

The Week That Was: 2015-02-07 (February 7, 2015)
Brought to You by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)
The Science and Environmental Policy Project

#####

Quote of the Week: *If I had an hour to solve a problem, I'd spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and 5 minutes thinking about solutions.* – Albert Einstein [H/t High Frontier]

#####

Number of the Week: 12.9% and 10.6%

#####

THIS WEEK:

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

US National Security – Threat of Climate Change: The White House has issued a report, “National Security Strategy”, stating that climate change (what used to be global warming before it stopped) is one of the greatest threats to US national security. The report contains choice terms such as “carbon pollution” which implies that the authors do not consider that their breathing is polluting, emitting carbon dioxide (CO2) concentrations 100 times that of the air they inhale.

The section “Confront Climate Change” states: *“Climate change is an urgent and growing threat to our national security, contributing to increased natural disasters, refugee flows, and conflicts over basic resources like food and water. The present day effects of climate change are being felt from the Arctic to the Midwest. Increased sea levels and storm surges threaten coastal regions, infrastructure, and property. In turn, the global economy suffers, compounding the growing costs of preparing and restoring infrastructure.”*

As presented below, and in prior TWTWs, there are **NO** growing threats of storm intensity to the US or globally. Sea level rise appears to be in line with the past century, [local conditions are most important], the accumulated cyclone energy (ACE), is not increasing, temperatures have plateaued, in general the globe is greening, except for conflicts created for ideological reasons there are few areas of famine, the decline in Arctic ice has reversed, and even the White House report recognizes that the US is becoming more self-sufficient in production of oil and natural gas, even though the Administration has denied access for increased production in Federal lands and waters. In short, the Administration’s campaign against climate change is out-of-touch reality.

For example, the section “Advance Our Energy Security” opens with the statement: *“The United States is now the world leader in oil and gas production.”* What has this administration done to create the US as the world leader – deny offshore drilling, deny Arctic drilling, deny hydraulic fracturing on federal lands and waters? The great increase in production of oil and gas is occurring on private and state-owned lands. This increase in production has led to a dramatic drop in world price of oil – a benefit to most American citizens and the world in general. The claim of “peak oil” in the foreseeable future is an idea of the past.

Almost amusingly, the report states: “Seismic shifts in supply and demand are underway across the globe.”... “Increasing global access to reliable and affordable energy is one of the most powerful ways to support social and economic development and to help build new markets for U.S. technology and investment.” Yet, the Administration continues to restrict the flow of oil to global markets, as can be seen in its refusal to approve the Keystone XL pipeline after six years of study.

According to newspaper- reports: *Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz underscored the importance of energy security in his own statement on the plan.*

“Now more than ever, it is critical for us to focus our efforts to cooperate on security issues that are increasingly critical to the stability of global markets and underscore the risk of relying on one source of energy,” he said.

“At the same time, collective action on security also presents an opportunity to diversify our low-carbon energy options, combat climate change, and strengthen our economies.” Apparently, Energy Secretary Moniz is unaware of the tremendous benefits to the US of low cost fossil fuels and the hardships that unreliable solar and wind are placing on the public and industries in Europe.

Unfortunately, the White House report gives an insight on how this ambitious administration will use whatever means it has available to expand control of the economy and energy use. The report states: *More than 100 countries have also joined with us to reduce greenhouse gases under the Montreal Protocol—the same agreement the world used successfully to phase out ozone-depleting chemicals.* The Montreal Protocol is being misused on the now questionable claim that hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) were depleting the stratospheric ozone layer, although little effect was being measured on the surface. Now, the administration is manipulating the meaning and intent of the Protocol to cover greenhouse gases, particularly methane and CO₂.

The Administration’s actions illustrate why the US should be wary of international agreements. Once approved by the Senate, an ambitious administration can manipulate international agreements for its own purposes. The administration’s actions have been a quiet endeavor, with little publicity. But, the effects on US energy and prosperity can be severe and long-lasting.

See links under Defending the Orthodoxy, EPA and other Regulators on the March and, for ACE, <http://models.weatherbell.com/tropical.php>

Natural Catastrophes – Losses: The December 20, 2014 TWTW linked to a preliminary report by Swiss Re, the world’s second largest re-insurer (those companies that take on insurance risks by other companies). The report stated that in 2014 global disaster events cost insurers USD 34 billion, below recent annual averages. It also stated a total loss of life of 11,000 from natural catastrophe and man-made disaster events in 2014 was down from the more than 27 000 fatalities in 2013. It should be remembered that natural disasters include earthquakes, tidal waves, etc. as well as extreme weather events.

The report of the world’s largest re-insurer, Munich Re is out, *Review of natural catastrophes in 2014: Lower losses from weather extremes and earthquakes.* This report states that more than nine out of ten (92%) of the loss-related natural catastrophes were due to weather events. *“A striking feature was the unusually quiet hurricane season in the North Atlantic, where only eight strong – and thus named – storms formed; the long-term average (1950–2013) is around 11. In contrast, the tropical cyclone season in the eastern Pacific was characterized by an exceptionally large number of storms, most of which did not make landfall.”*

The first and the fourth most expensive losses were winter damage, not heat or storm related. Japan was most hit by winter damage, which took 37 lives. Winter damage in the US and Canada

ranked fourth in losses. Flooding in Asia took the most lives. Flooding has always been a major problem in Asia, and the rate of loss of lives is declining, not increasing.

Also, Roger Pielke posted a report on “The Precipitous Decline in US Flood Damage as a Percentage of GDP” Pielke states: *The US is prone to very large flood events, resulting in tens of billions of dollars in losses. However, the trend since 1940 is striking. As the nation has seen its economic activity expand by a factor of almost 13, flood losses as a proportion of that activity have dropped by about 75%.*

Please don't use this data to say anything about the incidence of flooding in the US or changes in climate. For that, I urge you to look at data and research, discussed [here](#). You'll find very little evidence of increasing flood frequency or magnitude either in the US or globally. Regardless, the diminishing economic impact of floods in the US is undeniable.

It is becoming evident that the authors of the US “National Security Strategy” failed to consult with companies whose business it is to understand losses from extreme weather events or US academics who study these issues. See links under Changing Weather and http://www.swissre.com/media/news_releases/Preliminary_sigma_estimates_global_disaster_events_cost_insurers_USD_34_billion_in_2014.html

Health: The EPA is heavily publicizing its anti-coal campaign on the grounds of public health, particularly fear of asthma. According to reports, early in this administration, officials at EPA decided that fear of respiratory diseases will be an excellent way to convince many in the public that action was needed to reduce coal-fired power plants. Asthma was a great fit. It was a disease often contracted in childhood and the incidence of the disease was increasing. The cause was unknown. It was assumed that the cause was outdoor air pollution in urban areas. Namely, in poorer neighborhoods where coal-fired power plants were located. The EPA built its anti-coal and the anti-ozone campaigns on this assumption. However, empirical science may get in the way.

A problem has developed in this great plan. A study published in the *Journal of Asthma and Clinical Immunology* found little or no relationship in incidence of asthma between children in urban areas and children in rural area, after adjustments for other factors such as poverty. The study emphasizes that air pollution may be a cause for asthma, only it's indoor air pollution, such as second hand smoke, rodents, mold, etc. According to *The Hill* newspaper: *The study couldn't come at a worse time for the agency. EPA is preparing to tighten national standards for ground-level ozone (the main ingredient in smog) by as much as 20 percent. To justify the move, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy argued she was “following science” to “protect those most at-risk—our children, our elderly, and people already suffering from lung diseases like asthma.” But it's hard to see how lowering the current ozone limit either “follows the science” or “protects those most at-risk” for asthma.*

No doubt, the environmental industry will condemn the study, to include claims of coal industry funding, etc. But, the problem of asthma cannot be solved by condemning the research of others on the dubious basis of funding. If asthma is a pressing national issue, then it must be approached with scrupulous examination, not personal attacks. See links under Health, Energy, and Climate.

The Race to the Bottom -- Circular Reasoning? As explained in last week's TWTW, surveys (opinion polls) frequently disguise the scientific issues regarding global warming/climate change. The issue is not what climate scientists think, but how and why they think it -- what physical

evidence do they use to justify their claims? General climate models, which have not been validated, are not physical evidence. For example, given the best surface temperature records available, there were two periods of general warming during the 20th century; one from about 1910 to 1940 and the second from about 1976 to 1998. There has not been a generalized warming of the globe as one would expect from increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide. Surveys of scientists that fail to make these points as central issues are generally meaningless.

Many of those who create global climate models also ignore these points and are now trying to justify the failure of the models to predict the current plateau in global temperatures with ever imaginative explanations. Researchers at the Max Planck Institute used climate model simulations in 15 year periods to claim that the climate models are correct, except for natural variations (??). They concluded that there are no systematic errors in the models. To make matters worse the claim was summarized in Phys Org as:

*Sceptics who still doubt anthropogenic climate change have now been stripped of one of their last-ditch arguments: It is true that there has been a warming hiatus and that the surface of the earth has warmed up much less rapidly since the turn of the millennium than all the relevant climate models had predicted. However, **the gap between the calculated and measured warming is not due to systematic errors of the models, as the sceptics had suspected, but because there are always random fluctuations in the Earth's climate.** [emphasis added, from Matt Briggs]*

Who claimed that there were no fluctuations in the Earth's climate? Certainty, not most of the skeptics who have repeatedly pointed out that climate has been changing for hundreds of millions of years, long before humanity existed.

When analyzing the paper further, Nicholas Lewis (technical) and Andrew Montford (general) recognized the entire effort was another example of circular reasoning – an effort based on model outputs to verify models rather than rigorously comparing model output with physical observations of temperatures.

This affair exposes the poor quality of climate research being conducted and published by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and its following among government entities. Some have argued that under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), **it is not the function of the IPCC to understand natural variation in climate change, but only the human influence.** If so, then every report, every press release should boldly state that **the report is addressing the issue of human cause of climate change and does not address the natural causes that have been on-going for hundreds of millions of years.** Such a statement would help clarify the confusion in the public that the reports are from experts on climate, not experts on human influence who ignore natural influences. See links under Un-Science or Non-Science - Circular Reasoning?

Non-Sustainable Alternative Energy? In discussing the experience of wind farms in Australia, David Archibald points out that the electricity from coal used to manufacture wind turbines cost far less than the electricity produced by wind turbines. How can such an activity be considered sustainable?

One can imagine the manufacturing difficulties that occur when electricity is unreliable. Pierre Gosselin has a graphs on Germany's offshore wind capacity and actual production. See links under Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind and Questioning European Green

Number of the Week: 12.9% and 10.6%. A study of over 23,000 children by a team headed by Dr Corrine Keet of the Johns Hopkins Children’s Center found that 12.9% of inner city children had asthma while 10.6% of rural children did. When adjusting for factors such as poverty, the team found no statistical difference.

#####

ARTICLES:

Please note that articles that are not linked or summarized here are reproduced in the Articles Section of the full TWTW that can be found on the web site under the date of the TWTW.

1. Global Warming Pause: Is the End Near?

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 3, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2015/02/global_warming_pause_is_the_end_near.html

[SUMMARY: Global Warming (GW) alarmists are in a pickle: no GW, in spite of rising CO2 levels. True believers are using quasi-religious slogans, like “The End [of the GW pause] is Near” and “Repent [Stop emitting CO2] Before It’s Too Late.”]

2. Opinion/Letter: Energy-policy mind games a waste

By Charles Battig, Letter, Charlottesville Daily Progress, Feb 4, 2015

http://www.dailyprogress.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/opinion-letter-energy-policy-mind-games-a-waste/article_91140618-abf0-11e4-9cf4-eb9ffb5b20b8.html

3. The Alarming Thing About Climate Alarmism

Exaggerated, worst-case claims result in bad policy and they ignore a wealth of encouraging data. By Bjorn Lomborg, WSJ, Feb 1, 2015 [H/t William Readdy]

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/bjorn-lomborg-the-alarming-thing-about-climate-alarmism-1422832462>

[SUMMARY: Lomborg recognizes that in the past 15 years temperatures have risen about 90% less than what was predicted by the IPCC. “Facts like this are important because a one-sided focus on worst-case stories is a poor foundation for sound policies.” Lomborg emphasizes that one should view the world’s deaths from natural disasters over time. “In the Oxford University database for death rates from floods, extreme temperatures, droughts and storms, the average in the first part of last century was more than 13 dead every year per 100,000 people. Since then the death rates have dropped 97% to a new low in the 2010s of 0.38 per 100,000 people.” Economic development is key to improving the lives of the public and withstanding climate change.]

4. Energy-Pinching Americans Pose Threat to Power Grid

Sluggish Sales Could Deprive Utilities of Revenues to Maintain Vast Network of Generating Plants and High-Voltage Lines

By Rebecca Smith, WSJ, Feb 2, 2015

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/energy-pinching-americans-pose-threat-to-power-grid-1422910187>

[SUMMARY: In the US power use is down, but prices are up. “Since 2004, average residential electricity prices have jumped 39%, to 12.5 cents a kilowatt-hour and prices for all users have jumped 36% to 10.42 cents, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Retail sales to homes and businesses still are less than they were in 2007, before the recession.” This disparity is putting pressure on electric utilities. Among the more radical proposals being explored by state utility regulations is a significant fixed monthly fee for electricity service.]

#####

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Global Warming Pause: Is the End Near?

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 3, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2015/02/global_warming_pause_is_the_end_near.html

Global Warming Hysteria Has Problem: It Doesn't Fit With Facts

By Thomas Sowell, IBD, Feb 2, 2015 [H/t Paul Redfern]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-on-the-right/020215-737517-climate-change-models-dont-fit-reality.htm?p=full>

German Analysis: “Current Warm Period Is No Anthropogenic Product” – Major Natural Cycles Show No Signs Of Warming!

Climate cycles and their extrapolation into the future

By Dietrich Koelle, Translated/edited by P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 2, 2015

<http://notrickszone.com/#sthash.pM8K8fRO.OiTUTX9Q.dpbs>

[SEPP Comment: The note at the end of the post is critical: “In our book “The Neglected Sun” we presented two CO2 climate sensitivity scenarios: 1.0°C and 1.5 °C warming for a CO2 doubling. Current studies have corrected the original IPCC value of 3°C strongly downwards (see our articles “Studies from 2014 provide hope: warming effect of CO2 is considerably over-estimated. Official correction is imminent“). As Gosselin states: “It will be exciting to watch how research will develop with respect to climate sensitivity over the coming years.”

Defending the Orthodoxy

White House: Climate change threatens national security

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Feb 6, 2015

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/231985-white-house-climate-change-urgent-and-growing-national-security>

Link to Document: National Security Strategy, The White House, Feb 2015

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2015_national_security_strategy.pdf

Financing the Fight Against Climate Change

By Anne Paugam, Project Syndicate, Feb 6, 2015

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/development-banks-finance-climate-change-by-anne-paugam-2015-02>

[SEPP Comment: Another expert who considers a specific example is indicative of a general trend.]

Norway signs up to EU greenhouse gas targets

By Staff Writers, Oslo (AFP), Feb 4, 2015

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Norway_signs_up_to_EU_greenhouse_gas_targets_999.html

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Climate Peace in Our Time

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Feb 4, 2015

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2015/02/climate-peace-in-our-time.php>

Link to Statement to the Press: Figueres: First time the world economy is transformed intentionally

By Staff Writers UN Regional Information Centre for Western Europe, Feb 3, 2015

<http://www.unric.org/en/latest-un-buzz/29623-figueres-first-time-the-world-economy-is-transformed-intentionally>

Questioning the robustness of the climate modeling paradigm

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Feb 2, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/02/02/questioning-the-robustness-of-the-climate-modeling-paradigm/#more-17736>

Excuse #64 For The ‘Pause’ In Global Warming: It’s Pure Luck

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Jan 30, 2015

<http://dailycaller.com/2015/01/30/excuse-64-for-the-pause-in-global-warming-its-pure-luck/>

Climate Scientists' Major Fail.

By William Franks, The Australian Climate Sceptics, Feb 6, 2015

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2015/02/climate-scientists-major-fail.html>

East Greenland polar bears – said to be the most polluted but appear to be doing just fine

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Feb 4, 2015

<http://polarbearscience.com/2015/02/04/east-greenland-polar-bears-said-to-be-the-most-polluted-but-appears-to-be-doing-just-fine/#more-30307>

Lukewarm About Climate Change

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Feb 5, 2015

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2015/02/lukewarm-about-climate-change.html>

UK Met Office uses graphical tricks to hide the pause

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 6, 2015

<http://joannenova.com.au/2015/02/uk-met-office-uses-graphical-tricks-to-hide-the-pause/#more-40832>

Social Benefits of Carbon

Turning up heat on plants could help grow crops of the future

Press Release, University of Edinburgh, EurekAlert, Feb 2, 2015 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2015-02/uo-e-tuh020215.php

Problems in the Orthodoxy

China rebuffed over UN move targeting NGOs

By Staff Writers, United Nations, United States (AFP), Jan 30, 2015

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/China_rebuffed_over_UN_move_targeting_NGOs_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The UN protects its favored green groups, which often demand UN action, a built-in UN promotion group. The US claimed that it would be a setback for transparency. Let's see some real transparency in the UN reports – blunt statements as to the uncertainty and the bias in the reports.]

UN climate chief tempers expectation on Paris deal

By Staff Writers, New Zealand Herald, Feb 6, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=11397709

You Ought to Have a Look: Tamping Down Expectations for Paris

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Feb 6, 2015
<http://www.cato.org/blog/you-ought-have-look-tamping-down-expectations-paris>

Seeking a Common Ground

Questioning the robustness of the climate modeling paradigm

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Feb 2, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/02/02/questioning-the-robustness-of-the-climate-modeling-paradigm/#more-17736>

Taxonomy of climate/energy policy perspectives

By Planning Engineer, Climate Etc. Feb 3, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/02/03/taxonomy-of-climateenergy-policy-perspectives/#more-17744>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

576 Years of Droughts and Floods Along Utah's Wasatch Front

Bekker, M.F., DeRose, R.J., Buckley, B.M., Kjelgren, R.K. and Gill, N.S. 2014. A 576-year Weber River streamflow reconstruction from tree rings for water resource risk assessment in the Wasatch Front, Utah. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* **50**: 1338-1348. Feb 4, 2015

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V18/feb/a5.php>

Herbivores Enhance the Carbon Flux to CO2-Enriched Forest Soils

Meehan, T.D., Couture, J.J., Bennett, A.E. and Lindroth, R.L. 2014. Herbivore-mediated material fluxes in a northern deciduous forest under elevated carbon dioxide and ozone concentrations. *New Phytologist* **204**: 397-407. Feb 3, 2015

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V18/feb/a3.php>

Representations of Aeolian Dust in CMIP5 Climate Models

Evan, A.T., Flamant, C., Fiedler, S. and Doherty, O. 2014. An analysis of aeolian dust in climate models. *Geophysical Research Letters* **41**: 5996-6001. Feb 3, 2015

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V18/feb/a1.php>

Real-World Lizards Are Evolving Right Before Our Very Eyes

Stuart, Y.E., Campbell, T.S., Hohenlohe, P.A., Reynolds, R.G., Revell, L.J. and Losos, J.B. 2014. Rapid evolution of a native species following invasion by a congener. *Science* **346**: 463-466. Jan 30, 2015

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V18/jan/a28.php>

“*Nature*, it would appear, has the ability to successfully deal with whatever challenges potential global warming and ocean acidification may foist upon it, as further demonstrated by the many journal reviews contained in the several sub-sections listed under the general heading of *Evolution ...*”

Models v. Observations

Current Wisdom: A Closer Look at Climate Model Performance

By Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger and Patrick J. Michaels, CATO, Feb 6, 2015

<http://www.cato.org/blog/current-wisdom-closer-look-climate-model-performance>

Model Issues

Climate models disagree on why temperature 'wiggles' occur

By Staff Writers, Science News, Jan 27, 2015

<http://esciencenews.com/articles/2015/01/27/climate.models.disagree.why.temperature.wiggles.occur>

Many Mixed Signals in the UKMO's Latest 5-Year Global Surface Temperature Forecast

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Feb 5, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/05/many-mixed-signals-in-the-ukmos-latest-5-year-global-surface-temperature-forecast/>

Measurement Issues

How To Access GISS Temperature Records

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Feb 1, 2015

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/02/01/how-to-access-giss-temperature-records/>

No, 2014 Wasn't the "Warmest Year In History"

By Jeff Jacoby, Boston Globe, Jan 29, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2015/01/29/global-temperature-what-does-that-even-mean/YBuZQuXqAB5dJYznrRyVKI/story.html>

Only Satellites Show Pause, WUWT? (Now Includes December Data)

By Werner Brozek, WUWT, Feb 3, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/03/only-satellites-show-pause-wuwt-now-includes-december-data/>

Uncertainty Ranges, Error Bars, and Cis

By Kip Hansen, WUWT, Feb 1, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/01/uncertainty-ranges-error-bars-and-cis/>

UN confirms 2014 was 'hottest year on record'

By Staff Writers, AFP, Feb 2, 2015 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/un-confirms-2014-hottest-record-101032311.html>

Why The GHCN Adjustments In The Arctic Are Wrong

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Feb 6, 20

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2015/02/06/why-the-ghcn-adjustments-in-the-arctic-are-wrong/>

Changing Weather

Review of natural catastrophes in 2014: Lower losses from weather extremes and earthquakes

By Staff Writers, Press Release, Munich RE, Jan 7, 2015

<http://www.munichre.com/en/group/focus/climate-change/news/2015/2015-01-07-press-release/index.html>

Natural loss events in 2014: http://www.munichre.com/site/corporate/get/documents_E-1611722943/mr/assetpool.shared/Documents/0_Corporate%20Website/6_Media%20Relations/Press%20Releases/2015/Munich-Re-Overview-Natural-catastrophes-2014.pdf

Map of losses worldwide: http://www.munichre.com/site/corporate/get/documents_E-1611684284/mr/assetpool.shared/Documents/0_Corporate%20Website/6_Media%20Relations/Press%20Releases/2015/Munich-Re-World-map-Natural-catastrophes-2014.pdf

The Precipitous Decline in US Flood Damage as a Percentage of GDP

By Roger Pielke Jr, Climate Fix, Feb 5, 2015

<https://theclimatefix.wordpress.com/2015/02/05/the-precipitous-decline-in-us-flood-damage-as-a-percentage-of-gdp/>

The “Historic” Blizzard of 2015 Ranked #41

By Roy Spencer, Global Warming, Feb 1, 2015

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2015/02/the-historic-blizzard-of-2015-ranked-41/>

”The ranking is based upon societal impacts, so if the worst storm on Earth in the last 10,000 years hit where no one lived, it would not even rank.”

Reports: ‘Snow increasingly rare’ becomes ‘we knew snows would be heavier in warmer winters’

By Joseph D’Aleo, ICECAP, Feb 2, 2015

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes->

[blog/reports_snow_increasingly_rare_becomes_we_knew_snows_would_be_heavier_in_wa/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/reports_snow_increasingly_rare_becomes_we_knew_snows_would_be_heavier_in_wa/)

Are heatwaves in Australia becoming more frequent, hotter or lasting longer?

The hypothesis tested.

By Geoffrey Sherrington, The Australian Climate Sceptics, Feb 6, 2015

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2015/02/are-heatwaves-in-australia-becoming.html>

Heavy rainfall events becoming more frequent on Big Island, Hawaii

Press release, Univ of Hawaii, Feb 5, 2015 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/02/150205095237.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily+%28Latest+Science+News+-+ScienceDaily%29

Link to paper: Trends in precipitation extremes and return levels in the Hawaiian Islands under a changing climate

By Ying Ruan Chen and Pao-Shin Chu*, International Journal of Climatology Feb 18, 2014

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/joc.3950/abstract;jsessionid=A2EFA72AE8A5625F06F7E53C2B3B067E.f02t02>

“A positive relationship is found between the precipitation extremes and Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), implying greater extreme events during La Niña years and the opposite for El Niño years.”

[SEPP Comment: The above statement is consistent with those who have argued for years, we are not properly studying the natural variations in climate.]

Super soaker ‘Pineapple Express’ organizing for heavy rain in California this weekend – as much as 20 inches in some areas

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 2, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/02/super-soaker-pineapple-express-organizing-for-heavy-rain-in-california-this-weekend-as-much-as-20-inches-in-some-areas/>

[SEPP Comment: If this continues, soon those who blamed the drought on climate change will blame the floods on climate change. Can the dogmatic ever be wrong?]

Changing Climate

650-Year Drought Triggered Ancient City's Abandonment

By Laura Geggel, Live Science, Jan 30, 2015 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.livescience.com/49646-ancient-city-abandonment-drought.html>

Link to article, Cultural implications of late Holocene climate change in the Cuenca Oriental, Mexico

By Bhattacharya, et al, PNAS, Jan 26, 2015 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2015/01/21/1405653112.abstract>

Chronique du climat

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 4, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/2/4/chronique-du-climat.html>

[SEPP Comment: Climate was not always blissful in western France.]

Changing Seas

Slope on the ocean surface lowers the sea level in Europe

By Staff Writers, National Oceanography Centre (NOC), Jan 28, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://noc.ac.uk/news/slope-ocean-surface-lowers-sea-level-europe>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Iceland rises as its glaciers melt from climate change

By Staff Writers, Tucson AZ (SPX), Feb 01, 2015

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Iceland_rises_as_its_glaciers_melt_from_climate_change_999.html

Sea Ice Climate Schizophrenia?

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Feb 3, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/03/sea-ice-climate-schizophrenia/>

Changing Earth

Earth's orbit affects the stability of Antarctica's Eastern ice cap

Press Release By University of Granada, Science Daily, Feb 3, 2015 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/02/150203094326.htm>

Orbital forcing of the East Antarctic ice sheet during the Pliocene and Early Pleistocene

By Patterson, et al, Nature Geoscience, Oct 26, 2014,

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v7/n11/full/ngeo2273.html>

Acidic Waters

How will ocean acidification impact marine life?

By Staff Writer, Science News, Feb 3, 2015 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://esciencenews.com/articles/2015/02/03/how.will.ocean.acidification.impact.marine.life>

[Comments by Clyde Spencer: Yes, but soda water and tap water are not highly buffered alkaline solutions like ocean water. Therefore, they are subject to actually being acidic and varying rapidly in their pH with small changes in CO₂.

Apparently mammalian blood has a salt content very similar to ocean water, which is sometimes interpreted as reflecting the environment in which life first evolved. Interestingly, the pH of blood is a lot lower (being close to neutral) than what the oceans are today. Might that be an argument that the oceans are anomalously alkaline today compared to the distant past?]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Quote of the day: can't trust Greenpeace edition

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 3, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/2/3/quote-of-the-day-cant-trust-greenpeace-edition.html>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Evidence from warm past confirms recent IPCC estimates of climate sensitivity

By Staff Writers, Science News, Feb 4, 2015

<http://esciencenews.com/articles/2015/02/04/evidence.warm.past.confirms.recent.ipcc.estimates.climate.sensitivity>

[SEPP Comment: Unable to locate abstract. What caused the earlier warmer period?]

Mercury levels rise in Hawaiian ahi tuna: study

By Staff Writers, Miami (AFP) Feb 2, 2015

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Mercury_levels_rise_in_Hawaiian_ahi_tuna_study_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The unusual small sample size for 2008, the last year in the study, raises questions of over generalization.]

New paper finds oceans warming only a tiny 0.002°C-0.005°C/year since 2006

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Feb 2, 2015

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2015/02/new-paper-finds-oceans-warming-only.html>

Un-Science or Non-Science - Circular Reasoning?

Global warming slowdown: No systematic errors in climate models

By Staff Writers, Max Planck Society, Feb 2, 2015 [H/t Bud Bromley]

<http://phys.org/news/2015-02-global-slowdown-systematic-errors-climate.html#ajTabs>

Link to paper: Forcing, feedback and internal variability in global temperature trends

By Jochem Marotzke & Piers M. Forster, Nature, Jan 29, 2015

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v517/n7536/full/nature14117.html>

Global warming slowdown: No systematic errors in climate models

By Staff Writers, Munich, Germany (SPX), Feb 03, 2015

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Global_warming_slowdown_No_systematic_errors_in_climate_models_999.html

Marotzke's circularity

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 5, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/2/5/marotzkes-circularity.html>

Marotzke and Forster's circular attribution of CMIP5 intermodel warming differences

By Nicholas Lewis, Climate Audit, Feb 5, 2015

<http://climateaudit.org/2015/02/05/marotzke-and-forsters-circular-attribution-of-cmip5-intermodel-warming-differences/>

Natural Variations In Weather DO NOT Explain The 'Pause': Update, With Letter to Nature

By William Briggs, His Blog, Feb 5, 2015

<http://wmbriggs.com/post/15201>

Lowering Standards

Inside scientivism

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 2, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/2/2/inside-scientivism.html>

“My abiding impression was of a BBC presenter and a social scientist sitting about discussing the efficacy of what amounts to a con on the general public.”

Major climate science reporting fail by Minnesota Public Radio

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, Feb 3, 2015

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2015/02/major_climate_science_reporting_fail_by_minnesota_public_radio.html

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

Climate change squabbles are inevitable in science — and life

By Ilan Kelman, RTCC, Feb 5, 2015 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.rtcc.org/2015/02/05/climate-change-squabbles-are-inevitable-in-science-and-life/>

[SEPP Comment: The author misses the central issue: The physical evidence to support the hypothesis that human CO2 emissions are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming. He assumes that which must be proven is correct. He obfuscates the science in a manner similar to that which he accuses the tobacco companies of doing.]

About the Claims That Northeast U.S. Blizzards Have Been Amplified by Human-Induced Global Warming

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Feb 2, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/02/about-the-claims-that-northeast-u-s-blizzards-have-been-amplified-by-human-induced-global-warming/>

Cold Nights and Shoddy Science Journalism at the Guardian

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, Feb 6, 2015

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2015/02/2_5_2015_14_56.html

Drylands: Desolate, scorched, uninhabitable? Scientists say otherwise

Complex ecosystem is patchwork of grasses, shrubs, agricultural fields, urban-dwelling species, including humans

By Cheryl Dybas, NSF, Dec 2, 2015

http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133883&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

"Increasing 'desertification' threatens economic stability and societies globally," says Saran Twombly, NSF LTER program director.

[SEPP Comment: The statement is nonsense. The globe is greening.]

How to unscientifically hype insignificant noise in ocean “warming”

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 3, 2015

<http://joannenova.com.au/2015/02/how-to-unscientifically-hype-insignificant-noise-in-ocean-warming/>

Temperatures Rise as Climate Critics Take Aim at U.S. Classrooms

By Alex Nussbaum, Bloomberg, Feb 5, 2015

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-02-05/temperatures-rise-as-climate-critics-take-aim-at-u-s-classrooms>

Communicating Better to the Public – Do a Poll?

Actions and beliefs behind climate change stance

Press Release by Monash University, EurekAlert, Feb 2, 2015 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2015-02/mu-aab020215.php

[Comment by Clyde Spencer: What wasn't said was, "This finding suggests that antagonizing sceptics 'believers' and increasing their anger towards their opponents is likely to polarize them further, making them more committed to act in support of their cause." It has been my experience that the Chicken Littles are the ones who are most likely to 'go over the top' when challenged.]

Another dumb climate psychology paper

By Paul Mathews, The IPCC Report, Feb 3, 2015

<https://ipccreport.wordpress.com/2015/02/03/another-dumb-climate-psychology-paper/>

Pew's Public and Scientists' Views on Science and Society Survey

By William Briggs, His Blog, Feb 2, 2015

<http://wmbriggs.com/post/15184>

NYT: Even Republicans fear global warming!

By Pedro Gonzales, American Thinker, Jan 31, 2015

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2015/01/nyt_even_republicans_fear_global_warming.html

Passion for climate change cools

Prudent nations are looking again at the cost of going green

Editorial, The Washington Times, Feb 2, 2015

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/feb/2/editorial-passion-for-climate-change-cools/>

Public are not buying science "experts" opinions: AAAS survey shows 30-50% gap

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 31, 2015

<http://joannenova.com.au/2015/01/public-are-not-buying-science-experts-opinions-aaas-survey-shows-30-50-gap/#more-40716>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Fatally Flawed Climate Science Paper 'Should Be Withdrawn'

Press Release by Staff Writers, GWPF, Feb 6, 2015

<http://www.thegwpf.com/fatally-flawed-climate-paper-should-be-withdrawn/>

Climate Change, Statistical Significance, and Science

By Michael Lavine, Stats.org, Jan 26, 2015 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.stats.org/climate-change-statistical-significance-and-science/>

"A recent plea for scientists to 'stop playing dumb on climate change' shows why *The New York Times* Op Ed page needs a statistician."

Climate Horror Stories That Won't Die: The Case of the Pika (Stewart, 2015)

By Jim Steele WUWT, Feb 4, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/04/climate-horror-stories-that-wont-die-the-case-of-the-pika-stewart-2015/>

Flawed Cherry Picking BOM [AU Bureau of Meteorology]

By Geoff Brown, Australian Climate Sceptics, Feb 2, 2015

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2015/02/flawed-cherry-picking-bom.html>

Is the Pentagon hyping climate change? Here, take a look.

By Lori Montgomery, Washington Post, Jan 30, 2015 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/01/30/is-the-pentagon-hyping-climate-change-here-take-a-look/?postshare=5241422652227132>

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Climate of Hate: His children are urged to kill him, he's compared to Adolf Hitler and labelled a 'denier' – even though he's Jewish. Disturbing article reveals what happens if you dare to doubt the Green prophets of doom

Journalist David Rose has been labelled a 'climate change denier'

Wrote article about scientists covering up data in 'climategate' scandal

He believes 'renewable' sources such as wind and 'biomass' are futile

One online commenter urged Mr Rose's own children to murder him

By David Rose, Daily Mail, UK, Feb 2, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2934540/What-happens-dare-doubt-Green-prophets-doom.html>

Journalist David Rose subjected to 'vile online abuse' for questioning severity of man-made climate change

By Dominic Ponsford, Press Gazette, UK, Feb 2, 2015

<http://www.pressgazette.co.uk/journalist-david-rose-subjected-vile-online-abuse-questioning-severity-man-made-climate-change>

Climate denial gets a billion-dollar boost: Why the Kochs' 2016 spending spree could mean planetary disaster

The Kochs' major campaign financing push could undermine climate action right when we need it the most

B Lindsay Abrams, Salon, Jan 28, 2015

http://www.salon.com/2015/01/28/climate_denial_gets_a_billion_dollar_boost_why_the_kochs_2016_spending_spree_could_mean_planetary_disaster/

Shock study results: Calling climate skeptics 'deniers' just pisses them off

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Feb 2, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/02/shock-study-results-calling-climate-skeptics-deniers-just-pisses-them-off/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children

FAIL: Wildflower School Anti-frackers vandalize park trees with political anti-fracking message

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 6, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/06/fail-wildflower-school-anti-frackers-vandalize-park-trees-with-political-anti-fracking-message/>

[SEPP Comment: Paint the trees red in the name of green.]

Obama administration wanted Disney to remake Frozen as an AGW agitprop

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Feb 6, 2015

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2015/02/obama-administration-wanted-disney-to.html#more>

[SEPP Comment: Use of the term “ordered” is too strong. The retired admiral had no power to order Disney studios.]

Write to a tree about climate change in the Melbourne City Council, and it will write back

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 4, 2015

<http://joannenova.com.au/2015/02/write-to-a-tree-about-climate-change-in-the-melbourne-city-council-and-it-will-write-back/>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Climate Change

By Staff Writers, American Academy of Actuaries, Jan 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.actuary.org/files/EE_ClimateChange_012915.pdf

Selective Use of data, especially NOAA

World has not woken up to water crisis caused by climate change: IPCC head

By Nita Bhalla, Reuters, Feb 3, 2015

<http://news.yahoo.com/world-not-woken-water-crisis-caused-climate-change-130410305.html>

Questioning European Green

The penny drops

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 3, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/2/3/the-penny-drops.html>

“I am constantly taken aback by the number of people in positions of power and authority who simply have no idea that many major environmental groups deceive the public in order to advance their aims.”

Renewable Energy Infrastructure Costs More Than Greek and Irish Bailout Combined.

By A.B. Sanderson, Breitbart, UK, Feb 5, 2015

<http://www.breitbart.com/london/2015/02/05/renewable-energy-infrastructure-costs-more-than-greek-and-irish-bailouts-combined/>

THE CHART Wind Energy Proponents Fear You’ll See...Offshore Wind Turbines Stay In Bed 4 Of Every 5 Workdays! –

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 5, 2015

<http://notrickszone.com/2015/02/05/the-chart-wind-energy-proponents-fear-youll-see-offshore-wind-turbines-stay-in-bed-4-of-every-5-workdays/#sthash.jYfmCr5W.dpbs>

[SEPP Comment: On most days in Germany, production is far below nameplate capacity.]

Britons feel more threatened by Russia than climate change

British people feel less threatened by climate change now than they did in 2010, a survey by Chatham House reveals

By Sophie Yeo, RTCC, Feb 2, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.rtcc.org/2015/02/02/britons-feel-more-threatened-by-russia-than-climate-change/>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Burn Baby Burn

Review: Alex Epstein's 'The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels'

By Andrew Evans, Washington Free Beacon, Feb 1, 2015

<http://freebeacon.com/culture/burn-baby-burn/>

Funding Issues

Obama 2016 Budget Boosts Spending on Renewables and Climate Change Efforts [Corrected]

By Thomas Overton, Power Mag, Feb 2, 2015

http://www.powermag.com/obama-2016-budget-boosts-spending-on-renewables-and-climate-change-efforts/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3023368&hq_l=8&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Renewable electricity generation is splendidly driving up the costs of electricity in Europe. Let's have more in the US!]

Obama takes aim at billions in oil, gas, coal tax breaks

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 2, 2015

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/231473-obama-takes-aim-at-billions-in-oil-gas-coal-tax-breaks>

“Obama targets a deduction afforded companies for domestic manufacturing, expensed intangible drilling costs, and breaks for coal exploration and development costs, among other tax breaks in the budget.”

[SEPP Comment: When analyzed, these “tax breaks” are questionable. Often they could be classified as legitimate business expenses. Yet, the administration brags of the increase in oil and natural gas production, which it did not foster or promote.]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Getting Rid of Renewable Energy Mandate Would Benefit Consumers

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Feb 2, 2015

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=25315&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

Link to study: Why Ending the Renewable Energy Mandate Is Good for Ohio Families and the Economy

By Joe Nichols, The Buckeye Institute, Jan 29, 2015

[http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Pew%20Renewables%20Final\(1\).pdf](http://www.buckeyeinstitute.org/uploads/files/Pew%20Renewables%20Final(1).pdf)

Pace of German solar panel additions slows in 2014

By Vera Eckert, Reuters, Feb 3, 2015 [H/t GGWPF]

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/03/us-germany-renewables-idUSKBN0L719U20150203>

[SEPP Comment: A statistical correlation between the amount of subsidies and solar panel additions may be interesting.]

The \$100,000 Pickup Truck

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Feb 6, 2015

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2015/02/06/the-100000-pickup-truck/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

How to Comment on EPA's Proposal to Revise the Ozone Standards in Writing

Document: How to comment

<http://www.epa.gov/glo/pdfs/20141125fs-comment.pdf>

EPA Email Shows Desperate Climate Change Agenda

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Feb 2, 2015

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/climate-warming-epa-fuel/2015/02/02/id/622081/>

Ozone Layer Protection

Recent International Developments Under the Montreal Protocol

By Staff Writers, EPA, Accessed, Feb 6, 2015

<http://www.epa.gov/ozone/intpol/mpagreement.html>

Summary: North American 2014 HFC Submission to the Montreal Protocol

http://www.epa.gov/ozone/downloads/HFC_Amendment_2014_Summary.pdf

Benefits of Addressing HFCs under the Montreal Protocol

Stratospheric Protection Division, Office of Atmospheric Programs, EPA, Jul 2014

http://www.epa.gov/ozone/downloads/Benefits_of_Addressing_HFCs_under_the_Montreal_Protocol-July2014MASTER_REV4.pdf

HFCs: A Critical Link in Protecting Climate and the Ozone Layer

By Staff Writers, UNEP, Nov 2011

http://www.unep.org/dewa/Portals/67/pdf/HFC_report.pdf

Lawmakers clash over ‘mythical’ EPA water rule

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Feb 4, 2015

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/231722-lawmakers-fight-over-mythical-epa-water-rule>

“We don’t want to regulate a puddle, that’s ridiculous,” she [Sen Boxer] said. “We want to regulate a body of water that has pollutants in it, and those pollutants wind up in the drinking water system.”

[SEPP Comment: In the past, Federal officials have declared wet leaves as “waters of the United States.”]

Playing Politics with the Weather

The EPA’s head forsakes science in predicting that Aspen will one day resemble Amarillo, Texas.

By Rupert Darwall, National Review Online, Feb 3, 2015 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/397766/playing-politics-weather-rupert-darwall>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Future Trends in Carbon-Free Energy Consumption in the US, Europe and China

By Roger Pielke Jr. The Climate Fix, Feb 2, 2015

<https://theclimatefix.wordpress.com/2015/02/02/future-trends-in-carbon-free-energy-consumption-in-the-us-europe-and-china/>

[SEPP Comment: Would the trends continue if it were not for subsidies and mandates.]

Why Russia’s Grip on Europe’s Gas Markets Is Weakening

By Stephen Fiedler, WSJ, Via GWPF, Jan 30, 2015

<http://www.thegwpf.com/why-russias-grip-on-europes-gas-markets-is-weakening/>

Paul Younger: Why Strangle The Golden Shale Goose?

By Paul Younger, The Times, Via GWPF, Feb 5, 2015

<http://www.thegwpf.com/paul-younger-why-strangle-the-golden-shale-goose/>

“What I learned on that committee convinced me that the fracking furore is a typhoon in a tea cup. The number of genuine environmental problems attributable to shale gas operations is tiny, and highly localised in any objectively demonstrable effects. The impacts are trivial compared to those I spent my career combating.”

Germany’s “Energiewende” Leading To Suicide By Cannibalism. Huge Oversupply Risks Destabilization

The coming age of power cannibalism...Germany on the verge of committing energy suicide
By Fred F. Mueller, No Tricks Zone, Feb 4, 2015

<http://notrickszone.com/2015/02/04/germanys-energiewende-leading-to-suicide-by-cannibalism-huge-oversupply-risks-destabilization/#sthash.8tE9YRDj.dpbs>

New Cold War: US, Russia fight over Europe's energy future

By Bradley Klapper and Matthew Lee, AP, Feb 3, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.stripes.com/news/europe/new-cold-war-us-russia-fight-over-europe-s-energy-future-1.327523>

Obama Rejects Arctic Oil and Gas Drilling. Is Putin Preparing to Come and Take It?

By Ron Arnold, The Daily Signal, Feb 4, 2015

<http://dailysignal.com/2015/02/04/obama-rejects-arctic-oil-gas-drilling-putin-preparing-come-take/>

The outspoken Rep. Young of Alaska said, “It’s becoming undeniably clear that this administration does not view Alaska as a sovereign state, but rather an eco-theme park for the most extreme environmentalist allies of the president and his party.”

Russia’s War on Fracking

Threatened by low oil prices, Putin is covertly supporting anti-frackers and spreading propaganda.
By Tom Rogan, National Review Online, Feb 3, 2105

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/397755/russias-war-fracking-tom-rogan>

The sheep in Wales

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 5, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/2/5/the-sheep-in-wales.html>

“A proposal against shale gas fracking was voted through in the Welsh Assembly late on Wednesday, effectively making it impossible for shale gas developments to receive planning permits in Wales. As ever with the public sector, you see that decisions are made for the benefit of the staff rather than those they allegedly work for. There are 100,000 unemployed people in Wales.”

Energy Issues -- US

Electricity Consumption Drops during the Super Bowl

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Feb 3, 2015

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=25323&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

[SEPP Comment: Save electricity, watch football.]

US crude oil stocks return to 1930s crisis levels

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Feb 1, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/business/01-Feb-2015/us-crude-oil-stocks-return-to-1930s-crisis-levels>

[SEPP Comment: The inventory used is not particularly meaningful when compared with consumption.]

Washington's Control of Energy

Federal fracking rules due out soon

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Feb 2, 2015

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/231498-federal-fracking-rules-due-out-soon>

[SEPP Comment: No doubt to be issued and approved when the Administration is due to depart. On land, hydraulic fracturing has nothing to do with the BP blow-out.]

EPA hands ammunition to Keystone XL foes

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 3, 2015

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/231581-epa-to-state-give-low-oil-prices-additional-weight-when-ruling-on>

[SEPP Comment: No doubt the first of many government efforts to stop infrastructure projects the Administration opposes under the guise of climate change and the Administrations executive order that climate change must be considered in Federal funding.]

Obama To States: Shut Down Coal Plants Or Else

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Feb 3, 2015

<http://dailycaller.com/2015/02/03/obama-coal-highway/>

3 Reasons to Dismiss EPA's Latest Excuse on Keystone XL

By Nicolas Loris, Daily Signal, Feb 4, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailysignal.com/2015/02/04/3-reasons-dismiss-epas-latest-excuse-keystone-xl/>

Boehner to Kerry: Stop the Keystone secrecy

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 5, 2015

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/231877-boehner-kerry-needs-to-deliver-the-transparency-promised-on>

Obama's Offshore Drilling Deal

By Jeffrey Folks, American Thinker, Feb 2, 2015

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2015/02/obama_offshore_drilling_deal.html

Former Md. governor slams White House on new drilling rules

By David McCabe, The Hill, Feb 2, 2015

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/231412-omalley-slams-white-house-on-new-drilling-rules>

[SEPP Comment: The administration is not green enough – ban all off-shore drilling! It may interfere with off-shore wind, which the governor promoted.]

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Peak oil postponed

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Feb 5, 2015

<http://scientific-alliance.org/node/905>

Its' All Over: Chevron Abandons Shale Ventures In Europe

By Stanley Reed, International New York Times, Via GWPF, Jan 31, 2015

<http://www.thegwpf.com/its-all-over-chevron-abandons-shale-ventures-in-europe/>

Return of King Coal?

The Future of the American Coal Industry

By Jacopo Zenti, NCPA, Jan 30, 2015

<http://www.ncpa.org/pub/ba806>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Small Modular Reactors

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Feb 3, 2015

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2015/02/03/small-modular-reactors/>

Can nuclear succeed in liberalized power markets?

By Edward Kee, WNN, Feb 4, 2015

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/V-Can-nuclear-succeed-in-liberalized-power-markets-0420152.html>

New IAEA Project Focusses on Decommissioning and Remediation of Damaged Nuclear Facilities

By Patrick O'Sullivan, IAEA, Feb 4, 2015

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/new-iaea-project-focusses-decommissioning-and-remediation-damaged-nuclear-facilities>

NRC Completes Yucca Mountain Safety Evaluation Report

By Aaron Larson, Power Mag, Jan 29, 2015

http://www.powermag.com/nrc-completes-yucca-mountain-safety-evaluation-report/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3023368&hq_l=17&hq_v=5e660500d0

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Inherit the Wind (and not much else)

By David Archibald, Quadrant, Feb 5, 2015

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/qed/2015/02/inherit-wind-much-else/>

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

Renewable energy policies drive production of southern wood pellets for bioenergy

By Staff Writers, Asheville NC (SPX), Feb 03, 2015

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Renewable_energy_policies_drive_production_of_southern_wood_pellets_for_bioenergy_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Off to Europe!]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Vehicles

Gasoline vs. Electric Cars: Energy Usage and Cost

By Stanislav Jakuba, Master Resource, Feb 4, 2015

<https://www.masterresource.org/electric-vehicles/energy-usage-cost-gasoline-vs-electric/>

Carbon Schemes

DOE Pulls the Plug on FutureGen

By Thomas Overton, Power Mag, Feb 4, 2015

http://www.powermag.com/doe-pulls-the-plug-on-futuregen/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3023368&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

“In addition, there may be repercussions from the decision given that the EPA had highlighted FutureGen as one justification for its New Source Performance Standards rule. That inconsistency was blasted by the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity in statement, calling the move ‘hypocrisy’ and the administration’s treatment of clean coal technology as ‘misleading double-talk.’”

Obama pulls funding for top clean-coal project

By Ben Wolfgang, Washington Times, Feb 4, 2015

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/feb/4/obama-pulls-funding-top-clean-coal-project/>

DOE lends Shell a hand on carbon capture in Canada

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 4, 2015

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/231725-doe-lends-shell-a-hand-on-carbon-capture-in-canada>

[SEPP Comment: US DOE – help Shell in Canada, pull the plug in the US – to protect US taxpayer interests?]

Health, Energy, and Climate

Asthma Justification for EPA Regulations Guttled by the Latest Science

By Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger and Patrick J. Michaels, CATO, Feb 5, 2015

<http://www.cato.org/blog/asthma-justification-epa-regulations-guttled-latest-science#csJOPB:N9a>

Link to paper: Neighborhood poverty, urban residence, race/ethnicity, and asthma: Rethinking the inner-city asthma epidemic

By Keet, et al, Journal of Asthma and Clinical Immunology, Jan 20, 2015

[http://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749\(14\)01676-5/abstract](http://www.jacionline.org/article/S0091-6749(14)01676-5/abstract)

Does Air Pollution Actually Cause Childhood Asthma?

By Staff Writers, Center for Accountability in Science, Feb 3, 2015

<https://www.accountablescience.com/does-air-pollution-actually-cause-childhood-asthma/>

Part of the problem is that the EPA claims it is not allowed to consider economic costs when making “clean air” rules. Rather, its sole charge under the Clean Air Act is to protect public health within an “adequate margin of safety.” But as the World Health Organization emphasizes, poverty is one of the greatest risk factors for disease.

Upending EPA’s science on pollution and asthma

By Joseph Perrone, Ph.D., The Hill, Jan 31, 2015

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/231341-upending-epas-science-on-pollution-and-asthma>

Environmental Industry

How green and peaceful really is Greenpeace?

By Andrew Montford, The Spectator, Feb 5, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/andrewmontford/2015/02/how-green-and-how-peaceful-really-is-greenpeace/>

Activists Show Up in Droves for EPA Ozone Hearing

By Aaron Larson, Power Mag, Feb 2, 2015

http://www.powermag.com/activists-show-up-in-droves-for-epa-ozone-hearing/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3023368&hq_l=11&hq_v=5e660500d0

Other Scientific News

NASA Launches Groundbreaking Soil Moisture Mapping Satellite

By Staff Writers, Vandenberg AFB CA (SPX), Jan 31, 2015

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/NASA_Launches_Groundbreaking_Soil_Moisture_Mapping_Satellite_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Why expect NASA, and Washington, to pay closer attention to the records from these satellites when it ignores the 34 year temperature record from other satellites?]

Satellites can improve regional air quality forecasting

By Staff Writers, Iowa City IA (SPX), Feb 01, 2015

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Satellites_can_improve_regional_air_quality_forecasting_999.html

[SEPP Comment: NOAA and NASA-GISS have ignored satellite temperature records. Will these agencies ignore records from these satellites, if the results are not approved by their administrators?]

Other News that May Be of Interest

Invasive species in the Great Lakes by 2063

By Staff Writers, Montreal, Canada (SPX), Feb 01, 2015

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Invasive_species_in_the_Great_Lakes_by_2063_999.html

Pope Francis Apparently Doesn't Know IPCC Climate Objective Contradicts Catholic Doctrine. By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Feb 1, 2015

<http://drtimball.com/2015/pope-francis-apparently-doesnt-know-ipcc-climate-objective-contradicts-catholic-doctrine/>

#####

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Nutty claim: Our ability to think inhibits our climate response

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Feb 3, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/02/03/nutty-claim-our-ability-to-think-inhibits-our-climate-response/>

Link to Editorial, Human Nature May Seal the Planet's Warming Fate (Op-Ed), by Raghu Murtugudden, Live Science, Feb 2, 2015

<http://news.yahoo.com/human-nature-may-seal-planets-warming-fate-op-183943535.html>

Floating wind turbines bring electricity where it's needed

By Cicile Gonzalez, NSF, Feb 3, 2015

http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=134023&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

[SEPP Comment: \$895,679 in US grants so far. As Number Watch stated in the past: How do you tie it down to keep it stable in gusting winds? What is the weight of the lines keeping it stable?]

It's a parody of science: The Conversation thinks creativity in science is about dance choreography

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 5, 2015

<http://joannenova.com.au/2015/02/its-a-parody-of-science-the-conversation-thinks-creativity-in-science-is-about-dance-choreography/>

Link to the article: Living data: how art helps us all understand climate change

By Lisa Roberts, The Conversation, Feb 4, 2015

<https://theconversation.com/living-data-how-art-helps-us-all-understand-climate-change-36890>

Feds To Regulate Fake Fireplaces To Stop Global Warming

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Jan 30, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailycaller.com/2015/01/30/fireplace-regulation-global-warming/>

[SEPP Comment: Banning bio-fuels to stop fossil fuel warming!]

#####