# CP

### Conditionality Good 2NC

#### First our offense-

#### 1- Critical thinking- Reacting to multiple attacks increases aff ability to evaluate their best arguments and collapsing down teaches the neg to make strategic, reactive decisions- that’s key to decisionmaking skills

#### 2- Negative flexibility- The aff gets to parametricize the rez by picking one example- its an inherent advantage because they know way more about their *one* aff than the neg who has to be prepared for *every* aff- the only check is to advance multiple cps

#### Now our defense-

#### 1- Not “infinitely” regressive- time limits and quality of argument create a limit. Our interp is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### 2- Ground- Aff can always make “aff key” args and addons- it’s offense against any and all CPs

#### 3- Strat and time skew are inev- The alternative to multiple advocacies is more T and Das- those require just as many answers and create strategic double binds too

#### 4- CPs aren’t uniquely complex and perms check the advantages of neg fiat- a SKFTA CP is way less threatening than a SKFTA DA because you can perm it

#### 5- To vote aff you have to believe the debate is irreparably damaged by conditionality- it might make debate hard but not impossible

#### 6- Don’t be fooled by “reciprocity”- the aff’s job is to pick the question of debate and the neg’s is to find a way to disprove it- that’s why stability is important for the aff and flexibility is key for the neg

# K

### Resource Extraction Impact/AT Stability Impacts

#### Solar tech relies on rare earth mineral extraction that causes massive global instability and collapses democracy and trade – it relies on corruption and social inequality to maintain economic production

Bringezu & Bleischwitz ‘11

(Stefan, director of material flows and resource management at the Wuppertal Institute, Germany, and a member of the International Panel for Sustainable Resource Management, Raimund, co-director of material flows and resource management at the Wuppertal Institute and professor at the College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium, “Preventing a resource curse fuelled by the green economy”, Global Corruption Report: Climate Change, pg. 199-201 http://www.transparency.org/publications/gcr/gcr\_climate\_change2)

Mining, a second activity necessary to support the green economy, carries significant opportunities for corruption. The industry is believed to be one of the business sectors most likely to bribe public officials or to influence political processes unduly.12 The industry is characterized by opacity and confidentiality, which enable companies to conspire with government officials to rig the bidding process. By developing personal relationships with influential members of the political elite, or offering bribes, corporate representatives may secure contracts or political decisions in their favour.13 Host governments may launder money offshore or direct funds towards spending that benefits the interests of the political elite. The scaling up of renewable energy will require significant mineral resources for new supply facilities and energy distribution, however. Telecommunication and other information technologies, increasingly used to reduce the need for global travel and transportation, depend on microelectronic devices that require speciality metals. As these and other solutions for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are more widely embraced, demand will increase for many types of minerals. Lithium ion batteries, currently used in electronic devices, are expected to play a growing role in future demand for electric cars. Although forecasts are sensitive to public policy, Credit Suisse’s estimate of annual growth rates for lithium demand of about 10 per cent14 seems conservative but reliable. Increased demand for lithium will lead to additional extraction activities at a limited number of salt lakes, such as in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile. In Bolivia, the government’s early planning for joint exploitation projects with international companies and governments has been met with much public approval, but it has also raised concerns from some civil society and environmental organizations regarding the transparency of negotiations and the reliability of environmental assessments15 (see the Bolivia case study following this section). Photovoltaic cells for solar arrays and LED-dependent energy-efficient lighting16 rely on the aluminium by-product gallium. Gallium demand for green technology development is forecast to exceed current total world production by a factor of six by 2030.17 This could lead to enhanced bauxite mining18 in countries such as Guinea, China, Russia and Kazakhstan. Mining for tantalum, which is used for capacitors in microelectronics such as mobile phones and PCs, has increased in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where the militarization of mining is well documented19 and illegal trade revenues have been linked to the financing of civil war activities. Platinum group metals (PGMs) are important chemical catalysts used for pollution control, such as in exhaust catalysts in cars and fuel cells. PGM mining and refining is concentrated in a few regions in the world, though supply is not sufficient to meet expected demand. Platinum is mined in South Africa, and PGMs are produced as a by-product of nickel and copper mining in Russia and Canada. The market for rare earth metals, used in defence technologies and also crucial for low-fossil-carbon technologies such as wind turbines and hybrid cars, is worth some US$1.3 billion annually. China, one of the few countries currently mining rare earth metals, has considered significantly curbing or ending their export altogether, prompting a rush on mines in Russia, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Botswana, Vietnam and Malaysia.20 Rising demand for many of these mineral resources will probably coincide with a shifting pattern of mining activity. Emerging economies such as Brazil, China and India are expected to reach a period of high metal intensity as their development approaches the levels of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. As mining companies from these countries transition from trading into production, they can be expected to meet domestic demand for raw materials through direct investment throughout the world, and particularly in Africa. This new buying power may not be matched by high standards in business integrity. In 2008 companies from Brazil, Russia, India and China were perceived by the business community to be among the most likely to engage in bribery when doing business abroad.21 Indeed, China and India have no law making foreign bribery a criminal offence.22 With the exception of Brazil, the adoption of international anti-corruption standards is weak. India has ratified neither the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) nor the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials, while China and Russia have ratified only the former.23

### 2NC Consumption Framework

#### Our framework is the judge should prioritize questions of knowledge production – this means you should de-emphasize questions of link uniqueness and transition wars because academic forums like the debate have less agency to solve immediate issues than to shape long-term academic and public policy trends

#### That solves decisionmaking and predictability – forces debaters to reflect on the assumptions they make when researching and to ask questions about the framing used in their evidence – that promotes deliberation and internal link turns strategic thinking arguments

#### Their “moots the 1ac” and “infinite method” arguments are overblown – we can only read links to the framing chosen by the aff and moots the 1ac begs the educational question of what the focus should be

#### The aff’s calls for pragmatism and specificity are a farce – their change in energy strategy represents conscious adoption of larger institutional logics, not an incremental change in existing policy – only radical analysis of the energy system takes the aff’s change seriously and avoids error replication

Byrne & Toly 6

(Josh, director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy and distinguished professor of energy and climate policy at the University of Delaware, Noah, Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Politics & International Relations, Director of Urban Studies Program at Wheaton, “Energy as a Social Project: Recovering a Discourse”, pgs. 1-32 in Transforming Power: Energy, Environment, and Society in Conflict, eds. Josh Byrne, Noah Toly, and Leigh Glover)

When measured in social and political-economic terms, the current energy discourse appears impoverished. Many of its leading voices proclaim great things will issue from the adoption of their strategies (conventional or sustainable), yet inquiry into the social and political-economic interests that power promises of greatness by either camp is mostly absent. In reply, some participants may petition for a progressive middle ground, acknowledging that energy regimes are only part of larger institutional formations that organize political and economic power. It is true that the political economy of energy is only a component of systemic power in the modern order, but it hardly follows that pragmatism toward energy policy and politics is the reasonable social response. Advocates of energy strategies associate their contributions with distinct pathways of social development and define the choice of energy strategy as central to the types of future(s) that can unfold. Therefore, acceptance of appeals for pragmatist assessments of energy proposals, that hardly envision incremental consequences, would indulge a form of selfdeception rather than represent a serious discursive position. An extensive social analysis of energy regimes of the type that Mumford (1934; 1966; 1970), Nye (1999), and others have envisioned is overdue. The preceding examinations of the two strategies potentiate conclusions about both the governance ideology and the political economy of modernist energy transitions that, by design, leave modernism undisturbed (except, perhaps, for its environmental performance).

### AT Util

#### **Utilitarianism is prejudiced – it excludes environmental damage from ethical calculations and treats it as a victimless crime – a shift towards techniques of the self prompts individual responsibility for ecological damage and acknowledges the existing social system as a product of our behavior and knowledge production**

Alexander ‘11

(Samuel, University of Melbourne; Office for Environmental Programs/Simplicity Institute, “

Voluntary Simplicity as an Aesthetics of Existence”, Social Sciences Research Network, http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=1941087)

Undoubtedly there is, and Foucault never denied this. Nietzsche occasionally seemed to conflate ethics and creativity, such as when he argued that what mattered when giving ‘style’ to one’s life was not whether it was good or bad but simply whether it represented ‘a single taste.’34 But if that is a fair representation of Nietzsche’s position – and to be fair to Nietzsche, it is not35 – a simplistic conflation of ethics and creativity certainly does not represent Foucault’s position. In developing his aesthetics of existence, Foucault drew heavily upon the ancient Greeks, who regularly employed notions of moulding and sculpting when philosophizing about the ‘art of living,’36 and Foucault’s position must be understood in relation to that ancient approach. Indeed, with a nod to the Greeks, Foucault claimed that ‘the problem of an ethics as a form to be given to one’s conduct and to one’s life has again been raised.’37 And it is has been raised again, we might infer, due to the emergence of the postmodern condition in which human nature – the supposedly ‘universal form’ of the self – has been fragmented and is once again in need of being ‘shaped’ by self‐engagement rather than merely ‘discovered’ by reason.38 The ethical dimension of Foucault’s aesthetics of existence deserves some further attention, however, because it remains unclear whether this approach can legitimately be called an ‘ethics.’ The first point here is to reiterate the important distinction Foucault draws between morality (which, from Foucault’s perspective, concerns living in accordance with a objective and universal moral code) and ethics (which concerns the self’s relationship with the self). Since the purpose, or least one function, of Foucault’s post‐structuralist critique of metaphysics was to cast doubt on the very possibility of objective and universal forms of knowledge, including moral knowledge, it follows that his ethics would never aspire to be a new morality. Indeed, Foucault declared that it would be ‘catastrophic’39 if everyone submitted to a universal moral code, and an inquiry into why he thought this would be so should shed light on the nature of his ethics as an aesthetics of existence. Foucault thought that submission to a universal moral code would be ‘catastrophic’ because any code’s purported or perceived universality would really be nothing more than a naturalized prejudice, and the danger here is that the particular moral perspective that has been placed under a veil of universality might blind people to relationships of domination that ought to be questioned and, if possible, opposed and transcended. Think, for example, of the colonial American’s who for centuries assumed that black slaves were not moral agents deserving of moral respect but merely animals that should be put to work. From their perspective, it was not immoral to have slaves, since slaves were not objects of moral concern. This, of course, raises the question: Might we, today, have our own moral prejudices to which we are similarly blind? The point here is that since knowledge, including moral knowledge, is always a function of a particular, socially constructed conceptual framework – one that necessarily lacks metaphysical foundations and which is therefore liable to shift or even collapse – then ‘ethical’ activity requires questioning the moral assumptions of dominant paradigms for the purpose exposing their contingency; exposing the possibility of things being ‘otherwise.’ The goal of this ethical activity is not to replace an existing moral code with the real moral code, but instead to bring to consciousness the suffering, pain, domination, or oppression that existing moralities repress or deflect attention away from. Notice that this ‘bringing to consciousness’ is a change in the self brought about by engaging the self, and this is what ethics means for Foucault. Edward McGushin, in his seminal work on Foucault’s ethics, notes that Foucault, far from valorizing narcissism, was suggesting that ‘when one takes care of oneself, an essential dimension of the self that requires attention is the relationship one maintains with others.’40 We can see similarities here between Foucault’s aesthetics of existence and Derrida’s ethics of deconstruction. As Derrida once explained: ‘Deconstruction is not an enclosure in nothingness, but an openness to the other.’41 This attempt to ‘be open to the other’ – open not just other people but also other perspectives – is also an essential aspect to Foucauldian ethics. This is a process, it should be noted, that has no end, because the underlying point is that every perspective has blind spots, and so ethical activity aims to constantly renew the self for the purposes of bringing those blind spots to our attention, knowing, all the while, that a complete and undistorted perspective – the ‘view from nowhere’ – is always and necessarily inaccessible to us. It is on this basis that Richard Rorty highlights the ethical importance of reading widely – of reading novels in particular – because by reading as many different types of ‘narratives’ as possible, we are less likely to become entrenched in any one, particular narrative.42

### Solar Link

#### **Solar energy mystifies existing consumption practices, greening them to remove guilt for our unsustainable ecological footprint**

Byrne & Toly 6

(Josh, director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy and distinguished professor of energy and climate policy at the University of Delaware, Noah, Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Politics & International Relations, Director of Urban Studies Program at Wheaton, “Energy as a Social Project: Recovering a Discourse”, pgs. 1-32 in Transforming Power: Energy, Environment, and Society in Conflict, eds. Josh Byrne, Noah Toly, and Leigh Glover)

In this regard, ironically, Small-is-Beautiful Solar shares with Big Wind the aspiration to re-order the energy regime without changing society. Despite modern society’s technological, economic, and political addiction to large-scale, cheap energy systems that solar energy cannot mimic, most PV proponents hope to revolutionize the technological foundation of modernity, without disturbing its social base. A new professional cadre of solar architects and engineers are exhorted to find innovative ways of embedding PV technology in the skin of buildings (Strong, 1999; Benemann, Chehab, and Schaar-Gabriel, 2001), while transportation engineers and urban planners are to coordinate in launching “smart growth” communities where vehicles are powered by hydrogen derived from PV-powered electrolysis to move about in communities optimized for “location efficiency” (Ogden, 1999; Holtzclaw et al., 2002). The wildly oversized ecological footprint of urban societies (Rees and Wackernagel, 1996) is unquestioned as PV decorates its structure. These tools for erecting a Solar Society intend to halt anthropogenic changes to the chemistry of the atmosphere, rain, and soil mantle while enabling unlimited economic growth. In the Solar Society of tomorrow, we will make what we want, in the amounts we desire, without worry, because all of its energy is derived from the benign, renewable radiation supplied by our galaxy’s sun. Compared to Big Wind, PV may cost more but it promises to deliver an equivalent social result (minus the avian and landscape threats of the former) and, just possibly, with a technical elegance that surpasses the clunky mechanicalness of turbines propelled by wind. In this respect, Solar Society makes its peace with modernity by leaving undisturbed the latter’s cornucopian dreams19 and, likewise, poses no serious challenge to the social and political structures of the modern era. At this precise point, inequality and conflict can only be conceived in Solar Society as the results of willful meanness and greed. While the solar variety of technological politics guiding society may be relatively minimalist—no towering new monuments or spectacular devices are planned—it would be no less committed to the ideals of technique in shaping social experience and its self-assessment. Similarly, its economics would warmly embrace a form of consumptive capitalism, although with cleaner inputs (and possibly throughputs) than before. While the discussion here of sustainable energy advocacy has concentrated on its wind- and solar-animated versions, we believe that strategies anticipating significant roles for geothermal, biomass, micro-hydro, and hydrogen harvested from factories fueled by renewables anticipate variants of the social narratives depicted for the two currently most prominent renewable energy options. The aim of producing more with advancing ecological efficiency in order to consume more with equally advancing consumerist satisfaction underpins the sustainable energy future in a way that would seamlessly tie it to the modernization project.20

### Renewables Link

#### **Renewables reproduce neoliberal social relations – they’re driven by a desire to maintain status quo consumption, and emanate from profit-motivated corporations**

Byrne & Toly 6

(Josh, director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy and distinguished professor of energy and climate policy at the University of Delaware, Noah, Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Politics & International Relations, Director of Urban Studies Program at Wheaton, “Energy as a Social Project: Recovering a Discourse”, pgs. 1-32 in Transforming Power: Energy, Environment, and Society in Conflict, eds. Josh Byrne, Noah Toly, and Leigh Glover)

Where the power to govern is not vested in experts, it is given over to market forces in both the conventional and sustainable energy programs. Just as the transitions envisioned in the two paradigms are alike in their technical preoccupations and governance ideologies, they are also alike in their political- economic commitments. Specifically, modernist energy transitions operate in, and evolve from, a capitalist political economy. Huber and Mills (2005) are convinced that conventional techno-fixes will expand productivity and increase prosperity to levels that will erase the current distortions of inequality. Expectably, conventional energy’s aspirations present little threat to the current energy political economy; indeed, the aim is to reinforce and deepen the current infrastructure in order to minimize costs and sustain economic growth. The existing alliance of government and business interests is judged to have produced social success and, with a few environmental correctives that amount to the modernization of ecosystem performance, the conventional energy project fervently anticipates an intact energy capitalism that willingly invests in its own perpetuation. While advocates of sustainable energy openly doubt the viability of the conventional program and emphasize its social and environmental failings, there is little indication that capitalist organization of the energy system is faulted or would be significantly changed with the ascendance of a renewablesbased regime. The modern cornucopia will be powered by the profits of a redirected market economy that diffuses technologies whose energy sources are available to all and are found everywhere. The sustainable energy project, according to its architects, aims to harness nature’s ‘services’ with technologies and distributed generation designs that can sustain the same impulses of growth and consumption that underpin the social project of conventional energy. Neither its corporate character, nor the class interests that propel capitalism’s advance, are seriously questioned. The only glaring difference with the conventional energy regime is the effort to modernize social relations with nature. In sum, conventional and sustainable energy strategies are mostly quiet about matters of concentration of wealth and privilege that are the legacy of energy capitalism, although both are vocal about support for changes consistent with middle class values and lifestyles. We are left to wonder why such steadfast reluctance exists to engaging problems of political economy. Does it stem from a lack of understanding? Is it reflective of a measure of satisfaction with the existing order? Or is there a fear that critical inquiry might jeopardize strategic victories or diminish the central role of ‘energy’ in the movement’s quest?

### AT Perm/Link Turn

#### Sequencing DA – centering consumption as a subject of ethical concern is a pre-requisite to the aff – their “production-focused” change to energy policy only marginalizes consumption practices by treating them as a given outside of politics

Alexander ‘11

(Samuel, University of Melbourne; Office for Environmental Programs/Simplicity Institute, “

Voluntary Simplicity as an Aesthetics of Existence”, Social Sciences Research Network, http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=1941087)

For present purposes, the third and final point about how neoclassicism marginalizes consumption concerns the way in which any problems caused by market activity are always approached from the ‘production angle,’ never the ‘consumption angle.’70 The reasoning is as follows. Despite the first two ways in which neoclassicists conceptualize consumption as unquestionably good, no one, not even neoclassicists, can deny that market activity is causing, and has always caused, some real problems. Think, for example, of the many ecological crises we are facing today, such as climate change, the mass extinction of species, pollution, deforestation, the depletion of the ocean’s fisheries, soil erosion, etc. One might have thought that these crises would have prompted neoclassicists to finally rethink their uncritical attitudes toward consumption, to finally acknowledge that, perhaps, consumption is not unquestionably good. But this has proven to be a false hope, and perhaps this should have come as no surprise. Neoclassicism, after all, is a grand, totalizing meta‐narrative, which claims to have an answer to all criticisms, such that all and any of the problems caused by market activity have a purported solution within the free market system and without needing to rethink or revise any of the neoclassical assumptions (including the assumptions about consumption). If there is a problem caused by market activity, neoclassicists argue, this simply indicates that there has been what is called a ‘market failure,’ which typically means that the costs of production have somehow been externalized, leading to artificially cheap commodities which, in turn, leads to the overconsumption of such commodities. But the neoclassical solution to such overconsumption does not require questioning consumption in any way. Consumption, as we have seen, is sacrosanct! Rather, the solution to such market failures is simply to attempt to internalize all externalities from the production angle – that is, to try to find ways to make sure that the costs of production reflect the ‘true’ costs (i.e. the costs all things considered). Once this has been achieved – if it can be achieved – any consumption that takes place is once again assumed to be at an ‘optimal’ level, which is to say, at a level that maximizes overall utility. In this way, neoclassicism manages to retain perfect faith in the virtue of consumption. We might conclude, therefore, consciously or unconsciously, that since consumption is a virtue, it need not be a subject of ethical concern. Acts of consumption are beyond ethics, or, as neoclassicists put it, such acts are simply ‘given.’ The point of all this has been to suggest that the paradigm of neoclassical economics may be responsible, and surely is responsible, for why consumption has been marginalized as a subject of ethical concern within market societies and beyond. And given the essentially hegemonic role neoclassical economics plays in the world today – manifesting in the globalized political sphere as ‘neoliberalism’71 or ‘Empire’72 – perhaps it should come as no surprise to discover that all of us may have internalized its precepts to some degree. That is, even those who have never studied or even heard of neoclassical economics – indeed, even those who dedicate considerable amounts of time to criticizing the ideology! – may still have imbibed some of its reasoning simply by virtue of living in a world that is so fundamentally shaped by it. We are, after all, social constructs, and, as explained earlier, our perception of the world and of ourselves is a function of the paradigm of understanding that we bring to experience and that we use to make sense of the world. We do not get to choose which paradigm we think with, however, since the act of choosing would be an act of thinking, and in order to think in the first place a paradigm of understanding already has to be in place. As Martin Heidegger once asserted, somewhat cryptically, ‘language speaks man,’73 by which he meant, we can suppose, that our notions of ‘self’ are not independent of language but a function of it. Donald Davidson made a similar point, but more clearly, when he wrote that ‘there is no chance that someone can take up a vantage point for comparing conceptual schemes by temporarily shedding his own.’74 We must begin, that is, from where we are, with whom we are, rebuilding the boat of understanding one plank at a time, without ever being able to begin again from scratch. If neoclassical economics has been internalized to some extent, consciously or unconsciously – in particular, if one has internalized the neoclassical understanding of consumption as unquestionably good – this means that the first step in any ethics of consumption might involve engaging the self by the self for the purpose of centering consumption; that is, for the purpose of deliberately bringing consumption into focus as a subject of ethical concern. Every conceptual framework conceals as it reveals, and whatever enlightenment one might gain from neoclassical economics, it must be acknowledged that its impressive edifice also casts shadows. Consumption, for reasons just explained, lies in the dark. An ethics of consumption must begin, therefore, by casting light in its direction, and this can only be achieved by deliberately giving the subject increased attention. Obviously, if one does not look for, or cannot see, a subject of ethical concern, it will not be a subject of ethical concern. However, even when the possibility of dedicating increased attention to consumption has been raised, which is perhaps the most difficult step, there is a second step, and that is to actually maintain the attention. The third step is to determine how, exactly, and in what ways, one could engage the self by the self with respect to consumption (an endeavor that is taken up in the next two sections). Notice, here, that the terrain of ethical activity lies within the self, at least at first, rather than being external to it. Someone who is cognizant of the three consumption-­‐ related problems outlined above – ecological degradation, poverty amidst plenty, and consumer malaise – might initially think that living in opposition to those problems must require, say, attending rallies, campaigning for political reform, engaging in civil disobedience, volunteering, engaging with and trying to mobilize the community, etc. These are surely all important things, but if our minds are not in order, then it may be that we end up directing our time and energies to pointless or even counter‐productive activity. One thinks here of the young Alcibiades, who wanted to leap into a political career, but who was ultimately persuaded by Socrates that, before he tried to take care of and assume control over others, he should first make sure he had taken care of and was in control of himself.75 Otherwise, even the best intentions might go astray. Socrates was to reproach Alcibiades for being so presumptuous: ‘you are not only ignorant of the greatest things, but while not knowing them you think that you do.’76 Importantly, however, Socrates was not assuming the role of advisor on the basis that he knew more than Alcibiades; rather, in typical fashion, Socrates assumed his role on the basis that he better understood the limits of knowledge; better understood that if he knew anything, it was that he knew not. In other words, Socrates knew better than any other that human understanding always has [holes] blind spots. The analysis above was intended to suggest that consumption might be one such blind spot.

# Case

## Grid

### Meh

#### Grid is resilent – Katrina proves

James Andrew Lewis – senior fellow and director of the Technology and Public Policy Program @ CSIS - March 2010, The Electrical Grid as a Target for Cyber Attack, http://csis.org/files/publication/100322\_ElectricalGridAsATargetforCyberAttack.pdf

This conclusion is different from the strategic consequences on a cyber attack on the power grid. The United States routinely suffers blackouts. The nation does not collapse. In the short term, military power and economic strength are not noticeably affected - a good example for opponents to consider is Hurricane Katrina, which caused massive damage but did not degrade U.S. military power in or even long-term economic performance. Is there any cyber attack that could match the hurricane?

The United States is a very large collection of targets with many different pieces making up its electrical infrastructure. While a single attack could interrupt service, the large size and complexity of the American economy make it more resilient. Even without a Federal response plan, the ability of electrical companies to work quickly together to restore service is impressive and we should not underestimate the ingenuity of targets to recover much more rapidly than expected. This is a routine occurrence in aerial bombing: impressive damage is quickly rectified by a determined opponent.

#### Blackouts inevitable – we cope

Earthquake Solutions, 2007, (last cite) (Power Grid – Why Worry? [http://www.earthquakesolutions.com/id62.html-http://www.earthquakesolutions.com/id62.html](http://www.earthquakesolutions.com/id62.html-http%3A//www.earthquakesolutions.com/id62.html))

Power failure is a frequent secondary effect of earthquakes, fires and other emergencies. However, power grid failure can also occur independently. Power outages may not be brief, but have the potential to be both widespread and extended in duration. After you take in some of the facts, there are some suggestions at the end of this article that may help you as you plan.¶ In 1998 a falling tree limb damaged a transformer and fed a spike back into a substation near the Bonneville Dam in Oregon, causing a cascade of related black-outs across eight western states. Fortunately, in this case, the outage was relatively brief.¶ According to the December 9, 1998 edition of the Los Angeles Times, “a massive power outage, accidentally caused by electric company workers, crippled San Francisco and its southern suburbs during the morning rush hours, trapping subway commuters under the bay, holding high-rise residents hostage in stalled elevators and slowing business to a crawl.” Power remained out for most of the day, and some areas waited even longer.¶ In 1999, and in preparation for possible disruptions associated with the Year 2000, US nuclear plants were required to test their back-up generators. Back-up power is critical in order to keep nuclear plants from going into meltdown in the case of system power outages. However, in that year and on other occasions, a disturbing number of back-up generating systems at various facilities failed testing. San Onofre was one.¶ In California, the public first became most aware of the general energy crisis in our state during the rolling blackouts of 2001. In addition to the economic and political factors that were widely discussed, fewer people were aware that during this time, the SCADA systems that control the power system flow in California were penetrated by cyber-terrorists for over seventeen days. ¶ As a result of the outcry over the power crisis and rolling blackouts, during 2001 and as late as 2003, many print media published extensive diagrams of critical transmission points, and other vulnerable areas related to production and delivery of adequate power in California. They did this initially with the help of the utility providers, but this practice was ultimately halted as concern grew over exposing the vulnerabilities of the system in light of potential terrorism concerns raised by the September 11, 2001 attacks. Since that time there have also been multiple documented instances in the western US of suspicious approaches to power plants, and/or attempts to bring down major transmission towers.¶ In August of 2003 the lights went out in the biggest blackout in North America. In a matter of a few minutes, one simple glitch rippled through about 100 substations, plunging over 50 million people into darkness over eight states and two Canadian provinces. Some did not have restored power for four or five days. Drinking water had to be distributed by the National Guard in Cleveland and other locales when water pumping stations failed and/or purification processes were interrupted. Early projections were for about $5 billion in economic losses alone. This incident also impacted 22 nuclear plants in the US and Canada.¶ In a common example of more routine power losses, in May 2006 a gnawing rat ate through two barriers and shorted out a 12,000-volt piece of equipment, causing about 9500 people in Riverside County to lose power for about 12 hours. Background events of this type happen all of the time, although the public **(unless directly affected**) is often unaware of the frequency and duration of these types of events. However, if there were to be an flu pandemic, many of these types of occurrences would not be repaired within “normal” time frames, and could easily extend into periods measured in as much as a week or more, and not merely in hours. This is because utilities would probably be operating with only about 30% of their workforce at best, and the same would be true of manufacturers and suppliers of critical parts, as well as the transportation systems necessary to move the parts from suppliers to the locations needed.¶ In July 2006 a wind-driven wildfire near the Oregon border was threatening the major power transmission lines between the Pacific Northwest and California. Jim Detmers, the Vice President for Operations of the California Independent System Operator, which manages the California power grid, indicated a failure in those particular lines could impact all of California.¶

In July and August 2006 an extended and excessive heat wave caused energy demand to spike, in some cases outstripping supply, threatening continuous service, and resulting in some rolling blackouts. Not all outages were repaired in as timely a way as has been possible in past years. The whole system is aged and woefully fragile, and demand for replacement parts has exceeded supply in some cases. Some components cannot even be manufactured quickly, but require in some cases months before re-supply is possible. At some point, the aging grid infrastructure will begin to fail more often, and potentially with more serious failures of longer duration.

#### Outages don’t spread and infrastructure is being modernized

Jim Avila – ABC – 7/31/12, A U.S. Blackout as Large as India’s? ‘Very Unlikely’, http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/07/a-u-s-blackout-as-large-as-indias-very-unlikely/

As India recovers from a blackout that left the world’s second-largest country — and more than 600 million residents — in the dark, a ripple of uncertainty moved through the Federal Regulatory Commission’s command center today in the U.S. The Indian crisis had some people asking about the vulnerability of America’s grid.¶ “What people really want to know today is, can something like India happen here? So if there is an outage or some problem in the Northeast, can it actually spread all the way to California,” John Wellinghoff, the commission’s chairman, told ABC News. “It’s very, very unlikely that ultimately would happen.”¶ Wellinghoff said that first, the grid was divided in the middle of the nation. Engineers said that it also was monitored more closely than ever. The grid is checked for line surges 30 times a second.¶ Since the Northeast blackout in 2003 — the largest in the U.S., which affected 55 million — 16,000 miles of new transmission lines have been added to the grid.¶ And even though some lines in the Northeast are more than 70 years old, Wellinghoff said that the chances of a blackout like India’s were very low.¶ “Yes, we have old infrastructure in many places but we are upgrading that infrastructure,” he said. “I think we’ll be moving toward a much more modern grid and we’re doing that as rapidly as possible.”

#### Blackouts won’t cascade – incredibly unlikely

Donna Leinwand Leger – USA TODAY – 7/31/12, <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-07-31/usa-india-power-outage/56622978/1>

A massive, countrywide power failure like the one in India on Tuesday is "extremely unlikely" in the United States, energy experts say. In India, three of the country's government-operated power grids failed Tuesday, leaving 620 million people without electricity for several hours. The outage, the second in two days in the country of 1.21 billion people, is the world's biggest blackout on record. The U.S. electricity system is segmented into three parts with safeguards that prevent an outage in one system from tripping a blackout in another system, "making blackouts across the country extremely unlikely," Energy Department spokeswoman Keri Fulton said. Early reports from government officials in India say excessive demand knocked the country's power generators offline. Experts say India's industry and economy are growing faster than its electrical systems. Last year, the economy grew 7.8% and pushed energy needs higher, but electricity generation did not keep pace, government records show. "We are much, much less at risk for something like that happening here, especially from the perspective of demand exceeding supply," said Gregory Reed, a professor of electric power engineering at University of Pittsburgh. "We're much more sophisticated in our operations. Most of our issues have been from natural disasters." The U.S. generates more than enough electricity to meet demand and always have power in reserve, Reed said. "Fundamentally, it's a different world here," said Arshad Mansoor, senior vice president of the Electric Power Research Institute in Washington and an expert on power grids. "It's an order of magnitude more reliable here than in a developing country." Grid operators across the country analyze power usage and generation, factoring outside factors such as weather, in real time and can forecast power supply and demand hour by hour, Mansoor said. "In any large, complex interactive network, the chance of that interconnection breaking up is always there," Mansoor said. "You cannot take your eye off the ball for a minute." Widespread outages in the U.S. caused by weather are common. But the U.S. has also had system failures, said Ellen Vancko, senior energy adviser for the Union of Concerned Scientists, based in Washington. On Aug. 14, 2003, more than 50 million people in the Northeast and Canada lost power after a major U.S. grid collapsed. The problem began in Ohio when a transmission wire overheated and sagged into a tree that had grown too close to the line, Vancko said. That caused other power lines to overheat until so many lines failed that the system shut itself down, she said. "That was less a failure of technology and more a failure of people, a failure of people to follow the rules," Vancko said. "There were a whole bunch of lessons learned." In 2005, in response to an investigation of the blackout, Congress passed a law establishing the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) to enforce reliability standards for bulk electricity generation. "On the whole, we have a more reliable electrical system with NERC," said Vancko, a former NERC official. "We have the safeguards, but we cannot say it can't happen here. It's the most complicated system in the world."

## Speculation

### No Impact

#### Speculation price hikes don’t last longer than a week

Jickling, specialist in Financial Economics, 2011,

September, Mark, Specialist in Financial Economics. Rena S. Miller Analyst in Financial Economics. Neelesh Nerurkar Specialist in Energy Policy. Congressional Research Service, “Speculation, Fundamentals, and Oil Prices,” <http://www.relooney.info/0_New_11245.pdf>

Service, “Speculation, Fundamentals, and Oil Prices,” <http://www.relooney.info/0_New_11245.pdf>

 If money manager trades can be said to cause price movements (that is, if we assume that such ¶ trades cause price changes, rather than follow them), are they responsible for long-term price ¶ changes such as the run-up of prices in the first half of 2008? The data released by the CFTC do ¶ not support that conclusion. When weekly position changes are plotted against changes in price in ¶ the following week (instead of the same week, as in Figures 2 though 5), the correlation ¶ essentially disappears. In other words, managed money trades may cause prices to rise or fall in ¶ the week they are made, but they do not appear to trigger longer price trends. ¶ The same is true over other time horizons. For example, Figure 6 shows changes in money ¶ manager positions and price changes four weeks later. The data suggest that there is no ¶ correlation between whether hedge funds and other money managers buy or sell this week and ¶ what happens to prices over the next month.

#### Speculators don’t cause energy price spikes

Green, UN expert reviewer, 5-16-12,

Kenneth P., has studied energy and energy-related environmental policy for nearly 20 years. Green has testified before regulatory and legislative bodies at the local, state and federal levels, including many times before the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. He was also a designated expert reviewer for two reports by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change “Gasoline prices: Why so high and what to do?” <http://www.aei.org/article/energy-and-the-environment/conventional-energy/gasoline-prices-why-so-high-and-what-to-do/>

While speculation has been shown capable of causing short term-price spikes in the past, Cato Institute scholars Jerry Taylor and Peter Van Doren show there is little evidence that speculation is a cause of oil price hikes since 2005. They find that rather than increasing price volatility, it turns out that speculation increases after price volatility manifests, and tends to damp it down: only two out of 26 studies of speculation they surveyed showed increased price volatility after the onset of futures trading in commodity markets, while 14 out of 26 studies showed a decrease in commodity price volatility after trading markets were introduced.