

The Week That Was: 2011-11-12 (November 12, 2011)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Climate Change Reconsidered: 2011 Interim Report

[S. Fred Singer](#), [Craig Idso](#), [Robert M. Carter](#) – August 29, 2011 Published by [Heartland Institute](#)

Summary: <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/2011/pdf/FrontMatter.pdf>

Chapter Review and Full Report <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/2011/2011report.html>

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Quote of the Week:

“We do not believe any group of men adequate enough or wise enough to operate without scrutiny or without criticism. We know that the only way to avoid error is to detect it, that the only way to detect it is to be free to inquire. We know that in secrecy error undetected will flourish and subvert.” J. Robert Oppenheimer.

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Number of the Week: 20,000

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THIS WEEK:

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

Trust but Verify: The above quote from Robert Oppenheimer highlights a desperately needed attitude in today’s society – including among academics and scientists. It is always too easy to go along and not question even when questions arise. Investigative reporting, such as Donna Laframboise’s exposé of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), needed to be done years ago.

Often presidents of universities are chosen more for the business acumen than other qualities. They may treat certain programs as profit centers and may prefer to ignore issues arising within these programs. This week, the President of Penn State University was fired for failure to properly supervise one highly successful program, its football program.

Steve McIntyre and Andrew Montford suggest that the highly successful revenue generation of certain research programs may have resulted in the failure to conduct proper inquiries into the Climategate emails, and related issues. The source of the leak is immaterial; the propriety of the contents is what was important.

According to the Penn State University Budget Office the total funds allocated for research in the fiscal year 2010 - 2011 amounted to \$804,789,000 of which \$469,954,000 were Federal sponsored grants and contracts. McIntyre suggests such level of funding may have been sufficient to cause the university investigators to less than rigorously perform their duties. At the time of the findings, McIntyre was extremely critical of their performance. Please see links under “Climategate Continued” and <http://www.budget.psu.edu/factbook/Research2011/OrgResearchSummary.asp>

Climate Sensitivity: Patrick Michaels reports that a new study, about to be published in *Science*, shows that there is virtually no probability that a doubling of carbon dioxide will increase temperatures more than 3 K (5.4 deg F) and that it is likely the increase will be far less. The suggested maximum is far below the projections of many climate models. The extreme projections are used to justify many studies claiming drastic changes to the earth by human carbon dioxide emissions. No doubt the new study, if published, will be heavily criticized by those who make extreme claims because it would remove the foundation for such claims. If the study is published, and if it withstands scrutiny, then we should see a

lowering of the hyperbole that has dominated the global warming issue. Please see links to Michaels and Motl under “Challenging the Orthodoxy.”

BEST Project: The results of the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature (BEST) project continue to receive scrutiny. A number of the issues have been discussed in the past two TWTWs: that the study applies only to land data; relies heavily on the common source for all data, etc. Also, one-third of the stations reported a cooling – yet there is no longitudinal distribution of these stations given as compared to all stations. The Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the IPCC incorrectly dismisses events such as the Little Ice Age and the Medieval Warm Period as regional rather than global. It is vital to see if the pattern of the warming reported by BEST.

Two additional studies came out about the same time as BEST that disagree with some of the conclusions of the BEST project and conclude that 20th century warming was normal and most likely natural. Please see links under “Measurement Issues.”

International Energy Agency: *The World Energy Outlook, 2011*, produced by The International Energy Agency (IEA) could have been written by the alarmist industry. Among its alarmist claims is that the world has only five years to adopt effective controls of carbon dioxide before it is too late.

One of the sections that reveal the extent to which the report reflects the attitudes of the European green movement is titled: “• How high-carbon infrastructure “lock-in” is making the 2°C climate change goal more challenging and expensive to meet.” Given that there is no measured warming of the earth for more than ten years perhaps the section should be titled: “How the failure of the globe to warm is making the 2°C climate change goal more difficult to attain.” Please see links under “Expanding the Orthodoxy.”

NIPCC: The influence of the reports by Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) continues to grow. A major paper by five scientists at Key Laboratory for Earth Surface Processes of the Ministry of Education at Peking University in Beijing, notes that the claims in AR4 “have been largely questioned,” ... “the Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), established in 2007, has introduced a number of controversial and divisive debates,” The 2008 and 2009 reports are cited and Fred Singer and Craig Idso are mentioned. Singer, Idso, all the contributors, and publisher Heartland Institute are to be congratulated for their efforts. Please see links under “Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC” www.nipccreport.org (2009) http://www.sepp.org/publications/NIPCC_final.pdf (2008).

Corporate Funding of Environmental Research: This week the Pew Center for Climate Change announced that it will be obtaining much of its funding from corporate sources, including Shell Oil, Hewlett-Packard, Entergy Corp (an electricity company), Duke Energy, GE, and Bank of America. Previously Pew obtained about 80% of its funding from PEW Charitable Trusts. The new organization will be called the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)! Many of the corporations funding C2ES were fellow members of the US Climate Action Partnership that lobbied for cap and trade for several years until the cap and trade bill lost in the Senate last year.

The announcement stated that C2ES seeks market-based solutions to global warming. This is misleading, because the goal is to have the Federal government interfere in the markets as C2ES desires. Subsidies, mandates, cap and trade, etc. distort the market for the benefit of a few and the expense of the many. These are no more market-based than mercantilism, where the king granted special privileges for a few chosen ones.

As always, SEPP considers the quality of the work paramount, and the source of the funding as secondary. It will be interesting to see how many of those who have falsely claimed that SEPP (or Fred Singer, personally) is funded by oil companies, tobacco companies, etc. will comment on C2ES. As always, SEPP is funded by private donations and appreciates receiving them.

Number of the Week: 20,000. It was generally reported that the Keystone XL expansion of the existing Keystone pipeline would create 20,000 new jobs in the US. The purpose of the expansion was to bring an additional 700,000 barrels a day of oil from the oil sands in Alberta, Canada, to Oklahoma, and to extend the pipeline to refineries in southeast Texas. This would replace at least some heavy crude that is now imported from Venezuela. The pipeline, thus the jobs, would be privately funded, without need for government loans or subsidies.

The Obama administration, through the State Department, announced on Thursday that it will delay its decision six to eight months until a study of a total different route to the Mid-west is completed. This delay will, no doubt, result in a delay in a decision until after the November 2012 presidential election. Since President Obama previously insisted he was responsible for the decision, it is reasonable to conclude he is responsible for the delay.

The delay reveals that two of the major arguments used for the government promoting expensive and unreliable sources of electricity, such as solar and wind, are little more than red herrings – arguments used to mislead others from the real purpose of certain actions. One red herring is the US needs solar and wind to reduce its use of oil. As noted in prior TWTWs, less than one percent of US electricity is generated by using oil. The pipeline would provide oil from the most reliable trading partner the US has. This leads to the second red herring: we need solar and wind sources for national security and independence from mid-east oil. Again the pipeline delay contradicts this claim. The real issue is the demand by environmental groups, and others, that Washington control the energy resources of America and the energy use of the American public. Please see links under “Administration Control of Oil and Gas.”

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ARTICLES:

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

1. Obama Seeks Modest Expansion in Offshore Drilling

By Tennille Tracy, WSJ, Nov 8, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203733504577026373943247002.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines

[SEPP Comment: *But highly restrict drilling as compared to when he took office.*]

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

New Paper “A Shared Frequency Set Between The Historical Mid-Latitude Aurora Records And The Global Surface Temperature” By N. Scafetta 2011

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Nov 8, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/11/08/new-paper-a-shared-frequency-set-between-the-historical-mid-latitude-aurora-records-and-the-global-surface-temperature-by-n-scafetta-2011/>

Climategate Continued

Penn State President Fired

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Nov 10, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/2011/11/10/penn-state-president-fired/#more-14925>

CA readers are aware of Spanier's failure to ensure proper investigation of Climategate emails and his untrue puffs about the ineffective Penn State Inquiry Committee, reported at CA here and by the Penn State Collegian as follows:

Corrupt inquiries

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 11, 2011

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2011/11/11/corrupt-inquiries.html>

WWF's tainted 'witnesses'

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Nov 9, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/11/09/peter-foster-wwf%E2%80%99s-tainted-%E2%80%98witnesses%E2%80%99/>

The IPCC's Fake Review Editor

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Nov 9, 2011

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2011/11/09/the-ipccs-fake-review-editor/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

A new, lower estimate of climate sensitivity

By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Nov 8, 2011

<http://www.worldclimatereport.com/index.php/2011/11/08/a-new-lower-estimate-of-climate-sensitivity/>

Science: climate sensitivity is 1.7-2.6 °C

By Lubos Motl, The Reference Frame, Nov 10, 2011

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2011/11/science-climate-sensitivity-is-17-26-c.html#more>

[SEPP Comment: Or less!]

Whether It Is Warming or Climate Change, It Cannot Be the CO₂.

By Tim Ball, His Blog, Nov 9, 2011

<http://drtimball.com/2011/whether-it-is-warming-or-climate-change-it-cannot-be-the-co2/>

New study shows temperature in Greenland significantly warmer than present several times in the last 4000 years

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 10, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/10/new-study-shows-temperature-in-greenland-significantly-warmer-than-present-several-times-in-the-last-4000-years/#more-50927>

[SEPP Comment: Reaffirming prior studies such as those by Don Easterbrook.]

NCDC data shows that the contiguous USA has not warmed in the past decade, summers are cooler, winters are getting colder

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 5, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/05/ncdc-data-shows-that-the-contiguous-usa-has-not-warmed-in-the-past-decade-summer-are-cooler-winter-are-getting-colder/#more-50527>

[SEPP Comment: Many useful graphs. Also a link to the previous distortion of historic data making the 1930s to appear cooler than originally recorded.]

Global temperatures: Nonbelievers refuse to warm up to 'climate hysteria'

By Gordon Fulks, Oregon Live, Nov 7, 2011

http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2011/11/global_temperatures_nonbelieve.html

Defending the Orthodoxy

Biggest jump ever seen in global warming gases

By Seth Borenstein, AP, Nov 4, 2011 [H/t Debbie Wetlaufer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/biggest-jump-ever-seen-global-warming-gases-183955211.html>

Global warming showdown: And skeptics are winning

U.N. prepares for urgent battle to extract \$100 billion from U.S., developed countries

By Michael F. Haverluc, WND, Nov 8, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.wnd.com/index.php?fa=PAGE.view&pageId=364169>

Nepal defends China snub for climate summit

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 10, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Nepal_defends_China_snub_for_climate_summit_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Countries have to justify getting part of the \$100 Billion per year the UN demanded from developed countries.]

Harper Government Guts Environment Programmes [Canada]

By Stephen Leahy, IPS, Nov 9, 2011

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=105773>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

The “Global Warming”/“Climate Change” controversy continues

Editor Larry Gould, APS New England Section, Fall, 2011

By Gordon Fulks, Letter, pp 10-12

<http://www.aps.org/units/nes/newsletters/upload/fall11.pdf>

By Roger Cohen, Letter, p 12

<http://www.aps.org/units/nes/newsletters/upload/fall11.pdf>

Wasted ‘Climate Change’ Cash Could Save Lives Instead

Tomorrow’s theoretical problems have been trumping today’s urgent needs

By Tom Harris and Bob Carter, Pajama Media, Nov 6, 2011

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/wasted-%E2%80%98climate-change%E2%80%99-cash-could-save-lives-instead/?singlepage=true>

[SEPP Comment: According to the GAO, from 1993 to 2010 the outlays by the US government amounted to \$107 Billion.]

Questioning European Green

In Praise Of The Global Warming Policy Foundation

The GWPF is one of the most important think-tanks in Britain today, because it is helping to provide the balance that has been so sorely lacking in the mainstream of our economic and environmental policy debate for much of the last decade.

By Matthew Barrett, Conservative Home, Nov 8, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/opinion-pros-a-cons/4296-matthew-barrett-in-praise-of-the-global-warming-policy-foundation.html>

Britain can’t afford to bet its future on shale gas - wind turbines are here to stay

Diversity of energy sources increases our security: renewables, fossil fuels and nuclear power are not mutually exclusive.

By Chris Huhne, Sec of State for Energy and Climate Change, Telegraph, UK, Nov 8, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/8877214/Britain-cant-afford-to-bet-its-future-on-shale-gas-wind-turbines-are-here-to-stay.html>

[SEPP Comment: The government bet the estate on wind and is now backing down.]

Cheap gas is a 'crisis' for Greens, but not for us

By Andrew Orlowski, The Register, Nov 9, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/09/huhne_on_gas_i_am_neutral_honest/

Statoil threatens UK gas supplies over green policies

By Eric Watkins, Oil and Gas Journal, Oct 31, 2011 [H/t Hugh Sharman]

<http://www.ogj.com/articles/2011/10/statoil-threatens-uk-gas-supplies-over-green-policies.html>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

World Energy Outlook 2011

International Energy Agency, Nov 9, 2011

<http://www.iea.org/weo/>

[SEPP Comment: Only 150 euros for a special pleading on behalf of European Greens.]

World has five years to avoid severe warming: IEA

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 9, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/World_has_five_years_to_avoid_severe_warming_IEA_999.html

World headed for irreversible climate change in five years, IEA warns

If fossil fuel infrastructure is not rapidly changed, the world will 'lose for ever' the chance to avoid dangerous climate change

By Fiona Harvey, Guardian, UK, Nov 9, 2011 [H/t Best of the Web]

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/nov/09/fossil-fuel-infrastructure-climate-change>

One close observer of the climate talks said the \$400bn subsidies devoted to fossil fuels, uncovered by the IEA, were "staggering", and the way in which these subsidies distort the market presented a massive problem in encouraging the move to renewables.

[SEPP Comment: There was no reference to the study to document the subsidies. Many oil producing nations and developing nations, such as China, do provide heavy subsidies to the consumers of oil. Generally, this is not the case in developed nations.]

Oil prices are in 'danger zone', warns the IEA

Oil could hit \$150 a barrel soon if investment in the Middle East and North Africa fails to rise with demand, the International Energy Agency (IEA) says.

By Staff Writers, BBC, Nov 9, 2011

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-15658275>

[SEPP Comment: Clear promotion of green energy.]

OPEC raises forecasts, warns of investment uncertainty

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 8, 2011

[http://www.energy-](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/OPEC_raises_forecasts_warns_of_investment_uncertainty_999.html)

[daily.com/reports/OPEC_raises_forecasts_warns_of_investment_uncertainty_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/OPEC_raises_forecasts_warns_of_investment_uncertainty_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Another view on IEA statements.]

Problems within the Orthodoxy

China Threatens Massive Venting of Super Greenhouse Gases in Attempt to Extort Billions as UNFCCC Meeting Approaches

By Staff Writers, PR Newswire, Nov 8, 2011

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/china-threatens-massive-venting-of-super-greenhouse-gases-in-attempt-to-extort-billions-as-unfccc-meeting-approaches-2011-11-08>

[SEPP Comment: Western governments should not be surprised at China's efforts to extort them, they created the distorted markets.]

Seeking a Common Ground

Planet Intolerance

By Rob White, Book Review of 'On Tolerance', Nov 8, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/best-of-blogs/4291-rob-white-planet-intolerance.html>

Carbon dioxide emissions continue to rise

By Martin Livermore, Scientific-Alliance, Nov 11, 2011

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/carbon-dioxide-emissions-continue-rise>

Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate?

Warming temps eyed as factor in Alaska storm

Region has seen less sea ice, pattern of more intense systems

By Pete Spotts, Christian Science Monitor, Nov 9, 2011 [H/t WUWT]

http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/45229295/ns/today-today_news/t/warming-temps-eyed-factor-alaska-storm/#.Tr5lr0NKMos

[SEPP Comment: It did not take long for the warming chorus to blame the strongest November storm since the global cooling period of 1974 on global warming.]

For the comments of Anthony Watts see:

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/09/dr-jeff-masters-gets-caught-up-in-the-full-on-media-stupidity/#more-50902>

Arctic sea ice 'to melt by 2015'

Arctic sea ice could completely melt away by the summer of 2015, destroying the natural habitat of animals like polar bears, one of Britain's leading ocean experts has claimed.

By Nick Collins, Telegraph, UK, Nov 8, 2011

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/globalwarming/8877491/Arctic-sea-ice-to-melt-by-2015.html>

[SEPP Comment: No warming causes extreme melting!]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

The Rough Guide to the Future by Jon Turney – review

A meticulously researched book analysing not only distant future scenarios but also the grim environmental outlook in short term

By James Kingsland, Guardian, UK, Nov 11, 2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2011/nov/11/scienceofclimatechange-agriculture>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately below.]

Royal Society book prize

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 11, 2011

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2011/11/11/royal-society-book-prize.html>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Measurement Issues

Pause (?)

Question of the week: *Has the rate of warming continued unabated, or has there been a pause in the warming?*

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Nov 4, 2011

<http://judithcurry.com/2011/11/04/pause/#more-5671>

BEST Data “Quality”

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Nov 6, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/2011/11/06/best-data-quality/>

Two New Papers vs. BEST: Guest Post by Lüdecke, Link, and Ewert

By William Briggs, His Blog, Nov 7, 2011 [H/t SPPI]

<http://wmbriggs.com/blog/?p=4630>

Brief Commentary on Two Recent Papers

By Donald Rapp, Pielke Climate Science, Nov 9, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/11/09/brief-commentary-on-two-recent-papers-by-donald-rapp/>

In other words, as the Earth goes through its chaotic variability, it is possible that it can generate its own long-term trends due to feedback effects. For example, if there is a random change in cloudiness or wind pattern or whatever that persists for quite a few years, this could set into motion feedback effects that could move the climate persistently in one direction, and the whole thing got started internally. Hence, the detection of a long-term trend is not necessarily proof of an external influence as the driver.

Skeptics "BESTed"?

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Nov 8, 2011

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2011/11/skeptics-bested>

Changing Weather

Stalled Weather Systems More Frequent in Decades of Warmer Atlantic

By Maria-Jose Vinas for Goddard Space Flight Center

Greenbelt MD (SPX) Nov 08, 2011

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Stalled_Weather_Systems_More_Frequent_in_Decades_of_Warmer_Atlantic_999.html

"They erode the base of glaciers, contributing to the melting of the Greenland ice sheet. And the change in temperature and freshness of the waters can alter subpolar ecosystems, too."

More than 1,000 die in Southeast Asia floods

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 10, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/More_than_1000_die_in_Southeast_Asia_floods_999.html

Changing Climate

UA scientists find evidence of Roman period megadrought

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 09, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UA_scientists_find_evidence_of_Roman_period_megadrought_999.html

Texas A and M professor helping to unravel causes of Ice Age extinctions

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 08, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Texas_A_and_M_professor_helping_to_unravel_causes_of_Ice_Age_extinctions_999.html

Changing Seas

The Pacific sea surface temperature

David H. Douglass, Physics Letters A, Accepted Oct 28, 2011

http://www.pas.rochester.edu/~douglass/papers/Pacific_sea_surface_temperature-published.pdf

[SEPP Comment: The paper by Douglass mentioned last week is now posted.]

Ocean Temperatures Can Predict Amazon Fire Season Severity

By Patrick Lynch for Goddard Space Flight Center

Greenbelt MD (SPX) Nov 11, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Ocean_Temperatures_Can_Predict_Amazon_Fire_Season_Severity11_10_11_999.html

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Farmers 1, Smelt 0 -- For Now

Enviros favor the lives of two-inch fish over the livelihood of farmers. A federal judge has finally told them: Enough!

By Peter Hannaford, American Spectator, Nov 7, 2011

<http://spectator.org/archives/2011/11/07/farmers-1-smelt-0-for-now>

Tropical forests are fertilized by air pollution

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 07, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Tropical_forests_are_fertilized_by_air_pollution_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Human emitted nitrogen enhancing tree growth?]

Shock news: trees grow better in a warmer climate with more carbon dioxide

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 11, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/11/shock-news-trees-grow-better-in-a-warmer-climate-with-more-carbon-dioxide/#more-50996>

[SEPP Comment: Obviously these climate change arctic researchers never read HH Lamb, or the work of the Idsos.]

The Political Games Continue

Republicans set their sights on another Energy Department program

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Nov 9, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/192665-republicans-set-their-sites-on-another-energy-department-program>

White House Threatens to Veto CSPAR-Blocking Senate Resolution

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Nov 9, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4154.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2312043&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e660500d0

Litigation Issues

FOIA reveals NASA's Hansen was a paid witness

By Conn Carroll, Washington Examiner, Nov 7, 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/11/conn-carroll-foia-reveals-nasas-hansen-was-paid-witness>

Confessions of an FOIA criminal

By Christopher Horner, Washington Examiner, Nov 7, 2011
<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/2011/11/confessions-foia-criminal>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Australia approves carbon tax

By Staff Writers, UPI, Nov 8, 2011

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Australia_approves_carbon_tax_999.html

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

More Costs and Higher Prices

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Nov 11, 2011

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2011/11/11/more-costs-and-higher-prices/>

In other words, efficiently generated electricity is being replaced by inefficiently generated electricity from renewables. ...In the real world, renewables cause problems, and increase the price of electricity to consumers.

Support for federal backing of renewables slips, driven by GOP skepticism

By Juliet Eilperin and Jon Cohen, Washington Post, Nov 10, 2011 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/support-for-federal-backing-of-renewables-slips-driven-by-gop-skepticism/2011/11/10/gIA97kX9M_story.html

Growth in Customer Solar Power Installations Poses Significant Challenges for the Electric Grid

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 09, 2011

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Growth_in_Customer_Solar_Power_Installations_Poses_Significant_Challenges_for_the_Electric_Grid_999.html

Texas Wind Power (CREZ) Line Busts Its Budget (Blame Perry, not Obama)

By Kenneth Artz, Master Resource, Nov 11, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/11/texas-crez-line-busts-budget/#more-17325>

Maryland Climate Plan Passes Key Tests in UMD Studies

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 09, 2011

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Maryland_Climate_Plan_Passes_Key_Tests_in_UMD_Studies_999.html

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA Moves Forward with GHG Regulations for Power Plants

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Nov 9, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4155.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2312043&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e66050d0

Why Obama Officials Had to Lie to Congress About Fuel Economy Standards

By Marlo Lewis, Big Government, Nov 8, 2011

<http://biggovernment.com/mlewis/2011/11/08/why-obama-officials-had-to-lie-to-congress-about-fuel-economy/>

[SEPP Comment: Interestingly, according to the Honda web site, the compressed natural gas model of the Civic is EPA rated as getting a combined 31 miles per gallon, though it uses no gasoline. The comparable LX gasoline model is rated at getting a combined 32 miles per gallon. Clearly, there is a component in the ratings that the regulators are not revealing.]

Real Monsters Didn't Disappear After Halloween

By Harry Jackson and Efrain Pineda, Freedoms Journal, Nov 10, 2011

<http://www.freedomsjournal.net/2011/11/10/real-monsters-didnt-disappear-after-halloween/>

[SEPP Comment: A realistic plea for the less fortunate.]

Environmental Justice: EPA Needs to Take Additional Actions to Help Ensure Effective Implementation

By Staff Writers, GAO-12-77 October 6, 2011 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-12-77>

[SEPP Comment: Giving EPA greater power and environmental organizations greater leverage over the public.]

Black Hills to Shutter Coal Plants, Build Gas-Fired Facility in Coal-Rich Wyo.

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Nov 8, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4160.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2312043&hq_l=11&hq_v=5e660500d0

NOAA designates critical habitat for black abalone

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 08, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/NOAA_designates_critical_habitat_for_black_abalone_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Expanding control.]

Energy Issues

Why "energy independence" means less power for the US, not more

By Matthew Hulbert, European Energy Review, Nov 10, 2011

<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3346>

Americans using more fossil fuels

By Anne M Stark for LLNL News, SPX, Nov 11, 2011

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Americans_using_more_fossil_fuels_999.html

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Oil jobs boom in US despite recession

Jobs related to oil and gas drilling account for more than one in eight of all net new nonfarm jobs in the United States since 2003, and almost one in five in the private sector, according to an analysis of data from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

By Staff Writers, News Wires, Nov 1, 2011

<http://www.upstreamonline.com/live/article286773.ece>

[SEPP Comment: Without large government subsidies or loan guarantees.]

We Found Oil! Is That Good?

New ways to extract oil and natural gas could buy the U.S. some time to develop renewable energy. Or they could keep us addicted to dirty fuels.

Discussion, NYT, Nov 11, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2011/11/06/will-a-boom-for-oil-and-gas-delay-renewable-energy/?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=thab1>

[SEPP Comment: Once the discovery of economically recoverable natural resources was considered a benefit to the nation. Now, many question the benefit.]

Democratic jackpot

The energy-short -democracies will become top producers

By Lawrence Solomon, Financial Post, Nov 4, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/11/04/lawrence-solomon-democratic-jackpot/>

Administration's Control of Oil and Gas

US to study alternate route for US-Canada pipeline

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 10, 2011

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/US_to_study_alternate_route_for_US-Canada_pipeline_999.html

Interior announces offshore-drilling plan, scaled back following Gulf spill

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 8, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/192339-interior-unveils-scaled-back-offshore-drilling-plan->

Return of King Coal?

Obama Tightens Screw on America's Coal Supply

By Marita Noon, Townhall, Nov 6, 2011

http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2011/11/06/obama_tightens_screw_on_americas_coal_supply

New EPA Rules Split Power Industry

By Ryan Tracy, WSJ, Nov 10, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203537304577028393431399820.html?mod=WSJ_hp_LEFTWhatsNewsCollection

[SEPP Comment: May be behind a pay wall.]

It's a Coal World After All

"The German Federal Institute for Geosciences estimates the current proved recoverable global coal reserves at 1,000 billion tons" IEA, 2011

By Frank Clemente, Energy Facts Weekly, Nov 10, 2011

<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=29bc7d5d85828d574f86c157a&id=1d189f46f8&e=>

Oil Spills & Consequences

Exxon Mobil says Montana spill to cost \$135 million

By Braden Reddall and Laura Zuckerman, Reuters Fri Nov 4, 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/05/us-yellowstone-spill-cost-idUSTRE7A403S20111105>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

New nuclear energy policy for Taiwan

No life extensions will be granted to Taipower's existing nuclear power plants in a newly announced nuclear energy policy that promises eventually to make the island 'nuclear-free'.

By Staff Writers, WNN, Nov 3, 2011

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NP-New_nuclear_energy_policy_for_Taiwan-0311117.html?utm_source=World+Nuclear+News&utm_campaign=058380af9c-WNN_Weekly_1_7_November_201111_7_2011&utm_medium=email

Thorium shows promise for nuclear power

By Staff Writers, UPI, Nov 9, 2011

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Thorium_shows_promise_for_nuclear_power_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A promise not exactly new, but a long way to go.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy

Time To Change Course on Green Jobs,

By Walter Russell Mead, American Interest, Nov 3, 2011

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2011/11/03/time-to-change-course-on-green-jobs/>

Trade War in Solar Takes Shape

By Keith Bradsher, NYT, Nov 9, 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/10/business/global/us-and-china-on-brink-of-trade-war-over-solar-power-industry.html?_r=1

[SEPP Comment: Message to the US: Don't Bother. The war is not worth the cost. Develop the far more effective and affordable fossil fuels.]

Paul Krugman's Solar Eclipse

Why solar has failed

By Robert Bryce, National Review, Nov 9, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/282610/paul-krugman-s-solar-eclipse-robert-bryce>

Taming Unruly Wind Power

By Matthew Wald, NYT, Nov 4, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/05/business/energy-environment/as-wind-energy-use-grows-utilities-look-to-stabilize-power-grid.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=th25>

Ontario's Power Trip: The Globe has gone with the wind

The Globe and Mail declined to run the following letter to the editor from Parker Gallant:

By Parker Gallant, Financial Post, Nov 8, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/11/08/ontarios-power-trip-the-globe-has-gone-with-the-wind/>

Wind Farms Disrupting Radar, Scientists Say

By Maxim Lott, Fox News, Nov 5, 2011 [H/t Debbie Wetlaufer]

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/11/05/wind-farms-disrupting-radar-scientists-say/?test=latestnews>

Biofuels: Fields Of Pipedreams

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Nov 8, 2011

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2011/11/08/biofuels-fields-of-pipedreams/>

Wood biofuel could be a competitive industry by 2020

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 10, 2011

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Wood_biofuel_could_be_a_competitive_industry_by_2020_999.html

Carbon Schemes

Coal Project Hits Snag as a Partner Backs Off

By Matthew Wald, NYT, Nov 10, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/11/business/energy-environment/coal-project-hits-snap-as-a-partner-backs-off.html?ref=science>

[SEPP Comment: Another hit on the scheme to capture carbon dioxide emissions. The promised \$ 1 billion from the US government has a time limit ending in 2015.]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Global Warming: The View from China

Reference: Fang, J.Y., Zhu, J.L., Wang, S.P., Yue, C. and Shen, H.H. 2011. Global warming, human-induced carbon emissions, and their uncertainties. *Science China Earth Sciences* 54: 1458-1468.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/8nov2011a1.html>

Consequently, and contrary to what the IPCC crowd continually contends, the science of global climate change is definitely not "settled."

Three Thousand Years of Climate Change in Central Iceland

Reference: Larsen, D.J., Miller, G.H., Geirsdottir, A. and Thordarson, T. 2011. A 3000-year varved record of glacier activity and climate change from the proglacial lake Hvitvatn, Iceland. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 30: 2715-2731.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/9nov2011a5.html>

The research team's findings clearly suggest that there is nothing unusual, unnatural or unprecedented about the warmth of the post-1950 Current Warm Period...

The MWP and LIA in the Ross Sea Region of Antarctica

Reference: Bertler, N.A.N., Mayewski, P.A. and Carter, L. 2011. Cold conditions in Antarctica during the Little Ice Age -- Implications for abrupt climate change mechanisms. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 308: 41-51.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/8nov2011a3.html>

"the McMurdo Dry Valleys were 0.35°C warmer during the MWP [Medieval Warm Period] than during ME [Modern Era], accompanied by warmer conditions in the Ross Sea."

Holocene Fluctuations in Arctic Sea-Ice Cover

Reference: McKay, J.L., de Vernal, A., Hillaire-Marcel, C., Not, C., Polyak, L. and Darby, D. 2008. Holocene fluctuations in Arctic sea-ice cover: dinocyst-based reconstructions for the eastern Chuckchi Sea. *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences* 45: 1377-1397.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/8nov2011a5.html>

"it is important to note that the amplitude of these millennial-scale changes in sea-surface conditions *far exceed* [italics added] those observed at the end of the 20th century."

Health, Energy, and Climate

Analysis reveals malaria as ancient, adaptive and persistent foe

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 08, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Analysis_reveals_malaria_as_ancient_adaptive_and_persistent_foe_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Unrelated to warming.]

Oh Mann!

Academic freedom

A court decision in the United States rescinding an order to turn over academic e-mails in response to a freedom-of-information request is welcome.

Editorial, Nature, Nov 9, 2011 [H/t Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit]

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v479/n7372/full/479149a.html>

[SEPP Comment: The editorial is incorrect. The issue is not about academic freedom, but obtaining public funds under false pretenses.]

Environmental Industry

Pew Center Turns to Industry Funding for Climate Change Research

By Jim Efstathiou, Jr, Bloomberg, Nov 9, 2011 [H/t Willie Soon]
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-11-09/pew-center-turns-to-industry-funding-for-climate-change-research.html>

Environmental Groups Seek Federal Court Review of EPA Avenal PSD Permit

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Nov 9, 2011
http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4161.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2312043&hq_l=12&hq_v=5e660500d0
[SEPP Comment: *Opposing gas-fired electrical generation.*]

Coca-Cola starts \$4M campaign for its iconic polar bears

By Sandy Bauers, Philadelphia Inquirer, Nov 7, 2011 [H/t SPPI]
<http://www.miamiherald.com/2011/11/07/2490663/coca-cola-starts-4m-campaign-for.html>

Other Scientific News

What does the Tiangong 1 space station mean for China

By Staff Writers, XNA, Nov 08, 2011
http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/What_does_the_Tiangong_1_space_station_mean_for_China_999.html

NASA's Future Up In Space

By Launchspace Staff, SPX, Nov 08, 2011
http://www.space-travel.com/reports/NASA_Future_Up_In_Space_999.html
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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Swimming Jellyfish May Influence Global Climate

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 08, 2011
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Swimming_Jellyfish_May_Influence_Global_Climate_999.html

Sea life "must swim faster to survive" [global warming]

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 09, 2011
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Sea_life_must_swim_faster_to_survive_999.html
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ARTICLES:

1. Obama Seeks Modest Expansion in Offshore Drilling

By Tennille Tracy, WSJ, Nov 8, 2011
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203733504577026373943247002.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines
[SEPP Comment: *But highly restrict drilling as compared to when he took office.*]

The Obama administration proposed a modest expansion of offshore oil drilling Tuesday, but kept Atlantic and Pacific sites off-limits in its first blueprint for offshore oil production since the Deepwater Horizon spill.

The five-year plan drew criticism on some points from both the oil industry and environmentalists, showing the Obama administration's difficult balancing act as it looks to the energy industry to create jobs while trying to avoid a repeat of last year's spill.

The plan, released by the U.S. Interior Department, proposes to open up regions in the Arctic Ocean and the oil-rich Gulf of Mexico for future leasing.

U.S. officials said they kept the Atlantic and Pacific coasts as drilling-free zones because they are concerned about the ability of companies to respond to spills in those areas. They also said they want to accommodate West Coast lawmakers who object to drilling activity off their coasts.

The federal government should not "open up every single place and look under every single rock for oil and gas production," said Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. "We need to drill in the right places with the right protections."

Mr. Salazar said the federal government wanted to expand drilling in places such as the Gulf of Mexico, where oil production already takes place and where more supplies are known to exist.

Republicans criticized the plan and said the Obama administration missed an opportunity to ramp up domestic oil production and produce thousands of jobs.

"The Obama administration's draft plan places some of the most promising energy resources in the world off-limits," said Rep. Doc Hastings, a Washington Republican who is chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee.

The oil and gas industry urged the administration to reconsider its decision on the Atlantic. "Taking these areas off the table at this stage could impede the nation's drive toward enhancing both its economic and energy security," said Erik Milito of American Petroleum Institute. There are no active leases in the Atlantic and Pacific currently.

The Interior Department issues drilling blueprints every five years. The new one identifies 220 million acres to be offered for lease auctions from 2012 to 2017. Two-thirds of the proposed auctions are in the western and central Gulf of Mexico, where most U.S. offshore oil production already takes place.

The proposed regions contain more than 75% of estimated supplies of oil and gas that are judged recoverable in federal waters available for exploration, the Interior Department said.

Of the 15 leases the administration is proposing, two are in the Arctic Ocean off the northern coast of Alaska. Environmental groups criticized the expanded Arctic drilling, saying frigid conditions there would make it difficult to respond to oil spills.

Environmental groups have already tried to block drilling projects in the Arctic. They have fought various permits awarded to Royal Dutch Shell PLC during its years-long push to begin exploratory drilling in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

"Moving forward without basic science or demonstrated response capacity continues failed policies of the past," said Michael LeVine, Pacific senior council with the environmental group Oceana.

U.S. officials acknowledged they lack a full understanding of the Arctic's ecosystem. They decided to delay lease auctions in the Arctic until 2015 and 2016 "to use the intervening years to better address the science gaps," Interior Deputy Secretary David Hayes said.

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