

ENERGY – SOURCES, COSTS, AND CONTROVERSIES

– INTRODUCTION AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Stephen L. Bakke, July 2008 and April 2011

In 2008 I completed a large research project which resulted in a fairly long report which I titled *Energy – Sources, Costs, and Controversies*. I have reworked that report and split it into three shorter “articles.” This new series of shorter articles will make it easier to read and hopefully set the stage for updates which I plan to do in the future. This first report gives an introduction to the subject, and provides a list of some of the sources of information used in researching the **original** project.

Keep in mind that most of the information in these reports relates to information available in 2008. Since then I have done much more research and **will be back at you soon with all new material on the topic of energy resources.**

Introduction

Energy and all things related are just about the most discussed topics in recent months and years. Due to the strong emotion in any discussion of the topic, it lends itself to “demagoguery” through exaggeration or even misinformation. I chose this topic due to my relative ignorance and extreme curiosity. I believe these issues are too important to approach impetuously because they are too complex – and the implications are too important to be left to only politicians and environmentalists.

Here are my intentions for this presentation:

- I have tried to make my biases obvious.
- My disagreement does not result in excluding a topic.
- The “*Points*” presented in these reports have been independently expressed by third parties and are not my invention. I have used paraphrasing in an attempt at brevity. Virtually all of these can be found, stated or strongly implied, in the independent/external sources listed at the end of the report.
- The “*Points*” presented are frequently expressed, but may not reflect a majority opinion!
- The “*Counterpoints*” presented is summarized from the independent/external sources listed at the end of the report, and are not my invention.
- Neither the “*Points*” presented, nor the “*Counterpoints*” should be presumed to be correct, but I believe the credibility of the sources makes the positions and comments relevant for evaluating the issue.
- If a comment contains some of my personal opinion, I believe that will be obvious. Virtually all of the opinions and information originated separate from me – even if it becomes obvious I agree with some of them.
- The information in these reports are not intended to be exhaustive. My intention is to help me have a more complete understanding about the topic, and to have more focused, informed, and credible discussions about it. And I want to pass that information along!

Sources of Information

The following is not intended to be a complete detailed bibliography or list of notes and references which would be adequate for publication or other wide use of this report. I have given specific attribution to very few quotes and statistics. These lists are intended to relay the nature, extent, and sincerity of my effort to become personally more knowledgeable. In the case of the “books” listed below, you will note that sometimes I have relied solely on “excerpts, summaries, commentary, and reviews”, as I clearly indicate. This is done for purely “economic” reasons (i.e. I don’t want to buy the book because my library of resource material is too large already). At a minimum, I hope this list lends a level of credibility to the information provided. The items below are listed in no particular order.

Books

Beyond Fossil Fools: The Road to Energy Independence by 2040 by Joe Shuster – excerpts, summaries, commentary, and reviews

Power to Save the World – The Truth About Nuclear Energy by Gwyneth Cravens – excerpts, summaries, commentary, and reviews

Cool It by Bjorn Lomborg

Scared to Death: From BSE to Global Warming – How Scares are Costing Us the Earth by Christopher Booker and Richard North – excerpts, summaries, commentary, and reviews

Myths, Lies, and Downright Stupidity by John Stossel

Papers, Pamphlets, and Studies (generally reviewed summaries, or excerpts)

U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works – Reports on Web Site

Gallop Poll Reports - excerpts

Exxon Mobile Corporation – financial statements, 2004 through 2007

Tax Foundation Statistics

Writers, Columnists, Commentators, Educators, Scientists, Reporters, Editorial Sources, Current or Former Government Officials, Websites, Online Newsletters or Publications – Whose Material Was Used in Some Way: Too many to mention.