

STACY: Yes gentlemen. I am Tom Stacy with the Alliance for Wise Energy Decisions, which is a group of academics and energy industry professionals from around North America. And I want to say first of all that our group is not anything like the 90 year old man in Texas who (had seen many changes over the years, and was against every one of them.) In fact almost everything that you're talking about today, I'm (nodding) my head up and down the whole time.

There is a common concern (among) the people I work with on a day to day basis that leads me to a rather technical question, but one that Mr. Morris led into when he talked about intermittent resources and what effect (they have) on your electrical systems. And of course I heard him talk about "storage."

The scale on which you are talking about (using wind to) replace natural gas in the electricity sector, then freeing it up for the transportation sector is somewhat problematic to the people I work with. Let me read my question here.

Your plan begins with wind replacing natural gas in the electricity sector. But wind, an intermittent supply resource demands additional load balancing resources at the penetration levels you plan for. Can wind really replace natural gas kilowatt-hour for kilowatt-hour in the electricity sector, and if not, what load balancing resources replace the added natural gas that's actually needed when it isn't very windy in most of the country? Thank you.

PICKENS: I'm the one who set up your question when I said that 22% is what natural gas power generation after fixing the power generation pie. .... I said that you could replace that with wind and I fully understood the comparison with wind. The point ... what subjected a big number what to do you can do as far as you developing other resources in America. I don't want to replace natural gas with wind. I want to add wind to natural gas is what I want to do. We have plenty of natural gas to do power generation and to do transportation fuel, too. Natural gas is so abundant in this country we can use it for both purposes but it's only a "bridge fuel" to the next generation. And the bridge fuel natural gas will last for 20 to 65 years. Then you're going to have to get on the battery. And Al Gore and I talked about this, ..... But he said it's a moot point if you come up with a battery that will do it quickly. Do it, do it, then use the natural gas for some other purpose. Natural gas is a valuable fuel – it's so much cleaner - even though it's a carbon fuel it is so much cleaner than coal and oil diesel and gasoline and all. So and I would say that you use natural gas for power generation and a transportation fuel, then get as quickly as you can to the next generation, and that's the way I'm gonna call it. I'm not trying pull electric gas out. I know I messed up your question. (laughter from audience)

MORRIS: Cause that's the thing of it and it's important. I have had an opportunity to speak with students from Stanford and MIT and Ohio State and all over Ohio here. The kids on campus understand the intermittency issue and their working on it. Today wind is electrically inefficient and economically inefficient but it won't always be. We'll crack that equation. Thank you.

# Confessions of Energy Legends:

## Wind Power Technically, Economically Inefficient - Can't Really Replace Natural Gas in Electricity Sector



A sharp dressed Oil Billionaire breezed through Columbus, Ohio yesterday as part of a US tour asking citizens and civic leaders to pressure lawmakers for a “new deal” scale transmission

grid expansion “from sea to sea and border to border.”

This grid overhaul idea has surfaced before, but this time it has rock star status. It starts with Al Gore and his highly successful, multi-pronged global warming catastrophe platforms, and ends with iconic windmills and a silver tongued Texan named T. Boone Pickens. Wind and solar are the darlings of America’s eco-imagination these days, gathering favor as “the way forward to save a planet in peril.”

But faced with a simple question about the Pickens Plan in the midst of a Town Hall style gathering with all the ingredients of a wind power pep-rally, both Pickens and AEP Chief Michael Morris backed off like worn out rock stars from a mob of screaming teenagers.

When asked what electricity generation fuel they envisioned for load balancing once the NG has been diverted to the transportation sector (a pillar of [The Pickens Plan](#)) Boone responded “I don’t want to replace natural gas with wind... I would say that you use natural gas for power generation *and* a transportation fuel... natural gas will last for 20 to 65 years. Then you’re going to have to get on the battery.” Not a positive word for wind.

The follow up comment from AEP’s Michael Morris was even more damning for the fading fame of the towering turbine: “Today wind is electrically inefficient and economically inefficient but it won’t always be. We’ll crack that equation - Thank you.”

Strangely, at that moment I pictured the executive as Elvis, dressed in sequins and shades – a thin disguise of hype and glamour desperately trying to mask the fatal flaws beneath. “Thank you. Thank you very much.”