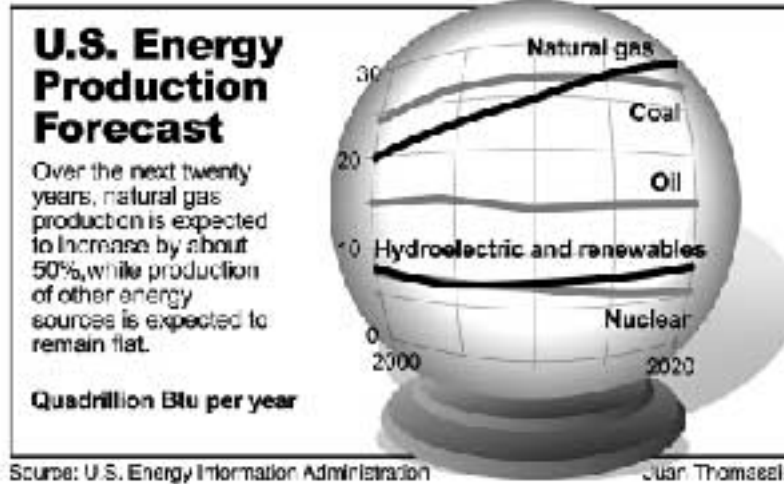


ENERGY NEWS AND NOTES

Are We Running Out Of Energy Sources?



It is believed that oil and natural gas will be able to sustain the world's energy needs until fuel alternatives become viable.

(NAPSA)—Recent domestic power shortages—coupled with rising costs for gasoline, natural gas and home heating oil—have reminded us that fossil fuels are finite resources.

According to the American Petroleum Institute, remaining petroleum resources in the United States should last between 40 and 80 years at current rates of production. Technological advances in locating and extracting oil have increased domestic production in recent years and could double the lifespan of our existing fossil fuels. Still, there are many onshore and offshore deposits that remain inaccessible to development because they exist on government-restricted public lands. Because of these restrictions, the United States still imports more than 55 percent of the crude oil it uses.

Outside the United States, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates proven petroleum reserves are at 2.65 trillion barrels, and future discoveries will produce between 1.4 trillion and 2.1 trillion barrels of oil. This amount would sustain the current rate of consumption between 63 and 95 years considering growing worldwide demand.

Technology may provide some answers to our energy challenges. Hybrid vehicles are now available that are powered by a combination of a gasoline engine and electric motor. Alternative transportation fuels such as propane and natural gas are used in a limited capacity to fuel public buses and fleet vehicles in major cities, but cost more than gasoline.

Clean-burning renewable fuels can be produced from sources that regenerate organically. While these fuels are years from becoming economically viable alternatives, it is clear that further study of renewables will lead to energy solutions for future generations.

While alternative energy solutions are being developed, petroleum products will continue to fuel our daily lives. With improving exploration technologies and more efficient refining systems producing more petroleum products than ever before, there's a reasonable assurance that there will be enough to go around.

To learn more about energy issues, visit www.oil360.org, a comprehensive site hosted by Sarkeys Energy Center, the University of Oklahoma.