

**The Week That Was: 2014-01-04 (January 4, 2014)**  
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**The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

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**Quote of the Week:** • “Victory awaits him, who has everything in order - luck we call it. Defeat is definitely due for him, who has neglected to take the necessary precautions - bad luck we call it” – Roald Amundsen, led the expedition to first reach the South Pole (Dec, 1911) and captained the *Gjøa*, which was the first vessel to sail through the entire Northwest Passage (1903-06)

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**Number of the Week:** 12

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**THIS WEEK:**

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

**Re-Format:** Starting this week, the order of topics in TWTW have been re-formatted somewhat. In general, the topics follow this order: science issues, policy issues, then energy issues. As a result, topics such as Questioning European Green are further down in order of presentation than in the past.

It is becoming obvious to most but not all (such as the US Navy) that smart drilling has changed the oil and natural gas future for the US, without any assistance from Washington. Thus, articles on oil and natural gas will be fewer. [Smart drilling can be defined as precision horizontal drilling of dense shale, multi-port hydraulic fracturing using sand or ceramics and limited chemicals to keep the fractures open.] Well-life, extraction costs, etc. remain open and articles on such issues will be continued, as well as any sound environmental issues. Based on current reports, extraction costs of oil are above \$50 per barrel, significantly above the about \$20 per barrel for Saudi Arabia.

Developments in offshore drilling, and any (unlikely for now) expansion of drilling on Federal lands will be linked. Transportation remains a major issue; the need for new pipelines is clear.

Reports place the estimated transportation costs [including compression and regasification] of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) of about \$5 to \$6 per 1000 cubic feet, making the feasibility of export from the US to Europe questionable, but export to Asia economically feasible – at least on paper. Developments in these areas will be linked as they occur.

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**UnScience or Non-Science?** It is becoming increasingly evident that the climate models relied on by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and its followers, have failed to predict the current stoppage in global warming, and greatly overestimate warming of areas such as the tropics. We are seeing an increase in studies on the results of these models, even though they have not been validated, and their projections are failing. The question is how to classify these studies. They are certainly not empirical science, because they impart no empirical knowledge, except to the models themselves.

Over 60 years ago, Bertrand Russell had a book published entitled “Unpopular Essays.” He described how he came about the title. In a preface to a prior work, he said that the work should be of interest to the general educated public. Critics took him to task and complained that certain passages were difficult to understand, implying he misled purchasers. He did not wish to be

charged with this again. He fully admitted that certain passages in the new work may be difficult for some to understand. Thus, he cannot claim the essays are popular. If not popular, they must be unpopular.

Following a similar logic, if the often elaborate computer model exercises do not convey empirical knowledge, they are not science [in the traditional sense]. Thus, they are not science, and they must be UnScience or Non-Science.

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**Strong Positive Feedback?** This week *Nature* magazine published an article claiming that of the models the authors examined, those that project very high increases temperatures from a doubling of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) (a strong positive feedback) described the behavior of clouds better than those models that project moderate increases in temperatures from a doubling CO<sub>2</sub>. The paper was trumpeted to support the usual claims of dire world consequences from the burning of fossil fuels. Upon initial review, it appears that the paper suffers from several inadequacies, including highly selective use of data. But, these will be discussed in the future.

What is of particular interest is the logic used. If a climate model describes some phenomena well, it should be preferred to a model that does not. Under ordinary circumstances this would be the choice. But the issue is future temperatures, and there is no reason to assume a model that explains current temperature trends poorly will describe future temperature well. All the models which project high future temperatures are performing poorly against observations.

As discussed by Richard Lindzen (TWTW Dec 21, 2013 and elsewhere), climate models and the IPCC procedures are not ordinary circumstances. The concept of falsification is sidestepped and there is no rigorous chain of logical reasoning and experimentation. Simply, because a climate model gets one thing right that does not mean it will get anything else right.

As climate modelers have claimed, because the models failed to project the current stoppage in warming and many greatly overestimate current temperature trends, this is not evidence that the climate models have been falsified. Fair enough. Correspondingly, one thing done correctly is not validation. The IPCC and the modelers have created a morass, and they need to find their way out. See links under UnScience or Non-Science?

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**Solar Race:** According to reports, China's "Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has announced a list of 134 producers of silicon materials, solar panels and other components of photovoltaic systems as meeting certain conditions, as measured by 2012 production, capacity utilization and technical standards." The remaining 500 plus companies are being abandoned. They will not be able to get credit lines from financial institutions or any government support. Built largely for the export market, the PV solar industry in China has been facing significant oversupply and financial losses.

Citizens in Western countries that did not join the race with China for 21<sup>st</sup> century energy can be thankful. Those who plan to install solar panels in the future may be facing higher prices, and questionable economics. As it is, photovoltaic solar is a mature industry and needs no subsidies. Is the DOE aware of this? See link under Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

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**Bio-Navy:** For some in Washington news travels very slowly. The US Navy and the Department of Agriculture have announced their Farm to Fleet program to "make biofuel blends part of regular, operational fuel purchase and use by the military." The claimed ultimate goal is to have "a

secure, stable fuel source, guarding against oil price spikes.” The Secretary of Agriculture stated that “rural America stands ready to provide clean, homegrown energy that increases our military’s energy independence and puts Americans to work.”

According to the program’s promoters, biofuels will be available at less than \$4 per gallon by 2016. This price remains to be seen.

The entire scheme seems to be based on out-of-date concepts. The threat of unprecedented and dangerous global warming is no longer occurring, except in unvalidated climate models. And even the White House recognizes that the dependence on oil from unstable regions in the world is declining. In October, US oil production exceeded imports and some members of Congress are considering introducing legislation removing the ban on oil exports.

One can only speculate what will happen to food prices if Middle America were hit with natural disasters such as the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927 or the repeated droughts of the 1930s that turned much of the farmland into the Great Dust Bowl. The public will demand more than just ending such wasteful programs, implemented a time when US oil and natural gas production is increasing dramatically. See link under Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy – Other.

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**Climate Comedy:** It’s summer in Antarctic and global warming is happening, so it must be balmy. A group of eco-tourists, journalists, and others, headed by a climate scientist ventured to cruise the Antarctic, following the route of explorer Douglas Mawson in 1911-1914 and to conduct the same experiments his team did. No doubt, the underlying purpose was a publicity opportunity to highlight the dangers of global warming. There was only one slight glitch for this wonderful venture, Antarctic sea ice is not melting according to the approved global warming script.

There is more than adequate reporting of the venture. However, the resources that were required to save this “Ship of Fools” would have better served the interest of science elsewhere. The venture, in modern fossil fuel driven vessels, using helicopters, trivializes the planning, fortitude and dangers faced by early polar explorers. See Quote of the Week and links under Climate Comedy?

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**Number of the Week:** 12. Writing in ICECAP, Joseph D’Aleo introduces us to the Northeast Snowfall Impact Scale (NESIS), which, since the 1950s, has been used to categorize severe snow storms hitting the Northeast. According to D’Aleo, the worst decade for severe snowstorms was the 1960s with 11 storms so categorized. If the storm that just passed is categorized as severe, which it was in many parts of the Northeast, the total for this decade is now 12. And this is only the beginning of the fourth year of the decade. Readers may recall that the 1960s brought many climate alarmists to claim that a new Ice Age is upon us.

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## **ARTICLES:**

For the numbered articles below please see this week’s TWTW at: [www.sepp.org](http://www.sepp.org). The articles are at the end of the pdf.

### **1. It Isn't Climate Change**

We long for the days when the weather wasn't politicized.

Editorial, WSJ, Jan 2, 2014

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303870704579296862914215496?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_AboveLEFTTop](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303870704579296862914215496?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop)

## **2. Political Science at the EPA**

The agency peer reviews itself on its own coal ban.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 23, 2013

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303560204579250382687716124?mod=djemEditorialPage\\_h](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303560204579250382687716124?mod=djemEditorialPage_h)

*[SEPP Comment: Letter responses included.]*

## **3. Schiff and MacDonald: The Endangered Species Act Turns 40—Hold the Applause**

The badly administered law has had a limited effect on wildlife while inflicting great social and economic costs.

By Damien Schiff and Julie MacDonald, WSJ, Dec 27, 2013

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303497804579240682942455964?mod=ITP\\_opinion\\_0](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303497804579240682942455964?mod=ITP_opinion_0)

## **4. The EPA's Golden Rule: No Good Neighbor Goes Unpunished**

Why the agency's 2011 Cross-State Air Pollution Rule should be struck down.

By Brian Potts, WSJ, Dec 20, 2013

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303932504579258291708181228?mod=ITP\\_opinion\\_0](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303932504579258291708181228?mod=ITP_opinion_0)

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## **NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

### ***The Changing Sun***

#### **Video: Sun has 'flipped upside down' as new magnetic cycle begins**

By Tomas Jivanda, Independent, UK, Dec 29, 2013

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/video-sun-has-flipped-upside-down-as-new-magnetic-cycle-begins-9029378.html>

### ***Challenging the Orthodoxy***

#### **What Catastrophe?**

MIT's Richard Lindzen, the unalarmed climate scientist

By Ethan Epstein, Weekly Standard, Jan 13, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

[http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/what-catastrophe\\_773268.html#](http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/what-catastrophe_773268.html#)

#### **Many Climate Reconstructions Incorrectly Attributed to Temperature Change.**

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Dec 31, 2013

<http://drtimball.com/2013/many-climate-reconstructions-incorrectly-attributed-to-temperature-change/>

*[SEPP Comment: A lengthy essay discussing a number of issues the IPCC generally ignores, including the importance of the water cycle.]*

#### **Leading Expert Modeler Tells Why Climate Models Hardly Better Than Hocus Pocus:**

**“Welcome To Wonderland”! –**

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 30, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/12/30/leading-expert-modeler-tells-why-climate-models-hardly-better-than-hocus-pocus-welcome-to-wonderland/>

*[SEPP Comment: Earlier video of presentation by Christopher Essex on climate models in which he shows an ample sense of humor.]*

### **Questions Policymakers Should Be Asking Climate Scientists Who Receive Government Funding**

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Jan 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/02/questions-policymakers-should-be-asking-climate-scientists-who-receive-government-funding/>

### **Severe Limitations of IPCC Understanding And Explanation Of Monsoons As Mechanisms Of Massive Energy Transfer.**

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Jan 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/02/severe-limitations-of-ipcc-understanding-and-explanation-of-monsoons-as-mechanisms-of-massive-energy-transfer/>

### ***Defending the Orthodoxy***

#### **The weather: be prepared**

The stories of typhoon Haiyan and cyclone Phailin illustrate the argument that there is no such thing as a 'natural' disaster

Editorial, Guardian, UK, Dec 29, 2013

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/dec/29/weather-natural-disaster-climate>

### ***Questioning the Orthodoxy***

#### **Climate change: our 'greatest challenge'?**

By Rob Lyons, Spiked, Dec 30, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

[http://www.spiked-online.com/newsite/article/climate\\_change\\_our\\_greatest\\_challenge/14465#.UsbkhfRDvCt](http://www.spiked-online.com/newsite/article/climate_change_our_greatest_challenge/14465#.UsbkhfRDvCt)

#### **Climate change is cyclical, not man-made**

Climate change experts no more likely to be right than dart throwing monkeys

By Stephen Murgatroyd, Beacon News, Dec 31, 2013 [H/t ICECAP]

[http://beaconnews.ca/blog/2013/12/climate-change-cyclical-man-made/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=climate-change-cyclical-man-made](http://beaconnews.ca/blog/2013/12/climate-change-cyclical-man-made/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=climate-change-cyclical-man-made)

#### **German Public Television Stuns Its Readers, Concedes Medieval Warm Period May Have Been 0.5°C Warmer Than Today!**

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 28, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/12/28/german-public-television-stuns-its-readers-concedes-medieval-warm-period-may-have-been-0-5c-warmer-than-today/>

#### **Lack of accountability clouding the climate change debate**

The world's so-called authority on climate change engages in exaggerated science and has become a political tool

By John McLean, The Age, Jan 3, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.theage.com.au/comment/lack-of-accountability-clouding-the-climate-change-debate-20140102-307ja.html>

#### **Of meteorology and morality**

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Dec 24, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/12/24/monckton-of-meteorology-and-morality/>

**Skeptical view makes Australian front page: climate madness, dishonesty, fraud, deception, lies and exploitation says Maurice Newman**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 31, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/12/skeptical-view-makes-australian-front-page-climate-madness-dishonesty-fraud-deception-lies-and-exploitation-says-maurice-newman/>

Maurice Newman is chairman of the Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council, was Chairman of the ABC, and of the board of the Australian Stock Exchange. He was Chancellor of Macquarie University until 2008.

**Peer Review; Last Refuge of the (Uninformed) Troll**

By David Hoffer, WUWT, Dec 29, 20113

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/12/29/peer-review-last-refuge-of-the-uninformed-troll/>

No longer is the debate in regard to if the models are wrong. The debate is now about why the models are wrong. The models having fallen, the peer reviewed science they purport to represent falls with them.

***Problems in the Orthodoxy***

**IPCC silently slashes its global warming predictions in the AR5 final draft**

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Jan 1, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/01/ipcc-silently-slashes-its-global-warming-predictions-in-the-ar5-final-draft/>

**16-Year Global Warming Pause, Scramble For An Explanation Among Spiegel's Top 10 Science Stories of 2013!**

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 26, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/12/26/global-warming-pause-scramble-for-an-explanation-among-spiegels-top-10-science-stories-of-2013/>

***Seeking a Common Ground***

**Pretense of knowledge**

Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Dec 25, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/12/25/pretense-of-knowledge/>

**Putting headlines ahead of science**

By Patrick Michaels, Orange County Register, Jan 2, 2014

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/science-595696-research-journals.html>

***Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC***

***For a full list of articles see [www.NIPCCreport.org](http://www.NIPCCreport.org)***

**Boreal Wildfires in a Warming World**

Reference: Girardin, M.P., Ali, A.A., Carcaillet, C., Blarquez, O., Hely, C., Terrier, A., Genries, A. and Bergeron, Y. 2013. Vegetation limits the impact of a warm climate on boreal wildfires. *New Phytologist* 199: 1001-1011.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/dec/24dec2013a2.html>

**Reconstructing the Increasing "Breath" of Earth's Biosphere**

Reference: Long, M.C., Lindsay, K., Peacock, S., Moore, J.K. and Doney, S.C. 2013. Twentieth-century oceanic carbon uptake and storage in CESM1(BGC). *Journal of Climate* 26: 6775-6800. <http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/dec/25dec2013a2.html>

### **Freezing to Death on a Subtropical Island: Report from Tiawan**

Reference: Lin, Y.-K., Wang, Y.-C., Lin, P.-L., Li, M.-H., and Ho, T.-J. 2013. Relationships between cold-temperature indices and all causes and cardiopulmonary morbidity and mortality in a subtropical island. *Science of the Total Environment* 461-462: 627-635.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/dec/31dec2013a3.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Freezing is the wrong word, but cold weather kills.*]

### **Effects of Elevated pCO<sub>2</sub> on a Tidal Pool Coralline Alga**

Reference: Egilisdottir, H., Noisette, F., Noel, L.M.-L.J., Olafson, J. and Martin, S. 2013. Effects of pCO<sub>2</sub> on physiology and skeletal mineralogy in a tidal pool coralline alga *Corallina elongata*. *Marine Biology* 160: 2103-2112.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jan/1jan2014a3.html>

### **Measurement Issues**

#### **Potential Inaccuracies of Assessing Temperature Trends**

By Staff Writers, SPPI & CO<sub>2</sub> Science, Jan 3, 2014

[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/potential\\_inaccuracies.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/potential_inaccuracies.html)

Link to paper: Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change. "Potential Inaccuracies of Assessing Temperature Trends." Last modified January 1, 2014.

[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/potential\\_inaccuracies.pdf](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/potential_inaccuracies.pdf)

#### **Historical Global Temperature Trends**

By Staff Writers, SPPI & CO<sub>2</sub> Science, Dec 29, 2013

[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/historical\\_global\\_temperature\\_trends.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/historical_global_temperature_trends.html)

Link to paper: Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change. "Historical Global Temperature Trends." Last modified December 25, 2013.

<http://www.co2science.org/subject/g/summaries/globaltrends.php>

#### **Global warming advocates should take out their earplugs**

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Dec 26, 2013

[http://washingtonexaminer.com/examiner-editorial-global-warming-advocates-should-take-out-their-earplugs/article/2541187?utm\\_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Reoccurring%20-%202012/27/2013&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Washington%20Ex](http://washingtonexaminer.com/examiner-editorial-global-warming-advocates-should-take-out-their-earplugs/article/2541187?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Reoccurring%20-%202012/27/2013&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Ex)

### **Changing Weather**

#### **Latest storm likely to make the 2010s the snowiest decade in the east in the NOAA record**

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Jan 4, 2014

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes->

[blog/latest\\_storm\\_likely\\_to\\_make\\_2010s\\_snowiest\\_decade\\_in\\_noaa\\_nesis\\_data\\_base/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/latest_storm_likely_to_make_2010s_snowiest_decade_in_noaa_nesis_data_base/)

#### **First time in 20 years – more daily record lows than daily highs that were either tied or set in 2013**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 31, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/12/31/first-time-in-20-years-more-daily-record-lows-than-daily-highs-that-were-either-tied-or-set-in-2013/>

[SEPP Comment: The 1993 cooling is attributed to the June 15, 1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and subsequent emissions of aerosols and dust into the stratosphere.]

### **German Scientists: NOAA 2013 Hurricane Prediction Completely Missed The Barn...Not A Single Major Hurricane!**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 23, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/12/23/german-scientists-noaa-2013-hurricane-predictions-completely-missed-the-barn-not-a-single-major-hurricane/>

### ***Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice***

#### **December 31 Global Sea Ice Area Was The Largest Ever Recorded**

By Steven Goddard, Real Science, Jan 2, 2014

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2014/01/02/december-31-global-sea-ice-area-was-the-largest-ever-recorded/>

[SEPP Comment: Since satellite measurements began in 1979.]

### ***Changing Earth***

#### **Disaster warning systems could prevent another Tsunami devastation event**

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Dec 24, 2013

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Governments\\_can\\_prevent\\_another\\_Tsunami\\_devastation\\_by\\_investing\\_in\\_disaster\\_warning\\_systems\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Governments_can_prevent_another_Tsunami_devastation_by_investing_in_disaster_warning_systems_999.html)

### ***Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine***

#### **The GMO Stigma**

By Henry Miller, Project Syndicate, Jan 3, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/henry-i--miller-on-the-meaningless-distinction-between-genetically-modified-organisms-and-their-conventional-counterparts>

Labeling foods derived from GMOs, as some have proposed, thus implies a meaningful difference where none exists – an issue that even regulators have acknowledged.

### **UNL Research Raises Concerns About Future Global Crop Yield Projections**

By Staff Writers, Lincoln NB (SPX), Dec 23, 2013

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/UNL\\_Research\\_Raises\\_Concerns\\_About\\_Future\\_Global\\_Crop\\_Yield\\_Projections\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/UNL_Research_Raises_Concerns_About_Future_Global_Crop_Yield_Projections_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: In a number of countries, yields are not increasing as past trends indicated they would. Further augment for GAO crops and against bio-fuels.]

### ***Un-Science or Non-Science?***

#### **Climate Change Vastly Worse Than Previously Thought**

By Mark Joseph Stern, Slate, Dec 31, 2013

[http://www.slate.com/blogs/the\\_slatest/2013/12/31/climate\\_change\\_vastly\\_worse\\_than\\_previously\\_thought.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_slatest/2013/12/31/climate_change_vastly_worse_than_previously_thought.html)

Link to paper: Spread in model climate sensitivity traced to atmospheric convective mixing

By Sherwood, et al, Nature, Jan 2, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v505/n7481/full/nature12829.html>

[SEPP Comment: Warming causes a reduction in cloud cover resulting in more warming – a strong positive feedback. How could the earth have survived such a poorly designed system?]

## **Climate Crazyness of the Week: only the ‘cooler’ models are wrong – the rest say 4°C of warming by 2100**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 31, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/12/31/climate-crazyness-of-the-week-only-the-cooler-models-are-wrong-the-rest-say-4oc-of-warming-by-2100/>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

## **Sherwood Forest**

By Clive Best, His Blog, Jan 4, 2014

<http://clivebest.com/blog/?p=5425>

[SEPP Comment: Early criticism of the Sherwood paper linked above.]

## **Major reductions in seafloor marine life from climate change by 2100**

By Staff Writers, Southampton, UK (SPX), Jan 01, 2014

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Major\\_reductions\\_in\\_seafloor\\_marine\\_life\\_from\\_climate\\_change\\_by\\_2100\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Major_reductions_in_seafloor_marine_life_from_climate_change_by_2100_999.html)

## ***Lowering Standards***

### **Unqualified evidence**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 21, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/12/21/unqualified-evidence.html>

So even if Doug's position is "the models are not yet falsified", we have to ask where is the communication of the known problems with the models[?] Why has the Royal Meteorological Society not explained the situation to politicians?

## **Brian Hoskins, then and now**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 22, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/12/22/brian-hoskins-then-and-now.html>

The similarity in approach to the Royal Meteorological Society is striking: there is exactly the same ambiguity, allowing the authors insinuate that the scientific community has confidence that the models are suitable for quantitative prediction while giving them plausible deniability in future.

## **You are ill! By definition.**

By John Brignell, Number Watch, Jan 3, 2014

[http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2014\\_january.htm#Ill!](http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2014_january.htm#Ill!)

## **Britain's costliest mistake? Lord Stern defends his climate maths**

Pass Go and Collect Peerage

By Andrew Orlowski, The Register, Dec 30, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/12/30/britains\\_costliest\\_mistake\\_stern\\_defends\\_climate\\_maths/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/12/30/britains_costliest_mistake_stern_defends_climate_maths/)

## ***Climate Comedy?***

### **A cruise that will cost the climate campaign dear**

By Christopher Caldwell, Financial Times, Jan 3, 2014

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/04276fd8-69ca-11e3-aba3-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl#axzz2pQ3jM7AU>

## **French Le Monde Follows Revkin...Blasts Turney's Antarctic Joy Ride For Disrupting Real Antarctic Science!**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jan 3, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/01/03/french-le-monde-follows-revkin-blasts-turneys-antarctic-joy-ride-for-disrupting-real-antarctic-science/>

## **An Icy Blast of Scepticism**

By Graham Lloyd, The Australian, Via GWPF, Jan 1, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/icy-blast-scepticism/>

## **Australian taxpayers will pay \$400,000 cost for climate scientist's ship stuck in ice. Total cost "millions"**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 4, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/01/australian-taxpayers-will-pay-400000-cost-for-climate-scientists-ship-stuck-in-ice-total-cost-millions/>

## **Antarctic sea ice saga**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jan 1, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/01/01/antarctic-sea-ice-saga/>

## **Antarctic rescue ship now stuck in ice**

The Chinese icebreaker which helped transport passengers away from a stranded Antarctic ship has itself become stuck in ice

By Harriet Alexander, Telegraph, UK, Jan 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/antarctica/10548690/Antarctic-rescue-ship-now-stuck-in-ice.html>

## **Expedition Communication Director Alvin Stone: "Climate Warming Led To The Vessel's Awkward Predicament"!**

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jan 3, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/01/03/expedition-communication-director-alvin-stone-climate-warming-led-to-the-vessels-awkward-predicament/>

## **Saving the Antarctic scientists, er media, er, activists, er tourists trapped by sea ice**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 29, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/12/29/saving-the-antarctic-scientists-er-media-er-activists-er-tourists-trapped-by-sea-ice/>

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

### **Rethinking climate advocacy**

By Judith Curry, Dec 22, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/12/22/rethinking-climate-advocacy/>

[SEPP Comment: The public is beginning to question the reliability of those who have exaggerated global warming.]

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

### **Biggest PBS stories of 2013 involved polar bear experts fudging data**

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Dec 31, 2013

<http://polarbearsience.com/2013/12/31/biggest-pbs-stories-of-2013-involved-polar-bear-experts-fudging-data/>

### **Another Conservation Success Story Hijacked by Climate Alarmists**

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Jan 1, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/01/01/another-conservation-success-story-hijacked-by-climate-alarmists/>

Link to paper: Poleward expansion of mangroves is a threshold response to decreased frequency of extreme cold events

By Cavanaugh, et al, PNAS, Dec 26, 2013

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/12/26/1315800111.abstract>

### **Claim: Dark Money Conspiracy – star “deniers” are scripted performers**

Prof. Brulle (Drexel Uni, Phil) claims IRS helped track secret donations

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Dec 23, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/12/23/claim-dark-money-conspiracy-star-deniers-are-scripted-performers/>

Link to paper: Institutionalizing delay: foundation funding and the creation of U.S. climate change counter-movement organizations

By Robert Brulle, Drexel University, Dec 21, 2013

<http://www.drexel.edu/~media/Files/now/pdfs/Institutionalizing%20Delay%20-%20Climatic%20Change.ashx>

### ***Expanding the Orthodoxy***

#### **Blame game**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jan 2, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/01/02/blame-game/#more-14233>

*[SEPP Comment: Decades of global warming propaganda may take their toll with lawsuits against western governments and corporations.]*

### **Efforts to curb climate change require greater emphasis on livestock**

By Staff Writers, Corvallis OR (SPX), Dec 23, 2013

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Efforts\\_to\\_curb\\_climate\\_change\\_require\\_greater\\_emphasis\\_on\\_livestock\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Efforts_to_curb_climate_change_require_greater_emphasis_on_livestock_999.html)

### ***Questioning European Green***

**New British plan will pay people to be “ready to do nothing” to help with energy crisis**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 24, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/12/new-british-plan-to-pay-people-to-be-ready-to-do-nothing-to-cope-with-energy-crisis/>

### **Millions Of Trees Felled For Wind Farms**

By Lindsay McIntosh, The Times, Via GWPF, Jan 3, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/millions-trees-felled-wind-farms/>

*[SEPP Comment: Scotland's new environmentalism.]*

**£30million for wind turbines that don't work when it's windy: Cost is £25million higher than last year and paid for by household bills**

By Tamara Cohen, Daily Mail, UK, Dec 25, 2013  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2529297/Title-goes-here.html>

### ***Funding Issues***

#### **EU Funding £90m Green Lobbying Con**

By Robert Mendick and Edward Malnick, The Sunday Telegraph, Via GWPF, Dec 22, 2013  
<http://www.thegwpf.org/eu-funding-90m-green-lobbying-con/>  
[SEPP Comment: At least Greenpeace refuses to participate in this government fraud.]

### ***The Political Games Continue***

#### **Climate change debate ready to heat up**

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Dec 28, 2013  
<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/194082-climate-change-debate-to-dominate-agenda-in-2014>

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

#### **The Rest of the Story Part 4: Kreutzer Discusses Impact of Carbon Tax**

By Robert Murphy, IER, Dec 20, 2013  
<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/2013/12/20/the-rest-of-the-story-part-4-kreutzer-discusses-impact-of-carbon-tax/>

### ***Subsidies and Mandates Forever***

#### **Europe wants to block UK wind farm subsidies**

European climate action commissioners say state aid for renewable technologies should be phased out by the end of the decade  
By James Kirkup, and Bruno Waterfield, Telegraph, UK, Jan 2, 2014  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/renewableenergy/10548157/Europe-wants-to-block-UK-wind-farm-subsidies.html>

#### **Congress allows wind tax subsidies to fizzle out**

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Jan 2, 2014  
<http://dailycaller.com/2014/01/02/congress-allows-wind-tax-subsidies-to-fizzle-out/>

#### **Ethanol loses friends and influence as reform movement grows**

By Javier David, CNBC, Dec 29, 2013  
<http://www.cnbc.com/id/101297359>

#### **Texas wind industry might face a future without incentives**

By Bill Hanna, Star Telegram, Dec. 28, 2013  
<http://www.star-telegram.com/2013/12/28/5445804/texas-wind-industry-might-face.html?rh=1>

### ***EPA and other Regulators on the March***

#### **EPA publishes carbon capture regs**

By Ben Goad, The Hill, Jan 2, 2014  
<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/194276-epa-publishes-carbon-capture-regs>  
[SEPP Comment: Yet to be demonstrated on a commercial scale.]

#### **Crooked Labs, Agencies and Prosecutors**

By Paul Driessen, Townhall, Dec 27, 2103

<http://townhall.com/columnists/pauldriessen/2013/12/27/crooked-labs-agencies-and-prosecutors-n1768783/page/full>

### **Social Cost of Carbon: DOE Rejects Petition to Reconsider Microwave Rule**

By Marlo Lewis, Cooler Heads, Jan 2, 2013

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/01/02/social-cost-of-carbon-doe-rejects-petition-to-reconsider-microwave-rule/>

### **The bureaucracy's media defenders**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 3, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/1/3/the-bureaucracys-media-defenders.html>

### **EPA unveils new furnace, boiler standards**

By Ben Goad, The Hill, Jan 3, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/194362-epa-unveils-new-furnace-boiler-standards>

*[SEPP Comment: The health benefits are highly questionable.]*

### **Interior Department denies road through Alaska wildlife refuge**

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Dec 23, 2013

[http://washingtonexaminer.com/interior-department-denies-road-through-alaska-wildlife-refuge/article/2541153?utm\\_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20Reoccurring%20-%2012/24/2013&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today](http://washingtonexaminer.com/interior-department-denies-road-through-alaska-wildlife-refuge/article/2541153?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20Reoccurring%20-%2012/24/2013&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today)

### ***Energy Issues – Non-US***

#### **From Sail to Hybrids Part 2**

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Jan 3, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/01/03/from-sail-to-hybrids-part-2/>

*[SEPP Comment: Two-part series on the changes in propulsion systems on naval craft.]*

### ***Energy Issues -- US***

#### **Spreading disarray**

Why the price of crude in America is out of whack with the rest of the world

The Economist, Dec 14, 2013

<http://www.economist.com/news/finance-and-economics/21591630-why-price-crude-america-out-whack-rest>

### **Electricity Prices Soar As Government Regulation Surges**

Editorial, IBD, Dec 26, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/122613-684286-epas-heavy-hand-is-felt-in-higher-electricity-prices.htm>

### **U.S. Energy Policy: A National Money Hole?**

By Jared Meyer, Real Clear Energy, Dec 11, 2013

[http://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2013/12/11/us\\_energy\\_policy\\_a\\_national\\_money\\_hole\\_107399.html](http://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2013/12/11/us_energy_policy_a_national_money_hole_107399.html)

## **Breitling CEO Faulkner discusses EIA outlook, challenges to moving oil and gas**

Transcript by Staff Writers, EETV, Dec 17, 2013

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1760/transcript>

*[SEPP Comment: Realities in the US oil and gas market. Extracting oil and gas from shale requires sustained drilling and costs significantly more than extracting oil in Saudi Arabia.]*

## **Train Carrying Oil in North Dakota Ablaze After Derailing**

By Lynn Doan, Konstantin Rozhnov and Barbara Powell, Bloomberg, Dec 31, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-12-31/train-carrying-oil-in-north-dakota-ablaze-after-derailing.html>

## **Officials warn Bakken crude may pose greater flammability risk**

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jan 3, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/194357-officials-warn-bakken-crude-may-pose-greater-flammability-risk>

*[SEPP Comment: The oil is of such high quality that it burns at lower temperatures than regular crude. More reason to build pipelines such as the Keystone.]*

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

### **2013 oil boom is biggest ever, data show**

By Simone Sebastian, Fuel Fix, Dec 26, 2013

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/12/26/2013-oil-boom-is-biggest-ever-data-shows/?cmpid=hpts>

## **The Secret Danger Liberals Don't Want You to Know: Fracking is Safe**

By Marita Noon, Townhall, Dec 29, 2013

[http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2013/12/29/the-secret-danger-liberals-dont-want-you-to-know-fracking-is-safe-n1769437?utm\\_source=thdaily&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nl](http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2013/12/29/the-secret-danger-liberals-dont-want-you-to-know-fracking-is-safe-n1769437?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl)

## **Is Methane Hydrate The Energy Source Of The Future?**

By Clare Foran, National Journal, Dec 24, 2013

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/energy/is-methane-hydrate-the-energy-source-of-the-future-20131224>

## ***Nuclear Energy and Fears***

### **James Hansen In Spiegel Interview: Environmental Groups Against Nuclear Power “For Fear Of Losing Funding”**

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 23, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/12/23/james-hansen-in-spiegel-interview-environmental-groups-against-nuclear-power-for-fear-of-losing-funding/>

## ***Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind***

### **China hands 'death sentence' to 75% of solar cell makers**

By Toru Sugawara, Nikkei, Dec 24, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Trends/China-hands-death-sentence-to-75-of-solar-cell-makers>

*[SEPP Comment: Solar is a mature industry, no need to subsidize it anymore.]*

## **The Impact of Federal Wind Energy Subsidies on States**

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Jan 2, 2014

[http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article\\_ID=23948&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=DPD](http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=23948&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD)

Link to study: "Estimating the State-Level Impact of Federal Wind Energy Subsidies"

By Staff Writers, Institute for Energy Research, December 2013

<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/State-Level-Impact-of-Federal-Wind-Subsidies.pdf>

*[SEPP Comment: Federal government wind expenditures and subsidies benefit a few at the expense of the many.]*

### **Renewables Fiasco: Doldrums And Clouds Bring Green Electricity Production To A Halt**

By Daniel Wetzel, Die Welt, Via GWPF, Dec 25, 2013

<http://www.thegwgf.org/renewables-fiasco-doldrums-clouds-bring-green-electricity-production-halt/>

Germany's wind and solar power production came to an almost complete standstill in early December. More than 23,000 wind turbines stood still. One million photovoltaic systems stopped work nearly completely. For a whole week coal, nuclear and gas power plants had to generate an estimated 95 percent of Germany's electricity supply.

### **The Solar Swindle**

By Norman Rogers, American Thinker, Dec 30, 2013

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/12/the\\_solar\\_swindle.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/12/the_solar_swindle.html)

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

#### **Navy Sees 'Farm to Fleet' Biofuel Blends at Low Prices**

By Pete Danko, Earth Techling, Dec 12, 2013

<http://www.earthtechling.com/2013/12/navy-sees-farm-to-fleet-biofuel-blends-at-competitive-prices/>

Announcement of program: Farm to Fleet Program Initiative

Washington DC, January 30, 2013 hosted by the U.S. Dept. of Navy and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

By Staff Writers, Dec 18, 2013

<http://bayplanningcoalition.org/2013/12/farm-to-fleet-program-initiative/>

### ***Health, Energy, and Climate***

#### **Cancer deaths continue slow decline, despite persistent alarms of "cancer epidemic" from scaremongers**

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Dec 20, 2013

<http://acsh.org/2013/12/cancer-deaths-continue-slow-decline-despite-persistent-alarms-cancer-epidemic-scaremongers/>

### ***Other Scientific News***

#### **The Closing of the Scientific Mind**

By David Gelemter, Commentary, Jan 1, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/article/the-closing-of-the-scientific-mind/>

That science should face crises in the early 21st century is inevitable. Power corrupts, and science today is the Catholic Church around the start of the 16th century: used to having its own way and dealing with heretics by excommunication, not argument.

*[SEPP Comment: A long, provocative essay.]*

## **Lush Life, Deep Down**

Thriving biodiversity discovered under the seafloor

By Cherie Winner, Oceanus, Dec 30, 2013

<http://www.whoi.edu/oceanus/feature/lush-life-deep-down>

## **Scientific data lost at alarming rate**

By Staff Writers, Vancouver, Canada (SPX), Dec 23, 2013

[http://www.spacemart.com/reports/Scientific\\_data\\_lost\\_at\\_alarming\\_rate\\_999.html](http://www.spacemart.com/reports/Scientific_data_lost_at_alarming_rate_999.html)

## ***Other News that May Be of Interest***

### **New book dives deep into Severn Tsunami disaster of 1607 which devastated Gloucestershire communities**

By Staff Writers, The Citizen, UK, Dec 18, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.gloucestercitizen.co.uk/New-book-dives-deep-Severn-Tsunami-disaster-1607/story-20337329-detail/story.html>

## **The Pretence of Knowledge**

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 1974

By Gunnar Myrdal, Friedrich August von Hayek, 1974 [H/t Climate Etc.]

[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/economic-sciences/laureates/1974/hayek-lecture.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economic-sciences/laureates/1974/hayek-lecture.html)

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## **BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

### **The “Fatal Conceit” in One Letter (‘carbon-negative’ power plants ready to go!)**

By Robert Bradley Jr, Master Resource, Jan 3, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/01/fatal-conceit-nyt-letter-carbon-capture/#more-29080>

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## **ARTICLES:**

### **1. It Isn't Climate Change**

We long for the days when the weather wasn't politicized.

Editorial, WSJ, Jan 2, 2014

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303870704579296862914215496?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_AboveLEFTTop](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303870704579296862914215496?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop)

In case our California and Miami readers haven't heard, it's cold across most of North America. Very cold. Thursday's high in Minneapolis soared to 3 degrees Fahrenheit, which was toasty compared to minus-4 degrees in Winnipeg. The cold snap is spread across the Continent and includes a major snowstorm in the Northeast, which as usual is freaking out in ways that would make residents of the Twin Cities shake their heads.

Our favorite headline of the week was the CBC report that "Winnipeg deep freeze as cold as uninhabited planet." The Manitoba Museum, a connoisseur of such things, is reporting that on Tuesday Mars had reached a maximum temperature of minus-29 Celsius (minus-20 Fahrenheit), which Winnipeg didn't reach until 3 p.m. that day. The Mars temperature comes courtesy of the Curiosity Rover.

This being 2014, when everything devolves to politics, any spell of cold or heat inevitably leads to explanations of climate change. The conservative websites are having a good time pointing to the cold temps as a repudiation of global-warming models, while the global-warming crowd says

even the cold is proof of . . . climate change. You see, it's all about climate extremes. That's why the liberals no longer refer to "global warming."

Normal human beings who prefer not to politicize the weather report understand that climate change has nothing to do with what is . . . winter. The average temperature in Winnipeg in December was close to minus-6 degrees Fahrenheit, which makes it only the fifth or sixth coldest on record. CBC says as recently as the year 2000, the Manitoba capital averaged minus-7.6 degrees in December.

For our part we're looking forward to the weekend NFL playoff games, especially the one in frigid Green Bay (Sunday forecast: minus-3). We long even more for the day when we can gripe about the weather without having to think about Al Gore.

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## **2. Political Science at the EPA**

The agency peer reviews itself on its own coal ban.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 23, 2013

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303560204579250382687716124?mod=djemEditorialPage\\_h](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303560204579250382687716124?mod=djemEditorialPage_h)

*[SEPP Comment: Letter responses included.]*

The Environmental Protection Agency pretends that its mission is scientific, not political. But you sure wouldn't know it from the campaign to cut out the EPA's independent science advisers who exposed the junk science behind the EPA ban on new coal power.

The professors and Ph.D.s who sit on the EPA Science Advisory Board, or SAB, review regulations that involve novel scientific or technological fields, and especially the credibility of the peer-reviewed research the EPA is supposed to use.

The EPA's leadership came down on the SAB after the panel poked around the agency's September 2013 coal rule. The new "performance standards" impose a 1,100-pound limit per megawatt hour on carbon emissions. The most modern coal-fired plants pump out 1,800 pounds or more, so the only way utilities can squeeze under the caps is to install experimental technology to grab carbon before it is released into the air and store it underground.

Such systems have never been proven outside the laboratory, and the few pilot projects are still under construction and over budget. The trouble is that the Clean Air Act requires the EPA to show that mandated technologies are "adequately demonstrated" at commercial scale at a reasonable cost. Thus the agency had to pretend that it wasn't ordering companies to perform impossible tasks, which meant falsifying the literature and experience of this new technology.

This caught the attention of a fact-finding SAB working group chaired by James Mihelcic of the University of South Florida. In a Nov. 12 memo, the group raised questions about carbon sequestration's "technical feasibility" and noticed that, in the EPA's regulatory justification, "the peer review of the scientific and technical information presented for coal-fueled sources appears to be inadequate."

In its original rule, the EPA had pointed to speculative studies and models out of a research unit in the Energy Department to show that sequestration works. Headquarters assured the SAB panel

that these studies had been flyspecked by "industry experts, academia and government research and regulatory agencies."

Yet when the SAB panel inquired further, the Energy Department revealed that some of the studies had been "peer reviewed" by the EPA itself over a period of just a few weeks and the rest never got an unbiased look. Nor could Energy provide "a documented or publicly available description for this peer review process." EPA refuses to share the information with the SAB.

But somehow between the Nov. 12 memo and the Dec. 5 public meeting of the full SAB panel, the watchdogs were converted—or steamrolled—on the virtues of secret taxpayer-funded research and bogus technological claims. Under heavy lobbying from EPA brass, they tabled a vote on the working group's recommendations.

At a briefing, EPA officials argued that the SAB isn't permitted to review sequestration science because EPA isn't mandating sequestration per se, or making rules for sequestration. Supposedly plants merely have to meet the specific emissions limits, and the necessary underlying technology to do so is a separate issue.

But the reason for this entire charade is the agency's statutory obligation to certify that technology has been adequately demonstrated. That's why the EPA brought up sequestration in the first place and relied on the Energy Department studies. To stymie an honest audit, they're trying to claim heads and tails are two different coins.

This circular nonlogic was good enough for Dr. Mihelcic, who declared he'll revise his report to acknowledge the EPA's "very narrow legal focus." Why even have a scientific review panel if it's merely going to be a political rubber stamp?

Letters: WSJ, Jan 2, 2013

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303370904579296711584253726?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_MIDDLEThirdBucket](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303370904579296711584253726?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLEThirdBucket)

In regard to your Dec. 24 editorial "Political Science at the EPA":

You relate how the EPA used government speculative studies and models suggesting that carbon sequestration from coal power plants might be viable and then "peer reviewed" those same studies themselves. This is just another example of the rampant junk science that permeates most of the regulatory machinery, including the inbred "peer review" employed to "substantiate" global warming. It is important to consider what the peer-review process actually does and does not entail.

A technical journal typically relies on a group of scientists in its fields of interest and selects three of these to read a paper proposed for publication. These normally unpaid reviewers are given copies to read as carefully as they see fit. They do not do any actual lab work to validate results, but simply attempt to assure there are no glaring errors or obvious absurdities, protecting the journal from embarrassment.

Peer review in no way assures the actual work is valid or that it is even reproducible.

James W. Benefiel

Dunedin, Fla.

The EPA's tendency to distort science to fit policy has long been criticized not only by outside scientific groups but also by its own extramural advisers. An expert panel commissioned by then-EPA administrator William Reilly reported in 1992 that: (a) "The science advice function—that is, the process of ensuring that policy decisions are informed by a clear understanding of the relevant science—is not well defined or coherently organized within EPA"; (b) "In many cases, appropriate science advice and information are not considered early or often enough in the decision-making process"; (c) Although "EPA should be a source of unbiased scientific information . . . EPA has not always ensured that contrasting, reputable scientific views are well-explored and well-documented." And most damning of all, that (d) "EPA science is perceived by many people, both inside and outside the Agency, to be adjusted to fit policy." Those people were—and are—right.

During the more than two decades since that report, it appears that nothing has changed.

Henry I. Miller, M.D.  
Hoover Institution  
Stanford, Calif.  
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### **3. Schiff and MacDonald: The Endangered Species Act Turns 40—Hold the Applause**

The badly administered law has had a limited effect on wildlife while inflicting great social and economic costs.

By Damien Schiff and Julie MacDonald, WSJ, Dec 27, 2013

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303497804579240682942455964?mod=I>  
[TP opinion 0](#)

Forty years ago, on Dec. 28, 1973, the Endangered Species Act became law. If you want to celebrate, you'll need to close your eyes to hard truths.

A law intended to conserve species and habitat has brought about the recovery of only a fraction—less than 2%—of the approximately 2,100 species listed as endangered or threatened since 1973. Meanwhile, the law has endangered the economic health of many communities—while creating a cottage industry of litigation that does more to enrich environmental activist groups than benefit the environment.

How did things get so turned around? Blame the bureaucrats of the Endangered Species Act. They have administered the law poorly and flouted provisions designed to promote good science and good sense.

A destructive milestone came in the late 1970s, when officials erased the practical distinction between different levels of endangered-species listings. Originally, it was only when an animal or plant was labeled "endangered"—on the verge of disappearing—that landowners were hit with heavy regulations, such as prohibitions on activities that could even indirectly "harm" or "harass" the species. But the Carter administration extended these restrictions to species that are "threatened"—in trouble but not facing extinction.

The chilling effect on property owners and economic activity has been profound. Discovering a listed species on your property is no longer cause for pride in the land's environmental richness

and your chance to exercise responsible stewardship. It's a liability that is to be avoided at all costs.

Enlarge Image

The Utah prairie dog Associated Press

Ask the people of Cedar City, in southwest Utah, where Endangered Species Act regulations have given the Utah prairie dog the run of the town since it was listed in 1973. The rabbit-size rodent is now listed as "threatened," even though there are 40,000 in the region. In most cases, residents can't take measures to control the burgeoning prairie-dog population; they can't even try to relocate the animals to federal property.

The infestation means pockmarked yards for homeowners. Farmers' crops get dug up. Prairie-dog mounds and tunnels on airport property create hazards on runways and taxiways. At one airport in the Cedar City region, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to prevent damage from the prairie dogs. Shooting them in the interest of protecting human lives is out of the question.

Small business owners in Cedar City like Bruce Hughes see their plans dashed. Eighteen years ago, he bought a 3.4-acre parcel to develop. "Then the prairie dogs moved in," he notes, making it impossible for him to use the property productively. "If I killed even one, it would be a \$10,000 fine and five years in federal prison. I could rob a convenience market and get off easier."

One reason the Endangered Species Act has spun out of control is that the federal agencies that decide whether to list a species—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—no longer base decisions on what the law calls for: data. Instead, they invent squishy standards like "best professional judgment."

In eastern Colorado and southeastern Wyoming, the controversy over a rodent called the Preble's meadow jumping mouse shows how a regulatory mountain can rise from an evidentiary molehill. Federal officials listed the mouse as "threatened" in 1998, claiming that it was biologically separate from similar mice elsewhere. But they relied on a 1954 study that examined the skulls of just three Preble's mice.

This was "an extremely weak inference by today's standards," Rob Roy Ramey, then-curator at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, said in 2004. His team's DNA research over the next three years concluded that the mouse wasn't a "distinct subspecies"—and, after seeing the new findings, the 1954 study's author agreed. But the feds won't budge, even after University of New Mexico scholars echoed Dr. Ramey's findings in the September 2013 journal *Molecular Biology*.

The cost of the Preble's "threatened" listing for landowners and local jurisdictions is \$17 million yearly, according to estimates from the Fish and Wildlife Service. Developers have to set aside a portion of their property for Preble's habitat. Ranchers must limit weeding in irrigation canals. Infrastructure projects, from reservoirs to road-widenings, have been slowed or had their costs driven up. "It has been a wonderful tool for environmentalists to try to stop things," said Kent Holsinger, a Denver attorney who represents landowners and water providers.

Some of the most damaging Endangered Species regulations stem from federal "biological opinions" issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife or NOAA staff. In recent years, for instance, irrigation

has been dramatically reduced in the San Joaquin Valley, California's agricultural heartland, because a "biop" claimed that irrigation harmed a tiny fish, the delta smelt.

To protect the smelt, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ordered severe restriction on water deliveries by government water projects. In 2009, at the height of the resulting man-made drought, hundreds of thousands of acres went fallow, and unemployment in some communities touched 40%. Eventually, federal judge Oliver Wagner found that the government had acted in bad faith in developing an "arbitrary" and "capricious" plan. Even so, farmers still receive only a fraction of their water allocation, with no consequence for the federal agency.

How to get the Endangered Species Act back on track? A couple of straightforward reforms would have a big impact, and they could be implemented by the administration through regulatory change, without the need for legislation. First, reinstate the difference between regulations for threatened and endangered species, so that discovery of the former is welcome news of an opportunity to engage in creative environmental protection but not a threat to a landowner's livelihood.

Second, require that each biological opinion and listing determination comes with a data chart that scientifically documents the threats and the consequences for the species of not being listed. Unbelievably, most of the data that were supposed to have informed past decisions are unavailable. In some cases, the information was never even gathered before a ruling was issued. In other cases it unaccountably vanished, e.g., the computer files alleged to hold it were said to be corrupted.

Shoddy listing determinations naturally result in wasted conservation resources and the issuing of misguided biological opinions that ultimately destroy jobs and undermine communities. After four decades of this, Washington would do well to update the Endangered Species Act before the public clamors for its extinction.

*Mr. Schiff is a principal attorney with Pacific Legal Foundation. Ms. MacDonald is a former deputy assistant secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks at the U.S. Interior Department.*

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#### **4. The EPA's Golden Rule: No Good Neighbor Goes Unpunished**

Why the agency's 2011 Cross-State Air Pollution Rule should be struck down.

By Brian Potts, WSJ, Dec 20, 2013

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303932504579258291708181228?mod=I TP\\_opinion\\_0](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303932504579258291708181228?mod=I TP_opinion_0)

Have you ever wondered what all those additional charges are on your electric bill? This month my bill lists a "Customer Charge," a "2013 Fuel Adjustment" and a "State-Wide Low-Income Assistance Fee," which add up to about \$10, or \$120 a year. I'm a utility lawyer, and even I don't know what all of these charges are or how they were calculated.

Soon the Environmental Protection Agency may be adding a new charge to your monthly bill, but it won't be itemized. This one I'm very familiar with because I've spent the past two years challenging it in court. I call it the EPA's "good-neighbor fee" since it comes from a part of the Clean Air Act called the good neighbor provision. It's the amount that the EPA says you need to pay to clean up the pollution that blows from your state into neighboring states.

The fee originates from an EPA regulation adopted in July 2011, called the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, that tells 27 states and the District of Columbia how much cross-state pollution they must reduce from their power plants. The more pollution, the higher the good-neighbor fee.

Most Americans are probably fine with paying a fee to clean up their state's harmful interstate pollution. I live in the Midwest, and I know my state's emissions get blown east and raise air pollution levels that could cause health problems in other states. It seems fair that I should pay to fix that problem, particularly since my state likely benefits from the economic activity related to the pollution.

But the EPA's good-neighbor fee comes with some fine print that many states and utility companies find unfair. If you live in a lesser-polluting state—such as New York, Iowa, South Carolina or my home state of Wisconsin—your good neighbor fee is higher than it would be if the EPA were simply comparing cross-state emission levels. Why? So that more-polluting states—such as Illinois, Ohio, Missouri and Louisiana—don't have to spend as much.

On Dec. 10, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *EPA v. EME Homer City Generation*, in which more than a dozen states as well as private companies are challenging the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule and how its fees are determined. The court agreed to hear the case after the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the rule in 2012, determining that "Congress did not authorize EPA to simply adopt limits on emissions as EPA deemed reasonable."

Industry lawyers like me (my firm represents one of the utility companies in the case) and the D.C. Circuit Court agree that the law requires an "air-quality only" approach based solely on how much pollution a state sends to neighboring states. The EPA, however, looks at how much it would cost various states to reduce their emissions. To lower the overall cost of reducing cross-state pollution, the EPA says it can decide the amount each state has to pay, even if it requires some states to pay more than their fair share.

During oral arguments, Justice Antonin Scalia made it clear that he viewed the EPA's cost-based approach as illegal under the Clean Air Act because a number of lesser polluting states are forced to clean up more than they would under an air-quality only approach. Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena Kagan, however, seemed to side with the EPA, repeatedly pointing out that the agency's cost-based approach is rational because it minimizes overall costs.

No one—not Justice Scalia or the state and industry challengers—questioned the fundamental logic of the EPA's cost-based approach. They should have, because it ignores a critical factor: the cost of electricity.

The EPA's rule covers 27 states. Of those states, the 10 most-polluting pay an average electric rate of 8.6 cents per kilowatt hour (kWh), or about 20% less than the nationwide average. The 10 least-polluting states pay an average rate of 10.7 cents per kWh, or about 5% higher than the nationwide average. So, although the EPA's approach might cost less overall, its rule will cause the lesser polluting states to subsidize the more-polluting states, even though the more-polluting states are already paying some of the lowest electric rates in the country. This seems like bad policy to me.

Let's look at an example using my home state of Wisconsin. Illinois power plants emit twice as much harmful cross-state pollution as Wisconsin plants. Yet the EPA's rule would require

Wisconsin plants to reduce their emissions by 70% and Illinois plants to reduce by only 10%—all because EPA thinks Wisconsin plants are cheaper to clean up. This means that my good-neighbor fee in Wisconsin will be higher than it would be under an air-quality only approach because I have to offset some of Illinois's pollution. But my electric rate in Wisconsin is already about 10.5 cents/kWh, while Illinois's citizens pay about 8.5 cents/kWh. Surely Illinois can afford the higher costs.

Unfortunately we don't know how much more expensive an air-quality only approach would be for the more polluting states because the EPA never did those calculations. So it's difficult to say from a policy perspective how much of the compliance costs, if any, should be shifted between the states.

One thing is clear. Regardless of whether the EPA's cost-based approach is legal, it's definitely not sensible. Unless, of course, you live in a more polluting state.

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