



arctic SYNERGY

The Arctic Energy Summit, a two-year Arctic Council project led by the United States in conjunction with the Institute of the North and the University of the Arctic, is an official International Polar Year project. For more information, visit www.arcticenergysummit.org.

this week in SUMMIT NEWS

REMINDER: Abstracts are due next week, February 15, 2007 via www.arcticenergysummit.org.

Abstracts for papers should be between 150-250 words, written in English, giving a concise overview of the topic to be covered. Final paper deadline is 15 August 2007. Please visit the website for more information, or contact Phil Cutler, Institute of the North, pcutler@institutenorth.org.



RENEWABLE & RURAL

ALASKA/US

Electric company to drill 2 test holes (JuneauEmpire, 02/08/07)
http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/020807/sta_20070208015.shtml

As rural Alaska wrestles with the rising cost of energy, the Naknek Electric Association has revived its research into local geothermal resources.

Mining heat from the earth? New technology shows promise (Christian Science Monitor, 02/07/07)

<http://www.csmonitor.com/2007/0207/p01s04-stss.html>

For years, conventional geothermal technology has been tapping mostly hot springs formations in a few isolated locations in the Western US, providing about 0.3 percent of the nation's electricity. The newer, enhanced approach identified by MIT could be developed virtually anywhere.

DOE requests \$1.2 billion for Office of Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE Network News, 02/07/07)

http://www.eere.energy.gov/news/enn.cfm#id_10549

In addition, the request for DOE's Office of Science includes \$75 million to establish three Bioenergy Research Centers that will accelerate basic research in cellulosic ethanol and other biofuels.

New study finds extensive undeveloped geothermal resource in Western US (Renewable Energy Access, 02/02/07)

<http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/partner/story?id=47321>

A new report released today finds extensive undeveloped geothermal resources in fourteen Western states - Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, and etc. The new report is an in-depth study into the specific barriers and challenges to geothermal energy.

CANADA

Canada becoming a wind superpower (Globe and Mail, 02/08/07)

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20070208.wwind0208/BNSStory/Business/home>

Canada more than doubled its wind power capacity last year, making the country the world's 12th-largest in terms of installed capacity, a report said. It was a record year for Canada, though other countries are still adding capacity at a faster clip.

REGION

Biofuels for transport (EurActiv, 02/06/07)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/transport/biofuels-transport/article-152282>

The EU is promoting the use of biofuels as an alternative energy source for transport. The Commission proposed in its 2007 "Energy Package" to step up its effort and demanded a mandatory target of 10% by 2020.

RUSSIA

People in Sosnovyi Bor discuss of constructing new nuclear reactors (Helsingin Sanomat, 02/08/07)

<http://www.hs.fi/english/article/People+in+Sosnovyi+Bor+discuss+of+constructing+new+nuclear+reactors/1135224952671>

The prospect of the construction of a new nuclear plant interests people in the Russian city of Sosnovyi Bor on the southern shore of the Gulf of Finland. Two new nuclear reactors are scheduled to be erected in Sosnovyi Bor in the course of the next seven years.

Nuclear power plant plans postponed (Euroarctic, 02/06/07)

<http://www.sr.se/euroarctic/artikel.asp?artikel=1185388>

The general director for Rosenergoatom (Russian Nuclear Energy) said that a new nuclear power plant construction on the Kola Peninsula is too costly. The Russian aluminium giant SUAL had earlier signed an intention agreement with the Murmansk Region Authorities on joint venture financing of new plant.



EXTRACTIVE

ALASKA/US

Fresh faces to represent BP, Conoco in gas line talks

(Anchorage Daily News, 02/07/07)

<http://www.adn.com/money/story/8621523p-8514143c.html>

Top natural gas executives in Alaska for Conoco Phillips and BP are both leaving those positions. Joe Marushack, Conoco's vice president for Alaska gas development, is taking over his company's Australia business unit; Ken Konrad, BP's vice president for natural gas, is stepping away from that job.

Push for port stirs distrust in Cordova (Anchorage Daily News, 02/05/07)

<http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/kenai/story/8617291p-8509867c.html>

What the village and its associates at the Chugach Alaska Corp. might do with a deep port, though, is causing an upwelling of fear and distrust. Some Cordovans argue that rather than safeguarding Prince William Sound, village leaders are using oil spill funds to build an industrial port to export coal and timber or attract large cruise ships.

LNG extension may face hurdle (Alaska Journal of Commerce, 02/04/07)

http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/020407/hom_20070204015.shtml

Enstar Natural Gas Co. says it may oppose a two-year extension of a federal export permit for liquefied natural gas from a plant owned by ConocoPhillips and Marathon Oil in Kenai. The current permit expires in 2009.

ANGDA proposes new plan for Slope gas (Alaska Journal of Commerce, 02/04/07)

http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/020407/hom_20070204020.shtml

The Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority's board approved a plan Jan. 29 for a study of a 24-inch natural gas pipeline built parallel to the trans-Alaska oil pipeline from the North Slope as far as Glennallen, with a 20-inch spur pipeline to Valdez and a 16-inch pipeline to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in Southcentral Alaska.

Shell set to drill in Beaufort Sea (Alaska Journal of Commerce, 02/04/07)

http://www.alaskajournal.com/stories/020407/hom_20070204017.shtml

Shell is gearing up for an aggressive 2007 offshore exploration program in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea, with plans to operate two drilling vessels and drill three wells, company officials told an Alaska industry contractor group in a Jan. 25 briefing.

Turning black coal green (Popular Science, February 2007)

<http://www.popsci.com/popsci/science/3e2f391531470110vgnvcm1000004eecbccdrcrd.html>

FutureGen is a \$1-billion project sponsored by the DOE in partnership with 11 leading energy companies to build the first near-zero-emission coal plant by 2012. The 275-megawatt facility will serve as the model for a new generation of high-tech coal facilities.

CANADA

NEB spells out Mackenzie pipeline conditions (CBC News, 02/07/07)

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/north/story/2007/02/07/board-conditions.html>

In a letter sent to the pipeline's proponents this week, the National Energy Board sets out a long list of conditions to be applied to the pre-construction, construction and operational phases of the project.

Petro-Canada calls off sale of five oil sands properties
(Globe and Mail, 02/06/07)

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20070206.wpetrocan0206/BNStory/Business/home>

In a news release, the Calgary-based oil and gas giant said it decided not to sell its minority interests in the Chard, Stony Mountain, Liege, Thornbury and Ipiatik in-situ oil sands properties.

NORWAY

Petroleum production down (Aftenposten, 02/07/07)

<http://www.aftenposten.no/english/business/article1631845.ece>

Norway's oil production fell to a preliminary 2.42 million barrels per day on average in January from 2.45 million in December 2006.

Statoil orders emergency vessels (Offshore, 02/06/07)

http://www.offshore-mag.com/display_article/283957/120/ARTCL/none/RGRPT/Statoil-orders-emergency-vessels/

Statoil has ordered two new emergency response vessels from Danish shipping company Esvagt. One will replace an existing vessel working in the Sleipner/Volve area of the North Sea. The other will patrol the Gjoa field region.

Hydro comes up empty (Aftenposten, 02/05/07)

<http://www.aftenposten.no/english/business/article1629609.ece>

Norsk Hydro has drilled a dry well at the Zita prospect close to the Asgard gas field in the Norwegian Sea, and classes this particular prospect as unlikely.

Gas field outside North Cape spurs expectations

(BarentsObserver, 02/05/07)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/index.php?id=427759&cat=16149&xforceredir=1&noredir=1>

Information about the finding of gas at the "Nucula" field in the Barents Sea has spurred new expectations along the Norwegian Barents Sea coast.

REGION

Statoil might extract Snohvit oil after all (BarentsObserver, 02/07/07)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/index.php?id=428114&cat=16149&xforceredir=1&noredir=1>

After massive political pressure from regional and national level, the licence holders in the Snohvit project might reconsider their decision not to extract the oil in the Snohvit field in the Barents Sea.

Gazprom pipeline plan gives Swedes the jitters

(BarentsObserver, 02/02/07)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/index.php?id=427000&cat=16149&xforcedir=1&noredir=1>

Gazprom, Russia's natural gas export monopoly, plans to increase supplies to Western Europe by building a 1,195 kilometer, 8 billion USD pipeline under the Baltic Sea by 2010. Its proposal includes a maintenance platform off the Swedish island of Gotland.

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

Methane bubbling through seafloor creates undersea hills

(ScienceDaily, 02/07/07)

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/02/070207091024.htm>

According to a recent paper published by Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute geologists and their colleagues, methane gas bubbling through seafloor sediments has created hundreds of low hills on the floor of the Arctic Ocean.



SUSTAINABILITY

ALASKA/US

Ample supply helps keep oil prices tame (MSNBC, 02/07/07)

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17012607/>

Though the cold weather is stoking demand for both refined products and natural gas, warm weather in the first half of the winter left the energy pipeline well-stocked for the remainder of the winter season.

ANWR funds again in federal budget (Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, 02/06/07)

<http://newsminer.com/2007/02/06/5000/#more-5000>

The Bush administration included oil revenue from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in budget projections released, but such leasing is so unlikely under the new Democratic Congress that a top official declined an opportunity to push the idea.

Bush seeks extra energy research funds in 2008 (Reuters, 02/05/07)

http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=technologyNews&storyID=2007-02-05T174748Z_01_N05408167_RTRUKOC_0_US-USA-BUDGET-DOE.xml&WTmodLoc=TechNewsHome_C1_%5bFeed%5d-2

The Bush administration asked Congress for \$4.4 billion in extra research funds in fiscal 2008 for high-tech areas such as supercomputers and turning wood chips into ethanol, even though Congress has not acted on the Energy Department's 2007 request.

Opinion: Praying at the pump (New York Times, 02/02/07)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/02/opinion/02minsk.html>

As Congress and President Bush face off over energy policy, we should reaffirm a few basic principles. A very important one is that our most critical goal in enhancing our energy security is to maintain a stable price for oil.

Feds grim on gas line (Anchorage Daily News, 02/02/07)

<http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/story/8608930p-8501516c.html>

A new report from federal energy regulators says the federal government stands ready to move the megaproject forward, but the "main obstacle" is the state's "failure to resolve" tax or other issues that major oil companies have said must be settled before they can commit to building the multibillion-dollar pipeline project.

CANADA

Premiers to draft national energy plan (CBC News, 02/08/07)

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2007/02/08/premiers-energy.html>

The first draft of the plan, expected by this summer, could include a call for an east-west hydroelectric grid that would transport energy from resource-rich provinces to those with increasing demand.

ICELAND

Smokestacks in a white wilderness divide Iceland (New York Times, 02/04/07)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/02/04/world/europe/04iceland.html?ex=1171342800&en=8f428ff98e1b6a75&ei=5070&emc=eta1>

The \$3 billion Karahnjukar Hydropower Project is a sprawling enterprise to harness the rivers for electricity that will be used for a single purpose: to fuel a new aluminum smelter

owned by Alcoa, the world's largest aluminum company. It has been the focus of the angriest and most divisive battle in recent Icelandic history.

NORWAY

Merger giant feared (Aftenposten, 02/06/07)

<http://www.aftenposten.no/english/business/article1630936.ece>

A survey carried out by Aftenposten in cooperation with the Offshore Strategy conference revealed the current sentiments prevailing in the industry about the pending merger. Just over 69 percent felt that the merger would have a negative effect on competition in the Norwegian sector in general, and 60 percent felt that the new company would have too much power.

REGION

Murmansk: Shtokman development impossible without Norwegian partners

(BarentsObserver, 02/06/07)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/index.php?id=427885&cat=16149&xforcedir=1&noredir=1>

The acting head of the Murmansk Department of Economic Development maintains that hundreds of companies will have to be engaged in the project, and that the Norwegian companies Statoil and Hydro in any case will become stakeholders.

EU-Russia agreement in the doldrums (EurActiv.com, 02/06/07)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/eu-russia-agreement-doldrums/article-161435>

The visit of the EU-troika to Russia brought little progress towards a new comprehensive trade agreement, as Russia remains critical of opening up energy access to EU investors.

EU energy research lacks focus, study finds (EurActiv.com, 02/01/07)

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/energy/eu-energy-research-lacks-focus-study-finds/article-161351>

The EU has earmarked €2.35 billion in energy R&D for the period 2007-13 under FP7, the community framework programme for research. This contrasts with €9.05bn for information and communication technologies and €6.1bn for health.

RUSSIA

Russia's gas plans now just a pipe dream (Kommersant, 02/07/07)

http://www.kommersant.com/p740372/r_527/Ukraine_law_gas_transport_pipelines/

At its first session after the winter recess, the upper chamber of Ukraine's parliament passed a law forbidding the government to hand control of the country's network of gas transport pipelines over to Russia.

Dependence on oil could hurt when luck runs out (St. Petersburg Times, 02/07/07)

http://www.sptimes.ru/index.php?action_id=2&story_id=20288

News that the GDP grew a healthy 6.7 percent in 2006 met with as much anxiety as cheer among analysts, who said the economy got lucky last year with the oil price but is not diverse enough to stay ahead if that luck runs out next year.

Gascom to launch 4 low-orbit remote sensing satellites (RIA Novosti, 02/07/07)

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20070207/60367864.html>

The telecommunications arm of Russian energy giant Gazprom intends to launch four low-orbit satellites for remote sensing of the Earth, Gascom's general director said Wednesday.

Opinion: Sakhalin-2 a Good Deal for Shell and Gazprom (St. Petersburg Times, 02/06/07)

http://www.sptimes.ru/index.php?action_id=2&story_id=20294

Sakhalin-2 is a truly global undertaking and should be making headlines for much more positive and accurate reasons — the pioneering Sakhalin-2 project itself. Not only is it the world's largest integrated oil and gas project, but it also represents Russia's first offshore oil production.

Oil industry threatens Nenets tundra (BarentsObserver, 02/05/07)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/index.php?id=427461&cat=16149&xforcedir=1&noredir=1>

A researcher from the Komi Institute of Biology, a branch unit of the Russian Academy of Science, says that human influence has had a major impact on the areas between the Ureryakha and Chernaya rivers and the Barents Sea. The water quality in the rivers are characterized as respectively "dirty" and "extremely dirty". Along parts of the rivers, oil spills are visible.

Norilsk Nickel to form energy holding before year end (RIA Novosti, 02/05/07)

<http://en.rian.ru/business/20070205/60255937.html>

Metals giant Norilsk Nickel intends to create an energy holding before the end of the year, the company said in a news release. It was reported earlier that Norilsk Nickel's former co-owner decided to consolidate his energy assets, developing both traditional and alternative energy sources.

Statoil talked cooperation with Arkhangelsk

(BarentsObserver, 02/05/07)

<http://www.barentsobserver.com/index.php?id=427482&cat=16149&xforcedir=1&noredir=1>

Among the social projects supported by Statoil are trainings of managers for oil and gas industry, opening a family center and buying technical equipment for computer classes in Arkhangelsk and Vel'sk (Arkhangelsk Oblast).

Bill on foreign access to Russian strategic companies sent to departments. (RIA Novosti, 02/03/07)

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20070203/60164391.html>

Russian officials say the measures aim to make mechanisms of state control over energy deals more transparent and understandable to foreign investors, and ensure the country's

SWEDEN

Sweden and Lithuania could link power grids (The Local, 02/06/07)

<http://www.thelocal.se/6323/20070206/>

Lithuania's and Sweden's energy grids could be linked via a 350-kilometre, 700-1,000 megawatt cable under the Baltic Sea. Preliminary estimates have shown that the link could cost some €400 million euros and could be completed by 2012.

ARCTIC ENERGY SUMMIT NEWS

The Arctic Energy Technology Conference -- 15-17 October 2007 in Anchorage, Alaska - is one of three components of the Arctic Energy Summit, an International Polar Year endorsed project and a Sustainable Development Working Group initiative of the Arctic Council. The Summit will bring focus to the areas of developing resources while addressing the need for affordable energy in rural areas throughout the Arctic.

The technology conference will provide a forum for the presentation of international, interdisciplinary technical research papers on **the Arctic as an emerging energy province**. A benchmark of 200-250 papers is expected; the call for technical papers includes, but is not limited to the fields of extractive energy in the Arctic, renewable and rural energy in the Arctic, and sustainability of energy in the Arctic.

Please visit the website for more information, or contact Phil Cutler, Institute of the North, pcutler@institutenorth.org.



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