

The Week That Was: 2014-06-28 (June 28, 2014)
Brought to You by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)
The Science and Environmental Policy Project

#####

Quote of the Week: *"I mean, I'm not a scientist either, but I've got this guy, John Holdren, he's a scientist," Obama added to laughter. "I've got a bunch of scientists at NASA [GISS] and I've got a bunch of scientists at EPA."* [H/t Judith Curry]

#####

Number of the Week: From 36% to 25% in 10 years

#####

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/>

#####

A message from S. Fred Singer, PhD
Chairman, Science & Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)

We are excited to be once again co-sponsoring an International Conference on Climate Change. ICC-9 will be the ninth such assembly of nearly 1000 skeptics from all over the world. These climate realists do not doubt the existence of climate change itself, but are skeptical of the simple-minded proposal to stop the climate from changing -- or even to slow the process significantly -- by replacing coal and oil to generate electric power and run cars with expensive and intermittent wind and solar energy ...

Scientific data demonstrate convincingly that global temperatures have not risen for the past 15 or more years in spite of the measured ten percent rise in atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Yet politicians and many scientists influenced by politics continue to ignore the overwhelming importance of natural causes of global warming and cooling; they --and not skeptical scientists -- are the real deniers. The observed facts will always win out over artificial manmade theoretical models attempting to simulate the real climate on computers.

On behalf of the board of directors of SEPP, I congratulate The Heartland Institute for organizing ICC-9 and for its many important publications about climate change -- especially the series of reports "Climate Change Reconsidered" written by scientists of the Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), available at www.NIPCCreport.org. We also thank the Chinese Academy of Sciences for translating and publishing some of these reports.

#####

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.

#####

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

Supreme Court: On June 23, the US Supreme Court (SCOTUS) rendered its decision on the controversial lawsuit known as Utility Air Regulatory Group v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The litigation is a result of numerous groups filing litigation against the EPA for its scientifically questionable finding that human carbon dioxide emissions endanger human health and welfare (Endangerment Finding). There were three separate opinions expressed in the 9-0 Court's decision with some justices concurring in part and opposing in other parts, chiefly because it did not go far enough in expanding EPA power; and other justices concurring in part and opposing in other parts, chiefly that the decision gave the EPA too much power. There are probably as many opinions as to the meaning of the Supreme Court's holding and the eventual results as there are groups supporting or objecting to the EPA finding.

According to the Supreme Court Blog: "The Clean Air Act neither compels nor permits the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt an interpretation of the Clean Air Act requiring a stationary source of pollution to obtain a "Prevention of Significant Deterioration" or Title V permit on the sole basis of its potential greenhouse-gas emission. However, EPA reasonably interpreted the Clean Air Act to require sources that would need permits based on their emission of chemical pollutants to comply with "best available control technology" for greenhouse gases."

The scope of the holding is limited. Early in the process the US Federal Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia made it clear it would not permit questioning of the EPA science. Subsequently, during the oral arguments the Supreme Court stated that the science will not be an issue.

The Court's decision limited the power of the EPA to regulate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, chiefly carbon dioxide (CO₂), only for those stationary sources for which it has power to regulate other emissions such as sulfur dioxide. It prevented the EPA from modifying clear regulations (tailoring) to fit the EPA purposes now or contemplated in the future. Under the prevention of significant deterioration section of the Clean Air Act, the EPA has the power regulate emissions ranging from 100 to 250 tons annually. Strict enforcement of the regulations would require the EPA to regulate millions of establishments that emit no traditional pollutants, including schools, hospitals, apartment buildings, etc. The EPA attempted to modify the regulations to avoid this strict requirement for now, but to perhaps tighten regulations in the future. The court denied this flexibility to the EPA. To summarize, the EPA has the power to regulate GHG emissions from major industries, but not from facilities that are not already regulated. Separate regulations give the EPA power to regulate emissions from motor vehicles.

No doubt, an issue that will be litigated in the future is the use of section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act, which EPA is using to regulate carbon dioxide from power plants. The majority opinion specified in a footnote that the opinion does not decide whether the provision EPA has used for its new and existing power plant rules is "ill-suited to accommodating greenhouse gases." Thus, the opinion defined the battleground for future litigation.

Given the nature of the EPA to interpret science as it sees fit, it will take an act of Congress, or a court willing to accept challenges to EPA science (unlikely), before the public is adequately protected from the regulatory zeal of the EPA.

As stated in the February 1 TWTW, in its questionable finding that carbon dioxide emissions endanger public health and welfare, the EPA claimed its findings are supported by science and cited three lines of evidence.

- 1.) EPA claims a distinct human fingerprint -- a hot spot in the atmosphere centered over the tropics at about 10 kilometers (33,000 feet). This hot spot may not exist. Satellites and weather balloons have failed to find it.
- 2.) EPA claims late 20th century surface global warming was unprecedented and dangerous. It was not. A similar warming occurred in the early 20th century, which was not associated with carbon dioxide. The late 20th century surface warming stopped over 16 years ago.
- 3.) EPA claims climate models are reliable. Climate models failed to predict that global warming would stop and greatly exaggerate the warming over the past 30 plus years.

The EPA finding that carbon dioxide endangers human health and welfare is based on failing science and sub-prime climate models that are failing.

The EPA, and many of its supporters, claim that the Court's decision protects the public from increased heart attacks, asthma attacks, etc. Yet, the EPA refuses to reveal the scientific basis for these claims to Congress and the public.

To further challenge the Administration's claims, the 2010 claim by Gavin Schmidt, the new head of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies [GISS], and others in that agency, that atmospheric CO2 is the principal control knob governing Earth's temperature is failing as rapidly as EPA's science is failing. <http://www.sciencemag.org/content/330/6002/356>

SEPP was part of the Utility Air Regulatory Group.

For a variety of opinions on the Court's decision and issues on the EPA's secret science, please see Articles # 1, 2, and 3, links under Litigation Issues, EPA and other Regulators on the March, and <http://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/utility-air-regulatory-group-v-environmental-protection-agency/>

Risky Business: Several high-profile politicians and former government officials as well as the Executive Chairman of Cargill have signed on a report by the Risky Business Project. Former Secretary of State George Shultz is a well-known Republican on the committee. The co-chairs of the group are former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, former Secretary of the Treasury and Goldman Sachs CEO Henry Paulson, and Democratic Party contributor Thomas Steyer, who opposes the expanded Keystone Pipeline and promised the Democratic Party \$100 million for the upcoming elections.

The Title of the report: "Risky Business: The Economic Risks of Climate Change in the United States – A Climate Risk Assessment for the United States" sounds impressive. However, the quality of the research is summed up in the opening paragraph. "Our research combines peer-reviewed climate projections through the year 2100 with empirically derived estimates of the impact of projected changes in temperature, precipitation, sea levels, and storm activity on the U.S. economy." In short, "Risky Business" is a continuation of the drum-beat of climate alarmism found in the Summary for Policymakers of Physical Science volume of UN the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR-5). The alarmism was exaggerated in the recent US National Climate Assessment (NCA), signed by President Obama's scientist, John Holdren, calling into question the scientific rigor endorsed by this Administration.

As with the NCA, “Risky Business” assumes that the projections some 90 years hence by un-validated climate models are reliable and that the global models can be used to project regional physical climate changes 90 years hence. The approach is logically and scientifically absurd. “Risky Business” is one more demonstration that scientific ignorance is not limited by political party.

It is amusing to speculate what will happen 10 years hence, if executives of businesses make decisions, costly to the shareholders, based on speculative climate models, and the climate models turn out to be very wrong, as it appears they are by projecting temperature increases that are increasingly diverging from observations. Basing decisions on the unsubstantiated claims in “Risky Business” could turn out to be very risky. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy.

BASIC Countries: The issue regarding Greenpeace India continues to fester. The country’s Intelligence bureau submitted a report all but calling Greenpeace anti-national and a threat to national energy security. Based on reports, Greenpeace India is partially financed by Western environmental interests. So are other Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in India. The reports state that Greenpeace India opposes coal-fired power plants, nuclear power, and genetically modified (GM) crops. The international NOGs are working to prevent funding of coal-fired power plants by the World Bank.

Speaking at a UN conference on sustainable development, Forests and Climate change minister Prakash Javadekar stated: “Poverty eradication... must remain the central and overarching objective of the SDGs (sustainable development goals) and the post-2015 development agenda,” It is increasing clear that the BASIC countries are choosing eradication of poverty over the ill-defined concepts such as sustainable development pushed by the UN and Western NGOs. As such, the BASIC countries are doing as service for humanity, including those living in developed countries. The BASIC countries are Brazil, South Africa (Africa, South) India and China. See links under Energy Issues – Non-US and Environmental Industry.

Measurement Issues: A quick squabble broke-out among several independent blogs on the issue on whether or not the adjustments to the historic temperatures, which show a cooling of the past, are deliberate by the agencies reporting this temperatures. The specific instance was a press release by NOAA (the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) that May 2014 was the hottest May for global temperatures since records began in 1880. The press release was quickly rebuked in the blogs (including using NOAA’s own data) but the motivation issue lingered. In Climate Etc., Judith Curry well-summarized the issue and observed about the independent blogs involved: **“However, the main point is that this group is rapidly self-correcting – the self-correcting function in the skeptical technical blogosphere seems to be more effective (and certainly faster) than for establishment climate science.”** [Boldface added.]

The issue is a sensitive one to this author. Having long-served in many capacities, including President, in the oldest scientific society formed in Washington, an all-volunteer group, this author recognizes the importance of tradition and assuring that historic record-keeping is accurate. Many of the early members of this scientific society were important to establishing a nation-wide weather (climate) record. It is disturbing that this record may have been altered, whether or not deliberately. Further, NOAA was not transparent in its press release, which did not explain the sparseness of the world-wide record going back to 1880. See links under Seeking a Common Ground and Measurement Issues.

Irrigation: A recent paper, based on models, supposedly showed that irrigation lowers land-surface temperatures. Empirical work by others, including John Christy, et al., show that irrigating arid and semi-arid regions do change temperatures. By adding water, evaporation produces water vapor (the main greenhouse gas). The effect is a decrease in day-time highs and an increase in night-time lows by a greater amount with a net effect of an increase in average daily temperatures. Direct empirical measurements are more important in understanding climate impacts of human activities than model simulations. See links under Changing Earth.

Model Issues: In a post on Climate Etc., Judith Curry asks the thought-provoking question: are the General Circulation Models the best tools for studying climate change. What is critical is separating the human and natural influences. It is becoming increasingly evident that the establishment climate science community has failed to do so.

Further, our ability to mathematically model far exceeds our ability measure. The first step would be an inventory of those things we can measure both globally or regionally, and both historically and currently. From these we can begin to identify those phenomena we need to measure and begin to distinguish between natural influences and human influences. See links under Model Issues.

Number of the Week: From 36% to 25% in 10 years. According to a June, 2014 report by the Energy Information Agency (EIA) the percentage of sales of fossil fuels produced from Federal and Indian Lands (including offshore) fell from 36% of total US production in 2003 to 25% of total production in 2013. The Obama Administration is not entirely responsible for this decline. Some of the decline can be attributed to the administration’s allies who previously stopped oil drilling activities in Alaska and are preventing construction of new coal-fired power plants. Defenders of the administration claim that increases in production on state-owned and private lands distort these number. But that excuse does not explain the declines in actual production.

<http://www.eia.gov/analysis/requests/federallands/pdf/eia-federallandsales.pdf>

#####

ARTICLES:

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

1. What Is the EPA Hiding From the Public?

The agency shouldn't get to decide who sees the science behind its rules. Open the research to outside analysis.

By Lamar Smith, WSJ, Jun 23, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/lamar-smith-what-is-the-epa-hiding-from-the-public-1403563536>

2. A Constitutional Tutorial for Obama

The President doesn't possess 'an unheralded power' to rewrite laws.

Editorial, WSJ, Jun 23, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/a-constitutional-tutorial-for-obama-1403562504>

3. Supreme Court Ruling Backs Most EPA Emission Controls

Justices Say EPA Can Require Pollution Controls but Limit Permitting Process

By Brent Kendall and Amy Harder, WSJ, Jun 23, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/supreme-court-reins-in-some-of-epas-greenhouse-gas-efforts-1403534416>

#####

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

New paper finds solar control of clouds, water vapor, & monsoon rainfall over past 35 years

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Jun 26, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/06/new-paper-finds-solar-control-of-clouds.html>

Link to paper: Solar control on the cloud liquid water content and integrated water vapor associated with monsoon rainfall over India

By Animesh Maitra, Upal Saha, and Arpita Adhikari, Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics, Jun 26, 2014

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1364682614001357>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Prominent Global Warming Skeptic Honored with Frederick Seitz Memorial Award

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 25, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/25/prominent-global-warming-skeptic-honored-with-frederick-seitz-memorial-award/>

German Prof Friedrich-Karl Ewert Dismisses Visions Of Future Ocean

Acidification... "Exaggerated Claims

By Freidrich-Karl Ewert, EIKE, Trans. P Gosselin, Jun 25, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/06/25/german-prof-friedrich-karl-ewert-dismisses-visions-of-future-ocean-acidification-exaggerated-claims/>

Rahmstorf's acidification theory leads us to ask one thing: What does this kind of climate and ocean research have to do with natural sciences? –

Making up the Apocalypse: The truth about the science in Obama's National Climate Assessment

By Daniel Botkin, Forbes, Jun 26, 2014 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/06/26/making-up-apocalypse-truth-about-science-in-obama-national-climate-assessment/>

Climate change: Less of a scientific agenda and more of a political agenda

By Marita Noon, Net Right Daily, Jun 24, 2014

http://netrightdaily.com/2014/06/climate-change-less-scientific-agenda-political-agenda/?utm_source=WhatCounts+Publicaster+Edition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=IRS+evidence+purposefully+destroyed%3f+Congress+needs+to+act+now&utm_content=Climate+change%3a+Less+of+a+scientific+agenda+and+more+of+a+political+agenda%0d+

[SEPP Comment: Review of Tim Ball's book: *The Deliberate Corruption of Climate Science.*]

The Climate Change Scam

By Vincent Gray, NZClimate Truth Newsletter No 333, Jun 26, 2014

<http://thelimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/06/the-climate-change-scam.html>

Defending the Orthodoxy

White House, Liberal Billionaire Launch Global Warming Scare Campaign

By Michael, Bastasch, Daily Caller, Jun 24, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/06/24/white-house-liberal-billionaire-launch-global-warming-scare-campaign/>

Link to report: Risky Business: The Economic Risks of Climate Change in the United States

By Kate Gordon, et al. The Risky Business Project, Jun 2014

http://riskybusiness.org/uploads/files/RiskyBusiness_PrintedReport_FINAL_WEB_OPTIMIZED.pdf

Report sees hefty cost of climate change on US economy

By Staff Writers, New York (AFP), June 24, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Report_sees_hefty_cost_of_climate_change_on_US_economy_999.html

'Risky Business' report: Climate change inaction will cost US billions

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jun 24, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/210344-risky-business-report-climate-change-inaction-will-cost-us-billions>

Physicist Offers \$10,000 To Anyone Who Can Disprove Climate Change

By Ari Phillips, Climate Progress, Jun 23, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/06/23/3451810/physicist-offers-climate-denier-reward/>

Link to challenge: The \$10,000 Global Warming Skeptic Challenge!

By Christopher Keating, Dialogues on Global Warming, Jun 6, 2014

<http://dialoguesonglobalwarming.blogspot.com/p/1000-global-warming-skeptic-challenge.html>

[SEPP Comment: Safe offer, one cannot disprove a negative proposition, that is human-made climate change is not occurring. Regional changes in agriculture are an example. Substitute man-made global warming over the past decade, and the results are different.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Former EPA Heads Mum When Asked If Global Warming Is Accelerating

By Barbara Hollingsworth, CNSNews, Jun 24, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/barbara-hollingsworth/former-epa-heads-mum-when-asked-if-global-warming-accelerating>

The Greatest Climate Myths of All – Part 2.

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Jun 26, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/26/the-greatest-climate-myths-of-all-part-2/>

John Holdren: Abuse of Office, Power, and Science for a Political Agenda

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Jun 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/24/john-holdren-abuse-of-office-power-and-science-for-a-political-agenda/>

Poll: 53% Of Americans Don't Believe In Man-Made Global Warming

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Jun 26, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/06/26/poll-53-of-americans-dont-believe-in-man-made-global-warming/>

Link to poll: Section 7: Global Warming, Environment and Energy

By Staff Writers, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, Jun 26, 2014

<http://www.people-press.org/2014/06/26/section-7-global-warming-environment-and-energy/>
[SEPP Comment: As with many polls it is a matter of how the questions are asked and how the results are interpreted.]

Spring/summer sea ice bonanza for polar bears – conditions excellent again for 2014

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Jun 24, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/06/24/springsummer-sea-ice-bonanza-for-polar-bears-conditions-excellent-again-for-2014/>

Terence Corcoran: The cost of climate change alarmism

By Terence Corcoran, Financial Post, Jun 24, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://business.financialpost.com/2014/06/24/terence-corcoran-the-cost-of-climate-change-alarmism/>

The Week's Climate Embarrassment

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Jun 27, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/06/the-weeks-climate-embarrassment.php>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Another excuse for 'the pause' – it's 'not so unusual'

New Lovejoy paper says the 'pause' is 'not so unusual' & 'no more than natural variability'

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 25, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/25/another-excuse-for-the-pause-its-not-so-unusual/>

Link to paper: Return periods of global climate fluctuations and the pause.

By S. Lovejoy, Geophysical Research Letters, No Date

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014GL060478/abstract>

Pro-AGW Economists Try to Discredit Skeptics, Succeed in Discrediting Fellow Warmists!

By James McCown, WUWT, Jun 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/24/pro-agw-economists-try-to-discredit-skeptics-succeed-in-discrediting-fellow-warmists/>

Seeking a Common Ground

Skeptical of skeptics: is Steve Goddard right?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jun 28, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/06/28/skeptical-of-skeptics-is-steve-goddard-right/#more-16044>

Uneasy expertise

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jun 24, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/06/24/uneasy-expertise/>

Pondering the Anthropocene

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jun 22, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/06/22/pondering-the-anthropocene/>

More growth, less warming

The only way to get dangerous global warming is to assume stagnation

By Matt Ridley, His Blog, Jun 22, 2014

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/the-absurd-assumptions-behind-dangerous-climate-change.aspx>

Caleb Rossiter – Missing In Action, Johnny-Come-Lately, Faux Victim, Political Tunnel Vision, or All-Of-The-Above?

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Jun 26, 2014

<http://drtimball.com/2014/caleb-rossiter-missing-in-action-johnny-come-lately-faux-victim-political-tunnel-vision-or-all-of-the-above/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

The Role of Atmospheric CO2 Enrichment in Human Nutrition

Reference: Myers, S.S., Zanobetti, A., Kloog, I., Huybers, P., Leakey, A.D.B., Bloom, A.J., Carlisle, E., Dietterich, L.H., Fitzgerald, G., Hasegawa, T., Holbrook, N.M., Nelson, R.L., Ottman, M.J., Raboy, V., Sakai, H., Sartor, K.A., Schwartz, J., Seneweera, S., Tausz, M. and Usui, Y. 2014. Increasing CO2 threatens human nutrition. *Nature*: 10.1038/nature13179.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jun/24jun2014a1.html>

The Recent History and Imminent Future of Global Flooding

Reference: Kundzewicz, Z.W., Kanae, S., Seneviratne, S.I., Handmer, J., Nicholls, N., Peduzzi, P., Mechler, R., Bouwer, L.M., Arnell, N., Mach, K., Muir-Wood, R., Brakenridge, G.R., Kron, W., Benito, G., Honda, Y., Takahashi, K. and Sherstyukov, B. 2014. Flood risk and climate change: global and regional perspectives. *Hydrological Sciences Journal* 59: 1-28.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jun/24jun2014a3.html>

Old Growth Forests Still Socking Away Carbon and Nitrogen

Reference: Schrupf, M., Kaiser, K. and Schulze, E.-D. 2014. Soil organic carbon and total nitrogen gains in an old growth deciduous forest in Germany. *PLOS ONE* 9: e89364.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jun/24jun2014a4.html>

Searching for Megadroughts in CMIP5 Climate Models

Reference: Langford, S., Stevenson, S. and Noone, D. 2014. Analysis of low-frequency precipitation variability in CMIP5 historical simulations for southwestern North America. *Journal of Climate* 27: 2735-2756.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/jun/25jun2014a2.html>

Models v. Observations

Swapping Climate Models For A Roll Of The Dice

By Doug Hoffman, The Resilient Earth, Via GWPF, Jun 21, 2014

<http://www.thegwfp.org/swapping-climate-models-for-a-roll-of-the-dice/>

A trifecta of uncertainty: study finds global precipitation is increasing, decreasing, & not changing

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 27, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/27/a-trifecta-of-uncertainty-study-finds-global-precipitation-is-increasing-decreasing-not-changing/>

Laughing Stock Met Office...2007 “Peer-Reviewed” Global Temperature Forecast A Staggering Failure

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jun 24, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/06/24/laughing-stock-met-office-2007-peer-reviewed-global-temperature-forecast-a-staggering-failure/>

Model Issues

Model structural uncertainty – are GCMs the best tools?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jun 25, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/06/25/model-structural-uncertainty-are-gcms-the-best-tools/>

Measurement Issues

Why would climate skeptics hold a conference in HOT Las Vegas?

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/24/why-would-climate-skeptics-hold-a-conference-in-hot-las-vegas/>

Las Vegas Temperatures: The Plot Thickens

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jun 27, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/06/las-vegas-temperatures-the-plot-thickens/>

Did NASA/NOAA Dramatically Alter U.S. Temperatures After 2000?

By Ronald Bailey, Reason.com., Jun 23, 2014

<http://reason.com/blog/2014/06/23/did-nasanoaa-dramatically-alter-us-tempe>

NOAA's "Hottest Month" Claims Are Unscientific

By Paul Homewood, Not A Lot Of People Know That, Jun 24, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/06/24/noaas-hottest-month-claims-are-unscientific/>

The old data are getting hotter.

By Geoff Brown, NCTCS, Jun 27, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/06/the-old-data-is-getting-hotter.html>

[SEPP Comment: The problem of reworking old data is not only in the US.]

Changing Weather

WeatherBell "Saturday Summary" Debunks 6 Climate Alarmism Falsehoods In Less Than 10 Minutes!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jun 23, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/06/23/weatherbell-saturday-summary-debunks-6-climate-alarmism-falsehoods-in-less-than-10-minutes/>

Regional weather extremes linked to atmospheric variations

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, Jun 22, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/06/140622142230.htm>

Link to paper: Amplified mid-latitude planetary waves favour particular regional weather extremes.

By Screen & Simmonds, Nature Climate Change, Jun 22, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2271.html>

[SEPP Comment: Tim Ball and other commentators have described this in the past.]

Study: cold-season temperature variability has significantly decreased over the mid- to high-latitude Northern Hemisphere in recent decades

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 23, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/23/study-cold-season-temperature-variability-has-significantly-decreased-over-the-mid-to-high-latitude-northern-hemisphere-in-recent-decades/>

Link to presentation: Decreasing temperature variability over the mid- to high latitude Northern Hemisphere in a warming climate

By James Screen, Univ. of Exeter, Jan 29, 2014

http://www.cesm.ucar.edu/working_groups/Polar/presentations/2014/screen.pdf

[SEPP Comment: Additional analysis on the links above.]

Mapping the hottest day of the year in the USA

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 27, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/27/mapping-the-hottest-day-of-the-year-in-the-usa/>

Changing Climate

Medieval Warm Period in Northern Europe

By Staff Writers, CO2 Science & SPPI, Jun 25, 2014

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/mwp_n_europe.pdf

Research provides new theory on cause of ice age 2.6 million years ago

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 27, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/27/research-provides-new-theory-on-cause-of-ice-age-2-6-million-years-ago/>

[SEPP Comment: Re-tread of earlier findings. CO2 was not the primary control knob of Earth's temperatures.]

Changing Seas

New paper finds sea levels were naturally up to 43 feet higher than the present during past interglacial [20 to 43 feet]

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Jun 25, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/06/new-paper-finds-sea-levels-were.html>

Link to paper: South Greenland ice-sheet collapse during Marine Isotope Stage 11

By Reyes, et al. Nature, Jun 26, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v510/n7506/full/nature13456.html>

New paper finds huge 'whirlpools' in the ocean are driving weather & climate

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Jun 27, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/06/new-paper-finds-huge-whirlpools-in.html>

Link to paper: Oceanic Mass Transport by Mesoscale Eddies

By Zhengguang Zhang, Wei Wang, and Bo Qiu, Science, Jun 26, 2014

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2014/06/25/science.1252418>

Ancient ocean currents may have changed pace and intensity of ice ages

By Staff Writers, NSF, Jun 26, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=131830&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Changes in the Arctic: Background and Issues for Congress

By Ronald O'Rourke, Congressional Research Service, Jun 5, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/228523.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: Repeating claims that the Arctic will have ice-free seasons within decades. Russia is claiming about one-half of the Arctic area. The US, Canada, Norway and Denmark (Greenland) are also making territorial claims for the Arctic. Two of the three US polar icebreakers have exceeded their 30-year service lives, one is not operational.]

Study Attributes Antarctic Glacier Melt to Volcanoes

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Jun 23, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Antarctic-Glacier-Melt-Volcanoes/2014/06/23/id/578686/>

Changing Earth

New paper finds man-made irrigation causes 'significant cooling of global average surface temperatures over land'

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Jun 18, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/06/new-paper-finds-man-made-irrigation.html>

Link to paper:

Irrigation as an historical climate forcing

By Cook, et al., Climate Dynamics, June 2014

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00382-014-2204-7>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Science and farming

By Martin Livermore, The Scientific Alliance, Jun 27, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/science-and-farming>

[SEPP Comment: Assessing only the risks and ignoring the benefits of new techniques does not make sound agriculture policy.]

Humans have been changing Chinese environment for 3,000 years

By Staff Writers, St. Louis MO (SPX), Jun 24, 2014

http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Humans_have_been_changing_Chinese_environment_for_3000_years_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Longer than that. Attempting to control the river leads to greater prosperity and, subsequently, greater disasters.]

The 'strawman' albedo effect

Straw albedo mitigates extreme heat

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 23, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/23/the-strawman-albedo-effect/>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Claim: An increase of 3.5°C will result in crippling the EU

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 26, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/26/claim-an-increase-of-3-5c-will-result-cripple-the-eu/>

Link to report: New study quantifies the effects of climate change in Europe

By Ciscar, et al. Institute for Prospective Technological Studies, April 2014

<http://ipts.jrc.ec.europa.eu/publications/pub.cfm?id=7181>

[SEPP Comment: The models don't work now, who knows they may work by 2080?]

Conifers may give way to a more broad-leafed forest in the next century

By Staff Writers, Houghton MI (SPX), Jun 25, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Iconic_Minnesota_conifers_may_give_way_to_a_more_broad_leafed_forest_in_the_next_century_999.htmlLink

Link to paper: Minnesota forest ecosystem vulnerability assessment and synthesis: a report from the Northwoods Climate Change Response Framework project

By Handler, et al. USDA, Jun 12, 2014

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/45939>

[SEPP Comment: As has happened in times past.]

Lowering Standards

Royal Society has lost the argument, cannot be trusted

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 27, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/6/27/royal-society-has-lost-the-argument-cannot-be-trusted.html>

New BBC policy: right is wrong, wrong is right

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 26, 2014

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2014/6/26/new-bbc-policy-right-is-wrong-wrong-is-right.html>

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

Bipartisan Report Tallies High Toll on Economy From Global warming

By Justin Gillis NYT, Jun 24, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/24/science/report-tallies-toll-on-economy-from-global-warming.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&r=0>

New Report: Alarm Over Climate Turns People Off

By Ben Webster, The Times, Via GWPF, Jun 24, 2014

<http://www.thegwgf.org/new-report-alarm-over-climate-turns-people-off/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Alarmists Making It Up As They Go Along.

By Paul Homewood, Not A Lot Of People Know That, Jun 22, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/06/22/alarmists-making-it-up-as-they-go-along/>

Did Newsweek Really Claim Antarctic Sea Ice Is Melting?

By James Taylor, Federalist, Jun 19, 2014

<http://www.climatechangedispatch.com/did-newsweek-really-claim-antarctic-sea-ice-is-melting.html>

Improved communication between experts and the public key in winning battle to curb climate change, claims expert

By Tom Bawden, Independent, UK, Jun 25, 2014

http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/climate-change/improved-communication-between-experts-and-the-public-key-in-winning-battle-to-curb-climate-change-claims-expert-9563286.html?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=a4afeeb5d-

[Carbon Brief Weekly 18 7 137 18 2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-a4afeeeb5d-215218249](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-policy/Policy_Commissions/Communication-climate-science/Communication-climate-science-report/TIME_FOR_CHANGE_Final_Proof.pdf?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=a4afeeeb5d-215218249)

Link to report: Time for Change: Climate Science Reconsidered

By the UCL Policy Commission on Communicating Climate Science, May 2014

[http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-policy/Policy_Commissions/Communication-climate-science/Communication-climate-science-report/TIME_FOR_CHANGE_Final_Proof.pdf?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=a4afeeeb5d-](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-policy/Policy_Commissions/Communication-climate-science/Communication-climate-science-report/TIME_FOR_CHANGE_Final_Proof.pdf?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=a4afeeeb5d-215218249)

[Carbon Brief Weekly 18 7 137 18 2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-a4afeeeb5d-215218249](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-policy/Policy_Commissions/Communication-climate-science/Communication-climate-science-report/TIME_FOR_CHANGE_Final_Proof.pdf?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=a4afeeeb5d-215218249)

Urgent and unprecedented environmental and social changes challenge scientists to define a new social contract. This contract represents a commitment on the part of all scientists to devote their energies and talents to the most pressing problems of the day in proportion to their importance, **in exchange for public funding**. [Boldface added] Former NOAA director and former president of AAAS, Jane Lubchenco.

With heat and humidity, areas will be 'unsuited for outdoor activity'

By Sharon Begley, Reuters, Jun 24, 2014 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/24/us-climatechange-economy-regions-idUSKBN0EZ0AI20140624>

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children

Swimming bear video used to promote climate change threat to polar bears

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Jun 25, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/06/25/swimming-bear-video-used-to-promote-climate-change-threat-to-polar-bears/#more-5390>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Obama Orders NASA to Prioritize Climate Change

By Anne Hobson, American Spectator, Jun 26, 2014

<http://spectator.org/blog/59784/obama-orders-nasa-prioritize-climate-change>

UN launches first global environmental assembly

By Staff Writers, Nairobi (AFP), June 23, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/UN_launches_first_global_environmental_assembly_999.html

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Examiner Editorial: Admit it, greens --- renewables can't power U.S. economy

Washington Examiner, Jun 21, 2014

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/examiner-editorial-admit-it-greens-renewables-cant-power-u.s.-economy/article/2550008>

Green Jobs

Like global temperature, 'climate jobs' seems to have peaked and are heading downward

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/06/24/like-global-temperature-climate-jobs-seems-to-have-peaked-and-are-heading-downward/>

Non-Green Jobs

America's New Industrial Boomtowns

By Joel Kotkin, His Blog, Jun 19, 2014

<http://www.joelkotkin.com/content/00921-america-s-new-industrial-boomtowns>

Funding Issues

Climate Reparations – A New Demand

By Peter Wood, Minding the Campus, Jun 26, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.mindingthecampus.com/2014/06/climate-reparations-a-new-demand/>

Litigation Issues

Both sides see victory in Supreme Court's ruling on EPA regs

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Jun 23, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/210243-both-sides-see-victory-in-supreme-courts-ruling-on-epa-rules>

Court mostly backs US effort to cut greenhouse gases

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), June 23, 2014

<http://news.yahoo.com/court-mostly-backs-us-effort-cut-greenhouse-gases-172952583.html>

EPA Gets Smacked Around by SCOTUS

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Jun 23, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/06/epa-gets-smacked-around-by-scotus.php>

Supreme Court rejects EPA's rewrite of the Clean Air Act, but greenhouse gas regulation will go forward

By Jonathan Adler, Washington Post, Jun 23, 2014

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2014/06/23/scotus-rejects-epas-rewrite-of-the-clean-air-act-but-ghg-regulation-will-go-forward/>

Opinion: http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/13pdf/12-1146_4g18.pdf

Further thoughts on today's Supreme Court decision on greenhouse gas regulation

By Jonathan Adler, Washington Post, Jun 23, 2014

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2014/06/23/further-thoughts-on-todays-supreme-court-decision-on-greenhouse-gas-regulation/>

Justices limit existing EPA global warming rules

By Mark Sherman, AP, Jun 23, 2014

http://www.chicoer.com/breakingnews/ci_26016656/justices-limit-existing-epa-global-warming-rules

Supreme Court limits EPA on some greenhouse gas emissions rules

By Sean Lengell and Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Jun 23, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/supreme-court-limits-epa-rules-on-greenhouse-gas-emissions/article/2550060?utm_source=newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washingtongton+Examiner+News+Alert

Supreme Court Chips EPA GHG Authority, Says Agency Has No Power to “Tailor” Laws to Policy Goals

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Jun 23, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/supreme-court-chips-epa-ghg-authority-says-agency-has-no-power-to-tailor-laws-to-policy-goals/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2905439&hq_l=9&hq_v=5e660500d0

W.Va. Dem: Supreme Court ruling 'chink in EPA's armor'

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

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/210241-wva-dem-supreme-court-ruling-chink-in-epas-armor>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Liberals celebrate as carbon tax repeal passes lower house

By Mark Kenny and Judith Ireland, Sydney Morning Herald, Jun 26, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/liberals-celebrate-as-carbon-tax-repeal-passes-lower-house-20140626-3awd4.html>

Prime Minister Abbott comes out a winner

Editorial, Herald Sun, Melbourne, Jun 26, 2014

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/opinion/prime-minister-abbott-comes-out-a-winner/story-fni0ffsx-1226968148815?nk=811c40b13c4b51cfd6aabe9c47b8ca8>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Falling prices, falling windfarms

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 23, 2014

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2014/6/23/falling-prices-falling-windfarms.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Perverse economics in government subsidized industry.*]

Executive Fiats in the Other Washington

By Paul Driessen, Townhall, Jan 21, 2014

<http://townhall.com/columnists/pauldriessen/2014/06/21/executive-fiats-in-the-other-washington-n1854111>

Households face paying too much for offshore wind farms

National Audit Office criticises Government for handing out £16.6bn worth of green energy subsidies without competition to push down prices

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Jun 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/10929025/Households-face-paying-too-much-for-offshore-wind-farms.html>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA's Grasping Reach

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jun 24, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/06/24/epas-grasping-reach/>

Higher Costs Built Into EPA Proposal

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jun 27, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/06/27/higher-costs-built-into-epa-proposal/>

[SEPP Comment: *EPA's definition of reasonable may significantly differ from a consumer's definition of reasonable.*]

Fears of EPA 'land grab' create groundswell against water rule

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Jun 21, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/210130-fears-of-epa-land-grab-create-groundswell-against-water-rule>

Rep. Issa threatens contempt for EPA

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Jun 25, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/210535-issa-threatens-contempt-for-epa>

Another agency tells Congress: File not found

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Jun 25, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/210564-epa-says-hard-drive-crashed-emails-lost>

Committee targets EPA's 'secret science'

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Jun 24, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/210379-committee-passes-bill-to-fight-epas-secret-science>

[SEPP Comment: EPA now claims it cannot find emails it claimed. Maybe EPA cannot find the science it claims.]

EPA Spending \$1.6 Million on Hotel for 'Environmental Justice' Conference

By Elizabeth Harrington, Washington Free Beacon, Jun 27, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/epa-spending-1-6-million-on-hotel-for-environmental-justice-conference/>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Javadekar bats for poverty eradication as highest goal

Stays consistent with previous diplomatic redlines on environment negotiations

By Nitin Sethi, Business Standard (India), Jun 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/javadekar-bats-for-poverty-eradication-as-highest-goal-114062700260_1.html

Energy Issues -- US

Institute for Energy Research calls for moratorium on coal plant closures

By Sarah Tincher, State Journal (West Virginia), Jun 26, 2014 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.statejournal.com/story/25880145/institute-for-energy-research-calls-for-moratorium-on-coal-plant-closures>

Link to report: Protect the American People: Moratorium on Coal Plant Closures Essential

By Roger Bezdek and Frank Clemente, Institute for Energy Research

<http://instituteforenergyresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Protect-the-American-People.-Moratorium-on-Coal-Plant-Closures-Essential.pdf>

Reversal of Fortune: The Fate of Oil

By David Archibald, American Thinker, Jun 26, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/2014/06/reversal_of_fortune.html

Washington's Control of Energy

Obama's CO2 Restrictions Hit Hardest in Key Senate States

By James Taylor, The Federalist, Jun 25, 2014

<http://thefederalist.com/2014/06/25/obamas-co2-restrictions-hit-hardest-in-key-senate-states/>

US approves two permits for crude exports

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Jun 25, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/210495-us-opens-door-to-more-crude-oil-exports>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Oil and gas exploration blocks expanded to entice fracking firms

Government changes the system for offering energy companies oil and gas exploration rights, to entice fracking firms to bid for access in imminent 'licensing round'

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Jun 24, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/10923926/Oil-and-gas-exploration-blocks-expanded-to-entice-fracking-firms.html>

Fracking to become a reality as French firm is given green light for shale gas drilling

By CW, Copenhagen Post, Jun 26, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://cphpost.dk/news/fracking-to-become-a-reality-as-french-firm-is-given-green-light-for-shale-gas-drilling.9981.html>

[SEPP Comment: In Denmark!]

Return of King Coal?

In a global 'war on coal,' coal is winning

Global coal consumption rose 3 percent in 2013, despite efforts in some places to scale back use of the carbon-heavy fuel. Why is it hard to stop depending on coal for energy?

By Nick Cunningham, Christian Science Monitor, Jun 19, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2014/0619/In-a-global-war-on-coal-coal-is-winning>

Dem Sen: 'People Would Have Died' Without Coal Last Winter

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Jun 26, 2014 [H/t Roger Bezdek]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/06/26/dem-sen-people-would-have-died-without-coal-last-winter/#ixzz35qyYrAUz>

What will climate policy mean for coal?

By Staff Writers, Vienna, Austria (SPX), Jun 25, 2014

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/What_will_climate_policy_mean_for_coal_999.html

Link to paper: Stranded on a low-carbon planet: Implications of climate policy for the phase-out of coal-based power plants

By Johnson, et al., Technological Forecasting and Social Change, Mar 29, 2014

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0040162514000924>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Delays and More Costs for Plant Vogtle Nuclear Expansion

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Jun 26, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/delays-and-more-costs-for-plant-vogtle-nuclear-expansion/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2905439&hq_l=20&hq_v=5e660500d0

Where is Uranium Found and How is it Processed for Nuclear Energy

Photos, By Staff, IAEA, Jun 23, 2014

<http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/multimedia/photoessays/uram/>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Germany will miss renewable energy targets, says PV industry association

By Andy Colthorpe, PV Tech, Jun 20, 2014

[http://www.pv-](http://www.pv-tech.org/news/germany_will_miss_renewable_energy_targets_says_pv_industry_association)

[tech.org/news/germany_will_miss_renewable_energy_targets_says_pv_industry_association](http://www.pv-tech.org/news/germany_will_miss_renewable_energy_targets_says_pv_industry_association)

[SEPP Comment: Is that bad news?]

Should Wind Turbines Be Allowed To Kill Eagles? Debate Ratchets Up With Bird Group Lawsuit

By Maria Gallucci, International Business Times, Jun 20, 2014

[http://www.ibtimes.com/should-wind-turbines-be-allowed-kill-eagles-debate-ratchets-bird-group-lawsuit-](http://www.ibtimes.com/should-wind-turbines-be-allowed-kill-eagles-debate-ratchets-bird-group-lawsuit-1607240?utm_content=buffer01915&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer#.U6V3-ccwV_g.twitter%20)

[1607240?utm_content=buffer01915&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer#.U6V3-ccwV_g.twitter%20](http://www.ibtimes.com/should-wind-turbines-be-allowed-kill-eagles-debate-ratchets-bird-group-lawsuit-1607240?utm_content=buffer01915&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer#.U6V3-ccwV_g.twitter%20)

Texas hits new peak wind output

By April Lee, EIA, Jun 23, 2014 [H/t David Kreutzer]

<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=16811>

[SEPP Comment: If wind were the only source of electricity, given the record shown in the graph, who would ride an elevator or a subway?]

Carbon Schemes

Capturing Carbon Drives up Energy Costs

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, Jun 26, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/2014/06/capturing_carbon_drives_up_energy_costs.html

DOE project hits carbon-capture milestone

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Jun 26, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/210681-doe-project-hits-carbon-capture-milestone>

[SEPP Comment: What if you do not have oil wells in your backyard. Could this be a path to promote oil and gas drilling in jurisdictions that oppose it?]

California Dreaming

WSJ: California's Cap-and-Trade Revolt- Liberal Democrats worry that carbon limits will hurt the poor

California's Cap-and-Trade Revolt

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Shtic, Jun 27, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/06/wsj-californias-cap-and-trade-revolt.html>

Environmental Industry

Global governance: fighting off the NGOs

By Richard North, EUReferendum, Jun 25, 2014 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.eureferendum.com/blogview.aspx?blogno=85039>

The world of Green NGOs is as complex as the corporate one

By Nitin Sethi, Business Standard (India), Jun 21, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://wap.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/the-world-of-green-ngos-is-as-complex-as-the-corporate-one-114062100782_1.html

Greenpeace: incompetence and hypocrisy

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 23, 2014

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2014/6/23/greenpeace-incompetence-and-hypocrisy.html>

Greenpeace localises its global agenda, irks government

By Nitin Sethi, Business Standard, Jun 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/greenpeace-localises-its-global-agenda-irks-government-114062700270_1.html

Other Scientific News

European Space Agency says magnetic north is drifting southward

By Brooks Hays, London (UPI), Jun 23, 2013

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/European_Space_Agency_says_magnetic_north_is_drifting_southward_999.html

Clarifying the Debate Over Measles Vaccinations

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, Jun 24, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/2014/06/clarifying_the_debate_over_measles_vaccinations.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

Niger Calder, 1931-2014

By Staff Writer, GWPF, Jun 27, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/nigel-calder-1931-2014/>

Are Pesticides Linked To Autism? Here Are 3 Big Concerns About A New Paper

By Hank Campbell, Science 2.0, Jun 23, 2014

http://www.science20.com/science_20/are_pesticides_linked_to_autism_here_are_3_big_concerns_about_a_new_paper-139125

Change in farming could lower Europe's temperature: study

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), June 23, 2014

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Change_in_farming_could_lower_Europes_temperature_study_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Will it make the spring thaw later?]

IDing Livestock Gut Microbes Contributing to Greenhouse Gas Emissions

By Staff Writers, Walnut Creek CA (SPX), Jun 25, 2014

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/IDing_Livestock_Gut_Microbes_Contributing_to_Greenhouse_Gas_Emissions_999.html

[SEPP Comment: More Department of Energy financing!]

Stanford breakthrough provides picture of underground water

By Rob Jordan, Stanford CA (SPX), Jun 20, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Stanford_breakthrough_provides_picture_of_underground_water_999.html

UNESCO says all of Tasmanian forest to stay protected

By Staff Writers, Doha (AFP), June 23, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UNESCO_says_all_of_Tasmanian_forest_to_stay_protected_99.html

#####

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Fairfax papers fooled by foolish Gore. Sceptics win

By Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun, Jun 26, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/fairfax_papers_foiled_by_gore/

We Can Eliminate the Major Tornado Threat in Tornado Alley

By Staff Writer, World Scientific, Jun 23, 2014 (?) [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.worldscientific.com/page/pressroom/2014-06-23-02>

Acknowledgments: This work is supported in part by a grant from US Naval Research Lab.

#####

ARTICLES:

1. What Is the EPA Hiding From the Public?

The agency shouldn't get to decide who sees the science behind its rules. Open the research to outside analysis.

By Lamar Smith, WSJ, Jun 23, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/lamar-smith-what-is-the-epa-hiding-from-the-public-1403563536>

The climate is changing and, yes, humans play a role. But that does not mean, as Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy would have us believe, that the debate—over how much the climate is changing, how big a role humans play, and what can reasonably be done about it—is over. Still less does it mean that anyone who questions her agency's actions, particularly the confidential research it uses to justify multimillion and billion-dollar air rules, is a denier at war with science.

The EPA's regulatory process today is a closed loop. The agency funds the scientific research it uses to support its regulations, and it picks the supposedly independent (but usually agency-funded) scientists to review it. When the regulations are challenged, the courts defer to the agency on scientific issues. But the agency refuses to make public the scientific research it uses.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy Getty Images

The House Science Committee will vote Tuesday on legislation to open up this closed loop. The Secret Science Reform Act, which I co-sponsored, has a simple goal: EPA regulations should be based on legitimate science and data that are open to the public.

Scientific journals in a variety of disciplines have moved toward data transparency. Ms. McCarthy sees this effort as a threat. Speaking before the National Academy of Sciences in late April, she defended her agency's need to protect data "from those who are not qualified to analyze it."

The EPA essentially decides who is or is not allowed access to the scientific research they use—research that is paid for with public funds, appropriated by Congress, on behalf of American taxpayers. This is wholly improper.

I recently received a letter of support for the Secret Science Reform Act that was signed by more than 80 scientists, including physicians, and professors of environmental science, physics, statistics, economics and engineering. The signatories included George Wolff, former chair of the

EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee in the Clinton administration and Forrest J. Remick, former commissioner of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the George H.W. Bush administration. They wrote that the bill would "make the agency's regulations more accountable, credible, and enforceable" and that its transparency requirements "can be accomplished without imposing unnecessary burdens, discouraging research, or raising confidentiality concerns."

Costly environmental regulations must be based on publicly available data that independent scientists can verify. For example, take the administration's recently proposed plan to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants—regulations that could cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and spike electricity rates.

In the announcement of her agency's 645-page Clean Power Plan, Ms. McCarthy claimed "The science is clear. The risks are clear. And the high costs of climate inaction keep piling up." Yet any reporter willing to read beyond the EPA press release would find that the reality doesn't match the rhetoric.

Monday's Supreme Court decision (*Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA*) underscores the need for scrutiny of agency claims. The court called EPA's rewriting of the Clean Air Act "outrageous," and said that "When an agency claims to discover in a long-extant statute an unheralded power to regulate 'a significant portion of the American economy,' we typically greet its announcement with a measure of skepticism." Such skepticism is well deserved.

Virtually all of the EPA's health claims for its latest power-plant rules, including that they would save thousands of lives a year, are based on data that haven't been made public. In any event, for most of the EPA's 2030 projections, a majority of the health benefits claimed have nothing to do with carbon dioxide. They come from reductions in air pollutants already regulated by the EPA such as particulate matter and ozone.

The EPA also claims that its Clean Power Plan will yield climate benefits, such as lower sea levels, which the agency calculates using its "social cost of carbon." But a recent analysis by Ted Gayer, vice president and director of economic studies at the Brookings Institution, found that most of these alleged benefits take place outside the U.S. Even using the EPA's own numbers, the costs of this regulation may exceed the direct, domestic benefits.

The EPA, like every other government institution, should be accountable to the American people. We need to protect our environment, but this should be done on the basis of open and honest information. That is the goal of the Secret Science Reform Act.

Mr. Smith, a Republican from Texas, is chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

2. A Constitutional Tutorial for Obama

The President doesn't possess 'an unheralded power' to rewrite laws.

Editorial, WSJ, Jun 23, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/a-constitutional-tutorial-for-obama-1403562504>

The Obama Administration's abuse of executive power is emerging as this Supreme Court term's defining theme, and on Monday the Justices applied some basic constitutional law to the White House's anticarbon agenda.

In *Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA*, the Justices feed several major climate regulations into the wood chipper. "When an agency claims to discover in a long-extant statute an unheralded power to regulate a significant portion of the American economy," the majority observes, "we typically greet its announcement with a measure of skepticism."

The ruling amounts to an overdue correction to *Massachusetts v. EPA*, the 5-4 ruling in 2007 that held greenhouse gases can be "pollutants" under clean air laws that were written decades before the carbon panic. That decision wrongly rewrote the Clean Air Act, but it was also always narrower than liberals made it out to be and never the license for policy rewrites that became the EPA's interpretation.

The problem for the agency is that the Clean Air Act sets precise emissions thresholds for "major sources" of a given pollutant, defined as more than either 100 or 250 tons annually. Congress had in mind traditional industrial byproducts like SOX or ozone, but the ceilings make no sense for ubiquitous carbon. Any CO2 rule would thus reach well beyond power plants and factories to millions of small carbon sources like hospitals, grocery stores, shopping centers, farms and churches, with penalties of \$37,500 per day for violations.

To obey the law as written, the EPA estimated, permit applications under one program would have climbed to 6.1 million a year from 15,000 today, while administrative costs in another would have exploded to \$1.5 billion from \$12 million. The agency conceded that such a regime would be "unrecognizable" to Congress. Yet in 2009 the EPA regulated anyway and asserted unilateral power to "tailor" the law. It baldly increased the thresholds by as much as a thousand-fold to avoid having to supervise elementary schools the same as cement mixers.

Amid a tangle of partial concurrences and dissents, Justice Antonin Scalia wrote the controlling 5-4 opinion striking down this tailoring as illegal. He writes that it is "patently unreasonable—not to say outrageous—for EPA to insist on seizing expansive power that it admits the statute is not designed to grant."

Justice Scalia catches the EPA climateers selectively citing statutes, claiming that they are compelled to regulate by the Clean Air Act but uncompelled to abide by its text. The act is "not a command to regulate," and neither is *Mass. v. EPA*, he reiterates. More to the point, "An agency has no power to 'tailor' legislation to bureaucratic policy goals by rewriting unambiguous statutory terms."

Even better, Justice Scalia's opinion explicitly defends the structure of the Constitution. Blessing the EPA's tailoring rule would be "a severe blow to the Constitution's separation of powers" where Congress enacts laws and the President enforces them, he writes. This remedial civics lesson ought to be unnecessary but with the Obama crowd it's essential. "We are not willing to stand on the dock and wave goodbye as EPA embarks on this multiyear voyage of discovery" that ignores the will of Congress, Justice Scalia writes.

The Court did still preserve 7-2 the *Mass. v. EPA* prerogative to regulate carbon in other contexts, such as requiring new or substantially modified power sources to install "best available control

technology." But the ruling says this authority is not "unbounded," which suggests the Court is warning EPA to tread carefully when exercising "extravagant statutory power over the national economy."

That could include the rules for existing power sources that the EPA rolled out earlier this month. They are grounded in an obscure catch-all clause of the Clean Air Act that wasn't before the Court in Monday's case. Section 111(d) runs only a few hundred words, yet the EPA is claiming unprecedented authority to command the states to create cap-and-tax programs or otherwise ration energy use. A less willful Administration would heed this warning and restrain its ambitions, but this one refuses, so the High Court will have to keep issuing Constitution 101 tutorials.

In any other Administration, such a Supreme Court smackdown on so important a regulation would also invite more media scrutiny of executive overreach. When the 2008 Boumediene decision gave terrorists the right to make habeas corpus challenges to their detention, the story was that the High Court was reining in a power-mad President.

Mr. Obama's regulatory abuses are far more corrosive to the Constitution than anything George W. Bush did on war powers, but the press corps has barely noticed. Maybe it will start now that the Supreme Court is calling out President Obama's lawbreaking.

3. Supreme Court Ruling Backs Most EPA Emission Controls

Justices Say EPA Can Require Pollution Controls but Limit Permitting Process

By Brent Kendall and Amy Harder, WSJ, Jun 23, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/supreme-court-reins-in-some-of-epas-greenhouse-gas-efforts-1403534416>

WASHINGTON—The Environmental Protection Agency can require greenhouse-gas controls on power plants and other large stationary sources of pollution, the Supreme Court ruled Monday, but it said the agency went too far in claiming power to regulate smaller emitters.

In a divided opinion, the Supreme Court allowed the Environmental Protection Agency to require greenhouse-gas controls on power plants and other sources of pollution, but ruled it was too aggressive in its approach. Ashby Jones reports on the News Hub with Lee Hawkins.

The court's divided decision, written by Justice Antonin Scalia, followed a middle-ground approach that left both environmental groups and industry challengers satisfied.

For the Obama administration, the decision is likely to have only a minor impact on the EPA's current regulations, which require power plants, oil refineries and other large emissions sources to obtain permits and adopt greenhouse-gas controls when they modify an existing facility or build a new one.

These regulations are separate from a rule the EPA proposed earlier in June, which seeks to cut carbon dioxide emissions from fossil-fuel plants 30% by 2030, compared with 2005 levels. That rule is the cornerstone of President Barack Obama's climate-change agenda, and wasn't an issue in the ruling.

#####