

The Week That Was: 2012-02-25 (February 25, 2012)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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February 29: Fred Singer will be speaking at George Mason University, Fairfax, VA on Wednesday, from 4:30 to 5:40 pm, Room 124, Science Technology I
General title: “The Climate Debate: NIPCC vs. IPCC, the Hockey-stick, and Climategate.” Impacts on energy policy and everything else”

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Quote of the Week:

“Apparently every generation of humanity needs to relearn that Mother Nature tells us what the science is, not authoritarian academy bureaucrats or computer models.” 16 Concerned Scientists, WSJ

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Number of the Week: 3 times 100 equals 1,000 – post modern mathematics

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THIS WEEK:

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

Heartland Flap: Peter Gleick, President of the Pacific Institute, admitted that he had falsely pretended to be a member of the board of directors of the Heartland Institute to obtain confidential documents from that organization. He immediately posted the documents on web sites of global warming alarmists. Without questioning the authenticity of the documents, numerous, once credible news sources, including the New York Times, the Christian Science Monitor, and the Los Angeles Times, immediately published articles condemning Heartland and its activities. According to Heartland at least one of the documents is a forgery.

Until this week, Mr. Gleick was the head of the of the new science integrity task force of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), appointed by the new leadership of AGU. Gleick testified to Congress on scientific integrity and, according to reports, frequently lectured on the subject. In September 2011 he co-authored with Kevin Trenberth of UCAR and John Abraham an unwarranted, ad hominem attack on Roy Spencer and John Christy and their pioneering work on temperature measurements using satellites. Mr. Gleick’s interpretation of scientific integrity may be somewhat unusual.

Once Mr. Gleick confessed, some news sources immediately began to equivocate to justify their haste to publish false information. These equivocations included claims that science is under attack. Yet, the principal focus of climate skeptics is to demonstrate the insufficiency of the science as promulgated by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to justify claims of significant human influence on global warming. Demanding rigorous science is hardly attacking science.

Gleick claimed part of his motivation was he was frustrated that he was unable to engage in debates with the skeptics, which was quickly refuted by his past statements as well an exchange between Gleick and Heartland, following an invitation to Gleick to debate the issue.

A disturbing trend demonstrated by the incident is the willingness of the popular press to repeat the claims that climate science skeptics are engaged in a disinformation campaign. The term comes from Russian and became popular during the Cold War. It means the deliberate spreading of information that is knowingly false, in order to achieve some advantage over the opponent. Accurately stating that IPCC claims that carbon dioxide is the principal driver of climate change fail to explain the earth’s climate history for the past 10,000 years, and that the climate models are performing very poorly is not disinformation, it is fact.

The Heartland Institute is a logical target for alarmists such as Gleick. Heartland has sponsored six international conferences on climate change challenging the IPCC. Further, it published the three reports of the Nongovernmental International on Climate Change (NIPCC) and subsidizes current research by NIPCC. (News reports stating that the money is paid to specific individuals are largely incorrect.)

How events will unfold remains to be seen. Is Heartland justified in intensely defending its work against individuals such as Gleick? Unlike the leaks during Climategate, Heartland is a private organization, not a government funded one. The information came from someone who clearly misrepresented himself, a felony, not from a leaker. And, Gleick's efforts were to discredit individual funding sources, not discredit a small government funded team manipulating science. Please Article #1 and links under "Defending the Orthodoxy", "Heartland Flap", "Person(s) of Interest."

Political Ideology and Science: During the Gleick affair, Judith Curry posted her thoughts on what drives people to confuse scientific integrity with political ideology. Although political ideology is acceptable for scientists, confusing the two is not. To her, the confusion in climate science comes from the political ideology involved in the founding of the IPCC and the international agreement, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). To Curry, the IPCC/UNFCCC embodies the following concepts, which are directly quoted from her web site:

1. *Anthropogenic climate change is real.*
2. *Anthropogenic climate change is dangerous and we need to do something about it.*
3. *The fossil fuel industry is trying to convince people that climate change is a hoax.*
4. *Deniers are attacking climate science and scientists.*
5. *Action is needed to prevent dangerous climate change.*
6. *Deniers and fossil fuel industry are delaying UNFCCC mitigatory policies.*

For this excellent analysis please see the link under "Seeking a Common Ground."

What Went Wrong? Climate scientist / climate historian Tim Ball gives a brief analysis of what went wrong in climate science. A student of the famous pioneer of modern climate science, H.H. Lamb, Ball points out how Lamb's successors at Climatic Research Unit (CRU) twisted the very principles of the compelling research needed. To Lamb, before one can establish the influence of man on global climate, one must understand the natural causes of global climate change. Lamb's successors immediately suppressed natural causes in favor of establishing human influence. See the comments on political ideology and climate science immediately above, and Ball's article under "Challenging the Orthodoxy."

A Liberal Decalogue: Earlier this week, Anthony Watts of Watts-Up-With-That sent a brief list of certain principles articulated by Bertrand Russell over 60 years ago. In times such as the Gleick affair, it is useful for those who have read Russell to be reminded of them, and those who have not, to be aware of them. They go to the issue: question authority, to which one can add, especially in science. Please see link under "Seeking a Common Ground."

Quote of the Week: The quote comes from an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal entitled "Concerned Scientists Reply on Global Warming" written by 16 scientists. Scientists are trained in critical thinking, or so one would hope. The comments in the op-ed should dispel the value of frequently cited comments that "97% of climate scientists ..." Polls have limited value to those who engage in critical thinking. Please see Article # 3.

EPA Litigation: On February 28 and 29 a panel of US Court for the District of Columbia Circuit will be hearing oral arguments on the case of EPA finding that greenhouse gases (GHG), of which carbon

dioxide is the major component, endanger public health and welfare (Endangerment Finding). The panel is comprised of 3 jurists of the full eleven member court.

A brief re-cap is necessary. In the spring of 2009, the EPA made its preliminary Endangerment Finding (EF) The EF was accompanied by a Technical Support Document (TSD) dated April 17, 2009. The Technical Support Document is based on the reports by the 2007 UN IPCC Assessment Report (AR4), the U.S. Science Climate Change Science Program (2009), and the National Research Council of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (several dates). The latter two sets of reports are based on the IPCC AR4, or prior IPCC reports, without needed corrections. As readers of TWTW realize, the science establishing the IPCC AR4 has significant lapses and significant errors.

During the public review process Fred Singer and Ken Haapala, and others, in both public hearings and detailed written comments, contested the EPA preliminary finding. In addition to other evidence, the major documents submitted included was the 2008 NIPCC report (the 2009 NIPCC report was not available at that time). Among other issues raised was that the IPCC AR4 was deficient in establishing the required science for an Endangerment Finding, as were the subsequent reports dependent upon it.

On December 7, 2009 the EPA announced its Endangerment Finding as final. Immediately thereafter, the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) and SEPP joined forces to litigate against the EPA's finding – CEI providing legal expertise, SEPP providing scientific expertise.

Timely litigation was filed and joined in by a public activist group, Freedomworks. Many other groups filed as well, including the states of Texas and Virginia. After numerous legal filings three critical concepts remain (in the view of SEPP). One, EPA failed to appropriately analyze scientifically significant reports questioning the IPCC and subsequent government reports, among those NIPCC 2008. Two, the detailed IPCC report itself states ignorance of important natural influences on climate change. Three, the EPA failed to provide the independent scientific assessment that is required under the Data (Information) Quality Act. (No doubt, the teams of lawyers will find additional deficiencies.)

In September 2011, the Inspector General of the EPA found the EPA failed to provide the necessary independent scientific assessment. Though not a formal part of the record, it will be a consideration.

What will result? It is difficult to say. For many cases involving Federal issues, Federal courts favor Federal agencies or greater enforcement of Federal regulations over private, or state, interests. No doubt, the losing party will appeal to the full Court first, then to the Supreme Court.

However, the foundation for the EPA Endangerment Finding is disintegrating. With it, EPA's entire regulatory house of cards is being exposed. More litigation challenging EPA declarations are in the offering. After years of preferring lawyers to scientists, it is questionable the EPA has any scientific expertise remaining.

Number of the Week: $3 \times 100 = 1000$ Post Modern Mathematics: Some have written of post modern science, where the pre-conceived thoughts of some scientists should be emphasized over actual data. As a bit of amusement, TWTW suggests Post-Modern Mathematics, when basic arithmetic will not do.

For example, 18 years of sea level measurements from satellites suggested a trend of 3.2 mm per year until a drop in 2010, attributed to a shift from El Niño to La Niña, neither event accepted by the IPCC as a cause of climate change. The average has been about 3 mm per year, and may become less. This works out to an expected rise, based on observations, of no more than about 300 mm in 100 years – by 2100. Yet, several studies presented at the latest American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Conference emphasize that sea level will rise by about 1000 mm per century – one meter.

The mystery of post-modern mathematics is found in the models. Please see links under “Communicating Better with the Public – Exaggerate ..”

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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 Heartland Institute Flap

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 20, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/02/the_heartland_institute_flap.html

2. Obama Skins the Cat

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 25, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/02/obama_skins_the_cat.html

3. Concerned Scientists Reply on Global Warming

The authors of the Jan. 27 Wall Street Journal op-ed, 'No Need to Panic about Global Warming,' respond to their critics.

By 16 Scientists, WSJ, Feb 21, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203646004577213244084429540.html?mod=djemEditorialPage_h

4. The Not-So-Vast Conspiracy

Stolen documents show the tiny budget of global warming skeptics.

Editorial, WSJ, Europe, Feb 21, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204909104577233191850812630.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Climate McCarthyism: Democrat Congressman Demands Hearing on Interior Employee Linked to Heartland

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Feb 23, 2012

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2012/02/23/climate-mccarthyism-democrat-congressman-demands-hearing-on-interior-employee-linked-to-heartland/>

Climate denial in the classroom

It's bad enough that we're doing so little to fight climate change; let's not ask teachers to lie about it too.

Editorial, LA Times, Feb 20, 2012

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/opinionla/la-ed-climate-20120220,0,3564279.story>

[SEPP Comment: Only the IPCC orthodoxy should be permitted?]

Disgraceful climate indoctrination in Australian schools

By Simon, Australian Climate Madness, Feb 21, 2012

<http://www.australianclimatemadness.com/2012/02/disgraceful-climate-indoctrination-in-australian-schools/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Certain Of The Past: Doubtful Of The Future

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Feb 23, 2012

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/5041-certain-of-the-past-doubtful-of-the-future.html>

[SEPP Comment: Exposing another British report attempting to justify the IPCC even when all the models are becoming increasingly irrelevant. All the Met needs is bigger, faster computers.]

Defending the Orthodoxy

The Heartland Affair: A Climate Champion Cheats — and We All Lose

By Bryan Walsh, Time Science, Feb 22, 2012

<http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,2107364,00.html>

[SEPP Comment: Unreal, but the quote is worth it.]

Gleick and his co-author Randy Townsend of the AGU wrote that advancing scientific work to create a sustainable future would only be possible if scientists had the trust of the public and policymakers. And that trust, they added, "is earned by maintaining the highest standards of scientific integrity in all that we do."

A Sad Day for Science

Alana Goodman, Commentary, Feb 21, 2012

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2012/02/21/heartland-climate-strategy-memo/>

Climategate sequel? Scientist lies to get Heartland Institute documents.

Climate scientist, Peter Gleick, lied to acquire – then leak to the press – documents from the Heartland Institute, an organization that argues that global warming poses no threat.

By Pete Spotts, Christian Science Monitor, Feb 21, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2012/0221/Climategate-sequel-Scientist-lies-to-get-Heartland-Institute-documents>

[SEPP Comment: A remarkable turn-around from its reports of the incident the day before.]

Heartland Institute leak exposes strategies of climate attack machine

The documents show how groups play up controversy to undermine confidence in well-established scientific findings

By Bob Ward, Guardian, UK, Feb 21, 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/feb/21/heartland-institute-leak-climate-attack>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

IPCC Climate Science Failure Requires Someone to Blame

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Feb 22, 2012

<http://drtimball.com/2012/ipcc-climate-science-failure-requires-someone-to-blame/>

Global-warming skeptics gaining upper hand

The 'cause' of promoting alarm over supposed man-made global warming has been losing steam as skeptics like S. Fred Singer find more facts on their side.

By Mark Landsbaum, Orange County Register, Feb 20, 2012

<http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/warming-340836-singer-stations.html>

Expect the Unexpected

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Feb 24, 2012

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/expect-unexpected>

Toy Story: Mystic Met needs swanky new kit, swoon MPs

Media to blame for believing us reporting our forecasts

By Andrew Orlowski, A Register, Feb 22, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/02/22/mystic_met_mps_swoon/

[SEPP Comment: The Met receives a new, faster computer to arrive at wrong answers even faster.]

Global Warming Crowd Opposed in Virginia

By Dr. Ileana Johnson Paugh, Canada Free Press, Feb 23, 2012

<http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/44798>

How Climate Research Starves Other Scientists Of Funding

By Paul Homewood Not a Lot of People Know That, Feb 24, 2012 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2012/02/24/how-climate-research-starves-other-scientists-of-funding/#more-860>

[SEPP Comment: At a time of budget tightening, the enormous budgets for climate change programs may start taking hits from other science interests.]

Questioning European Green

The Fatal Conceit of the EU 2050 Roadmap

By Kent Hawkins, European Energy Review, Feb 16, 2012

http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id_mailing=252&toegang=03c6b06952c750899bb03d998e631860&id=3536

[SEPP Comment: The Advisory Group of the European Commission is highly critical of the Energy Roadmap.]

Green Germany: Half A Million Families Sitting In The Dark

Editorial, Die Welt, Translation Phillip Mueller, Feb 22, 2012

<http://www.thegwpf.org/international-news/5035-green-germany-half-a-million-families-sitting-in-the-dark.html>

[SEPP Comment: Energy poverty created by government policy is hitting Germany.]

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Rio+20 Alert

By Donn Dears, Energy For USA, Feb 24, 2012

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2012/02/24/rio20-alert/>

New: the EU budget - it has never been so green

€200 billion will flow into the low-carbon agenda - or will it?

By Sonja van Renssen, European Energy Review, Feb 23, 2012

<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3548>

A Second Front in the Climate War

Editorial, NYT, Feb 17, 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/18/opinion/a-second-front-in-the-climate-war.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha211

Wild west approach to claiming the oceans' genetic resources must end

By Staff Writers, Vancouver, Canada (SPX) Feb 21, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Wild_west_approach_to_claiming_the_oceans_genetic_resources_must_end_999.html

Heartland Flap

Heartland Institute Releases Peter Gleick Emails Detailing Fraud, Theft

By Staff Writers, Heartland Institute,
<http://fakegate.org/>

Fakegate: Global Warmists Try to Hide Their Decline

By Robert Tracinski, Real Clear Politics, Feb 23, 2012

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2012/02/23/fakegate_global_warmists_try_to_hide_their_decline_113225.html

Fakegate: why the perps should be prosecuted

By Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, WUWT, Feb 23, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/02/23/fakegate-why-the-perps-should-be-prosecuted/#more-57386>

Fakegate' - the new nadir of the climate change swindle

By Melanie Phillips, Daily Mail, Feb 22, 2012 [H/t John Shepard]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2104908/Fakegate--new-nadir-climate-change-swindle.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

"Fakegate" Blows Up in Warmist Faces

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Feb 21, 2012

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2012/02/fakegate-blows-up-in-warmist-faces.html>

Stolen Heartland Documents: DeSmog Blog Keeps Blowing Smoke

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Feb 21, 2012

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2012/02/21/stolen-heartland-documents-desmog-blog-keeps-blowing-smoke/>

Fakegate Illustrates Global Warming Alarmists' Deceit and Desperation

By James Taylor, Forbes, Feb 22, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2012/02/22/fakegate-illustrates-global-warming-alarmists-deceit-and-desperation/>

[SEPP Comment: Taylor is a senior fellow at the Heartland Insitute]

From Climategate to Fakegate

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, February 22, 2012

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2012/02/22/from-climategate-to-fakegate/>

Person(s) of Interest

Peter Gleick Admits to Deception in Obtaining Heartland Climate Files

By Andrew Revkin, NYT, Dot Earth, Feb 20, 2012

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/02/20/peter-gleick-admits-to-deception-in-obtaining-heartland-climate-files/>

[SEPP Comment: Gleick has gone from a climate scientist to a water and climate analyst.]

Peter Gleick Confesses to Obtaining Heartland Documents Under False Pretenses

By Megan McArdle, The Atlantic, Feb 21, 2012 [H/t Anthony Watts, WUWT]

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2012/02/peter-gleick-confesses-to-obtaining-heartland-documents-under-false-pretenses/253395/>

Gleick apologized for his actions, and said his judgment was clouded by his "frustration with the ongoing efforts — often anonymous, well-funded and coordinated — to attack climate science and scientists ... and by the lack of transparency of the organizations involved."

What are the depths of Peter Gleick's depravity in the Heartland global warming smear attack?

Posted by Moe Lane, Red State, Feb 21, 2012 [H/t SPPI]

http://www.redstate.com/moe_lane/2012/02/21/what-are-the-depths-of-peter-gleicks-depravity-in-the-heartland-smear-attack/

Seeking a Common Ground

A Liberal Decalogue

By Bertrand Russell, His Autobiography, 1951 [H/t Anthony Watts, WUWT]

<http://www.panarchy.org/russell/decalogue.1951.html>

Gleick's 'integrity'

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Feb 21, 2012

<http://judithcurry.com/2012/02/21/gleicks-integrity/>

Scientists Behaving Badly

By Rick Rinehart, American Thinker, Feb 25, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/02/scientists_behaving_badly.html

Wegman slapped on wrist

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 24, 2012

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/2/24/wegman-slapped-on-wrist.html>

[SEPP Comment: Wegman prepared the report to Congress refuting Mann's hockey-stick. One of Wegman's graduate assistants paraphrased some background comments used in the report from Wikipedia. This led to accusations of plagiarism. But the substantive part of the report stands. The hockey-stick does not accurately reflect climate history of the past 1000 years. Mann's hockey-stick study should be retracted.]

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

Coasts in peril plan ahead for rising seas

By Staff Writers

Vancouver (AFP) Feb 20, 2012

http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Coasts_in_peril_plan_ahead_for_rising_seas_999.html

Criticisms Convince State To Back Off Projections of Dramatic Sea Level Rise

State officials still pushing coastal counties to prepare for a one-meter rise

By Sara Burrows, Carolina Journal, Feb 20, 2012 [H/t Paul Chesser]

http://www.carolinajournal.com/exclusives/display_exclusive.html?id=8781

[SEPP Comment: Defeating the exaggerating modelers is difficult, but not impossible. The "likely range of rise of rise" is between 15 and 55 inches. Why stop there – shoot for 72 inches 6 feet.]

Visualizations help communities plan for sea-level rise

By Staff Writers, Vancouver, Canada (SPX) Feb 22, 2012

http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Visualizations_help_communities_plan_for_sea_level_rise_999.html

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

A Climate Science Post On September 4 2011 Involving Peter Gleick

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

By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Feb 22, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/02/22/a-climate-science-post-on-september-4-2011-involving-peter-gleick/>

Changing Weather

Europe Hammered by Winter, Is North America Next?

By Dauna Coulter for NASA Science News

Huntsville AL (SPX) Feb 22, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Europe_Hammered_by_Winter_Is_North_America_Next_999.html

Changing Climate

New Paper “Ocean Heat Content And Earth’s Radiation Imbalance II. Relation To Climate Shifts”

By Douglass And Knox 2012

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Feb 21, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/02/21/new-paper-ocean-heat-content-and-earths-radiation-imbalance-ii-relation-to-climate-shifts-by-douglass-and-knox-2012/>

[SEPP Comment: All too often trend lines ignore significant shifts.]

The Legacy of the Megaflood

By Elizabeth Zubritsky for Goddard Space Flight Center,

Greenbelt, MD (SPX) Feb 22, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/The_Legacy_of_the_Megaflood_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Carbon dioxide had nothing to do with it.]

Changing Seas

Coastal drinking water more vulnerable to water use than climate change

By Staff Writers, Saskatchewan, Canada (SPX) Feb 23, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Coastal_drinking_water_more_vulnerable_to_water_use_than_climate_change_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Rising sea level is not as important to salt water intrusion into fresh water aquifers as is aquifer withdrawal.]

Changing Skies

NASA Satellite Finds Earth's Clouds are Getting Lower

By Alan Buis for JPL, Pasadena CA (JPL), Feb 23, 2012

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/NASA_Satellite_Finds_Earths_Clouds_are_Getting_Lower_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Emphasizing the average height hides an important component that higher altitude clouds are diminishing. High altitude clouds tend to promote the greenhouse effect. The change in clouds may be a negative feedback to warming.]

Clouds falling by 44 ± 22 meters per decade

By Lubos Motl, Reference Frame, Feb 24, 2012

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2012/02/clouds-falling-by-4422-meters-per.html#more>

[SEPP Comment: The reported drop in cloud height can be interpreted in a number of ways.]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Man-made photosynthesis to revolutionise food and energy production

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Feb 21, 2012

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Man_made_photosynthesis_to_revolutionise_food_and_energy_production_999.html

The Political Games Continue

Demagogue Party attempting to detract from Gleick fiasco by distracting media

By Joseph D’Aleo, ICECAP, Feb 23, 2012

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/demagogue_party_attempting_to_detract_from_gleick_fiasco_by_distracting_med/
[SEPP Comment: Includes a re-cap of the founding of NIPCC.]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Colossal pain & no gain

The Australian Greens policy is for Australia to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions as soon as is feasible and by no later than 2050. How feasible is this?

By Val Majkus, Quadrant, Feb 20, 2012

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2012/02/colossal-pain-no-gain>

[SEPP Comment: Blistering analysis of the economic fantasy of 100% alternative energy.]

From Peter Lang's analysis: Although it ignores costings, the EDM-2011 study is a useful contribution. It demonstrates that, even with highly optimistic assumptions, renewable energy cannot realistically provide 100% of Australia's electricity generation. Their scenario does not have sufficient capacity to meet peak winter demand, has no capacity reserve and is dependent on a technology – 'gas turbines running on biofuels' - that exist only at small scale and at high cost.

Carbon emission policy could slash debt, improve environment

By Henry A. Waxman, Sherwood Boehlert, Edward J. Markey and Wayne Gilchrest, Washington Post, Feb 23, 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/carbon-emission-policy-could-slash-debt-improve-environment/2012/02/13/gIQAQ0LZWR_story.html

EU asks airlines emissions fee opponents for alternatives

By Staff Writers, Brussels (AFP) Feb 20, 2012

http://www.spacemart.com/reports/EU_asks_airlines_emissions_fee_opponents_for_alternatives_999.htm
1

[SEPP Comment: The international credibility of the EU is diminishing with the actions of politicians such as the EU climate commissioner.]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

O'Malley pushes wind farms, citing cheap costs

By Rachel Baye, Washington Examiner, Feb 23, 2012

http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/maryland/2012/02/omalley-pushes-wind-farms-citing-cheap-costs/301821?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner%20Edition%20%282-23-12%29%20-%2002/23/2012&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Edition

[SEPP Comment: There must be something in Maryland's tobacco.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA Publishes Absurd Mercury Reg; Sen. Inhofe Counters; House Sleeps

By William Yeatman, Global Warming.org, Feb 16, 2012

http://www.globalwarming.org/2012/02/16/epa-publishes-absurd-mercury-reg-sen-inhofe-counters-house-sleeps/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+globalwarmingorg+%28GlobalWarming.org%29

Published MATS Rule Rouses Challenges, Lawsuits

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Feb 22, 2012

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4427.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2389109&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

The Job-Creating Mercury Rule

Editorial, NYT, Feb 23, 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/23/opinion/the-job-creating-mercury-rule.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha211

[SEPP Comment: According to the NYT, raising utility rates, lowering standards of living for the public creates jobs and prosperity. Think of all the jobs created by tearing down Manhattan and rebuilding it.]

Tangled up in green tape

The EPA, Congress, activists, the courts and power companies themselves all share the blame for the chaotic nature of environmental regulation in America

Editorial, The Economist, Feb 18, 2012

<http://www.economist.com/node/21547804>

Showdown at the EPA corral

By Steve Milloy, Junk Science, Feb 22, 2012 [H/t SPPI]

<http://junkscience.com/2012/02/22/showdown-at-the-epa-coral/>

Energy Issues – Non-US

RIP: Peak Oil - we won't be running out any time soon

Human ingenuity wins the day

By Andrew Orłowski, A Register, Feb 23, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/02/23/peak_oil_is_dead_citigroup/

Apocalypse Politics - where unpopular and daft policies gain traction simply because their advocates claim that they're justified by some catastrophic and irreversible historical trend. Nobody but the superstitious can really believe that any more.

Canada's oil sands: Not so dirty after all

By Nathan Vanderklippe, Globe and Mail, Feb 20, 2012

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/canadas-oil-sands-not-so-dirty-after-all/article2343985/>

[SEPP Comment: Did the environmental industry exaggerate?]

Canada revs up for fight over second tar sands oil pipeline

Canada's planned Northern Gateway pipeline would send tar sands oil to its West Coast for export to Asia. Supporters see it as a defiant stance against the U.S.

By Kim Murphy, Los Angeles Times, February 19, 2012, 10:20 p.m.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-canada-pipeline-20120220,0,7840276.story?page=1>

Energy Issues -- US

In 2012, Let's Align U.S. Energy Policy with Global Reality

By Michael J. Economides, Energy Tribune, Feb. 22, 2012 [H/t Jim Rust]

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/9890/In-2012-Lets-Align-US-Energy-Policy-with-Global-Reality>

Obama Vilifies Fossil Fuels

Obama is impervious to the facts about energy.

By Robert Bryce, National Review, Feb 22, 2012

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/291639/obama-vilifies-fossil-fuels-robert-bryce>

5 Biggest Whoppers In Obama's Energy Speech

Editorial, IBD, Feb 23, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/article/602120/201202231855/obama-high-gas-price-myths.htm>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

The new energy order

Unconventional U.S. oil and gas change everything

By Garry Hunt, Financial Post, Feb 17, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/02/17/the-new-energy-order/>

North Sea Oil and Gas Just Won't Quit

By Peter C Glover, Energy Tribune, Feb 20, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/9867/North-Sea-Oil-and-Gas-Just-Wont-Quit>

[SEPP Comment: Major new finds in the North Sea.]

Expert panel deliberates hydraulic fracturing in shale gas development

By Staff Writers, Vancouver, Canada (SPX) Feb 21, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Expert_panel_deliberates_hydraulic_fracturing_in_shale_gas_development_999.html

The Methanol Alternative to Gasoline

By Tom Ridge and Mary Peters, NYT, Feb 23, 2012 [H/t David Manuta]

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/24/opinion/methanol-as-an-alternative-to-gasoline.html?_r=1&emc=eta1

[SEPP Comment: There is no analysis of how the cost of the vehicles compares with those using compressed natural gas or LNG. California dropped its methanol program.]

Debate Surrounds Race to Export America's Natural Gas

Some U.S. manufacturers, utilities and consumer advocates worry exporting gas will drive up electricity prices and deepen reliance on coal.

By Bill Lascher, Inside Climate News, Feb 21, 2012

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20120220/energy-firms-shale-gas-export-terminals-liquefied-natural-gas-lng-eia-coal>

US Administration's Control of Oil and Gas

Oil Execs Say Obama Led Us To 'Energy Abyss

Editorial, IBD, Feb 23, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/Article.aspx?id=602069&p=1&ibdbot=1>

Obama losing financial backing of big S.F. donor

By Carla Marinucci and Joe Garofoli, San Francisco Chronicle, Feb 16, 2012

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/02/16/MND61N71MS.DTL>

Oil Spills & Consequences

BP's Deepwater catharsis finally on the horizon

By Kevin Allison, Reuters, Feb 22, 2012

http://business.financialpost.com/2012/02/22/bps-deepwater-catharsis-finally-on-the-horizon/?_lsa=a4b7b521

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Japan shuts down nuclear reactor

By Staff Writers, Tokyo (AFP), Feb 20, 2012

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Japan_shuts_down_nuclear_reactor_999.html

New technology supported in US budget request

By Staff Writers, WNN, Feb 14, 2012

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NP-New_technology_supported_in_US_budget_request-1402124.html?utm_source=World+Nuclear+News&utm_campaign=bbe829cf05-WNN_Weekly_14_20_February_2012_20_2012&utm_medium=email

[SEPP Comment: US subsidies to the development of commercial nuclear power plants have been significant. However, should the commercial plants pay for the legacy costs of cleaning up US facilities including those developed for war, including WWII and the Cold War? Yucca Mountain still remains an important issue.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy – Solar and Wind

The Collapsing Case for ‘Green’ Energy (Berkeley’s Borenstein on an intellectual wrong turn)

By Robert Bradley Jr, Master Resource, Feb 22, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/02/borenstein-on-green-energy-arguments/>

Wind Spin: Misdirection and Fluff by a Taxpayer-enabled Industry

By John Droz, Jr, Master Resource, Feb 24, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/02/wind-spin/>

This Week in Clean Economy: Wind Supporters Mobilize to Save Federal Tax Credit Down but not out, the wind industry vows to keep a federal tax credit alive. Plus, InsideClimate News breaks down Obama's clean energy budget.

By Maria Gallucci, InsideClimate News, Feb 17, 2012

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20120217/this-week-clean-economy-wind-energy-production-tax-credit-obama-budget-clean-energy-efficiency>

[SEPP Comment: Department of Defense is to spend \$1 Billion for energy conservation / renewable? To protect the nation?]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy – Other

Booker on Biofuels

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 22, 2012

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/2/22/booker-on-biofuels.html>

Carbon Schemes

Carbon storage project combines innovation and outreach

By Staff Writers, Champaign, IL (SPX) Feb 23, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Carbon_storage_project_combines_innovation_and_outreach_999.html

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

The Relative Merit of Multiple Climate Models

Reference: Reifen, C. and Toumi, R. 2009. Climate projections: Past performance no guarantee of future skill? *Geophysical Research Letters* 36: 10.1029/2009GL038082.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/feb/21feb2012a2.html>

North American Mega-Droughts and Global Mega-Warming

Reference: Routson, C.C., Woodhouse, C.A. and Overpeck, J.T. 2011. Second century megadrought in the Rio Grande headwaters, Colorado: How unusual was medieval drought? *Geophysical Research Letters* 38: 10.1029/2011GL050015.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/feb/21feb2012a3.html>

Plant Responses to Recent Warming in the Southern Alps

Reference: Erschbamer, B., Kiebacher, T., Mallaun, M. and Unterluggauer, P. 2009. Short-term signals of climate change along an altitudinal gradient in the South Alps. *Plant Ecology* 202: 79-89.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/feb/21feb2012a5.html>

Growth of Water-Stressed Maize and Sorghum Plants

Reference: Allen Jr., L.H., Kakani, V.G., Vu, J.C.V. and Boote, K.J. 2011. Elevated CO₂ increases water use efficiency by sustaining photosynthesis of water-limited maize and sorghum. *Journal of Plant Physiology* 168: 1909-1918.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/feb/22feb2012a2.html>

Health, Energy, and Climate

Animal diseases increasingly plague the oceans

By Staff Writers, Vancouver (AFP) Feb 20, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Animal_diseases_increasingly_plague_the_oceans_999.html

[SEPP Comment: According to the report warming waters will cause less dissolved oxygen in the oceans – yet ocean “acidification” advocates claim oceans have more dissolved carbon dioxide?]

Environmental Industry

Greener Than Thou

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Feb 20, 2012

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2012/02/greener-than-thou.html>

Taking the Earth's pulse with new economic and environmental index

By Staff Writers, Vancouver, Canada (SPX), Feb 22, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Taking_the_Earth_pulse_with_new_economic_and_environmental_index_999.html

The top five performing countries are Bolivia, Angola, Namibia, Paraguay, and Argentina, while the bottom five performers are Jordan, the Republic of Korea, Israel, Kuwait, and Singapore.

[SEPP Comment: Environmentalism trumps humanity.]

Activists planning anti-oil sands strategy since 2008

Claudia Cattaneo Financial Post, Feb 21, 2012

http://business.financialpost.com/2012/02/21/anti-oil-sands-strategy-in-the-works-since-2008/?_lsa=a4b7b521

[SEPP Comment: US environmental organizations and foundations termed the US importation of oil from Canadian oil sands a global threat.]

Oil sands dodge bullet in Brussels

EU fails to back ‘directive’ that -penalizes the oil sands — but the threat isn’t gone

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Feb 23, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/02/23/peter-foster-oil-sands-dodge-bullet-in-brussels/>

Other Scientific News

Mother of pearl tells a tale of ocean temperature and depth

By Staff Writers, Madison WI (SPX) Feb 21, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Mother_of_pearl_tells_a_tale_of_ocean_temperature_and_depth_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A new source for proxy data?]

The fallout of the Nobel scam of 1946

Scientist’s radiation cover-up might have cost thousands of lives

By Lawrence Solomon, Financial Post, Feb 10, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/02/10/lawrence-solomon-the-fallout-of-the-nobel-scam-of-1946/>

[SEPP Comment: Creation of the linear no-threshold model – by deliberate misrepresentation.]

Breaking Through the Ice at Lake Vostok

By Marc Kaufman for Astrobiology Magazine, Moffett Field CA (SPX) Feb 21, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Breaking_Through_the_Ice_at_Lake_Vostok_999.html

The Origin of Photosynthesis Revealed

By Staff Writers, New Brunswick NJ (SPX), Feb 23, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/The_Origin_of_Photosynthesis_Revealed_999.html

[SEPP Comment: What gave rise to the poisonous gas oxygen replacing the benign gas carbon dioxide?]

Dead for 32,000 Years, an Arctic Plant Is Revived

By Nicholas Wade, NYT, Feb 20, 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/21/science/new-life-from-an-arctic-flower-that-died-32000-years-ago.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=th210

Other News that May Be of Interest

Landscape fire smoke contributes to hundreds of thousands of deaths worldwide

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Feb 22, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Landscape_fire_smoke_contributes_to_hundreds_of_thousands_of_deaths_worldwide_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Are US government policies preventing the clearing of underbrush, cutting of diseased trees, and promoting wildfires causing deaths? If so, where is the EPA?]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

The Protocols of the Elders of Heartland

By Wendy McElroy, Her Blog,

<http://www.wendymcelroy.com/news.php?extend.4518>

[SEPP Comment: A humorous take on the Heartland Flap.]

Warming climate could make us all shrink

By Emma Woollacott, TG Daily, Feb 24, 2012 [H/t Climate Etc]

<http://www.tgdaily.com/general-sciences-features/61670-warming-climate-could-make-us-all-shrink>

Researchers have uncovered a direct link between global temperatures and body size, leading them to conclude that future climate change could mean species getting smaller.

[SEPP Comment: At best, spurious induction also called hasty generalization.]

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ARTICLES:

1. The Heartland Institute Flap

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 20, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/02/the_heartland_institute_flap.html

[In the ongoing climate debate, the Heartland Institute is perhaps best known as organizer and host of [six international climate change conferences](#) (ICCC) and as publisher of [Climate Change Reconsidered: The Report of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change \(NIPCC\)](#) - accessible on www.NIPCCreport.org]

A Heartland [news release](#) of Feb 15 presents the history of the events of last week:

"Heartland Institute Responds to Stolen and Fake Documents"

"Yesterday afternoon [Feb 14], two advocacy groups posted online several documents they claimed were The [Heartland Institute's](#) 2012 budget, fundraising, and strategy plans. Some of these documents were stolen, [at least one is a fake](#), and some may have been altered. The stolen documents appear to have been written by [Heartland's](#) president for a board meeting that took place on January 17. ...Since then, the documents have been widely reposted on the Internet, [again] with no effort to confirm their authenticity.

"One document, titled "Confidential Memo: 2012 Heartland Climate Strategy," is a total fake, apparently intended to defame and discredit The Heartland Institute. It was not written by anyone associated with The Heartland Institute. It does not express Heartland's goals, plans, or tactics. It contains several obvious and gross misstatements of fact.

"We respectfully ask all activists, bloggers, and other journalists to immediately remove all of these documents and any quotations taken from them, especially the fake "climate strategy" memo and any quotations from the same, from their blogs, Web sites, and publications, and to publish retractions.

"How did this happen? The stolen documents were obtained by an unknown person who fraudulently assumed the identity of a Heartland board member and persuaded a staff member here to "re-send" board materials to a new email address. Identity theft and computer fraud are criminal offenses subject to imprisonment. We intend to find this person and see him or her put in prison for these crimes.

"Apologies: The Heartland Institute apologizes to the donors whose identities were revealed by this theft. We ... realize that the major reason these documents were stolen and faked was to make it more difficult for donors to support our work. ...

"Lessons: Disagreement over the causes, consequences, and best policy responses to climate change runs deep. We understand that. But honest disagreement should never be used to justify the criminal acts and fraud that occurred in the past 24 hours. ...Those persons who posted these documents and wrote about them before we had a chance to comment on their authenticity should be ashamed of their deeds, and their bad behavior should be taken into account when judging their credibility now and in the future."

The [NY Times](#) weighed in the following day [Feb 16] with this misleading headline:

Leak Offers Glimpse of Campaign Against Climate Science

It calls the event a "leak" rather than evident fraud, clearly indicating bias. It also refers to a "campaign against climate science." This too is wrong; there are honest scientific disputes, which the NYT ignores. It is of course hypocritical to criticize Heartland for accepting donations from corporations, but the article should at least have noticed that most of the money goes to issues that have nothing to do with climate,

such as educational reform, health-care reform, etc. The NYT does note the absence of any funding from oil companies, which might conceivably have an interest in the climate issue.

The NYT also tries to equate the climate debate to the ongoing debate in public schools about evolution. This comparison is completely misplaced. The National Center for Science Education is trying to expand its reach into public schools by presenting a one-sided view of the climate debate that ignores natural climate changes throughout earth's history. In fact, the crux of the climate debate relates to the significance of any human contribution to climate change; natural changes of course do not cease when human activities emit greenhouse gases.

The Faked Document

[Megan McArdle](#), a senior editor for [The Atlantic](#), agrees with Heartland that the key document, titled "2012 Heartland Climate Strategy," sent to Desmogblog and other smear blogs, is a forgery.

McArdle herself is a strong believer in anthropogenic global warming (AGW) and in the need for action to reduce emissions of CO₂; but she nevertheless cites many persuasive arguments to support her suspicion of a forged document. She also suggests that the bloggers, such as Desmogblog, know the identity of the "Heartland Insider" who stole the documents and manufactured the fake Memo.

Blogger David Appell adds an important fact, using a technique I don't fully understand. Unlike the other Heartland documents, which were produced in Chicago shortly before the Jan 17 Board meeting, the faked Strategy Memo was turned into PDF format on the West Coast (California? Seattle? Vancouver?) on Feb 13 from a scanned Fax, not from an electronic file (as McArdle had already deduced).

Another give-away: The faked Memo refers to a \$200,000 donation from the Koch Foundation. In fact, Koch gave only \$25K not \$200K - for health care, not for climate change - 0.5% of Heartland's 2011 budget.

Finally, to relieve these depressing news, one should read the excruciatingly funny satire by [Wendy McElroy](#), where she pretends to develop a fake climate policy plan for the Heartland Institute.
6p6p**Heartland and NIPCC**

In 2007, I founded the NIPCC (Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change) to prepare a proper scientific response to the 2007 IPCC report. In searching for a publisher, the Heartland Institute seemed like the best choice; NIPCC had no ongoing funding and relied entirely on volunteers. Heartland also organized six international conferences on climate change (ICCC), which provided a platform for NIPCC and others to present their findings to a wider community of scientists and to the media. The NYT story that by 2013 Heartland "expects to have spent some \$1.6 million on financing the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change" is not true and requires a correction.

The first NIPCC report (2008) was in the form of a succinct *Summary* of our arguments against anthropogenic global warming (AGW); Heartland printed it for sale and distributed it widely. We received no royalties -- only free copies. Heartland then asked us to expand our coverage on climate science; so Dr. Craig Idso joined me as a coauthor of the 800-page report *Climate Change Reconsidered* (2009). Dr. Robert Carter of Australia then joined us in coauthoring the 2011 interim report. Carter is a marine geologist; Idso is a biologist; I am an atmospheric physicist and expert on remote sensing -- we make a balanced team.

As mentioned in the Heartland documents, I receive a monthly stipend to cover expenses. The checks go directly to the non-profit Science & Environmental Policy Project (SEPP) rather than to me personally. I consider this as an advance royalty from the publisher to an author. But also, together with Idso and Carter, we recruit lead authors for the ten chapters of the forthcoming CCR-2 report of 2013. We also recruit reviewers for individual research papers, whose number may well exceed 5000. These reviewers get a nominal fee for their efforts; their names will be listed in the NIPCC reports.

Speaking of funding, the NYT ignores its [own story](#) of Nov 21, 2002 "Exxon-Led Group Is Giving a [\$225 million] Climate Grant to Stanford."

[Meanwhile](#) "BP, FORD GIVE \$20 MILLION FOR PRINCETON UNIVERSITY EMISSIONS STUDY" - as reported by Bloomberg News on October 26, 2000. "London-based BP said it plans to give \$85 million in the next decade to universities in the U.S. and U.K. to study environmental and energy issues. In the past two years, the company has pledged \$40 million to Cambridge University, \$20 million to the University of California at Berkeley and \$10 million to the University of Colorado at Boulder."

It seems that vast sums have flowed from oil companies to climate alarmists, but nothing at all to Heartland -- and certainly not to NIPCC.

2. Obama Skins the Cat

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 25, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/02/obama_skins_the_cat.html

Much of White House policy is driven by pathological fear of global warming and the unreasonable compulsion to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, a non-toxic natural constituent of the atmosphere and an absolute necessity for the survival of plants, animals, and humans. Never mind that there's no significant evidence that any recent warming has been caused by CO₂ increases -- or indeed, that any such warming would endanger human health and welfare. In addition, it should be quite obvious that any attempt by the U.S. to reduce its emissions unilaterally is an exercise in futility and self-delusion: it would have little measurable impact on the ongoing rise of *global* atmospheric CO₂ and would certainly not affect climate in any way.

But evidently, ideology trumps science, economics, and logic. Even common-sense considerations have not stopped President Obama from listening to his science adviser, Dr. John Holdren, one of the chief apostles of the global warming religion. Holdren is a former collaborator and associate of Stanford Prof. Paul Ehrlich, whose seminal book *The Population Bomb*, published some 40 years ago, preaches population control to achieve zero growth.

In this Malthusian spirit, we will shortly be "celebrating" the 40th anniversary of the publication of *Limits to Growth*, a book sponsored by the so-called Club of Rome, which -- like Ehrlich's -- predicted all kinds of imminent disasters for the world's population: famines, resource depletion, dying oceans, etc. In spite of complete failure to use sound science and economics, there are still many "believers" happily ensconced in the present administration. It is interesting to note that *Limits to Growth* did not concern itself in any way with global warming; climate disasters came along only since 1992, courtesy of the infamous Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, which also produced U.N. Agenda 21.

But one must give the Obama administration credit for trying hard to mandate CO₂ limits to "save the climate." Its high point came in mid-2009, when the House barely passed the Waxman-Markey "cap & trade" bill -- also known as the "tax & spend" bill. It was so bad that even the Democrat-controlled Senate refused to touch it. Then, by the end of 2009, the Climategate e-mails revealed evidence of U.N.-IPCC skulduggery -- followed by the utter collapse of U.N. negotiations in Copenhagen. But in spite of

all this, the EPA has been moving ahead and issued an "Endangerment Finding" (EF) that claims CO₂ as an atmospheric pollutant, subject to regulation by the Clean Air Act.

Full disclosure: We (SEPP) are part of the plaintiff group that has sued the EPA for not using sound science in arriving at its EF. Oral arguments are scheduled for late February 2012. And we are hoping the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia will rule in our favor and toss out the EF. On further appeal, it might even lead the Supreme Court to rectify its 2007 decision declaring CO₂ a pollutant subject to regulation -- but with this all-important proviso: EPA must first demonstrate that CO₂ "endangers human health and welfare."

Once it had become clear to Obama that there was no chance to pass legislation to force CO₂ control, he vowed to find other ways to "skin the cat" (*his words*). Three of these subterfuges are underway, disguised in various ways to hide their true purpose.

1. *Doubling mileage standards for automobiles by 2025* -- meant to reduce smog and other urban pollution, as well as the need for imported oil -- thereby improving national security. But the EPA, which has already drastically tightened existing standards, is quite open about the real purpose -- to reduce CO₂ emissions. In essence, EPA has preempted the role of the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration), which has the statutory responsibility for setting CAFE (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards. However, there is little chance that auto companies can produce reasonably priced cars that people will want to buy and -- note the irony -- are safe to drive. (Oh, Ralph Nader, where are you when we need you?)

2. In its December 2011 rule of 1,117 pages, EPA sets unrealistic limits on the emission of mercury from coal-fired power stations; it is part of their scheme to get rid of coal as a fuel, even though coal is the cheapest domestic energy source and requires no imports. The U.S. is blessed with abundant coal resources; over 50% of electric power was generated from coal, though the percentage has now dropped to 45%. The *Chicago Tribune* foresees a rise of 40%-60% in Midwest electricity rates; nationwide, the respected national economic consulting firm NERA predicts an 11% rise and a loss of 144,000 jobs by 2020.

The lame excuse the EPA is using is "to protect the children," but again, the science is lacking. In any case, most of the mercury emitted into the atmosphere comes from natural sources. Human sources, like coal-burning power plants, are located mostly in China or other regions outside the U.S. and outside EPA jurisdiction. In other words, mercury pollution is a *global* problem, much like CO₂; U.S. power plants contribute only 0.5% of all emissions.

The Bush administration had already promulgated plans to reduce U.S. emissions; any further tightening by the EPA will produce little marginal benefits but huge additional costs -- all for the sake of some reduction in CO₂ emissions. As usual, the EPA greatly underestimates costs by a large factor and hugely inflates benefits, claiming prevention of 11,000 premature deaths a year. In addition, EPA double-counts benefits; only 0.1% can be assigned to the reduction of mercury emissions.

3. Finally, we have the much-discussed Keystone XL pipeline, which is supposed to bring oil from Canadian tar sands to U.S. refineries on the Gulf coast. Obama has decided to stop this pipeline in order to ingratiate himself with extreme environmentalists, who oppose the project -- as just revealed in the *San Francisco Chronicle* of Feb 16. Their weak excuse is that an oil leak in Nebraska might produce pollution to the underlying aquifer. Of course, there is no reason why oil should leak over Nebraska -- and in any case, some 20,000 miles of various pipelines already cross the state. The real reason: production of oil from tar sands requires large amounts of heat and thus emissions of CO₂.

Opposition to this capricious action by the White House is non-partisan. It involves labor unions, who see "shovel-ready jobs" disappearing; it involves national security concerns; and it involves the general public, who want cheaper and more secure oil from nearby sources -- not from overseas producers in the Persian Gulf, brought here by tankers.

In his 2008 election campaign, Obama promised to make electricity prices "skyrocket." He seems to be succeeding beyond all expectations, as a combination of White House policies is raising fuel prices. But as the cost of essential energy jumps upward, households are sliding into poverty; they can no longer afford to buy treats for the children; it's more important to keep them from starving and freezing to death. "Skinning the cat" may be a neat way of getting around the express wishes of the Congress and the public, but it is sure to backfire against the Obama White House in the November elections.

3. Concerned Scientists Reply on Global Warming

The authors of the Jan. 27 Wall Street Journal op-ed, 'No Need to Panic about Global Warming,' respond to their critics.

By 16 Scientists, WSJ, Feb 21, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203646004577213244084429540.html?mod=djemEditorialPage_h

[SEPP Comment: The referenced graph is presented at the end of the article.]

Editor's Note: The authors of the following letter, listed below, are also the signatories of "No Need to Panic About Global Warming," an op-ed that appeared in the Journal on January 27. This letter responds to criticisms of the op-ed made by Kevin Trenberth and 37 others in a letter published Feb. 1, and by Robert Byer of the American Physical Society in a letter published Feb. 6.

The interest generated by our Wall Street Journal op-ed of Jan. 27, "No Need to Panic about Global Warming," is gratifying but so extensive that we will limit our response to the letter to the editor the Journal published on Feb. 1, 2012 by Kevin Trenberth and 37 other signatories, and to the Feb. 6 letter by Robert Byer, President of the American Physical Society. (We, of course, thank the writers of supportive letters.)

We agree with Mr. Trenberth et al. that expertise is important in medical care, as it is in any matter of importance to humans or our environment. Consider then that by eliminating fossil fuels, the recipient of medical care (all of us) is being asked to submit to what amounts to an economic heart transplant. According to most patient bills of rights, the patient has a strong say in the treatment decision. Natural questions from the patient are whether a heart transplant is really needed, and how successful the diagnostic team has been in the past.

In this respect, an important gauge of scientific expertise is the ability to make successful predictions. When predictions fail, we say the theory is "falsified" and we should look for the reasons for the failure. Shown in the nearby graph is the measured annual temperature of the earth since 1989, just before the first report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Also shown are the projections of the likely increase of temperature, as published in the Summaries of each of the four IPCC reports, the first in the year 1990 and the last in the year 2007.

These projections were based on IPCC computer models of how increased atmospheric CO₂ should warm the earth. Some of the models predict higher or lower rates of warming, but the projections shown in the graph and their extensions into the distant future are the basis of most studies of environmental effects and mitigation policy options. Year-to-year fluctuations and discrepancies are unimportant; longer-term trends are significant.

From the graph it appears that the projections exaggerate, substantially, the response of the earth's temperature to CO₂ which increased by about 11% from 1989 through 2011. Furthermore, when one examines the historical temperature record throughout the 20th century and into the 21st, the data strongly suggest a much lower CO₂ effect than almost all models calculate.

The Trenberth letter tells us that "computer models have recently shown that during periods when there is a smaller increase of surface temperatures, warming is occurring elsewhere in the climate system, typically in the deep ocean." The ARGO system of diving buoys is providing increasingly reliable data on the temperature of the upper layers of the ocean, where much of any heat from global warming must reside. But much like the surface temperature shown in the graph, the heat content of the upper layers of the world's oceans is not increasing nearly as fast as IPCC models predict, perhaps not increasing at all. Why should we now believe exaggerating IPCC models that tell us of "missing heat" hiding in the one place where it cannot yet be reliably measured—the deep ocean?

Given this dubious track record of prediction, it is entirely reasonable to ask for a second opinion. We have offered ours. With apologies for any immodesty, we all have enjoyed distinguished careers in climate science or in key science and engineering disciplines (such as physics, aeronautics, geology, biology, forecasting) on which climate science is based.

Trenberth et al. tell us that the managements of major national academies of science have said that "the science is clear, the world is heating up and humans are primarily responsible." Apparently every generation of humanity needs to relearn that Mother Nature tells us what the science is, not authoritarian academy bureaucrats or computer models.

One reason to be on guard, as we explained in our original op-ed, is that motives other than objective science are at work in much of the scientific establishment. All of us are members of major academies and scientific societies, but we urge Journal readers not to depend on pompous academy pronouncements—on what we say—but to follow the motto of the Royal Society of Great Britain, one of the oldest learned societies in the world: nullius in verba—take nobody's word for it. As we said in our op-ed, everyone should look at certain stubborn facts that don't fit the theory espoused in the Trenberth letter, for example—the graph of surface temperature above, and similar data for the temperature of the lower atmosphere and the upper oceans.

What are we to make of the letter's claim: "Climate experts know that the long-term warming trend has not abated in the past decade. In fact, it was the warmest decade on record." We don't see any warming trend after the year 2000 in the graph. It is true that the years 2000-2010 were perhaps 0.2 C warmer than the preceding 10 years. But the record indicates that long before CO₂ concentrations of the atmosphere began to increase, the earth began to warm in fits and starts at the end of the Little Ice Age—hundreds of years ago. This long term-trend is quite likely to produce several warm years in a row. The question is how much of the warming comes from CO₂ and how much is due to other, both natural and anthropogenic, factors?

There have been many times in the past when there were warmer decades. It may have been warmer in medieval times, when the Vikings settled Greenland, and when wine was exported from England. Many proxy indicators show that the Medieval Warming was global in extent. And there were even warmer periods a few thousand years ago during the Holocene Climate Optimum. The fact is that there are very powerful influences on the earth's climate that have nothing to do with human-generated CO₂. The graph strongly suggests that the IPCC has greatly underestimated the natural sources of warming (and cooling) and has greatly exaggerated the warming from CO₂.

The Trenberth letter states: "Research shows that more than 97% of scientists actively publishing in the field agree that climate change is real and human caused." However, the claim of 97% support is deceptive. The surveys contained trivial polling questions that even we would agree with. Thus, these surveys find that large majorities agree that temperatures have increased since 1800 and that human activities have some impact.

But what is being disputed is the size and nature of the human contribution to global warming. To claim, as the Trenberth letter apparently does, that disputing this constitutes "extreme views that are out of step with nearly every other climate expert" is peculiar indeed.

One might infer from the Trenberth letter that scientific facts are determined by majority vote. Some postmodern philosophers have made such claims. But scientific facts come from observations, experiments and careful analysis, not from the near-unanimous vote of some group of people.

The continued efforts of the climate establishment to eliminate "extreme views" can acquire a seriously threatening nature when efforts are directed at silencing scientific opposition. In our op-ed we mentioned the campaign circa 2003 to have Dr. Chris de Freitas removed not only from his position as editor of the journal *Climate Research*, but from his university job as well. Much of that campaign is documented in Climategate emails, where one of the signatories of the Trenberth et al. letter writes: "I believe that a boycott against publishing, reviewing for, or even citing articles from *Climate Research* [then edited by Dr. de Freitas] is certainly warranted, but perhaps the minimum action that should be taken."

Or consider the resignation last year of Wolfgang Wagner, editor-in-chief of the journal *Remote Sensing*. In a fulsome resignation editorial eerily reminiscent of past recantations by political and religious heretics, Mr. Wagner confessed to his "sin" of publishing a properly peer-reviewed paper by University of Alabama scientists Roy Spencer and William Braswell containing the finding that IPCC models exaggerate the warming caused by increasing CO₂.

The Trenberth letter tells us that decarbonization of the world's economy would "drive decades of economic growth." This is not a scientific statement nor is there evidence it is true. A premature global-scale transition from hydrocarbon fuels would require massive government intervention to support the deployment of more expensive energy technology. If there were economic advantages to investing in technology that depends on taxpayer support, companies like Beacon Power, Evergreen Solar, Solar Millenium, SpectraWatt, Solyndra, Ener1 and the Renewable Energy Development Corporation would be prospering instead of filing for bankruptcy in only the past few months.

The European experience with green technologies has also been discouraging. A study found that every new "green job" in Spain destroyed more than two existing jobs and diverted capital that would have created new jobs elsewhere in the economy. More recently, European governments have been cutting subsidies for expensive CO₂-emissionless energy technologies, not what one would expect if such subsidies were stimulating otherwise languid economies. And as we pointed out in our op-ed, it is unlikely that there will be any environmental benefit from the reduced CO₂ emissions associated with green technologies, which are based on the demonization of CO₂.

Turning to the letter of the president of the American Physical Society (APS), Robert Byer, we read, "The statement [on climate] does not declare, as the signatories of the letter [our op-ed] suggest, that the human contribution to climate change is incontrovertible." This seems to suggest that APS does not in fact consider the science on this key question to be settled.

Yet here is the critical paragraph from the statement that caused the resignation of Nobel laureate Ivar Giaever and many other long-time members of the APS: "The evidence is incontrovertible: Global warming is occurring. If no mitigating actions are taken, significant disruptions in the Earth's physical and ecological systems, social systems, security and human health are likely to occur. We must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases beginning now." No reasonable person can read this and avoid the conclusion that APS is declaring the human impact "incontrovertible." Otherwise there would be no logical link from "global warming" to the shrill call for mitigation.

The APS response to the concerns of its membership was better than that of any other scientific society, but it was not democratic. The management of APS took months to review the statement quoted above, and it eventually declared that not a word needed to be changed, though some 750 words were added to try to explain what the original 157 words really meant. APS members were permitted to send in comments but the comments were never made public.

In spite of the obstinacy of some in APS management, APS members of good will are supporting the establishment of a politics-free, climate physics study group within the Society. If successful, it will facilitate much needed discussion, debate, and independent research in the physics of climate.

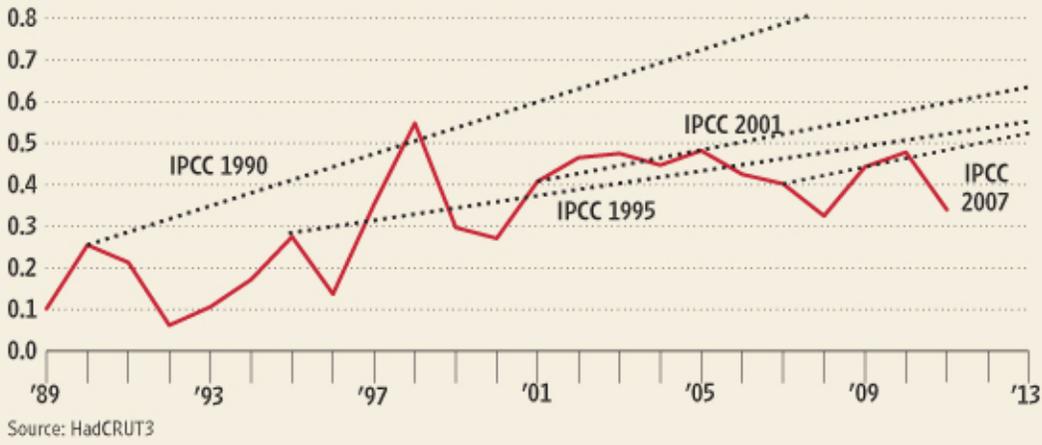
In summary, science progresses by testing predictions against real world data obtained from direct observations and rigorous experiments. The stakes in the global-warming debate are much too high to ignore this observational evidence and declare the science settled. Though there are many more scientists who are extremely well qualified and have reached the same conclusions we have, we stress again that science is not a democratic exercise and our conclusions must be based on observational evidence.

The computer-model predictions of alarming global warming have seriously exaggerated the warming by CO₂ and have underestimated other causes. Since CO₂ is not a pollutant but a substantial benefit to agriculture, and since its warming potential has been greatly exaggerated, it is time for the world to rethink its frenzied pursuit of decarbonization at any cost.

Claude Allegre, former director of the Institute for the Study of the Earth, University of Paris; J. Scott Armstrong, cofounder of the Journal of Forecasting and the International Journal of Forecasting; Jan Breslow, head of the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics and Metabolism, Rockefeller University; Roger Cohen, fellow, American Physical Society; Edward David, member, National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Sciences; William Happer, professor of physics, Princeton; Michael Kelly, professor of technology, University of Cambridge, U.K.; William Kininmonth, former head of climate research at the Australian Bureau of Meteorology; Richard Lindzen, professor of atmospheric sciences, MIT; James McGrath, professor of chemistry, Virginia Technical University; Rodney Nichols, former president and CEO of the New York Academy of Sciences; Burt Rutan, aerospace engineer, designer of Voyager and SpaceShipOne; Harrison H. Schmitt, Apollo 17 astronaut and former U.S. senator; Nir Shaviv, professor of astrophysics, Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Henk Tennekes, former director, Royal Dutch Meteorological Service; Antonino Zichichi, president of the World Federation of Scientists, Geneva.

Reality Versus Alarm

Surface global temperature shift, in degrees Celsius, vs IPCC projections, 1989-2011



4. The Not-So-Vast Conspiracy

Stolen documents show the tiny budget of global warming skeptics.

Editorial, WSJ, Europe, Feb 21, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204909104577233191850812630.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

When did it become received media wisdom that global warming skepticism was all the work of shadowy right-wing groups lavishly funded by oil companies? As best we can tell, it started with a 1995 Harper's magazine article claiming to expose this "high-powered engine of disinformation." Today anyone who raises a doubt about the causes of global warming is accused of fronting for, say, Exxon, whatever the facts.

Now comes a rare glimpse inside the allegedly antiscience behemoth, with the online publication last week of documents purloined from the conservative Heartland Institute. The files appear to contain detailed financial, donor and personnel information and outline the think-tank's projects. Chicago-based Heartland says one of the documents is fake and warns that others may have been altered.

Given the coverage the story has generated, you'd think some vast conspiracy had been uncovered. Heartland is, according to the Associated Press, "one of the loudest voices denying human-caused global warming, hosting the largest international scientific conference of skeptics on climate change." The Vancouver Sun reports that it is "heavily funded by right-wing industrialist Charles Koch," while the Virginian-Pilot dubs it "the ideological center of the denial movement."

So how flush is Heartland? The documents show the group is expecting revenues of \$7.7 million this year, mostly from private donations and grants. Mr. Koch's "heavy" funding came to \$25,000 in 2011, though the Heartland "Fundraising Plan" has it hoping for an increase in 2012. To put those numbers in not-for-profit perspective, last year the Natural Resources Defense Council reported \$95.4 million in operating revenues, while the World Wildlife Fund took in \$238.5 million.

Press coverage has focused in particular on Heartland's plans to produce and distribute "educational material suitable for K-12 students on global warming that isn't alarmist or overtly political." Heartland is

budgeting \$200,000 this year for the effort, which in the past has "had only limited success," per one of the documents. Little wonder if teachers aren't returning Heartland's calls: Last year the World Wildlife Fund spent \$68.5 million on "public education" alone.

As for "the largest international scientific conference of skeptics," Heartland will, according to the documents, spend all of \$388,000 this year on the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change. That's against the \$6.5 million that the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change costs Western taxpayers annually, and the \$2.6 billion the White House wants to spend next year on research into "the global changes that have resulted primarily from global over-dependence on fossil fuels."

In the pages of Rolling Stone last summer, Al Gore warned of the "Polluters and Ideologues [sic] spending hundreds of millions of dollars each year on misleading advertisements in the mass media." He had the wrong spenders.

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