

The Week That Was: 2014-07-12 (July 12, 2014)
Brought to You by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)
The Science and Environmental Policy Project

#####

Quote of the Week: *Nature is full of infinite causes that have never occurred in experience.*
Leonardo da Vinci [H/t Timothy Wise]

#####

Number of the Week: 1 in 78,664,164,096

#####

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*

Audio-video links to the conference: <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 late July.

#####

THIS WEEK:

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

Due to the Ninth International Climate Change Conference (ICCC-9) sponsored by The Heartland Institute, The Week That Was will be less comprehensive than usual.

Over 600 people attended the Heartland Conference, ICCC-9, held in Las Vegas, Nevada, from July 7 to 9. There were over 60 speakers. Most spoke for about 12 minutes on the 21 different panels covering different issues on the science of human-caused global warming/climate change and the policies being implemented by governments, supposedly to address global warming. Keynote speakers had about 25 minutes. There were numerous awards given to scientists for their long service in insisting that the fear of global warming/climate change be based on rigorous science, rather than politicized science.

The schedule did not permit attending all the panel presentations, and this discussion will focus on scientific issues. Virtually the entire program is available on the internet:

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

Some of the Awards: Fred Singer presented the Fredrick Seitz Memorial Award to Sherwood Idso for his pioneering work on the enormous benefits of enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2) for humanity and the environment. Virtually all food crops and most other plants grow better in an atmosphere richer in carbon dioxide than today's atmosphere. As human emissions increase atmospheric carbon dioxide, we can look forward to a world more bountiful than the one today and a more robust environment in general.

In his long career, the late Fredrick Seitz exemplified that best a dedicated scientist can offer and after long service was recognized as President Emeritus of Rockefeller University, a premier medical research institution. He was the founding chairman of the Science and Environmental

Policy Project (SEPP) and supported the formation on the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC).

Arthur Robinson presented the Courage in Defense of Science Award to Willie Soon. Long an outspoken critic of the UN International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Soon has demonstrated unusual courage in maintaining his views in spite of outrageous accusations from the climate establishment. His professional career has probably suffered from his public statements, but his integrity is intact.

The EarthFree Institute presented the Speaks Truth to Power Award to Patrick Moore. Moore gave a striking keynote address “Confessions of a Greenpeace Drop-out” presenting some of misguided policies of the environmental industry that are detrimental to humanity and the environment. Moore’s comment that we should view the Canadian oil sands as a natural oil spill that needs to be cleaned up will outrage his former colleagues in Greenpeace.

Former FBI agent and IRS person of special interest, Gary Aldrich presented the Climate Science Whistleblower Award to Alan Carlin who, when with the EPA, challenged its finding that carbon dioxide emissions endanger human health. Several commentators thought Carlin’s acceptance speech to be particularly moving.

Calvin Beisner presented Roy Spencer with the Outstanding Evangelical Climate Scientist Award. In a Senate hearing, Rhode Island Senator Sheldon Whitehouse tried to attack Spencer’s scientific findings through Spencer’s religious beliefs. The senator only succeeded in disgracing himself and the senate. Spencer and his colleague, John Christy, have endured significant personal criticism for their willingness to publicly post their calculations of atmospheric temperatures from satellite measurements. They have given the nation and the world the only transparent, reliable temperature record, which is also the most comprehensible in existence. If religious beliefs give them the moral compass to take such actions, so be it.

The Heartland Institute presented the Lifetime Achievement in Climate Science Award to S. Fred Singer, President and Chairman of the Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP). Singer conceived and directed the independent Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) project. He recruited an international array of superb scientists to write the initial NIPCC report, which was published by the Heartland Institute. The NIPCC project has grown significantly and now is a counterbalance to the government-funded IPCC, which ignores significant science or buries it below politically motivated exaggerations.

NIPCC v. IPCC – Physical Science: Bob Carter and Fred Singer, co-authors/editors of the NIPCC reports, and contributing author Willie Soon stressed the major differences between the NIPCC report on the physical science and the IPCC report on the physical science. The NIPCC report includes science the IPCC report ignores or buries. The high confidence the IPCC expresses about its work in Summary for Policymakers is not substantiated by the physical science.

NIPCC v. IPCC – Biological Impacts: NIPCC co-author/editor Craig Idso discussed the enormous benefits to the biosphere from increasing concentrations of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Craig Loehle focused on the shoddy methods used in the IPCC report to make claims about species extinction. Cold tolerance, not heat, is the limiting factor in species range.

Temperature Measurements: Several speakers, including Anthony Watts and Larry Gould, addressed the flaws in the surface temperature record. Some of these were discussed in the July 5 TWTW. Watts presented the final report of the surface stations project, which examined poor siting and bias adjustments by NOAA and NASA-GISS [Goddard Institute of Space Studies.]

The government agencies which maintain the records have been less than transparent in their mathematical manipulation of them, creating considerable concern in their reliability. Yet, the US stations are considered to be the gold standard. It is time to move to a new standard, the satellite record, which is maintained by two independent groups. These records are the most comprehensive available. They include the atmosphere over areas where there are no surface instruments, such as the oceans which cover 71% of the earth's surface.

Models: A number of speakers, including Roy Spencer, emphasized that the models are overestimating warming trends, some by a great amount. There has been no warming trend for at least a decade. Thus, the models should not be used as a basis for policy, yet they are, particularly in the EPA finding that greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, endangers human health.

Getting Colder? Some speaker focused on the possibility of the planet cooling. Joe D'Aleo addressed the recent record of colder, snowier winters in the US and the Northern Hemisphere. Howard Hayden gave a historic overview of the current climate period, a short time of warming in an age of glaciation and Fred Goldberg discussed the early 21st century reduction in Arctic ice extent was not unusual and the ice is rebounding. If the current trend of Arctic ice continues, it will dash the dreams of those who hope to profit from trans-Arctic sea routes.

The Sun: German scientist Sebastian Lüning and Russian scientist Habibullo Abdussamatov presented their thoughts that the sun has become dormant and that this lessened activity will result in a cold period that may be similar to the Little Ice Age. If so, then climate change will be a real threat to agriculture production and to humanity. The very opposite of what current western government policies are designed to prevent.

Sea Levels: On separate panels, Fred Singer of SEPP and Tom Wismuller of the Right Climate Stuff Team presented their research on sea level rise in the 21st century. Singer thinks it will be in the order of 7 to 8 inches (18 to 20 cm). He thinks that the West Antarctic ice sheet (in the Ross Sea) will continue to melt for the foreseeable future, even though snow and ice on the continent of Antarctica are accumulating. Wismuller calculates that sea level rise will be even less, a maximum of 5 inches (13 cm). Both calculations are far less than the projections by the IPCC and orders of magnitude less than the alarmist US National Climate Assessment.

Changing pH: In his presentation on the biological impacts of increasing carbon dioxide, Craig Idso touched on the impacts of the possibility of a lowering of ocean pH. Idso does not foresee a problem from a slow lowering of pH, should it occur. The waters will not turn acidic as many alarmists claim. Further, far too many of the experiments used to claim dramatic results actually shock the system, which any aquarium owner knows should not be done.

Prediction: In 2000, geologist Don Easterbrook predicted a cooling period will start in a few years and stated that thus far his prediction appears to be happening. Easterbrook based his prediction on projecting well-defined patterns of warming and cooling into the future. In his view, the term pause is a misnomer because the term assumes continuous warming is the normal. We

may be in a phase change towards a cooling. Based on the Greenland ice core record, between about 9,000 to 700 years ago (the latter the start of the Little Ice Age) the climate was about 2.5 to 5.5 deg F warmer than today. Glacial advances and retreats match changes in the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). Then, the question is what drives the PDO? Easterbrook thinks that, based on the isotopes of Carbon and Beryllium in the ice cores, solar changes, total solar insolation, solar magnetism, and associated changes cosmic ray intensity (Svensmark hypothesis), change the PDO. Low sunspots are associated with lower solar insolation and solar magnetism and greater cosmic rays. It will be interesting to see if Easterbrook's prediction holds. His views are similar to those of Lüning and Abdussamatov

Success: The general commentary at the closing of the IPCC-9 was that the conference was enormously successful. The mood was pronouncedly upbeat. A lot of work needs to be done to sway the public, the political process, and the politicized scientific institutions. The NIPCC project is succeeding in bringing together independent scientists who openly question government-funded science, in spite of the personal attacks. These scientists realize that it is not who asserts a scientific theory or relationship, but how and why they claim to know it. Nature, not man, is the judge.

A New Paradigm? Since the recording of his talk is not available, Ken Haapala's presentation is outlined below.

After questioning the assertions that carbon and carbon dioxide are pollutants that must be taxed, Haapala expressed wonderment that the Department of Agriculture is one of the eleven government agencies involved in declaring that carbon dioxide emissions have a social cost. It is as if the Department of Agriculture does not recognize CO₂ is critical for photosynthesis, which is vital for green plants and virtually all life on this planet and it does not recognize the pioneering work of Sherwood Idso, and others. The Department of Agriculture should be praising of the social benefits of carbon.

To address this madness, Haapala referenced the **Structure of Scientific Revolutions** by Thomas Kuhn, who asserts progress in scientific knowledge is not linear – but occurs in spurts. Up to the 1970s, most understanding of climate change was limited to geologists. It is normal and natural, and sometimes abrupt.

Kuhn states that often significant progress occurs when one concept (or mind-set) used in viewing a puzzle of natural science is replaced by another concept that better explains the puzzle. He calls the concepts paradigms. The paradigms include the way in which data and experiments are conducted and interpreted. For example, when the paradigm of a static surface of the earth was replaced by plate tectonics, our ability to explain the earth's history expanded greatly.

In the 1970s, some scientists began speculating about the influence of increasing CO₂ in the atmosphere. Some thought it would cause cooling others thought it would cause warming. The very influential Charney Report estimated that a doubling of CO₂ would increase the earth's average temperatures by 1.5°C to 4.5°C. After this report, the focus of research has been on future warming from increasing CO₂. A new paradigm was widely accepted. The paradigm could be as stated in the title of an article by scientists from NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies: "Atmospheric CO₂ Is the Principal Control Knob Governing Earth's Temperature."

In the 35 years since the Charney Report, five major IPCC reports have produced no improvement in understanding of the temperature impacts of a doubling of CO2. Research has not been fruitful. Something is very wrong.

Based on US government reports, SEPP calculated that from Fiscal Year (FY) 1993 to FY 2013 total US expenditures on climate change amount to more than \$165 Billion. More than \$35 Billion is identified as climate science. The White House reported that in FY 2013 the US spent \$22.5 Billion on climate change. About \$2 Billion went to US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP). The principal function of the USGCRP is to provide to Congress a National Climate Assessment (NCA). The latest report uses global climate models, which are not validated, therefore speculative, to speculate about regional influences from global warming.

Much of the remaining 89% of funding goes to government agencies and industries claiming they are preventing global warming/climate change, even though they do not understand the natural causes of climate change and, likely, far overestimate the influence of CO2. These entities have a vested interest in promoting the fear of global warming/climate change.

It is time for the government to stop funding irrational fear of global warming/climate change based on a concept of climate that is not substantiated by the physical evidence. If we are to progress in our understanding of climate change, the paradigm must be changed from one that earth's temperatures are largely controlled by atmospheric CO2, to one which recognizes that climate change is normal and predominately natural. Human CO2 emissions have little, if any, influence on temperatures and other climate trends.

Number of the Week: 1 in 78,664,164,096. Congress sent the US Internal Revenue Service asking about emails targeting conservative and pro-Israeli groups. The emails were on 7 different disk drives, all of which crashed that month.

According to the person who made the calculations (unknown), the odds of a disk drive failing in any given month are roughly one in 36. The odds of two different drives failing in the same month are roughly one in 36 squared, or 1 in about 1,300. The odds of three drives failing in the same month is 36 cubed or 1 in 46,656.

The odds of seven different drives failing in the same month is 37 to the 7th power = 1 in 78,664,164,096. Whether or not the calculations are accurate is not the major issue. The major issue is the IRS claiming they cannot produce the emails due to multiple disk drive failures. H/t Melissa!

#####

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. Confessions of a Computer Modeler

Any model, including those predicting climate doom, can be tweaked to yield a desired result. I should know.

By Robert Caprara, WSJ, Jul 8, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/confessions-of-a-computer-modeler-1404861351>

2. A Climate Activist Bags Himself

Tom Steyer ruined the planet before he offered to save it.

By Holman Jenkins, WSJ, Jul 8, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/holman-jenkins-a-climate-activist-bags-himself-1404861051?tesla=y&mg=reno64-wsj>

3. Shipping Firms to Add Arctic LNG Route

China, Japan Companies to Carry the Fuel From Siberia to East Asia

By Mari Iwata and Wayne Ma, WSJ, Jul 9, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/china-japan-shippers-to-launch-arctic-lng-route-1404905617>

[SEPP Comment: At least governments are not guaranteeing the success – or as of yet!]

#####

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Climate Science Paper Censored By American Meteorological Society Journal

By Ben Webster, The Times, Via GWPF, Jul 8, 2014

<http://www.thegwgf.org/research-paper-on-ipcc-climate-models-censored-by-american-meteorological-society-journal/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy – IPCC-9

International Conference on Climate Change

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jul 8, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/07/08/internationalconference-on-climate-change/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Science Recommends Climate Model Re-Start

By Dennis Avery, Canada Free Press, Jul 7, 2014

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/64368>

Why the former Ice Age became global warming, then climate change

By Anthony Sadar, Washington Examiner, Jul 7, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/why-the-coming-ice-age-became-global-warming-then-climate-change/article/2550565?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2007/08/14&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletters&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington+Examiner+-+Opinion+Digest+Reoccurring

In defence of Nigel Lawson, and his fellow climate sceptics

By David Whitehouse, The Spectator, UK, Jul 8, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/2014/07/the-real-climate-change-deniers/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Congress's head-in-the-sand approach to climate change

Editorial, Washington Post, Jul 6, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/congresss-head-in-the-sand-approach-to-climate-change/2014/07/06/656db75e-0167-11e4-8572-4b1b969b6322_story.html?hpid=z6

[SEPP Comment: This team is hardly the Right Stuff!]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Just because it sounds good ...

By Bjorn Lomborg, The Australian, Jul 11, 2014

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/just-because-it-sounds-good/story-e6frg6n6-1226984834395>

Climate Change Hysteria and the Madness of Crowds

By Charles Battig, American Thinker, Jul 7, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/2014/07/climate_change_hysteria_and_the_madness_of_crowds.html

Are Polar Bears Really Endangered?

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

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/07/05/are-polar-bears-really-endangered/>

Adélie Penguin Census Shows Seabirds Are Thriving

Considered a Bellwether of Climate Change, the Antarctic Seabird's Population Is Generally on the Rise

By Robert Lee Hotz, WSJ, Via GWPF, Jul 10, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/adelie-penguin-census-shows-seabirds-are-thriving-1405018917>

<http://www.thegwpf.org/antarctic-penguin-census-shows-seabirds-are-thriving/>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

UN climate proposal paves way for rich-poor discord

By Alex Morales, Sydney Morning Herald, Jul 9, 2014

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/un-climate-proposal-paves-way-for-rich-poor-discord-20140709-zt0u6.html>

Economic Survey reiterates India's stand on climate change, sustainability Survey says India won't agree to any binding cuts on emissions as it has not utilized its share of earth's carbon space

By Neha Sethi, Live Mint, India, Jul 9, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/PqEbCWXvGn58TsA34QyykK/Economic-Survey-reiterates-Indias-stand-on-climate-change-n.html>

India won't agree to any binding cuts on emissions as it has not utilized its fair share of the earth's carbon space and still has to provide minimum standards of living to its entire population, the Economic Survey said, reiterating the nation's stand in international climate change negotiations.

Only 20% [of Likely US Voters] Think Debate About Global Warming Is Over

By Staff Writers, Rasmussen Reports, Jul 9, 2014 [H/t Marian Coombs]

http://www.rasmussenreports.com/public_content/lifestyle/general_lifestyle/july_2014/only_20_think_debate_about_global_warming_is_over

Seeking a Common Ground

IPCC and treatment of uncertainties

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jul 11, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/07/11/ipcc-and-treatment-of-uncertainties/#more-16172>

Models v. Observations

Global warming computer models confounded as Antarctic sea ice hits new record high with 2.1million square miles more than is usual for time of year

Ice is covering 16m sq km, more than 2.1m unusual for time of year
UN computer models say Antarctic ice should be in decline, not increasing
By David Rose, Mail, UK, Jul , 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2681829/Global-warming-latest-Amount-Antarctic-sea-ice-hits-new-record-high.html>

Measurement Issues

Data Set Changes Makes It Hard to Tell Real Story

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Jul 11, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/data_set_changes_makes_it_hard_to_tell_real_story1/

Understanding adjustments to temperature data

By Zeke Hausfather, Climate Etc. Jul 7, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/07/07/understanding-adjustments-to-temperature-data/#more-16155>

[SEPP Comment: View from the Berkeley project.]

NASA Launches Carbon Mission to Watch Earth Breathe

Press Release, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Jul 2, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?release=2014-215>

Changing Weather

'Polar vortex' might make summer comeback

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

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/211951-polar-vortex-is-making-a-comeback>

Changing Climate

Welcome back to the 1950s and soon the 1960s/70s (and then 1800?)

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Jul 11, 2014

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/in-the-news/welcome-back-to-the-1950s-and-soon-the-1960s-70s-and-then-1800/>

Changing Earth

Rewriting the history of volcanic forcing during the past 2000 years

By Staff Writers, Desert Research Institute, No Date [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dri.edu/dhs-news/4688-rewriting-the-history-of-volcanic-forcing-during-the-past-2000-years>

[SEPP Comment: If volcanic aerosols [small particles] have less of a cooling effect than previously estimated, the climate models need to be re-worked. The models incorporate a high cooling effect to counter-balance their high warming effect for CO2.]

Lowering Standards

Is it 'cos he's a green?

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jul 7, 2014

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2014/7/7/is-it-cos-hes-a-green.html>

[SEPP Comment: BBC promoting the green agenda.]

BBC in deep water over climate change censorship row

By Raymond Snoddy, MediaTel, Jul 9, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://mediatel.co.uk/newsline/2014/07/09/bbc-in-deep-water-over-climate-change-censorship-row/>

He added, much more contentiously, that Lord Lawson's views on climate change: "are not supported by the evidence from computer modelling and scientific research and I don't believe this was made sufficiently clear to the audience."

[SEPP Comment: Computer modeling does not give scientific evidence, unless the models have been validated. Climate models have not been validated, therefore are speculative.]

In apologising for having Nigel Lawson on to discuss climate change, the BBC has breached its charter

Rational debate is poisonous to climatic correctness

Editorial, Spectator, UK, Jul 12, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/the-week/leading-article/9259911/climatic-correctness/>

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

Inside the Ring: Hot air in Beijing on Climate Change

By Bill Gertz, Washington Free Beacon, Jul 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/inside-the-ring-a-lot-of-hot-air-in-beijing/>

[SEPP Comment: To cut a largely meaningless deal with China, the US envoys may give away critical information!]

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Study: Rich Republicans Are the Worst Climate Deniers

We already knew about the "smart idiot" effect. Now, meet the "rich idiot" effect.

By Chris Mooney, Mother Jones, Jul 10, 2014

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2014/07/climate-denial-wealth-rich-republicans>

[SEPP Comment: Could it be that they are more knowledgeable about what constitutes risk than the others?]

Questioning European Green

Post Climate Change Act 2008, the UK's Economy is Going Backwards

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, Jul 9, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/07/post-climate-change-act-2008-the-uks-economy-is-going-backwards.html>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Convicted felon designed EPA's playbook for faking science

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Jul 8, 2014

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/convicted-felon-designed-epas-playbook-for-faking-science/article/2550625>

Link To report: EPA's Playbook Unveiled: A Story of Fraud, Deceit, and Secret Science

By Staff Writers, US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Mar 19, 2014

http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=b90f742e-b797-4a82-a0a3-e6848467832a

EPA Is Desperately in Need of Budget Cuts. Here's a Few Places to Start.

By Nicolas Loris, Daily Signal, Jul 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailysignal.com/2014/07/10/epa-desperately-need-budget-cuts-heres-places-start/>

EPA Fast Becoming The Green IRS

Editorial, IBD, Jul 10, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/071014-708258-epa-grabs-power-to-garnish-wages.htm?p=full>

EPA chief McCarthy mocks The New York Times in staff memo

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

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/211900-epa-chief-mocks-the-new-york-times>

House Republicans threaten to subpoena EPA over carbon rules

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Jul 9, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/211777-gop-threatens-to-subpoena-epa-over-carbon-rules>

GOP senators slam EPA on wage garnishment

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Jul 10, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/211871-gop-senators-slam-epa-on-wage-garnishment>

Energy Issues -- US

CHP Creates More Energy Confusion

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jul 11, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/07/11/chp-creates-more-energy-confusion/>

[SEPP Comment: A lesson learned – be cautious about using EPA energy efficiency numbers.]

Washington's Control of Energy

Revealed: How environmentalists were allowed to draft Obama's White House energy policy

A trio of activists from the Natural Resources Defense Council wrote a 110-page draft that became Obama's latest global-warming plan

Two lawyers and a graduate of a Berkeley program advocating a 'sustainable environment and a just society' crafted the document in 2010

The move is seen as revenge against the second Bush administration for allowing energy producers to advise the White House in secret meetings

The document's lead scientific author now helps run a global-warming super PAC run by billionaire liberal Tom Steyer

By David Martosko, Mail, UK, Jul 7, 2014

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2683560/Green-group-lobbyists-drafted-White-House-energy-policy-tit-tat-revenge-against-secret-Bush-Cheney-oil-industry-meetings.html>

For the sake of American prosperity and security, President Obama needs to approve Keystone.

By Bobby Jindal, National Review, Jul 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/382347/americas-energy-nightmare-bobby-jindal>

Carbon Schemes

Drax wins huge grant from EU for CCS

By Sam Dodson, World Coal, Jul 8, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.worldcoal.com/news/power/articles/Drax_wins_huge_grant_from_EU_for_CCS_1059.aspx#.U7_mbfldV-5

Environmental Industry

Holding Greenpeace accountable

By Paul Driessen, WUWT, Jul 6, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/07/06/holding-greenpeace-accountable/>

Global governance: funding the NGO monster

By Richard North, EUReferendum.com, Jul 7, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.eureferendum.com/blogview.aspx?blogno=85066>

Other Scientific News

Blazing World Record: Strongest UV Rays Measured in South America

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

<http://www.livescience.com/46701-andes-highest-uv-index-measured.html>

Earth's Magnetic Field Flip Could Happen Sooner Than Expected

Changes measured by the Swarm satellite show that our magnetic field is weakening 10 times faster than originally predicted, especially over the Western Hemisphere

By Kelly Dickerson, Scientific American, Jul 9, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/earth-s-magnetic-field-flip-could-happen-sooner-than-expected/>

[SEPP Comment: The satellites were launched on Nov 22, 2013. The author is drawing conclusions based on 6 months of observations?]

Scholarly journal retracts 60 articles, smashes 'peer review ring'

By Fred Barbash, Washington Post, Jul 10, 2014

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2014/07/10/scholarly-journal-retracts-60-articles-smashes-peer-review-ring/>

Other News that May Be of Interest

A well-deserved, overdue encomium for Dr. Bruce Ames

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Jul 9, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/07/well-deserved-overdue-encomium-dr-bruce-ames/>

Link to other article: Mutagens and Multivitamins

By Megan Scudellari, The Scientist, Jun 1, 2014

<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/40054/title/Mutagens-and-Multivitamins/>

#####

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Phunny Physics

By William York, Via Climate Etc. Jul 6, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/07/06/phunny-physics/#more-16109>

[SEPP Comment: An amusing essay on Newton's bylaws.]

In pictures: Climate change could make red hair a thing of the past if Scotland gets sunnier

A DNA expert has made the bold claim that ginger hair gene could die out if Scotland climate improves.

By Staff Writer, Daily Record, Jul 5, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/climate-change-could-make-red-3814089>

[SEPP Comment: *Why are Scandinavians blond?*]

#####

ARTICLES:

1. Confessions of a Computer Modeler

Any model, including those predicting climate doom, can be tweaked to yield a desired result. I should know.

By Robert Caprara, WSJ, Jul 8, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/confessions-of-a-computer-modeler-1404861351>

The climate debate is heating up again as business leaders, politicians and academics bombard us with the results of computer models that predict costly and dramatic changes in the years ahead. I can offer some insight into the use of computer models for public-policy debates, and a recommendation for the general public.

After earning a master's degree in environmental engineering in 1982, I spent most of the next 10 years building large-scale environmental computer models. My first job was as a consultant to the Environmental Protection Agency. I was hired to build a model to assess the impact of its Construction Grants Program, a nationwide effort in the 1970s and 1980s to upgrade sewer-treatment plants.

The computer model was huge—it analyzed every river, sewer treatment plant and drinking-water intake (the places in rivers where municipalities draw their water) in the country. I'll spare you the details, but the model showed huge gains from the program as water quality improved dramatically. By the late 1980s, however, any gains from upgrading sewer treatments would be offset by the additional pollution load coming from people who moved from on-site septic tanks to public sewers, which dump the waste into rivers. Basically the model said we had hit the point of diminishing returns.

When I presented the results to the EPA official in charge, he said that I should go back and "sharpen my pencil." I did. I reviewed assumptions, tweaked coefficients and recalibrated data. But when I reran everything the numbers didn't change much. At our next meeting he told me to run the numbers again.

After three iterations I finally blurted out, "What number are you looking for?" He didn't miss a beat: He told me that he needed to show \$2 billion of benefits to get the program renewed. I finally turned enough knobs to get the answer he wanted, and everyone was happy.

Was the EPA official asking me to lie? I have to give him the benefit of the doubt and assume he believed in the value of continuing the program. (Congress ended the grants in 1990.) He certainly didn't give any indications otherwise. I also assume he understood the inherent inaccuracies of these types of models. There are no exact values for the coefficients in models such as these. There are only ranges of potential values. By moving a bunch of these parameters to one side or the other you can usually get very different results, often (surprise) in line with your initial beliefs.

I realized that my work for the EPA wasn't that of a scientist, at least in the popular imagination of what a scientist does. It was more like that of a lawyer. My job, as a modeler, was to build the best

case for my client's position. The opposition will build its best case for the counter argument and ultimately the truth should prevail.

If opponents don't like what I did with the coefficients, then they should challenge them. And during my decade as an environmental consultant, I was often hired to do just that to someone else's model. But there is no denying that anyone who makes a living building computer models likely does so for the cause of advocacy, not the search for truth.

Surely the scientific community wouldn't succumb to these pressures like us money-grabbing consultants. Aren't they laboring for knowledge instead of profit? If you believe that, boy do I have a computer model to sell you.

The academic community competes for grants, tenure and recognition; consultants compete for clients. And you should understand that the lines between academia and consultancy are very blurry as many professors moonlight as consultants, authors, talking heads, etc.

Let's be clear: I am not saying this is a bad thing. The legal system is adversarial and for the most part functions well. The same is true for science. So here is my advice: Those who are convinced that humans are drastically changing the climate for the worse and those who aren't should accept and welcome a vibrant, robust back-and-forth. Let each side make its best case and trust that the truth will emerge.

Those who do believe that humans are driving climate change retort that the science is "settled" and those who don't agree are "deniers" and "flat-earthers." Even the president mocks anyone who disagrees. But I have been doing this for a long time, and the one thing I have learned is how hard it is to convince people with a computer model. The vast majority of your audience will never, ever understand the math behind it. This does not mean people are dumb. They usually have great BS detectors, and when they see one side of a debate trying to shut down the other side, they will most likely assume it has something to hide, has the weaker argument, or both.

Eventually I got out of the environmental consulting business. In the 1990s I went into a completely different industry, one that was also data intensive and I thought couldn't be nearly as controversial: health care. But that's another story.

Mr. Caprara is chief methodologist for PSKW LLC, which provides marketing programs for pharmaceutical firms.

2. A Climate Activist Bags Himself

Tom Steyer ruined the planet before he offered to save it.

By Holman Jenkins, WSJ, Jul 8, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/holman-jenkins-a-climate-activist-bags-himself-1404861051?tesla=y&mg=reno64-wsj>

In "The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber," a Hemingway story, a man goes big game hunting who should have stayed home. Tom Steyer maybe should have stayed home.

The hedge-fund king has sought to propel himself to the top circle of Democratic money men and possible future officeholders on the strength of his concern about global warming. He wants to

spend \$100 million this year influencing the midterm elections. All the media lately wants to talk about, though, is his thoroughly postmodern hypocrisy.

The New York Times is the latest to investigate his former hedge fund's investments to increase the output of Indonesian and Australian coal mines to feed China during a period when China surpassed the U.S. as the world's biggest carbon-dioxide emitter.

The Times report treads in the footsteps of a lengthy Reuters reconstruction, which follows the Canadian press's detailed reporting of his firm's tar sands investments. Many stories are festooned with environmentalist comments lamenting the damage Mr. Steyer did to the planet before he decided to save it.

That a man's politics are against his economic interests might normally speak well for the sincerity of his politics. A better target of media investigation might be those who loudly preach climate calamity while lining up for green handouts, which would amplify some truly inconvenient truths. But never mind. It couldn't be happening to a more deserving guy.

Mr. Steyer made his money wherever money was to be made. Then, when he wanted to start a new career, claimed to have experienced a "road to Damascus" conversion on climate and energy at age 55.

By his own account, his transfiguration was induced by a long Rolling Stone article by activist Bill McKibben. Mr. McKibben's article, like all such articles, offered zero evidence (which remains elusive) of man's actual contribution to observed warming, let alone a pending catastrophe.

Mr. Steyer thereupon convened two-dozen activists for a seminar at which, as the New Yorker reported, "there was no debate about the science and little debate about the policy prescriptions."

He may be sincere, but does this not shriek of a man who convinces himself, or allows himself to be convinced, that mouthing the right liturgy and casting the right imprecations (while pouring millions into open palms) is the easy path to political grace?

He wouldn't be the first to consider himself "passionate" on the subject of global warming without being quite so passionate as to delve into its complexities and ambiguities. But you might at least expect a shrewd latecomer to notice a few things—such as how signally the standard doom-mongering and oil-bashing has failed to move the needle. But then the very clichéd-ness of Mr. Steyer's adopted patter has been his lever to the overnight visibility and pseudo-influence that he apparently aspires to.

And we do mean pseudo-influence. He vilifies the Koch brothers ("evil persons"), and lobbies universities and foundations to dump their fossil energy holdings, though the only effect is to transfer those holdings to investors like Mr. Steyer's former hedge fund that are immune to pressure and unwilling to forgo the profits from meeting the world's wholly non-illusory demand for energy.

Advised by Clintonites John Podesta and Chris Lehane, he would spend millions to drive up the negatives of those candidates (invariably Republican) he would "destroy" (his word). But even if

he succeeds in shifting the outcome of one or two close races, it will be because voters are angry at big oil over gas prices, not global warning.

In case he hasn't noticed, the world is embarked on a multi-decade fossil-energy investment boom. A sliver of a sliver is \$2.5 trillion the International Energy Agency says North America will invest in oil infrastructure alone in the next 20 years—of which the Keystone pipeline would be 0.2%.

A true revolution would be a new breed of climate activist who admitted what they didn't know and toned down their absurd pretense that they're going to ban or seriously curb fossil fuel by fiat. If they were smart, they would put all their effort into winning government funding for battery research. But there are reasons, quite apart from lack of imagination, which is the nicest explanation of Mr. Steyer's shrill imposture, that this doesn't happen.

Our political system is adept at making use of people like Mr. Steyer. Democrats will gladly spend his \$100 million, then go back to their real environmental business, which is green cronyism. Happily Mr. Steyer's fate won't be that of the Hemingway character—who finally got to prove his merit while accidentally being shot in the head by his wife. But like Al Gore before him, Mr. Steyer will be able to say of his impact on the climate debate: I softened up the public to be milked for green handouts that did nothing for climate change.

3. Shipping Firms to Add Arctic LNG Route

China, Japan Companies to Carry the Fuel From Siberia to East Asia

By Mari Iwata and Wayne Ma, WSJ, Jul 9, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/china-japan-shippers-to-launch-arctic-lng-route-1404905617>

[SEPP Comment: At least governments are not guaranteeing the success – or as of yet!]

Shipping companies in China and Japan said they would start a regular service to carry Siberian natural gas across the Arctic Ocean to East Asia, showing how Asian demand for the fuel is reshaping global shipping routes.

Wednesday's announcement by Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd and China Shipping Development Co. offered new details of how liquefied natural gas will get from one of the remotest locations on earth—the \$27 billion Yamal LNG facility being developed in western Siberia—to urban areas in China and Japan.

China Shipping Development said its joint venture with Mitsui O.S.K. would spend \$932 million on three LNG carriers equipped with ice breakers, to be built by Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co. of South Korea. Service is set to begin as soon as 2018.

Once virtually impassable, the Arctic Ocean is now attracting interest as a shipping route because global warming has reduced the ice cover within the Arctic Circle. More ships have been plying the northern route between Europe and Asia, which is roughly 40% shorter than the conventional path through the Suez Canal.

The Arctic is one of the most remote and inhospitable regions in the world. Now shipping companies from Japan and China are braving that environment to carry natural gas from western Siberia to their shores, driven by growing demand for the fuel.

Last year, 71 ships crossed the Arctic Ocean between Europe and Asia, compared with four in 2010, according to Japan's transportation ministry.

Mitsui O.S.K. characterized its planned route as the first regular service linking Europe and Asia via the Arctic, although it will operate the Arctic route only during the warmer months of the year.

"The shorter distance would be good for buyers, by cutting shipping costs and reducing other risks," said Yu Nagatomi, an economist at Tokyo's Institute of Energy Economics.

The Yamal LNG project is 60%-owned by OAO Novatek of Russia, with 20% each held by Total SA of France and China National Petroleum Corp. Novatek has said it plans to have annual production capacity of 16.5 million tons. One of Novatek's largest shareholders is Gennady Timchenko, a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin who was put on a list of sanctions by the U.S. after Russia annexed Crimea. Russia is trying to diversify the customers for its energy and increase business in Asia.

In addition to investing in the project, China National Petroleum is also one of the biggest customers for the Siberian natural gas, having signed a contract to purchase three million tons a year for 20 years, according to Novatek.

CNPC didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Two forces help explain Asia's demand for natural gas: Japan's move away from nuclear power after the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident and China's struggle with air pollution.

Looking to reduce use of dirtier-burning coal, Beijing has set a target of boosting consumption of natural gas to 10% of its energy mix by 2020, up from less than 5% now. In addition to developing its own reserves and signing deals with countries such as Russia to import gas via pipeline, China has been looking for more liquefied natural gas—the chilled and exportable form of the fuel. Chinese companies have taken equity stakes in projects in Australia and Canada in exchange for funding to develop the reserves.

Japan, meanwhile, has stepped up natural-gas and coal imports to replace its 48 nuclear reactors, all of which are now offline. While a handful might resume operations this year or next, many older ones are viewed as too expensive to upgrade to tighter post-Fukushima safety standards.

In May, the Japanese government held its first conference with the private sector to discuss the Arctic route. It estimated that 22% of the world's gas reserves lie around the Yamal area.

"It's still far in the future, but the resource-rich Arctic Sea will be very important for Japan," said Ryo Minami, oil and gas director at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The ships ordered by Mitsui O.S.K. and China Shipping Development are part of an expected fleet of 16 ice-breaker-equipped LNG carriers for the Yamal LNG project, which is based in the estuary of the Ob River facing the Arctic and is icebound for about nine months of the year.

Shipping companies are still learning how to deal with unpredictable Arctic weather. Kazuya Hamazaki, general manager of Mitsui O.S.K.'s liquefied-natural-gas project group, said that while

the Arctic service is intended to be regular, it might have to revert to more-conventional sea lanes if unexpected ice develops.

Another challenge is how to evacuate crew members from the giant tankers in an emergency, because the ice might be too thick for lifeboats but too thin for humans.

#####