

The Week That Was: 2012-04-07 (April 7, 2012)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week:

"Man, once surrendering his reason, has no remaining guard against absurdities the most monstrous, and like a ship without rudder, is the sport of every wind. With such persons, gullibility, which they call faith, takes the helm from the hand of reason and the mind becomes a wreck." --Thomas Jefferson, letter to James Smith, 1822

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Number of the Week: \$3,736,600,437 US

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THIS WEEK:

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

Heartland Conference: The Heartland Institute's Seventh International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC-7) will take place in Chicago, Illinois from Monday, May 21 to Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at the Hilton Chicago Hotel, 720 South Michigan Avenue. The event will follow the NATO Summit taking place in Chicago on May 19–21. The Theme is Real Science, Real Choices. Open to the public, registration is required. <http://climateconference.heartland.org/>

Importance of Heartland: Hurricane expert Bill Gray pays homage to the excellent efforts of Heartland to bring together diverse experts who have observed and written for years about climate change and weather events, in Gray's case 60 years, and were repulsed by the monolithic thinking that went into the reports of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, with which they disagreed. The conferences sponsored by Heartland gave an opportunity for the experts to meet and discuss their ideas. Not everyone agrees as to the principal causes of global warming / climate change, nor should they because the science is far from established. But most agree that the principal cause is not carbon dioxide emissions but natural phenomena that may be internal to the earth or external, such as the sun, or a combination of such phenomena.

A reading of the general reports on climate science is demonstrating a slight shift in the thinking of some in the orthodoxy. They earlier dismissed any other possible influences on global warming other than a slight increase in solar irradiance (visible light). Now some orthodox researchers are admitting other possible causes, previously dismissed. However these causes are dismissed as background noise distorting the "true signal" of carbon dioxide emissions. Heartland conferences and the NIPCC reports have been vital to creating this small, but perceptible, shift in thinking. Perhaps that is why Peter Gleick was willing to act as he did and why so many global warming advocates praised him for obtaining confidential records under false pretences and suspected of falsifying some of them.

Heartland has reported that the General Motors Foundation has withdrawn support of Heartland's activities which has been ongoing for some 20 years. Please see link under: "Challenging the Orthodoxy" and the "Gleick Affair."

Public Debate: In a refreshing change, two public debates are ongoing between global warming advocates and skeptics. One debate is taking place in the progressive, highly influential, *New York Review of Books*. Skeptics Roger Cohen, Will Happer, and Richard Lindzen have challenged noted economist William Nordhaus on his article in the *Review* "Why the Global Warming Skeptics Are Wrong." To this commentator, who is admittedly not an outside observer, the skeptics seem to have the upper hand by principally relying on observations while it appears that Nordhaus has been forced to rely more on the logical fallacy, argument from authority, using the IPCC and its incorrect findings and failing models. He

brings up melting glaciers are causing rising sea levels, which the GRACE satellites has shown is not significant.

The second debate focuses on Richard Lindzen's address to the House of Commons, where his challengers assert that Lindzen made certain errors and is too confident that a doubling of CO₂ will produce a warming no more than 1.2 deg. C. Uncertainty is a major issue. The certainty expressed in the IPCC reports is not being borne out by nature.

Such public debates are a welcome change and indicate that, to some, though not totally legitimate, global warming skepticism is no longer a completely bastard child of science. Please see links under "Seeking a Common Ground."

Bureaucratic Science: Climate alarmists rely on ignorance, not knowledge. They may use selected facts, but avoid the full discussion of the issue. Special interest groups have often used ignorance to raise money to advance their cause. We are increasingly seeing government agencies using ignorance and fear to advance specific political policies, policies which are destructive to the general public. This Bureaucratic Science was prevalent in the March, 2012 reports by CSIRO/BOM [Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation/Bureau of Meteorology] and the Climate Commission of Australia.

Fortunately, several very able scientists are exposing the ignorance reflected in these government publications. Detailed exposés by Carter, Evans, Franks, and Kininmonth appeared in *Quadrant* and a separate one by Ollier appeared in *Watts Up With That*. Please see links under "Challenging the Orthodoxy."

CO₂ and the End of the Ice Age: A new study published in *Nature* states that for much of the globe, for the period 20,000 to 10,000 years ago, increases in CO₂ preceded increases in temperatures, which is contrary to what is found in the Antarctic ice cores. The study suggests that CO₂ is the primary driving force for the end of the ice age, which is being trumpeted by the popular press including BBC. The study is based on proxy data found in several parts of the world other than Antarctica.

After the peak of the Ice Age, oceans released CO₂, a greenhouse gas, and with increasing concentrations of atmospheric CO₂ enhanced the warming. However, it is a huge jump to conclude that whatever the initial trigger of warming, it was CO₂ that ended the last Ice Age. Among other issues, atmospheric CO₂ concentrations do not explain the changes in temperatures over the past 10,000 years.

More importantly, the conclusions reached from the study have a huge logical omission. If higher levels of CO₂ are sufficient to end the last Ice Age, what causes the onset of Ice Ages when CO₂ concentrations were as high or higher?

If CO₂ concentrations are sufficient to end or stop ice ages, this should be a period of rejoicing. There would be no climate periods so hostile to modern humanity than the ice ages that the earth experienced over the past 2.5 million year . Please see links under "Changing Climate."

Sea Temperatures: A letter published in *Nature Climate Change* from the Scripps Institute asserts that ocean temperatures down to 700 meters (3000 feet) have been increasing since for 132 years. The assumed baseline temperature is established by the voyage of a single sailing ship from 1872 to 1876 using, at that time, the finest scientific instruments. About 300 measurements were taken and not all at the significant depth. Obviously, the paucity of data is a huge issue. Comparing these data with data from about 3,500 advanced Argo floats systematically taking measurements to a depth of 700 meters is highly questionable.

A similar question can be asked concerning surface temperature measurements. How can these data going back to 1850 be compared with satellite measurements starting in 1979? Of course, the IPCC, and others, ignore the satellite data and the difference has not been addressed

But, at least, in the early ocean measurements and the early land surface measurements, an effort was made to establish a baseline using measurements from the best instruments available at that time. In the so called “ocean acidification” issue, there are no baseline measurements. It is all conjecture and the issue should be treated as such. (The proponents claim the pH of the ocean surfaces has been reduced since the beginning of the industrial revolution, about 1750; yet, the concept of pH was not introduced until 1909.

Of course, the Scripps letter, scanty on details, was followed up by reports as if it was definitive. Please see links under “Changing Seas.”

Professor Bernard L. Cohen – RIP: A towering figure in Physics died on March 17. Professor Cohen (University of Pittsburgh) long challenged the orthodoxy on numerous policy issues, basing his opposition on science and careful calculations. Using sea water as a basis, he calculated the earth contained sufficient uranium in its crust to provide energy for humanity for about 5 billion years – as long as the sun.

<http://www-formal.stanford.edu/jmc/progress/cohen.html>.

Neil Craig writes that Professor Cohen was responsible for broadest study of radon in the US covering over one-half of the US counties and over 90% of the population. The conclusion was that radon exposure was inversely related to deaths from lung cancer, and the EPA’s Linear No Threshold (LNT) model for radiation exposure was false. In recent months it has been demonstrated that those asserting the LNT for radiation exposure manipulated the data.

In his book on nuclear power, Professor Cohen asserted the cost of nuclear power plants was artificially raised by many multiples through needless government regulation. <http://www.phyast.pitt.edu/~blc/book/>

When Ralph Nader was foolishly proclaiming plutonium was the most toxic substance on earth, Professor Cohen challenged him stating he would eat as much plutonium as Nader would eat pure caffeine. Nader declined.

Please see: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/obituaries/obituary-bernard-l-cohen-noted-physicist-and-pitt-professor-never-wanted-to-stop-learning-628626/> and
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernard_Cohen_%28physicist%29. SEPP Thanks Neil Craig for informing us of Professor Cohen’s passing and suggesting a brief obituary.

Mercury: The EPA and its allies have made significant claims concerning the dangers of mercury from coal fired power plants. However, as Willis Eschenbach points out in Watts Up With That, there seems to be a disconnect between EPA claims and actual mercury measurements in the US. The National Atmospheric Deposition Program at the University of Illinois publishes annual maps on both atmospheric concentrations of mercury and the wet deposition of mercury (falling out with precipitation). If mercury from coal fired power plants is a major public health concern, one would expect to see atmospheric mercury concentrations and mercury deposition downwind of the major coal fired power plants. This is not the case as one can easily see from the maps. For example, one would expect to see heavy concentrations in Pennsylvania which is downwind from the heavy concentration of coal fired power plants in the Ohio Valley. It appears that, as with carbon dioxide, mercury from power plants is not a public health issue but an excuse for EPA and its allies to close down an industry it does not like. For the data and the maps please see: <http://nadp.isws.illinois.edu/MDN/annualmdnmaps.aspx>. For a possible explanation and maps please see the link by Willis Eschenbach under “EPA and other Regulators on the March.”

Number of the Week: \$3,736,600,437 US. According to EPA records, over the past 10 years (accessed April 8, 2012) it has awarded grants amounting to \$3,736,600,437 to non-profit organizations. Many of the organizations perform notable service; others are environmental or similar organizations that promote the EPA and its activities. For example, SEPP calculated that the American Lung Association (ALA), and associated branches, received a total \$26,322,104 from the EPA during the period to March 27, 2012.

ALA has been an extreme advocate of promoting EPA regulations on many issues such as radon and coal-fired power plants. In the 2010 election, the ALA ran blatantly deceptive ads against members of Congress that questioned the latest EPA regulations on coal-fired power plants, including billboards depicting babies wearing gas masks. If private organizations giving donations to those challenging the highly questionable climate science is objectionable, EPA grants of public funds to politically active organizations is far more objectionable. http://yosemite.epa.gov/oarm/igms_egf.nsf/Reports/Non-Profit%20Grants!OpenView&Start=1

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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. Climategate Heads to Court

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Apr 5, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/04/climategate_heads_to_court.html

2. California's Crazy Dream

By Allyria Finley, WSJ, Apr 5, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303302504577324140240708580.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTThirdBucket

3. EPA Backpedals on Fracking Contamination

Texas Water-Pollution Suit Dropped; Third Recent Setback on Drilling for Agency

By Daniel Gilbert and Russell Gold, WSJ, Mar 31, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303404704577313741463447670.html>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

US integrity effort hits troubled water

Allegations by integrity officer who lost his job are a setback for plan to quash political inference in science.

By Eugenie Samuel Reich, Nature, Apr 3, 2012

<http://www.nature.com/news/us-integrity-effort-hits-troubled-water-1.10387>

Be Careful What You Wish For

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Apr 4, 2012

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2012/04/be-careful-what-you-wish-for.html>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Homage to the Heartland Institute

By Dr. Bill Gray, ICECAP, Apr 4, 2012

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/homage_to_the_heartland_institute/

What's wrong with the science?

Analysis of March, 2012, reports by CSIRO/BOM and the Climate Commission

By Bob Carter, David Evans, Stewart Franks & William Kininmonth, Quadrant, Apr 5, 2012

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2012/04/what-s-wrong-with-the-science>

Our analysis finds no evidence that dangerous global warming is occurring; nor that human carbon dioxide emissions will cause such warming in future; nor that recent Australian climate-related events lay outside normal climate variability; nor that reducing carbon dioxide emissions will have any discernible impact on future climate.

Vested interests drive climate change

Where does government derive its advice from about climate change?

By Bob Carter, David Evans, Stewart Franks & William Kininmonth, Quadrant, Apr 4, 2012

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2012/04/bob-carter>

As urged by many independent scientists, and in line with Robert McClelland's analysis, climate hazard policies should have as their focus the preparation for, and adaptation to, all climate hazards - howsoever they might be caused.

Extreme cures for extreme sea level projections

By Cliff Ollier, WUWT, Apr 1, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/01/extreme-cures-for-extreme-sea-level-projections/>

[SEPP Comment: *Extremism in global warming / climate change projections leads to extremism in government controls.*]

Ignoring their own experts

The recent climate report from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and CSIRO was remarkable more for what it didn't say than for what it did.

By John McLean, Quadrant, Apr 2, 2012

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2012/04/ignoring-their-own-experts>

New U.S. Population-Adjusted Temperature Dataset (PDAT), 1973-2012

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Apr 5, 2012

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/04/new-u-s-population-adjusted-temperature-dataset-pdat-1973-2012/>

[SEPP Comment: *An analysis of the contiguous US using the International Surface Hourly Stations Changes in population density, as a proxy for the Urban Heat Island effect, may explain most of the observed warming trend.*]

Defending the Orthodoxy

Global warming preceded by increasing carbon dioxide concentrations during the last deglaciation

By Shakun, et al. Nature, April 5, 2012

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v484/n7392/full/nature10915.html>

A reply to Shakun et al – Dr. Munchausen Explains Science By Proxy

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Apr 6, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/06/a-reply-shakun-et-al-dr-munchausen-explains-science-by-proxy/#more-60802>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Thawing permafrost 50 million years ago led to global warming events

By Staff Writers, Amherst, MA (SPX), Apr 05, 2012

http://www.terrardaily.com/reports/Thawing_permafrost_50_million_years_ago_led_to_global_warming_events_999.html

Questioning the Orthodoxy

The Self-Regulation Of The Boreal Forest Tree Line – Another Climate Issue That Was Inadequately Examined In The 2007 IPCC Reports

By Roger Pielke Sr, Climate Science, Apr 6, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/04/06/the-self-regulation-of-the-boreal-forest-tree-line-another-climate-issue-that-was-inadequately-examined-in-the-2007-ipcc-reports/>

[SEPP Comment: The North American Boreal Forests, which were 100 to 200 miles further north about 5000 years ago, are not advancing as predicted by the IPCC AR4.]

The end of the Global Warming Scare would look a lot like this

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Apr 4, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/04/the-end-of-the-global-warming-scare-would-look-a-lot-like-this/#more-21221>

The Utter Desperation of Global Warmists

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Apr 5, 2012

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2012/04/utter-desperation-of-global-warmists.html>

Questioning European Green

Green debate in Europe has reached 'deadlock'

By Benny Peiser, Public Service Europe, Mar 28, 2012

<http://www.publicserviceeurope.com/article/1723/green-debate-in-europe-has-reached-deadlock>

[SEPP Comment: Economic reality confronts environmental idealism.]

European climate policy in disarray as carbon crashes

By David Thorpe, Energy and Environment Management, Apr 3, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.eaem.co.uk/news/european-climate-policy-disarray-carbon-crashes>

Bankruptcies Have German Solar on the Ropes

By Stefan Schultz, Der Spiegel, Apr 3, 2012

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/0,1518,825490,00.html>

[SEPP Comment: A sobering thought for those who proclaim the great success of the German solar program. Is this bankruptcy the new measurement of success?]

German Solar Subsidy Slash Prompts New Spate of Solar Bankruptcies

By Staff Writers, Power News, Apr 5, 2012

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4518.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2418271&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e660500d0

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Ontario's Power Trip: The great electricity bill cover-up

Ontarians will pay \$319 more per year for green energy soon — despite government denials

By Bruce Sharp, Financial Post, Apr 4, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/04/04/ontarios-power-trip-the-great-electricity-bill-cover-up/>

Australia's Solar Dawn in limbo

By Staff Writers, Brisbane, Australia (UPI) Mar 29, 2012

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Australias_Solar_Dawn_in_limbo_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A large facility to produce little.]

Expanding the Orthodoxy

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's climate projects - document

The full list of the FCO's projects in six countries, excluding some details on Russia and China which it withheld on the grounds it would be 'prejudicial to international relations', is published here

By Staff Writers, Guardian, UK, Apr 3, 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/interactive/2012/apr/03/fco-climate-projects>

[SEPP Comment: 25 pages of programs. 7 projects specifically to influence US policy totaling £389,853, projects in Russia totaled £671,515. Spreading money to buy influence, is this what the Russians and Americans were accused of doing during the Cold War.]

Rick Perry criticises UK initiative to influence US climate sceptics

The governor says the UK government was 'misdirected' to try to 'educate' policymakers and 'move them from a state of denial'

By Leo Hickman, Guardian, UK, Apr 3, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/apr/03/rick-perry-climate-sceptic-policymakers>

Rio + 20 – World Control?

This week's Planet Under Pressure conference in London set in motion how green activists will attempt to stop economic growth around the world.

Commentator, Mar 31, 2012

http://www.thecommentator.com/article/1053/growth_under_pressure_london_s_green_conference_this_week_advocated_non_growth_economic_models

Planet under Pressure conference, London: Final statement

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Apr 2, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/02/planet-under-pressure-conference-london-final-statement/>

Reemergence of the Neo-Malthusians

By Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus, Roger Pielke, Jr's Blog, Apr 3, 2012

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2012/04/reemergence-of-neo-malthusians-guest.html>

[SEPP Comment: What to expect from Rio + 20 – more proclamations of limits to growth that ignore human innovation and imprison human minds.]

Get ready for the Rio Happiness Summit

By Terence Corcoran, Financial Post, Apr 2, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/04/02/terence-corcoran-are-you-happier-than-this-woman/>

[SEPP Comment: Rather than Gross Domestic Product, the goal of Rio+20 is Gross National Happiness as determined by those who wish to control humanity.]

Problems within the Orthodoxy

How Green Gullibility, Hyperpartisanship Are Wrecking The Climate Movement

By Walter Russell Mead, American Interest, Mar 24, 2012

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/03/24/how-green-gullibility-hyperpartisanship-are-wrecking-the-climate-movement/>

Abrupt climate-change reversal

New U.N. report blows cold on human causes for weather extremes

Editorial, Washington Times, Apr 2, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/apr/2/abrupt-climate-change-reversal/>

The Gleick Affair

Heartland Institute Responds to General Motors' Decision to Pull Funding

By Jim Lakely, Fakigate.org, Mar 30, 2012

<http://fakigate.org/heartland-institute-responds-to-general-motors-decision-to-pull-funding/#more-471>

Update on Fakigate – what we know so far

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Apr 3, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/03/update-on-fakigate-what-we-know-so-far/>

Fakigate: The War on Science

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Apr 3, 2012

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2012/04/fakigate-war-on-science.html>

Seeking a Common Ground

In the Climate Casino: An Exchange

In Response To: Why the Global Warming Skeptics Are Wrong? Mar 22, 2012

Roger W. Cohen, William Happer, and Richard Lindzen, reply by William D. Nordhaus, New York

Review of Books, Apr 26, 2012

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2012/apr/26/climate-casino-exchange/>

Lindzen et al.: response and parry

By Judith Curry, Climate, Etc, Apr 4, 2012

<http://judithcurry.com/2012/04/04/lindzen-et-al-response-and-parry/#more-7943>

Who has Authority in Political Debates Involving Science?

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Apr 2, 2012

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2012/04/who-has-authority-in-political-debates.html>

[SEPP Comment: Demands by alarmists for authoritarian government to address climate change may be undermining scientific institutions.]

Are Some Climate Scientists and Program Managers at NSF Gaming the System With Respect To Providing Inadequately Assessed Multi-Decadal Predictions Of Changes In Climate Statistics to The Impacts Community?

By Roger Pielke Sr, Climate Science, Apr 2, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/04/02/climate-scientists-and-some-funding-program-managers-at-nsf-are-gaming-the-system-with-respect-to-providing-multi-dacadal-predictions-of-changes-in-climate-statistics-to-the-impacts-community/>

“This lack of accountability with federally supported NSF should be of concern to everyone, regardless of your perspective on the climate science issue.”

“Until and unless a new direction that is actually based on the scientific method is introduced, we will continue to see this abuse of their positions (and waste of funds) as stewards of funding scientific research.”

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

An Interview with an Activist Journalist

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Apr 3, 2012

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2012/04/interview-with-activist-journalist.html>

[SEPP Comments: Pielke’s views on Justin Gillis who covers global warming for the New York Times.]

UN Climate Panel and Extreme Weather

By Dennis Avery, SPPI, Apr 2, 2012

<http://sppiblog.org/news/un-climate-panel-and-extreme-weather#more-7422>

[SEPP Comment: According to Avery, the IPCC should find less extreme weather with warming rather than its bureaucratic finding that it cannot support more extreme weather.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up or go Personal

Climate Change Skepticism a Sickness That Must be “Treated,” Says Professor

Global warming alarmist equates climate denial with racism

By Paul Joseph Watson, Inforwars, Mar 30, 2012

<http://www.infowars.com/climate-change-skepticism-a-sickness-that-must-be-treated-says-professor/>

Healthy polar bear count confounds doomsayers

By Paul Waldie, Globe and Mail, CA, April 5, 2012

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/healthy-polar-bear-count-confounds-doomsayers/article2392523/>

[SEPP Comment: The claim that polar bears are threatened is a pure fabrication.]

Science under fire from 'merchants of doubt': US historian

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Mar 29, 2012

http://www.terrordaily.com/reports/Science_under_fire_from_merchants_of_doubt_US_historian_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A tobacco company internal memo proves that global warming skeptics are driven by “outside money.” Co-author Erik Conway, a historian of the California Institute of Technology, must be creating an imaginative history for that institution.]

“A disservice to the scientific method”: climate scientists take on Richard Lindzen

By Verity Payne, The Carbon Brief, Apr 4, 2012

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2012/04/climate-scientists-take-on-lindzen>

Nasa scientist: climate change is a moral issue on a par with slavery

Prof Jim Hansen to use lecture at Edinburgh International Science Festival to call for worldwide tax on all carbon emissions

By Severin Carrell Guardian, UK, Apr 6, 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/apr/06/nasa-scientist-climate-change?newsfeed=true>

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the article, generally papers in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences are not subject to peer review.]

Changing Weather

Rebuttal to HUFFPO and Paul Douglas

By Joseph D’Aleo, ICECAP, Apr 1, 2012

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

Meteorological March Madness

By Judith Curry, Climate, Etc, Apr 2, 2012

<http://judithcurry.com/2012/04/02/meteorological-march-madness/#more-7924>

March Global Warmth Centered on Des Moines

U.S. hits record highs in March, Iowa is ‘warmest’ place on Earth

By Joe D’Aleo, Weatherbell Analytics, Apr 3, 2012

<http://www.weatherbell.com/weather-news/march-global-warmth-centered-on-des-moines/>

US forecasters see drop in 2012 Atlantic hurricanes

By Staff Writers, Miami (AFP), April 4, 2012

http://www.terrardaily.com/reports/US_forecasters_see_drop_in_2012_Atlantic_hurricanes_999.html

Changing Climate

CO2 'drove end to last ice age'

A new, detailed record of past climate change provides compelling evidence that the last ice age was ended by a rise in temperature driven by an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide.

By Jonathan Amos, BBC, Apr 4, 2012 [H/t Tom Rolfe]

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17611404>

Rising CO2 levels linked to global warming during last deglaciation

By Staff Writers, Corvallis, OR (SPX) Apr 05, 2012

http://www.terrardaily.com/reports/Rising_CO2_levels_linked_to_global_warming_during_last_deglaciation_999.html

Changing Seas

135 years of global ocean warming between the Challenger expedition and the Argo Programme

Letter by Roemmich, et al, Nature Climate Change, Apr 1, 2012

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1461.html>

135 Years of Records Reveals Deep Ocean Warming

The ocean surface is warming. Using records going back more than a century to the British Challenger expedition, researchers calculate that the deep ocean is experiencing its own temperature rise.

By David Beillo, Scientific American, Apr 1, 2012

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/podcast/episode.cfm?id=135-years-of-records-reveals-deep-o-12-04-01>

Comments On The Scientific American Article “135 Years of Records Reveals Deep Ocean Warming”

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Climate Science, Apr 3, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/04/03/comments-on-the-scientific-american-article-135-years-of-records-reveals-deep-ocean-warming/>

New comparison of ocean temperatures reveals rise over the last century

By Staff Writers, San Diego CA (SPX), Apr 04, 2012

http://www.terrardaily.com/reports/New_comparison_of_ocean_temperatures_reveals_rise_over_the_last_century_999.html

Global warming began in oceans 135 years ago, suggests study

A study of temperature recordings from the 1870s suggests that the oceans began warming more than 100 years ago, much earlier than previously believed.

By Joseph Castro, Christian Science Monitor, April 2, 2012 [H/t Warren Wetmore]

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2012/0402/Global-warming-began-in-oceans-135-years-ago-suggests-study>

Changing Sea Ice

Recovery in Arctic sea ice continues

Arctic sea ice has staged a strong recovery in the last few weeks, reaching levels not far from normal for this time of the year.

By Paul Hudson, BBC, Mar 21, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/paulhudson/2012/03/recovery-in-arctic-sea-ice-con.shtml>

[SEPP Comment: *Changes in prevailing winds, not climate change, are now revealed as being the major cause of loss of ice in 2007.*]

More crack in the Antarctic

Satellite observes rapid ice shelf disintegration in Antarctic

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Apr 5, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/05/more-crack-in-the-antarctic/#more-60787>

[SEPP Comment: *Some of the problems in the claim that global warming is the cause include overall Antarctic sea ice is expanding, the continent is cooling, and the area of focus is subject to changing ocean currents.*]

Agriculture, Fishing Issues & Fear of Famine

Gray seals consume as much fish as the fishing industry catches

By Staff Writers

Gothenburg, Sweden (SPX) Apr 04, 2012

http://www.terrordaily.com/reports/Gray_seals_consume_as_much_fish_as_the_fishing_industry_catches_999.html

[SEPP Comment: *Man v. seal*]

Is rainfall a greater threat to China's agriculture than warming?

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Apr 05, 2012

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Is_rainfall_a_greater_threat_to_China_agriculture_than_warming_999.html

[SEPP Comment: *Extreme warming as projected by IPCC models may not be disastrous for agriculture in China.*]

The Political Games Continue

GOP is MIA on EPA overreach

By Steve Milloy, Washington Times, Mar 29, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/mar/29/obama-kills-coal-as-promised-549931458/>

Killing Green Jobs: Labor Takes Axe To Climate Bureaucrats

THE Department of Climate Change will scrap up to 300 jobs - one-third of its workforce - as the Gillard government clamps down on spending in its effort to return the budget to surplus.

By Matthew Franklin, The Australian, Apr 4, 2012

<http://thegwpf.org/international-news/5382-killing-green-jobs-labor-takes-axe-to-climate-bureaucrats.html>

[SEPP Comment: *The full article in the Australian is behind a paywall.*]

Litigation Issues

Federal Court Vacates EPA's Disapproval of Texas SIP Plan

By Staff Writers, Power News, Apr 5, 2012

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4521.html?hq_e=e&hq_m=2418271&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Why mitigating CO2 emissions is cost-ineffective

By Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, WUWT, Apr 4, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/04/why-mitigating-co2-emissions-is-cost-ineffective/>

France Calls For Retreat On EU Carbon Tax

By Adam Sage, The Times, Apr 6, 2012

<http://thegwpf.org/international-news/5391-france-calls-for-retreat-on-eu-carbon-tax.html>

[SEPP Comment: *The proposed airline tax is hurting the European aircraft company Airbus.*]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

The Law that Prevents Cheap Fuel for America

By James Burgess, Oil Price.com, Apr 5, 2012

<http://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/The-Law-that-Prevents-Cheap-Fuel-for-America.html>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Mercury, the Trickster God

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Apr 1, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/01/mercury-the-trickster-god/>

EPA's Math: Coal Regs = Coal Jobs

By David Bier, Global Warming, Apr 3, 2012

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2012/04/03/epas-math-coal-reg-coal-jobs/>

EPA's "Carbon Pollution" Standard for Power Plants: Four Ways Weird

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Mar 28, 2012

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2012/03/28/weird-regulation-epas-co2-standards-for-power-plants/>

EPA's War Against CO2

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Apr 6, 2012

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2012/04/06/epas-war-against-co2/>

The EPA's (very small) step on carbon emissions

Editorial, Washington Post, Mar 31, 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-epas-very-small-step-on-carbon-emissions/2012/03/31/gIQAm6hpns_story.html

Cleaner Fuels, Cleaner Cars

Editorial, NYT, Apr 4, 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/05/opinion/cleaner-fuels-cleaner-cars.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20120405

Environment advisory board death may lead to echo chamber: Former climate research head

Feds say other services, think tanks, universities provide same expertise.

By Sneh Duggal, Embassy, CAN, Apr 4, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.embassymag.ca/page/view/echo-04-04-2012>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Northern Gateway no shoo-in

The Conservatives might be wise not to appear to force ‘closure’ on hearings into oil sands pipeline to the West Coast

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Apr 3, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/04/03/peter-foster-northern-gateway-no-shoo-in/>

[SEPP Comment: Moving massive amounts of oil from Alberta to areas where demanded has become a herculean task thanks to the environmental industry and its politicians.]

It's finally coming: the great European gas market transformation

By Karel Beckman, European Energy Review, Apr 5, 2012

http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id_mailing=264&toegang=d6baf65e0b240ce177cf70da146c8dc8&id=3631

[SEPP Comment: The EU is trying to shift from long term bilateral contracts to integrated wholesale markets using trading hubs and based on short term contracts. Can this be successful considering Russia is the dominant supplier to the EU?]

Energy Issues -- US

Big Oil, Big Profits, Big Green Lies

By Peter C Glover, Energy Tribune, Apr 5, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/10272/Big-Oil-Big-Profits-Big-Green-Lies>

[SEPP Comment: Although the numbers are huge, the profit margins on revenue in the oil industry are quite low.]

The EPA Triples Down On 'None of the Above' Energy Policy

By James Taylor, Forbes, Mar 28, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2012/03/28/the-epa-triples-down-on-none-of-the-above-energy-policy/>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Forget Wind: Time for Britain to Get Fracking

By Patrick Heren, Standpoint, Apr 2012

<http://www.standpointmag.co.uk/features-april-12-forget-wind-time-for-britain-to-get-fracking-patrick-heren-shale-gas-decc-fylde-gas>

[SEPP Comment: Map of British shale deposits with natural gas potential.]

Fracking Good News: American Energy Stepping Up

By Steve Everley, Master Resource, Apr 6, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/04/good-frac-news/#more-19452>

[SEPP Comment: Positive developments over alarmist claims of danger of hydraulic fracturing.]

The coming battle over natural gas

By Yadullah Hussain, Financial Post, Apr 4, 2012

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/04/04/natural-gas-battle-set-to-heat-up-between-canada-and-u-s/>

[SEPP Comment: A battle between Canadian and US producers – who would have dreamed of it?]

US Administration's Control of Oil and Gas

Truth about Obama's energy claims

President asserts oil is gushing while he stands on the hose

By Sen. David Vitter, Washington Times, Apr 2, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/apr/2/truth-about-obamas-energy-claims/>

The White House's War Against U.S. Fossil Fuels

By Thomas Hemphill and Mark Perry, IBD, Apr 2, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/Article.aspx?id=606434&p=1&ibdbot=1>

There Goes Obama Again, Misleading About The Energy Industry

By Lawrence Kudlow, Mar 30, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/article/606251/201203301828/obama-hates-fossil-fuels-favors-income-redistribution.htm>

Return of King Coal?

War on coal escalates

Obama emissions rules impose real costs with illusory health benefits

By Iain Murray, Washington Times, Mar 30, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/mar/30/war-on-coal-escalates/>

[SEPP Comment: According to the latest EIA publication, coal fired power plants generate about 42 percent of US electricity.]

It's Not 'All of the Above' After All

Obama's pointless war on coal

By Robert Bryce, National Review, Apr 5, 2012

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/295321/it-s-not-all-above-after-all-robert-bryce>

Breaking OPEC's growing stranglehold with coal

By Frank Clemente, Energy Facts Weekly, Apr 4, 2012

<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=29bc7d5d85828d574f86c157a&id=deb0ea0b0e&e=>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Total losing \$2.5 mln a day from North Sea gas leak rig

By Staff Writers, London (AFP) April 2, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Total losing 25 mln a day from North Sea gas leak rig 999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Total%20losing%2025%20mln%20a%20day%20from%20North%20Sea%20gas%20leak%20rig%20999.html)

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Wind Falls: Wind power is too costly, inefficient, and won't stop climate change.

By Bjørn Lomborg, Project Syndicate, Mar 21, 2012 [H/t John Droz, Jr.]

http://www.slate.com/articles/technology/project_syndicate/2012/03/lomborg_wind_power_is Cheap_Only_compared_with_other_alternative_energies.single.html

Massachusetts' Affordable Energy Prospects Are Blowing In the Wind

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Apr 3, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/04/03/massachusetts-affordable-energy-prospects-are-blowing-in-the-wind/>

How shale is trumping renewable

By Sunil Sharan, Financial Post, Mar 30, 2012

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/03/30/how-shale-is-trumping-renewables/>

World's Largest Solar Plant, With Second Largest Ever Department of Energy Loan Guarantee, Files For Bankruptcy

By Tyler Durden, Zero Hedge, Apr 2, 2012 [H/t John Droz, Jr.]

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/worlds-largest-solar-plant-21-billion-energy-department-loan-guarantee-files-bankruptcy>

[SEPP Comment: The bankruptcy filings of the parent companies in Germany results in bankruptcy filings of the subsidiary in the US. The largest loan guarantee is over \$8 Billion for two AP 1000 nuclear plants to be built in Georgia, which should produce many times the energy than this solar plant and do so reliably.]

President Obama's Green Energy Problems Continue To Escalate

Editorial, IBD, Apr 3, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/article/606640/201204031900/two-more-green-energy-companies-in-trouble.htm?>

Advanced power-grid research finds low-cost, low-carbon future in West

By Staff Writers, Berkeley CA (SPX), Apr 04, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Advanced_power_grid_research_finds_low_cost_low_carbon_future_in_West_999.html

[SEPP Comment: *If we punish ourselves sufficiently, the world will be saved. It is not clear if the study included the high cost of back-up of wind and solar, which results in small reductions of carbon dioxide emissions, at best.*]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Other

Market For Deep Ocean Energy Heats Up

By David Ferris, Forbes, Mar 31, 2012 [H/t Warren Wetmore]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/davidferris/2012/03/31/market-for-deep-ocean-energy-starts-to-heat-up/>

Fisker's Bad Karma

By Isaac Martin. American Thinker, Apr 6, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/03/fiskers_bad_karma.html

Taxpayers' \$1.4B ‘Investment’ in Nissan EV May Make Volt Look Good by Comparison

By Paul Chesser, NLPC, Apr 6, 2012 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2012/04/06/taxpayers-14b-investment-nissan-ev-may-make-volt-look-good-comparison>

California Dreaming

California Cap-and-Trade: Making Ourselves Poorer and ‘Dirtier’ (Part 2)

By Tom Tanton, Master Resource, Apr 4, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/04/california-cap-trade-poorer-dirtier/#more-19480>

[SEPP Comment: Questioning the effectiveness of cap-and-trade policies, including the economic decline of California.]

The ugly battle between rural residents and alternative energy mandates in California

By Alec Rawls, WUWT, Apr 6, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/04/06/the-ugly-battle-between-rural-residents-and-alternative-energy-mandates-in-california/#more-60851>

[SEPP Comment: *Condemning the homes of people in areas desired for alternative energy.*]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

One Hundred Years of Global Temperature Change: 1906-2005

Reference: Ludecke, H.-J., Link, R. and Ewert, F.-K. 2011. How natural is the recent centennial warming? An analysis of 2249 surface temperature records. *International Journal of Modern Physics C* 22: 10.1142/S0129183111016798.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/apr/3apr2012a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: *The human contribution may be quite small.*]

Ocean Heat Content Changes Induced by Tropical Cyclones

Reference: Park, J.J., Kwon, Y.-O. and Price, J.F. 2011. Argo array observation of ocean heat content changes induced by tropical cyclones in the north Pacific. *Journal of Geophysical Research* 116: 10.1029/2011JC007165.

<http://www.ipccreport.org/articles/2012/apr/3apr2012a3.html>

C4 Weeds vs. C3 Crops in a Warmer World: A Finnish Perspective

Reference: Hyvonen, T. 2011. Impact of temperature and germination time on the success of a C4 weed in a C3 crop: Amaranthus retroflexus and spring barley. *Agricultural and Food Science* 20: 183-190.

<http://www.ipccreport.org/articles/2012/apr/3apr2012a4.html>

Effects of Tropical Cyclones on Sea Surface Temperatures

Reference: Dare, R.A. and McBride, J.L. 2011. Sea surface temperature response to tropical cyclones. *Monthly Weather Review* 139: 3798-3808.

<http://www.ipccreport.org/articles/2012/apr/4apr2012a3.html>

Environmental Industry

The new world order – Black, Brown, and Soviet-red all over.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Apr 2, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/04/the-new-world-order-black-brown-and-soviet-red-all-over/#more-21188>

[SEPP Comment: It is perfectly acceptable for a BBC reporter to embrace the groups of green activists, but not the global warming skeptics.]

Green groups sue EPA to force coal-waste rules

By Ben Geman. The Hill, Apr 5, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/220179-green-groups-sue-epa-to-force-coal-waste-rules>

[SEPP Comment: Going after the existing coal power plant industry.]

Other Scientific News

2-in-1 device uses sewage as fuel to make electricity and clean the sewage

By Staff Writers

San Diego CA (SPX) Apr 02, 2012

http://www.biocultured.com/reports/2_in_1_device_use_sewage_as_fuel_to_make_electricity_and_clean_the_sewage_999.html

Declines in Caribbean coral reefs pre-date damage resulting from climate change

By Staff Writers

San Diego CA (SPX) Apr 04, 2012

http://www.terrillard.com/reports/Declines_in_Caribbean_coral_reefs_pre_date_damage_resulting_from_climate_change_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Although man's influence on global warming is questionable, there is little doubt man has had an impact on coral reefs.]

Other News that May Be of Interest

Titanic: Unusual Climate, Extreme Ice Conditions; Result Tragic Accident

By Tim Ball, Different Perspective, Apr 5, 2012

<http://drtimball.com/2012/titanic-unusual-climate-extreme-ice-conditions-result-tragic-accident/>

NASA Sees Fields of Green Spring up in Saudi Arabia

By Aries Keck for Goddard Space Flight Center

Greenbelt MD (SPX) Mar 30, 2012

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/NASA_Sees_Fields_of_Green_Spring_up_in_Saudi_Arabia_999.htm
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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

The Psychological Effects of Global Warming on the United States: And Why the U.S. Mental Health Care System Is Not Adequately Prepared

By Keving Coyle, and Lise Van Susteren, National Wildlife Federation, February 2012 [H/t WUWT]

http://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Global-Warming/Reports/Psych_Effects_Climate_Change_Full_3_23.ashx

[SEPP Comments: *It is all here: extreme weather events, military suicides, wildfires, flooding, drought, disease threats – all caused by human emissions of carbon dioxide. At least \$300 Billion more per year is needed to solve the psychological effects!*]

Surgery bans elderly patient over her carbon footprint

An elderly woman was ordered to find a new GP because the “carbon footprint” of her two-mile round trips to the surgery where she had been treated for 30 years was too large.

Staff Writer, Telegraph, UK, Apr 3, 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/9184693/Surgery-bans-elderly-patient-over-her-carbon-footprint.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Is the next step in British health care to insist that patients who complain to stop breathing?*]

Rising Number of Farm Animals Poses Environmental and Public Health Risks

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Mar 30, 2012

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Rising_Number_of_Farm_Animals_Poses_Environmental_and_Public_Health_Risks_999.html

[SEPP Comment: *Before electricity and the internal combustion engine, most power in urban areas was produced by muscle power – animal or human. In urban areas people often lived with horses, etc.*]

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ARTICLES:

1. Climategate Heads to Court

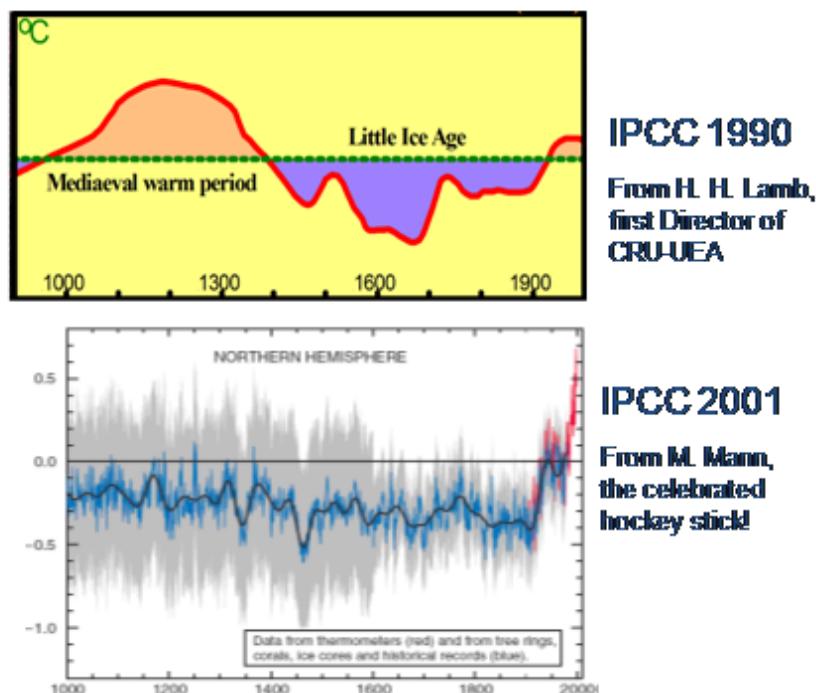
By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Apr 5, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/04/climategate_heads_to_court.html

As a climate scientist, I am quite familiar with the background facts that Prof Michael E. Mann (now at Penn State U) so shamelessly distorts in his new book *The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars: Dispatches from the Front Lines*.

First, the scientific background:

Mann's claim to fame derives from his contentious (and now thoroughly discredited) "hockeystick" research papers (in *Nature* 1998 and *Geophysical Research Letters* 1999). His idiosyncratic analysis of proxy (non-thermometer) data from sources like tree rings, ice cores, ocean sediments, etc. did away with the well-documented Medieval Warm Period (MWP - 900-1200AD) and Little Ice Age (LIA - 1400-1800AD) -- documented by Prof. H.H. Lamb, the founding director of the Climate Research Unit of East Anglia U (CRU-EAU). Mann then asserted that the 20th century was the warmest in 1,000 years. His temperature graph, shaped like a hockeystick (on its side) immediately became the poster child of Al Gore and the IPCC, the U.N. science panel, to support their claim of anthropogenic global warming (AGW).



Two Canadian statisticians, Steven McIntyre and Ross McKittrick, soon found serious errors in Mann's analysis; they even showed that random data fed into Mann's algorithm would produce "hockeysticks." To add insult to injury, while the 2001 IPCC report used Mann's result to bolster its AGW claim, the most recent 2007 IPCC report no longer relies on it. Mann still defends it -- sort of -- and so do some of his uncritical supporters. We have had no word yet from Al Gore.

In his book, Mann distorts the e-mail record from the "Climategate" leak; those e-mails have not been altered or edited in any way. They document a conspiracy among a clique of British and U.S. climate scientists to control what goes into IPCC reports, and to keep contrary views by skeptics from being published in recognized science journals by manipulating the peer-review process.

The most complete discussion of the Climategate e-mails can be found in *The Hockeystick Illusion: Climategate and the Corruption of Science* by Andrew W. Montford. A more technical discussion has been ongoing in McIntyre's blog at www.climateaudit.org.

Mike Mann also attempts to mislead readers by citing "facts." He does this by mixing up temperature *level* (measured in degrees C) with temperature *trends* (degC per decade) -- hoping no one would notice. While current levels are high (since the climate is still recovering from the LIA), the *trend* has been essentially zero for more than a decade -- in spite of rapidly rising CO₂ concentrations.

In reading Mann's original papers, I noticed something very strange: his temperature record (blue curve in the IPCC report) based on proxy data suddenly stops in 1978 and is joined smoothly to the thermometer record from weather stations (red curve), which shows a steep rise in temperature. By contrast, atmospheric temperatures measured from weather satellites show only insignificant warming between 1978 and 1997 -- as do the independent data from weather balloons around the world.

Puzzled by this disparity, I e-mailed Mann (then at the U. of Virginia) and politely asked about his post-1978 proxy temperatures. All I got in return was a nasty reply -- which only served to confirm my suspicion that Mann was hiding the data because they disagreed with the widely accepted thermometer record, which had suggested the existence of global warming. I believe that this is the true meaning of the phrase "Mike's *Nature* trick," used in the leaked Climategate e-mails -- in conjunction with "hide the decline." It all suggests manipulation of crucial data.

Naturally, I am anxious to learn if Mann's suppressed post-1978 data show a warming. If they don't, then the U.N.-IPCC's case for AGW collapses -- and so do all policies to control the greenhouse gas CO₂. These policies include emission trading ("cap & trade"), carbon sequestration from power plants, and various costly schemes for developing alternative, "green" forms of energy. We may have already wasted hundreds of billions of dollars -- for no good purpose. If so, then Mann and his supporters have much to answer for.

The Legal Phase

In 1999, Mann joined the U. of Virginia faculty as an assistant professor and left for Penn State six years later after failing to gain tenure. In fact, he was a member of my Department of Environmental Sciences, although we did not overlap.

In 2010, Virginia's newly elected Attorney General Kenneth Cuccinelli, following Virginia FATA (Fraud Against Taxpayer Act) law, issued a Civil Investigative Demand on the university for Mann's e-mails, work notes, and other documentation. The university, a state-supported institution, has resisted this demand, citing "academic freedom" and similar excuses. They have employed a private law firm and spent about \$1 million so far.

I am quite disappointed by my university's opposition to releasing Mann's e-mails to Virginia's AG. Those e-mails could clear up the mystery of "Mike's *Nature* trick" and reveal hidden data. I am told that no objection was raised by UVa when Greenpeace requested the e-mails of skeptical faculty -- including mine -- under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). So much for the university's "principled defense" of academic freedom.

Virginia's Supreme Court has now turned down AG Cuccinelli's demand, based on a technicality in the interpretation of the Virginia law. But the American Tradition Institute is trying to extract Mann's e-mails from UVa, using the FOIA. Their chance for success is good -- particularly since not only does the university now admits that some 12,000 e-mails exist (previously claimed to have been deleted) -- but it has also released these e-mails to Michael Mann, even though he is no longer a faculty member.

As Tom Jackman reports (*Wash Post*, March 21):

The ATI case began quietly in January 2011, with a FOIA request to UVa for e-mails to and from Mann and 39 people, involving five grant programs. Seven months later, UVa produced almost 1,800 e-mails, but said it was withholding another 12,000, which they argued were not public record, or were exempt under Virginia FOIA law 2.2-3705.4(4). The case is scheduled for argument on April 16 in Manassas (in Prince William County, Virginia), in suburban Washington, DC. From there, the case will likely begin its ascent up the appeals court ladder and is poised to make law on how Virginia institutions may use FOIA to withhold from some and give to others. Not to mention create an international stink -- if Mann's e-mails show he has manipulated climate change data, an accusation for which he claims to have been cleared.

As Jackman further reports, Mann said his shared interest, with UVa, in his e-mails means that the e-mails can be released to him, but not to climate skeptics. The American Tradition Institute, the conservative group hoping to show that climate change scientists like Mann manipulated their data, argues that UVa can't give the e-mails to one person and not another. By giving the e-mails to Mann, the university has waived any exemptions it's claiming from the state Freedom of Information Act, ATI's lawyer David Schnare argues.

Schnare then cited a Virginia attorney general's opinion from 1983 that once a public body disseminates any record, "those records lose the exemption accorded by" FOIA. Federal case law appears to be clearer that "selective disclosure ... is offensive to the purposes underlying the FOIA and intolerable as a matter of policy."

Meanwhile, a new angle has developed in Vancouver, BC. Canadian climatologist Tim Ball jokingly wrote that "Mann should not be at Penn State but in a State Pen[itentiary]." Mann then improvidently sued Ball for libel. But this now leaves Mann open for the pre-trial discovery process, including a deposition under oath. We shall see how this case develops. Tim Ball has many ways to make his case in his defense. I am hoping he will focus on the suppressed post-1978 data. It would be fitting if Mann's data are used to destroy the IPCC's case for AGW.

One way or another, the truth will come out. And when it does, we will witness a major earthquake that will encompass IPCC scientists, politicians in America and Europe, and the U.N. Let's hope we don't have to wait too long for this to happen.

S. Fred Singer is professor emeritus at the University of Virginia and director of the Science & Environmental Policy Project. His specialty is atmospheric and space physics. An expert in remote sensing and satellites, he served as the founding director of the US Weather Satellite Service and, more recently, as vice chair of the US National Advisory Committee on Oceans & Atmosphere. He is a senior fellow of the Heartland Institute and the Independent Institute. In 2007, he founded and chaired NIPCC (Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change). For recent writings, see http://www.americanthinker.com/s_fred_singer/ and also Google Scholar. With about 2,000 other scientists who participated in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including Michael Mann, he jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

2. California's Crazy Dream

By Allyria Finley, WSJ, Apr 5, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303302504577324140240708580.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTThirdBucket

California Gov. Jerry Brown must be auditioning as host for the "Price is Right." Just take the bidding games he's playing with the state's 500-mile bullet train.

In 2008 voters approved \$10 billion of bonds for high-speed rail on the pretext that the bullet train would cost only \$33 billion. Mr. Brown last year raised the price to \$98 billion after economists and engineers blasted the original plan as wishful thinking. However, since voters and lawmakers balked at the higher cost, the Governor has dropped his estimate to \$68 billion. What a bargain.

Mr. Brown has issued a new and "improved" business plan in hopes of getting the legislature to authorize \$2.5 billion in bonds to start construction on the train this fall. The Obama administration has required the state to break ground in the Central Valley this year in order to procure \$3.5 billion in federal funding. That's problematic for a number of reasons, including because the initial 130-mile segment would be a "train to nowhere" if another \$50 billion to \$60 billion in federal and private investment doesn't materialize to connect it to Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

So far, the president is the only venture capitalist who's betting on the off-chance the train pans out. Congress has refused to appropriate any more funds for high-speed rail, and investors won't plunk money down without a revenue guarantee, which is prohibited by the high-speed rail ballot initiative.

Even so, the governor plans on Washington to pony up \$20 billion to complete a segment running between Merced and the San Fernando Valley. By the governor's reckoning, this segment will be so wildly profitable that investors will line up to pay \$10 billion for rights to operate the train. That, plus another \$9 billion from Uncle Sam, will have Angelinos zipping to San Francisco by 2026. When none of this happens, Mr. Brown intends to divert the gusher of revenues flowing from the state's cap-and-trade program into this sinkhole. Looks like the carbon tax is just part of divine providence for the greens.

Understandably, Mr. Brown wants to railroad funding for the project through the legislature before voters figure out his new plan isn't any more viable than the earlier drafts the state rail authority floated. State senator Doug LaMalfa is spearheading a referendum to kill the train, and recent polls show that Californians by a two-to-one margin would vote to scrap the project.

Trouble is, once the money gets out the door, political inertia will make the train hard to stop.

3. EPA Backpedals on Fracking Contamination

Texas Water-Pollution Suit Dropped; Third Recent Setback on Drilling for Agency

By Daniel Gilbert and Russell Gold, WSJ, Mar 31, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303404704577313741463447670.html>

The Environmental Protection Agency has dropped its claim that an energy company contaminated drinking water in Texas, the third time in recent months that the agency has backtracked on high-profile local allegations linking natural-gas drilling and water pollution.

On Friday, the agency told a federal judge it withdrew an administrative order that alleged Range Resources Corp. had polluted water wells in a rural Texas county west of Fort Worth. Under an agreement filed in U.S. court in Dallas, the EPA will also drop the lawsuit it filed in January 2011 against Range, and Range will end its appeal of the administrative order.

In addition to dropping the case in Texas, the EPA has agreed to substantial retesting of water in Wyoming after its methods were questioned. And in Pennsylvania, it has angered state officials by conducting its own analysis of well water—only to confirm the state's finding that water once tainted by gas was safe.

Taken together, some experts say, these misfires could hurt the agency's credibility at a time when federal and state regulators seek ways to ensure that natural-gas drilling is done safely.

A growing number of industry, academic and environmental experts say that while drilling can cause water contamination, that can be avoided by proper use of cement seals and other safety measures.

By year's end, the EPA is set to release initial results of a study on the impact on water of hydrofracturing, or fracking, which involves using a high-pressure mixture of water, sand and chemicals to break apart energy-rich rocks. State officials contend they are in a better position to evaluate drilling procedures and safety in their areas, but they have been accused of laxity by environmentalists and local governments officials.

EPA officials declined to comment on their broader efforts to regulate gas drilling. But in a statement, the agency said that settling with Range "allows EPA to shift the agency's focus in this particular case away from litigation and toward a joint effort on the science and safety of energy extraction." The agency said it and Range would continue to monitor water wells and share data.

Range is pleased the EPA has not found that its drilling was responsible for gas in water wells, said Matt Pitzarella, a Range spokesman.

Michael Webber, an energy and environment professor at the University of Texas in Austin, said the EPA's retreat in the Range case would give critics more ammunition and complicate the process of proposing rules for fracking.

"This is damaging to the EPA," he said, though he thinks the agency will move ahead with regulations.

On Dec. 7, 2010, the EPA publicly accused Range of causing natural gas to seep into water wells near some of its gas wells in north Texas. The agency largely based its decision on an analysis that compared the chemical makeup of the gas in Range's production wells and the gas found in private water wells, concluding they matched.

The EPA bypassed the Texas Railroad Commission, which it said failed to address an "imminent and substantial endangerment" to public health. It ordered Range to supply water to the affected residents, identify how gas was migrating into the aquifer, stop the flow and clean up the water.

After the EPA sued Range for not complying with its order, Range appealed, arguing that the agency's analysis was inconclusive. It pointed to nearby water wells that were known to contain high concentrations of gas long before it began drilling.

The railroad agency, which regulates oil and gas, concluded last year that gas most likely seeped into the aquifer from a shallow pocket of gas nearby, not the Barnett Shale, thousands of feet underground, from which Range was producing gas.

On Friday, the commission accused the EPA of "fear mongering, gross negligence and severe mishandling" of the case, calling for the firing of Al Armendariz, administrator of the region that covers Texas. The EPA would not make Mr. Armendariz available for an interview, and he did not respond to an e-mailed request for comment.

Kate Sinding, a senior attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council, said the EPA's decision not to pursue a case against Range showed how important it is to test water quality before drilling begins. "This points out why it is so critically important to get a regulatory structure in place where companies are required to do thorough, publicly available baseline testing before they get in ground," she said.

In Pennsylvania, state regulators fined Cabot Oil & Gas Corp., COG -0.98% a Houston company that was found responsible for gas escaping into an aquifer in Dimock and that agreed to take remedial steps to clean up the water. After residents complained the efforts weren't good enough, the EPA in January said it would test drinking water at about 60 homes.

Earlier this month, the EPA released results from well water testing at 11 homes in Dimock and said the results "did not show levels of contamination that could present a health concern." This finding has been criticized by environmental groups, which argue that tests have found unsafe levels of gas and arsenic.

The EPA is also facing scrutiny from the gas industry and Wyoming's governor over an investigation of possible water contamination related to fracking near Pavillion, Wyo.

In December, the EPA released draft findings that groundwater there contained unsafe levels of benzene, a carcinogen, and other chemicals "consistent with gas production and hydraulic fracturing fluids."

But state officials and others disputed the findings, and the EPA has agreed to take more water samples and postpone a peer review of the findings. This process could take several more months, according to a spokesman for Republican Gov. Matt Mead.

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