



NATIONAL COAL ADVISORY – DECEMBER 2013

THE JOYS & BURDEN OF LEGACY

It was nearly impossible during this past month to avoid re-living the tragedy of President John F. Kennedy's assassination 50 years ago. I couldn't stop watching the TV shows or reading the newspaper and magazine coverage of the anniversary of that fateful day.

I'm not sure what I was searching for ~ maybe something new to explain what happened, why it happened, why it seemed so important to me then when I was 6 years old, why it still seems so important to so many people today.

A few things struck me throughout the month. The 20 and 30 year olds I spoke to about the JFK anniversary were baffled by the magnitude of the coverage. There was little context for them outside the history of presidential assassinations. Some curiosity as to why this particular assassination was more significant than others. Some impatience with the media focus and a desire to let's just move on.

For us baby boomers, I think the anniversary was an opportunity to mark a pivotal point in history, to revisit an event and time that influenced and changed our self-concept as a nation. It was almost as if with JFK's passing, a bright, white light was being shined on us and we couldn't hide from the reality of the glare.

I was also struck by the resiliency of our nation and our ability, after an amazingly short time, to move onward and upward. There was a

pause to acknowledge that what had happened was hard and bad, followed by a pulling together in pursuit of a future of greater and better things.

In the intervening years since the assassination, the legacy of the Kennedy Administration's Camelot has been embellished, relished, tarnished and scrutinized. It's inspired us and reviled us. Still the Camelot image prevails.

In another 50 years will JFK's legacy still fascinate us? Probably. That's the funny thing about a legacy ~ it's hard to shake a good one ~ or a bad one. As time passes and memories and

generations fade, the legacies of people, places and things become more entrenched, making it difficult to separate fact from fiction.

It's even more challenging to move beyond an entrenched

legacy, to appreciate that the past is past and set our sights on a future that builds on the lessons learned from that past ~ the bad lessons and the good lessons. For although it may be Pollyannaish, the dream of Camelot isn't such a bad dream after all. As Richard Burton (aka Arthur) sang:

It's true! It's true!

The crown has made it clear.

The climate must be perfect all the year.

In short, there's simply not

A more congenial spot

**For happily-ever-aftering than here
In Camelot.**

**Let us not seek the
Republican answer or the
Democratic answer, but the
right answer. Let us not
seek to fix the blame for the
past. Let us accept our own
responsibility for the future.**

~ John F. Kennedy

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THE YEAR AHEAD



The National Coal Council's Charter for 2014-2015 was approved by the U.S. Department of Energy on November 25, 2013. Members should be receiving their appointment letters from Secretary Moniz shortly.

Invoices for 2014's membership dues have been mailed; if you haven't received yours, please email NCC's Executive Assistant at PamMartin@NCC1.org. Invoices provide an opportunity for all members to enhance their support for NCC in one of two ways:

First, we're **opening the Chair's Advisory Committee (CAC) opportunity to all membership levels**. Consider doubling your dues contribution to NCC, Inc. to become a CAC member. You'll receive invitations to participate in CAC small group discussions with key energy industry stakeholders and get special recognition in NCC publications and at NCC events.

Second, consider supporting the NCC's 30th Anniversary celebration in spring 2014 with a **Pearl Anniversary Sponsorship**. Various levels of support are available ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000.

Email me for more details on either of these opportunities ~ jaellici@NCC1.org.



NCC to Celebrate 30th "Pearl" Anniversary

Pearls are formed when a mollusk produces layers of nacre around an irritant inside its shell. The pearl symbolizes the ability to forge a thing of beauty and character by working through life's challenges. **The traditional 30th Anniversary symbol is a pearl.** NCC invites members to join us in supporting the Council's 30th Anniversary celebration in the spring of 2014. We're working with DOE to identify meeting dates in late May.

In preparation for our 30th Anniversary Celebration, **we're looking for reminiscences of past meetings and members.** We'd welcome photos, stories, updates on past NCC members. If you have something you can share, please let me know. We'll feature these items in a special video to be presented at our spring 2014 Anniversary Celebration.

Update on Next NCC Study/Studies

We've been working with DOE staff since June 2013 to identify meaningful, timely topics to address in our next study for the Secretary of Energy. Over the past few months, we've held numerous meetings and conversations with Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy **Chris Smith**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Clean Coal **Julio Friedmann** and our DOE Liaison, Senior Advisor **Robert Wright**, working to narrow down prospective topics.

One thing we have decided on is that in an effort to improve on the already fine quality of NCC studies and enhance implementation of study recommendations, **we'll be undertaking more frequent, more focused and more timely studies.**

A couple of topics are now being presented to Secretary Moniz for his consideration and I hope to be able to officially announce the topics in the coming weeks. In the meantime, the NCC Executive Committee and staff are preparing administratively for **undertaking a couple of studies in 2014.** We'll be ready to hit the ground running when we get the Secretary's OK to proceed.

Focus on Communications

Communications activities will take center stage in 2014 on a number of fronts. Under the leadership of Communications Chair **David Surber**, we're developing plans to **enhance the visibility, distribution and reach of our studies once completed.** This includes the development of fact sheets and info-graphics to accompany our study text.

Also on tap for 2014 under the communications banner is an **update to our website**, development of an NCC **member/media/stakeholder database**, and expanding NCC's educational content and outreach.

Finally, as part of our expanding educational imperative, we're working with the **Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies** at **The Catholic University of America** to host a one-day forum in Washington, DC on the topic of coal conversion. We're targeting late February 2014 for the program which will be designed to educate and update policy makers, industry associates and other stakeholders about existing and prospective technologies and the economic opportunities available through coal conversion.

HAVE A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Seasons Greetings

GRATEFUL

I believe [Zig Ziglar](#) the motivational guru is credited with coining the phrase “**Have an Attitude of Gratitude.**” He noted that “the more you recognize and express gratitude for the things you have, the more things you will have to express gratitude for.”

During this holiday season, I would like to express my gratitude to those of you who have supported the National Coal Council this past year with your time, effort, advice and financial support. I particularly appreciate the warm welcome you've extended during these first six months of my tenure with the NCC and your willingness to provide me with your counsel.

A special thanks to our **Chair's Advisory Committee** members who doubled their dues payments for 2013 so that others might benefit from the activities of a thriving NCC.

Thank you ~

Ameren Energy
Arch Coal
CSX Transportation
Peabody Energy
PSEG Fossil LLC

American Electric Power
BNSF Railway
FirstEnergy
PPL EnergyPlus LLC



& HONORED

On December 3rd, 2013, Women in Mining UK (WIM UK) announced the launch of the **100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining Project**, which aims to promote the significant impact of women within the global mining industry by identifying inspirational role models. I am honored to have been recognized and included among the inaugural 100 inspirational women nominated by peers for our contribution to the mining industry.

WIM (UK) Chair Amanda Van Dyke noted that “WIM (UK) has collaborated with WIM groups all over the world in order to reflect a broad cross-section of global industry talent ... From engineers and geologists, to finance professionals and investors, each woman has been selected because of the lasting impact she makes on those around her as a positive role model and her contribution to the industry.”

The initiative grew out of a study commissioned by WIM (UK) in conjunction with **PriceWaterhouse Copper** (PWC London) that indicated the mining industry had fewer women on its boards and in its senior executive positions than any other major global industry, by a considerable margin. One of the main challenges identified by the report was the lack of role models in the sector. The 100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining Project is intended to facilitate development in this arena.

I'd like to recognize two of my colleagues who were also acknowledged among the 100 women ~ **Jean Bustard, COO, ADA-ES** and **Laura Skaer, Executive Director, American Exploration & Mining Association.**

WHO KNEW?

Coal Industry Support for Water Management

In our last two newsletters, we featured articles on **Washington University's Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization** in St. Louis and on the **University of Wyoming's School of Energy Resources**. This month we continue with a look at how the coal industry is actively engaged in technology RD&D in various, often unheralded ways ~ this time **water management**.

Keeping the lights on requires significant water resources, a fact which is not lost on the folks at Georgia Power (A Southern Company). As the population of Georgia's growing communities increases, competing demands for water are growing. Testing and research efforts to reduce water needed for power plant cooling are underway at the state-of-the-art Water Research Center (WRC) at Georgia Power's Plant Bowen.



Check out the informative video [Inside Plant Bowen's Water Research Center](#)
[Water Resource Center Facility Dedicated at Bowen](#)

The first U.S. research facility of its kind was dedicated on November 19th, 2013. The WRC is a collaboration between **Georgia Power** and the **Electric Power Research Institute** (EPRI) and is being operated by **Southern Research Institute**.

The facility will focus its research efforts in seven areas:

- Moisture recovery.
- Cooling tower and advanced cooling systems.
- Zero liquid discharge options.
- Low volume wastewater treatment.
- Solid waste land.
- Carbon technology water issues.
- Water modeling monitoring and best management practices.

In dedicating the facility, Georgia Power's President & CEO **Paul Bowers** noted that, “Efficient water management is the responsibility of every energy company and, through the work of this Center we will lead the industry in developing new ways to use and conserve this critical resource.”

Results from the research conducted at the WRC will be shared with Georgia Power and other EPRI members. Appropriate technologies can be implemented by utilities worldwide.

This is yet another example of the many efforts being undertaken by the coal industry in support of clean technology developments. There's more to come in future issues!

NCC REPORT FOCUS

Jobs Jobs Jobs

Throughout its nearly 30 year history, the NCC has prepared more than 30 studies for the U.S. Secretary of Energy. This section of the National Coal Advisory features highlights from NCC studies of relevance to current industry and public

One of the common threads that has run throughout numerous NCC reports over the years is the prospective contribution of coal production and exports, coal power plant construction/upgrades and coal technology developments to **job creation in the U.S.** A related common theme is the **lack of available skilled employees** to meet some of these job needs.

In its June 2012 report on **Harnessing Coal's Carbon Content to Advance the Economy, Environment and Energy Security**, for example, the NCC found that "By 2030, the Aspirational Case will annually generate \$200 billion in industry sales, over 1 million jobs, and \$60 billion in federal, state, and local government tax revenues." The report continues, however, that "There is currently a mismatch in the United States between available jobs and required skills, and an important issue that must be addressed is that of whether there will be an adequate skilled workforce available to meet the demands created by the Aspirational Case."

<http://www.nationalcoalcoal.org/reports/NCC-Full-Report-June-2012.pdf>

**Socioeconomic Benefits of Advanced Coal Facilities
100 Gigawatts With CCS**

 **The National Coal Council**
Power for America from America

Cumulative Benefits During Construction

Benefits	100GW
Jobs (million job years)	6.9
Output (trillions)	\$1.1
Labor Income (billions)	\$368

Annual Benefits During Operations

Benefits	100GW
Jobs (thousands)	251
Output (billions)	\$58
Labor Income (billions)	\$17

Source: NCC 2012 19

A recent initiative in the jobs training sector highlights an innovative approach to meeting future skills requirements in the power industry. **Electric Power** announced a "**Veterans in Power**" (**VIP**) **awards program** to recognize employers who have successfully connected, employed and engaged veterans to become long-term employees in the industry. The program also seeks to provide a forum for veterans to meet, engage in mentoring and offer career development support.

As noted on the organization's website, Electric Power will announce the recipients of the first **Faraday Awards** at its annual conference **April 1-3, 2014 in New Orleans**. The Faraday Awards will recognize and honor the employers, programs and partnerships that have successfully focused on elevating the careers of American veterans in the energy industry. Organizations are invited to share stories of success in hiring, training and retaining veterans through an online application. A distinguished review panel assembled by PReP Intl (Prequalified Ready Employees for Power International) and ELECTRIC POWER will judge applicants' programs from across the country to highlight the "best of the best." On-line nomination forms will soon be available at <http://www.electricpowerexpo.com/veterans-power>.

In announcing the VIP initiative, Electric Power's David Wagman noted that "the power industry faces a crisis in talent due to an aging workforce, new technologies and the slow return of the economy after the economic downturn. Our returning military veterans represent a tremendous asset in having essential, transferrable skills much needed in the power industry." **Kudos to Electric Power for acknowledging the great efforts of our veterans AND our utility industry affiliates in a win-win partnership.**

COAL RESOURCES

Department of Energy
www.doe.gov
[Office of Fossil Energy](#)

National Energy Technology
Laboratory
www.netl.doe.gov
[Coal & Power Systems](#)

Data Behind Social Cost of
Carbon Analysis Released
[The Hill Reports on White
House Data](#)
[White House Technical Report
~ 60 Days to Comment](#)

Congressional Research
Service Assesses EPA NSPS Rule
[EPA Standards for GHG
Emissions: Many Questions,
Some Answers](#)

Price of Electricity Hits Record
High for October
[BLS Reports 11th Straight
Month of Record Power Prices](#)

Harvard President Denounces
Divestment Initiatives
[Harvard Fossil Fuel Divestment
Statement](#)

People Had to be Convinced
of Usefulness of Electricity
[New York Edison Company
October 1920 New York
Tribune Ad](#)

DOJ Prosecutes Utility
for Killing Birds
[First Prosecution of Wind
Company for Killing Birds](#)

"... a square meter (10.8 square feet) of land devoted to wind power generates just two watts of power. For solar power, the equivalent area generates 20W. Nuclear power generates about 1,000W a square meter."
[Electricity in Japan ~ Power
Struggle ~ The Economist](#)

Gellici Speaking Engagement
Gasification Technologies
Council Board Meeting
February 2014
<http://www.gasification.org/>

National Coal Council
NationalCoalCouncil.org

NCC Member Focus

NCC is pleased to feature Jerry Oliver in this month's Member Focus and to acknowledge his tremendous contributions to the NCC over the years. Jerry has supported the NCC from its inception during his tenure at Old Ben Coal. He was first invited to serve on the NCC from 1991-1997, then again from 2009 to the present. He served as Chairman of the Technical Subcommittee in 1996-1997 and has been an active participant in over a dozen NCC's reports. Jerry is the actively engaged member that every association executive director dreams of having on board. Thanks for your support, Jerry!

Jerry Oliver, Principal, Global Tech Management Services, has over 40 years of energy related project and technical business management experience.

Jerry is currently working with Air Liquide Process and Construction leading their Sales and Business Development efforts in the Americas. In addition to working for Air Liquide during the past few years, he provided consulting services to Avello Bioenergy, Southern Power, EWI and the Department of Energy (DOE), as well as serving as the first Chairman of the Nuclear Fabrication Consortium. Jerry spent 2008 as a senior manager at Great Point Energy and 2006 to 2008 as Senior Vice President, Project Development for the FutureGen Industrial Alliance.

Jerry spent the prior 13 plus years with Bechtel. His work at Bechtel involved a technology and management leadership role with Bechtel's Petroleum and Chemicals business line. He also worked for five years in China managing Bechtel's Industrial and Telecommunications Asia Pacific business line as well as managing the Bechtel-CITIC Chinese joint venture.

Before joining Bechtel, Jerry spent more than 20 years working for BP-SOHIO, Exxon and Kennecott. During the late 1980s, he was responsible for technical services for SOHIO's Old Ben Coal subsidiary and was the President of AFT, a wholly owned coal technology subsidiary of BP/SOHIO. During the early 1980s, he headed up SOHIO's Synthetic Fuels business which included coal gasification, oil shale development and a variety of other alternate energy activities. He worked in the uranium mining business for both Exxon and SOHIO during the 1970s in Texas, Wyoming and New Mexico.

From 1982 to 1984, Jerry was the Chairman for the American Petroleum Institute's (API) Synfuels Committee and is currently a member of both ASCE and AIME. He has a BS degree in Geology from NMIMT and an MBA from Western New Mexico University.

Jerry also served as an officer in the US Navy during the Vietnam conflict (1970-1972) and is a Purple Heart recipient.

Jerry thank you for your service to our country and to the NCC! We're honored and proud to include you among the membership of the NCC.



JERRY J. OLIVER
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MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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A SAMPLING OF
JERRY OLIVER'S
PARTICIPATION
IN NCC STUDIES

Harnessing Coal's Carbon Content to Advance the Economy, Environment & Energy Security ~ June 2012

Expediting CCS Development: Challenges & Opportunities ~ March 2011

Vision 2020: The Role of Coal in U.S. Energy Strategy ~ February 1997

The Implications for Coal Markets of Utility Deregulation and Restructuring ~ November 1995

A Critical Review of Efficient and Environmentally Sound Coal Utilization Technology ~ May 1995

The Near Term Role for Coal in the Future Energy Strategy of the United States ~ January 1992

COAL CURRENTS

Todd Cunningham, Contributing Editor

A brief survey of leading coal industry stories of the past month. Highlighted underlined text links to the cited articles. Right click on highlighted text and select the "Open Hyperlink" option to view the cited article.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Talks Conclude, with Limited Progress, in Warsaw

Two weeks of international climate talks in Warsaw concluded with almost 200 participating nations reaching a last-minute agreement on a broad set of terms intended to pave the way for a global warming treaty in 2015. They agreed to present individual plans for lowering emissions by early that year, but left details such as the plans' contents and criteria for evaluation unresolved. Their goal is negotiation of a major climate agreement at a meeting in Paris, beginning in December 2015; that pact is to take effect in 2020, replacing the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. According to *Politico*, Secretary of State John Kerry appeared via video earlier in the meeting to report that [the U.S. was making "good progress" toward reducing its greenhouse gas emissions](#) by 17% below 2005 levels by 2020, and would "continue to offer leadership" in the negotiations.

Coal Can Be Part of Climate Solution, United Nations Official Says

[Coal can be a major part of the solution to global warming](#), United Nations (UN) climate chief Christiana Figueres told the International Coal and Climate Summit, which was held in Warsaw concurrently with the second week of the latest UN climate negotiations. According to *The Guardian*, her prescription included shutting down old coal-fired power plants, capturing and storing carbon from new plants and leaving most of the world's coal reserves in the ground. Figueres, Executive Director of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, cautioned the coal industry that ignoring a 2010 UN agreement to hold the rise in global temperature to below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit from pre-industrial levels would pose a "business continuity risk." Further capital expenditures on coal can proceed only if they are compatible with the agreed-upon limit, she said.

Obama Names New Climate and Energy Adviser

President Obama has named [Dan Utech to succeed Heather Zichal as his top climate and energy adviser](#). Utech had been Zichal's deputy, and previously served as a senior adviser to former Energy Secretary Steven Chu and to former Senator Hillary Clinton. He also worked as a staff member on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Zichal worked as an Obama adviser since 2008 and replaced former climate czar Carol Browner in 2011. According to *The Hill*, *Reuters* has reported she will move to a job outside of government.

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

State Carbon Taxes Seen as Option for Limiting Emissions

As the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) looks for ways to limit carbon dioxide emissions from existing coal- and gas-fired power plants, a Brookings Institution staffer has suggested [the agency consider allowing states to impose carbon taxes on the facilities](#), a *Washington Post* blog noted. EPA cannot impose taxes on its own, nor force states to pursue this option, but it can set federal guidelines for carbon emissions and give states options for meeting those goals. Some state legislatures might find the tax option appealing as a way to raise revenue and give utilities an incentive to switch from coal or natural gas to less-emitting fuel sources. However, the *Post* blogger acknowledged, it is far from certain they would do so, due both to political difficulties and potential legal challenges.

Coal Currents *(continued)*

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION *(continued)*

"Sue and Settle" Deals End-Run Lawmakers, Chamber Exec Asserts

[A U.S. Chamber of Commerce executive has denounced "sue and settle" agreements](#), contending that threats of legal action by states and green activists induce the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to formulate and issue regulations without proper oversight. "There shouldn't be secret deals in the determination of how someone regulates a sector, an industry, a pollutant," asserted Senior Vice President William Kovacs. According to *The Hill*, Kovacs said the practice, where greens sue EPA for missing deadlines, represents "an end run around the legislative branch," because it forces agencies to prioritize court orders ahead of other efforts. He pointed out that Congress sets multiple deadlines and obligations and expects agencies to "balance" them, the newspaper reported. Bringing lawsuits against an agency for delayed regulations changes the agency's own priorities, Kovacs contended.

Former Washington AG Questions Review of Proposed Coal Terminal

Former Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna has written a letter questioning [the constitutionality of the Department of Ecology's review of a proposed coal-export terminal](#). According to *The Seattle Times*, McKenna, who made an unsuccessful bid for governor in 2012 and is now a partner in an international law firm, wrote on behalf of Montana and North Dakota, asserting that some of the issues to be reviewed range "far beyond" Washington's legitimate state interests and infringe on the sovereignty of the states he represents. The proposed Gateway Terminal would be the largest on the West Coast, shipping up to 48 million tons of Montana and North Dakota coal to Asia. Washington State's review would be far broader than those being conducted by the federal government and by Whatcom County, Wash., site of the proposed facility, *The Times* said.

ON CAPITOL HILL

GOP Congressmen Seek Withdrawal of EPA Emissions Standards Proposal

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed performance standards for carbon dioxide emissions from new power plants are beyond the scope of its legal authority, according to senior Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Chairman Fred Upton (MI) and three colleagues cited section 111 of the Clean Air Act in [a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy](#). This section says EPA may only impose emissions standards that would require the use of technologies that have been "adequately demonstrated." But the Energy Policy Act of 2005 prohibits EPA from setting a performance standard under section 111 for commercial power plants based on the use of carbon capture and storage technologies at the Department of Energy's Clean Coal Power Initiative projects. The Agency indicated it has done this, and the Congressmen accordingly requested that its proposed rule be withdrawn.

Coal Supporters Seek Hill Say on Agency's Emissions Rules

House and Senate lawmakers from coal states are championing a measure that would require congressional approval of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) prospective plan, due next year, to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants. The legislators, Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY) and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), would [bar EPA from regulating greenhouse emissions from such plants](#) unless Congress passes a law agreeing to when the limits would commence, and also would put conditions on rules for future plants. According to *McClatchy*, prospects for success are good in the House, where Rep. Whitfield has charged that EPA is pursuing a "one-two punch to eliminate coal as a source of electricity." They are less favorable in the Senate, where Environment and Public Works Committee Chair Barbara Boxer (D-CA) has pledged to stop the effort.

DOE DEVELOPMENTS

Funding for CCS Research Suggests Immaturity of Technology

The Department of Energy is awarding \$84 million to 18 research projects aimed at finding a lower cost of capturing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. According to *Reuters*, while this is meant to emphasize the Administration's commitment to cleaner coal-fired generation, it underlines [continuing problems with carbon capture and storage \(CCS\) technology](#) that makes it difficult to deploy commercially. This is because all of the projects are for basic science and very early stage technologies, "underscoring the fact that CCS is not yet a mature technology." The article noted that critics of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) draft rules necessitating CCS at new coal-fired power plants contend that it is "an arbitrary backdoor ban," and suggests that "the relative immaturity of the capture stage of the CCS process suggests there is some validity to that concern."

COAL CURRENTS (CONTINUED) ON CAPITOL HILL (continued)

Candidates' Coal Stances Similar in Two Senate Battlegrounds

While West Virginia and Kentucky are must-win states if the GOP hopes to regain control of the Senate majority in 2014, [there is little apparent separation between the parties' likely candidates on coal issues](#), *Roll Call* reported. In Kentucky, the Republican incumbent, Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, and his allies have highlighted his efforts "to serve as the leading roadblock to the Administration on coal," the Capitol Hill newspaper said. If McConnell prevails in a GOP primary, he will face Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes, who has been "outspoken in her opposition to the Administration's coal policies." In West Virginia, vying for the seat of retiring Sen. Jay Rockefeller, Republican Rep. Shelley Moore Capito will face Secretary of State Natalie Tennant who, like Grimes in Kentucky, is trying to distance herself from national Democrats on the coal issue.

IN THE INDUSTRY

Carbon Capture Advocates Hope to Catch "Technological Wave"

Forty years after the oil embargo of 1973 and the turbulence that ensued, "there is a sense of plenty at last," and the sense that "technology came though," columnist Llewellyn King commented in *White House Chronicle*. For Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, King added, the present challenge is to make burning fossil fuels more environmentally benign, [to catch the wave of technological euphoria with carbon capture and storage](#), "and to see if King Coal, now under attack by environmentalists and the Environmental Protection Agency, can be helped back onto his throne." According to Moniz, the columnist said, the U.S. has committed \$6 billion to carbon capture and eight large demonstration projects are in progress. "China, often dismissed as an environmental renegade, [also] is working on carbon capture," he noted. While questions outnumber answers, King concluded, "the effort is underway."

Concerns Rise About Divestment of Coal Stocks as Political Issue

About \$8 trillion of known coal reserves lie beneath the earth's surface, and companies planning to utilize them are being targeted by a growing group of investors concerned with greenhouse gases, *Bloomberg* pointed out. However, it added, "coal is not in retreat"; in 2011, it was used to generate almost one third of the world's primary energy.

But [there has been a marked rise in concern about divestment as a political issue](#); an HSBC executive in London said that, "There is a recognition that as you move to a low-carbon economy that coal is potentially most vulnerable." An Oxford University report analyzed previous divestment campaigns on tobacco stocks and companies that operated in apartheid South Africa in the 1980s, *Bloomberg* noted, but concluded that such a campaign would have a "negligible direct impact" on direct equity valuations in fossil-fuel companies.

INTERNATIONAL INTEREST

An Escalation in the War on Coal

[The Obama Administration seems determined to escalate its war on coal](#), the world's most widely used energy resource, *The National Interest* noted. This is evidenced by the Treasury's announcement that it would prevent multinational development banks where it is the largest shareholder from financing coal power plants abroad unless they include carbon capture and storage technology, the publication said. This "immature and hugely expensive technology" would effectively make them infeasible, it added. By adopting a policy that targets coal – the only source of energy cheap enough and abundant enough to relieve the "energy poverty" that afflicts almost 1.5 billion people in the developing world – the U.S. is essentially condemning them to endless poverty, it added. If this country instead provided loans to encourage more efficient coal plant designs, *The National Interest* suggested, "developing economies could progress economically at a reasonable environmental cost."

BY THE NUMBERS

Global Carbon Emissions Slowing, But Growth in Coal Usage Outpaces All Else

Global carbon dioxide emissions are slowing from the last decade's rapid pace, but [growth in coal usage continues to surpass growth in all other forms of energy](#), according to figures released by the Global Carbon Project. "Coal is king, still," observed Glen Peters, a leader of the group that produced the analysis. The figures, reported in *The New York Times*, indicate that carbon dioxide emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels and cement production rose 2.1% in 2012, compared with the previous year, and are projected to increase by a similar amount in 2013. Growth in such emissions had been running about 3% annually, on average, since 2000. *The Times* reported that emissions are falling in the U.S. due to factors such as an abundance of natural gas, which is displacing coal in the generation of power.