EU Drafts Hydraulic Fracturing Guidelines to Mitigate Conflicting Laws

Posted on January 17th, 2014 by Mitch Esguerra

The European Union is planning guidelines for its 28-member nation and will urge them to abide by non-binding principles so that hydraulic fracturing is done safely and without confusion over different environmental regulations among the states in the region. Investors have expressed concern that shale prospects may become too difficult to access because European countries are creating conflicting laws. The proposal will be part of a package of documents on future energy and climate mandates to be considered by the EU governments.
**Boeing Looking to Add Diesel From Vegetable Oils to Flights**

Boeing Co., the largest commercial airplane maker, is looking to get approval from U.S. watchdogs to fuel airplanes with diesel made from vegetable oils to reduce fossil fuel consumption and curb carbon emissions. The “green” diesel fuel produces less than half the carbon dioxide emissions than fossil fuel and will only cost about $3 per gallon in the United States, says Boeing. Existing refineries may provide as much as 600 million gallons of the “green fuel” for jets annually, accounting for 1 percent of global aviation demand, adds the Chicago-based airplane maker.

**Libya’s Oil Expansion Aids Refiners**

The first expansion in Libya’s oil production in 10 months is seen to lower regional crude costs and boost margins for troubled European refiners. Libya – holder of Africa’s biggest crude oil reserves- have tripled about 10 percent of its oil output to 650,000 barrels a day in the three weeks to Jan. 13. Europe closed about 10 percent of its oil refining capacity since 2008 on rising crude prices and increased competition from new Asian plants and US shale. Analysts say that a sustained Libyan recovery may help reduce the relative cost of crude coming from Algeria and the North Sea.

**Micro-Windmill Technology to Re-charge Cell Phones**

Smitha Rao and J.C. Chiao, a research duo from UT Arlington, designed and built a miniature windmill measuring only 1.8 mm at its widest point to power gadgets that constantly needs recharging. To put it in perspective, a single grain of rice could hold 10 of these diminutive windmills. Hundreds of the windmills could be embedded in a cellphone sleeve so that whenever one needs extra power, all he has to do is wave the phone. The windmills were tested successfully last September in Chiao’s lab. The windmills did not fracture from strong winds because of its durable nickel allow material and smart aerodynamic design.
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