# 2AC

## T

#### counter-interpretation: a reduction is eliminating duplicative restrictions requiring environmental reviews

#### reduce is to bring down in extent or amount

American Heritage Dictionary 9

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/reduce>.

To bring down, as in extent, amount, or degree; diminish.

#### B- The status quo has multiple sets of duplicative NEPA restrictions

Weber 7

[Lucas, no qualifications available, published on WindPower.net- the North American Offshore Wind Power Information Project, “Offshore Wind Energy Permitting”, May 10, p. online//wyo-tjc]

The Cape Wind Project provides the perfect illustration of this misuse of the NEPA environmental review process. This project has already undergone more than four years of rigorous environmental review, beginning with the Army Corps of Engineers in 2001. Nearly three years after submitting an application to the Corps, a Draft EIS was finally issued in 2004.130 Despite the fact that the Corps’ Draft EIS was 4,000 pages, the MMS did not find it to be comprehensive enough and, as the newly appointed lead agency, demanded another Draft EIS be completed under its supervision.131 The Final EIS is not expected to be issued until Fall of 2007 and the Record of Decision is not expected until Winter of 2007.132 In all, the Cape Wind Project will have undergone more than six years of environmental review.

This unreasonable delay runs contrary to the intended use of the NEPA environmental review process. According to the regulations, an EIS “shall normally be less than 150 pages and for proposals of unusual scope or complexity shall normally be less than 300 pages.”133 Accordingly, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the agency charged with overseeing NEPA’s implementation, has “advised that under the new NEPA regulations even large complex energy projects would require only about 12 months for the completion of the entire EIS process.”134 The Cape Wind Project’s 4,000-page Draft EIS and its six years of environmental review would seem to be evidence that the process has gotten out of control.

Thus, the NEPA process has been converted into a tool for blocking the development of offshore wind energy. The MMS needs to rein in this environmental review process and honor the intention of NEPA. Based on the decision-making process that NEPA mandates, the choice of whether to permit the proposed projects should be easy for the agency to make.135

#### Third, we meet- we reduce the NEPA restriction on wind production

Russell 9

[Irma S., Dean and Professor, University of Montana School of Law, Streamlining NEPA to Combat Global Climate Change: Heresy or Necessity?, Lewis and Clark Law School’s Environmental Law Online, p. <http://www.elawreview.org/elaw/394/streamlining_nepa_to_combat_gl.html> //wyo-tjc]

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)[4] requires federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of major projects they undertake. It added to each agency's mission the additional requirement of considering the effects on the environment of federal projects.[5] To achieve its goal, NEPA mandates that "all agencies of the Federal Government . . . utilize a systematic, interdisciplinary approach which will insure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts in planning and in decision making which may have an impact on man's environment."[6] NEPA's policy seeks to foster conditions "under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans."[7] NEPA has made significant changes in the way federal agencies go about achieving their missions.[8] Fulfilling the procedural requirements of NEPA takes time and money.[9]

NEPA results in delays in virtually all major energy projects. It applies to projects requiring federal permits because permitting requirements make energy projects federal agency actions under NEPA.[10] Thus, NEPA applies to traditional energy projects such as coal-fired utilities and, additionally, to energy projects aimed at supplying energy without the GHGs associated with combustion, such as concentrated solar installations, wind farms, and wave technology. The global climate crisis raises the question of whether the NEPA process is too slow. Should Congress streamline NEPA to bring clean power online faster? The argument for streamlining NEPA is that the intensity of global climate change makes rapid transition to clean energy a necessity. This argument suggests that a categorical approach to siting and licensing of clean energy resources may be a necessary step in the move toward greening the grid. Any reduction or shortening of the NEPA process is likely to be regarded as heresy by some. The benefits of shortening the timeframe or process for input in any major federal project must be scrutinized.

#### Fourth, prefer our interpretation:

#### Predictability- the NEPA process is the single largest restriction on production- it is common to every energy type and every agency.

#### Education- consolidating agency review processes exposes us to unique education that hasn’t been covered on other energy topics.

## Grid

#### Grid is at risk now. That Montgomery. There are too many stress triggers to avoid another catastrophic blackout.

#### Future surges in electricity demand guarantee new cascading black-outs as the system gets stressed

Heyes 8-15-12
J.D. Heyes is a writer for Natural News.com August 15, 2012
Overloaded US power grid stretched to capacity; Will America follow in India's footsteps?
<http://www.naturalnews.com/036808_power_grid_collapse_outages.html#ixzz23glXL83u>, accessed 11/7/12,WYO/JF

Could the U.S. really suffer the kinds of widespread power outages that struck two-thirds of India's billion-plus population recently? Absolutely, say experts, and fixing the problem won't be cheap. While the nation's power infrastructure is referred to as a "grid," suggesting seamless interconnectivity, "the network more closely resembles a patchwork quilt stitched together to cover a rapidly expanding nation," the Washington Post reported. Experts note that the U.S. really doesn't yet face the kind of issues with its electrical infrastructure that left about 670 million Indians without power in what became the largest outage in history. But, at the same time, industry analysts say the nation's grid is definitely showing signs of aging. And, they say, it's stretched to capacity. More often than not, the grid falls victim to decrepitude rather than, say, the forces of nature, as in tornadoes and powerful storms. Nonetheless the grid is beginning to fail, say experts, who fear that such failures that caused blackouts in New York, San Diego and Boston could become ever more common as the country's demand for power grows exponentially. To fix the problem, industry analysts say it will take a multi-billion, multi-year investment if we're to avoid more frequent large-scale outages in the future.

#### Blackouts along the eastern seaboard would cascade, causing region-wide failures

Stockton, 11

[“Ten Years After 9/11: Challenges for the Decade to Come”, Paul N. Stockton is the assistant secretary of defense for Homeland Defense and Americas’ Security Affairs. Former director of the Naval Postgraduate School’s Center for Homeland Defense and Security. Homeland Security Affairs is the online journal of the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security http://www.hsaj.org/?fullarticle=7.2.11//uwyokb]

Second, as NLE 11 demonstrated, complex catastrophes may create cascading, region-wide failures of critical infrastructure, starting with the disruption of the commercial electric power grid. A 7.7 New Madrid earthquake would produce vastly greater damage to the grid than occurred in Hurricane Katrina or any other disaster in US history.[4](http://www.hsaj.org/?fullarticle=7.2.11" \l "fn4) The net effect of physical damage to high-voltage transformers and other hard-to-replace components could be lengthy power outages across numerous states, with the potential for post-quake rolling blackouts also occurring in Chicago, the Eastern United States, and elsewhere.[5](http://www.hsaj.org/?fullarticle=7.2.11" \l "fn5)

## Warming

#### Newest data proves sun activity can’t explain warming

Foukai et al September 2006

[P., Heliophysics, Inc., C. Fröhlich, World Radiation Center, H. Spruit, Max Planck Inst. for Astrophysics, & T.M.L. Wigley, Nat Center for Atmospheric Rrch, “Variations in solar luminosity and their effect on the Earth’s climate,” *Nature* 443: 161-166, [www.nature.com/nature/journal/v443/n7108/abs/nature05072.html](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v443/n7108/abs/nature05072.html), acc. 9-20-06//uwyo-ajl]

Variations in the Sun's total energy output (luminosity) are caused by changing dark (sunspot) and bright structures on the solar disk during the 11-year sunspot cycle. The variations measured from spacecraft since 1978 are too small to have contributed appreciably to accelerated global warming over the past 30 years. In this Review, we show that detailed analysis of these small output variations has greatly advanced our understanding of solar luminosity change, and this new understanding indicates that brightening of the Sun is unlikely to have had a significant influence on global warming since the seventeenth century. Additional climate forcing by changes in the Sun's output of ultraviolet light, and of magnetized plasmas, cannot be ruled out. The suggested mechanisms are, however, too complex to evaluate meaningfully at present.

## Politics

#### Congress supports wind—PTC and ITC prove

Pasolini 4 Jan

[Pasolini, Antonio: alternative energy, green living, and sustainability journalist. "Congress extends tax credit for sustainable wind energy in 2013." *Just Means*. Just Means, 4 Jan 2013. Web. 8 Jan 2013. <http://www.justmeans.com/Congress-extends-tax-credit-for-sustainable-wind-energy-in-2013/57325.html>. //Wyo-BF]

After a long campaign by wind energy stakeholders, Congress has included the extension of wind energy tax credits in final passage of a bill to avert the "fiscal cliff" that now moves to President Obama for his expected signature. Half of the American jobs in wind energy, or 37,000 out of 75,000, and hundreds of U.S. factories in the supply chain, would have been at stake had the Production Tax Credit (PTC) been allowed to expire, according to a study by Navigant Consulting. The news was welcomed by the wind energy sector as the continuation of policies are expected to save jobs as well as revive business at nearly 500 manufacturing facilities across the country. The American Wind Energy Association said the extension of the PTC and Investment Tax Credits for community and offshore projects will keep the momentum for the industry, which installed the most new electrical generating capacity in America during 2012, with factories or wind farms in all 50 states. Wind set a new record in 2012 by installing 44 percent of all new electrical generating capacity in America, according to the Energy Information Administration, leading the electric sector compared with 30 percent for natural gas, and lesser amounts for coal and other sources. The version included in the deal covers all wind projects that start construction in 2013. Companies that manufacture wind turbines and install them sought that definition to allow for the 18-24 months it takes to develop a new wind farm. Leaders of the Senate Finance Committee included that version in a "tax extenders" package they assembled in August, which made it into the overall fiscal cliff deal that passed the Senate on January 1st and the House on the evening of that same day. The bill is expected to be swiftly signed into law by President Obama, who is a supporter of wind energy tax credits.

#### Hagel nomination costs the agenda.

Ryan Lizza, The New Yorker’s Washington correspondent. He covers the 2012 Presidential campaign and national politics,” WILL HAGEL SPIKE THE G.O.P.’S FEVER?”, 1/7/2013. http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/bios/ryan\_lizza/search?contributorName=Ryan%20Lizza&currentPage=all#ixzz2HP2N6pD5

There simply isn’t much common ground between Obama and most House Republicans on the agenda he’s chosen. On every front, Obama is challenging the G.O.P.’s most intransigent interest groups. He’s taking on the anti-tax activists who have controlled Republican economic thinking for decades. He’s taking on the Republicans’ Tea Party base over immigration, an issue that polls (and the Republican Presidential primaries) have shown to be more intense than almost any other for grassroots conservatives. He’s taking on the previously untouchable National Rifle Association with his coming proposals to regulate firearms.¶ And with today’s nomination of Hagel, Obama will open a new front against Republican neoconservatives, who control foreign policy in the G.O.P. It’s doubtful that the votes to defeat Hagel will materialize in the Senate, but a President’s political capital, especially in a second term, depletes quickly after his election. Even if Obama prevails, the Hagel fight will have a cost to the rest of his agenda.¶ The past few weeks have made clear that none of these policy battles were settled by the election. If anything, Obama’s victory may have caused the fever to spike.

#### No compromise coming now

Boston Globe, 1/7

Lawmakers remain stubborn on debt stances Veiled threats, accusations greet next crisis, http://bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2013/01/07/lawmakers-dig-heels-debt-crisis/pOvrmWr0NqPhRdBZ9cSViL/story.html

Congressional leaders on Sunday showed no signs of resolving the next phase of the financial crisis, with Democrats still talking about higher taxes on the wealthy and the Senate’s top Republican suggesting that a crippling default on US [loans](http://bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2013/01/07/lawmakers-dig-heels-debt-crisis/pOvrmWr0NqPhRdBZ9cSViL/story.html) was possible unless there are significant cuts in government spending. ‘‘It’s a shame we have to use whatever leverage we have in Congress to get the president to deal with the biggest problem confronting our future, and that’s our excessive spending,’’ said Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, who appeared on three network news shows Sunday Last week’s deal to avert the combination of end-of-year tax increases and spending cuts known as the ‘‘fiscal cliff’’ held income tax rates steady for 99 percent of Americans but left some other major pieces of business unresolved. By late February or early March, the Treasury Department will run out of options to cover the nation’s debts and could begin defaulting on [government loans](http://bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2013/01/07/lawmakers-dig-heels-debt-crisis/pOvrmWr0NqPhRdBZ9cSViL/story.html) unless Congress raises the legal borrowing limit, or debt ceiling. Economists warn that a default could trigger a global recession. Also looming are deep automatic spending cuts expected to take effect at the beginning of March that could further erase fragile gains in the US economy. Then on March 27, the temporary measure that funds government activities expires, and congressional approval will be needed to keep the government running. It’s one more chance to fight over spending Lawmakers said debt talks will consume Congress in the coming weeks, likely delaying any consideration of an expected White [House proposal](http://bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2013/01/07/lawmakers-dig-heels-debt-crisis/pOvrmWr0NqPhRdBZ9cSViL/story.html) on gun restrictions following the Connecticut school shooting. Republicans say they are willing to raise the debt ceiling but insist any increase must be paired with significant savings from [Medicare](http://bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2013/01/07/lawmakers-dig-heels-debt-crisis/pOvrmWr0NqPhRdBZ9cSViL/story.html), Medicaid and other government benefit programs. President Obama has said he’s willing to consider spending cuts separately but won’t bargain over the government’s borrowing authority.

#### Offshore wind is bi-partisan

NAW, 11

North American Wind “New Bipartisan Legislation Proposes Offshore Wind Energy Tax Credit” <http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.8790>, accessed 11/7/12,WYO/JF

U.S. Reps. Bill Pascrell Jr., D-N.J., and Frank LoBiondo, R-N.J., [have introduced](http://pascrell.house.gov/list/press/nj08_pascrell/pr101820112.shtml) bipartisan legislation to encourage offshore wind power investment off the coast of New Jersey. The Incentivizing Offshore Wind Power Act (H.R.3238) proposes to provide a 30%tax credit on investment in the first 3,000 MW of offshore wind. The secretary of the Treasury would have to consult with the secretaries of Energy and the Interior when establishing this credit.

#### The economy is resilient

Lambro 8

 - chief political correspondent of The Washington Times (7/28/08, Donald Lambro, The Washington Times, "Always darkest before dawn", lexis)

**The doom-and-gloomers are still with us, of course, and they will go to their graves forecasting that life as we know it is coming to an end and that we are in for years of economic depression and recession**. Last week, the New York Times ran a Page One story maintaining that Americans were saving less than ever, and that their debt burden had risen by an average of $117,951 per household. And the London Telegraph says there are even harder times ahead, comparing today's economy to the Great Depression of the 1930s. Wall Street economist David Malpass thinks **that kind of fearmongering is filled with manipulated statistics that ignore long-term wealth creation in our country, as well as globally**. Increasingly, **people are investing "for the long run** - for capital gains (not counted in savings) rather than current income - in preparation for retirement," he told his clients last week. **Instead of a coming recession, "we think the U.S. is in gradual recovery after a sharp** two-quarter **slowdown, with** consumer **resilience more likely than the decades-old expectation** of a consumer slump," Mr. Malpass said. "**Fed data shows clearly that** household **savings** of all types - liquid, financial and tangible - **are** still **close to** the **record levels** set in September. IMF data shows U.S. households holding more net financial savings than the rest of the world combined. **Consumption** **has** repeatedly **outperformed expectations in recent quarters** and year," he said. **The American economy has been pounded by a lot of factors**, including the housing collapse (a needed correction to bring home prices down to earth), the mortgage scandal and the meteoric rise in oil and gas prices. **But this $14 trillion economy**, though slowing down, **continues to grow** by about 1 percent on an annualized basis, confounding the pessimists who said we were plunging into a recession, defined by negative growth over two quarters. That has not happened - yet. Call me a cockeyed optimist, but I do not think we are heading into a recession. On the contrary, I'm more bullish than ever on our economy's long-term prospects.

## REM

#### No shortage – there’s seven times the neodymium needed to solve

Jacobson,12

Stanford Atmosphere/Energy Program and Salerno, AWEA Industry Data and Analysis Director, 9-14-12 Mark, Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor, and Elizabeth, “Wind Power Plentiful, Study Says,” NPR, [www.npr.org/2012/09/14/161156783/wind-power-plentiful-study-says](http://www.npr.org/2012/09/14/161156783/wind-power-plentiful-study-says), accessed 12/12/12,WYO/JF
A lot of interesting tweets coming in wondering about do we have the resources to build all those wind turbines, Mark? I mean... JACOBSON: In fact we looked at the materials needed, and so for example for wind turbines, you need a rare earth element called neodymium, and there's actually about seven times more neodymium resources available that we know of worldwide than you would need to produce four million large wind turbines. And there's plenty of steel and concrete, as well. So the resources are not limits. SALERNO: Let me add that there was actually a study that was done. I mean, this is a great question, something we've asked, as well. There was a study done back in 2008, actually under the Bush administration, looking at what would it take for us to do 20 percent of our generation from wind in the United States. And it looked at the technical needs, the steel, concrete, all of the different component parts, the transmission, the human resources, all the skilled labor. And it looked at all of those elements and said yes, it is not only technically possible, but it economically makes sense for this country. And it was a technical study, not necessarily a goal, but it was something that we looked at, and we've decided that we can get there. We can get to 20 percent, and if you look at where we're at today in the U.S., we're actually on track to get to 20 percent by 2030.

#### Wind turbines are mostly made of fiberglass, and also contain copper, steel, and sometimes woods and aluminum

**Eggleston et al. No Date**[*Assessment of Research Needs for Wind Turbine Rotor Materials Technology.,* Eggleston, David M. *Wind Turbine Engineering Design.*Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1987.
<<http://www.madehow.com/Volume-1/Wind-Turbine.html#b>>]

The nacelle is a strong, hollow shell that contains the inner workings of the wind turbine. **Usually made of fiberglass, the nacelle contains the main drive shaft and the gearbox. It also contains the blade pitch control, a hydraulic system that controls the angle of the blades, and the yaw drive, which controls the position of the turbine relative to the wind**. **The generator and electronic controls are standard equipment whose main components are steel and copper**. A typical nacelle for a current turbine weighs approximately 22,000 pounds. The most diverse use of materials and the most experimentation with new materials occur with the blades. **Although the most dominant material used for the blades in commercial wind turbines is fiberglass with a hollow core, other materials in use include lightweight woods and aluminum.** Wooden blades are solid, but most blades consist of a skin surrounding a core that is either hollow or filled with a lightweight substance such as plastic foam or honeycomb, or balsa wood. A typical fiberglass blade is about 15 meters in length and weighs approximately 2,500 pounds. Wind turbines also include a utility box, which converts the wind energy into electricity and which is located at the base of the tower. Various cables connect the utility box to the nacelle, while others connect the whole turbine to nearby turbines and to a transformer.

## CP

#### Nuclear reactors use an abundant amount of REMs; plan would explode consumption rates

Abbott 2012

[Abbott 2012 – Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, “Limits to growth: Can nuclear power supply the world’s needs?” Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists 68(5) 23–32, http://www.eleceng.adelaide.edu.au/Personal/dabbott/publications/BAS\_abbott2012//wyo-ng]

One important question has been neglected in the nuclear debate: What materials make up a nuclear vessel and core? It turns out that a host of exotic, rare metals are used to control and contain the nuclear reaction. For example, hafnium is a neutron absorber; beryllium is a neutron reflector; zirconium is used for fuel cladding; and many other exotic metals, such as niobium, are used to alloy steel to make the vessel withstand 40 to 60 years of neutron embrittlement. An examination of the relative abundance of chemical elements in Earth’s crust shows that many of the metals used for nuclear containment are in low abundance (Abbott, 2011). What is alarming is that the annual growth rates in consumption of these metals (typically in the 10 to 20 percentrange)17 are enormous compared with, say, the growth rate for consumption of crude oil which has dropped below zero in recent years (Abbott, 2011). If we were to scale up to 15,000 reactors, we would either rapidly exhaust these materials or drive them into a highprice- volatility regime, creating market instability. In a nuclear utopia, a new nuclear station would need to be finished every day. In such a scenario, the supply of containment materials would not be able to keep up with the construction demand.

#### No solvency, they don’t reduce old reactors prone to meltdowns.

#### Can’t solve case

#### SMRs can’t solve warming – they take too long

Makhijani 10

[ARJUN MAKHIJANI, electrical and nuclear engineer who is President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research MICHELE BOYD, former director of the Safe Energy Program at Physicians for Social Responsibility, Small Modular Reactors No Solution for the Cost, Safety, and Waste Problems of Nuclear Power,”http://www.psr.org/nuclear-bailout/resources/small-modular-reactors-no.pdf, September, \\wyo-bb]

Not a climate solution Efficiency and most renewable technologies are already cheaper than new large reactors. The long time—a decade or more—that it will take to certify SMRs will do little or nothing to help with the global warming problem and will actually complicate current efforts underway. For example, the current schedule for commercializing the above-ground sodium cooled reactor in Japan extends to 2050, making it irrelevant to addressing the climate problem. Relying on assurances that SMRs will be cheap is contrary to the experience about economies of scale and is likely to waste time and money, while creating new safety and proliferation risks, as well as new waste disposal problems.

#### . Nuke energy contributes to grid and electricity problems

Dittmar, 2012

[Michael, Institute of particle physics, “Nuclear energy: Status and future limitations.” Energy, Volume 37, Issue 1, January 2012, Pages 35–40, 7th Biennial International Workshop “Advances in Energy Studies” Accessed online via science direct] /Wyo-MB

The status of nuclear energy today and its potential evolution during the next 10–20 years is discussed. Nuclear energy contributes only about 14% of the world’s electric energy mix today, and as electric energy contributes itself only about 16% to the end energy use, its contribution is essentially negligible. § Marked 13:08 § Still, nuclear energy is plagued already with a long list of unsolved problems. Among the less known problems one finds the difficulties that nuclear plants cannot provide power according to needs, but have to be operated at full power also during times of low demand and regions with large contributions from nuclear power need some backup hydropower storage systems. The better known problems, without solutions since at least 40 years, are the final safe storage of the accumulated highly radioactive nuclear waste, that uranium itself is a very limited and non renewable energy resource and that enormous amounts of human resources, urgently needed to find a still unknown path towards a low energy future, are blocked by useless research on fusion energy. Thus, nuclear energy is not a solution to our energy worries but part of the problem.

# 1AR

#### Offshore wind growth in Asia should have triggered the link

Christine Gaylican, 11

“Rare Earth Elements Supply Under Pressure Due to Asia Wind Farm Projects” <http://www.offshorewind.biz/2011/11/16/rare-earth-elements-supply-under-pressure-due-to-asia-wind-farm-projects/>, accessed 12/12/12,WYO/JF

China and South Korea’s planned investment in offshore wind farms, amounting close to $25 billion in the near future, could also affect on rare earths production. The increasing demand for environment-friendly and energy-efficient power generation is forcing China and South Korea to invest in offshore wind farms. The steel-making industries of both countries need huge amounts of power to fire up their factories. Rare earths industry pundits said the extent of these projects, which could produce close to 33 gigawatts of electricity by 2019 to 2020, would further push the demand for rare earths in the Asia-Pacific Region. Oceanpowermagazine.net reported that “the South Korean government has joined the frenzy regarding offshore wind development in the Asia-Pacific region. On the heels of China’s big investment announcement in offshore wind energy capacity, the South Koreans, who currently import 97 percent of their energy needs, will invest $9 billion U.S. dollars to develop a 2.5 gigawatt offshore wind farm by 2019, the largest in the country. “This is not just about providing much-needed domestic energy production. The South Korean government is leading the project and is planning to procure turbines from eight local suppliers. The intent is to also build capacity in the [wind turbine](http://www.offshorewind.biz/2011/11/16/rare-earth-elements-supply-under-pressure-due-to-asia-wind-farm-projects/) business, taking on Europe, the U.S. and China. The South Koreans will spend about $1 billion U.S. this year on feed in tariffs to support solar, wind and other renewable energy projects.” The Chinese Communist Party’s official newspaper, The People’s Daily, reported that China plans to increase installed capacity of its offshore wind power sector to 30 gigawatts by 2020 with investments of almost $16 billion in U.S. dollars. China is new to the offshore wind energy market with only 142,500 kilowatts of installed capacity at the end of 2010, the result of only one project, the Shanghai Donghai Bridge. The various and extensive use of permanent magnets in electronic gadgets, radars, hybrid cars, energy efficient [solar panels](http://www.offshorewind.biz/2011/11/16/rare-earth-elements-supply-under-pressure-due-to-asia-wind-farm-projects/) and wind turbines will continuously push the demand and price for rare earths in 2012, IBTimes.com earlier reported. This is the assessment of U.S. rare earths producer Molycorp CEO Mike Smith in a dialogue with company shareholders led by Baron Capital Chairman and CEO Ron Baron.

#### US Ramping up domestic production

NYT, 7-5-12
(“U.S. Rare Earths Comments on Reported Chinese Heavy Rare Earths Stockpile Strategy”, Accessed 9-22-12,<http://markets.on.nytimes.com/research/stocks/news/press_release.asp?docTag=201207050930BIZWIRE_USPRX____BW5514&feedID=600&press_symbol=16888085)>, accessed 12/12/12,WYO/JF

“This news, as we ready our 2012 Drill Program, is another signal that we have to move rapidly to bring new REE mines into production,” said CEO Michael D. Parnell. “U.S. Rare Earths is doing all we can to be a reliable source for the full range of rare earths with our primary focus on the heavies.” U.S. Rare Earths’ properties in Idaho and Montana, including Lemhi Pass, have been recognized in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Critical Materials Strategy publication to have significant showings of Heavy Rare Earth Elements, in particular for the five Rare Earths identified by DOE as being at “Critical Risk”: Dysprosium, Europium, Neodymium, Terbium and Yttrium. The Company announced on June 22 that surface rock sampling conducted in the fourth quarter 2011 at its Idaho and Montana properties near Lemhi Pass and North Fork Idaho, along with results from sampling in 2009 and 2010 indicate the presence of Total Rare Earth (TRE) ranging as high as 26%.

#### Squo solves the DA – Malaysian mines breaks monopoly within 2 years

Rhodes 11

(Chris Rhodes, Forbes Contributor, 3/28/11, “Rare Earth Elements And Thorium Power” http://www.forbes.com/sites/energysource/2011/03/28/rare-earth-elements-and-thorium-power/)

A controversial REE processing plant is to be built by the Australian mining company Lynas in Malaysia where it is argued that environmental protection laws are less rigorous than in Australia. The plant is predicted to produce one third of global demand for REEs in two years, hence breaking the Chinese monopoly. It is intended to bury the thorium in concrete, but a better option would be to use the material as a nuclear fuel in place of uranium, the price of which has recently risen above $100/pound, in coincidence with the price of crude oil, which is now also above $100/barrel.

#### Nuke energy contributes to grid and electricity problems

Dittmar, 2012

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The status of nuclear energy today and its potential evolution during the next 10–20 years is discussed. Nuclear energy contributes only about 14% of the world’s electric energy mix today, and as electric energy contributes itself only about 16% to the end energy use, its contribution is essentially negligible. Still, nuclear energy is plagued already with a long list of unsolved problems. Among the less known problems one finds the difficulties that nuclear plants cannot provide power according to needs, but have to be operated at full power also during times of low demand and regions with large contributions from nuclear power need some backup hydropower storage systems. The better known problems, without solutions since at least 40 years, are the final safe storage of the accumulated highly radioactive nuclear waste, that uranium itself is a very limited and non renewable energy resource and that enormous amounts of human resources, urgently needed to find a still unknown path towards a low energy future, are blocked by useless research on fusion energy. Thus, nuclear energy is not a solution to our energy worries but part of the problem.