

The Week That Was: 2014-11-08 (November 8, 2014)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *it is "certain that the number of those who reason well in difficult matters is much smaller than the number of those who reason badly.... reasoning is like running and not like carrying, and one Arab steed will outrun a hundred jackasses."* Galileo [H/t Don Easterbrook]

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Number of the Week: 0.0000006%

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THIS WEEK:

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

IPCC Synthesis Report: The November 1 TWTW speculated on the contents of the upcoming report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) synthesizing three separate assessment reports (ARs) into a coherent whole. The three reports are Climate Change: The Physical Science (2013); Impacts, Adaption, and Vulnerability (2014); and Mitigation of Climate Change (2014). TWTWT speculated that the synthesis report will not discuss the failure of the IPCC and the climate establishment to advance understanding of the sensitivity of the earth to a doubling of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is called "Climate Sensitivity"; the synthesis report would contain no systematic discussion of the failure of climate models to predict the absence of 21st century warming, or discussion of the current excuses why.

True to form, the IPCC Synthesis did not discuss IPCC deficiencies, but focused on dire predictions. The new operative term was irreversible. Unless drastic action is taken to stop all human CO₂ emissions, dire consequences would result that is irreversible. A major issue with such predictions is that the Nongovernmental, International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) concluded that many natural, cyclical processes have not been incorporated in IPCC's claims of human-caused climate change. If so, and if processes are cyclical, the effects are naturally reversible.

By ignoring significant failures in its science, the IPCC continues to raise the question is climate science, as interpreted by the IPCC, a natural (physical) science or is it a human construct? See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, Defending the Orthodoxy, and Questioning the Orthodoxy.

US Elections: On November 4, the American electorate demonstrated it is not impressed by dire predictions of the IPCC. The Republicans, many of whom expressed doubt about the claims of the IPCC, took control of the US Senate, expanded control of the US House of Representatives, and expanded control of a number of state legislative bodies. There are a number of explanations for the one-sided vote. One explanation that has not been extensively discussed is that it was a victory of proponents of traditional energy over proponents of new, renewable energy. New, renewable energy is being demonstrated as expensive, unreliable, and impractical for a modern society. It is not needed, when reliable and cheaper sources are available.

In the aftermath, the general press ignored a critical issue regarding many critics of the IPCC and its followers. It is not that critics claim climate change is not happening, many disagree with the claim that humans are the primary cause. It appears that Senator James Inhofe will become

chairman of the influential Senate Environment and Publics Works Committee. This will be a significant shift over the prior leadership, which severely criticized global warming skeptics for personal beliefs that had nothing to do with the scientific issues. An article accusing Senator Inhofe as being a climate denier did little to smooth the transition. The term, climate denier, is meaningless. Senator Inhofe recognizes that climate change is normal and natural and he certainly does not deny that climate change exists.

For a variety of assessments on the election see Articles # 1 and #2 and links under US Election and The Political Games Continue.

Restoring Rigor in Government-Sponsored Research: With the election, many commentators are suggesting what the changed legislative leadership should do. Joining others, TWTW offers these suggestions.

Points of view on Global Warming/Climate Change:

- 1) **Advocates:** Burning of fossil fuels is creating atmospheric carbon dioxide, causing global warming, which has been deemed to be unprecedented and dangerous.
- 2) **Skeptics:** Recent warming is not unprecedented or dangerous – regardless of cause. Increased atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) is beneficial to the environment and to humanity.

Advocates assert that continued warming is dangerous. They rely on complex computer models that indicate significant warming in the latter part of the 21st century from the use of fossil fuels.

Skeptics assert that the influence of carbon dioxide on the earth's temperatures and on climate is greatly overstated and the position of the advocates is unsupported by physical evidence.

Advocates include many government entities, as well as the IPCC and some scientific organizations.

Skeptics include a number of less formal groups. Among them are the Right Climate Stuff Team, retired veterans of the Apollo missions, and the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), comprised largely of retired independent professionals with extensive backgrounds in fields related to climate change.

Funding: Advocates: Western governments fund the bulk of climate change research. For example, according to a report from the White House, in FY 2013 total US government expenditures on global warming/climate change amounted to about \$22.6 Billion. About \$2.5 Billion went to the US Global Change Research Program, which follows the lead of the IPCC and fails stand up to independent review. The balance of the funding goes to programs designed to reduce global warming/climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Skeptics: There is no central funding of the skeptics. The Right Stuff Climate Team is self-funded. The publications of NIPCC are funded by private foundations.

Results - Advocates: As the public is becoming aware, the models used by the advocates greatly overestimate 21st century warming. During this century there is little or no warming even though CO₂ concentrations increased about 9% from 1997 to 2013. The position of the advocates is becoming increasingly untenable. Since the models fail to predict early 21st century temperatures,

there is no logical reason to assume they are capable of predicting later 21st century temperatures or any other climate conditions.

The IPCC and the climate establishment have failed to advance understanding of the sensitivity of the earth to a doubling of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is called Climate Sensitivity. The 2013 estimate was 1.5 – 4.5°C. This is the same estimate as given in a 1979 report to the US National Academy of Science by a special group under MIT meteorologist Jule Charney. The inability to narrow this estimate demonstrates a lack of progress in the climate science embodied by the IPCC and its adherents – such as the US National Climate Assessment, produced by the US Global Change Research Program.

The climate establishment has produced little or no systematic discussion of the failure of the climate models to predict the lack of 21st century warming. There is little or no systematic discussion of the 40 some latter-day explanations of the lack of warming. Some of these explanations are inconsistent with other explanations, and many embody natural causes, which according to the IPCC Summary for Policymakers, should have been considered in the original reports.

There is little or no systematic discussion of the possibility that the low-end of the estimated range of climate sensitivity is far too high. More importantly, there is little or no systematic discussion of the possibility that the high-end of the estimated range of climate sensitivity is far, far too high. Without the high-end estimates, there is no logical justification for extensive studies on impacts, adaption, vulnerability; and mitigation of climate change. Such studies include emotional issues such as species extinction and dramatic sea level rise, upon which a large part of the climate establishment justifies its existence.

Results - Skeptics: The positions of the skeptics are being borne-out. The climate models are unsuitable for prediction because they have never undergone the rigorous scientific process of verification and validation – a glaring failure. As such, they are little more than sophisticated speculation.

General Recommendations: (From NIPCC and The Right Climate Stuff Team):

1. Team B. The 35 years of failure to advance knowledge in climate sensitivity demonstrates the pressing need to establish a Team B for climate change. The Team B concept embodies a competent, well-financed team that is capable of addressing the issues of a complex or controversial nature. Such teams are frequently used in industry, government, and law. The Right Climate Stuff Team and, more comprehensively, NIPCC provide a Team B. But, because they are not financed by government, their reports are largely ignored by government entities.
2. Models must be verified and validated before they are used to establish policy
3. The enormous benefits of enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide to humanity and the environment must be considered in any government policy.

Specific Recommendations: (From the Right Climate Stuff Team and supported by NIPCC)

1. The science that predicts the extent of Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) is not settled science. (Jan 2013)
2. Our US government is over-reacting to concerns about AGW. (Jan 2013)

3. It is scientifically embarrassing that the EPA has declared CO2 to be a pollutant that must be regulated, since it is a naturally occurring substance required to sustain human, animal and plant life, and for which there is no substitute. (Jan 2013)
4. We have concluded that the IPCC climate models are seriously flawed because they don't agree very closely with measured empirical data. After a 35 year simulation the models over-predicted actual measured temperatures by factors of 200% to 750%. One could hardly expect them to predict with better accuracy 300 years into the future required for use in regulatory decisions. (Feb 2014)
5. There is no convincing evidence that Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) will produce catastrophic climate changes. AGW can only produce modest amounts of global warming that will likely be beneficial when the substantial benefits to crop production from more CO2 in the atmosphere are considered. (Jan 2013) and (Feb 2014).
6. Because there is no immediate threat of global warming requiring swift corrective action, we have time to study global climate changes and improve our prediction accuracy. A wider range of solution options should be studied for global warming or cooling threats from any credible cause. (Jan 2013)

Specific Recommendations – Energy Policy (H/t John Brignell, Number Watch)

1. Energy should be obtained from a variety of sources, lest one should fail.
2. There should be a reliable and continuous source to service the base load.
3. There should be further instantly available sources to accommodate demand surges.
4. Unpredictable and intermittent sources should be avoided.
5. Policy should not be decided by trends, fashions or religious convictions, such as fear of carbon dioxide emissions.

Additions and Corrections: Dennis Ambler wrote that the UK government has a cunning plan to prevent no power cuts in the future: it has enlisted a fleet of back-up Diesel Generators – at great expense to the public. UK blogger, Dr Richard North covered the policy in detail last year when similar claims were being made about the inability of the grid to cope with demand.

<http://www.eureferendum.com/blogview.aspx?blogno=84094>

Number of the Week: 0.0000006%. Energy commentator Donn Dears estimates that three new cellulosic ethanol plants costing about \$775,000,000 are able to produce around 0.0000006% of the government mandated 16 billion gallons cellulosic ethanol required in 2022. The plants are heavily subsidized. See link under Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy -- Other

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below, please see this week’s TWTW at: www.sepp.org. The articles are at the end of the pdf.

1. Little Green Machine

Democrats make a bad investment in the climate-change lobby.
Editorial, WSJ, Nov 6, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/little-green-machine-1415319154>

2. GOP-Controlled Senate Expected to Oppose Obama Energy Policies

Keystone Pipeline, Carbon Emission Rules, Natural-Gas Exports Expected to Receive Attention
By Amy Harder, WSJ, Nov 5, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/gop-controlled-senate-expected-to-oppose-obama-energy-policies-1415213195>

3. Saudi Price Cut Upends Oil Market

Move Paves Way for Further Price Declines, Adds Pressure on U.S. Energy Producers

By Nicole Friedman, Benoit Faucon and Summer Said, WSJ, Nov 3, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/saudi-oil-price-cut-upends-market-1415063053?mod=WSJ_hp_LEFTWhatsNewsCollection

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Climate Dialogue: influence of the sun on climate

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Oct 27, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/10/27/climate-dialogue-influence-of-the-sun-on-climate/#more-17109>

Climategate Continued

Gergis and the PAGES2K Regional Average

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Nov 7, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/11/07/gergis-and-the-pages2k-regional-average/#more-20199>

[SEPP Comment: More statistical games.]

Challenging the Orthodoxy

IPCC 2014: "synthesis" counterproductive measurements and facts

By Klaus-Eckart Pulse, EIKE, Nov 5, 2014 [H/t ACSP]

<http://www.eike-klima-energie.eu/news-cache/ipcc-2014-synthese-kontra-messungen-und-fakten/>

EIKE: IPCC Synthesis Report "In Crass Contradiction To Almost Every Measurement And Trend In Nature"

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 5, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/11/05/eike-ipcc-synthesis-report-in-crass-contradiction-to-almost-every-measurement-and-trend-in-nature/>

Last Gasp of a Dinosaur?

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Nov 4, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/last-gasp-dinosaur>

John Coleman fires back on the IPCC Synthesis Report

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/04/john-coleman-fires-back-on-the-ipcc-synthesis-report/>

Weather Channel Co-Founder: 'Hello Everybody! There Is No Global Warming'

By Sandy Fitzgerald, Newsmax, Nov 2, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.newsmax.com/newswidget/global-warming-myth-weather/2014/11/02/id/604674/?Dkt_nbr=F43B-

[1&nmx_source=Moon Battery Conservative&nmx_medium=widget&nmx_content=217&nmx_campaign=widgetphase2](http://www.newsmax.com/newswidget/global-warming-myth-weather/2014/11/02/id/604674/?Dkt_nbr=F43B-1&nmx_source=Moon+Battery+Conservative&nmx_medium=widget&nmx_content=217&nmx_campaign=widgetphase2)

Who are the Real Deniers?

By Gordon Fulks, ACSP, Nov 7, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/11/who-are-real-deniers.html>

Energy use and electricity generation

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Nov 7, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/energy-use-and-electricity-generation>

IPCC Prediction Of Severe Weather Increase Based On Fundamental Error

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Nov 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/02/ipcc-prediction-of-severe-weather-increase-based-on-fundamental-error/>

Dedicated to promoting synthetic climate alarmism

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Nov 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://business.financialpost.com/2014/11/03/peter-foster-dedicated-to-promoting-synthetic-climate-alarmism/>

ICSC: IPCC focus on stopping global warming and extreme weather is unscientific and immoral

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/02/icsc-ipcc-focus-on-stopping-global-warming-and-extreme-weather-is-unscientific-and-immoral/>

Common Sense on Climate

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Nov 6, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/11/common-sense-on-climate.php>

‘I am sceptical humans are causing global warming’: Buzz Aldrin says more research - and less politics - is needed

By Jonathan O’Callaghan, Mail, UK, Oct 31, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2814701/I-sceptical-humans-causing-global-warming-says-Buzz-Aldrin-thinks-people-sent-DIE-Mars.html>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report

Approved Summary for Policymakers

By Core Writing Team Members, Extended Writing Team, and Review Editors, UN IPCC, Nov 1, 2014

http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/SYR_AR5_SPM.pdf

10 Terrifying Facts From the UN's New Climate Report

It's getting hotter. We're causing it. And we have to act now.

By John Light, Mother Jones, Nov 3, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/11/10-things-you-need-know-new-ipcc-climate-report>

Effects of climate change ‘irreversible,’ U.N. panel warns in report

By Joby Warrick and Chris Mooney, Washington Post, Nov 2, 2014

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/effects-of-climate-change-irreversible-un-panel-warns-in-report/2014/11/01/2d49aeec-6142-11e4-8b9e-2ccdac31a031_story.html

IPCC calls for zero carbon by 2100

By Staff Writers, WNN, Nov 3, 2014

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE-IPCC-calls-for-zero-carbon-by-2100-0311146.html>

UN Climate Panel: Phase Out Fossil Fuels ‘Almost Entirely’ by 2100

By Patrick Goodenough, CNS News, Nov 2, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/patrick-goodenough/un-climate-panel-phase-out-fossil-fuels-almost-entirely-2100>

Irreversible climate change likely without swift action, says UN report

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Nov 2, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/irreversible-climate-change-likely-without-swift-action-says-un-report/article/2555604>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

How urgent is ‘urgent’?

By Judith Curry, Nov 2, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/11/02/how-urgent-is-urgent/#more-17184>

IPCC bias in action

By Marcel Crok, De staat van het klimaat. Nov 4, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.staatvanhetklimaat.nl/2014/11/04/ipcc-bias-in-action/>

Their [Lewis and Curry] preferred likely range is 1.25-2.45°C and the best estimate is 1.64°C. Again, these are not numbers invented by skeptics, those are the numbers of the IPCC itself. It assumes close to 100% of the warming since 1850 is due to humans, an assumption that goes much further than the iconic “it’s now extremely likely that most of the warming since 1950 is due to humans” statement in AR5.

[SEPP Comment: The use of surface data in estimating climate sensitivity is highly questionable. Satellite is far more comprehensive and yields a lower estimate of climate sensitivity.]

Spiegel Slams: “At IPCC Alarmism Comes Before Accuracy”...IPCC “Gross

Problems”...”Suppresses Important Findings”

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 4, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/11/04/spiegel-slams-at-ipcc-alarmism-comes-before-accuracy-ipcc-gross-problems-suppresses-important-findings/>

The Ritual IPCC Alarm: Just 16 Years To Avoid Climate Calamity

By Michael Hanion, The Sunday Times, Via GWPF, Nov 2, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/ipcc-alarm-ritual-just-16-years-to-avoid-climate-calamity/>

IPCC says world should have 'zero emissions' by 2100

By Rick Moran, American Thinker, Nov 2, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/11/ipcc_says_world_should_have_zero_emissions_by_2100.html

IPCC recycles global doom and wants a small part of everything you own

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 3, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/11/ipcc-recycles-global-doom-and-wants-a-small-part-of-everything-you-own/#more-39263>

Does Cloud Cover Explain Recent Temperature Trends

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Nov 2, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/11/does-cloud-cover-explain-recent-temperature-trends.php>

Australia PM defends coal after UN warning on climate

By Staff Writers, Sydney (AFP), Nov 04, 2014

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Australia_PM_defends_coal_after_UN_warning_on_climate_999.html

**Climate change is a problem. But our attempts to fix it could be worse than useless
Panicked, ill-thought-through responses to the threat of climate change could hurt more people than they save**

By Bjorn Lomborg, Telegraph, UK, Nov 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/11205420/Climate-change-is-a-problem.-But-our-attempts-to-fix-it-could-be-worse-than-useless.html>

Embarrassing Predictions Haunt the Global-Warming Industry

By Staff Writers, ICECAP, Nov 4, 2014

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

US Election

Climate Change? An Issue for Losers

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Nov 5, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/11/climate-change-an-issue-for-losers.php>

The day ‘climate change’ became irrelevant in politics – Powerful Green Lobby Defeated In US Midterm Elections

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 5, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/05/the-day-climate-change-became-irrelevant-in-politics-powerful-green-lobby-defeated-in-us-midterm-elections/>

The biggest loser in this election is the climate

By Brad Plumer, VOX, Nov 4, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.vox.com/2014/11/4/7158551/climate-change-was-barely-a-factor-in-the-2014-elections-and-thats-a>

Big lesson for Australia from US voters. Climate change is over as an election issue.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 7, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/11/74-million-spent-pushing-climate-change-but-us-voters-saw-through-the-scare/>

Obama and Dems Rebuked by Electorate on Climate and Energy Policy

By Ronald Bailey, Reason, Nov 5, 2014

<http://reason.com/blog/2014/11/05/obama-and-dems-rebuked-by-electorate-on>

Climate change supporters suffer losses

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Nov 5, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/223028-did-climate-change-win-at-the-ballot-box>

German Climate Alarmists Deflated By GOP Election Sweep: “Could Not Have Come At A Worse Time”

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 7, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/11/07/german-climate-alarmists-deflated-by-gop-election-sweep-could-not-have-come-at-a-worse-time/>

Climate Change Policies Dead In The Water With New Congress

By: DSWright, FDL, Nov 6, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://news.firedoglake.com/2014/11/06/climate-change-policies-dead-in-the-water-with-new-congress/>

A Huge Win for Small Government

By James Allan. Quadrant, Nov 7, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/qed/2014/11/huge-win-small-government/>

Catastrophism Out in the Cold

By Michael Kile, Quadrant, Nov 8, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2014/11/catastrophism-cold/>

Energy re Climate Policy: Time for Change (new Congress needs to fight, not compromise)

By James Rust, Master Resource, Nov 4, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/energy-policy/energy-re-climate-policy-time-change-new-congress-needs-fight-compromise/>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

IPCC lead author Prof Myles Allen: ‘Alarmism is unhelpful...

IPCC: NGO Climate Alarmism is causing a Credibility Gap

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Nov 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/04/ipcc-lead-author-prof-myles-allen-alarmism-is-unhelpful/>

Link to article: Green groups hindering global warming fight with ‘alarmist’ warnings: UN scientists

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, Nov 3, 2014

<http://news.nationalpost.com/2014/11/03/green-groups-hindering-global-warming-fight-with-alarmist-warnings-un-scientists/>

[SEPP Comment: Would the heavy government funding exist if it were not for alarmism?]

Climate talks: India mulls shift in stand

By Vishwa Mohan, Economic Times, India, Nov 5, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/environment/global-warming/climate-talks-india-mulls-shift-in-stand/articleshow/45041325.cms>

Why There’s No Quick Fix for Climate Change

By Taylor Hill, Yahoo, Nov 7, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/why-no-quick-fix-climate-change-153945208.html>

Seeking a Common Ground

The Adaptive Response of Salmon to Global Warming

...the extinction horrors of climate change may be a “fish story”

By Patrick J. Michaels and Craig D. Idso, CATO, Nov 5, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/adaptive-response-salmon-global-warming>

Cognitive bias – how petroleum scientists deal with it

By Peter Rose, Climate Etc. Nov 3, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/11/03/cognitive-bias-how-petroleum-scientists-deal-with-it/>

Climate dynamics of clouds

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 6, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/11/06/climate-dynamics-of-clouds/#more-17127>

Models v. Observations

Confronting models with observations

By Aaron Dubrow, NSF, Nov 7, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133218&WT.mc_id=USNSF_1

Model Issues

New paper finds a huge false physical assumption of IPCC climate models

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Nov 3, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/11/new-paper-finds-huge-false-physical.html>

Link to paper: Far-infrared surface emissivity and climate

By Feldman, et al. PNAS, Nov 3, 2014

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/10/29/1413640111.abstract>

[SEPP Comment: Findings are consistent with the 2008 NIPCC Report that infrared radiation penetrates only the top few microns of water.]

They didn't audit the model

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 5, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/11/5/they-didnt-audit-the-model.html>

Measurement Issues

The DCNF's Definitive Guide To Understanding The Pause In Global Warming

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Oct 31, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/10/31/thedcnfs-definitive-guide-to-understanding-the-pause-in-global-warming/>

Excuses Excuses! Neville Nicholls and the Stevenson screens that didn't exist or did and were “cracked”?

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 6, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/11/excuses-excuses-neville-nicholls-and-the-stevenson-screens-that-didnt-exist-or-did-and-were-cracked/>

HADCRUT4 Adjustments – Discovering Missing Data or Reinterpreting Existing Data? (Now Includes September Data)

By Werner Brozek and Just The Facts, WUWT, Nov 5, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/05/hadcrut4-adjustments-discovering-missing-data-or-reinterpreting-existing-data-now-includes-september-data/>

Independent Review Discovers that NCDC Fumbles Data Handling in GHCN Climate Data

By Bob Koss, WUWT, Nov 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/03/ncdcs-ghcn-fumbles-data-handling/>

Polar bear specialist says there are 800 polar bears in W Hudson Bay, gov't says ~1,000-1,500

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Nov 5, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/11/05/polar-bear-specialist-says-there-are-800-polar-bears-in-w-hudson-bay-govt-says-1000-1500/>

Changing Weather

NASA Study Finds Winter Blocking A Natural And Commonplace Event

By Paul Homewood, Not A Lot of People Know That, Nov 7, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/11/07/nasa-study-finds-winter-blocking-a-natural-and-commonplace-event/#more-11249>

Link to paper: Stalled Weather Systems More Frequent in Decades of Warmer Atlantic

By Maria-José Viñas, NASA, Nov 3, 2014

<http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/blocking-atlantic.html>

Frigid Week Ahead for Most of the U.S.

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Nov 7, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/11/frigid-week-ahead-for-most-of-the-u-s/>

Surprise! Austrian Winters Have Gotten 0.9°C Colder Since 1984...Confirmed By Independent Meteorologists [Salzburg Mountains]

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 6, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/11/06/surprise-austrian-winters-have-gotten-0-9c-colder-since-1984-confirmed-by-independent-meteorologists/>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Claim: Berkeley Lab scientists identify a new driver behind Arctic warming

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/03/claim-berkeley-lab-scientists-identify-a-new-driver-behind-arctic-warming/>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

2014 Sees Record Harvests Worldwide...Demolishing Gloomy Myth Global Warming Would Lead To Acute Crop Failures

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

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/11/03/2014-sees-record-harvests-worldwide-demolishing-gloomy-myth-global-warming-would-lead-to-acute-crop-failures/>

“Warmest Year” Brings Record Harvests For UK

By Paul Homewood, WUWT, Nov 7, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/07/warmest-year-brings-record-harvests-for-uk/>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Claim: If no action is taken, extreme heat waves will become the norm by the end of the century

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 5, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/05/claim-if-no-action-is-taken-extreme-heat-waves-will-become-the-norm-by-the-end-of-the-century/>

[SEPP Comment: The greenhouse effect is most pronounced at night not in the day-time.]

Future air quality could put plants, people at risk

By Staff Writers, University of Sheffield, Nov 6, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141106113301.htm>

Lowering Standards

National Academy of Sciences Panel: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Have to Drop to Zero

Bu Ali Meyer, CNS News, Nov 4, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/ali-meyer/national-academy-sciences-panel-greenhouse-gas-emissions-have-drop-zero>

BBC provides a forum for desperate biologists: “Will polar bears become extinct?”

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Nov 7, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/11/07/bbc-provides-a-forum-for-desperate-biologists-will-polar-bears-become-extinct/>

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

ABC, NBC Promote ‘Alarming New Report’ On Climate Change From U.N.

By Jeffrey Meyer, MRC, Nov 2, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://newsbusters.org/blogs/jeffrey-meyer/2014/11/02/abc-nbc-promote-alarming-new-report-climate-change-un>

Polar bear biologists doing mark-recapture work in Hudson Bay may have misled the world

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Nov 2, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/11/02/polar-bear-biologists-doing-mark-recapture-work-in-hudson-bay-may-have-misled-the-world/>

Maslin's morass

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 6, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/11/6/maslins-morass.html>

Why Environmental Correspondents Trip Over Themselves

By Ben Pile, Climate Resistance, Nov 3, 2014 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.climate-resistance.org/2014/11/why-environmental-correspondents-trip-over-themselves.html>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Fact Checking the ABC — the Big-Myth about the “World’s Scientists”

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 4, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/11/fact-checking-the-abc-the-big-lie-about-the-worlds-scientists/>

[SEPP Comment: Necessary qualifying statements are absent in Australian Broadcasting Corporation's reports.]

More Misleading Claims From The Met Office

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Nov 7, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/11/07/more-misleading-claims-from-the-met-office/>

The Polluters Must Pay

Fossil fuel companies' profits are morally illegitimate. The public has the right to take those profits—to clean up their mess.

By Naomi Klein, In These Times, Oct 24, 2014

http://inthesetimes.com/article/17281/make_the_polluters_pay

The Lies Phony Climate Experts Tell

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Nov 2, 2014

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2014/11/the-lies-phony-climate-experts-tell.html>

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Ridley's response to Lynas

By Matt Ridley, Bishop Hill, Nov 7, 2014

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2014/11/7/ridleys-response-to-lynas.html>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Climate economics expert urges "critical" investment shift

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Nov 06, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Climate_economics_expert_urges_critical_investment_shift_999.html

Questioning European Green

The cost of public policy

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 7, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/11/7/the-cost-of-public-policy.html>

A brilliant illusionist trick: The shining new EU climate policy

By Fred Mueller, WUWT, Oct 27, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/10/27/a-brilliant-illusionist-trick-the-shining-new-eu-climate-policy/>

Crumbling Energy Network Poses Threat To UK's Industry

By Alan Tovey, Sunday Telegraph, Via GWPF, Nov 1, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/crumbling-energy-network-poses-threat-to-uks-industry/>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Greens take the moral low ground

Why environmentalists defend the wealthy against the poor

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Nov 5, 2014

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/greens-take-the-moral-low-ground.aspx>

Non-Green Jobs

Map of the day: Shale oil and gas = jobs, income growth, and economic prosperity

By Mark Perry, AEI, Nov 2, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.aei.org/publication/map-day-shale-oil-gas-jobs-income-growth-economic-prosperity/>

Funding Issues

Millions For The Met Office To Carry On Getting It Wrong

By Christopher Booker, Sunday Telegraph, Via GWPF, Nov 1, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/millions-for-the-met-office-to-carry-on-getting-it-wrong/>

Republicans Likely to Nix Funding for UN Climate Agencies After Midterms

By Denis Fitzgerald, UN Tribune, Nov 4, 2014

<http://untribune.com/republicans-likely-nix-funding-un-climate-agencies-midterms/>

The Political Games Continue

Inhofe: I'll chair Environment Committee

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Nov 5, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/223056-inhofe-ill-chair-environment-committee>

Senate GOP to fight on Keystone, climate rules, McConnell says

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Nov 5, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/223099-gop-to-fight-on-keystone-climate-rules-in-senate-mcconnell-says>

Litigation Issues

White House Keeping These Global Warming Documents out of the Sunlight

By Fred Lucas, The Blaze, Oct 31, 2014

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2014/10/31/white-house-keeping-these-global-warming-documents-out-of-the-sunlight/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Green levies on energy bills to double by 2020, official estimates show

Subsidies to pay for new wind, solar and nuclear plants will treble by 2030, official estimates show

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Nov 6, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/energy-bills/11214562/Green-levies-on-energy-bills-to-double-by-2020-official-estimates-show.html>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

House to vote on EPA 'secret science' bills

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Nov 6, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/223213-house-to-vote-on-epa-secret-science-bills>

EPA Hides Science Behind Draconian Regs

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Oct 27, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/EPA-Carbon-Emissions/2014/10/27/id/603293/>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Venezuela, with world's largest reserves, imports oil

By Peter Wilson, USA Today, Nov 2, 2014

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2014/11/02/venezuela/18243787/>

[SEPP Comment: Government mismanagement of natural resources.]

Germany's Turn Against Coal Risks More Reliance on Russia

By Stefan Nicola, Tino Andresen and Brian Parkin, Bloomberg, Nov 3, 2014

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-11-03/germany-turning-against-coal-lifts-reliance-on-russia.html>

The green blob and shale

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 5, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/11/5/the-green-blob-and-shale.html>

Winter Freeze: 15 Million UK Homes Plan to Ration Energy Use to Tackle 'Sky High' Bills

By Ian Silvera, IBN, Nov 6, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/winter-freeze-15-million-uk-homes-plan-ration-energy-use-tackle-sky-high-bills-1473435>

Energy Issues -- US

Are Environmental Regulations Causing US Utility Bills to Surge?

As dated coal plants continue to shut down, a new report says two-thirds of US utility bills will spike by as much as 25 percent.

By Naureen Malik and Harry Weber, Bloomberg, Renewable Energy, Oct 29, 2014 [H/t NCPA]

<http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2014/10/are-environmental-regulations-causing-us-utility-bills-to-surge>

Advanced Coal-Fired Combined Heat and Power Plant Begins Operation in U.S.

By Aaron Larson, Power, Nov 5, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/advanced-coal-fired-combined-heat-and-power-plant-begins-operation-in-u-s/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2975971&hq_l=15&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: No discussion of costs for this specialized facility.]

Washington's Control of Energy

Feds increase Arctic oil estimates in move to appease court

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Oct 31, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/222523-feds-increase-arctic-oil-estimates-in-move-to-appease-court>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Plunging Oil Prices Set Off a Global Chess Game

Huge implications of a lower cost per barrel will make John Kerry's job even tougher.

By Norm Ornstein, National Journal, Nov 6, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/washington-inside-out/plunging-oil-prices-set-off-a-global-chess-game-20141105>

Return of King Coal?

The Social Justice of Coal

The world's poor deserve an expansion of coal production.

By Robert Bryce, National Review, Nov 6, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/392167/social-justice-coal-robert-bryce>

So You Think We're Reducing The Use Of Coal? -- Think Again

By James Conca, Forbes, Oct 23, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2014/10/23/so-you-think-were-reducing-the-use-of-coal-think-again/>

Is Coal Demand Falling In China?

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Nov 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/11/03/is-coal-demand-falling-in-china/>

Newsbytes- The New Coal Boom

Cheap & Abundant Coal Biggest Challenge For UN Climate Agenda

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/03/newsbytes-the-new-coal-boom/>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Where Did Deepwater Horizon Oil Go?

Tracking where and how oil traveled in the deep ocean isn't easy

By Christopher M. Reddy, David L. Valentine, WHOI, Oct 27, 2014

<http://www.whoi.edu/oceanus/feature/where-did-deepwater-horizon-oil-go>

Where did the Deepwater Horizon oil go? To Davy Jones' Locker at the bottom of the sea

New analysis traces oil to its resting place on the Gulf of Mexico sea floor

By Staff Writers, NSF, Oct 27, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133059&WT.mc_id=USNSF_1

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Germany faces suits worth billions over nuclear phase-out

By Staff Writers, Berlin (AFP), Nov 04, 2014

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Germany_faces_suits_worth_billions_over_nuclear_phase-out_999.html

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

The End Is Nigh ... For Britain's Wind Bubble

Energy giants decide that big offshore projects are not financially viable

By Danny Fortson, The Sunday Times, Via GWPF, Nov 2, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/the-end-is-nigh-for-britains-wind-investors/>

Dear GOP: Don't Rescue Obama Energy Policy with PTC Extension (lame duck peril)

By Robert Bradley, Master Resource, Nov 7, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/republicans/lame-duck-ptc/>

More renewables? Watch out for the Duck Curve

By Planning Engineer, Climate Etc. Nov 5, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/11/05/more-renewables-watch-out-for-the-duck-curve/#more-17149>

[SEPP Comment: The indirect, "soft" costs can be devastating.]

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

A Pipe Dream

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Nov 7, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/11/07/a-pipe-dream/>

Ethanol 15%

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Nov 4, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/11/04/ethanol-15/>

Environmental Industry

Exposing the Green Money Machine

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Nov 4, 2014

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2014/11/exposing-green-money-machine.html>

Other Scientific News

Rare 2.5-billion-year-old rocks reveal hot spot of sulfur-breathing bacteria

By Staff Writers, College Park MD (SPX), Nov 07, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Rare_2_5_billion_year_old_rocks_reveal_hot_spot_of_sulfur_breathing_bacteria_999.html

The Danger of Advocacy Masquerading as Science

By David Ropeik, Big Think, Nov 4, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://bigthink.com/risk-reason-and-reality/the-danger-of-advocacy-masquerading-as-science>

Other News that May Be of Interest

N[orth] Korea EMP Attack Could Pose Greatest Threat to US

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Nov 3, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/North-Korea-EMP-power-grid/2014/11/03/id/604826/>

Increase in Ozone Eating Chemicals Detected,

By Staff Writers, University of Leeds, Nov 5, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.reportingclimatescience.com/news-stories/article/increase-in-ozone-eating-chemicals-detected.html>

[SEPP Comment: A natural cause for decline in ozone?]

Political bias in peer reviewed science

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 5, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/11/political-bias-in-peer-reviewed-science/>

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Another eye-roller: Global warming will make you sneeze more

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Nov 6, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/06/another-eye-roller-global-warming-will-make-you-sneeze-more/>

[SEPP Comment: Enhanced atmospheric CO2 greatly benefits plants, thus causes more pollen. Focusing on the negative, ignores the great benefits.]

Eye roller: Climate Change Threatens NASA Space Operations – AGW ‘could pose a risk to its operations and missions’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/04/eye-roller-climate-change-threatens-nasa-space-operations-agw-could-pose-a-risk-to-its-operations-and-missions/>

The rising catastrophe of The Pause Refugees

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 8, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/11/the-rising-catastrophe-of-the-pause-refugees/#more-39381>

[SEPP Comment: A bit of humor.]

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ARTICLES:

1. Little Green Machine

Democrats make a bad investment in the climate-change lobby.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 6, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/little-green-machine-1415319154>

Tom Steyer became a billionaire by investing in fossil fuels, among other things, and maybe he should return to his roots. He may need the money after blowing at least \$74 million trying to persuade voters to oppose Republicans who disagree with him on climate change.

If you want proof that money doesn't buy elections, Mr. Steyer and his fellow green comrades are it. The San Francisco investor gave most of his money to his NextGen Climate Action Super Pac, which spent almost exclusively for Democrats. Environmental groups including NextGen spent \$85 million to support President Obama's green agenda, especially his regulations targeting coal for extinction.

They didn't even get a lousy T-shirt, and they aren't taking it well. "Despite the climate movement's significant investments and an unprecedented get out the vote program, strong voices for climate action were defeated and candidates paid for by corporate interests and bolstered by sinister voter suppression tactics won the day," declared Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune.

Venting can be healthy, but self-deception isn't. Mr. Brune should really blame the economic reality that the U.S. boom in fossil-fuel production is creating high-paying jobs and reducing energy costs across the economy. By contrast, Mr. Obama's green agenda has created few jobs and raised costs for millions of Americans.

Americans for Prosperity President Tim Phillips on how the Democrats outspent the Republicans in the midterms and why they have nothing to show for it. Photo credit: Getty Images. Voters in Pacific Heights or Manhattan may not mind paying more for their self-styled political virtue, but the average Debbie in Dubuque would rather not. The mistake too many Democrats made was listening to Mr. Steyer instead of Debbie.

This year's environmental debate boiled down to Democratic support for Mr. Obama's climate rules and green subsidies against full-throated Republican support for energy production of all sorts, including coal, oil and natural-gas fracking, more pipelines and greater fossil-fuel exports. These GOP candidates won nearly everywhere.

In Kentucky Mitch McConnell made opposition to the "war on coal" the centerpiece of his campaign. He won what was expected to be a close election by 15 points. Coal-supporting Shelley Moore Capito became the first GOP Senator in 55 years from West Virginia, where voters

also ended the 38-year career of Democratic Rep. Nick Rahall, who couldn't separate himself from Mr. Obama's energy policies.

Nearly every one of Mr. Steyer's favored candidates—in Colorado, Iowa, Florida, Wisconsin and Maine—lost. New Hampshire's Jeanne Shaheen won, but Scott Brown had her playing defense for supporting a cap-and-trade carbon tax. A recent Gallup poll found that climate change ranked last among 16 issues that voters cared about in the midterms.

It's even possible that Mr. Steyer's money helped Republicans. He and the greens have made opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline a litmus test of their support for Democrats. Mr. Obama has in turn dutifully delayed approving the pipeline, despite multiple government reports showing no net effect on the climate. But the delay has raised Keystone's national profile and made it a wedge issue in Senate campaigns.

Republicans campaigned for the project that polls show has 70% approval, using Keystone to appeal to union workers and voters without college degrees. Colorado's Cory Gardner hammered Democratic Sen. Mark Udall on his refusal to support Keystone. He's now Senator-elect Gardner.

Republicans are promising to push pro-fossil-fuel energy policy in Congress, including support for Keystone XL, fast-track approval for liquid natural-gas export terminals, opening more federal land and offshore areas to drilling, and reining in anti-coal regulations. Democrats who want to help create jobs, and perhaps save their own, may want to rethink their fealty to Tom Steyer's checkbook.

2. GOP-Controlled Senate Expected to Oppose Obama Energy Policies

Keystone Pipeline, Carbon Emission Rules, Natural-Gas Exports Expected to Receive Attention
By Amy Harder, WSJ, Nov 5, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/gop-controlled-senate-expected-to-oppose-obama-energy-policies-1415213195>

WASHINGTON—Next year's GOP-controlled Senate is expected to come out strongly against President Barack Obama's most consequential energy and environment policies, with the likely majority leader, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, vowing to hold votes on the Keystone XL pipeline and legislation to pare back the administration's proposed carbon emissions rules.

It is an open question how much headway Republicans can make, given the Senate's 60-vote procedural threshold and the threat of a presidential veto. But centrist Democrats with home-state energy interests could align with Republicans to create bipartisan majorities on bills that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D., Nev.) didn't want to bring to the floor, including approving the Keystone XL pipeline, curtailing Environmental Protection Agency rules to cut carbon emissions and expediting federal reviews of natural-gas exports. The votes would put senators on the record in a way Mr. Reid often avoided.

“There will certainly be a more positive tone for the industry with new leadership,” said Robert Johnston, chief executive of the Eurasia Group, a political analysis firm. “But in terms of actual movement on carbon or crude exports or energy taxes, I don't see any major game-changers there based on the ability for Democrats to continue to slow things down.”

On Keystone XL, the 1,700-mile pipeline that would send up to 830,000 barrels of oil per day to Gulf Coast refineries, Senate Republicans likely have the 60 votes to pass legislation approving it. The pipeline already had 56 solid supporters before the GOP gains that included wins by Republican Senate candidates Cory Gardner in Colorado, Joni Ernst in Iowa, Mike Rounds in South Dakota and Shelley Moore Capito in West Virginia. The House, which remains in Republican hands, is expected to follow suit.

The pipeline has become a political flash point in the debate over climate change, the economy and energy independence. TransCanada, the Calgary-based company seeking to build the project, first filed its application at the U.S. State Department for the necessary federal approval to cross the Canadian-U.S. border in September 2008.

“The Keystone XL pipeline has always enjoyed bipartisan support and is a great example of an issue where both parties can work together to create jobs and enhance energy security for the United States,” TransCanada Chief Executive Russ Girling said in a statement Wednesday. “After six years, it is time to break the gridlock on Keystone and move forward.”

Mr. Obama has shown in the past that he isn’t afraid to rebut congressional action on Keystone, so he could veto any bill that reaches his desk approving the pipeline. It is unlikely Republicans could muster the additional votes to reach the 67 needed to override a veto, but Republicans say they would seek to attach the measure to a must-pass piece of legislation that the president wouldn’t want to veto, such as a spending bill. Mr. Obama is expected to make a final decision on Keystone only after litigation in Nebraska is resolved, whose ruling is likely by year’s end.

“If he vetoes it, I don’t know if we’ll have 67 votes, but clearly we would attach it to broader energy legislation or an appropriations measure,” said Sen. John Hoeven (R., N.D.), who has sponsored Keystone-approval legislation that has 56 co-sponsors. “So I believe we will be able to move it either way.”

Another top target of Republicans is a suite of EPA rules that would cut carbon emissions from the nation’s power plants, a cornerstone of Mr. Obama’s climate agenda. Republicans may well have the 60 votes to delay or significantly hamstring EPA’s authority over climate change—and the GOP-controlled House would surely follow suit—but Mr. Obama is likely to veto any such measure.

The Obama administration can expect tough oversight of EPA with the anticipated return of Sen. James Inhofe (R., Okla.) as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. Mr. Inhofe doubts the scientific consensus that humans’ burning of fossil fuels causes climate change and is one of the most vocal critics of Mr. Obama’s climate agenda.

Republicans are unlikely to move quickly on legislation significantly changing the nation’s decades-old ban on oil exports, an issue the oil industry is lobbying hard for but is nonetheless politically contentious given the perception it could raise gasoline prices. Looking to the 2016 election cycle, 23 of the 32 seats up in the Senate are GOP-controlled, indicating many Republicans may be unwilling to take votes on an issue that could be interpreted as hurting voters at the gasoline pump.

“It’s not so simple as all or nothing lift on the ban,” said one Republican energy Senate aide, who would only speak on the condition of anonymity. “You could see incremental movement. I think there needs to be a lot of education on exports.”

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R., Alaska), who is poised to chair the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is Capitol Hill’s most vocal proponent of lifting the ban on exports. But Ms. Murkowski, who has a long history of legislating on energy policy, is likely to take a measured approach and has said she won’t push through legislation if she doesn’t have majority support of the committee.

Mr. Hoeven, who sits on the energy committee and is up for re-election in 2016, said he supports oil exports but that Congress must ensure that they wouldn’t raise gasoline prices. He predicted the Senate wouldn’t tackle this issue until later next year.

“We’re doing our homework to make sure the public is on board and make sure it’s a benefit,” Mr. Hoeven said.

One policy that could become law quickly is legislation expediting federal reviews of natural-gas exports. Mr. McConnell has included this in the list of bills he hopes to bring to the floor, and depending on the scope of the bill, Mr. Obama would be unlikely to veto it. A top Energy Department official testified to Congress earlier this year that the administration could work within the confines of a bill that sets a deadline for the government’s review.

“The new Congress bodes well for those who are in favor of a more accelerated process to approve [liquefied natural gas] exports,” said Salo Zelermeyer, senior counsel at energy lobbying firm Bracewell & Giuliani.

Other issues that may emerge from the Democratic back burner in a GOP Senate include Yucca Mountain, the nuclear-waste repository site in Nevada Mr. Obama halted in 2010 largely at the behest of Mr. Reid, who opposes the project in his home state; and a modest energy-efficiency bill that has gotten bogged down because of other policy fights in the Senate.

“A GOP-led Senate might be inclined to move the [efficiency] measure to demonstrate its ability to legislature,” notes a report done by political analysis firm Clearview Energy Partners.

3. Saudi Price Cut Upends Oil Market

Move Paves Way for Further Price Declines, Adds Pressure on U.S. Energy Producers

By Nicole Friedman, Benoit Faucon and Summer Said, WSJ, Nov 3, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/saudi-oil-price-cut-upends-market-1415063053?mod=WSJ_hp_LEFTWhatsNewsCollection

Oil prices tumbled to their lowest point in more than two years after Saudi Arabia unexpectedly cut prices for crude sold to the U.S., likely paving the way for further declines and adding to pressure on American energy producers.

The decision by the world’s largest oil exporter sent the Dow industrials into negative territory for the day amid concerns about the pace of global growth.

The move heightened worries over the resilience of the U.S. oil industry, which has expanded rapidly in recent years. But that growth, driven largely by new production technology used to extract oil from shale-rock formations, has never been tested by a prolonged slump in prices.

While lower crude prices generally help consumers by reducing the amount they pay for gasoline, analysts said falling energy prices will squeeze profit margins at many U.S. energy companies, particularly smaller firms or those with large debt loads.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia raised the prices for its oil in other locations, including Asia, where the country had cut its prices for four consecutive months.

Market watchers had expected the Saudis to either cut prices in every major region, suggesting an intention to compete for buyers, or to raise prices across the board. Asia has been an especially competitive market for exporters in recent months, so the focus on maintaining market share in the U.S. was surprising to traders, some of whom interpreted the action as taking aim at U.S. shale-oil production rather than being driven by supply and demand.

“The market reacted to it very negatively, thinking, ‘Here we go, we’re going to have a price war in the United States,’” said Anthony Lerner, senior vice president of industrial commodities at brokerage R.J. O’Brien & Associates LLC.

An industry official familiar with the move said it wasn’t a decision to undercut shale production, which analysts have frequently suspected to be the motivation for recent Saudi price reductions. Instead, he said the lower pricing was an incentive for refiners in the U.S. to get higher margins by buying more Saudi crude.

“It is about maintaining market share... It is becoming a complex strategy for Saudi Arabia,” said another industry official familiar with the move.

Prices of crude on the New York Mercantile Exchange dropped 2.2%, to \$78.78 a barrel, closing below \$80 for the first time since 2012 and putting the price 27% below its 52-week high hit in June. Shares of Chevron Corp. slid 2.6% and Exxon Mobil Corp. slumped 1.5% amid worries over profit margins.

Amplifying investor anxiety, falling oil prices stand to make it more difficult for policy makers in the U.S., Japan and Europe to raise sluggish inflation levels.

Inflation has generally been below central bankers’ target levels since the financial crisis, and officials at the European Central Bank and the Bank of Japan have set plans in the past month to expand monetary stimulus in a bid to steer clear of deflation, a damaging cycle of falling prices and reduced spending. At the same time, the Federal Reserve has ended monthly stimulus efforts that were widely credited with boosting asset prices.

“The implication of weaker oil prices and commodity prices is that it’s deflationary,” said Viren Chandrasoma, managing director of equity trading at Credit Suisse Group AG.

Imports of Saudi crude into the U.S. have fallen this year. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, they comprised 4.6% of total U.S. petroleum consumption in August this year, compared with 7% in the same month of 2013.

State-owned Saudi Arabia Oil Co. took the same strategy in 2011, raising Asian prices and cutting them in the U.S., said an industry official familiar with the move. At the time, the kingdom was taking advantage of the absence of Libyan oil exports, which had pushed prices higher in Europe and Asia more than in the U.S.

At Denver-based Whiting Petroleum Corp., which is a major company in the Bakken Shale in North Dakota, the company said it has no plans to cut production. Whiting's shares fell 1.6%.

"Whether there's oversupply or political threat, we've been through this," said Jack Ekstrom, Whiting's vice president of corporate and government relations.

Most analysts expect U.S. oil production to keep increasing unless prices fall below about \$70 a barrel. Producers that own wells in costly locations or that have high levels of debt are more likely to pull back on investment first, analysts said.

Oil-service companies could also be hurt, if producers try to lower costs by spending less on equipment and services. Most U.S. producers have locked in profitable prices for at least part of their 2015 production and can withstand current price levels, analysts said.

A decline in crude prices was at the center of the market turmoil last month that at one point sent the Dow Jones Industrial Average down more than 5% before a rebound. On Monday, the Dow fell 24.28 points, or 0.1%.

To be sure, some investors said falling oil prices are on balance a good thing. "When oil prices drop, that's helpful for the economy," said Rex Macey, chief allocation officer for Wilmington Trust Investment Advisors, which oversees about \$20 billion.

The Saudi record in balancing prices and market share has been patchy at best.

In the 1980s, the kingdom faced competition from production in the U.S. and U.K. North Sea that had received fresh investments thanks to higher oil prices. Saudi Arabia initially tried to revive flagging prices by cutting production but found itself undercut by rival Middle East producers.

So instead, it decided to sweeten the terms of its sales, a move tantamount to a price cut. But that strategy also failed because U.S. and U.K. companies were able to cut costs.

Now, Saudi officials appear to be struggling about how to respond to the price decline, particularly as the kingdom had to boost its spending in the aftermath of the Arab Spring uprisings.

Some in the kingdom's top ranks think the country needs about \$90 a barrel to balance its budget, Saudi officials and oil-industry observers said. Others believe Saudi Arabia should accept the fall in oil prices and concentrate on increasing its market share, particularly in Asia.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi has stood on the sidelines and spent much of the past month on vacation.

In early October, a Saudi oil delegation privately told attendees at a New York conference that the kingdom wasn't alarmed by the price slide and wouldn't unilaterally cut its output, according to people familiar with the matter.

Meanwhile, Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, a member of the royal family, publicly criticized Mr. Naimi's approach to falling prices, saying he shouldn't let the country's cash reserves be depleted.

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