Q1: Are we running out of oil?
A1: Wrong question! The question is "When is THE BIG ROLLOVER?"

Q2: What’s THE BIG ROLLOVER?
A2: It’s when the demand for oil outstrips the capacity to produce it.

Q3: Has THE BIG ROLLOVER occurred before?
A3: On a smaller scale, yes! The U.S. ROLLOVER occurred in 1970 (Figure 1, B). Remember those long lines at the gas stations in 1973? It has also occurred in the Former Soviet Union (Figure 1, B). THE BIG ROLLOVER is global, not local.

Q4: Does that mean we are running out of energy?
A4: Not exactly! It means we are going to be running short of a very convenient form of energy, one that propels our Planes, Trains, and Automobules! Up until now, it has been a buyer’s market but after THE BIG ROLLOVER, it will be a seller’s market (Figure 1, C).

Q5: Whose fault is it? Who’s holding out?
A5: Nobody, just like the ‘buffalo’ and ‘the fish in the sea,’ they are just less plentiful. Same with oil, there is a limit to how much oil the world can produce every day. We are not running out of oil, it will just become more precious.

Q6: Should we do something to prepare for THE BIG ROLLOVER?
A6: Just like preparing for the Y2K BUG, talk about it, talk about it, talk about it!

Q7: What good is talk?
A7: As somebody once said, “you can’t solve a problem until you know you have one.”

Q8: Then what?
A8: After we get through the finger pointing, then real solutions will come forth from very creative people in science and technology, in business and politics, in city, state, and Federal governments, and in our other institutions. We are all the stakeholders!

Q9: Wouldn’t it be better to get started solving this problem before THE BIG ROLLOVER is upon us?
A9: Absolutely! There’s no substitute for planning and implementing that plan before the oil shortage occurs. We can turn a lose-lose situation into a win-win situation if we start now.

Q10: How much do we consume?
A10: The U.S. consumes 26% of the world’s oil (Figure 2, D). Nobody is sure, but those willing to forecast say somewhere between 2003 and 2020 (Table 2, J). It occurred only 3 billion barrels a year.

Q11: What about Saudi Arabia?
A11: Saudi Arabia has about 3 million barrels a day of excess production capacity (Figure 3, G). Depending upon world oil demand, it could last a few more years, but then what?

Q12: Where’s that a lot of oil? With all our technological advances, aren’t we finding enough oil to replace what we use?
A12: No! Technology is great, but it can’t find what’s there. Our best bet is only 1 barrel was replaced (Figure 4, H). So, only 1 barrel was replaced for every 9 we used!

Q13: With demand so high, what will the prices do?
A13: The price of oil is quite likely to stay above $25 per barrel (Table 1, E).

Q14: So when is THE BIG ROLLOVER?
A14: Nobody is sure, but those willing to forecast say somewhere between 2003 and 2020 (Table 2, J). Most everybody seems to agree that it will most likely be within our lifetime, and possibly quite soon (Figure 1, G).

Q15: What should we do to prepare for THE BIG ROLLOVER?
A15: Hang on tight, if we don’t recognize the problem soon and deal with it, it’s going to be quite a ride!

**Figure 1**

**Figure 2**

**Figure 3**

**Figure 4**

**Table 1**

**Table 2**

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**References**


