

The Week That Was: 2013-06-29 (June 29, 2013)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week : *"The influence of mankind on climate is trivially true and numerically insignificant."* Richard Lindzen [H/t Tom Sheehan]

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Number of the Week: 3.7%

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THIS WEEK:

By Ken Haapala, Executive Vice President, Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)

The Climate Speech: President Obama gave a long awaited speech announcing his climate plan. In an emotional appeal, he invoked the spirit of Apollo missions, apparently unaware that some of the veterans of the Apollo team formed The Right Climate Stuff research team (TRCS) that directly challenges the claims of the official Washington science that human emissions of carbon dioxide are causing dangerous global warming. The research team found that 1) the science that predicts the extent of Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) is not settled; 2) there is no convincing physical evidence of Catastrophic AGW; 3) computer models need to be validated before being used in critical decision-making, 4) we have time to study global climate changes and improve our prediction accuracy, 5) the US government is over-reacting to AGW, and 6) a wider range of solution options should be studied for global warming or cooling threats from any credible cause.

The president announced sweeping new powers for the EPA, including regulating existing coal fired power plants, without bothering to ask Congress for the requisite legislation. In so doing he is claiming authoritarian powers to fight climate change which has been ongoing for hundreds of millions of years.

The president used the term carbon pollution some 20 times, demonstrating how the unfortunate Supreme Court decision that carbon dioxide is a pollutant that can be regulated under the Clean Air Act has infected official thinking in Washington. Many do not realize they are carbon based life forms and that in the act of breathing they increase the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) of the air they use by 100 times, inhaling 4 parts per 10,000 and exhaling 400 parts per 10,000. In his speech the president lumped carbon with mercury, sulfur, and arsenic, known toxins.

The speech contained numerous scientific and factual challenges. But this is official Washington science, where un-validated computer models are used to create fear of the future, including global warming, climate change, and extreme weather events, as if they had never happened before. The official science is grossly misleading and, contrary to the models, atmospheric warming stopped a decade ago, and surface warming stopped over 15 years ago. The official science is creating fear in the public that natural variability in climate is unusual and that variability can be controlled by government.

The president presented the issue as if he was on high moral ground, equating skeptics to members of the Flat Earth Society and insisted that urgent action is needed to protect future generations. If there is any moral issue to the speech, it is misleading the public about science and public health to assert authorities control over significant components of the economy.

Unfortunately, if his plan is implemented, the major burdens will become evident long after he has left office. Please see Article #2, links under President Obama's Climate Speech and <http://www.therightclimatestuff.com/SummaryPrelimReport.html>. The articles cover a wide range of opinion, and they are in no particular order. Generally, the newspapers that identify themselves as liberal supported the president's authoritarian expansion of power and did not insist on legislative action.

Carbon, Cost or Benefit? Last week's TWTW discussed how the concept of Social Cost of Carbon, which has never been approved by Congress, therefore is an authoritarian assertion, is being manipulated by Washington bureaucrats. An article in the *Wall Street Journal*, discusses this further. TWTW will start a subheading titled the Social Benefits of Carbon. Please Article #3 and Social Benefits of Carbon.

Another Yucca Mountain? Secretary of Energy Moniz asserted that the Administration is not waging a war on coal and that the Climate Plan has \$8 Billion for carbon capture and storage. Those who believe this will become effective and affordable would do well to review the history of the Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository, which this Administration stopped, costing the nuclear energy tens of billions on a failed government promise. In 2009, the EPA issued a rule limiting the radiation doses from Yucca Mountain for up to 1,000,000 years!

Further, the requirement under the climate plan that the EPA will issue CO2 limits for new plants and existing plants achieves the goal of stopping construction of new coal-fired power plants to replace less efficient older plants. No one would start a plant under the cloud of new regulations to be issued later. Please see link under Energy Issues – US.

Flat Earth Society: President Obama's equating those skeptical of the Washington science that CO2 emissions cause dangerous global warming brought out a few amusing responses with the Flat Earth Society. It turns out that the president of the society believes official climate science. Luboš Motl has fun with this by suggesting a merger of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Flat Earth Society. Please see link under Questioning the Orthodoxy.

NIPCC in China: There are further press releases covering the Chinese Academy of Sciences announcing the translation of the two major reports by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) and the event surrounding the announcement. The purpose translation was to promote discussion and it was not an endorsement of the report. Please see Article # 1 and links under NIPCC in China.

Model Issues: Last week's TWTW contained a discussion on the meaning of the mean of an ensemble of models. Judith Curry presented a discussion, limited to weather models that are constantly tested and updated. For the technically inclined please see link under Model Issues.

A Political Shift: Judith Curry suggests that the response of the Republicans to the President's climate plan may indicate a shift in policy from questioning the science to focusing on the costs of the plan. Curry endorses this approach.

This approach may be easier to explain to the general public. But the quality of the science still needs to be addressed. As discussed in last week's TWTW, the FY 2012 U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) is \$2.6 Billion. This does not include the monies being spent by the 13 agencies that make up the program. The 2009 USGCRP (different name) report was misleading. The draft 2013 report was shoddy, at best. If the purpose is to learn about climate change, rather than creating illusionary models, the entire program must be turned around to first understand the natural causes of climate change – and then understand the human influence. This turn around can only be accomplished by sharp questioning of all the agencies involved. Please see link under The Political Games Continue.

Fracking Fears: A new study by Robert Jackson, Professor of Environmental Science at Duke, confirmed that some water wells in northeastern Pennsylvania in Marcellus shale basin showed high concentrations of methane, ethane and propane. But according to Jackson, the likely cause was faulty well construction, improper sealing; not hydraulic fracturing. Please see link under Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Gas Rich Britain? The UK Geological Survey released a study of northern England that indicates that the Bowland shale basin may contain the largest amount of shale gas in the world, up to 1300 trillion cubic feet. Of course much more exploration is necessary to determine how much is economically recoverable. The discovery will cause great consternation among the fossil fuels politicians. Please see links under Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Climate Science Lesson Plans: The International Climate Science Coalition has announced lesson plans for teaching climate science in middle and high schools. SEPP has not reviewed the plans, but is familiar with the science advisor, Bob Carter, who is an editor of the NIPCC reports, and, no doubt, the program is scientifically sound. Please see link under Questioning the Orthodoxy.

Sustainable Wind Power? Probably unintentionally, an article in the Guardian newspaper stated: “Wind turbine operators and manufacturers have been holding off on tens of billions of pounds of investment in the UK, over fears that subsidies would be cut to unsustainable levels.” SEPP has long maintained that without subsidies wind and solar power are unsustainable on a commercial scale. Please see link under Subsidies and Mandates Forever.

Amplifications and Corrections: Harold Doiron of The Right Climate Stuff Team corrected TWTW description of his work on the Apollo program. It should have read: “He developed the lunar lander touchdown dynamics simulation for toppling stability and energy absorption used to guide design of the landing gear, develop landing techniques, and help select safe landing sites.”

Reader Jens Kieffer-Olsen challenges David Archibald's hypothesis that temperatures from central England indicate we are two years away from a 1740 event which was one of extreme cold following a period of warmth. Kieffer-Olsen asserts that the cause of the event was the 1739 eruption of Mt. Hekla in Iceland which killed about 20% of the population. An internet search, including one by Anthony Watts failed to uncover such an eruption. Kieffer-Olsen provided an account written in 1914, but it is in Swedish. The google translations is poor but it does state the eruption killed 9,238 people and significant livestock. <http://runeberg.org/univers/0476.html>
In two years we can test Archibald's hypothesis.

Number of the Week: 3.7%. That is the percentage in US carbon dioxide emissions from 2011 to 2012, according to the Energy Information Administration. Except for 2010, emissions have dropped every year since 2007. Lower natural gas prices have resulted in less carbon-intensive natural gas electricity generation replacing higher carbon intensive coal generation. The mild winter contributed as well. SEPP adds that the sustained economic stagnation (growth rate less than 2%) contributes as well.

<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=10691>

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below please see this week’s TWTW at: www.sepp.org. The articles are at the end of the pdf.

1 Climate change by the numbers.

By S. Fred Singer, Chairman of SEPP, Founder of NIPCC, Submitted to *Shanghai Daily*, June 23, 2013

<http://www.sepp.org/science-editorials.cfm#A83>

2. The Carbonated President

Obama unveils a war on fossil fuels he never disclosed as a candidate.

Editorial, WSJ, Jun 26, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323683504578567533647032380.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_2

3. The 'Social Cost of Carbon' Gambit

Editorial, WSJ, Jun 27, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323566804578551672709633396.html?mod=djemEditorialPage_h

4. A Property Rights Victory

Government can't use permitting to extort from landowners.

Editorial, WSJ, Jun 27, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323683504578567670559475816.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Flooding catastrophes at the Bavarian Lake Ammer occur predominantly during phases of weak solar activity

By Fritz Vahrenholt and Sebastian Lüning, Trans. P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jun 24, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/06/24/data-show-amazing-relationship-between-south-german-flooding-frequency-and-solar-activity/>

Climategate Continued

CRU Abandons Yamal Superstick

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jun 28, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/06/28/cru-abandons-yamal-superstick/#more-18040>

[SEPP Comment: Changing an abrupt warming into no warming, as previously suggest by McIntyre. Some commentators accuse McIntyre of plagiarism for showing these changes – another low.]

Shiyatov and the Polar Urals

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jul 27, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/06/27/shiyatov-and-the-polar-urals/#more-18010>

[SEPP Comment: A long post on CRU ignoring a significant set of properly collected tree ring data that was described in the journals.]

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

JCU caves in to badgering and groupthink — blackballs “politically incorrect” Bob Carter

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jun 26, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/06/jcu-caves-in-to-badgering-and-groupthink-blackballs-politically-incorrect-bob-carter/>

[SEPP Comment: Bob Carter is an editor of the NIPCC Reports.]

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Roy Spencer and Murry Salby,

By Vincent Gray, NZ Climate Truth Newsletter No 313, Jun 22, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/06/roy-spencer-and-murry-salby.html>

[SEPP Comment: On the importance of satellite measurements temperatures. Also, on the need to document findings so they can be carefully studied, in this instance the relationship between temperatures and CO2 as asserted by Salby.]

Government Weather and Climate Science is a Proven Disaster.

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Jun 26, 2013

<http://drtimball.com/2013/government-weather-and-climate-science-is-a-proven-disaster/>

It is time to close the [UK] weather office as they, like all government weather offices, have proved are political, unaccountable and scientifically wrong.

Paper finds ~50% of warming over past 30 years was due to natural ocean oscillations

By Staff Writer, Hockey Schtick, Jun 18, 2013

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2013/06/paper-finds-50-of-warming-over-past-30.html>

Link to paper: An Observational Analysis of Oceanic and Atmospheric Structure of Global-Scale Multidecadal Variability

By Peng Liu, Taida Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Sep 18, 2013

http://www.tims.ntu.edu.tw/Talks_detail.php?talkID=2301

[SEPP Comment: Solar influence should not be summed with ocean influence, they may be interrelated.]

Defending the Orthodoxy

Goodbye, Miami

By century's end, rising sea levels will turn the nation's urban fantasyland into an American Atlantis. But long before the city is completely underwater, chaos will begin

By Jeff Goodell, Rolling Stones, Jun 20, 2013 [H/t William Readdy]

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/why-the-city-of-miami-is-doomed-to-drown-20130620>

[SEPP Comment: A tedious account of what may happen. During the last interglacial, about 125,000 years ago, south Florida was covered by the ocean. One can see this by investigating limestone quarries 2 to 3 meters above sea level. No one suggests that human CO2 emissions was the cause.]

Buffering the Sun

David Keith and the question of climate engineering

By Erin O'Donnell, Harvard Magazine, July / August, 2013 [H/t Jan Breslow]

http://harvardmagazine.com/2013/07/buffering-the-sun?utm_source=University&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EdHighlights_Jun13

President Obama's Climate Speech

'We Need to Act': Transcript of Obama's Climate Change Speech

By Tom Randall, Bloomberg, Jun 25, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-06-25/-we-need-to-act-transcript-of-obama-s-climate-change-speech.html>

President Obama's Plan to Fight Climate Change

By Staff Writers, The White House, Jun 25, 2013 [H/t Jeffrey Miller]

http://www.whitehouse.gov/share/climate-action-plan?utm_source=email&utm_medium=social&utm_content=062513p1&utm_campaign=climate_change

Obama's Boutique Energy Plan Hurts the Poor

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jun 26, 2013

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/06/obamas-boutique-energy-plan-hurts-the-poor/>

And our tropical tropospheric temperatures (where almost 50% of Earth's sunlight is absorbed) have a 34-year temperature trend which is not statistically different from zero, in stark contrast to 73 state-of-the-art climate models.

Obama Puts Legacy at Stake With Clean-Air Act

By Justin Gillis, NYT, Jun 25, 2013

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/26/science/earth/clean-air-act-reinterpreted-would-focus-on-flexibility-and-state-level-efforts.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130626&r=0

The President's Climate Action Plan – the good, the bad, and the ugly (with full documents)

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 25, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/25/the-presidents-climate-action-plan-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly/>

Obama pledges carbon limits at power plants, says Keystone can't raise greenhouse gases

By Brian Hughes, Washington Examiner, Jun 25, 2013

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/obama-pledges-carbon-limits-at-power-plants-says-keystone-cant-raise-greenhouse-gases/article/2532374>

On the international front, Obama vowed to block U.S. funding for new coal power plants overseas unless they used so-called carbon capture technology.

[SEPP Comment: Achieves what environmentalists want, it blocks the construction of new coal fired power plants using advanced pollution control technology due to the uncertainty of EPA rule making.]

Obama should confront climate change fantasies

By Bjørn Lomborg, USA Today, Jun 25, 2013

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/06/25/obama-climate-change-georgetown-column/2455723/>

On climate change, Obama bypasses Congress with ambitious plan

By Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post, Jun 25, 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obama-climate-strategy-represents-piecemeal-approach/2013/06/25/7bd9f20a-dd0a-11e2-bd83-e99e43c336ed_story.html?hpid=z2

Blowing Smoke: Obama Climate Speech Riddled With Lies

A dangerous, arrogant, fact-free tirade.

By Tim Ball and Tom Harris, PJ Media, Jun 26, 2013

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/blowing-smoke-obama-climate-speech-riddled-with-lies/?singlepage=true>

Obama's Climate Plan Has No New Ideas, But Would Make Economy Worse

By Kathleen Harnett White, IBD, Jun 26, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-viewpoint/062613-661528-obama-climate-plan-would-only-make-the-economy-worse-off.htm?p=full>

Activists, lawmakers search for meaning in Obama's Keystone comments

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Jun 27, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/308023-outside-groups-lawmakers-search-for-meaning-in-obamas-keystone-comments>

Obama Is Merely Leveling The Energy Playing Field With Europe – Declares An End To Cheap American Energy

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jun 26, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/06/26/obama-leveling-the-energy-playing-field-with-europe-declares-an-end-to-cheap-american-energy/>

Obama's Climate Change Speech Ignores Science & EU Experience

By William Jasper, New American, Jun 25, 2013

<http://thenewamerican.com/tech/environment/item/15814-obama-s-climate-change-speech-at-georgetown-ignores-science-eu-experience>

Obama turns climate change into corporate bonanza

By Timothy Carney, Washington Examiner, Jun 25, 2013

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/article/2532397?slideout=1>

President Obama's climate initiative: The bad news and good news

By Steve Goreham, Washington Times, Jun 26, 2013

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/jun/26/president-obamas-climate-initiative-good-bad-news/>

The Top 5 Lies Of Obama's Climate Change Speech

Editorial, IBD, Jun 26, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/062613-661588-presidents-carbon-dioxide-speech-full-of-lies.htm?p=full>

CEI Analysts See Effort To Avoid Congress Because Ideas Are Unpopular

By Staff Writer, ICECAP, Jun 25, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/cei_analysts_see_effort_to_avoid_congress_because_ideas_are_unpopular1/

[SEPP Comment: Worse than trying to impress journalists by his basketball skills and shooting 2 out of 22 on camera?]

Cost of a Climate Policy: The Economic Impact of Obama's Climate Action Plan

By Kreutzer, et al., Heritage Foundation, Jun 27, 2013

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/06/climate-policy-economic-impact-and-cost-of-obama-s-climate-action-plan>

German Media Reaction To Obama's Plan: "Hollow Words...Bruising And Potentially Costly Political Battle"

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jun 28, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/06/28/german-media-reaction-to-obamas-plan-hollow-words-bruising-and-potentially-costly-political-battle/>

Obama draws a bead on existing coal plants

Editorial, Charleston Daily Mail, West Virginia, Jun 25, 2013

<http://www.dailymail.com/Opinion/Editorials/201306240132>

Obama's Climate Change Plans Include A War On Coal

Editorial, IBD, Jun 25, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/062513-661367-obama-goes-to-war-on-coal-and-constitutional-limits.htm>

New carbon pollution rules could still be years away

By Jennifer Dlouhy, Fuel Fix, Jun 24, 2013

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/06/24/new-carbon-pollution-rules-could-still-be-years-away/>

Beware! Media Will Support Obama's Climate Lies

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Jun 25, 2013

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2013/06/beware-media-will-support-obamas.html>

It's almost as if the White House can't figure out how to use Google

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 27, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/27/its-almost-as-if-the-white-house-cant-figure-out-how-to-use-google/>

The White House releases a laughable state by state climate impact report

By Anthony Watts, WUWT. Jun 26, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/26/the-whitehouse-releases-a-laughable-state-by-state-climate-impact-report/>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Three strikes and you're out

By Gordon Fulks, ICECAP, Jun 22, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/icing-the-hype/three_strikes_and_your_out1/

Does population matter?

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Jun 28, 2013

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/does-population-matter>

Global Warming: There's Nothing To Fight Against

Editorial, IBD, Jun 24, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/062413-661193-no-global-warming-to-fight-against.htm>

The IPCC and the Flat Earth Society may merge now

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Jun 27, 2013

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/06/the-ipcc-and-flat-earth-society-may.html#more>

[SEPP Comment: Establishing a parallel on these two organizations.]

How Many Things You Do Today Will Kill You Or The Planet?

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jun 25, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/06/25/how-many-things-you-do-today-will-kill-you-or-the-planet/>

Important Advance in Climate Science Teaching

By Geoff Brown, NCTCS, Jun 25, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/06/important-advance-in-climate-science.html>

NIPCC in China

Chinese Translation of Climate Change Reconsidered Unveiled in China

By Sansukong, China Daily, Jun 27, 2013

<http://bbs.chinadaily.com.cn/thread-872686-1-1.html>

Chinese Translation of Climate Change Reconsidered

By Joseph Bast, Craig Idso, S. Fred Singer, Robert Carter, The Heartland Institute, Jun 11, 2013

<http://heartland.org/policy-documents/climate-change-reconsidered-translation-chinese-academy-sciences>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Busting the myths about climate migration

By Alex Randall, The Carbon Brief, Jun 24, 2013

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2013/06/coin-mythbuster-on-climate-migration>

Climate Change: Russia Is Steamed About U.N.'s Kyoto Carbon Credit Cop-Out

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jun 23, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/06/23/climate-change-russia-is-steamed-about-u-ns-kyoto-carbon-credit-cop-out/>

Economy First: EU Climate Policy Falling Apart

By Joshua Chaffin and Peter Spiegel, Financial Times, via GWPF, Jun 28, 2013

<http://www.thegwgf.org/economy-first-eu-climate-policy-falling/>

MET Office Washout Claims Get a Cool Reception

By Gabrielle Monaghan, The Times, via GWPF, Jun 27, 2013

<http://www.thegwgf.org/met-office-washout-claims-cool-reception/>

Seeking a Common Ground

Cosmic Errors

By Cliff Mass, His Blog, Jun 24, 2013

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2013/06/cosmic-errors.html>

[SEPP Comment: Has NOAA abandoned one of its principal missions – forecasting weather?]

Expanding the Orthodoxy

IEA report outlines energy measures to slow impacts of climate change

Transcript by Staff Writers. EETV. Jun 26, 2013

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1705/transcript>

How shale gas killed climate urgency

By John Kemp, Sydney Morning Herald, Jun 25, 2013

<http://www.smh.com.au/business/carbon-economy/how-shale-gas-killed-climate-urgency-20130625-2otj6.html>

[SEPP Comment: Commentary on the IEA report that is alarmist.]

World Bank Commits Billions to Fight Global Warming

By Staff Writers, Judicial Watch, Jun 20, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.judicialwatch.org/blog/2013/06/billions-to-fight-global-warming-or-millions-will-be-trapped-in-poverty/>

IMF: ‘Climate change will create jobs’

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jun 27, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/308155-imf-official-climate-change-will-create-jobs>

[SEPP Comment: Then why fight it?]

Military Report: America Has 'Misguided' Fixation With Domestic Drilling

The report, released quietly this month, says climate change is a bigger national security threat than the country's dependence on foreign oil.

By John Cushman, Inside Climate News, Jun 24, 2013

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130624/military-report-america-has-misguided-fixation-domestic-drilling>

[SEPP Comment: The Navy trying to justify an expensive, unneeded biofuels program. It should stick to what it does well.]

Lowering Standards

Australia's Big Science Vision – an eco-green form of sustainable mediocrity

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jun 26, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/06/this-is-your-science-brain-on-100-government-funds-sociology-and-small-minded-enviro-research/>

Questioning European Green

Europe's Environmental Disaster

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Jun 25, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/06/25/europes-environmental-disaster/>

Europe is on the verge of becoming an anachronism in the modern world.

No UK households have completed green deal process, figures show

Not a single home in the country has been modified to fully meet the energy efficiency plan as take up remains 'worryingly slow'

By Adam Vaughan and Fiona Harvey, Guardian, UK, Jun 27, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jun/27/green-deal-energy-efficiency>

[SEPP Comment: Although easy for politicians to promote, making existing homes energy efficient can be a lengthy and expensive undertaking.]

Chinese Spring 'Climate Bomb' on Greens

By Walter Russell Meade, Via Meadia, Jun 23, 2013

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/06/23/chinese-spring-climate-bomb-on-greens/>

[SEPP Comment: For those recognizing it, the game has been ongoing for years. The EU bureaucrats ignored it...]

Green rules will leave Europe importing even dirtier fuel from elsewhere, Essar Energy warns

Draconian green regulations risk putting European refineries out of business, leaving the continent importing more fuels from dirtier plants elsewhere in the world, Essar Energy has warned.

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Jun 24, 2013 [H/t Malcolm Ross]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/oilandgas/10139800/Green-rules-will-leave-Europe-importing-even-dirtier-fuel-from-elsewhere-Essar-Energy-warns.html>

The 'Great Renewables Scam' unravels

In many parts of northern Europe, wind and solar projects may be highly visible facts on the ground. But the headline economic fact behind renewable energy is, and always has been, its sheer and blatant "unsustainability"

By Peter Glover, The Commentator, Jun 21, 2013

http://www.thecommentator.com/article/3827/the_great_renewables_scam_unravels

Questioning Green Elsewhere

How Green Protectionism Harms Sustainable Forestry, the Environment and the World's Poor

By Marcelo Ostria, NCPA, Jun 25, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=23314&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

New Carbon Regulations, at Greater Cost to America

By Jeffrey Folks, American Thinker, Jun 26, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/06/new_carbon_regulations_at_greater_cost_to_america.html

[SEPP Comment: Gina McCarthy has not been confirmed as EPA Director].]

Green Jobs

Spanish downturn a disaster for green energy

By Staff Writers, Madrid (AFP), June 23, 2013

http://www.winddaily.com/reports/Spanish_downturn_a_disaster_for_green_energy_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The subsidies were not sustainable.]

Social Benefits and Cost of Carbon

'The Greening of Planet Earth' (the 1992 video, updated in 1998, needs another update)

By Robert Bradley, Master Resource, Jun 25, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/06/the-greening-of-planet-earth-the-1992-video-that-obama-does-not-want-you-to-see-or-discuss/#more-26353>

Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague?

2 feet of sea level rise at Annapolis, or, maybe not...

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 27, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/27/2-feet-of-sea-level-rise-at-annapolis-or-maybe-not/>

“It provides the State with sea level rise projections based on best scientific understanding to ensure that infrastructure is sited and designed in a manner that will avoid or minimize future loss or damage.”

[SEPP Comment: An increase ranging from 11 inches to 25 inches in 37 years is the best they can do? Unlikely the lower bound will be realized in a century.]

Surprise species at risk from climate change

By Staff Writers, Johannesburg, South Africa (SPX), Jun 25, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Surprise_species_at_risk_from_climate_change_999.html

Link to paper: Identifying the World's Most Climate Change Vulnerable Species: A Systematic Trait-Based Assessment of all Birds, Amphibians and Corals

By Butchart, et al., PLOS One, Jun 12, 2013

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0065427>

[SEPP Comment: The biggest threat is land use change, not climate.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Australia's Angry Hot Summer was hot angry hype– satellites show it was average

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jun 29, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/06/australias-angry-hot-summer-was-hot-angry-hype-satellites-show-it-was-average/#more-29180>

‘Quantifying the consensus on global warming in the literature’: a comment

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Jun 24, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/24/quantifying-the-consensus-on-global-warming-in-the-literature-a-comment/>

[SEPP Comment: Ad detailed exposure of the absurdity of surveys that conclude 97% of climate scientists]

Cities, farms reroute animals seeking cooler climes

By Sandra Hines for UW News

Seattle WA (SPX) Jun 24, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Cities_farms_reroute_animals_seeking_cooler_climes_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Unaware that US population has shifted south into warmer climates.]

Models v. Observations

Policy Implications of Climate Models on the Verge of Failure

By Paul C. Knappenberger and Patrick J. Michaels, Center for the Study of Science, Cato Institute, Washington DC, WUWT, Jun 27, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/27/policy-implications-of-climate-models-on-the-verge-of-failure/>

Measurement Issues

New paper finds that aging weather stations record much higher daytime temperatures, 1.63°C higher than new stations

The Hockey Schtick, Jun 26, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2013/06/new-paper-finds-that-aging-weather.html>

Link to paper: Comparative analysis of the influence of solar radiation screen ageing on temperature measurements by means of weather stations

By Lopardo, et al., International Journal of Climatology, Jun 26, 2013

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/joc.3765/abstract>

Model Issues

How should we interpret an ensemble of models? Part I: Weather models

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jun 24, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/06/24/how-should-we-interpret-an-ensemble-of-models-part-i-weather-models/#more-11993>

Changing Weather

Alberta faces '10-year recovery' after flood: Redford

By Staff Writers, Ottawa (AFP), June 24, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Alberta_faces_10-year_recovery_after_flood_Redford_999.html

Model-Data Comparison: Alaska Land Surface Air Temperature Anomalies

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Jun 27, 2013 [H/t Paul Redfern]

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/27/model-data-comparison-alaska-land-surface-air-temperature-anomaliess/#more-88846>

Pacific Ocean Hurricane's and Global Warming

By Staff, SPPI & CO2 Science, Jun 19, 2013

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/pacific_hurricanes.pdf

The Great Tornado Doldrums: No Relationship Between Climate Change and Tornadoes

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt, Trans. P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jun 22, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/06/22/climate-experts-vahrenholt-and-luning-call-recent-tornado-activity-the-great-tornado-doldrums/>

Changing Climate

Evidence of Medieval Warm Period in Russia

By Staff, SPPI & CO2Science, Jun 26, 2013

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/evidence_of_medieval_warm_period_in_russia.html

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

The coming Arctic boom

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jun 22, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/06/22/the-coming-arctic-boom/#more-11996>

[SEPP Comment: Not so certain, the ice has melted before.]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Current global food production trajectory won't meet 2050 needs

By Staff Writers, Minneapolis MN (SPX), Jun 24, 2013

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Current_global_food_production_trajectory_wont_meet_2050_needs_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A model trajectory is not necessarily indicative of what may occur.]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

For a full list of articles see www.NIPCCreport.org

Modeling Climate Feedbacks Based on Short-Term Climate Variations

Reference: Koumoutsaris, S. 2013. What can we learn about climate feedbacks from short-term climate variations? *Tellus A* 65: 10.3402/tellusa.v65i0.18887

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jun/25jun2013a1.html>

Koumoutsaris concludes that his several analyses indicate that "important aspects of the ENSO variability are still poorly understood and/or simulated." And in the case of cloud feedback, he says that it is difficult to come to "any firm conclusion" ... even on the *sign* of the feedback. And when these phenomena are so *poorly simulated*- even to the point where the direction of change of one of them remains unknown - it should be clear to all that the climate-modeling enterprise

still has a long, long way to go before it can be considered good enough to serve as a basis for energy policy decisions that are *already* dictating various aspects of human behavior.

How Southern Ocean Echinoderm Larvae Respond to Elevated CO

Reference: Yu, P.C., Sewell, M.A., Matson, P.G., Rivest, E.B., Kapsenberg, L. and Hofmann, G.E. 2013. Growth attenuation with developmental schedule progression in embryos and early larvae of *Sterechinus neumayeri* raised under elevated CO₂. *PLOS ONE* 8: e52448.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jun/25jun2013a2.html>

After all was said and done, Yu et al. concluded, in the final sentence of their paper's abstract, that "effects of elevated CO₂ representative of near future climate scenarios are proportionally minor on these early development stages."

Recent Antarctic Sea Ice Extent in CMIP5 Models

Reference: Turner, J., Bracegirdle, T.J., Phillips, T., Marshall, G.J. and Hosking, J.S. 2013. An initial assessment of Antarctic sea ice extent in the CMIP5 models. *Journal of Climate* 26: 1473-1484.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jun/25jun2013a3.html>

In summing up their findings, Turner et al. conclude that "many of the SIE biases in the CMIP3 runs remain in CMIP5." More particularly, for example, they state that "as with CMIP3, the models do not simulate the recent increase in Antarctic SIE observed in the satellite data."

Seven Millennia of Hurricane Activity along the Coast of Belize

Reference: McCloskey, T.A. and Liu, K.-b. 2012. A 7000 year record of paleohurricane activity from a coastal wetland in Belize. *The Holocene* 23: 278-291.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jun/26jun2013a2.html>

In light of these diverse findings, McCloskey and Liu conclude that (1) "both the climatic conditions favoring tropical cyclones and the frequency of landfall for major hurricanes have exhibited multi-centennial variability over the late Holocene," and that (2) "the timing of hyperactive periods varies regionally across the North Atlantic." Hence, their work would appear to suggest that there are no hard-and-fast rules about how climate change may impact the development of future storms in these regions.

The Political Games Continue

Have U.S. Republicans shifted strategy on climate change?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jun 27, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/06/27/have-u-s-republicans-shifted-strategy-on-climate-change/#more-12053>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Expanding RFS to Natural Gas: Typically Terrible DC Idea

By Nan Swift, Government Bytes, Jun 27, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.ntu.org/governmentbytes/expanding-rfs-to-natural-gas.html>

Investment in renewables may get hit despite rise in wind farm subsidies

Government's announcement of 10% rise in subsidy fails to dispel fears of energy companies over uncertainties in policy

By Fiona Harvey, Guardian, UK, Jun 27, 2013

http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jun/27/windfarms-renewable-energy-subsidies?utm_source=Daily+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=2c9cd77620-DAILY_BRIEFING&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_876aab4fd7-2c9cd77620-303421281

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Carbon Foolishness

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Jun 28, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/06/28/carbon-foolishness/>

[SEPP Comment: *The wild dreams of Washington's energy control zealots.*]

The Injustice of “Environmental Justice”

By E. Calvin Beisner, Master Resource, Jun 27, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/06/injustice-environmental-justice/#more-26312>

[SEPP Comment: *Another EPA concept for asserting control of the economy.*]

Energy Issues – Non-US

Spooked by shale

The shale-gas revolution unnerves Russian state capitalism

By Schumpeter, The Economist, Jun 28, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.economist.com/news/business/21580131-shale-gas-revolution-unnerves-russian-state-capitalism-spooked-shale>

Energy Issues -- US

Morning Bell: Things That Will Cost More Under Obama's Climate Change Plan

By Amy Payne, The Foundry, Jun 26, 2013

http://blog.heritage.org/2013/06/26/morning-bell-things-that-will-cost-more-under-obamas-climate-change-plan/?roi=echo3-16080435733-13384451-a8650ae1fe0cd24d9e2c03edbd3ace7a&utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Morning%2BBell

Obama's energy chief rebuts 'war on coal' claim

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jun 28, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/308409-obamas-energy-chief-rebuts-war-on-coal-claim>

Washington's Control of Energy

Obama Donor Set To Profit From Keystone Demise

Editorial, IBD, Jun 27, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/062713-661681-obama-donor-benefits-from-keystone-demise.htm?p=full>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Britain Holds Biggest Shale Basin in the World

By Staff Writer, GWPF, Jun 27, 2013

<http://www.thegwgf.org/britain-holds-biggest-shale-basin-world/>

Link to study: New shale gas resource figure for central Britain

By Staff, British Geological Survey, No date

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/shalegas/#ad-image-0>

[SEPP Comment: Much of the geology is not fully understood and needs further study. There may be larger basins elsewhere in the world.]

Huge UK shale gas reserves - 'let's get fracking'

By Benny Peiser, Public Service Europe, Jun 28, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.publicserviceeurope.com/article/3654/huge-uk-shale-reserves-lets-get-fracking>

Peak Nonsense

By Michael Lynch, Master Resource, AJun 26, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/06/peak-nonsense/#more-26293>

Why such hysteria over fracking?

Studies have shown repeatedly that fracking is fundamentally safe. It creates jobs and cuts dependence on foreign oil. So why is there still such backlash?

By Rock Zierman, LA Times, Jun 21, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/la-oe-zierman-california-fracking-moratorium-20130621,0,1007838.story>

Return of King Coal?

In Obama's War On American Coal, China's The Victor

Editorial, IBD, Jun 28, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/062813-661859-china-boosts-coal-use-as-obama-declares-war.htm?p=full>

The Coal Train Chugs Along

Global coal use rises with the global demand for electricity

By Robert Bryce, National Review, Jun 24, 2013

<http://nationalreview.com/article/351669/coal-train-chugs-along-robert-bryce>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Stray gases found in water wells near shale gas sites

By Staff Writers, Durham NC (SPX), Jun 25, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Stray_gases_found_in_water_wells_near_shale_gas_sites_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The issue is faulty well construction, not hydraulic fracturing.]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

To cut pollution, install green power in the coal belt

Pricing to air pollution suggests solar is more profitable in Ohio than Arizona.

By Kate Prengaman, ARS Technica, Jun 25, 2013

<http://arstechnica.com/science/2013/06/to-cut-pollution-install-green-power-in-the-coal-belt-researchers-say/>

Link to paper: Regional variations in the health, environmental, and climate benefits of wind and solar generation

By Siler-Evans, et al., PNAS, May 15, 2013

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/06/19/1221978110.abstract>

[SEPP Director Tom Sheahen points out the ignorance in this article including: "Basically, if you install a solar array in the sunny Southern California desert, that power mostly replaces electricity made with relatively clean natural gas. In contrast, if you installed the same solar panels in considerably less sunny Ohio, you'd be primarily replacing capacity at a coal-burning power plant, reducing far more air pollutants than in California."

A) the capital cost of a solar panel is the same in either place, and Ohio is "considerably less sunny", so you'd get less energy out, and hence it takes longer to get your money back.

B) when electricity enters the grid, the distance to where it gets used is a minor factor. I know that seems counter-intuitive, but the majority of the losses in transmission and distribution are due to transformers, not due to the I^2R loss associated with wire length.

C) the image of electricity moving from one point to another like water in a pipe is straight out of junior-high science class, and doesn't explain AC power transmission. There is an entire industry/enterprise/business called "wheeling" about moving power around the grid at different times. Quickly summarizing, the grid loses 8% of the energy (and 10% of the power), regardless of where power enters or is taken off."']

Europe's Renewables Hype Implodes As German Solar Goes Belly Up

By Peter Glover, Energy Tribune, Jun 24, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/77909/europes-renewables-hype-implodes-as-german-solar-goes-belly-up#sthash.elwEevO7.dpbs>

As one German commentator wryly observed, "the sun does send an invoice after all".

Renewable energy use gaining worldwide: IEA

By Staff Writers, New York (AFP), June 25, 2013

http://www.winddaily.com/reports/Renewable_energy_use_gaining_worldwide_IEA_999.html

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy -- Other

Climate change raises stakes on US ethanol policy

By Staff Writers, Houston TX (SPX) Jun 05, 2013

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Climate_change_raises_stakes_on_US_ethanol_policy_999.html

Link to paper: Climate Change Would Increase the Water Intensity of Irrigated Corn Ethanol

By Dominguez-Faus, et al., ACS Environmental Science & Technology, May 23, 2013

<http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es400435n>

They also used estimates of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, and other elements from a number of models, including the government's well-tested Environmental Policy Integrated Climate (EPIC) model.

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Vehicles

The Bloom Is Off Bloom Energy

By Alex Fitzsimmons, IER, Jun 18, 2013 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/2013/06/18/the-bloom-is-off-bloom-energy/>

Carbon Schemes

USGS: U.S. Has Massive Carbon Storage Capacity in Geologic Basins

By Sonal Patel, Power Mag, Jun 27, 2013

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/5754.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2700515&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e660500d0

Other Scientific News

The contribution of particulate matter to forest decline

By Staff Writers, Bonn, Germany (SPX), Jun 24, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/The_contribution_of_particulate_matter_to_forest_decline_99.html

Ten Thousandth Near-Earth Object Unearthed in Space

By Staff Writers, Pasadena CA (JPL), Jun 26, 2013

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Ten_Thousandth_Near_Earth_Object_Unearthed_in_Space_99.html

The Reasons Behind Retractions

An analysis of 244 retraction notices shows how journals handle mistakes and fraudulent behavior.

By Kate Yandell, The Scientist, Jun 26, 2013 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/36184/title/The-Reasons-Behind-Retractions/>

Other News that May Be of Interest

Peer Evil – the rotten business model of modern science

By Abzats, WUWT, Jun 25, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/25/peer-evil-the-rotten-business-model-of-modern-science/>

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Rare Bird Slaughtered by Wind Turbine

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Jun 29, 2013

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/06/29/rare-bird-slaughtered-by-wind-turbine/>

[SEPP Comment: Newly discovered in the UK after 22 years of absence – but the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds supports wind power because it claims wind power will save birds. This type of swift is prevalent in central Asia.]

Study finds climate change to shrink bison, profit

By Staff Writers, Manhattan, KS (SPX), Jun 24, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Study_finds_climate_change_to_shrink_bison_profit_999.html

Proud moment for warmists: President of real Flat Earth Society believes in the global warming hoax

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 26, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/26/proud-moment-for-warmists-president-of-real-flat-earth-society-believes-in-the-global-warming-hoax/>

Avaaz! Save the world from a slushy death, just £2

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 24, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/06/24/avaaz-save-the-world-from-a-slushy-death-just-2/>

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ARTICLES:

1 Climate change by the numbers.

By S. Fred Singer, Chairman of SEPP, Founder of NIPCC, Submitted to *Shanghai Daily*, June 23, 2013

<http://www.sepp.org/science-editorials.cfm#A83>

In his *Shanghai Daily* essay of June 19, Mr. Bob Ward, a publicist with the Grantham Research Institute (London), promotes an alarmist view of climate change. He presents the conclusions of the IPCC, which claims that human-caused emission of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas), is producing dangerous global warming.

The IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] was set up by the United Nations to provide the necessary evidence to support the (Rio de Janeiro) Global Climate Treaty, signed by most nations. This 1992 Treaty resulted in the Kyoto Protocol of 1997, which was supposed to reduce the CO₂ content of the atmosphere. It has failed completely in its task; by now, CO₂ has risen to 400 ppm, about 40% above the pre-industrial level. The Protocol expired in 2012; but activists want to set up another one. However, there is little enthusiasm for any such agreement to limit energy production and economic growth.

The IPCC is supposed to survey published scientific results impartially but instead it has ignored research papers that contradict its conclusion. For evidence of human influence on climate, the IPCC relies on a supposed agreement between climate models and observations. In fact, the models cannot reproduce most of the observations and therefore fail to support the IPCC conclusion.

This disagreement has now become apparent to many scientists around the world, who have set up a competing study group called NIPCC [Non-Governmental International Panel on Climate Change]. The Chinese Academy of Sciences has just translated and published the reports of the NIPCC. The CAS also organized a June 15 Workshop in Beijing, where an international group of NIPCC authors presented their results.

Contrary to the IPCC, NIPCC finds that natural influences rule the climate and human influences are relatively insignificant. I will give several examples where models and observations disagree.

Bob Ward mentions in passing that there has been no warming observed in the last fifteen years. But he fails to point out that this result disagrees with the predictions of every climate model.

Ward is also dismissive of scientific research that cosmic rays from outer space can and do change the climate. The full story is that the cosmic ray intensity is affected by solar activity. Ultimately therefore, solar activity affects cosmic rays, which in turn change the earth's cloud cover and thereby affect climate.

One could cite many other examples of credible scientific work ignored by the IPCC. It has been the aim of the NIPCC to restore the balance of evidence necessary to permit informed decisions on policy.

Bob Ward relates, with pride, that the IPCC's Summary for Policy Makers is approved line-by-line by the nearly 200 participating national delegations. But these delegates are not scientists; they are working with a draft carefully compiled by a handful of politically oriented scientists who "cherry-pick" evidence from the IPCC Report itself and ignore contrary evidence. Unlike the Report, this draft Summary does not acknowledge the existence of scientific uncertainties.

It is on the basis of such a Summary that politicians then try to develop policies that affect energy use -- and therefore have tremendous economic consequences. Right now, China is beginning to experiment with "cap-and-trade" policies. The US Congress has refused to approve such a policy; yet President Obama will attempt to achieve a similar result through regulation -- without the Congress. Europeans have tried it, but it has been an economic disaster. Australia has instituted a carbon tax as an alternative, but will soon abandon it. Only the State of California is proceeding with such a scheme, but is using it primarily to raise revenues, like a tax. It will have no detectable effect on climate.

A "cap and trade" scheme in China may have some value in improving energy efficiency -- in reducing the amount of energy required to produce a unit of output. That would be a useful objective. But it will do little if anything for the global climate and should not be considered as climate policy.

A quick word about carbon dioxide: It is an odorless, non-toxic natural constituent of the Earth's atmosphere. As the basic food for all plants, it is absolutely essential for maintaining life on our planet. CO2 should not be called a "pollutant." In the geological past, its level has been ten times or more higher than its present value; in fact, our major food crops developed when CO2 levels were about five times higher. China is now the world's largest emitter of CO2 and thereby making an important contribution to increasing agricultural yields at a time when much of the global population is still hungry. The world should be grateful to China.

2. The Carbonated President

Obama unveils a war on fossil fuels he never disclosed as a candidate.

Editorial, WSJ, Jun 26, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323683504578567533647032380.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_2

President Obama's climate speech on Tuesday was grandiose even for him, but its surreal nature was its particular hallmark. Some 12 million Americans still can't find work, real wages have fallen for five years, three-fourths of Americans now live paycheck to check, and the economy continues to plod along four years into a quasi-recovery. But there was the President in tony Georgetown, threatening more energy taxes and mandates that will ensure fewer jobs, still lower incomes and slower growth.

Mr. Obama's "climate action plan" adds up to one of the most extensive reorganizations of the U.S. economy since the 1930s, imposed through administrative fiat and raw executive power. He wants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 17% by 2020, but over his 6,500-word address he articulated no such goal for the unemployment rate or GDP.

The plan covers everything from new efficiency standards for home appliances to new fuel mileage rules for heavy-duty trucks to new subsidies for wind farms, but the most consequential changes would slam the U.S. electric industry. These plants, coal-fired power in particular, account for about a third of domestic greenhouse gases.

Last year the Environmental Protection Agency released "new source performance standard" regulations that are effectively a moratorium on new coal plants. The EPA denied that similar rules would ever apply to the existing fleet, or even that they were working up such rules. Now Mr. Obama will unleash his carbon central planners on current plants.

Coal accounted for more than half of U.S. electric generation as recently as 2008 but plunged to a mere 37% in 2012. In part this tumble has been due to cheap natural gas, but now the EPA will finish the job and take coal to 0%.

Daniel Shrag of Harvard, an Obama science adviser, told the New York Times Monday that "Politically, the White House is hesitant to say they're having a war on coal. On the other hand, a war on coal is exactly what's needed." At least he's honest, though in truth Mr. Obama's target is all forms of carbon energy. Natural gas is next.

The higher costs will ripple through the energy chain, which is precisely Mr. Obama's goal. Only by artificially raising the cost of carbon energy can he make even heavily subsidized "renewables" competitive.

In general every \$1 billion spent complying with an EPA rule threatens 16,000 jobs and cuts GDP by \$1.2 billion—and the agency is now writing scores of multibillion-dollar rules. Keep in mind that last month the Administration quietly raised the "social cost" of carbon by 60% in a regulatory filing related to microwave ovens. That means the EPA can jack up costs by 59.99% and still justify them by claiming the higher benefits.

This regressive burden won't merely be borne by average American consumers and utility rate-payers—especially in the Midwest and Southern regions that use the most coal. This also threatens one of the few booming parts of the economy, the energy revolution driven by shale gas and unconventional oil. The return of manufacturing to the U.S. depends on this cheap abundant energy, and it could as easily re-relocate overseas as the U.S. becomes less competitive.

For good measure, Mr. Obama also declared that he will approve the Keystone XL pipeline "only if this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution." Yet the oil in Alberta won't stay in the ground if Mr. Obama blocks the route to the Gulf of Mexico. It will be shipped by rail and boat to China and elsewhere. The only question is whether America will benefit from this shovel-ready project that will create tens of thousands of jobs.

Speaking of futility, Mr. Obama's ambitions will have no effect on global atmospheric carbon concentrations. Emissions are already falling in the U.S., thanks primarily to the shale gas boom, but emissions are rising in the developing world. Mr. Obama pandered to the climate-change absolutists by saying "We don't have time for a meeting of the Flat Earth Society." But he never explained how his plan will reduce warming, or why climate models have failed to predict the

warming slowdown of the last dozen or so years even as more CO2 is pumped into the atmosphere.

Most striking about this Obama legacy project is its contempt for democratic consent. Congress has consistently rejected an Obama-style "comprehensive" anticarbon energy plan. That was true even when Democrats ran the Senate with a filibuster-proof majority in 2009-2010 and killed his cap-and-trade energy bill. The only legislative justification for Mr. Obama's new plan is an abusive interpretation of the Clean Air Act, which was last revised in 1990 and never mentions carbon as a pollutant.

So instead Mr. Obama will impose these inherently political policy choices via unaccountable bureaucracies, with little or no debate. Mr. Obama might have at least announced his war on carbon before the election and let voters have a say. Instead he posed as the John the Baptist of fossil fuels in locales such as Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia—taking credit for the shale fracking boom he had nothing to do with and running ads attacking Mitt Romney as anticoal.

Now safely re-elected, Mr. Obama figures he can do what he pleases. The Americans who will be harmed will have to console themselves with 99 weeks of jobless benefits, food stamps and ObamaCare.

3. The 'Social Cost of Carbon' Gambit

Editorial, WSJ, Jun 27, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323566804578551672709633396.html?mod=djemEditorialPage_h

President Obama unveiled his vast new anticarbon-energy agenda this week, which he plans to impose by executive fiat. Crucial to pulling off this exercise is a decision the federal bureaucracy made last month to change the way it accounts for carbon emissions—a decision that received almost no media attention.

In late May the Administration slipped this mickey into a new rule about efficiency standards for microwaves, significantly raising what it calls the "social cost of carbon." Team Obama made no public notice and invited no comment on this change that will further tilt rule-making against products and industries that use carbon energy.

Federal law requires the government to calculate the costs and benefits of its rules and projects. The regulatory agencies are expert at rigging these calculations, but even they haven't been able to hide the enormous costs of President Obama's regulations under traditional economic measurement. The Administration's solution? Simply redefine the economic and social "benefits" of reducing carbon.

And sure enough, in 2010 an interagency working group conjured a new way to goose the benefits of regulation. Every metric ton of carbon that was reduced by regulation would suddenly count for \$21 in "social benefits." This figure was derived by guesses about how more carbon in the atmosphere may harm everything from agricultural productivity to human health to flood risks. The government's previous official estimate? \$0.

The Administration has now gone further as part of its microwave rule and raised its estimated benefit from carbon reduction to about \$36 a metric ton. The Department of Energy explained that this "update" was the result of new assumptions based on "the best available science," which means whatever science the feds decide to favor. The practical effect is to further inflate the supposed benefit of new rules, thereby offsetting the enormous economic costs.

All of this was neatly illustrated in a 2011 paper by Michael Greenstone, a former White House economist, who helped to dream up the initial 2010 figure. Mr. Greenstone analyzed the Administration's new fuel-efficiency standards and admitted that under traditional economic analysis they were a net loser. They'd cost industry and consumers \$350 billion, while providing benefits (less pollution, more energy security and less congestion) of only \$277 billion. Yet conjure up another \$177 billion in supposed new social benefits from less carbon, and—voila!—the costs of the new rule would be more than offset.

All of this is prelude to the coming regulatory onslaught on carbon energy and electricity production. The social-cost gambit will allow the Administration to claim an enormous economic benefit for any greenhouse gas regulation that reduces carbon—such as new standards on existing coal plants (new plants are already being regulated out of existence), oil refineries or lawn mowers.

This will also help to disguise the net cost of these rules in lost jobs, higher energy prices and less consumer choice. The new social-cost calculation could also be used against projects like the Keystone XL pipeline, claiming they impose too high a "social cost" by assisting the production of carbon energy to justify approval.

Republicans are slowly figuring out what's going on here, and Senator David Vitter of Louisiana has sent a letter to the EPA, Energy Department and White House budget office demanding the details of its social-cost modeling.

Laurie Johnson, chief economist for climate at the Natural Resources Defense Council, says the social cost of carbon ought to be as high as \$266 a metric ton. If the cost can be whatever some regulator claims, based on pressure from some green outfit or competing energy lobby, the government has the power to put any fossil-fuel industry out of business whenever it feels like it.

All of this is profoundly undemocratic. Congress has never legislated that there are social costs to carbon emissions, much less how to measure them. Mr. Obama couldn't pass his anticarbon agenda through Congress in his first two years even with a Democratic supermajority. He's now trying to impose it by regulation, and to do so he's rigging the rule-making with inventions like the "social cost of carbon." Someone needs to impose a political cost on Mr. Obama's arbitrary rule by regulation.

4. A Property Rights Victory

Government can't use permitting to extort from landowners.

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http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323683504578567670559475816.html?mod=W SJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

Property rights don't always get the respect they deserve at the Supreme Court, but this year has been different. On Tuesday the Justices delivered their third rebuke of the term against government abuse of the Constitution's Takings Clause in *Koontz v. St. Johns River Water Management*.

The case centered on whether a Florida wetlands district could set excessive conditions on the approval of a land-use permit. In 1994, landowner Coy Koontz applied for a permit to develop a 3.7-acre section of his wetlands property. As required by state law, Mr. Koontz offered to compensate for any wetland damage by deeding an 11-acre easement to the district for conservation.

That wasn't enough for local regulators, who gave Mr. Koontz an ultimatum: He could scale back his development to one acre and surrender the rest of his property to the district. Or he could proceed with his project with the 11-acre easement and pay thousands to improve district land miles away that was unaffected by his development.

Mr. Koontz declined the offer and sued under a Florida law that allows monetary damages when an "unreasonable exercise of the state's police power" constitutes "a taking without just compensation." Florida's Supreme Court ruled that Mr. Koontz didn't have a claim since his permit had been denied. Ergo, his property was not actually taken. By this logic, a landowner must first succumb to government property extortion in order to have a case.

Writing for the 5-4 majority, Justice Samuel Alito reversed the state court on grounds that "extortionate demands for property in the land-use permitting context run afoul of the Takings Clause not because they take property but because they impermissibly burden the right not to have property taken without just compensation."

The ruling extends the Court's *Nollan* (1987) and *Dolan* (1994) Takings Clause precedents to government denial of permits and government demands for offsite mitigation rather than a direct invasion of private property. This is a big deal because governments find multiple ways to extort property.

Property cases don't get the media attention that free speech issues do, but the Constitution's bar against unjust takings remains a bedrock protection against government abuse. Now if only Justice Anthony Kennedy would revisit his vote tolerating the abuse of eminent domain in *Kelo v. City of New London*. It's not too late, sir.

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