

The Week That Was: 2014-24-05 (May 24, 2014)
Brought to You by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)
The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Quote of the Week: *The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge.* By Daniel Boorstin, American Historian [Quoted by Lennart Bengtsson]

Number of the Week: Down 96%

9th International Conference on Climate Change

July 7 – 9 -- Las Vegas, Nevada

Includes the Findings of the New Report by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) *Climate Change Reconsidered II*

<http://climateconference.heartland.org/>

SEPP'S APRIL FOOLS AWARD
THE JACKSON

The nominations and voting has ended. The results will be announced at the conference of Doctors for Disaster Preparedness in July.

Due to travel commitments and necessary, but not threatening, surgery for Ken Haapala, there will be no TWTWs on May 31, June 7, and June 14.

THIS WEEK:

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

Approaching a Common Ground? Noted Swedish meteorologist and climate modeler Lennart Bengtsson wrote an essay expressing his views of the deficiencies in the current status of climate research. The web site *Uppsalainitiativet*, which is hardly a site for skeptics, graciously posted the essay in English. Bengtsson notes the inappropriateness of detailed forecasts of future climate in various regions of Sweden (which also applies to the US National Climate Assessment). The weather and climate 80 years hence for a specific location cannot be forecasted. The state of the knowledge is inadequate.

Bengtsson considers that alarmists claim weather events are becoming more extreme is, itself, alarming. He states: *Apart from a possible increase in precipitation and a possible intensification of tropical hurricanes that has not yet been detected, there are no indications of extreme weather in the model simulations, and even less so in current observations.*

What is perhaps most worrying is the increased tendency of pseudo-science in climate research. This is revealed through the bias in publication records towards only reporting results that support one climate hypothesis, while refraining from publishing results that deviate. Even extremely cold weather, as this year's winter in north Eastern USA and Canada, is regarded as a consequence of the greenhouse effect.

In discussing the current 17 year period with insignificant or no warming over the oceans, Bengtsson writes: *My colleagues and I have been met with scant understanding when trying to point out that observations indicate lower climate sensitivity than model calculations indicate.*

Such behavior may not even be intentional but rather attributed to an effect that my colleague Hans von Storch calls a social construct.

Bengtsson hopes his essay explains his motivations for first agreeing to join the Global Warming Policy Foundation (GWPF), then resigning after intense personal attacks prevented him from focusing on his work.

In an interview published in *Quadrant*, Judith Curry, branded a heretic in the *Scientific American*, expresses similar views. Climategate, and weak response by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other scientists, motivated her to skeptically re-examine her support for the IPCC and its science. Her objections to the current status of the IPCC science include the failure to adequately explain the current 15 – 17 year pause in warming, there is no evidence that the missing heat is hiding in the deep oceans, and the weakness of the IPCC claim that humans are the cause of more than 50% of the recent warming.

She states: The IPCC has outlived its original usefulness. ...Scientists do not need to be consensual to be authoritative. Authority rests in the credibility of the arguments, which must include explicit reflection on uncertainties, ambiguities and areas of ignorance and more openness for dissent. The role of scientists should not be to develop political will to act by hiding or simplifying the uncertainties, either explicitly or implicitly, behind a negotiated consensus.

In discussing the support the IPCC has among scientific societies, Curry suggests it is a topic for social psychologists. Perhaps this is similar to what Hans von Storch calls a social construct. Curry suggests the reasons why the issue is not debated are: 1) that establishment scientists do not want to appear to give legitimacy to the skeptics; and 2) the establishment scientists did poorly in the few debates they participated.

Economist Richard Tol expresses his views on what is wrong with the IPCC process. Tol stepped down from the team that produced the Summary for Policymakers of Working Group 2, which addresses impacts, adaptation and vulnerability from global warming/climate change.

Tol writes: The first rule of climate policy should be: do no harm to economic growth. But the IPCC was asked to focus on the risks of climate change alone, and those who volunteered to be its authors eagerly obliged. He considers that the Summary for Policymakers embodied the horsemen of the apocalypse: famine, pestilence, war, and death.

Further, Tol states the Summary for Policymakers of Working Group 3, mitigation, had another issue. Government reviewers eliminated every clause that could be used against government policy, thus making policy debate impossible. In Tol's view, there is too much money, prestige, etc. at stake to disband the IPCC. But, it must be significantly reformed.

He writes: Away with the infrequent, massive set pieces. Away with alarmism – that has been tried for 25 years, with no discernible impact on emissions. Away with activists posing as scientists. Away with the freshman mistakes.

Just good, sober, solid science. Let the chips fall where they may.

Here we have three scientists who are familiar with the inner workings of the IPCC expressing views similar to those expressed by the lead authors of the Nongovernmental International Panel

on Climate Change (NIPCC), and other independent scientists. The IPCC reports overestimate the influence of atmospheric CO2 on climate, the models are failing, the findings in the Summaries for Policymakers are more political than scientific, and the entire process must be significantly changed or discarded.

Professor Vaclav Klaus, then-President of the Czech Republic, in a Sept 24, 2007 speech at the UN called for an independent review of IPCC science. Many others have also criticized the IPCC, including the prestigious InterAcademy Council, which in 2010, also called for an independent assessment of the scientific evidence, a kind of “second opinion.” NIPCC fulfills that role: Its creation was not supported by governments or any industry, but by private foundations and donations from citizens. See links under Approaching A Common Ground?

NCA: The IPCC reports, with all their deficiencies, provide the foundation of the US National Climate Assessment (NCA). As stated in prior TWTWs (May 10 & 17), the NCA is prepared by US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), which has an annual budget of about \$2.5 Billion. The USGCRP does not provide independent review of the IPCC work or independent testing of models. Instead, it tends to promote the most alarmist views of the IPCC. The NCA is a slick document (and web site) of limited scientific value and should not be the basis for any governmental policies.

A group of 15 scientists, including SEPP President and Chairman Fred Singer and SEPP Director Tom Sheahan, have published a substantial rebuttal to the NCA. The rebuttal specifically addresses 5 false claims in the NCA that provide the core of NCA’s justifications. The false claims are: 1) Fundamental Understanding of [Greenhouse] GH Gases; 2) Unusual Warming in Recent Decades; 3) The Climate Models; 4) Extreme Weather – Temperatures; and 5) Extreme Weather – Hurricanes, Droughts, and Floods. The rebuttal concludes: *This NCA is so grossly flawed it should play no role in U.S. Energy Policy Analyses and CO2 regulatory processes. As this rebuttal makes clear, the NCA provides no scientific basis whatsoever for regulating CO2 emissions.*

One can speculate if Lennart Bengtsson had the NCA in mind when he wrote: *Even more alarming is the tendency of giving people the impression that weather events are becoming more extreme, and that this has actually already occurred.* As stated above, he wrote that apart from an increase in precipitation and hurricanes, which has not been observed, *there are no indications of extreme weather in the model simulations ...*

The NCA is being used for fund raising and propaganda purposes by the inaccurately-named Union of Concerned Scientists and by Oxfam. Oxfam claims that climate change will cause drastic increases in food prices and attacks major producers of food products for not doing enough to prevent climate change, as if they could. As discussed in the May 17, 2014 TWTW, a group of retired, senior military officers under the name of the CNA Military Advisory Board claim that climate change justifies more biofuels, which will increase food prices. Will Oxfam fight it out with the Military Advisory Board? The *New York Times* identified the Board as “a leading government-funded military research organization.” See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine and Un-Science or Non-Science?

Military Readiness: In a report published by the Heartland Institute, three retired senior naval officers, who are not members of the CNA Military Advisory Board, assert that the Administration’s climate policy is weakening US military readiness. Adm. Thomas B. Hayward, (former Chief of Naval Operations), Vice Adm. Edward S. Briggs, and Capt. Donald K. Forbes

(all USN retired) assert there is no scientific basis for claiming that human-caused global warming/climate change is a threat multiplier, and that the Pentagon's development of wind, solar, and biofuels "diverts critical resources away from other missions at a time when there is less money available to meet our defense needs, including supporting troops by providing them with the hardware they need." See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy. Note: Donald Forbes is a member of the SEPP Board.

Words: In his essay, Lennart Bengtsson explained why he was reluctant to write articles for public media. *A large part of my unwillingness to partake in public debate is connected to my friend Sven Öhman, a linguist who wrote about semantics and not least about the difficulties specialists run into when attempting to communicate with the public. Words and concepts have different meanings and are interpreted differently depending on one's background and knowledge. Sometimes such misunderstanding can be disastrous.*

Coincidentally, SEPP Director Tom Sheahan wrote an essay clearly explaining how certain words have a specialized meaning to a scientist and a different meaning to the public. The use of the word "collapse" in discussing the West Antarctic ice sheet is one such example. Speaking in terms of geological time, would it be correct to say a giant ice sheet thousands of feet thick is about to engulf Manhattan (within years or in several millennia)? See Article # 1 and link under Seeking a Common Ground.

Gas Play: Russia and China announced an agreement whereby Russia will deliver to China 38 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas per year scheduled to be expanded to 60 bcm per year as pipeline capacity expands. The gas will come from fields in eastern Siberia that are yet to be developed. First delivery is expected to be in 2018 over a pipeline that is yet to be built. Given the high cost of transporting liquefied natural gas (LNG), including liquefying and regasifying, a pipeline delivery will be less costly to China than LNG. How this plays with the situation in the Ukraine is not clear. See links under Energy Issues – No US.

Additions and Corrections: The May 17 TWTW had a discussion of the sensitivity of the planet's climate to a doubling of CO₂. The discussion stated that in AR-5 the IPCC failed to develop a credible subjective probability density function. Several readers asked if the term "subjective" should have been "objective." An objective probability density function is developed from experimentation and observations, such as flipping a coin. A subjective probability density function is developed by asking a panel of experts to assess probability of X. In the past, the latter method is how the IPCC arrived at its probability statements. In AR-5, it did not even develop a subjective probability function for climate sensitivity – yet the Summary for Policymakers expresses 95% confidence that humans are primarily responsible for global warming/climate change?

Hand-Out: Using publically available material, SEPP has developed a simple five-page handout, "Climate Fears and Finance." The handout emphasizes the failure of the climate models and the enormous amounts of money the US has spent on global warming/climate change. The handout is available for downloading, without cost, on the SEPP website

http://www.sepp.org/key_issues.cfm?whichyear=2014

Number of the Week: Down 96%. According to a report in the *Los Angeles Times*, the US Energy Information Administration will announce that the estimated recoverable reserves of oil in the extremely large Monterey shale formation in California will be only 4% of the prior estimate.

The oil bearing rock is still there, but it is a matter of extraction and costs. Due to plate tectonics, the rock is folded in multiple places. These folds prevent long-distance horizontal drilling with multi-port fracturing. Using current technology, the oil cannot be profitably extracted. Such a downgrade of recoverable reserves represents the difference between a natural resource as something that exists and a natural resource that can be utilized. The downgrading will be a caution against too much enthusiasm for shale formations that have not been properly explored. See link under Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

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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. The specialized meaning of words in the 'Antarctic ice shelf collapse' and other climate alarm stories

By Tom Sheahan, Vice Chairman of the SEPP Board, WUWT, May 21, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/21/the-specialized-meaning-of-words-in-the-antarctic-ice-shelf-collapse-and-other-climate-alarm-stories/>

2. The EPA's Carbon Capture Flip-Flop

One of the agency's own regional offices and a panel of EPA judges have ruled that the policy is too expensive.

By Brian Potts, WSJ, May 22, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303480304579575993716327878?mod=rending_now_3

[SEPP Comment: No doubt the EPA and the Administration are seeking a way to circumvent the law. One trick the EPA has played in the past is to dismiss the judicial order as regional, and claim it does not apply to national regulations.]

3. 'What's the Worst That Can Happen?'

John Kerry makes a revealing statement in the form of a question.

Editorial, WSJ, May 21, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304198504579574383625245664?mg=reno64-wsj>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Approaching A Common Ground?

Guest post by Lennart Bengtsson: My view on climate research

By Lennart Bengtsson, Uppsalainitiativet, May 21, 2014

<http://uppsalainitiativet.blogspot.se/2014/05/guest-post-by-lennart-bengtsson-my-view.html>

Chatting With 'A Climate Heretic'

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, May 21, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2014/05/chatting-climate-heretic/>

UN climate change expert reveals bias in global warming report

By Richard Tol, Fox News, May 20, 2014

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/05/20/un-climate-change-expert-reveals-bias-in-global-warming-report/>

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Are climate scientists being forced to toe the line?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. May 24, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/05/24/are-climate-scientists-being-forced-to-toe-the-line/#more-15598>

The Climate Wars and the University of Delaware

By Jan Blits, WUWT, May 19, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/19/the-climate-wars-and-the-university-of-delaware/>

Tough questions about FOIA abuse to the University of Delaware

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, May 21, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/21/tough-questions-about-foia-abuse-to-the-university-of-delaware/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC

The changing climate: Here's the reality

Editorial, Pittsburg, Tribune-Review, May 15, 2014

<http://triblive.com/opinion/editorials/6106425-74/climate-warming-nipcc#axzz31uu0Tsml>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Scientists Respond to the Obama Administration's 2014 National Climate Assessment

Posted by Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 19, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/19/scientists-respond-to-the-obama-administrations-2014-national-climate-assessment/>

'Unstoppable Collapse' of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet Is Not Happening

By Don Easterbrook, NCTSP, May 21, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/05/unstoppable-collapse-of-west-antarctic.html>

Report: Obama Global Warming Policy Weakens Military Readiness

By Jennifer Hickey, Newsmax, May 15, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/military-global-warming-climate-change/2014/05/15/id/571563/>

Link to report: Climate Change, Energy Policy, and National Power

Thomas B. Hayward, Edward S. Briggs, Donald K. Forbes (UN Navy Retired) Heartland Institute, March 21, 2014

http://heartland.org/sites/default/files/climate_change_energy_policy_and_national_power.pdf

Atmospheric Layers, The Biosphere, The Boundary Layer, Microclimate and Inadequate IPCC Models

By Tim Ball, WUWT, May 19, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/19/atmospheric-layers-the-biosphere-the-boundary-layer-microclimate-and-inadequate-ipcc-models/>

The tribulations of science

By John Brignell, Number Watch, May 21, 2014

http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2014_may.htm#tribulations

Science is built on the foundations of the achievements of our predecessors, but it depends on precious concepts such as openness and reproducibility.

Defending the Orthodoxy

Miami Will Likely Be Underwater Before Congress Acts on Climate Change

Why the struggle over climate is moving to the executive branch.

By Ronald Brownstein, National Journal, May 15, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/political-connections/miami-will-likely-be-underwater-before-congress-acts-on-climate-change-20140515>

Let's tell the truth about extreme weather

By Jane Velez-Mitchell, CNN Opinion, May 18, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/16/opinion/velez-mitchell-extreme-weather-climate-change/index.html>

[SEPP Comment: *The propaganda is effective on some.*]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Pseudoscientists' eight climate claims debunked

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, May 17, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/17/pseudoscientists-eight-climate-claims-debunked/>

Why Global Warming Alarmism Isn't Science

By John Hinderacker, Power Line, May 17, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/05/why-global-warming-alarmism-isnt-science-2.php>

Corbella: Pause in global warming upsets religious believers

By Licia Corbella, Calgary Herald, May 17, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/technology/Corbella+Pause+global+warming+upsets+religious+believers/9848202/story.html>

“These [explanations for the pause] are all new hypotheses,” points out [Ross] McKittrick, “yet the science was supposedly ‘settled’ over a decade ago.”

I'll see your 97 percent, and raise you 3 percent

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, May 21, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/05/ill-see-your-97-percent-and-raise-you-3-percent/>

100% of climate scientists don't know how much of the warming in the last 50-100 years is natural versus human-caused

There is something very wrong with climatology

By Andrew Montford, The Spectator, May 19, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/andrewmontford/2014/05/there-is-something-very-wrong-with-climatology/>

Where Did '97 Percent' Global Warming Consensus Figure Come From?

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, May 16, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/16/where-did-97-percent-global-warming-consensus-figure-come-from/>

Link to counter paper: Climate Consensus and ‘Misinformation’: A Rejoinder to Agnotology, Scientific Consensus, and the Teaching and Learning of Climate Change

By David R. Legates, Willie Soon, William M. Briggs, Christopher Monckton of Brenchley, Science and Education, Aug 2013

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11191-013-9647-9>

Breaking: The “97 Percent Climate Consensus” Canard

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, May 18, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/05/breaking-the-97-percent-climate-consensus-canard.php>

Antarctic Melting Reports Omit Key Facts

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, May 19, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Obama-Antarctic-Climate-Change/2014/05/19/id/572105/>

Sea level rise tipping points

By Rud Istvan, Climate Etc. May 18, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/05/18/sea-level-rise-tipping-points/>

New excuse for ‘the pause’ – the wrong type of El Niños

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 19, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/19/new-excuse-for-the-pause-the-wrong-type-of-el-ninos/>

Ten Good Reasons Not To Worry About Polar Bears

By Susan Crockford, WUWT, May 18, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/18/ten-good-reasons-not-to-worry-about-polar-bears/>

No, Global Warming Ignorance Doesn’t Justify Bigger Government

By James Taylor, The Federalist, May 16, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://thefederalist.com/2014/05/16/no-global-warming-ignorance-doesnt-justify-bigger-government/>

Time to get real about climate change

By Tom Harris, Garden Island, May 18, 2014

http://thegardenisland.com/news/opinion/guest/time-to-get-real-about-climate-change/article_928a91f6-de55-11e3-9933-001a4bcf887a.html

Problems in the Orthodoxy

UN Climate Talks In Bonn Set To Fail For The Second Time In 2014

By Tory Aardvark, His Blog, May 20, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://toryaardvark.com/2014/05/20/un-climate-talks-in-bonn-set-to-fail-for-the-second-time-in-2014/>

Australia's change of heart threatens UN climate treaty

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, May 23, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/207068-australias-change-of-heart-threatens-un-climate-treaty>

Spiegel Sees “Shaken Science”, Collapsed Consensus In The Wake Of The Lennart Bengtsson Mobbing Scandal

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, May 19, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/05/19/spiegel-sees-shaken-science-collapsed-consensus-in-the-wake-of-the-lennart-bengtsson-mobbing-scandal/>

Public interest in climate unshaken by scandal, but unstirred by science

By Staff Writers, Princeton NJ (SPX), May 23, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Public_interest_in_climate_change_unshaken_by_scandal_but_unstirred_by_science_999.html

CNN chief: People don't watch climate coverage

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, May 21, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/206770-cnn-chief-lack-of-interest-on-climate-change-coverage>

[SEPP Comment: Decades of hyperbole is having an impact on the public.]

Public are terminally bored with climate. Anderegg denies devastating Climategate damage

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, May 20, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/05/public-are-terminally-bored-with-climate-anderegg-denies-devastating-climategate-damage/>

The Hard Sell on Climate Change

Media outlets continue to push a crisis scenario, and the public isn't buying.

By John Fund, National Review, May 23, 2014 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/node/378653/print>

Renewable energy won't rid us of the horrors of coal

The Turkish disaster has brought home the grave costs of mining. But hysteria-led policies will only make matters worse

By Simon Jenkins, Guardian, May 15, 2014 [H/t Chris Horner]

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/may/15/renewable-energy-horrors-coal-extraction-turkish-mine-disaster>

Seeking a Common Ground

The specialized meaning of words in the ‘Antarctic ice shelf collapse’ and other climate alarm stories

By Tom Sheahan, Dir of SEPP, WUWT, May 21, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/21/the-specialized-meaning-of-words-in-the-antarctic-ice-shelf-collapse-and-other-climate-alarm-stories/>

Science and policy – reconciling the two cultures

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. May 22, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/05/22/science-and-policy-reconciling-the-two-cultures/>

Link to speech: By Sir Peter Gluckman, Chief Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of New Zealand, May 18, 2014

<http://www.pmcasa.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Arthur-E-Mills-Memorial-Oration-to-RACP.pdf>

Hard vs. the Soft Sciences

By Steven Burnett, WUWT, May 20, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/20/hard-vs-the-soft-sciences/>

See link immediately below.

Steve Burnett's Hard vs. the Soft Sciences Essay; An Ongoing Debate Central To Climate

By Tim Ball, WUWT, May 23, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/23/steve-burnetts-hard-vs-the-soft-sciences-essay-an-ongoing-debate-central-to-climate/>

See link immediately above.

Greening of Planet Earth: A Little Crowdsourcing Project

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, May 23, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/05/greening-of-planet-earth-a-little-crowdsourcing-project/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Global Sea Level Behavior of the Past Two Centuries

Reference: Jevrejeva, S., Moore, J.C., Grinsted, A., Matthews, A.P. and Spada, G. 2014. Trends and acceleration in global and regional sea levels since 1807. *Global and Planetary Change* 113: 11-22.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/may/20may2014a1.html>

The Ability of Marine Invertebrates to Survive Ocean Acidification

Reference: Pansch, C., Schaub, I., Havenhand, J. and Wahl, M. 2014. Habitat traits and food availability determine the response of marine invertebrates to ocean acidification. *Global Change Biology* 20: 765-777.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/may/20may2014a3.html>

What the World Needs Now is a Lot Less Poverty

Reference: Kintisch, E. 2014. In new report, IPCC gets more specific about warming risks. *Science* 344: 21.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/may/20may2014a4.html>

Perhaps these several observations suggest there may be a potential for both the IPCC and the NIPCC to agree on the core aspect of reducing poverty, as each moves forward in attempting to determine what is best for the biosphere - and humanity - as time marches on.

Looking for Progress in Modeling the Continental Indian Monsoon

Reference: Ramesh, K.V. and Goswami, P. 2014. Assessing reliability of regional climate projections: the case of Indian monsoon. *Scientific Reports* 4: 10.1038/srep04071.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/may/21may2014a1.html>

Models v. Observations

Tweaking the climate models: Researchers show emissions from forests influence very first stage of cloud formation

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 16, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/16/tweaking-the-climate-models-researchers-show-emissions-from-forests-influence-very-first-stage-of-cloud-formation/>

Model Issues

Is the climate computable?

By Ronald Brown, WUWT, May 21, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/21/is-the-climate-computable/>

[SEPP Comment: Long, but the question posed is important.]

Changing Weather

Interesting graph – Fraction of the Globe in Drought: 1982-2012

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 22, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/22/interesting-graph-fraction-of-the-globe-in-drought-1982-2012/>

NOAA predicts near-normal or below-normal 2014 Atlantic hurricane season

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 22, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/22/noaa-predicts-near-normal-or-below-normal-2014-atlantic-hurricane-season/>

New paper finds more intense El Ninos since 1970's due to natural variability

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, May 21, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/05/new-paper-finds-more-intense-el-ninos.html>

Water: The Next Scapegoat, Pt 2

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, May 23, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/05/23/water-the-next-scapegoat-pt-2-2/>

[SEPP Comment: Second of 2 parts, see part 1 on the link.]

Changing Climate

New paper finds SE Asian climate was much more extreme from 14th through 18th centuries than the present

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, May 22, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/05/new-paper-finds-se-asian-climate-was.html>

Link to paper: Monsoon extremes and society over the past millennium on mainland Southeast Asia

By Brendan Buckley, et al., Quaternary Science Reviews, Jul 1, 2014

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277379114001462>

Changing Seas

Global Sea Level Behavior of the Past Two Centuries

By Sherwood, Keith, and Craig Idso, CO2 Science, May 14, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/N20/C1.php>

Antarctica's ice losses on the rise – with a sanity check

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 20, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/20/antarcticas-ice-losses-on-the-rise-with-a-sanity-check/>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

The West Antarctic Ice Sheet “Collapse”

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, May 16, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-west-antarctic-ice-sheet-collapse/>

Climate alarmists make major blunder in reporting Antarctica ice loss results

By Larry Hamlin, WUWT, May 23, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/23/climate-alarmists-make-major-blunder-in-reporting-antarctica-ice-loss-results/>

Record Antarctic Ice Extent Throws Cold Water On Global Warming Scare

By James Taylor, Forbes, May 16, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2014/05/16/record-polar-ice-extent-debunks-antarctic-global-warming-scare/>

Worried about Floods Due to Rising Sea Level? Forget It: Not Happening

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, May 22, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/05/worried-about-floods-due-to-rising-sea-level-forget-it-not-happening.php>

2012 surface melt of Greenland ice sheet driven by combined effects of rising temperatures and ash from forest fires

Press Release, National Science Foundation, May 19, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=131422&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Global warming threatens more deadly Everest-like avalanches: report

By Gopal Sharma, Reuters, May 20, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.msn.com/world/global-warming-threatens-more-deadly-everest-like-avalanches-report>

Link to the report: Glacier Status in Nepal and Decadal Change from 1980 to 2010 Based on Landsat Data

By Samjwal Ratna Bajracharya, et al., ICIMD, May 2014

<http://lib.icimod.org/record/29591/files/GSN-RR14-2.pdf>

See paper immediately below.

New paper finds Western Himalayan glaciers stable to increasing in size

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, May 23, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/05/new-paper-finds-western-himalayan.html>

Link to paper: Glacier changes in the Karakoram region mapped by multitemporal satellite imagery

By M. Rankl, C. Kienholz, and M. Braun, The Cryosphere, May 26, 2014

<http://www.the-cryosphere.net/8/977/2014/tc-8-977-2014-metrics.html>

See paper immediately above.

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

America's favorite breakfast brands threatened by climate change yet food companies making it worse

By Ben Grossman-Cohen, Oxfam America, May 19, 2014

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/press/americas-favorite-breakfast-brands-threatened-by-climate-change-yet-food-companies-making-it-worse/>

Link to report: Standing on the Sidelines: Why food and beverage companies must do more to tackle climate change

By Staff Writers, Oxfam, May 20, 2014

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/media/files/bp186-standing-sidelines-big10-climate-emissions-200514-en-v2.pdf>

A new push to get farmers in Europe worried about warming

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 22, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/22/a-new-push-to-get-farmers-in-europe-worried-about-warming/>

Link to paper: Adaptation potential of European agriculture in response to climate change

By Frances C. Moore & David B. Lobell, Nature, Climate Change, May 18, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2228.html>

[SEPP Comment: If farmers plan according the projections to 2040 from climate models, they may well be facing bankruptcy. WUWT shows how global warming, and other factors, influenced yields in the US, as previously shown by Roy Spencer.]

Winners and losers in cereal production from El Nino

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), May 15, 2014

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Winners and losers in cereal production from El Nino 999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Winners_and_losers_in_cereal_production_from_El_Nino_999.html)

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Scientists: Climate change puts historic sites at risk

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, May 20, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/206603-scientists-climate-change-puts-historic-sites-at-risk>

Link to report: National Landmarks at Risk: How Rising Seas, Floods, and Wildfires Are Threatening the United States' Most Cherished Historic Sites

By Debra Holtz, et al, Union for Concerned Scientists, May 2014

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/National-Landmarks-at-Risk-Full-Report.pdf

Climate Change Brings Mostly Bad News for Ohio

By Pam Frost Gorder for OSU News, Columbus OH (SPX), May 22, 2014

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Climate Change Brings Mostly Bad News for Ohio 999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Climate_Change_Brings_Mostly_Bad_News_for_Ohio_999.html)

In addition, the development of an El Nino over the Pacific later this year may result in a very dry 2015 in Ohio.

[SEPP Comment: WeatherBELL Analytics is forecasting that El Ninos increase rainfall in the Midwest US.]

Forget polar bears and global warming, witness the terrible tragedy of stunted shrub growth

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 20, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/20/forget-polar-bears-and-global-warming-witness-the-terrible-tragedy-of-stunted-shrub-growt/>

Link to paper: Winter Climate Limits Subantarctic Low Forest Growth and Establishment

By Melanie Harsch, et al., PLOS One, Apr 1, 2014

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0093241>

[SEPP Comment: The opening line of the abstract states: "with small differences between mean summer and winter temperatures." From this research we will generalize about the effects of global warming?]

Lowering Standards

Shollenberger calls Cook's and University of Queensland's legal bluff!

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 18, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/18/shollenberger-calls-cooks-and-university-of-queenslands-bluff/>

UQ doubles rather than quitting

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, May 20, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/5/20/uq-doubles-rather-than-quitting.html>

The University of Queensland's diabolical dilemma

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, May 23, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/05/the-university-of-queenslands-diabolical-dilemma/#more-35543>

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

AP misleads the public, again, saying man made global warming worsens wildfires

By Larry Hamlin, WUWT, May 18, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/19/ap-misleads-the-public-again-saying-man-made-global-warming-worsens-wildfires/>

German Government Falsifies IPCC Summary On Climate Policy

By Daniel Wetzel, Welt am Sonntag, Via GWPF, May 18, 2014

<http://www.thegwgf.org/german-government-falsifies-ipcc-summary-on-climate-policy/>

Is climate change too risky for business?

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, May 17, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/206415-report-major-companies-in-all-sectors-see-climate-change-impacts>

Link to report: Major U.S. public companies from all economic sectors now facing climate change related risks and costs, a new report from CDP

By Staff Writers, CDP, May 2014

<https://www.cdp.net/CDPResults/review-2011-2013-USA-disclosures.pdf>

Union Pacific reported an 11% decline in corn shipments affecting its freight revenue as a result of droughts in 2012;

[SEPP Comment: Ignores that the corn crop in 2013 was the biggest ever.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Any Way You Want It: Australian Climate Modeling

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, May 18, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/2014/05/any_way_you_want_it_australian_climate_modeling.html

[SEPP Comment: You select-a-model result.]

Fake fracking film exposes what really goes on in Hollywood

By Staff Writers, ACSH, May 21, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/05/fake-fracking-film-exposes-really-goes-hollywood/>

German Professors' Peer-Reviewed Paper On Skeptics' Belief Of "A Climate Conspiracy" Backfires

Scientists at University of Augsburg with dubious study on “climate skeptical emotionalization strategy

By Fritz Vahrenholt and Sebastian Lüning, No Tricks Zone, May 23, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/05/23/german-professors-peer-reviewed-paper-on-skeptics-belief-of-a-climate-conspiracy-backfires/>

Kerry Says--Wrongly--Some Temps This Week Broke ‘Every Record That’s Ever Been Seen’

By Patrick Goodenough, CNS News, May 23, 2014

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/patrick-goodenough/kerry-says-wrongly-some-temps-week-broke-every-record-s-ever-been>

Kerry Mocks Climate Skeptics: ‘Flat Earth Society’

By Patrick Goodenough, CNS News, May 19, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/patrick-goodenough/kerry-mocks-climate-skeptics-flat-earth-society>

John Cook and University of Queensland experience at least 97% of the ‘Streisand effect’ in the Washington Post

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 21, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/21/john-cook-and-university-of-queensland-experience-at-least-97-of-the-streisand-effect-in-the-washington-post/>

Polar vortex in part to blame for high energy bills, U.S. says

By Daniel J. Graeber, Washington (UPI), May 21, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Polar_vortex_in_part_to_blame_for_high_energy_bills_US_says_999.html
[SEPP Comment: Reporters twisting facts. EIA does not mention changes in the polar vortex.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Eminent Swedish Scientist Latest Victim Of Climate McCarthyism

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Via GWPF, May 16, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/eminent-swedish-scientist-latest-victim-of-climate-mccarthyism/>

Climategate II And The Rise Of Climate McCarthyism

Editorial, IBD, May 16, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/051614-701249-climate-skeptic-lennart-bengtsson-paper-suppressed.htm>

The Age of Unenlightenment

By Pointman, His Blog, May 22, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://thepointman.wordpress.com/2014/05/22/the-age-of-unenlightenment/>

The McCarthyism in Climate Science

By Bjorn Lomborg, Forbes, May 22, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/bjornlomborg/2014/05/22/the-mccarthyism-in-climate-science/>

The coerced consensus

Lennart Bengtsson's treatment shows how climate sceptics are silenced

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, May 17, 2014
<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/the-coerced-consensus.aspx>

Climategate 3.0: Blogger Threatened for Exposing 97% "Consensus" Fraud

By William Jasper, New American, May 20, 2014 [H/t DeWitt Edwards]
<http://www.thenewamerican.com/tech/environment/item/18300-climategate-3-0-university-threatens-blogger-for-exposing-97-consensus-fraud>

See: Research & Commentary: The Myth of a Global Warming Consensus
By Joseph Bast and Taylor Smith, Heartland, May 14, 2014
<http://heartland.org/policy-documents/research-commentary-myth-global-warming-consensus/>

In climate science, the more things change, the more they stay the same

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 17, 2014
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/17/in-climate-science-the-more-things-change-the-more-they-stay-the-same/>

Scientist On PBS: Lock Up Politicians Who Question Climate Change [VIDEO]

By Brendan Bordelon, Daily Caller, May 20, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]
<http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/20/scientist-on-pbs-lock-up-politicians-who-question-climate-change-video/>
[SEPP Comment: More from David Suzuki.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children

Guest post: Should teachers use the classroom for campaigning on climate change
By John Shade, Schools Improvement Net, May 19, 2014 [H/t GWPF]
http://schoolsimprovement.net/guest-post-teachers-classroom-campaigning-climate-change/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=guest-post-teachers-classroom-campaigning-climate-change

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Climate Hysteria and Credit Ratings
By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, May 21, 2014
http://americanthinker.com/2014/05/climate_hysteria_and_credit_ratings.html

Expect The Worst If Governments Address Global Warming

Editorial, IBD, May 22, 2014
<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/052214-701918-worst-that-can-happen-answer-is-unpleasant.htm?p=full>

Green Jobs

Government axes renewable energy agency
By Kerry Brewster, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, May 15, 2014 [H/t GWPF]
<http://www.abc.net.au/lateline/content/2014/s4005586.htm>

Non-Green Jobs

U.S. Needs To Develop All Its Energy Resources
By Rep Michele Bachmann, May 21, 2014
<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-perspective/052114-701723-economics-and-national-security-are-big-reasons-to-develop-our-energy-resources.htm?p=full>

Report: U.S. shale gas boom drives \$120B in LNG export projects

By Wendy Koch, USA Today, May 16, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://americasmart.com/2014/05/16/report-u-s-shale-gas-boom-drives-120b-in-lng-export-projects/>

Funding Issues

Aussies To Slash 90% Of Global Warming Funding From Budget

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, May 19, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/19/aussies-to-slash-90-of-global-warming-funding-from-budget/>

The Political Games Continue

Steyer adds 'moneyball' to climate politics

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, May 22, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/206898-steyer-brings-moneyball-to-climate-change-politics>

Climate Change Is on the Ballot

By Tom Steyer, Huff Post, May 22, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tom-steyer/climate-change-is-on-the- b_5368917.html

Litigation Issues

Climate Change Lawsuits and Flooding in Chicago

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, May 20, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/05/climate_change_lawsuits_and_flooding_in_chicago.html

[SEPP Comment: Will every natural event be followed by litigation from insurance companies as to cause? The insurance companies may get nailed.]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Let's Tax Carbon

It's the worst form of energy policy, except for all those others that have been tried

By Irwin Stelzer, Weekly Standard, May 26, 2014 [H/t Richard Lindzen]

http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/let-s-tax-carbon_792852.html

Irwin Stelzer's 'Conservative' Carbon Tax. What Would Reagan Do?

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, May 19, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/05/19/irwin-stelzers-conservative-carbon-tax-what-would-reagan-do/>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

EPA carbon curbs to reach beyond power plant 'fence,' aiding cap-and-trade

By Valerie Volcovici, Reuters, May 20, 2014

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/20/usa-carbon-idUSL1N0050CD20140520>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Tax Farming Seminar for Renewable Energy

By James Rust, Master Resource, May 20, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/05/tax-farming-seminar/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

President Obama's big carbon crackdown readies for launch

By Erica Martinson, Politico, May 16, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/05/carbon-crackdown-barack-obama-106783.html>

EPA readies rules on CO2

By Rick Moran, American Thinker, May 17, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/05/epa_readies_rules_on_co2.html

EPA is readying climate rule for existing power plants as deadline approaches

By Juliet Eilperin and Steven Mufson, Washington Post, May 21, 2014

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/epa-is-readying-climate-rule-for-existing-power-plants-as-deadline-approaches/2014/05/21/8d1c0b5c-e088-11e3-9743-bb9b59cde7b9_story.html

[SEPP Comment: According to the wind industry lobbyists, making electricity unreliable and more expensive makes it affordable.]

Moniz: Energy efficiency bill failure reinforces need for presidential action

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, May 21, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/206780-moniz-energy-efficiency-bill-failure-reinforces-presidential-action>

[SEPP Comment: Demand for authoritarian power by the Secretary of Energy.]

EPA Issues Final Cooling Water Intake 316(b) Rule

By Sonal Patel, Power News, May 19, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/epa-issued-final-cooling-water-intake-316b-rules/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2885946&hq_l=15&hq_v=5e660500d0

Further Ozone Reductions: Are There Benefits?

By Staff Writers, NCPA, May 16, 2014

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=24432&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EnvPD

Obama to create largest national monument of his presidency

By Justin Sink, The Hill, May 19, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/206517-obama-to-mark-500k-acres-as-protected-in-nm>

[SEPP Comment: This 500,000 acre monument may be just the beginning for the President in abusing the national monument legislation. President Clinton was a master.]

Energy Issues – Non-US

What's wrong with energy conservation?

By Ross McKittrick, His Blog, May 23, 2014

<http://www.rossmckittrick.com/uploads/4/8/0/8/4808045/conservation.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: A simple example how bureaucrats making production decisions can lead to false savings. External costs are a pricing problem and need to be addressed as such.]

IEA: 'Radical change of course' required on road to low carbon economy

By Mat Hope, Carbon Brief, May 12, 2014

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/05/iea-%E2%80%99radical-change-of-course%E2%80%99-required-on-road-to-low-carbon-economy/>

Link to report: Energy Technology Perspectives 2014 - Harnessing Electricity's Potential
By Staff Writers, International Energy Agency, 2014

<http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/name,51003,en.html>

[SEPP Comment: Under this plan, do not expect the electric lights to go on when you want!]

Russia, China Ink Major Gas Supply Deal

By Thomas Overton, Power News, May 21, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/russia-china-ink-major-gas-supply-deal/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2885946&hq_l=21&hq_v=5e660500d0

Crimean Annexation: It's All About the Oil and Gas

By Walter Russell Mead and Staff, American Interest, May 19, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/blog/2014/05/19/its-all-about-the-oil-and-gas/>

EU to step up fracking and efficiency in response to Ukraine crisis

By Gerard Wynn, RTCC, May 21, 2014

<http://www.rtcc.org/2014/05/21/eu-may-step-up-shale-gas-efficiency-in-response-to-ukraine-crisis/>

Link to draft report: DRAFT European Commission - Energy Security Communication

By Staff Writers, European Commission, May 15, 2014

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/225457831/DRAFT-European-Commission-Energy-Security-Communication>

[SEPP Comment: Also more dependence on unreliable, expensive solar and wind.]

European fossil fuels

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, May 23, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/european-fossil-fuels>

[SEPP Comment: HS2 is the planned high-speed train between London and the Midlands.]

Russia targets shale oil boom by next decade

By Katya Golubkova, Reuters, May 22, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/05/22/russia-forum-oil-idINL6N0083OQ20140522>

Energy Issues -- US

Putin Outfoxes Obama Again With China Gas Deal

Editorial, IBD, May 21, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/052114-701757-putin-outwits-obama-again-with-big-china-gas-deal.htm?p=full>

Backyard flamethrowers and other fracking myths

By Ezra Levant, QMI, May 17, 2014 [H/t Cork Hayden]

http://www.torontosun.com/2014/05/17/backyard-flamethrowers-and-other-fracking-myths?token=62b37f4bb16492946de6d2f331443885&utm_source=addThis&utm_medium=addthis_button_email&utm_campaign=Backyard+flamethrowers+and+other+fracking+myths+%7C+LEVANT+%7C+Columnists+%7C+Opinion#.U3n3FHRZjgs.email

Washington's Control of Energy

It Costs You a Fortune For Obama To Be Green

By Diana Furchtgott-Roth, Real Clear Markets, May 20, 2014

http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2014/05/20/it_costs_you_a_fortune_for_obama_to_be_green_101066.html

The coal plant to end all coal plants?

By Steven Mufson, Washington Post, May 16, 2014 [H/t David Kreutzer]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/intended-showcase-of-clean-coal-future-hits-snags/2014/05/16/fc03e326-cfd2-11e3-b812-0c92213941f4_story.html

[SEPP Comment: *It you do not start wasting money now, when do you start wasting it?*]

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

U.K. Says South England Holds Billions of Barrels of Shale Oil

By Nidaa Bakhsh, Bloomberg, May 23, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-05-23/u-k-says-south-england-holds-billions-of-barrels-of-shale-oil.html>

U.S. officials cut estimate of recoverable Monterey Shale oil by 96%

By Souis Sahagun, LA Times, May 20, 2014

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-oil-20140521-story.html>

Shell says its assets won't get stranded by a carbon bubble. With climate change on the international agenda, is it right?

By Simon Evans, The Carbon Brief, May 20, 2014

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/05/shell-says-its-assets-won%E2%80%99t-get-stranded-by-a-carbon-bubble-with-climate-change-rising-up-the-international-agenda-is-it-right/>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Japan court rules against restart of nuclear reactors

By Staff Writers, Tokyo (AFP), May 21, 2014

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Japan_court_rules_against_restart_of_nuclear_reactors_999.html

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

The Year Energy Storage Hit Its Stride

By Thomas Overton, Power News, May 1, 2014

<http://www.powermag.com/the-year-energy-storage-hit-its-stride/>

[SEPP Comment: *Long article – optimistic or unrealistic?*]

DOE Continues to Push Concentrating Solar Power Systems

By Aaron Larson, Power News, May 21, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/doe-continues-to-push-concentrating-solar-power-systems/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2885946&hq_l=29&hq_v=5e660500d0

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Government's Immoral Requirement That Carmakers Lose Money

Editorial, IBD, May 23, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/052314-702096-fiat-loses-14000-on-every-500e-sold.htm>

Business-as-usual model for heavy-duty vehicles in Europe unsustainable

By Daniel J. Graeber, Brussels (UPI), May 21, 2013

http://www.spacemart.com/reports/Business-as-usual_model_for_heavy-duty_vehicles_in_Europe_unsustainable_999.html

[SEPP Comment: It appears that to European Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard anything large that works well and efficiently is unsustainable. Has she ever heard of calculations of tonne/km?]

Oh Mann!

Critique of Mann's new paper characterizing the AMO

By Nic Lewis, Climate Etc. May 19, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/05/19/critique-of-manns-new-paper-characterizing-the-amo/>

The alternative Mannian oscillation

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, May 19, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/5/19/the-alternative-mannian-oscillation.html>

[SEPP Comment: A simplified version of the analysis linked immediately above.]

Environmental Industry

Friends Of The Earth Wants To Learn Science

By Hank Campbell, Science 2.0, May 20, 2014 [H/t ASCH]

http://www.science20.com/science_20/friends_of_the_earth_wants_to_learn_science-135815

Other Scientific News

FDA: No Low-Dose Chemical Dangers

By Dennis Avery, Canada Free Press, May 20, 2014

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/63211>

[SEPP Comment: The frequently used linear-no-threshold model is a disservice to science and a threat to human health.]

NASA aims to land on, capture asteroids within next 15 years

By Staff Writers, Moscow (Voice of Russia), May 19, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/NASA_aims_to_land_on_capture_asteroids_within_next_15_years_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Why?]

Other News that May Be of Interest

Congratulations to Joe "Doc" D'Aleo

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 19, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/19/congratulations-to-joe-doc-daleo/>

Setting the Right Global Goals

By Bjorn Lomborg, Project Syndicate, May 20, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/bj-rn-lomborg-identifies-the-areas-in-which-increased-development-spending-can-do-the-most-good>

[SEPP Comment: Poverty is declining; health is improving. What steps are needed to improve an improving world?]

What the World Needs Now is a Lot Less Poverty

By Sherwood, Keith and Craig Idso, CO2 Science, May 14, 2014
<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/N20/EDIT.php>

Beautiful Progress (Book review, ‘Smaller Faster Lighter Denser Cheaper’)

By Josiah Neeley, Master Resource, May 19, 2014
<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/05/beautiful-progress-bryce/>

Free Forum with David Archibald and Cliff Ollier in Perth Monday next week

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, May 22, 2014
<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/05/free-forum-with-david-archibald-and-cliff-ollier-in-perth-monday-next-week/#more-35561>

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Solar energy prospects are bright for Scotland

By Staff Writers, Edinburgh, UK (SPX), May 21, 2014
http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Solar_energy_prospects_are_bright_for_Scotland_999.html
[SEPP Comment: Hasn't Germany's experiment in solar been enough? The latitude of southern Scotland is approximately that of northern Germany, resulting in less intense sunlight.]

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ARTICLES:

1. The specialized meaning of words in the ‘Antarctic ice shelf collapse’ and other climate alarm stories

By Tom Sheahan, Director of SEPP, WUWT, May 21, 2014
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/21/the-specialized-meaning-of-words-in-the-antarctic-ice-shelf-collapse-and-other-climate-alarm-stories/>

Q. On TV I saw that the ice in Antarctica is collapsing, and that will raise sea level and inundate cities. Others reports say this will take thousands of years. How serious is the problem?

What you are witnessing here is a result of confusion between the public perception of the ordinary meaning of words, and the very special definitions used in scientific discourse.

Geologists deal with changes in the earth that occur over epochs of millions of years. Anything that happens in less than 10,000 years is “sudden,” and something happening in only 1,000 years is “instantaneous.” To geologists, the word “collapse” is appropriate for a 10,000 year process.

A hot-topic in the media these days has to do with the West Antarctic Ice Shelf (WAIS), a region comprising about 8% of the ice covering Antarctica. Within that region, there are two glaciers that are sliding down to the sea at a steady pace, as glaciers always do. They comprise about 10% of the WAIS, less than 1% of Antarctic ice. This descent has been in progress for several thousand years, and is neither new nor man-caused. It will go on for a few thousand more, after which they’ll be gone. In the parlance of geology, those two glaciers are collapsing.

If that doesn’t sound to you like your usual meaning of the word “collapse,” you’re absolutely right. It’s a specialized geological term.

Unfortunately, the major media overlook the distinction of meanings, and then make the further generalization from two specific glaciers to the entire WAIS, and moreover to Antarctica in general. Scientists who point out the small actual glacier size (and volume of ice) are brushed

aside in the rush to get a headline or a flamboyant sound-bite that will keep the viewers tuned in. Words like unavoidable collapse carry a sense of foreboding.

This isn't just a problem from geology. Confusion over the meaning of words used in science crops up frequently. Laws of physics (e.g., conservation of energy) are said to be true in general, meaning "always true." But if a physicist says "that is generally true," a non-scientist hears "that is usually true" – meaning "most of the time, but not always." Neither is aware of the other's interpretation.

The word "average" is easily misunderstood. For any set of data, about any topic, you can construct an average. But it may be irrelevant – a good example being the "average temperature of the Earth." Regional and seasonal variations are so great that a single average number is meaningless. And yet people have such familiarity with the word "average" – batting averages, school grade averages, etc. — that it's commonplace to believe that any statistic called an "average" represents something real.

Climate change is another prime example. In the ordinary sense of the term, everyone realizes that the climate changes, and there is no argument about it. However, there is a very special limited definition given to the term by the U.N. around 1990: "Climate Change" refers only to changes caused by mankind's emissions of CO₂. Under that restricted definition, anyone who doesn't think that CO₂ is the cause of the changes we're experiencing is labeled a "denier" of Climate Change. The frequently-recited figure of "97% consensus" is too small for the percentage of scientists who recognize climate change in the ordinary sense of the term; it's much closer to 100%. But in the specialized U.N. sense (about CO₂ driving the change), there is widespread disagreement based on reliable opposing scientific data.

In the absence of quotation marks, italics or capitals, ordinary citizens have no idea that the controversy is rooted in radically different meanings of the same words.

Elected officials striving to be responsive to their constituents' concerns are often pressured by advocacy groups who have latched onto an incorrect interpretation of words. Scientists are sometimes guilty of riding a bandwagon that formed when the public misunderstood and exaggerated their original meaning; perhaps it's convenient, prestigious and financially advantageous to let that confusion continue uncorrected. The effect snowballs and leads to new laws being passed, with expensive new regulations. Years later, with nothing accomplished, people ask "Oh, is that what you really meant?" Then the blame game begins, after much taxpayer money went down the drain unnecessarily.

Even words like "increase" and "decrease" get distorted. When a budget (national, state or local) goes up, you might think that's an increase. But if the amount is less than the rate of inflation, those wanting the money call it a decrease, a budget cut. The problem is particularly troublesome at election time, when politicians hurl accusations at their opponents. Without precise definitions, clarity is very elusive.

Unfortunately, attending to precise definitions takes time and seems boring. The media don't want to run the risk of being boring, and so they take shortcuts and oversimplify. Consequently, a lot of people are misled by statements that use scientific words incorrectly.

2. The EPA's Carbon Capture Flip-Flop

One of the agency's own regional offices and a panel of EPA judges have ruled that the policy is too expensive.

By Brian Potts, WSJ, May 22, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303480304579575993716327878?mod=rending_now_3

[SEPP Comment: No doubt the EPA and the Administration are seeking a way to circumvent the law. One trick the EPA has played in the past is to dismiss the judicial order as regional and claim it does not apply to national regulations.]

With great fanfare, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a rule last fall that would require all newly built coal-fired power plants in the U.S. to install an expensive new technology called carbon capture and storage, or CCS. Although the technology has never been installed on a large-scale power plant anywhere in the world, it theoretically will separate the primary greenhouse gas—carbon dioxide—from the plant's exhaust and pump it to underground reservoirs for storage.

The proposal instantly set off controversy. Many technical experts (including Burton Richter, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist at Stanford) believe that CCS isn't ready for prime time. EPA's proposal claims it is adequately demonstrated and can be installed at a reasonable cost. The Clean Air Act requires the agency to establish both of these factors before forcing plants to install a particular technology.

That's when things got weird.

Shortly after the proposal was released in September, EPA administrator Gina McCarthy defended carbon capture and storage in a highly publicized interview on PBS, describing it as a "technology that we believe is available today." Then, on Nov. 25, the EPA regional office in Texas did an about-face when it decided that Exxon Mobil would not have to install the technology in its planned chemical plant (such plants emit carbon dioxide) in Harris County, because it would be prohibitively expensive.

Enter the Sierra Club, which challenged the EPA's Exxon Mobil decision on Dec. 26. Last week, three administrative law judges on the agency's Environmental Appeals Board upheld the Texas office's decision not to require CCS. Why? Because the EPA regional office found, and the judges agreed, that the "addition of CCS would increase the total capital project costs by more than 25%."

Talk about inconsistency: In its coal-plant proposal, the EPA admitted that CCS would increase the capital cost of every new coal plant built in this country by about 35%. Even with this staggering price tag, the agency still found the technology economically viable (and since then, the agency has given no indication that its position has changed). Meanwhile, an EPA regional office and its administrative judges decide that a 25% capital cost increase is prohibitively expensive. The agency is either incredibly sloppy or simply incompetent.

Either way, if—like me—you want this country to reduce its greenhouse-gas emissions, you should be worried. When industry lawyers challenge the EPA's new power-plant CCS requirement in court, Exhibit A will be the Exxon Mobil decision, which three independent EPA judges have now blessed. Challengers can claim that requiring the technology for new power plants is

unlawful under the Clean Air Act because it's too costly—and point to the agency's own findings in the Exxon Mobil case as proof.

Then there is the ongoing saga of Southern Company's planned power plant in Kemper County, Miss. The Washington Post noted May 17 that the coal-fired Kemper plant—hailed for its plan to use CCS technology—is a year behind schedule and expected to cost \$5.5 billion, or more than double the original estimate, partly due to miscalculations designing and building the carbon-capture system.

Regardless of what happens with the Kemper plant, the EPA's internal inconsistencies on CCS could have much broader implications. Section 111 of the Clean Air Act says that the agency can't regulate greenhouse-gas emissions from existing power plants, unless and until it has regulations in place for new power plants. So if a court overturns the agency's carbon capture and sequester requirement for new plants, the EPA won't be able to implement its climate rules for existing power plants (which the agency plans to propose on June 2). The rules for existing plants are the ones that really matter from an emissions standpoint: Current power plants emit about a third of this country's greenhouse gases.

Fortunately for the EPA, it's not too late to right this wrong. Unfortunately there's probably only one way to do it: The agency has to scrap the CCS requirement for new coal plants and instead adopt something more legally defensible, such as requiring that all new coal plants be built using the most efficient plant design.

This would require Ms. McCarthy and the EPA to eat some crow. But it's the right decision for many reasons, including protecting the climate.

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3. 'What's the Worst That Can Happen?'

John Kerry makes a revealing statement in the form of a question.

Editorial, WSJ, May 21, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304198504579574383625245664?mg=reno64-wsj>

Secretaries of State may want to stop making statements in the form of questions, à la "Jeopardy." First Hillary Clinton declared "what difference at this point does it make?" regarding the reasons that four Americans died in Benghazi. Then on Monday John Kerry told graduates of Boston College that even if he's wrong about climate change, it won't cost a thing.

"The solution is actually staring us in the face. It is energy policy. Make the right energy policy choices and America can lead a \$6 trillion market with four billion users today and growing to nine billion users in the next 50 years," Mr. Kerry said in his commencement address, referring to climate change. Then came the odd poser.

"If we make the necessary efforts to address this challenge—and supposing I'm wrong or scientists are wrong, 97% of them all wrong—supposing they are, what's the worst that can happen?" Mr. Kerry said. "We put millions of people to work transitioning our energy, creating new and renewable and alternative; we make life healthier because we have less particulates in

the air and cleaner air and more health; we give ourselves greater security through greater energy independence—that's the downside."

So the "downside" of addressing climate policy is more jobs, cleaner air, more energy security, and we save the planet too. Makes you wonder why there aren't already 100 Senate votes for this miracle. Perhaps that's because the "energy policy" Mr. Kerry is talking about includes vast new political control over the economy, starting with taxes and limits on carbon energy, subsidies for his favored energy sources, and new and costly regulations on much of the American Midwest, South and West.

The "worst that can happen" is that we spend trillions of dollars trying to solve a problem that we can't do anything to stop; that we misallocate scarce resources in a way that slows economic growth; that slower growth leads to less economic opportunity for Boston College grads and especially the world's poor, and that America and the world become much less wealthy and technologically advanced than we would otherwise. All of which would make the world less able to cope with the costs of climate change if Mr. Kerry is right.

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