

The Week That Was: 2013-09-21 (September 21, 2013)
Brought to You by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)
The Science and Environmental Policy Project

#####

Quote of the Week: *A difficult question for the climate science community is, how is it that this broad community of researchers -- full of bright and thoughtful people -- allowed intolerant activists who make false claims to certainty to become the public face of the field? – Roger Pielke, Jr.*

#####

Number of the Week: 20 Billion Euros per year

#####

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Physical Science

Science the U.N. Will Exclude from its Next Climate Report
September 23, Noon, Heritage Foundation Allison Auditorium
214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington DC, (202) 546-4400

Lead author Bob Carter and Co-author Willie Soon, Joseph Bast, hosted by Robert Gordon

Rsvp to the Heritage event here:

<http://www.heritage.org/events/2013/09/climate-change-reconsidered>

and

A Congressional Staff and Media Briefing

3 to 4 pm, 2325 Rayburn House Office Building

Hosted by Cooler Heads Coalition – no rsvp required

#####

Lead authors Fred Singer and Bob Carter will be making presentations in Europe and in California. Details to follow.

#####

THIS WEEK:

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

NIPCC: The new report of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), Climate Change Reconsidered II: The Physical Science has been released. The 24 page Summary for Policymakers can be found at: <http://heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-II/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf> and the brief Executive Summary of the Physical Science section can be found at <http://heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-II/Executive-Summary.pdf>

The purpose of the report is to provide a balance to the reports by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which exclude a lot of key science and overstate the extent of global warming and the certainty of its science. For early reviews please see links under NIPCC.

IPCC: According to reports, the IPCC leaked advanced copies of its report to what it hoped would be favorable reviewers. The IPCC Summary for Policymakers is due out on September 27 and starting September 23, government reviewers are going over the Summary. The complete report on the Physical Science will be a few days after the Summary is released.

The leaked version received some favorable reviews, including some journalists who claim that those who question the rigor of IPCC science are anti-science. However, the IPCC many critical ones as well. Since the last major report, in 2007, the climate for the UN IPCC reports has changed, though temperatures have not. Some journalists are becoming aware that there has been

no significant increase in surface temperatures for over 15 years, and no increase in atmospheric temperatures of at least a decade. The failure of nature to follow the dire predictions of the IPCC is becoming very evident.

Further, the poor economy and escalating electricity prices in Europe due to the increased dependence on unreliable solar and wind are making some politicians leery. Those who have totally supported the findings of the IPCC will probably continue to do so. But those who are doubtful may express skepticism, particularly if the IPCC overplays its science.

The extreme confidence the IPCC has expressed in its work and the output of the climate models is a major issue. According to the leaks, the IPCC now expresses 95% confidence in the claim the most of the warming since 1950 was caused by humans. This is unsatisfactory for an objective science. Was it due to human carbon dioxide emissions or other human activities?

Writing in the Canadian Financial Post, Ross McKittrick clearly presents the dilemma the IPCC faces in one graph, which requires some study. In its four reports, the IPCC models have consistently overestimated atmospheric warming over the tropics. The tropics have a dominant role in planetary energy and precipitation patterns. The observations show little or no warming for over 30 years.

To McKittrick something big is about to happen and we are on the verge of having data that undermines the foundations of mainstream climate science. Thus, this is no time for undertaking major programs to address climate change. The real world observations are supporting the views of the skeptics or “deniers”, and the fabled 97% consensus may be terribly wrong. Above all, if the IPCC does not address this issue in its upcoming report, the IPCC will prove it is incapable of being objective. As such, the last place one would find model-versus-reality discrepancy would be from the IPCC.

On his web site, Roy Spencer expressed his views dilemma the IPCC faces. He states that nothing can stand in the way of a false popular theory, such as global warming, than failed forecasts. “We are now at the point in the age of global warming hysteria where the IPCC global warming theory has crashed into the hard reality of observations.”

Five-time IPCC expert reviewer expresses that the entire global warming venture was in serious trouble at the beginning. The claim that an average of Surface Air Temperatures could be accurately measured over time is false. There is no technology available to do so. [This is one reason why TWTW consistently prefers satellite data over surface data.]

In a policy essay discussing the morality of the issue, Richard Lindzen lays out the common ground for most scientists who have studied the issues. He states: “To say that most of a small change [in temperatures] is due to man is hardly an argument for the likelihood of large changes.” He points out that, contrary to claims of those who demand action, there is little morality in taking drastic action that, at best, will have little impact on climate change.

One thing is becoming evident. Climate science is not a settled science as the IPCC and their advocates have proclaimed. Please see links under: Challenging the Orthodoxy and Questioning the Orthodoxy.

Evaluating the Reports: In its review of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report [AR4], Climate Change Assessments, Review of the Processes & Procedures of the IPCC, The InterAcademy Council made the following recommendations for addressing the significant uncertainties in climate science:

Recommendations:

- Each Working Group should use the qualitative level-of-understanding scale in its Summary for Policymakers and Technical Summary, as suggested in IPCC's uncertainty guidance for the Fourth Assessment Report. This scale may be supplemented by a quantitative probability scale, if appropriate.
- The confidence scale should not be used to assign subjective probabilities to ill-defined outcomes.
- Quantitative probabilities (as in the likelihood scale) should be used to describe the probability of well-defined outcomes only when there is sufficient evidence. Authors should indicate the basis for assigning a probability to an outcome or event (e.g., based on measurement, expert judgment, and/or model runs).
- The likelihood scale should be stated in terms of probabilities (numbers) in addition to words to improve understanding of uncertainty.
- Chapter Lead Authors should provide a traceable account of how they arrived at their ratings for level of scientific understanding and likelihood that an outcome will occur.
- Where practical, formal expert elicitation procedures should be used to obtain subjective probabilities for key results.

<http://reviewipcc.interacademycouncil.net/report/Chapter%205%20-%20Conclusions.pdf>

(p 62)

It will be interesting to see how closely the IPCC reports adhere to these recommendations.

Evaluating the EPA: Both NIPCC and IPCC reports can be used to evaluate the EPA ruling that greenhouse gas emissions, principally carbon dioxide (CO₂) endanger public health and welfare. The finding was largely based on three lines of evidence:

- Existence of the hot spot. A distinct warming trend, compared with the surface, centered at about 10 km (33,000 feet) over the tropics. The IPCC and EPA declared that this was the distinct human fingerprint. [It could occur regardless of what caused the warming.]
- Unprecedented warming in the later part of the 20th century
- The ability of the models to describe the climate system and project temperature increases.

SCC: As mentioned in TWTW last week, Monday was the last day to file comments to the Department of Energy (DOE) supporting a petition to re-open public comments for the new way in which government agencies calculate the social cost of carbon [dioxide] (SCC). The particular program appears to be trivial – the consumption of electricity by microwave ovens when they are not in service. But as explained in the next topic, it was a ruse.

In its comments, Heritage Foundation showed how the selection of the discount rate can be used to greatly increase or decrease the calculated costs. The Right Climate Stuff (TRCS) team presented its findings that there exist no validated models showing that carbon dioxide emissions are causing dangerous global warming. TRCS also asserted that public policy should not be based on un-validated models.

SEPP took a somewhat different approach. SEPP stated that: As formulated, the DOE concept of social cost of carbon is based on the logical fallacy *petitio principii*. DOE assumes that which requires proof is true, without giving proof. The SCC is based on the assumption climate models predict future impacts on climate resulting from carbon dioxide emissions. Prediction of impacts requires a scientifically validated climate model, which the DOE does not present for public review.

It further stated that in spite of the Federal government spending about \$150 Billion on climate change activities since 1993, no government agency or government-funded entity has produced a validated model. The comments when on to demonstrate how poorly the models are performing in projecting future temperatures, thus potential harm from carbon dioxide emissions and we cannot know if the net effect is a benefit to society or a cost. Please see links under Social Costs of Carbon and <http://www.therightclimatestuff.com/SummaryPrelimReport.html>

Government Manipulation: As many in the coal utility industry feared, on Friday the EPA proposed rules for the construction of coal fired power plants that will effectively prevent any new plants from being built, even ultra-supercritical ones. In so doing, the EPA utilized the SCC that was calculated by the DOE (and 12 other Federal agencies) to be applied to microwave ovens in standby mode.

The EPA actions demonstrates how Federal agencies work together to expand regulatory power. In making the announcement, EPA administrator McCarthy made a number of questionable statements including: "that reducing the amount of carbon [dioxide] pollution in the atmosphere would protect clean air, drinkable water, the world's food supply and reduce the amount of extreme weather across the globe." "[Carbon capture and sequestration] is a technology that is feasible and it's available today," she said. "It's been demonstrated to be effective. We know that it's been demonstrated and it's being actually constructed on real facilities today." Please see links under EPA and other Regulators on the March

Number of the Week: 20 Billion Euros per year. Former IPCC supporter Professor Fritz Vahrenholt states consumers pay 20 Billion Euros for renewable energies in Germany. Please see link to interview under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

#####

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. 50:1 should now be 100:1

By Barry Brill, WUWT, Sep 18, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/09/18/501-should-now-be-1001/>

2. Born-Again Fracker

Energy nominee Ron Binz undergoes a confirmation conversion.

Editorial, WSJ, Sep 19, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324492604579083041465236968.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

3. Crushing Pebbles

The EPA causes Anglo-American to walk away from a U.S. investment.

Editorial, WSJ, Sep 16, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324665604579079540847889358.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

#####

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Reviews of the New NIPCC Report

A Realistic View of the Climate

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Sep 18, 2013

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2013/09/a-realistic-view-of-the-climate.php>

By Staff Writers, ICECAP, Sep 19, 2013

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

New science report debunks climate scare

By Staff Writer, ICSC, Sep 17, 2013

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/1226523/new-science-report-debunks-climate-scare>

Real climate science the IPCC doesn't want you to see

By Paul Driessen, WUWT, Sep 19, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/09/19/real-climate-science-the-ipcc-doesnt-want-you-to-see/>

Still no warming.....Except between IPCC and NIPCC!

By Geoff Brown, NCTCS, Sep 21, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/09/still-no-warmingexcept-between-ipcc-and.html>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

IPCC models getting mushy

By Ross McKittrick, Financial Post, Sep 16, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/09/16/ipcc-models-getting-mushy/>

A Turning Point for the IPCC...and Humanity?

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Sep 17, 2013

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/09/a-turning-point-for-the-ipcc-and-humanity/>

The Climate Pause

By Vincent Gray, NZ Climate Truth Newsletter No 316, Sep 21, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/09/the-climate-pause.html>

The Climate Issue: Widespread agreement and the choice of a moral policy.

By Richard Lindzen, posted on ICECAP, Sep 16, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/the_climate_issue_widespread_agreement_and_the_choice_of_a_moral_policy/

Link to the pdf: By Richard Lindzen; Sep 16, 2013

http://icecap.us/images/uploads/Agreement_and_Morality-OrangeCtyRegisterRev-1.pdf

To say that most of a small change is due to man is hardly an argument for the likelihood of large changes.

German Professor: IPCC Science Finds Itself In A Serious Jam...”5AR Likely To Be The Last Of Its Kind”

Extreme weather is the only card they have left to play

By P. Gosslin, reporting on Prof. Fritz Vahrenholt, No Tricks Zone, Sep 16, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/09/16/german-professor-ipcc-science-finds-itself-in-a-serious-jam-5ar-likely-to-be-the-last-of-its-kind/>

The IPCC Is Pretty Much Dead Wrong

By Paul Knappenberger and Patrick Michaels, CATO, Sep 19, 2013

<http://www.cato.org/blog/ipcc-pretty-much-dead-wrong>

[SEPP Comment: We are 95% confident that the models are 95% wrong on temperature trend projections over the past 25 years.]

Dodgy statistics and IPCC Assessment Reports

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Sep 17, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/09/17/dodgy-statistics-and-ipcc-assessment-reports/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Researchers claim satellite data proves global warming caused by humans

By Bob Yirka, Phys Org, Sep 17, 2013

<http://phys.org/news/2013-09-satellite-global-humans.html#jCp>

Link to paper: Human and natural influences on the changing thermal structure of the atmosphere

By Santer, et al. PNAS, Sep 16, 2013

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/09/10/1305332110.full.pdf+html>

The Known Knowns of Climate Change

By Stefan Rahmstorf, Head of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Sep 18, 2013

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/the-strengthening-scientific-consensus-on-global-warming-by-stefan-rahmstorf>

[SEPP Comment: Starts with a brief history of greenhouse gas warming. Disagree with the metaphor. In the view of TWTW, much of the debate is focused on the base of the pyramid and the claims of scientific certainty, not the peak. The fact that the conclusions of the IPCC have not changed in 23 years is no evidence that the conclusions are correct. Dismisses the skeptics as well-funded. Show it!]

Do Facts Matter Anymore in Public Policy? (Op-Ed)

By Jeff Nesbit, Live Science, Sep 13, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.livescience.com/39643-do-facts-matter-anymore-in-public-policy.html>

...if they learn that 97 percent of climate scientists have reached a consensus that climate change is real and man-made, the political debate about the science itself will end.

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the implication in the article, the 97% was far from objective science.]

U.N. Official: World Failing Over Climate Change

By Raphael Satter, AP, Sep 17, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://science.time.com/2013/09/17/u-n-official-world-failing-over-climate-change/>

[SEPP Comment: For years the UN has been asserting great certainty in its work and dire consequences if the world does not obey. The work is faulty. Why should the world listen?]

Energy secretary: ‘The basic science behind climate change is simple’

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Sep 18, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/322919-energy-secretary-the-basic-science-behind-climate-change-is-simple>

[SEPP Comment: Show us the validated model.]

EU policy on climate change is right even if science was wrong, says commissioner

Regardless of whether or not scientists are wrong on global warming, the European Union is pursuing the correct energy policies even if they lead to higher prices, Europe’s climate commissioner has said.

By Bruno Waterfield, Telegraph, UK, Sep 16, 2013 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/10313261/EU-policy-on-climate-change-is-right-even-if-science-was-wrong-says-commissioner.html>

Hottest days in some parts of Europe have warmed 4 times more than the global average

By Staff Writers, Warwick, UK (SPX), Sep 16, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Hottest_days_in_some_parts_of_Europe_have_warmed_4_times_more_than_the_global_average_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A red herring avoiding the failure of the globe to warm.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

CO2 ‘control knob’ fallacy (?)

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Sep 20, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/09/20/co2-control-knob-fallacy/#more-13036>

Until we get past the IPCC’s paradigm paralysis that climate change on multidecadal time scales is completely externally forced [by human activity], there won’t be much progress on really understanding climate change.

Climate Drivers

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Sep 20, 2013

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/climate-drivers>

But What Do We Mean by Consensus?

By Christopher Monckton, SPPI, Sep 17, 2013

<http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/consensus.pdf>

A tipping point: Skepticism goes mainstream...

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Sep 18, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/09/skepticism-goes-mainstream-a-tipping-point/>

Restoring facts to climate science

By Tom Harris, Washington Times, Sep 16, 2013 [H/t Deke Forbes]

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/sep/16/harris-restoring-facts-to-climate-science/>

Apocalypse Later

Editorial, Financial Express, India, Sep 17, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.financialexpress.com/news/apocalypse-later/1170020>

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to what is implied in the article, the data do not support an increase in extreme weather events. However, the public must be prepared for such events.]

Climate Change Ice-Capped

By Cal Thomas, Real Clear Politics, Sep 19, 2013

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2013/09/19/climate_change_ice-capped_119998.html

Has The IPCC Overstated How Much Earth Has Warmed?

Editorial, IBD, Sep 17, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/091713-671413-ippc-said-earth-warmed-twice-as-fast-as-it-has.htm>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Global warming is just HALF what we said: World's top climate scientists admit computers got the effects of greenhouse gases wrong

Leaked report reveals the world is warming at half the rate claimed by IPCC in 2007

Scientists accept their computers 'may have exaggerated'

By David Rose, Mail, UK, Sep 15, 2013

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2420783/Global-warming-just-HALF-said-Worlds-climate-scientists-admit-computers-got-effects-greenhouse-gases-wrong.html>

Politicians, nations argue, cry over spilled, cooled milk

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Sep 20, 2013

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/09/politicians-nations-argue-cry-above.html#more>

PR Wars: IPCC fights for relevance, halves warming, claims to be 95% certain of something vaguer

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Sep 16, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/09/pr-wars-ippc-fights-for-relevance-halves-warming-claims-to-be-95-certain-of-something-vaguer/>

Controversy over U.N. report on climate change as warming appears to slow

By Staff Writers, CBS/AP, Sep 19, 2013

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-205_162-57603772/controversy-over-u.n-report-on-climate-change-as-warming-appears-to-slow/

Die Welt Journalist On AR5: “Small Sensation: IPCC Backpedals Considerably” – Mann’s Hockey Stick Trashed For Good

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Sep 18, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/09/18/die-welt-journalist-on-the-ippc-small-sensation-ippc-backpedals-considerably/>

Global warming report could backfire on environmentalists

By Byron York, Washington Examiner, Sep 16, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/byron-york-global-warming-report-could-backfire-on-environmentalists/article/2535889>

Mounting IPCC Fallout...Flagship Daily ‘Die Welt’ Headline: “Scientists Withdraw Basis For Climate Regulators”!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Sep 20, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/09/20/mounting-ipcc-fallout-flagship-daily-die-welt-headline-scientists-withdraw-basis-for-climate-regulation/>

Spiegel: “Dispute With Scientists: Politicians Want To Ban Warming Stop From Climate Report”

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Sep 20, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/09/20/spiegel-dispute-with-scientists-politicians-want-to-ban-warming-stop-from-climate-report/>

Temperatures rise over 'inconsistencies' in UN climate change report

By Graham Lloyd, The Australian, Sep 17, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/health-science/temperatures-rise-over-inconsistencies-in-un-climate-change-report/story-e6frg8y6-1226720483150>

Warming Gets Delayed Again...IPCC Scientist Mojib Latif: Pause “May Stubbornly Remain Until 2020 or 2025”!

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Sep 21, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/09/21/warming-gets-delayed-again-ipcc-scientist-mojib-latif-pause-may-stubbornly-remain-until-2020-or-2025/>

World's top climate scientists told to 'cover up' the fact that the Earth's temperature hasn't risen for the last 15 years

Leaked United Nations report reveals the world's temperature hasn't risen for the last 15 years

Politicians have raised concerns about the final draft

Fears that the findings will encourage deniers of man-made climate change

By Tamara Cohen, Mail, UK, Sep 20, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2425775/Climate-scientists-told-cover-fact-Earths-temperature-risen-15-years.html>

Seeking a Common Ground

Global Temperature Trends and the IPCC

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Sep 17, 2013

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2013/09/global-temperature-trends-and-ipcc.html>

[SEPP Comment: Source of the Quote of the Week.]

The IPCC's ‘inconvenient truth’

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Sep 20, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/09/20/the-ipccs-inconvenient-truth/#more-13050>

Consensus denialism

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Sep 17, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/09/17/consensus-denialism/#more-13000>

[SEPP Comment: A list of concerns expressed by the skeptics, called deniers.]

Finally, the IPCC has toned down its climate change alarm. Can rational discussion now begin?

Editorial, The Spectator, Sep 21, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/the-week/leading-article/9027511/a-climate-glasnost/>

The coming crisis of climate science?

By Reiner Grundmann, Kie Klimazwiebel, Sep 19, 2013

<http://klimazwiebel.blogspot.com/2013/09/the-coming-crisis-of-climate-science.html>

Social Benefits of Carbon [Dioxide]

Biospheric Productivity in High Latitude Regions of North America

By Staff Writers, SPPI & CO2 Science, Sep 19, 2013

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

Social Costs of Carbon

Energy Department faces conservative attacks over ‘social cost of carbon’

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Sep 17, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/322665-energy-department-faces-conservative-attacks-over-social-cost-of-carbon>

Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Landmark Legal Foundation Petition for Reconsideration of Final Rule Standards for Standby Mode and Off Mode Microwave Ovens

By Various Groups supporting or opposing the petition

<http://www.regulations.gov/#%21docketBrowser;rpp=25;so=DESC;sb=postedDate;po=0;dct=PS;D=EERE-2013-BT-PET-0043>

Scrutinizing the Social Cost of Carbon: Comment to the Energy Department

David Kreuzer and Kevin Dayaratna, Heritage Foundation, Sep 16, 2013

<http://blog.heritage.org/2013/09/16/scrutinizing-the-social-cost-of-carbon-comment-to-the-energy-department/>

DOE’s Social Cost of Carbon Mischief (My Comment Letter in Support of Landmark Legal Foundation’s Petition)

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Sep 17, 2013

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2013/09/17/does-social-cost-of-carbon-mischief-my-comment-letter-in-support-of-landmark-legal-foundations-petition/>

EPA used disputed carbon metric to develop power plant rules

By Julian Hattem, The Hill, Sep 20, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/323605-epa-used-disputed-carbon-metric-to-develop-power-plant-rules->

Lowering Standards

Peer-reviewed or Not, the IPCC Accepts Our Conclusion

By Patrick Michaels and Paul Knappenberger, CATO, Sep 17, 2013

<http://www.cato.org/blog/peer-reviewed-or-not-ipcc-accepts-our-conclusion>

Peer review: the skeptic filter

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Sep 19, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/09/19/peer-review-the-skeptic-filter/#more-13016>

The genius of academe

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Sep 16, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/9/16/the-genius-of-academe.html>

[SEPP Comment: Lost at sea.]

Has National Geographic Sullied Its Reputation?

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Sep 20, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/09/20/has-national-geographic-sullied-its-reputation/>

Met Office staff get £1m bonuses for accurate forecasts

Staff at the Met Office were rewarded almost £1 million in bonuses for accurately forecasting the weather last year.

By Rosa Silverman, Telegraph, UK, Sep 16, 2013

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/topics/weather/10311764/Met-Office-staff-get-1m-bonuses-for-accurate-forecasts.html>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

U.S. Being Snookered into Another Kyoto?

The Pacific Islands Forum, at the EU's behest, takes up climate alarmism, and the U.S. signs on.

By Nils-Azel Morner and Tom Harris, PJ Media, Sep 14, 2013

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/u-s-being-snookered-into-another-kyoto/>

Ozone Treaty Offers Quicker Fix for Global Warming

By Alex Morales, Bloomberg, Sep 19, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-09-19/ozone-treaty-offers-quicker-fix-for-global-warming.html>

Questioning European Green

German Media Now Sharply Attacking Once Beloved Green Energy Feed-In Act... "Completely Out Of Control"

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Sep 15, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/09/15/german-media-now-sharply-attacking-once-beloved-green-energy-feed-in-act-completely-out-of-control/>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Tim Flannery sacked, Climate Commission dismantled by Coalition

By Gemma Jones, Herald Sun, AU, Sep 19, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/national/tim-flannery-sacked-climate-commission-dismantled-by-coalition/story-fni0xqrb-1226722779566>

Green Jobs

ECotality Files for Bankruptcy

ECotality was awarded \$115 million in stimulus funds

By Lachian Markay, Washington Free Beacon, Sep 17, 2013

<http://freebeacon.com/ecotality-files-for-bankruptcy/>

[SEPP Comment: The manufacturer and installer of electric vehicle charging stations bragged of strong political connections, including with the Department of Energy.]

U.S. sells \$50 million green-tech loan at sharp discount

By Deepa Seetharaman, Reuters, Sep 5, 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/09/05/autos-vpg-sale-idUSL2N0H11YV20130905>

[SEPP Comment: When entrepreneurs and investors make bad decisions they lose their shirts. When politicians and bureaucrats make bad decisions, taxpayers lose their shirts.]

97% Consensus

Meaningless consensus on climate change

By Andrew Montford, Financial Post, Sep 19, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/09/19/meaningless-consensus-on-climate-change/>

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

Scary Quotes from Alarmists explain the "Plan."

By Goeff Brown, NCTCS, Sep 21, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/09/scary-quotes-from-alarmists-explain-plan.html>

An unprecedented threat to Peru's cloud forests

By Staff Writers, Winston-Salem NC (SPX), Sep 16, 2013

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/An_unprecedented_threat_to_Perus_cloud_forests_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A tale of a 5 deg C future warming in this century.]

Australia's record hottest 12 month period? Not so say the Satellites

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Sep 18, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/09/australias-record-hottest-12-month-period-junk-science-say-the-satellites/#more-30552>

Climate Science Losing Alarm: Will The Mainstream Media Spin It Differently?

By E. Calvin Beisner, Master Resource, Sep 18, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/09/gw-science-losing-alarm/#more-27650>

Climate change sceptic films more influential than advocacy films, claims study

By Christian Jannet, Research Digest, Sep 18, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bps-research-digest.blogspot.co.uk/2013/09/climate-change-sceptic-films-more.html>

[SEPP Comment: Because the makers of skeptical film do not have to exaggerate. The psychology experts apparently have not noticed the extreme exaggeration of the climate advocates.]

From the Scientific Urban Legend Department: 'AGW Sea Level Rise Made Sandy More Destructive'

By Kip Hansen, WUWT, Sep 19, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/09/19/from-the-scientific-urban-legend-department-agw-sea-level-rise-made-sandy-more-destructive/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

False notes and the Suzuki Method

By Roger Franklin, Quadrant, AU, Sep 18, 2013

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2013/09/false-notes-and-the-suzuki-method>

[SEPP Comment: Exposing the false statements of a climate campaigner.]

Politics of the 2C target

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Sep 21, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/09/21/politics-of-the-2c-target/#more-13058>

[SEPP Comment: Exposing the scientifically unsupported target of an increase in temperatures above 2 deg C would be dangerous.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Grantham Institute: Climate policy Critics ‘Like Those Who Denied HIV’

By Ben Webster, The Times, Via GWPF, Sep 18, 2013

<http://www.thegwgf.org/grantham-institute-climate-policy-critics-like-denied-hiv/>

How much longer can MPs resist this flat-Earth love-in?

All the evidence of manmade climate change is proving inconvenient for a Commons besieged by fossil fuel lobbyist

By George Monbiot, Guardian, Sep 16, 2013 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/sep/16/can-mps-resist-flat-earth-love-in>

IPCC report: sceptic groups launch global anti-science campaign

Leading scientists will soon tell the world they're 95% certain that humans are driving global warming. Sceptics are busy trying to sow any doubt

By Katherine Bagley, The Guardian, Sep 19, 2013

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/sep/19/ipcc-report-sceptic-groups-anti-science-campaign>

Models v. Observations

Climatologist explains halt of global warming via natural North Atlantic Oscillation, solar activity

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Shtick, Sep 16, 2013 [H/t WUWT]

<http://hockeyshtick.blogspot.com/2013/09/climatologist-explains-halt-of-global.html>

Models Issues

+++Harris and Lewis+++

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Sep 14, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/9/14/harris-and-lewis.html>

A response to the CSAs

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Sep 16, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/9/16/a-response-to-the-csas.html>

[SEPP Comment: A brief, effective statement why climate science cannot be considered an exact science.]

Met Office fails to acknowledge their model is overly sensitive

By Door Marcel Crok, De staat van het klimaat, Sep 16, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.staatvanhetklimaat.nl/2013/09/16/met-office-fails-to-acknowledge-their-model-is-overly-sensitive/>

[SEPP Comment: Simply because the sensitivity range is acceptable to the IPCC is no justification for using a model that overestimates global warming.]

Changing Weather

Against the 100-Year Flood

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Sep 15, 2013

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2013/09/against-100-year-flood.html>

How Fantasy Becomes Fact

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Sep 19, 2013

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2013/09/how-fantasy-becomes-fact.html>

[SEPP Comment: How unusually heavy rainfall across an area becomes a flood of almost Biblical proportions.]

Don't blame climate change for extreme weather

By Bjørn Lomborg, Washington Post, Sep 13, 2013 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/bjorn-lomborg-dont-blame-climate-change-for-extreme-weather/2013/09/13/4b770d48-117e-11e3-bdf6-e4fc677d94a1_story.html

Changing Climate

A Global force for Good

By Dennis Avery, Hudson Institute, Sep 12, 2013

<http://www.cgfi.org/2013/09/a-global-force-for-good-by-dennis-t-avery/>

[SEPP Comment: A brief history of the importance of trade and how it declined during cold period.]

Some crops migrate north with warmer temperatures

By Elizabeth Weise, USA Today, Sep 17, 2013 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.pal-item.com/usatoday/article/2784561>

[SEPP Comment: Increased atmospheric CO2 also benefits corn through more efficient water use.]

Changing Seas

Sea level rise: Climate change and an ocean of natural variability

By Steve Goreham, Washington Times, Sep 9, 2013

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/sep/19/sea-level-rise-climate-change-and-ocean-natural-va/>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Gas flaring and household stoves speed Arctic thaw

By Staff Writers, Laxenburg, Austria (SPX), Sep 16, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Gas_flaring_and_household_stoves_speed_Arctic_thaw_999.html

Link to paper: Black carbon in the Arctic: the underestimated role of gas flaring and residential combustion emissions

By Stohl, et al. Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, No date

<http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/13/8833/2013/acp-13-8833-2013.html>

[SEPP Comment: Aerosols, which are claimed to have a cooling effect and are hiding global warming, are warming the Arctic?]

Antarctic Sea Ice Extent Breaks All-Time Record

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Sep 17, 2013 [GWPF]

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2013/09/17/antarctic-sea-ice-extent-breaks-all-time-record/>

Arctic Grabs Gullible Sailors

By Dennis Avery, Center for Global Food Issues, Sep 17, 2013
<http://www.cgfi.org/2013/09/arctic-grabs-gullible-sailors-by-dennis-t-avery/>

Canada builds up arctic maritime surveillance

By Staff Writers, Ottawa (UPI), Sep 11, 2013
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Canada_builds_up_arctic_maritime_surveillance_999.html

Stronger winds explain puzzling growth of sea ice in Antarctica

By Hannah Hickey, U. of Washington, Sep 17, 2013
<http://www.washington.edu/news/2013/09/17/stronger-winds-explain-puzzling-growth-of-sea-ice-in-antarctica/>

Acidic Waters

Unprecedented rate and scale of ocean acidification found in the Arctic

By Staff Writers, St. Petersburg FL (SPX), Sep 20, 2013
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Unprecedented_rate_and_scale_of_ocean_acidification_found_in_the_Arctic_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Not one measurement of pH is mentioned in the article. A lessening of alkalinity in the water is making it more corrosive? How did marine life survive when the atmosphere was far richer in CO2 than today?]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Science supporting abundant, nourishing food for a growing civilization

By Staff Writers, Indianapolis IN (SPX), Sep 17, 2013
http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Science_supporting_abundant_nourishing_food_for_a_growing_civilization_999.html

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

CMIP5 Modeling of Extreme Precipitation in Europe

Reference: Van Haren, R., van Oldenborgh, G.J., Lenderink, G. and Hazeleger, W. 2013. Evaluation of modeled changes in extreme precipitation in Europe and the Rhine basin. *Environmental Research Letters* 8: 10.1088/1748-9326/8/1/014053.
<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/sep/17sep2013a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: Models do not have a predictive capability.]

Evolutionary Adaptation to Rising Atmospheric CO2 Concentration

Reference: Frenck, G., van der Linden, L., Mikkelsen, T.N., Brix, H. and Jorgensen, R.B. 2013. Response to multi-generational selection under elevated [CO2] in two temperature regimes suggests enhanced carbon assimilation and increased reproductive output in *Brassica napus* L. *Ecology and Evolution* 3: 1163-1172.
<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/sep/17sep2013a3.html>

The Repetitive Bleaching of Corals: Can Any Good Come from It?

Reference: Penin, L., Vidal-Dupiol, J. and Adjeroud, M. 2013. Response of coral assemblages to thermal stress: are bleaching intensity and spatial patterns consistent between events. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* 185: 5031-5042.
<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/sep/18sep2013a2.html>

Purple Sea Urchins: Primed for Rapid Evolution in Acidifying Seas

Reference: Pespeni, M.H., Sanford, E., Gaylord, B., Hill, T.M., Hosfelt, J.D., Jaris, H.K., LaVigne, M., Lenz, E.A., Russell, A.D., Young, M.K. and Palumbi, S.R. 2013. Evolutionary change during experimental ocean acidification. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 110: 6937-6942.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/sep/18sep2013a3.html>

The Political Games Continue

Senate support unravels for Obama's energy nominee

By Blake Neff, The Hill, Sep 20, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/323559-senate-support-unravels-for-ferc-nominee>

Successful House Climate Hearings...Rep. McKinley: Denying The Poor Affordable Energy Is “An Abuse Of Authority”

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Sep 19, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/09/19/successful-house-climate-hearings-rep-mckinley-denying-the-poor-affordable-energy-is-an-abuse-of-authority/>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

A win for Australia! Government scraps Climate Commission.

Taxpayers rejoice! The science-propaganda agency is gone for good. One down — scores to go.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Sep 19, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/09/australian-government-scraps-climate-commission/#more-30734>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA releases draft rules to cut emissions from power plans

By Julian Hattem, The Hill, Sep 20, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/323597-epa-chief-emissions-limits-wont-kill-coal-industry>

Bracewell & Giuliani's Segal previews EPA's reproposal of new source standards

Transcript by Staff Writers, Sep 18, 2013

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1725/transcript>

[SEPP Comment: EPA claims of commercially available carbon capture and storage are false.]

EPA's Anti-Coal Policies are adverse to human health and welfare

By Frank Clemente, Energy Facts Weekly, Sep 19, 2013

<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=29bc7d5d85828d574f86c157a&id=c44c61db02&e=>

New Rules On Power Plants Will Kill Coal Industry

Editorial, IBD, Sep 20, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/092013-671984-epa-rules-will-send-energy-costs-up-sharply.htm>

Mississippi Coal Plant Overruns Show Risks of Carbon Rule

By Mark Drajem, Bloomberg, Sep 19, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-09-18/mississippi-coal-plant-overruns-show-risks-of-carbon-rules.html>

The EPA's War on America

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Sep 17, 2013

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2013/09/the-epas-war-on-america.html>

Vitter slams EPA after mining giant abandons Alaskan project

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Sep 16, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/322513-vitter-slams-epa-after-mining-giant-abandons-alaskan-project->

EPA looks to clarify regulations on streams

By Julian Hattem, The Hill, Sep 17, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/322833-epa-looks-to-streams-brooks-for-regulations>

Link to Report: Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence (External Review Draft)

By Staff Writers, EPA, Sept 19, 2013

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=238345>

[SEPP Comment: Wet leaves on forest floors on private lands, without water, have been defined as “waters of the United States” and subject to Federal control.]

Energy Issues – Non-US

Energy Projects Seem Less Urgent in A Post-Energy-Crisis World

By Geoffrey Styles, Energy Tribune, Sep 18, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/79246/energy-projects-seem-less-urgent-in-a-post-energy-crisis-world#sthash.1b1mzpfG.dpbs>

Unlocking the Potential of ‘Flammable Ice’

By Henry Fountain, NYT, Sep 16, 2013

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/17/science/earth/unlocking-the-potential-of-flammable-ice.html?_r=0

Energy Issues -- US

Energizing America: Good Energy Policy and Its Economic Impacts

By Mary Leschper, Energy Tomorrow, Sep 18, 2013

<http://energytomorrow.org/blog/2013/september/energizing-america-good-energy-policy-and-its-economic-impacts>

Energy Production Up In Spite Of Obama, Not Because Of Him

Editorial, IBD, Sep 16, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/091613-671279-obama-not-responsible-for-higher-energy-production.htm?p=full>

Liquefied Natural Profits

The United States and the Remaking of the Global Energy Economy

By Amy Meyers Jaffe and Edward L. Morse, Foreign Affairs, Sep 16, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/139932/amy-meyers-jaffe-and-edward-l-morse/liquefied-natural-profits>

Oil Production in North Dakota Keeps Gaining, but Increased Flaring Threatens Regulatory Action

By Tim Daiss and Michael Economides, Energy Tribune, Sep 17, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/79227/oil-production-in-north-dakota-keeps-gaining#sthash.s9fttWhd.dpbs>

Washington's Control of Energy

Build, Baby, Build

Why Keystone XL Makes Economic and Environmental Sense

By Jonathan Kay, Foreign Affairs, Jun 2, 2013

<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/139431/jonathan-kay/build-baby-build>

Keystone pipeline mysteries:

6 reasons to approve the stalled project.

By Merrill Matthews, USA Today, Sep 5, 2013 [H/t NCPA]

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2013/09/04/keystone-pipeline-obama-us-economy-column/2768185/>

[SEPP Comment: Three of the four components have been, or are being, built. Washington stands in the way of the fourth.]

Obama's Climate Plan Calls for Making Excess Carbon a Crime—Eventually

By Brad Wieners, Bloomberg, Sep 20, 2013 [H/t Junk Science]

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-09-20/obamas-climate-plan-calls-for-making-excess-carbon-a-crime-eventually>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

More bad news for the green lobby: No, fracking does not release outrageous amounts of methane, says new study

By Erika Johnsen, Hot Air, Sep 16, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://hotair.com/archives/2013/09/16/more-bad-news-for-the-green-lobby-no-fracking-does-not-contribute-to-global-warming-says-new-study/>

Link to paper: Measurements of methane emissions at natural gas production sites in the United States

By Allen, et al. PNAS, Sep 16, 2013

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/09/10/1304880110>

Environmentalist-Funded Study Confirms Safety Of Fracking

Editorial, IBD, Sep 18, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/091813-671585-study-says-fracking-does-not-produce-methane.htm?p=full>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Double nuclear by 2040 says Exxon

World electricity demand is likely to grow by over 80% by 2040, and nuclear energy capacity will need to double to help to meet it, according to figures from Exxon Mobil. The company's analysis triggered a lively exchange at the WNA Annual Symposium in London

By Staff Writers, WNN, Sep 13, 2013

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE-Double_nuclear_by_2040_says_Exxon-1309138.html

Japan nuclear-free as last reactor switched off

By Staff Writers, Tokyo (AFP), Sept 16, 2013

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Japan_nuclear-free_as_last_reactor_switched_off_999.html

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Ice Bear

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Sep 17, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/09/17/ice-bear/>

Renewables Religion Is Dangerous

By Jim Cramer: Real Money, Sep 17, 2013 [H/t Paul Redfern]

http://www.thestreet.com/story/12039877/1/jim-cramer-renewables-religion-is-dangerous.html?puc=htmlbooyah_pla2&cm_ven=EMAIL_htmlbooyah

Renewable Energy to Represent One-Fifth of the Global Installed Capacity by 2030

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX). Sep 17, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Renewable_Energy_to_Represent_One_Fifth_of_the_Global_Installed_Capacity_by_2030_999.html

[SEPP Comment: If they are so successful, they do not need subsidies and mandates.]

Policy issues plague hydropower as wind power backup

By Staff Writers, University Park PA (SPX), Jun 28, 2013

http://www.winddaily.com/reports/Policy_issues_plague_hydropower_as_wind_power_backup_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Physical issues such as strain on turbines are a problem as well.]

Wind investments blow Pickens off the Forbes 400 list

By Breanna Deutsch, Daily Caller, Sep 16, 2013

<http://dailycaller.com/2013/09/16/wind-investments-blow-pickens-off-the-forbes-400-list/#ixzz2fFEtzLiR>

[SEPP Comment: After losing some \$150 million, Pickens recognizes that the jobs are in oil and gas.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy -- Other

Algae Biofuel Can Cut CO2 Emissions by up to 68 Percent Compared to Petrol

By Staff Writers, Minneapolis MN (SPX), Sep 20, 2013

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Algae_Biofuel_Can_Cut_CO2_Emissions_by_up_to_68_Percent_Compared_to_Petroleum_Fuels_Finds_New_Peer_Reviewed_Study_999.html

[SEPP Comment: If the financials are as rosy as the article implies, the technology needs no subsidies or mandates.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Not Even Fisker's Fire Sale Can Dampen DOE Enthusiasm for 'Investments'

By Paul Chesser, NL&PC, Sep 19, 2013

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2013/09/19/not-even-fiskers-fire-sale-can-dampen-doe-enthusiasm-investments>

Carbon Schemes

Artificial lung to remove carbon dioxide -- from smokestacks

By Staff Writers, Indianapolis IN (SPX), Sep 14, 2013

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Artificial_lung_to_remove_carbon_dioxide_from_smokestacks_999.html

Carbon farming schemes should consider multiple cobenefits

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Sep 17, 2013

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Carbon_farming_schemes_should_consider_multiple_cobenefits_999.html

California Dreaming

Calculating the carbon footprint of California's products

By Staff Writers, Chicago IL (SPX), Sep 16, 2013

http://www.spacemart.com/reports/Calculating_the_carbon_footprint_of_Californias_products_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Then come the taxes.]

Health, Energy, and Climate

Better US air quality since 1990 offers health benefits

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 19, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/09/19/better-us-air-quality-since-1990-offers-health-benefits/>

Link to paper: The State of US Health, 1990-2010 Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors

By numerous authors, JAMA, Aug 14, 2013

<http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1710486>

Environmental Industry

Dixon in the dock?

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Sep 17, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/9/17/dixon-in-the-dock.html>

[SEPP Comment: Exposing a conflict of interest that occurred when a leader of an environmental organization was also a regulator of an energy company.]

Sierra Club chief: Energy bill a test of 'how crazy' Congress has become

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Sep 16, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/322413-sierra-club-chief-energy-bill-tests-how-crazy-and-dysfunctional-congress-has-become>

[SEPP Comment: No longer getting their way.]

Other Scientific News

Delays, poor satellite management to leave US with data holes

By Julian Hattem, The Hill, Sep 19, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/administration/323465-delays-poor-satellite-management-to-leave-us-with-data-holes->

Earth's wobble "fixes" dinner for marine organisms

By Catherine Zandonella, Office of the Dean for Research, Princeton NJ (SPX) Sep 18, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Earths_wobble_fixes_dinner_for_marine_organisms_999.html

Link to paper: Changes in North Atlantic nitrogen fixation controlled by ocean circulation

By Straub, et al. Nature, Aug 21, 2013
<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v501/n7466/full/nature12397.html>

Life found in the sediments of an Antarctic subglacial lake for the first time

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Sep 15, 2013
http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Life_found_in_the_sediments_of_an_Antarctic_subglacial_lake_for_the_first_time_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the article, the temperature is rising on the Antarctic Peninsula, not the South Pole.]

Other News that May Be of Interest

How the newest diesel engines emit very little greenhouse gas nitrous oxide

By Staff Writers, Richland WA (SPX), Sep 16, 2013
http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/How_the_newest_diesel_engines_emit_very_little_greenhouse_gas_nitrous_oxide_999.html

Overpopulation Is Not the Problem

By Erle Ellis, NYT, Sep 13, 2013 [H/t Tom Sheahan]
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/09/14/opinion/overpopulation-is-not-the-problem.html?_r=1&adxnml=1&adxnmlx=1379674887-liqqAU3J+MXptTOczBmVgA

Falling population, more wilderness in 2100

By Matt Ridley, His Blog, Sep 15, 2013
<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/falling-population,-more-wilderness-in-2100.aspx>
[SEPP Comment: Islamic countries are a major exception to significantly declining fertility rates.]

Jumping insect has first 'mechanical gears' found in nature

By Staff Writers, Cambridge, England (UPI), Sep 12, 2013
http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Jumping_insect_has_first_mechanical_gears_found_in_nature_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Certain microbes have 'mechanical gears.']

#####

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

'Grassroots action' in livestock feeding to help curb global climate change

By Staff Writers, Sydney, Australia (SPX), Sep 17, 2013
http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Grassroots_action_in_livestock_feeding_to_help_curb_global_climate_change_999.html

Hansen: Europe standing tall against rogue state of Canada

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Sep 18, 2013
<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/09/hansen-europe-standing-tall-against.html#more>
#####

ARTICLES:

1. 50:1 should now be 100:1

By Barry Brill, WUWT, Sep 18, 2013
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/09/18/501-should-now-be-1001/>

Topher Fields' excellent documentary video <http://topher.com.au/50-to-1-video-project/explains> that the overall costs of any global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will be at least 50 times greater than its overall benefits.

But that was based on the UNIPCC's 2007 report (AR4). Now that the 2013 summary report (AR5) has been leaked, we can see that Topher was much too generous. At the new revised rate of future warming, the assumed benefits will be sliced in half.

Since January 2012, no less than 19 scientific papers <http://tinyurl.com/kjxs4kt> have been published on the crucial question of climate sensitivity: ie how much warming would result from doubling the volumes of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere? The latest draft of the AR5 summary tip-toes around this subject, but effectively recognises (in convoluted words and figures) that 'equilibrium' sensitivity (ECS) is probably around 2°C – about 33% less than the four previous reports had assumed.

But this doesn't mean that future warming will reduce by only one-third!

Let's make the following over-generous assumptions:

1. The ECS is immediately reflected in global average surface temperatures;
2. The IPCC models are valid in all other respects (except ECS);
3. The greenhouse effect is arithmetic rather than logarithmic;
4. The atmospheric concentration of CO₂e will reach 560ppm in 70 years;
5. The discount rate for climate issues is way below any other investment rate.

The CMIP5 ensemble of models currently projects temperatures at 3°C above 1850 levels by 2085. According to NOAA (the median of the three surface datasets) we have already experienced $1.024 \pm 0.128^\circ\text{C}$ over the last 160 years. So the official prediction is that temperatures will increase by a further 1.876°C over the next 70 years.

If those CMIP5 models were re-programmed with the updated ECS, the 2088 projection would reduce by one-third to 2°C. From this we deduct the 1.024°C already in the system, so the projected warming for the next 70 years falls to 0.976°C.

This is **LESS THAN HALF** the warming the IPCC was previously expecting – a very dramatic reduction.

The updated projection suggests that the warming trend will be almost exactly the same as it has been over the past 100 years. During that period, there was no acceleration at all in the rise of sea levels, the retreat of glaciers or sea ice, the incidence of malaria, or the frequency of hurricanes or droughts.

In fact, it was an 'optimum' temperature period. CO₂ contributed to the 'green revolution', poverty levels and child mortality were decimated, while indicators like life expectancy and literacy boomed. Death rates from extreme weather have declined by 98% since 1920.

Then there is another reason why 50:1 might be a major over-estimate.

The current 16-year temperature standstill suggests that the climate optimum era may now be over. If so, and the world undertakes a crash programme to reduce greenhouse gases, we will presumably produce a cooling effect through the 21st century. Would that give rise to any benefits at all? Or would we be cutting our own throats?

Perhaps the AR5 report of WG3 (due March 2014) will address this scenario. The IPCC says it considers all possible futures without assigning probabilities to any one.

Now, let's revert to those heroic assumptions we laid out above:

1. The ECS is the theoretical temperature response which continues long after emissions occur – hundreds of years into the future. The short-term impact of greenhouse doubling (Transient Climate Response) is only about 1.2°C – 40% less than the ECS.
2. The CIMP5 and CIMP3 models have actually been wrong by about 100% over the past 20 years. The ECS is certainly not the only error.
3. The greenhouse effect is logarithmic, so (at 400ppm) we have already experienced more than half of the doubling effects.
4. The IPCC scenarios ignore technology change, the shale gas boom, etc and are long out of date.
5. The 50:1 project is conservatively based on the Stern report which opined that climate mitigation was uniquely different to investments in healthcare, education, disease and poverty eradication, climate adaptation, etc. This credo is based on an obscure moral philosophy which few economists can even follow let alone subscribe to.

Finally, the largest impact factor in all the economic models is the speed of temperature change, not just the amount. The AR4 results suggested a rate of change so fast as to exclude most opportunities for species (including humans) to adapt. With the long standstill and the new low sensitivity, this issue is now comfortably overcome.

So, if we were to apply updated science and normal economics to a cost-benefit study, the 50:1 ratio could easily blow out to 500:1.

2. Born-Again Fracker

Energy nominee Ron Binz undergoes a confirmation conversion.

Editorial, WSJ, Sep 19, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324492604579083041465236968.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

Ron Binz faced the Senate Energy Committee on Tuesday, and the event was something of a miracle. President Obama's nominee to run the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) declared heretofore undetected devotion to natural gas and regulatory restraint.

Mr. Binz's nomination is in trouble because of a record and philosophy hostile toward fossil fuels of any kind. As recently as March he derided natural gas as a carbon-heavy "dead end," and he showed as a Colorado regulator that he's willing to stretch the law and manipulate companies to promote wind and solar over other kinds of power.

Thus the confirmation conversion. On Tuesday Mr. Binz said that he had spoken "probably uncarefully" about natural gas, and "that was a relatively inartful way of saying it." Now he says that "I fully embrace the use of natural gas," which he also called "the near-perfect fuel for the next couple of decades."

In case that wasn't enough enthusiasm, he added that natural gas is "a very great fuel," "a very important fuel" and "a terrific fuel. It's needed right now, and maybe in the permanent energy mix." He touted "a boom in jobs in the gas industry" and "a great resource" that's "getting larger by the minute as we discover more and more opportunities to develop shale gas." Tom Steyer, the anti-carbon billionaire pushing Mr. Binz for the job, must have cringed at all that.

Mr. Binz must have found it even more painful to disavow any policy-making role at FERC. He has written extensively about how regulators should go beyond the confines of the law to dictate "desired societal outcomes," and he has mused that as Colorado public utility commissioner from 2007-2011 he saw himself "not simply as an umpire calling balls and strikes, but also as a leader on policy implementation."

On Tuesday Mr. Binz flipped and promised he wouldn't even lead from behind. FERC's duty is only "to promote the appropriate infrastructure investments" like gas pipelines and electric transmission, he said. "Now that's not just a passive process. It is mainly passive in the sense that we—at the FERC, if I'm appointed at FERC, we'll receive applications from businesses to build things."

Energy Chairman Ron Wyden also tried to help the nominee by suggesting no fewer than eight times that Mr. Binz's views are irrelevant because of FERC's narrow legal powers. Mr. Binz has said he wants 80% of U.S. electricity to come from renewables, but Mr. Wyden said "Mr. Binz would have absolutely no authority to do anything on this matter."

Too bad that's not true. FERC can pick electricity winners and losers because a grid that is designed for, say, natural gas and nuclear power works very differently from one that primarily moves solar and wind. FERC is already starting to discriminate in favor of the latter when it reviews applications for power lines. Mr. Binz will almost certainly perpetrate more such abuses to punish fossil fuels.

The White House is worried that Mr. Binz may lose on an 11-11 tie in committee, so it is leaning on Louisiana Democrat Mary Landrieu to vote in favor. Ms. Landrieu is thus caught between her state's fossil-fuel economy and the green money she needs from the likes of Mr. Steyer to win re-election. We assume she knows that the original Ron Binz is the real one.

3. Crushing Pebbles

The EPA causes Anglo-American to walk away from a U.S. investment.

Editorial, WSJ, Sep 16, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324665604579079540847889358.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

If you want to know how the threat of regulation undermines economic growth, consider Monday's decision by British mining giant Anglo-American to withdraw from the Pebble Partnership to develop North America's richest copper and gold deposit in southwest Alaska.

The investors haven't even made a formal proposal. But the Environmental Protection Agency had threatened to issue a pre-emptive veto even before the traditional approving authorities in the state of Alaska and the Army Corps of Engineers had weighed in. The EPA typically regulates projects once they are approved, but in the Obama Administration such notions of regulatory restraint are considered quaint.

Anglo-American got the message, with CEO Mark Cutifani pointedly noting Monday that his company will focus on projects with "the highest value and lowest risks." The company will be walking away from the \$541 million it has already invested in the project. Northern Dynasty Minerals, the other half of the partnership, says it will continue moving toward a formal proposal, but the political portents aren't good.

This is merely one example, albeit bigger than most, of the thousands of ways that Washington crushes private investment and job creation every day.

#####