

BRIEF TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CLASSIFIED BY NSA / CSSM 148-6

SEPTEMBER 10, 2001

DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY NSA, CIA, DIA, THE JOINT

STAFF, NSC, AND OSD ON MARCH 10, 2011

THE MOST PROBABLE FUTURE SCENARIO OF TRANSITIONING TO DISPERSED

FUEL SOURCES UTILIZING TARGETED SUBSIDIES

NOTICE FROM UNITED STATES CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATOR (120th US Congress, May 19, 2027): This report about near-future circumstances was produced by a group of 27 non-partisan United States citizen-scientists selected by a bipartisan study group of the 106th US Congress in July 2000 by request of President William J. Clinton. It was delivered to President George W. Bush in 2001, one day before 9/11, the day of a large-scale terrorist attack on US soil. It remained highly classified for nine years and five months. It was released by President Barack Obama's administration to the public domain one day before the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan. The remarkable timing of this report's delivery and public release dates has made it a largely unrecognized footnote in recent climate change history.

THE GREEN WALL - A PLAIN-LANGUAGE EXECUTIVE BRIEF

The year is 2030. Energy remains a crucial determinant in every aspect of commerce and life. But Western democracies are energy-starved after decades of self-inflicted constraints on using fossil fuels. The production, storage, transport, and burning of oil and natural gas emit carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane, trapping more heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Climate

computer models predict various levels of catastrophe over various time frames. As a result, Western democracies have prioritized climate policies. Many countries have also shut down their working nuclear power plants because the countries' leaders fear accidents that may expose the public to dangerous radiation levels. Nuclear regulatory methodology in the United States and Western Europe favors near-zero risk over the benefits of CO<sub>2</sub>-free power production. The physics of weather-dependent wind and solar power has resulted in immense amounts of rural land and coastal offshore areas being populated with wind turbines and solar panels. Rural communities and some high-profile environmentalists worldwide are taking a page from previous antinuclear activists and stalling these massive projects via kitchen-table advocacy and aggressive not-in-my-backyard activism.

Meanwhile, the renewable power system wreaks havoc on electrical grids while the politically well-connected make billions of dollars off renewable subsidies. No technological solutions remain for storing baseline energy. Battery-based baseline backup power is measured in minutes, not hours or days. As always, all energy produced and energy consumed must be perfectly balanced in real time. As a result, a small cohort in the wind and solar community is starting to deploy small nuclear reactors to fill intermittent dips in weather-based power systems. A split between pro-nuclear and anti-nuclear advocates within the progressive environmentalist community over solutions to combat global warming is contentious.

Rolling blackouts are the norm as people plan their days around energy availability. Electricity and gas prices have quintupled over the last five years and show no sign of slowing. Mandated smart metering leaves millions of Americans and Europeans involuntarily without power to run their washing machines, dryers, dishwashers, garage freezers, pool equipment, EV

chargers, and air conditioners throughout the day. Most people have accepted that electricity isn't guaranteed except for short periods between late afternoon and midnight.

Airports routinely run out of jet fuel, stranding thousands and making travel expensive, inconvenient, and unpredictable. Even though combustion engine fuel is heavily taxed, making those vehicles expensive, people will still drive gas-powered vehicles for as long as 15 hours rather than fly to a destination. Electric vehicles are mainly used for local transportation because people fear being stranded far away during a blackout. The US Federal Government, like many European governments, is considering making short-hop domestic flights illegal and incentivizing train travel. Mass transportation is highly subsidized but often dangerous and unreliable.

In 2026, Western European countries and the United States also outlawed the manufacturing and use of gas-powered marine propulsion for recreational boats, gas stoves, lawn maintenance equipment, outdoor fire pits, and propane heaters. Residential garage doors have handles for manual operation when electrical power is unavailable. A resilient US citizen is a person or family who can survive independently for 31 days or longer without any input. Because of energy shortages, this population is now estimated at 15 percent of the US population, representing a diverse group with slightly above-average incomes; women make up 40 percent of this community. Resilient citizens are now a powerful voting bloc.

Rare earth minerals for batteries, solar panel components, wind turbines, and mobile devices are drying up, causing massive layoffs and plant closures. Eighty-five percent of those rare earths are mined in China or African mines controlled by China, Russia, or India. Import taxes and tariffs have tripled worldwide over the last five years. International treaties and trade agreements mandate that the more CO<sub>2</sub> a product emits during production, the higher the import

tariffs into countries that consider climate change an existential threat. Crippling trade wars are common among previous allies, clogging supply lines in every industry. The public suffers the anxiety of facing a dystopian future or the prospect of drastically lowering their quality of life. They can't avoid both, they're told.

Revolution is in the wind. Twentieth-century wars over access to and control of fossil fuels are becoming a reality again, as regional conflicts escalate over those once-scarce resources. Coal, oil, and natural gas are at all-time highs as countries grudgingly fall back on these energy sources to appease angry citizens, even as they limit access to the vast stores of these commodities within their borders. Poor countries have no path to increase power production. With a fertilizer shortage and agricultural transportation disruptions, starvation is taking millions more lives worldwide than since World War II.

Despite a decades-long push to transition the world off fossil fuels, developing countries are burning more coal and natural gas than ever. Millions of people die each year from atmospheric particulate pollution. CO2 levels continue to rise past 420 parts per million, even though a reduction should have occurred by now. At the same time, developed countries cut off developing countries from fossil fuels, locking billions of people in a constant state of poverty. As stated, the energy demand is vastly outstripping supply.

The technology to solve all these problems isn't a mystery. If invented today, nuclear power would be considered a miracle energy source. Radioactive waste is slightly used nuclear fuel and is considered by many to be a national treasure for countries where it is available. The best scientists worldwide increasingly whisper the obvious to one another and have testified to this committee that "*We could do it now; it's plentiful, clean, mobile, and cheap. We have the*

*experience and know-how; we've done it before – nuclear energy really could be a silver bullet.  
What else do they want?"*

### Summary

Mr. President, this panel of 27 of America's top non-partisan scientists across various disciplines highly recommends that the United States pursue a national policy that rapidly advances nuclear energy capacity in the United States. We also recommend prioritizing the State Department's mission to make the United States the top exporter of nuclear energy technology to world energy markets. The result would be a technological renewal within the United States educational and industrial systems, improved nuclear safety worldwide, and checks on nuclear proliferation with our partner countries. We also recommend mitigating federal subsidies to the extent possible within US energy markets and, if incentives are needed, focusing on private capital formation rather than grants. Free markets are more likely to uncover a path to rapid energy production while reducing CO2 emissions causing global warming. Finally, this panel believes nuclear energy could be a silver bullet to avoid the world described in this report.

Respectfully,

REDACTED