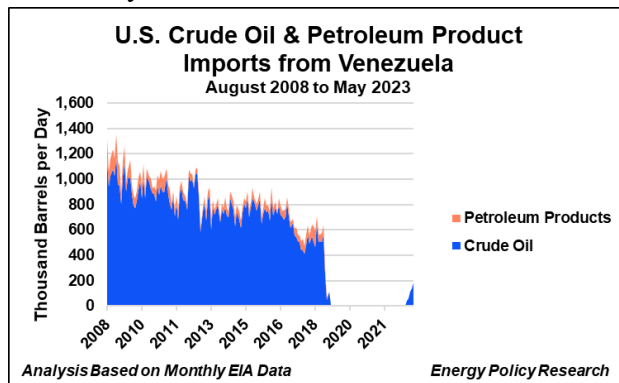


SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

September 27, 2023

The U.S. deals with all forms of governments. We must protect our backyard. You might want to hold your nose, but it's time we talked to the Venezuelans. We need to do it to protect ourselves from China entrenching themselves in our back yard.



Venezuela can't process the crudes they are producing. An exchange of light for heavy crudes would help them as well as U.S. refiners who are close to maximizing their use of light sweet crudes. Venezuela is currently using a very small amount of its refining capacity and that is from an extremely large base. The complex referred to as Paraguana Refining Center has three refineries with a total capacity of 955,000B/D. It is operating at 15%.

The Chinese are already in Venezuela.

Currently, petroleum products are tight across North America, and this would go a long way to ease that tightness.

Larry Goldstein (larryg@eprinc.org) is an internationally recognized authority on petroleum markets, and has extensive advisory relationships with energy companies, research institutes, and government agencies. He is a former president of the Petroleum Industry Research Foundation (PIRINC) now the Energy Policy Research Foundation (EPRINC), its successor organization, and continues to be on EPRINC's Board of Trustees. He was a founder and president of the PIRA Energy Group, a major energy consulting firm that was acquired by S&P Global in 2016.

He has testified numerous times before congressional committees and regulatory bodies and has been appointed to the National Petroleum Council (NPC) by every recent U.S. Secretary of Energy. He has briefed the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, senior officials at the Government Accountability Office, and a wide range of government agencies on developments in domestic and world petroleum markets. He has also served as consultant to the Iraq Coalition Provisional Authority. During the 1970s and 1980s he frequently appeared on the CBS Evening News anchored by Walter Cronkite.