

The Week That Was: 2014-17-05 (May 17, 2014)
Brought to You by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)
The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Quote of the Week: *“It is dangerous to be right in matters on which the established authorities are wrong”* Voltaire [H/t Charles Battig]

Number of the Week: 49%

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*, Volumes 1, 2, and 3

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

SEPP’S APRIL FOOLS AWARD
THE JACKSON

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

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

THIS WEEK:

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

EPA: The ICECAP web site posted tough letter from New York attorney Francis Menton to EPA Administrator Regina McCarthy dated May 9, 2014. This letter discusses the basis for the proposed new source performance standards (NSPS) for carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions that power plants must meet to receive permits for operation. As proposed, the standards will eliminate the construction of any new coal-fired power plants. Both the EPA and the Department of Energy (DOE) have evaded the issue by claiming coal-fired power plants can use carbon capture and storage (CCS), which has not been proven to be commercially viable. On May 10, TWTW linked to announcement that the Swedish government-owned power company, Vattenfall, a major European generator of electricity has abandoned its extensive research on CCS, which it had been pursuing for more than 10 years. Vattenfall abandoned a large pilot plant in 2011.

In his May 9 letter, Menton attached a February 20 letter to the Office of Management and Budget on the deficiencies of the science being used to calculate the social costs of carbon (SCC). Menton’s comments on the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) as stated in the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) are of particular note.

In its discussion of the critical metric, equilibrium climate sensitivity, which is the response of the earth’s climate system to increased atmospheric CO2 and other greenhouse gases over multi-century time frame, the IPCC estimates the likely range for a doubling of CO2 is between 1.5°C to 4.5°C, which is the same as estimated 35 years ago in the Charney report to the US National Research Council. Menton brings up a footnote in the SPM in the discussion of climate

sensitivity. 16 No best estimate for equilibrium climate sensitivity can now be given because of a lack of agreement on values across assessed lines of evidence and studies. Footnote 16, on now page 16 of SPM for AR5.

Menton's discussion is particularly important for the current policies being considered to counter global warming/climate change.

*This footnote 16 literally means that as recently as late last year, given the scientific information available, the IPCC did not deem it possible to develop a credible "best estimate for equilibrium climate sensitivity." This statement is extremely relevant in that this climate sensitivity parameter is obviously the most important parameter to the entire SCC analysis. Mathematically speaking, what does not being able to provide a Best Estimate for the equilibrium climate sensitivity imply? **First, it means that IPCC is clear that it has not been able to develop a credible subjective probability density function for the equilibrium climate sensitivity parameter. Second, it means that the IPCC admits that it does not have a credible mean, mode or median value of the equilibrium climate sensitivity parameter. In the mathematics of Decision Theory, this situation is called Complete Ignorance Uncertainty.** [Boldface added]*

The term "Complete Ignorance Uncertainty" does not apply to the entire AR5, which includes a great deal of excellent work. However, the SPM, written by politicians and some scientists, is a political document expressing great certainty in the general work and the conclusions. That certainty is scientifically unjustified. Policies being instituted under the uncertain science expressed in the SPM, and subsequent documents such as the US National Climate Assessment by the US Global Change Research Program, are not scientifically justified. Also not justified are the US climate expenditures of \$22.5 Billion in fiscal year 2013, as reported by the White House, particularly the some \$19 Billion going to government agencies and industries for programs claimed to prevent global warming/climate change. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/report/WG1AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf and http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/legislative_reports/fcce-report-to-congress.pdf

NCA: Last week's TWTW contained a number of comments and links to comments on the third US National Climate Assessment (NCA) by the US Global Change Research Program. The report claims that climate change is occurring and impacting all states of the United States. This is true, no longer is much of the northern part of what is the US covered by thousands of feet of ice as it was during prior ice ages.

The NCA performs an all-too-frequent trick in Separating Human and Natural Influences on Climate (page 8: Overview and Report Findings). The report compares runs of the climate models with natural and human factors against observations with runs of climate models that include only natural factors against observations. Of course, the combined natural and human factors outperform the natural factors only because the modelers combine both natural and human factors in creating the models. The fallacious assumption in this procedure is that the models properly incorporate all natural factors. They do not. The failure of the models to forecast the pause in temperature rise, both on the earth's surface and in its atmosphere, and the fact that the models are greatly overestimating atmospheric temperature trends demonstrate that the models do not properly incorporate natural factors. The NCA report ignores these failures.

According to the White House report to Congress linked above, the US Global Change Research Program is spending about \$2.5 Billion per year. The NCA is its principal justification for existence. Would it be unreasonable to expect that such an expensive and important report contain no gross errors in logic? See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, particularly page 6 of John Christy's testimony to Congress, Challenging the Orthodoxy – NCA, and Defending the Orthodoxy.

Military Threat: A group of retired, senior military officers have formed the CNA Military Advisory Board and issued a report titled “National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change.” The report presents little that is new and is largely based on the findings in the NCA and the AR5 Summary for Policymakers. As such, the report suffers from the same difficulties in science and in logic. The article in the New York Times describing the report identified that the Board is “a leading government-funded military research organization.”

The report claims that global warming/climate change is threat multiplier and repeats the dire litany of impending disasters all-too-familiar in government-funded reports on global warming/climate change: Conflicts over food and water, rising sea levels, vulnerable coastal regions, catastrophic weather events, etc. It claims climate change is a “catalyst for conflict.” Apparently, the authors are unaware that through-out history cold periods brought on starvation, war, and pestilence.

Of course, the report emphasized expanding wind and solar power and biofuels. It did not discuss how biofuels are increasing world food prices, leading to instability. It ignored the shale oil and gas revolution and its importance of reducing US dependence on imported fuels, no thanks to the Administration. Further, it ignored how the Keystone pipeline, being blocked by the Administration, would bring oil from stable Canada, further reducing US dependence on imports from unstable regions.

The report did have a bit of unintentional humor. In the climate science section, David Titley (Rear Adm. USN Ret) wrote: “I tell people, this is cutting-edge 19th century science that we’re now refining,” He cited the work of Joseph Fourier, John Tyndall and Svante Arrhenius but did not bother to mention the Arrhenius thought that warming would be a good thing. See links under Expanding the Orthodoxy.

Sea Level Rise: As SEPP Chairman Fred Singer wrote in an article last July, the melting of the West Antarctic ice sheet is a factor in sea level rise. He estimated that under the current conditions the unstable ice sheet will be gone in about 7,000 years. New research indicates it may be sooner.

Unfortunately, the term “collapse” was used by the National Science Foundation, and repeated in the general press, evoking fear of human-caused global warming, which has nothing to do with it. In the time-frame used by geologists, the term “collapse” is appropriate. In the time-frame used by ordinary people, it is inappropriate and may lead to cynicism in the public.

New estimates, based on computer models created from 18 years of observations, are in the range of from 2 to 8 centuries to millennia. See Article # 1 and links under Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice.

Go Personal: The May 10, 2014 TWTW had several links announcing that noted Swedish meteorologist and modeler Lennart Bengtsson was joining Board of the Global Warming Policy

Foundation, a UK-based organizations, which includes many global warming skeptics. It was hoped such an action would help open-up dialogue between skeptics and the climate establishment – government funded entities that participate in the IPCC and similar reports.

This week, Bengtsson announced his resignation citing the level of personal verbal attacks reached the point that he feared for his safety and his ability to continue his research. Sadly, Bengtsson’s resignation reflects the intolerance to free and open inquiry by many in the orthodoxy.

On another note, Bengtsson stated that a paper he, and others wrote, on the significant disparity between models and observations was rejected by *Environmental Research Letters*, which is published by the Institute of Physics (IOP) in the UK. An article in *The Times* states that one reviewer wrote: “Actually it is harmful as it opens the door for oversimplified claims of ‘errors’ and worse from the climate sceptics media side.” *The Times* article prompted the IOP to issue a strange press release that the paper did not contribute to advance science and it contained errors. According to the sarcastic analysis by Steve McIntyre, the apparent error is that models should reflect observations, which is as science demands.

There are few papers published in journals that directly address the disparity between observations and models. For climate science to advance, this disparity must be addressed and, if necessary the models changed. Such a change may require a significant lowering of the estimates of the sensitivity of the climate system to increasing CO₂, jeopardizing the government funding of the entire apparatus.

On a side note, on May 15, 2013, *Environmental Research Letters* saw fit to publish the article by John Cook falsely claiming a **consensus** of human-caused global warming in the scientific literature.

On another note, Andrew Montford of Bishop Hill listed the members of the editorial board of the *Environmental Research Letters*. The editors include Peter Gleick who discredited himself by pretending to be a member of the Board of Directors of The Heartland Institute, obtaining sensitive financial information under false pretenses, and publishing it. See links under Climategate Continued, Suppressing Scientific Inquiry, and Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal – The Bengtsson Affair.

Artificial Constraints: Articles discussing natural climate variation, including temperature reports by US government agencies such as NOAA and NASA-GISS, frequently introduce artificial constraints on the data. Data records that go back only 30 or 40 years do not capture the natural variation of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation or the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation. Drought reports that do not go back to the 1930s are misleading as well. See Christy’s testimony under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Changing Cryosphere.]

Energy and Prosperity: Ross McKittrick and Elmira Aliakbari examined the relationship between energy use and prosperity. In developing countries, such as China, it is clear that increasing energy use creates prosperity. However, in developed countries many politicians are claiming that energy use can be limited without damaging prosperity. Such limits can be introduced by unreliable forms of electricity generation, such as solar or wind, or deliberately making electricity more expensive without clear health benefits, such as limiting CO₂ emissions.

The authors examined conditions in Canada and state:

Our examination of Canadian data leads us to conclude that energy use in Canada is not a mere by-product of prosperity, but a limiting factor in growth: real per-capita income is constrained by policies that restrict energy availability and/or increase energy costs, and growth in energy abundance leads to growth in GDP per capita. Thus, policies favouring the abundant availability of energy are important for sustaining strong economic growth, and policies that deliberately limit energy availability will likely have negative macroeconomic consequences.

See link under Energy Issues – Non-US, though the conclusions likely apply for the US as well.

Number of the Week: 49%. On May 14, the US Energy Information Administration released a report on world-wide energy consumption and production for 2012:
Consumption: China: 49% of the world’s coal production. US: 11%.
Production: China: 46%. US: 12%

Measured in tons, China consumed 4.67 times the amount of coal as the US. For some reason, the above mentioned threat analysis failed to discuss such disparities. See links under Return of King Coal.

#####

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. Sea Level Rise Surprise

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, July 31, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/article/2013/07/sea_level_rise_surprise.html

2. Exposing the EPA

Documents reveal a lawless attempt to block an Alaska mine project.

Editorial, WSJ, May 13, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303603904579491643733173318?mg=reno64-wsj>

3. Organic Farming Is Not Sustainable

More labor with lower yields is a luxury only rich populations can afford.

By Henry Miller, WSJ, May 15, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304431104579550002888434432?mg=reno64-wsj>

#####

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Flurry Of Scientists, Recent Peer-Reviewed Papers, Warning Of Approaching Little Ice Age

Will the solar doldrums of the coming decades lead to cooling? A look at the latest scientific publications

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt, Translated by P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, May 10, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/05/10/flurry-of-scientists-recent-peer-reviewed-papers-warning-of-approaching-little-ice-age/>

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Studies: Weaker solar activity means colder, and colder also means drier

By David Archibald, WUWT, May 14, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/14/studies-weaker-solar-activity-means-colder-and-colder-also-means-drier/>

Climategate Continued

IOP: [Institute of Physics, publisher of Environmental Research Letters] expecting consistency between models and observations is an error

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, May 16, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/05/16/iop-expecting-consistency-between-models-and-observations-is-an-error/#more-19225>

Link to press release: Statement from IOP Publishing on story in The Times

Press Release, IOP Publishing, May 16, 2014

<http://iopublishing.org/newsDetails/statement-from-iop-publishing-on-story-in-the-times>

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

University of Queensland threatens lawsuit over use of Cook's '97% consensus' data for a scientific rebuttal

By Guest Blogger, WUWT, May 15, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/15/university-of-queensland-threatens-lawsuit-over-use-of-cooks-97-consensus-data-for-a-scientific-rebuttal/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC

High-profile scientists rebut climate change threat

By Peter Westmore, News Weekly, Apr 26, 2014 [H/t Jim Lakely]

<http://www.newsweekly.com.au/article.php?id=56559>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

A Factual Look at the Relationship Between Climate and Weather

By John Christy, UAH, Testimony to Congress, Dec 11, 2013

<http://docs.house.gov/meetings/SY/SY18/20131211/101589/HHRG-113-SY18-Wstate-ChristyJ-20131211.pdf>

The Bullying of Bengtsson and the Coming Climate Disruption Hypocalypse

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, May 16, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/05/the-bullying-of-bengtsson-and-the-coming-climate-disruption-hypocalypse/>

Powerful letter to EPA in proposed regulations for stationary sources

By Francis Menton, ICECAP, May 9, 2014

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/powerful-letter-to-epa-in-proposed-regulations-for-stationary-sources/>

Report: Obama's 'social cost of carbon' estimates are 'worthless,' 'extremely dangerous'

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, **February 28, 2014** [Boldface added]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/02/28/report-obamas-social-cost-of-carbon-estimates-are-worthless-extremely-dangerous/>

Referenced letter by Francis Menton, Jr., on Watts Up With That

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/24/a-look-at-the-behind-the-scenes-legal-battle-with-the-epa-over-the-social-cost-of-carbon-and-looming-carbon-tax/>

Many Climate Reconstructions Incorrectly Attributed to Temperature Change.

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Dec 31, 2013

<http://drtimball.com/2013/many-climate-reconstructions-incorrectly-attributed-to-temperature-change/>

New paper finds clouds have a net negative-feedback cooling effect

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, May 9, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/05/new-paper-finds-clouds-have-net.html>

Link to paper: Evaluation of CMIP5 simulated clouds and TOA radiation budgets using NASA satellite observations

Erica K. Dolinar, et al., Climate Dynamics, May 2014

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs00382-014-2158-9>

Challenging the Orthodoxy – NCA

Skeptical Scientists Debunk White House Global Warming Report

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, May 16, 2014 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/16/skeptical-scientists-debunk-white-house-global-warming-report/>

Checking the NDC Report Against Real Data Reveals Major Discrepancies

By Don Easterbrook, ICECAP, May 14, 2014

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/checking-the-ndc-report-against-real-data-reveals-major-discrepancies1/>

Link to the full paper: Checking the NDC Report Against Real Data Reveals Major Discrepancies

By Don Easterbrook, Dept. of Geology, Western Washington University, No Date

http://redneckusa.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/dje_response_to_nca_report.pdf

Defending the Orthodoxy

Climate Change Impacts in the United States

U.S. National Climate Assessment

U.S. Global Change Research Program

file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/NCA3_Climate_Change_Impacts_in_the_United%20States_HighRes.pdf

Ideology in the Service of Global Warming is No Vice

Both the right and left are biased in their reading of the science, and that's OK.

By Shikha Dalmia, Reason, May 13, 2014

<http://reason.com/archives/2014/05/13/ideology-in-the-service-of-global-warmin>

[SEPP Comment: Zealotry at its worst.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Research & Commentary: The Myth of a Global Warming Consensus

By Joseph Bast and Taylor Smith, Heartland, May 14, 2014

<http://heartland.org/policy-documents/research-commentary-myth-global-warming-consensus>

New Climate Change Report Is Filled With Falsehoods

Editorial, IBD, May 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/051214-700561-obamas-climate-change-warning-frightens-but-doesnt-enlighten.htm?p=full>

Global Warming Zealots Use Fear-Mongering

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, May 12, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/global-warming-ipcc/2014/05/12/id/570760/>

IPCC Wiki Launched – Volunteers Needed

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, May 11, 2014

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2014/05/11/ipcc-wiki-launched-volunteers-needed/>

The Great European Corn Borer

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, May 16, 2014

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

[SEPP Comment: Challenging specific claims in the NCA.]

Science Doesn't Support NCA's Scare Tactics

By Staff Writers, IER, May 14, 2014 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://instituteforenergyresearch.org/analysis/science-doesnt-support-national-climate-assessments-scare-tactics/>

Manmade 'climate disruption' – the hype and reality

By Paul Driessen, WUWT, May 11, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/11/manmade-climate-disruption-the-hype-and-reality/>

Weather Vs. Climate

By Viv Forbes, The Carbon Sense Coalition, May 11, 2014

http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/05/weather-vs-climate_11.html

Social Benefits of Carbon

The Love-Hate Relationship of CO₂ & Plant Protein Concentration

By Sherwood, Keith and Craig Idso, CO₂ Science, May 7, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/N19/EDIT.php>

[SEPP Comment: Add a bit of nitrogen in low nitrogen soils and see the yields increase.]

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Climate change: We have no solution yet

By Robert J. Samuelson, Robert Samuelson, May 11, 2014 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/robert-samuelson-on-climate-change-we-have-no-solution/2014/05/11/24d767c6-d77d-11e3-95d3-3bcd77cd4e11_story.html

[SEPP Comment: The advocates refuse to perform hypotheses tests!]

Climate change science has become 'blind' to green bias

Climate change science is becoming 'blind' to green bias which risks suppressing research which challenges man-made global warming, scientists have warned

By Sarah Knapton, Telegraph, UK, May 16, 2014 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/science-news/10837146/Climate-change-science-has-become-blind-to-green-bias.html>

No one trusts Washington on climate change

In the age of the Iraq war and Obamacare, the government is hardly a trustworthy body

By Christopher Caldwell, Financial Times, May 9, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/31320b68-d6ae-11e3-b251-00144feabdc0.html#axzz31W2KDVj4>

Leaked Memo On Climatology Exposes Growing Worry Within German Meteorological Society... "Unacceptable Unethical Developments"

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, May 16, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/05/16/leaked-memo-on-climatology-exposes-growing-worry-within-german-meteorological-society-unacceptable-unethical-developments/>

French Foreign Minister: 'We Have 500 Days to Avoid Climate Chaos'

By Patrick Goodenough, CNS News, May 13, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/patrick-goodenough/french-foreign-minister-we-have-500-days-avoid-climate-chaos>

[SEPP Comment: Is it time to construct a Maginot Line?]

Seeking a Common Ground

Climate Sensitivity and Transient Climate Response

By Marcel Crok, Climate Dialogue, WUWT, May 13, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/13/climate-sensitivity-and-transient-climate-response/>

Climate Dialogue on Climate Sensitivity and Transient Climate Response

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. May 13, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/05/13/climate-dialogue-on-climate-sensitivity-and-transient-climate-response/>

Is A Super El Nino On The Way?

By David Whitehouse, May 13, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/is-a-super-el-nino-on-the-way/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

High-Yielding Rice Cultivar Does Even Better in CO₂-Enriched Air

Reference: Chen, C.P., Sakai, H., Tokida, T., Usui, Y., Nakamura, H. and Hasegawa, T. 2014. Do the rich always become richer? Characterizing the leaf physiological response of the high-yielding rice cultivar Takanari to free-air CO₂ enrichment. *Plant & Cell Physiology* 55: 381-391.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/may/13may2014a1.html>

Difficulties in Correctly Modelling the East Asian Summer Monsoon

Reference: Song, F. and Zhou, T. 2014. Interannual variability of East Asian Summer Monsoon simulated by CMIP3 and CMIP5 AGCMs: Skill dependence on Indian Ocean-Western Pacific anticyclone teleconnection. *Journal of Climate* 27: 1679-1697.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/may/13may2014a3.html>

Difficulties in Correctly Modelling the East Asian Winter Monsoon

Reference: Gong, H., Wang, L., Chen, W., Wu, R., Wei, K. and Cui, X. 2014. The climatology and inter-annual variability of the East Asian Winter Monsoon in CMIP5 models. *Journal of Climate* 27: 1659-1678.

<http://nippcreport.org/articles/2014/may/13may2014a4.html>

The Love-Hate Relationship of CO₂ & Plant Protein Concentration

Reference: Bloom, A.J., Burger, M., Kimball, B.A. and Pinter Jr., P.J. 2014. Nitrate assimilation is inhibited by elevated CO₂ in field-grown wheat. *Nature Climate Change* 10.1038/NCLIMATE2183.

<http://nippcreport.org/articles/2014/may/14may2014a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: The highly touted paper on reduced nutrition of grain grown under elevated CO₂ is much to do about little. A little fertilizer goes a long way.]

Measurement Issues

Excuse Files: Arctic treemometers measure sunlight too

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, May 13

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/05/arctic-treemometers-measure-sun-rain-fertilizer-other-stuff/#more-35291>

Models v. Observations

Claim: Climate change may worsen summertime ozone pollution

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 12, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/12/claim-climate-change-may-worsen-summertime-ozone-pollution/>

[SEPP Comment: Contradicting evidence at the end.]

Changing Climate

What caused a 1300 year deep freeze 12,800 years ago? New PNAS paper says it wasn't an impact

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 13, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/13/what-caused-a-1300-year-deep-freeze-12800-years-ago-new-pnas-paper-says-it-wasnt-an-impact/>

Link to paper: Chronological evidence fails to support claim of an isochronous widespread layer of cosmic impact indicators dated to 12,800 years ago

By David J. Meltzera, et al., PNAS, May 12, 2014

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/05/08/1401150111?tab=author-info>

Medieval Warm Period in Japan

By Staff Writers, CO₂ Science & SPPI, May 14, 2014

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/medieval_warm_period_in_japan.html

[SEPP Comment: Dates of cherry-flowering, rather than statistical cherry-picking, indicate that the Medieval Warm Period was likely warmer than today in Japan.]

Changing Seas

Back to the future to determine if sea level rise is accelerating

By Staff Writers, Southampton UK (SPX), May 13, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Back_to_the_future_to_determine_if_sea_level_rise_is_accelerating_999.html

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Airborne radar surveys and data-based models indicate West Antarctic Ice Sheet collapse is underway

By Staff Writers, National Science Foundation, May 12, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=131369&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Who do you believe?

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, May 13, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/they-said-it/who_do_you_believe/

Antarctic In The News – The Real Story

By Joseph D'Aleo, WeatherBELL Analytics, No Date Accessed

http://icecap.us/images/uploads/ANTARCTIC_IN_THE_NEWS,_THE_REAL_STORY.pdf

IPCC Report Scientists: Rising Seas in East Antarctica Maybe -- in 2,000 to 10,000 Years

By Penny Starr, CNS News, May 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/penny-starr/ipcc-report-scientists-rising-seas-east-antarctica-maybe-2000-10000-years>

'Collapse' of 'unstable' West Antarctic Ice Sheet not man-made & very old news

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, May 15, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/05/collapse-of-unstable-west-antarctic-ice.html>

Active volcano discovered under Antarctic ice sheet

By Becky Oskin, Live Science, **Nov 18, 2013** [Boldface added]

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/11/18/active-volcano-discovered-under-antarctic-ice-sheet/>

ABC, CBS, and NBC Freak Out Over Melting Antarctic Ice: 'Much of South Florida' Will Be 'Underwater'

By Jeffrey Meyer, Media Research Center, May 13, 2014

<http://www.mrc.org/biasalerts/abc-cbs-and-nbc-freak-out-over-melting-antarctic-ice-much-south-florida-will-be-underwater>

Global Cooling: Antarctic Sea Ice Coverage Continues To Break Records

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, May 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/12/global-cooling-antarctic-sea-ice-coverage-continues-to-break-records/>

[SEPP Comment: Based on the most comprehensive and reliable temperature records in existence, the satellite record, in general, Antarctic is not warming, but cooling.]

Most Himalayan Glaciers Stable And In A Steady State, New Study

By I.M. Bahuguna, et al., Current Science, Via GWPF,

<http://www.thegwgf.org/most-himalayan-glaciers-stable-and-in-a-steady-state-new-study/>

Link to paper, Are the Himalayan glaciers retreating?

By I.M. Bahuguna, et al., Current Science, Apr 10, 2014

<http://www.currentscience.ac.in/Volumes/106/07/1008.pdf>

Of 2018 glaciers, 1752 glaciers, (86.8%) were observed stable fronts (no change in the snout position and of ablation zone). [Area were the glacier where net loss is occurring.]. 248 (12.3%) exhibit retreat, 18 (0.9%) exhibit advancement of snout.

Greenland melting due equally to global warming, natural variations

By Hannah Hickey, UW NewsSeattle WA (SPX), May 09, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Greenland_melting_due_equally_to_global_warming_natural_variations_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Need to go back more than 30 years to understand the natural causes.]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Inventing the Farm Animals of the Future

By Walter Russell Mead and Staff, American Interest, May 9, 2014

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/blog/2014/05/09/inventing-the-farm-animals-of-the-future/>

[SEPP Comment: No reason to assume a warmer world will produce more extreme weather. The center of US poultry industry shifted south decades ago.]

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Ground-breaking study: Hurricanes reaching peak strength farther north as globe warms, tropics expand

By Jason Samenow, Washington Post, May 14, 2014 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/wp/2014/05/14/ground-breaking-study-hurricanes-reaching-peak-strength-farther-north-as-globe-warms-tropics-expand/>

[SEPP Comment: In three decades, peak strength moved an insignificant 99 miles further north. No doubt Sandy is a significant influence in the statistics – and it was joined by another storm. Why did the 1938 hurricane tear through New England? Why did the researchers exclude the 1950s? If the researchers had included the 1950's it is doubtful they could come to such conclusions. Ignorance of history is no excuse.]

Arctic study sheds light on tree-ring divergence problem

By Staff Writers, San Francisco CA (SPX) ,May 12, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Arctic_study_sheds_light_on_tree_ring_divergence_problem_99.html

Link to paper: Arctic tree rings as recorders of variations in light availability

By A. R. Stine & P. Huybers, Nature Communications, May 7, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2014/140507/ncomms4836/full/ncomms4836.html>

Claim: ‘The Southern Ocean winds are now stronger than at any other time in the past 1,000 years,’ CO2 blamed

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 12, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/12/claim-the-southern-ocean-winds-are-now-stronger-than-at-any-other-time-in-the-past-1000-years-co2-blamed/>

Crime, weather, and climate change

By Matthew Ranson, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, May 3, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0095069613001289>

[SEPP Comment: People sitting outside on city steps during hot summer days evening, and drinking beer may lead to increased violence.]

Lowering Standards

Scientific Authoritarians

The case for skepticism about climate scientists

By James Taranto, WSJ, Via The Hockey Schtick, May 15, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/05/wsji-scientific-authoritariansthe-case.html>

First Amendment versus the University of Queensland

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, May 15, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/5/15/first-amendment-versus-the-university-of-queensland.html>

[SEPP Comment: Trying to make it illegal to examine how the latest 97% consensus was calculated.]

Networks Eagerly Push White House Climate Change Agenda Ahead of Obama Interviews

By Kyle Drennen, Media Research Center, May 6, 2014

http://www.mrc.org/biasalerts/networks-eagerly-push-white-house-climate-change-agenda-ahead-obama-interviews?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=Marketing&utm_term=Facebook&utm_content=Facebook&utm_campaign=ObamaClimateReport

[SEPP Comment: They cannot be trusted to report the weather accurately.]

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

Bad Weather Reports: ‘Deutsche Wetterdienst’ Exaggerates Precipitation Trend 7-Fold To Produce Alarm

Surprise! Original data refuses to back up DWD’s claims of wetter winters in Germany

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt (Translated/edited by P Gosselin), No Tricks Zone, May 13, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/05/13/bad-weather-reports-deutsche-wetterdienst-exaggerates-precipitation-trends-7-fold-to-produce-alarm/>

Column: Florida already feeling effects of climate change

By Lee Thomas, Tampa Bay Times, May 14, 2014

<http://www.tampabay.com/opinion/columns/column-florida-already-feeling-effects-of-climate-change/2178532>

[SEPP Comment: The former EPA Administrator echoes the NCA exaggerations. Contrary to his claims, there is no increase in sea level rise, oceans have not warmed for 15 years, and oceans will not become acidic. Sea levels will continue to rise until the next ice age, and all we can do is adapt. Local adaptations must take into account ground water depletion and land subsidence.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Antarctica stealing Australian rain. Prof Matthew England, ANU, UNSW, Nature, struggle to get “cause and effect”)

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, May 12, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/05/antarctica-stealing-australian-rain-prof-matthew-england-anu-unsw-nature-struggle-to-get-cause-and-effect/>

Cornell hypes on methane as a ‘climate boogeyman’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 15, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/15/more-hype-on-methane-as-climate-boogeyman/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal – The Bengtsson Affair

Lennart Bengtsson Resigns: GWPF Voices Shock and Concern at the Extent of Intolerance within the Climate Science Community

By Staff Writers, GWPF, May 14, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/lennart-bengtsson-resigns-gwpf-voices-shock-and-concern-at-the-extent-of-intolerance-within-the-climate-science-community/>

Professor Bengtsson Blames U.S. Climate Scientists For ‘Witch-Hunt’

By Ben Webster, The Times, Via GWPF, May 14, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/professor-bengtsson-blames-u-s-climate-scientists-for-witch-hunt/>

Scientists In Cover-Up Of ‘Damaging’ Climate View

Research which heaped doubt on the rate of global warming was deliberately suppressed by scientists because it was “less than helpful” to their cause, it was claimed last night.

By Ben Webster, The Times, Via GWPF, May 16, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/scientists-in-cover-up-of-damaging-climate-view/>

Science as McCarthyism

Another scientist gets blackballed for his skepticism about global warming.

By Rupert Darwall, National Review Online, May 15, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/378011/science-mccarthyism-rupert-darwall>

Lennart Bengtsson will probably remain a renegade, anyway

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, May 15, 2014

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/05/lennart-bengtsson-will-probably-remain.html#more>

The bigotry of the consensus

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, May 16, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/5/16/the-bigotry-of-the-consensus.html>

Scientivism Media Centre on Bengtsson

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, May 16, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/5/16/scientivism-media-centre-on-bengtsson.html>

Reflections on Bengtsson and the GWPF

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., May 16, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/05/16/reflections-on-bengtsson-and-the-gwpf/#more-15497>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Climate Change Deemed Growing Security Threat by Military Researchers

By Coral Davenport, NYT, May 13, 2014

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/14/us/politics/climate-change-deemed-growing-security-threat-by-military-researchers.html?emc=edit_th_20140514&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=59831859

Link to the report: National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change

By Paul Kern, et al., CNA Military Advisory Board, May 2014

http://www.cna.org/sites/default/files/news/FlipBooks/MAB2014_web/flipviewerxpress.html

Is Climate Change Real? The Pentagon Sure Thinks So

By Bill Briggs, NBC News, May 9, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/military/climate-change-real-pentagon-sure-thinks-so-n101701>

UN chief: Climate change can ‘bring jobs and income’

By Tom Bawden, Independent, UK, May 9, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/un-chief-climate-change-can-bring-jobs-and-income-9347564.html>

Questioning European Green

End to solar farm blight as subsidy scheme is scrapped

Green energy subsidy scheme will be shut to large solar farms as ministers attempt to curb blight to countryside

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, May 13, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/solarpower/10827019/End-to-solar-farm-blight-as-subsidy-scheme-is-scrapped.html>

[SEPP Comment: Make them bigger, uglier, but more efficient in the use of needed transmission lines. Does it solve the basic problem of unreliability— of course not!]

Green Madness: Payments To Wind Farms For ‘Wasted Energy’ Soar To £40m

By Mark Macaskill, Sunday Times, Via GWPF, May 11, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/green-madness-payments-to-wind-farms-for-wasted-energy-soar-to-40m/>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

That Old Time Religion; That Old Time Science

By Charles Battig, American Thinker, May 11, 2014

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

Green Jobs

Changing Renewable Energy Target would damage investment and throw away jobs

By Staff Writers, Canberra, Australia (SPX), May 13, 2014

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Changing_Renewable_Energy_Target_would_damage_investment_and_throw_away_jobs_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Green jobs are dependent on government subsidies.]

Non-Green Jobs

Natural Gas Boom Is Attracting Manufacturing To The US From Overseas To Take Advantage Of Cheaper Fuel, Feedstock

By Meagan Clark, International Business Times, May 9, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.ibtimes.com/natural-gas-boom-attracting-manufacturing-us-overseas-take-advantage-cheaper-fuel-1582512>

Report: Every \$1 Billion In Regulations Costs Jobs

By Breanna Deutsch, Daily Caller, May 8, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/08/report-every-1-billion-in-regulations-costs-jobs/>

Link to report: The Cumulative Impact of Regulatory Cost Burdens on Employment

By Sam Batkins, Ben Gitis, American Action Forum, May 8, 2014

<http://americanactionforum.org/research/the-cumulative-impact-of-regulatory-cost-burdens-on-employment>

Funding Issues

CCAP's Helme previews next round of climate finance negotiations

Transcript by Staff Writers, EETV, May 15, 2014

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1828/transcript>

[SEPP Comment: The NCA takes them to the next level – more funding through propaganda.]

The Political Games Continue

Issa threatens EPA with contempt proceedings over records

By Jim McElhatton, The Washington Times, May 8, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/may/8/issa-threatens-epa-with-contempt-proceedings-over/>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

The 'Black Hole' Of Chinese Carbon Trading

By Pilita Clark, Financial Times, Via GWPF, May 14, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-black-hole-of-chinese-carbon-trading/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Sun Sets on Spaniards' Solar Power Dreams

By Staff Writers, AFP, May 11, 2014

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/sun-sets-on-spaniards-solar-power-dreams-522070>

[SEPP Comment: Investments in sub-prime energy goes the way of investments in sub-prime mortgages.]

Biodiesel producers cut back due to US policies, report says

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, May 14, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/206152-biodiesel-producers-cut-back-due-to-us-policies-report-says>

For Energy Efficiency, Let's Get The Corn Out of Our Gas Tanks

By Jason Stverak, Daily Caller, May 9, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/09/for-energy-efficiency-lets-get-the-corn-out-of-our-gas-tanks/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Coal rules will devastate, say biz groups

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, May 13, 2014

<http://thehill.com/regulation/energy-environment/205902-obama-coal-rules-will-devastate-say-biz-groups>

EPA Cracks Down On Oil Refineries... Without Offering Any Public Health Benefits

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, May 16, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/05/16/epa-cracks-down-on-oil-refineries-without-offering-any-public-health-benefits/>

The Fix Is In: On Ozone NAAQS, EPA Relies on EPA Science

By William Yeatman, Global Warming.org, May 13, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/05/13/the-fix-is-in-on-ozone-naaqs-epa-relies-on-epa-science/>

Will EPA's Carbon "Pollution" Rules Implement the Defunct Waxman-Markey Bill?

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, May 14, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/05/14/will-epas-carbon-pollution-rules-implement-the-defunct-waxman-markey-bill/>

Protecting a Bay While Treading on Truth

By Carl Cannon, Real Clear Politics, May 11, 2014

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2014/05/11/protecting_a_bay_while_treading_on_truth_122602.html

Energy Issues – Non-US

Energy Abundance & Economic Growth

By Ross McKittrick and Elmira Aliakbari, Fraser Institute, May 15, 2014

<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/research-news/display.aspx?id=21204>

Link to the paper: Energy Abundance & Economic Growth: International and Canadian Evidence

By Ross McKittrick and Elmira Aliakbari, Fraser Institute, May 2014

<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/uploadedFiles/fraser-ca/Content/research-news/research/publications/energy-abundance-and-economic-growth.pdf>

\$44 trillion price tag for clean energy

By Staff Writers, WNN, May 12, 2014

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE-44-trillion-dollar-price-tag-for-clean-energy-1205144.html>

M. A. Adelman on Resourceship (Part II)

By Robert Bradley Jr., Master Resource, May 13, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/05/m-a-adelman-on-resourceship-part-ii/#more-30533>

[SEPP Comment: Oil is more a man-made resource than a natural one.]

America Versus China: The New Reality Of Global Energy

By Robert Wilson, The Energy Collective, May 12, 2014

<http://theenergycollective.com/robertwilson190/380971/america-versus-china-what-difference-decade-makes>

All Generation Methods Aren't Equal, Pt 1

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, May 13, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/05/13/all-generation-methods-arent-equal-pt-1/>

All Generation Methods Aren't Equal, Pt 2

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, May 16, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/05/16/all-generation-methods-arent-equal-pt-2-2/>

Energy Issues -- US

Barbarians at the Power Plant Gate

What Energy Future's demise means for America. [H/t Timothy Wise]

By William Tucker, American Spectator, May 12, 2014

<http://spectator.org/articles/59151/barbarians-power-plant-gate>
[SEPP Comment: Wall Street in the wind game.]

Washington's Control of Energy

Convincing Americans It's Time to Drill on Federal Lands

By Jared Meyer, Real Clear Energy, May 7, 2014

http://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2014/05/07/how_to_convince_congress_its_time_to_drill_on_federal_lands.html

Obama Blocks Keystone To Start Energy Takeover

By Scott Powell, IBD, May 13, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-perspective/051314-700702-obama-wants-energy-markets-fossil-fuels-under-government-heel.htm?p=full>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

It's not North Dakota, but the Eagle Ford shale in Texas that tops oil production

By Daniel J. Graeber, Washington (UPI), May 13, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Its_not_North_Dakota_but_the_Eagle_Ford_shale_in_Texas_that_tops_oil_production_999.html

Marcellus: Natural Gas Giant of the East (new technology, new life for 19th century energy fields)

By Fred Lawrence, Master Resource, May 15, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/05/marcellus-natural-gas/#more-30359>

FERC finds little environmental impact in Md. natural gas export project

By Tony Cama, The Hill, May 15, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/206238-ferc-finds-little-environmental-impact-in-md-nat-gas-export-project>

Return of King Coal?

China's coal output, consumption almost as much as world combined

By Henry Lazenby, Mining Weekly, May 14, 2014

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/chinas-coal-output-consumption-almost-as-much-as-world-combined-2014-05-14>

Link to report with good graph: China produces and consumes almost as much coal as the rest of the world combined

By Joseph Ayoub, EIA, May 14, 2014

<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=16271&src=email>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Airborne measurements confirm leaks from oil and gas operations

By Staff Writers, Boulder CO (SPX), May 12, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Airborne_measurements_confirm_leaks_from_oil_and_gas_operations_999.html

Nuclear Energy and Fears

DOE stops collecting nuclear waste fee

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, May 16, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/206316-doe-stops-collecting-nuclear-waste-fee>
[SEPP Comment: What about the Billions collected although Washington failed to deliver?]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

AREVA commissions molten salt energy storage demonstration

By Staff Writers, Paris, France (SPX), May 13, 2014

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/AREVA_commissions_molten_salt_energy_storage_demonstration_999.html

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy -- Other

ACCESS II Alternative Jet Fuel Flight Tests Begin May 7, 2014

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), May 12, 2014

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/ACCESS_II_Alternative_Jet_Fuel_Flight_Tests_Begin_May_7_2014_999.html

[SEPP Comment: No mention of costs.]

Fueling aviation with hardwoods

By Staff Writers, Syracuse NY (SPX), May 09, 2014

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Fueling_aviation_with_hardwoods_999.html

[SEPP Comment: In a famous American poem, the village blacksmith worked under a chestnut tree. Now the tree will be gone for aviation fuels?]

Environmental Industry

DDT research is “biased and erroneous.” If you’re gonna screw up, you might as well do it really well.

By Staff Writers, ACSH, May 9, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/05/ddt-research-biased-erroneous-youre-gonna-screw-might-well-really-well/>

Mainstream media don't know Big Green has deeper pockets than Big Oil

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, May 13, 2014

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/mainstream-media-dont-know-big-green-has-deeper-pockets-than-big-oil/article/2548405>

NRDC's Lehner discusses new stock market index for climate-conscious investing

Transcript by Staff Writer, EETV, May 12, 2014

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1826/transcript>

[SEPP Comment: If there is money to be made from climate ignorance, Wall Street will figure it out. The Natural Resources Defense Council is in for the action.]

Organic ‘pesticide-free,’ and other claims debunked

By Staff Writers, ACSH, May 15, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/05/organic-pesticide-free-claims-debunked/>

Other Scientific News

Solar wind to lightning strike link discovered

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 15, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/15/solar-wind-to-lightning-strike-link-discovered/>

California Central Valley groundwater depletion slowly raises Sierra Nevada mountains.

By Staff Writer, National Science Foundation, May 14, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=131393&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Evolution by geneticists [sic] again: yet another date for when polar bears arose

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

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/05/10/evolution-by-geneticists-again-yet-another-date-for-when-polar-bears-arose/>

Other News that May Be of Interest

Antibiotic resistance: At ACSH, we are ahead of The Times

By Staff Writers, ACSH, May 12, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/05/antibiotic-resistance-acsh-ahead-times/>

[SEPP Comment: Unnecessary regulations costs lives.]

Russia Restricts U.S. Access To Space Over Ukraine

Editorial, IBD, May 14, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/051414-700914-russia-bans-america-from-international-space-station.htm?p=full>

The Bio-economy and Synthetic Biology

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, May 16, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/bio-economy-and-synthetic-biology>

The newest “endocrine-disruptor” can be found in your backyard, claims a NYTimes op-ed

By Staff Writers, ACSH, May 12, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/05/newest-endocrine-disruptor-can-found-backyard-claims-nytimes-op-ed/>

#####

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Claim: Climate Change will kill the bees

By Eric Warrall, WUWT, May 9, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/09/claim-climate-change-will-kill-the-bees/>

Link to paper: Parallel responses of bees to Pleistocene climate change in three isolated archipelagos of the southwestern Pacific

By Groom, Stevens, and Schwarz, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, May 7, 2014

<http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/281/1785/20133293.abstract>

#####

ARTICLES:

1. Sea Level Rise Surprise

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, July 31, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/article/2013/07/sea_level_rise_surprise.html

Driving the seemingly endless climate-treaty negotiations, the most widely feared consequence of Global Warming appears to be a catastrophic rise in sea level (SLR). Environmental advocacy groups are filling the airwaves with lurid images of flooding of Bangladesh and Pacific islands, and raising the specter of hundreds of millions of environmental refugees demanding care and compensation.

Even sober scientists, while not endorsing such obvious scare stories, predict an acceleration of the ongoing global rise, which a system of tidal gauges places at about 18 cm (7 inches) during the 20th century. Economists concerned with trying to estimate a 'social cost' of carbon-dioxide emissions predict huge economic losses from future SLR. Not surprisingly, insurance companies, looking to raise premiums, are cheering them on.

However, more detailed analyses of actual observations suggest an opposite outcome: *A climate warming might even slow down SLR -- rather than accelerate it.* To understand this counter-intuitive result, one must first get rid of false leads -- just as in a detective story. The misleading argument here is the oft-quoted statement that the climate warmed by 1degF (0.6 C) in the last 100 years *and* that SL rose by 18 cm. Both parts of the statement may well be true; but the second part does not necessarily follow from the first.

Curiously, Barack Obama predicted a deceleration of SLR when he accepted his party's nomination in 2008: "*This was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow, and our planet began to heal.*" Some tidal-gauge data do show deceleration, but starting in 1960. Hey, wasn't that the year during which Obama was conceived?

Sea Level Since Last Glacial Maximum ([source](#))

(Toscano & Macintyre 2003; Fairbanks 1989)

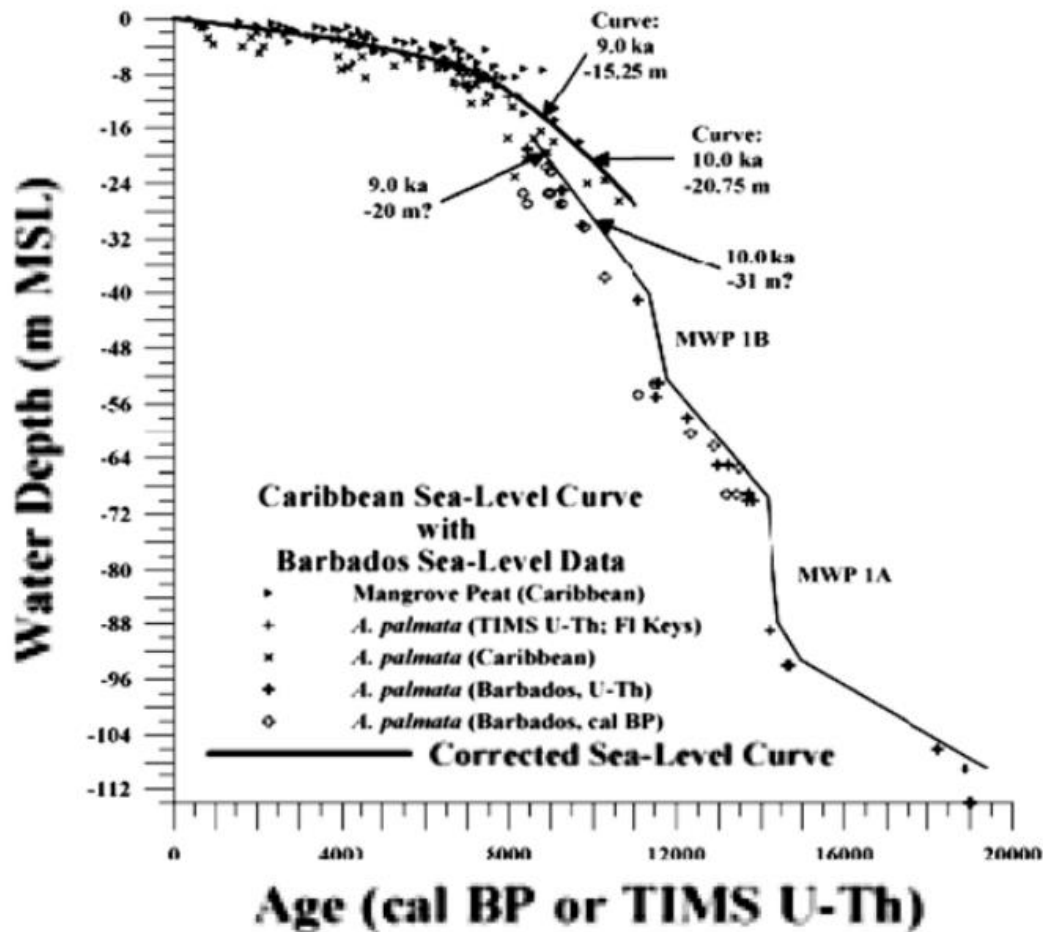


Figure 17: Sea-level rise since the Last Glacial Maximum, as deduced from coral and peat data [Toscano & Macintyre 2003]. The total rise since 18,000 years before present (BP) is about 120 meters. Note the rapid rate of rise as continental ice sheets melted and the more modest and nearly constant rate of rise in the past several millennia – irrespective of global temperature fluctuations. The graph is best understood by reading from the lower right (sea level 18,000 years before present) to the upper left (present sea level).

SLR data problems

The principal SLR data have come from tidal gauges, which measure not only tides but storms and everything else. And from these measurements one extracts a steady rise in local sea level. There are about two dozen stations in the world with long-enough records dating back to the early 1900s, which have been used by the international tidal gauge network, located in Liverpool, England.

Global Sea Level 1900 - 1980 ([source](#))

(Trupin & Wahr 1990)

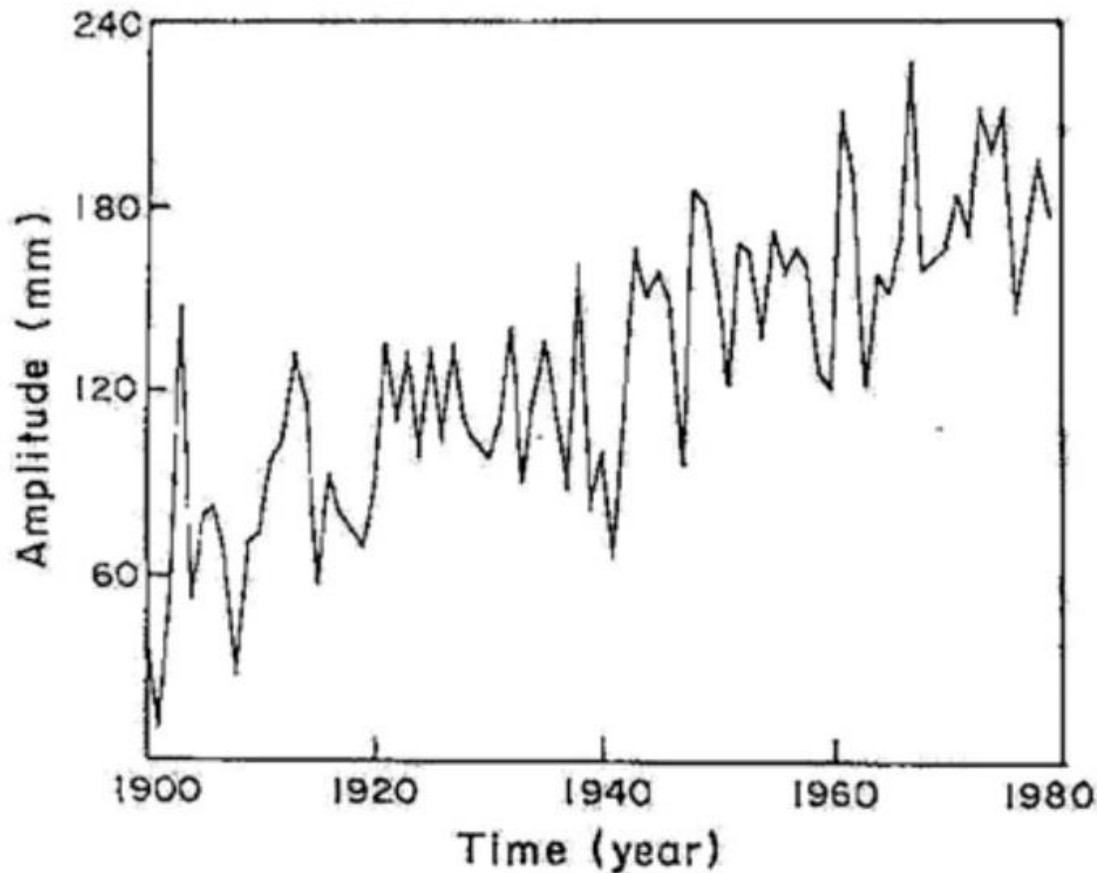


Figure 18: Sea-level (SL) values for 84 tidal-gauge stations with more than 37 years of data [Trupin and Wahr 1990]. They have been corrected for post-glacial rebound. The average rate of rise is ~ 18 cm per century. Note absence of any acceleration in SL rise during warming intervals. While satellite data [Cazenave and Nerem 2004] suggest a higher rate of rise, an analysis by Holgate [2006] shows a lower rate in recent years.

Since 1993, we have also had satellite observations; but these have been plagued with various types of uncertainties -- although in principle, satellites can measure *absolute* sea level independent of any vertical motion of the coastal land surface. The tidal stations are subject to various corrections as well: they measure *relative* sea level with respect to the station which is fixed to the land. Since the melting of glacial ice cover from Northern continents several millennia ago, the land surface has rebounded in these places -- a process called 'isostatic adjustment.' But at the same time also, many tidal stations have been sinking -- as the coastal land subsided because of the depletion of groundwater, of oil and gas, and of other processes that led to the compaction of sediments.

It is clear that satellites have an inherent advantage over tidal stations but their figures don't match up. From data gathered by the GRACE satellite system, we can also factor in detailed

measurements of local gravity changes but the record is too short to draw firm conclusions. With estimates of past SLR all over the place, how does one proceed?

Leading researcher Bruce Douglas terms SLR a "puzzle" (*Physics Today* March 2003), while famed Scripps Institution oceanographer Walter Munk calls it an "enigma" (*ProcNatlAcadSci* 2004). Maybe we should use Churchill's description of Soviet Russia: "A riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma"

The difficulty with projections of sea level rise is nicely illustrated by the IPCC. The estimates of its first assessment report (1990) showed a range of 10-367 cm for sea level in 2100. The second report, published in 1996, narrowed the range to 3-124 cm. Its third report, published in 2001, showed 11-77 cm. The fourth assessment report, published in 2007, showed 14-43 cm in its draft form but changed it to 18-59 cm in the final printed version. As can be seen, the maximum SLR decreased successively as estimates improved. All these IPCC projections are very much smaller than the extreme values of about 600 cm by activist-scientist James Hansen (and by climate multi-millionaire Al Gore) -- which assume excessive and rapid melting of the Greenland icecap.

Sea Level Rise to 2100 ([source](#))

(Singer)

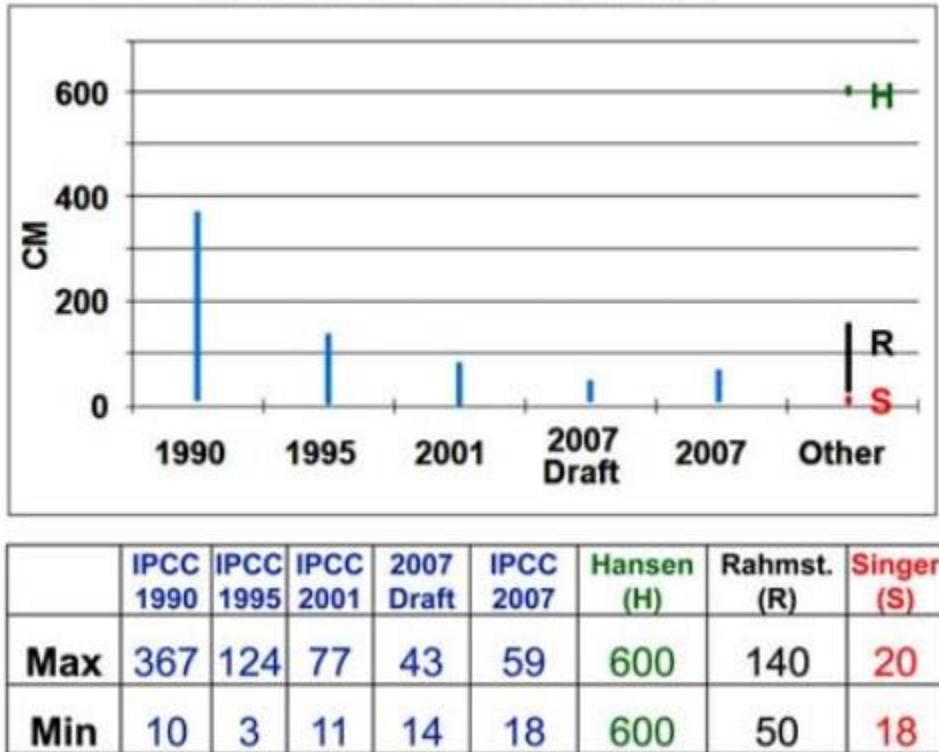


Figure 19: Estimates of sea-level rise to Year 2100 from IPCC reports of 1990, 1995, 2001, and 2007. Note the strong reduction in estimated maximum rise, presumably based on better data and understanding. Also shown are the published seal level rise values of Hansen (H) [2006], Rahmstorf (R) [2007], and Singer (S) [1997]. Both H and R are well outside of the maximum IPCC values. The ongoing rate of rise in recent centuries has been 18 cm per century; therefore, the incremental rate of rise for IPCC 2007 would be 0 to 41 cm, and about 0 to 2 cm for Singer.

This narrowing of estimates by the IPCC has caused great concern among alarmists who feared that the IPCC was being "too conservative." Probably as a result of this peer-pressure, estimates have now increased -- as will be seen in the fifth assessment report, due in September 2013. As a reviewer of IPCC reports, I have been able to look at the "second order draft," which was recently leaked to the press. It gives values for 2100 of 45-110 cm (16-40 inches) - about double what IPCC estimated just six years ago in their fourth report. (There is no guarantee that these values will survive in the final printed version.) Still, they are very much smaller than some of the extreme estimates that have been written up in newspapers and magazines -- and always blamed on Global Warming (GW) from carbon dioxide, released in the burning of fossil fuels.

There are many problems with the basic SLR data, with no easy resolution. For example, the forthcoming (2013) IPCC report shows zero values before 1880 (presumably based on corals), while other coral data and coastal sediments show positive values. Tidal gauge data show no acceleration during the strong warming of 1920-40, and continue to rise during the slight cooling of 1940-75 and during the "pause" in warming of the past 17 years. However, IPCC-2013 shows

increasing values (acceleration) for SLR during the same no-warming period -- and may already have been falsified.

No theory for SLR

There is no overall theory of SLR, encompassing thermal expansion of the oceans, melting of mountain glaciers, and changes, both positive and negative, of Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets. (One may ignore to first approximation the "mining" of fossil groundwater and accumulation of water in reservoirs. Of course, changes in floating sea ice do not affect SLR). A German oceanographer-activist, based in Potsdam, has proposed a "semi-empirical" theory under which SLR is related to sea surface temperature -- and thus to atmospheric CO₂ levels (if one accepts the existence of appreciable climate sensitivity). But his theory has no theoretical foundation whatsoever and also disagrees strongly with all observations.

The first clue that there might be something amiss with the logic is hidden in the IPCC report itself. According to their 1996 compilation of data, the contributions to SLR of the past century come mainly from three sources: (i) Thermal expansion of the warming ocean contributed about 4 cm; (ii) the melting of continental glaciers about 3.5 cm. (iii) The Polar Regions, on the other hand, produced a net *lowering* of SL, mostly from ice accumulation on the Antarctic continent. (The mechanism is intuitively easy to understand but difficult to calculate: A warming ocean evaporates more water, and some of it rains out in the Polar Regions, thus transferring water from the ocean to the polar ice caps.) The surprising result: When one simply adds up all these three contributions (neglecting their large uncertainties), they account for only about 20 percent of the observed rise of 18 cm. The climate warming since 1900 cannot be the cause of the SLR; something is missing here.

But if, as surmised from the absence of observed acceleration during 1920-40, ice accumulation roughly balances ocean thermal expansion and contributions from melting mountain glaciers, why then is SL rising at all? Another riddle requiring a solution.

Why not zero SLR?

The relevant clue comes from corals and from geological observations: It seems that SL has been rising for the past centuries at about the same rate as seen by tidal gauges in the last 100 years -- about 18 cm per century. In other words, SL was rising even during the colder Little Ice age, from about 1400 to 1850 AD. This provides further support for the hypothesis that the observed global SLR since 1900 is reasonably independent of the observed temperature rise.

The explanation for this riddle had been suspected for some time, based on historic data of SLR derived independently from measurements of coral growth and from isotope determinations of ice volume. But the picture was filled in only more recently through estimates of the rate of melting of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS), by tracing its shrinkage during past millennia (through the receding position of its "grounding line," i.e., the line of contact of the ice sheet with the underlying continental land mass.) Note that the WAIS is not floating sea ice; like a mountain glacier, its melting contributes water to the global oceans.

We can therefore describe the broad scenario as follows: The strong temperature increase that followed the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) of about 18,000 years ago has melted enough ice to raise SL by 120 meters (400 feet). The rate of rise was quite rapid at first and controlled by the melting of the huge ice sheets covering North America and the Eurasian land mass. These

disappeared about 8000-5000 years ago; but the WAIS continued to melt, albeit at a much lower rate -- and it is still melting at about the same rate today. Other, smaller WAIS-like ice sheets may have existed in the Antarctic, but have already melted away.

The principal conclusion is that this melting will continue for another 7000 years or so, until the WAIS disappears -- unless another ice age takes over before then. Moreover, there is *nothing* that we can do to stop this future sea level rise! It is as inevitable as the ocean tides -- as long as the Holocene (the present warm interglacial period) survives. Fortunately, coral reefs will continue to grow, as they have in the past, to keep up with SL rise. The rest of us will just have to adapt -- as our ancestors did some 10,000 years ago. At least, we are better equipped to deal with environmental changes.

A final note

What about the effects of putative human-induced global warming on SLR? Will it really increase the rate above its natural value, as predicted by the IPCC? We do have a handle on this question by observing what happened when the climate warmed sharply between 1920 and 1940, before cooling between 1940 and 1975. The answer, first noted in 1997, is quite surprising and could not have been derived from theory or from mathematical models. The data seem to show that SLR *slowed down* slightly when the climate warmed, and then accelerated when the climate cooled. Evidently, ocean-water thermal expansion and mountain-glacier melting were less important than ice accumulation on the Antarctic continent (which lowers SL). Unfortunately, the SL data are not precise enough to withstand scientific challenge -- and reliable data on ice accumulation over the whole Antarctic continent have not been available.

We can now try to answer our original question: Can a Global Warming really lower sea level rise? It all depends on the time-scale: Yes -- if GW lasts only for some decades or less. No -- if warmer temperatures persist for millennia, the WAIS melting rate would increase -- and so would SLR.

By analogy, a future warming produced, putatively, by an increase in greenhouse gases would give the same result: i.e., *reduce the rate of rise of sea level*. This is not a recommendation to burn more coal in order to save Venice from drowning. It is a modest appeal to politicians to take note of new scientific developments and recognize that the drastic limits on energy use called for by climate-treaty negotiators will not stop the rising seas.

NB: This essay ignores many less important features of global SLR, such as the "mining" of groundwater and construction of dams. It also ignores important regional and local effects that depend on isostatic adjustments, ocean currents and wind patterns, land subsidence, etc. Efforts are underway to harmonize conflicting data from tidal gauges and from direct measurements of the ocean surface by satellites

S. Fred Singer is professor emeritus at the University of Virginia and director of the Science & Environmental Policy Project. His specialty is atmospheric and space physics. An expert in remote sensing and satellites, he served as the founding director of the US Weather Satellite Service and, more recently, as vice chair of the US National Advisory Committee on Oceans & Atmosphere. He is a Senior Fellow of the Heartland Institute and the Independent Institute. He co-authored the NY Times best-seller "Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1500 years."

2. Exposing the EPA

Documents reveal a lawless attempt to block an Alaska mine project.

Editorial, WSJ, May 13, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303603904579491643733173318?mg=reno64-wsj>

A basic precept of American democracy is that petitioners before their government receive a full and fair hearing. The Obama Environmental Protection Agency is in urgent need of that remedial civics lesson.

The EPA inspector general's office last week announced it will investigate the agency's February decision to commence a pre-emptive veto of the Pebble Mine project, a jobs-rich proposal to develop America's largest U.S. copper and gold mine in southwest Alaska. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy says her decision to strike down Pebble before it received a hearing shouldn't worry other developers because Pebble is a "unique" threat. She needs to say this because the truth might chill billions of dollars in investment in the U.S.

The IG is looking into internal EPA documents that we've also obtained that show agency officials were maneuvering to kill Pebble more than five years ago, and that EPA's main concern was building a façade of science and procedure to justify it.

This story goes back to the debate over the 1972 Clean Water Act, which gave the Army Corps of Engineers the power to evaluate projects and issue permits. Congress gave EPA only a secondary role of reviewing and potentially vetoing projects (with cause) under Section 404c. EPA has long chafed at this secondary role, which has made it harder to nix projects approved by the Corps.

EPA's decision to initiate a veto process before Pebble had even received an Army Corps review is a disturbing first—and a flouting of the law. The internal documents refute EPA's repeated claims that it began this process only in "response to petitions" from local Native American tribes in May 2010, and that peer-reviewed science drove its veto.

Emails show that EPA biologist Phillip North, based in Alaska and working on Pebble, was in 2008 advocating that his agency bring down the 404c hammer. "The 404 program has a major role" with Pebble, wrote Mr. North to Patricia McGrath, EPA's regional mining coordinator for Alaska, in August 2008. By August 2009, Mr. North was pushing for EPA's annual mining retreat to include a discussion about vetoing the project: "As you know, I feel that [Pebble] merit[s] consideration of a 404C veto." The retreat included that discussion, though Pebble's developer hadn't yet applied for a permit.

By early 2010 EPA staff made a Power Point presentation for former EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson about Pebble that lists a "pre-emptive" veto under "future options." Emails also show that Mr. North was actively engaging outside critics of Pebble. When the Bristol Bay Native Corp. filed a veto request in August 2010, Mr. North responded in an email to the group's lawyer: "Hi Peter, We have been discussing 404c quite a bit internally at all levels of EPA. The letter will certainly stoke the fire."

The EPA veto decision looks to have been made by mid-2010. A Fish and Wildlife briefing paper dated that summer reads: "The [EPA] is seeking [Fish and Wildlife] support as they initiate a formal process to issue a determination that [the wetlands] within the potential pebble Mine

action are unsuitable for the placement of fill material. This action would be conducted under the authority of Section 404(C) of the Clean Water Act."

A September 2010 email from U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist Phil Brna to colleagues—under the subject heading "Pebble and 404c"—reads: "I spoke with Phil North. . . . He believes EPA leaders have decided to proceed and they are just deciding when." All this happened before the EPA had done any scientific review.

There's also an internal EPA document from September 2010 laying out the "pros" and "cons" of the EPA vetoing in the "traditional" fashion, rather than pre-emptively. Listed under the many "pros" of ignoring the law is that a pre-emptive Pebble veto can serve as a "model of proactive watershed planning." So much for Ms. McCarthy's claim that this veto is a one-timer.

Only after all of this did EPA concoct its sham watershed study that provided the scientific cover for its veto. That study invented a hypothetical Pebble mine, then assumed outdated mining practices to predict environmental harm. The study included contributions from obvious opponents of the mine, including Mr. North. The EPA's own peer-review experts ridiculed the study; one pronounced its key sections "pure hogwash."

These documents depict an agency willing to do anything necessary to gut the permitting process that the Clean Water Act guaranteed for developers. The Pebble veto model sets up EPA as the sole regulator of watersheds across the country, trumping the authority of the Army Corps and state regulators. The EPA's actions on Pebble make clear why Congress was right not to trust it with the power it has now seized.

EPA has been trying to keep this record hidden. Pebble Partnership received some of these documents through a freedom of information request, but CEO Tom Collier confirms to us that the EPA didn't turn over others that we are reporting here. EPA Inspector General Arthur Elkins has clearly decided that there is enough to warrant an investigation, and that's a start. This is merely the latest in the EPA's growing record of dishonesty aimed at denying U.S. companies their rights under the law.

3. Organic Farming Is Not Sustainable

More labor with lower yields is a luxury only rich populations can afford.

By Henry Miller, WSJ, May 15, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304431104579550002888434432?mg=reno64-wsj>

You may have noticed that the organic section of your local supermarket is growing. Advocates tout organic-food production—in everything from milk and coffee to meat and vegetables—as a "sustainable" way to feed the planet's expanding population. The Worldwatch Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based environmental group, goes so far as to say organic farming "has the potential to contribute to sustainable food security by improving nutrition intake and sustaining livelihoods in rural areas, while simultaneously reducing vulnerability to climate change and enhancing biodiversity." The evidence argues otherwise.

A study by the Institute for Water Research at Ben-Gurion University in Israel, published last year in the journal *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences*, found that "intensive organic agriculture relying on solid organic matter, such as composted manure that is implemented in the soil prior to

planting as the sole fertilizer, resulted in significant down-leaching of nitrate" into groundwater. With many of the world's most fertile farming regions in the throes of drought, increased nitrate in groundwater is hardly a hallmark of sustainability.

Moreover, as agricultural scientist Steve Savage has documented on the Sustainablog website, wide-scale composting generates significant amounts of greenhouse gases such as methane and nitrous oxide. Compost may also deposit pathogenic bacteria on or in food crops, which has led to more frequent occurrences of food poisoning in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Organic farming might work well for certain local environments on a small scale, but its farms produce far less food per unit of land and water than conventional ones. The low yields of organic agriculture—typically 20%-50% less than conventional agriculture—impose various stresses on farmland and especially on water consumption. A British meta-analysis published in the *Journal of Environmental Management* (2012) found that "ammonia emissions, nitrogen leaching and nitrous oxide emissions per product unit were higher from organic systems" than conventional farming systems, as were "land use, eutrophication potential and acidification potential per product unit."

Lower crop yields are inevitable given organic farming's systematic rejection of many advanced methods and technologies. If the scale of organic production were significantly increased, the lower yields would increase the pressure for the conversion of more land to farming and more water for irrigation, both of which are serious environmental issues.

Another limitation of organic production is that it disfavors the best approach to enhancing soil quality—namely, the minimization of soil disturbances such as tilling, combined with the use of cover crops. Both approaches help to limit soil erosion and the runoff of fertilizers and pesticides. Organic growers do frequently plant cover crops, but in the absence of effective herbicides, often they rely on tillage (or even labor-intensive hand weeding) for weed control.

One prevalent myth is that organic agriculture does not employ pesticides. Organic farming does use insecticides and fungicides to prevent predation of its crops. More than 20 chemicals (mostly containing copper and sulfur) are commonly used in the growing and processing of organic crops and are acceptable under U.S. organic rules. They include nicotine sulfate, which is extremely toxic to warm-blooded animals, and rotenone, which is moderately toxic to most mammals but so toxic to fish that it's widely used for the mass poisoning of unwanted fish populations during restocking projects.

Perhaps the most illogical and least sustainable aspect of organic farming in the long term is the exclusion of "genetically modified organisms," but only those that were modified with the most precise and predictable techniques such as gene splicing. Except for wild berries and wild mushrooms, virtually all the fruits, vegetables and grains in our diet have been genetically improved by one technique or another, often through what are called wide crosses, which move genes from one species or genus to another in ways that do not occur in nature. Therefore, the exclusion from organic agriculture of organisms simply because they were crafted with modern, superior techniques makes no sense. It also denies consumers of organic goods nutritionally improved foods, such as oils with enhanced levels of omega-3 fatty acids.

In recent decades, we have seen advances in agriculture that have been more environmentally friendly and sustainable than ever before. But they have resulted from science-based research and

technological ingenuity by farmers, plant breeders and agribusiness companies, not from social elites opposed to modern insecticides, herbicides, genetic engineering and "industrial agriculture."

Dr. Miller, a physician and molecular biologist, was the founding director of the FDA's Office of Biotechnology and is a research fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution.

#####