

An All Electric Country? Are We Nuts?

By: [John J. Pico, BA, JD](#)



It is November 27, 2025 and you are about to sit down for Thanksgiving dinner when, suddenly, the lights go out.

Your only communication is your emergency CB radio, where you discover that the U.S. was hit by an electromagnetic pulse (EMP), caused by a sun burst.

Later you discover that the electric grid is down for the nation and not only do you not have radio or television, but the Internet is down, your credit cards are useless pieces of plastic, and you cannot travel anywhere.

Will Rogers once said, "There are three kinds of men. The ones that learn by readin'. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence for themselves."

(I am sure if Will were alive today, he would have substituted the word "learners" for "men;" so lift your mind over that hurdle and refocus on the subject.)

- **In 2010, a Oak Ridge National Laboratory study, warned** that a high-altitude EMP (or big solar storm) could affect "130 million Americans, could require 4 to 10 years to fully recover, and could impose economic costs between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion." They warned that a blast from an

electromagnetic pulse could, in a very short time, also deprive the population from access to food or medications. A million people could die.

- **On March 12, 2014, the Wall Street Journal warned** the U.S. could suffer a coast-to-coast blackout if saboteurs knocked out just nine of the country's electric-transmission substations.
- **On October of 2018, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security warned**, in its *“Strategy for Protecting and Preparing the Homeland Against Threats of Electromagnetic Pulse and Geomagnetic Disturbances”* that extreme electromagnetic incidents caused by an intentional electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack or a naturally occurring geomagnetic disturbance . . . such as extreme geomagnetic disturbances associated with solar coronal mass ejections . . . may cause widespread and long-lasting damage to the electrical grid to include significant portions of the Nation’s critical infrastructure, including electric power systems, satellites, electronic navigation systems, communications equipment, water and wastewater systems, and transportation modes and undersea cables.



They reported that “There are 16 critical infrastructure sectors whose assets, systems, and networks, whether physical or virtual, are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating effect on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination thereof. (See <https://www.dhs.gov/critical-infrastructure-sectors>). “

- **On February 27, 2022, ABC’s 60-minutes again warned: Vulnerable U.S. electric grid facing threats from Russia and domestic terrorists**, and went on to report: One White House official noted that Russia has proven its ability to use cyber attacks to shut down electric grids, and "compromised U.S. energy networks." We've been looking at the grid for months and were surprised to learn how vulnerable it is, and how often it's deliberately targeted.

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(Years back, on May 1, 2020 then President Trump recognized the threat and issued Executive Order 13929 “ . . . declaring a national emergency with respect to the nation’s electric grid and prohibiting the acquisition or installation of “any bulk-power electric equipment designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied, by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction of such foreign adversaries.” In addition to China and Russia, the order identified North Korea, Iran, Cuba and Venezuela as “foreign adversaries.”

*Unfortunately, for some unknown reason, that Executive Order was suspended. Source: March 10, 2021 Commentary: **Could China Hack Our Electric Grid?**, by The Hon. J. William Middendorf II, Emeritus Trustee since 2022, Heritage Trustee from 1988 to 2022.)*

Middendorf also warned:



Secret “back doors” in transformers and generators imported from such adversaries as China and Russia could enable those countries to shut down the entire national electric grid, throwing the entire country into chaos.

...

[In (2020) . . . the Wall Street Journal reported that U.S. officials had seized a Chinese-built transformer they suspected had been secret capabilities that could allow distant adversaries to monitor or even disable it. Cybersecurity expert Joseph Weiss told the Journal that officials had found “electronics that should not have been part of the transformer (i.e., hardware back doors) that could secretly allow the Chinese to gain effective control of the transformers.” Weiss added that as far back as 2001, China was caught trying to hack into a U.S. grid in California. He further contends that the Russians have been “in” the U.S. grid since 2014.

So what is the world doing?

- China and Russia are heating their homes with gas, oil and coal, while the U.S. is banning gas heaters and gas stoves.
- China is making alliances with Russia, Saudi Arabia and Brazil, while the U.S. is alienating those countries.

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- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS), along with Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina, and the United Arab Emirates created a separate economic group to challenge U.S. leadership. *(That is a whole other threat. According to the IMF, the BRICS bloc will collectively account for 32.1 percent of global GDP this year. That's up from just 16.9 percent in 1995 and more than the G7's share of 29.9 percent.)*
- Conforming to federal policy, several U.S. states are banning both gas and oil, heaters and stoves (things that can save us in the event of an EMP shock) and are attempting to flood their streets with electric vehicles that strain their electric grids even further.
- **July 6, 2023 the Wall Street Journal reported** that the U.S. could suffer a coast-to-coast blackout if saboteurs knocked out but nine of the country's electric-transmission substations.



Interestingly enough, instead of addressing the problem Cheryl A. LaFleur, former acting Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) blasted the Journal for publishing information about the report. (LaFleur, a Harvard educated attorney, had been on the FERC commission from 2010 until 2019, when she was elected to the Board of Directors of ISO New England.)

What is their reasoning?

On May 23, 2023 CNN reported:

- “Ford Motor said Thursday its electric vehicle business lost \$2.1 billion in 2022 on an operating basis.” But
- That loss was more than offset by \$10 billion in operating profit between its internal combustion and fleet businesses.

Again, on May 23, 2023, CNN reported: Ford to lose \$3 billion from EV sales to consumers this year

On August 28, 2023, Automotive News reported: “Ford Motor Co. may be losing money on every electric vehicle it sells . . . but the automaker is still forging ahead with ambitious growth plans.” (The article goes on to state “Ford recently warned that it will lose about \$4.5 bill more than it expected this year on its EV business. . .” but that “. . . it still expects to make 8 percent margins on EVs in 2026.”

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Not mentioned are the assumptions that EVs will be accepted by the public by 2026, that the electric grid will be beefed-up enough to service the vehicles by 2026, and that an alternative form of vehicle propulsion will not be implemented by 2026. (See [Thanking Akio Toyoda](#), [Poor EV Sales are Tip of the Iceberg](#) and [Tesla The Missing Calculation](#).)

Ford does not stand alone. Most major automakers, with the exception of Toyota, are on-board with the current EV craze.

So what is the answer?

There are two:

- First, for the governments (federal, state and local) to diversify energy sources (gas, oil and electric) in order to help protect the country and its population in the event of an EMP or, as demonstrated by the destruction of life and property, in Texas, during the winter storm of 2021 when its grid failed) natural disasters; and
- Second, for those who recognize the threat and are concerned about the problem, there are two choices:
 - First, elect officials who support your beliefs; or
 - Second, move to Wall Street, or Motor City where dope is legal and smoke some of that funny stuff.

When I was in the service, in the 1960s (the Age of Aquarius) one of the jokes going around was about the insane King.

As the story goes, someone put LSD in the water supply from which the people drank and, when the King spoke the next day the people did not understand him and shouted “Kill the King. He has gone insane.”



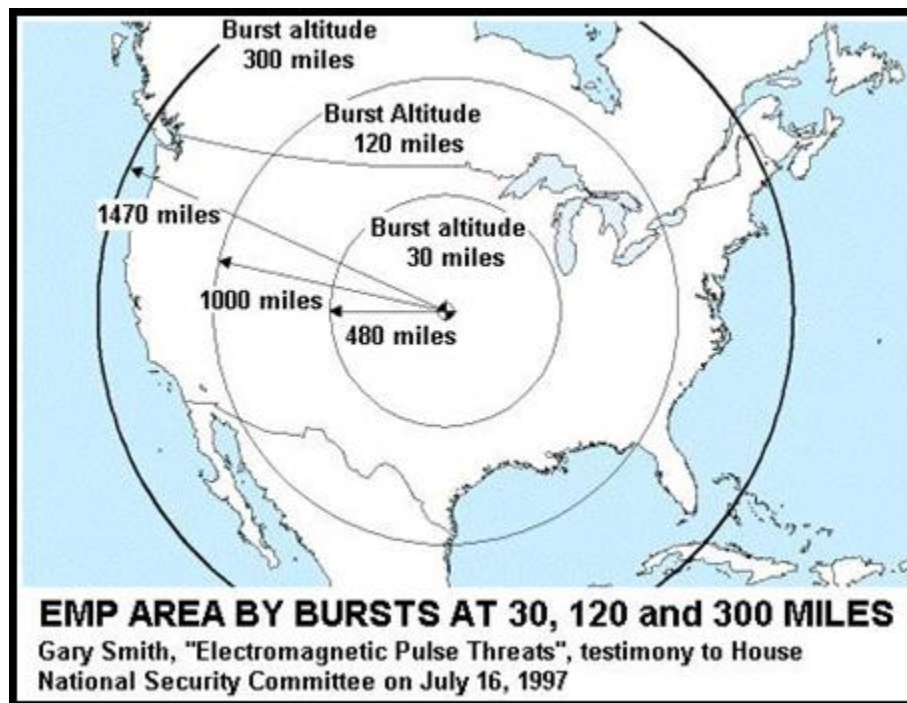
They then rushed the podium, took the King to the chopping block and asked him if he had one last wish before they decapitated him. He responded that he would like a drink of water.

The people granted his wish and gave him a glass of water from the people’s water supply; whereupon, after finishing his drink the King made one last appeal

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to his people, at the conclusion of which the people shouted “God save the King. He is sane again.”

If you cannot fix it, sit back, puff the pipe and enjoy the ride.



¹ Cybersecurity expert Joseph Weiss reported that as far back as 2001, China was caught trying to hack into a U.S. grid in California. He further contends that the Russians have been “in” the U.S. grid since 2014. Source: Washington Examiner article by Quin Hillyer, Deputy Commentary Editor January 27, 2021.

² The Department Of Energy (DOE) noted the threat to the grid is anything but hypothetical. Rather, it has “reason to believe, that the People’s Republic of China is equipped and actively planning to undermine the Nation’s bulk power system.” Source: The National Interest article, Could China Hack Our Electric Grid? by J. William Middendorf, March 9, 2021.

³ An FBI investigation determined Chinese-made Huawei equipment could disrupt the US nuclear arsenal communications. Source: Katie Bo Lillis, Monday July 25, 2022 CNN Exclusive.

⁴ The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, cited the Director of National Intelligence “Annual Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Community,” April 9, 2021 which reported that Beijing’s counterforce and counter value options in a crisis do not all require insider access to U.S. systems. According to the U.S. Intelligence Community, “China can launch cyber attacks that, at a minimum, can cause localized, temporary disruptions to critical infrastructure within the United States.”

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