

CCNPP3COLA PEmails

From: Chris Bush [chris.bush@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2010 9:10 PM
To: Susan.Krebs@house.state.md.us; michael.dresser@baltsun.com; andrew.green@baltsun.com; capletts@capitalgazette.com; rmarkus@dhr.state.md.us; Stephen Janis; sjanis@gmail.com; MDMorning; amanda@sfbg.com; info@midamerican.com; jessica@40centerforemergingmedia.ccsend.com; david.nitkin@baltsun.com; ileech@vt.edu; dborelli@nationalcenter.org; laura.vozzella@baltsun.com; gdubois@pol.net; jfunk@plaind.com; Governor Martin O'Malley; annmarie.doory@house.state.md.us; maggie.mcintosh@house.state.md.us; Thomas.V.Mike.Miller@senate.state.md.us; Michael.Busch@house.state.md.us; tim.wheeler@baltsun.com; George.Della@senate.state.md.us; Shawn.Tarrant@house.state.md.us; Barbara.Robinson@house.state.md.us; Nathaniel.Oaks@house.state.md.us; Frank.Conaway@house.state.md.us; Emmett.Burns@house.state.md.us; melvin.stukes@house.state.md.us; gadi.dechter@baltsun.com; daytondaily@coxohio.com; andy.green@baltsun.com; Andrew.Harris@senate.state.md.us; Pipkin, E.J. Senator; julie.scharper@baltsun.com; Katherine.Klausmeier@senate.state.md.us; Sue.Kullen@house.state.md.us; andrea.siegel@baltsun.com; michael@cpbaltimore.org; letters@washpost.com; sean@progressivemaryland.org; bunnysox2@aol.com; letters@baltsun.com; Jon Cardin; info@sarbanesforbaltimore.com; aldshropshire@annapolis.gov; brian@illinoispirg.org; john@sarbanesforcongress.com; rsmith@wbal.com; editor@gazette.net; Info@opc.state.md.us; elaine.garven@baltimorecity.gov; campaign@martinomalley.com; John.Astle@senate.state.md.us; jay.hancock@baltsun.com; Joan.Carter.Conway@senate.state.md.us; Jill.Carter@house.state.md.us; CurtAnderson@aol.com; Catherine.Pugh@house.state.md.us; Johanna Neumann; Nancy_Jacobs@senate.state.md.us; MayorSD@baltimorecity.gov; John.Fritze@baltsun.com; Adams, Paul; Pat McDonough; dan.rodricks@baltsun.com; Edwards, George Senator; liz.kay@baltsun.com; jean.marbella@baltsun.com; Edward.Kasemeyer@senate.state.md.us; Jim.Brochin@senate.state.md.us; reinl@washpost.com; Brian.McHale@house.state.md.us; jim.rosapepe@senate.state.md.us; jes.phillips@gmail.com; fsmith@wypr.org; council1@baltimorecountymd.gov; council2@baltimorecountymd.gov; council3@baltimorecountymd.gov; council4@baltimorecountymd.gov; council6@baltimorecountymd.gov; council7@baltimorecountymd.gov; cball@howardcountymd.gov; gfox@howardcountymd.gov; jtterasa@howardcountymd.gov; mksigaty@howardcountymd.gov; Mike Tidwell, CCAN; H. Russell Frisby, Jr.; laura.smitherman@baltsun.com; fahrenheit@washpost.com; scott.calvert@baltsun.com; Leslie M. Romine; Steven R. Weiss; dan.neil@latimes.com; Bernard Young; Stephanie Rawlings-Blake; James Kraft; Robert Curran; Bill Henry; Rochelle Spector; Sharon Green Middleton; Belinda Conaway; governor@gov.state.md; donaldf@gbc.org; pwilkins@baltimoredevelopment.com; Gould, Robert; kenneth.w.defontes@constellation.com; bruce@wbal.com; Gov. Martin O'Malley; dnazarian@psc.state.md.us; liz.bowie@baltsun.com

Cc: DEMOCRACY4Baltimore; DFHdiscussions@yahoogroups.com; DII@yahoogroups.com; mgp-disc@yahoogroups.com

Subject: Electricity Crisis 02-07-10 Balt Cnty Officials Tell Residents to Shovel Their Own Streets: Meantime, 300 NG Troops in Aghanistan

Attachments: Electricity Crisis-3 02-06-10 BGE Now Sez 250 MORE Out-of-State Workers Coming (In Addition to 300)_ Again, WHY AREN'T THEY ALREADY HERE_____.eml; Fw_2 Electricity Crisis 01-04-10 Global Warming Makes MD Cold!!_ Greenland is 76 Degrees WARMER than North Canada, Detouring Cold Into US- Weather Channel.eml

Electricity Crisis 02-07-10

^ [LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON...AND THEN SOME](#)...in the EC 02-05-10, yours truly, in an article on the NY AG, inadvertantly referred to him as "Mario" Cuomo (as I'm a knee-jerk liberal- and proud of it- whenever I hear the name "Cuomo", my first instinct is to think "Mario")...Former NY Gov. Mario is the father of the AG, of course, whose name is "Andrew" Cuomo...a mistake

of respect, for Andrew certainly follows in Mario's footsteps- even more so on the pro-consumer front, in my view; a miscue I'm happy to correct-cb

COMING IN THE EC 02-08-10:

^ CHRIS BUSH QUESTIONS THE INDEPENDENCE OF CEG'S ACCOUNTING FIRM, PRICE WATERHOUSE COOPERS (PWC), AFTER A NYT STORY INFERS THAT PWC COMPROMISED ITS INDEPENDENCE AS REGARDS THE GOLDMAN-SACHS, AIG CONTROVERSY...PWC

pressured AIG in an effort to induce AIG to change the valuation calculations involved on its Credit Default Swaps...PWC was the audit firm for BOTH Goldman Sachs and AIG...PWC's action followed efforts by Goldman to pressure AIG on exactly this point...an audit firm must maintain it's independence, and the NYT story on this issue infers that PWC may have compromised it's independence due to pressure from GS...as PWC is CEG's audit firm, hence the concern

^ VICTORY FOR BOB EHRLICH: OPPOSITION TO HEALTH REFORM HAS NOW ALLOWED A 39% INCREASE IN HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS IN CA- LOOK FOR MD TO DO THE SAME IN THE NEAR FUTURE...folks w/ individual insurance policies in California are now facing a 39% premium increase...Ehrlich is no doubt happy, as the former Gov fought tooth and nail to defeat health care reform...when these hikes do arrive in MD, look for even MORE stress on already struggling BGE households

^ A LOOK AT ANNAPOLIS AND ELECTRICITY/ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS...the first of a series of reviews on various bills in the hopper on electricity, wind, solar, etc

^ CHRIS BUSH TO FILE COMPLAINT W/ PSC, SEEKING ELIMINATION OF "REVENUE DECOUPLING" AS AN UNCONSTITUTIONAL TAKING..."Revenue Decoupling" allows BGE to INCREASE rates when consumption declines..."When a customer does NOT use a product like electricity, charging him MORE as a result is a unconstitutional taking", Chris Bush said. "Hopefully, the PSC will end the practice. But, if the regulators defer to the legislative statute creating revenue decoupling, then a lawsuit will be filed, on constitutional grounds", Bush added.

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+ **Balt Cnty Officials Tell Residents to Shovel Their Own Streets: Meantime, 300 NG Troops in Afghanistan**

~ Baltimore County Rep Tim Burgess Sez Frozen Condition of Snow Makes Small Plows Incapable of Clearing Side Roads

~ While Large Plows are Too Big to Head Down Side Streets

~ Burgess Sez, Until It's Warmer, Neighborhood Residents Will Have to Dig Out Their Own Roads

~ That's Understandable, BUT if the 300 National Guard Troops in Afghanistan Were Back in Maryland, They Certainly Could Assist in this Regard

~ This is NOT a Hypothetical: the Middies at the Naval Academy are Busy Digging Out Senior Citizens in Annapolis

~ While the Midshipmen Participation was Voluntary, They are Nonetheless to be Commended for their Service- Such Kudos Also Extended to the Students at St. John's who Also Donated Their Time in this Regard

~ The Point Here, Though, is that In Such Weather Events, ALL Hands Need to be on Deck in Maryland, and the Troops in Afghanistan SHOULD be Back in the Free State Helping as Well

+ **Baltimore Sun CORRECTLY Reports on the Hard Work of BGE Line Personnel Restoring Power...BUT, Sun's Pro-BGE Bias Shows, Cuz the Issue at Hand is the NUMBER of Line**

Personnel, Including Powerlinemen from Out-of-State, Who were Summoned to Restore Power, but NOT Called Up in a Timely Manner

~ Again, Yes, the BGE Line Workers are to be Commended, BUT BGE Itself Dawdled on Calling for Additional Help, Which Resulted in UNnecessary Delays in Power Restoration
~ It Was BGE Brass who Cut Corners, and Thus did NOT Bring in Backup on a Timely Basis, Which Would Have Otherwise Helped to Lighten the Load of those Committed BGE Line Workers

+ Massive Government Internet Surveillance Sucked Up Bill Clinton's Emails- Julian Sanchez, Research Fellow at the Cato Institute and a Contributing Editor of Reason Magazine, in The Nation Magazine

~ Also, Cuz of the SHEER Size of "Internettapping" Opens Up Opportunities for Hackers to INTERCEPT Govt Investigative Actions Via the Telecoms?!?!?!?

~ You Sure You Want BGE to Track Home Electricity Usage- in Light of Such ABUSE of Privacy ALREADY Occurring????

~ Beware: "Shark Meters" Likely to be Incorporated into Routine Government Internet Surveillance of Citizens

+ Update on Chris Bush's Court Case Against the PSC, Case No. 24-C-10-000-242

~ BGE, the PSC, the Office of People's Counsel (OPC), the AG, the Maryland Energy Administration have All Joined in the Case

~ PSC Has- No Surprise There- Filed a Motion to Dismiss Case

~ Hearing Set for Feb. 24, 2010

+ Natural Gas Propaganda on WBAL

~ Republican Supporter Ron Smith Backs LNG Terminal at Sparrows Point

~ Ron Smith has Pro-Exxon quest, Max Schulz, on his Show on WBAL on Friday, Feb. 5, 2010, During the 4:37pm segment, pushing "Fracking" for Natural Gas in the Marcellus Share region (which includes Western Maryland) and elsewhere

~ Here's the Issue: There are MAJOR PROBLEMS w/ Fracking, Including Contamination of Drinking Water, RADIOACTIVITY, and Disposition of Liquid Residue

~ Republican Backer Smith also Concurs w/ caller that LNG terminal at Sparrows Point is a good thing, Making Fun of Ben Cardin's Safety Concerns

~ Smith also discloses his "friend" who's a BIG Shareholder of Exxon-Mobil

~ (NOTE: Smith IS a Phantaphile- Protestations to the Contrary Notwithstanding- Cuz Squawk Show Man Promulgates Koch Family Doctrine, and the Koch's Support GOP Candidates for Congress [Yes, Sometimes Primary Challengers of Incumbent Republicans, but the Challengers are Phants Nevertheless]; Also, Smith Sez he Voted for Ron Paul Over John McCain in 2008: Here' the Problem w/ that; While Yours Truly Admires Ron Paul- and Supports his Son, Rand, for KY Senate in the GOP Primary- Ron Paul IS a Registered Republican)-cb

+ A Look at Obama's Mixed Messages on Nuclear

~ BOB Added \$54 BILLION DOLLARS fo Nuke Loan Guarantees in his State of the Union

~ BUT, His Administration has been Stalling on Loan Guarantee Awards

~ Whose Side IS the President On???

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> Balt Cnty Officials Tell Residents to Shovel Their Own Streets: Meantime, 300 NG Troops in Afghanistan...

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- see the baltsun.com link

- Baltimore County officials tell residents to shovel their own streets: County Rep Tim Burgess sez the snow is too frozen for small plows, and big plows are too large to navigate down tertiary roads ("baltsun", paragraphs 1-2, 5-7):

Digging out of the great snow of February 2010 is going to take a while, county and city officials said on Sunday, and freeing every neighborhood may take some shoveling from residents.

Most main roads are now in good shape, transportation officials say, but smaller, secondary roads will take more time to clear with freezing temperatures making it difficult to push two feet of snow off the roads.

Baltimore County's Tim Burgess said the cold temperatures have made it impossible for smaller, less powerful snow trucks built for narrower streets to move the two-plus feet of snow.

"The smaller trucks aren't capable of pushing it because they don't weigh enough," Burgess said. And, he said, the larger trucks cannot fit down streets without risk of damage to car mirrors and doors.

So until temperatures rise, he suggested residents of small streets dig the street area in front of their homes. In addition, residents could help by cleaning out around fire hydrants near their house.

- that's understandable, but if the 300 National Guard troops in Afghanistan were back in Maryland, those soldiers certainly could help in this regard

- and, this critique is NOT a hypothetical, either: the Middies from the Naval Academy are helping dig out senior citizens in Annapolis ("baltsun", paragraphs 33-35):

Dozens of Naval Academy midshipmen and students from St. John's College streamed off campus to shovel the driveways and steps of elderly Annapolis residents on Saturday, a volunteer effort coordinated by neighborhood activists.

Second-year Midshipman Michael Martin said he was happy to participate, after receiving an e-mail asking for help from his brigade.

"Not much was going on today," said Martin, 19, a Houston native who aided three families with the help of a group of classmates. "We don't get much of a chance to do stuff around town."

- while the Midshipmen's participation was voluntary, nevertheless, they are still to be commended, along w/ the studnets from St. John's

- the Navy example underscores the importance of all hands on deck in Maryland, as it were

> Baltimore Sun CORRECTLY Reports on the Hard Work of BGE Line Personnel Restoring Power...

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- see the baltsun.com link; "EC- 3 02-06-10" email attachment
- the Baltimore Sun CORRECTLY reports on the hard work of BGE line personnel restoring power during the "snowmageddon" ("baltsun", paragraphs 3-7,

Few secondary roads were plowed when BGE service operator Dave Himlin headed toward Canton on his first call of the day at 7 a.m., and he couldn't get close to the green electrical equipment box with the problem. He walked through more than 2 feet of snow for blocks, then searched for a box.

"We sort of poked around with a stick," said Himlin, adding that they used GPS to locate it and fix the problem, restoring power to 386 customers.

Then they moved on to Banger Street in Southwest Baltimore, where the road was blocked by a car that had gotten stuck.

"We parked our truck, got out, walked a block and a half to assess the damage. We were in about 3 feet of snow," he said.

They found it impossible to get to the pole and left frustrated, but probably not as frustrated as the customers, Himlin said.

- the chores were compounded when some workers put in 12 hour periods, only to take a short breather at their homes which themselves suffered from lack of electricity ("baltsun", last 3 paragraphs):

Himlin was working a 12-hour shift Saturday on his eighth straight day of work, but he said he wasn't complaining. People they had met on the street had greeted them warmly.

"Everybody has had a lot of compassion for us," he said. "They are very understanding of what we are going through."

Himlin said it's hard, though, for BGE workers who are out on the streets all day and then return to a home without power.

- BUT, the Sun's pro-BGE bias shows, cuz the issue at hand is the NUMBER of line personnel, including powerlinemen from out-of-state, who were summoned to restore power
- again, yes, the BGE line workers are to be commended, BUT BGE itself dawdled on calling for additional help- waiting til Saturday to bring in backup, when it was clear earlier in the week that a massive storm was heading Maryland's way, and BGE itself was already telling its customers to batten down the hatches ("EC-3 02-06-10", first story)

- thus, the real issue- which the Sun is NOT reporting on- is how BGE brass tried to cut corners by NOT bringing in additional personnel, in a timely manner, to lighten the workload of those committed BGE workers
- (NOTE: this email is being sent to the Baltimore Sun's reporter Liz Bowie for her comments, if any, which will be posted here)-cb

http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/weather/bal-md.power07feb07_0,7662039.story

> Massive Government Internet Surveillance Sucked Up Bill Clinton's Emails- Julian Sanchez, Research Fellow at the Cato Institute and a Contributing Editor of Reason Magazine, in The Nation Magazine...

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...Beware: "Shark Meters" Likely to be Incorporated into Routine Government Internet Surveillance of Citizens

- see the nation.com link
- according to Julian Sanchez of the Cato Institute- in an article in the Nation magazine- massive government surveillance sucked up Bill Clinton's emails ("thenation", last paragraph)

Julian Sanchez is a research fellow at the Cato Institute and a contributing editor for Reason magazine.

The sweeping, programmatic NSA surveillance authorized by the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 has reportedly captured e-mails from the likes of former President Bill Clinton.

- if the NSA vacuums up Bill Clinton's private emails, that means the average US citizen is even more at risk
- the government, thus is WAY OVERspying on American citizens, ABUSING our privacy
- here's another twist: due to the sheer volume of "wirelesstapping" requests, hackers have demonstrated the ability to hack into telecom software- INTERCEPTING the government's own investigatory data?!?!?! ("thenation", paragraphs 12-13,1-4):

Behold the vicious cycle. Weakened statutory standards have made it easier and more attractive for intelligence and law enforcement agencies to seek information from providers. On top of the thousands of wiretap and so-called "pen/trap" orders approved each year, there are tens of thousands of National Security Letters and subpoenas. At the ISS World conference, a representative of Cricket, one of the smaller wireless providers, estimated that her company gets 200 law enforcement requests per day, all told; giants like [Verizon](#) have said they receive "tens of thousands" annually. (Those represent distinct legal demands for information; Sprint's "8 million" refers to individual electronic requests for updates on a target's location.)

Telecoms respond to the crush of requests by building a faster, more seamless, more user-friendly process for dealing with those requests--further increasing the appeal of such tools to law enforcement. Unfortunately, insecurity loves company: more information flowing to more legitimate users is that much more difficult to lock down effectively. Later in his conference, the Sprint representative at ISS World speculated that someone who mocked up a phony legal request and faxed it to a random telecom would have a good chance of getting it answered. The recipients just can't thoroughly vet every request they get.

In a major [speech](#) on Internet freedom last week, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urged American tech companies to "take a proactive role in challenging foreign governments' demands for censorship and surveillance." Her call to action

followed a series of dazzlingly sophisticated [cyberattacks](#) against online giant Google and more than thirty other major technology companies, believed to originate in the People's Republic of China. Few observers have found the Chinese government's staunch [denials](#) of involvement persuasive--but the attacks should also spur our own government to review the ways our burgeoning surveillance state has made us more vulnerable.

The Google hackers appear to have been interested in, among other things, gathering information about Chinese dissidents and human rights activists--and they evidently succeeded in obtaining account information and e-mail subject lines for a number of Gmail users. While Google is understandably reluctant to go into detail about the mechanics of the breach, a source at the company told [ComputerWorld](#) "they apparently were able to access a system used to help Google comply with [US] search warrants by providing data on Google users." In other words, a portal set up to help the American government catch criminals may have proved just as handy at helping the Chinese government find dissidents.

In a way, the hackers' strategy makes perfect sense. Communications networks are generally designed to restrict outside access to their users' private information. But the goal of government surveillance is to create a breach-by-design, a deliberate backdoor into otherwise carefully secured systems. The appeal to an intruder is obvious: Why waste time with retail hacking of many individual targets when you can break into the network itself and spy wholesale?

The Google hackers are scarcely the first to exploit such security holes. In the summer of 2004, unknown intruders managed to activate [wiretapping software](#) embedded in the systems of Greece's largest cellular carrier. For ten months, the hackers eavesdropped on the cellphone calls of more than 100 prominent citizens--including the prime minister, opposition members of parliament, and high cabinet officials.

- are you sure you want BGE to track home electricity usage- in light of such ABUSE of privacy ALREADY occurring????
- beware: "Shark Meters" are likely to be incorporated into routine government internet surveillance of citizens

<http://www.thenation.com/doc/20100215/sanchez>

> Update on Chris Bush's Court Case Against the PSC, Case No. 24-C-10-000-242...

...BGE, the PSC, the Office of People's Counsel (OPC), the AG, the Maryland Energy Administration have All Joined in the Case...

...PSC Has- No Surprise There- Filed a Motion to Dismiss Case...

...Hearing Set for Feb. 24, 2010

- see the casesearch.courts.state.md.us link
- yours truly timely filed a Petition for Judicial Review on Nov. 25, 2009 against the PSC regarding it's decision in Case No. 9173, the CEG/EDF case
- the Clerk's office of the Baltimore City Circuit Court has now confirmed that Nov. 25, 2009 is the correct filing date (after some missteps by the Clerks' office as regards the Nov. 25, 2009 filing) ("casesearch", paragraph 1; 9th citation):

Court System: Circuit Court for Baltimore City - Civil System
Case Number: 24C10000242
Title: In The Matter Of The Petition Of Chris Bush
Case Type: Administrative Agency Appeal Filing Date: 11/25/2009
Case Status: Open/Active
Disposition Date:
Case Disposition:

Doc No./Seq No.: 9/0
File Date: 01/23/2010 Close Date: 01/23/2010 Decision:
Party Type: Petitioner Party No.: 1

Document
Name: (AMENDED) Notice of Petition for Judicial Review

Correct date was corrected from 1/12/10 to 11/25/09
Filed by PET001-Bush, ADA001-The Public Service Commission Of Maryland, ITP001-Baltimore Gas And Electric Company

- BGE, the PSC, the Office of People's Counsel (OPC), the AG's Office, and the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) have all Joined the Case ("casesearch", paragraphs 4-12):

Related Persons Information

(Each Related person is displayed below)

Party Type: Administrative AgencyParty No.:1

Business or Organization Name: The Public Service Commission Of Maryland

Address: Wm Donald Schaefer Tower

City: BaltimoreState:MDZip Code:21202

Attorney(s) for the Related Persons

Name: English, Joseph M

Practice Name: Office Of General Counsel/Public Service Commission

Address: 6 St. Paul Street

16th Flr.

City: BaltimoreState:MDZip Code:21202

Party Type: Interested PartyParty No.:1

Business or Organization Name: Baltimore Gas And Electric Company

Party Type: Interested PartyParty No.:2

Business or Organization Name: Maryland Office Of People's Counsel

Attorney(s) for the Related Persons

Name: Herzfeld, Ronald

Practice Name:

Address: 6 St. Paul Street

Suite 2102

City: BaltimoreState:MDZip Code:21202

Party Type: Interested PartyParty No.:3

Business or Organization Name: State Of Maryland

Attorney(s) for the Related Persons

Name: Auerbach, Esq, Joshua N

Practice Name: Office Of The Attorney General

Address: 200 Saint Paul Place

20th Floor

City: BaltimoreState:MDZip Code:21202-6701

Party Type: Interested PartyParty No.:4

Business or Organization Name: Maryland Energy Administration

Attorney(s) for the Related Persons

Name: Auerbach, Esq, Joshua N
Practice Name: Office Of The Attorney General
Address: 200 Saint Paul Place
20th Floor
City: BaltimoreState:MDZip Code:21202-6701

- the PSC has- no surprise there- filed a Motion to Dismiss ("casesearch", citation 10):

Doc No./Seq No.: 10/0

File Date: 01/22/2010Close Date:Decision:

Party Type: Administrative AgencyParty No.:1

Document Name: Motion to Dismiss

- a hearing has been set for Wed., Feb. 24, 2010 ("casesearch", paragraph 3):

Court Scheduling Information

Event Type: Motion Hearing (Civil)Notice Date:02/04/2010

Event Date: 02/24/2010Event Time:10:30 AM

Result: Result Date:

- stay tuned

<http://casesearch.courts.state.md.us/inquiry/inquiryDetail.jis?caseId=24C10000242&detailLoc=CC>

> Natural Gas Propaganda on WBAL...

...Republican Supporter Ron Smith Backs LNG Terminal at Sparrows Point...

...Ron Smith has Pro-Exxon guest , Max Schulz, on his Show on WBAL on Friday, Feb. 5, 2010, During the 4:37pm segment, pushing "Fracking" for Natural Gas in the Marcellus Share region (which includes Western Maryland) and elsewhere...

...Here's the Issue: There are MAJOR PROBLEMS w/ Fracking, Including Contamination of Drinking Water, RADIOACTIVITY, and Disposition of Liquid Residue...

...Republican Backer Smith also Concurs w/ caller that LNG terminal at Sparrows Point is a good thing, Making Fun of Ben Cardin's Safety Concerns...

...Smith also discloses his "friend" who's a BIG Shareholder of Exxon-Mobil/

(NOTE: Smith IS a Phantaphile- Protestations to the Contrary Notwithstanding- Cuz "Squawk Show Man" Promulgates Koch Family Doctrine, and the Koch's Support GOP Candidates for Congress [Yes, Sometimes Primary Challengers of Incumbent Republicans, but the Challengers are Phants Nevertheless]; Also, Smith Sez he Voted for Ron Paul Over John McCain in 2008: Here' the Problem w/ that; While Yours Truly Admires Ron Paul- and Supports his Son, Rand, for KY Senate in the GOP Primary- Ron Paul IS a Registered Republican)-cb

- see the Fw_2 EC 01-04-10 email attachment
- on his program on WBAL 1090 AM on Friday, Feb. 5, 2010, Republican supporter Ron Smith allowed his pro-Exxon guest, Max Schulz, to provide natural gas propaganda as regards the "positive future" of natural gas due to an extraction technique called "fracking", at the 4:37pm segment:

RS- incredible series of developments extraction and use of natural gas; Max Schultz, The American, journal of American Enterprise Institute; Senior Fellow Manhattan Institute

MS- energy debates, last decade and longer, questions oil, foreign oil; markets take their own terms; verge of natural gas revolution; technological innovations; tremendous deposits of NG accessible

MS- not just a couple of billion dollars, \$41 B to buy company, expertise extracting unconventional sources of Natural; hydraulic fracturing; old technology, drilling NG over century; ability to drill laterally, move around, not just dipping a straw, not use hundreds of holes, one drill in, wide area of ground underneath; oil is different from NG, fracking process, pushes gas up to service; marrying two processes, accessible huge stores of gas, marcellus shale

RS- how is it going to apply to propelling automobiles and trucks

MS- going to see, next decade, big switch large vehicles run easily on ng, personal vehicles, run on gasoline or ng; cost effective; readily available technology; supplies of NG; 5 years ago, worked at dept of energy, high level meetings, coming shortage of ng; really dire effects on economy; completely the opposite case, huge stores of natural gas; very cheap for years and years to come

- Schulz went on to paint a very promising landscape for the further benefits of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as the method to transport NG around the US- and the world, resulting in, as Ron Smith summarized, "the 20th century was a century of oil, the 21st century a century of Natural Gas" at 4:37pm:

RS- NG is dangerous, highly flammable, LNG solves

MS- NG and oil are fossil fuels, Exxon Mobil; transport very easily; oil; NG is much more difficult to transport, can't put in bucket and carry around; global market for oil for decades and decades, no foreign market for natural gas; all regionalized and balkanized; technologies, take NG, 1/ 600th of size, kind of frozen, ship in tankers, move around world; LNG... seeing, as we speak, global market for sort of thing;

RS- you say 20th century was century of oil, 21 century of natural gas; cuz we're seeing future abundant and inexpensive supply of natural gas, apply to electricity sector; 20% of electricity from ng, cause real problems, seems to be assurance on NG supplies in US and abroad

- what' WRONG with this picture?
- why is Chris Bush so down on Natural Gas?
- well, first, let's look at the process of extraction, called "fracking"
- in the EC 01-04-10, this writer highlighted SERIOUS PROBLEMS w/ the fracking process, including contamination of drinking water from the extraction residue- as well as RADIOACTIVITY- and disposition of fracking waste!?!? ("Fw_2 EC 01-04-10, 7th story, bullet points 4-8):

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- one problem with NG is how it's drilled: companies use a process called "fracking", or hydraulic fracture ("natural", paragraphs 1-2, 6, 13):

It takes brute force to wrest natural gas from the earth. Millions of gallons of chemical-laden water mixed with sand -- under enough pressure to peel paint from a car -- are pumped into the ground, pulverizing a layer of rock that holds billions of small bubbles of gas.

The chemicals transform the fluid into a frictionless mass that works its way deep into the earth, prying open tiny cracks that can extend thousands of feet. The particles of sand or silicon wedge inside those cracks, holding the earth open just enough to allow the gas to slip by.

The technique used to extract the gas, known as [hydraulic fracturing](#) [2], has not received the same scientific scrutiny as the processes used for many other energy sources.

Another uncertainty arises from the enormous amounts of water needed for "fracking." The government estimates that companies will drill at least [32,000 new gas wells annually](#) [7] by 2012. That could mean more than 100 billion gallons of hazardous fluids will be used and disposed of each year if existing techniques, which often involve 4 million gallons of water per well, are used.

- the "fracking" method has generated more than one thousand claims of poisoned water sources used for drinking ("natural", paragraph 10):

ProPublica has uncovered [more than a thousand reports](#) [4] of water contamination from drilling across the country, some from surface spills and some from seepage underground. In many instances the water is contaminated with compounds found in the fluids used in hydraulic fracturing. ProPublica also [found dozens of homes in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Colorado](#) [5] in which gas from drilling had migrated through underground cracks into basements or wells.

- then, there's the sheer volume of dangerous liquid residue required for fracking in coming years: how about 100 BILLION GALLONS per YEAR!?!?!? ("propublica", paragraph 13):

The government estimates that companies will drill at least [32,000 new gas wells annually](#) [7] by 2012. That could mean more than 100 billion gallons of hazardous fluids will be used and disposed of each year if existing techniques, which often involve 4 million gallons of water per well, are used.

- disposing of the wastewater is posing HUGE problems in New York- which share the same natural gas underground reservoir w/ Maryland- called the "Marcellus Shale" ("wastewater", paragraphs 3-7; "regulators", map- next to paragraph 12, a paste of which is below):

New York's Department of Environmental Conservation took a stab at addressing the wastewater problem in the [draft environmental impact statement](#) (EIS) on gas drilling it released in September. The report said the DEC won't issue drilling permits until companies prove they can dispose of the water. The report also listed [three disposal options](#): Injecting it into underground storage wells, trucking it to specialized treatment plants in nearby states, or having it processed at sewage plants in New York.

But ProPublica has found that none of these methods are realistic.

- Of the [135 New York plants listed](#) in the report, only a tiny fraction can or will accept Marcellus Shale wastewater. ProPublica interviewed spokespeople for 109 of those plants and found that just three have any interest in accepting the water -- and only in small amounts. New York City's 14 treatment plants, whose operators declined to talk to ProPublica, [are already running at capacity](#) -- and often over it -- which means they too are unlikely wastewater recipients.
- Of the [11 out-of-state plants](#) the DEC listed as options, nine can't take any more wastewater. Two declined to answer questions for this story.
- Of the [six injection wells](#) (PDF) that operate in New York, only one is licensed to accept oil and gas wastewater. It's owned by Lenape Resources Inc., which uses it exclusively for wastewater from its own gas fields.



The Marcellus Shale, denoted in brown, primarily cuts across large swaths of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. (Map by Jennifer LaFleur/ProPublica)

- it gets worse: the drilling process is exposing water to VERY HIGH LEVELS of RADIOACTIVITY, THOUSANDS OF TIMES ABOVE THE SAFETY LIMITS FOR DRINKING ("hot", paragraphS 1-2):

As New York gears up for a massive expansion of gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale, state officials have made a potentially troubling discovery about the wastewater created by the process: It's radioactive. And they have yet to say how they'll deal with it.

The information comes from New York's Department of Environmental Conservation, which analyzed 13 samples of wastewater brought thousands of feet to the surface from drilling and found that they contain levels of radium-226, a derivative of uranium, as high as 267 times the limit safe for discharge into the environment and thousands of times the limit safe for people to drink.

###

- states like NY, as a result, are balking at rapid development of NG ("Fw_2 EC 01-04-10, 7th story, bullet point 9):

###

- as a result of the disposal issues, NY is putting the brakes on "fracking" ("wastewater", paragraph 15):

DEC officials, government scientists and industry representatives all told ProPublica that until more sophisticated treatment solutions are developed, drilling in New York's portion of the Marcellus Shale will be off to a slow start.

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- PA is taking a second look as well- because of the presence of TDS in residue water from fracking, which is 5 times SALTIER than seawater and has a distinct, unpleasant odor and taste ("Fw_2 EC 01-04-10", 7th story, bullet point 10):

###

- another byproduct of the drilling process is TDS, where the water is 5 times saltier than seawater, and affects the odor and taste of drinking water: TDS levels have zoomed in Pennsylvania following fracking ("wastewater", paragraphs 19, 22):

Drilling wastewater also contains high levels of total dissolved solids, or TDS, which includes minerals that can make it [five times as salty as seawater](#) (PDF). TDS isn't considered particularly [harmful to people](#) (PDF), but it can damage freshwater streams and affect the color, taste and odor of drinking water.

High TDS levels have [already caused problems](#) for drinking water in Pennsylvania, where Marcellus Shale gas drilling accelerated in the spring of 2008. Much of Pennsylvania's wastewater was originally sent to municipal sewage treatment plants along the Monongahela River, a drinking water source for 250,000 people. TDS levels in the river were already high because of leakage from abandoned mines and other industrial waste, but after drilling wastewater was released into the river, TDS skyrocketed. Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection is holding public hearings on [new regulations](#) (PDF) that would dramatically reduce the amount of TDS that can be discharged into waterways after Jan. 1, 2011.

###

- if one merely glances at the map of the Marcellus Shale above, NY and PA make up a HUGE component of that NG reservoir, so the regulatory actions of those states are likely going to block quick NG extractions
- the problem w/ Smith's show is that Smith's listeners were NOT availed of the info above: one sided information is propaganda
- another problem with the presentation is Smith's gung ho backing of LNG in general, and the controversial LNG terminal planned for Sparrows Point
- Smith dissed concerns raised by Sen. Ben Cardin- such criticisms referenced in a phone call by one of Smith's listeners, where Smith categorically ridiculed Cardin's perspective at 4:51pm:

caller- Ben Cardin fighting Sparrows Point LNG; Cardin sez ships blow up in Bay

RS- how many LNG ships have blown up; he's against offshore drilling, too; Democratic playbook

- the LNG terminal at Sparrows Point is OPPOSED by LOTS of elected officials in Maryland, including Balt County Exec Jim Smith, Cardin, and a host of others as well
- safety is a BIG factor, to be sure
- Smith- who's a Republican backer (Smith denies this- to the point of saying "I voted for Ron Paul for President in 2008 over John McCain"; here's the problem- while yours truly admires Ron Paul, and SUPPORTS his son running for US Senate in Kentucky, Rand Paul, Ron Paul IS a registered Republican; moreover, Smith promotes the speakers funded by

the Koch family- Koch backs Republicans for Congress [those phants be be challengers to current members of Congress/Senate, but the challengers ARE Republicans, nonetheless]), thus shows INsensitivity (no surprise there) to the concerns of residents of Baltimore County as regards safety matters involving LNG
- finally, "Talk Show Man" shows his true colors when he talks up a "friend" who's a BIG shareholder of Exxon-Mobil at 4:37pm:

RS- friend a shareholder/fan of Exxon Mobil, which is investing billions and billions of dollars in this; Exxon spend \$41 B XTO energy and natural gas extraction

- bottom line: Ron Smith- a true Republican- is ALWAYS on the side of BIG OIL, and is all too willing to sacrifice the drinking water, AND SAFETY, of Maryland residents

^ A Look at Obama's Mixed Messages on Nuclear...

...BOB Added \$54 BILLION DOLLARS fo Nuke Loan Guarantees inhis State of the Union...

...BUT, His Administration has been Stalling on Loan Guarantee Awards...

...Whose Side IS the President On???

Analysis by Chris Bush

We all saw Obama's SOTU where he promised \$54 BILLION DOLLARS MORE in loan guarantees for nuclear power.

At first glance, it would seem that BOB has now gone over to the side of evil on this point.

But, on the other hand, his administration has been slowwalking the approval of the current loan guarantee applications of \$18.5 BILLION DOLLARS (which CC3 is part).

What gives?

There's 2 possible answers: the first is that Obama tries to please everyone. His lack of taking strong stands has HURT his agenda, in my view, and is the main reason why NONE of the President's main platform issues- health, climate change- has made it into law. Obama just does NOT want to expend political capital- and hurt his nice guy image.

Here's the other angle: the President's political advisors do NOT want to alienate the progressive left any further- which could result in primary challenges to already rattled Dems across the country. Hence, the bait of \$54 BILLION DOLLARS is dangled to appease the right- as if anything will work to meet their insatiable appetite- but no ACTION is taken on such red meat til AFTER the filing dates for primary candidates has passed.

Either- or both- of these strategies explains OB' straddle on this issue.

If I'm right, that means no loan guarantees will be approved anytime soon- for CC3 or anywhere else.

Should I be wrong, however, the greenlighting of UNacceptable nuclear power plants should be the catalyst for liberal revulsion, to the point of supporting REAL progressive candidates in this year's election.

The cynical manipulation of this controversy- by waiting til after primary filing deadlines- won't work, either: progressives, in that instance, will either stay home, delivering the election to the Republicans, or voting 3rd party, likely the Green Party. The latter choice is preferable, as such a vote will act as a signal that the corporadoes can't take the liberal wing for granted any longer. A really good showing by the Greens could rev up THEIR electoral prospects as a viable third party alternative to the Republicrats.

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Received Date: 2/7/2010 9:10:23 PM
From: Chris Bush

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