

The Week That Was: 2014-08-09 (August 9, 2014)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: “He who knows only his own side of the case, knows little of that.” – John Stuart Mill [H/t Climate Etc.]

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Number of the Week: 20%

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THIS WEEK:

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

New Low? Some reporters have attempted to link the outbreak of Ebola, a viral hemorrhagic fever, with global warming/climate change. Normally, these assertions are not worth discussing. But, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* hit a new low. Its editorial writers proclaimed that scientists who challenge the claim that carbon dioxide emissions are the principal cause of global warming are similar to those native Africans who claim that Ebola cannot be caused by a virus they cannot see. The editorial fails to distinguish that the position of the former group is based on science, while the position of the latter group is based on the lack of scientific knowledge – superstition.

Those who challenge the scientific claims in the Summary for Policymakers in the Fifth Assessment Report (AR-5, 2013) of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other reports that dutifully mimic them, do so by asserting the physical scientific basis for these claims are far from compelling. Further, climate models on which the reports heavily rely are failing. The models should not be used for policy decisions. For the *Times-Dispatch* to equate the science of one group with the superstition of another group borders on obscene.

According to the US Centers for Disease control, Ebola is a virulent hemorrhagic fever that can be transferred directly from human-to-human or from human-to-instrument-to-human through body fluids, a vector is not needed, once humans are infected. The animal host of the virus is not known, but bats are suspected. Assuming outbreaks of hemorrhagic fever are caused by global warming/climate change is pure speculation.

For example, yellow fever is a less virulent hemorrhagic fever, yet dangerous to humans. In 1793, long before 19th and 20th century warming, the US city of Philadelphia suffered a severe yellow fever epidemic which killed, perhaps, 5,000, 10 percent of its inhabitants, and many more fled the city. The suspected cause was fever in refugees from what is now Haiti, in the Caribbean. See links under Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal,

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/about.html> and
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/spb/mnpages/dispages/vhf.htm>

Model Issues: The July 12 TWTW carried an interesting article by Robert Caprara, who spent 10 years building large-scale environmental computer models and was a consultant to the EPA. Mr. Caprara asserted that any model can be tweaked to yield a desired result, which he did for his EPA client.

The article resulted in several follow-up letters of interest. Robert Foxen, who states he is a former chairman of an EPA task force deciding construction grant funding, agrees with Mr.

Caprara, sometimes models are manipulated to produce desired outcomes. Mr. Foxen asserts that *“if the model cannot be verified, then it wouldn't be suitable for making policy decisions, and it would be necessary to further revise the model to assure it can predict future conditions.”* He also asserts that the coefficients and assumptions in the climate models that fail to produce accurate predictions need to be adjusted, then verified, before they are suitable for policy conditions. *The climate modelers are saying: "Don't confuse me with the facts."* These letters indicate that the EPA knows that it is producing deficient science to justify its policies.

Charles Battig cleverly brings up what he calls the Pygmalion syndrome where some modelers fall in love with their model, even if it is in error. Having begun his professional career designing mathematical models, this author will attest that the sirens' song is extremely strong and it is very difficult to abandon a beautiful, but flawed, model of one's creation. See Articles # 1 and #2.

Terms: Matt Briggs has an interesting post on his web site regarding language being use to describe the products of the climate models estimates about the future. No matter what term is used; forecasts, scenarios, or projections; the failure to make good estimates is still failure. See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Portugal: Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt compare actual data with the claims of two Portuguese academics who were review editors for the Physical Science section of AR-5, The German scientists found that the claims for the impacts of global warming/climate change were not supported by actual data. They reveal that 140-year measurements from two locations in Portugal shows a relationship between temperatures and solar influences, particularly in the winter, as well as a relationship between temperatures and the North-Atlantic Oscillation index.

Also, sediment core data and other data show that the temperatures were warmer in the Medieval Warm Period (MWP) than today. They assert the MWP coincides with a phase of high solar activity. These and other studies they discuss show that climate is constantly changing, a fact that is glossed over by the IPCC and its mimics. Whether or not what applies for the area around Portugal applies for the rest of the world is an issue that needs further research before drastic policies are implemented. See links under Science: Is the Sun Rising? and Challenging the Orthodoxy.

A New Hot (Cold) Spot? If the Earth's surface is warming appreciably, whatever the cause, based on theory there should be an amplified warming trend centered over the tropics at about 10 km (33,000 feet). Such a warming trend was erroneously called the distinct human fingerprint. As discussed in the July 12 TWTW, writing in the otherwise alarmist "State of the Climate in 2013" John Christy calculates that the warming trend between 20° S and 20° N is +0.069 °C per decade, based on both radiosondes (weather balloons) and satellites (starting in 1979). This is hardly cause for alarm, and a pronounced hot spot is not found.

Now, the Climate Establishment is coming up with a new human fingerprint – stratospheric cooling. To date, the science behind the claim that human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) would cause stratosphere cooling is less than adequate. Arguments include that the stratosphere is more sensitive to increased CO₂ and less disturbed by natural variability of water vapor. According to this logic, a better measurement of human-caused warming is cooling? Further, it was amplification of warming caused by increased atmospheric water vapor that was the justification for high-end warming claims. It appears the Climate Establishment is living in interesting (desperate) times. See link under Measurement Issues.

Aerosols Again? A new study used satellite measurements of aerosol levels [tiny droplets or small particles] in the atmosphere from 2006 to 2011. The thinking is aerosol levels alter the amount of cloud cover and change the properties of clouds. *The researchers found each effect to be of similar magnitude -- that is, changing the amount of the clouds and changing their internal properties are both equally important in their contribution to cooling our planet. Moreover, they found that the total impact from the influence of aerosols on this type of cloud is almost double that estimated in the latest report of the IPCC.*

There are several issues here. Assuming the paper holds up to further review, the certainty expressed by the IPCC in the Summary for Policymakers becomes far less certain. The models need to be changed. The time frame of the study is a period of a no-warming trend. How do the aerosol levels in this period compare with aerosol levels during the warming period? It is possible that this question cannot be answered. See link under Model Issues.

Funding Green: The August 2 TWTW, briefly discussed a minority staff report by the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works revealing an interlocking network of foundations and charities that are intensely involved in expanding government powers and limiting energy use in the US. The discussion omitted several disturbing findings in the report.

Public charities attempt to provide the maximum amount of control to their donors through fiscal sponsorships, which are a legally suspect innovation unique to the left, whereby the charity essentially sells its nonprofit status to a group for a fee. [Boldface added]

Also: *Under President Obama, EPA has given more than \$27 million in taxpayer-funded grants to major environmental groups.*

See link under Funding Issues.

Additions and Corrections: Reader Jim Cooper asked why the West Antarctic ice sheet is slowly melting (adding to sea level rise) even as Antarctica is cooling. The answers are at least two-fold. One, the earth is warmer than it was during the last ice age and the oceans transport this heat under the ice sheet; and, two, the land under the west Antarctic ice sheet is tectonically active. For example, <http://www.volcanodiscovery.com/antarctica.html>

The August 2 TWTW pointed out that US National Health Statistics attributed twice the number of deaths due to cold than due to heat. The omitted link for that report is under Changing Weather.

Reader Anton Garrett correctly pointed out that TWTW erred in stating tanks were used in the first day of the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916. Instead, tanks were first used in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, which was the third and final general offensive during the Battle of the Somme mounted by the British, and supported by Canadian and New Zealand Divisions. The offensive started on September 15, 1916. It failed to achieve the breakthrough British General Haig desired. Mr. Garrett also correctly points out that there is no general consensus among military historians about what should have been done. As always, TWTW appreciates additions and corrections from its readers.

Number of the Week – 20%. The article by Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt reminded TWTW that the European Union committed at least 20% of its 2014 to 2020 budget to “fight”

climate change. The estimated budget for the period is about 960 billion euros. At least during WW I, the countries could identify their enemy. Today, it is not clear what the enemy is – what is the principle cause of climate change? See link under Funding Issues and

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/139831.pdf

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ARTICLES:

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

1. Computer Modeling and the Objectivity of the Process

By Robert Foxen, Former Chairman, EPA Task Force, WSJ, Jul 20, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/computer-modeling-and-the-objectivity-of-the-process-letters-to-the-editor-1405884034>

Unless climate models are verified with actual data, there is no assurance that expenditures to reduce CO2 emissions would result in any environmental benefit.

2. When Love of a Model Transcends the Facts

Pygmalion syndrome: Some modelers succumb to falling in love with their model, even if it proves to be in error.

By Charles Battig, VA-SEEE, WSJ, Aug 7, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/when-love-of-a-model-transcends-the-facts-letters-to-the-editor-1407439946>

3. Notable & Quotable: Climate Change Unreason

Policies invoked in its name are grossly immoral.

From an essay by Former British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, WSJ, Aug 3, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/notable-quotable-climate-change-unreason-1407097679?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj

4. Pushing Back Against Obama's War on Coal

A dozen states filed suit on Friday to stop an ideological EPA campaign that will damage the U.S. economy.

By Mike Kelly, WSJ, Aug 3, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/mike-kelly-pushing-back-against-obamas-war-on-coal-1407098882?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

A 3,000-Year Record of Solar Activity

By Staff Writers, CO2 Science, Aug 6, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/N32/C1.php>

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Is It The Sun?

By Jack Dini, Canada Free Press, Aug 6, 2014

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/65111>

Climategate Continued

WG2 Misleads on Undernourishment Trend

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Aug 7, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/08/07/wg2-misleads-on-undernourishment-trend/#more-19456>

“Why didn’t IPCC clearly report the long-term decline in undernourishment during a period of temperature increase? This is information that is relevant to policy-makers.”

[SEPP Comment: *FAO is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN.*]

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Danish Professor Sacked For Highlighting Dangers Of Wind Turbine Noise

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Aug 6, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/08/06/danish-professor-sacked-for-highlighting-dangers-of-wind-turbine-noise/>

Fear of a serious factual discussion: Climate alarmists pressure BBC to censorship of the public climate debate

By Fritz Vahrenholt and Sebastian Lüning, Translated P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Aug 8, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/08/08/german-scientists-aghast-at-bbc-censorship-fear-of-a-serious-factual-discussion-an-egregious-step/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy – IPCC-9

Skeptics Gather in Las Vegas

By Steve Fisor, Coal Age, Jul 17, 2014 [H/t Taylor Smith]

http://www.coalage.com/departments/from-the-editor/3745-skeptics-gather-in-las-vegas.html#.U9_iQPldV-5

Challenging the Orthodoxy

CO2 data might fit the IPCC hypothesis, but it doesn’t fit reality

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Aug 5, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/05/co2-data-might-fit-the-ipcc-hypothesis-but-it-doesnt-fit-reality/>

Surprising facts about climate change in Portugal: Why the climate catastrophe is not happening

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt, WUWT, Aug 5, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/05/surprising-facts-about-climate-change-in-portugal-why-the-climate-catastrophe-is-not-happening/>

There Is No Difference Between A Forecast, A Scenario, or A Projection

By Matt Briggs, His Blog, Aug 7, 2014 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://wmbriggs.com/blog/?p=13252>

New Study Sees Atlantic Warming behind a Host of Recent Climate Shifts

By Andrew Revkin, NYT, Aug 3, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/08/03/new-study-sees-atlantic-warming-behind-a-host-of-recent-climate-shifts/?_php=true&_type=blogs&partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=0

[SEPP Comment: *Quote from Carl Wunsch: “Just because it was published in Nature or Science doesn’t mean it’s wrong.”*]

The central climate fallacy is that the unknowns are known

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Aug 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/03/the-central-climate-fallacy-is-that-the-unknowns-are-known/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

10 reasons to be hopeful that we will overcome climate change

From action in China and the US to falling solar costs and rising electric car sales, there is cause to be hopeful

By Karl Mathiesen, Guardian, UK, Jul 30, 2014

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jul/30/reasons-hopeful-overcome-climate-change-solar>

Shattering Myths to Help the Climate

By Robert Frank, NYT, Aug 2, 2014 [H/t Tom Hayward]

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/03/upshot/shattering-myths-to-help-the-climate.html?emc=edit_th_20140803&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=16167125

[SEPP Comment: Shattering old myths by creating new myths?]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

'Hoodwinking the Nation' on climate issues

By Charles Battig, M.D. VA-Scientists and Engineers for Energy and Environment, WUWT, Aug 7, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/07/hoodwinking-the-nation-on-climate-issues/>

Global Warming Pause Puts 'Crisis' In Perspective

By James Taylor, Forbes, Aug 7, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2014/08/07/global-warming-pause-puts-crisis-in-perspective/>

Some Climate Change Survey Questions I'd Like to See

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Aug 4, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/08/some-climate-change-survey-questions-id-like-to-see/>

[SEPP Comment: Many polls have little value for reasons Spencer briefly describes. His first question is rich: Do you deny that climate has always changed, even without the help of humans?]

The Greatest Climate Myths of All – Part 3: The Global Average Chimera

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Aug 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/04/the-greatest-climate-myths-of-all-part-3-the-global-average-chimera/>

New paper finds another non-hockey-stick in Sweden & Finland; temperatures in Medieval & Roman Warm Periods ~ same as today

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Aug 5, 2014

http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/08/new-paper-finds-another-non-hockey_5.html

Link to paper: Testing long-term summer temperature reconstruction based on maximum density chronologies obtained by reanalysis of tree-ring data sets from northernmost Sweden and Finland

By V. V. Matkovsky and S. Helama, Climate of the Past, Aug 2014

<http://www.clim-past.net/10/1473/2014/cp-10-1473-2014.html>

Somebody in psychology finally ‘gets it’ about Stephan Lewandowsky and John Cook and their ‘smear science’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Aug 6, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/06/somebody-in-psychology-finally-gets-it-about-stephan-lewandowsky-and-john-cook-and-their-smear-science/>

The End of Academic Debate: A Climate of Totalitarianism

By Andrew Follett, Townhall Aug 8, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://townhall.com/columnists/andrewfollett/2014/08/08/the-end-of-academic-debate-a-climate-of-totalitarianism-n1875042/page/full>

Social Benefits of Carbon

International Team Of Scientists Refute Alarmist Desertification Projections...Sahel Precipitation Rising, Vegetation Spreading!

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

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/08/07/international-team-of-scientists-refute-alarmist-desertification-projections-sahel-precipitation-rising-vegetation-spreading/>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

BASIC nations vow to take united stand against rich nations over climate change negotiations

By Vishwa Mohan, The Times of India, Aug 8, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/BASIC-nations-vow-to-take-united-stand-against-rich-nations-over-climate-change-negotiations/articleshow/39868730.cms>

Seeking a Common Ground

“Why has there been no global warming for the past decade?”

Colloquia by William Happer, Princeton University, at University of North Carolina September 8, 215 Phillips Hall, 4pm

<http://physics.unc.edu/seminars/colloquia/>

Engagement vs communication vs PR vs propaganda

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Aug 8, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/08/08/engagement-vs-communication-vs-pr-vs-propaganda/#more-16532>

Is the road to scientific hell paved with good moral intentions?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Aug 4, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/08/04/is-the-road-to-scientific-hell-paved-with-good-moral-intentions/>

Importance of intellectual and political diversity in science

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Aug 6, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/08/06/importance-of-intellectual-and-political-diversity-in-science/>

Introducing the WUWT CO2 Reference Page

By Just The Facts, WUWT, Aug 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/02/introducing-the-wuwt-co2-reference-page/>

The record of recent Man-made CO2 emissions: 1965 -2013

By Ed Hoskins, WUWT, Aug 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/03/the-record-of-recent-man-made-co2-emissions-1965-2013/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Simulations of Mediterranean and Northern Africa Precipitation

Reference: Perez-Sanz, A., Li, G., Gonzalez-Samperiz, P. and Harrison, S.P. 2014. Evaluation of modern and mid-Holocene seasonal precipitation of the Mediterranean and northern Africa in the CMIP5 simulations. *Climate of the Past* 10: 551-568.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/aug/5aug2014a2.html>

Can Earth's Two Hemispheres Get Their Climatic Act Together?

Reference: Neukom, R., Gergis, J., Karoly, D.J., Wanner, H., Curran, M., Elbert, J., Gonzalez-Rouco, F., Linsley, B.K., Moy, A.D., Mundo, I., Raible, C.C., Steig, E.J., van Ommen, T., Vance, T., Villalba, R., Zinke, J. and Frank, D. 2014. Inter-hemispheric temperature variability over the past millennium. *Nature Climate Change* 4: 362-367.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/aug/5aug2014a4.html>

[SEPP Comment: Found a Little Ice Age in the Southern Hemisphere data, but not a Medieval Warm Period. Suggests that models overstate the external [CO2] forcing relative to internal climate variability.]

Millennial-Scale Climate Variability During the Holocene

Reference: Khider, D., Jackson, C.S. and Stott, L.D. 2014. Assessing millennial-scale variability during the Holocene: A perspective from the western tropical Pacific. *Paleoceanography* 29: 10.1002/2013PA002534.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/aug/6aug2014a1.html>

“...it appears that the atmosphere's CO2 concentration varied but little until the rapid rise of the last century, so as to make it impossible for CO2 fluctuations to have had anything at all to do with prior warming or cooling events of the Holocene, which implies that something other than the historical rise in the air's CO2 content has likely been responsible for the most recent and concurrent warming of the globe, since such has had to have been the case in similar century-scale warmings of the past.”

A Real-Life Non-Calcifying Anthozoan-Symbiodinium Symbiosis

Reference: Jarrold, M.D., Calosi, P., Verberk, W.C.E.P., Rastrick, S.P.S., Atfield, A. and Spicer, J.I. 2013. Physiological plasticity preserves the metabolic relationship of the intertidal non-calcifying anthozoan-Symbiodinium symbiosis under ocean acidification. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* 449: 200-206.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/aug/6aug2014a2.html>

[SEPP Comment: Species exhibiting a plasticity needed to adapt to changing environments.]

Models v. Observations

And this excuse makes 30. Dueling press releases on ‘the pause’, blaming Pacific Trade Winds on ‘Atlantic warming’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Aug 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/03/and-this-excuse-makes-30-dueling-press-releases-on-pacific-trade-winds-and-the-pause-one-blames-global-warming-the-other-doesnt/>

El Niño is just not paying attention to climate models – looks like a bust

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Aug 7, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/07/el-nino-is-just-not-paying-attention-to-climate-models-looks-like-a-bust/>

Model Issues

Study of aerosols stands to improve climate models

By Staff Writer, Science Daily, Aug 6, 2014

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/08/140806024748.htm?utm_source=twitterfeed

Link to paper: Satellite-based estimate of global aerosol–cloud radiative forcing by marine warm clouds

By Yi-Chun Chen, et al. Nature Geoscience, Aug 3, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo2214.html>

Measurement Issues

What stratospheric hotspot?

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Aug 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/04/what-stratospheric-hotspot/>

Changing Weather

Deaths Attributed to Heat, Cold, and Other Weather Events in the United States, 2006–2010

By Jeffrey Berko, et al, National Health Statistics Reports, Jul 30, 2014

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr076.pdf>

Any more extreme weather, and we're back to the LIA

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Aug 7, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/07/any-more-extreme-weather-and-were-back-to-the-lia/>

Officials predict mild Atlantic hurricane season

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Aug 8, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/214727-officials-predict-mild-atlantic-hurricane-season>

[SEPP Comment: Increased its calculated probability of a mild season.]

Leaked Memo Gives Away Dems' 'Extreme Weather' Talking Points

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Aug 1, 2014 [H/t William Readdy]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/08/01/leaked-memo-gives-away-dems-extreme-weather-talking-points/>

New research links tornado strength, frequency to climate change

By Staff Writers, Tallahassee FL (SPX), Aug 07, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/New_research_links_tornado_strength_frequency_to_climate_change_999.html

[SEPP Comment: How much of this claimed trend is the result of better instrumentation that measures tornados that could have not been measured in the past?]

Changing Climate

Climate Change Not so Global

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Aug 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/04/climate-change-not-so-global/>

Link to paper: The early rise and late demise of New Zealand's last glacial maximum

By Rother et al. PNAS, Jul 28, 2014

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/07/23/1401547111.abstract?sid=01724ef9-c5d5-4e97-be60-f310638b65ce>

Receding Swiss glaciers inconveniently reveal 4000 year old forests – and make it clear that glacier retreat is nothing new

By Larry Bell, WUWT, Aug 8, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/08/receding-swiss-glaciers-inconveniently-reveal-4000-year-old-forests-and-make-it-clear-that-glacier-retreat-is-nothing-new/>

Changing Seas

Ancient shellfish remains rewrite 10,000-year history of El Niño cycles

By Hannah Hickey, Univ. of Washington, Aug 8, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.washington.edu/news/2014/08/08/ancient-shellfish-remains-rewrite-10000-year-history-of-el-nino-cycles/>

Link to paper: Holocene history of ENSO variance and asymmetry in the eastern tropical Pacific

By Matthieu Carré et al. Science, Aug 7, 2014

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2014/08/06/science.1252220>

Role of Atlantic warming(?) in recent climate shifts

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Aug 5, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/08/05/role-of-atlantic-warming-in-recent-climate-shifts/#more-16515>
[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Remember The “Very Early Warning Of Next El Niño” Paper By Ludescher? “False-Alarm Rates Below 0.1”!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Aug 2, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/08/02/remember-the-very-early-warning-of-next-el-nino%EF%BB%BF-paper-by-ludescher-false-alarm-rates-below-0-1/>

Coral atolls are safe

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Aug 2, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/8/2/coral-atolls-are-safe.html>

[SEPP Comment: Islands growing faster than sea level rise?]

Ocean's most oxygen-deprived zones to shrink under climate change

By Hannah Hickey, Univ of Washington, Aug 7, 2014 [H/t Climate Change Weekly]

<http://www.washington.edu/news/2014/08/07/oceans-most-oxygen-deprived-zones-to-shrink-under-climate-change/>

[SEPP Comment: Unable to find link to study. Doubtful if the bureaucrats calculating the social cost of carbon will include it.]

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Predictions of Arctic summer ice melt come with lots of uncertainty

By Yereth Rosen, Alaska Dispatch News, Aug 1, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.adn.com/article/20140801/predictions-arctic-summer-ice-melt-come-lots-uncertainty>
[SEPP Comment: As do predictions of global warming.]

Analysis Of Antarctic Peninsula Temperature Trends Shows it Runs Both Hot and Cold

By Paul Homewood, WUWT, Aug 6, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/06/analysis-of-antarctic-peninsula-temperature-trends-shows-it-runs-both-hot-and-cold/>

Changing Earth

Study: Large volcanic eruptions cause drought in eastern China

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Aug 5, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/05/study-large-volcanic-eruptions-cause-drought-in-eastern-china/>

Certain Arctic lakes store more greenhouse gases than they release

By Staff Writers, Arlington VI (SPX), Aug 05, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Certain_Arctic_lakes_store_more_greenhouse_gases_than_the_y_release_999.html

Burrowing animals may have been key to stabilizing Earth's oxygen

By Staff Writers, Odense, Denmark (SPX), Aug 07, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Burrowing_animals_may_have_been_key_to_stabilizing_Earths_oxygen_999.html

New NASA Research Shows Giant Asteroids Battered Early Earth

By Staff Writers, Moffet Field CA (NASA), Aug 01, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/New_NASA_Research_Shows_Giant_Asteroids_Battered_Early_Earth_999.html

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

More Crop for the Drop

By Henry Miller, Project Syndicate, Aug 7, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/henry-i--miller-champions-the-use-of-genetic-engineering-to-mitigate-the-impact-of-droughts>

The Ignorance of Climate Alarmism

By Doug L. Hoffman, The Resilient Earth, Aug 6, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/ignorance-climate-alarmism>

[SEPP Comment: Secretary of State John Kerry demonstrating why he earned the 2014 SEPP's April Fools Award.]

Kerry pushes 'climate-smart agriculture'

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Aug 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/214276-kerry-pushes-for-climate-smart-agriculture-with-africa>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above]

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Mercury in the global ocean

By Staff Writers, Woods Hole MA (SPX), Aug 07, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Mercury_in_the_global_ocean_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Perhaps the conclusion that: "It likely means some fish also contain at least three times more mercury than 150 years ago, but it could be more" could be tested by comparing samples flesh taken today with samples stored in the Smithsonian.]

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

Global climate pact won't keep warming below target, study says

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Aug 6, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/214461-global-climate-pact-wont-keep-warming-below-target-study-says>

[SEPP Comment: The models are failing, our knowledge of the influence of CO2 on temperatures is poor, but we can set policy for temperatures 40 years from now?]

Network Coverage of 'Extreme Weather' Up Nearly 1,000 Percent

Ten years ago ABC, CBS and NBC barely used the phrase, now they go to extremes despite scientific disagreement.

By Sean Long, MRC Business and Media Institute, Jul 15, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.mrc.org/bias-numbers/network-coverage-extreme-weather-nearly-1000-percent>

Yong wrong

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Aug 5, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/8/5/yong-wrong.html>

1980s Dire Warnings Of Acid Rain / Forest Die-Off Prove To Be Pure Fallacy From Hysterical Scientists

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Aug 5, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/08/05/1980s-dire-warnings-of-acid-rain-forest-die-off-prove-to-be-pure-fallacy-from-hysterical-scientists-a/>

[SEPP Comment: All rain is acidic. But that did not stop people from "doing science" by testing the rain with litmus paper that cannot measure pH, but only indicate if the rain is alkaline or acidic.]

120 years of climate scares

By Thomas Lifson, American Thinker, Aug 4, 2014

http://americanthinker.com/blog/2014/08/120_years_of_climate_scares.html

Dodgy new clarification of global polar bear population estimate (yes, another)

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

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/08/05/dodgy-new-clarification-of-global-polar-bear-population-estimate-yes-another/#more-5639>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

WH: Climate change fuels intense fire seasons

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Aug 5, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/214362-wh-evidence-is-strong-climate-change-fuels-intense-fire-seasons>

Link to video: It Only Takes Three Minutes to See Why We Must Act on Climate Change

http://www.whitehouse.gov/share/it-only-takes-three-minutes-see-why-we-must-act-climate-change?utm_source=email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=email359-text1&utm_campaign=climate&utm_expid=24505866-36.ZeB9DFOuRwSSjVie-9tsqQ.0

[SEPP Comment: President's science adviser John Holdren, again. See link under Environmental Industry.]

A few PR Giants won't help "deniers of climate change" (but 70% of PR giants will)

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Aug 5, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/08/a-few-pr-giants-wont-help-deniers-of-climate-change-but-70-of-pr-giants-will/#more-37535>

[SEPP Comment: Exposing another contrived claim.]

Climate disagreements: do PR firms matter?

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Aug 5, 2014

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/08/climate-disagreements-do-pr-firms-matter.html#more>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Today's Climate Embarrassment

By Steve Hayward, Aug 5, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/08/todays-climate-embarrassment-7.php>

[SEPP Comment: More on the above. Examples of ads that have not convinced the world we must act on climate change now!]

Scientists warn time to stop drilling in the dark

By Staff Writers, Vancouver, Canada (SPX), Aug 05, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Scientists_warn_time_to_stop_drilling_in_the_dark_999.html

[SEPP Comment: We cannot produce any evidence to substantiate these "threats", but they must be significant.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Alexander Zaitchik Of Media Matters Completely Botches Story, Gets Every Fact Wrong

From Die kalte Sonne, Translated by P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Aug 3, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/08/03/alexander-zaitchik-of-media-matters-completely-botches-story-gets-every-fact-wrong/>

Editorial: Ebola in America

Editorial, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Aug 5, 2014

http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/our-opinion/editorial-ebola-in-america/article_25e933c4-ed74-583d-aa1d-67d91afdd7df.html

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children.

EPA chief: Teach climate change in schools

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Aug 8, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/214743-epa-chief-says-climate-change-should-be-taught-in-school>

[SEPP Comment: Is the EPA capable of producing a scientifically accurate education program?]

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Enhanced international cooperation needed in Antarctica

By Staff Writers, Melbourne, Australia (SPX) Aug 07, 2014

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Enhanced international cooperation needed in Antarctica 999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Enhanced_international_cooperation_needed_in_Antarctica_999.html)

Geoscience Day on Capitol Hill – Congressional Visit Day (CVD)

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) Policy Program, Sep 17 & 18 [H/t Joe D'Aleo]

<http://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/policy/get-involved/participate-in-a-congressional-visits-day/geoscience-day-on-capitol-hill/>

[SEPP Comment: Given the quality of the latest report, “State of the Climate in 2013”, one can speculate on the accuracy in this lobbying effort.]

Risky Business: The Best Global Warming Alarmism Money Can Buy

By Paul Chesser, NL&PC, Aug 5, 2014 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2014/08/01/risky-business-alarmist-agenda-cloaked-scholarly-non-partisan-research>

[SEPP Comment: The report does not meet minimal standards required by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for solicitation of funds from the public.]

White House report understates impact of climate change

By Bob Ward, The Hill, Aug 7, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/energy-environment/214521-white-house-report-understates-impact-of-climate-change>

[SEPP Comment: Cites the highly questionable Risky Business report and the National Climate Assessment. See link immediately above.]

Questioning European Green

Protesting too much

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Aug 8, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/8/8/protesting-too-much.html>

[SEPP Comment: Exposing the UK National Trust for what it is. It described itself as the becoming the new green army.]

Renewable Energy Expert Fritz Vahrenholt Calls Germany’s Feed-In Act Obsolete...”On The Brink Of Failure”

The EEG feed-in subsidy is an obsolete model

By Fritz Vahrenholt, Translated P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Aug 4, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/08/04/renewable-energy-expert-fritz-vahrenholt-calls-germanys-feed-in-act-obsolete-on-the-brink-of-failure/>

Green plan causes air pollution, may kill thousands in the UK, thanks to dirty diesel

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Aug 4, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/08/green-plan-causes-air-pollution-kills-thousands-in-the-uk-thanks-to-dirty-diesel/#more-37027>

[SEPP Comment: Skeptical about the science behind many premature deaths claims. But, such articles should give regulators pause before they announce new health initiatives before careful and through research – doubtful.]

Kingfisher: Energy cost 'biggest household fear' in Europe

By Emma Simpson, BBC, Aug 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-28608574>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

'Green' Initiatives Cripple Capitalism

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Aug 6, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Climate-Change/2014/08/06/id/587147/>

[SEPP Comment: Prefer the term private enterprise to capitalism.]

The hidden persuaders of the environmental elite

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Aug 5, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/the-hidden-persuaders-of-the-environmental-elite/article/2551714?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%202008/06/14&utm_medium=email

Non-Green Jobs

One of the most remarkable energy success stories in US history: The amazing Marcellus shale gas boom

By Mark Perry, AEIdeas, Aug 6, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.aei-ideas.org/2014/08/one-of-the-most-remarkable-energy-success-stories-in-us-history-the-amazing-marcellus-shale-gas-boom/>

Funding Issues

REPORT: The Chain of Environmental Command

By Minority Staff, Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works, Jul 30, 2014

http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=53280dcb-9f2c-2e3a-7092-10cf6d8d08df&Region_id=&Issue_id=

Europe Devotes 20 Percent of Budget to Climate Spending

By Staff Writer, Environment News Service, Nov 20, 2013 [H/t WUWT]

<http://ens-newswire.com/2013/11/20/europe-devotes-20-percent-of-budget-to-climate-spending/>

Priorities and goals for aid

Choosing what to put in place of the Millennium Development Goals

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Aug 2, 2014

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/priorities-and-goals-for-aid.aspx>

Your Pocket, Their Money

By Michael Kile, Quadrant, Aug 4, 2014

<https://quadrant.org.au/opinion/qed/2014/08/33608/>

The Political Games Continue

Sen. Murray tells Dems to push fiscal impacts of climate change

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Aug 1, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/214071-sen-murray-tells-dems-to-push-fiscal-impacts-of-climate-change>

Litigation Issues

Coal country sues EPA over climate rule

By Benjamin Goad, The Hill, Aug 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/214198-coal-country-sues-epa-over-climate-rule>

Greens to sue EPA over aircraft emissions

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Aug 5, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/214324-greens-to-sue-epa-over-aircraft-emissions>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Hansen Warns Against ‘Cap-and-Tax’ (Steyer and California, are you listening?)

By Robert Bradley Jr, Master Resource, Aug 4, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/08/hansen-vs-cap-and-tax/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

UK invites views on heavy energy users’ compensation eligibility

By Priyanka Shrestha, Energy Live News, Aug 1, 2014 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.energylivenews.com/2014/08/01/uk-invites-views-on-heavy-energy-users-compensation-eligibility/>

[SEPP Comment: Politicians and bureaucrats selecting which industries to support and which industries to abandon.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA’s plan on climate change fills a void as Congress does nothing

Editorial, Washington Post, Aug 3, 2014

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/epas-plan-on-climate-change-is-necessary-as-congress-does-nothing/2014/08/03/73f996e8-176b-11e4-85b6-c1451e622637_story.html

[SEPP Comment: As if the Constitution means nothing.]

EPA's Gina McCarthy broke the law by destroying official text messages and should resign

By Christopher Horner, Washington Examiner, Aug 5, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/epas-gina-mccarthy-broke-the-law-by-destroying-official-text-messages-and-should-resign/article/2551687?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2008/06/14&utm_medium=email

New EPA Ozone Regulations Could Cost U.S. Economy \$3.4 Trillion

By News Staff, Science 2.0, Aug 3, 2014 [H/t ICECAP]

http://www.science20.com/news_articles/new_epa_ozone_regulations_could_cost_us_economy_34_trillion-141826

Energy Issues – Non-US

Obama announces \$12 billion investment in African energy sector

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Aug 8, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/obama-announces-12-billion-investment-in-african-energy-sector/article/2551715?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20-%2008/06/14&utm_medium=email

[SEPP Comment: Even unreliable electricity is better than no electricity.]

Energy Issues -- US

Study: Big Oil pays 11.7 percent tax rate

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Aug 1, 2014

<http://thehill.com/regulation/214101-study-big-oil-pays-117-percent-tax-rate>

Link to report: Effective Tax Rates of Oil and Gas Companies: Cashing in on Special Treatment

By Staff Writers, Taxpayers for CommonSense, July 2014

http://www.taxpayer.net/images/uploads/downloads/TCS_ETR_Report.pdf

[SEPP Comment: The statement “However, oil companies paid more than 46 percent in income taxes to foreign governments where they operate during this time period, according to the report” exposes the misleading headlines.]

US Crude Exports Hit 57-Year High

By Walter Russell Mead and Staff, American Interest, Aug 7, 2014

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/blog/2014/08/07/us-crude-exports-hit-57-year-high/>

[SEPP Comment: Oil exports are not significant when compared with imports. Exports 389,000 bbl/d in June, imports at 9,230,000 bbl/d. <http://www.moneynews.com/Markets/oil-imports-fuel-jet/2014/07/17/id/583318/>]

Washington’s Control of Energy

Coal Miners Union In Full Revolt After Supporting Obama In 2008

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Aug 2, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/08/02/coal-miners-union-in-full-revolt-after-supporting-obama-in-2008/>

Obama tries to impose his August agenda, but...

By Andrew Malcolm, IBD, Aug 5, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/politics-andrew-malcolm/080514-711798-obama-inaction-on-immigration-reform-midterms.htm>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Armed with new technology, oil drillers revisit Gulf of Mexico

By Swetha Gopinath and Sayantani Ghosh, Reuters, Aug 4, 2014 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/04/us-gulfmexico-analysis-idUSKBN0G41EU20140804>

Deep Water Fracking Next Frontier for Offshore Drilling

By David Wethe, Bloomberg, Aug 7, 2014 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-08-07/deep-water-fracking-next-frontier-for-offshore-drilling.html>

[SEPP Comment: “The technique is also widely condemned as a source of groundwater contamination.” – condemned without evidence!]

UPDATE 1-China finds shale gas challenging, halves 2020 output target

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Aug 7, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/08/07/china-shale-target-idUKL4N0QD1GL20140807>

[SEPP Comment: Not all shales are created equal.]

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Other Spills & Consequences

Dodgy new clarification of global polar bear population estimate (yes, another)

By Susan Crockford, Polar bear Science, Aug 5, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/08/05/dodgy-new-clarification-of-global-polar-bear-population-estimate-yes-another/#more-5639>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Destruction of America's Nuclear Industry

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Aug 5, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/08/05/destruction-of-americas-nuclear-industry/#respond>

Letter to the Editor

Wallace Manheimer, APS Physics, Jul 2014

<http://www.aps.org/units/fps/newsletters/201407/letters.cfm>

Green groups say EPA rules would weaken radiation standards

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Aug 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/regulation/214232-green-groups-say-epa-rules-would-weaken-radiation-standards>

[SEPP Comment: The proposed changed rules are still far too restrictive.]

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

Biomass burning kills 250,000 people a year

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Aug 2, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/08/biomass-burning-kills-250000-people-a-year/#more-37464>

Link to paper: Effects of biomass burning on climate, accounting for heat and moisture fluxes, black and brown carbon, and cloud absorption effects.

By Mark Z. Jacobson, Journal of Geophysical Research, Jul 21, 2014

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014JD021861/abstract;jsessionid=BF14E2EB10452AF9E96A6146F49DF18F.f02t01?systemMessage=Wiley+Online+Library+will+be+disrupted+9th+Aug+from+10->

[2+BST+for+essential+maintenance.+Pay+Per+View+will+be+unavailable+from+10-6+BST.](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014JD021861/abstract;jsessionid=BF14E2EB10452AF9E96A6146F49DF18F.f02t01?systemMessage=Wiley+Online+Library+will+be+disrupted+9th+Aug+from+10-2+BST+for+essential+maintenance.+Pay+Per+View+will+be+unavailable+from+10-6+BST.)

Carbon Schemes

Sequestration's Nightmare

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

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/08/08/sequestrations-nightmare/>

California Dreaming

California Water Management Fails Epicly

By Michael Reagan, ICECAP, Aug 8, 2014

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/californ/>

Oh Mann!

NRO's brief goes online

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Aug 5, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/8/5/nros-brief-goes-online.html>

[SEPP Comment: The litigation that Mr. Mann started.]

Environmental Industry

Environmentalists: Shrink Population to Shrink Carbon Footprint

By Celina Durgin, National Review Online, Aug 7, 2014

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/384770/environmentalists-shrink-population-shrink-carbon-footprint-celina-durgin>

[SEPP Comment: Consistent with the book the President's science adviser John Holdren co-wrote with Paul and Anne Ehrlich. http://www.amazon.com/Ecoscience-Population-Environment-Paul-Ehrlich/dp/0716700298/ref=sr_1_sc_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1407615353&sr=1-1-spell&keywords=John+holgren]

How Endangered Species Act litigation means big money for environmental groups

By Sean Higgins, Washington Examiner, Aug 4, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/how-endangered-species-act-litigation-means-big-money-for-environmental-groups/article/2551639?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%202008/05/14&utm_medium=email

Other Scientific News

\$248 Billion for Manufacture and Launch of 1,155 Satellites Over Next Decade

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Aug 01, 2014

http://www.spacemart.com/reports/248_Billion_for_Manufacture_and_Launch_of_1155_Satellites_Over_Next_Decade_999.html

Ebola And The Miracle Of Pharma

Editorial, IBD, Aug 5, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/080514-711982-ebola-and-the-miracle-of-private-sector-drug-innovation.htm>

How spiders spin silk

By Staff Writers, Uppsala, Sweden (SPX) Aug 06, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/How_spiders_spin_silk_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A benefit of carbon dioxide?]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Boeing and South African Airways to Fly Planes on Tobacco Fuel

By Eduard Gismatulin, Bloomberg, Aug 6, 2014

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-08-06/boeing-and-south-african-airways-to-fly-planes-on-tobacco-fuel.html>

[SEPP Comment: A new use for sot-weed?]

Can ants save Earth from global warming?

By Staff Writer, The Times of India, Aug 3, 2014

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/global-warming/Can-ants-save-Earth-from-global-warming/articleshow/39547238.cms>

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ARTICLES:

1. Computer Modeling and the Objectivity of the Process

By Robert Foxen, Former Chairman, EPA Task Force, WSJ, Jul 20, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/computer-modeling-and-the-objectivity-of-the-process-letters-to-the-editor-1405884034>

Unless climate models are verified with actual data, there is no assurance that expenditures to reduce CO2 emissions would result in any environmental benefit.

Regarding Robert J. Caprara's "Confessions of a Computer Modeler" (op-ed, July 9): As the former chairman of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency task force responsible for deciding on construction grant funding, I agree with Mr. Caprara's point that models are sometimes manipulated to produce desired outcomes.

Environmental modeling involves three basic steps. First, a theoretical model is developed. Next, the model is calibrated by comparing the theoretical model results with actual data and adjusting model coefficients to fit the data. Finally, the model is verified by comparing the results of the calibrated model with data under new conditions. If the model cannot be verified, then it wouldn't be suitable for making policy decisions, and it would be necessary to further revise the model to assure it can predict future conditions.

Theoretical climate models have predicted that global temperatures would rise as a result of increases in CO2 levels. However, contrary to the model predictions, actual global temperatures haven't risen significantly in the past 10-15 years despite continued increases in CO2 emissions. Therefore, the model coefficients and assumptions need to be adjusted to verify the model before it should be used to make major policy decisions. Claiming that the actual global temperature data of the past 10-15 years are anomalous, but that the model is right, manipulates the results to achieve predetermined outcomes. The climate modelers are saying: "Don't confuse me with the facts."

Unless climate models are verified with actual data, there is no assurance that expenditures to reduce CO2 emissions would result in any environmental benefit.

2. When Love of a Model Transcends the Facts

Pygmalion syndrome: Some modelers succumb to falling in love with their model, even if it proves to be in error.

By Charles Battig, VA-SEEE, WSJ, Aug 7, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/when-love-of-a-model-transcends-the-facts-letters-to-the-editor-1407439946>

The July 21 letters regarding computer modeling and the objectivity of the process illustrate a fundamental, if not human, problem. It is the Pygmalion syndrome. In the process of trying to replicate nature or some process therein, computer modelers spend many hours of close-quarter working with the model of their creation. Some modelers succumb to falling in love with their model, even if it proves to be in error.

For example, even the U.N.'s IPCC refers to its climate-model runs as "scenarios," not predictions. Twenty-plus years ago Prof. Chris Folland said, "The data doesn't matter. We're not basing our recommendations on the data. We're basing them on the climate models." This illustrates that allure of the model can blind one to reality.

3. Notable & Quotable: Climate Change Unreason

Policies invoked in its name are grossly immoral.

From an essay by Former British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, WSJ, Aug 3, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/notable-quotable-climate-change-unreason-1407097679?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj

Former British Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson, in an essay for Standpoint magazine in May adapted from a speech he gave to the Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment at the University of Bath:

Throughout the ages, something deep in man's psyche has made him receptive to apocalyptic warnings that the end of the world is nigh. And almost all of us, whether we like it or not, are imbued with feelings of guilt and a sense of sin. How much less uncomfortable it is, how much more convenient, to divert attention away from our individual sins and reasons to feel guilty, and to sublimate them in collective guilt and collective sin.

Why does this matter? It matters, and matters a great deal, on two quite separate grounds. The first is that it has gone a long way towards ushering in a new age of unreason. It is a cruel irony that, while it was science which, more than anything else, was able by its great achievements, to establish the age of reason, it is all too many climate scientists and their hangers-on who have become the high priests of a new age of unreason.

But what moves me most is that the policies invoked in its name are grossly immoral. . . .

[T]he greatest immorality of all concerns the masses in the developing world. It is excellent that, in so many parts of the developing world—the so-called emerging economies—economic growth is now firmly on the march, as they belatedly put in place the sort of economic policy framework that brought prosperity to the Western world. Inevitably, they already account for, and will increasingly account for, the lion's share of global carbon emissions.

But, despite their success, there are still hundreds of millions of people in these countries in dire poverty, suffering all the ills that this brings, in terms of malnutrition, preventable disease, and premature death. Asking these countries to abandon the cheapest available sources of energy is, at the very least, asking them to delay the conquest of malnutrition, to perpetuate the incidence of preventable disease, and to increase the numbers of premature deaths.

4. Pushing Back Against Obama's War on Coal

A dozen states filed suit on Friday to stop an ideological EPA campaign that will damage the U.S. economy.

By Mike Kelly, WSJ, Aug 3, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/mike-kelly-pushing-back-against-obamas-war-on-coal-1407098882?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj

A dozen states filed suit on Friday to stop the Environmental Protection Agency from enacting its "Clean Power Plan," new rules that will put many coal-fired power plants out of business. The filing came the same week the EPA held nation-wide public hearings about the plan—including in Pittsburgh, where thousands of coal workers turned out to register their unhappiness with the Obama administration's intentions.

Coal workers are upset because the White House-ordered regulatory scheme will badly damage the coal industry and cost Americans in higher electricity costs and lost jobs while doing little to fight climate change. It was good to see coal finally get a public hearing. The bad news is that President Obama and the EPA have already issued their guilty verdict and handed down the sentence.

Coal generates 40% of America's electricity—more than any other energy source. Its stable price and abundance insulates the U.S. economy from spikes in energy demand. Yet the EPA is proposing to destroy coal's benefits by imposing onerous emissions standards on all existing power plants, under the threat of crippling fines, which is certain to lead to plant closures.

The EPA's war on coal has troubling economic implications for every American and U.S. business. As the new regulations take effect, Americans could see their electric bills increase annually by more than 10%—\$150 for the average consumer—by the end of the decade, according to the American Action Forum.

By keeping energy rates reliably low, coal helps give U.S. manufacturing its global edge against foreign competitors. On June 2 the National Association of Manufacturers warned that the EPA rule "could single-handedly eliminate this competitive advantage by removing reliable and abundant sources of energy from our nation's energy mix."

Coal also provides, directly and indirectly, hundreds of thousands of jobs across the country. In my state of Pennsylvania, more than 40,000 jobs are tied to coal production, including thousands of manufacturing jobs in factories powered by coal. Federal regulations have already forced two plants in my district to close over the past two years. The National Mining Association estimates that more than 300 plants will retire nationwide due to EPA rules over the next six years. When mines and plants shut down, manufacturing costs rise and employment plummets.

According to the Heritage Foundation, the result of the EPA's proposed rule "will be fewer jobs and less income for American families." A study by the foundation released in June predicts that the EPA's anti-coal crusade could terminate 600,000 American jobs by 2023 while dampening economic growth by more than \$2 trillion.

What is the point of all this pain? China and India, not the United States, are the biggest emitters of carbon dioxide from coal. China alone has increased coal production by more than 24% since 2005, according to the Energy Information Administration, while the U.S. power sector's carbon emissions have declined by 15%. According to the National Mining Association, a coal plant built today emits 90% fewer emissions than a plant built in the 1970s. That's not clean enough for the EPA.

The New Republic puts it this way: "The goal of these regulations is not to stop global warming, but to prove to the international community that the U.S. is ready to pay additional costs to combat climate change." In other words, the Obama administration expects the American people to sacrifice for the sake of mere symbolism.

I recently introduced the Coal Country Protection Act (H.R. 4808) in the House of Representatives, a companion Minority Leader Mitch McConnell's legislation in the Senate. This bipartisan bill—co-sponsored by West Virginia Democrat Nick Rahall, among others—would halt new EPA regulation on power plants until there is a guarantee that there will be no loss of American jobs, no drop in gross domestic product, no higher electricity rates and no interruption in energy delivery.

In January 2008 as a presidential candidate, Mr. Obama promised that "electricity rates would necessarily sky-rocket" under his policies and boasted that "if somebody wants to build a coal

plant, they can—it's just that [it] will bankrupt them." He has shown as president that he intends to make good on that promise by eradicating coal from American life.

He used his first-year political capital to try to pass a cap-and-trade plan, but that legislation failed even in the Democratic Senate. Now he is leading the charge again through regulatory fiat. The Clean Power Plan must be stopped—not just for coal country, but the whole country.

Mr. Kelly is a Republican congressman from Pennsylvania.

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