

The Afghan Papers - Part 11

Wed, 20 Jan 2016 16:00:00, newstips66, [category: afghanistan, post_tag: afghanistan, post_tag: afghanistan-waste-exhibit-a-kajaki-dam, post_tag: consumer-safety-cover-up-the-tesla-motors-scandal, post_tag: do-crazy-rich-guys-really-do-attacks-on-competitors, category: elon-musk, category: energy-dept-slush-fund, category: lithium-batteries, post_tag: lithium-ion-explosions, post_tag: more-than-300m-spent-and-still-not-done-a-senate-subcommittee-is-looking-at-waste-by-a-pentagon-task-force-it-would-do-well-to-review-the-reasons-why-a-major-hydroelectric-power-plant-sits-unfinishe, post_tag: news-video-coverage, post_tag: the-afghan-papers-part-1, category: worldnews]

Eyes on Afghanistan as Next Lithium Mother Lode

Could Afghanistan become the Saudi Arabia of lithium?

Oilprice

([Oilprice](#))

Mar 25, 2014 at 9:38AM

[This article](#) was written by [Oilprice.com](#) – the leading provider of energy news in the world. Also check out this recent article:

- [Can Oil Turn Beirut into a New Dubai or a New Baghdad?](#)

As American troops prepare to leave Afghanistan, the U.S. has handed over prized mineral data to Kabul, which is hoping it can provide enough security to lure investors to key mineral deposits that could turn the country into the Saudi Arabia of Lithium in the best-case scenario, or another conflict minerals venue like Congo.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Geological Survey handed Kabul highly advanced hyper-spectral imaging of mineral deposits covering about 70% of the country's territory, but security, infrastructure and legislation must be addressed before these deposits can be tapped into.

Joseph Catalino, acting director of the DOD task force, said the Defense Department's Task Force for Business and Stability Operations (TFBSO) was working with private-sector firms to encourage them to invest in Afghanistan's mineral and hydrocarbon sectors.

"Big companies, small companies, even really small companies are all asking the same questions – what's there, where do we look and where do we drill? That's where this data comes into play," Catalino was quoted as saying.

In 2010, [U.S. geologists estimated](#) that Afghanistan held some \$1 trillion in mineral deposits such as lithium, copper and iron, and the American gift to Kabul here is the extremely valuable hyper-spectral imaging, which the Afghan authorities are hoping will help lure in investors.

As it stands, Afghanistan is taking in less than \$150 million in mining revenues annually, but officials in Kabul are eyeing a figure in the billions by 2020.

Lithium is positioned to play a key role in this mining venue, as Afghanistan is said to have one of the world's largest untapped reserves.

Lithium—a soft metal used to make lithium-ion and lithium-polymer batteries, which are used to power everything from electric cars to smart phones and computers—could even turn Afghanistan into the "Saudi Arabia of Lithium", according to a [Pentagon memo](#). That would challenge the current lithium leader, Bolivia, which is the world's largest exporter of the high-demand element.

And with lithium demand predicted by some to more than double in the next decade, securing the next big extraction venue is high on the list of priorities for manufacturers who depend on the element.

Another big venue for lithium could mean a lot for a company like **Tesla** ([NASDAQ:TSLA](#)), for instance, which is planning its own \$5 billion lithium-ion Gigafactory in Texas.

"At some point, if present trends continue, demand [for lithium] will outstrip the supply. And again, at some point, the market for lithium-ion could get so big that it actually affects the supply chain," said Donald R. Sadoway, a professor of the Materials Chemistry Department of Materials Science and Engineering at MIT.

There's something big happening this Friday

I don't know about you, but I always pay attention when one of the best growth investors in the world gives me a stock tip. Motley Fool co-founder David Gardner (whose growth-stock newsletter was the best performing in the world as reported by *The Wall Street Journal**) and his brother, Motley Fool CEO Tom Gardner, are going to reveal their next stock recommendations this Friday. Together, they've *tripled* the stock market's return over the last 13 years. And while timing isn't everything, the history of Tom and David's stock picks shows that it pays to get in early on their ideas.

[Click here](#) to be among the first people to hear about David and Tom's newest stock recommendations.

**"Look Who's on Top Now" appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* which references Hubert's rankings of the best performing stock picking newsletters over a 5-year period from 2008-2013.

Written by James Burgess at [Oilprice.com](#).

The Motley Fool recommends Tesla Motors. The Motley Fool owns shares of Tesla Motors. Try any of our Foolish newsletter services [free for 30 days](#). We Fools may not all hold the same opinions, but we all believe that [considering a diverse range of insights](#) makes us better investors. The Motley Fool has a [disclosure policy](#).

5 Years From Now, You'll Probably Wish You'd Grabbed These Stocks

An announcement this big doesn't happen every day. This Friday, Motley Fool co-founders David and Tom Gardner will reveal two brand-new stock picks that they think have serious market-beating potential. Some of their biggest winners have returned upwards of **5,000%***. Don't miss your chance to be one of the first to grab what could be the next multibagger stocks. [Click here](#) to get in on the action.

**Motley Fool Stock Advisor* returns as of January 20, 2016.