

## STS.038: Energy and Environment in American History Fall, 2006: Final Exam

**Part I: Identifications** (~ 1 hour). In four sentences or less, identify the following ten people, events, things, or ideas. BE SPECIFIC! Notes dates, locations, etc. Be sure to explain *why* these IDs are significant in the history of energy and the environment in the U.S.

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1) The Assembly Line                        | 6) William J. Levitt           |
| 2) William Thompson                         | 7) OPEC Embargo                |
| 3) The Rural Electrification Administration | 8) The Great Anthracite Strike |
| 4) The Red Line Agreement                   | 9) The Keeling Curve           |
| 5) The Pearl Street Station                 | 10) Hanford, Washington        |

### Part II: Essays (~ 2 hours)

- 1) The United States has gone through several energy transitions in the past two hundred years, and over time, energy consumption has steadily increased. In 1943, the anthropologist Leslie White wrote that “Other things being equal, the degree of cultural development varies directly as the amount of energy per capita per year harnessed and put to work.”<sup>1</sup> Using specific historical examples, evaluate this statement. Is it always true? Sometimes true? Never true?
- 2) The U.S. Secretary of Energy, Samuel W. Bodman (M.I.T. ScD, '65) has been charged with developing a new National Energy Policy. Before he begins, he has decided to return to his alma mater to consult with scholars to help him think about the issues involved. Wanting to avoid too narrow a focus on new technology alone, he has appointed you chair of the History Committee. Secretary Bodman has asked you to draft an essay explaining the social, political, cultural, and environmental aspects of energy use to think about in planning for energy. HE DOES NOT WANT POLICY PROPOSALS, only social issues to think about. He wants *specific historical examples* that illustrate your points.

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<sup>1</sup> L.A. White, “Energy and the Evolution of Culture.” *American Anthropologist* 45(3, Part 1), 335-56. Quote on p. 338.