

November 29, 2009

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Steve M. Mihalchick
Administrative Law Judge
Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620 St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620

ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

Dear Judge Mihalchick on the Subject of Coal Plants:

I have become increasingly concerned about the condition of our world's environment and a near future collapse of industrialization that would certainly place our entire civilization in jeopardy.

I am sure you are aware of the multitudinous problems that have created this situation and that are many reasons why we are in this disarray. I have been watching the increasing number of problems for the past twenty (+) years and am certain that the direction in which our governments and large corporations have taken us has been very unwise. If you are unaware of the problems, I would recommend you reviewing a couple of journals that have been published by the International Forum on Globalization. The most pertinent publications are:

- 1) *Alternatives to Economic Globalization*
- 2) *The Rise and Predictable Fall of Globalized Industrial Agriculture*

Also, a recent article from *The Guardian*, which I have enclosed.

Basically, I believe that we have passed the crossroads for not choosing a better and simpler way of life. Our over industrialization has and is consuming far more than this earth will support. Oil and gas will be running out, the switch to coal is even worse because it will continue to warm, pollute and eventually leave this world with nothing but vast industrial wastelands. The balance between nature and the needs of societies are on collision courses.

The main thrust of this letter is to ask you to help our Electrical Power Plants to see that changing now to solar, hydro and wind is the better direction to pursue when one knows that weakening to big business is only for their profits and not for a better tomorrow. Let us do a few right and good things for our motherland during these darkening days and pray that God will be with us all.

Thank you for taking time to review this grave situation and have a wonderful Christmas Season. Sincerely,

Judith Long, BA, CRNA
4627 Otsego Street
Duluth, MN 55804

with

Public Comment on FEIS 13

guardian.co.uk

Key oil figures were distorted by US pressure, says whistleblower

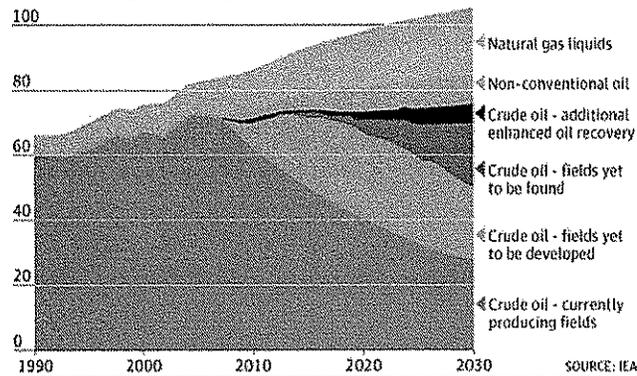
Exclusive: Watchdog's estimates of reserves inflated says top official

Read more on [the future of oil](#)

Terry Macalister
guardian.co.uk, Monday 9 November 2009 21.30 GMT

Oil production forecast

IEA forecast of global all-oil production, million barrels per day



The world is much closer to running out of oil than official estimates admit, according to a whistleblower at the International Energy Agency who claims it has been deliberately underplaying a looming shortage for fear of triggering panic buying.

The senior official claims the US has played an influential role in encouraging the watchdog to underplay the rate of decline from existing oil fields while overplaying the chances of finding new reserves.

The allegations raise serious questions about the accuracy of the organisation's latest World Energy Outlook on oil demand and supply to be published tomorrow – which is used by the British and many other governments to help guide their wider energy and climate change policies.

In particular they question the prediction in the last World Economic Outlook, believed to be repeated again this year, that oil production can be raised from its current level of 83m barrels a day to 105m barrels. External critics have frequently argued that this cannot be substantiated by firm evidence and say the world has already passed its peak in oil production.

Now the "peak oil" theory is gaining support at the heart of the global energy establishment. "The IEA in 2005 was predicting oil supplies could rise as high as 120m barrels a day by 2030 although it was forced to reduce this gradually to 116m and then 105m last year," said the IEA source, who was unwilling to be identified for fear of reprisals inside the industry. "The 120m figure always was nonsense but even today's number is much higher than can be justified and the IEA knows this."

"Many inside the organisation believe that maintaining oil supplies at even 90m to 95m barrels a day would be impossible but there are fears that panic could spread on the financial markets if the figures were brought down further. And the Americans fear the end of oil supremacy because it would threaten their power over access to oil resources," he added.

A second senior IEA source, who has now left but was also unwilling to give his name, said a key rule at the organisation was that it was "imperative not to anger the Americans" but the fact was that there was not as much oil in the world as had been admitted. "We have [already] entered the 'peak oil' zone. I think that the situation is really bad," he added.

The IEA acknowledges the importance of its own figures, boasting on its website: "The IEA governments and industry from all across the globe have come to rely on the World Energy Outlook to provide a consistent basis on which they can formulate policies and design business plans."

The British government, among others, always uses the IEA statistics rather than any of its own to argue that there is little threat to long-term oil supplies.

The IEA said tonight that peak oil critics had often wrongly questioned the accuracy of its figures. A spokesman said it was unable to comment ahead of the 2009 report being released tomorrow.

John Hemming, the MP who chairs the all-party parliamentary group on peak oil and gas, said the revelations confirmed his suspicions that the IEA underplayed how quickly the world was running out and this had profound implications for British government energy policy.

He said he had also been contacted by some IEA officials unhappy with its lack of independent scepticism over predictions. "Reliance on IEA reports has been used to justify claims that oil and gas supplies will not peak before 2030. It is clear now that this will not be the case and the IEA figures cannot be relied on," said Hemming.

"This all gives an importance to the Copenhagen [climate change] talks and an urgent need for the UK to move faster towards a more sustainable [lower carbon] economy if it is to avoid severe economic dislocation," he added.

The IEA was established in 1974 after the oil crisis in an attempt to try to safeguard energy supplies to the west. The World Energy Outlook is produced annually under the control of the IEA's chief economist, Fatih Birol, who has defended the projections from earlier outside attack. Peak oil critics have often questioned the IEA figures.

But now IEA sources who have contacted the Guardian say that Birol has increasingly been facing questions about the figures inside the organisation.

Matt Simmons, a respected oil industry expert, has long questioned the decline rates and oil statistics provided by Saudi Arabia on its own fields. He has raised questions about whether peak oil is much closer than many have accepted.

A report by the UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) last month said worldwide production of conventionally extracted oil could "peak" and go into terminal decline before 2020 – but that the government was not facing up to the risk. Steve Sorrell, chief author of the report, said forecasts suggesting oil production will not peak before 2030 were "at best optimistic and at worst implausible".

But as far back as 2004 there have been people making similar warnings. Colin Campbell, a former executive with Total of France told a conference: "If the real [oil reserve] figures were to come out there would be panic on the stock markets ... in the end that would suit no one."

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Oils Prognosis is Termina

Data, Analysis and Recommendations for a Post-Oil Economy. New Report.

EnergyAndCapital.com/Bakken_Oil_Rpt

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