

Play It Again, Sam May 7, 2024

Several months ago, the White House Suggested that they would be buying oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). We strongly suggested that, no, they would not; instead, they would likely be selling.

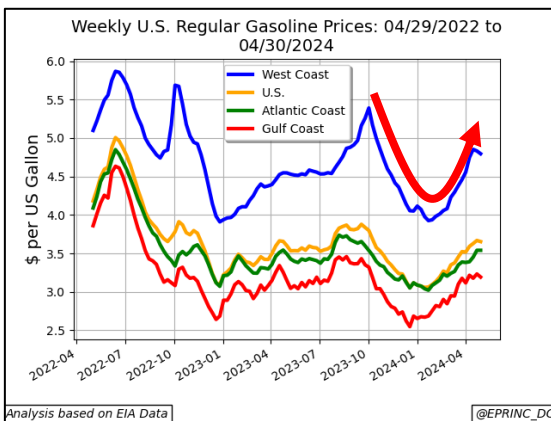
It didn't take them long to pull the idea of buying.

And we suggested that the U.S. could be sellers by late June 2024 (the gravitational pull of the 2024 Presidential election would have something to do with it).

[This past week, Amos Hochstein, the White House Energy Adviser, suggested that the Administration would probably be selling.](#)

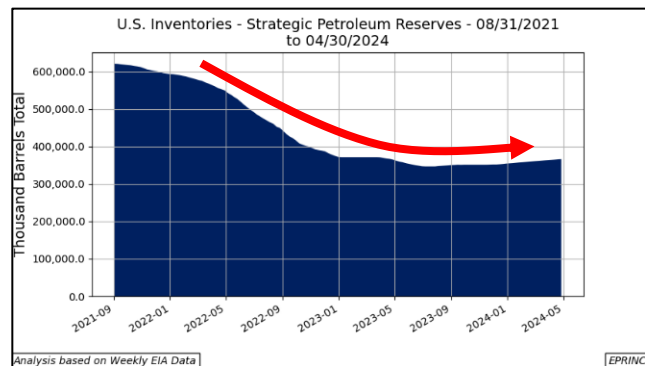
There are no shortages. Without question, they would be doing it for price (*Figure 1*).

Figure 1



This Administration is highly experienced in selling for price; they have sold 271 million barrels since President Joe Biden took office, lowering the reserve from 638 million barrels to 367 (*Figure 2*).

Figure 2



With the geopolitical stress that has been building over the last two years, common sense says build up the SPR instead of lowering it.

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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.

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