

The Week That Was: 2011-07-30 (July 30, 2011)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week:

It is scientists, not sceptics, who are most willing to consider explanations that conflict with their own. And far from quashing dissent, it is the scientists, not the sceptics, who do most to acknowledge gaps in their studies and point out the limitations of their data... Editorial, Nature Magazine, Jul 28, 2011.

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Number of the Week: 54.5

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THIS WEEK:

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

Videos from the Sixth International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC) sponsored by Heartland Institute are available on the web. Go to: <http://climateconference.heartland.org/watch-live/>

Quote of the Week: The quote of the week appeared in an editorial in *Nature* severely criticizing those who challenge the orthodoxy and the recently held International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC). The quote is particularly rich because *Nature* published the famous hockey-stick by Michael Mann which included “Mann’s Nature trick” – eliminating data that contradicted the central claim. The more recent tree ring data diverged significantly from thermometer data, thus calling into question the validity of using tree rings to estimate historic temperatures. These offending data were clipped. The article must be retracted. Please see Article # 1 and articles referenced under “ICCC.”

ICCC: The attack by *Nature* on those who challenge the orthodoxy and the ICCC sponsored by Heartland Institute was soundly rebutted by Heartland President Joe Bast. Please see articles referenced under “ICCC.”

Number of the Week: 54.5 mpg. With great fanfare, the number of the week was announced by the US President, taking time from the critical deficit ceiling issue. By 2025, 54.5 miles per gallon shall be the average mileage of automobiles sold in the US by a manufacturer. The number was agreed to by the White House, EPA, Department of Transportation, California Air Resources Board, several major automobile manufacturers, environmentalists, etc. All the major players were represented except one – the American public – the consumer who is expected to buy the automobiles manufactured under this standard.

A quick look at the costs of automobiles on web sites, such as one by US News, gives examples of the impracticality of thinking displayed by this announcement. The vaunted Toyota Prius has an invoice price of \$22,108 plus but gets only 51 mpg city and 48 mpg highway – it does not qualify under the proposed standards. Comparing apples to apples, the low cost 2012 Honda Civic has an invoice of \$14,388 plus and gets 28 city and 36 highway. The hybrid version gets 44 city and 44 highway but costs 53% more with an invoice starting at \$22,134. A low cost SUV, Ford Escape, gets 23 city and 28 highway with an invoice of \$20,120; the hybrid version has an invoice of \$29,997, or 49% more, and gets 30 city and 27 highway. Frequently, hybrids get greater mileage in the city than on the highway. The regulations are orientated for the urban public and severely punish the suburban and rural public.

What is clear is that the administration is demanding the American public bends to its will and buys electric automobiles that have yet to prove their worth at significantly higher prices than gasoline

automobiles. Electric vehicles have a limited range, and those employing gasoline engines do not get the mileage that is proposed. By claiming these standards will save households money, the administration continues the mantra that by forcing the public to spend much more money for energy and transportation, the public will save money.

The President has promised that the Federal government will buy many of these new, expensive automobiles, as if Washington does not recognize there are unemployment and revenue problems. Please see articles referenced under “Subsidies and Mandates Forever.”

EPA continues its highly questionable expansion of regulatory powers based on dubious claims of public health. Even the National Academy of Sciences has warned the EPA science committee that EPA must improve on its science or face scientific irrelevance. However, it is uncertain that scientific relevance is important to the leadership of the EPA.

Reports this week indicate that, for political purposes, EPA adjusted its rules on cross state emissions it announced last week. At the last minute, many east coast states that supported the president in the last election were excluded from the rules. Texas, which certainly does not support the administration, was suddenly included. Apparently, EPA considers premature deaths, heart attacks, and asthma, which it used to justify the regulations, are a function of state political boundaries.

EPA announced that it is considering employing the Clean Air Act to regulate drilling wells for oil and natural gas extraction using hydraulic fracturing “fracking.” Drilling wells for oil started in 1859. Hydraulic fracking techniques have existed for over 60 years. Recent advances in these techniques permit a rapid development of oil and gas reserves that were previously uneconomical to extract. No doubt, affordable energy alarms this administration and EPA, so EPA must regulate it under the guise of public health, no matter how scientifically irrelevant the guise is. Please see Article # 2 and articles referenced under “EPA and other Regulators on the March.”

Australia: Although it is winter down-under, things are heating up. The government just released 340 pages of legislation to enact its proclaimed simple tax on carbon – a stunning contradiction of terms in language, logic, and science. The general population is not taking these new taxes lightly. Based on reports, a peaceful rebellion is occurring. From all parts of the island continent eleven convoys are organizing to drive to the capitol city and demand a new election. The convoys are scheduled to arrive on August 22. Please see articles under “Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes.”

Models and Observations: This week, an UAH press release announced the publication of a new study by Roy Spencer and Danny Braswell estimating the extent of energy lost to space with a warming of the earth.

The new study employs an innovative lagged model, that is, one that incorporates time delays, thereby estimating energy loss over time during periods of warming. The model is adjusted in order to explain the temperature data from the Hadley Climate Research Unit in Great Britain and observations from the Earth’s Radiant Energy System (CERES) instruments on the Terra satellite over the period 2000 to 2011. During this period there was no major warming trend but there were periods of warming and cooling.

Spencer’s model suggests that, in any warming period, the loss of energy to outer space starts earlier than the IPCC models consider. Consequently, the total loss of energy to outer space is significantly greater than that projected by the IPCC models. This finding is consistent with the observations. The new model, far simpler than the ones used by the IPCC, better explains the warming or lack thereof during the period of 2000 to 2011, than the IPCC models.

The model explanations are not definitive and are open to interpretation and testing. But they suggest there are far more powerful natural influences on temperature than human CO2 emissions and other variables considered by the IPCC and its models.

Of course, the global warming community re-acted as may be expected. Kevin Trenberth, a lead author of the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) of the Fourth IPCC Assessment Report (AR4), declared “I cannot believe it got published!” Spencer’s retort on his blog is worth noting. Please see the press release, Article # 4, and the referenced articles under “Models v. Observations.”

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below please see: www.sepp.org.

1. Scientific Casualties of the IPCC Hockey Stick Fiasco

By Tim Ball, Climate Change Dispatch, Jul 24, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.climatechangedispatch.com/home/9241-scientific-casualties-of-the-ippcc-hockey-stick->

2. A Tale of Two Shale States

Pennsylvania's gain vs. New York's missed opportunity.

Editorial, WSJ, Jul 26, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303678704576442053700739990.html?mod=ITP_opinion_2

3. Why are lawyers arguing climate science?

By Charles Battig, VA-SEEE, Letter, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Jul 16, 2011

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/letters-to-the-editor/2011/jul/16/tdopin01-letters-to-the-editor-ar-1175798/>

4. Climate models get energy balance wrong, make too hot forecasts of global warming

By Roy Spencer & Phillip Gentry, Press Release, UAH, Jul 26, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.uah.edu/news/newspages/campusnews.php?id=564>

“Not only does the atmosphere release more energy than previously thought, it starts releasing it earlier in a warming cycle.”

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

Osborn: “I don’t have any core measurement data and therefore have non to give out!”

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jul 25, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/2011/07/25/osborn-i-dont-have-any-core-measurement-data-and-therefore-have-none-to-give-out/#more-14249>

McIntyre: “This is my opinion and, if someone can provide an alternative explanation of his statements that does not involve lying, I’ll willingly consider the explanation, apologize and amend the post.”

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Green agenda has parallels with excesses of communism

Herald Sun, July 28, 2011 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/opinion/green-agenda-has-parallels-with-excesses-of-communism/story-e6frfhqf-1226103023674>

[SEPP Comment: About two speeches one by Czech President Vaclav Klaus, the other by Greens senator Christine Milner announcing a government investigation against those in the Australian media who are biased against action on climate change (carbon taxes).]

Malcolm Turnbull's climate politics

Which "science" and which "morality", Malcolm?

By Bob Carter, Quadrant, AU, Jul 25, 2011

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2011/07/bob-carter-on-malcolm-turnbull>

We Get What We Pay For With Disastrous Climate Science

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jul. 26 2011

<http://blogs.forbes.com/larrybell/2011/07/26/we-get-what-we-pay-for-with-disastrous-climate-science/>

Climate change suspect must be given a fair trial

GOVERNMENTS across the world have paid billions to find links between carbon dioxide and the climate, but very little to find the opposite, and that's a problem.

By Joanne Nova, The Australian, Jul 30, 2011

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/climate-change-suspect-must-be-given-a-fair-trial/story-e6frg6xf-1226104017991>

Climate Witchcraft and Post-Normal Science

By Norman Rogers, American Thinker, Jul 29, 2011

http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/07/climate_witchcraft_and_post_normal_science.html

[SEPP Comment: Post normal science – twisting scientific research and standards to serve personal political goals.]

Indian study shows climate change is probably caused by natural factors

By Kelvin Kemm, Engineering News, Jul 29, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/indian-study-shows-climate-change-is-probably-caused-by-natural-factors-2011-07-29>

Defenders of the Orthodoxy

Climate Change Debunked? Not So Fast

Stephanie Pappas, LiveScience Senior Writer Date: 28 July 2011 Time: 07:14 PM ET

<http://www.livescience.com/15293-climate-change-cloud-cover.html>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Comments On The Article "Stratospheric Pollution Helps Slow Global Warming" By David Biello

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Jul 25, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/07/25/comments-on-the-article-stratospheric-pollution-helps-slow-global-warming-by-david-biello/>

Archaea -- An Overlooked Source Of Greenhouse Gas:

By David Whitehouse, The Observatory, Jul 29, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/3536-archaea-an-overlooked-source-of-greenhouse-gas-.html>

[SEPP Comment: EPA claims nitrous oxide emissions are a cause of asthma.]

Can Prof Rajendra Pachauri really survive 'Glaciergate'?

The head of the UN panel on climate change, Prof Rajendra Pachauri, is still adamant that one famously exaggerated report should not cost him his job.

By Peter Stanford, Telegraph, UK, Jul 26, 2011

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/8660714/Can-Prof-Rajendra-Pachauri-really-survive-Glaciergate.html>

[SEPP Comment: It was not only one exaggerated report, but many.]

Why Most Forbes Readers Know More About Global Warming than Most Climate Scientists

By William Pentland, Forbes, Jul. 28 2011

<http://blogs.forbes.com/williampentland/2011/07/28/why-most-forbes-readers-know-more-about-global-warming-than-most-climate-scientists/?partner=yahootix>

[SEPP Comment: Trivial – the social cost of carbon is a ludicrous concept fit for bureaucrats. The discount rate applied is arguing about the number of angels dancing on the head of a pin.]

Sci/tech MPs want peer review, not pal review

UK science publishing not exactly scientific

By Andrew Orlowski, A Register, Jul 29, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/07/29/mps_peer_review_unsatisfactory_and_complacent/

Questioning the European Green

Some lessons Washington could learn from London commentators

By: Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Jul 28, 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/07/some-lessons-washington-could-learn-london-commentators#ixzz1TW8bT1zC>

Official Price Estimates Dubious: 'DECC Has Massaged Green Energy Costs'

Britain's policies to curb emissions and spur investment into nuclear and wind to secure power supplies may raise electricity prices for factories by as much as 58 percent by 2030, according to a government study.

By Catherine Airlie, Bloomberg, Jul 29, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/uk-news/3538-official-price-estimates-dubious-decc-has-massaged-green-energy-costs.html>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Climate Change Adaptation: Aligning Funding with Strategic Priorities

GAO-11-876T July 28, 2011 [H/t Timothy Wise]

Highlights Page (PDF) Full Report (PDF, 18 pages)

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-876T>

[SEPP Comment: Integrate invalid projections from falsified models as the standard of planning for the entire nation.]

Seeking a Common Ground

“Building Trust” and FOI Refusals

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jul 23, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/2011/07/23/building-trust-and-foi-refusals/#more-14255>

“If there were any adult supervision in the climate community, it would start, not with polysyllabic ruminations about climate communications, but with practical measures to stop pointlessly counterproductive conduct by members of the community.”

ICCC

Heartland Replies to Nature

By Joseph Bast, Heartland Institute, Jul 28, 2011

http://www.heartland.org/full/30490/Heartland_Replies_to_Nature.html

Heart of the matter

The Heartland Institute's climate conference reveals the motives of global-warming skeptics

Editorial, Nature, Jul 28, 2011

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v475/n7357/full/475423b.html>

Climate-change politics: The sceptic meets his match

Joe Bast and his libertarian think tank are a major force among climate sceptics — but they just can't win the battle over science.

By Jeff Tollefson, Nature Magazine, Jul 27, 2011

<http://www.nature.com/news/2011/110727/full/475440a.html>

Finding common ground with climate-change contrarians

Scott Denning, Colorado State University, UCAR Mag, Jul 27, 2011

<http://www2.ucar.edu/magazine/columns/guest-columns/finding-common-ground-climate-change-contrarians>

Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate?

Why we should give the cold shoulder to a BBC Trust Review that argues the broadcaster should ignore global-warming 'deniers'

By David Rose, Daily Mail, UK, Jul 24, 2011

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-2018143/Steve-Jones-BBC-Trust-Review-global-warming-trusted.html>

Steve Jones tells the BBC: don't give 'denialists' so much air-time

In his report for the BBC Trust, Steve Jones actually attacks the BBC for having too little global-warming bias.

By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Jul 23, 2011

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/globalwarming/8656765/Steve-Jones-tells-the-BBC-dont-give-denialists-so-much-air-time.html>

Models v. Observations

On the Misdiagnosis of Climate Feedbacks from Variations in Earth's Radiant Energy Balance

Roy W. Spencer and William D. Braswell, Journal of Remote Sensing,

http://www.drroyspencer.com/wp-content/uploads/Spencer_Misdiagnos_11.pdf

Fallout from Our Paper: The Empire Strikes Back

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, July 29th, 2011

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/>

New NASA Data Blow Gaping Hole In Global Warming Alarmism

By James Taylor, Forbes, Jul 27, 2011 [H/t Roger Cohen]

<http://blogs.forbes.com/jamestaylor/2011/07/27/new-nasa-data-blow-gaping-hole-in-global-warming-alarmism/>

[SEPP Comment: Somewhat over the top.]

Additional Information On The “Ocean’s Missing Heat” By Katsman and van Oldenborgh 2011

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Jul 29 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/>

If the “*question cannot be answered using observations alone*“, how can it be stated that “*When compared to the available observations, the model describes the ocean temperature rise and variability well*“? This is a circular argument. Models themselves are hypotheses, and the more accurate statement by the authors would be that the available observations do not falsify the model as replicating reality.

State-of-the-Art Climate Models and Extreme Meteorological Events and Consequences

Reviewed by Sherwood, Craig, and Keith Idso, CO2 Science, Volume 14, Number 30: 27 July 2011 [H/t SPPJ]

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V14/N30/EDIT.php>

[SEPP Comment: IPCC author Trenberth states the models do not project precipitation correctly. Should they be trusted for temperature?]

Modeled Ocean Temperatures from 1880 through 2010

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jul 22, 2011

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/>

Measurement Issues

The “great dying of thermometers” – helping GISS find the undead thermometers, complete with code

By Walter Dnes, WUWT, Jul 24, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/07/24/the-great-dying-of-thermometers-helping-giss-find-the-undead-thermometers-complete-with-code/>

[SEPP Comment: Canadian weather stations continue to report data even though NASA-GISS dropped them from its data base without explanation. NASA-GISS projects the readings from far away stations.]

Sheep study confirms a premise of McIntyre & McKittrick 05

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, July 27, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/07/27/sheep-study-confirms-a-premise-of-mcintyre-mckittrick-05/>

[SEPP Comment: Additional reason why tree rings may not be a good proxy for temperatures. Leibig’s Law of the Minimum: plant growth is controlled by the most scarce resource available; not by the total of resources available.]

Changing Weather

2011 Temperature Watch

By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Jul 25, 2011

<http://www.worldclimatereport.com/>

Changing Earth

Canadian scientists discover new clues to rapid Arctic ice melt

By Bob Weber, the Canadian Press, Jul 28, 2011 [H/t Mark Duchamp]

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/technology/science/canadian-scientists-discover-new-clues-to-rapid-arctic-ice-melt/article2078461/>

Antarctic ice – more accurate estimates

By Verity Jones @ Digging In The Clay, WUWT, Jul 27, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/07/27/antarctic-ice-%E2%80%93-more-accurate-estimates/#more-44166>

Researchers Provide Detailed Picture of Ice Loss Following Collapse of Antarctic Ice Shelves

By Staff Writers, SPX, Jul 26, 2011

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Researchers_Provide_Detailed_Picture_of_Ice_Loss_Following_Collapse_of_Antarctic_Ice_Shelves_999.html

The Political Games Continue

GOP spending bill would nix international climate aid

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jul 26, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/173601-gop-spending-bill-would-nix-international-climate-aid>

[SEPP Comment: Cutting off funds for IPCC dreams.]

EPA's funding facing rollback

Obama threatens to veto measure

By Paige Winfield Cunningham, Washington Times, Jul 25, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/25/epa-s-funding-facing-rollback/>

[SEPP Comment: Long overdue.]

House Republicans call on EPA chief to testify on smog rules

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Jul 28, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/174147-house-republicans-call-on-epa-chief-to-testify-on-smog-rules>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

The Convoy of no confidence is amassing towards Canberra

By Joanne Nova, Her Blog, On July 28, 2011

<http://joannenova.com.au/2011/07/the-convoy-of-no-confidence-is-amassing-towards-canberra/>

Breaking Australian Carbon Tax Legislation Released

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 28, 2011

<http://joannenova.com.au/2011/07/breaking-australian-carbon-tax-legislation-released/>

[SEPP Comment: Learning from the 2009 – 2010 US Congress, apparently the simple tax took 340 pages of legislation – benefiting special interests.]

A Slow Start for the for Carbon Credit Market

By Valerie Volcovici, NYT, Jul 25, 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/25/business/energy-environment/a-slow-start-for-the-for-carbon-credit-market.html?_r=1&src=rechp&pagewanted=print

[SEPP Comment: Blame the U.S. for the bad market.]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Obama tightens fuel-economy standards

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, 07/29/11 11:39 AM ET

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/174351-obama-unveils-tighter-vehicle-fuel-economy-standards>

Carmakers Back Strict New Rules for Gas Mileage

By Bill Vlasic, NYT, Jul 28, 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/29/business/carmakers-back-strict-new-rules-for-gas-mileage.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=th2

Payne: Obama's CAFE fairy tale

By Henry Payne, The Michigan View.com, Jul 29, 2011

<http://detnews.com/article/20110729/MIVIEW/107290389/Payne--Obama-s-CAFE>

Higher fuel standards mean higher death toll

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Jul 28, 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/2011/07/higher-fuel-standards-mean-higher-death-toll>

Federal 'Clean Energy' Loan Guarantees: Crazy Dollars for Bubble Jobs

By Vance Ginn, Master Resource, July 28, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/07/federally-guaranteed-loans-for-clean-energy-projects-are-nonsense/#more-15852>

Jacking up your electric bill

More regulations on industry will hurt the flickering economy

Editorial, Washington Times, Jul 27, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/27/jacking-up-your-electric-bill/>

“Either an RES or CES would also raise the average cost of generating electricity in the United States because, in the absence of the standard, regulators and generators would generally choose the lowest-cost method of producing electricity.”

EPA and other Regulators on the March

National Academy of Sciences warns EPA to get its science straight or risk irrelevance

By Bryan Preston, Pajamas Media, Jul 12, 2011

<http://pajamasmedia.com/tatler/2011/07/12/national-academy-of-sciences-warns-epa-to-get-its-science-straight-or-risk-irrelevance/>

Obama's EPA adds Texas to new cross state emissions rule at the last minute

By Bryan Preston, Pajamas Media, Jul 8, 2011

<http://pajamasmedia.com/tatler/2011/07/08/obamas-epa-adds-texas-to-new-cross-state-emissions-rule-at-the-last-minute/>

[SEPP Comment: Political games of rewarding friends and punishing enemies in the name of public health.]

Is EPA's true purpose protecting the environment or shutting down industry?

By Bryan Shaw, Washington Examiner, Jul 23, 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/07/sunday-reflection-epas-true-purpose-protecting-environment-or-shutting-do>

EPA proposes air pollution standards for 'fracking'

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Jul 28, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/174193-epa-proposes-air-pollution-standards-for-fracking>

[SEPP Comment: It was only a matter of time. The claimed win-win is as false as the claim of asthma attacks and premature deaths resulting from fracking. EPA must be compelled to produce the science justifying such claims.]

EPA's air-quality overkill

Costly new air-quality standards are based on suspect statistics
By Steve Milloy, Washington Times, Thursday 28, 2011
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jul/28/epas-air-quality-overkill/>

EPA Delays Ozone Standard Reconsideration for Fourth Time

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Jul 27, 2011
http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3899.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2250570&hq_l=7&hq_v=5e660500d0
[SEPP Comment: Apparently some are fighting EPA control of economic development throughout the nation.]

FERC Order Aims to Remove Barriers to Transmission Development

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Jul 27, 2011
http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3897.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2250570&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e660500d0
[SEPP Comment: Earlier reports suggested that FERC will abandon the principle that beneficiaries pay.]

Nuclear Fears & Responses

The risks of radiation

By Jan Willem Nienhuys, European Energy Review, Jul 25, 2011
<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3158>
[SEPP Comment: A lengthy article discussing radiation risks.]

Nuclear stress tests begin for Japan

By Staff Writers, World Nuclear News, 25 July 2011
http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS_Nuclear_stress_tests_begin_for_Japan_2507111.html

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Japan to test-drill for seabed 'burning ice': Nikkei

By Staff Writers, AFP, Jul 25, 2011
http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Japan_to_test-drill_for_seabed_burning_ice_Nikkei_999.html

Administration Control of Fossil Fuels

Keystone versus green Keynesianism

Keystone jobs should matter more to Obama than green theology
By Peter Forster, Financial Post, Jul 26, 2011
<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/07/26/peter-foster-keystone-%C2%ADversus-green-keynesianism/>

House passes bill to force Obama decision on Canada-Texas pipeline

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Jul 26, 2011
<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/173653-house-passes-bill-to-force-decision-on-keystone-xl-pipeline>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy

Rotten Wind in the State of Denmark

Denmark is yet another country that has made wind power a hallmark of its energy policy. But are the lofty claims about Danish wind true? No.
By Kenneth Green, The American, Jul 18, 2011 [H/t Timothy Wise]
<http://american.com/archive/2011/june/rotten-wind-in-the-state-of-denmark/>
[SEPP Comment: Part of a series on fail of wind power in Europe.]

Energy Fact of the Week: China's Soaring 'Clean' Energy Sector?

By Steven F. Hayward, Enterprise Blog, Jul 27, 2011

<http://blog.american.com/2011/07/energy-fact-of-the-week-chinas-soaring-clean-energy-sector/>

[SEPP Comment: A great graph for those who claim China is racing against the west to build alternative energy sources.]

T. Boone's Windy Misadventure And the Global Backlash Against Wind Energy

By Robert Bryce, Energy Tribune, Jul. 28, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/8120/T-Boones-Windy-Misadventure-And-the-Global-Backlash-Against-Wind-Energy>

"I'm not going to have the windmills on my ranch," Pickens declared. "They're ugly."

Rhetoric on renewables does not match reality

By Jon Ralston, Las Vegas Sun, Jul 24, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/jul/24/rhetoric-renewables-does-not-match-reality/>

"To achieve long-term economic and environmental benefits — to make Nevada a cleaner state and create an energy-exporting economy — people are going to have to accept an initial hit on rates." *[SEPP Comment: What do the people get in return – additional hits?]*

Solar industry on the rise

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jul 28, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/07/28/solar-industry-on-the-rise/>

"Solar energy is creating more jobs per megawatt than any other energy source." *[SEPP Comment: The genius of American prosperity is delivering more for ever lower costs. Increasing costs will result in households paying more, reducing their disposable income.]*

Regulatory hurdles hinder biofuels market

By Phil Ciciora, Business and Law Editor

Champaign IL (SPX) Jul 26, 2011

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Regulatory_hurdles_hinder_biofuels_market_999.html

Carbon Schemes

Work to Begin on DOE-Backed Carbon Sequestration Demonstration in Montana

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Jul 27, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3903.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2250570&hq_l=12&hq_v=5e660500d0

California Dreaming

Gov. Brown pushes 12-gigawatt clean-power goal

California should get that much electricity from local clean power sources — such as rooftop solar panels, small wind turbines and fuel cells — by 2020, he says, but is short on details about how.

By Tiffany Hsu, Los Angeles Times, July 26, 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-small-renewables-20110726,0,3997757.story>

Mitchell, Reilly Tout Ruinous Calif. Auto Policy

By Marlo Lewis Cooler Heads, July 28, 2011

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2011/07/28/mitchell-reilly-tout-ruinous-calif-auto-policy/>

Wind farms multiply, fueling clashes with nearby residents

Demand for clean energy has led to a wind turbine building boom. But many living in their shadow decry the electricity generating projects as pesky eyesores.

By Tiffany Hsu, Los Angeles Times, July 24, 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-wind-power-20110724,0,5525782,full.story>

Electric cars about to cost more in California

The state has run out of the \$5,000 rebates it was giving drivers who bought all-electric vehicles such as the Nissan Leaf and Tesla Roadster. Also, prices for the Nissan Leaf are going up.

By Jerry Hirsch, LA Times, Jul 21, 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-autos-electric-prices-20110721,0,7495370.story>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Tropical Cuba has Excess Winter Deaths from Heart & Cerebrovascular Diseases

Reference: Marie, G.C., González, R.T. and Palanco, I.M. 2009. Seasonal Variation in mortality for five main death causes. Cuba, 1996-2006. *Internet Journal of Epidemiology* 6 (2), available at

<http://www.ispub.com/ostia/index.php?xmlFilePath=journals/ije/vol6n2/seasonal.xml>.

Climate Change and Marine Productivity

Reference: Chavez, F.P., Messie, M. and Pennington, J.T. 2011. Marine primary production in relation to climate variability and change. *Annual Review of Marine Science* 3: 227-260.

Nine Years of Soil Carbon and Nitrogen Relations in the Duke Forest FACE Study

Reference: Lichter, J., Billings, S.A., Ziegler, S.E., Gaindh, D., Ryals, R., Finzi, A.C., Jackson, R.B., Stemmler, E.A. and Schlesinger, W.H. 2008. Soil carbon sequestration in a pine forest after 9 years of atmospheric CO₂ enrichment. *Global Change Biology* 14: 2910-2922.

No Long-Term Trends in Southwestern United States Drought

Reference: McCabe, G.J., Legates, D.R. and Lins, H.F. 2010. Variability and trends in dry day frequency and dry event length in the southwestern United States. *Journal of Geophysical Research* 115: D07108, doi:10.1029/2009JD012866.

Environmental Industry

Indefensible

By Paul Chesser, American Spectator, Jul 27, 2011

<http://spectator.org/archives/2011/07/27/indefensible#>

Other Scientific News

Bacteria: Blame them for the rain?

By Eryn Brown, Los Angeles Times

May 26, 2011, 12:25 p.m.

<http://www.latimes.com/health/boostershots/la-heb-bacteria-weather-20110526,0,2738848.story>

Wave power can drive intense heat of Sun

By Staff Writers, SPX, Jul 28, 2011

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Wave_power_can_drive_intense_heat_of_Sun_999.html

SDO Spots Extra Energy in the Solar Corona

By Karen C. Fox for NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, SPX Jul 28, 2011

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/SDO_Spots_Extra_Energy_in_the_Solar_Corona_999.html

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Climate change 'may make truffles a German delicacy'

By Staff Writers, AFP, Jul 20, 2011

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Climate_change_may_make_truffles_a_German_delicacy_999.html

“Nevertheless, he noted that further studies were required, citing ‘enormous scientific, economic, and gastronomic importance.’”

Climate-change-induced wildfires may alter Yellowstone forests

By Staff Writers, SPX, Jul 29, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Climate_change_induced_wildfires_may_alter_Yellowstone_forests_999.html

Has warming put 'Dirty Dozen' pollutants back in the saddle?

By Staff Writers, AFP, Jul 24, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Has_warming_put_Dirty_Dozen_pollutants_back_in_the_saddle_999.html

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ARTICLES:

1. Scientific Casualties of the IPCC Hockey Stick Fiasco

By Tim Ball, Climate Change Dispatch, Jul 24, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.climatechangedispatch.com/home/9241-scientific-casualties-of-the-ippcc-hockey-stick->

The temperature graph dubbed the “hockey stick” (HS) was designed to rewrite history by eliminating the Medieval Warm Period (MWP) because it contradicted the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) claim the 20th century was the warmest ever. As Lord [Monckton](#) explains, “*Dr. McIntyre’s account of the systematically dishonest manner in which the “hockey-stick” graph falsely showing that today’s temperatures are warmer than those that prevailed during the medieval climate optimum was fabricated in 1998/9, adopted as the poster-child of climate panic by the IPCC in its 2001 climate assessment, and then retained in its 2007 assessment report despite having been demolished in the scientific literature.*” It did more damage than generally discussed.

A major problem and serious limitation in climate science is the amount and nature of data. Temperature measures come from a variety of sources so creating meaningful continuous records is very difficult. The Hockey Stick fiasco underlined this, but what they did possibly deters many from taking up the problem. In his autobiography Hubert Lamb said he founded the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) in 1972 because, “*it was clear that the first and greatest need was to establish the facts of the past record of the natural climate in times before any side effects of human activities could well be important.*” He was right and nobody did more to reconstruct the past. Ironically, his graph with the MWP in the first two IPCC Reports triggered the HS. Due to misplaced funding for data collection and corrupted research, it is worse now.

Temperature data comes in two forms; direct instrumental measurement or a secondary indicator known as a proxy temperature. Proxies are used by paleoclimatologists and include ice cores, tree rings, lake sediments (varves), pollen counts, or anything that results from temperature or precipitation changes.

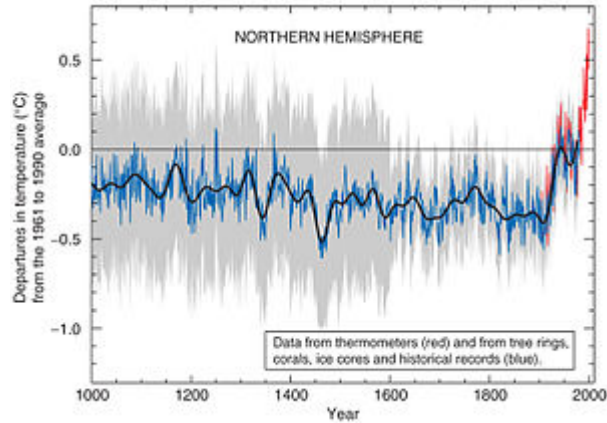
Another challenge in obtaining measures of temperature is the problem of reconstructing a continuous temperature record. Traditionally, climate has recognized three periods.

1. Most recent is the instrumental (secular) period that some claim covers 150 years, but in reality is inadequate for the entire period. Temperatures are measured by half a degree Celsius so any other temperature number is a statistic. Accuracy is also a problem. CRU Director Phil Jones claimed an increase of 0.6°C in the last 130 years, but with an error range of $\pm 0.2^\circ\text{C}$.
2. Historic records cover approximately 3000 years. They include everything from information on the walls of Pharaohs tombs to crop reports such as the remarkable wine harvest record used in [Times of Feast](#), [Times of Famine](#) by Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie or the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) records I used to reconstruct almost 300 years. At best accuracy of 1°C is possible.
3. This is the largest sector covering most of the Earth's history and includes proxy indicators from biologic and geologic sources. Levels of accuracy decrease and the error factor increases going back in time. Even if you get a reasonable temperature estimate you must have an [accurate](#) date. *Good materials and skilled hands can yield ages that are certain to within 1 percent, even in rocks only 10,000 years old, in which quantities of ^{40}Ar are vanishingly small.* But 1 percent of 1 million years is 10,000 years and we have emerged from an Ice Age in that time. Even radiocarbon dating used for dates over 65,000 years, have a relatively wide error factor.

Some proxies cross these boundaries and are therefore valuable. Tree rings are one of these and provide a transition across all three. Particularly appealing are [Bristlecone Pines](#) because the oldest is 4,789, but they were problematic because growth is primarily [controlled](#) by precipitation. The hockey stick gang assumed annual growth rings were due to temperature when most are about precipitation levels. I was involved in early work to make links. Dendroclimatologist [Joel Guiot](#) used the HBC temperature record I created for Churchill, Canada in his 1986 paper. His objective was to create a regression formula by comparing the temperature record with tree rings for the modern record, then use it to provide temperature records from past tree rings. He detected an 18.6 and 22-year cycle. The problem is I also detected a 22 year cycle but in the precipitation pattern. This matched with evidence from other sources, especially other tree ring records.

Guiot's attempt to create a regression formula against the modern instrumental record has promise for the right variables. The Hockey Stick people did it differently they tacked the modern temperature record on to the tree ring record. In his great book, *The Hockey Stick Illusion* A.W. Montford says, "*The inclusion of the instrumental record was instantly controversial, with global warming skeptics accusing Mann of having spliced two entirely different data sets.*" Mann said they were not spliced but overlaid. The leaked email from Phil Jones to Ray Bradley on 16 November 1999 to Ray Bradley, revealed the overlay was the now infamous "*hide the decline*" or "*Mike's trick*". Tree ring data showed decline in the 20th century so the addition from Jones' temperature record solved the problem. It was visually effective providing the sharp up turn of the hockey stick blade. Leaked emails were sensational but more telling were the leaked [computer codes](#). They show how the computer was programmed to amend any undesirable trend.

Billions were wasted on climate research to prove the AGW hypothesis, including those used to create the hockey stick. Understandably politicians angered by misuse of funding to create deceptive science are canceling the grants. Researchers will be loathe to pursue similar valuable research and unlikely to get funding. It is minor collateral damage compared to the energy policies built around the false science, but damage to progress in understanding climate nonetheless.



2. A Tale of Two Shale States

Pennsylvania's gain vs. New York's missed opportunity.

Editorial, WSJ, Jul 26, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303678704576442053700739990.html?mod=ITP_opinion_2

Politicians wringing their hands over how to create more jobs might study the shale boom along the New York and Pennsylvania border. It's a case study in one state embracing economic opportunity, while the other has let environmental politics trump development.

The Marcellus shale formation—65 million acres running through Ohio, West Virginia, western Pennsylvania and southern New York—offers one of the biggest natural gas opportunities. Former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell, a Democrat, recognized that potential and set up a regulatory framework to encourage and monitor natural gas drilling, a strategy continued by Republican Tom Corbett.

More than 2,000 wells have been drilled in the Keystone State since 2008, and gas production surged to 81 billion cubic feet in 2009 from five billion in 2007. A new Manhattan Institute report by University of Wyoming professor Timothy Considine estimates that a typical Marcellus well generates some \$2.8 million in direct economic benefits from natural gas company purchases; \$1.2 million in indirect benefits from companies engaged along the supply chain; another \$1.5 million from workers spending their wages, or landowners spending their royalty payments; plus \$2 million in federal, state and local taxes. Oh, and 62 jobs.

Statistics from Pennsylvania bear this out. The state Department of Labor and Industry reports that Marcellus drilling has created 72,000 jobs between the fourth quarter of 2009 and the first quarter of 2011. The average wage for jobs in core Marcellus shale industries is about \$73,000, or some \$27,000 more than the average for all industries.

The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue says drillers have paid more than \$1 billion in state taxes since 2006—and the numbers are swelling. In 2011's first quarter, 857 oil and gas companies and affiliates paid \$238 million in capital stock and foreign franchise taxes, corporate income taxes, sales taxes and employer withholding. This exceeds by some \$20 million the total payments in 2010.

The revenue department also identified some \$214 million in personal income taxes paid since 2006 that can be attributed to Marcellus shale lease payments to individuals, royalty income and asset sales. And all of this with no evidence of significant environmental harm.

Then there's New York. The state holds as much as 20% of the estimated Marcellus shale reserves, but green activists have raised fears about the drilling technique known as hydraulic fracturing and convinced politicians to enact what is effectively a moratorium.

The Manhattan Institute study shows that a quick end to the moratorium would generate more than \$11.4 billion in economic output from 2011 to 2020, 15,000 to 18,000 new jobs, and \$1.4 billion in new state and local tax revenue. These are conservative estimates based on a limited area of drilling. If drilling were allowed in the New York City watershed—which Governor Andrew Cuomo is so far rejecting—as well as in the state's Utica shale formation, the economic gains would be five times larger.

Consider New York's Broome County, which borders Pennsylvania and from which you can spot nearby rigs. The county seat of Binghamton ought to be a hub for shale commerce, but instead its population is falling as its young people leave for jobs elsewhere.

A study commissioned by the county in 2009 found that Broome could support up to 4,000 wells, but drilling even half that number would create some \$400 million in wages, salaries and benefits; \$605 million in property income from rents, royalties and dividends, and some \$43 million in state and local tax revenue.

The Broome analysis pointed to Texas, where Chesapeake Energy paid Dallas Fort Worth International Airport \$180 million for drilling rights on 18,000 acres of airport property—\$10,000 per acre. The airport receives a 25% royalty on the natural gas produced by airport wells—more than \$28 million in fiscal 2008. The study also noted the boon that rising oil and gas property values have been to Texas landowners, tax authorities and school districts.

Governor Cuomo has said he wants to lift New York's moratorium, and the state's recently released draft rules are a step forward. But they must still undergo legal review and a public comment period that could bar New York drilling for the rest of this year, if not longer. New York will also still ban drilling in about 15% of the state's portion of the Marcellus and impose more onerous rules than other states on private property drilling. Such bows toward the obsessions of rich, big-city greens explain why parts of upstate New York are the new Appalachia.

As they look across their northern border, Pennsylvanians can be forgiven for thinking of New Yorkers the way Abba Eban once described the Palestinians: They never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.

3. Why are lawyers arguing climate science?

By Charles Battig, VA-SEEE, Letter, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Jul 16, 2011

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/letters-to-the-editor/2011/jul/16/tdopin01-letters-to-the-editor-ar-1175798/>

Shakespeare understood the importance of the legal profession when he had Dick "the butcher" suggest: "The first thing we do; let's kill all the lawyers" in his Henry VI. Whatever Shakespeare's intended connotation, it was framed in the context of his play. Others have used the phrase to picture lawyers in a less than favorable light. To such critics, I point to the recent action of our most distinguished group of lawyers, our U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2007, the Supreme Court ruled in the Massachusetts vs. EPA decision that "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 ... a precipitate rise in sea levels, severe and irreversible changes to natural ecosystems, a significant reduction in winter snow pack with direct and important economic consequences, and increases in the spread of disease."

Four years later, these predictions have proved largely false. Persistent snow packs have prolonged the skiing season into early summer at some resorts. Hurricane activity remains at a multidecade low. Recent satellite data show a remarkable downward trend in sunspot activity, reminiscent of the associated "Little Ice Age" of the 1300-1850s. Current scientific concern is with solar activity, not innocent carbon footprints.

It is fortunate that our Supreme Court lawyers are here, in contravention to Shakespeare's exhortation. Their June 20 decision in American Electric Power vs. Connecticut illustrates how valuable lawyers can be, especially when they demonstrate the ability to reconsider facts and change their minds. In this ruling, Justice Ginsburg is quoted: "The Court, we caution, endorses no particular view of the complicated issues related to carbon dioxide emissions and climate change." In addition, the court referenced professor Freeman Dyson, a well-known critic of the hypothesis of manmade global warming.

One wonders why the June 22 "Virginia Offshore Wind Conference," sponsored by the Sierra club, included so many law firms. Perhaps they have the legal skills to make the two-to-three-time cost disadvantage of offshore wind energy disappear.

1. Climate models get energy balance wrong, make too hot forecasts of global warming

By Roy Spencer & Phillip Gentry, Press Release, UAH, Jul 26, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.uah.edu/news/newspages/campusnews.php?id=564>

"Not only does the atmosphere release more energy than previously thought, it starts releasing it earlier in a warming cycle."

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (July 26, 2011) -- Data from NASA's Terra satellite shows that when the climate warms, Earth's atmosphere is apparently more efficient at releasing energy to space than models used to forecast climate change have been programmed to "believe."

The result is climate forecasts that are warming substantially faster than the atmosphere, says Dr. Roy Spencer, a principal research scientist in the Earth System Science Center at The University of Alabama in Huntsville.

The previously unexplained differences between model-based forecasts of rapid global warming and meteorological data showing a slower rate of warming have been the source of often contentious debate and controversy for more than two decades.

In research published this week in the journal "Remote Sensing," Spencer and UA Huntsville's Dr. Danny Braswell compared what a half dozen climate models say the atmosphere should do to satellite data showing what the atmosphere actually did during the 18 months before and after warming events between 2000 and 2011.

"The satellite observations suggest there is much more energy lost to space during and after warming than the climate models show," Spencer said. "There is a huge discrepancy between the data and the forecasts that is especially big over the oceans."

Not only does the atmosphere release more energy than previously thought, it starts releasing it earlier in a warming cycle. The models forecast that the climate should continue to absorb solar energy until a warming event peaks.

Instead, the satellite data shows the climate system starting to shed energy more than three months before the typical warming event reaches its peak.

"At the peak, satellites show energy being lost while climate models show energy still being gained," Spencer said.

This is the first time scientists have looked at radiative balances during the months before and after these transient temperature peaks.

Applied to long-term climate change, the research might indicate that the climate is less sensitive to warming due to increased carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere than climate modelers have theorized. A major underpinning of global warming theory is that the slight warming caused by enhanced greenhouse gases should change cloud cover in ways that cause additional warming, which would be a positive feedback cycle.

Instead, the natural ebb and flow of clouds, solar radiation, heat rising from the oceans and a myriad of other factors added to the different time lags in which they impact the atmosphere might make it impossible to isolate or accurately identify which piece of Earth's changing climate is feedback from manmade greenhouse gases.

"There are simply too many variables to reliably gauge the right number for that," Spencer said. "The main finding from this research is that there is no solution to the problem of measuring atmospheric feedback, due mostly to our inability to distinguish between radiative forcing and radiative feedback in our observations."

For this experiment, the UA Huntsville team used surface temperature data gathered by the Hadley Climate Research Unit in Great Britain. The radiant energy data was collected by the Clouds and Earth's Radiant Energy System (CERES) instruments aboard NASA's Terra satellite.

The six climate models were chosen from those used by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The UA Huntsville team used the three models programmed using the greatest sensitivity to radiative forcing and the three that programmed in the least sensitivity.

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