### AT T

#### We meet- we increase an incentive by increasing the availability of rolled in pricing

#### **Rolled in pricing is an incentive**

Spulber 94 (Daniel [Thomas G. Ayers prof of Energy Resource Management and Professor of Management Strategy, Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University]; PRICING AND THE INCENTIVE TO INVEST IN PIPELINES AFTER GREAT LAKES; 15 Energy L. J. 377; kdf)

Natural gas pipeline companies invest heavily in expansion of the United States pipeline system. System expansion projects totaled $ 5.7 billion in 1992. In 1993-94 there was more than $ 3.8 billion of construction projects completed or under construction, and an additional $ 5.2 billion proposed and pending, totaling over $ 9 billion. n1 Over 8,000 miles of new pipelines were installed or under construction in 1993. n2 Much of the new investment involves expanding capacity of existing pipelines by constructing parallel pipes that use existing compressors and follow the same right-of-way, a process also known as "looping." Under traditional regulation by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC), the pipelines have been able to average or "roll in" the costs of expansion, generally raising costs to existing customers. The Great Lakes Gas Transmission Ltd. Partnership (Great Lakes) n3 decision reversed this long-standing policy by requiring new customers to bear the costs of expansion. This article will demonstrate that these alternative regulatory policies have significant consequences for pricing and the incentives to invest in new pipeline construction, and argues that the Great Lakes decision, which is currently under review, should be upheld and extended.To understand the importance of the rolled-in versus incremental pricing debate, it is useful to observe that the existing transmission network with more than 284,000 miles of pipeline has a book value of $ 54 billion. n4 Therefore, expansion of existing facilities represents only a small fraction of total installed capacity in terms of pipeline miles but a much larger fraction of book value. For individual pipelines, expansion costs can far outweigh the book value of capacity. Regulated pricing provides pipelines with an incentive to expand since the costs of construction can be averaged with the existing rate base. The size of the installed base suggests that there are substantial opportunities available to average capacity expansions with existing facilities.

#### 2. Counter-interpretation- The affirmative can reduce restrictions and/or increase incentives

#### The plan removes a barrier

World Bank 5 Gas Flaring Reduction ¶ Projects ¶ Framework for Clean Development ¶ Mechanism (CDM) Baseline Methodologies Revised Printing April 2005 http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGGFR/Resources/gfrmethodologyno6revised.pdf

Barrier analysis can be thought of as those factors that are outside the direct ¶ control of the project developer and yet impact the project’s likelihood of ¶ implementation. Some of these factors can be economic, such as when the ¶ domestic gas price is controlled by the host government at a level below that ¶ needed to justify the investment in gas recovery. The fiscal regime may be ¶ designed for oil and thus provide de facto disincentives for gas recovery or even ¶ assign the ownership of the gas to a different entity than the operators of the field. ¶ A lack of access to capital may prevent project implementation (regardless of the ¶ project’s economic attractiveness). ¶ • A proposed new technology may have higher technological and ¶ implementation risk, higher operating cost, less experience, and ¶ greater performance uncertainty than the baseline technology. ¶ • Local market conditions, institutional weaknesses, or structural ¶ issues (for example, lack of open access to the gas transmission ¶ lines) could prevent implementation of certain projects. ¶ • Limited information, managerial resources, organizational ¶ capacity, and so on could affect project implementation. ¶ Barrier analysis can be a critical factor in justifying many CDM GFR projects but ¶ are, by nature, specific to the area, regime, or type of project. Thus, a ¶ methodology needs to identify and provide a general means to analyze and ¶ measure the impact of such barriers in determining the baseline scenario.

#### Pipelines are a major component of energy production

Kurtz 94 Alaska Law Review¶ December, 1994¶ 11 Alaska L. Rev. 377¶ LENGTH: 13141 words¶ NOTE: Managing Alaska's Coastal Development: State Review of Federal Oil and Gas Lease Sales¶ NAME: M. David Kurtz

n63 Id. § 80.070. The term "major energy facility" is defined by § 80.900(22) to include almost anything having to do with energy production, including rigs, pipelines, oil terminals and port developments. The considerations include minimalization of risk to biologically productive or vulnerable habitats, allowance for the free passage of wildlife and location of facilities in areas of least biological activity. Id. § 80.070(11)-(13).

#### Reasons to prefer

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#### A. Literature Checks- our evidence is from energy specialist at Northwestern and MIT

#### B. Ground- the affirmative allows for affs to discuss the pricing mechanisms in relation to energy production—no reason this under limits the topic

#### C. Their interpretation over-limits the topic by only allowing the removal of a barrier OR an increase of incentives---not both

#### Evaluate topicality through reasonability and don’t vote on potential abuse

## CASE

### Warming

#### Plan is Federal, no way for the states to implement

#### FERC Is a federal commission in Washington DC

Dictionary.com 2012 (“Federal Energy Regulatory Commission” http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Federal+Energy+Regulatory+Commission)

Noun, an [independent](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/independent) agency of the U.S. federal government, created in 1978 and originally within the Department of Energy, charged with setting rates for transportation and sale of electricity, transportation of oil by pipeline, and the licensing of [hydroelectric power](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/hydroelectric+power) projects. Abbreviation:  FERC

#### Perm Do Both

#### Fiating the 50 states is bad and a voting issue for competitive equity:

A. Not Predictable: They can’t prove a single instance where all 50 states acted together on the plan issue or subsidies.

B. Education: It avoids the substance of the aff to debate out agents. We only learn about the net-benefits, not the case or topic issues. Even if the “States CP” has been around forever doesn’t make it good.

C. Justifies Object Fiat: If you can fiat 50 states acting together, then there’s no reason they couldn’t fiat 10 countries and claim disarm. Allows them to functionally ban the plan so no Aff could win

D. It’s an agent pic: These are uniquely bad for competitive equity because we can never predict all the possible agents and it forces us to debate against the Aff to garner offense

Err aff on theory – the negative gets the block and more diverse strategic options

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#### Pipelines are intrastate commerce; federal government is the only one who can step in.

#### States will cheat and dodge any uniform energy policy – business interests

Graham ’98 (Mary, Brookings Institute, “Environmental Protection & the States: ""Race to the Bottom"" or ""Race to the Bottom Line""?” Winter, <http://www.brookings.edu/research/articles/1998/12/winter-environment-graham>, TGA)

To call attention to these changes is not to deny that state and local governments face tough trade-offs, that businesses often lobby to weaken environmental rules, or that some polluters still try to beat the system. Hiring inspectors to enforce the law or buying land to protect a watershed is expensive and must vie for limited state funds with improving schools, building roads, and paying for Medicaid and welfare. Environmental issues continue to be contentious because they often do pit jobs against cleaner air or more conservation, and sometimes both choices offer economic benefits. When stakes are high, business, labor, homeowners, and other groups will fight for their interests. And, of course, there will always be cheaters.¶ Thirty years ago, the assumption that there was a race to the bottom among the states was important because Congress was debating the need for a national framework of environmental protection. That question is now settled. Mainstream Democrats and Republicans agree that air pollution, water pollution, and other environmental problems that cross state lines should continue to be controlled by federal rules. Because most of our daily attention is drawn to hard-fought battles at the perimeter of government authority, it is easy to forget that we have witnessed an exceptional event in the past three decades: the successful introduction of a new theme in national policy.¶ Today, the question of whether states shortchange environmental protection to attract business is important for different reasons. First, we have reached a turning point in national environmental policy in which some readjustment of federal and state roles is inevitable. Thanks in part to the considerable success of national laws aimed at controlling major sources of pollution and encouraging conservation on large tracts of federal land, public attention is now turning to problems that are harder to solve from Washington. The next generation of environmental policies will tackle widely scattered sources of pollution and conservation opportunities that affect farms and housing developments as well as forests and meadows.

### AT: Other Countries

#### Flaring is decreasing in other countries- that’s our Clayton and Reuters evidence

#### Extend Friedman it’s try or die—any decrease in emissions is a good thing

1. **If the US doesn’t take the lead no one else will—guarantees extinction**

**Pascual and Zambetakis 2010** (Carlos [US Ambassador to Mexico, Served as VP of foreign policy @ Brookings] and Evie [Brookings]; The Geopolitics of Energy: From Security to Survival; Energy Security; 26-27; kdf)

Among these groups, **the United States has the capacity to play a pivotal**¶ **role**. **China and India will not move toward more proactive domestic**¶ **policies if the United States does not set the example**. Along with Europe¶ and Japan, the United States has the capacity to demonstrate that green¶ technology and conservation can be compatible with growth and a foreign¶ policy that is more independent of energy suppliers. T**he United States also stands to benefit from accelerated commercialization of green technologies**¶ **and the development of global markets in energy-efficient and**¶ **clean energy technologies**. **The ability of the United States to lead**, however,¶ **will depend on domestic action-on whether it will undertake on a**¶ **national basis a systematic strategy to price carbon and curb emissions**. If¶ it does the scale and importance of the U.S. market can be a driver for¶ global change. **If it fails to act, then the United States will find that over**¶ **time the opportunity for leadership to curb climate change will be replaced**¶ **by the need for crisis management as localized wars, migration, poverty,**¶ **and humanitarian catastrophes increasingly absorb international attention**¶ **and resources.** Eventually**, its failure to act will come back to U.S.**¶ **borders in a way that will make the Katrina disaster seem relatively tame.**

### AT: Natural Gas Causes Warming

#### 1) Natural gas is inevitable, the question is whether or not there is flaring. Clayton and Reuters say that there are thousands of wells coming online in the years ahead. Natural gas demand is set to double in the years ahead.

#### 2) The plan reduces emissions of natural gas by over 300%, that’s Reuters

### AT NO WARMING

#### Other studies agree—feedbacks cause extinction

Brown July 2012 (Michael, environmental chemistry undergraduate at the University of East Anglia, “A Student Writes….Global Extinction Within One Lifetime?”, <http://www.theecologist.org/blogs_and_comments/commentators/other_comments/1487008/a_student_writesglobal_extinction_within_one_lifetime.html>, Vance)

It is now widely accepted that human-induced climate change is a potentially dangerous issue. In a year (2012) when 15,000 temperature records were set in March alone and many freak weather patterns continued to cause drought and flooding across the globe, the danger seems increasingly real and undeniable. The latest addition to these concerns is the release of methane gas from the Arctic permafrost. Recently it was announced that the Russian research vessel Academician Lavrentiev had made discoveries of hundreds of methane gas eruptions in a 10,000 square mile area of the Arctic Ocean. Russian researcher Dr Igor Semiletov stated: “These are methane fields on a scale not seen before. We found more than 100 fountains, some more than a kilometre across. The emissions went directly into the atmosphere.” Methane is a greenhouse gas that is estimated to be about 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO2). A sudden release of this methane along with additional CO2 stored in the permafrost could lead to rapid local temperature increases over a relatively short time period. Many scientists concede that while specifics are known about green house gases on a molecular scale, the wider effects of these gases in the atmosphere are still very difficult to predict. However, one group known as the Arctic Methane Emergency Group (AMEG) appears to disagree. One of their recent reports runs with the rather staggering headline “Global extinction within one human lifetime”. Malcolm Light; inventor, retired professor and the name behind this report, believes he has accurately calculated methane gas warming potentials. He says: “This process of methane release will accelerate exponentially, release huge quantities of methane into the atmosphere and lead to the demise of all life on earth before the middle of this century.” Light’s report implies a correlation between recent methane levels and those known to have existed during the Permian period. Some scientists have theorised the rise in methane levels during this time could have played a role in the mass extinction of up to 90% of all species of life on Earth. Other evidence has produced alternative theories for the extinction including persistent volcanic activity from the ocean floors, which caused environmental stress.

### AT: Pipelines Kill Bio-D

#### 1) Flaring is worse for biodiversity- cross apply Nigerian Compass—flaring releases toxins that kill animals and causes acid rain which will kill all marine life according to Lindstrom

#### 2) Non-unique: Pipelines are all over now

### Shocks

#### The bias towards incremental pricing has eroded confidence in both existing and new businesses to the point that no one is willing to invest in pipeline infrastructure. Tye and Garcia indicate that this causes price volatility and slows the economy. The lack of delivery systems causes distribution bottlenecks and widespread price variation. Because of their reliance on natural gas, volatility either causes the chemical industry to either go bankrupt or abroad according to our Welo evidence. This destroys any chance of expanding the carrying capacity of the earth according to our Chemical and Engineering 99 evidence.

#### Spence and Prentice indicate that the current pricing mechanism results independently destroys the economy because the current pricing mechanism destroys consumer confidence and guts predictable energy prices, which is “the lifeblood of the economy.

### States

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To call attention to these changes is not to deny that state and local governments face tough trade-offs, that businesses often lobby to weaken environmental rules, or that some polluters still try to beat the system. Hiring inspectors to enforce the law or buying land to protect a watershed is expensive and must vie for limited state funds with improving schools, building roads, and paying for Medicaid and welfare. Environmental issues continue to be contentious because they often do pit jobs against cleaner air or more conservation, and sometimes both choices offer economic benefits. When stakes are high, business, labor, homeowners, and other groups will fight for their interests. And, of course, there will always be cheaters.¶ Thirty years ago, the assumption that there was a race to the bottom among the states was important because Congress was debating the need for a national framework of environmental protection. That question is now settled. Mainstream Democrats and Republicans agree that air pollution, water pollution, and other environmental problems that cross state lines should continue to be controlled by federal rules. Because most of our daily attention is drawn to hard-fought battles at the perimeter of government authority, it is easy to forget that we have witnessed an exceptional event in the past three decades: the successful introduction of a new theme in national policy.¶ Today, the question of whether states shortchange environmental protection to attract business is important for different reasons. First, we have reached a turning point in national environmental policy in which some readjustment of federal and state roles is inevitable. Thanks in part to the considerable success of national laws aimed at controlling major sources of pollution and encouraging conservation on large tracts of federal land, public attention is now turning to problems that are harder to solve from Washington. The next generation of environmental policies will tackle widely scattered sources of pollution and conservation opportunities that affect farms and housing developments as well as forests and meadows.

### Elections

#### Undecided voters shifting to Romney

CBS News 10/3 (Poll: Uncommitted voters say Romney wins debate; www.cbsnews.com/8301-250\_162-57525698/poll-uncommitted-voters-say-romney-wins-debate/; kdf)

By a 2 to 1 margin, uncommitted voters crowned Mitt Romney the winner over President Obama in the first presidential debate in Debate, Colo., on Wednesday night, according to a 500-person instant poll taken by CBS News.¶ In the moments following the candidates' performances on the University of Denver stage, 46 percent of voters gave the economy-centric debate to Romney, 22 percent said they believed the president was the winner, and 32 percent called it a tie. More good news for the GOP nominee: 56 percent of those polled said they viewed Romney in a better light after watching the debate. Eleven percent said their opinion of him dropped, and 32 percent cited no change in opinion. Perhaps most promising for Romney, whose upper-class income has helped stifle his ability to relate to the "average American," the percentage of those polled who said they felt the former Massachusetts governor cares about their needs and problems spiked from 30 percent pre-debate to 63 percent post-debate. President Obama also enjoyed a bump in that category, with 53 percent of voters saying they believed he cares about their issues before the debate, moving to 69 percent after the debate.

#### Among Likely Voters­ the race was tied before the debate- they assume all registered

Goldmacher 10/3 (Shane; Obama, Romney tied among likely voters; www.nationaljournal.com/daily/obama-romney-tied-among-likely-voters-20121002; kdf)

President Obama and Mitt Romney are deadlocked among likely voters as they prepare to square off in their first presidential debate, according to the latest United Technologies/National Journal Congressional Connection Poll.¶ The survey showed that voters remain resistant to either Obama or Romney holding full control of the federal government.¶ Obama and Romney each pulled in 47 percent support in the poll among likely voters. It is among the narrowest margins of several presidential surveys published ahead of the debate this week. Other polls have shown the president with a slim lead. In this survey, while the race is tied among likely voters, Obama has a 5-point lead, 49 percent to 44 percent, among registered voters.

#### Expanding energy production in Ohio and Pennsylavania means Obama win

**BABINGTON 6/12** (CHARLES, writer for the Advertiser magazine, “Key states on the mend US jobs growth in pivotal areas raises [Obama's election](http://www.lexisnexis.com.vortex3.uco.edu:2050/lnacui2api/search/XMLCrossLinkSearch.do?bct=A&risb=21_T14907893331&returnToId=20_T14908093008&csi=244790&A=0.9976461844291584&sourceCSI=9369&indexTerm=%23PE000A0BO%23&searchTerm=Obama%27s%20election%20&indexType=P" \t "_parent) hopes”, (<http://www.lexisnexis.com.vortex3.uco.edu:2050/hottopics/lnacademic/)CD>)

THE US jobless rate of 8.2 per cent may sink President Barack Obama's re-election bid, but one detail brightens his hopes. About 10 battleground states will decide the election, and seven of those have employment levels that beat the US average. That doesn't guarantee a second term, of course. But it is a reminder that the national rate, from a purely political standpoint, is not necessarily the be-all and end-all statistic. Most of the states are led by Republican governors eager to highlight their progress in creating jobs. That complicates Republican presidential candidate [Mitt Romney's](http://www.lexisnexis.com.vortex3.uco.edu:2050/lnacui2api/search/XMLCrossLinkSearch.do?bct=A&risb=21_T14907893331&returnToId=20_T14908093008&csi=244790&A=0.9976461844291584&sourceCSI=9369&indexTerm=%23PE000A0BO%23&searchTerm=Mitt%20Romney%27s%20&indexType=P" \t "_parent) claim that the economy has been so mismanaged that [Obama](http://www.lexisnexis.com.vortex3.uco.edu:2050/lnacui2api/search/XMLCrossLinkSearch.do?bct=A&risb=21_T14907893331&returnToId=20_T14908093008&csi=244790&A=0.9976461844291584&sourceCSI=9369&indexTerm=%23PE000A0BO%23&searchTerm=Obama%20&indexType=P" \t "_parent) deserves to be ousted. In addition, a chief Romney criticism - that [Obama](http://www.lexisnexis.com.vortex3.uco.edu:2050/lnacui2api/search/XMLCrossLinkSearch.do?bct=A&risb=21_T14907893331&returnToId=20_T14908093008&csi=244790&A=0.9976461844291584&sourceCSI=9369&indexTerm=%23PE000A0BO%23&searchTerm=Obama%20&indexType=P" \t "_parent) is hindering energy production - is undermined by robust drilling for natural gas, and it is creating jobs and some wealthy landowners in two important states, Ohio and Pennsylvania. In Ohio, the quintessential borderline state and practically a must-win for Mr Romney, the Republican [governor, John Kasich,](http://www.lexisnexis.com.vortex3.uco.edu:2050/lnacui2api/search/XMLCrossLinkSearch.do?bct=A&risb=21_T14907893331&returnToId=20_T14908093008&csi=244790&A=0.9976461844291584&sourceCSI=9369&indexTerm=%23PE000CRF8%23&searchTerm=governor,%20John%20Kasich,%20&indexType=P" \t "_parent) tries to finesse the political dilemma by saying jobs have increased despite Obama's policies. ``We fight like crazy to outperform the Federal Government,'' he told reporters last week in the Statehouse in Columbus. ``We have. We're down to 7.4 per cent unemployment.'' But Ohio could not continually buck the national trend, Governor Kasich said, and he warned of a likely drop in job growth soon, largely due to gridlock and uncertainty in Washington. ``Rome is on fire and it's singeing places like Ohio,'' the governor said. ``We'll go our own way, but the headwinds are kicking up again.'' Some of the most politically contested states are struggling more than others. Florida's unemployment rate has dropped steadily for nearly a year, but at 8.7 per cent still tops the national average. North Carolina's rate is worse, and Nevada has the highest, 11.7 per cent. If Mr [Obama](http://www.lexisnexis.com.vortex3.uco.edu:2050/lnacui2api/search/XMLCrossLinkSearch.do?bct=A&risb=21_T14907893331&returnToId=20_T14908093008&csi=244790&A=0.9976461844291584&sourceCSI=9369&indexTerm=%23PE000A0BO%23&searchTerm=Obama%20&indexType=P" \t "_parent) were to carry all the competitive states where the employment rate is brighter than the national average - New Hampshire, Iowa, Virginia, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Colorado - he would win re-election handily. But if he loses the battleground states where the rate now exceeds 7 per cent, an oft-cited threshold that may mean nothing, Mr Romney would prevail because he would take Ohio, Pennsylvania and Colorado, plus Florida, North Carolina and Nevada. Mr Romney's campaign also must cope with boasts, often by Republicans and business leaders, that things are much better at the local level than in other regions. ``Midwest has economy on right track,'' said the headline to an opinion piece in The Columbus Dispatch in Ohio last week. Stephen Steinour, president of Huntington Bancshares, wrote: ``The Midwest is not only resurgent, it is leading the national economic recovery''. Ohio's unemployment rate has fallen nine months in a row. That trend encourages Obama supporters, but it might have scant influence on the November 6 election. Political academics have concluded that voters are less influenced by local and state economic trends than by national statistics. Also, US unemployment climbed so sharply, starting from mid-2008, that even a steady decline over the past year still leaves millions without jobs.

#### EU economic collapse kills Obama’s reelection

**NOCERA 6/12** (Joe, OP-ED columnist for the New York Times, “How Not To Solve A Crisis”, (<http://www.lexisnexis.com.vortex3.uco.edu:2050/hottopics/lnacademic/)CD>)

Oh, the irony! Here we are, more than three-and-a-half years later, during which time the euro zone has repeatedly flirted with financial catastrophe. Lagarde now leads the International Monetary Fund, which exists, in large part, to help countries survive such catastrophes. Yet neither she nor anyone else in Europe has been willing or able to do more than use Band-Aids to stanch the bleeding. A euro-zone meltdown, if it comes to that, would be devastating to the already battered economies of Europe, leading to widespread credit contraction, mass unemployment and depressed economies across the Continent. But it would undoubtedly take a toll on our economy as well -- and it would be a huge blow to President Obama's re-election prospects. To paraphrase Lagarde, this is not just a European problem. The American and European responses to their respective financial crises are studies in contrast. The Bush administration and the Federal Reserve took an ''all-hands-on-deck'' approach: not just saving A.I.G. and recapitalizing the banks, but buying billions of dollars worth of subprime mortgages that were poisoning the banking system, and guaranteeing virtually all bank debt. Say what you will about the moral hazard that comes with bailing out too-big-to-fail banks, the strategy worked. By announcing to the world that it would serve as the lender of last resort, the federal government prevented a banking collapse, and, quite possibly, a depression. In the euro zone, there is no lender of last resort. Germany, which has the money and the clout to play that role, refuses to. The European Central Bank is constrained by politics and its own narrow sense of mission. Just last week, it declined to lower interest rates -- in no small part, said its president, Mario Draghi, because ''I don't think it would be right for monetary policy to fill other institutions' lack of action.''

#### Russian Spies

Reuters 10/4 (Nastassia Astrasheuskaya and Maria Tsvetkova; Russia dismisses talk of new spy scandal with U.S.; www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/04/us-usa-russia-espionage-idUSBRE8930Y620121004; kdf)

The U.S. Justice Department said on Wednesday it had broken up an elaborate network aimed at illegally acquiring U.S.-made microelectronic components for Russian military and spy agencies. It charged 11 people with taking part.¶ The Russian Foreign Ministry expressed surprise at the allegations.¶ "The charges are of a criminal nature and have nothing to do with intelligence activity," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told Russian news agencies. The situation had caused deep concern in Russia, whose relations with its former Cold War enemy are difficult despite President Barack Obama's call for a new start.

#### Drone Strikes in Pakistan

VOA 10/4 (Russia Sides with Pakistan on US Drone Strikes; blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2012/10/04/russia-sides-with-pakistan-on-us-drone-strikes/; kdf)

Russia says it supports Islamabad's position that U.S. drone strikes targeting suspected militants within Pakistan's borders are a violation of the country's sovereignty.¶ Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters in the Pakistani capital Thursday that Moscow believes no one has the right to violate a country's sovereignty. He spoke alongside his Pakistani counterpart, Hina Rabbani Khar.¶ U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan's volatile northwest have remained a source of tension between Washington and Islamabad for years. Publicly, the Pakistani government condemns the strikes and demands that Washington provides it with the technology for its own use. However, U.S. officials and regional experts say Islamabad provides Washington with assistance behind closed doors in determining and finding targets

### Renewables

#### 1. Non unique and turn- renewables being crowed out now—gas key to stabilize them

Yergin and Dumaine 2012 (Daniel [Pulitzer Prize co-founder and chairman of Cambridge Energy Research Associates] and Brian; Will gas crowd out wind and solar; Apr 17; <http://tech.fortune.cnn.com/2012/04/17/yergin-gas-solar-wind/?iid=HP_Highlight>; kdf)

Isn't the worry now that cheap natural gas might also crowd out wind and solar?¶ Yes. The debate is over whether natural gas is a bridge fuel to buy time while renewables develop or whether it will itself be a permanent, major source of electricity.¶ What do you think?¶ Over the past year the debate has moved beyond the idea of gas as a bridge fuel to what gas means to U.S. manufacturing and job creation and how it will make the U.S. more globally competitive as an energy exporter. The President's State of the Union speech was remarkable in the way it wrapped the shale gas boom into his economic policies and job creation.¶ I believe natural gas in the years ahead is going to be the default fuel for new electrical generation. Power demand is going to go up 15% to 20% in the U.S. over this decade because of the increasing electrification of our society -- everything from iPads to electric Nissan Leafs. Utilities will need a predictable source of fuel in volume to meet that demand, and natural gas best fits that description.¶ And that won't make the environmental community happy?¶ Well, natural gas may be a relatively clean hydrocarbon, but it's still a hydrocarbon.¶ So wind and solar will have a hard time competing?¶ Remember that wind and solar account for only 3% of our electric power, whereas natural gas is 23%, and its share will go up fast. Most of that 3% is wind. Natural gas has a new role as the partner of renewables, providing power when the wind is not blowing and the sun is not shining.¶ Will solar scale?¶ Solar is still under 1% of U.S. electric generation, and even though its costs have come down dramatically, they must come down a lot more. Solar is generally much more expensive than coal and natural gas.¶ You have to remember that energy is a huge, capital-intensive business, and it takes a very long time for new technologies to scale. The euphoria that comes out of Silicon Valley when you see how quickly a Twitter or a YouTube can emerge doesn't apply to the energy industry.

#### 2. The plan provides the necessary pipeline to move away from coal and oil, acting as a bridge towards renewables—this is the greatest internal link to warming

Easterbrook 2011 (Gregg; The Pipeline we actually need; Dec 10; <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/11/opinion/sunday/the-pipeline-we-actually-need.html?pagewanted=all>; kdf)

Today, natural gas is being found in tremendous quantities in the shale formations of the East Coast (owing in part to the controversial extraction method known as hydraulic fracturing), the Bakken shale field in North Dakota (where the gas is being “flared” or burned off as a waste product, because there are no pipelines to carry it to consumers), Prudhoe Bay and Cook Inlet in Alaska, the Mackenzie River Delta in Canada and elsewhere.¶ An opportunity exists to replace coal and oil, the most carbon-intense fossil fuels, with natural gas, which produces 30 percent less greenhouse gas per unit of energy generated than oil, and 50 percent less than coal.¶ Even without access to Alaska’s abundant natural gas, domestic production has risen steadily for a decade, last year hitting its highest level since 1973, according to the federal Energy Information Administration. “Proved reserves of natural gas have grown significantly over the past several years,” the agency said recently. It estimates, moreover, that the country has about a century’s worth of technically recoverable natural gas resources at current rates of consumption. (United States oil reserves equal about a three-year supply.) Production of natural gas has risen about 20 percent over the last four years despite a low prevailing price for this commodity — an ideal situation for consumers.¶ Policy makers might not have noticed the boom in natural gas reserves, but the market surely has. In October, Kinder Morgan, an energy giant that owns many of the terminals used for oil and coal transportation, bid $21 billion for El Paso Corporation’s natural gas pipelines. The deal would make Kinder Morgan the country’s largest operator of natural gas facilities.¶ Some urban buses already run on natural gas. Honda began selling a Civic that runs on natural gas; its energy use equates to 31 miles per gallon of gasoline at $2 a gallon, with low greenhouse-gas emissions. The financier T. Boone Pickens is backing a bid to install natural gas pumps at truck stops. Cheniere Energy, a Houston company, has agreed to export liquefied natural gas to Spain. As Washington wrings its hands about dependence on imported oil, American companies will ship a superior, cleaner fuel overseas.¶ Yet energy policy is still premised on the notion that coal and oil must be used for most needs, while carbon-neutral green energy from the sun, wind and biofuel is the main alternative. Here, the perfect becomes the enemy of the good. On paper, green energy can eliminate greenhouse emissions, while natural gas cannot: using gas instead of coal and oil would merely reduce carbon accumulation in the atmosphere. But most practical applications of all-green energy remain years off, if not decades.¶ That’s where the missing pipeline comes in. Prodigious amounts of natural gas are sitting in Alaska. It is conventional gas, which can be extracted without the problems associated with hydraulic fracturing for shale gas. (Some research suggests shale gas production via hydraulic fracturing causes methane emissions that offset the clean-burning advantage of gas.) If the natural gas in Alaska could be moved to the contiguous states, substantial long-term supply would be ensured. Buyers confidently could switch to natural-gas vehicles or gas heating; utilities confidently could switch from coal-fired generation, the dirtiest form of megawatts, to gas power.¶ Several Alaskan natural gas pipeline routes have been proposed. All require either cutting across British Columbia or converting natural gas into a liquid for shipment by tanker. All proposals entail complex capital-intensive efforts that would take years, require government support in the form of loan or price guarantees, and almost certainly cause political brawls — since everyone wants low-cost natural gas, but no one wants the pipelines or shipping terminals nearby.¶ Right now, with the price of natural gas low, private capital isn’t interested in building a major pipeline to Alaska. Such a pipeline could serve the national interests of the United States for decades. That makes support of an Alaska gas pipeline an appropriate role for the federal government. Yet the Obama administration is not interested — because only the word “green” is politically correct.

#### 3. The affirmative outweighs- natural gas use is inevitable, the affirmative reduces flaring which solves the impact to the disad. Furthermore, we have four certain scenarios for extinction- acid rain killing all marine life and destroying food chains, climate change making the earth uninhabitable, the chemical industry collapsing and not providing the tools necessary for growing populations, and the economy going bust causing power wars and terrorism.

### K

#### 1) Framework- Interpretation: the affirmative defends plan action and the negative defends either the status quo or a competing policy option.

#### This is best for debate because it ensures predictable debates, and ensures the 2ac has ground. This is a voting issue for education and fairness

#### 2) Permutation the plan and the alternative

#### 3) Permutation do the plan and the alternative in every other instance

#### 4) **We must develop theories and tools together- eco-pragmatism solves best**

Farber 99 (Daniel [the Sho Sato Professor of Law and chair of the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley]; EcoPragmatism; p 9-10; kdf)

In this book, I argue for a pragmatic approach to environmental¶ problems, in which economic analysis is useful, but not controlling.¶ Critics of cost-benefit analysis are right that economic¶ efficiency is an inadequate basis for environmental policy. Indeed,¶ the "state of the art" of cost-benefit analysis would limit¶ its ability to generate firm answers to environmental questions¶ even if we did want to make it our sole basis for decision malting.¶ But the critics are wrong to build a wall between economics and¶ ethics. In practice) the cost-benefit analyst needs to make numerous¶ technical decisions that turn out to also involve ethical¶ issues. Moreover, many economic insights turn out to be relevant¶ to a broader policy analysis. Properly understood, then, the¶ dichotomy between economics and value judgments turns out to¶ be a false one.¶ The approach that I take in this book is part of a broader¶ movement in legal scholarship, which is sometimes called practical¶ reasoning or legal pragmatism. 22 Legal pragmatists are, in part, reacting against the increased obsession of some other legal¶ scholars with grand theories such as economic reductionism. A¶ convincing analysis should be like a web, drawing on the coherence¶ of many sources, rather than a tower, built in a single unified¶ foundation. Intelligent analysis requires the use of theories,¶ but as tools, not as ends in themselves. Environmental decisions¶ involve a complex network of scientific, economic, and normative¶ judgments. It is unlikely that we can construct a structure in¶ which all of these considerations will point to a single conclusion.¶ We can have better hopes of building an interlocking web¶ of arguments that will support a decision based on diverse, overlapping¶ considerations.¶ Being pragmatic does not mean the rejection of rules or principles¶ in favor of ad hoc decision making or raw intuition.¶ Rather, it means a rejection of the view that rules, in and of¶ themselves, dictate outcomes. Thus, we shouldn't expect some¶ mechanical technique to give cut-and-dried answers to hard policy¶ questions. Hard policy decisions can't be programmed into a¶ spreadsheet. To the extent that cost-benefit analysts purport to¶ provide such techniques, they are doomed by their inability to¶ capture the richness of actual policy decisions.

#### 5) We have an ethical reason do the plan—flaring releases toxins that settle in the lungs of animals and humans, causing them a life of pain and early death. Acid rain and warming destroy farm land and will cause billions to starve to death. These impacts are inevitable in a world without pipeline infrastructure—proves the alternative doesn’t solve the aff—Warming further exasperates stresses

**Pascual and Elkind 2010** (Carlos [US Ambassador to Mexico, Served as VP of foreign policy @ Brookings]; Jonathan [principal dep ass sec for policy and int energy @ DOE]; Energy Security; p 5; kdf)

**Climate change is arguably the greatest challenge facing the human race.**¶ **It poses profound risks to the natural systems** that sustain life on Earth and¶ consequently creates great challenges **for** human lives**, national economies,**¶ **nations' security, and international governance.** **New scientific reports**¶ emerging from one year to the next **detail ever more alarming potential**¶ **impacts and risks**.¶ It is increasingly common for analysts and policymakers to refer to¶ **climate change as a threat multiplier, a destructive force that will exacerbate**¶ **existing social, environmental, economic, and humanitarian stresses**.¶ The warming climate is predicted to bring about prolonged droughts¶ in already dry regions, flooding along coasts and even inland rivers, an¶ overall increase in severe weather events, rising seas, and the spread of¶ disease, to cite just a few examples. **Such impacts may spark conflict in**¶ **weak states, lead to the displacement of millions of people, create environmental**¶ **refugees, and intensify competition over increasingly scarce**¶ **resources.**¶ One of the great challenges of climate change is, indeed, the scope of¶ the phenomenon. The ongoing warming of the globe results chiefly from¶ one of the most ubiquitous of human practices, the conversion of fossil fuels¶ into energy through simple combustion. Halting and reversing climate¶ change, however, will require both unproven-perhaps even unimaginedtechnology¶ and sustained political commitment. We must change living¶ habits in all corners of the globe over the course of the next several decades.¶ We must resist the impulse to leave the problem for those who follow us¶ or to relax our efforts if we achieve a few years of promising progress. **The**¶ **profound challenge will lie in the need for successive rounds of sustained**¶ **policymaking, successive waves of technological innovation, and ongoing**¶ **evolution of the ways in which we live our lives.**

#### No mutually exclusivity-we must combine methods to find solutions

Farber 99 (Daniel [the Sho Sato Professor of Law and chair of the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley]; EcoPragmatism; p 70-1; kdf)

Economic and environmental values both¶ have roles to play in the analysis. But what method should we¶ use to factor them together? Much energy has been expended¶ in a battle between advocates of two different methods, roughly¶ corresponding to the tree huggers and bean counters of the preceding¶ chapter.¶ To see how these methods might work, consider the problem¶ of regulating kryptonite, a fictional pollutant. One regulatory¶ method focuses on achieving the maximum feasible level of environmental¶ quality. Once we determine that kryptonite poses¶ an environmental threat, we would want to eliminate the threat¶ to the extent possible. We might do this by requiring all polluters¶ to use the best available technology (often called BAT) for controlling¶ kryptonite emissions, or we might direct them to take all¶ feasible steps to lower emissions to a safe level. I will refer to thiS¶ as the feasibility approach. The other regulatory method is cost benefit¶ analysis, under which regulatory decisions are made by¶ balancing the costs and benefits of regulation. The struggle between¶ advocates of these two methods has consumed many a¶ tree.¶ In my opinion, this debate has suffered from a certain unreality.¶ Ultimately, the most important practical question is not the¶ choice of one exclusive methodology. Rather, it is how best to¶ use whatever tools are available to make intelligent judgments in hard cases. Regarding these issues, close attention to a concrete¶ example can do a great deal to advance the analysis. Reserve Mining¶ provides an excellent case study in the uses and shortcomings¶ of both methodologies.

#### **Ecopragmatism guarantees the best outcomes**

Farber 99 (Daniel [the Sho Sato Professor of Law and chair of the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley]; EcoPragmatism; p 9-10; kdf)

In this book, I argue for a pragmatic approach to environmental¶ problems, in which economic analysis is useful, but not controlling.¶ Critics of cost-benefit analysis are right that economic¶ efficiency is an inadequate basis for environmental policy. Indeed,¶ the "state of the art" of cost-benefit analysis would limit¶ its ability to generate firm answers to environmental questions¶ even if we did want to make it our sole basis for decision malting.¶ But the critics are wrong to build a wall between economics and¶ ethics. In practice) the cost-benefit analyst needs to make numerous¶ technical decisions that turn out to also involve ethical¶ issues. Moreover, many economic insights turn out to be relevant¶ to a broader policy analysis. Properly understood, then, the¶ dichotomy between economics and value judgments turns out to¶ be a false one.¶ The approach that I take in this book is part of a broader¶ movement in legal scholarship, which is sometimes called practical¶ reasoning or legal pragmatism. 22 Legal pragmatists are, in part, reacting against the increased obsession of some other legal¶ scholars with grand theories such as economic reductionism. A¶ convincing analysis should be like a web, drawing on the coherence¶ of many sources, rather than a tower, built in a single unified¶ foundation. Intelligent analysis requires the use of theories,¶ but as tools, not as ends in themselves. Environmental decisions¶ involve a complex network of scientific, economic, and normative¶ judgments. It is unlikely that we can construct a structure in¶ which all of these considerations will point to a single conclusion.¶ We can have better hopes of building an interlocking web¶ of arguments that will support a decision based on diverse, overlapping¶ considerations.¶ Being pragmatic does not mean the rejection of rules or principles¶ in favor of ad hoc decision making or raw intuition.¶ Rather, it means a rejection of the view that rules, in and of¶ themselves, dictate outcomes. Thus, we shouldn't expect some¶ mechanical technique to give cut-and-dried answers to hard policy¶ questions. Hard policy decisions can't be programmed into a¶ spreadsheet. To the extent that cost-benefit analysts purport to¶ provide such techniques, they are doomed by their inability to¶ capture the richness of actual policy decisions.

#### 7) The alternative is vague and a voting issue for education and fairness because we are not able to predict how the alternative solves and cannot generate ground in the 2ac.