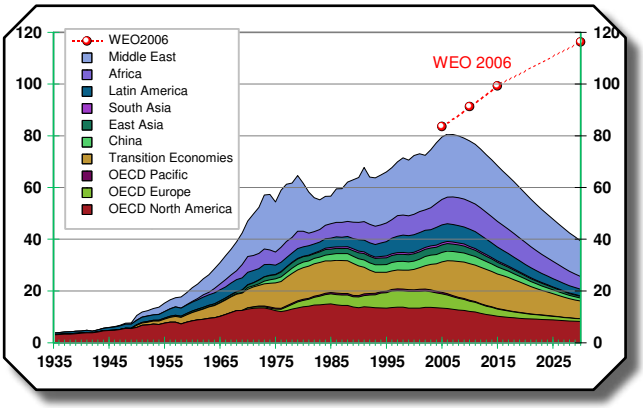
Energy Watch Group Reports

The German-based Energy Watch Group (EWG) is analyzing all available information that it can gather about fossil and nuclear energy. So far this has led to three interesting and worrying publications.



Graph: EWG Global Scenario for the Future Oil Supply. Oil Production [Mb/d].
The red line is the oil supply according to the World Energy Outlook (WEO) report of the International Energy Agency (IEA), 2006.

CRUDE OIL REPORT

According to the major result from EWG's analysis of world oil production, oil peaked in 2006, and will start to decline at a rate of several percent per year.

In this paper, a scenario for the possible global oil supply is derived by aggregating projections for the ten world regions based primarily, on production data, which can be observed more easily and are also more reliable than reserve estimates. Generally, future production in regions, which are already seeing declines, can be predicted fairly accurately relying solely on past production data.

The group concludes that the declining oil supplies will force the world to begin a structural change of its economic system. Our way of dealing with energy issues probably will have to change fundamentally.

The message by the International Energy Agency (IEA), namely that business as usual will also be possible in future, sends a false signal to politicians, industry and consumers, not to mention the media.

www.energywatchgroup.org

Oil: Crude Oil Supply Outlook, Report, Summary: 14 pp, (pdf 493 kB);
Full Report, 101 pages, (pdf 2MB),
Press Release: Peak Oil Could Trigger Meltdown of Society, October 2007.
Coal: The Capacity of Coal is Significantly Overestimated,
Press Release: 3 pp., (pdf 162 kB), Full report: 47 pp., 629 kB. March 2007.
Uranium: EWG Warns: Depleting uranium reserves dash hopes for atomic energy supply,
Press release: 5p, (pdf, 173 kB); 8 pp., (pdf 614 kB);
Full Report: 48 pp., 404 kB, December 2006. Background Report: update, April 2007.

COAL REPORT

The major results from the EWG's analysis of the coal production is that there is significantly less coal left to be burnt than most people think This contradicts the conventional wisdom that says we have coal resources for hundreds of years left.

EWG estimates that the production of coal will peak in 2025, at 30 % above the current level, if it is not reduced earlier to mitigate climate change. After the peak, production will slowly decline because of diminishing resources.

Suprisingly, EWG also found that many data about proven reserves is out of date. In some countries the data have not been updated for 15-40 years. There is an urgent need for up-to-date and transparent data collection, without inclusion of speculative resources. In some cases, for lignite, there have also been dramatic devaluations of more than 80 % of the resource estimate. China is the country with the most reserves, although it is not the largest producer. Just around 1/5 of the Chinese reserves are being mined. Coal production in China will pass its peak within the coming 10 years.

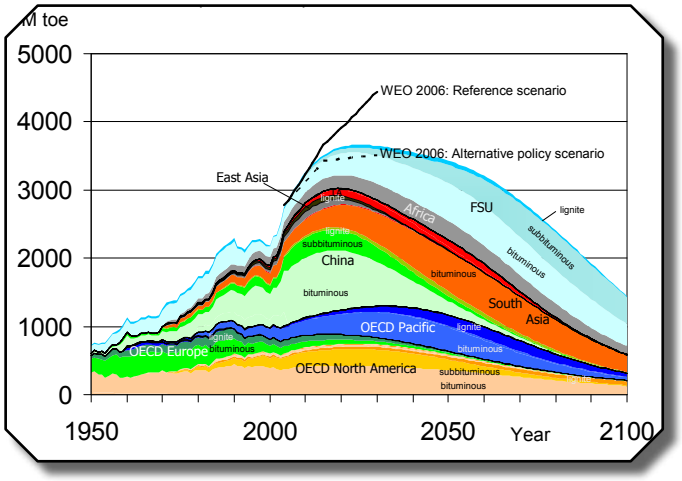
ENERGYWATCHGROUP

URANIUM REPORT

Today, uranium-mining capacity is only about 2/3 of the amount needed to meet consumer demand. EWG has concluded that the dramatically increased amounts of uranium that would be necessary for expanded reliance on nuclear power will not be available.

Due to the increasing prices of uranium, the EWG opposes the claims that nuclear fuel is cheap and that its prices have hardly any effect on the cost of nuclear power production.

Graph: EWG Global Scenario of Coal Production [Mtoe] according to the availability of coal in countries. The black line is the coal forecast according to the World Energy Outlook (WEO) report of IEA, 2006. The IEA scenario assumes further increasing coal consumption and production until at least 2030. According to EWG, this will not be possible due to limited reserves.



Graph: EWG Global Statistics of Uranium delivered amount and demand, Uranium [kt], according to producing countries. The black curve shows the annual uranium use in atomic power plants world-wide. Since the beginning of the 90s demand has been higher than the delivered amount.