

tive. Some of the regional coops would not touch their gas valve to start their peaking plants because it was too expensive. What they had as a back-up then was considerably large fuel oil tanks, and that's what they used. But to fill those fuel oil tanks, there's no pipeline in the rural area out here; they'd have to use semi-trailer tankers to bring this in. After a period of a year or two, this fuel gets old, and they have to sell it and haul that out. It's extremely inefficient.

I think that gas is over-emphasized, how great gas is going to be, because there's no gas stored next to a power plant. It's a pipeline that has to bring it there. And in this Texas situation [Polar Vortex, February 2021—ed.], in Minnesota we didn't have any outages, but the gas price was \$800 million, the cost for that gas paid by consumers. And the consumers stood it; it wasn't the corporations.

**Question:** Why do governments consider this to even be a threat? They are opposed at the same time to thermonuclear power and nuclear power. Why is it that there is barely any funding for our fusion pro-

gram, for example? Recent blackouts in the United States have shown us what could happen if our conventional power sources are largely replaced with ineffective windmills and solar panels. Are people waking up to this reality? Is there now a moment in which we can actually change the dynamic in the world and create a new era of prosperity, development, and scientific advancement?

**Dr. Battaglia:** I think that the answer could be that nobody can fool everybody forever, as someone else said better than what I am saying now. What people should realize is that first of all we need to turn into a world where electricity is even more important as time goes by. Now, to produce electricity, there is a very rational way to do it. The base demand should be provided by nuclear power. The normal demand above the baseline should come from coal. And natural gas and hydropower for the big demand. This is the rational way to do it for technical reasons. I think in the panel later all these things will be explained better.

*The entire first panel can be viewed [here](#).*

Marc Pelaez

## A Military Perspective

*Marc Pelaez is a retired Rear Admiral of the U.S. Navy. He served as Chief of Naval Research and later was Vice President of Business and Technology Development for Newport News Shipbuilding. This is an edited transcript of his presentation to Panel 2, "Energy, World Health and the End of War: The Power of Energy Flux Density," of the Schiller Institute's July 24, 2021 conference, "There Is No 'Climate Emergency'—Apply the Science and Economics of Development To Stop Blackouts and Death." Subheads have been added.*



Marc Pelaez

Schiller Institute

people, it became clear, at least to me, that we must first understand that there are some basic underlying problems which must be addressed in the world. In particular, access to water, or clean and sanitary water, is fundamental. I believe that contaminated water supplies have been universally recognized as a prominent, global issue.

### Access to Clean Water Is a Human Right

To put some things in perspective, just when we're talking about consumption, which is necessary for basic human life, at least 2 billion people around the world do not have access to a clean water supply. Every week, 30,000 people are estimated to die because of sickness deriving from unsafe water; 90% of these deaths are children under 5 years old—young children being the most affected by diseases

in contaminated drinking water. The vast majority of these deaths occur in Third World countries. Across the 54 countries of Africa, across Southeast Asia, and the continent of Latin America.

In these countries, usually women and children are forced to spend approximately three hours a day walking sometimes eight miles to the nearest swamp or river to bring back water that is often contaminated. Again, to put perspective on this, the time spent travelling to find water per year in Africa alone is estimated at 40 billion hours; which is equal to the entire workforce of France.

Now, there are a host of organizations and companies that I've come across that are trying to address parts of the problem, but we are a long way from having a global plan to tackle this very real crisis. Frankly, the world is a bleak place for people who may not even own a spoon; who aren't educated on basic sanitation techniques; much less having access to even the simplest technologies to purify water. Other organizations such as the Gates Foundation and Charity Water, to name just two, are trying to address parts of the problem.

The challenge for this group is finding where we can most effectively contribute. I know that for some 40 years, the Schiller Institute—or people involved in it—have been looking at one major project across Africa, called Transaqua, which would have the effect of

making access to water for all uses, both industrial, drinking water, agricultural, etc. It's a long time in the making. This project would require, and I understand has the support of many of the affected governments in the central African region.

### **Call for a Conference To Examine Efforts and Technologies**

How do we decide where we can most effectively contribute? First, we must understand current efforts and technology. At the conclusion of the last conference that we held, I suggested—and I suggest again—that a conference to examine both these current efforts and the technologies that are available or might be available to help alleviate this problem, would be a very important endeavor. What I don't see, for sure, is a coordinated multi-national effort to address access to water, access to clean water. Perhaps we could effectively bring governments and NGOs together in a coordinated effort. Again, it's very important to choose the path that would be most effective, where you can have the most impact on long-term health in solving this problem for the world. I believe that solving access to clean drinking water, etc. is truly above politics, and can be a unifying force for good.

I wish you the best on your endeavors at this, and I trust, subsequent conferences. Thank you.

Alberto Vizcarra

## **Binational Drought and the Binational Solutions**

*Alberto Vizcarra is the Director of the Citizens Movement for Water in Mexico. This is an edited transcript of his presentation delivered to the second panel, "Energy, World Health and the End of War: The Power of Energy Flux Density," of the Schiller Institute's July 24 conference, "There Is No 'Climate Emergency'—Apply the Science and Economics of Development To Stop Blackouts and Death."*



Schiller Institute

Alberto Vizcarra

What characterizes climate is change. Ancient records of sudden events in this regard go back to times when the cause of evolution had not yet made man's appearance on the

planet possible. In primitive cultures, spreading fear of climate change and blaming human agro-industrial activity for this phenomenon, was a means of control and submission. Similarly today, what lies behind the financial interests that are currently warning about a climate apocalypse, is an intention to subject nations to their neocolonial plans for de-industrialization, looting of natural resources, and population reduction.

And yet, Mankind is possible despite those who preach a coming climate Armageddon which is tailor-made to their interests. It is with this in mind that we have to address