



T. Boone Pickens Media Coverage 1.19.10

Total of 4 Placements

 Print: 2

 Blog/Online: 2

Coverage Summary:

Reuters reported on Pickens' prediction that natural gas prices were unlikely to "run away" in 2010, but that he was long on the fuel after this year. Pickens also said that oil prices could hit \$100 a barrel in 2011.

John Stossel's blog announced Pickens' appearance on the show this Thursday at 8pm ET on the Fox Business Channel.

Highlighted Placements (Full Articles Below)

 **Pickens Bets Nat Gas Prices to Rise after 2010** – *Reuters* – 1/19/10

Print Placements (Full Articles Below)

 **Trentonian Editorial: Winded Schemes** – *The Trentonian* – 1/19/10

Blog/Online Placements (Full Articles Below)

 **Waiting for Gore** – *Fox Business Blog* – 1/18/10

 **Week in Renewables: New Grants and Subsidies, Cape Wind Decision Near, and More** – *BNET* – 1/17/10

HIGHLIGHTED COVERAGE

Pickens Bets Nat Gas Prices to Rise after 2010 – *Reuters* – 1/19/10

NEW YORK, Jan 19 (Reuters) - Texas oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens said on Tuesday natural gas prices were unlikely to "run away" in 2010, but that he was long the fuel after this year.

In a video interview with Reuters Insider, the billionaire also said oil prices, currently near \$79 a barrel, could hit \$100 a barrel in 2011. (Reporting by Rhonda Schaffler and Edward McAllister)

PRINT COVERAGE

Trentonian Editorial: Winded Schemes – *The Trentonian* – 1/19/10

Green seems to keep colliding with economic reality.

As noted here recently, the International Energy Agency projects that in 2010 and beyond, foul old unfashionable coal will be the world's fast-growing fuel.

In line with that projection, billionaire investor Warren Buffet in effect is investing massively in coal, having moved to acquire total ownership of Burlington Northern Sante Fe, which sees carloads of coal providing nearly a third of its revenues.

And now Texas oil man T. Boone Pickens, who had a brief, unlikely dalliance with the Greenies, declaring a massive move into wind turbines, is declaring a massive withdrawal from wind turbines.

Wind turbines, he notes, don't have much of a foreseeable future when natural gas prices are more competitive and when fiscally strapped state governments are balking at subsidizing the thousands of miles of transmission lines that wind turbines must have to be economically viable.

The last time we pointed out such impediments to alternative energy, eco-scolds castigated us for being opposed to clean energy and indifferent to Planet Earth's fate.

No, what we're opposed to are energy policies bearing no relationship to reality and based on nothing more than sanctimonious shibboleths.

BLOG/ONLINE COVERAGE

Waiting for Gore – *Fox Business Blog* – 1/18/10

By John Stossel

This week's episode of Stossel (plug) will be on the energy "crisis".

Will windmills make us energy independent? I doubt it. I don't even think that energy independence is necessary.

But Al Gore, T. Boone Pickens, and most Americans think it is. Pickens will be a guest on the show. Gore will not, unless he changes his mind and calls the special green phone I created for him. I doubt that he will. Gore likes to talk. He doesn't like to answer skeptical questions.

Pickens spends lots of his own money on ads that claim America can become electricity independent by building more windmills and natural gas. He wants subsidies for that.

I'm skeptical of subsidies, and in this week's Forbes, Joann Muller provides one more reason to be skeptical:

-- Among the goodies handed out by the Feds in 2009 was \$2 billion of stimulus money to promote the manufacture of batteries for electric cars and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The sweeping gesture was supposed to restart the economy and save the planet. President Obama wants to see 1 million plug-in hybrids on American roads by 2015.

Now everybody wants to be in the battery business--a rush that threatens to create a glut of batteries Buoyed by matching grants and other government loan programs, six companies have announced plans to build or expand battery factories in the U.S., at a combined cost of \$3.7 billion. There's another \$3 billion of battery-factory building going on elsewhere on the globe, and for the same reason (government handouts)...

Will there be buyers for that many electrified vehicles in 2015? Not likely.

So will our already bloated government then step in to bailout the battery companies by offering even bigger subsidies? Probably.

-- Big batteries are expensive. The one going into a plug-in hybrid like the Volt costs \$14,000, estimates the National Research Council. So it's unlikely that plug-ins and all-electrics will take off without huge government subsidies.

Week in Renewables: New Grants and Subsidies, Cape Wind Decision Near, and More – BNET – 1/17/10

By Chris Morrison

The White House chose this week to give a substantial boost to the cleantech industry, by announcing \$2.3 billion in grant money for a manufacturing. Some of the larger ones include Cree, an LED manufacturer that got \$39 million; Miasole, a thin-film solar manufacturer that picked up a little over \$100 million; its competitor Nanosolar, with \$43 million; and Novozymes, a biofuel researcher that got \$28 million. The full list is here.

Still, as always, the news was not all good. While the manufacturing grant was significant, the Department of Energy also chose this week to give nuclear power a setback with a proposed R&D cut. Energy secretary Steven Chu, who supports nuclear, has already sent a protest letter to president Obama.

Hitting closer to home (for me), the Wall Street Journal's rather useful cleantech blog Environmental Capital unexpectedly closed its doors, obliquely citing a lack of readers. Energy, despite its importance, remains a field that most regular people would prefer not to hear (or read) about.

Read on below, where I break out some of the week's top news by industry.

Solar

The world's largest solar power market, Germany, is finally paring down its generous subsidies, although it won't decide until next week exactly how much. The market will likely shrink somewhat as a result; the industry will just have to hope that newer markets, like China, will grow quickly enough to pick up the slack. Still, biofuels and solar panels will cover 11% of the country by 2020, according to the country's renewable energy agency.

At home, the news is that solar subsidies are potentially going away in New York, while the crumbling homes of Detroit, which go for an average of \$15,000, will be able to add on solar for another \$6,000 with a new subsidy.

In Ohio, a First Solar competitor (which employs ex-execs from that company) has already gotten itself sued. Willard & Kelsey, a little-known thin-film solar startup, has been accused of deceiving a client over its ability to manufacture \$230 million worth of solar panels, among other misdeeds.
Willard & Kelsey unmasked by lawsuit

Wind

Texas oil tycoon T. Boone Pickens has given up on wind power in preference of concentrating on his sometimes odd campaign for natural gas. But even though Pickens' proposed wind farm was surely the largest project in the state, the Texas wind industry is still well on its way to becoming the largest in the nation, producing almost six percent of its total power.

Far off to the northeast, the long-delayed Cape Wind farm is approaching a decision. Following a decade of wrangling over the environmental and scenic challenges posed by the farm, the Interior Department has said it will make a decision by April.

Geothermal

The geothermal industry is fighting for more recognition, having just wrapped up a conference that brought in politicians and financiers. Government grants are a prominent part of the plan. The industry has attracted the support of Nevada senator Harry Reid, who says that his state could have 2,500 megawatts of geothermal power within a few years.

But the industry hasn't escaped new regulation, a response to the projects of Altarock Energy, which scared northern California residents when a report came out earlier this year about earthquakes from a similar project in Europe.

All the rest

The great debate over whether a carbon tax or cap and trade would be better. The European Union's incoming trade chief, Karel De Gucht, has come out with a statement saying that a carbon tax is the wrong way to go, while U.S. climate activist James Hansen has penned a new letter railing against the evils of cap and trade.

CMEA, a venture capital firm that backed A123 Systems, the electric car battery company that recently went public, is talking publicly about its plans to take two more portfolio companies, Codexis and Solyndra, to the public markets, saying there's promise for quality green companies.

The final two: it emerged that Segway, the scooter company that once boasted it would replace cars and be as big as the PC, was quietly sold over Christmas, probably for less than the \$176 million the company raised. And the next great frontier in energy efficiency, after all the incandescent lightbulbs are replaced by CFLs, appeared: dishwashing.
