

The Week That Was: 2015-12-05 (December 5, 2015)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *“There is perhaps no field aspiring to be scientific where flagrant personal bias, logic martyred in the cause of supporting a prejudice, unfounded assertions, and even sentimental rot and drivel, have run riot to such an extent as here.”* Helen Thompson Woolley In a review of research on the psychological differences between men and women -- 1910

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Number of the Week: 17 years

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THIS WEEK:

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

COP-21: The festive part of the Conference of Parties (COP-21) of the United Nations’ Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is over in Paris. This part began COP-21, giving various national politicians the opportunity to preen for the cameras as if they are celebrities. After all, some claim they are attending the conference in order to save the world from global warming/climate change. Who knows, some may actually believe it.

Now comes the hard part. The delegates to COP-21 must work out an agreement that, at least, gives the appearance they are saving the world. Of course, COP-21, and the UNFCCC, follows the party line laid out in the Fifth Assessment Report (AR-5, 2013 & 2014) by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Humans are mostly (more than 50%) responsible for 95 to 99% of global warming/climate change since about 1950. As stated in last week’s TWTW (November 28, 2015), this is a scientific hypothesis that must be tested. It has not been tested. Instead, the needed testing has been replaced by a cloud of assertions, some scientifically very good, some extremely poor, from which no one can logically draw firm conclusions with a 95 to 99% certainty. Simply, there is no scientific reason to accept severe limitations on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, as envisioned by many parties at COP-21.

Further, as discussed in last week’s TWTW, the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) released a report that contradicts many of the claims by the IPCC, including:

“Probably the only “consensus” among climate scientists is that human activities can have an effect on local climate and that the sum of such local effects could hypothetically rise to the level of an observable global signal. The key questions to be answered, however, are whether the human global signal is large enough to be measured and if it is, does it represent, or is it likely to become, a dangerous change outside the range of natural variability? On these questions, an energetic scientific debate is taking place on the pages of peer-reviewed science journals.

“In contradiction of the scientific method, IPCC assumes its implicit hypothesis – that dangerous global warming is resulting, or will result, from human-related greenhouse gas emissions -- is correct and that its only duty is to collect evidence and make plausible arguments in the hypothesis’s favor. It simply ignores the alternative and null hypothesis, amply supported by empirical research, that currently observed changes in global climate indices and the physical environment are the result of natural variability.

“The results of the global climate models (GCMs) relied on by IPCC are only as reliable as the data and theories “fed” into them. Most climate scientists agree those data are seriously deficient and IPCC’s estimate for climate sensitivity to CO2 is too high.”

In short, the science presented by the IPCC is inadequate to justify curtailing the use of fossil fuels, which produce CO2. Fossil fuels are critical for economic growth and are used to generate needed reliable electricity, the hallmark of modern civilization. Nuclear is an option, but is opposed by many of the same groups that oppose fossil fuels. The same with hydroelectric power, where it can be used. Geothermal can be used only in specialized regions, such as Iceland. Finally, solar and wind are unreliable, without commercial-scale, affordable back-up, which is yet to be developed, except for pumped storage in specific locations. As some villagers in India said, they want real electricity, not fake electricity, from solar.

At this time, it appears that any agreement requires massive annual payments to developing countries, called the Green Climate Fund. The estimated amount is \$100 Billion per year. No doubt, many UN leaders would like to see such a fund for the fees and other mechanisms they can use to divert some of the revenue for their own uses. UN leaders have long rankled about the need to rely on donations from member countries.

At this time, there appears to be four major stumbling blocks to such an arrangement: China, India, Russia, and the US Senate. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy – NIPCC and On to Paris.

China: In a report published by the Global Warming Policy Foundation, veteran China watcher and environmentalist, Patricia Adams explains why the leadership of China cannot agree to control carbon dioxide emissions – if they tried, they would face a revolution. The public has become accustomed to the increasing incomes and prosperity that have come with the spectacular economic growth of the country. All a result of increased use of fossil fuels.

Many western reporters talk about pollution in China, but, apparently, they are so misled by the poor definitions of pollution by anti-fossil fuel groups, including the US EPA, that they fail to distinguish between health threatening pollution and carbon dioxide, which is essential for life on this planet. No ordinary concentrations of carbon dioxide are a threat to human health, even many times ordinary levels. There are special circumstances when extremely high concentrations of carbon dioxide caused oxygen deprivation, but these are isolated incidences.

For China, air pollution means real health threats such as nitrogen and sulphur oxides, not imaginary threats from un-validated computer models of future climate change used by the EPA and western reporters. For the delegates from China, it is better to experience the disappointment by some other government delegates than a revolution at home. See links under Problems in the Orthodoxy.

India: Local newspapers have long reported that leaders of India insist the Green Climate Fund be in place or at least guaranteed by developed countries – western promises will not do. Further, leaders of India are less than impressed by the science presented by the IPCC. In its Fourth Assessment Report (AR-4, 2007) the IPCC claimed the snow and ice on the Himalayas will be gone by about 2035. The then leader of the IPCC, Rajendra Pachauri, arrogantly dismissed a carefully researched, contradicting study by one of the foremost experts in the field. Such affronts

are not easily forgotten. There is little empirical support for the findings on the Himalayas in AR-4.

The leaders of India recognize the benefits of economic growth and prosperity driven by use of fossil fuels. It would take a great deal to persuade them otherwise. See links under On to Paris! and Problems in the Orthodoxy.

Russia: Tim Ball was a student of Herbert H. Lamb, the pioneer of modern climate science. Also, Ball had the opportunity to work with climate scientists from the Soviet Union. According to Ball, Russian scientists are well based on the cyclical nature of climate change and question the IPCC. In a post, Ball quotes German Physicist and meteorologist Klaus-Eckart Plus who states:

“Ten years ago I simply parroted what the IPCC told us. One day I started checking the facts and data—first I started with a sense of doubt but then I became outraged when I discovered that much of what the IPCC and the media were telling us was sheer nonsense and was not even supported by any scientific facts and measurements. To this day I still feel shame that as a scientist I made presentations of their science without first checking it.” “Scientifically it is sheer absurdity to think we can get a nice climate by turning a CO2 adjustment knob.”

Ball goes on to say:

“Russian scientists know what the IPCC said. Because of them Putin knows that the climate science of the IPCC is wrong. He knows it because Soviet and now Russian climatologists practice open science, which is ironic in a political system that is supposed to be controlling. He also knows the IPCC is designed to use climate for political goals because he does it better than most. As they say, it takes a thief to catch a thief. How much money will Putin contribute to the Green Climate Fund?”

This brings up the critical point: What will it take to get Russia to sign on? What will the Western delegates offer Putin? See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy

For a scientific paper from Russia, see: Science: Is the Sun Rising?

US Senate: The Majority Staff of US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works released a white paper “to provide the American people the truth about the state of international climate negotiations and the full impacts of President Obama’s approach.” Among the key findings are:

- Congress has a history of opposing international agreements, etc. targeting greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that undermine the welfare of the American people and the economy.
- The President has unilaterally pursued radical environmental policies to “decarbonize” the US economy, rather work than with Congress.
- The Administration’s pledge to reduce GHG emissions is unlikely to be implemented.
- The Administrations pledge to the Green Climate Fund is not supported by Congress.
- The Senate must be able to exercise its constitutional role to approve any agreement setting targets or timetables emerging from COP-21. Anything else is little more than a press release.
- The Administration’s claimed victory at COP-21 is based on mere promises.

In short, even if there is an agreement at COP-21, anything binding will be subject to a significant political fight.

The President has largely ignored or demeaned Congress for its role of approving foreign policy and energy policy. Any requests for approval of a treaty or other agreement arising from COP-21 is likely to be viewed sternly. See links under On to Paris!

Political Polls: In general, TWTW does not consider political polls reliable. All too often, the results are manipulated by the organizers. Examples include the three polls reviewed by TWTW that reported that 97% of scientists agree... These polls more reflected the views of the organizers rather than the views of the purported subjects.

Exceptions occur with organizations that repeat the polling process consistently. From 1958 to 2015, the Pew Research Center has taken polls to estimate public trust in government. It finds that “Public trust in the government remains near historic lows. Only 19% of Americans today say they can trust the government in Washington to do what is right “just about always” (3%) or “most of the time” (16%).” In general, the Obama Administration has polled below that of any prior administration since the poll began in the Eisenhower Administration (with a low of 73%).

The traditional press may write very favorable stories about his administration, but the public is far from impressed. A political fight between Congress and the Administration may prove to be discomfoting to supporters of the administration. See links under Communicating Better to the Public – Do a Poll?

Changing Antarctic: With his great tenacity, Steve McIntire is digging into the morass of Antarctic ice melt. There is significant disagreement among the experts, which McIntire duly notes. Ice is melting in the smaller West Antarctic Ice Sheet (including the Antarctic Peninsula), and is gaining in most of East Antarctica, about 80% of the area. For years, ice loss on the West Antarctic Ice Sheet and Antarctic Peninsula have been noted, whatever the cause, which may be from geothermal warming below the ice sheet, with little or no human influence.

The main issues are: 1) is the net an increase or decrease in ice and 2) is there a discernable human cause? McIntyre’s post is long and technical, needing familiarity with concepts such as GIS, geographic information systems which helps visualize, analyze, and interpret data to understand relationships, patterns, and trends, and GIA, glacial isostatic adjustment, which accounts for the earth’s mantle recovering from the weight of glacial ice during the last ice age. It is too early to draw any general conclusions, except to say that the alarmist view of rapidly melting ice accompanied by drastic sea level rise gets most of the attention in the media, while the view that nothing new is happening gets little attention. SEPP considers the latter the null hypothesis, and any other hypothesis must be tested.

McIntire observed that going from AR-4 to AR-5, the IPCC dropped any significant discussion of the Holocene, the period of warming since the end of the last ice age, over 10,000 years ago. The UN’s science ignores the most recent 10,000 years of climate history, yet the UN expects humanity to restrict the use of fossil fuels based on its science? See links under Changing Cryosphere.

Number of the Week: 17 years. According to a report from the Congressional Budget Office, the Department of Energy is 17 years behind schedule “*in its contractual obligations to remove and*

dispose of civilian nuclear waste, and it has already incurred significant liabilities for damages related to its partial breach of contracts with electric utilities.² The federal government has already paid \$5.3 billion in damages to electric utilities, and DOE estimates that its remaining liabilities will total \$23.7 billion if legislation and sufficient appropriations are enacted that will enable it to begin to accept waste within the next 10 years. However, if the department's schedule is further delayed, the anticipated costs—which will be borne by taxpayers through spending from the Department of the Treasury's Judgment Fund—will climb.”

Yet, this Administration and its Department of Energy are most anxious that humanity curtail its use of fossil fuels immediately.

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ARTICLES: The Articles section is now at the bottom of TWTW.

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Dear Subscriber to The Week That Was,

As you know, support for the Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP) comes entirely from private donations; we do not solicit support from industry or government.

Therefore, we can honestly claim that we are not beholden to anyone and that our writings are clear from any outside influence.

We are also proud of the fact that SEPP is frugal: no fancy offices, no employees, no salaries paid to anyone; in fact, we donate book royalties and lecture fees to SEPP.

The past few years have been very productive:

In collaboration with like-minded groups, we produced hard-hitting comments for the record and provided scientific testimony on proposed Federal climate and energy policy. We expect this material to surface in future litigation over excessive regulation. In 2016, we plan to be very active in upcoming litigation over Federal regulations that are not supported by empirical science.

SEPP has also spawned VA-SEEE (Scientists & Engineers for Energy & Environment), with 7 active chapters throughout Virginia, writing to local papers, testifying in Richmond, etc.

On a global level, we established NIPCC in 2007 (Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change) to respond to the false claims of the UN-IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), and its followers -- that use of fossil fuels, and CO2 emissions, will lead to climate disasters.

All four of the voluminous NIPCC reports and their Summaries are available at www.NIPCCreport.org.

The newly released 2015 report “Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming” directly addresses the sources of disagreement among climate scientists, and that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a political body that does not perform rigorous hypothesis testing needed to advance scientific knowledge.

In 2013, the Chinese Academy of Sciences translated and published a book based on two NIPCC reports and organized a Workshop in Beijing.

The Heartland Institute, our publisher, has organized ten well-attended ICCC events (International Conference on Climate Change), featuring many of the 50+ NIPCC authors.

A few weeks ago, Dr Fred Singer, our founder and president celebrated his 91st birthday. After 25 years at the helm, in January he retired as SEPP president, but continues as Chairman of the Board for as long as possible.

At this time, we ask you to make a generous, tax-deductible donation to SEPP, an IRS recognized 501(c)3 organization.

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Thank you -- whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, or other holy days during this time, we wish you and your family happiness in this blessed season and a joyful new year.

Kenneth Haapala, President
Science and Environmental Policy Project

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

The Sun Defines Climate

By Habibullo Abdussamatov, Dr. Sc. Nauki I Zhizn, (Science and Life) 2009 Trans. Lucy Hancock, [H/t Climate Etc.]

http://www.gao.spb.ru/english/astrometr/abduss_nkj_2009.pdf

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Unearthing America's Deep Network of Climate Change Deniers

A new study attempts the first tally of those driving the peculiarly American strain of climate change denial.

By Eric Roston, Bloomberg, Nov 30, 2015

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-11-30/unearthing-america-s-deep-network-of-climate-change-deniers>

Link to paper: Network structure and influence of the climate change counter-movement

By Justin Farrell, Nature Climate Change, Nov 30, 2015

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2875.html>

Link to second paper: Corporate funding and ideological polarization about climate change

By Justin Farrell, PNAS, Nov 23, 2015

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2015/11/18/1509433112.abstract?sid=77315f10-d57d-46a6-9e8f-d559fc2e3cb1>

Based on: “comprehensive social network made up of 4,556 individuals with ties to 164 organizations”—including think tanks, trade associations, and other groups—involved in “promulgating contrarian views.”

[SEPP Comment: The article and the paper fail to stipulate amounts of money but the abstract states: “The comprehensive data include all individual and organizational actors in the climate change countermovement (164 organizations), as well as all written and verbal texts produced by this network between 1993–2013 (40,785 texts, more than 39 million words).” No mention of funding of “polarizing” green groups or the billions of dollars the US government uses to financing questionable political advocacy. The work covers 1993 to 2013, a period in which government reports estimate the US government spent over \$40 Billion on what the reports classify as climate science.]

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry – The Witch Hunt

For their second act, Keystone killers tackle Exxon

Green groups aim to make Exxon face consequences for, they say, obscuring the risks of climate change.

By Elana Schor, Politico, Nov 28, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/keystone-exxon-climate-change-216222>

[SEPP Comment: It will be interesting if there is major collusion between the attorney general of New York and green groups. Such relationships are coming to the fore with EPA, recognizing it is a politicized organization.]

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry – The Witch Hunt – Push-Back

France’s Top Weatherman Hired By Kremlin After Being Fired For Questioning Global Warming

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Dec 1, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailycaller.com/2015/12/01/frances-top-weatherman-hired-by-kremlin-after-being-fired-for-questioning-global-warming/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC

Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming

The NIPCC Report on the Scientific Consensus

By Craig D. Idso, Robert M. Carter, and S. Fred Singer, NIPCC, Nov 23, 2015

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/>

Download with no charge

<https://www.heartland.org/policy-documents/why-scientists-disagree-about-global-warming>

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Physical Science

Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, 2013

<https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-II/CCR-II-Full.pdf>

Summary: <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2a/pdf/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Biological Impacts

Idso, Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, 2014

<http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2b/pdf/Full-Report.pdf>

Summary: <https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-IIb/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Vladimir Putin; Climate and Political Realist?

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Nov 30, 2015

<http://drtimball.com/2015/vladimir-putin-climate-and-political-realist/>

2015 will be the 3rd Warmest Year in the Satellite Record

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Dec 3, 2015

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2015/12/2015-will-be-the-3rd-warmest-year-in-the-satellite-record>

Antarctic Ice Mass Controversies

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Dec 2, 2015

<http://climateaudit.org/2015/12/02/antarctic-ice-mass-controversies/#more-21458>

“However, it still seems like one of those too typical situations where the less alarming explanation is presented in specialist literature, but left unmentioned or unmentioned when retreat of West Antarctic glaciers is presented as a cause of alarm.”

Fostering a climate of intolerance

Editorial by Joel Kotkin, Orange County Register, Nov 29, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/climate-694018-hysteria-change.html>

When even science, the supposed lodestone of rational discourse, is politicized, we may be surrendering some of the core values that have distinguished Western civilization from others.

How sensitive is global temperature to cumulative CO2 emissions?

By Nic Lewis, Climate Etc. Nov 30, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/11/30/how-sensitive-is-global-temperature-to-cumulative-co2-emissions/#more-20572>

Obama Is Correct, Climate Change Is Biggest Threat, But Only Because Official IPCC Climate Science Is Completely Wrong

Guest opinion: Dr. Tim Ball, WUWT, Nov 30, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/30/obama-is-correct-climate-change-is-biggest-threat-but-only-because-official-ipcc-climate-science-is-completely-wrong/>

How a rebellious scientist uncovered the surprising truth about stereotypes

By Claire Lehmann, Quillette, Dec 4, 2015

<http://quillette.com/2015/12/04/rebellious-scientist-surprising-truth-about-stereotypes/>

“The paper argued that those who believed that the moon landing was a hoax also believed that climate science was a fraud.” [Lead author Stephan Lewandowsky]

“His [Lee Jussim’s] fellow psychologists shifted in their seats. Jussim pointed out that the level of obfuscation the authors went to, in order to disguise their actual data, was intense. Statistical techniques appeared to have been chosen that would hide the study’s true results. And it appeared that no peer reviewers, or journal editors, took the time, or went to the effort of scrutinizing the study in a way that was sufficient to identify the bold misrepresentations.”

Defending the Orthodoxy

Bill Press: Climate change is real

By Bill Press, The Hill, Nov 30, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://thehill.com/opinion/bill-press/261567-bill-press-climate-change-is-real>

[SEPP Comment: Attacking the “straw man.”]

Why not a war on global warming?

By Wade Davis, Globe and Mail, Dec 2, 2015 [H/t WUWT]
<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/why-not-a-war-on-global-warming/article27550301/>

[SEPP Comment: *Whom do we bomb?*]

Paris climate summit could bring historic deal on emissions, but likely won't halt climate change

By William Yardley and Alexandra Zavis, LA Times, Nov 29, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]
<http://www.latimes.com/science/la-fg-sej-paris-climate-conference-20151129-story.html>

[SEPP Comment: *The assumption in the headline reflects the hysteria. The belief that politicians can stop climate change by stopping CO2 emissions.*]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Clowns on parade

By Charles Battig, American Thinker, Dec 3, 2015

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2015/12/clowns_on_parade.html

COP21: Carbon Regulation without Representation

By Jeffrey Folks, American Thinker, Dec 3, 2015

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2015/12/cop21_carbon_regulation_without_representation.html

The Greatest Scientific Fraud Of All Time -- Part IX

By Francis Menton, Manhattan Contrarian, Dec 1, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://manhattancontrarian.com/blog/2015/11/30/the-greatest-scientific-fraud-of-all-time-part-ix>

World's richest 10 percent produce half of CO2, report says

By Staff Writers, AFP, Dec 1, 2015

<http://news.yahoo.com/worlds-richest-10-percent-produce-half-co2-report-002725925.html>

[SEPP Comment: *No doubt they are well-represented in Paris.*]

Going Forward Realistically on Climate Studies (Now Includes October Data)

Guest Post by Leo Smith, Gary Pearse and Werner Brozek, Edited by Just The Facts, WUWT, Nov 30, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/30/going-forward-realistically-on-climate-studies-now-includes-october-data/>

Global Cooling: Do Not Forget (false alarm was tied to coal burning too)

By Robert Bradley Jr. Master Resource, Dec 3, 2015

<https://www.masterresource.org/global-cooling-climate-change/global-cooling-revisited/>

The China – US Agreement?

New Report: The Truth About China

By Staff Writer, GWPF, Dec 2, 2015

<http://www.thegwpf.com/new-report-the-truth-about-china/>

Link to report: The Truth About China: Why Beijing will resist demands for abatement

By Patricia Adams, Global Warming Policy Foundation, 2015

<http://www.thegwpf.org/content/uploads/2015/12/Truth-about-China.pdf>

On to Paris!

Senate EPW White Paper: Essential Background on the Obama Administration's Climate Treaty Agenda

By Marlo Lewis, CEI, Dec 2, 2015

<https://cei.org/blog/senate-epw-white-paper-essential-background-obama-administration%E2%80%99s-climate-treaty-agenda>

Link to White Paper: Forecast For COP-21: Senate Predicts Obama Climate Promises to Come Up Short Again, Majority Staff, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Dec 1, 2015

http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/079ba545-4411-4a8c-bcf3-fc6eb1331c06/white-paper-combined-120115-final.pdf

US confidential note to select countries sets the terms for talks

US wants differentiation between developed and developing countries scrapped

By Nitin Sethi, Business Standard, India, Nov 29, 2015

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/us-confidential-note-to-select-countries-sets-the-terms-for-talks-115112800680_1.html

Green Energy Investors Look to Cash in on Paris Talks

Coalition of executives and financiers seeks government subsidies as U.N. climate talks commence

By Lachlan Markay, Washington Free Beacon, Dec 1, 2015

<http://freebeacon.com/issues/green-energy-investors-look-to-cash-in-on-paris-talks/>

India Decries the West's "Carbon Imperialism"

By Staff Writers, The American Interest, Dec 3, 2015

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2015/12/03/india-decries-the-wests-carbon-imperialism/>

ISIS Not the Greatest Threat for Obama

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Nov 30, 2015

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Barack-Obama-Climate-Change-Global-Warming/2015/11/30/id/703883/>

Selecting an Objective, Determines Priorities

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Dec 1, 2015

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2015/12/01/selecting-an-objective-determines-priorities/>
[SEPP Comment: *What is the objective?*]

The Real Reason for the Paris Global Warming Talks #COP21

By William Briggs, The Stream, Dec 1, 2015

<https://stream.org/real-reason-paris-global-warming-talks-cop21/>

The Administration's Plan – Push-Back

The Misplaced Priorities of the Obama Administration

By Alan Carlin, Carlin Economics and Science, Dec 4, 2015

<http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/2318>

Obama Apologizing to the World for US on Climate Is Ridiculous

By Nicolas Loris, Daily Signal, Nov 30, 2015

http://dailysignal.com/2015/11/30/obama-apologizing-to-the-world-for-us-on-climate-is-ridiculous/?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=morningbell&mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWf9wsRovu6%2FAZKXonjHpfsX66O0pUKOylMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjI4AT8VgM6%2BTFAwTG5toziV8R7jHKM1t0sEQWBHm

Obama Should Be Bragging, Not Apologizing, About U.S. Record On Greenhouse Gases

Editorial, IBD, Dec 1, 2015

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/120115-783202-obama-should-be-bragging-about-record-on-greehouse-gases.htm>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

New Report: The Truth About China

By Staff Writer, GWPF, Dec 2, 2015

<http://www.thegwpf.com/new-report-the-truth-about-china/>

Link to report: The Truth About China: Why Beijing will resist demands for abatement

By Patricia Adams, Global Warming Policy Foundation, 2015

<http://www.thegwpf.org/content/uploads/2015/12/Truth-about-China.pdf>

China's Climate Power Game

By Patricia Adams, Financial Post, Dec 2, 2015

<http://business.financialpost.com/fp-comment/chinas-climate-power-game>

Paris climate talks: Through the smog, coal-hungry India sees 'carbon imperialism' in the West

As Delhi rushes to boost its coal generation to satisfy rocketing energy demands, John Kerry's decision to single out India as a "challenge" provokes fury

By Andrew Marszal, Telegraph, UK, New Delhi, Nov 28, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/india/12022821/Paris-climate-talks-Through-the-smog-coal-hungry-India-sees-carbon-imperialism-in-the-West.html>

Spiegel Reports India Adamant: "Economic Development Before Climate Protection" ... To Triple CO2 Emissions By 2030!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 4, 2015

<http://notrickszone.com/2015/12/04/spiegel-reports-india-adamant-economic-development-before-climate-protection-to-triple-co2-emissions-by-2030/#sthash.3Ehz4gkt.dpbs>

Slow pace of talks leads to scepticism about Paris climate summit

By Chetan Chauhan, Hindustan Times, Dec 3, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india/slow-pace-of-talks-leads-to-scepticism-about-paris-talks/story-GZxXuKbOyj6vbBgMJMAbBI.html>

Bill Gates and the strings he attaches

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 30, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/11/30/bill-gates-and-the-strings-he-attaches.html>

FAZ Commentary Warns Of "Growing Impatience" Among Democracy-Hostile Scientists "Intoxicated by Knowledge"

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 3, 2015

<http://notrickszone.com/2015/12/03/faz-commentary-warns-of-growing-impatience-among-democracy-hostile-scientists-intoxicated-by-knowledge/#sthash.X5dhju9X.dpbs>

Funding row 'threatens Paris climate deal', India and China warn

Developing nations including India and China issue strongly-worded statement attacking rich nations over funding

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Dec 2, 2015 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/paris-climate-change-conference/12030257/Funding-row-threatens-Paris-climate-deal-India-and-China-warn.html>

Nations most at risk of climate change urge lower warming cap

By Megan Rowling, Reuters, Nov 30, 2015

<http://news.yahoo.com/nations-most-risk-climate-change-urge-lower-warming-235509540.html>

James Hansen on the Coming Paris Fail (Kyoto II)

By Robert Bradley Jr. Master Resource, Nov 30, 2015

<https://www.masterresource.org/hansen-james/james-hansen-coming-paris-fail-kyoto-ii/>

“Big Green consists of several ‘environmental’ organizations, including Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), each with \$100+M budgets, each springing from high-minded useful beginnings, each with more high-priced lawyers than you can shake a stick at. EDF ... was chief architect of the disastrous Kyoto lemon. NRDC proudly claims credit for Obama’s EPA strategy and foolishly allows it to migrate to Paris.

“The danger is that Paris will lay a Kyoto.” James Hansen, “Isolation of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue: Part I,” November 27, 2015.

http://www.columbia.edu/~jeh1/mailings/2015/20151127_Isolation.pdf

The 'red line' issue that exposes deep divisions in the Paris climate talks

Calls by the US and Australia for tougher requirements on how developing countries’ emissions are reported on and checked have met with fierce resistance

By Lenore Taylor, Guardian, UK, Dec 3, 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/dec/04/the-red-line-issue-that-exposes-deep-divisions-in-the-paris-climate-talks>

Third World Kleptocrats Do Paris

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Dec 3, 2015

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2015/12/third-world-kleptocrats-paris/>

Seeking a Common Ground

A story of the climate change debate. How it ran; why it failed.

By Larry Kummer, from the Fabius Maximus website, WUWT, Dec 2, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/02/a-story-of-the-climate-change-debate-how-it-ran-why-it-failed/>

“It is not their wrongness so much as their pretensions to rightness that have brought economic predictions and the theory that underlies them into well-deserved contempt.”

— Peter Medawar in *The Strange Case of the Spotted Mice: and Other Classic Essays on Science* (1981).

[SEPP Comment: Review of presentation by Roger Pielke Jr.]

The Paris Placebo Effect

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Nov 29, 2015

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2015/11/the-paris-placebo-effect/>

So, as the United Nations declares yet another a landmark agreement to Save the Earth, just remember...sometimes placebos really do work. The danger, though, is that the politicians of the world will be emboldened to manufacture ever greater quantities of placebos, at ever-increasing costs to humanity.

The power of language

By Martin Livermore, The Scientific Alliance, Dec 4, 2015

<http://scientific-alliance.org/node/970>

A royal conversion on the road to Damascus

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 30, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/11/30/a-royal-conversion-on-the-road-to-damascus.html>

[SEPP Comment: Too bad this past president of the Royal Society did not exemplify his suggestions to the incoming president.]

IPCC ≠ Science (2) A Separation of Powers

Guest essay by Wim Röst, WUWT, Dec 3, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/03/ipcc-science-2-a-seperation-of-powers/>

Don't let climate debate hinder economy: Column

Nature's deviations disrupt our lives and businesses more than we should accept.

By William Gail, USA Today, Dec 1, 2015 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2015/11/30/natural-climate-variability-economic-effects-partisanship-column/76374446/>

Observations

UAH V6 Global Temperature Update for November 2015: +0.33 deg. C

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Dec 1, 2015

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2015/12/uah-v6-global-temperature-update-for-november-2015-0-33-deg-c/>

Models v. Observations

The Myth of More Severe Storms

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Dec 4, 2015

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2015/12/04/the-myth-of-more-severe-storms-2/>

Observations are the darnedest things

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 1, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/12/1/observations-are-the-darnedest-things.html>

Measurement Issues

Is That a Forest? That Depends on How You Define It

By Staff Writers, Greenbelt MD (SPX) Nov 27, 2015

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Is_That_a_Forest_That_Depends_on_How_You_Define_It_99.html

Link to paper: Conservation policy and the measurement of forests

By Sexton, et al. Nature Climate Change, Oct 5, 2015

http://www.nature.com/articles/nclimate2816.epdf?referrer_access_token=x3cALHi2NDPT2jY6Ag24y9RgN0jAjWel9jnR3ZoTv0PT3CbevO9rehhke7DxvYAGVJ6WQNiOfZSanJntG2D8QeSXLep7V7UYa3E5ebUXfzy0tteYzRRrrvdrIPosISqEsPwALr_qkXWTgpVZwWFtCRENB1cn9mZhy1H-xJfC4hbIvkRfwC6i7bDW6-4PB6X_JuLJJDKY1-pkYRfqvlejAkROoFTlTtL61EH4AG_9Cs%3D&tracking_referrer=www.spacedaily.com

[SEPP Comment: How much tree cover makes a forest?]

Changing Weather

Precipitation - steady as she goes

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 4, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/12/4/precipitation-steady-as-she-goes.html>

Link to paper: Changes in annual precipitation over the Earth's land mass excluding Antarctica from the 18th century to 2013

By van Wijngaarden and Syed, Journal of Hydrology, Dec 30, 2015

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0022169415008744>

[SEPP Comment: No major trends.]

Below-normal Atlantic hurricane season ends

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 1, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/01/below-normal-atlantic-hurricane-season-ends/>

Changing Climate

Climate and Human Civilization over the last 18,000 years

Guest essay by Andy May, WUWT, Nov 29, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/29/climate-and-human-civilization-over-the-last-18000-years-2/>

“Correlation is not causation, but many, if not all, of man's worst times since the last glacial maximum occur during colder and dryer periods... More importantly, I was unable to find evidence of a crisis that was due to warming.”

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Is Antarctica's Climate Change Natural or CO2 Driven? There Is Absolutely No Consensus

Guest essay by Jim Steele, Director emeritus Sierra Nevada Field Campus, San Francisco State University, WUWT, Dec 3, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/03/is-antarcticas-climate-change-natural-or-co2-driven-there-is-absolutely-no-consensus/>

Polar bear habit update – day 333 Arctic sea ice hits 11.1 mkm²

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Dec 1, 2015

<http://polarbearscience.com/2015/12/01/polar-bear-habit-update-day-333-arctic-sea-ice-hits-11-1-mkm2/>

Acidic Waters

Phytoplankton love carbon dioxide

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 1, 2015

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2015/12/1/phytoplankton-love-carbon-dioxide.html>

Link to paper: Multidecadal increase in North Atlantic coccolithophores and the potential role of rising CO₂

By Rivero-Calle, et al., Science, Nov 26, 2015
<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2015/11/24/science.aaa8026>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

How crop prices and climate variables affect yield and acreage

By Staff Writers, Urbana IL (SPX), Nov 24, 2015

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/How_crop_prices_and_climate_variables_affect_yield_and_acreage_999.html

“The study also looked at climate variables, both for the 30-year period and in predictions for what temperature and precipitation will be in the years 2040 to 2050 and in the longer range to 2080.”

USGS projects large loss of Alaska permafrost by 2100

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 1, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/01/usgs-projects-large-loss-of-alaska-permafrost-by-2100/>

Lowering Standards

When Scientists Still Did Science

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Dec 4, 2015

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/qed/2015/12/scientists-still-science/>

Explaining Extreme Events of 2014 from a Climate Perspective

By Stephanie Herring, Martin Hoerling, James Kossin, Thomas Peterson, and Peter Stott, AMS Bulletin, Dec 2015

<https://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/publications/bulletin-of-the-american-meteorological-society-bams/explaining-extreme-events-from-a-climate-perspective/table-of-contents/low-resolution-version/>

[SEPP Comment: Explaining is not establishing causation. Overall, 2014 was a rather mild year.]

Quentin Letts’s Diary: An apology to the BBC journos who, thanks to me, are being sent away for re-education

On being a climate-change apostate; Cardinal Roger Harrabin; a ghostly encounter; Keith Vaz; cows

By Quentin Letts, Spectator, UK, Dec 5, 2015 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://new.spectator.co.uk/2015/12/quentin-letts-diary-an-apology-to-the-bbc-journos-who-thanks-to-me-are-being-sent-away-for-re-education/>

The Walrus and the New York Times

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Dec 1, 2015 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2015/12/the-walrus-and-the-new-york-times.php>

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

Climate study finds evidence of global shift in the 1980s

Anthropogenic warming, volcanic eruption sparked biggest change in 1,000 years

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, Nov 24, 2015 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/11/151124081517.htm>

Link to paper: Global impacts of the 1980s regime shift

By Reid, et al. Global Change Biology, Nov 23, 2015

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.13106/abstract?systemMessage=Wiley+Online+Library+will+have+be+unavailable+on+Saturday+5th+December+from+10:00-14:00+GMT++05:00-09:00+EST++18:00-22:00+SGT+for+essential+maintenance.+Apologies+for+the+inconvenience.>

“Planet Earth experienced a global climate shift in the late 1980s on an **unprecedented scale**, fuelled by anthropogenic warming and a volcanic eruption, according to new research published this week.” [Boldface Added]

[SEPP Comment: Doubtful the shift approaches the shifts around the Younger Dryas.]

Rich in energy and with vast forests, Russia pays little attention to climate change

By Katherine Jacobsen, AP, Nov 28, 2015

<http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2015/11/28/energy-rich-russia-pays-little-attention-to-climate-change>

[SEPP Comment: The reporter is clueless. In general, the warming since the 19th century has benefited Russia.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Paris Whopper of the Day: The Sahara Is Expanding

By Patrick J. Michaels, Cato, Dec 1, 2015

<http://www.cato.org/blog/paris-whopper-day-sahara-expanding>

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the claims of France’s President.]

Rich nations' fossil fuel subsidies exceed climate aid 40 to 1: researchers

By Chris Arsenault, Reuters, Dec 3, 2015

<http://news.yahoo.com/rich-nations-fossil-fuel-subsidies-exceed-climate-aid-194928954.html>

[SEPP Comment: Show the data!]

Communicating Better to the Public – Do a Poll?

Great News! Americans Don’t Really Care About Climate Change

By David Harsanyi, The Federalist, Nov 20, 2015[H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://thefederalist.com/2015/11/20/great-news-americans-dont-really-care-about-climate-change/>

Beyond Distrust: How Americans View Their Government

Broad criticism, but positive performance ratings in many areas

By Staff Writers, Pew Research Center, Nov 23, 2015

http://www.people-press.org/2015/11/23/beyond-distrust-how-americans-view-their-government/?utm_expid=53098246-2.LIy4CFSVQG2lphsg-KopIq.0&utm_referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wsj.com%2Farticles%2Fthanksgiving-with-a-side-of-public-distrust-1448405898%3Fmod%3DdjemMER

Expanding the Orthodoxy – The Pope – Loyal Opposition

Bishops for Mid-Century Decarbonization—Really?

By E. Calvin Beisner, Master Resource, Dec 1, 2015

<https://www.masterresource.org/climate-change-and-religion/bishops-decarbonizing-really/>

Questioning European Green

Emission impossible as EU fails to police main anti-pollution scheme

Attempts to stamp out endemic fraud in the EU’s flagship Emissions Trading Scheme are “not adequate”, say auditors

By Andrew Gilligan, Telegraph, UK, Nov 29, 2015 [H/t Paul Homewood]
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/energy/12022964/Emission-impossible-as-EU-fails-to-police-main-anti-pollution-scheme.html>

Funding Issues

Developing world needs \$1t[Trillion] for climate change

By Staff Writers, Sky News, Dec 1, 2015 [H/t WUWT]
<http://www.skynews.com.au/news/world/europe/2015/12/01/developing-world-needs--1t-for-climate-change.html>

Litigation Issues

Legal Lunacy: Peruvian Farmer Sues Power Company For CO2 Emitted 10,000 Km Away!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 1, 2015
<http://notrickszone.com/2015/12/01/legal-lunacy-peruvian-farmer-sues-power-company-for-co2-emitted-10000-km-away/#sthash.GyGGqhdI.dpbs>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Elon Musk – a Robust Carbon Tax would Speed the Clean Energy Transition

Guest essay by Eric Worrall, WUWT, Dec 4, 2015
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/04/elon-musk-a-robust-carbon-tax-would-speed-the-clean-energy-transition/>
[SEPP Comment: And a benefit to Elon Musk?]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Germany Pays to Halt Danish Wind Power to Protect Own Output

By Jesper Starn and Weixin Zha, Bloomberg, Dec 1, 2015
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-12-01/german-wind-power-surplus-spurs-cash-for-neighbor-to-switch-off>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA cites Paris talks in defending climate rule

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Dec 4, 2015
<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/262091-epa-cites-paris-talks-in-defending-climate-rule>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Coal plant gets green light to burn American wood pellets

Lynemouth power plant to be resurrected as a biomass plant after it stops burning coal at the end of this year
By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Dec 1, 2015
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/12027606/Coal-plant-gets-green-light-to-burn-American-wood-pellets.html>
[SEPP Comment: Will the new green slogan of independence be: Stop sending our trees to the crown?]

German Energiewende – Modern Miracle or Major Misstep

By Davis Swan, Climate Etc. Dec 2, 2015
<http://judithcurry.com/2015/12/02/german-energiewende-modern-miracle-or-major-misstep/#more-20525>

Energy Issues -- US

Hydro Dammed Up by Regulations

By William Tucker, Real Clear Energy, Dec 4, 2015

http://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2015/12/04/regulation_impedes_retrofitting_of_old_dams_108913.html

For California, gas 'is the new coal' as the East Coast embraces the resource

By Robert Walton, Utility Dive, Nov 25, 2015

<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/for-california-gas-is-the-new-coal-as-the-east-coast-embraces-the-resour/409794/>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

The party is over for oil

By Daniel Yergin, CNBC, Dec 1, 2015

<http://www.cnbc.com/2015/12/01/oil-prices-the-party-is-over-commentary.html>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Testimony on the Federal Government's Responsibilities and Liabilities Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act

By Staff Writers, CBO, Dec, 3, 2015

https://www.cbo.gov/publication/51035?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzEmail&utm_content=812526&utm_campaign=Hourly_2015-12-03_11%3a00

Link to Testimony: The Federal Government's Responsibilities and Liabilities Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act

By Kim Cawley, CBO, Dec 3, 2015

https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/114th-congress-2015-2016/reports/51035-NuclearWaste_Testimony.pdf

[SEPP Comment: DOE is only 17 years behind schedule!]

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

A Biofuel Dream Gone Bad

By Katie Fehrenbacher, Fortune, Dec 15, 2015 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://fortune.com/kior-vinod-khosla-clean-tech/>

[SEPP Comment: Lengthy article on a speculative venture.]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Vehicles

The Bargain Mass Transit Option

By Lloyd Bensen, NCPA, Nov 4, 2015

<http://environmentblog.ncpa.org/the-bargain-mass-transit-option/>

California Dreaming

Why rooftop solar advocates are upset about California's clean-energy law

By Ivan Penn, LA Times, Nov 29, 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-solar-subsidy-20151130-story.html>

Other Scientific News

A whiff from blue-green algae likely responsible for Earth's oxygen

By Staff Writers, Waterloo, Canada (SPX), Nov 27, 2015

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/A_whiff_from_blue_green_algae_likely_responsible_for_Earths_oxygen_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Unable to link to the paper. Did oxygen come in intervals?]

Other News that May Be of Interest

12 strategies for moving from water scarcity to abundance

How did a country that's 60 percent desert achieve water security?

By Seth Siegel, *Ensaia*, Dec 3, 2015

<http://ensia.com/voices/12-tips-for-moving-from-water-scarcity-to-abundance/>

[SEPP Comment: Ignores the role of energy to purify and deliver water.]

Getting Tired of Political Correctness? Here's Some Blunt Honesty, Courtesy of Richard Feynman.

By Ross Pomeroy, *Real Clear Science*,

http://www.realclearscience.com/blog/2015/12/keepin_it_real_with_richard_feynman_109465.html

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Climate Crazyness of the Week: 'Global warming disaster could suffocate life on planet Earth'

By Anthony Watts, *WUWT*, Dec 1, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/01/climate-crazyness-of-the-week-global-warming-disaster-could-suffocate-life-on-planet-earth/>

Link to paper: Mathematical Modelling of Plankton–Oxygen Dynamics Under the Climate Change

By Yadigar Sekerci and Sergei Petrovskii, *Bulletin of Mathematical Biology*, Nov 25, 2015

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11538-015-0126-0>

A Prehistoric Murder Mystery: Earth's Worst Mass Extinctions

By Paul Wignall, *Live Science*, Nov 30, 2015

<http://news.yahoo.com/prehistoric-murder-mystery-earths-worst-mass-extinctions-225347517.html>

“It is unlikely that we will ever witness a scale of volcanism akin to the giant flood basalts of the past, at least not in the next few thousand years — but the pollution in the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels is replicating atmospheric change on a similar scale.” Similar scale????

Bambi dumped!

By Staff Writers, *Climate Change Predictions.org*, Nov 28, 2015

<http://climatechangepredictions.org/uncategorized/5503>

“Secretary of State John F. Kerry said Tuesday he will integrate climate change analysis and its national security implications into all future foreign policy planning.

“We have to prepare ourselves for the potential social and political consequences that stem from crop failures, water shortages, famine and outbreaks of epidemic disease,” he said.

“And we have to heighten our national security readiness to deal with the possible destruction of vital infrastructure and the mass movement of refugees — particularly in parts of the world that already provide fertile ground for violent extremism and terror.”

“Long story short, climate change isn’t just about Bambi. It’s about us.”
[Washington Post, 10 Nov 2015](#)

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ARTICLES:

Please note that articles not linked easily 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. We’ll Always Have the Illusions of Paris

The climate talks will have zero impact on global temperatures.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 1, 2015

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/well-always-have-the-illusions-of-paris-1449015377>

SUMMARY: In spite of the melodrama surrounding and “grandiose rhetoric” at COP-21, little carbon dioxide control will be accomplished without participation of developing countries Atmospheric CO2 will continue to accumulate whatever the U.S. does.

“The problem is that countries like China (the No. 1 emitter) and India (No. 3) won’t undermine their economic growth or stop eradicating desperate poverty to assuage Western neuralgia. World-wide, some 1.3 billion people still live without electricity. So the negotiators simply gave up the pretense of trying to agree to a legally binding agreement.

“Instead, countries will volunteer their own random carbon emissions-reduction targets and the actions they may or may not take to meet them, with no global goals. There are no consequences for failing to comply or even common standards for measuring improvement. In United Nations idiom, these pledges are called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions, or INDCs.”

“But no INDC exposes the Paris farce better than America’s. Mr. Obama promises that the U.S. will reduce CO2 emissions by 26% to 28% from 2005 levels by 2025. According to the Environmental Protection Agency’s greenhouse gas inventory, that would be some 1.8 billion fewer tons of CO2-equivalent in a decade. Yet the U.S. INDC outlines only about a billion tons, 45% short of the goal.

“Not that Mr. Obama’s plan won’t damage U.S. jobs and living standards. Energy-intensive industries like manufacturing, chemicals, cement and pulp and paper will be particular victims and may decamp for overseas. The President is trading away the competitive advantage of cheap U.S. natural gas for a bag of anticarbon promises.

“Mr. Obama isn’t negotiating a treaty, because that would require two-thirds Senate ratification that he will never obtain. Thus he can make any “political agreement” finance promise he likes. But no one outside the West Wing believes Congress will earmark a dollar for windmills in Guangzhou and dikes in the Maldives.”

2. Gas Driller Hits a Gusher—and Sinks Its Own Stock

A big find typically would send an energy company’s stock surging, but in an industry awash in the commodity, it is having the opposite effect

By Timothy Puko and Ryan Dezember, WSJ, Nov 26, 2015

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/gas-driller-hits-a-gusherand-sinks-its-own-stock-1448533982>

SUMMARY: EQT Corp. this summer drilled what by some measures is the biggest natural-gas gusher ever. The well, in southwestern Pennsylvania's Greene County, produced enough gas in its first 24 hours to power every home in Pittsburgh for nearly three days. Named Scotts Run 591340 after a historic coal field that sparked a regional energy boom after World War I, the well has continued to produce at unusually high rates with no signs of fading soon.

"That would sound like good news. But in a glutted industry in which natural-gas prices are plunging as record amounts of unused gas build up in storage, it is a problem. Since EQT finished drilling the gusher in July, its shares have lost 29%, while U.S. natural-gas prices have fallen 24%.

"Scotts Run 591340 taps part of a rock formation called the Utica Shale that has only been lightly explored so far because it sits almost 3 miles below the Earth's surface.

"Situated beneath Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, the Utica is close to gas-consuming regions of the Northeast. If it proves as productive as EQT's well and a few nearby wells suggest, it could mean trouble for billions of dollars of wells and pipelines built in and from more established regions like north Louisiana and the Rocky Mountains."

No one knows how extensive the Utica is. *"EQT said last month that it would suspend drilling projects in other parts of Pennsylvania to concentrate on the Utica, where it thinks wells have the potential to be so prolific that they could lower natural-gas prices and make competing projects uneconomical.*

The Utica is already starting to alter the U.S. natural-gas balance. The U.S. Energy Information Administration said this week that the country's proved reserves of natural gas rose 10% in 2014 to a record of 388.8 trillion cubic feet. Ohio's reserves nearly tripled thanks to finds in portions of the Utica Shale, a big factor in the higher total, the government agency said.

"Much of the Utica lies beneath the Marcellus, and some producers and investors believe it could take over as the country's biggest source of low-cost natural gas.

"The Utica certainly has the potential to be more economic than the Marcellus, but it's too early to make a definitive call," said David Schlosser, EQT's executive vice president of engineering, geology and planning."

[SEPP Comment: The old studies, based on un-validated computer models, that the US would run out of natural gas by the end of the 20th century are clearly out of date. So are claims that the US needs to subsidize solar, wind, and biofuels for energy security.]

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