

**The Week That Was: 2016-01-09 (January 9, 2016)**  
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**The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

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**Quote of the Week:** *“The most savage controversies are those as to which there is no good evidence either way.”* -Bertrand Russell [H/t Climate Etc.]

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**Number of the Week:** One Billion subscribers (1,000,000,000)

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**THIS WEEK:**

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

**Paris Agreement – Treaty or Not?** The December 26 TWTW emphasized that from a scientific and practical viewpoint the Agreement in Paris reached at the conclusion of the Conference of Parties (COP-21) of the United Nations’ Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), “Paris Agreement” is largely smoke and mirrors. It does not obligate countries to reduce Carbon Dioxide (CO2) emissions or countries to contribute to the “Green Climate Fund. Further, the climate science on which the fear of global warming/climate change is based is not robust and far from complete. The models used by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) fail to properly account for natural climate change and past warming periods including the one from about 1910 to 1940. These models consistently overestimate the warming of the lower atmosphere. It is here where greenhouse gas warming, chiefly from human emissions of CO2, should occur. Yet, since 1979 satellites have provided the most comprehensive data of global warming and cooling in existence. For the lower atmosphere the data show no significant warming for over a decade. As John Christy has demonstrated, lower atmospheric temperatures are calculated by three independent groups and are confirmed by independent measurements of temperatures by four sets of weather balloon data.

The recent effort by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to alter the historic surface temperature record to show recent warming has been severely criticized and has little merit. It can be considered to be a desperate act to continue fear of global warming.

However, political analyst Marlo Lewis of the Competitive Enterprise Institute warns that the Paris Agreement may turn into a tiger to the detriment of the US public and the US economy. Lewis lists eight points that the State Department and the Administration may use to argue that the Paris Agreement is an enforceable treaty, with the force of law and all its obligations onto the US government and the American public, even though Congress was not consulted in its formation or its execution.

If the Administration, and State Department, tries this tactic, then protracted litigation is a likely result. At what point does the US government have a moral obligation to meet an agreement agreed to by the executive branch, without the advice and consent of the legislative branch? Lewis suggests that Congress pass a resolution similar to the Byrd-Hagel resolution passed by Congress during the Kyoto process to avert such an effort to avoid Congressional oversight by the Administration. See links under Analyzing Paris!

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**USGCRP – IPCC:** The IPCC has no mandate to consider the natural influences on climate change and it largely ignores them. This leads to a significant gap in its science, which chiefly asserts human cause and ignores natural cause. This effort leads to unsubstantiated claims that most of recent global warming/climate change is human caused.

Unlike the IPCC, which it largely follows, the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) has a legal mandate to understand the natural processes of climate change.

*“The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) was established by Presidential Initiative in 1989 and mandated by Congress in the Global Change Research Act (GCRA) of 1990 to develop and coordinate “a comprehensive and integrated United States research program which will assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and **natural processes of global change.**” [Boldface added]*

The USGCRP, with a FY 2014 enacted budget of \$2,489,000,000 (not including State and USAID), has systematically ignored a critical component of its legal mandate to understand natural processes of global change. The entity is acting outside of its legal powers. Reducing or eliminating its budget is not an attack on “science” but a necessary reduction of a government entity that has gone beyond its legal powers. By ignoring half its legal mandate, the USGCRP is presenting a false view of climate change.

*“USGCRP is steered by the Subcommittee on Global Change Research (SGCR) of the National Science and Technology Council’s Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability (CENRS), and overseen by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).”*

The Chair of the critical Subcommittee on Global Change Research (SGCR) is Thomas Karl, who led the recent manipulation of historic sea surface temperatures to create an impression of a warming where there was none.

See links: <http://www.globalchange.gov/about/legal-mandate> and <http://www.globalchange.gov/about/organization-leadership>

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**State Department – UNFCCC.** In discussing the role of the Department of State, the USGCRP states:

*“Through the Department of State (DOS) annual funding, the U.S. is the world’s leading financial contributor to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to the IPCC—the principal international organization for the assessment of scientific, technical, and socioeconomic information relevant to the understanding of climate change, its potential impacts, and options for adaptation and mitigation ”*

Thus, the State Department deliberately funds an entity that largely ignores the natural causes of climate change, in spite of the legal mandate creating the USGCRP and the role of the State Department to “understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change.” See link <http://www.globalchange.gov/agency/department-state>

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**USGCRP Conclusion:** Given the actions of the USGCRP, and its 13 entities, in ignoring its legal mandate to understand natural processes of climate change and focusing virtually solely on

human cause, we can expect the USGCPR to continue to do so, even at the expense of climate science. Marlo Lewis may be correct in that it may take an act of Congress to stop the emotional mania reached in Paris. Sadly, what passes for climate science under the USGCRP is more social science than natural science. See links given above and under Challenging the Orthodoxy, Defending the Orthodoxy, Questioning the Orthodoxy, Seeking a Common Ground, and Measurement Issues

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**Forecasting Extreme Weather and Results:** Unlike the IPCC and the USGCRP, the business of reinsurance companies depends on recognizing expected catastrophic events, including extreme weather events, and adjusting premiums accordingly. Failure to do so can result in bankruptcy. Munich RE, the world's largest reinsurance company, released its annual summary of losses from natural disasters, both total and insured losses, for 2015. Once again, this questionably claimed "hottest year ever" turned out to be quite benign. The biggest insured losses came from the extreme cold, with deep, light snow, that gripped the northern part of eastern and central US last winter. These losses directly contradict forecasts by the IPCC and the USGCRP. One year does not make a trend, but 2015 is a continuation of a trend of lower losses from heat, floods, hurricanes, etc., that are repeatedly predicted by the Administration and other climate alarmists. See links under Changing Weather.

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**The Tale of Two Floods:** Unusual rains in Scotland and northern England and in the middle Mississippi Valley caused floods. The exaggerated news reports and the actual events are revealing.

The hardest hit area of England was Cumbria, a hilly (mountainous), sparsely populated county in northwest England, immediately south of Scotland. Due to the terrain, it is subject to flash floods. The floods were similar to those earlier in December about which local author Philip Walling wrote:

*"Amid all the devastation and recrimination over the floods in Cumbria hardly anybody mentions one factor that may not be the sole cause, but certainly hasn't helped.*

*"That is the almost complete cessation of dredging of our rivers since we were required to accept the European Water Framework Directive (EWF) into UK law in 2000."*

*"So, in order to comply with the obligations imposed on us by the EU we had to stop dredging and embanking and allow rivers to 're-connect with their floodplains', as the currently fashionable jargon has it."*

For centuries, the residents of Cumbria recognized the need to dredge siltation of the local rivers to prevent them overflowing. Now, that responsibility is controlled by unaccountable bureaucrats, thanks to international agreement. This is a warning about the consequences of international agreements.

The central Mississippi Valley was hit by heavy rains in late December, causing what was termed as "record floods." Except for the free-flowing Meramec River, one of the longest rivers without flood control structures in Missouri, the floods were record only in the sense they occurred in early January, rather than later in the year.

Following the disastrous flood of 1927, thousands of people camped on levees waiting for the waters to slowly recede. Congress passed laws to control the flooding of the Mississippi River, giving responsibility to the US Army Corps of Engineers. Many of the affected lived in the region

of the state of Mississippi known as the Delta, in the northwest part of the state. This fertile, broad, flat alluvial plain was a noted cotton-growing region, roughly between Memphis Tennessee, and Vicksburg, Mississippi. It is hundreds of miles upriver from where the River empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

The Mississippi River drainage basin includes about 41% of the 48 conterminous states of the US. The flood control measures included enhancing and building levees to control the river system, building dams and reservoirs to limit downstream flow, and building spillways to redirect peak river flow away from urban areas and towards rural areas.

The Corps of Engineers built enormous flood projects to protect cities following a plan called Project Design Flood. The design figures are interesting. At St Louis (Caro Ill), the Mississippi River brings in up to 150,000 cubic feet per second of water and the Missouri River 100,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Down river, the Ohio River brings in up to 2,250,000 cfs. Of this, 550,000 cfs can be diverted into the New Madrid Floodway, flooding part of the state of Missouri (farmers and residents do not like it). The other big tributaries of the Mississippi River are the Arkansas and White rivers with up to 540,000 cfs. According to the Plan, the total flow past Vicksburg can be 2,720,000 cfs.

Further down river, the Red, Ouachita, and other local rivers from the west add another 350,000 cfs. Several hundred years ago, the lower Mississippi, north of Baton Rouge, moved west and intercepted the Red, which previously went to the Gulf past Morgan City. The lower Red River was named the Atchafalaya. Being a shorter and steeper route, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the Mississippi began to divert into the Atchafalaya north of Baton Rouge, threatening to leave that city and New Orleans on back-water bayous. [The Mississippi started another diversion into Lake Pontchartrain, between Baton Rouge and New Orleans.]

The Corps stopped these diversions (for normal flow), and created floodways for flood control. The Atchafalaya and Morganza Floodways are designed to handle up to 1,500,000 cfs into Atchafalaya basin and the Bonnet Carre Spillway between Baton Rouge and New Orleans is designed to handle up to 250,000 cfs into Lake Pontchartrain. All this is designed to reduce the flood flow of the Mississippi to 1,250,000 cfs past New Orleans roughly south of the old part of the city (as compared with 2,250,000 cfs from the Ohio River alone.).

[None of this applies to threats to New Orleans from hurricanes such as Katrina or Betsey, which flooded the city through Lake Pontchartrain, north of the city.]

Since its completion in 1954, the Morganza spillway has been opened twice, in 1973 and 2011. As of January 8, 2016, the Corps of Engineers may open some gates on January 13. In order to open the Morganza Spillway, water must reach a height of 57 feet and flow at a rate of 1.5 million cubic feet per second.

The Corps is scheduled to open some gates in Bonnet Carre on January 10 to reduce the level of the Mississippi River in New Orleans, so its flow does not exceed 1.25 million cubic feet per second in New Orleans. This would be the 11<sup>th</sup> opening since it was completed in 1931.

Often, we fail to fully realize is that engineered structures, such as those on the Mississippi, can significantly reduce the human suffering and economic loss associated from extreme weather events, such as major flooding; however, these structures cannot eliminate the flooding. All too

frequently policy makers (and courts) believe those who speak in absolutes – "either eliminate the possibility of flooding or don't do anything." Those who are affected by these events fall victim to this false dichotomy.

See links under Changing Weather and

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morganza\\_Spillway#/media/File:1986\\_Design\\_Flows.gif](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morganza_Spillway#/media/File:1986_Design_Flows.gif) and <http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/Portals/52/docs/Controlling%20the%20Project%20Flood%20info%20paper.pdf>

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**Where Ignorance Is Bliss:** After an absence, John Brignell has posted some comments directed towards political ignorance of mathematical concepts such as logarithmic functions (and the inverse, exponential functions), which are commonly found in many physical systems and that, often, breaking records is not particularly meaningful. A pioneer in electronic measurement and an expert in statistics, Brignell's wit and lucid writing are welcome, but perhaps not by scaremongers. See link under Questioning the Orthodoxy

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**Tale of Two North Poles?** Time.com had a post that claimed that temperatures at the North Pole were above freezing in late December. This produced predictions of dire consequences to humanity and polar bears. With no known thermometers at the North Pole, 90°N, the source of the data was questioned. Ryan Maue of Weatherbell Analytics LLC, may have solved the mystery – North Pole, Alaska, which is a suburb of Fairbanks, roughly in the center of the state. North Pole, Alaska, is at latitude 64° 45' 04" N, about 1,700 mi (2,700 km) south of Earth's geographic North Pole. From such stories, global warming fears are made. See links under Below the Bottom Line.

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**Number of the Week: One Billion subscribers.** According to reports, India has one billion subscribers to mobile telephone services. Although the phones operate with batteries, the telephones and the systems need reliable electricity. Perhaps this is why villagers in India demand "real electricity" from the reliable Grid, rather than "fake electricity" from unreliable solar generation, as Greenpeace has discovered. See link under Other News that May Be of Interest.

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**ARTICLES:** Due to travel commitments, there will be no Articles summarized.

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**NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

***Suppressing Scientific Inquiry – The Witch Hunt***

**Desperate Climate Alarmists Attack Skeptics**

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Dec 28, 2015

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Willie-Soon-NOAA-NASA-U-N-/2015/12/28/id/707302/>

***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

<http://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***

#### **Climate exaggeration**

By Rep. Lamar Smith, Washington Examiner, Jan 7, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

[http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/climate-exaggeration/article/2579757?utm\\_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest&utm\\_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2001/07/16&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/climate-exaggeration/article/2579757?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2001/07/16&utm_medium=email)

#### **Unnatural consensus on climate change**

By Judith Curry, Financial Post, Dec 30, 2015

<http://business.financialpost.com/fp-comment/unnatural-consensus-on-climate-change>

Without an understanding of natural climate, there's no strong basis for predicting climate change

#### **There Is No Climate Change Disaster Except The One Governments Created**

Guest opinion; Dr. Tim Ball, WUWT, Dec 27, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/27/there-is-no-climate-change-disaster-except-the-one-governments-created/>

#### **A recent exchange in the Boston Globe clearly illustrated the sophistic nature of the defense of global warming alarm**

Guest essay by Dr. Richard Lindzen, MIT, WUWT, Dec 26, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/26/lindzen-a-recent-exchange-in-the-boston-globe-clearly-illustrated-the-sophistic-nature-of-the-defense-of-global-warming-alarm/>

#### **More misrepresentation on climate**

By Jim Whiting, American Thinker, Jan 6, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

[http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2016/01/more\\_misrepresentation\\_on\\_climate.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2016/01/more_misrepresentation_on_climate.html)

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

### ***Defending the Orthodoxy***

#### **US Global Change Research Program**

By Staff Writers, USGCRP, Accessed Jan 9, 2016

<http://www.globalchange.gov/about>

“GlobalChange.gov is made possible by our participating agencies

“Thirteen Agencies, One Vision: Empower the Nation with Global Change Science”

### ***Questioning the Orthodoxy***

#### **Where ignorance is bliss ...**

By John Brignell, Number Watch, Jan 6, 2016

<http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2016%20January.htm#bliss>

“One of the sadder examples of the failure of ill-educated members of the political class to understand the simplest of mathematical concepts is their difficulties with the logarithmic function.”

### **Nothing to Fear**

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jan 5, 2015

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2016/01/05/nothing-to-fear/>

### **Nico Stehr: Good Climate, Bad Democracy**

By Nico Stehr, Translation Philipp Mueller: Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Dec 1, 2015

<http://www.thegwpf.com/nico-stehr-good-climate-bad-democracy/>

“An increasing number of climatologists are critics of democracy. Only autocratic governments could avert catastrophe, they believe.”

### **We have Bigger Problems than Climate Change; So sayeth IPCC AR5**

Guest essay by David M Hoffer, WUWT, Jan 1, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/01/01/we-have-bigger-problems-than-climate-change-so-sayeth-ipcc-ar5/>

“**For most economic sectors, the impact of climate change will be small relative to the impacts of other drivers (*medium evidence, high agreement*).** Changes in population, age, income, technology, relative prices, lifestyle, regulation, governance, and many other aspects of socioeconomic development will have an impact on the supply and demand of economic goods and services that is large relative to the impact of climate change.”

### **Data suggests Global Temperature Tracks Aviation Fuel Consumption**

Guest essay by Don Spencer, WUWTW, Jan 6, 2016

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/01/06/data-suggests-global-temperature-tracks-aviation-fuel-consumption/>

“But maybe the simpler explanation is that we are backing the wrong gas and water vapor is the really important greenhouse gas, after all it currently accounts for more than 85% of the current greenhouse effect that supports life on this planet.”

### **Modern Day Versions of King Canute Find It Difficult To Replace God.**

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Dec 27, 2015

<http://drtimball.com/2015/modern-day-versions-of-king-canute-find-it-difficult-to-replace-god/>  
[SEPP Comment: Great “T-shirt” symbol to stop climate change.]

### **Time to Let the Climate Scare Die**

By Tom Harris, Epoch Times, Jan 4, 2016

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/1932130-time-to-let-the-climate-scare-die/>

### **Analyzing Paris!**

#### **Paris Agreement Is a Real Tiger: Lock and Load**

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming. Org, Dec 27, 2015

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2015/12/27/paris-agreement-is-a-real-tiger-lock-and-load/>

#### **Paris Agreement Further Proof That Cover-Up Always Exposes The Crime.**

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Dec 27, 2015

<http://drtimball.com/2015/paris-agreement-further-proof-that-cover-up-always-exposes-the-crime/>

“Politicians are the same the world over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river.” Nikita Khrushchev

### **Paris Agreement: Recycled “Process” Socialism**

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Jan 3, 2015

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2016/01/03/paris-agreement-recycled-process-socialism/>

### **The hidden trigger of Paris: why the climate battle will now be taken to the courts**

By Lucas Bergkamp, Energy Post, Jan 6, 2016 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.energypost.eu/hidden-trigger-paris-climate-battle-will-now-taken-courts/>

### ***Questioning Paris!***

#### **Climate Change: An Expensive Hoax**

Activists Live in a Neverland of Climate Prediction

By Tom Harris, Santa Barbara Independent, Jan 4, 2015

<http://www.independent.com/news/2016/jan/04/climate-change-expensive-hoax/>

### ***The Administration’s Plan – Independent Analysis***

#### **2016 Will Influence Climate Debate Outcome**

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Jan 4, 2015

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Barack-Obama-GDP-EPA-Gina-McCarthy/2016/01/04/id/708019/>

### ***The Administration’s Plan – Push-Back***

#### **Despite Green Energy Push, API Chief Says Oil and Gas Will Provide 80% of U.S. Energy Needs Through 2040**

By Penny Starr, CNS News, Jan 5, 2015

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/penny-starr/api-chief-efforts-ban-fossil-fuels-oil-and-gas-will-provide-80-percent-us>

### ***Seeking a Common Ground***

#### **A War Against Fire**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jan 1, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2016/01/01/a-war-against-fire/#more-20743>

“Whether the trial of Galileo or the tyranny of Lysenko, at all times and in all polities, science politicized is science betrayed.”

*[SEPP Comment: A 25-year-old essay that applies today. Although some details are better known, the causes of natural climate change are largely ignored by advocates.]*

### **Daniel Davis’ insights about predictions can unlock the climate change debate**

By Larry Kummer, from the [Fabius Maximus website.](#), WUWT, Jan 4, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/01/04/daniel-davis-insights-about-predictions-can-unlock-the-climate-change-debate/>

“The Vital Importance of Audit.”

### **Year in review – top science stories**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Dec 27, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/12/27/year-in-review-top-science-stories/#more-20752>

**2015 → 2016**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Dec 31, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/12/31/2015-%E2%86%92-2016/#more-20748>

*[SEPP Comment: Evaluating the most popular posts on her web site.]*

### **Climate models and precautionary measures**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jan 5, 2016

<http://judithcurry.com/2016/01/05/climate-models-and-precautionary-measures/>

*[SEPP Comment: Curry questions the climate writings of innovative statistical thinker Nassim Taleb.]*

### **Measurement Issues**

#### **UAH: Expect More Warmth As El Nino Wanes**

By Staff Writers, reporting Climate Science, Jan 7, 2015

<http://www.reportingclimatescience.com/news-stories/article/uah-expect-more-warmth-as-el-nino-wanes.html>

“Ocean temperatures related to the El Niño Pacific Ocean warming event are falling, which in the short term should mean temperatures in the atmosphere will continue to rise,” climate scientist John Christy of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) is quoted as saying in a news release.”

*[SEPP Comment: Unable to locate press release.]*

#### **Annual Global Lower Troposphere Temperature (LTT) Anomaly Update – Distant Third Warmest for 2015**

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Jan 6, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/01/06/annual-global-lower-troposphere-temperature-plt-anomaly-update-distant-third-warmest-for-2015/>

#### **Meteorological Year (December to November) Global Temperature Product Comparison through 2015**

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Jan 8, 2016

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/01/08/138002/>

#### **UAH V6 Global Temperature Update for Dec. 2015: +0.44 deg. C**

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jan 5, 2016

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2016/01/uah-v6-global-temperature-update-for-dec-2015-0-44-deg-c/>

#### **2 Reasons US Having 2nd Hottest Year in 2015 Doesn't Prove Climate Catastrophe Is Imminent**

By David Kreutzer, Daily Signal, Jan 7, 2015

<http://dailysignal.com/2016/01/07/2-reasons-u-s-having-2nd-hottest-year-in-2015-doesnt-prove-climate-catastrophe-is-imminent/>

“The actual data also contradicts claims that we are already observing increased damage from CO<sub>2</sub>-induced extreme weather. NOAA and IPCC data show no increasing trends for hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, or floods.”

#### **Global Temperature Trends After Detrending with the AMO**

By Craig Loehle, Climate Etc. Dec 28, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/12/28/global-temperature-trends-after-detrending-with-the-amo/#more-20786>

### ***Changing Weather***

#### **El Niño In Decline**

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Jan 5, 2016

<http://www.thegwgf.com/el-nino-in-decline/>

#### **Evolutions of Global Surface and Lower Troposphere Temperature Anomalies in Responses to the 1997/98 and 2015/16 El Niños**

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Jan 4, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/01/04/evolutions-of-global-surface-and-lower-troposphere-temperature-anomalies-in-responses-to-the-199798-and-201516-el-ninos/>

#### **What Causes El Niño Warmth?**

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jan 1, 2016

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2016/01/what-causes-el-nino-warmth/>

#### **2015 US Natural Catastrophe Losses Curbed by El Niño; Brutal North American Winter Caused Biggest Insured Losses**

By Staff Writers, Business Wire, Jan 4, 2016 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20160104005325/en/2015-Natural-Catastrophe-Losses-Curbed-El-Ni%C3%B1o>

More Detailed Report: (Press Release) 2015 natural catastrophe losses curbed by El Niño; brutal North American winter caused biggest insured losses.

By Staff Writers, Munich RE, Jan 4, 2015

<http://www.munichre.com/us/weather-resilience-and-protection/media-relations/news/160104-natcatstats2015/index.html>

Map of 1060 Loss events:

[http://www.munichre.com/site/wrap/get/documents\\_E1656163460/mram/assetpool.munichreamerica.wrap/PDF/07Press/2015\\_World\\_map\\_of\\_nat\\_cats.pdf](http://www.munichre.com/site/wrap/get/documents_E1656163460/mram/assetpool.munichreamerica.wrap/PDF/07Press/2015_World_map_of_nat_cats.pdf)

*[SEPP Comment: "Climatological events" include heat waves, drought, forest fires; but not cold winter storms with deep, light snow.]*

#### **Britain's floods: causes, costs and consequences**

By Edouard Guihire, London (AFP) Dec 30, 2015

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Britains\\_floods\\_causes\\_costs\\_and\\_consequences\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Britains_floods_causes_costs_and_consequences_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Doesn't mention the filling of rivers promotes floods.]*

#### **Flooding cause that the Government would rather keep to itself**

Author and former sheep farmer Philip Walling highlights one of the causes of the recent floods which officials aren't speaking about

By Philip Walling, Chronicle Live, UK, Dec 11, 2015 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/north-east-news/flooding-cause-government-would-keep-10580092>

*[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]*

#### **Why can't we go Dutch on flood defence?**

A fraction of the money we spend subsidising green energy could keep our homes truly safe from flooding

Editorial, The Spectator, UK, Jan 2, 2016

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/2016/01/why-cant-we-go-dutch-on-flood-defence/>

“The wealthier we become as a country, the better we ought to be at meeting that expectation [of flooding]. Transfer even a fraction of spending from the subsidy of renewables to flood defence and we could have a flood policy like that of the Netherlands, which in spite of having a quarter of the population of Britain has managed to find £1.9 billion to enhance its river defences. Diversion channels have been dug; areas of agricultural land are being used to create temporary reservoirs where floodwaters can be held back to prevent flooding of towns downstream; roads and houses are being raised or rebuilt off the floodplain.”

### **Frantic US fight against record floods**

By Mira Oberman, Chicago (AFP) Dec 31, 2015

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Frantic\\_US\\_fight\\_against\\_record\\_floods\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Frantic_US_fight_against_record_floods_999.html)

### **Mississippi River flooding to threaten more levees, homes after leaving St. Louis area submerged**

By Alex Sosnowski, AccuWeather, Jan 3, 2015

<http://www.accuweather.com/en/weather-news/mississippi-ohio-missouri-illinois-arkansas-major-river-flooding-challenge-records-december-january-2016/54483549>

### ***Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice***

#### **How increasing CO<sub>2</sub> leads to an increased negative greenhouse effect in Antarctica**

By Schmithusen, Notholt, Konig-Langlo, Lermke, and Jung, Geophysical Research Letters, Dec 14, 2015 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2015GL066749/full>

[SEPP Comment: Would the same principle apply to Greenland, with its high elevations, as well? See link immediately below.]

### **Failed claim right out of the gate: Climate change altering Greenland ice sheet & accelerating sea level rise**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 4, 2016

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/01/04/failed-claim-right-out-of-the-gate-climate-change-altering-greenland-ice-sheet-accelerating-sea-level-rise/>

### **Greenland retained 99.7% of its ice mass in 20th Century!!!**

By Dave Middleton, WUWT, Dec 30, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/30/greenland-retained-99-7-of-its-ice-mass-in-20th-century/>

### ***Changing Earth***

#### **10,000-year record shows dramatic uplift at Andean volcano**

By David Tenenbaum, Phys.org, Dec 17, 2015

<http://phys.org/news/2015-12-year-uplift-andean-volcano.html>

“Ongoing studies of a massive volcanic field in the Andes mountains show that the rapid uplift which has raised the surface more than six feet in eight years has occurred many times during the past 10,000 years.”

### ***Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine***

### **Droughts hit cereal crops harder since 1980s**

By Staff Writers, Montreal, Canada (SPX), Jan 08, 2016

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Droughts\\_hit\\_cereal\\_crops\\_harder\\_since\\_1980s\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Droughts_hit_cereal_crops_harder_since_1980s_999.html)

Link to report: Influence of extreme weather disasters on global crop production

By Lesk, Rowhani, & Ramankutty, Nature, Jan 6, 2016

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v529/n7584/full/nature16467.html>

“Normalized production composites for drought (n = 222) (a), extreme heat (n = 32) (b), flood (n = 756) (c) and extreme cold disasters (n = 51) (d) over 7-year windows centred on the disaster year (blue lines).” [from footnote in graphs]

*[SEPP Comment: More extreme cold events than extreme heat events. Overall, yields are increasing significantly!]*

### **Lowering Standards**

**NOAA’s New “Pause-Buster” Sea Surface Temperature Data – The Curiosities Extend into the 1st Half of the 20th Century...**

**...Plus an Obvious Error in the New NOAA ERSST V4 Paper.**

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Dec 29, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/29/noaas-new-pauses-buster-sea-surface-temperature-data-the-curiousities-extend-into-the-1st-half-of-the-20th-century/>

### **Suppressing the good news**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 1, 2016

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2016/1/1/suppressing-the-good-news.html>

“...because behind the scenes it appears that the [NY] Times was trying to get the scientists to come up with evidence of what the present-day impacts were, and were told in no uncertain terms that there was none.” [from lowering pH at the Great Barrier Reef.]

### **Three More Global Warming Stories Media Don’t Want You To See**

Editorial, IBD, Dec 31, 2015

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/123115-787676-more-global-warming-stories-media-refuse-to-report.htm>

*[SEPP Comment: The fabricated 97% of scientists, Greenland ice cap melt (the ice cap is still there), and the global climate models continue to exaggerate warming.]*

### **What we learned from the freak storm that “melted the North Pole” on December 30**

By Staff Writer, Fabius Maximus, Jan 4, 2016 [H/t GWPF]

<http://fabiusmaximus.com/2016/01/04/melting-north-pole-story-92549/>

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

**Study: hyperbole is increasing in science**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 30, 2015

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/12/30/study-hyperbole-is-increasing-in-science/>

### **Claim: Large and increasing methane emissions from northern lakes**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 6, 2016

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/01/06/claim-large-and-increasing-methane-emissions-from-northern-lakes/>

### **Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.**

## **Adapt to climate change**

By Tom Harris, Letter, The Sun Daily, Jan 4, 2016

<http://www.thesundaily.my/node/344801>

*[SEPP Comment: Challenging the selling of fear of climate change.]*

## ***Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.***

### **Era of climate science denial is not over, study finds**

Conservative think tanks in the US engaging in climate change have increased their attacks on science in recent years, a study of 16,000 documents finds.

By Graharn Readfearn, Guardian, UK, Jan 7, 2015 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/planet-oz/2016/jan/07/era-of-climate-science-denial-is-not-over-study-finds>

Link to paper: Text-mining the signals of climate change doubt

By Constantine Boussalisa and Travis G. Coanb, Global Environmental Change, Jan 2016

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959378015300728>

*[SEPP Comment: Questioning the quality of the work is science denial?]*

## ***Funding Issues***

### **India begins work on accessing \$100-b climate fund**

By Amity Sen, Business Line, The Hindu, Jan 1, 2016

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-begins-work-on-accessing-100b-climate-fund/article8055014.ece>

## ***The Political Games Continue***

### **Obama goes around Congress, sets record for new rules in 2015**

By Stephen Dinan, The Washington Times, Dec 30, 2015

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/dec/30/obama-sets-record-for-new-rules-in-2015/>

## ***Litigation Issues***

### **TransCanada to sue US for \$15 bn over Keystone XL pipeline rejection**

By Staff Writers, Montreal (AFP), Jan 6, 2016

[http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/TransCanada\\_to\\_sue\\_US\\_for\\_15\\_bn\\_over\\_Keystone\\_XL\\_pipeline\\_rejection\\_999.html](http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/TransCanada_to_sue_US_for_15_bn_over_Keystone_XL_pipeline_rejection_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: If the Administration loses, the money comes from a special fund. It is no loss to those involved. Of course, other countries and trading partners may look upon the Administration's actions under a different light.]*

## ***EPA and other Regulators on the March***

### **EPA Chief: Climate Change Is Certain But You Can't Predict the Future**

By Penny Starr, CNS News, Jan 7, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/penny-starr/epa-chief-climate-change-certain-you-cant-predict-future>

## ***Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?***

### **No limit to output, Saudi Arabia says**

By Daniel J. Graeber, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (UPI). Dec 30, 2015

[http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/No\\_limit\\_to\\_output\\_Saudi\\_Arabia\\_says\\_999.html](http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/No_limit_to_output_Saudi_Arabia_says_999.html)

## **Ten Trillion Dollars Needed To Avoid Massive Oil Price Spike: OPEC**

By Nick Cunningham of Oilprice.com and Staff Writers, Oil and Gas Daily, Jan 1, 2016  
[http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Ten\\_Trillion\\_Dollars\\_Needed\\_To\\_Avoid\\_Massive\\_Oil\\_Price\\_Spike\\_OPEC\\_999.html](http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Ten_Trillion_Dollars_Needed_To_Avoid_Massive_Oil_Price_Spike_OPEC_999.html)

Link to report: World Oil Outlook 2015

By Staff Writers, OPEC, Dec 2015

[http://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/static\\_files\\_project/media/downloads/publications/WOO%202015.pdf](http://www.opec.org/opec_web/static_files_project/media/downloads/publications/WOO%202015.pdf)

### ***Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind***

#### **Renewables and grid reliability**

By Planning Engineer, Climate Etc. Jan 6, 2015

<http://judithcurry.com/2016/01/06/renewables-and-grid-reliability/#more-20854>

#### **Wind and Solar in Perspective**

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Jan 8, 2016

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2016/01/08/wind-and-solar-in-perspective/>

#### **Renewable energy for state renewable portfolio standards yielded sizable benefits**

By Staff Writers, Berkeley CA (SPX), Jan 08, 2016

[http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Renewable\\_energy\\_for\\_state\\_renewable\\_portfolio\\_standards\\_yielded\\_sizable\\_benefits\\_999.html](http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Renewable_energy_for_state_renewable_portfolio_standards_yielded_sizable_benefits_999.html)

Link to report: A Retrospective Analysis of the Benefits and Impacts of U.S. Renewable Portfolio Standards

By Wiser, et al. DOE & Berkley Lab, 2016

<https://emp.lbl.gov/publications/retrospective-analysis-benefits-and>

“A new study estimates that \$2.2 billion in benefits came from reduced greenhouse gas emissions and \$5.2 billion from reductions in other air pollution for state renewable portfolio standard (RPS) policies operating in 2013.”

*[SEPP Comment: Question any benefits from reducing CO2.]*

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

#### **Why Advanced Renewable Fuels Will Not Play A Significant Role In Meeting Climate Change Goals**

By Tim Sklar, Biofuel Digest, Dec 30, 2015 [H/t James Rust]

<http://www.biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2015/12/30/why-advanced-renewable-fuels-will-not-play-a-significant-role-in-meeting-climate-change-goals/>

### ***Other Scientific News***

#### **Description of mechanism that halts solar eruptions**

By Staff Writers, Phys.org, Dec 23, 2015 [H/t WUWT]

<http://phys.org/news/2015-12-description-mechanism-halts-solar-eruptions.html>

Link to paper: A dynamic magnetic tension force as the cause of failed solar eruptions

By Myer, et al. Nature, Dec 23, 2015

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v528/n7583/full/nature16188.html>

#### **Four new elements added to the periodic table – all variants of “Unobtainium”**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 4, 2016

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/01/04/four-new-elements-added-to-the-periodic-table-all-variants-of-unobtainium/>

**Is Hormesis – the Low-Dose Effect – Real?**

By Alex Berezow, ACSH, Jan 5, 2016

<http://acsh.org/2016/01/low-dose-effect-possible-mechanisms-of-hormesis/>

***Other News that May Be of Interest***

**Around the world, poverty is collapsing. Why is that so hard to believe?**

By Fraser Nelson, The Spectator, UK, Jan 6, 2016 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2016/01/why-2016-will-have-less-poverty-hunger-and-disease-than-any-year-in-human-history/>

*[SEPP Comment: The author should realize that fear sells, good news does not.]*

**India hits one billion mobile phone subscribers**

By Staff Writers, New Delhi (AFP), Dec 31, 2015

[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/India\\_hits\\_one\\_billion\\_mobile\\_phone\\_subscribers\\_999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/India_hits_one_billion_mobile_phone_subscribers_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: No wonder the government of India does not wish to depend on unreliable solar and wind for electricity.]*

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**BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

**Maxims of meteorological mayhem**

New lingo is needed to tell the global warming tale

By Anthony J. Sadar and JoAnn Truchan, Washington Times, Dec 28, 2015

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/dec/28/anthony-sadar-joann-truchan-maxims-of-meteorologic/>

*[SEPP Comment: Clever sayings to ridicule promoters of global warming fear, such as: “In a two-degree rise, lies our demise.”]*

**Holthaus thoroughly maued and knappenburgered**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 1, 2016

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2016/1/1/holthaus-thoroughly-maued-and-knappenburgered.html>

Link to original exposure: Time.com Writer Cites Temperature at North Pole, Alaska As From THE North Pole

By Tom Blumer, Newsbusters, Dec 30, 2015

<http://www.newsbusters.org/blogs/nb/tom-blumer/2015/12/30/timecom-writer-cites-temperature-north-pole-alaska-north-pole>

**What Happened to the Polar Vortex?**

The polar vortex has strengthened this year, helping exacerbate current mild weather

By Andrea Thompson, Climate Central, Via Scientific American, Dec 22, 2015

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-happened-to-the-polar-vortex/>

*[SEPP Comment: Exacerbate means worsen, aggravate, intensify, etc. as in: with such articles The Scientific American helps exacerbate scientific drivel.]*

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