

WETS'03.01.03

Peter GLASER - Comments

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It is most important to focus attention on world energy transmission systems. The issues to be discussed are very appropriate, and deserve to be addressed.

My additional suggestions pertaining to scenarios in the 2030 period and beyond are as follows:

1. The potential of floating undersea tunnels beyond the present Channel Tunnel, to connect continents using Maglev trains travelling at 500 mph, opens up new possibilities for terrestrial world energy transmission systems by including power transmission cables in the tunnels.

2. Microwave transmission from hydro-electric powerplants across continents deserves more detailed attention. I performed a study at Arthur D. Little, Inc., for the European Space Agency using the hydro-electric output of the Guri dam in Venezuela. This system would produce a microwave power beam for transmission to Spain via a reflector in geosynchronous orbit to an antenna in an offshore location. (I presented the receiving antenna concept at the meeting in Monaco). This is an example of intercontinental power transmission with many potential applications.

3. The Space Solar Power System would be the definitive answer to meet future global power requirements, and could be the global energy transmission system beyond 2050.