. Boone Pickens, announced the deal last week. "I wanted to be the first one in line for a job.

"You don't know how hard I'm looking for something," said the 43-year-old who has been unemployed for almost a year. "Hopefully, this will boost the economy and provide people with jobs, especially me."

Meantime, Pennsylvania resident Gary Swanner is looking for the right opportunity to move back home to West Monroe to reunite with relatives and friends, fish and eat good food. "You can't buy boudin in Pennsylvania."

The 55-year-old worked for a company that financed large construction equipment manufacturers, but it was downsized when the building boom when bust.

Delhi resident Joe May has a good job but says he'd consider returning to the auto assembly industry if given the opportunity. The 50-year-old worked as a control electrician at the Nissan plant near Jackson, Miss., until the commute became too much.

"Everybody I've talked to is excited. They're all casting an eye toward the new plant."

Louisiana Economic Development Department's FastStart, the program that will recruit and train workers for V Vehicle, eventually will have a Web site dedicated to taking applications. But that won't be for at least six months, program director Jeff Lynn said.

Production of an mystery, all-new automobile at the 425,000-square-foot

facility, which is being expanded to 750,000 square feet, won't begin for at least 15 months. Once operating, officials say, the V Vehicle jobs will pay an average of \$40,000 a year.

"Everybody wants to play a part in this new company, whether it's as a skilled assembly worker or office staff," said Grambling State University employee Larry Gipson, who is interested in potential professional opportunities with the new company. "It's boosted the morale for the entire region, from the unemployed to the under-employed.

The 52-year-old who is the well-known public address announcer at Grambling State said he can't remember a more exciting project than V Vehicle. "And I hope when it comes to fruition, everybody here will support the company by buying the car."

Company to seek federal loans

Before that can happen, however, the San Diego-based company says it needs \$340 million in federal loans or other investment while facing a potentially tight schedule with Louisiana to develop the plant. The company said the loans would come from a \$25 billion pool of money Congress approved in 2007 to spur automotive technology.

Documents the state Economic Development Department released a day after the plant was announced show that, as proposed, V Vehicle also will get \$67 million in state funding and \$15 million from Monroe area governments in increments as the plant renovation proceeds. The company also faces the prospect of repaying that money if the project collapses.

A proposed company-state contract also says V Vehicle is expected to have at least \$161 million of its own money when the project officially gets under way.

The construction phase of the facility where Guide Corp. once made vehicle headlights would include 1,900 workers.

V Vehicle, citing competitive concerns, has been unwilling to discuss details about the car, including a projected price. But a review of V-Vehicle's business plan, commissioned by Louisiana and performed by the business consulting firm A.T. Kearney, gives a few clues about the car that may emerge.

Its projected fuel efficiency "represents an advantage over some of its present-day competitors, although planned developments may reduce this advantage over time," the report says.

A.T. Kearney also says the proposed price tag -- undisclosed by the report -- "represents a strong advantage over that of the competition and includes a reasonable cushion should the other automotive companies respond with strong price incentives."

The fuel efficiency and the price tag "should be sufficient to achieve the volume requirements projected," the report says, adding that A.T. Kearney believes the company "can achieve sales volumes in excess of their break-even requirements and certainly at a level that will support production."

Company officials have said they are working on dealer arrangements.

In addition to Davison and Pickens, the latter of whom has been pushing for increased use of wind-generated and other alternative power, V Vehicle investors include former Oracle Corp. executive Frank Varasano and the venture capital fund of Kleiner, Perkins Caufield & Byers, which is heavily invested in "green" projects and companies.

But A.T. Kearney said the company's day-to-day leadership has "experts from some of the most successful automotive companies across North America," including expertise in design and engineering, manufacturing and assembly, sales and service.

The study says V Vehicle's 18-month time frame to begin production is tight and some delays in launching and increasing vehicle assembly could be anticipated. But even with those adjustments, the company's break-even point would only be delayed, A.T. Kearney says.

The proposed state-company contract, which must be approved and is subject to changes by the state's Joint Legislative Budget Committee, outlines the schedule that includes deadlines for plant site preparation and renovation. It calls for the renovation to begin by Aug. 1, with a completion date of Oct. 1, 2010. Local government money would not kick in before March 1, 2010, after completion of the plant begins.

Louisiana Gannet News Staffer Greg Hilburn and Associated Press staffer Alan Sayre contributed to this report.

Where is Jamaica's T. Boone Pickens? - Jamaica Gleaner News - 6/21/09

By Dennis Morrison, Contributor

Not many Jamaicans may know of T. Boone Pickens, the Texan oil billionaire turned evangelist for "green energy". But he is the type of entrepreneur that Jamaica needs now if we are to escape the suffocating energy equation in which the local economy is trapped.

In this equation, the additional foreign exchange spent each year on the oil bill has been running ahead of the increase in export earnings; a far worse position than what has shocked Americans into taking action to escape their energy trap.

T. Boone Pickens has been leading a campaign to persuade American business leaders and the government to back the development of wind and solar power as major sources of future electrical energy supply. He is also pushing natural gas to be a major fuel for transportation because America has sizeable reserves; and it is a clean fuel that would boost energy efficiency. Together these sources are seen as the best long-term options, along with revolutionary battery technology, to free America from its growing dependence on foreign oil and deal with climate change.

Sense of urgency

The sense of urgency indicated in the Pickens' and other energy plans stands in sharp contrast to the lack of interest by Jamaican business leaders or, for that matter, Caribbean enterprises. This is puzzling, considering America's vast endowments of energy sources compared with Jamaica's energy, resource poverty. While Americans possess coal, oil, natural gas, hydro-power and geothermal source we are almost totally dependent on foreign oil. They also utilise atomic energy. And they have begun to exploit wind and solar power, which could evolve to a massive scale.

Where is the Jamaican T. Boone or private-sector visionaries ready with ideas and the investment appetite to take on the different components of the energy solutions? Is it that Jamaican entrepreneurs see no solutions, or that they dare not risk their capital? Couldn't they find foreign partners with whom to form joint ventures to invest in alternative energy sources where first-mover advantage could be attractive?

Invested in ethanol

As far as I am aware, we have no private-sector leader or investor locally that has given this kind of thought to the energy issue. Why is this so if energy is a key impediment to the viability of businesses and economic growth? Jamaica Broilers has invested in ethanol production and Carib Cement had some years ago diversified its energy source to include coal, but no visionary ideas or plans have come from the business sector. Presumably, these are to come from the public sector, never mind that the private sector is meant to be the "engine of growth".

Though the local business people complain about preferences given to foreigners, for which there is hardly ever any proof, it is to these investors that we will have to look if locals do not come forward. As I pointed out in last week's column, Jamaica's energy consumption per person in 2003 was 84 per cent more than in 1987. Our energy intensity in producing goods and services also rose alarmingly by 50 per cent.

And lest we are tempted to maintain our lethargy, all of this is in a context of what is now agreed will be a long-term upward trend in oil prices.

The picture of how Jamaica's oil bill has moved over the past decade is astounding. In 1997, the bill stood at US\$354.1 million, less than half of the gross value of bauxite/alumina exports, or a little more than half of the inflows of remittances. By 2000, it had reached US\$ 906.8 million, an increase of 156 per cent surpassing bauxite exports by, nearly US\$ 200 million, and remittances by US\$120 million. Then we had the gargantuan movement to US\$2 billion by 2007, which totally wiped out the benefits of the spectacular increase in remittances from US\$790 million to US\$1.96 billion in the same period.

In other words, the massive inflows from remittances, which ought to have provided a boost to the country's foreign reserves and resources for investment, were completely eaten up by an energy, inefficient economy. Still worse was in store, as in 2008 the oil bill went up by 35 per cent, to US\$2.7 billion. A remarkable fact is that the increase in the oil bill that year was greater than the sum of our export earnings from sugar, rum, traditional agricultural crops, crude bauxite and some other lesser items as well.

Hefty oil bill

Looking back over the 20-year period to 1987, what we see is an oil bill that has gone up more than 10-fold, while virtually nothing has been done to fundamentally alter our total dependence on oil. Nor have we bothered to address the efficiency of energy use. Instead, we are burning more oil to produce each unit of output even as it has got more costly. And this is being done by businesses whose primary motive should be to make greater profits.

We cannot of course ignore the cost of an inefficient public power supply system, and that the choice of private motor cars over public transportation involves public policy decisions. But the imperviousness of the Jamaican business approach to the energy trap demands close examination, for things must change, or much of our productive capacity will be unsustainable. Not to mention that if energy costs eat up more of each dollar of income, most people are bound to get poorer.

Dennis E. Morrison is an economist.

T. Boone Pickens Will Take Spotlight for ADA - Tulsa World - 6/21/09

By Danna Sue Walker

This one is a classic all the way.

T. Boone Pickens, a classic in business and philanthropy, will team up with some classic cars for the American Diabetes Association's fourth annual "Concours for the Cure" set from 3 p.m. until 7 p.m. Sept. 20 outside in the Snug Harbor area at Southern Hills Country Club.

The world-class event features an afternoon with Pickens, collector cars, motorcycles and fine cuisine with the ultimate goal of benefiting 24 million Americans of all ages who have diabetes. Pickens is being honored for his commitment to find a cure for diabetes and to improve the lives of all those affected by diabetes.

The private viewing will include the \$1 million 1936 Lincoln Model K V12 (once owned and modified by Howard Hughes) as well as Clark Gable's 1955 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL Gullwing.

And, as for the other classic: Pickens built the largest independent oil company in the United States and flourished as an entrepreneur after leaving it. Among his lengthy accolades, Financial World named him CEO of the Decade in 1989 and the Oil and Gas Investor listed him as one of the "100 Most Influential People of the Petroleum Century."

During the span of his career, Pickens has made hundreds of millions of dollars - for others as well as himself - and he isn't timid about

spreading it around. "I like making money. I like giving it away," he has often said. The breadth of his philanthropy – nearly \$700 million – includes medical research, athletics, and academic projects.

In 2006, his charitable activities, which included \$175 million and the establishment of the T. Boone Pickens Foundation, placed him on the Chronicle of Philanthropy's list of top U.S. philanthropists for the second straight year. His foundation is focused on improving lives through grants supporting educational programs, health and medical research and services, athletics and corporate wellness, the entrepreneurial process, at-risk youths, and conservation and wildlife initiatives.

Flintco's Tom Maxwell is patron chairman.

Among the special guests will be Burns Hargis, president of Oklahoma State University.

MidFirst Bank is the presenting sponsor.

Other major patrons include Alliance Resource Partners LP and Harold and Sue Ann Hamm.

Also, National Steak and Poultry, LeAnna Cook and Rob's Sod Store, Flintco, John and Virginia Groendyke, Cherokee Nation Entertainment and Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, Bruce G. Weber, J. B. and Patti Saunders, and Hagerty Collector Car Insurance.

Bentley Dallas will sponsor a hospitality tent that will display its latest models.

Pattie Bowman is chairwoman-elect of the American Diabetes Association.

The "Concours for the Cure" is unique to Oklahoma, and the only Concours

in the country that benefits adults and children with diabetes.

Bill Warnock and his wife Becky are chairmen. Committee members include Ronnie Watson, Brian Cantrell, John Erling, Jim Holloman, Lisa Price, Rod Sands, Steve Clark, LeAnna Cook, John Neas, Wendi Doyle, Richard and Lina Holmes, Gil Morris, Meloyde Blancett, Debbie Kouri, Matt Davis, and Rodger and Deborah Erker.

Concours cuisine will be provided by Chef Devin Levine.

Invitations say "Pebble Beach casual" attire.

The commemorative artwork for the event will be offered by Tim Lange.

Free information on the care and control of diabetes, as well as preventing complications of the disease, is available by calling 1-800-DIABETES.

Go to tulsaworld.com/diabetes for more information, the latest research news and to subscribe to "diabetes e-news", a free weekly e-newsletter from the American Diabetes Association.

For more information or a sponsorship package, contact (918) 492-3839 ext. 6035 or aketcham@diabetes.org.

For Vehicle Entry application information, contact Ronnie Watson at (918) 743-6363 or watsonlewisave@aol.com.

Lyceum Raises \$250,000 for Spohn - Corpus Christi Caller-Times - 6/21/09

By Sarah Tindall

CORPUS CHRISTI – The annual Christus Spohn Lyceum celebrated another successful fundraiser when representatives presented checks totaling more than \$250,000 on June 11.

Christus Spohn Cancer Center received a check for \$202,285 and the Christus Spohn Foundation Endowment received a check for \$50,571 at the presentation held at Christus Spohn Cancer Center.

The cancer center intends to purchase new and innovative cancer fighting technology and equipment, including the Da Vinci Surgical Robot, and build a healing garden with fountains and benches with the proceeds.

The foundation's Lyceum was held on March 31 and featured "Texas Monthly" editor Evan Smith interviewing Texas billionaire and energy tycoon T. Boone Pickens onstage.

The Christus Spohn Lyceum has raised more than \$3 million since having its first lecture, which featured Henry Kissinger in 1988. Many notable public figures have spoken through the Lyceum, including Lady Margaret Thatcher and General Colin Powell.

Date of Las Estrellas is announced

The Hispanic Women's Network of Texas will host its annual Las Estrellas Awards Banquet from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 23 at the Congressman Solomon P. Ortiz International Center. Estrellas Awards will be given in the areas of Arts, Business, Community Involvement, Education, Family, Health and Law. This event will feature entertainment, networking, dinner, a silent auction and the awards presentation.

The 2008 honorees included Katia Uriarte, arts, Olivia Mora, business, Irosema Salinas, education, Mary Jane Garza, education, Shelly Esparze,

family, Chris Cisneros, health, and Patricia Canales-Bell, law.

Information: Cindy Barrera at 944-9922.

Freelancer Sarah Tindall writes about charity events, social organizations and local nonprofits.

Just Briefly ... - The Australian - 6/22/09

* TEXAS oil billionaire T. Boone Pickens reckons natural gas prices in the US will double by next year to \$US7 per 1000 cubic feet. This will be music to the ears of the dozens of Australian juniors drilling for gas or already pumping it in the US. In the past few days, AusTex Oil (AOK) reported first gas sales from its BlueHawk project in Oklahoma. And with crude at around \$US70/barrel, Pryme Oil & Gas (PYM) will be seeing its revenues increase as its latest Louisiana well comes into production.

* BGF Equities says one of its preferred gold stocks is Tennant Creek explorer Emmerson Resources (ERM) now that Robert Friedland's Ivanhoe Australia (IVA) has both taken a placement and committed \$18m in exploration spending. BGF points out that IVA is interested only in one million ounce-plus gold deposits.

* THERE was a lot of excitement in Perth at the news that Sandfire Resources (SFR) seems to have drilled into what appears to be a large ore body north of Meekatharra. Its stock went from 73c to \$1.02 on Wednesday and was still holding at 92c on Friday when more heavy trading occurred as investors took advantage of Thursday's retreat.

In the Wind - South Bend Tribune - 6/22/09

Hardworking, mechanically-inclined people are out of work.

Wind power is catching on with the help of the eccentric T. Boone Pickens' jillion-dollar campaign. Historically, Indiana probably had more windmills per acre than any other state, so it's already in our DNA. President Obama is asphyxiating people who mutter the phrase "new energy" with stimulus cash.

Why can't someone in Elkhart think like this?

How 'bout this, Elkhart bluebloods: Recreational vehicles are outdoor thingies. Wind turbines are outdoor thingies. People spend lots of money on RVs. People spend lots of money on turbines. RVs say, "Look at me, I own an RV!" Turbines say, "Look at me, I own a turbine!" Rich homeowners like RVs. Rich homeowners like wind turbines. RVs say, "I like enjoying our environment." Turbines say, "I like protecting our environment."

RVs are made of metal and plastic. Turbines are made of metal and plastic. RVs aren't selling. Turbines are selling. RVs are bought by individuals. Turbines are bought by individuals, organizations, companies and countries.

I see a big parallel between the RV and wind turbine industries.

I think Elkhart should wake up and smell the future. Which happens to be downwind.

Dan Carter

Mishawaka

Editor's Mailbag: Yes, We Have an Alternative Fuel if Only We Would Make Use of It - Albany Democrat Herald - 6/21/09

I found the item from Jack C. White in the June 14 (Sunday) edition entitled "Oil in the ground is like money in the bank" to be well written, informative and on target, as far as it went. However, I was actually surprised that someone who seems to be so knowledgeable would fail to mention that we already have at our disposal an alternative to gasoline or the lunacy of ethanol.

This fuel source is plentiful, reasonably priced, burns in our combustion engines, is much cleaner burning than gasoline or diesel and has been used by almost every state and major city in the U.S. to power some of their cars for decades.

Its use would require a minimum of technology for conversion and would allow us to keep oil in the ground for other uses such as fertilizer, asphalt, plastics and the other non-transportation uses that are a vital part of life in the U.S.

This "magic bullet" is compressed natural gas and its close cousin propane. Instead of bailing out banks, insurance companies and car manufacturers, we should be spending these trillions of dollars on converting to these fuels so we can stop sending \$800 billion a year to people who are our sworn enemies.

Within a reasonably short period of time the savings would enable us to address health care, education and the rest of the "wish list" that will either bankrupt the country or depress the economy for generations.

Plus, we could tell Hugo Chavez, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the Saudi sheiks to kiss our you-know-what.

I urge everyone who reads this to Google CNG, propane or Pickens Plan and see it for yourself.

Gene Gradwohl, Shedd

Gas Market is Facing a New World Order - The National Newspaper -
6/22/09

By Tamsin Carlisle

New technology is causing an upheaval in the distribution of world gas supplies.

As a result, the world's biggest energy consumer could become a net gas exporter, as some liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporters start imports.

Last week, the US Potential Gas Committee - a group of industry, government and academic experts - estimated America's potential gas resources at 1,836 trillion cubic feet (cu ft), representing 80 years of supply.

When the country's 238 trillion cu ft of proved gas reserves are added, the US has a total future gas supply of more than 2 quadrillion cu ft, or enough to last 90 years without imports.

The committee's latest estimate is 39 per cent higher than it calculated two years ago, and the highest on record. The increase is due to a re-evaluation of huge shale gas deposits, an "unconventional" resource that was previously deemed uneconomic. But that has changed with advances in drilling and a technique called hydraulic fracturing, which opens channels underground to ease gas flow.

"New and advanced exploration, well drilling and completion technologies are allowing us increasingly better access to domestic gas resources - especially unconventional gas - which, not all that long ago, were considered impractical or uneconomical to pursue," said John B Curtis, a committee member and professor of geology at the Colorado School of Mines.

In contrast, Malaysia's Petroleum Nasional (Petronas) has signed a 20-year contract to import 2 million tonnes of LNG annually from Australia, starting in 2014.

Malaysia boosted LNG exports from its liquefaction complex in Borneo to a record 22.87 million tonnes last year, putting it in second place behind Qatar. But production is falling from fields off the Malaysian Peninsula that supply 75 per cent of the state's domestic gas requirements.

The Australian contract is part of Petronas's efforts to secure a reliable gas supply for the future, the state-owned company said last week.

Indonesia, the world's third-biggest LNG exporter, is also considering imports. It recently announced plans to build an LNG receiving facility on Java, its most populous island.

A recent surge of unconventional gas development in north-western Australia is helping Asian countries avert shortages. Coal deposits, rich in methane, are the source of the new supply.

The US is also beginning to tap its coal deposits - the world's largest - for gas, as is neighbouring Canada.

Little wonder, then, that T Boone Pickens, the Texan billionaire hedge fund manager, last week said he doubted a proposed US\$26 billion (Dh95.49bn) gas pipeline from Alaska to the rest of the US would be needed.

Mr Pickens has been promoting a scheme to use US gas to cut the nation's dependence on foreign oil. But instead, the US may boost participation in global gas trade through both exports and imports. The tactic would strengthen the country's energy security by diversifying its supply options.

Without a pipeline, 39 trillion cu ft of proved gas reserves would be stranded on Alaska's Arctic shore. But Asia presents an alternative market, and global warming is creating an opportunity for LNG development by extending the Arctic shipping season.

Another potential new LNG exporter is Brazil, which expects to develop large offshore gas reserves.

This all goes to show that tectonic shifts are underway in a gas market that is becoming increasingly global.

Next week, 14 gas exporters, led by Qatar, Russia and Iran, will meet in Doha to establish a secretariat for the Gas Exporting Countries Forum. The organisation has been called a "gas OPEC", and consuming countries worry it may unduly influence prices. But with major new gas supplies coming from non-member countries, including the US, Australia and Brazil, those concerns seem misplaced.

BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE

Breaking: Cathy Zoi confirmed as the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy - Technology Review Blog - 6/19/09

By Joe Romm

I've just been forwarded this message from DOE:

On June 19th, the United States Senate, by voice vote, confirmed Cathy Zoi to be the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

This is a terrific piece of news. To explain why, I'm going to reprint below my March post "And Obama gives the best clean energy and global warming solutions job to ...":

Cathy Zoi, CEO of Al Gore's Alliance for Climate Protection, has been nominated by President Obama to serve as Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy (EERE) under Energy Secretary Steven Chu.

Zoi has a unique combination of expertise in clean energy and high level federal government experience – she was Chief of Staff in the Clinton White House Office on Environmental Policy, managing the staff working on environmental and energy issues (full bio here, recent writing below). Since I have known Zoi for nearly 2 decades and since in 1997 I held the job she is now nominated for, I can personally attest she will be able to hit the ground running in the crucial job of overseeing the vast majority of the development and deployment of plausible climate solutions technology.

What does EERE do? You could spend hours on their website, here, exploring everything they are into. Of the 12 to 14 most plausible wedges the world needs to stabilize at 350 to 450 ppm – the full global warming solution – EERE is the principal federal agency for working with businesses to develop and deploy the technology for 11 of them!

The stimulus and the 2009 budget dramatically increases – more than doubles – EERE funding for technology development and deployment. Zoi's most important job is deployment, deployment, deployment. And again she is uniquely qualified to get clean energy into the marketplace. Zoi was a manager at the US Environmental Protection Agency where "she pioneered the Energy Star Program," which was the pioneering energy efficiency deployment program launched in the early 1990s.

So we know Zoi gets energy efficiency. Here's what she wrote last year about "Embracing the Challenge to Repower America":

Many Americans have a hard time thinking about our energy future, largely because their energy present is so challenging. With gasoline prices hovering near \$4 per gallon and rising energy bills at home and

at work, our economy is struggling with the burden of imported oil and reliance on fossil fuels. The need to satisfy the nation's oil appetite has shaped our foreign and defense postures, and is a primary reason for our current entanglements overseas. Extreme weather here in the U.S. has us feeling uneasy. And the scientists remind us more urgently every week about the mounting manifestations of the climate crisis.

To solve these problems, we must repower our economy. Fast.

Vice President Gore has issued a challenge for us to do just that: Generate 100 percent of America's electricity from truly clean sources that do not contribute to global warming – and do so within 10 years. It is an ambitious but attainable goal. American workers, businesses and families are up to it.

Meeting the challenge to repower America will deliver the affordability, stability and confidence our economy needs, as well as a healthy environment. And it will generate millions of good American jobs that can't be outsourced.

It will involve simultaneous work on three fronts. First, get the most out of the energy we currently produce. Second, quickly deploy the clean energy technologies that we already know can work. Third, create a new integrated electricity grid to deliver power from where it is generated to where people live.

The first front involves energy efficiency. The potential here is vast and largely untapped. Now is the time to begin a comprehensive national energy upgrade that will reduce the energy bills of homeowners and businesses – even as costs of energy supplies may be on the rise.

The second front requires expanding the use of existing generation technologies. This will include accelerated growth in our wind energy industry. We have a strong running start – the U.S. was the leading installer of wind technology last year. Texas oilman T. Boone Pickens says we can get at least 20 percent of America's electricity from wind power. We think he's right.

Solar thermal power is also booming and poised for rapid acceleration. The resource potential is so vast that a series of collectors in the American southwest totaling just 92 miles on a side could power our entire electricity system. Utilities in Arizona, Nevada, and California have already begun to tap this potential, with plans for powering nearly one million homes underway.

Advances in thermal storage technologies, along with investments in our grid, mean that solar thermal power will be able to provide electricity at night, like coal power does today.

Nuclear and hydroelectric power facilities currently combine to contribute roughly 25% of America's electricity. That will continue. Coal and natural gas can also play a significant role by capturing and storing their carbon emissions safely. Our hope is that this CCS emissions technology can be developed and commercialized quickly. Without it, coal isn't "clean." There are reportedly a few CCS plants now proposed in the U.S., although another roughly 70 proposed coal plants have no such plans to capture their carbon pollution.

The third front is the creation of a unified national electricity grid. A "super smart grid" will form the backbone and the entire skeleton of our modern power system. Efficient high voltage lines will move power from remote, resource-rich areas to places where power is consumed.

It will also allow households to make money by automatically using energy at the cheapest times and selling electricity back to the grid when a surplus is available can. A smart meter spins both ways.

Meeting this 100 percent clean power challenge will require a one-time capital investment in new infrastructure, with the bulk of funding coming from private finance. If policies reward reducing global warming pollution, private capital will flow towards clean energy solutions.

But the most important cost figures to consider may be the ones we'll avoid. American utilities will spend roughly \$100 billion this year on coal and natural gas to fuel power plants. And more next year and the year after that – until we make the switch to renewable fuels that are free and limitless.

The 10-year time frame is key.

The science, the economic pressures and our national security concerns demand swift, concerted action. The best climate scientists tell us we must make rapid progress to turn the corner on global carbon emissions or the ecological consequences will be irreversible.

The solutions are available now – there are no technology or material impediments. Failing to move swiftly will deprive the U.S. economy of earnings from one of the fastest growing technology sectors in the world.

We've done this before. We mobilized the auto industry in 12 months to service the hardware needs of WWII. The Marshall Plan to reconstruct Europe was executed in four years. And as Vice President Gore pointed out, we reached the moon in eight years, not ten.

We can do this. With support from the American people and leadership from elected officials, America can accept the challenge of building a safe, secure and sustainable energy future.

In short, she gets both energy efficiency and Solar Baseload.

Kudos to Obama for this terrific pick!

The Good News on Natural Gas - Motley Fool - 6/19/09

By David Lee Smith

It's been a roller-coaster year for the energy sector. Oil prices have skyrocketed, plummeted, and then recovered again. We've seen troubles in major oil-exporting countries like Nigeria, Venezuela, and Iran. But on the natural gas front, a new study sheds light on a trend that many investors have already seen firsthand.

According to a report released Thursday by the Colorado-based Potential Gas Committee, an authority on gas reserves, the U.S. appears to have far greater natural gas reserves than was previously thought.

The report, whose lead author was Professor John B. Curtis of the Colorado School of Mines, says that the U.S. has a future supply of about 2,074 trillion cubic feet of gas. That's over 35% more than the previous PGC study found back at the end of 2006, and at current rates represents about 100 years of production. You can bet that the big boost is at least partly responsible for gas trading at about \$4 per million BTU today, versus more than \$13 at its peak last July.

The higher supply clearly comes from the work of companies like Chesapeake Energy (NYSE: CHK) and Devon Energy (NYSE: DVN). Using advanced technology, these and other companies have unlocked gas trapped in shale formations, such as the Haynesville in Texas and Louisiana, and the Marcellus formation in the Appalachians. Extracting gas from such formations is still a new phenomenon, and yet already about a third of our total potential gas reserves are shale-based.

The new figures likely will support the contentions of gas advocates like energy investor T. Boone Pickens, who has argued for a bigger role for natural gas in our nation's total energy picture. Pickens has been especially interested in gas as a transportation fuel, claiming that it could be a valuable substitute for foreign oil.

From an investment perspective, though, greater supply means low prices, and that's not good for gas producers. My advice to Fools with a taste for energy is to concentrate on producers such as Hess (NYSE: HES) and smaller Denbury Resources (NYSE: DNR), which have relatively high oil reserves compared to their natural gas holdings. This obviously implies care where most gas producers are concerned until the report's effect on already-low gas prices becomes clearer.

At the same time, I'd avoid land drillers such as Bronco Drilling (Nasdaq: BRNC), whose utilization rates may remain low as long as gas prices stay weak. Deepwater players Transocean (NYSE: RIG) and Diamond Offshore (NYSE: DO), however, have kept utilization rates up despite low gas prices and therefore continue to be attractive.

All in all, though, I judge the major bump in U.S. gas reserves to be sparkling good news for the future prospects of the industry. Now all we need is the wisdom to follow the advice of Boone Pickens and other natural gas advocates, and we'll have done ourselves a tremendous favor.

Energy Cap and Trade is a Bad Policy - Global Warming Examiner - 6/19/09

By John Ryden

The liberal democrats in congress have been pushing a Cap and Trade bill that they believe would reduce carbon emissions over time. It would basically work by rationing the amount of carbon emissions allowed. This effectively means limiting the amount of fossil fuels that can be burned each year. That is the cap part.

The trade part of the bill is to allow companies that have emission allowances to trade them for money with other companies that need to burn more fuel. This way the market would allow emissions by the companies that would produce the most economic benefit and take away from companies that would produce the least economic benefit.

The problem is that it might not actually work as desired. For example, assume that I am a steel producer. I receive an emission allowance under the plan to consume energy to produce steel. I could make a lot of money by selling that allowance to another company. What if I sold my allowance and moved my steel production to a country like China or even Brazil that did not have caps. If the cost to produce the steel overseas is no greater than the amount that I would receive for selling the allowance, then economically I am better off. The net result is no decrease in emissions, but a lot of US jobs will be lost to overseas workers.

Another problem is that as our economy grows (assuming it starts growing again) it will need more energy to function. A cap would reduce this growth. Obama says his economic program will create millions of new jobs to eventually lower our unemployment rate. If a cap reduces growth, then how is he going to create these jobs?

A cap is like a tax on energy. It artificially raises energy prices. I know some liberals see higher energy prices as a good thing because it reduces the amount of energy consumed. The problem is that it creates a lot of pain. Low income people will feel the pain the most since energy consumes a higher part of their income. The demand curve for energy is very inflexible, at least in the short run. That means that small reductions in consumption can result in big increases in prices. [The economic utility of energy and global warming] Remember the pain of \$4.00 per gallon gasoline. Add to that higher electricity costs, higher bus ticket prices, higher costs to heat your home...

How high will energy costs go? It really depends on how much the economy grows and how much energy we can get from environmentally clean sources. Since sources like wind and solar only contribute a couple of percentage points to our overall energy use, it will not be very much anytime soon. If the economy stagnates, then the price may not rise very much, but that is not what is desired from our economy.

I think it will be very hard for this legislation to get through congress. At least I hope so. There are much better ways to reduce our carbon emissions that would not have the high costs and anti-growth aspects that the currently proposed legislation has. Here are some of my ideas:

1. Stop building new coal fired power plants. The Obama administration has made moves in this direction. We have plenty of natural gas which can produce electricity cleaner and with half the carbon emissions. This is our bridge to a future many years from now when all of our electricity can be produced from clean sources.
2. Start building nuclear power plants to augment and replace coal fired plants. Not only would we get dependable base load electricity, but the investment now would create jobs where the investment would pay real dividends in the future. The current stimulus bill is full of spending that increases consumption now, but pays no dividends later (counting salt water mice in San Francisco to see if they are endangered).

3. Create a small carbon tax with the money going to fund clean energy development. [Carbon tax to pay for renewable energy] I am looking at a tax rate of about \$0.02 per gallon of gasoline. That would raise about as much as we can reasonably spend now on new green energy projects and would probably not be noticed with \$2.60 per gallon gasoline. The carbon tax could easily be expanded to cover the carbon energy content of imported goods so as not to create an incentive to move production off-shore. Production would have a tendency to move to the places with the most carbon efficient energy, which we hope will be in this country.

4. Implement the Pickens plan. Provide incentives to increase the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel and accelerate the development of wind power to replace natural gas consumption for electricity production. This has the added benefit of reducing our consumption of imported oil which now costs this country about \$1 billion per day.

It will take a long time to decrease and stop burning fossil fuels. At this point we should focus on increasing our production of carbon free energy from all sources and substituting more carbon efficient energy sources like natural gas for less carbon efficient sources like coal and oil. That will start us moving in the right direction without hurting our economy.

Driving in Thailand: It's a Gas! - SF Autos Examiner - 6/21/09

By Michael Sheena

With fuel prices back on the rise, I thought it my be a good idea to take another look at a story I wrote for my blog All Cars, All the Time back in October of last year.

The WSJ has an interesting article about drivers in Thailand converting their cars to run on natural gas. Not all of those who have changed over are happy, complaining that their cars have a reduced range, have to wait in long lines at refueling stations and their vehicles are now slower to accelerate. You just can't please all the people, all the time can you?

Over here in the U.S. we've got T. Boone Pickens trying to sell us on natural gas powered vehicles. The only major manufacturer to offer a plug and play solution for a commuter is Honda with its natural gas Civic. You can buy it at a Honda dealer fresh from the factory and for a few bucks more you can get a home filling station. Honda's solution works well for commuters who can simply refuel every night and never worry about finding a refueling station on the road. However, the Civic would really have to be a second car unless you either wanted to make finding natural gas stations on the road a challenge or you rented a gasoline powered vehicle for long trips.

Upstart Auto Company Lures Designer with Big-Time Resume - Automotive News - 6/22/09

By Mark Rechtin

LOS ANGELES -- If you had led the design team for the iconic roadster of the last quarter-century, that would be a calling card for quite a while.

But Tom Matano, recently announced as the lead stylist for newly formed venture V-Vehicle Co. of San Diego, has several other resume-toppers to his name besides the original Mazda Miata.

V-Vehicle, a new auto company backed by Texas billionaire investor T. Boone Pickens, last week announced plans to build an "environmentally friendly" car in a former General Motors plant in Monroe, La.

The company withheld details about the vehicle. But news reports quoted Matano as saying, "This car will be another icon of American industry."

Although the company's announcement said the Louisiana plant would be running in 18 months, a time frame of 20 to 22 months is more likely, a source said.

The plant is scheduled to employ about 1,400 people. A source said the supply chain will be almost entirely subcontracted.

V-Vehicle, formed in 2006, has "just under 100 employees," said spokesman Joe Fisher. Its founder and CEO is Frank Varasano, a former executive vice president with Oracle Corp. who spent 26 years at the Booz Allen Hamilton consulting firm.

Private sector investors also include the Silicon Valley venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caulfield & Byers and James Davison, of Ruston, La. Davison is the owner of the plant, most recently operated by auto lighting supplier Guide Corp. before its demise.

Matano is a part-time employee of V-Vehicle. He will keep his current job as director of industrial design at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco.

Matano followed the Miata, penned with Mark Jordan, with the 1993 edition of the RX-7, the last of the Japanese sports cars to be approved as Tokyo's bubble economy burst. Matano's 19-year career at Mazda also included work on the late-1990s Protege and 626 sedans.

Matano made sure his design team worked extra-hard on the rear fascia of a car. His rationale: While the front makes a first impression, it is the rear of other cars that most people spend their time staring at in traffic.

Before Mazda, Matano worked for GM's Holden division and for BMW, where he was part of the team that created the E36-generation 3-series sedan.

From 1998 to 2002, while leading Mazda's U.S. design arm, Matano was acting head of design for Mazda globally. During that time, Mazda's

designers created the Mazda6, RX-8 and Demio hatchback.

When Moray Callum was named head of Mazda's global design, Matano became director of industrial design at the Academy of Art College in San Francisco.

Matano, 61, enjoys lively, wry, debate about design. When told by a reporter that the styling of the 1998 Mazda 626 looked like a Japanese Checker Cab, Matano quickly grabbed a pen and paper and drew a cartoonish taxi for comparison.

He also does not play favorites. He will poke barbs at his own company's designs as well as those of the competition. Matano collects rolling sculpture; he was known to show up at Miata club events in his prized 1967 DeTomaso Vallelunga.

V-Vehicle and Nissan Join the Race to Launch a Green Car in the US -
Energy Efficiency News - 6/22/09

A new San Diego based start-up V-Vehicle has announced plans to launch a small, environmentally friendly, fuel-efficient car onto the US market next year.

V-Vehicle launched itself from nowhere into the US car market late last week when it unveiled plans for a manufacturing and assembly plant in Louisiana, which will employ 1400. The company will receive \$67 million in state incentives to develop the site, which was a former General Motors facility.

The start-up, which is also applying for federal funds from the Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program and the Department of Energy, is being backed by venture capital firm Kleiner, Perkins Caufield & Byers and energy investor T. Boone Pickens.

Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal said the move represents a “quick, aggressive action” that could “re-energize the entire US auto industry”.

Not much is known about the actual car itself, other than it will be designed by Tom Matano, who is responsible for the Mazda Miata.

Meanwhile, reports in Reuters and the Nikkei business daily say Nissan plans to start production of electric vehicles at the company’s headquarters in Smyrna, Tennessee.

The company is planning to invest 50 billion yen (\$516 million), which could rise to 100 billion yen, in new assembly lines capable of producing 50,000-100,000 vehicles a year by 2012.

A production facility for the lithium-ion batteries that will be used to power the electric vehicles is also planned for the Smyrna site jointly with NEC Corp.

For further information:

www.v-vehicle.com/

www.ledlouisiana.com/

www.nissan-global.com/EN/index.html

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A Missed Opportunity for Texas A&M – The Quad (NY Times Blog) – 6/19/09

By Connor Ennis

T. Boone Pickens is well known as the premier benefactor for the Oklahoma State athletic department. But, according to Pickens, things

could have been different.

In a recent interview with Berry Tramel of The Oklahoma, Pickens mentioned that he had gone to Texas A&M on a basketball scholarship, before leaving when the scholarship was taken away. As a man who has made billions of dollars, Pickens has obviously has the last laugh on that one, as this quote demonstrates:

I was good at all sports. I was a high school basketball player. I went to Texas A&M in 1947 on a basketball scholarship. I left because they cut me off the team. That could have been a big mistake by Texas A&M, saving that \$25 scholarship.

BROADCAST COVERAGE

1. Ed Koch - The Voice Of Reason

DMA: 1

WBBR-AM 1130 (NBC/ABC) New York

Spot Cost: \$30

06/19/2009

09:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Est. Audience: 7,900

00:06:00 (rebroadcast of interview earlier this week)...in this hour T Boone Pickens geologist ...America is still in an energy crisis But first , Boone Pickens welcome to the show...Which award did you take down this week? ...I got the weeks award at the American Association of Petroleum Geologists in Denver,...they had their convention out there and they heard my Pickens Plan presentation...so I was very happy about that...Who are the critics of the Pickens Plan?...I don't know because they do not surface... 00:07:59

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2. Fox News At 12 Noon

DMA: 3

WFLD-TV CH 32 (FOX) Chicago

Spot Cost: \$464

06/19/2009

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM

Est. Audience: 46,086

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

[CC] 00:27:58 The economy is in a recession, and car sales in the tank, so what about the right time to start a new car company, right? Well, that is the plan for V Vehicle. Promising to build high mileage gas-powered cars and Al Gore and T. Boone Pickens are big time investors here. 00:28:14

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3. MoneyTalk Live With Josh Arnold

DMA: 15

WWTC-AM 1280 (---) Minneapolis/St. Paul

Spot Cost: \$22

06/21/2009

05:00 PM - 06:00 PM

Est. Audience: 2,500

00:14:00 massive government subsidization..probably in vain...if traders are pushing natural gas the commodity then natural gas the stocks could take a run...you do remember Nancy Pelosi as an investor in Clean Energy Technologies , that is Boone Pickens company .a company that Boone Pickens wants to use to get automotive fleets or bus fleets to convert to natural gas...Clean Energy's stock has been trading down from earlier highs bidding around 9, 9 and a quarter ...if the move in natural gas pushes something, Clean Energy could take a little bit of run 00:15:59

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4. News 9 This Morning

DMA: 45

KWTV-TV CH 9 (CBS) Oklahoma City

Spot Cost: \$205

06/19/2009

06:00 AM - 07:00 AM

Est. Audience: 36,625

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

[CC] 00:27:17 We're getting a first look at the new west end zone facilities at O-S-U's Boone Pickens Stadium. Standing 10 stories tall and more than 146-thousand square feet of space on the ground level alone, the facilities were built around the players locker room. The 14-Thousand square foot space was designed with the modern athlete in mind. It even has lighting settings for various occasions, including game day, parents day and recruiting day. The adjoining equipment room has cubby holes for any and everything, 10 steps away from that you'll find the 20-thousand square foot weight room. The sports medicine room is equipped with four hydro pools including one with an underwater treadmill, 12 training tables, six taping stations, two doctors offices and an X-Ray room. The 220 seat theater room is decked out with leather seating. Sues occupy the 9th and 10th floors. Even bullet the horse getting new digs. The finished facility was made possible thanks to an additional 63-Million dollar gift from Boone Pickens. 00:29:02

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5. The News On 6 At 10:00 Update

DMA: 61

KOTV-TV CH 6 (CBS) Tulsa

Spot Cost: \$362

06/19/2009

10:00 PM - 10:35 PM

Est. Audience: 58,500

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

[CC] 00:12:38 A new report adds fuel to the belief that our answer to high gas prices, is right under our feet. Experts estimate that US natural gas reserves, are bigger than ever imagined. Reserves surged 35 percent, thanks to new technology that allows drilling in shale rock. Local experts say the size is sometimes hard to quantify. Mike McDonald: "This is a huge amount, in other words there thinking now that what we've developed we may have at least 100 years supply of natural gas in the United States." A new supply of natural gas on the market could reduce our energy bills. Boone Pickens is also pushing natural gas vehicles as a way to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. 00:13:54

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6. Louisiana: The State We're In

DMA: 95

WLPB-TV CH 27 (PBS) Baton Rouge

Spot Cost: \$100

06/19/2009

07:00 PM - 07:30 PM

Est. Audience: 5,757

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

[CC] 00:02:08 More positive economic news for north Louisiana. The San Diego-based V Vehicle Company announced this week that it will begin assembling high-quality, environmentally friendly and fuel-efficient cars in Monroe. The project will create over 1400 direct jobs as well as

a capital investment of \$248 million. Oilman T. Boone Pickens and Monroe businessman James Davison are among the company's biggest investors. V Vehicle Company has released few details about the actual vehicle to be built. T. Boone Pickens' support of natural gas vehicles has led some to suggest the new car will be powered by natural gas. 00:04:06