

The Week That Was: 2018-07-07 (July 7, 2018) **Brought to You by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)** **The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

Quote of the Week: *“An optimist is someone who believes the future is uncertain.”* – Anonymous

Number of the Week: # 1 Sector in market valuation (S&P 500)

THIS WEEK:

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

Pruitt Resignation: On July 5, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt resigned. He will be replaced by Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler. Wheeler is a former EPA official, staffer for Senator James Inhofe, and a lobbyist at a Washington law firm with clients including coal companies.

Even before the election of President Trump, Pruitt was a target of the establishment greens in Washington. As Attorney General for Oklahoma, he helped organize other state attorneys general to oppose the Obama power plan, called the Clean Power Plan (2014). The plan called for a forced reduction in coal-fired power plants, prohibiting even the most efficient new coal-fired plants, and prohibiting major renovations to existing plants. These would be replaced by natural gas-fired plants and “alternative energy”, solar and wind. At the time, few in Washington realized the enormous resources in natural gas in the US. As seen in Germany, Denmark, UK, Spain, Italy, and elsewhere, experiments with solar and wind as “alternative energy” leads to higher costs to customers, despite generous government subsidies paid by taxpayers.

These higher costs are largely “hidden” in that they are not borne by the generator of the electricity, giving the false impression that the generation is low cost. In the US, the hidden costs are borne by the transmission companies which must make the unreliable electricity generated by solar and wind reliable. Until affordable storage is available on a commercial scale, or another technology is developed, the idea of low cost electricity for Western civilization from solar and wind remains a myth.

Unfortunately, lapses in judgement by Mr. Pruitt gave ammunition to those who promote the myth of “clean power.” “The Hill” newspaper gives a partial list of Mr. Pruitt’s offenses. It should be remembered that accusations are not evidence of anything but the accusation. But, demanding high standards of ethical behavior is appropriate for all administrations and “public servants.”

Among claimed offenses are that Mr. Pruitt’s staff altered meeting records to cover-up meetings with industrial representatives. Strangely, most Washington journalists ignored evidence that when forming the finding that greenhouse gases endanger human health and welfare and the Obama energy plan, prior EPA administrators Lisa Jackson and Gina McCarthy met with representatives of environmental organizations that use questionable environmental claims for mobilizing support and raising money. The administrators, particularly Lisa Jackson, used elaborate schemes to cover-up such meetings. For example, Ms. Jackson established email accounts in the name of fake employees to avoid Freedom of Information requests. One such fake employee, Richard Windsor, won an award from the EPA for his service.

Now that new standards of integrity are being established for members of the Trump administration, will they be continued for future administrations? Will they apply to bureaucrats of international organizations?

An editorial in the “Wall Street Journal” discussing Mr. Pruitt’s offences, including flying first-class concluded with: *“Fresh off its Pruitt defenestration, the left will be looking for new targets, so some advice to the rest of the Trump cabinet: Fly coach.”*

It appears that the administration is not pressing to have a permanent replacement. Given the very slow time-frame for Senate approvals, it is clear why not. See Articles 1 & 2, and links under Change in US Administrations.

Legal Issues: Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy announced that he is resigning effective the end of July. President Trump stated he will announce his recommendation for a replacement on July 9. Thanks to changes in Senate procedures enacted under former Senate majority leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, the Republicans in the Senate need only a simple majority to confirm the appointment, rather than the previous 60 votes required under the previous procedures. Vice President Pence will be able to vote in case of a tie.

Political anxieties are high, and many highly questionable claims are being made. Judge Kennedy sided with the 5 to 4 majority giving Massachusetts standing in the lawsuit known as Massachusetts, et al. v. EPA, which was decided April 2007. The court found that greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles are causing global warming / climate change and can be regulated under the Clean Air Act. According to the Legal Information Institute, Justice Stevens wrote for the majority:

“EPA’s steadfast refusal to regulate greenhouse gas emissions presents a risk of harm to Massachusetts that is both ‘actual’ and ‘imminent,’...” [Boldface added]

“The harms associated with climate change are serious and well recognized. The Government’s own objective assessment of the relevant science and a strong consensus among qualified experts indicate that global warming threatens, inter alia, a precipitate rise in sea levels, severe and irreversible changes to natural ecosystems, a significant reduction in winter snowpack with direct and important economic consequences, and increases in the spread of disease and the ferocity of weather events.”

The decision opened the path for the EPA to make the questionable “endangerment finding” and to regulate greenhouse gases. Congress has not passed regulations or laws affirming the court decision or exempting greenhouse gases from the Clean Air Act (Greenhouse gases are not specifically mentioned and not classified as criteria air pollutants under National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)).

Since the decision, despite billions of dollars spent on climate research (US over \$40 billion since 1993), no hard evidence has been presented showing carbon dioxide, and other greenhouse gases, are causing dangerous global warming, sea level rise etc. Climate models which fail basic tests against atmospheric temperatures are speculation not hard evidence. Contrary to the Supreme Court decision, as of now, there is no hard evidence that the risk of harm is “both ‘actual’ and ‘imminent,’”

Currently, indications are that at least some members of the Supreme Court would not oppose reviewing *Mass. v. EPA*. No doubt, a possible review is a concern to environmental groups and government entities that assume hard evidence exists, such as the IPCC, NOAA, NASA, etc. See links under Litigation Issues – Supreme Court and <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/05-1120.ZS.html>

Rhode Island Lawsuit: On July 2, the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations filed litigation against host of energy companies for compensatory and punitive damages associated with climate changes and for polluting and destroying natural resources in Rhode Island. The litigation lists eight causes of action: 1) public nuisance; 2) strict liability for failure to warn; 3) strict liability for design defect; 4) negligent design defect; 5) negligent failure to warn; 6) trespass; 7) impairment of public trust resources; and 8) state environment rights act, equitable relief action.

TWTW has not yet reviewed the entire petition, which states the:

“Defendants have promoted and profited from massive increase in the extraction and consumption of oil, coal, and natural gas, which has in turn caused an enormous, foreseeable, and avoidable increase in global greenhouse gas pollution and a concordant increase in greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide and methane, in the Earth’s atmosphere.”

According to reports, this is the first state seeking to hold oil companies responsible for the claimed costs. Perhaps Rhode Island Attorney General Peter Kilmartin will move to ban the use of all fossil fuels in the state? One can imagine the screaming that would take place if such a move was undertaken.

Showing greater imagination than the Oakland / San Francisco complaints, which have been dismissed (TWTW, June 30), this complaint produces “an assessment of coastal inundation with a 100-year storm event” – after a 7-foot sea level rise! Has the state government informed the residents of the affected area of a 7-foot rise in sea levels?

The source for this amazing sea level rise is projections found in “The State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed, Technical Report, 2017 using “Estimate Relative Sea Level Change Projections From 2010 To 2100; Gage 8452660, Newport, RI (2.58 mm/yr).” NOAA updated the projections to 2017. (p. 82)

According to the chart, the tidal gage reads an increase of 2.58 mm (0.1 inches) per year, which is consistent with a sea level rise of about 9 inches by the end of the century. Yet, NOAA claims a high-end projection of about 6.6 feet (2 meters) by the end of the century. With such projections, NOAA is shifting from science to science fiction and its models are little better than random number generators, going in one direction. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy and Litigation Issues.

Source of Sea Level Problems: The imaginary projections by NOAA, and others, of accelerating sea level rise are causing real harm because they prevent responsible governments from taking prudent actions in planning for actual sea level rise. In Tidewater Virginia, which includes major Naval facilities, the major cause of “sea level rise” is land subsidence, caused by groundwater extraction. Eliminating fossil fuel consumption will not address the problem. Finding alternatives to groundwater would. For the Navy, the desalination equipment on ships could help. But for the

entire area, desalination plants such as those employed in Israel and Carlsbad, CA, could be the solution. Focusing on sea level rise from carbon dioxide emissions is a frivolous, expensive exercise, avoiding prudent solutions.

As discussed in last week's TWTW, the Federal Judge overseeing the litigation dismissed the public nuisance lawsuits of San Francisco and Oakland (Cities), pointing out the enormous benefits from use of fossil fuels, saying the issue is better left to the legislative branches of government. Can a great public benefit be a public nuisance? A lead author of the UN Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), Myles Allen of the UK, gave testimony on behalf of the Cities. A significant claim for damages from oil companies was that sea levels will rise significantly by 2050. As claimed, most of Oakland Airport will be underwater during high tides.

In its 2014 Synthesis Report, Fig SPM.6, the IPCC claims future sea level rise is dependent on carbon dioxide emissions, similar to its claims that future temperatures are dependent on CO2 emission. (p. 11). The Physical Science Basis report, 2013, Technical Summary discusses that sea levels were higher during the last interglacial, which is commonly accepted. It goes on to state:

Proxy and instrumental sea level data indicate a transition in the late 19th to the early 20th century from relatively low mean rates of rise over the previous two millennia to higher rates of rise (high confidence) {3.7, 3.7.4, 5.6.3, 13.2}

*GMSL [Global Mean Sea Level] has risen by 0.19 [0.17 to 0.21] m, estimated from a linear trend over the period 1901–2010, based on tide gauge records and additionally on satellite data since 1993. It is very likely that the mean rate of sea level rise was 1.7 [1.5 to 1.9] mm yr⁻¹ between 1901 and 2010. **Between 1993 and 2010, the rate was very likely higher at 3.2 [2.8 to 3.6] mm yr⁻¹**; similarly high rates likely occurred between 1920 and 1950. The rate of GMSL rise has likely increased since the early 1900s, with estimates ranging from 0.000 [–0.002 to 0.002] to 0.013 [–0.007 to 0.019] mm yr⁻². {3.7, 5.6.3, 13.2} [Boldface added]*

It is here we start getting into problems. What would cause a higher rate of sea level rise starting in 1993 and will those conditions continue in the future? Bureaucratic scientists at the UK National Oceanographic Centre are intensifying the fears by claiming that changing sea levels will cost the world \$14 Trillion by 2100. Yet no hard evidence is presented, only speculation from poorly tested models.

“There seems to be no end to the damage done, if one allows his model to run.” Testing models is difficult – and inconvenient. Sea level rise issues will be discussed further in the upcoming TWTW. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy and Changing Seas.

Lower Nutrients? Those who claim CO2 is dangerous, often rebut the benefits of carbon dioxide fertilization with statements that the food is not as nutritious as food grown without carbon dioxide fertilization. The same arguments were made against the use of chemical fertilizers, which greatly reduced the areas needed for farming to produce agricultural crops.

The arguments are trivial, because the margins are so small. CO2 Science reviewed another paper showing no trend in diminishing nutrient levels in rice with increasing temperatures and CO2. If a plant shows significant diminishing nutrient level, researchers in modern agriculture would most

likely produce a strain that does not. See links under Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science.

Number of the Week: # 1 Sector in market valuation (S&P 500): According to an article in the “Wall Street Journal”, the recent boom in oil prices have resulted in the energy stocks overtaking technology stocks as the best performing group in the S&P 500. Such valuations vary frequently. However, market valuation indicates the anti-fossil fuel groups, including local government attorneys, are having minimal impact on those who really count in making investment decisions.

SEPP’S APRIL FOOLS AWARD THE JACKSON

SEPP is conducting its annual vote for the recipient of the coveted trophy, The Jackson, a lump of coal. Readers are asked to nominate and vote for who they think is most deserving, following these criteria:

- The nominee has advanced, or proposes to advance, significant expansion of governmental power, regulation, or control over the public or significant sections of the general economy.
- The nominee does so by declaring such measures are necessary to protect public health, welfare, or the environment.
- The nominee declares that physical science supports such measures.
- The physical science supporting the measures is flimsy at best, and possibly non-existent.

The six past recipients, Lisa Jackson, Barack Obama, John Kerry, Ernest Moniz, John Holdren and Christiana Figueres aka Cruella de Ville are not eligible. Generally, the committee that makes the selection prefers a candidate with a national or international presence. The voting will close on July 30. Please send your nominee and a brief reason why the person is qualified for the honor to Ken@SEPP.org. Thank you. The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness in August.

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Solar minimum and ENSO prediction

By Javier, WUWT, July 5, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/07/05/solar-minimum-and-enso-prediction/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC

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>

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>

Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate

S. Fred Singer, Editor, NIPCC, 2008

http://www.sepp.org/publications/nipcc_final.pdf

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Time for Australia to Pull Out of Paris: 2018 Bob Carter Commemorative Lecture

Australian Environment Foundation, Melbourne, July 3, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

http://tonyabbott.com.au/2018/07/2018-bob-carter-commemorative-lecture-australian-environment-foundation-melbourne/?utm_source=Supporters&utm_campaign=7fb98ae9de-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2_20_2018_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4c29d89b00-7fb98ae9de-183489493

The Hansen forecasts 30 years later

By Ross McKittrick and John Christy, Climate Etc. July 3, 2018

<https://judithcurry.com/2018/07/03/the-hansen-forecasts-30-years-later/>

“The bottom line is, climate science as encoded in the models is far from settled.”

Latest Sea Level Junk Science

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 4, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/07/04/latest-sea-level-junk-science/>

With graph showing two different rates spliced together: Jevrejeva Projections

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 4, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/07/04/jevrejeva-projections/>

Summer Causes Climate Change Hysteria

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, July 3, 2018

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2018/07/summer-causes-climate-change-hysteria/>

The Incredible Scam of Rooftop Solar

By Norman Rogers, American Thinker, July 6, 2018

https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2018/07/the_incredible_scam_of_rooftop_solar.html

Defending the Orthodoxy

Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report

Summary for Policymakers

http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/syr/AR5_SYR_FINAL_SPM.pdf

Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis

By Thomas F. Stocker and Dahe Qin, et al. Working Group I, Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/report/WG1AR5_ALL_FINAL.pdf

The State of Narragansett Bay and Its Watershed, Technical Report

By Staff Writers, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, 2017

<http://nbep.org/01/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/State-of-Narragansett-Bay-and-Its-Watershed.pdf>

On Climate, the Courts Are Closed

By D.R. Tucker, Washington Monthly, June 30, 2018

<https://washingtonmonthly.com/2018/06/30/on-climate-the-courts-are-closed/>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

‘Contributing to Climate Change’ – Meaningless Words,

By Steve Goreham, WND, July 3, 2018

<http://mobile.wnd.com/2018/07/contributing-to-climate-change-meaningless-words/>

Committee on Climate Change Misleads Parliament and Public

By Paul Mathews, Climate Scepticism, June 28, 2018

<https://cliscep.com/2018/06/28/committee-on-climate-change-misleads-parliament-and-public/>

Kelly McParland: The hypocrisy of faith-based environmentalism? Its preachers have failed to deliver

It's hard to keep the flock under control if the high priests can't be trusted

By Kelly McParland, National Post, July 3, 2018

<https://nationalpost.com/opinion/kelly-mcparland-justin-trudeau-carbon-tax-doug-ford>

Leading Japanese Scientist Tells National Audience Focus Needs To Be On Cooling, Not Warming!

By P Gosselin and Kirye, No Tricks Zone, July 6, 2018

<http://notrickszone.com/2018/07/06/leading-japanese-scientist-tells-national-audience-focus-needs-to-be-on-cooling-not-warming/>

After Paris!

Green Climate Fund Chief Quits After 'Disappointing' Meeting

Chief Howard Bamsey said "This has been a very difficult and disappointing board meeting for all of us, but most importantly for those people who are most vulnerable to climate change impacts" in the background of US halting all contributions.

By Alister Doyle, The Wire, July 5, 2018

<https://thewire.in/environment/green-climate-fund-chief-quits-after-disappointing-meeting>

8 takeaways from the Green Climate Fund meltdown

The UN's flagship climate finance initiative had a public setback this week. What went wrong, what are the political implications and what happens next?

By Megan Darby, Climate Home News, July 6, 2018 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://www.climatechangenews.com/2018/07/06/8-takeaways-green-climate-fund-meltdown/>

Australia needs to sacrifice cows and sheep for Paris too

Will Australia make it to Paris 2030?

Guest post by Tom Quirk, Jo Nova's Blog, July 5, 2018

<http://joannenova.com.au/2018/07/australia-needs-to-sacrifice-cows-and-sheep-for-paris-too/#more-59472>

Change in US Administrations

Scott Pruitt departs EPA after scandals -- and fulfilling conservative goals

By Gabriella Muñoz and Dave Boyer, Washington Times, July 5, 2018

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/jul/5/scott-pruitt-resigns-as-head-of-epa/>

The Climate-Industrial Complex Finally Gets Their Man

By Alan Carlin, Carlin Economics and Science, July 5, 2018

<http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/4509>

Timeline: The controversies of Scott Pruitt

By Max Greenwood, The Hill, July 5, 2018

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/395742-timeline-the-controversies-of-scott-pruitt>

Whistleblower says Pruitt kept secret calendar to hide meetings with industry reps: report

By Justin Wise, The Hill, July 3, 2018

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/395301-pruitt-maintained-secret-calendar-to-hide-meetings-with-industry>

What's Next for the EPA?

By Patrick Michaels, CATO, July 6, 2018

<https://www.cato.org/blog/whats-next-epa>

Meet Andrew Wheeler, Scott Pruitt's replacement at EPA who could be long for the job

By Josh Siegel, Washington Examiner, July 5, 2018

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/energy/meet-andrew-wheeler-scott-pruitts-replacement-at-epa-who-could-be-long-for-the-job>

Andrew Wheeler: 'point man for Trump' focused on undoing Obama's EPA agenda

Scott Pruitt's replacement may be a more frightening prospect for those dismayed with the Trump administration's attitude to the environment

By Oliver Milman, Guardian, US, July 6, 2018

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/jul/06/who-is-andrew-wheeler-epa-environment-trump-weapon>

GOP lawmakers relieved with Pruitt's departure

By Timothy Cama, the Hill, July 5, 2018

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/395707-gop-lawmakers-relieved-with-pruitts-departure>

Incoming EPA administrator promises 'overall agenda' at the agency won't change much

By John Bowden, The Hill, July 7, 2018

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/395922-incoming-epa-administrator-promises-overall-agenda-at-the-agency>

How things will (and won't) change at EPA with Scott Pruitt gone

By Amy Harder, Axios, July 5, 2018

<https://www.axios.com/how-things-will-and-wont-change-at-epa-with-scott-pruitt-gone-1530193488-43062797-38a1-4ed9-b8e2-64d9853e4306.html>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

BP data analysis: Global CO2 emissions 1965 – 2017

Guest essay by Ed Hoskins, WUWT, July 3, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/07/03/bp-data-analysis-global-co2-emissions-1965-2017/>

Seeking a Common Ground

Pielke on Climate #12

By Roger Pielke Jr. The Climate Fix, July 1, 2018

<https://theclimatefix.wordpress.com/>

“Evidence of policy failure to date seems unambiguous.”

Opening Up the Climate Policy Envelope

Fudged assumptions about the future are hampering efforts to deal with climate change in the present. It’s time to get real

By Roger Pielke Jr. Issues in Science and Technology, Summer 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GrcmbqnQ89GfaXY7gvO1O4-YzderjiXJ/view>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

The Effects of Elevated CO2 and Temperature on Rice Nutrient Levels

Wang, J., Li, L., Lam, S.K., Zhang, X., Liu, X. and Pan, G. 2018. Changes in nutrient uptake and utilization by rice under simulated climate change conditions: A 2-year experiment in a paddy field. *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 250/251: 202-208. July 6, 2018

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V21/jul/a4.php>

The Capacity of a Damselfish to Adapt to Ocean Acidification

Schunter, C., Welch, M.J., Nilsson, G.E., Rummer, J.L., Munday, P.L. and Ravasi, T. 2018. An interplay between plasticity and parental phenotype determines impacts of ocean acidification on a reef fish. *Nature Ecology & Evolution* 2: 334-342. July 5, 2018

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V21/jul/a3.php>

“Recognizing these facts, and the much longer period of time that species will have to adapt (and even evolve) to rising CO2 levels in the future, it should be abundantly clear that the presently-espoused alarmist view of ocean acidification harming marine life and driving species toward extinction is premature and unrealistically negative. And it will remain in this sorry state until there is an adequate amount of research conducted to incorporate the adaptive and evolutionary responses of marine organisms to elevated CO2 across multiple generations.”

The (Non) Effect of Elevated Atmospheric CO2 on Human Cognitive Performance and Decision Making

Rodeheffer, C.D., Chabal, S., Clarke, J.M. and Fothergill, D.M. 2018. Acute exposure to low-to-moderate carbon dioxide levels and submariner decision making. *Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance* 89: 520-525. July 3, 2018

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V21/jul/a1.php>

“Consequently, it would appear that society has little to fear with regard to the impact of elevated levels of atmospheric CO2 on human cognitive performance and decision making. There simply is no negative impact!”

Measurement Issues -- Atmosphere

UAH Global Temperature Update for June, 2018: +0.21 deg. C

By Roy Spencer, His blog, July 2, 2018

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2018/07/uah-global-temperature-update-for-june-2018-0-21-deg-c/>

Links to: June 2018 Anomaly Map and Graphs

By Staff, Earth System Science Center, UAH, July 2018

https://www.nsstc.uah.edu/climate/2018/june2018/201806_map.png

https://www.nsstc.uah.edu/climate/2018/june2018/tlt_201806_bar.png

Changing Seas

Rising sea levels could cost the world \$14 trillion a year by 2100

By Staff Writers, Institute of Physics, (IOP) “a leading international science communicator,” July 3, 2018

<https://phys.org/news/2018-07-sea-world-trillion-year.html>

Link to paper: Flood damage costs under the sea level rise with warming of 1.5 °C and 2 °C

By S Jevrejeva, L P Jackson, A Grinsted, D Lincke and B Marzeion, Environmental Research Letters, July 4, 2018

<http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aacc76/meta>

North Atlantic Ocean Rapidly Cooling...Cool Down And Growing Arctic Sea Ice May Follow

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, July 4, 2018

<http://notrickszone.com/2018/07/04/north-atlantic-ocean-rapidly-cooling-cool-down-and-growing-arctic-sea-ice-may-follow/>

Link to paper: Anomalously weak Labrador Sea convection and Atlantic overturning during the past 150 years

By David J. R. Thornalley, et al, Nature, April 11, 2018

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-018-0007-4>

From the abstract: “Here we provide several lines of palaeo-oceanographic evidence that Labrador Sea deep convection and the AMOC have been anomalously weak over the past 150 years or so (since the end of the Little Ice Age, LIA, approximately AD 1850) compared with the preceding 1,500 years.”

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

GLOBAL WARMING SMACKDOWN! Tankers Trapped In Midsummer Arctic Sea Ice

By Jamie Spry, Climatism, June 30, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<https://climatism.blog/2018/06/30/global-warming-smackdown-tankers-trapped-in-midsummer-arctic-sea-ice/>

“The global warming, which there has been so much talk about for such a long time, seems to have receded a little and we are returning to the standards of the 1980’s and 1990’s...”— Andrey Smirnov (Icebreaker company rep)

[SEPP Comment: From an article dated June 21. The tankers are trapped in the estuary of the Ob River emptying into the Kara Sea. The Gulf of Ob is the world’s longest estuary. The west bank of the Gulf is the Yamal Peninsula, where a core sample of its tree rings were taken, supporting the ‘hockey-stick’ and claims of global warming trends in the late part of the 20th century (Briffa 2000). Steve McIntyre called the tree, “YAD06 – the Most Influential Tree in the World.”

<https://climateaudit.org/2009/09/30/yamal-the-forest-and-the-trees/>

Greenland Temperatures In 2017

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 1, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/07/01/greenland-temperatures-in-2017/#more-34271>

Spring feeding for polar bears is over – sea ice levels are now largely irrelevant

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, July 3, 2018

<https://polarbearscience.com/2018/07/03/spring-feeding-for-polar-bears-is-over-sea-ice-levels-are-now-largely-irrelevant/>

[SEPP Comment: Seal pups are safe – for now!]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Russia Does Far Worse Than Meddle In Our Elections — It Meddles In Our Science

By Henry Miller, IBD, June 26, 2018

<https://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/russia-meddles-science/>

Russia Does Far Worse Than Meddle In Our Elections — It Meddles In Our Science: Part II

By Henry Miller, IBD, June 28, 2018

<https://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/russia-meddling-in-science-part-ii/>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

My crystal ball model says Noctilucent clouds, which we have almost no data on, must be man-made!

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, July 6, 2017

<http://joannenova.com.au/2018/07/my-crystal-ball-model-says-noctilucent-clouds-which-we-have-almost-no-data-on-must-be-man-made/>

Temporary link to paper: On the Anthropogenic Impact on Long-Term Evolution of Noctilucent Clouds

By Franz-Josef Lübke , Uwe Berger, and Gerd Baumgarten, Geophysical Research Letters, <https://agupubs.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1029/2018GL077719>

From the abstract: “We use model simulations for a time period of 138 years to study the impact of increasing CO₂ and H₂O on the development of NLC on centennial time scales. Since the beginning of industrialization the water vapor concentration mixing ratio at NLC heights has increased by ~40% (1 ppmv) due to methane increase, whereas temperatures are nearly constant.”

[SEPP Comment; Using simulations of poorly tested models to make up data?]

Trump coal plan could lead to 1 pollution-related death for every 2 jobs: study

By Miranda Green, The Hill, July 5, 2018

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/395647-propping-up-coal-mines-could-lead-to-1-death-for-every-2-jobs-kept>

Link to report: Retirements and Funerals: The Emission, Mortality, and Coal-Mine Employment Effects of a Two-Year Delay in Coal and Nuclear Power Plant Retirements

By Daniel Shawhan and Paul Picciano, Resources for the Future, July 5, 2018

http://www.rff.org/research/publications/retirements-and-funerals-emission-mortality-and-coal-mine-employment-effects?utm_source=Resources+for+the+Future&utm_campaign=528a7815f6-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_07_05_05_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e896179bd7-528a7815f6-100722093

From the key findings: Applying the policy to nuclear generators only would prevent 24 to 53 premature deaths and 9 million tons of CO₂ over the two years.

From the abstract: “We project that, by delaying the retirement of an average of 7,800 MW (3%) of US coal-fired capacity and 1,100 MW (1%) of US nuclear capacity, the policy would cause an estimated 353 to 815 additional premature deaths in the United States from power plant sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions, and would increase carbon dioxide emissions by 22 million short tons, over the two-year period.”

Lowering Standards

Scottish Temperature “Record” Rejected By Met Office

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 5, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/07/05/scottish-temperature-record-rejected-by-met-office/>

“Three questions remain:

“1) The Met Office is concerned about a parked car, but why do they even consider a car park as a suitable site?

“2) While this particular reading has been discounted, what about all of the other 364 days a year at totally unsuitable sites like this one, which go into building up UK mean temperatures?

“3) Above all, why was the original claim issued to the media so prematurely, before it had been checked out?

“It is one thing correcting it now, but the original spurious claim has already gone around the world and back, and very few people will see the correction.”

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

Claim: World’s first animals caused global warming

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, July 2, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/07/02/claim-worlds-first-animals-caused-global-warming/>

Link to paper: Early Palaeozoic ocean anoxia and global warming driven by the evolution of shallow burrowing

By Sebastiaan van de Velde, et al. Nature Communications, July 2, 2018

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-04973-4>

[SEPP Comment: *The world had been warming and cooling long before.*]

The problem with solving problems

'Prevalence induced concept change' causes people to re-define problems as they are reduced

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, June 28, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/06/180628151752.htm>

Link to paper: Prevalence-induced concept change in human judgment

By David Levvari, Science, June 29, 2018

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/360/6396/1465>

“As demonstrated in a series of new studies, researchers show that as the prevalence of a problem is reduced, humans are naturally inclined to redefine the problem itself. The result is that as a problem becomes smaller, people's conceptualizations of that problem become larger, which can lead them to miss the fact that they've solved it.”

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Climate change will get a whole lot worse before it gets better, according to game theory

To understand why governments continually fail to take decisive action against climate change you've got to have a strong grasp on game theory and the tragedy of the commons

By Roger Highfield, Wired, July 6, 2018

<http://www.wired.co.uk/article/climate-change-prediction-game-theory-tragedy-of-commons>

[SEPP Comment: The definitive answer? The earth will get warmer before getting cooler?]

Have Scientists Solved the “Gaia Puzzle” of Earth’s stable Climate?

By Staff Writers, Univ of Exeter, Via GWPF, July 3, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/have-scientists-solved-the-gaia-puzzle-of-earths-stable-climate/>

Selection for Gaia across Multiple Scales

By Timothy Lenton, Trends in Ecology & Evolution, In Press,

[https://www.cell.com/trends/ecology-evolution/fulltext/S0169-5347\(18\)30118-6](https://www.cell.com/trends/ecology-evolution/fulltext/S0169-5347(18)30118-6)

[SEPP Comment: The climate is ever changing, but appears to be stable within certain bounds within the past ten million years.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

On report: the GWPF and plastic recycling

By Peter Jones, Isonomia, June 28, 2018

<http://www.isonomia.co.uk/?p=5384>

Mikko Paunio: This Philosopher of Waste Hasn’t Done His Homework

By Mikko Paunio, GWPF, July 5, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/mikko-paunio-this-philosopher-of-waste-has-not-done-his-homework/>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Top conservative groups urge Trump to reject climate change agreement

By Miranda Green, The Hill, July 2, 2018

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/395194-top-conservative-groups-urges-trump-to-reject-climate-change>

[SEPP Comment: Another example of foreign entanglements being used for purposes other than stated when conceived.]

Questioning European Green

Assault and battery, as to add insult to injury, the humungous solar farm will feed the world's biggest battery

Campaigners are fighting to block a £400 million plan for a solar energy farm

It would include the world's biggest battery

The battery would store 350MWhr - with no fewer than 7,660 battery units

By David Rose, Daily Mail, UK, July 3, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5905675/Cleve-Hill-Solar-Park-feed-worlds-biggest-battery.html>

Ban On Controlled Burning Responsible For Spread Of Saddleworth Fire

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 1, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/07/01/ban-on-controlled-burning-responsible-for-spread-of-saddleworth-fire/>

Link to recommendations: Prescribed moorland burning meets good practice guidelines: A monitoring case study using aerial photography in the Peak District, UK

By Katherine A. Allen, et al., Ecological Indicators, March 2016

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1470160X15006627>

“Burning rates (0.9% per year) were far below current recommendations from the statutory conservation agency (10% per year).”

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Keep it in the Ground ... By Blocking Pipelines

By Paul Driessen, Townhall, June 30, 2018

<https://townhall.com/columnists/pauldriessen/2018/06/30/keep-it-in-the-ground--by-blocking-pipelines-n2495945>

Litigation Issues

“An Orchestrated Campaign” (behind those climate lawsuits)

By Spencer Walrath, Master Resource, July 5, 2018

<https://www.masterresource.org/exxonknew-campaign/orchestrated-campaign-nuisance-frivolous-lawsuits-came-somewhere/>

Link to report: Establishing Accountability for Climate Change Damages:
Lessons from Tobacco Control

By Staff Writers, Climate Accountability Institute and Union of Concerned Scientists, October 2012

<http://eidclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/La-Jolla-Climate-Report-June-2012.pdf>

A Climate Shakedown Flops

A federal judge tosses the left coast’s suit against fossil fuels.

Editorial WSJ, Via GWPF, June 30, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/wsj-a-climate-shakedown-flops/>

Rhode Island Sues Major Oil Companies Over Climate Change

By Nate Raymond, Reuters, July 3, 2018

<https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2018-07-02/rhode-island-sues-major-oil-companies-over-climate-change>

Link to Litigation: State of Rhode Island, v. Chevron Corp, et al. July 2, 2018

<http://www.riag.ri.gov/documents/KilmartinVChevronEtAl.pdf>

De Blasio should prepare to have his environmental lawsuit tossed

Editorial, New York Post, June 30, 2018

<https://nypost.com/2018/06/30/de-blasio-should-prepare-to-have-his-environmental-lawsuit-tossed/>

Greens win court case seeking stronger air pollution rules for brick makers

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, July 6, 2018

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/395876-greens-win-court-case-seeking-stronger-air-pollution-rules-for>

[SEPP Comment: The emitted pollutants are hydrogen chloride and hydrogen fluoride.]

WINNING: Arizona Appellate Court decides Hockey Stick emails must be released

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, July 3, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/07/03/winning-arizona-appellate-court-decides-hockey-stick-emails-must-be-released/>

Judge: Vermont Attorney General must pay \$66,000 in legal fees for records denial

By Dave Gram, VT Digger, July 4, 2018 [H/t John McClaughry]

<https://vtdigger.org/2018/07/04/court-says-ag-must-pay-legal-fees-for-records-denial/>

Litigation Issues – Supreme Court

A landmark climate change ruling could go up in smoke after Justice Kennedy retires

By Mark Kaufman, Mashable, June 30, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<https://mashable.com/2018/06/30/kennedy-supreme-court-climate-massachusetts-epa/?europa=true#kuLRJUOpviqk>

Kennedy Retirement: Bad for the Environment, Potential Boost for Climate Liability?

By Dana Drugmand, Climate Liability News, June 29, 2018

<https://www.climateliabilitynews.org/2018/06/29/anthony-kennedy-climate-mass-epa-liability/>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Anti-Trump GOP Establishment Seeks \$1 Tril National Gas Tax

By Peter Ferrara, IBD, July 5, 2018

<https://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/anti-trump-gop-1-tril-national-gas-tax/>

Climate/Energy Statism: An Inside Conversation (Part II)

By Robert Bradley, Jr. Master Resource, July 3, 2018

<https://www.masterresource.org/taylor-jerry/climate-energy-statism-conversation-ii/>

[SEPP Comment: Transcript of a 2016 meeting for those promoting a carbon tax.]

Fight heats up over Washington state carbon ‘fee’ likely to make fall ballot

The measure would put an escalating fee on most fossil-fuel emissions, adding an estimated 14 cents to the cost of a gallon of gasoline at the pump. The initiative has drawn early opposition from oil companies.

By Hal Bernton, Seattle Times, July 2, 2018 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/fight-heats-up-over-washington-state-carbon-fee-likely-to-make-fall-ballot/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

EDITORIAL: [Ontario Premier] Ford scraps Liberals’ carbon ‘slush fund’

By Staff, Toronto Sun, July 3, 2018

<http://torontosun.com/news/provincial/editorial-ford-scraps-liberals-carbon-slush-fund>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA officials claim political interference in cancer-causing chemical study: report

By John Bowden, The Hill, July 6, 2018

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/395768-epa-officials-claim-political-interference-in-cancer-causing>

‘...are slowing the release of a report warning that most Americans are exposed to enough formaldehyde on a regular basis to increase risks of cancer.’

[SEPP Comment: Exaggerated claims do not make the science rigorous.]

Pruitt grants loophole to ‘super polluting’ diesel truck manufacturers on last day at EPA

By Avery Anapol, The Hill, July 7, 2018

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/395923-pruitt-grants-loophole-to-super-polluting-diesel-truck>

[SEPP Comment: Placing a newer body on an older truck makes it “super polluting”?]

Energy Issues – Non-US

Let's Pay \$2,500 More for Our Electricity

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, July 6, 2018

<http://www.powerforusa.com/2018/07/06/lets-pay-2500-more-for-our-electricity/>

[SEPP Comment: Early in the Kyoto Protocol (1997), many analysts thought that Germany had an advantage. It could close less efficient coal-fired power plants in former East Germany and replace them with more efficient plants, thereby reduce CO2 emissions significantly. Then came Energiewende – “abandon reliable nuclear power and cast our fortune to the winds.”]

Energy Issues -- Australia

Science not settled, yet still we indulge windfarms

By Maurice Newman, The Australian, Via Australian Climate Sceptics, July 6, 2018

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com/2018/07/science-not-settled-yet-still-we.html>

Why the Future is Not Solar

The point is not that solar should not be considered, but that it should be considered, warts and all, alongside coal, nuclear and hydro with all their drawbacks. Too often, renewables' drawbacks and deficiencies are glossed over, not the least of these being that are unlikely ever to meet global energy needs

By Aynsley Kellow, Quadrant, July 5, 2018

<http://quadrant.org.au/magazine/2018/07/future-solar/>

Importing LNG to Australia's southeast faces cost hurdles: government

By Sonali Paul, Reuters, July 2, 2018

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-australia-lng-imports/importing-lng-to-australias-southeast-faces-cost-hurdles-government-idUSKBN1JS0KA>

Link to latest: Resources and Energy Quarterly

By Staff Writers: Office of the Chief Economist, June 2018

<https://industry.gov.au/Office-of-the-Chief-Economist/Publications/ResourcesandEnergyQuarterlyJune2018/index.html>

Energy Issues -- US

Stranded Assets Boom: fossil Fuels Topple Tech as Top Sector

Energy Topples Tech as Top Sector

Energy stocks have rallied 12%—and are poised for the biggest quarterly gain since 2011

By Daniel Chemtob, WSJ, Via GWPF, June 29, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/stranded-assets-boom-energy-stocks-topple-tech-as-top-sector/>

Big Oil Pushes Gas as Fossil Fuel Answer to Global Warming

By Kevin Crowley, Rachel Adams-Heard, and Naureen S Malik, Bloomberg, June 28, 2018 [H/t WUWT]

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-28/natural-gas-pushed-as-a-fossil-fuel-answer-to-global-warming>

“Big Energy sees fuel for the future, not bridge to renewables.”

[SEPP Comment: The keystone to the “bridge to the future” is not yet designed – electricity storage of unreliable generation.]

FERC Thwarts ISO-NE's Attempt to Keep Mystic Gas Units Online

By Sonal Patel, Power Mag, July 5, 2018

http://www.powermag.com/ferc-thwarts-iso-nes-attempt-to-keep-mystic-gas-units-online/?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWTJOaVpqUTFOamM1WTJZNSIsInQiOiI5ODkzMisxVENNZU9qS HBxZVZ0Q2ZGZDBSOXh6SmxyaXZNaHZjNkNNZEs0MFwvT0djVDJqaHdKNXIsbldEejdDTEFtK0o1YzFqQXQ0bkhQM2IUTIjQOGd4TFhTTjdZcHZ5S1FMTU5rWUp6c2o3SXJhUmdSanRScm5pUmNpZWtrOE0ifQ%3D%3D

FERC Nixes PJM's Fixes for Capacity Market Besieged by Subsidized Resources

By Sonal Patel, Power Mag, July 5, 2018

http://www.powermag.com/ferc-nixes-pjms-fixes-for-capacity-market-besieged-by-subsidized-resources/?mkt_tok=eyJpIjoiWTJOaVpqUTFOamM1WTJZNSIsInQiOiI5ODkzMisxVENNZU9qSHBxZVZ0Q2ZGZDBSOXh6SmxyaXZNaHZjNkNNZEs0MFwvT0djVDJqaHdKNXIsbldEejdDTEFtK0o1YzFqQXQ0bkhQM2IUTIjQOGd4TFhTTjdZcHZ5S1FMTU5rWUp6c2o3SXJhUmdSanRScm5pUmNpZWtrOE0ifQ%3D%3D

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Natural gas execs see 'century of supply' in U.S. shale

By Ernest Scheyder, Reuters, June 27, 2018

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-gas-conference-shale/natural-gas-exec-see-century-of-supply-in-u-s-shale-idUSKBN1JN2IA>

“Rising U.S. output has not gone unnoticed by major consumers around the world, with South Korea, China and others eager for stable fuel sources.”

[SEPP Comment: An understatement?]

CNPC [China] Reportedly Plans to Double Shale Gas Production in 2018

By Charlie Passut, NG Shale Daily, June 28, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/114870-cnpc-reportedly-plans-to-double-shale-gas-production-in-2018>

Return of King Coal?

Coal, a dying industry, just became Australia's number one export (again)

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, July 2, 2018

<http://joannenova.com.au/2018/07/coal-a-dying-industry-just-became-australias-number-one-export-again/>

INVESTMENT EXTRA: Think coal is dead? It could be about to soar

By Lucy White, Daily Mail, UK, June 29, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/investing/article-5901973/INVESTMENT-EXTRA-Think-coal-dead-soar.html>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

A Double First in China for Advanced Nuclear Reactors

Safer reactors designed in the U.S. and Europe make their power grid debuts in China

By Peter Fairley, IEEE Spectrum, July 5, 2018 [H/t WUWT]

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/energywise/energy/nuclear/a-double-first-in-china-for-advanced-nuclear-reactors>

Greenpeace activists fly 'Superman' drone in to French nuclear site

By Max Greenwood, The Hill, July 4, 2018

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/395510-greenpeace-activists-fly-superman-drone-into-french-nuclear-site>

“This action has once again demonstrated the extreme vulnerability of French nuclear installations, designed for the most part in the 1970s and unprepared for external attacks,” the post says, according to a translation from the ABC.”

[SEPP Comment: Vulnerable to what, wooden airplanes?]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Concentrated solar power vs. solar PV, an update

By Roger Andrews, Energy Matters, July 5, 2018

<http://euanmearns.com/concentrated-solar-power-vs-solar-pv-an-update/#more-22287>

“Mean capacity factors over the period shown are 17.8% for PV and 24.7% for CSP – not that large a difference. The main contrast is in seasonal range, with PV capacity factors averaging around 25% in the summer and 10% in the winter while CSP capacity factors approach 60% in the summer but fall to zero or near-zero on many winter days.” In Spain!

El Hierro second quarter 2018 performance update

By Roger Andrews, Energy Matters, July 2, 2018

<http://euanmearns.com/el-hierro-second-quarter-2018-performance-update/#more-22282>

“In the three years since project startup in June 2015 GdV has supplied 44.0% of El Hierro’s electricity and 10.1% of its energy.”

[SEPP Comment: Short of the envisioned 100%.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

German Public Television Report: “Electric Cars A Swindle” ...”Rolling Climate-Killers”

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, July 1, 2018

<http://notrickszone.com/2018/07/01/german-public-television-report-electric-cars-a-swindle-rolling-climate-killers/>

California Dreaming

California’s Climate Extremism

The pursuit of environmental purity in the Golden State does nothing to reverse global warming—but it’s costing the poor and middle class dearly.

By Joel Kotkin, City Journal, July 3, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.city-journal.org/html/californias-climate-extremism-16002.html>

Link to report: California, Greenhouse Gas Regulation, and Climate Change

By David Friedman & Jennifer Hernandez. Center for Demographics & Policy, Chapman University, 2018

https://www.chapman.edu/wilkinson/_files/greenhouse-gas-cal.pdf

Other Scientific News

Did 12 astronauts cause global warming by 2 °C on the Moon?

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, July 5, 2018

<https://motls.blogspot.com/2018/07/did-12-astronauts-caused-global-warming.html>

The main problem with the "global warming on the Moon caused by astronauts" claim was nicely summarized by Tom Sheahan – and then Roy Spencer and Thomas Wismuller – in an e-mail conference of ours. What's the problem with the claim? The problem is that the "warming" wasn't "global" at all. It was heavily or almost completely localized. The temperature sensors were located near the darker paths from the astronauts' shoes, and they got warmer for the same reason

why asphalt gets (and nearby thermometers get) hot on a sunny day on Earth (the celestial body underneath most TRF readers).

[SEPP Comment: Without convection provided by fluids such as a thick atmosphere or oceans, heat transfer on the moon is very slow. Unfortunately, Motl criticizes the messenger, Anthony Watts, for the message.]

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Iran General Says Israel Behind Climate Change and Is Stealing Clouds

By Tom O'Connor, Newsweek, July 2, 2018

<http://www.newsweek.com/iran-general-says-israel-behind-climate-change-stealing-clouds-1005190>

Last year's model already out of date

By Staff Writers, Climate Change Predictions.org, July 5, 2018

<http://climatechangepredictions.org/uncategorized/7610>

“The science used by the International Committee on Climate Change as the basis of the framework agreement in Bali in 2007 to hold the global warming increase to two degrees is already out of date.

“There is now clear evidence that at less than one degree of warming we are already on the precipice of catastrophic climate change that will affect the whole world – from the lower Murray to the Great Barrier Reef, and the Himalayas to Siberia and the Arctic.

The Age (Australia), 26 Feb 2009 – screen copy held by this website

ARTICLES:

1. Embattled Scott Pruitt Resigns as EPA Administrator

His resignation comes amid allegations involving ethics, spending

By Louise Radnofsky, WSJ, July 5, 2018

https://www.wsj.com/articles/embattled-scott-pruitt-resigns-as-epa-administrator-1530820189?mod=hp_lead_pos2

SUMMARY: The journalist writes:

“Scott Pruitt, the embattled administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, resigned Thursday after allegations of ethical lapses and improper spending overshadowed his aggressive campaign to roll back Obama-era environmental rules.

“President Donald Trump, who announced Mr. Pruitt’s departure in a tweet, said Mr. Pruitt’s deputy, Andrew Wheeler, would become acting EPA administrator on Monday.

“A former lobbyist for the coal industry, Mr. Wheeler is expected to continue Mr. Pruitt’s push to position the EPA as an agency that avoids stifling business investment or opportunity while seeking to protect the environment and enforce environmental laws, after years in which many Republicans complained the agency overreached in its regulations.

“Mr. Pruitt had become a lightning rod for administration critics, fueled not only by his approach to environmental policy but a string of controversies involving his travel, potential employment for his wife, his living arrangements in Washington and spending at the agency.

“I have accepted the resignation of Scott Pruitt as the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Within the Agency Scott has done an outstanding job, and I will always be thankful to him for this,” Mr. Trump tweeted.

“The president stood by Mr. Pruitt for months, despite the growing ethical allegations raised by both Democrats and Republicans. Mr. Trump, a Republican, frequently cited the EPA chief’s success in rolling back regulations advanced by Mr. Trump’s Democratic predecessor. Mr. Pruitt withdrew an Obama-era rule requiring reduced carbon emissions from coal-burning power plants, and was considered instrumental in persuading Mr. Trump to pull out of the Paris climate accord.

“Mr. Pruitt also pushed to sharply reduce the EPA’s oversight powers. Last month, he moved to limit the agency’s ability to block permits issued to mining, real-estate and other developers to dump waste into waterways.

“Mr. Trump said Thursday that Mr. Pruitt had done an ‘outstanding job inside of the EPA’ but acknowledged ‘obviously, the controversies.’ The president told reporters traveling with him to Montana for a campaign-style that in his view there had been ‘no final straw’ and that Mr. Pruitt had decided over the last couple of days that ‘he was a distraction.’

“As recently as Wednesday, Mr. Pruitt attended a picnic on the White House lawn for military families, along with several other cabinet members, and was recognized by Mr. Trump in his prepared remarks. Mr. Pruitt and his guests took selfies and asked for someone to take a shot of them posed against a backdrop of the building.

An EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox, confirmed Thursday that Mr. Pruitt had submitted a letter of resignation to Mr. Trump.

“In the letter, Mr. Pruitt wrote that it was ‘extremely difficult for me to cease serving you in this role first because I count it a blessing to be serving you in any capacity, but also, because of the transformative work that is occurring. However, the unrelenting attacks on me personally, my family, are unprecedented and have taken a sizable toll on all of us.’

“Mr. Pruitt had continued to enjoy the backing of the president for months, even as some former supporters backed away.

“His work earned him a reputation as one of the most loyal cabinet members and one of the most effective at executing Trump administration philosophy. Mr. Trump in the past referred to him privately as ‘my lawyer,’ one White House official said.

“But White House officials expressed increasing misgiving about the scandals surrounding the former Oklahoma attorney general. And he alienated some in the administration by making known his desire to succeed Jeff Sessions as attorney general, should Mr. Sessions step down or be fired, according to a White House official.

“About three months ago, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly privately told the president that he should oust Mr. Pruitt in the face of mounting controversies, according to a White House official. Mr. Trump ignored the advice.

“Mr. Pruitt’s exit is the latest high-level departure from the administration. In the past year, the president ousted two cabinet secretaries, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Veterans Affairs chief David Shulkin, and accepted the resignation of a third, Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price. He also removed national security adviser H.R. McMaster.

“Earlier this week, a former staffer said Mr. Pruitt and his staff omitted, altered or removed from his official calendar potentially controversial meetings and phone calls, some with industry executives. Such changes could be considered an illegal falsification of government records.

The article discusses ongoing investigations by the EPA inspector general on several allegations such as using his office to explore business opportunities for his wife and renting a room in a condo at below market prices. The article continues:

“Sen. Jim Inhofe (R., Okla.), a longtime ally of Mr. Pruitt’s, praised Mr. Pruitt’s work at the agency but said that Mr. Wheeler had worked for him for 14 years and had ‘an impeccable reputation’ and would be a ‘strong leader’ at the agency.

“Mr. Pruitt rose to national prominence years before he joined the Trump administration. After becoming Oklahoma’s attorney general in 2011, he led a coalition of conservative states in lawsuits against the federal government.

“The coalition won major victories challenging some Obama administration policies all the way to the Supreme Court. His suits changed how former President Barack Obama’s health-care overhaul works, and he won a stay that put Mr. Obama’s signature climate-change policy, the Clean Power Plan, on hold.

“That made him a darling of conservative groups, some energy companies and some prominent Republican boosters. Chief among them was oil magnate Harold Hamm, the founder and CEO of Continental Resources Inc. in Oklahoma City, who became a top energy adviser to Mr. Trump.

“A former state legislator and owner of a minor-league baseball team, Mr. Pruitt was considered a climate-change skeptic. He has since said he accepts that climate change is happening, but questions how severe it might be and government’s role in fighting it.

“He made climate policy less of a priority at the EPA. He sought to remake the agency by shrinking and reorganizing its staff, and rolling back a number of water and air rules that affected energy producers, farmers, auto makers, and others.

“Mr. Pruitt’s policies made him a target for environmental groups and liberals before he took office, but criticism grew over how he ran the agency and spent money.

“He met extensively with the companies his agency regulated, but not environmental groups. He used agency money repeatedly to fly back to his home state. And he flew unannounced to Morocco for several days to promote natural-gas consumption, which critics charged was far outside the

EPA's mission. More allegations surfaced in recent weeks involving his efforts to find his wife employment in Washington.

“At a Senate hearing in May, Mr. Pruitt reiterated past defenses that some of the accusations of management missteps and improper spending were false—and that others were justified by policy needs or properly cleared by agency officials.”

2. Pruitt Drowns in the Swamp

The permanent green government takes out Trump's deregulator.

Editorial, WSJ, July 5, 2018

https://www.wsj.com/articles/pruitt-drowns-in-the-swamp-1530834262?mod=hp_opin_pos3

SUMMARY: The editorial states:

“Chalk one up for the swamp. The permanent progressive state finally ran Scott Pruitt out of the Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday, and the tragedy is that Mr. Pruitt gave his enemies so much ammunition.

“President Trump announced on Twitter Thursday afternoon that he had accepted Mr. Pruitt's resignation. Mr. Pruitt cited the ‘unrelenting attacks on me personally’ and his family that have ‘taken a sizable toll on us all.’ He's right about unrelenting. Dozens of reporters have examined every furl of Mr. Pruitt's forehead since he started the job.

“Press dispatches have suggested that he misused private air travel, sent staff on personal errands and bought \$1,560 pens, among dozens of other allegations. Mr. Pruitt says most of this was false or exaggerated, and no doubt much of it was. He's also right that billionaires Tom Steyer and Mike Bloomberg were out to get him. You can add the EPA bureaucracy that leans left, the green lobby entwined with it, and their collaborators in the press corps.

“But this is not news, or it shouldn't have been to Mr. Pruitt, who claimed to understand he was the biggest political target in the Administration after President Trump. EPA is the Holy Sepulchre of progressive politics, and Mr. Pruitt posed an existential threat to command and control regulation that is the hallmark of the left's environmental agenda.

“Mr. Pruitt had to avoid even the hint of an ethical question, and he should have been walking around Federal Triangle handcuffed to a general counsel. Of particular odor were the claims that Mr. Pruitt used his official position to help his wife find work or even open a Chick-fil-A franchise. The daily assault undermined his effectiveness and ultimately his support at the White House.

“The shame is that Mr. Trump is losing his bravest deregulator. Mr. Pruitt started to roll back the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan that attempted to re-engineer the economy with little effect on climate change. He clamped down on the ‘sue and settle’ racket that allows environmental groups to impose policy through consent degrees. He moved to redefine the Waters of the United States rule that let EPA regulate ponds and potholes. Mr. Pruitt also sought to require more honest cost-benefit analysis, and he updated advisory science boards that have been stacked with members who receive EPA grants.

“Deputy Administrator Andrew Wheeler will take over; though acting directors are inherently transitional and thus less powerful. Then again, Mr. Wheeler may be there a while: Senate Democrats would block the Dalai Lama to run EPA if Mr. Trump nominated him.

“Fresh off its Pruitt defenestration, the left will be looking for new targets, so some advice to the rest of the Trump cabinet: Fly coach.”