



First Response
to
Peak Oil and Climate Change

by Anthony Withers

*Your intuition is that which perceives truth even
when your mind denies it.*

Votre intuition est ce qui perçoit la vérité même lorsque le mental la nie.

Peak Oil and Climate Change?

While you have certainly heard of Climate Change, you may not yet have heard of or paid much attention to Peak Oil.

What is Peak Oil? Is it just a theory? What about the climate? Is it really changing? Because of us? Which experts are right? How can you know what to believe and what action to take? The information out there is often conflicting, may not be true or complete, and is very complex.

The aim of this presentation is to remind you of a way of cutting through the complexity, discerning the truth and deciding on valid courses of action.

We have called the technique - First Response.

What is the First Response?

First Response is a way of accessing the intuitive faculty of your mind to achieve clarity and to make decisions.

You can use it in any and all areas of your life, but it is particularly valuable when you are faced with difficult decisions or multifaceted problems.

It is also appropriate when not all the facts are known, or you have doubts about the accuracy of the facts or the motives of your sources.

Stop trying to understand and you will know without understanding.

First Response vs Post-Intuitive Reasoning

Your First Response is drawn from the right hemisphere of your brain and projected onto your awareness screen.

Very, very quickly afterwards your left hemisphere cuts in with a reaction based on reason, or fear, or social conditioning, and you may tell yourself that you need “to think things through”, “to give it some consideration”, “not to be silly”, “not to get carried away without reason” and so on.

(You may even feel this process going on as you read these words – try not to listen!)

How do I feel my First Response?

With practice, with awareness of the factors that can cloud perception, and a certain internal stillness, you can simply sense your response as it occurs.

Until that time, you can make things easier by asking yourself – in response to some statement or theory:

“Does it have the ring of truth?” or “Does it resonate with something inside me?” or in some cases “Does that make my heart sing?”

(and not: “Does that make sense?”, “Does it fit the facts?”, “Is that logical?”)

Beware! of two things...

One is the appeal of Negative Glamour which will distort your clarity. Negative Glamour is the sort of 'excitement' you feel at the sight of the tidal wave sweeping through the streets of New York in the film *The Day After Tomorrow*, or as you study maps of areas lost through increases in sea level. A 'buzzy' feeling in your solar plexus will accompany thoughts tinged with it, and you will need to wait until you are calm, or have taken two changing breaths, before you try again to access your First Response.

Fear, secondly, could cut in to distort your First Response. Remind yourself that "Nothing real can be threatened, and nothing unreal exists". This will be calming at a deep level, even if it doesn't seem to make sense.

We will now look at the nature of Peak Oil and why it is important. Pay attention to your First Response to what you read...

What is Peak Oil?

Peak Oil concerns the production of oil - its extraction from the ground.

Until a certain point, we can continue to extract more to satisfy increasing demand.

After that point it becomes more difficult to extract the best type of oil in the quantities we want.

The production of that oil well - or field or country - then starts to go down, so that point was a peak.

Why is Peak Oil important?

Our way of life depends on a continuing supply of cheap oil, not only for personal transport and heating, but the manufacture and transport of almost all the stuff we buy, and the production and transport of all our food.

Once the supply of oil starts to decline, its cost and the cost and availability of everything dependent on it will be adversely affected.

Your First Response to Peak Oil

Peak Oil is not a theory. The peaking of individual wells, fields and producing countries has been observed. **Global** peaking is the issue.

The question is not 'if' but 'when', and there are three possibilities:

- c. Peaking will be in the "distant" future, say 2030 or later
- d. Peaking will be in the "near" future, say 2010 or earlier
- e. Peaking has already taken place, or is now taking place.

What is your First Response? Sit in silence for a moment with the ideas. Weigh them up in your intuition. Which feels right? (Remember the Beware! warning.) If you can't get clarity, come back to it later.

Bear your response in mind as we move on to Climate Change.

Climate Change

Unlike Peak Oil, you have certainly heard of Climate Change and it is harder - but still possible, now you know where to look - to use our First Response approach.

The idea is simple: our way of life is having a great effect on the environment in which we live and on which we depend, that this effect is increasing and may reach a point of no-return, and the temperature, the sea-level, the rainfall and the weather patterns may change in ways that make our present location and way of life untenable.

Your First Response to Climate Change

Scientists may feel that “the period of scepticism of the fundamentals has ended and been replaced by debates over specific impacts”, but there is still a lack of clarity and conviction for many people.

What is your First Response?

c. Is the climate changing?

d. If so, are the changes caused by human activity?

e. If so, is this important – in the short, medium, or long term?

Feel internally - regardless of what view you have previously held, what you have read or seen, what arguments you have encountered – feel internally, what has the ring of truth?

Beware!

The Manufacture of Doubt

In industry and commerce it is not unusual for products that may be dangerous to be defended not by proving that they are safe, but only by casting *doubt* on the research showing them to be dangerous. The same technique may be applied to the concept of Climate Change.

Not all commentators, media and industries are well-intentioned or well-informed. It is for you to exercise discernment – examine your First Response to what you read or hear.

What are your conclusions?

Whatever your conclusions, vet them to be sure they are not influenced by Negative Glamour, Fear, or Post-intuitive reasoning. And then value them, have the inner confidence in their validity which they deserve, and especially do not think yourself - or talk yourself - out of them.

You should feel clear and happy with them. You may feel released or liberated. They could generate a feeling of optimism and positivity. (Surprising really.)

If your First Response leads you to feel that Global Peaking is in the near future or has already passed, and that Climate Change is serious and caused by our activities, what does this mean for our way of life? How do we deal with the Hydrocarbon Twins? And what can we do now?

Our way of life?

After peaking:

- Oil Production will begin to decline (or may stay on a plateau for a while, depending on demand)
- Demand is likely to continue to increase *globally*, though it may be reduced *locally* by changes in behaviour, recession or rationing.
- The price of oil is likely to rise, perhaps by sharp increases followed by reductions which do not quite restore the previous position.
- Prices dependent on oil are likely to rise, businesses may become unprofitable, priorities may change. Growth – constant and taken for granted - is unlikely to be sustainable

What is **your** First Response? What effects do you feel would follow?

The Hydrocarbon Twins?

The Twins? They go together.

Ideally, what we do needs to deal with Peak Oil and Climate Change together rather than as isolated challenges, since how we deal with one may well affect or be affected by the other.

For example, one response to Peak Oil could be to exploit tar sands in Canada, but the implications for climate change would be serious.

Equally, we could find ourselves facing the challenges of Climate Change with declining resources.

What can we do now?

Now?

In a report commissioned by the US Department of Energy – known as the Hirsch Report – the authors wrote

“Viable mitigation options exist on both the demand and supply sides, but to have substantial impact, they must be initiated more than a decade in advance of peaking”

Now is the time.

What exactly can we do?

This is going beyond our intention here, which is to help you feel your First Response and to achieve clarity on these topics.

Really good action plans – and much more – are contained in the references that follow.

Use the First Response technique to decide which references to follow up – here and elsewhere. And then use the technique whenever and wherever it feels right to do so.

You could also spread the word by passing on this presentation to friends and contacts to whom you feel it would be right to do so.

Start making gentle preparations.

References

- The Transition Handbook, Rob Hopkins - ISBN: 978-1900322188
- Transition Initiatives Primer – a pdf file
- ODAC - www.odac-info.org
- ASPO International - www.peakoil.net
- Peak Oil changes everything – Rex Weyler on the Greenpeace UK website
- The Hirsch Report 2005 – some peaking predictions here
- The Manufacture of Doubt - see “DQA” reference
- The Last Oil Shock – David Strahan

Techniques

Changing breath

The Changing Breath is a really useful technique to use to mark a change between one activity and another, or before one mental state and another.

It is steadying (before driving, before an interview) and calming (after an argument, before meditating); it ensures the energy of one activity is not mixed with the other.

It is simple to do.

- Close your eyes.
- Breathe in (to a comfortable depth) through your nose.
- Pause a brief moment.
- Let your breath out through your mouth like a sigh, releasing tension, releasing busy thoughts, releasing memories, as you do so.
- Repeat once (or twice) more.

<Back

Peaking dates - the Hirsch Report

- **Projected Date, Source, Background & Reference**

- 2006-2007 Bakhitari, A.M.S. Iranian Oil Executive ¹¹
- 2007-2009 Simmons, M.R. Investment banker ¹²
- After 2007 Skrebowski, C. Petroleum journal Editor ¹³
- Before 2009 Deffeyes, K.S. Oil company geologist (ret.) ¹⁴
- Before 2010 Goodstein, D. Vice Provost, Cal Tech ¹⁵
- Around 2010 Campbell, C.J. Oil company geologist (ret.) ¹⁶
- After 2010 World Energy Council World Non-Government Org. ¹⁷
- 2010-2020 Laherrere, J. Oil company geologist (ret.) ¹⁸
- 2016 EIA nominal case DOE analysis/ information ¹⁹
- After 2020 CERA Energy consultants ²⁰
- 2025 or later Shell Major oil company ²¹
- No visible peak Lynch, M.C. Energy economist ²²

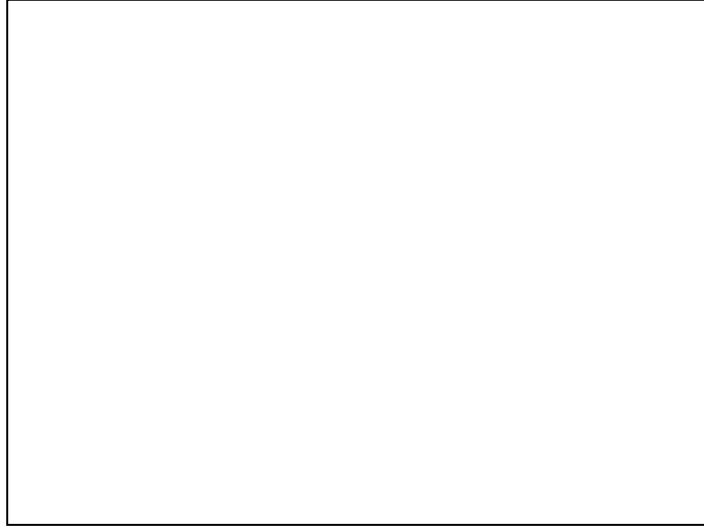
The author...

...spent five years with the oil industry in Shell-Mex and BP, sandwiching Business Studies at university with training in the company's marketing, sales and distribution operations. He then left SMBP to become a carriage driver and riding instructor in central London.

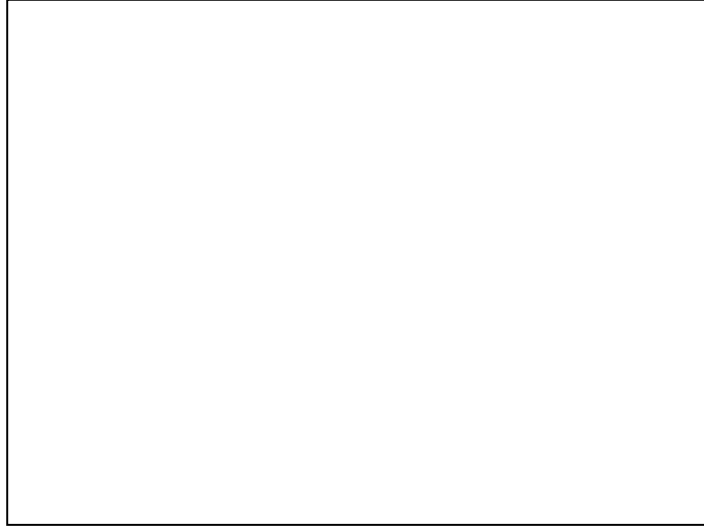
Work on communication skills has kept him in touch with commerce and industry since then.

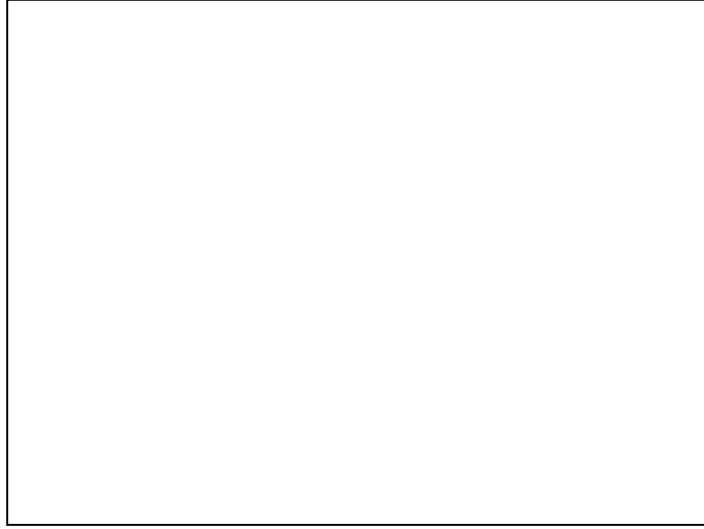


First Response ~ it's the way home



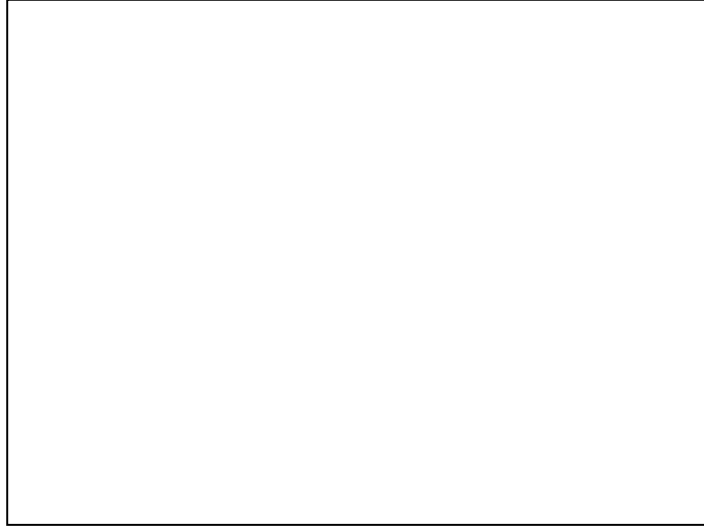


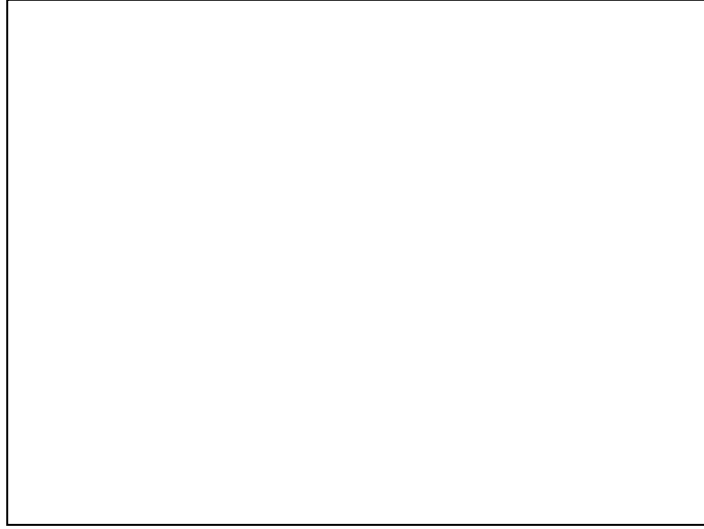


































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| • No visible peak | Lynch, M.C. | Energy economist ²² |

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11 Bakhtiari, A.M.S. "World Oil Production Capacity Model Suggests Output Peak by 2006-07." *OGJ*. April 26, 2004.

12 Simmons, M.R. ASPO Workshop. May 26, 2003.

13 Skrebowski, C. "Oil Field Mega Projects - 2004." *Petroleum Review*. January 2004.

14 Deffeyes, K.S. *Hubbert's Peak-The Impending World Oil Shortage*. Princeton University Press. 2003.

15 Goodstein, D. *Out of Gas – The End of the Age of Oil*. W.W. Norton. 2004

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17 *Drivers of the Energy Scene*. World Energy Council. 2003.

18 Laherrere, J. Seminar Center of Energy Conversion. Zurich. May 7, 2003

19 DOE EIA. "Long Term World Oil Supply." April 18, 2000. See Appendix I for discussion.

20 Jackson, P. et al. "Triple Witching Hour for Oil Arrives Early in 2004 – But, As Yet, No Real Witches." *CERA Alert*. April 7, 2004.

21 Davis, G. "Meeting Future Energy Needs." *The Bridge*. National Academies Press. Summer 2003.

22 Lynch, M.C. "Petroleum Resources Pessimism Debunked in Hubbert Model and Hubbert Modelers' Assessment." *Oil and Gas Journal*, July 14, 2003.



