

The Week That Was: 2015-01-03 (January 3, 2015)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *“politically correct climate change orthodoxy has completely destroyed our ability to think rationally about the environment.”* Richard Tol, who withdrew his name from the IPCC AR5, economics section, because it was too alarmist, even though he was coordinating lead author

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Number of the Week: Down 41%

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THIS WEEK:

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

Changes at SEPP: As announced in TWTW in December, after 25 years Fred Singer has stepped down as the founding President of the Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP). He will continue to be the guiding light for the organization, remaining as Chairman of the Board of Directors. Ken Haapala has assumed the duties as President, Tom Sheahan as Vice President and Donna Bethel remains Secretary.

There are no major anticipated changes in policies or activities of SEPP. It will remain faithful to the principles of empirical science and challenge government policies, claimed to be substantiated by science, that are not supported by comprehensive observations or experiments.

The Week That Was will remain the primary publication of SEPP. In addition, we will continue to provide scientific expertise to other organizations on policy issues, to include issuing brief handouts such as “Climate Fears and Finance.”

The web site will undergo minor modifications to bring it up-to-date, to include topics such as explanations why the climate science, as expressed by the UN International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its followers such as the US National Assessment, and their models, failed to predict the current plateau, pause, in temperatures. Another topic will be the filed objections to Administration’s Clean Power Plan as announced by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Emphasis will be on the scientific objections, but some legal objections will be included. Other topics will be developed as appropriate.

The officers and directors of SEPP look forward to serving you far into the future.

The Pause or Plateau: Fred Singer provides an analysis of the explanations, largely expressed by global-warming promoters, why atmospheric temperatures have failed to rise for over a decade, and surface temperatures have failed to rise for about 18 years. The explanations described by provide an excellent foundation for an effort to note them and categorize them. Some of the explanations are internal to the earth’s climate system, some external. All major explanations are, in effect, alternative hypotheses or a modification to the hypothesis embraced by the UN IPCC that human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) are the dominant cause of global warming, now called climate change. Those who exclusively use the term climate change, reflect a general ignorance of the earth’s climate history. Please see Article # 1.

The Race: The final results need to be tallied, but it appears that both the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies (NASA-GISS) lost the big race in declaring that 2014 was the hottest year ever recorded.

Atmospheric temperature measurements by satellites, confirmed by weather balloons, just do not play the game that some of those who report surface temperatures play. One of the two atmospheric temperature reporting entities, Remote Sensing Systems, reports that 2014 was not the hottest year ever (since 1978). Could it be that adding CO2 to the atmosphere does not cause temperature change as previously attributed? We are still waiting for independent confirmation from the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. See links under Measurement Issues

Children's Education: It appears the Administration is serious about a major climate education program directed at children. The Climate Education and Literacy Initiative will "help connect American students and citizens with the best-available, science-based information about climate change." According to the promotion sheet, the initiative will employ 1) the National Park Service for Climate-science workshops, 2) NOAA to emphasize regional impacts as highlighted in the Third National Climate Assessment. 3) Enhance energy literacy. 4) Disseminate climate information through (NASA) Earth Systems Technology, and Energy Education. It will use a multitude of external organizations including American Meteorological Society (AMS), Earth Day Network, and Zoos.

The President's announcement of the program in June at the University of California, Irvine, was disturbing. Reliance on the Third National Climate Assessment with its questionable assertions using global climate projections, modified for particular regions, is worse. The failure of the earth to warm illustrates that the National Climate Assessment contains highly limited knowledge of the natural causes of global climate change and their relative importance when compared with human causes. Using deficient models to project regional climate change is folly. As it develops, pointing out the deficiencies in the program will be an appropriate undertaking for SEPP, and other organizations. See links under Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children

Shoe on a Different Foot? For years, SEPP and other organizations have insisted that, when the science used to justify expansion of EPA powers is inadequate, the expansion of power is unconstitutional. SEPP and Fred Singer, particularly, have been falsely accused of being engaged by coal companies, oil companies, tobacco companies, etc.

Lawrence Tribe, Professor of Law at Harvard, is an icon of liberal Democrats. Tribe filed a document to the EPA, declaring the Administration's proposed Clean Power Plan is unconstitutional. Tribe wrote an article explaining his actions which was published in the *Wall Street Journal*. Both the article and the filing are well reasoned. Will the defenders of the EPA slander Lawrence Tribe as they have others who spoke out in the past? See Article # 2 and the link to the filing.

A Breakthrough? The Breakthrough Institute can hardly be called a center for skeptics of the unsubstantiated claim that human emissions of carbon dioxide are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming (or climate change). Using the eight regions of the North American Electric Reliability Council, from 2007 to 2013, analysts estimated the extent to which coal-fired electricity has been replaced by natural gas and by renewable sources. The findings may be of value, but perhaps not for the reasons intended. The main findings are:

1. 80% of decline in coal generation nationally occurred in just two of the eight NERC regions.
2. The growth of gas generation nationally came almost entirely at the expense of coal generation.
3. Growth of non-hydro renewables accounts for little of the decline in coal generation.
4. New wind generation and new gas generation nationally appear to have had similar impacts on emissions on a per-MWh basis.
5. Net growth of gas generation in regional grids does not appear to be associated with declining net nuclear generation.
6. Growth of gas generation is not associated with rising demand for electricity.

Changes in generation shares at the regional level, however, strongly support the conclusion that fuel-switching from coal to gas, along with falling electricity demand in the wake of the Great Recession, account for the vast majority of the decline in emissions. Moreover, the shift from coal to gas accounts for a significant majority of the decline in the carbon intensity of the US electrical grid since 2007.” [The cited parts are not contiguous.]

Looking from a different perspective, one can argue that in the US there is little justification for continuing subsidies and mandates for solar and wind power, even if the purpose is to reduce CO2 emissions. Natural gas can reduce emissions, without the unreliable characteristics of solar and wind, and associated costs, provided pipelines are built to deliver natural gas where needed. Of course, such a view would be rejected by zealous promoters of global warming. But, one can counter that the unreliable characteristics of solar and wind requires a reliable fuel, such as natural gas. See links under Energy Issues – US.

Religious Issue: There have been several articles suggesting that the Pope will favor controls on carbon dioxide emissions in some form. This raises questions if the authors speak for the Pope or are privy to his thoughts. TWTW suggests that the articles are purely speculative. See links under Expanding the Orthodoxy.

Number of the Week: Down 41%. The US standard for crude oil is West Texas Intermediate. Each week the US Energy Information Administration announces an estimated spot price (which is usually different from (often more than) a contract price for a fixed delivery date. According to tracking entities, the spot price for the last week of December, 2013 (Dec 26) was \$90.71 per barrel. The spot price for the last week of December, 2014 (Dec 29) was \$53.46 – a decline of \$37.25, or 41% for the year.

During the time of rising oil and gasoline prices, many politicians and energy experts in Washington declared that expanding drilling will not lower prices. As expressed previously in TWTW, all the increase in oil production in the US in recent years has been on private and state-owned lands. There has been no increase on federal government owned lands and waters. Contrary to these experts, with expanded US production, world oil prices dropped. See Article # 4 and https://ycharts.com/indicators/crude_oil_spot_price

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ARTICLES:

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

1. Cause of Pause in Global Warming

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Dec 29, 2014
http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/12/cause_of_pause_in_global_warming.html

2. The Clean Power Plan Is Unconstitutional

The EPA acts as though it has the legislative authority to re-engineer the nation's electric generating system and power grid. It does not.

By Laurence Tribe, WSJ, Dec 22, 2014

http://www.wsj.com/articles/laurence-tribe-the-epas-clean-power-plan-is-unconstitutional-1419293203?mod=WSJ_LifeStyle_LatestHeadlines

Link to legal comments:

By Laurence Tribe, Dec 1, 2014

[http://www.masseygail.com/pdf/Tribe-Peabody_111\(d\)_Comments_\(filed\).pdf](http://www.masseygail.com/pdf/Tribe-Peabody_111(d)_Comments_(filed).pdf)

3. NASA Is Lost in Space

The U.S. space program needs a clear purpose. Spending billions on the International Space Station isn't it.

By Tom Coburn, WSJ, Dec 22, 2014

http://www.wsj.com/articles/tom-coburn-nasa-is-lost-in-space-1419293303?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj&url=http://online.wsj.com/article/SB12483005598294434483704580331531107176468.html?mod=djemMER_h

4. Obama on Oil Markets

Supply and demand seem to be elusive concepts.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 19, 2014

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/obama-on-oil-markets-1419033641>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Is the Sun driving ozone and changing the climate?

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 2, 2015

<http://joannenova.com.au/2015/01/is-the-sun-driving-ozone-and-changing-the-climate/>

Has Increased Sunshine Caused UK Warming In The Late 20th Century?

By Paul Homewood, WUWT, Dec 23, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/23/has-increased-sunshine-caused-uk-warming-in-the-late-20th-century/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC

Google goes off the climate change deep end

Chairman Eric Schmidt should heed his own advice – and base energy policies on facts

By Paul Driessen and Chris Skates, WUWT, Dec 26, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/26/google-goes-off-the-climate-change-deep-end/>

[SEPP Comment: Questions that remain unanswered include: Why did Google pull out of wind power and its scheme to be build a major transmission line for electricity off the East Coast of the US?]

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Hot Stuff, Cold Logic

Politically correct climate change orthodoxy has completely destroyed our ability to think rationally about the environment.

By Richard Tol, American Interest, Dec 10, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2014/12/10/hot-stuff-cold-logic/>

Settled science? The IPCC's premature consensus is demonstrated by the Orbiting Carbon Observatory

By Tim Ball, WUTW, Dec 21, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/21/settled-science-the-ipccs-premature-consensus-is-demonstrated-by-the-orbiting-carbon-observatory/>

Climate Sensitivity

NZ Climate Truth Newsletter # 339

By Vincent Gray, Australian Climate Sceptics, Dec 29, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/12/climate-sensitivity.html>

A Christmas Gift From Dr. Bill Gray

By Steve Goddard, Real Science, Dec 24, 2014

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2014/12/24/a-christmas-gift-from-dr-bill-gray/>

Climate And Truth: A Tale Of Immorality?

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Jan 2, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/02/climate-and-truth-a-tale-of-immorality/>

IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group out-lived its usefulness 20 years ago

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Jan 1, 2015

<http://polarbearscience.com/2015/01/01/iucn-polar-bear-specialist-group-out-lived-its-usefulness-20-years-ago/>

Only temperatures, not temperature changes, may be dangerous

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Dec 24, 2014

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/12/only-temperatures-not-temperature.html>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Pachauri: IPCC future not tied to Paris climate deal

By Vishwa Mohan, Economic Times, India, Dec 30, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/45683050.cms>

Please Steal Our Fossil Fuels

By Adair Turner, Project Syndicate, Dec 23, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/low-fuel-prices-threaten-environment-by-adair-turner-2014-12>

As 2014 draws to an end, falling oil, gas, and coal prices threaten to undermine investment in green energy and stimulate wasteful consumption.

Financing Climate Safety

By Jeffrey Sachs, Project Syndicate, Dec 26, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/fossil-fuels-carbon-pricing-tax-by-jeffrey-d-sachs-2014-12>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

2014: year of futility in the fight against climate change

Despite activist public efforts on climate during the last year, actual events question the theory of human-caused warming

By Steve Goreham, Communities Digital News, Dec 29, 2014

<http://www.commdiginews.com/politics-2/commentary/2014-year-of-futility-in-the-fight-against-climate-change-32500/>

Calculations suggest that Global warming caused by the doubling of CO2 will be less than 0.6K

By Saburo Nonogaki, WUWT, Dec 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/24/calculations-suggest-that-global-warming-caused-by-the-doubling-of-co2-will-be-less-than-0-6k/>

You Ought to Have A Look: Examples of Real-world Realities vs. Naïve Thinking

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Jan 2, 2015

<http://www.cato.org/blog/you-ought-have-look-examples-real-world-realities-vs-naive-thinking>

The Next World Agreement?

Bye Bye Lima – Roll On Paris

By Paul Homewood, WUWT, Dec 30, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/30/bye-bye-lima-roll-on-paris/>

Climate change: In 2015, the long march to Paris

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Dec 30, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Climate_change_In_2015_the_long_march_to_Paris_999.html

The Paris Climate Negotiations Next Year Will Be a Fiasco

Why there will not be a global climate change treaty in 2015

By Ronald Bailey, Reason.com, Dec 19, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://reason.com/archives/2014/12/19/the-coming-climate-crack-up-in-paris>

Social Benefits of Carbon

NASA Finds Good News on Forests and Carbon Dioxide

By Carol Rasmussen for NASA Earth Science News. Greenbelt MD (SPX), Dec 30, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/NASA_Finds_Good_News_on_Forests_and_Carbon_Dioxide_999.html

Problems in the Orthodoxy

IPCC Lead Author and the Nazca Vandalism

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Dec 20, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/12/20/ipcc-lead-author-and-the-nazca-vandalism/>

People Will Pay To Stop Climate Change -- But Only \$5

By Jeff McMahan, Forbes, Jan 1, 2015 [H/t Joe Bast]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcmahon/2015/01/01/people-will-pay-to-stop-climate-change-but-only-5/>

Seeking a Common Ground

Why do good intentions in the public sector lead to evil?

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 3, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/1/3/why-do-good-intentions-in-the-public-sector-lead-to-evil.html>

Five things to remember about climate science in 2015

By Anthony Sadar, Washington Examiner, Jan 1, 2015

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/five-things-to-remember-about-climate-science-in-2015/article/2558077?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2001/01/15&utm_medium=email

2014 → 2015

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Dec 31, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/12/31/2014-%E2%86%92-2015/#more-17470>

“In other words, climate/energy policy has developed a life of its own that seems increasingly disconnected from the science.”

Measuring the Next Global Development Goals

By Bjorn Lomborg, Project Syndicate, Dec 22, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/post-2015-development-goals-measurement-by-bjorn-lomborg-2014-12>

The Great Divide

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jan 2, 2015

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2015/01/02/the-great-divide/>

Yet another indicator that interest in climate has fallen by the wayside – climate doesn't make it into the top ten science press releases for 2014

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 25, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/25/yet-another-indicator-that-interest-in-climate-has-fallen-by-the-wayside-climate-doesnt-make-it-into-the-top-ten-science-press-releases-for-2014/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

Three Decades of Vegetation Change in Northeastern Brazil

By Erasmi, S., Schucknecht, A., Barbosa, M.P. and Matschullat, J. 2014. Vegetation greenness in northeastern Brazil and its relation to ENSO warm events. *Remote Sensing* 6: 3041-3058.

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/dec/a31.php>

[SEPP Comment: Overall, greening is more dominant than browning.]

Health Effects (Temperature - Hot vs. Cold: Asia) – Summary

By Staff Writers, Reviews of various papers, Dec 30, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/subject/h/summaries/asiahotvcold.php>

Global Warming and World Food Security

By Liu, H., Ge, Q., Zheng, J., Hao, Z. and Zhang, X. 2014. Crop yield and temperature changes in North China during 601-900 AD. *Advances in Meteorology* 2014: 10.1155/2014/137803.

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/dec/a27.php>

[SEPP Comment: *More evidence cold is destructive.*]

Of Floods and Paleofloods Along the Middle Yellow River of China

By Liu, T., Huang, C.C., Pang, J., Zhou, Y., Zhang, Y., Ji, L. and Shang, R. 2014. Extraordinary hydro-climatic events during 1800-1600 yr BP in the Jin-Shaan gorges along the middle Yellow River, China. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 410: 143-152. Dec 24, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/dec/a24.php>

How Well Do Current Models Simulate Holocene Climate Change?

By Liu, Z., Zhu, J., Rosenthal, Y., Zhang, X., Otto-Bliesner, B.L., Timmermann, A., Smith, R.S., Lohmann, G., Zheng, W. and Timm, O.E. 2014. The Holocene temperature conundrum.

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA 108: 10.1073/pnas.1407229111, Dec 23, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/dec/a22.php>

[SEPP Comment: *Poorly.*]

Coral Reefs Responding to Temperature Stress via Thermal Adaptation -- Summary

By Staff Writers, CO2 Science, Dec 23, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/subject/c/summaries/bleachresptemp.php>

“As living entities, corals are not only acted upon by the various elements of their environment, they also react or respond to them. And when changes in environmental factors pose a challenge to their continued existence, they sometimes take major defensive or adaptive actions to insure their survival. A simple but pertinent example of one form of this phenomenon is thermal adaptation, which feature has been observed by several researchers to operate in corals in response to the stress of high temperature. This summary presents a review of such scientists' work, demonstrating that predictions of vast coral demise due to global warming are unlikely to occur.”

“As more and more research is conducted it is becoming more and more apparent that the doom and gloom predictions of widespread coral decline due to global warming are unlikely to occur.”

Models v. Observations

An also-ran in the climate prediction stakes

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 1, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/1/1/an-also-ran-in-the-climate-prediction-stakes.html>

Associate Professor Kim Cobb's Obsession...Ignores 95% Of Climate Models Running Too Hot

What About Climate Change?

By Ed Caryl, No Tricks Zone, Dec 20, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/20/associate-professor-kim-cobbs-obsession-ignores-95-of-climate-models-running-too-hot/>

Model Issues

Schmidt and Sherwood on climate models

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 27, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/27/schmidt-and-sherwood-on-climate-models.html>

A Few Comments on the New Paper by Gavin Schmidt and Steven Sherwood

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Dec 29, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/29/a-few-comments-on-the-new-paper-by-gavin-schmidt-and-steven-sherwood/>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above. If the model, or models, fail in prediction, other arguments are moot.]

Measurement Issues

Is Numerical Weather Prediction One of Mankind's Greatest Achievements?

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Dec 25, 2014

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2014/12/is-numerical-weather-prediction-one-of.html>

RSS AMSU: temperatures 1979-2014 grouped in many ways

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Jan 3, 2015

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2015/01/rss-amsu-temperatures-1979-2014-grouped.html>

RSS Data Rubbishes Hottest Year Claims

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Jan 3, 2015

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/01/03/rss-data-rubbishes-hottest-year-claims/>

Has NOAA Once Again Tried to Adjust Data to Match Climate Models?

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Jan 1, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/01/has-noaa-once-again-tried-to-adjust-data-to-match-climate-models/>

Changing Weather

Hurricane ACE Data For 2014 [From WeatherBell]

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Jan 2, 2015

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/01/02/hurricane-ace-data-for-2014/>

2014/15 Super El Niño Gets “The Kiss Of Death”...Climatologists’ Prediction Of Warming Planet Crumbles Again

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 28, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/28/201415-super-el-nino-gets-the-kiss-of-death-climatologists-prediction-of-warming-planet-crumbles-again/>

Preliminary US Tornado Data For 2014

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Jan 1, 2015

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/01/01/preliminary-us-tornado-data-for-2014/#more-12203>

After a Brutal November, December was mild but January will be more like November

By Joseph D’Aleo, ICECAP, Dec 27, 2014

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/after-a-brutal-november-december-was-mild-but-january-will-be-more-like-nov/>

Rainfall: everything obscure

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 31, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/31/rainfall-everything-obscure.html>

Alaska's toasty temperatures in 2014 worry observers

By Maria La Ganga, LA Times, Jan 3, 2015 [H/t Climate Etc]

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-baked-alaska-20150103-story.html>

Overland [from NOAA] argues that Alaska's very cool heat wave is not evidence of climate change but rather the next stage in a long-term weather pattern that began with six years of warming in the Bering Sea and southern Alaska, followed by six cold years.

Alaska fish adjust to climate change by following the food

By Staff Writers, Seattle WA (SPX), Jan 02, 2015

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Alaska_fish_adjust_to_climate_change_by_following_the_food_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Apparently they have been doing so for millions of years.]

Climatologists' Projections Defied...25-Year Trend For German Winters Shows Cooling! ..."Snow Has Not Disappeared"

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 30, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/30/climatologists-projections-defied-25-year-trend-for-german-winters-shows-cooling-snow-has-not-disappeared/>

Drought Stricken California Suddenly Green

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Dec 24, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/12/drought-stricken-california-suddenly-green/>

[SEPP Comment: The satellite photo on December 23, 2014 is in stark contrast with the one a year earlier.]

Muddy forests, shorter winters present challenges for loggers

By Staff Writers, Madison WI (SPX), Dec 26, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Muddy_forests_shorter_winters_present_challenges_for_loggers_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Think of the trees being "saved."]

Changing Climate

Australia has had megadroughts for the last thousand years says ice core study

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 30, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/12/australia-has-had-megadroughts-for-the-last-thousand-years-says-ice-core-study/>

Coral reveals long-term link between Pacific winds, global climate

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, Dec 22, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/12/141222131356.htm>

Link to paper: Early twentieth-century warming linked to tropical Pacific wind strength

By Thompson, et al, Nature Geoscience, Dec 22, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo2321.html>

Early twentieth-century warming linked to tropical Pacific wind strength

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Dec 23, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/23/early-twentieth-century-warming-linked-to-tropical-pacific-wind-strength/>

[SEPP Comment: See links immediately above.]

Danish-Chinese scientists discover important relationship: Arctic sea ice development of the last 5000 years is controlled by solar activity

By Fritz Vahrenholt and Sebastian Lüning, Translated/edited by P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 23, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/23/ocean-and-solar-cycles-show-arctic-sea-ice-will-expand-over-the-next-3-decades/>

Vostok and the 8000 year time lag

By Euan Mearns, WUWT, Dec 27, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/27/vostok-and-the-8000-year-time-lag/>

Changing Seas

High Pressure Means Low Sea Level

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Jan 1, 2015

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2015/01/high-pressure-means-low-sea-level.html>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Global Sea Ice Well Above Average For Most Of 2014

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Jan 1, 2015

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/01/01/global-sea-ice-well-above-average-for-most-of-2014/>

Polar bear habitat – more Arctic sea ice in Canada this week than in early 1970s

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Dec 26, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/12/26/polar-bear-habitat-more-arctic-sea-ice-in-canada-this-week-than-in-early-1970s/>

Warm Arctic Is Simply Part Of Natural Cycle

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 26, 2014 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/12/26/warm-arctic-is-simply-part-of-natural-cycle/>

Changing Earth

NASA's new Orbiting Carbon Observatory shows potential tectonically-induced CO2 input from the ocean?

By Martin Hovland, WUWT, Jan 2, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/02/nasas-new-orbiting-carbon-observatory-shows-potential-tectonically-induced-co2-input-from-the-ocean/>

New, tighter timeline confirms ancient volcanism aligned with dinosaurs' extinction

By Staff Writers, Science News, Dec 18, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://esciencenews.com/articles/2014/12/18/new.tighter.timeline.confirms.ancient.volcanism.aligned.with.dinosaurs.extinction>

[SEPP Comment: The volcanic activity, now called the Deccan Traps, are in western central India.]

Acidic Waters

A Neutral View of Oceanic pH

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Jan 2, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/02/a-neutral-view-of-oceanic-ph/>

“So there you have it. The oceanographic dataset confirms the gradual decline in pH, but doesn’t provide enough data prior to about 1960 to tell us much of anything. As usual, the problem is that the changes due to CO₂ are so small that they are difficult to dig out of anything but the most accurate of datasets. This doesn’t mean that we can’t use the existing oceanographic measurements ... it just means that we need to be cautious in their use.”

What if Obama’s Climate Change Policies are Based on pHraud?

By Marita Noon, Somewhat Reasonable, Dec 22, 2014

<http://blog.heartland.org/2014/12/what-if-obamas-climate-change-policies-are-based-on-phraud/>

Are the Oceans Going to Boil?

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Dec 29, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/12/are-the-oceans-going-to-boil.php>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Will Global Warming Reduce Wheat Production?

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Dec 27, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/12/27/will-global-warming-reduce-wheat-production/#more-22316>

Link to paper: Rising temperatures reduce global wheat production

By Asseng, et al, Nature Climate Change, Dec 22, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2470.html>

Egypt Wheat Production by Year:

<http://www.indexmundi.com/agriculture/?country=eg&commodity=wheat&graph=production>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Climate change could cost U.S. coasts \$1 trillion by 2100

By Puneet Kollipara, Science Mag, Dec 22, 2014

<http://news.sciencemag.org/climate/2014/12/climate-change-could-cost-u-s-coasts-1-trillion-2100>

Link to paper: Joint effects of storm surge and sea-level rise on US Coasts: new economic estimates of impacts, adaptation, and benefits of mitigation policy

By James E. Neumann, Kerry Emanuel, Sai Ravela, Lindsay Ludwig, Paul Kirshen, Kirk Bosma, Jeremy Martinich, Climatic Change, Dec 14, 2014

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-014-1304-z>

[SEPP Comment: Based on highly questionable assumptions such as the US National Climate Assessment.]

Lowering Standards

AAAS called out for disgraceful, politically driven endorsement of CAGW

By Daniel Nebert, Letter posted in ICECAP, Dec 29, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/co2_data_shows_nobodys_dead_from_a_little_carbon_dioxide/

BBC & The Penguins

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That [H/t GWPF]

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/12/24/bbc-the-penguins/>

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

Obama Science Aide Says Humans Preventing New Ice Age

Editorial, The Hill, Dec, 24, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/122414-732098-obama-science-adviser-humans-preventing-ice-age.htm?p=full>

Obama Science Adviser Says Humans Preventing New Ice Age [With Comment By John]

By Seven Hayward, Power Line, Dec 23, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/12/obama-science-adviser-says-humans-preventing-new-ice-age.php>

'Atmospheric Rivers' to Soak California as Climate Warms

By Becky Oskin, Live Science, Dec 22, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.livescience.com/49225-atmospheric-rivers-double-climate-change.html>

[SEPP Comment: *These atmospheric rivers have never occurred before?*]

How Climate Change Could Leave Cities in the Dark

By Staff Writers, Baltimore MD (SPX), Dec 16, 2014

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/How_Climate_Change_Could_Leave_Cities_in_the_Dark_999.html

[SEPP Comment: *Questionable assumption: if global warming intensifies hurricane activity.*]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Arctic Warming Twice As Fast As Rest Of Planet

Video By Science Daily, Dec 18, 2014

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/videos/3413990d381fc92ad730a15542269039.htm>

[SEPP Comment: *What is 2 times zero?*]

Caught red-handed: Geomar omits crucial 1960s Arctic sea ice melt phase in press release

By Fritz Vahrenholt and Sebastian Lüning, Translated/edited by P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 21, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/21/caught-red-handed-german-scientists-expose-geomar-institute-conscious-deception-of-the-public-on-arctic-sea-ice-trend-misleading-international-media/>

Germany's Environment Minister Declares Energiewende "Mission Accomplished" In Stunning CNN Propaganda Op-Ed

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 26, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/26/germanys-environment-minister-declares-energiewende-mission-accomplished-in-stunning-cnn-propaganda-op-ed/>

WH science adviser: Obama is a 'science geek'

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Dec 22, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/227925-wh-science-adviser-obama-is-a-science-geek>

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children

FACT SHEET: Lifting America’s Game in Climate Education, Literacy, and Training

June 2014, Remarks at the University of California-Irvine Commencement Ceremony

By Staff, The White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Dec 3, 2014

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/climateed-dec-3-2014.pdf>

“If you believe, like I do, that something has to be done on this, then you’re going to have to speak out. You’re going to have to learn more about these issues... You’ve got to educate your classmates, and colleagues, and family members and fellow citizens, and tell them what’s at stake.” -- President Obama, June, 2014

The inculcation of final-form climate science

By Anthony J. Sadar, American Thinker, Dec 22, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/12/the_inculcation_of_finalform_climate_science.html

The economics of the madhouse

The Children’s Coalition’s insane war on natural gas

By Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, WUWT, Dec 22, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/22/the-economics-of-the-madhouse/>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

A salvo of silliness

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 29, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/29/a-salvo-of-silliness.html>

Catholicism and Environmentalism

Catholics with an interest in the environment should attempt to separate legitimate science from ideological noise and organizational self-interest

By Thomas Doran, Catholic World Report, Dec 29, 2014

http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Item/3600/catholicism_and_environmentalism.aspx

What Can a Popular Pope Do About Climate Change?

By Nicholas St. Fleur, The Atlantic, Dec 29, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/popular-pope-climate-change-184002150--politics.html>

Questioning European Green

Almost Half of Households Struggle with Winter Fuel Bills According to Utilita Energy

By Rebecca Jackson, 24dash.com, Dec 22, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.24dash.com/news/housing/2014-12-22-Almost-Half-of-Households-Struggle-with-Winter-Fuel-Bills-According-to-Utilita-Energy>

Forget your gas cooker – we’re headed for ‘zero carbon’ Britain

How many people realise what the government is up to with its energy policy, asks Christopher Booker.

By Christopher Booker, The Telegraph, UK, Dec 20, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/11305122/Forget-your-gas-cooker-were-headed-for-zero-carbon-Britain.html>

Non-Green Jobs

Economy Hits Cruising Speed, Thanks To Fracking

Editorial, IBD, Dec 23, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/122314-731936-declining-energy-prices-set-fire-to-economy.htm>

Funding Issues

New challenges for ocean acidification research

By Staff Writers, Kiel, Germany (SPX), Jan 02, 2015

http://www.terraily.com/reports/New_challenges_for_ocean_acidification_research_999.html

Litigation Issues

The Supreme Court's Hidden Climate Agenda

By Brian H. Potts and David R. Zoppo, The Energy Collective, Dec 29, 2014 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://theenergycollective.com/brian-h-potts/2177041/supreme-courts-hidden-climate-agenda>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Australia Rejects Job-Killing Carbon Tax

Editorial, IBD, Dec 22, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/122214-731705-carbon-tax-cost-average-family-550-a-year.htm>

Carbon tax cost \$5310 a ton. \$15 billion to abate almost nothing and cool the world by even less.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 1, 2015

<http://joannenova.com.au/2015/01/carbon-tax-cost-5310-a-ton-15-billion-to-abate-almost-nothing-and-cool-the-world-by-even-less/>

The Carbon Tax Has Something for Everyone

It would help the economy and reduce pollution.

By Irwin Stelzer, National Review Online, Dec 29, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/395458/carbon-tax-has-something-everyone-irwin-stelzer>

[SEPP Comment: Starts with a propaganda photo of smoke-stacks emitting steam, appearing to be darkening the sky. The logic continues from there.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA schedules 3 hearings on ozone rule

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Dec 23, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/227996-epa-schedules-3-hearings-on-ozone-rule>

Federal regulators say “Bah, Humbug!” to Christmas lights

By Ernest Istook, Washington Times, Dec 24, 2014 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/dec/24/ernest-istook-federal-regulators-say-bah-humbug-ch/>

Major & Obscure Regulations We’re Watching in 2015

By William Yeatman, Global Warming.org, Dec 31, 2015

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/12/31/major-obscure-regulations-were-watching-in-2015/>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Did The Saudis And The US Collude In Dropping Oil Prices?

By Andrew Topf of Oilprice.com

Washington DC (SPX) Jan 02, 2015

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Did_The_Saudis_And_The_US_Collude_In_Dropping_Oil_Prices_999.html

[SEPP Comment: If there was recent collusion between the US and Saudi governments, then the US administration brilliantly covered it up or demonstrated incompetence. Production on US government-controlled lands and waters fell while total US production increased significantly.]

U.S. Easing of Oil Exports Challenges OPEC's Strategy

By Heesu Lee, Bloomberg, Dec 31, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-12-31/u-s-opening-door-to-more-oil-exports-seen-foiling-opec-strategy.html>

Oil and Dictators

By Alvaro Vargas Llosa, The Beacon, Dec 19, 2014

<http://blog.independent.org/2014/12/19/oil-and-dictators/>

Israel's Gas Dream – The End Is Nigh

By Gal Luft, Middle East Forum, Dec 23, 2014

<http://www.meforum.org/4939/israel-gas-dream-the-end-is-nigh>

Energy Issues -- US

Natural Gas Overwhelmingly Replacing Coal, Says Report

By Thomas Overton, Power, Dec 22, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/natural-gas-overwhelmingly-replacing-coal-says-report/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3005467&hq_l=20&hq_v=5e660500d0

Link to report: Natural Gas Overwhelmingly Replaces Coal

New Analysis of US Regional Power Generation Between 2007 and 2013

By Trembath, Shellenberger, Nordhaus, and Swain, Breakthrough Institute, Dec 15, 2014

<http://thebreakthrough.org/index.php/issues/natural-gas/natural-gas-overwhelmingly-replaces-coal>

Free Market Fuels the American Dream

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Dec 29, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/American-Dream-Capitalism-EPA-U-N-/2014/12/29/id/615334/>

Oil trains, pipelines and tanker ships

By William Shughart, The Hill, Dec 10, 2014

<http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/226724-oil-trains-pipelines-and-tanker-ships>

Obama's Greenhouse of Cards: Reflections for the New Year on Carbon Capture, the Clean Power Plan, and the COP 21 Climate Negotiations

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Dec 30, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/12/30/obamas-greenhouse-of-cards-reflections-for-the-new-year-on-carbon-capture-the-clean-power-plan-and-the-cop-21-climate-negotiations/#more-22431>

How the Left Wants to Eradicate Planes, Trains and Automobiles by Shutting Off Their Financial Fuel

By Ron Arnold, Daily Signal, Jan 2, 2015 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://dailysignal.com/2015/01/02/left-wants-eradicate-planes-trains-automobiles-shutting-off-financial-fuel/>

Washington's Control of Energy

If Obama Wants More Solar Energy, Why Is He Making It So Expensive?

By Bryan Riley, The Daily Signal, Dec 20, 2014

<http://dailysignal.com/2014/12/20/obama-wants-solar-energy-making-expensive/>

Keystone XL set for January hearing

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Dec 30, 2014

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/keystone-xl-set-for-january-hearing/article/2558041?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20-%2012/31/14&utm_medium=email

White House's Mindless Energy Rules Could Trip Up Economy

By Stephen Moore, IBD, Jan 2, 2015

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-viewpoint/010215-733082-obama-epa-issues-energy-regulations-opeac-would-approve-of.htm>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

New York Fracking Ban Contrary To State's Energy Future

By James Conca, Forbes, Dec 27, 2014 [H/t ASCH]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2014/12/27/new-york-fracking-ban-contrary-to-states-energy-future/>

“Peak Oil Has Arrived:” Paul Krugman on Mineral Scarcity (2010 prediction from Dr. Errant)

By Robert Bradley, Master Resource, Dec 22, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/resourceship/krugman-resource-scarcity/>

The revolution is now — and it's black and greasy

By Pramit Pal Chaudhuri, Hindustan Times, Dec 23, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/comment/the-revolution-is-now-and-it-s-black-and-greasy/article1-1299773.aspx>

Why Cuomo's Fracking Ban Won't Matter Much

It will hurt upstate New York but won't slow down the nationwide shale revolution.

By Robert Bryce, National Review Online, Dec 19, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/395106/why-cuomos-fracking-ban-wont-matter-much-robert-bryce>

Return of King Coal?

Global demand for coal over the next five years will continue marching higher

By Staff Writers, Balkans News, Dec 23, 2014 [H/t GPWF]

<http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=199936>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

China experimental fast reactor runs at full capacity

By Staff Writers, Beijing (XNA), Dec 23, 2014

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/China_experimental_fast_reactor_runs_at_full_capacity_999.html

NRC: DOE Does Not Meet Land Ownership, Water Rights Requirements for Yucca Mountain Site

By Sonal Patel, Power, Dec 18, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/nrc-doe-does-not-meet-land-ownership-water-rights-requirements-for-yucca-mountain-site/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3005467&hq_l=22&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Did DOE falsely represent ownership to nuclear-power plant owners?]

Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant Shuts Down for the Last Time

By Aaron Larson, Power, Dec 29, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/vermont-yankee-nuclear-power-plant-shuts-down-for-the-last-time/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3005467&hq_l=9&hq_v=5e660500d0

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Renewables Comprise Majority Of New Generation For November, Year

By NAW Staff, NA Wind Power, Dec 24, 2014 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.13786

Wind energy and solar power combined provided more than 70% of the 873 MW of new U.S. electrical generating capacity placed into service in November, according to the latest report from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

[SEPP Comment: Yet, as discussed in the report by the Breakthrough Institute, there is little new generation.]

Are Farmers Being Mislead?

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Dec 26, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/12/26/are-farmers-being-mislead/>

California Dreaming

Fuel prices going up as greenhouse regulations hit gas, diesel fuels

By Josh Richman, San Jose Mercury News, Dec 29, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.chicoer.com/general-news/20141229/fuel-prices-going-up-as-green-house-regs-hit-gas-diesel-sales>

Health, Energy, and Climate

Junk study by Harvard School of Public Health tries to link pollution and autism: fails miserably

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Dec 19, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/12/junk-study-harvard-school-public-health-tries-link-pollution-autism-fails-miserably/>

Link to paper: Autism Spectrum Disorder and Particulate Matter Air Pollution before, during and after Pregnancy

By Raz, et al. Environmental Health Perspectives, Dec 2014

<http://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/1408133/>

Oh Mann!

Oral Argument 2: EPA on “Fraud” Allegations

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jan 1, 2015

<http://climateaudit.org/2015/01/01/oral-argument-2-epa-on-fraud-allegations/>

One of Carvin’s Gaffes

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jan 2, 2015

<http://climateaudit.org/2015/01/02/one-of-carvins-gaffes/>

Other Scientific News

The Top 10 Retractions of 2014

A look at this year’s most memorable retractions

By Adam Marcus and Ivan Oransky, The Scientist, Dec 23, 2014 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/41777/title/The-Top-10-Retractions-of-2014/>

Despite posited ‘threats of extinctions caused by global warming’, 221 new species described by the California Academy of Sciences in 2014

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 29, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/29/despite-posed-threats-of-extinctions-caused-by-global-warming-221-new-species-described-by-the-california-academy-of-sciences-in-2014/>

Nature admits peer review filters out controversial “champion” papers

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 24, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/12/nature-admits-peer-review-filters-out-controversial-champion-papers/>

Sun sizzles in high-energy X-rays

NuSTAR, a space telescope designed to look at the farthest reaches of the universe, has been cleared to begin capturing data from our star.

By Staff Writers, NASA/JPL, Dec 26, 2014 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.astronomy.com/news/2014/12/sun-sizzles-in-high-energy-x-rays>

Other News that May Be of Interest

My Year-End Forecast: There Is No Future For Prediction

The US should close down its energy supply-and-demand forecasting department. We should do the same with our own “experts” at the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

By Dominic Lawson, Sunday Times, Via GWPF, Dec 21, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/my-year-end-forecast-there-is-no-future-for-prediction/>

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Climate Crazyness of the Week – AGW could trigger plants and soil in tipping point attack

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 27, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/27/climate-craziness-of-the-week-agw-could-trigger-plants-and-soil-in-tipping-point-attack/>

Green Weenie of the Year: Andrew Cuomo

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Dec 24, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/12/green-weenie-of-the-year-andrew-cuomo.php>

Tepid coffee anyone? Europe rules percolators must shut off after five minutes

New European laws aimed at saving energy mean that some coffee machines must power down after five minutes

By Sarah Knapton, Telegraph, UK, Jan 1, 2015 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/shopping-and-consumer-news/11320629/Tepid-coffee-anyone-Europe-rules-percolators-must-shut-off-after-five-minutes.html>

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1. Cause of Pause in Global Warming

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Dec 29, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/12/cause_of_pause_in_global_warming.html

Few can deny that carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a greenhouse gas (GHG) or that the human-caused increase in its atmospheric level should lead to global warming (GW). The absence of this expected rise of surface and atmospheric temperatures thus presents a scientific challenge to both climate alarmists and skeptics; perhaps they should join forces to find a solution to this puzzle

There has been essentially no global warming since 1998. Some would choose 1997, others would more conservatively use 2002 as the proper starting date, based on satellite data. Of course, this is quite unexpected, since CO₂ -- a leading GHG, which climate models presume to cause anthropogenic global warming (AGW) -- has been increasing rapidly in the 21st century.

Even if we cannot readily find the cause for the “pause” -- as it is sometimes called -- we can be absolutely sure that it was not predicted by any of the dozens of the UN-IPCC’s General Circulation Models (GCMs). Therefore, logically, such non-validated GCMs cannot, and should not, be used to predict the future climate -- or as a basis for policy decisions.

Here I would like to discuss some of the possible causes for the GW “hiatus.” Its existence is creating a scientific challenge for climate skeptics -- and a real crisis for alarmists; it can no longer be ignored by any who consider themselves to be scientists -- nor, indeed, by responsible politicians.

One possibility, of course, may be that the pause is simply a statistical fluctuation, like tossing a coin, with 15 to 18 heads in a row. Such an explanation cannot be dismissed out of hand, even though it has a very low probability -- which becomes even smaller with each passing year of no GW. Obviously, climate alarmists like this possibility -- although the number of such ‘true believers’ is shrinking. Most have started to look for a physical cause for the pause -- an explanation of why current GCMs are failing to match observations.

Internal and external causes

When we look at possible causes, we should first of all distinguish between internal and external ones that might offset the expected GW from CO₂. Internal causes rely on negative feedbacks from either water vapor (WV) or clouds; they act to decrease the warming that should be attributed to increasing CO₂. The problem with internal effects is they can never fully eliminate

the primary cause -- almost by definition. So even if they diminish the CO2 effect somewhat, there should still be a remaining warming trend, though small.

It is quite important to obtain empirical evidence for a negative feedback. In the case of water vapor, one would look to see if the cold upper troposphere (UT) was dry or moist. If moist, as assumed implicitly in current IPCC-GCMs, one gets a *positive* feedback -- i.e., an amplification of the CO2-caused warming. On the other hand, if the upper troposphere is dry, then most emissions into space take place from WV in the warm boundary layer in the lower troposphere. This leaves less energy available to be emitted into space from the surface through the atmospheric 'window,' and therefore produces a cooler surface.

[NB: To avoid the vexing issue of the effects of the down-welling infrared radiation, it is easiest to think of long-term zero energy imbalance, as measured by satellites at the top of the atmosphere -- after the underlying atmosphere adjusts. Imbalance = incoming less reflected solar radiant energy minus the heat energy from surface and atmosphere escaping to space.]

The physical model I have in mind for this negative WV feedback is based on a proposal of Prof. William Gray (Colorado State University), who pictured cumulus clouds carrying moisture into the UT, but occupying only a small area; the remaining (and much larger) area experiences descending air ("subsidence") -- hence drying. In principle, it should be possible to measure this difficult-to-explain effect fairly easily, using available satellite data.

Negative feedback from increased cloudiness is easier to describe but more difficult to measure. The idea is simply that a slight increase in sea-surface (SST) temperature (from the GH effect of a rising CO2) also increases evaporation (according to the well-known "Clausius-Clapeyron" relation), and that this increased atmospheric moisture can also increase cloudiness. The net effect is a greater (reflecting) albedo, less sunlight reaching the surface, and therefore a *negative* feedback that reduces the original warming from increasing CO2.

Unfortunately, establishing the reality of this cloud feedback requires a measurement of global cloudiness with an accuracy of a small fraction of a percent -- a very difficult problem.

We now turn to *external* effects that might explain the existence of a global warming pause; the principal ones are volcanism and solar activity. The problem here is one of balancing; the amount of cooling by volcanism, for example, has to be just right to offset the warming from CO2 during the entire duration of the pause. It is difficult to picture why exactly this might be happening; the probabilities seem rather small. Still, the burden is on the proponents to demonstrate various kinds of evidence in support of such an explanation.

Similarly, atmospheric aerosols, generally human-caused, can increase albedo and cool the planet -- especially if they also increase cloudiness by providing condensation nuclei for WV.

Hidden Warming?

Note that all the explanations mentioned so far act to reduce 'climate forcing' -- defined as the energy imbalance measured at the top of the atmosphere (TOA)

There is an important school of thought that does not rely on offsetting the forcing from increased CO2; instead it assumes that there really exists an imbalance at the TOA and that GW is taking place somewhere, but is not easily seen. Many assume that the "missing heat" is hiding in the

deep ocean. It is difficult to see how such a mechanism can function without also raising surface temperatures; but an oscillation in ocean currents might produce such a result.

Still, if measurements could demonstrate a gradual increase in stored ocean heat, one would be forced to consider possible mechanisms. Its proponents might be asked, however, why the storage increase started just when it did; when will it end; and how will the energy eventually be released, and with what manifestations?

There is yet another possibility worth considering: The missing energy might be used to melt ice rather than warm the ocean. Again, quantitative empirical evidence might support such a scenario. But how to explain the starting date of the pause -- and how soon might it end?

Yet another explanation

It is generally accepted that the warming effect from CO₂ increases roughly as the logarithm of CO₂ concentration. The reason has to do with the broadness and shape of the CO₂ absorption lines -- as is well known among molecular spectroscopists. But even the log of CO₂ would show a steady rise, albeit smaller than that of CO₂ itself; so that this simple explanation does not work.

But CO₂ is an interesting and complicated molecule. Its climate-forcing effect might actually decline to zero -- albeit for only a number of years. The reason is that part of the CO₂ absorption and emission takes place in the stratosphere, where the temperature gradient is positive, i.e. there is warming with increasing altitude, instead of cooling.

But until someone does the necessary work, by analyzing available satellite data, one should not put too much faith in this hypothesis.

So after all, the global warming pause still remains somewhat of a puzzle. The simplest description is that the climate sensitivity is close to zero -- as demonstrated empirically. But why? How then to explain the reported surface warming from 1975 to 2000?

Conclusion

Regardless of any unsettled science details, it seems sure that current climate models cannot represent what is actually happening in the atmosphere -- and therefore one should not rely on predictions from such unvalidated models that are based simply on increases of carbon dioxide. It should be obvious that this discussion has important policy consequences since so many politicians are wedded to the idea that CO₂ needs to be controlled in order to avoid "dangerous changes of the global climate."

S. Fred Singer is professor emeritus at the University of Virginia and director of the Science & Environmental Policy Project. His specialty is atmospheric and space physics. An expert in remote sensing and satellites, he served as the founding director of the US Weather Satellite Service and, more recently, as vice chair of the US National Advisory Committee on Oceans & Atmosphere. He is a Senior Fellow of the Heartland Institute and the Independent Institute. He co-authored NY Times best-seller Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1500 years. In 2007, he founded and has chaired the NIPCC (Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change), which has released several scientific reports [See NIPCCreport.org]. For recent writings see http://www.americanthinker.com/s_fred_singer/ and also Google Scholar.

2. The Clean Power Plan Is Unconstitutional

The EPA acts as though it has the legislative authority to re-engineer the nation's electric generating system and power grid. It does not.

By Laurence Tribe, WSJ, Dec 22, 2014

http://www.wsj.com/articles/laurence-tribe-the-epas-clean-power-plan-is-unconstitutional-1419293203?mod=WSJ_LifeStyle_LatestHeadlines

Link to legal comments:

By Laurence Tribe, Dec 1, 2014

[http://www.masseygail.com/pdf/Tribe-Peabody_111\(d\)_Comments_\(filed\).pdf](http://www.masseygail.com/pdf/Tribe-Peabody_111(d)_Comments_(filed).pdf)

SUMMARY: A legal, liberal icon expresses why he thinks that the Clean Power Plan as announced by the Environmental Protection Agency is unconstitutional. Tribe states he taught the first course in environmental law 45 years ago, and he believes that “coping with climate change is a vital end, but does not justify using unconstitutional means.”

Although he was joined by a major company, he states he arrived at this professional conclusions as an independent legal scholar. “After studying the only legal basis offered for the EPA’s proposed rule, I concluded that the agency is asserting executive power far beyond its lawful authority.” He writes the EPA will “dictate the energy mix used in each state and leave the state with essentially no choice in implementing its plan” and this is contrary to Supreme Court decisions.

“Even more fundamentally, the EPA, like every administrative agency, is constitutionally forbidden to exercise powers Congress never delegated to it in the first place. The brute fact is that the Obama administration failed to get climate legislation through Congress. Yet the EPA is acting as though it has the legislative authority anyway to re-engineer the nation’s electric generating system and power grid. It does not.”

3. NASA Is Lost in Space

The U.S. space program needs a clear purpose. Spending billions on the International Space Station isn't it.

By Tom Coburn, WSJ, Dec 22, 2014

http://www.wsj.com/articles/tom-coburn-nasa-is-lost-in-space-1419293303?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj&url=http://online.wsj.com/article/SB12483005598294434483704580331531107176468.html?mod=djemMER_h

SUMMARY: The retiring senator from Oklahoma expresses his views that NASA has had no clear objectives since 2010. “NASA has an important role to play in advancing our nation’s interests in space, but it needs reform. The place to start is by ending U.S. support for the international space station, which at \$100 billion holds the Guinness World Record for “most expensive man-made object.” Instead, Congress should direct the agency’s funding toward something more productive.”

He writes that the US space program needs a clear purpose and to be followed “by the design and development of novel technology, rather than the other way around. What if NASA were directed to focus solely on getting Americans back to the moon, or developing a plan for humans to reach Mars? The resulting innovation would be tremendous for the nation, the aerospace industry and educational opportunities.”

4. Obama on Oil Markets

Supply and demand seem to be elusive concepts.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 19, 2014

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/obama-on-oil-markets-1419033641>

The editorial criticizes the manner in which the President avoided a direct question on the Keystone XL pipe line which will bring crude oil from Canada and from North Dakota to refineries along the Texas coast. It quotes extensively from Mr Obama. “So there’s no—I won’t say ‘no’—there is very little impact, nominal impact, on U.S. gas prices—what the average American consumer cares about—by having this pipeline come through. And sometimes the way this gets sold is, let’s get this oil and it’s going to come here. And the implication is, is that’s going to lower gas prices here in the United States. It’s not. There’s a global oil market. It’s very good for Canadian oil companies and it’s good for the Canadian oil industry, but it’s not going to be a huge benefit to U.S. consumers. It’s not even going to be a nominal benefit to U.S. consumers.”

The editorial interprets this quote as: “The oil market is global, but somehow adding to the global supply of oil via the pipeline is not going to affect the global price for oil, so it won’t affect American gasoline prices. That doesn’t seem to pass the basic supply-demand test.”

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