

The Week That Was: 2014-12-13 (December 13, 2014)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.”* Isaac Asimov

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Number of the Week: \$ 1 Trillion per year \$1,000 Billion (USD)

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THIS WEEK:

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

The Game in Lima: The high stakes game in Lima has ended, with little damage to the industrialized world, except for the costs of maintaining this international theater, where political actors can pompously ply their trade. The annual December meeting of the UN Conference of Parties (to be COP-21) to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will continue in Paris in December 2015.

The purpose of the Lima conference was to lay the groundwork for a legally binding agreement at the Paris Conference – a new agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which failed and has expired. Based on one’s belief of whether or not human carbon dioxide emissions endanger humanity by causing drastic global warming/climate change, these conferences can be described in various ways ranging from the last hope of humanity to a final effort to destroy modern, industrial civilization, which heavily depends on the use of fossil fuels.

The actors (delegates) in Lima did not disappoint. The US delegation pretended that the recent China – US agreement was significant and would result in a significant reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions world-wide. The agreement calls for the US significantly reducing its CO₂ emissions in the near-term, while China will do little but promote economic growth, and CO₂ emissions, until 2030. Apparently, US administration’s assessment of its own powers to control US CO₂ emissions was not universally shared. The November election of a new Congress, to take power on January 3, 2015, did not bode well for the Administration and its delegates. For an international agreement, a treaty, to have the force of law it must be approved by two-thirds of the Senate. This did not happen from 2009 thru 2014, when the party of the Administration controlled the Senate, and it is doubtful to occur with control of the Senate in the hands of the party hostile to the Administration.

Perhaps, it is because the US Senate will no longer be controlled by the President’s party that the delegates from the European Union (EU) insisted that any commitment must be binding on all parties to a new agreement. The US President can promise and bluster, but he cannot commit to an agreement binding on the nation. Or it may have been that throughout the game in Lima, the delegates from industrialized nations in the EU were oblivious to the fact that their grand schemes to control CO₂ are failing, and electricity prices are soaring. Or was it that delegates from these nations wish citizens of other nations to experience the same economically painful ordeals that their citizens are experiencing?

Throughout this game, the delegates of two nations notably held fast. China largely dismissed the agreement with President Obama as of no great significance, except for the US. China, along with

India, demanded that the West commit the promised \$100 Billion per year to a fund that, supposedly, will fight global warming by cutting emissions world-wide. The United Nations' climate change spokeswoman, Christiana Figueres, was dismissal of the US commitment and increased the number by claiming it will take trillions of dollars, to stop CO2 emissions. India clearly stated it will not punish the poor in its nation by stopping economic growth and associated CO2 emissions. Adding to the complex game, both India and China refused to consider a strict accounting of CO2 emissions.

In this game, the delegates from the West have a distinct disadvantage – the pretense of scientific knowledge – a knowledge that has not been empirically shown to exist, and which is imploding. The science of the UN Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), embraced by the western nations, failed to predict that warming would stop. The global climate models employed continue to overestimate warming, especially in the lower atmosphere, where the greenhouse effect (enhanced by increased atmosphere CO2) takes place.

The delegates of the various nations agreed to a vague plan to submit individual, national plans for reducing CO2 emissions sometime in the future and that they will work to an overall climate agreement in Paris. Throughout this process it is evident that the general public of Western nations, particularly that of the US, is ill-served by official delegates to these events. See Article # 1, and links under The China – US Agreement? and A New World Agreement?

Global Climate Fund: The US Congressional Research Service (CRS) came out with a new report on the Global Climate Fund of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The UNFCCC is the umbrella organization under which these international meetings, such as the COP-20 in Lima, are held. As discussed above, the Global Climate Fund (GCF) is becoming a major issue among the nations participating in the UNFCCC. The Congressional Research Service found:

The U.S. Congress—through its role in authorizations, appropriations, and oversight—would have significant input on U.S. participation in the GCF. Congress regularly determines and gives guidance to the allocation of foreign aid between bilateral and multilateral assistance as well as among the variety of multilateral mechanisms. In the past, Congress has raised concerns regarding the cost, purpose, direction, efficiency, and effectiveness of the UNFCCC and existing international institutions of climate financing.

As the new Congress begins to dig into the financing of government, and governmental entities, the flexibility the Administration has enjoyed may become constrained. See link under Funding Issues.

Global Climate Fund – Trustee? In recent years the World Bank has issued several strident documents promoting the fear of Global Warming, for example, “Turn Down the Heat: Why a 4°C Warmer World Must Be Avoided” (2012).” Once considered a rather staid institution with prudent oversight, the shift in the position of the World Bank was dramatic. Perhaps the report of the Congressional Research Service gives a reason for this shift. In it the CRS discusses the World Bank as the Trustee of the Global Climate Fund. The report states:

Many developing countries hold the World Bank in a negative light, believing it to be non-transparent, overly bureaucratic, and reflecting solely the interests of higher-income countries, which command greater decision-making power by virtue of their greater financial contributions.

Additionally, some Parties see the potential for conflicts of interest during the implementation phase of the fund, since the Bank (1) already operates a portfolio of Climate Investment Funds that might compete against the GCF for potential donor country contributions, and (2) has been asked to serve as support staff to aid in designing the operational procedures, project selection criteria, performance standards, and safeguard measures for the new fund.

For most organizations, to promote the fear [such as of global warming] from which the organization may derive a benefit, without fully discussing the benefit, may be considered an oversight, at best. Or, it may be considered a serious conflict of interest. Apparently, the World Bank promoting the fear of global warming without a mention of the possible benefit to it is now considered business as usual. The new Congress may have some entertaining moments with this view. See link under Funding Issues and <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/11/18/Climate-change-report-warns-dramatically-warmer-world-this-century>

Unprecedented? Frequently, those announcing climate news, that may be new to them, use the term unprecedented, such as unprecedented global warming. Apparently, Steve McIntyre of Climate Audit found this tendency amusing and announced “Unprecedented Model Discrepancy” – models are overestimating surface temperatures. McIntyre explains the discrepancy by using language that is all too common to those claiming unprecedented global warming in the temperature records. His comments particularly apply to those who are trying to make a mountain out of a molehill by using shortened 2014 surface temperatures. See links under Models v. Observations and Measurement Issues.

California Drought: The lack of rainfall in south-central California resulted in reports on extreme drought. One paper states that more extreme droughts have been observed in the historical record, but the combination of high temperatures and lack of rainfall is unprecedented in the past 1200 years. A major problem with this approach is the temperature record for South-Central California. As discussed in the December 6 TWTW, there is no reliable temperature record. The bristlecone pines used by Mr. Mann as a proxy for temperature are unreliable because they show a later-day cooling while the instruments show a warming, which Mr. Mann failed to report. As it is, new rains are, at least in part, relieving the drought. See links under Changing Weather.

Defining Experts: The Royal Society has produced a new, short report, and video, on global warming/climate change. Global warming promoters immediately declared that the Society aimed to remove bias from climate science – by focusing on what experts say. That is, those experts who agree with the leadership of the Royal Society. No riff-raff such as those who participated in the reports of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), please! See links under Lowering Standards.

It Works – Ban It! In recent weeks, such as December 6, TWTW has linked to articles discussing the efforts of environmental organizations to ban effective, selective pesticides – a family known as neonicotinoids. Major campaigns have been mounted in Europe claiming, without strong evidence, these pesticides kill colonies of bees.

Now the US EPA is attempting to ban neonicotinoids for seed coatings. Apparently, these seed coatings are very effective for killing pests that thrive on young plants. Perhaps worse for environmental organizations, the pesticides improve safety standards for workers and are not

particularly disruptive to beneficial insects. The latest imaginative claim of the environmental industry, and the EPA, is that neonicotinoids are not effective. This is another demonstration that the EPA is a client agency of environmental special interest groups. See links under Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine and

http://www.science20.com/science_20/when_it_comes_to_neonics_activists_understand_pr_better_than_chemical_companies_do-150299

Green Jobs: Energy expert Donn Dears points out that Green Jobs are no longer a special category for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Will we no longer have the pleasure of seeing Senator Barbara Boxer touting the importance of high-paying, high-growth green jobs while waving a publication on green jobs showing that about 50% of these jobs are in public transit (such as school bus drivers) and public sanitation? See link under Green Jobs.

Number of the Week: \$1 Trillion per year USD. During The Game in Lima, the size of the Green Climate Fund changed dramatically, depending who was making the estimates. It ranged from \$100 Billion a year to \$1 Trillion a year – \$1,000 Billion. Now that it is evident that the World Bank is involved, it will be interesting to see how the size of this fund changes in the course of the year leading to the COP-21 meeting in Paris. See links under Funding Issues.

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Dear Reader of The Week That Was,

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Therefore, we can honestly claim that we are not beholden to anyone and that our writings are clear from any outside influence.

We are also proud of the fact that SEPP is frugal: no fancy offices, no employees, no salaries paid to anyone; in fact, we donate book royalties and lecture fees to SEPP

The past few years have been very productive:

In collaboration with like-minded groups, we produced hard-hitting comments for the record and provided scientific testimony on proposed Federal climate and energy policy. We expect this material to surface in future litigation over excessive regulation.

SEPP has also spawned VA-SEEE (Scientists & Engineers for Energy & Environment), with 7 active chapters throughout Virginia, writing to local papers, testifying in Richmond, etc.

On a global level, we established NIPCC in 2007 (Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change) to respond to the false claims of the UN-IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), and its followers -- that use of fossil fuels, and CO2 emissions, will lead to climate disasters.

All four of the voluminous NIPCC reports and their Summaries are available at www.NIPCCreport.org.

In 2013, the Chinese Academy of Sciences translated and published a book based on two NIPCC reports and organized a Workshop in Beijing.

The Heartland Institute, our publisher, has organized nine well-attended ICCG events (International Conference on Climate Change), featuring many of the 50+ NIPCC authors.

A few weeks ago, Dr Fred Singer, our founder and president celebrated his 90th birthday. After 25 years at the helm, he plans to retire as SEPP president, but hopes to continue as Chairman of the Board for as long as possible.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

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ARTICLES:

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

1. The China Climate Accord: A bad deal for the US

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Dec 8, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/12/the_china_climate_accord_a_bad_deal_for_the_us.html

2. Where Will You Be When the Lights Go Out?

The EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan would raise utility prices and threaten the grid's reliability.

By Kevin Cramer, WSJ, Dec 10, 2014

http://www.wsj.com/articles/kevin-cramer-where-will-you-be-when-the-lights-go-out-1418259829?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj

Link to NERC study: Long-Term Reliability Assessment

By Staff Writers, NERC, Nov 2014

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/2014LTRA_ERATTA.pdf

Link to NERC report, Potential Reliability Impacts of EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan

By Staff Writers, NERC, Nov 2014

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/Potential_Reliability_Impacts_of_EPA_Proposed_CPP_Final.pdf

“The administration's Clean Power Plan will remake an enormous sector of the U.S. economy, affecting almost every industry and every consumer. It is irresponsible in the extreme that this plan has been put forth without due consideration of the risk it poses to the reliability of the nation's electricity supply.”

3. Professor Tribe Takes Obama to School

The liberal lion blasts the EPA's climate rule as an illegal power grab.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 5, 2014

http://www.wsj.com/articles/professor-tribe-takes-obama-to-school-1417824105?mod=trending_now_5

4. The Oilman to Thank at Your Next Fill-Up

The 'accidental CEO' Mark Papa says even he underestimated the shale revolution, which will continue despite lower prices.

By Joseph Rago, WSJ, Dec 5, 2014

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/joseph-rago-the-oilman-to-thank-at-your-next-fill-up-1417822381?tesla=y&mg=reno64-wsj>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Gruber Thinking in Climate Science: Disconnect Between Academia And The Real World.

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Dec 12, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/12/gruber-thinking-in-climate-science-disconnect-between-academia-and-the-real-world/>

Alabama's State Climatologist becomes EPA's worst nightmare

By Cliff Sims, Yellow Hammer, Dec 11, 2014

<http://yellowhammernews.com/business-2/alabamas-state-climatologist-becomes-epas-worst-nightmare/>

In recent comments submitted to the agency, Christy pointed out that "the (climate change) models do not yet have the ability to discern 'why' a climate variation may have occurred simply because they cannot even reproduce 'what' has occurred."

Policy-based evidence making

Science is being corrupted by political bias

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Dec 9, 2014

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/policy-based-evidence-making.aspx>

Recent examples of bias and corruption in science are bad enough. What's worse is the reluctance of scientific leaders to criticise the bad apples. Science as a philosophy is in good health; science as an institution increasingly stinks.

Defending the Orthodoxy

Two degrees: Will we avoid dangerous climate change?

By Simon Evans, Carbon Brief, Dec 9, 2014

http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/12/two-degrees-will-we-avoid-dangerous-climate-change/?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=fab02a0b57-Carbon_Brief_Weekly_111114&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-fab02a0b57-215218249

Two degrees: The history of climate change's 'speed limit'

By Mat Hope & Rosamund Pearce, Carbon Brief, Dec 8, 2014

http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/12/two-degrees-a-selected-history-of-climate-change-speed-limit/?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=fab02a0b57-Carbon+Brief+Weekly+11114&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-fab02a0b57-215218249

[SEPP Comment: Because James Hansen said so?]

Fossil-fuel lobbyists, bolstered by GOP wins, work to curb environmental rules

By Tom Hamburger, Washington Post, Dec 7, 2014 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/fossil-fuel-lobbyists-bolstered-by-gop-wins-work-to-curb-environmental-rules/2014/12/07/3ef05bc0-79b9-11e4-9a27-6fdb612bff8_story.html

[SEPP Comment: The assumption is that environmental rules protect the health of the public. Often they do not. The ban of DDT is a classic example. It led to the premature deaths of millions world-wide. Regulatory restrictions on wide-spread application would have been better. Driving up the cost of electricity will not protect the public health of developed nations.]

Holding one's breath, GOP style

GOP Attacks on EPA Rules Could Be Costly

Editorial, Baltimore Sun, Dec 8, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/editorial/bs-ed-epa-climate-20141208-story.html>

[SEPP Comment: Typical propaganda photo of chimneys billowing steam.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

ICSC News Release: UN SHOULD CONCENTRATE on What People Want

Time for the UN to Get Out of Climate Change

Negotiators and Secretary General continue to ignore scientists and public opinion

By Staff Writers, International Climate Science Coalition, Dec 13, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/12/icsc-news-release-un-should-concentrate.html>

Kerry boots a real hero off the UN stage to promote AGW; Stossel asks Climate Catastrophe?

By Joe Bastardi, ICECAP, Dec 10, 2014

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

Climate Catastrophe

By John Stossel, Townhall, Dec 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://townhall.com/columnists/johnstossel/2014/12/10/climate-catastrophe-n1929523>

EPA Should Re-Examine Climate Rule's Scientific Basis – John Christy

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Dec 10, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/12/10/epa-should-re-examine-scientific-basis-of-climate-rule-john-christy/>

The China – US Agreement?

Obama's Epic Climate Change Deal With China Falls Apart

Editorial, IBD, Dec 8, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/120814-729590-obama-taken-by-chinas-president-xi-jinping-in-signing-phony-climate-deal.htm>

The US-China climate agreement hangover

By Benjamin Zycher, The Hill, Dec 8, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/energy-environment/226272-the-us-china-climate-agreement-hangover>

China rejects US-sought carbon pledge review at UN climate talks

Negotiators seek to remove draft provisions for targets to be subject to other countries' scrutiny

By Staff Writers, Bloomberg, Dec 8, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.scmp.com/news/china/article/1657235/china-rejects-us-sought-carbon-pledge-review-un-climate-talks>

A New World Agreement?

An international climate change negotiations glossary

By Mat Hope, The Carbon Brief, Dec 11, 2014

http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/12/an-international-climate-change-negotiations-glossary/?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=fab02a0b57-Carbon+Brief+Weekly+111114&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-fab02a0b57-215218249

COP-Out: Political Storyboarding in Peru

By Patrick J. Michaels, CATO, Dec 9, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/cop-out-political-storyboarding-peru>

EU presses for accountability, opening rift at U.N. climate talks in Lima

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Japan Times, Dec 9, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/12/09/world/science-health-world/eu-presses-for-accountability-opening-rift-at-u-n-climate-talks-in-lima/#.VIheizHF98F>

No road map for finance before 2019, say developed countries

But, demand the linked emission cuts of poor countries be reviewed in 2015

By Nitin Sethi, Business Standard, Dec 12, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/no-road-map-for-finance-before-2019-say-developed-countries-at-lima-climate-talks-114121101289_1.html

Won't allow progress review, India tells UN climate meet

By Vishwa Mohan, Times of India, Dec 11, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/global-warming/Wont-allow-progress-review-India-tells-UN-climate-meet/articleshow/45466208.cms>

India talks tough, invokes WTO at UN climate meet in Lima

By Staff Writers, The Hindu, Dec 10, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/india-talks-tough-invokes-wto-at-un-climate-meet-in-lima/article6679986.ece>

India says 'five pillars of strength' key to clinch climate deal

By Vishwa Mohan, Economic Times, India, Dec 6, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/environment/global-warming/india-says-five-pillars-of-strength-key-to-clinch-climate-deal/articleshow/45391794.cms>

Kerry to developed world: Lead on climate or get out of the way

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Dec 11, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226867-kerry-to-developed-countries-lead-on-climate-or-get-out-of-the-way>

Don't wreck deal, US warns, as climate talks jam

By Staff Writers, Lima (AFP), Dec 12, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Dont_wreck_deal_US_warns_as_climate_talks_jam_999.html

EU presses for accountability, opening rift at U.N. climate talks in Lima

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Japan Times, Dec 9, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/12/09/world/science-health-world/eu-presses-for-accountability-opening-rift-at-u-n-climate-talks-in-lima/#.VIheizHF98F>

Optimism fading for progress in Lima climate talks

By Peter Teffer, Euroobserver, Dec 11, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://euobserver.com/environment/126888>

Report From Lima Climate Conference: Al Gore Preaches Hellfire And Redemption

By Myron Ebell, Daily Caller, Dec 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/12/10/report-from-lima-climate-conference-al-gore-preaches-hellfire-and-redemption/>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Goal Post Migration Alert! Father of 2°C Target Schellhuber Postpones CO2 Emissions Peak 10 Years: From 2020 To 2030!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 10, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/10/goal-post-migration-alert-father-of-2c-target-schellhuber-postpones-co2-emissions-peak-10-years-from-2020-to-2030/>

Australia to contribute \$200m to green climate fund

By Dennis Shanahan, The Australian, Dec 10, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/australia-to-contribute-200m-to-green-climate-fund/story-e6frg6xf-1227150858029>

Australia tithes \$200 million to Green Blob. Time to stand up to the bullies and out-Green them instead.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 10, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/12/australia-tithes-200-million-to-green-blob-time-to-stand-up-to-the-bullies-and-out-green-them-instead/>

New study explains the role of oceans in global 'warming hiatus'

By Staff Writers, Southampton, UK (SPX), Dec 05, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/New_study_explains_the_role_of_oceans_in_global_warming_hiatus_999.html

UN Climate Change Conference Breaks Carbon Footprint Record

By Leah Barkoukis, Townhall, Dec 10, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://townhall.com/tipsheet/leahbarkoukis/2014/12/10/draft-n1930142>

Seeking a Common Ground

W Hudson Bay polar bear mark-recapture study report 2013 – at last

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Dec 10, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/12/10/w-hudson-bay-polar-bear-mark-recapture-study-report-2013-at-last/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

Extreme Weather at Its Worst: The Heat and Drought of AD 1540

By Wetter, et al. The year-long unprecedented European heat and drought of 1540 - a worst case. *Climatic Change* 125, Dec 10, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/dec/a14.php>

Testing PMIP2 and CMIP5 Models Against Climates of the Past

By Harrison, et al, Climate model benchmarking with glacial and mid-Holocene climates. *Climate Dynamics* 43, Dec 9, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/dec/a13.php>

Mussels Flex Their Muscles when Temperature & OA Both Increase

By Kroeker, et al, The role of temperature in determining species' vulnerability to ocean acidification: A case study using *Mytilus galloprovincialis*. *PLOS ONE* 9, Dec 9, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/dec/a12.php>

A New Method of Assessing the Rate of Global Sea Level Rise

By Woppelmann, et al, Evidence for a differential sea level rise between hemispheres over the twentieth century. *Geophysical Research Letters* 41: Dec 8, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/dec/a9.php>

[SEPP Comment: An average of 15 +/- 5 cm per century (5.9 +/- 2 inches) is consistent with the findings of Fred Singer in NIPCC 2008 – but the Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere difference is a puzzle.]

Models v. Observations

“Unprecedented” Model Discrepancy

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Dec 11, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/12/11/unprecedented-model-discrepancy/>

Looking at El Nino's past to predict its future

By Staff Writers, Atlanta GA (SPX), Dec 10, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Looking_at_El_Ninos_past_to_predict_its_future_999.html

"The more we can close the loop between what this model says happened in the past and what the data say happened in the past, then we can project forward our improved understanding to understand future El Nino," Cobb said.

Link to paper: Evolution and forcing mechanisms of El Nino over the past 21,000 years

By Liu et al. *Nature*, Nov 27, 2014

http://www.nature.com/articles/nature13963.epdf?referrer_access_token=zxT1QHgXd5n5ODUIVxILftRgN0jAjWeI9jnR3ZoTv0NbV38n7gMth2e4NtMQhKUqX2btRs_P1nFnq88S6ypeihRaJhpbjxlk4Dz0bo5_7TMNZDN1JMEM5kot6fRjNZD6

Measurement Issues

RSS and UAH “Meteorological Annual Mean” (December to November) Global Temperatures Fall Far Short of Record Highs in 2014...

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Dec 10, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/10/rss-and-uah-meteorological-annual-mean-december-to-november-global-temperatures-fall-far-short-of-record-highs-in-2014/>

RSS YTD Temps Only 7th Highest Since 1998

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 5, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/12/05/rss-ytd-temps-only-7th-highest-since-1998/>

Current Wisdom: Record Global Temperature—Conflicting Reports, Contrasting Implications

By Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger and Patrick J. Michaels, CATO, Dec 10, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/current-wisdom-record-global-temperature-conflicting-reports-contrasting-implications>

Spinning the ‘warmest year’

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Dec 9, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/12/09/spinning-the-warmest-year/#more-17381>

RealClimate's opinion on the WUWT widget

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, Dec 11, 2014

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/12/realclimates-opinion-on-wuwt-widget.html>

Changing Weather

Wet California as storms offshore ease the claimed ‘1200 year’ Drought

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Dec 8, 2014

http://icecap.us/images/uploads/WET_CALIFORNIA_AS_STORMS_OFFSHORE_EASE_THE_CLAIMED.pdf

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately below.]

California's Worst Drought Ever Is 1st Taste of Future

By Becky Oskin, Live Science, Dec 8, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/californias-worst-drought-ever-1st-taste-future-152615952.html>

Link to paper: How unusual is the 2012-2014 California drought?

By Griffin and Anchkaitis, Geophysical Research Letters,

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014GL062433/abstract>

[SEPP Comment: Palmer Drought Severity Index was created in 1965. The article does not explain how the researchers were able to take it back some 1200 years.]

<http://drought.unl.edu/Planning/Monitoring/ComparisonofIndicesIntro/PDSI.aspx>

Nature, not climate change, blamed for drought

By Kurtis Alexander, SF Gate, Dec 9, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Feds-Natural-forces-not-climate-change-caused-5943118.php>

Drought Relief: Shasta Lake Rises 10 ft. in One Day

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Dec 12, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/12/drought-relief-shasta-lake-rises-10-ft-in-one-day/>
[SEPP Comment: No, it is not related to sea levels.]

You Ought to Have A Look: Weak Link Between Global Warming and Extreme Weather

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Dec 12, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/you-ought-have-look-weak-link-between-global-warming-extreme-weather>

Changing Climate

USGS study says Chesapeake tributaries are warming, and pollution may increase

By Darryl Fears, Washington Post, Dec 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/chesapeake-bay-is-warming-could-affect-pollution-and-marine-life-study-says/2014/12/10/d12981ea-8091-11e4-81fd-8c4814dfa9d7_story.html

Link to paper: Rising air and stream-water temperatures in Chesapeake Bay region, USA

By Karen C. Rice, John D. Jastram, Climate Change, Nov 26, 2014

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-014-1295-9>

[SEPP Comment: Urbanization and associated run-off did not have anything to do with the warming of streams?]

Changing Seas

Sydney Sea levels rising at just 6.5cm per century. Peak-panic is behind us.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 12, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/12/sydney-sea-levels-rising-at-just-6-5cm-per-century-peak-panic-is-behind-us/#more-39910>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Growing Antarctic Ice Sheets May Have Sparked Ice Age

By Charles Choi, Live Science, Dec 8, 2014 {H/t Clyde Spencer}

<http://news.yahoo.com/growing-antarctic-ice-sheets-may-sparked-ice-age-133750917.html>

Antarctic ice shelf being eaten away by sea

By Carolyn Gramling, Science Mag. Dec 4, 2014

<http://news.sciencemag.org/climate/2014/12/antarctic-ice-shelf-being-eaten-away-sea>

West Antarctic Ice Loss Has Been Occurring For Centuries

The Ross Ice Shelf retreated 30 miles before 1932. It has nothing to do with CO2

By Steve Goddard, Real Science, Dec 7, 2014

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2014/12/07/west-antarctic-ice-loss-has-been-occurring-for-centuries/>

Comparing sea ice today to Shackleton's Ill Fated Voyage – 100 years ago this month

By Paul Homewood, WUWT, Dec 11, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/11/comparing-sea-ice-today-to-shackletons-ill-fated-voyage-100-years-ago-this-month/>

[SEPP Comment: Is the sea ice significantly different?]

Changing Earth

Re-thinking Southern California earthquake scenarios

By Staff Writers, Amherst MA (SPX), Dec 10, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Re_thinking_Southern_California_earthquake_scenarios_in_Coachella_Valley_San_Andreas_Fault_999.html

Acidic Waters

Hold the Champagne: Climate Change Is Killing Off Oysters

By Zachary Slobig, Takepart, Dec 8, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/hold-champagne-climate-change-killing-off-oysters-205444374.html>

Link to web site on “Ocean Acidification’ Shows changes in CO2 in ppm and, sometimes, changes in alkalinity and pH.

<http://www.ipacoa.org/Explorer>

[SEPP Comment: The article misrepresents what occurred, but the real-time data may be of use for all.]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

A Wake-Up Call For U.S. Farmers: The EPA Is Trying To Put You Out of Business

By Henry Miller, Forbes, Dec 3, 2014 [H/t ACSH]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/henrymiller/2014/12/03/a-wake-up-call-for-u-s-farmers-epa-is-trying-to-put-you-out-of-business/>

Link to report: Benefits of Neonicotinoid Seed Treatments to Soybean Production

By Clayton Meyers, Entomologist, EPA, Oct 15, 2014, Peer Review Oct 3, 2014

http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-10/documents/benefits_of_neonicotinoid_seed_treatments_to_soybean_production_2.pdf

All this is vintage EPA: shoddy science; cherry-picked, often-unreliable sources of information; disregard for real-world evidence, economic ramifications and farming practicalities; and potentially catastrophic decisions at the behest of environmental extremists.

[SEPP Comment: The emotional terms in the article may be accurate, but do not assist in an objective analysis.]

Un-Science or Non-Science?

2014 is on track to be warmest year yet: Five images that explain what’s happening

By Eli Kintisch, Science Insider, Dec 3, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.sciencemag.org/climate/2014/12/2014-track-be-warmest-year-yet-five-images-explain-what-s-happening>

[SEPP Comment: More non-science from Science Insider.]

NOAA: Researchers offer new insights into predicting future droughts in California

Natural cycles, sea surface temperatures found to be main drivers in ongoing event

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 8, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/08/noaa-researchers-offer-new-insights-into-predicting-future-droughts-in-california/>

Link to report: Assessment Report: Causes and Predictability of the 2011-14 California Drought,

By Richard Seager, et al. NOAA, No date

http://cpo.noaa.gov/sites/cpo/MAPP/Task%20Forces/DTF/californiadrought/california_drought_report.pdf

[SEPP Comment: Question the predictability part, based on CMIP5 models which project that rising GHG should increase California winter precipitation.]

Scientists find early warning signs of changing ocean circulation

By Brooks Hays, Exeter, England (UPI), Dec 9, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Scientists_find_early_warning_signs_of_changing_ocean_circulation_999.html

Climate alarmism secures a set of warning signals

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 8, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/08/climate-alarmism-secures-a-set-of-warning-signals/>

Climate change projected to drive species northward

By Staff Writers, Los Angeles CA (SPX), Dec 12, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Climate_change_projected_to_drive_species_northward_999.html

Warmer Pacific Ocean could release millions of tons of seafloor methane

By Staff Writers, Seattle WA (SPX), Dec 10, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Warmer_Pacific_Ocean_could_release_millions_of_tons_of_seafloor_methane_999.html

Lowering Standards

Hide the incline

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 11, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/11/hide-the-incline.html>

[SEPP Comment: How low can the Royal Society go?]

Royal Society guide aims to remove bias from climate science

By Charlotte Malone, Blue and Green Tomorrow, Dec 11, 2014

<http://blueandgreentomorrow.com/2014/12/11/royal-society-guide-aims-to-remove-bias-from-climate-science/>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above!]

Thanks, volcanoes! Earth cooler than expected due to recent eruptions

By Sid Perkins, Science Mag, Nov 21, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.sciencemag.org/climate/2014/11/thanks-volcanoes-earth-cooler-expected-due-recent-eruptions>

[SEPP Comment: Another weak explanation of no warming, why was the lack of warming not predicted by the models or discussed in the IPCC AR5?]

Absolutely Amazing! A Climate Scientist Writes a Blog Post about...

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Dec 10, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/10/absolutely-amazing-a-climate-scientist-writes-a-blog-post-about/>

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

Harvard Astrophysicist: 2014 “Hottest Year” Claim A “Prostitution Of Science” ...Global Warming “Sorrowfully Exaggerated”

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 12, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/12/harvard-astrophysicist-2014-hottest-year-claim-a-prostitution-of-science-global-warming-sorrowfully-exaggerated/>

Hottest year ever?! Climate doomsayers may have hit the panic button a little too early

By Lawrence Solomon, Financial Post, Dec 11, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://business.financialpost.com/2014/12/11/lawrence-solomon-hottest-year-ever-not-quite/>

Moving the goalposts – has Professor Wadhams Explained His Now Changed ‘ice-free’ Arctic Prediction?

By Jimbo, WUWT, Dec 12, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/12/moving-the-goalposts-has-professor-wadhams-explained-his-now-changed-ice-free-arctic-prediction/>

Climate change challenge for animals reliant on external sources of heat

By Staff Writers, Sydney, Australia (SPX), Dec 10, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Climate_change_challenge_for_animals_reliant_on_external_sources_of_heat_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The models cannot predict the lack of current warming, but these researchers can predict the rate of future warming?]

Fossil fuel companies use scare tactics at UN climate negotiations

By Michael Green, The Hill, Dec 8, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/energy-environment/226275-fossil-fuel-companies-use-scare-tactics-at-un-climate>

What happens if we overshoot the two degree target for limiting global warming?

By Rox Bidcock, Carbon Brief, Dec 10, 2014

http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/12/what-happens-if-we-overshoot-the-two-degree-target-for-limiting-global-warming/?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=fab02a0b57-Carbon+Brief+Weekly+11114&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-fab02a0b57-215218249

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up. Science or public relations?

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 9, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/9/science-or-public-relations.html>

Link to questionable paper: Dramatically increasing chance of extremely hot summers since the 2003 European heatwave

By Christidis, Jones, & Stott, Nature Climate Change, Dec 8, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2468.html>

“So, if you believe a set of models that can't reproduce surface temperatures, can't do tropospheric temperatures, struggle with clouds, are useless with rainfall, can't do convection and are devoid of skill at subglobal scales, you might be convinced that heatwaves are about to get worse.”

Europe now 10 times likelier to get heatwaves: study

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Dec 08, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Europe_now_10_times_likelier_to_get_heatwaves_study_999.html

Temperatures in Western Europe were 0.81 C warmer in the decade of 2003 to 2012 compared to 1990-1999, a rise overwhelmingly ascribed to man-made carbon gases.

[SEPP Comment: Doubt the claimed cause.]

Is fracking the newest “endocrine disruptor?” No. Not that the term has any meaning

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Dec 8, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/12/fracking-newest-endocrine-disruptor-term-meaning/>

Public misled about W Hudson Bay bears since November 2013

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Dec 8, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/12/08/public-misled-about-w-hudson-bay-bears-since-november-2013/>

Teutonic Power Grab...Schellnhuber & Co. Tell World To Do As They Say, Or Globe Gets 230-Foot Sea Level Rise!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 8, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/08/teutonic-power-grab-schellnhuber-co-tell-world-to-do-as-they-say-or-globe-gets-230-foot-sea-level-rise/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

48 science minds misuse the term “scientist” – name calling is not science

End misuse of ‘sceptic’, urge 48 science minds

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 12, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/12/48-science-minds-misuse-the-term-scientist-namecalling-is-not-science/>

“What’s the opposite of skeptical? Gullible?”

Greens using “think-tank” witchhunt

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 13, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/12/greens-using-think-tank-witchhunt/#more-39895>

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children

FACT SHEET: Lifting America’s Game in Climate Education, Literacy, and Training

The White House, Office of Science and Technology Policy, Dec 3, 2014 [H/t David Wojick]

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/climateed-dec-3-2014.pdf?utm_source=eloqua

[SEPP Comment: Starts with the term carbon pollution and goes on from there.]

An odd email from The White House

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 8, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/08/an-odd-email-from-the-white-house/>

The Next Plan to Get Climate Denial Into Textbooks Activists are pushing schools to teach climate-change “controversy” by issuing textbook ratings of their own.

By Clare Foran, National Journal, Dec 4, 2014

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/energy/the-next-plan-to-get-climate-denial-into-textbooks-20141204>

[SEPP Comment: The term “Climate Denial” is value laden and can be considered propaganda.]

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Clearing the ‘cloud hanging over climate science’

Commentary calls for new ‘science of climate diversity’

By Melissa Osgood, Cornell Univ, Media Relations, Dec 8, 2014 [H/t WUWT]
<http://mediarelations.cornell.edu/2014/12/08/commentary-calls-for-new-science-of-climate-diversity/>

New study translated: public servants are more likely to become eco-activists

UGA research reveals public servants individually motivated to help environment

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 9, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/09/new-study-translated-public-servants-are-more-likely-to-become-eco-activists/>

The Year of Sustainable Development

By Jeffrey Sachs, Project Syndicate, Dec 9, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/sustainable-development-2015-by-jeffrey-d-sachs-2014-12>

[SEPP Comment: Three more international conferences that will ignore the obvious. Prosperity depends upon access to energy – particularly in the form of reliable electricity. Sustainable development means no prosperity except for the already prosperous.]

Questioning European Green

Changing the balance of EU environmental policy?

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Dec 12, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/node/899>

“It is probably asking too much of the EU institutions to make a clear-cut choice between relying on science or bowing to the green lobby, so we can expect further decisions based on politics rather than evidence.”

Commission plans to ditch circular economy and air pollution rules

By Staff Writers, EurActiv, Dec 12, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/sustainable-dev/commission-plans-ditch-circular-economy-and-air-pollution-rules-310754>

A prices and income policy

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 11, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/11/a-prices-and-income-policy.html>

The unsinkable German anti-CO2-Titanic just found its iceberg

Unpleasant encounter with hard facts

By Fred Mueller, WUWT, Dec 10, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/10/the-unsinkable-german-anti-co2-titanic-just-found-its-iceberg/>

Burning issue: Dismay as Paris bans log fires

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Dec 05, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Burning_issue_Dismay_as_Paris_bans_log_fires_999.html

French ecology minister slams 'ridiculous' log fire ban

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Dec 09, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/French_ecology_minister_slams_ridiculous_log_fire_ban_999.html

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Big Numbers, Small Numbers

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Dec 10, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/10/big-numbers-small-numbers/>

Green Jobs

The End of Green Jobs

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Dec 9, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/12/09/the-end-of-green-jobs/>

Funding Issues

Billions won't satisfy warmists

Last week's claims that 2014 is set to be 'the hottest year ever' are frankly a load of nonsense, says Christopher Booker.

By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Dec 6, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/11277024/Billions-wont-satisfy-warmists.html>

Why the UN says climate adaptation could cost developing countries \$1 trillion a year

By Mat Hope, The Carbon Brief, Dec 8, 2014

http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/12/why-the-un-thinks-climate-adaptation-could-cost-developing-countries-1-trillion-a-year/?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=fab02a0b57-Carbon_Brief_Weekly_111114&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-fab02a0b57-215218249

“These estimates are based on politicians acting to ensure global temperatures don't rise more than two degrees above pre-industrial levels, the de facto target of international climate negotiations.”

Developing world may need annual \$500 bn for climate by 2050: UN

By Staff Writers, Lima (AFP), Dec 06, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Developing_world_may_need_annual_500_bn_for_climate_by_2050_UN_999.html

International Climate Change Financing: The Green Climate Fund

By Richard Lattanzio, CRS, Nov 17, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/235012.pdf>

Poorest countries 'left behind': climate finance report

By Staff Writers, Lima (AFP), Dec 08, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Poorest_countries_left_behind_climate_finance_report_999.html

The Political Games Continue

House Spending Bill Blocks US Funding For The UN's 'Green Climate Fund'

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Dec 10, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/12/10/house-spending-bill-blocks-us-funding-for-the-uns-green-climate-fund/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

The EPA Pours On the Pain With New Ozone Regulations

By Diana Furchtgott-Roth, e21, Manhattan Institute, Dec 3, 2014

<http://economics21.org/commentary/epa-pours-pain-new-ozone-regulations-12-03-2014>

How Obama and His Environmental Base Are Planning to Eradicate the Oil and Gas Industry

By Ron Arnold, Daily Signal, Dec 12, 2014

<http://dailysignal.com/2014/12/12/obama-environmental-base-planning-eradicate-oil-gas-industry/>

EPA restricts hazardous [waste] recycling rules

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Dec 10, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226627-epa-restricts-hazardous-recycling-rules>

Energy Issues – Non-US

All megawatts are not equal

By Planning Engineer, Climate Etc. Dec 11, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/12/11/all-megawatts-are-not-equal/#more-17406>

“It matters very much when energy is generated, where the energy comes from and how well it works to support the system. The average cost of solar and wind will need to be significantly below the average cost of conventional generation well before wind and solar can begin to approach general competitiveness on a cost basis.”

Exxon’s 25-Year Energy Outlook

By Paul Ausick, 24-7 Wall Street, Dec 9, 2014

<http://247wallst.com/energy-economy/2014/12/09/exxons-25-year-energy-outlook/>

Link to report: “2015 Outlook for Energy: A View to 2040”

By Bill Colton, ExxonMobil, Dec 9, 2014

<http://cdn.exxonmobil.com/~media/Reports/Outlook%20For%20Energy/2015/2015-Energy-Outlook-Presentation.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: More reason not to accept the pronouncements of the IPCC and the UNFCCC.]

Exxon Issues Energy Reality Check as UN Debates Emissions

By Joe Carroll, Bloomberg, Dec 10, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-12-09/exxon-sees-emissions-surge-as-developing-nations-propser>

[SEPP Comment: According to the Exxon report: renewables will provide just 4 percent of the world's energy by 2040, up from 1 percent in 2010. Fossil fuels will still dominate: Oil will account for 32 percent of world energy, natural gas for 26 percent, and coal for 19 percent. Nuclear and biomass will account for 8 percent each, and hydroelectric power will account for 3 percent.]

Exxon sees abundant oil, gas far into future

By Jonathan Fahey, AP, Dec 9, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/e0a2729f04c14578b2c7183ffb2a4b5f/exxon-sees-abundant-oil-gas-far-future>

“Michael E. Mann, a climate scientist and director of Penn State's Earth System Science Center, notes that many experts dispute Exxon's conclusion on renewables because in several places

around the world renewable energy is competitive with the price of traditional power, even without a high price on carbon pollution that Exxon and others seem to agree is coming.”

ExxonMobil: Energy demand to increase on growing middle class

By Staff Writers, ExxonMobil, Off-Shore Energy, Dec 10, 2014

http://www.offshoreenergytoday.com/exxonmobil-energy-demand-to-increase-on-growing-middle-class/?utm_source=emark&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Daily%20update%20Offshore%20Energy%20Today%2C%202014

Poland faces EU fines over renewable energy failures

By Staff Writers, Luxembourg (AFP), Dec 11, 2014

http://www.winddaily.com/reports/Poland_faces_EU_fines_over_renewable_energy_failures_999.html

“Energiewende” Takes A Massive Blow...Top Green Energy Proponent Concedes: “Blunder With Ugly Consequences”!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 9, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/09/energiewende-takes-a-massive-blow-top-green-energy-proponent-concedes-blunder-with-ugly-consequences-huge-blow-to/>

German Renewable Energy Keeps Blacking Out! Supply Often Less Than 2% Of Wintertime Demand

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

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/06/german-renewable-energy-keeps-black-out-supply-often-less-than-2-of-wintertime-demand/>

Germany’s Electricity Price More Than Doubles. Electrocuting Consumers And Markets!

Germany’s electricity price just behind leader Denmark in the EU: Since the introduction of its Feed-in Act in 2000, the electricity price has more than doubled!

By Michael Krüger, Trans P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 7, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/07/germanys-electricity-price-more-than-doubles-electrocuting-consumers-and-markets/>

Green subsidies on energy bills set to rise by four times by 2030: £175 will be added to average cost due to funding of wind and solar power

The cost of energy to business and industry is set to double in the same period, causing a knock-on effect to other goods and services

Britain has already adopted the most stringent climate law in the world

By Ben Spencer, Daily Mail, UK, Dec 10, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2867965/Green-subsidies-energy-bills-set-rise-four-times-2030-175-added-average-cost-funding-wind-solar-power.html>

Autumn Statement: Chancellor to establish sovereign wealth fund for the North of England with shale gas cash

By Bill Gleeson, Liverpool Echo, Dec 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/business/autumn-statement-chancellor-establish-sovereign-8222555>”

<http://www.thegwpf.com/britain-announces-sovereign-wealth-fund-for-north-of-england-shale-gas-bonanza/>

Energy Issues -- US

U.S. Again World's No. 1 In Energy Production

By Bernard Weinstein, IBD, Dec 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-perspective/121014-729966-2014-is-the-year-of-american-energy-independence.htm>

U.S. Oil Reserves Highest Since at Least 1975 on Shale

By Dan Murtaugh and Harry R. Weber, Bloomberg, Dec 4, 2014

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-12-04/oil-reserves-in-u-dot-s-dot-rose-to-highest-since-1975-on-shale>

Washington's Control of Energy

Obama: Keystone may contribute to 'disastrous' climate change

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Dec 9, 2014

<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/226434-obama-keystone-may-contribute-to-disastrous-climate-change>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

CBO makes the fracking case

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Dec 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/cbo-makes-the-fracking-case/article/2557290?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%202012/12/14&utm_medium=email

Link to report: The Economic and Budgetary Effects of Producing Oil and Natural Gas From Shale

By Staff Writers, CBO, Dec 2014

http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/49815-Effects_of_Shale_Production.pdf

Energy superpower 'Saudi America' has been the world's largest petroleum producer for 22 months in a row

By Mark Perry, AEIdeas, Dec 5, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.aei.org/publication/energy-superpower-saudi-america-worlds-largest-petroleum-producer-22-months-row/>

[SEPP Comment: Defined as oil and natural gas liquids, and similar products.]

Applications to drill new wells in Bakken, Eagle Ford fall 30 percent

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Dec 10, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226593-applications-to-drill-new-wells-in-bakken-eagle-ford-fall-30>

U.S. rig count steady, Baker Hughes finds

By Daniel J. Graeber, Dallas (UPI), Dec 5, 2014

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/US_rig_count_steady_Baker_Hughes_finds_999.html

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Abandoned U.S. oil wells still spewing methane, study finds

By Richard Valdanis, Reuters, Dec 8, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/abandoned-u-oil-wells-still-spewing-methane-study-222848341.html>

[SEPP Comment: A few wells studied, emitting small amounts of methane.]

Leaks from natural gas drilling are falling, study finds

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Dec 9, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226416-leaks-from-natural-gas-drilling-are-falling-study-finds>

Link to a report of the study: Study: Methane emissions from natural gas production are lower than previously estimated

By Carlton Carroll, API, Dec 9, 2014

<http://www.api.org/news-and-media/news/newsitems/2014/dec-2014/study-methane-emissions-from-natural-gas-production-are-lower-than-previously-estimated>

'Catastrophic' Bangladesh oil spill threatens rare dolphins

By Staff Writers, Dhaka (AFP), Dec 11, 2014

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Catastrophic_Bangladesh_oil_spill_threatens_rare_dolphins_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Headline may be extreme!]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

China Approves Major New Scheme to Boost Nuclear Power: Reports

By Staff Writers, Beijing (Sputnik), Dec 08, 2014

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/China_Approves_Major_New_Scheme_to_Boost_Nuclear_Power_Reports_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Off-shore nuclear plants?]

Construction Monitor: Longer Delays Are Likely for Vogtle Reactors

By Sonal Patel, Power, Dec 10, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/construction-monitor-longer-delays-are-likely-for-vogtle-reactors/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2996333&hq_l=8&hq_v=5e660500d0

DOE Opens \$12.5B Nuclear Loan Guarantee Solicitation

By Sonal Patel, Power, Dec 10, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/doe-opens-12-5b-nuclear-loan-guarantee-solicitation/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2996333&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

Finland approves construction of nuclear plant by Russia

By Staff Writers, Helsinki (AFP) Dec 05, 2014

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Finland_approves_construction_of_nuclear_plant_by_Russia_999.html

GOP Should Revive Yucca Mountain And Nuclear Energy

Editorial, IBD, Dec 8, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/120814-729588-election-revives-yucca-mountain-waste-repository.htm?p=full>

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Dead Eagle Data: Buffet/Berkshire/PacifiCorp Don't Want You to Know (Part 2)

By Jim Wiengand, Master Resource, Dec 12, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/cuisinarts-of-the-air/dead-eagle-data-2/>

[SEPP Comment: No justification for Washington to keep eagle kills secret.]

Carbon Schemes

The Myth of Net-Zero Emissions

By Lili Fuhr and Niclas Hallstrom, Project Syndicate, Dec 8, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/net-zero-emissions-not-enough-by-lili-fuhr-and-niclas-h-llstr-m-2014-12>

Health, Energy, and Climate

Energy efficient homes linked to asthma

The drive for energy efficient homes could be increasing asthma risks, according to new research.

By Staff Writers, Construction Index, UK, Dec 11, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/energy-efficient-homes-linked-to-asthma>

BPA study comments section leads to a look at the “academically-based health industry”

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Dec 10, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/12/bpa-study-comments-section-leads-look-academically-based-health-industry/>

Environmental Industry

Greens Wage War On All Pipelines, Not Just Keystone XL

Editorial, IBD, Dec 11, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/121114-730255-greens-sabotage-domestic-oil-and-gas-production.htm>

Greenpeace: We Spit on Your Sacred Spaces

By Donna Laframbose, NFC, Dec 11, 2014

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2014/12/11/greenpeace-we-spit-on-your-sacred-spaces/>

Greenpeace apologizes for stunt at ancient Peru site

By Staff Writers, Lima (AFP), Dec 10, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Greenpeace_apologizes_for_stunt_at_ancient_Peru_site_999.html

Judge: rule of law challenged by greens

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 8, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/8/judge-rule-of-law-challenged-by-greens.html>

Other Scientific News

National Science Foundation updates transparency and accountability practices

By Dana Topousis, NSF, Dec 3, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133533&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Transparency and Accountability – Policy Statement

By Peter Arzberger, NSF, Dec 8, 2014

<http://www.nsf.gov/od/transparency/transparency.jsp>

Paul Allen donates \$100 million for research on the human cell

By Aileen Graef, Seattle (UPI), Dec 9, 2014

[http://www.interndaily.com/reports/Paul Allen donates 100 million for research on the human cell 999.html](http://www.interndaily.com/reports/Paul%20Allen%20donates%20100%20million%20for%20research%20on%20the%20human%20cell%20999.html)

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

EPA chief: Clean water, climate regs critical to beer-making

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Dec 9, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226536-epa-chief-clean-water-climate-regs-critical-to-beer-making>

[SEPP Comment: Beer making produces CO2, which the EPA chief calls a pollutant. Wait for the regulations.]

The eyeroller you knew was going to happen – California winter storm caused by “changing climate”

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 11, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/11/the-eyeroller-you-knew-was-going-to-happen-california-winter-storm-caused-by-changing-climate/>

Friday Funny – Best Grauniad typo ever

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 12, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/12/friday-funny-best-grauniad-typo-ever/>

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1. The China Climate Accord: A bad deal for the US

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Dec 8, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/12/the_china_climate_accord_a_bad_deal_for_the_us.html

The world is fascinated by the November 12 climate agreement between President Obama and Chinese President Xi. Has China finally decided to “fight climate change”? My personal opinion is that China is taking advantage of White House science ignorance and anxiety about future climate change, hoping thereby to gain commercial and strategic advantages against the United States.

The bilateral US-China Climate Agreement, inked in Beijing on Nov 12, makes virtually no demands on the Chinese. It simply states that at or about the year 2030, they will start to reduce their emissions of CO2; in the meantime, they can emit as much as they want. So they have 15 more years to add more coal-fired power plants to any extent they wish. It is very likely that by 2030, China’s population will have stopped growing and a large part will be living in urban apartment blocks, having bought all of the gadgets they need: TVs, refrigerators, computers, etc. - and that their demand for electric power will have saturated.

On the other hand, the US commitment is rather severe: an actual reduction of 26-28% in CO2 emissions by 2025, just 10 years away. This goal can only be achieved by the substitution of natural gas for coal-fired power plants, and the eventual replacement of much of natural gas with unreliable and uneconomic “renewables,” such as wind and solar. As Obama promised in 2008, electricity costs will “sky-rocket.”

Indeed, this seems to be the US plan -- as spelled out by the EPA, under the direction of the White House. All the China agreement really does is to make Obama look good to his Green constituency, besides providing a convenient “club” to use for his “war on coal.” The expected effect on the global climate is zero, zilch, nada.

From the Chinese point of view, this is an ideal arrangement, and has both commercial and strategic benefits. It makes energy more expensive in the United States and Europe; it cripples the industrial base of the Western World. And hand-in-hand with economic strength goes military strength.

Climate Science is Still Unsettled

In 1988, the United Nations set up the IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) to supply the scientific rationale for a global climate treaty, agreed-to at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. The IPCC is supposed to survey published scientific results impartially, but instead it has ignored research papers that contradict the conclusions of its five Assessment Reports -- of 1990, 1996, 2001, 2007, and 2013-14.

For evidence of human influence on climate, the IPCC relies on a supposed agreement between climate models and observations. In fact, the models cannot reproduce the observations and therefore fail to support the IPCC conclusion. This disagreement has now become apparent to many scientists around the world, who have set up a competing, largely self-supported study group called NIPCC (Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change), independent of the UN and of any government.

Contrary to the IPCC, NIPCC finds that natural influences rule the climate and human influences are relatively insignificant. One can give many examples where models and observations disagree. For instance, IPCC admits that there has been no warming observed in the last 15-18 years, but fails to point out that this result disagrees with the results of every climate model.

IPCC is also dismissive of scientific research that cosmic rays from outer space can and do change the climate. The full story is that the cosmic-ray intensity is modulated by solar activity. Ultimately therefore, solar activity affects cosmic rays, which in turn change the earth's cloud cover and thereby affect climate.

One could cite many other examples of credible scientific work ignored by the IPCC. It has been the aim of the NIPCC to restore the balance of evidence necessary to permit informed decisions on policy. Every IPCC report's Summary for Policy Makers (SPM) is approved line-by-line by the nearly 200 participating national delegations. But these delegates are not scientists; they are working with a draft SPM carefully compiled by a handful of politically oriented scientists who “cherry-pick” factoids from the IPCC Report itself and ignore contrary evidence. Unlike the full Report, this draft SPM does not acknowledge the existence of scientific uncertainties. It is on the basis of such an SPM that politicians agreed to adopt the costly, ineffective 1997 Kyoto Protocol (which expired in 2012) and other policies that affect energy use -- and therefore have tremendous economic consequences.

Right now, China is beginning to experiment with “cap-and-trade” schemes within three urban areas. The US Congress in 2009 refused to approve such a C&T policy; yet President Obama will attempt to achieve a similar result through regulation -- without the Congress. Europeans have

tried it, but it has been an economic disaster. Australia had instituted a carbon tax as an alternative, but has now abandoned it. Only the State of California is proceeding with such a scheme, but is using it primarily to raise revenues, like a tax; it will have no detectible effect on global climate.

A cap and trade scheme in China may have some value in improving energy efficiency -- in reducing the amount of energy required to produce electricity. That could be a useful objective. But it should not be considered as climate policy.

The Inscrutable Chinese

I can't quite figure out whether or not the Chinese government really believes in anthropogenic (human-caused) global warming (AGW); it may all be pretense -- just a cynical charade, hoping to mislead the West into adopting drastic reductions of CO2 emissions. There seems to be internal debate among scientists within the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Going along with IPCC climate fears can be quite beneficial for individual scientists: International conferences in Bali, Cancun, Lima, and next year in Paris just sound very intriguing; plus more money and perks at home. Further, some may actually become convinced that their work is "saving the planet" from the imagined ravages of a slightly warmer climate.

On the other hand, the Chinese Academy has translated some of the volumes of the NIPCC, and organized a workshop in Beijing in June 2013 to discuss the NIPCC conclusions, which are very critical of the UN-IPCC claims of AGW.

The latest NIPCC effort is a two-volume publication, called *Climate Change Reconsidered-II, Physical Science (2013) and Biological Impacts (2014)* -- which disagrees strongly with the corresponding IPCC Assessment Reports (2013 and 2014). There is no doubt that there is a constituency within the China science establishment (and perhaps also within their government) that supports NIPCC. An indication is a (hard-bound) volume (in Chinese), co-authored by two Chinese members of the Academy, a member of the French Academy, and myself. Its title is: "Nature-not human activity-rules the climate."

Will We Get Another Kyoto Protocol?

Many in the White House think the agreement with China is an important step in reaching a global treaty at the forthcoming (Dec 2015) Paris meeting. I wouldn't be so sure. A treaty would have to be confirmed by two-thirds of the US Senate, and there is little chance of that. Even back in July 1997, during the Clinton-Gore White House, the Senate voted unanimously for the bipartisan Byrd-Hagel Resolution against a global protocol to control CO2 emissions. Indeed, Clinton-Gore never submitted Kyoto to the Senate for ratification.

Obama will likely try to achieve his CO2 goal by executive orders and administrative measures. He will find a way, as he has put it, to "skin the cat." Whether his war on coal will succeed in circumventing a hostile Congress is another question. The courts will also have a lot to say on this, including the Supreme Court. When it comes to a global agreement, many nations may vote against any Kyoto-like protocol, including India, Australia, and likely also Canada and Japan.

The next few months are going to be very interesting.

A Quick Word about Carbon Dioxide

CO2 is an odorless, non-toxic, natural constituent of the Earth's atmosphere. As the basic food for all plants, it is absolutely essential for maintaining life on our planet. CO2 should not be called a "pollutant." In the geological past, its level has been ten times higher or more than its present value; in fact, our major food crops developed when CO2 levels were about five times higher. China is now the world's largest emitter of CO2 and thereby making an important contribution to increasing agricultural yields -- at a time when much of the global population is still hungry. The world should be grateful to China.

S. Fred Singer is professor emeritus at the University of Virginia and director of the Science & Environmental Policy Project. His specialty is atmospheric and space physics. An expert in remote sensing and satellites, he served as the founding director of the US Weather Satellite Service and, more recently, as vice chair of the US National Advisory Committee on Oceans & Atmosphere. He is a senior fellow of the Heartland Institute and the Independent Institute. He co-authored the NY Times best-seller Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1500 years. In 2007, he founded and has since chaired the NIPCC (Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change), which has released several scientific reports [See www.NIPCCreport.org]. For recent writings, see http://www.americanthinker.com/s_fred_singer/ and also Google Scholar.

2. Where Will You Be When the Lights Go Out?

The EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan would raise utility prices and threaten the grid's reliability. By Kevin Cramer, WSJ, Dec 10, 2014 [May require Subscription]

http://www.wsj.com/articles/kevin-cramer-where-will-you-be-when-the-lights-go-out-1418259829?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj

Link to NERC study: Long-Term Reliability Assessment

By Staff Writers, NERC, Nov 2014

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/2014LTRA_ERATTA.pdf

Link to NERC report, Potential Reliability Impacts of EPA's Proposed Clean Power Plan

By Staff Writers, NERC, Nov 2014

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/Potential_Reliability_Impacts_of_EPA_Proposed_CPP_Final.pdf

"The administration's Clean Power Plan will remake an enormous sector of the U.S. economy, affecting almost every industry and every consumer. It is irresponsible in the extreme that this plan has been put forth without due consideration of the risk it poses to the reliability of the nation's electricity supply."

Synopsis: Written by a new US congressman from North Dakota. As a public-service commissioner in North Dakota from 2003-12, he regulated the electrical utilities industry. Mr. Cramer provides insight into the difficulties for nation in adapting to the administration's Clean Power Plan and the EPA's enforcement of it. Building the necessary infrastructure will not be easy, or timely. The NERC studies are publically available.

3. Professor Tribe Takes Obama to School

The liberal lion blasts the EPA's climate rule as an illegal power grab.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 5, 2014 [May require Subscription]

http://www.wsj.com/articles/professor-tribe-takes-obama-to-school-1417824105?mod=trending_now_5

Synopsis: Mr. Tribe considers the EPA is interpreting certain sections of the Clean Air Act in two different ways, using each for its own convenience. In its executive overreach on existing power

plants the EPA is abusing statutory law, the EPA is violating Article I and II of the Constitution, the separation of powers, and the Fifth and tenth Amendments.

4. The Oilman to Thank at Your Next Fill-Up

The ‘accidental CEO’ Mark Papa says even he underestimated the shale revolution, which will continue despite lower prices.

By Joseph Rago, WSJ, Dec 5, 2014 [May require Subscription]

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/joseph-rago-the-oilman-to-thank-at-your-next-fill-up-1417822381?tesla=y&mg=reno64-wsj>

Synopsis: Describes how EOG Resources and its CEO came from being a virtually discarded offshoot of Enron when Enron went from an oil and natural gas company to a trading company. EOG flourished by taking advantage of developing technologies for extracting oil from dense shale.

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