# The Week That Was: 2011-09-10 (September 10, 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
[Note: These links work as of now – we apologize for any inconvenience caused by last week's failure.]

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Fred Singer returns late this week after a successful speaking tour of Europe spreading the good news about climate. Thanks to his resourceful hosts, even IPCC Vice-Chair Jean-Pascal van Ypersele failed to suppress him in Brussels.

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**Quote of the Week:**
*"I'm an experimental particle physicist, okay? That somehow nature may have decided to connect the high-energy physics of the cosmos with the earth's atmosphere—that's what nature may have done, not what I've done."* Jasper Kirkby, leader of the CLOUD experiment at CERN that did not falsify the solar - cosmic ray – cloud hypothesis suggested by Svensmark and Friss-Christensen. Please see Article # 1.

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**Number of the Week: 34,000 premature deaths, 15,000 non-fatal heart attacks, and 400,000 new cases of asthma amounting to $280 billion a year in health benefits.**

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**THIS WEEK:**
***By Ken Haapala, Executive Vice President, Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)***

**Videos from the Sixth International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC)** sponsored by Heartland Institute are available on the web. Go to: http://climateconference.heartland.org/watch-live/
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**Save the Date:** October 22 from 11 am to 1 pm. SEPP and VA-SEEE will be hosting a forum in Richmond at Virginia Commonwealth University. Details to follow.
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**Number of the Week:** On July 7, EPA announced its cross-state pollution rules restricting sulfur dioxide (SO2) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions which applied to 27 states, mostly in the East, and Texas. The announcement was accompanied by an announcement of questionable benefits from these rules. EPA claimed the rules would prevent: 34,000 premature deaths, 15,000 non-fatal heart attacks, and 400, 000 new cases of asthma amounting to $280 billion a year in health benefits, starting in 2014. The July 9 TWTW questioned the accounting of the asthma benefits and last week questioned benefits claimed by the EPA for other rules under New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) published on May 3. There appeared to be substantial double counting of benefits.

According to a technical report by Anne Smith of NERA Economic Consulting there not only is double counting, but triple and quadruple counting as well. The numbers are inflated estimates for the public health benefits estimated for regulating soot (PM 2.5). The soot regulations are in place and intensifying over a period of years. The soot regulations were reviewed by EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee and the regulations are being challenged by others on the basis of highly questionable assumptions used in the calculations. The claimed public health benefits under the new suite of regulations including cross-state emissions, NSPS, Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT), and others have not been reviewed by EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee. EPA is

attempting to justify a host of new regulations by using findings on soot – which is already being regulated. Such is the current state of EPA science.

These regulations are directed towards limiting the use fossil fuels, including oil and natural gas, and they hit electrical utilities particularly hard. In a memorandum to Republicans, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor stated that a priority of the House of Representatives for the fall is addressing new EPA regulations in addition to other regulations.

Paul Krugman, New York Times columnist and Nobel laureate in economics, tries to justify such regulations with the claim that they will promote economic growth. He states that the nation is in a broadened form of a liquidity trap. (Traditionally, a liquidity trap indicates the limits of monetary policy in promoting economic growth where by expansionary policy lowered interest rates so low that capital investment has little or no interest cost, yet businesses do not invest. Certainly this applies to US affairs today.) To Krugman, forcing utilities to replace functioning power plants with new ones will spur economic growth. But, he fails to take his analysis far enough. Such an effort would drive up the cost of electricity; thereby lowering the standard of living and disposable income of ordinary citizens. It is doubtful any nation can achieve prosperity by lowering the standard of living of its citizens. Please see links under "EPA and other Regulators on the March" and "Below the Bottom Line."
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**Richard Lindzen:** Last week's TWTW discussed some of the presentations given at a web based seminar hosted by the American Chemical Society. MIT Professor Richard Lindzen graciously permitted SEPP to post his presentation on its web site for those interested in reviewing it. Lindzen presents his work, jointly with Choi, indicating that the sensitivity of the climate to a doubling of carbon dioxide (CO2), or equivalent in greenhouse gases (GHG), is less than the theoretical calculated sensitivity of about 1 deg C. No doubt some may find the work controversial.

Lindzen also presents several other controversial topics. One is his explanation of why the "hot spot" over the tropics that appears in the models is not found by the observations. A second is his explanation of the possible error made by those who calculate that increasing CO2 will lead to atmospheric cooling. Please see the link under "Challenging the Orthodoxy."
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**Climate Sensitivity:** In an interesting post on his web site, Roger Pielke, Sr. questions the continued controversy about the sensitivity of the climate to a doubling of CO2. To Pielke, the major issue is human influence on the local and regional climate. In part, he may be right. However, as long as governments continue to use global warming / climate change to justify heavy regulation and taxation of carbon based fuels, the issue is crucial for economic growth and prosperity. Please see the link under "Challenging the Orthodoxy."
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**Extreme Measures:** In her blog, Judith Curry quotes an article in *Nature*: "[I]n the past year, climate researchers in the United States and Britain have formed a loose coalition under the banner 'ACE' — Attribution of Climate-related Events — and have begun a series of coordinated studies designed to lay the foundations for a systematic weather-attribution programme." This is a concern because it seems to be little more than an effort by certain institutions to justify continued use of their elaborate computer models, which have never been verified, to make predictions about future climate even as the science upon which the models are based is collapsing. As Roger Pielke Sr. has repeatedly expressed, the models have little or no skill in predicting climate on a local and regional scale. Please see links under "Expanding the Orthodoxy."
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**Spencer-Braswell:** As mentioned last week, Wolfgang Wagner, the editor of the journal *Remote Sensing*, resigned stating that he never should have published an article by Spencer-Braswell that has been

challenged by the orthodoxy. Yet, the journal has not retracted the article. Many blogs are speculating what is behind the event.

Compounding the controversy, Andrew Dessler announced that he is publishing an article in a different journal refuting the Spencer-Braswell article. Spencer states he welcomes the scientific dialogue. As a practical matter, Roger Pielke Sr. suggests that the decline of the comment-reply procedures of scientific journals results in a failure to directly address disagreements in specific scientific issues and that it would be preferable to have comments and replies in a single journal. Please see links under "Spencer-Braswell."

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**Bankruptcy of Solar Firms:** Many articles have appeared concerning the bankruptcy of firms producing solar panels that received loans from the Federal government. In private business, bankruptcy is a cleansing process whereby the remaining assets are distributed among the secured creditors. In new industries that promise great profits, numerous bankruptcies are common. The dot com boom was one such example. High reward comes with high risk. With Federal loan guarantees, the taxpayers are, essentially, among the creditors and will receive little. However, the loss is limited to the amount of the loans.

If the product of these firms is essentially a commodity, not differentiated from the product of its competitors, usually the surviving firms are the ones most focused on effectively cutting costs and delivering a desirable product at the lowest cost. For solar panels, Chinese firms are generally the low cost producers.

Often government officials making loans fail to recognize the importance of cutting costs. Instead they frequently brag about the size and cost of the facility, etc. Therein is a basic incompatibility in the focus of government lenders and the focus of survivors in a highly competitive, growing industry.

Mandates requiring the purchase of electricity from solar generation and high tariffs of imported solar panels may have resulted in these firms staying in business. But the costs to the taxpayers and rate payers would have been unlimited and much more costly. Please see links under "Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy."

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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. The Other Climate Theory

Al Gore won't hear it, but heavenly bodies might be driving long-term weather trends.
By Anne Jolis, WSJ, Sep 7, 2011
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904537404576554750502443800.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

### 2. Can the World Still Feed Itself?

Yes, says Nestle's chairman Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, but not if we burn food for fuel, fear genetic advances and fail to charge for water.
By Brian Carney, WSJ, Sep 3. 2011
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904787404576529912073080124.html?mod=ITP_opinion_0

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## NEWS YOU CAN USE:

## *Climategate Continued*

**The Stone in Trenberth's Shoe**
By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Sep 6, 2011
http://climateaudit.org/2011/09/06/the-stone-in-trenberths-shoe/#more-14521

## *Suppressing Scientific Inquiry*

**University of Leipzig Suppressed Climate-Critical Seminar**
By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Sep 9, 2011 [H/t Anne Debeil]
http://notrickszone.com/2011/09/09/university-of-leipzig-forbids-climate-critical-seminar/
*[SEPP Comment: Fortunately the University changed its position.]*

**The fall of CSIRO**
Dr. Art Raiche worked for CSIRO for 35 years, the last 15 with the rank of Chief Research Scientist. This is a transcript of the speech he gave at the "Convoy of No Confidence" protest in Canberra.
By Art Raiche, Quadrant, Sep 8, 2011
http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2011/09/the-fall-of-csiro
*[SEPP Comment: The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is Australia's national science agency.]*

## *Challenging the Orthodoxy*

**Climate v. Climate Alarm**
Presentation by Richard Lindzen, MIT, American Chemical Society, Aug 28, 2011
http://www.sepp.org/science_papers/ACS-2011.pdf

**So-Called "Climate-Sensitivity" – A Dance On The Head Of A Pin**
By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Sep 9, 2011
http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/09/09/so-called-climate-sensitivity-a-dance-on-the-head-of-a-pin/
"The question the scientists, bloggers and media are asking is what is the magnitude of a so-called "climate sensitivity" to the human input of CO2 and a few other greenhouse gases? The more appropriate question, is why do we care?"

**Is AR5 finished before it begins?**
By Bishop Hill, His Blog, Sep 5, 2011
http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2011/9/5/is-ar5-finished-before-it-begins.html

**Packing Heat**
By Peter Ferrara, American Spectator, Sep 7, 2011
http://spectator.org/archives/2011/09/07/packing-heat

## *Defending the Orthodoxy*

**Switching from coal to natural gas would do little for global climate, study indicates**
Press Release, UCAR, Sep 8, 2011
https://www2.ucar.edu/news/5292/switching-coal-natural-gas-would-do-little-global-climate-study-indicates
*[SEPP Comment: From Wigley's UCAR model.]*

## *Questioning European Green*

**Energy needs in modern societies**

By Martian Livermore, Scientific Alliance,
http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/energy-needs-modern-societies
*[SEPP Comment: A somber examination of the unrealistic dreams of political leaders.]*

## *Expanding the Orthodoxy*

### Climate and weather: Extreme measures

Can violent hurricanes, floods and droughts be pinned on climate change? Scientists are beginning to say yes.
By Quirin Schiermeier, Nature, Sep 7, 2011
http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110907/full/477148a.html
"Reliable attribution of extreme weather events is also important for the public's understanding of climate change, and to their willingness to support measures to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions."
*[SEPP Comment: Of course, they start with their models that are unverified and likely wrong. We have gone from Global Warming, to Climate Change, to Climate Disruption, to Climate Shift, and, now, Extreme Measures. Is Climate Despair the next?]*

### Heavy weather

Severe storms make the public think of climate change. Scientists must work to evaluate the link.
Editorial, Nature 477, 131–132 Sep 8, 2011 doi:10.1038/477131b
http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v477/n7363/full/477131b.html

### Extreme measures

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Sep 8, 2011
http://judithcurry.com/2011/09/08/extreme-measures/#more-4851
Clarification. People seem confused as to why I am praising the NOAA group, while I am not at all impressed by the proposed ACE effort. The NOAA group examines the historical data record, looks for past analogues, and interprets the extreme weather event in the context of the weather and climate dynamics. In the three examples of "Whats happening now", they explained the Russian heatwave, the snowy winter, and the tornado outbreak in the context of natural weather and climate variability. By contrast, the ACE effort is focused on using climate models to assess the fraction of the event that might be attributed to global warming. It is the use of climate models for this exercise that I object to, which I explained in a previous post.

## *Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.*

### Hatchet Job On John Christy and Roy Spencer By Kevin Trenberth, John Abraham and Peter Gleick

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Sep 4, 2011
http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/09/04/hatchet-job-on-john-christy-and-roy-spencer-by-kevin-trenberth-john-abraham-and-peter-gleick/
"What is disturbing, however, in the Trenberth et al article is its tone and disparagement of two outstanding scientists. Instead of addressing the science issues, they resort to statements such as Spencer and Christy making "serial mistakes". This is truly a hatchet job and will only further polarize the climate science debate."

### Climate skeptics called every name in the book

HAS any intellectual current ever been so disparaged and demonised, so ferociously harangued by the chattering classes, as climate-change scepticism?
By Brendan O'Neill, The Australian, Sep 3, 2011 [H/t Tom Sheahen]
http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/opinion/climate-sceptics-called-every-name-in-the-book/story-e6frgd0x-1226128390401

## *Models v. Observations*

### New Paper "Impact of Global Ocean Surface Warming On Seasonal-To-Interannual Climate Prediction" By Luo Et Al 2011

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Sep 6, 2011
http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/09/06/new-paper-impact-of-global-ocean-surface-warming-on-seasonal-to-interannual-climate-prediction-by-luo-et-al-2011/
"This study is an effective evaluation of predictability by global climate models. In contrast to providing unverifiable predictions, decades from now, it is evaluating actual skill in the prediction of climate as an initial value problem on seasonal and interannual time scales."

### More Evidence That Models Continue To Show Too Much Recent Warming

By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Sep 8, 2011
http://www.worldclimatereport.com/index.php/2011/09/08/more-evidence-that-models-continue-to-show-too-much-recent-warming/

### Global Ocean Heat Content Is Still Flat

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Sep 8, 2011
http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/09/08/global-ocean-heat-content-is-still-flat/#more-46807
"How many more years until GISS model can be found to have failed as a predictor of the impacts of anthropogenic greenhouse gases on ocean heat content?"

## *Measurement Issues*

### Global portrait of greenhouse gases

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Sep 7, 2011
http://judithcurry.com/2011/09/07/global-portrait-of-greenhouse-gases/#more-4849
*[SEPP Comment: Possibly a significant advance in measurement of greenhouse gases.]*

## *Spencer-Braswell*

### The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: My Initial Comments on the New Dessler 2011 Study

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Sep 7, 2011
http://www.drroyspencer.com/2011/09/the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly-my-initial-comments-on-the-new-dessler-2011-study/

### Comments On the Dessler 2011 GRL Paper "Cloud Variations And The Earth's Energy Budget"

By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Sep 6, 2011
http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/09/06/comments-on-the-dessler-2011-grl-paper-cloud-variations-and-the-earths-energy-budget/

### Resignations and Cloud Confusion

By David Whitehouse, The Observatory, Sep 7, 2011
http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/3813-resignations-and-cloud-confusion.html

### The Warmists Strike Back

By Timothy Birdnow, American Thinker, Sep 9, 2011
http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/09/the_warmists_strike_back.html

## *Changing Weather*

### Sorry Andrew, the Drought of 2011 in Texas was the result of Natural Factors

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Sep 3, 2011

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/sorry_andrew_the_drought_of_2011_in_texas_was_the_result_of_natural_factors/

**NOAA's Climate Prediction Center: La Nina Is Back**
By Joe D'Aleo, WeatherBell, Sep 9, 2011
http://www.weatherbell.com/weather-news/noaa-s-climate-prediction-center-la-ni-a-is-back/

**La Nina returns, bringing more severe weather: US**
By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 8, 2011
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/La_Nina_returns_bringing_more_severe_weather_US_999.html

**U.S. endures second-hottest summer on record**
By Julie Cart, LA Times, Sep 8, 2011
http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/09/second-hottest-summer-record-drought.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+GreenspaceEnvironmentBlog+%28Greenspace%29
*[SEPP Comment: Which record? Is the historic record the one presented in the 1980s or the one of several presented in the 2000s that lowered the temperatures prior to 1980 thru homogenization and other tricks – such as getting rid of stations not showing a recent warming? See below.]*

**Surface Temperature Records: Policy Driven Deception?**
By Joseph D'Aleo and Anthony Watts, SPPI, updated Aug 27, 2010
http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/surface_temp.pdf
Especially pp 45 to 70
*[SEPP Comment: US surface temperature records have been distorted rendering them unreliable.]*

**A weird and disastrous US weather year: tornadoes, drought, flooding, Irene, blizzard, quakes**
Editorial, Washington Post, Sep 3, 2011 [H/t Peter Friedman]
http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/a-weird-and-disastrous-us-weather-year-tornadoes-drought-flooding-irene-blizzard-quakes/2011/09/03/gIQA5UVryJ_story.html?wpisrc=nl_headlines
*[SEPP Comment: None of these weather conditions existed before?]*

## *Changing Climate*

**Climate in the Past Million Years Determined Greatly by Dust in the Southern Ocean**
By Staff Writers, ScienceDaily, Sep. 4, 2011
http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/09/110901093240.htm
*[SEPP Comment: Iron fertilization has been suggested in other studies. This one assumes CO2 is the major driver of climate change. Could it be that increased dust resulted in increased cloud cover that lowered temperatures?]*

## *Changing Seas*

**A sad and twisted story: Stealing the limelight from real problems in the real world**
By Nils-Axel Morner, Paleogeophysics & Geodynamics, Stockholm, ICECAP, Sep 7, 2011
http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/a_sad_and_twisted_story_stealing_the_limelight_from_real_problems_in_the_re/

**UN, EU leaders to hear Pacific climate concerns**
By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 4, 2011
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UN_EU_leaders_to_hear_Pacific_climate_concerns_999.html

**Rapid Sea Level Rise? To the Contrary, Nature Says**
By Chip Knappenberger, Master Resource, September 7, 2011
http://www.masterresource.org/2011/09/rapid-sea-level-rise-nature-no/

**What caused the significant increase in Atlantic Ocean heat content since the mid-20th century?**
By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 8, 2011
http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/09/08/what-caused-the-significant-increase-in-atlantic-ocean-heat-content-since-the-mid-20th-century/#more-46794

## *Changing Earth*

**Gas 'fracking' not cause of Va. earthquake**
By Staff Writers, UPI, Sep 6, 2011
http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Gas_fracking_not_cause_of_Va_earthquake_999.html

## *The Political Games Continue*

**EU mounts power grab over state energy deal**
The European Union executive on Wednesday demanded total control over oil and gas deals individual member states strike with the likes of Russia or Libya.
By Staff Writers, AAP, Sep 8, 2011 [H/t GWPF]
http://news.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=8295809

## *Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes*

**Caution: climate debt ahead!**
By Michael Kile, Quadrant, Sep 7, 2011
http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2011/09/caution-climate-debt-ahead

## *EPA and other Regulators on the March*

**Technical Comments on the Regulatory Impact Analysis Supporting EPA's**
Proposed Rule for Utility MACT and Revised NSPS (76 FR 24976)
Anne E. Smith, Ph.D., NERA Economic Consulting Aug 3, 2011
http://www.nera.com/nera-files/PUB_Smith_EPA_report_0811.pdf

**EPA needs to address health and welfare issues it has thus far ignored, say minority coalition**
Affordable energy is essential for jobs, justice – and better health
By Niger Innis, Canada Free Press, Sep 5, 2011 [H/t James Rust]
http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/40069
"The Environmental Protection Agency insists that its recent air quality initiatives will protect minority and poor Americans from pollution that "disproportionately affects" their health and impairs "environmental justice." The Affordable Power Alliance is not convinced."

**Cost Of Clean Air**
Editorial, IBD, Sep 2, 2011
http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/583773/201109021852/Cost-Of-Clean-Air.aspx

**U.S. may declare an extremely rare manzanita endangered**
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes the status for the Franciscan manzanita, only one example of which is believed to be growing in the wild. The plant was thought to be extinct until 2009.

By Maria L. La Ganga, LA Times, Sep 8, 2011
http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-0908-endangered-plant-20110908,0,512723.story
"…a sharp-eyed botanist saw the lonely plant on a traffic island in the middle of a busy highway, part of a major construction project near the Golden Gate Bridge."
*[SEPP Comment: One can only speculate the regulations on the use of busy urban highways that may protect extinct plants.*

## *Energy Issues*

**Coal Means Life Itself to Billions**
By Frank Clemente, Energy-Facts.org, Sep 8, 2011
http://www.energy-facts.org/
*[SEPP Comment: Coal will be dominant in generating electricity in Asia, regardless of what the EU and the US do.]*

## *Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?*

**Natural Gas Climate War Heats Up**
By Ronald Bailey, Reason, Sep 9, 2011 [H/t GWPF]
http://reason.com/blog/2011/09/09/natural-gas-climate-war-heats

## *Administration's Control of Oil and Gas*

**Industry could add 1.4M U.S. jobs: group**
By Staff Writers, Calgary Herald, Sep 8, 2011 [H/t GWPF]
Nobel laureates urge Obama to reject pipeline
http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Industry+could+jobs+group/5369001/story.html

## *Oil Spills & Consequences*

**US experts eye Cuba oil plans after BP spill**
By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 6, 2011
http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/US_experts_eye_Cuba_oil_plans_after_BP_spill_999.html
*[SEPP Comment: Doubtful if Cuba will abide by the US slow granting of permits much less than institute the back-up in case of a blow-out that the major drillers in the US has instituted. Rather than Africa, Brazil, etc, may be Cuba will be the next friendly, foreign water for deep water drillers waiting for approvals to drill in the Gulf of Mexico.]*

## *Nuclear Energy and Fears*

**Nuclear still cost competitive in Japan, study says**
By Staff Writers, World Nuclear News, Sep 2, 2011
http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE-Nuclear_still_cost_competitive_in_Japan_study_says-0209114.html

**No nuclear back-up for Germany**
By Staff Writers, World Nuclear News, Aug 31, 2011
http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NP_No_nuclear_back_up_for_Germany_3108111.html
*[SEPP Comment: From an electricity exporter to an importer with one poorly considered decision.]*

## *Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy*

**Lessons from the Solyndra debacle**
Editorial, Washington Post, Sep 8, 2011
http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/lessons-from-the-solyndra-debacle/2011/09/08/gIQAXXuHDK_story.html

*[SEPP Comment: Advise given now, that the newspaper ignored several years ago.]*

**Third Solar Panel Maker in the U.S. Files for Bankruptcy This Summer**
By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Sep 7, 2011 [H/t Toshio Fujita]
http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/Third-Solar-Panel-Maker-in-the-U-S-Files-for-Bankruptcy-This-Summer_4004.html
*[SEPP Comment: In order to receive subsidies such companies simultaneously declared 1) they can become the world leader (not everyone can); 2) repay the loans and make significant profits; 3) by driving the prices ever lower.]*

**The Solar Dole**
Editorial, IBD, Sep 8, 2011
http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=584248&p=1

**The lies we tell about green energy**
By Sherman Frederick, Las Vegas Review-Journal, Sep 4, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]
http://www.lvrj.com/opinion/the-lies-we-tell-about-green-energy-129208378.html?ref=378

**Where the Jobs Aren't**
By David Brooks, NYT, Sep 5, 2011
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/06/opinion/brooks-where-the-jobs-arent.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha212

**SolarCity plans 160,000 solar energy systems on military bases**
The company's $1-billion SolarStrong project would add rooftop solar installations at 124 military housing developments in 33 states. It would double the number of sun-powered systems in the U.S.
By Tiffany Hsu, LA Times, Sep 8, 2011
http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-solarcity-20110908,0,2694911.story
*[SEPP Comment: Of course, the military is the last to get the message.]*

***Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC***
***For a full list of articles see www.NIPCCreport.org***

**Here Comes the Sun … Again!**
Reference: Shapiro, A.I., Schmutz, W., Rozanov, E., Schoell, M., Haberreiter, M., Shapiro, A.V. and Nyeki, S. 2011. A new approach to the long-term reconstruction of the solar irradiance leads to large historical solar forcing. *Astronomy & Asrophysics* 529: 10.1051/0004-6361/201016173.
http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/sep/6sep2011a1.html

**The Global Land Carbon Sink**
Reference: Gurney, K.R. and Eckels, W.J. 2011. Regional trends in terrestrial carbon exchange and their seasonal signatures. *Tellus* 63B: 328-339.
http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/sep/6sep2011a2.html

**Historical Land Cover Changes in Australia**
Reference: Deo, R.C., Syktus, J.I., McAlpine, C.A., Lawrence, P.J., McGowan, H.A. and Phinn, S.R. 2009. Impact of historical land cover change on daily indices of climate extremes including droughts in eastern Australia. *Geophysical Research Letters* 36: 10.1029/2009GL03766.
http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/sep/6sep2011a4.html

**Coastal Dunes Reflect Past Climate Along the southern Baltic Sea**

Reference: Reimann, T., Tsukamoto, S., Harff, J., Osadczuk, K. and Frechen, M. 2011. Reconstruction of Holocene coastal foredune progradation using luminescence dating -- An example from the Swina barrier (southern Baltic Sea, NW Poland). *Geomorphology* 132: 1-16.
http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/sep/7sep2011a3.html

***Oh Mann!***

**'Hockey Stick' Creator Michael Mann Seeks Court's Help to Ensure No Inquiry, No 'Exoneration'**
By Paul Chesser, Press Release, American Tradition Institute, Sep 6, 2011
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***Environmental Industry***

**Making water the new oil**
Environmentalists aim to demonize water trade and consumption
By Terence Corcoran, Financial Post, Sep 6, 2011
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**Stung by the President on Air Quality, Environmentalists Weigh Their Options**
By Leslie Kaufman, NYT, Sep 3, 2011
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***Other News that May Be of Interest***

**NASA Gives Public New Internet Tool to Explore the Solar System**
By Staff Writers, JPL, Sep 06, 2011
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**BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

**Broken Windows, Ozone, and Jobs**
By Paul Krugman, NYT, Sep 3, 2011
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**Microbes generate electricity while cleaning up nuclear waste**
By Staff Writers, SPX, Sep 07, 2011
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**ARTICLES:**

### 1. The Other Climate Theory

Al Gore won't hear it, but heavenly bodies might be driving long-term weather trends.
By Anne Jolis, WSJ, Sep 7, 2011
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904537404576554750502443800.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

In April 1990, Al Gore published an open letter in the New York Times "To Skeptics on Global Warming" in which he compared them to medieval flat-Earthers. He soon became vice president and his conviction that climate change was dominated by man-made emissions went mainstream. Western

governments embarked on a new era of anti-emission regulation and poured billions into research that might justify it. As far as the average Western politician was concerned, the debate was over.

But a few physicists weren't worrying about Al Gore in the 1990s. They were theorizing about another possible factor in climate change: charged subatomic particles from outer space, or "cosmic rays," whose atmospheric levels appear to rise and fall with the weakness or strength of solar winds that deflect them from the earth. These shifts might significantly impact the type and quantity of clouds covering the earth, providing a clue to one of the least-understood but most important questions about climate. Heavenly bodies might be driving long-term weather trends.

The theory has now moved from the corners of climate skepticism to the center of the physical-science universe: the European Organization for Nuclear Research, also known as CERN. At the Franco-Swiss home of the world's most powerful particle accelerator, scientists have been shooting simulated cosmic rays into a cloud chamber to isolate and measure their contribution to cloud formation. CERN's researchers reported last month that in the conditions they've observed so far, these rays appear to be enhancing the formation rates of pre-cloud seeds by up to a factor of 10. Current climate models do not consider any impact of cosmic rays on clouds.

Scientists have been speculating on the relationship among cosmic rays, solar activity and clouds since at least the 1970s. But the notion didn't get a workout until 1995, when Danish physicist Henrik Svensmark came across a 1991 paper by Eigil Friis-Christensen and Knud Lassen, who had charted a close relationship between solar variations and changes in the earth's surface temperature since 1860.

"I had this idea that the real link could be between cloud cover and cosmic rays, and I wanted to try to figure out if it was a good idea or a bad idea," Mr. Svensmark told me from Copenhagen, where he leads sun-climate research at the Danish National Space Institute.

He wasn't the first scientist to have the idea, but he was the first to try to demonstrate it. He got in touch with Mr. Friis-Christensen, and they used satellite data to show a close correlation among solar activity, cloud cover and cosmic-ray levels since 1979.

They announced their findings, and the possible climatic implications, at a 1996 space conference in Birmingham, England. Then, as Mr. Svensmark recalls, "everything went completely crazy. . . . It turned out it was very, very sensitive to say these things already at that time." He returned to Copenhagen to find his local daily leading with a quote from the then-chair of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): "I find the move from this pair scientifically extremely naïve and irresponsible."

Mr. Svensmark had been, at the very least, politically naïve. "Before 1995 I was doing things related to quantum fluctuations. Nobody was interested, it was just me sitting in my office. It was really an eye-opener, that baptism into climate science." He says his work was "very much ignored" by the climate-science establishment—but not by CERN physicist Jasper Kirkby, who is leading today's ongoing cloud-chamber experiment.

On the phone from Geneva, Mr. Kirkby says that Mr. Svensmark's hypothesis "started me thinking: There's good evidence that pre-industrial climate has frequently varied on 100-year timescales, and what's been found is that often these variations correlate with changes in solar activity, solar wind. You see correlations in the atmosphere between cosmic rays and clouds—that's what Svensmark reported. But these correlations don't prove cause and effect, and it's very difficult to isolate what's due to cosmic rays and what's due to other things."

In 1997 he decided that "the best way to settle it would be to use the CERN particle beam as an artificial source of cosmic rays and reconstruct an artificial atmosphere in the lab." He predicted to reporters at the time that, based on Mr. Svensmark's paper, the theory would "probably be able to account for somewhere between a half and the whole" of 20th-century warming. He gathered a team of scientists, including Mr. Svensmark, and proposed the groundbreaking experiment to his bosses at CERN.

Then he waited. It took six years for CERN to greenlight and fund the experiment. Mr. Kirkby cites financial pressures for the delay and says that "it wasn't political."

Mr. Svensmark declines entirely to guess why CERN took so long, noting only that "more generally in the climate community that is so sensitive, sometimes science goes into the background."

By 2002, a handful of other scientists had started to explore the correlation, and Mr. Svensmark decided that "if I was going to be proved wrong, it would be nice if I did it myself." He decided to go ahead in Denmark and construct his own cloud chamber. "In 2006 we had our first results: We had demonstrated the mechanism" of cosmic rays enhancing cloud formation. The IPCC's 2007 report all but dismissed the theory.

Mr. Kirkby's CERN experiment was finally approved in 2006 and has been under way since 2009. So far, it has not proved Mr. Svensmark wrong. "The result simply leaves open the possibility that cosmic rays could influence the climate," stresses Mr. Kirkby, quick to tamp down any interpretation that would make for a good headline.

This seems wise: In July, CERN Director General Rolf-Dieter Heuer told Die Welt that he was asking his researchers to make the forthcoming cloud-chamber results "clear, however, not to interpret them. This would go immediately into the highly political arena of the climate-change debate."

But while the cosmic-ray theory has been ridiculed from the start by those who subscribe to the anthropogenic-warming theory, both Mr. Kirkby and Mr. Svensmark hold that human activity is contributing to climate change. All they question is its importance relative to other, natural factors.

Through several more years of "careful, quantitative measurement" at CERN, Mr. Kirkby predicts he and his team will "definitively answer the question of whether or not cosmic rays have a climatically significant effect on clouds." His old ally Mr. Svensmark feels he's already answered that question, and he guesses that CERN's initial results "could have been achieved eight to 10 years ago, if the project had been approved and financed."

The biggest milestone in last month's publication may be not the content but the source, which will be a lot harder to ignore than Mr. Svensmark and his small Danish institute.

Any regrets, now that CERN's particle accelerator is spinning without him? "No. It's been both a blessing and the opposite," says Mr. Svensmark. "I had this field more or less to myself for years—that would never have happened in other areas of science, such as particle physics. But this has been something that most climate scientists would not be associated with. I remember another researcher saying to me years ago that the only thing he could say about cosmic rays and climate was it that it was a really bad career move."

On that point, Mr. Kirkby—whose organization is controlled by not one but 20 governments—really does not want to discuss politics at all: "I'm an experimental particle physicist, okay? That somehow nature may have decided to connect the high-energy physics of the cosmos with the earth's atmosphere—that's what nature may have done, not what I've done."

Last month's findings don't herald the end of a debate, but the resumption of one. That is, if the politicians purporting to legislate based on science will allow it.
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## 2. Can the World Still Feed Itself?

Yes, says Nestle's chairman Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, but not if we burn food for fuel, fear genetic advances and fail to charge for water.
By Brian Carney, WSJ, Sep 3. 2011
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904787404576529912073080124.html?mod=ITP_opinion_0

As befits the chairman of the world's largest food-production company, Peter Brabeck-Letmathe is counting calories. But it's not his diet that the chairman and former CEO of Nestlé is worried about. It's all the food that the U.S. and Europe are converting into fuel while the world's poor get hungrier.

"Politicians," Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe says, "do not understand that between the food market and the energy market, there is a close link." That link is the calorie.

The energy stored in a bushel of corn can fuel a car or feed a person. And increasingly, thanks to ethanol mandates and subsidies in the U.S. and biofuel incentives in Europe, crops formerly grown for food or livestock feed are being grown for fuel. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's most recent estimate predicts that this year, for the first time, American farmers will harvest more corn for ethanol than for feed. In Europe some 50% of the rapeseed crop is going into biofuel production, according to Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe, while "world-wide about 18% of sugar is being used for biofuel today."

In one sense, this is a remarkable achievement—five decades ago, when the global population was half what it is today, catastrophists like Paul Ehrlich were warning that the world faced mass starvation on a biblical scale. Today, with nearly seven billion mouths to feed, we produce so much food that we think nothing of burning tons of it for fuel.

Or at least we think nothing of it in the West. If the price of our breakfast cereal goes up because we're diverting agricultural production to ethanol or biodiesel, it's an annoyance. But if the price of corn or flour doubles or triples in the Third World, where according to Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe people "are spending 80% of [their] disposable income on food," hundreds of millions of people go hungry. Sometimes, as in the Middle East earlier this year, they revolt.

"What we call today the Arab Spring," Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe says over lunch at Nestle's world headquarters, "really started as a protest against ever-increasing food prices."

Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe has extensive experience at the intersection of food, politics and development. He spent most of his first two decades at Nestlé in Latin America. In 1970, he was posted to Chile, where Salvador Allende's socialist government was threatening to nationalize milk production, and Nestlé's Chilean operations along with it. He knows that most of the world is not as fortunate as we are.

"There is a huge difference," he says, "between how we live this crisis and what the reality of today is for hundreds of millions of people, who we have been pushing back into extreme poverty with wrong policy making." First there's the biofuels craze, driven by concerns over energy independence, oil supplies, global warming and, ironically, Mideast political stability.

Add to that, especially in Europe, a paralyzing fear of genetically modified crops, or GMOs. This refusal to use "available technology" in agriculture, Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe contends, has halted the multi-decade

rise in agricultural productivity that has allowed us, so far, to feed more mouths than many people believed was possible.

Then there is demographics. Recent decades have seen "the creation of more than a billion new consumers in the world who have had the opportunity to move from extreme poverty into what we would call today a moderate middle class," thanks to economic growth in places like China and India. This means a billion people who have "access to meat" for the first time, Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe says.

"And the demand for meat," he says, "has a multiplier effect of 10. You need 10 times as much land, 10 times as much [feed], 10 times as much water to produce one calorie of meat as you do to have one calorie of vegetables or grain." Even so, we are capable of satisfying this increased demand—if we choose to. "If politicians of this world really want to tackle food security," Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe says, "there's only one decision they have to make: No food for fuel. . . . They just have to say 'No food for fuel,' and supply and demand would balance again."

If we don't do that, we can never hope to square the drive for biofuels with the world's food needs. The calories don't add up. "The energy market," Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe argues, "is 20 times as big, in calories, as the food market." So "when politicians say, 'We want to replace 20% of the energy market through the food market,'" this means "we would have to triple food production" to meet that goal—and that's before we eat the first kernel of what we've grown.

Even if we could pull this off, we will never get there by turning our backs on genetically modified crops and holding up "organic" food as the new gold standard of safety, purity and health. Organic production is all the rage in the rich West, but we can't "feed the world with this stuff," he says. Agricultural productivity with organics is too low.

"If you look at those countries that have introduced GMOs," Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe says, "you will see that the yield per hectare has increased by about 30% over the past few years. Whereas the yields for non-GMO crops are flat to slightly declining." And that gap, he says, "is a voluntary gap. . . . It's just a political decision."

And it's one thing for rich, well-fed Europe to say, as Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe puts it, "I don't want to produce GMO [crops] because frankly speaking I don't want to produce so much food." That, he says, he can understand.

What's harder for him to understand is that Europe's policies effectively forbid poor countries in places like Africa from using genetically modified seed. These countries, he says, urgently need the technology to increase yields and productivity in their backward agricultural sectors. But if they plant GMOs, then under Europe's rules the EU "will not allow you to export anything—anything. Not just the [crop] that has GMO—anything," because of European fears about cross-contamination and almost impossibly strict purity standards. The European fear of genetically modified crops is, he says, "purely emotional. It's becoming almost a religious belief."

This makes Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe, a jovial man with a quick smile, get emotional himself. "How many people," he asks with a touch of irritation, "have died from food contamination from organic products, and how many people have died from GMO products?" He answers his own question: "None from GMO. And I don't have to ask too long how many people have died just recently from organic," he adds, referring to the e. coli outbreak earlier this year in Europe.

Nestlé itself has at times been painted as an enemy of the world's poor—for 30 years it has contended with a sporadic boycott movement over the sale and marketing of infant formula in the Third World, a

push that some rich Westerners find unethical. On the other hand, under Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe, Nestlé's corporate strategy has emphasized that all food markets are intensely local. Americans may increasingly buy all drinks by the gallon and chocolate bars by the pound, but in many parts of the world a trip to the store might yield a single Maggi cube—the Nestlé-made bullion cubes that are ubiquitous in many countries. In these countries, single servings of many products are sold in little foil packets to allow people to match their spending to their cash flow.

This is, Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe contends, an extension of Nestlé's original reason for being. Nestlé exists, Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe says, because as Europe's population "urbanized," as people moved to the cities and traded their ploughshares for time cards, "somebody had to ensure that people" who worked 12 hours a day in a factory could feed themselves. For the first time in history, "you need[ed] a food industry. You need[ed] somebody who takes a product, who treats it so that its shelf life allows it to be transported, to be brought into the consumption center. That's why we have canning, that's why we have pasteurization, that's why we have all these things."

The vast majority of us would have no idea any longer how to feed ourselves if we turned up one day to find the supermarket empty. We rely on industrialized food production, distribution, preservation and storage to make our urban lifestyles, our very lives, possible. And "it was not the state that took care of this thing. It was private initiative." Today, Nestlé employs some 300,000 people, takes in some $100 billion a year in revenue—and yet represents just 1.5% of a global food industry that feeds billions.

But for private initiative to work that kind of miracle, you need a market. Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe even worries about the absence of a functioning market for water. Some 98.5% of the fresh water the world uses every year goes to agricultural or industrial use. And in most cases, there is no market for how that water is allocated and used. The result is waste, overuse and misuse of the water we have. If we don't do something about that, Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe fears, we will soon run ourselves dry.

Up to now, he says, our response to water shortages has focused "on the supply-side": We build another dam, or a canal to bring water from one place to another. But "the big issue," he contends, "is on the demand side," and the "best regulator" of demand is prices.

"If oil becomes scarce," he notes, "the oil price goes up. But if water does, well, we still pump the same amount. It doesn't matter because it doesn't cost. It has no value." He drives this point home by connecting it back to biofuels: "We would never have had a biofuel policy—never," he contends, "if we would have given water any value." It takes, Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe says, "9,100 liters of water to produce one liter of biodiesel. You can only do that because water has no price."

He cites Spain as an example of an agricultural sector in need of adjustment. "The total [output] of the Spanish agricultural system," he says, "is less in value than the subsidies they receive between the Common Agricultural Policy, the subsidies for tax relief, the subsidies for water."

'Take away the emotion of the water issue," Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe argues. "Give the 1.5% of the water [that we use to drink and wash with], make it a human right. But give me a market for the 98.5% so the market forces are able to react, and they will be the best guidance that you can have. Because if the market forces are there the investments are going to be made."

The world's population is projected to hit nine billion by mid-century, up from 6.7 billion today. So, can we feed all those people? Mr. Brabeck-Letmathe doesn't hesitate. "We can feed nine billion people," he says, with a wave of the hand. And we can provide them with water and fuel. But only if we let the market do its thing.

Mr. Carney is editorial page editor of The Wall Street Journal Europe and coauthor of "Freedom, Inc.," (Crown Business, 2009).

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