# 1AC Grapevine

**Contention 1 is Reliability**

**Mexican investment in cross border transmission low now- increased US technical assistance and a comprehensive bilateral strategy are key**

**Wood 13**

[Duncan. Dir of the Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Former Director of the IR Program at Instituto Tecnologico Autonomo in Mexico. “Growing Potential for US-Mexico Energy Cooperation” wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/wood\_energy.pdf January 2013]//SLR

• The question of cross border electricity transmission has been a feature of bilateral talks since 2010 but little has yet been achieved.

AND it is important that all three of the NAFTA partners understand the others’ approach to this issue and monitor future policy developments closely.

**Two internal links-**

**First is renewables**

**Renewable investment inevitable**

RELA 10 (Renewable Energy Latin America, “Mexico – Wind: US outsourcing renewable generation to the south?” 6/5/10, http://latamrenewables.com/2010/06/05/mexico-wind-us-outsourcing-renewable-generation-to-the-south/)//SJF

The US-Mexico border is becoming a hot spot for solar and wind interests, AND

dedicated transmission lines to the US to avoid the expensive and highly bureaucratic relations with Mexico’s Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE), which handles all domestic transmission.

**Status quo US Grid will be overwhelmed by increased renewable energy**

**Malewitz 13**

(Jim, “States Explore New Compact to Increase Renewable Energy Availability”, http://www.governing.com/news/state/sl-states-explore-new-compact-to-increase-renewable-energy.html, 7/26/2013)//SLR

The nation’s aging power grid wasn’t designed to meet today’s demand. AND“Transmission is one of those issues that often get overlooked in these discussions.”

**Boosting renewable production** before **grid upgrades will crash the system --- triggering blackouts**

The Electricity Journal, 9 (October 2009, “How Much More Stress Can the Grid Handle?” vol. 22, no. 8, pages 6-7, Science Direct database)

Speaking at an energy conference in Chicago this summer AND Obama was once talking about getting up to 25 percent of U.S. power from renewables by 2025, or roughly 270 GW

**US cooperation is imperative for an interconnected smart grid that integrates electricity from renewable sources- Mexico’s electricity demand is massively increasing**

**Wood 13**

[Duncan. Dir of the Mexico Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Former Director of the IR Program at Instituto Tecnologico Autonomo in Mexico. “Growing Potential for US-Mexico Energy Cooperation” wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/wood\_energy.pdf January 2013]//SLR

Mexico’s electricity sector has gone through significant changes AND should continue to cooperate on the development of the grid, creating significant opportunities for private firms from both sides of the border

And,

**Mexico’s outdated electric systems are vulnerable to blackouts –Smart Grid increases reliability**

Bennett 11 (Nicholas, University of Arizona, “Smart Grid Technology – Mexico’s Upcoming Market Boom”, <http://next.eller.arizona.edu/courses/BusinessInternationalEnvironments/Fall2011/student_papers/finalnicholasbennett.pdf>)//AS

Reasons for employing smart grid systems are numerous AND use these detailed data to conserve energy and increase the reliability of electrical grids.

Second is Interconnectivity

**Status quo grid interconnectivity fails- federal action is key to increase reliability and facilitate energy exchanges**

Ibarra-Yunez 12

(Dr. Alejandro, Professor of Economics and Public Policy – Instituto Tecnologico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (Mexico), “Economic and Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities for US-Mexico Electricity Trade and Cooperation,” Policy Research Project Report 174, May, <http://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/bitstream/handle/2152/17560/prp_174-econ_reg_challenges_US_Mex_electricity-2012.pdf?sequence=5>)//SLR

Trade in electricity between Mexico and the United States AND

identified “cross-border energy exchanges” as a priority (BGC 2009).

**US technology is key to** black-out proof **energy transfers between US and Mexico-HVDC provides a firewall against cascading outages**

Bawa 12 (Harmeet, Head of Communications – ABB's Power Products and Power Systems, “Strengthening the electricity bond between the US and Mexico,” <http://www.abb-conversations.com/2012/12/strengthening-the-electricity-bond-between-the-us-and-mexico/>)//SLR

Interconnections between countries help optimize power systems,AND . When completed, this link will supply electricity from a Mexican wind farm to the California market.

**Grid interconnectivity is key to effective renewable generation and capital investment**

Ibarra-Yunez 12 (Dr. Alejandro, Professor of Economics and Public Policy – Instituto Tecnologico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (Mexico), “Economic and Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities for US-Mexico Electricity Trade and Cooperation,” Policy Research Project Report 174, May, <http://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/bitstream/handle/2152/17560/prp_174-econ_reg_challenges_US_Mex_electricity-2012.pdf?sequence=5>)//SLR

Growth in energy demand and generating capacity is outpacing growth in the transmission and distribution system—AND induce capital investment in generation and transmission capacity.

**The impact is blackouts –**

**They create military communication breakdowns that go nuclear**

**Andres and Breetz 11**

Richard Andres, Professor of National Security Strategy at the National War College and a Senior Fellow and Energy and Environmental Security and Policy Chair in the Center for Strategic Research, Institute for National Strategic Studies, at the National Defense University, and Hanna Breetz, doctoral candidate in the Department of Political Science at The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Small Nuclear Reactorsfor Military Installations:Capabilities, Costs, andTechnological Implications, [www.ndu.edu/press/lib/pdf/StrForum/SF-262.pdf](http://www.ndu.edu/press/lib/pdf/StrForum/SF-262.pdf)

The DOD interest in small reactors derives largely from problems with base and logistics vulnerability AND be deterred by this possibility.

**And, Blackouts cause nuclear meltdowns**

Capiello 11(Dina, Huffington Post, “Long Blackouts Pose Risk To U.S. Nuclear Reactors” 3/29/11 http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/03/29/blackout-risk-us-nuclear-reactors\_n\_841869.html)

A 2003 federal analysis looking at how AND , which has the potential to release more radiation.

**Extinction**

Lendman ‘11 (Stephen – BA from Harvard University and MBA from Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, “Nuclear Meltdown in Japan” 3/13/11 <http://rense.com/general93/nucmelt.htm>)

For years, Helen Caldicott warned it's coming. In her 1978 book, "Nuclear Madness," she said: "As a physician, I contend that nuclear technology threatens life on our planet with extinction. If present trends continue, theair we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink will soon becontaminated with enough radioactive pollutants to pose a potential health hazard far greater than any plague humanity has ever experienced." More below on the inevitable dangers from commercial nuclear power proliferation, besides added military ones. On March 11, New York Times writer Martin Fackler headlined, "Powerful Quake and Tsunami Devastate Northern Japan," saying: "The 8.9-magnitude earthquake (Japan's strongest ever) set off a devastating tsunami that sent walls of water (six meters high) washing over coastal cities in the north." According to Japan's Meteorological Survey, it was 9.0. The Sendai port city and other areas experienced heavy damage. "Thousands of homes were destroyed, many roads were impassable, trains and buses (stopped) running, and power and cellphones remained down. On Saturday morning, the JR rail company" reported three trains missing. Many passengers are unaccounted for. Striking at 2:46PM Tokyo time, it caused vast destruction, shook city skyscrapers, buckled highways, ignited fires, terrified millions, annihilated areas near Sendai, possibly killed thousands, and caused a nuclear meltdown, its potential catastrophic effects far exceeding quake and tsunami devastation, almost minor by comparison under a worst case scenario. On March 12, Times writer Matthew Wald headlined, "Explosion Seen at Damaged Japan Nuclear Plant," saying: "Japanese officials (ordered evacuations) for people living near two nuclear power plants whose cooling systems broke down," releasing radioactive material, perhaps in far greater amounts than reported. NHK television and Jiji said the 40-year old Fukushima plant's outer structure housing the reactor "appeared to have blown off, which could suggest the containment building had already been breached." Japan's nuclear regulating agency said radioactive levels inside were 1,000 times above normal. Reuters said the 1995 Kobe quake caused $100 billion in damage, up to then the most costly ever natural disaster. This time, from quake and tsunami damage alone, that figure will be dwarfed. Moreover, under a worst case core meltdown, all bets are off as the entire region and beyond will be threatened with permanent contamination AND , nuclear plants are atom bomb factories

**Contention 2 is Econ**

**Mexico's economy is collapsing and shows no sign of getting better**

Market Realists 7/9

(Market Realists, Sr Emerging Markets Analyst, democratizing investment research, Jul 9, 2013, "Why Mexico’s economic slide continues and a recovery isn’t happening", <http://marketrealist.com/2013/07/mexico-june-pmi/>)

The survey is at its lowest point since it started slightly over two years AND This data highlights the weakness in future demand and lack of confidence in future outlook since both input purchases and inventory levels remained unchanged Margins squeezing and weak employment

Three internal links

**First,**

**Smart grid provides huge growth opportunities for Mexico—US investment and expertise are key**

Bennett 11 (Nicholas, University of Arizona, “Smart Grid Technology – Mexico’s Upcoming Market Boom”, <http://next.eller.arizona.edu/courses/BusinessInternationalEnvironments/Fall2011/student_papers/finalnicholasbennett.pdf>)//AS

Mexico’s projections in the smart grid market are strikingly AND brings mutually beneficial smart grid technology to both the United States and Mexico through joint cooperation and 3 information exchange. Smart grid technology provides an unprecedented opportunity for Mexico to improve both functionally and economically

**Second,**

**Plan spurs an integrated energy market and increased market innovation**

Ibarra-Yunez 12

(Dr. Alejandro, Professor of Economics and Public Policy – Instituto Tecnologico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (Mexico), “Economic and Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities for US-Mexico Electricity Trade and Cooperation,” Policy Research Project Report 174, May, <http://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/bitstream/handle/2152/17560/prp_174-econ_reg_challenges_US_Mex_electricity-2012.pdf?sequence=5>)//SLR

Recent literature points to the positive relationship among electric grids, economic development, and clean energy innovation AND availability of clean energy sources via an integrated market is a step in the right direction.

**Latin energy connectivity is independently key to US growth**

Noriega and Cardenas 12 – \*Former US State Dept Official, \*\* director with Vision Americas

(“An action plan for US policy in the Americas,” December, http://www.aei.org/outlook/foreign-and-defense-policy/regional/latin-america/an-action-plan-for-us-policy-in-the-americas/)//BB

Key points in this Outlook:

America’s economic crisis AND prosperous hemisphere means a more prosperous United States.

**Third,**

**Expanding electrical infrastructure development spurs Mexican manufacturing operations**

**Singer 10**

(Pete, “$4B 1GW NaS Energy Storage Project Goes to Mexico”, http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/blog/post/print/2010/12/4b-1gw-nas-energy-storage-project-goes-to-mexico, 12/9/2010)//SLR

Mexico President Calderon announced today at COP16/CMP6, AND The storage warehouse will require an investment of more than $4 billion, over the next 5 to 7 years.

**Manufacturing is key to Mexico’s economy**

Aeppel ’13 [June 28, 2013. Timothy Aeppel is the Economics Bureau Chief at The Wall Street Journal. “Mexico Manufacturing Looks to Gain Competitive Edge on China” The Wall Street Journal. <http://blogs.wsj.com/economics/2013/06/28/mexico-manufacturing-looks-to-gain-competitive-edge-on-china/>]

Mexico’s strengthening factory sector is helping boost that nation’s economy AND . “They won’t shut their plants in China,” he says. “But they’ll reconfigure those to supply domestic customers or to export around Asia, because that still makes sense.”

**US-Mexico economic integration prevents global recession.**

**Schiffer ’13** ~Michael Schiffer President of the Inter-American Dialogue "A More Ambitious Agenda: A Report of the Inter-American Dialogue’s commission on Mexico-US relations." February

The first is to reinforce and deepen economic cooperation AND and coordination among the United States, Mexico, and Canada in negotiations toward the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

**Mexican is key to the world economy**

Zehnbacht ’12 [November 13, 2012. Gil Zehnbacht is a Search Engine Marketing Expert at ProTradingIndicators. “Will Latin America be the Next Engine for Global Economic Growth?” ProTradingIndicators. <http://www.protradingindicators.com/news-market-analysis/will-latin-america-be-the-next-engine-for-global-economic-growth>]

. Mexico, Peru and Chile are also developing into powersAND . With Latin America so important to be China and the United States, its growth will be crucial for leading economic demand around the world in the years ahead.

**2 impacts-**

**Economic collapse sparks nuclear war**

Harris and Burrows 9 - \*Mathew, PhD European History @ Cambridge, counselor in the National Intelligence Council (NIC) , \*\*Jennifer, a member of the NIC’s Long Range Analysis Unit

(“Revisiting the Future: Geopolitical Effects of the Financial Crisis” <http://www.ciaonet.org/journals/twq/v32i2/f_0016178_13952.pdf>)//BB

Increased Potential for Global Conflict

Of course, the report encompasses more than economics and indeed believes the future is likely to be the result of a number of intersecting and interlocking

AND

increased tensions, rivalries, and counterbalancing moves, but it also will create opportunities for multinational cooperation in protecting critical sea lanes. With water also becoming scarcer in Asia and the Middle East, cooperation to manage changing water resources is likely to be increasingly difficult both within and between states in a more dog-eat-dog world.

**Statistics prove**

**Royal, 10** – Jedediah Royal, Director of Cooperative Threat Reduction at the U.S. Department of Defense, (Economic Integration, Economic Signaling and the Problem of Economic Crises, Economics of War and Peace: Economic, Legal and Political Perspectives, ed. Goldsmith and Brauer, p. 213-215)

Less intuitive is how periods of economic decline may increase the likelihood of external conflict AND are statistically linked to an increase in the use of force.

**Our authors rely on a testable empirical method – yes, there are counterexamples, but trade has the strongest overall correlation with a reduction in conflict**

Weede 2004 (Erich, professor of sociology at the University of Bonn, Germany, In Winter 1986-87, he was Visiting Professor of International Relations at the Bologna Center of The Johns Hopkins University, “BALANCE OF POWER, GLOBALIZATION, AND THE CAPITALIST PEACE,” <http://www.fnf.org.ph/downloadables/Balance%20of%20Power,%20Globalization%20and%20Capitalist%20Peace.pdf>)

. We need to know more than the mere existence of some association or correlation between, say, prosperity and democracy, or economic freedom and the avoidance of military conflict AND is better to rely on testable, tested and so far supported propositions than on a hodgepodge of ambiguous hunches, **contradictory thinking, and unsystematically evaluated empirical evidence.**

**Second-**

**Mexican economic collapse leads to cartel takeover**

Fox News 9 (“What Happens to the U.S. if Mexico Collapses?,” 2-17, <http://www.foxnews.com/story/2009/02/17/what-happens-to-us-if-mexico-collapses/#ixzz2Zw66rDY>)

. Mexico is the 12th largest economy and second largest trading partner with the U.S. AND drug cartels taking over the country, civil war breaking out on the streets, people fleeing for their lives, not for a job. We have to be prepared in the United States for both and Texas must be prepared.

**That causes oil shocks**

Moran 9 (7/31/09, Michael, executive editor and policy analyst, Council on Foreign Relations, “Six Crises, 2009: A Half-Dozen Ways Geopolitics Could Upset Global Recovery,” http://fbkfinanzwirtschaft.wordpress.com/2009/08/07/six-crises-2009-a-half-dozen-ways-geopolitics-could-upset-global-recovery/)

Risk 2: Mexico Drug Violence:¶ At Stake: Oil prices, AND any trouble involving Mexico invariably will cause a bipartisan demand for more security on the southern border, inflame anti-immigrant sentiment and possibly force Obama to remember his campaign promise to “renegotiate NAFTA,” a pledge he deftly sidestepped once in office.

**Energy shocks cause great power nuke war**

Islam Yasin Qasem 7, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Politics and Social Sciences at the University of Pompeu Fabra (UPF) in Barcelona, MA in International Affairs from Columbia, July 9, 2007, “The Coming Warfare of Oil Shortage,” online: http://www.opednews.com/articles/opedne\_islam\_ya\_070709\_the\_coming\_warfare\_o.htm

Recognizing the strategic value of oil AND the chances of using nuclear weapons in pursues of national interests are high.

Prices stabilizing now-accounts for Syria

Leong 9/4

(George, “Why Oil Prices Aren’t Going Anywhere If Syria Stabilizes”, http://www.eurasiareview.com/04092013-why-oil-prices-arent-going-anywhere-if-syria-stabilizes-oped/~~, 9/4/2013)//SLR

The price chain of the WTI crude oil shows futures oil prices declining AND steadily higher production from domestic reserves, including shale oil from North Dakota and Montana and Canadian oil from the tar sands in Alberta.

**Thus the plan: The United States federal government should substantially increase its cooperation to develop interconnected electricity infrastructure in Mexico**.

**Contention 3 is Solvency**

**Federal action is key to uniform and effective implementation of grid integration and regulatory frameworks to protect the environment**

Ibarra-Yunez 12 (Dr. Alejandro, Professor of Economics and Public Policy – Instituto Tecnologico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (Mexico), “Economic and Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities for US-Mexico Electricity Trade and Cooperation,” Policy Research Project Report 174, May, <http://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/bitstream/handle/2152/17560/prp_174-econ_reg_challenges_US_Mex_electricity-2012.pdf?sequence=5>)//SLR

IEG (2007) notes the importance of national institutions to lead implementation of integration initiatives (

**Strong commitment key. Absent that, negative perceptions destroy cooperation**

**BGC 9** (Border Governors Conference, “Strategic Guidelines for the Competitive and Sustainable Development of the U.S.-Mexico Transborder Region,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, September, http://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/strategic-guidelines-for-the-competitive-and-sustainable-development-the-us-mexico)

To successfully fulﬁll the development potential of the region,

AND

require the engagement of all the region’s stakeholders, in accordance with the cross-cutting and multi-scale nature of the issues faced by the region. The core objective of the Strategic Guidelines, therefore, is to provide a general framework and speciﬁc policy actions in accordance with mutually agreed upon regional development goals. The scope of the Strategic Guidelines includes the four spatial scales commented above: the totality of the 10-state transborder region, the cross-border metropolitan corridors, the planning area deﬁned by the NADB and BECC, and the strip formed by the municipalities adjacent to the international border.

**US Federal Government investment is key to Latin American modeling of Grid regulatory frameworks and to solve energy poverty**

**Porter 7/3-** staff writer at the US Embassy

(Charlene, “U.S. Works with Latin America to Expand Electric Grid, ” http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/article/2013/07/20130703278096.html#ixzz2c9sGvELE, 7/3/2013)//SLR

Nations of Latin America take strides toward greater connectivity to a regional electric grid,

AND

Providing greater economic opportunity for these people begins with electricity, Sherman said.

**HVDC solves for reliability-interconnects power without increasing vulnerability**

**Rose 08**

(Bill, “Historic HVDC Tie Provides Power Sharing Between U.S. and Mexico Grids”, http://www.elp.com/articles/print/volume-86/issue-5/sections/td/historic-hvdc-tie-provides-power-sharing-between-us-and-mexico-grids.html, 9/1/2008)

The $40 million HVDC back-to-back tie connects the state power grid of Texas and the national power grid of Mexico

AND

its controllability. The basic power control is achieved through a system where one of the converters controls its DC voltage and the other converter controls the current through the DC circuit.