The Week That Was: 2012-03-17 (March 17, 2012)
Brought to You by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)
The Science and Environmental Policy Project

##

March 31: Ken Haapala will be speaking at the Capital Science 2012 Conference sponsored by the Washington Academy of Sciences at 10 am. The topic is "Wind and Solar Power – the Past or the Future." Unfortunately, registration and a fee are required. The Conference will be held at Virginia Tech, GWU, and Marymount Universities in Arlington, VA
http://www.washacadsci.org/capsci12/body.htm

##

Quote of the Week:
*By endorsing the IPCC reports, **governments acknowledge the authority of their scientific content**. The work of the organization is therefore policy-relevant and yet policy-neutral, never policy-prescriptive.*
IPCC statement. [Boldface added. H/t Donna Laframboise]
http://www.ipcc.ch/organization/organization.shtml#.T1t8L_EgdWU

##

Number of the Week: $17,000,000,000 (est.)

##

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

Global Governance: *Science* magazine contained an article advocating global governance titled "Navigating the Anthropocene: Improving Earth System Governance." As the push for Rio +20 Earth Summit, UN Conference on Sustainable Development, June 20 – 22, 2012, continues, it is becoming obvious that the goal of many international politicians, including many scientists, is global governance by a body of unelected persons. Note the misleading phrase, Earth System Governance. The effort will be governance of human behavior, not physical earth systems.

Such a body would be similar to the UN, but probably without the safeguards that Security Council gives. Among the demands will be increasing the power of the UN, particularly to tax, transfer of wealth from developed nations to other nations, greater controls on energy use, particularly in developed countries, and a significant reduction in national sovereignty. To the advocates of global governance, the type of government of the individual country, democracy to kleptocracy, makes no difference, because the advocates assume they will be in charge. A review of the UN Human Rights Council gives and idea of what the make-up may become. http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/membership.htm

A preliminary conference will be held in London from March 26 – 29, 2012 under the title "Planet under Pressure." Until the final conference in June is concluded, we can expect intensification of reports predicting dire consequences of climate change from various research organizations claiming to be scientific. Please see links under "Expanding the Orthodoxy."
****
Sea Level Rise: In time for the London Conference, the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research released a study stating that if temperatures increase as little as 1.6 deg C (2.9 F) above the Little Ice Age, Greenland will melt and sea levels will rise by about 7 meters (23 feet). [There may have been an error translation, because the last two IPCC assessment reports (AR3 & AR4) did not recognize a Little Ice Age.] A quick look at the GISP2 ice cores from Greenland shows that for much of the past 10,000 years Greenland has been warmer than 1.6 deg C above the Little Ice Age temperatures, yet the ice is still there. Even at 3.2 deg C (5.8 F) above the Little Ice Age the temperature does not exceed *minus* 28.5 deg C (*minus* 19.3 F). Please see links under "Communicating Better to the Public – Make Things Up" and links under "Challenging the Orthodoxy," especially the one regarding Don Easterbrook.

****

A Dormant Sun: In February, TWTW reported a study from the Pulkovo Observatory in Russia stating that if the current solar cycle pattern continues, with little solar activity, the globe may experience a new Little Ice Age. To the researcher, what is necessary to understanding the influence of the sun is the response of the earth is lagged behind the solar cycles.
http://ccsenet.org/journal/index.php/apr/article/view/14754/10140

Also in February, TWTW reported a separate study from Norway that estimated if the current solar pattern continues into the next cycle, the northern part of the Northern Hemisphere will experience a decline in temperatures of 1 deg C or more. The longer cycle indicates lower temperatures. Again, the response of the earth seems to be lagged behind the solar cycles by about 11 years.
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1364682612000417 and discussion at
http://www.weatherbell.com/newsletter-2-14-12-e

The above studies were based on observations of solar patterns, for which models were developed to interpret the data and project it out. We can only wait to see if the predictions are accurate.

This week, we were treated to two new studies, which state that a dormant sun will result in little or no cooling. Interestingly, these studies take the IPCC climate models as the base for their research. As discussed in prior TWTWs, the climate models have significant unknowns and only include visible light as the measure of total solar energy, ignoring solar wind and UV light. Further, visible light is the only major natural cause of climate change the IPCC considers. Of course, these studies find that a dormant sun would cause little cooling because the models were based on the assumption that an active sun caused little 20th century warming. But the studies cut another way, if the sun remains dormant, and cooling occurs, then the models are wrong, as the skeptics claim. Please see links under "Science: Is the Sun Rising?"

****

Keystone Pipeline: The Cornell University Global Labor Institute produced a study claiming that the negative impacts of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, over the next 50 years, may be more detrimental than the benefits. The study relies on emotional photographs and testimonials more than facts. The study correctly states that oil from Canada is more viscous than ordinary crude, therefore requiring higher pressures and temperatures to move than ordinary crude. The study cites spills over the past three years from other pipelines moving Canadian crude and extrapolates these spills to what may take place up to 50 years hence.

The major spill in the study occurred on the Lakehead pipeline into a creek feeding into the Kalamazoo River. The study fails to mention the Lakehead system is over 60 years old. Pipeline technology has changed significantly in 60, years including much better sensors and drilling under rivers and creeks. The Cornell study is similar to attributing to today's telephone system the characteristics of the telephone system of 1950, when it was dominated by operators.

The study highlights the value of the agriculture industry from the various states the pipeline will cross, implying the pipeline will destroy agriculture in the state if a spill occurs. The authors did not bother considering the extensive pipeline system that moves oil and gas through the East Coast of the US. This study is an example of how extreme some academic institutions have become. Please see links under "Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate!"

****

Plagiarism and Scientific Content: With computer software being able to detect patterns of words, some believe the identity of a writer or plagiarist can be easily established. A researcher using such techniques for Heartland Institute states Gleick is likely the person originating a false Heartland planning memo, but, correctly, recognizes that this alone does not establish guilt.

Such computer techniques are in use to accuse certain writers of plagiarism. For example, shortly before his death, Stephen Ambrose, a prolific writer, was accused of plagiarism because certain phrases in his text were similar or identical to phrases in writings by others.

Over a year ago, the distinguished statistician Edward Wegman was accused of plagiarism because his report to Congress debunking the Mann hockey-stick contained word patterns similar to those found in Wikipedia. It turned out that a graduate student copied sections of boiler plate found in Wikipedia. Edward Wegman was disciplined by George Mason University for his lack of oversight. His article on the subject has been public retracted, but the debunked articles by Mr. Mann remain.

The use of these techniques and the possibility of severe charges to discredit scientists presents a difficult issue to prolific writers. It is impossible for a writer to search the literature to see if similar phrases occur by prior writers. Certainly, the pattern of writing on global governance follows distinct patterns.

Physicist and author Donald Rapp suggested the following as an approach towards possible plagiarism: "Bouville (2008) wrote a treatise on plagiarism. He said:

"'... even though ... copying other people's intellectual contribution is wrong, they do not apply to the copying of words. Copying a few sentences that contain no original idea (e.g. in the introduction) is of marginal importance compared to stealing the ideas of others. The two must be clearly distinguished, and the 'plagiarism' label should not be used for deeds that are very different in nature and importance' Bouville, Mathieu (2008) "Plagiarism: Words and ideas" *Science and Engineering Ethics* **14**, 311-322. http://arxiv.org/PS_cache/arxiv/pdf/0803/0803.1526v1.pdf

Rapp went on: "The point is that plagiarism is only a serious malpractice when an intellectual concept is stolen for personal gain. When background material is presented without attribution, that is an inadvertency or an indiscretion, but not a crime. The thrust of the Wegman Report was two fold: (1) the hockey stick was based on bad science, and (2) collusion between members of the paleoclimatic cabal allowed the hockey stick to get repeatedly published despite the errors in the methods used. There was no plagiarism in these elements of the Report. Unfortunately, some of the introductory and background material was not given proper attribution."

How many words in the US Constitution have been copied? Should the words such as "freedom of the press" not be used without proper attribution – Amendment 1 of the US Constitution?
****
Corrections and Amplifications: Last week TWTW stated that the revenues of the top 12 Environmental Charities in the US amounted to $2,098,000,000 as compiled for the Forbes list of the top 200 US charities in 2011. The amount does not include charities that are engaged in environmental activities, but not as the principal purpose. For example, it does not include the Wildlife Conservation Society, which also operates the Bronx Zoo. Joe Bast, of the Heartland Institute, asked about Greenpeace, which was not included because it is based in the Netherlands and Greenpeace USA does not make the Forbes list. According to the 2010 Greenpeace International annual report, its total international take was some 226 million Euros, with over 45 million from Germany, almost 25 million from the Netherlands, about 23 from the US. Exact numbers are not given.
****
Number of the Week: $17 Billion. This week, the US Senate failed to pass an extension to special subsidies to the wind industry called Production Tax Credits (PTC) that are due to expire at the end of 2012. The upfront cash payments for these credits stopped at the end of 2011. Similar tax credits are due to expire for the solar and other industries at the end of 2013. The squabbles will continue for some time

with many claiming that the tax credits are needed for energy security and for America to compete with the Chinese in 21st century technology.

During this time, government owned Chinese oil companies have been quietly buying into true 21st century technology – the innovation of producing oil and natural gas from dense shale by using deep underground hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and directional (horizontal) drilling. According to reports, since 2010, the Chinese companies have spent $17 Billion buying into ventures in North America using these techniques and techniques for development of oil sands. This amount is more than these companies have spent in ventures anywhere else in the world, including North Asia.

The new energy plan by China calls for major domestic natural gas production, which has been small. Also, it calls for major expansion in nuclear. It gives some comments to solar and wind. However, in analyzing actual expenditures, it becomes obvious that solar and wind were a marketing ploy to attract the best western technology, produce it cheaper in China, and sell it back to the West. According to their actions, to China coal, oil, gas and nuclear are the fuels of the 21 century. Please Articles #4 & 5.

##

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. What North Dakota Could Teach California

While one plays host to a modern-day Gold Rush, the other shuns evil fossil fuels and wallows in debt.
By Stephen Moore, WSJ, Mar 11, 2012
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203370604577265773038268282.html?mod=ITP_opinion_0
[SEPP Comment: While Washington wise ones say drilling will not help solve the unemployment problem, North Dakota has a different type of employment problem, as well as a budget problem.]

2. The Climate Kamikaze

"The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars" argues that global temperatures have risen in conjunction with our use of fossil fuels.
By Anne Jolis, WSJ, Mar 14, 2012
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304450004577279163950476028.html?grcc=af2e93edc5493720f5e265382c6d49f7Z11&mod=WSJ_hps_sections_lifestyle
"These are unfortunate conclusions for a scientist-turned-climate-warrior whose greatest weakness has always been a low estimation of the public intellect."

3. Big Oil, Bigger Taxes

The industry sends more money to Washington than to shareholders.
Editorial, WSJ, Mar 14, 2012
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304537904577277440911481180.html?mod=ITP_opinion_2

4. China Forecasts Soaring Shale-Gas Output

By Sarah Chen, WSJ, Mar 16, 2012
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304459804577284743898325490.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines

5. China Foothold in U.S. Energy

By Ryan Dezember, and James Areddy WSJ, Mar 6, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204883304577223083067806776.html?mod=djemalertNEWS

##

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

21st century solar cooling
By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Mar 10, 2012
http://judithcurry.com/2012/03/10/21st-century-solar-cooling/#more-7596
[SEPP Comment: Review of two papers suggesting a dormant sun would have little cooling effect. They ignore the solar-cosmic ray hypothesis.]

Climategate Continued

MSNBC on Climategate and the inquiries
By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 16, 2012
http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/3/16/msnbc-on-climategate-and-the-inquiries.html

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Deny Deniers their Right to Deny!
By David Suzuki, Huffington Post, Can, Mar 9, 2012
http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/david-suzuki/climate-change-denial_b_1325198.html

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Slaying the Slayers with the Alabama Two-Step
By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Mar 14, 2012
http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/03/slaying-the-slayers-with-the-alabama-two-step/
[SEPP Comment: Argument why greenhouse gases keep the earth warmer than it would be otherwise, but increasing CO2 does not have the effect the IPCC claims.]

What the "Skeptics" of Climate Catastrophe are Skeptical Of: Nordhaus Reconsidered
By Eric Dennis, Master Resource, Mar 16, 2012
http://www.masterresource.org/2012/03/what-the-skeptics-are-skeptical-of/
[SEPP Comment: pointing out errors in the analysis of climate change by Nordhouse in the New York Review of Books.]

Easterbrook To Panicky Potsdam Institute: "Look At Real Data If You Want To Predict Real Events"!
By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 12, 2012 [H/t Anne Debeil]
http://notrickszone.com/2012/03/12/easterbrook-to-panicky-potsdam-institute-look-at-real-data-if-you-want-to-predict-real-events/
[SEPP Comment: See links under communicating better with the public – make things up.]

NASA Satellite Debunks Melting Glacier Myth
By Doug Hoffman, The Resilient Earth, Mar 9, 2012 [H/t Thomas Sheahen]
http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/nasa-satellite-debunks-melting-glacier-myth

Global Warming and National Suicide
By Rael Jean Isaac, American Thinker, Mar 16, 2012
http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/03/global_warming_and_national_suicide.html
[SEPP Comment: A historic example of the destructive power of a mania.]

Defending the Orthodoxy

Agenda 21: Science mag calls for steps toward global governance
By Steve Milloy, Junk Science, Mar 15, 2012
http://junkscience.com/2012/03/15/agenda-21-science-mag-calls-for-steps-toward-global-governance/

EC: Poland veto won't stop 'road map'
By Staff Writers, Brussels (UPI), Mar 14, 2012
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/EC_Poland_veto_wont_stop_road_map_999.html

GE rejects Republicans' climate change doubts
By Pilita Clark, Financial Times, Mar 11, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]
http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/85e8629e-6a20-11e1-b54f-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1orhveDoY
[SEPP Comment: The promised technology is not delivering as promised.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

The Corruption of the Royal Society in the Climate Emergency
By Bernie Lewin, ESS, Mar 15, 2012 [H/t GWPF]
http://enthusiasmscepticismscience.wordpress.com/2012/03/15/the-corruption-of-the-royal-society-in-the-climate-emergency/
[SEPP Comment: A review and discussion of Nullius in Verba: On the Word of No One. The Royal Society and Climate Change, by Andrew Montford, GWPF, 2012]

The Authoritarian Impulse and Climate Change
By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Mar 13, 2012
http://nofrakkingconsensus.com/2012/03/13/the-authoritarian-impulse-and-climate-change/
[SEPP Comment: Are the skeptics climate criminals?]

Questioning European Green

Poland's antagonism to Europe's climate policy runs deep
By Sonja van Renssen, European Energy Review, Mar 12, 2012
http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id_mailing=257&toegang=d96409bf894217686ba124d7356686c9&id=3316

Energy nationalism
By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Mar 15, 2012
http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/energy-nationalism
[SEPP Comment: The UK environmentalists say the UK can't have new nuclear plants because they are built by the French. EU spirit at its best! Why should the UK adopt reductions in carbon dioxide emissions the environmentalists demand?]

Gone With the Wind
By Bjørn Lomborg, Project Syndicate, Mar 16, 2012 [H/t GWPF]
http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/gone-with-the-wind

Fuel poverty to rise sharply
The number English households struggling to pay their fuel bills could more than double to almost 10 million by 2016 due to rising energy prices and costly green taxes, a Government-commissioned report has found.
By James Hall, Telegraph, UK, Mar 15, 2012 [H/t GWPF]
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/9146851/Fuel-poverty-to-rise-sharply.html

Germany's Failing Environmental Projects
By Alexander Neubacher, Speigel Online, Mar 15, 2012 [H/t Anne Debeil]
http://www.spiegel.de/international/business/0,1518,821396,00.html
The energy-saving light bulb ends up as hazardous waste, too much insulation promotes mold and household drains are emitting a putrid odor because everyone is saving water. Many of Germany's efforts to protect the environment are a chronic failure, but that's unlikely to change.

How much profit will a turbine turn?
Developers of wind farms offer 'sweeteners' to local communities, but they may be tiny compared to the revenues.
By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, Mar 3, 2012
http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/9120756/How-much-profit-will-a-turbine-turn.html

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Ontario's Power Trip: Wind wastes water — and your dollars
Hydro generation gives way to costly wind
By Parker Gallant and Scott Luft, Financial Post, Mar 15, 2012
http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/03/15/ontarios-power-trip-wind-wastes-water-and-your-dollars/

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Navigating the Anthropocene: Improving Earth System Governance
By Biermann, et al, Science mag, Mar 16, 2012
http://www.sciencemag.org/content/335/6074/1306.summary
Science assessments indicate that human activities are moving several of Earth's sub-systems outside the range of natural variability typical for the previous 500,000 years. Human societies must now change course and steer away from critical tipping points in the Earth system that might lead to rapid and irreversible change. This requires fundamental reorientation and restructuring of national and international institutions toward more effective Earth system governance and planetary stewardship.

Welcome at the website of the Earth System Governance Project.
By Staff Writers,
http://www.earthsystemgovernance.org/news/2012-03-15-navigating-anthropocene-improving-earth-system-governance

Gear change on road to Rio?
By Richard Black, BBC, Mar 15, 2012
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17381730
[SEPP Comment: The seven point plan. No mention of protection of individual rights or liberties. Trust in government and NGOs.]

Forget evolution, climate science is the most controversial subject in school
By Tina Korbe, Hot Air, Mar 12, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]
http://hotair.com/archives/2012/03/12/forget-evolution-climate-science-is-the-most-controversial-subject-in-school/
[SEPP Comment: As with the IPCC, probably climate history will be ignored.]

Seychelles' idyllic habitat at risk from climate change
By Staff Writers, Victoria (AFP), March 13, 2012
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Seychelles_idyllic_habitat_at_risk_from_climate_change_999.html

[SEPP Comment: UN giving money to buy votes!]

Problems within the Orthodoxy

UN emission market needs urgent reform
By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Mar 16, 2012
http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/UN_emission_market_needs_urgent_reform_999.html

The Gleick Affair

Heartland Institute Responds to Rep. Markey Letter on 'Fakegate'
By Joseph Bast, Heartland Institute, Mar 15, 2012
http://heartland.org/press-releases/2012/03/15/heartland-institute-responds-rep-markey-letter-fakegate

Gleick and the Watergate Burglars
By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Mar 10, 2012
http://climateaudit.org/2012/03/10/gleick-and-the-watergate-burglars/#more-15691

Seeking a Common Ground

The IPCC Finally Is Starting To Accept That Human Land Management Is A First-Order Climate Forcing
By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Mar 15, 2012
http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/03/15/the-ipcc-finally-is-starting-to-accept-that-human-land-management-is-a-first-order-climate-forcing/

Final FACE harvest reveals increased soil carbon storage under elevated carbon dioxide
By Staff Writers, Oak Ridge TN (SPX), Mar 13, 2012
http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Final_FACE_harvest_reveals_increased_soil_carbon_storage_under_elevated_carbon_dioxide_999.html

Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate!

New Paper "Is There Any Support In The Long Term Tide Gauge Data To The Claims That Parts Of Sydney Will Be Swamped" By Boretti 2012
By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Mar 12, 2012
http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/03/12/new-paper-is-there-any-support-in-the-long-term-tide-gauge-data-to-the-claims-that-parts-of-sydney-will-be-swamped-by-bor

The Impact of Tar Sands Pipeline Spills on Employment and the Economy
By Lara Skinner, and Sean Sweeney, Cornell University Global Labor Institute, No Date
http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/globallaborinstitute/research/upload/GLI_Impact-of-Tar-Sands-Pipeline-Spills.pdf
[SEPP Comment: Long on propaganda photos and testimonials, short on facts.]

Study Warns of Economic Damage in a Keystone Spill
By Dan Frosch, NYT, Mar 13, 2012
http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/13/study-warns-of-economic-damage-in-a-keystone-spill/?ref=science
[SEPP Comment: See study immediately above.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Multistability and critical thresholds of the Greenland ice sheet
By Alexander Robinson,Reinhard Calow, Andrey Ganopolski, Nature Climate Change, Mar 11, 2012

http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1449.html
[SEPP Comment: The study does not explain the enormous accumulation of snow and ice on the top of the Greenland ice cap.]

Greenland ice sheet may melt completely with 1.6 degrees global warming
Press Release, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Mar 11, 2012 [H/t Anne Debeil]
http://www.pik-potsdam.de/news/press-releases/gronlands-eismassen-konnten-komplett-schmelzen-bei-1-6-grad-globaler-erwarmung

Gosh, really?
By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 12, 2012
http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/03/12/gosh-really/#comment-920570

Western U.S. Precipitation Extremes—How Did This Turkey Get Published?
By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Mar 12, 2012
http://www.worldclimatereport.com/index.php/2012/03/12/western-us-precipitation-extremes/#more-530
This is also another example of the shoddy state of peer review in climate science. Repeat after us, if models cannot accurately and robustly simulate the observed climate, they are worthless.

Australia's worst alarmists link recent rains to climate change
By Simon, Australian Climate Madness, Mar 15, 2012
http://www.australianclimatemadness.com/2012/03/australias-worst-alarmists-link-recent-rains-to-climate-change/
"…global warming may have contributed to the strength of the La Nina event and the heavy rainfall and flooding."

Models v. Observations

Climate Science Malpractice – The Promotion Of Multi-Decadal Regional Climate Model Projections As Skillful
By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Mar 14, 2012
http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/03/14/climate-science-malpractice-the-promotion-of-multi-decadal-regional-climate-model-projections-as-skillfull/
[SEPP Comment: Should disclaimers mandatory? Caution: This study was produced by multi-decadal global climate models that have not been validated. Believe at your own risk.]

Measurement Issues

What Causes the Large Swings in Global Satellite Temperatures?
By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Mar 16, 2012
http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/03/what-causes-the-large-swings-in-global-satellite-temperatures/
[SEPP Comment: The explanation for some of the significant monthly variability.]

'Gravity is climate' - 10 years of climate research satellites GRACE
How much ice is Greenland is really losing? - Movement in the Earth's mantle? - Enough water for all?
Press Release, Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres, Mar 16, 2012 [H/t WUWT]
http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2012-03/haog-ic031412.php
[SEPP Comment: Poor choice of words in the headline.]

CRUTEM4, Global Warming And The Arctic
By David Whitehouse, The Observatory, Mar 15, 2012
http://thegwpf.org/the-observatory/5225-crutem4-global-warming-and-the-arctic.html
[SEPP Comment: Will adding more Arctic stations increase accuracy or inflate the supposed trend?]

GHCN Temperature Adjustments Affect 40% Of The Arctic
By Paul Homewood, NLPKT, Mar 11, 2012 [H/t ICECAP]
http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2012/03/11/ghcn-temperature-adjustments-affect-40-of-the-arctic/#more-964
[SEPP Comments: Did US adjustments inflate the warming trend in the Arctic?]

Australian temperature records shoddy, inaccurate, unreliable. Surprise!
By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Mar 15, 2012
http://joannenova.com.au/2012/03/australian-temperature-records-shoddy-inaccurate-unreliable-surprise/#more-20817

"The Relationship Between Climate Warming And Tree Growth Is Not As Simple As Initially Thought"
By David Whitehouse, The Observatory, Mar 9, 2012
http://thegwpf.org/the-observatory/5175-qthe-relationship-between-climate-warming-and-tree-growth-is-not-as-simple-as-initially-thoughtq.html

False Positive Science
By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Mar 15, 2012
http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2012/03/false-positive-science.html
[SEPP Comment: Addressing a significant problem on all scientific research that relies on statistics.]

Changing Weather

Atlantic Hurricanes: The Long and the Short of It
By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Mar 16, 2012
http://www.worldclimatereport.com/index.php/2012/03/16/atlantic-hurricanes-the-long-and-the-short-of-it/#more-531
[SEPP Comment: Improved instrumentation can distort the historic record.]

Despite a snow drought in US, the northern hemisphere had another snowy winter
By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Mar 13, 2012
http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/despite_a_snow_drought_in_us_the_northern_hemisphere_had_another_snowy_wint/

Changing Climate

Extreme Droughts Were More Common 200-300 Years Ago, Study
By Staff Writers, GWPF, Mar 15, 2012
http://thegwpf.org/science-news/5221-extreme-droughts-were-more-common-200-300-years-ago-study.html
[SEPP Comment: Making long term decisions on water use / availability without understanding the history of the area can be fraught with danger – the US Southwest is discovering this and according to this study the US Southeast may discover it as well.]

Changing Seas

Recent contributions of glaciers and ice caps to sea level rise
By Jacob, Wahr, Pfeffer, Swenson, Nature, Feb 23, 2012
http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v482/n7386/full/nature10847.html
The total contribution to sea level rise from all ice-covered regions is thus 1.48 ± 0.26 mm $^{-1}$, which agrees well with independent estimates of sea level rise originating from land ice loss and other terrestrial sources

[SEPP Comment: 15 cm, 6 inches per century.]

Rising Sea Levels Seen as Threat to Coastal U.S.
By Justin Gillis, NYT, Mar 13, 2012
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/14/science/earth/study-rising-sea-levels-a-risk-to-coastal-states.html?_r=2&hp=&pagewanted=all
[SEPP Comment: See other study immediately above.]

Acidic Waters

Changing the Chemistry of Earth's Oceans
Editorial, NYT, Mar 9, 2012 [H/t David Manuta]
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/10/opinion/changing-the-chemistry-of-earths-oceans.html?_r=1&emc=eta1
[SEPP Comment: Fails to mention that even alarmist's projections do not claim the ocean's will become acidic, only less alkaline. At deep sea vents, pH has been measured as low as 0.9 – battery acid.]

Litigation Issues

A Pivotal Court Challenge: America vs. the EPA
By Larry Bell, Forbes, Mar 13, 2012
http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/03/13/a-pivotal-court-challenge-america-vs-the-epa/

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Chinese diplomat sees airlines turning to Boeing over EU tax
By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), March 12, 2012
http://www.spacemart.com/reports/Chinese_diplomat_sees_airlines_turning_to_Boeing_over_EU_tax_999.html

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

GAO: DOE's Loan Program Lacks Consolidated Data, Could Improve Application Reviews
By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Mar 15, 2012
http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4476.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2403739&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

Is there a future in the US for renewables without federal incentives?
By Staff Writers, New York NY (SPX), Mar 16, 2012
http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Is_there_a_future_in_the_US_for_renewables_without_federal_incentives_999.html
[SEPP Comment: Only in states with mandates, as long as Washington is prevented from driving the cost of traditional sources extremely high.]

New Study Questions Incentives To Create Green Jobs
By Sean Whaley, Record Courier, Mar 16, 2012
http://thegwpf.org/international-news/5228-new-study-questions-incentives-to-creat-green-jobs.html

Germany to cut solar power subsidies
By Staff Writers, Berlin (UPI), Mar 12, 2012
http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Germany_to_cut_solar_power_subsidies_999.html
Germany says it is cutting subsidies for solar power panels because consumer demand is so high government support for the technology has become too costly.
[SEPP Comment: The above sentence translated: The subsidy is so profitable to those who deliver meager amounts of electricity, the government can no longer support it.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

A GONGO idea – a government funded job destruction program…
By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Mar 13, 2012
http://joannenova.com.au/2012/03/a-gongo-idea-a-government-funded-job-destruction-program/#more-20737
[SEPP Comment: Australian government funding environmental groups to attack certain industries.]

EPA's Mercury Ruse
By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Mar 16, 2012
http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2012/03/16/epas-mercury-ruse/

Energy Issues – Non-US

EU, US, Japan take 'rare earth' dispute with China to WTO
By Staff Writers, Geneva (AFP), March 13, 2012
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/EU_US_Japan_take_rare_earth_dispute_with_China_to_WTO_999.html

Is China's SPR soaking up all the oil?
By Yadullah Hussain, Financial Post, Mar 16, 2012
http://business.financialpost.com/2012/03/16/is-chinas-spr-soaking-up-all-the-oil/?__lsa=5fe27761
[SEPP Comment: Is China anticipating a war over Iran's development of nuclear weapons?]

The not so Dirty Dozen
COSIA is the latest oil sands initiative to enter a now-crowded field
By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Mar 14, 2012
http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/03/14/peter-foster-the-not-so-dirty-dozen/

Energy Issues -- US

Oil and Gasoline Prices
By Seldon B. Graham, Jr., American Thinker, Mar 12, 2012
http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/03/oil_and_gasoline_prices.html

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Oil and Gas is One of the Fastest Growing Segments of the Energy Sector in China
By Staff Writers, Kolkata, India (SPX) Mar 09, 2012
http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Oil_and_Gas_is_One_of_the_Fastest_Growing_Segments_of_the_Energy_Sector_in_China_999.html

Faulty Wells, Not Fracking, Blamed for Water Pollution
By Russell Gold, WSJ, Mar 13, 2012
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304537904577277814040731688.html?mod=ITP_pageone_0
[SEPP Comment: May be behind a pay wall.]

US Administration's Control of Oil and Gas

Gov. Dalrymple: Obama is 'killing energy development'
By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Mar 10, 2012
http://thehill.com/video/senate/215287-gov-dalrymple-obama-is-killing-energy-development

[SEPP Comment: The Keystone pipeline would carry crude from North Dakota as well as Canada. Contrary to the report, the pipeline did not run through North Dakota.]

Obama's Politicized Energy Policy
The president should reverse cabinet-level decisions that are at odds with affordable domestic production.
By Bobby Jindal, WSJ, Mar 12, 2012
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203458604577265413033342028.html?mod=ITP_opinion_0
[SEPP Comment: May be behind a pay wall.]

Dr Steven Chu fixes sign error: gasoline prices should go down
By Lubos Motl, Reference Frame, Mar 14, 2012
http://motls.blogspot.com/2012/03/dr-steven-chu-fixes-sign-error-gasoline.html#more
[SEPP Comment: Amusing look at Chu's statements regarding the price of gasoline.]

Outside View: Wisdom of drilling for oil
By Peter Morici, College Park, Md. (UPI,) Mar 15, 2012
http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Outside_View_Wisdom_of_drilling_for_oil_999.html

Drill Our Way to Lower Oil Prices? Yes We Can!
Editorial, IBD, Mar 15, 2012
http://news.investors.com/article/604557/201203151838/oil-prices-drop-quickly-on-talk-of-petroleum-reserve-release.htm

Interior official defends oil program amid federal lands production dip
By Ben Geman, The Hill, Mar 14, 2012
http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/216023-blm-chief-defends-oil-program-amid-federal-lands-production-dip
[SEPP Comment: Moratoriums are not market decisions.]

Oil Spills & Consequences

Sorting out Responsibility for the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
By Bruce Thompson, American Thinker, Mar 15, 2012
http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/03/sorting_out_responsibility_for_the_deepwater_horizon_oil_spill.html
[SEPP Comment: Proposition: the actions of Washington during the spill may prevent government from fully obtaining legal penalties.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

The Pyrolysis of the Spent Fuel Rods at Fukushima
By Bruce Thompson, American Thinker, Mar 10, 2012
http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/03/the_pyrolysis_of_the_spent_fuel_rods_at_fukushima.html
[SEPP Comment: Lesson number 5 can apply to the BP blow-out in the Gulf of Mexico as well.]

Feds approve post-Fukushima nuclear power rules
By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Mar 9, 2012
http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/215243-feds-move-forward-with-post-fukushima-nuclear-power-reforms

Cheap Natural Gas Unplugs U.S. Nuclear-Power Revival
By Rebecca Smith, WSJ, Mar 15, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304459804577281490129153610.html?mod=WSJ_hp_MIDDLENexttoWhatsNewsForth
[SEPP Comment: May be behind a pay wall.]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

US wind generation increases by 27 percent
By Staff Writers, Washington (IANS,) Mar 13, 2012
http://www.winddaily.com/reports/US_wind_generation_increases_by_27_percent_999.html

Battered Solar Sector Saw Record Gains During 2011
By Staff Writers, POWER News, Mar 14, 2012
http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4475.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2403739&hq_l=8&hq_v=5e660500d0
[SEPP Comment: The upfront cash in lieu of tax credits ended in 2011]

The Predestined Failure of Obama's Energy Policy
By Anthony J.Ciani, American Thinker, Mar 12, 2012
http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/03/the_predestined_failure_of_obamas_energy_policy.html

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Other

The White House Wants To Put Seaweed In Your Gas Tank
By Charles Krauthammer, IBD, Mar 15, 2012
http://news.investors.com/article/604490/201203151750/obama-has-contempt-for-oil-fancies-seaweed.htm

Czech president vetoes a biomethane bill
By Lubos Motl, Reference Frame, Mar 14, 2012
http://motls.blogspot.com/2012/03/czech-president-vetoes-biomethane-bill.html#more
[SEPP Comment: A president that understands that subsidizing uneconomic energy sources does not create prosperity.]

Solyndra Is Blamed as Clean-Energy Loan Program Stalls
By Bill Vlasic and Matther Wald, NYT, Mar 12, 2012 [H/t GWPF]
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/13/business/energy-environment/stalled-clean-energy-loan-program-feels-solyndras-chill.html?_r=1

Karma Comedian: Obama's 'Undriveable' Electric Car
Editorial, IBD, Mar 12, 2012
http://news.investors.com/article/604114/201203121905/broken-fisker-karma-towed-by-consumer-reports.htm

California Dreaming

California: The Sick Man Of America
Editorial, IBD, Mar 13, 2012
http://news.investors.com/article/604210/201203131827/california-drives-out-more-businesses.htm

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

A 2000-Year Temperature History of the Indo-Pacific Warm Pool
Reference: Oppo, D.W., Rosenthal, Y. and Linsley, B.K. 2009. 2,000-year-long temperature and hydrology reconstructions from the Indo-Pacific warm pool. *Nature* 460: 1113-1116.

http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/mar/14mar2012a1.html
[SEPP Comment: Further repudiation of the hockey-stick.]

Aerosol Radiative Forcing of Climate
Reference: Haerter, J.O., Roeckner, E., Tomassini, L. and von Storch, J.-S. 2009. Parametric uncertainty effects on aerosol radiative forcing. *Geophysical Research Letters* 36: 10.1029/2009GL039050.
The current atmosphere's aerosol radiative forcing is probably not known to anything better that ± 100%, which does not engender confidence in the ability to simulate Earth's climate very far into the future with state-of-the-art climate models.
http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/mar/14mar2012a2.html

Anthropogenic-CO2-Induced Global Warming: Proven or Unproven?
Reference: Solomon, S., Daniel, J.S., Neely III, R.R., Vernier, J.-P., Dutton, E.G. and Thomason, L.W. 2011. The persistently variable "background" stratospheric aerosol layer and global climate change. *Science* 333: 10.1126/science.1206027.
http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/mar/13mar2012a1.html

Two Thousand Years of Dust Deposition in the Aral Sea
Reference: Huang, X., Oberhansli, H., von Suchodoletz, H. and Sorrel, P. 2011. Dust deposition in the Aral Sea: implications for changes in atmospheric circulation in central Asia during the past 2000 years. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 30: 3661-3674.
http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/mar/13mar2012a3.html

Oh Mann!

Shollenberger's Technical Review of Mann's recent book
By Brandon Shollenberger, WUWT, Mar 11, 2012
http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/03/11/shollenbergers-technical-review-of-manns-recent-book/
[SEPP Comment: A more detailed review than presented last week.]

Environmental Industry

Oil spill commission reuniting to press for drilling reforms
By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Mar 14, 2012
http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/215981-oil-spill-commission-reuniting-to-press-for-drilling-reforms
[SEPP Comment: A reuniting of environmentalists.]

Anti-coal funding sparks outrage
By Christian Kerr, The Australian, Mar 12, 2012
http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/anti-coal-funding-sparks-outrage/story-e6frg6xf-1226296436989

How the environmentalists do it
By Marita Noon, Washington Examiner, Mar 15, 2012
http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/2012/03/how-environmentalists-do-it/371391
[SEPP Comment: Reviewing some failures – except the regulations are still in place.]

New Keystone XL Route Could Still Threaten Ogallala Aquifer
By Lisa Song, InsideClimate News, Mar 14, 2012
http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20120314/nebraska-sandhills-keystone-xl-pipeline-reroute-ogallala-aquifer-water-transcanada
[SEPP Comment: Existing pipelines cross over the Ogallala Aquifer.]

Other Scientific News

Berkeley Lab Quantifies Effect of Soot on Snow and Ice
By Allan Chen for Berkeley News, Berkeley CA (SPX), Mar 15, 2012
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Berkeley_Lab_Quantifies_Effect_of_Soot_on_Snow_and_Ice_999.html

Scientists document first consumption of abundant life form, Archaea
By Staff Writers, Corvallis, OR (SPX), Mar 13, 2012
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Scientists_document_first_consumption_of_abundant_life_form_Archaea_999.html
[SEPP Comment: Animals consume Archaea which consume methane.]

##

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

How Engineering the Human Body Could Combat Climate Change
By Ross Andersen, The Atlantic, Mar 12, 2012 [H/t WUWT]
http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2012/03/how-engineering-the-human-body-could-combat-climate-change/253981/

Food fight: CO2 makes us fatter
By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 13, 2012
http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/03/13/food-fight-co2-makes-us-fatter/
[SEPP Comment: Could there be a cofounding variable. Electrical and mechanical energy is substituted for muscle power, resulting in a smaller caloric need? Graph showing relationship between food production per capita and annual CO2 emissions is illuminating. Put in a positive light, CO2 may be responsible for reducing hunger.]

##

ARTICLES:

1. While one plays host to a modern-day Gold Rush, the other shuns evil fossil fuels and wallows in debt.
By Stephen Moore, WSJ, Mar 11, 2012
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203370604577265773038268282.html?mod=ITP_opinion_0
[SEPP Comment: While Washington wise ones say drilling will not help solve the unemployment problem, North Dakota has a different type of employment problem, as well as a budget problem.]

In his speech last week responding to high gas prices, President Barack Obama insisted that "we can't just drill our way out of" our energy woes. Actually, we can—and if the president wants proof, he should travel to boomtown USA: Williston, North Dakota.

Williston sits atop the Bakken Shale, which will later this year be producing more oil than any other site in the country, surpassing even Alaska's Prudhoe Bay, the longtime leader in domestic output. This once-sleepy town is what the Gold Rush might have looked like had it happened in the time of McDonald's, Wal-Mart and Home Depot. And the oil rush is making Dakotans rich in a hurry, with farmers and other landowners becoming overnight millionaires from lucrative royalties and leases. One retired farmer tells me that, thanks to oil rigs churning on his property, he suddenly has a net worth north of $30 million.

When I ask how many people live in Williston, which had a population of 12,000 in 2005, longtime residents shrug and offer different answers: 20,000? 25,000? 30,000? Every night, hundreds of workers sleep in the hulls of their trucks or in temporary housing encampments like soldiers in a war zone. New

homes are popping up at breakneck speed. McDonald's is offering workers $18 an hour plus a "signing bonus." In Williston, certainly, America remains the land of opportunity.

All this is thanks to the technological leap forward represented by hydraulic fracking, a process that allows drillers to blast through underground shale rock and pump out oil and natural gas. Projections of how much oil is here seem to grow every year.

In 1995, the U.S. Geological Survey estimated 150 million "technically recoverable barrels of oil" from the Bakken Shale. In April 2008 that number was up to about four billion barrels, and in 2010 geologists at Continental Resources (the major drilling operation in North Dakota) put it at eight billion. This week, given the discovery of a lower shelf of oil, they announced 24 billion barrels. Current technology allows for the extraction of only about 6% of the oil trapped one to two miles beneath the earth's surface, so as the technology advances recoverable oil could eventually exceed 500 billion barrels.

Now contrast this bonanza with what's going on in another energy-rich state: California. While North Dakota's oil production has tripled since 2007 (to more than 150 million barrels in 2011), the Golden State's oil production has fallen by a third in the past 20 years, to 201 million barrels last year from 320 million in 1990. The problem isn't that California is running out of oil: In 2008, when the USGS estimated four billion barrels of recoverable oil from the Bakken, it estimated closer to 15 billion barrels in California's vast Monterey Shale.

Rather, California's problem is politicians—at the behest of their green-energy allies—deciding to wall off the state from developing evil fossil fuels. With its prohibitive environmental regulations, state cap-and-trade law, costly renewable energy mandates and 40 years of prohibitions on almost all offshore drilling, California ranks worst in the country and 91st in the world in its hostility to drilling, according to the Fraser Institute's 2011 Global Petroleum Survey. This month, according to North Dakota's Department of Mineral Resources, California is no longer America's third-largest energy-producing state—leapfrogged by North Dakota.

The Census finds that North Dakota led the nation in job and income growth in 2011. It has the nation's lowest unemployment rate, at 3.3% (California's is 11.1%), and it saw a huge 38.5% increase in its number of millionaires between 2009 and 2010, according to state tax return data. California, by contrast, lost nearly 50,000—or almost one-third—of its high-income residents ($500,000 and above) between 2007 and 2009, according to the Sacramento Bee.

North Dakota is also flush with cash and a budget reserve of at least $1 billion, out of a $3.5 billion biennial budget. The state has already cut income taxes, and it is building thousands of miles of "shovel ready" infrastructure projects—roads, bridges, railroads, pipelines—without almost any of Uncle Sam's funny money. Bismarck may be the only state capital in the country that debates what to do with all its tax riches.

Perhaps they could send it as foreign aid to Sacramento. California's budget analysts just announced their fifth straight year of fiscal plague, with up to $6 billion of red ink for 2012-13. Budgets for schools, transportation, health care, libraries and museums are being cut, even though the state already has one of the nation's highest income and sales taxes. Gov. Jerry Brown is sponsoring a ballot initiative this year to raise those taxes yet again.

He'd be better off leading a fact-finding delegation to North Dakota to learn how to pay bills, create tens of thousands of jobs, and balance a budget. The short answer: Drill, baby, drill. Mr. Obama might want to come on that trip too.

Mr. Moore is a member of The Journal's editorial board.
****

2. The Climate Kamikaze

"The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars" argues that global temperatures have risen in conjunction with our use of fossil fuels.

By Anne Jolis, WSJ, Mar 14, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304450004577279163950476028.html?grcc=af2e93edc5493720f5e265382c6d49f7Z11&mod=WSJ_hps_sections_lifestyle

"These are unfortunate conclusions for a scientist-turned-climate-warrior whose greatest weakness has always been a low estimation of the public intellect."

The "Hockey Stick" is shorthand for two ways of thinking about global warming. For anti-carbon crusaders, a 1998 paper and its 1999 follow-up showing temperatures over the past 1,000 years demonstrated the terrible and immediate threat that man poses to the planet. (A graph accompanying the paper was nicknamed the "hockey stick," as it shows a sharp upswing in the 20th century.) For global-warming skeptics, though, the graph and the name are prime examples of the overblown claims and sloppy science behind much of climatology.

Michael Mann, a Penn State professor, was the lead author of those studies, which became famous in 2001 when they were included in an assessment report by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He has since become one of the loudest advocates of the anti-carbon agenda, energetically blogging and tweeting about the need for urgent U.S. emissions reduction and global cap-and-trade. It's not surprising that he is also a prime target for global-warming skeptics, who argue that establishing statistically significant temperature trends from proxy data is tricky and that Mr. Mann's certainties involve, at best, debatable speculations and questionable math.

"The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars" is the story of both Mr. Mann and his graph. But rather than a chronicle of research and discovery, it's a score-settling with anyone who has ever doubted his integrity or work: free-market think tanks, industrialists, "scientists for hire," "the corruptive influence of industry," the "uninformed" media and public. So, a long list.

The trouble, as Mr. Mann sees it, is that while his own errors have been honest and minor, his detractors' amount to "disinformation." "Given the complexities," he writes, "it's easy enough to make mistakes. For those with an agenda, it is even easier to overlook them or, worse, exploit them intentionally." He writes that the legitimate scientific and mathematical quibbles are compounded by "the here-and-now incentive" of the media. "Incremental refinements may seem dull and uninspiring to the lay public, but controversy sells. . . . It is not difficult to see why confused observers attempting to follow scientific developments would throw up their hands, resigned to the notion that all we can safely conclude is that 'the scientists don't agree.' "

Thus through the combination of fossil-fueled machinations and a public that can't handle the nuance, Mr. Mann and the truth have become victims of the "most malicious of the assaults on climate science."

Yet in its treatment of the actual science, "The Hockey Stick" is structured not unlike IPCC reports. Mr. Mann synthesizes selected work in the field and carefully accounts for uncertainties—the shortcomings of climate modeling, the statistical pitfalls of paleoclimatology, the unknowns surrounding the role of clouds—before lapsing into sound bites: "The key question is, can the model be shown to be useful? Can it make successful predictions? Climate models had passed that test with flying colors by the mid-1990s."

And like IPCC reports, checking endnotes and references is crucial. In his chapter "Climate Science Comes of Age," Mr. Mann writes that there was "increasing recognition by the mid-1990s" that another

1.5°C (2.5°F) warming beyond current levels "could represent a serious threat to our welfare." It turns out that "increasing recognition" refers to a benchmark agreed to by a group of EU ministers in 1996, which Mr. Mann cites along with his own 2009 paper.

The book's climax is a recounting of the 2009 leak or hack of emails and other documents written by Mr. Mann and his associates (and funneled through the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Institute). The correspondence, along with a second trove released in 2011, highlighted the patchwork behind IPCC science. The leading lights of publicly funded climatology appeared to be brainstorming to pressure journals and review boards to suppress work that challenged their theories, trading tips on how to avoid public-information requests and planning how to present their findings so as to best further "the cause."

In his book, Mr. Mann dubs the unauthorized release of his emails a "crime" and claims that the ensuing "witch hunt" constituted "the most malicious" of "attack after vitriolic attack against us" by the "corporate-funded denial machine."

Yet for all his caviling about "smear campaigns," "conspiracy theorists" and "character assassination," Mr. Mann is happy to employ similar tactics against his opponents. Patrick Michaels, former president of the American Association of State Climatologists and a past program chair of the American Meteorological Society's Committee on Applied Climatology, is introduced as "a prominent climate change contrarian at the University of Virginia primarily known for his advocacy for the fossil fuel industry." (Nowhere does Mr. Mann explain why a scientist might be more easily corrupted by a check from, say, a coal company than by one from a politically controlled institution.)

Just this February, Mr. Mann took to the Daily Kos to praise the theft of internal documents from the free-market Heartland Institute for offering "a peek behind the curtain of industry-funded climate change denial." It was revelatory, but not in the way he thought. Hours after Mr. Mann posted his online musings, the much-decorated hydroclimatologist Peter Gleick (2003 MacArthur fellow, adviser to the EPA and, until recently, chairman of the American Geophysical Union's task force on scientific ethics) confessed to the Heartland theft. Apologizing for his actions, he wrote that he had been "blinded by my frustration with the ongoing efforts—often anonymous, well-funded, and coordinated—to attack climate science and scientists."

Mr. Mann closes "The Hockey Stick" with a passionate call for more scientists to join him "on the front lines of the climate wars." "Scientific truth alone," Mr. Mann writes, "is not enough to carry the day in the court of public opinion." It would be "irresponsible," he says, "for us to silently stand by while industry-funded climate change deniers succeed in confusing and distracting the public and dissuading our policy makers from taking appropriate actions." These are unfortunate conclusions for a scientist-turned-climate-warrior whose greatest weakness has always been a low estimation of the public intellect.

****

3. Big Oil, Bigger Taxes

The industry sends more money to Washington than to shareholders.

Editorial, WSJ, Mar 14, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304537904577277440911481180.html?mod=ITP_opinion_2

President Obama says he wants to end subsidies for what he calls "the fuel of the past," but lucky for him oil and gas will be the fuels of the future too. His budget-deficit blowout would be so much worse without Big Oil, because the truth is that this industry is subsidizing the government.

Much, much worse, actually. The federal Energy Information Administration reports that the industry paid some $35.7 billion in corporate income taxes in 2009, the latest year for which data are available. That alone is about 10% of non-defense discretionary spending—and it would cover a lot of Solyndras. That figure also doesn't count excise taxes, state taxes and rents, royalties, fees and bonus payments. All told, the government rakes in $86 million from oil and gas every day—far more than from any other business.

Not paying their "fair share"? Here's a staggering fact: The Tax Foundation estimates that, between 1981 and 2008, oil and gas companies sent more dollars to Washington and the state capitols than they earned in profits for shareholders.

Exxon Mobil, the world's largest oil and gas company, says that in the five years prior to 2010 it paid about $59 billion in total U.S. taxes, while it earned . . . $40.5 billion domestically. Another way of putting it is that for every dollar of net U.S. profits between 2006 and 2010, the company incurred $1.45 in taxes. Exxon's 2010 tax bill was three times larger than its domestic profits. The company can stay in business because it operates globally and earned a total net income after tax of $30.5 billion in 2010 on revenues of $370.1 billion.

Meanwhile, Mr. Obama's 2013 budget—like its 2012, 2011 and 2010 vintages—includes a dozen-odd tax increases that would raise the industry's liability by $44 billion over the next decade, according to the White House, and by $85 billion, according to the trade group the American Petroleum Institute (API). At any rate, the President's economists ought to be weeping for joy for the revenue windfall from an industry that grew 4.5% in 2011, compared to overall GDP growth of 1.7%.

Crunching Compustat North America numbers, API estimates that the average effective tax rate for oil and gas companies is 41.1% for 2010—i.e., taxes as a share of net income. That is broadly in line with the Energy Information Administration's estimates for "major energy producers." By the same measure, other manufacturers on the S&P Industrial index pay an effective rate of 26.5%.

Specific oil and gas investments are also taxed at higher rates than other energy plays, which were surveyed in a 2009 paper by economist Gilbert Metcalf, now a deputy assistant Treasury secretary. He found that oil drilling (for an integrated company) clocks in at a 15.2% tax rate, refining at 19.1% and building a natural gas pipeline at 27%.

For comparison, nuclear power comes in at minus-99.5%, wind at minus-163.8% and solar thermal at minus-244.7%—and that's before the 2009 Obama-Pelosi stimulus. In other words, the taxpayer loses more the more each of these power sources produces.

As for the "subsidies" that Mr. Obama says the oil industry receives, these aren't direct cash handouts like those that go to the green lobby. They're deductions from taxes that cover the cost of doing business and earning income to tax in the first place. Most of them are available to other manufacturers.

What Mr. Obama really means is that he wants to put the risky and capital-intensive process of finding, extracting and producing oil and gas at a competitive disadvantage against other businesses. He does so because he ultimately wants to make them more expensive than his favorites in the wind, solar and ethanol industries.

Why he would still want to do this amid the political panic over $4 per gallon gasoline is a mystery. Even Mr. Obama now claims to want lower gas prices, commenting recently that "Do you think the President of the United States going into re-election wants gas prices to go up higher?" Too bad his every policy choice, and especially his tax agenda, would lead to higher prices.

****

4. China Forecasts Soaring Shale-Gas Output

By Sarah Chen, WSJ, Mar 16, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304459804577284743898325490.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines

BEIJING—China's annual output of shale gas is expected to skyrocket from near zero now to 6.5 billion cubic meters in 2015 and at least 10 times that by 2020, the government said in a development plan Friday, reducing reliance on dirtier coal and so cutting carbon emissions.

The plan urges Chinese companies to work with foreign companies and research institutes with expertise in finding and exploiting unconventional natural-gas resources. That could open opportunities for foreign companies, which are eager to tap the market.

China is pushing hard to shift to cleaner-burning gas from coal, which today generates around 70% of the country's electricity, but large-scale exploitation of shale-gas reserves—gas trapped in rock formations—has yet to begin. In the U.S., by contrast, shale gas has already transformed the energy sector, fattening reserves and driving down gas prices.

By 2015, the report said, China is expected to have identified total exploitable gas reserves of 200 billion cubic meters and total proven reserves of 600 billion cubic meters, in addition to producing 6.5 billion cubic meters. By 2020, annual production is forecast to reach between 60 billion and 100 billion cubic meters, due to more intensive exploration in the 19 designated exploration areas, the plan said.

The plan was drafted by the National Energy Administration and issued by the National Development Reform Commission. The targeted 2015 output of 6.5 billion cubic meters would boost China's overall natural-gas output by more than 6% from current levels, and by substituting for coal in power generation would reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by 14 million metric tons, sulfur dioxide by 115,000 tons and nitrogen oxides by 43,000 tons.

China has an estimated 25.08 trillion cubic meters of potentially recoverable shale-gas reserves, domestic media reported this month, citing the Ministry of Land and Resources. The U.S. Energy Information Administration last year estimated those Chinese reserves at 1,275 trillion cubic feet (36.1 trillion cubic meters), which would be the largest repository of shale gas in the world.

Domestic and foreign energy majors working in China hope to replicate the huge increase in shale-gas output seen in the U.S. over the past decade. U.S. companies pioneered the technique known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," enabling them to extract previously inaccessible gas from rock formations.

PetroChina Co and Royal Dutch Shell PLC said in December that they had found gas after drilling their first shale-gas evaluation well at a block in Sichuan province. Other companies, including Total SA and Chevron Corp. are also seeking shale gas in China.

Norway's state-owned Statoil is in initial talks with Chinese company Shenhua Geological Exploration about jointly developing shale gas projects in China, industry news portal Upstream reported Friday.

China Huadian Corp., one of the country's largest power companies, this month signed a framework agreement with authorities in Hunan province to tap shale deposits there.

****

5. China Foothold in U.S. Energy

By Ryan Dezember, and James Areddy WSJ, Mar 6, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204883304577223083067806776.html?mod=djemalertNEWS

Fu Chengyu's first attempt to buy a piece of the U.S. oil industry kicked up a storm of protest and ended in failure. Seven years later, the Chinese executive is pouring billions of dollars into the oil patch without even a whisper of trouble.

His new recipe for success: Seek minority stakes, play a passive role and, in a nod to U.S. regulators, keep Chinese personnel at arm's length from advanced U.S. technology.

Since 2010, Chinese companies have invested more than $17 billion into oil and gas deals in the U.S. and Canada, according to data provider Dealogic, giving their energy-thirsty nation a long-coveted foothold in a region known for innovative new drilling techniques. North America has become China's top region for oil and gas deals. Mr. Fu has been leading the push, first as chairman of China National Offshore Oil Corp., known as Cnooc, then as chairman of China Petrochemical Corp., called Sinopec, one of the largest oil companies in the world.

The recent deals are nothing like Mr. Fu's audacious, unsuccessful bid for Unocal Corp. in 2005. They typically involve a Chinese firm paying upfront for a stake in an oil or gas field and agreeing to cover some drilling costs. Cnooc executives figured such joint ventures "might be a nonthreatening way to get back into America," says Aubrey McClendon, chief executive of Chesapeake Energy Corp., who struck a 2010 deal with Mr. Fu that marked the beginning of the Chinese investment surge.

The deals address pressing needs for both sides. U.S. companies have developed revolutionary new ways to extract oil and gas, but they need lots of capital to make that happen. China's state-owned energy companies, for their part, have been scouring the globe for supplies of oil and gas to help power the nation's surging economy, and the knowledge to extract their own hard-to-tap reserves back home.

The North American energy push is part of a wave of investment money from Chinese state-owned and private enterprises into the U.S. and other Western nations. A big chunk of the investment is oriented to energy, mining and other areas critical to China's fast-growing economy. The deals are giving Chinese buyers a foot in new markets, and in some cases, exposure to American technology and management techniques they can use in China.

China surpassed the U.S. in 2009 as the world's largest consumer of energy in all forms. The International Energy Agency estimates that China also could become the world's largest consumer of oil, thanks to the affinity of its growing middle class for cars. Currently, imports fulfill more than half of its oil needs—much of them from such potential trouble spots as Iran and Sudan. Its natural gas consumption nearly doubled between 2006 and 2010, according to the BP Statistical Review.

China's new approach to investing in U.S. energy companies suggests it has learned lessons about how to make the industry and American politicians more comfortable with Chinese money. "Buy a portion of that company, work together with that company, and that company is your strongest ally in the U.S.," says S. Ming Sung, a former executive at Royal Dutch Shell PLC who has advised Sinopec and is now an adviser to several organizations that promote clean energy.

Sinopec's Mr. Fu, who declined to comment for this article, has been China's most visible proponent of the new approach. Born in China's remote northern Heilongjiang province, the 60-year-old executive earned a master's degree in petroleum engineering in 1986 from the University of Southern California, where he now serves on the board of trustees. Like other leaders of major state-run companies, he is a senior member of the Communist Party.

Those who know him say his technical and operational knowledge of the oil industry is considerable. "He built his foundation in engineering," said Iraj Ershaghi, a professor of petroleum engineering at USC who taught Mr. Fu in the 1980s.

Mr. Fu joined Cnooc when the state-owned company was set up in 1982, and held senior positions in its joint ventures with foreign companies such as Shell and the former Phillips Petroleum, now part of ConocoPhillips .

By 2005, China's oil consumption was surging, and Chinese companies of all sorts were beginning to explore major acquisitions abroad.

Mr. Fu, by then Cnooc's chairman, began negotiating directly with Unocal's then Chief Executive Charles Williamson to buy the El Segundo, Calif.-based company for $18.5 billion. News of the offer brought criticism from U.S. lawmakers, who argued the deal would put crucial U.S. energy resources in Chinese hands. U.S. lawmakers passed a resolution asking the Bush administration to review any Unocal-Cnooc deal.

Mr. Fu spoke out publicly in defense of the deal—an unusual move for the leader of a state-controlled company. In an opinion piece in The Wall Street Journal titled "Why is America Worried?", he argued that most of Unocal's reserves were outside the U.S. anyway, and that Cnooc would preserve American jobs and "will be an open and responsible participant in the process."

Nevertheless, members of the Committee for Foreign Investment in the U.S., an interagency body chaired by the Treasury Department, indicated they would recommend that President George W. Bush block the deal, say people briefed by members. The Treasury Department declined to comment, saying it doesn't talk publicly about specific cases reviewed by the committee.

After lawmakers passed language in a bill that would delay a deal, Mr. Fu pulled the offer. Cnooc blamed "unprecedented political opposition." Unocal subsequently was bought by Chevron for $17.3 billion.

In a 2006 interview with the Journal, Mr. Fu said that Cnooc "learned we need to be more prudent in terms of public relations and political lobbying when dealing with such a big deal. We now understand American politics better."

In the wake of the busted deal, Chinese energy firms shied away from North America. State-owned oil companies began striking energy deals elsewhere in the world, such as in Nigeria and Yemen, which gave it access to significant reserves.

Meanwhile, back in North America, new techniques were being developed to extract oil and natural gas from shale formations deep underground, from tar sands in Canada, and from deep water in the Gulf of Mexico. Chesapeake and its competitors were rushing to buy drilling rights to U.S. shale fields.

Such projects require vastly more capital to drill than conventional reservoirs. A single shale well can cost more than $9 million, U.S. companies say. But the global financial crisis was constricting capital for these expensive projects, so energy companies began looking for new sources of funding.

In 2009, China National Petroleum Corp., or PetroChina, bought 60% stakes in two oil-sands projects from a Canadian operator for about $1.9 billion. The following year, Sinopec committed $4.65 billion for a 9% stake in Alberta's Syncrude oil-sands project, one of Canada's biggest energy projects. Last summer,

Cnooc agreed to pay $2.1 billion for OPTI Canada Inc., a producer that held a minority stake in a large oil-sands project. There was little political opposition in Canada.

Cnooc tiptoed back into the U.S. in 2009 with a small deal to provide development funding and receive a minority stake in some of Statoil ASA 's Gulf of Mexico leases.

Oklahoma City-based Chesapeake began looking to Asia as a source of capital, says Mr. McClendon, the CEO. In 2010 it sold preferred shares to a unit of Singapore's Temasek Holdings Ltd. and Hopu Investment Management Co., a China-focused private-equity firm. Other investors with ties to the governments of South Korea and China followed with similar investments in Chesapeake.

The deals gave Chesapeake "the Good Housekeeping stamp of approval in Asia," says Mr. McClendon. Encouraged, Chesapeake approached Chinese oil companies, and Mr. McClendon developed a rapport with Mr. Fu, who he describes as "comfortable with Americans." Mr. McClendon says Cnooc executives were openly saying: "Since 2005, we haven't had a strategy to invest in the U.S., and we think now is the time to do it."

In 2010, Cnooc agreed to pay Chesapeake $1.08 billion for a one-third stake in 600,000 acres in the oil-rich Eagle Ford Shale formation in south Texas, and to spend another $1.08 billion on drilling there. The two executives struck a similar deal, worth nearly $1.3 billion, for stakes in Wyoming and Colorado fields.

Messrs. McClendon and Fu were intent on avoiding the kind of political opposition Cnooc faced five years earlier in its ill-fated bid for Unocal. The deals were structured so that Cnooc didn't get an ownership stake in Chesapeake itself and didn't control production.

"They didn't come over here and try to buy Chesapeake," Mr. McClendon says. "They came over here to buy a minority, nonoperating interest in an asset and not take the oil and gas home."

The Chesapeake deals also included an unusual provision regarding "secondment"—the temporary assignment of employees to another company, a common practice in the oil industry. On Chesapeake's Oklahoma City campus there are Norwegian and French oil workers, a result of the company's joint ventures with France's Total SA and Norway's Statoil.

Mindful of the political backlash that might result if Cnooc employees had the run of Chesapeake's facilities, the two executives agreed that the Chinese deals wouldn't allow for any secondment, Mr. McClendon says.

Nevertheless, the Chinese companies hope to gain insight into how their new partners decide things like where to drill wells and how to set up the infrastructure around them, people involved in the deals say.

Last year, Mr. Fu left Cnooc to become chairman and Communist Party secretary of Sinopec—part of the occasional reshuffling of top executives that occurs at China's state-owned companies. Sinopec, one of China's largest state-controlled firms, is mostly a refiner, but that business is tough in China because the government keeps consumer fuel prices low, pressuring profit margins.

With Mr. Fu at the helm, Sinopec agreed in January to pay $2.5 billion to Devon Energy Corp. of Oklahoma City for a one-third stake in about 1.3 million acres of drilling property in Ohio, Michigan and elsewhere. As in Chesapeake's deals with Cnooc, Devon's pact with Sinopec allows the American company to keep full operating control as well as control over sales of oil and gas from the wells.

David Hager, who heads Devon Energy's exploration and production business, says he expects to work with Sinopec on other fronts. "The most likely outcome is that they would want us to participate with them in China," he says.

Zhong Hua, chief financial officer of the publicly traded arm of China's Cnooc, said in an interview that the company's U.S. exposure will advance its technical know-how. "With the U.S. experience, the company is fully capable of developing and deploying its own technologies within a short period of time in the coming years," he said.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that China's shale formations hold 1,275 trillion cubic feet of gas that can be extracted using current drilling technology, or more than the recoverable reserves in the U.S. and Canada combined. China already is getting some help from U.S. companies in tapping shale energy. Houston-based Baker Hughes Inc. said recently that it participated in drilling China's first horizontal shale-oil well late last year.

Chinese firms now are attempting to negotiate partnerships with FTS International, a Fort Worth, Texas, company that specializes in hydraulic fracturing, a process used to extract energy from shale, according to one person familiar with the matter. FTS, which is owned by Chesapeake and a consortium of Asian investors, would use proceeds from any deals to expand internationally, this person says. FTS Chief Executive Marc Rowland said in a statement that the company is "actively seeking international opportunities" but "has no announcements at this time."

Mr. Fu, for his part, appears eager for Sinopec to step up shale-gas exploration in China. Mr. Ershaghi, the USC professor, visited Beijing last July at his former student's request to lecture Sinopec managers and engineers on shale-gas production.

"He did mention to me his desire to raise the awareness of shale gas in China," says Mr. Ershaghi. "He thought that's going to be one of the major developments that's going to solve China's energy needs."

In January, in a New Year's address to Sinopec employees, Mr. Fu signaled that he expected foreign deal-making to continue.

"The slowdown of the global economy brings us new opportunity to go overseas, expand overseas M&A and introduce advanced technology and talent," Mr. Fu said.

—Yvonne Lee in Hong Kong contributed to this article.

##