

The Week That Was: 2012-12-15 (December 15, 2012)
Brought to You by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)
The Science and Environmental Policy Project

#####

Quote of the Week: *“Every morning I can look at spaceweather.com at how the sun is changing. It is doing exactly as we expected. But it is still going to take 3 to 5 years before the mainstream says: ‘Oh, unfortunately we made a mistake.’ [...] For the time being, a bitter religious war is raging. But I’m taking it in stride because I know that those who maliciously came after me will soon be on the defensive. [...] In the meantime my biggest worry is that too much could be destroyed by then. Like I said, I think we will recognize by 2020 at the latest, that climate gas CO2 had been completely over-rated.”* Fritz Vahrenholt co-author of **Die kalte Sonne**
[Translated by P. Gosselin]

#####

Number of the Week: 33 years of data.

#####

The Science & Environmental Policy Project (SEPP) is a 501-c-3 organization, incorporated in Virginia. Its FID# is 54-1645372 and donations are tax deductible. SEPP pays no salaries, and does not solicit support from corporations or government agencies. It depends upon contributions from private donors.

In 2013 we will face a large number of proposed EPA regulations that will do little for the environment but will certainly retard or even stop economic growth. For a (partial) listing see http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/10/obamas_epa_plans_for_2013.html

Our task for 2013 is to show that most of these regulations are destructive, unscientific, and unnecessary. For a more complete statement of goals please see www.SEPP.org.

To donate to SEPP by check please make it payable to SEPP and send it to the address below: or
To donate to SEPP by credit card or pay pal: Please go to www.SEPP.org, hit the donate button on the bottom of the page, then hit the donate button on the next page and follow the instructions.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

S. Fred Singer, PhD
Chairman, Science & Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)
1600 S. Eads St., Suite 712-S
Arlington, VA 22202-2907
<singer@SEPP.org>
1-703-920-2744

#####

THIS WEEK:

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

Doha Over? The 18th Annual Conference of Parties (COP 18) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Doha, Qatar, ended its two-week session 24 four hours late and failed to reach an agreement for the control of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions to

replace the expiring Kyoto Protocol. Some countries agreed to extend the Protocol to 2020. Noticeably absent in the extension are Japan, Russia, and Canada. The US is not a party to the Protocol. Also, there was an agreement, called the Doha Climate Gateway, to work out an agreement to replace Kyoto in 2020. Agree to agree to something unknown.

The success of preventing unnecessary international controls on energy use can be seen by the outrage being expressed by green groups and lesser developed countries whose attendance is partially subsidized by the US. For example, the representative from the Alliance of Small Island States claimed that the failure to reach an agreement puts the world on track for three, four or even five degrees of warming. Apparently he is unaware the earth's surface has not been warming for about 16 years.

One disturbing event was a voice vote to require wealthy nations to compensate for loss and damage from climate change. There was no mechanism proposed how climate change is determined and who pays. If Fritz Vahrenholt (quote of the week) is correct, would the wealthy nations be required to pay for a cooling world – from carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions? The UN bureaucrats are imaginative and will seek to find some mechanism to make the vote enforceable.

According to reports the event was not without humor. The president of the conference was Mr. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah from the host country, Qatar, who lives about 10 minutes from the conference center. When Connie Hedegaard, the EU climate commissioner, suggested there was not much time left to strike a deal, he replied: "I have plenty of time. I can sit here for one year." Please see links under Dire Doha.

IPCC Leaks: The draft of the physical science section with the summary for policymakers of the upcoming UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) has been leaked and posted on the web. The leaker is Alex Rawls, who signed up to be an IPCC expert reviewer. The title of his web site, "stop green suicide," gives an indication as to his political motivation, which Rawls addresses in an essay posted on his site.

Initially, it appeared that AR5 will attribute greater importance to the role of the sun in creating climate change than the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4, 2007). But Lubos Motl reports that the AR5 does not acknowledge cosmoclimatology, the tested hypothesis that cosmic rays, modulated by the sun, are important in the formation of clouds. An active sun emits more solar wind, which slows down cosmic rays resulting in the decline in the formation of low level clouds. Low level clouds reflect sunlight, causing a net cooling. According to Motl, AR5 dismisses the work of Svensmark and Danish team and also dismisses the experimental work of Kirkby et al. of CERN.

The IPCC issued a press release criticizing the leak, claiming it interferes with the review process and that new research papers will be considered up to March 15, 2013. The IPCC has a point. But its secretive procedures deserve significant criticism. For example, after the second assessment report was agreed upon, the IPCC leadership inserted language intensifying the suggested relationship between human emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) and global warming. Further, in AR4 the IPCC first published the Summary for Policymakers with great publicity. The summary asserted great certainty in the science. A certainty that was not justified by the physical science section of the complete report that was published much later.

Buried in an appendix of the physical science section were significant comments on the great uncertainty of the various factors the IPCC considers important in the models. In its defense of its finding that GHG, particularly CO₂, endanger human health and welfare, the EPA dismissed this uncertainty found in the physical science section, and so did the Federal court. The misleading IPCC summary is causing significant harm to the US economy as EPA tightens its controls on carbon dioxide emissions.

UN Control of Shipping: On December 8, Marine Systems Consultant, William Hockberger, gave a briefing to the Propulsion Club of Washington on the UN effort to control carbon dioxide emissions from ships, which will have a severe impact on shipping. The effort has been scarcely reported by the general press. The UN agency is the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the mechanism is the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI). According to the IMO the EEDI is a rational, safe and effective way to reduce air pollution. The IMO considers carbon dioxide emissions as the major form of air pollution from ships. The formulas used in the calculation of EEDI are CO₂ emissions divided by ship capacity times distance traveled. The formulas will be enforced for all new commercial ships that land in sea ports used in international trade. IMO signatories include 166 countries with over 98 percent of the world's ports, so the impact of this new policy will be virtually universal.

The regulations which will dictate ship design take effect on January 1, 2013 for the seven most predominant categories of ships and will eventually apply to all boats and ships that are engaged in international trade. Although small reductions in CO₂ emissions can be achieved by installation of certain efficiency-enhancing systems and minor operating adjustments to equipment, the greatest reductions by far will come from reduced propulsion power, which will result in reduced speed. The intent is to make the regulations ever more stringent over time, eventually greatly reducing ship speed. The net effect will be to increase the cost of international trade as ships move slower, with many more ships required to carry on the same volume of trade, and a greater inventory of trade goods on the seas at any particular time. Moreover, trade in goods that actually require higher speed in order to be effective will decline. The presumption is that international bureaucrats are better equipped to address what is important in international trade than the companies that are actually engaged in trade. And it is presumed that CO₂ reduction trumps all other considerations, even major negative impacts on people around the world.

Although the US is not a major commercial maritime nation in terms of the number of ships owned and operated by American companies (largely a result of protectionist US laws), international trade is an important part of the US economy. The regulations clearly illustrate two important points. One, US interests are not necessarily protected by international agreements in which the US is a party. Two, the pernicious long term effects of the Supreme Court foolishly declaring CO₂ is a pollutant.

<http://www.imo.org/MediaCentre/HotTopics/GHG/Pages/EEDI.aspx>

Failure of Climate Models: The 19th century German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer described a clever, but ethically questionable, trick one could use when he is clearly losing a debate. Suddenly, state that the victorious position was his position all along and he is delighted that his opponent agrees. It appears some climate alarmists are now using Schopenhauer's trick.

The 1990 predictions from the climate models are clearly failing. The world is not warming as predicted. Now, some alarmist climate scientists are declaring the 1990 IPCC First Assessment Report (AR1) is correct and the temperature predictions accurate. They do so by omitting many salient predictions and facts. In her blog, Jo Nova devastates several of those using these tricks.

A side note, Nova points out comments by four-time expert reviewer Vincent Gray. AR1 used the term “predictions” in a chapter with the title “Validation of climate models.” Gray objected to these terms during the draft of the second assessment report, commenting no climate models have been validated. The term “predictions” was changed to “projections” and the word “validate” to “evaluate.” Please see links under Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague?

Hydraulic Fracturing: The British government has lifted the 19 month moratorium on deep underground hydraulic fracturing of dense shale for natural gas. It is impossible to predict if this will lead to an energy revolution as it has in the US, too much is unknown and there are far fewer drilling rigs in Britain than in the US. Huge quantities have been estimated, but the drilling experience is not extensive. One thing is certain; a possible revolution would never come if the moratorium remained in place.

The greens are outraged, and some claim that higher gas prices will result – a greater supply leads to higher prices? The US revolution took place without Washington being aware of what was happening and without direct government subsidies. It remains to be seen what will develop in Britain. Please Articles # 2 & 3 and links under Questioning European Green.

Energy Forecasts: Last week’s TWTW linked to the early release of the US Energy Information Administration’s Outlook 2013, (EIA) which goes to 2040 and is for the US. This week Exxon-Mobil announced its report on world energy to 2040. The major points made by Exxon-Mobil include: for the world, natural gas will replace coal as the second largest source of energy. Oil will remain the largest source. Also, most of the growth of consumption of energy will be in developing countries with electricity generation being the largest driver of growth in consumption, accounting for over one-half of the growth.

The EIA report projects increased oil production over the next decade, then gradually declining. Much of oil production increase comes from hydraulic fracturing of dense shale. Disturbingly, Alaska production is projected to fall, already it so low that the Alaska pipeline will soon need additional oil to operate properly. Further, no major increase in off-shore production is projected. These projected trends may be the result of Washington’s policies, not economics or resources.

Thanks to hydraulic fracturing of shale, natural gas production is expected to increase significantly, with some of the fuel going for transportation uses such as trucking. Also, the increase of natural gas is projected to lead to an increase in industrial production such as bulk chemicals and primary metals, as well as natural gas exports.

Intensification of regulations are projected to make the use of coal more expensive, and reduce the consumption of gasoline through fuel economy standards. Please see links under Energy Issues – Non-US and <http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aeo/er/pdf/0383er%282013%29.pdf>

Number of the Week: 33 years of data. The Earth System Climate Center at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, has now published 33 years of temperature data of the lower troposphere calculated from satellite measurements. This is the most rigorous, comprehensive, global temperature data available. It is for the lower troposphere, where the greenhouse effect takes place.

The graph of the monthly time series shows little or no warming trend from 1979, then a spike around 1998, the year of the super El Niño, a jump during 2001-2002, then a decade of no warming trend, though the last period was warmer than the first period. The trends, or lack thereof, are inconsistent with the belief that increasing carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are causing significant global warming.

The map of the globe showing the composition of the warming is even more revealing. For much of the world the trend is 0.1 deg C per decade or 1 deg C per century. The significant warming trend is in the northern parts of the Northern Hemisphere, above 60 deg N latitude, such as northern Hudson Bay and northern Scandinavia.

The theoretical explanation for carbon dioxide caused warming is that it would be occurring chiefly in the extremely dry regions of the earth from increased night-time (minimum) temperatures. This appears to be occurring in the extremely dry Arctic, but not in the extremely dry Antarctic. Also, the extremely dry Sahara is not significantly warming.

TWTW has yet to uncover any theoretically plausible explanation, backed by data, explaining why a global warming purportedly caused by increased greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide, would take on such characteristics. Please see link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

#####

ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below please see this week's TWTW at: www.sepp.org. The articles are at the end of the pdf.

1. Welcome to the Salazar Wilderness

Shame on the Interior Department for trying to drum a family-owned enterprise out of business.

By Michael Moritz, WSJ, Dec 11, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323501404578161483500373510.html?mod=IT>
[P_opinion_0](#)

2. The North American Gusher

We're just beginning to tap the continent's vast hydrocarbon resources.

By Mary Anastasia O'Grady, WSJ, Dec 10, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323501404578163410100902932.html?mod=IT>
[P_opinion_0](#)

3. Fracking Good Tidings

Britain heralds an energy revolution that won't require endless taxpayer subsidies.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 13, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323981504578176880251893810.html?mod=W>
[SJ_Opinion_LEFTTopBucket](#)

#####

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Creating Clouds in the Lab To Better Understand Climate

Scientists are conducting a lab experiment to help solve a key riddle: the role of clouds in climate change. In an interview with Yale Environment 360, research leader Jasper Kirkby discusses the mysteries of clouds and why it's important to know if clouds are contributing to global warming. By Rae Ellen Bichell, Environment 360, Dec 13, 2012 [H/t Climate Etc.]

http://e360.yale.edu/feature/jasper_kirkby_cern_creates_cloud_in_lab_to_understand_climate_change/2601/

[SEPP Comment: An interview with Jasper Kirkby who led the CERN experiment to show the role of cosmic rays, as modulated by the sun, in the formation of clouds.]

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Monckton Ejected From U.N. Meeting For Telling Truth

Editorial, IBD, Dec 7, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/120712-636310-united-nations-throws-out-skeptic-monckton.htm>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Global Temperatures Trends of the Lower Troposphere from Dec 1978 to Nov 2012 – 33 years

Earth System Science Center, University of Alabama, Huntsville, Global Temperature Report

Map: http://nsstc.uah.edu/climate/2012/november/trend_Dec78_Nov12_alt.png

Graph of Monthly Anomaly: http://nsstc.uah.edu/climate/2012/november/11_2012_tlt_update.png

Our Chaotic Climate System

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Dec 14, 2012

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/12/our-chaotic-climate-system/>

[SEPP Comment: Spencer suggests that a large component of climate change may be internal to the earth.]

Extreme weather & superstition

By Ralph Alexander, Opinion, New York Post, Dec 10, 2012

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/extreme_weather_superstition_Tcj8NYKEQSAj5hd1ht1zgI

El Niño-Southern Oscillation Myth 2: A New Myth – ENSO Balances Out to Zero over the Long Term

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Dec 11, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/11/el-nino-southern-oscillation-myth-2-a-new-myth-ensobalances-out-to-zero-over-the-long-term/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Alternative Worlds, A Publication of the National Intelligence Council

Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Dec 10, 2012

<http://www.dni.gov/index.php/carousel-items/778-global-trends-2030-alternative-worlds-available-for-download>

US seen as 'first among equals' in 2030: intel report

By Staff Writers, Washington, (AFP) Dec 10, 2012

[http://www.spacewar.com/reports/US seen as first among equals in 2030 intel report 999.html](http://www.spacewar.com/reports/US_seen_as_first_among_equals_in_2030_intel_report_999.html)

Michael Mann's Hockey Stick

The climate scientist tells his story and explores the role of skepticism in science

By Rudy M. Baum, Editor-in-Charge, C&EN, Dec 10, 2012 [H/t Cork Hayden]

<http://cen.acs.org/articles/90/i50/Michael-Manns-Hockey-Stick.html>

[SEPP Comment: Unconscionable!]

Fire and Ice: Wildfires Darkening Greenland Snowpack, Increasing Melting

By Pam Frost Gorder for OSU News, San Francisco CA (SPX), Dec 11, 2012

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Fire and Ice Wildfires Darkening Greenland Snowpack Increasing Melting 999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Fire_and_Ice_Wildfires_Darkening_Greenland_Snowpack_Increasing_Melting_999.html)

Jane Lubchenco to Leave NOAA Helm

By David Malakoff, Science, Dec 12, 2012

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2012/12/jane-lubchenco-to-leave-noaa-helm.html>

[SEPP Comment: A puff piece with Dr. Jane praising on her accomplishments. Judith Curry's comments: "Oh my. The nation's weather satellite observing system is in a shambles, the weather forecasting capability has fallen far behind the Europeans, Climate Services is dead. NOAA is not in good shape."]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Fritz Vahrenholt: Germany's Energy Policy Is "Self-Destructive, Driven By Fear...CO2 Exaggerated"

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 8, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/12/08/fritz-vahrenholt-germanys-energy-policy-is-self-destructive-driven-by-fear/>

Climate and energy policy in perspective

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Dec 14, 2012

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/climate-and-energy-policy-perspective>

Climate Tyranny Avoids Scrutiny

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Dec 10, 2012

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2012/12/climate-tyranny-avoids-scrutiny.html>

Questioning European Green

Fracking: Coalition gives go-ahead to controversial shale gas drilling

Britain has given the green light to gas "fracking", just days after David Cameron said the controversial technique could help bring down household energy bills.

By Rowena Mason, Telegraph, UK, Dec 13, 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/gas/9741802/Fracking-Coalition-gives-go-ahead-to-controversial-shale-gas-drilling.html>

The Times: Why We Support the Shale Revolution

Editorial, The Times, via GWPF, Dec 14, 2012

<http://www.thegwpf.org/times-support-shale-revolution/>

Shale gas deposit around Blackpool '50 pc bigger than estimates'

The shale gas deposit around Blackpool is 50pc bigger than previous estimates, a report from the British Geological Survey is expected to show.

By Amy Wilson, Telegraph, UK, Dec 12, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/earth/statoil/9737106/blackpool-shale-gas.html>

The latest figure is the equivalent of 17 times the known reserves of the North Sea.

Shale Gas Drilling 'Huge Boost' To UK Economy

Resuming the controversial process of 'fracking' would be a huge boost to UK employment and tax revenues, one gas firm tells MPs.

By Richard Suchet, Sky News, Dec 11, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://news.sky.com/story/1023903/shale-gas-drilling-huge-boost-to-uk-economy>

German Lawmakers Reject Ban on Shale-Gas Fracking in Parliament

By Stefan Nicola, Bloomberg, Dec 13, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-12-13/german-lawmakers-reject-ban-on-shale-gas-fracking-in-parliament.html>

Offshore wind found under-performing

By Gerard Wynn, Reuters, Dec 13, 2012 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/13/column-wynn-wind-offshore-idUSL5E8ND3BI20121213>

Study is at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/renewables/policy/garradhassanoffshorewind.pdf>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

It Isn't Easy Being Green

The case of the missing 100 watt light bulb — just for starters as we begin to face the next four years.

By John Goodman, American Spectator, Dec 14, 2012

<http://spectator.org/archives/2012/12/14/it-isnt-easy-being-green>

Book Review

Seismic risk of fracking has been wildly overstated:

By John Kemp, Reuters, Dec 5, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/05/column-kemp-fracking-risk-idUSL5E8N59DQ20121205>

IPCC Leaks

Why leak the draft report?

By Alec Rawls, General Principles

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

Full AR5 draft leaked here, contains game-changing admission of enhanced solar forcing

By Alec Rawls, Stop Green Suicide, Dec 13, 2012

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

IPCC AR5 not acknowledging cosmoclimatology

By Lubos Motl, Reference Frame, Dec 14, 2012

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2012/12/ipcc-ar5-not-acknowledging.html#more>

IPCC AR5 draft leaked, contains game-changing admission of enhanced solar forcing – as well as a lack of warming to match model projections, and reversal on ‘extreme weather’

By Alec Rawls and others, WUWT, Dec 13, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/13/ipcc-ar5-draft-leaked-contains-game-changing-admission-of-enhanced-solar-forcing/>

[SEPP Comment: Up-dates on the leaked report.]

Leak of Climate Panel Drafts Speaks to Need for New Process

By Andrew Revkin, NYT, Dec 13, 2012 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/13/leak-of-climate-panel-drafts-speaks-to-need-for-new-process/?partner=rss&emc=rss>

Unauthorized posting of the draft of the Working Group I contribution to the IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report

Press Release, IPCC, Dec 14, 2012 [H/t WUWT]

http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/statement/Statement_WGI_AR5_SOD.pdf

The IPCC Leak: This is What Transparency Looks Like

The IPCC describes itself as a completely transparent organization. If that is the case, the draft chapters of its upcoming report that were leaked on the Internet yesterday should be a non-issue.

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Dec 14, 2012

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/12/14/the-ipcc-leak-this-is-what-transparency-looks-like/>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

US Supports Costly Loss and Damage Mechanism at UN Doha Climate Meeting

By Alan Carlin, Carlin Economics, Dec 8, 2012

<http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/1533>

The Green Ninja

By Doug Hoffman, Resilient Earth, Dec 3, 2012

<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/crank-week-%E2%80%93-december-3-2012-%E2%80%93-green-ninja>

[SEPP Comment: \$390,000 from NASA for a propaganda film aimed at school children. And NASA claims it is not politicizing science.]

The American Geophysical Union and Climate Hysteria

By Norman Rogers, American Thinker, Dec 10, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/12/the_american_geophysical_union_and_climate_hysteria.html

Dire Doha

Climate Conference Ends in Disgrace

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Meadia, Dec 9, 2012

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/12/09/climate-conference-ends-in-disgrace/>

German Experts Now Calling For An End To Climate Conferences After 20 Years Of Failure

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 14, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/12/14/german-experts-now-calling-for-an-end-to-climate-conferences-after-20-years-of-failure/>

Despair after climate conference, but U.N. still offers hope

By Barbara Lewis and Alister Doyle, Reuters, Dec 9, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/12/09/us-climate-talks-process-idUKBRE8B808N20121209>

The Scaremongers' Ball

The Global Warmists have concluded their annual fundraising vacation

By Peter Hannaford, American Spectator, Dec 10, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://spectator.org/archives/2012/12/10/the-scaremongers-ball>

Doha Fails Utterly – Only 37 Countries Agree To Extend Old Kyoto Treaty! “Lots Of Declarations Of Intent”

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 8, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/12/08/doha-fails-utterly-only-37-countries-agree-to-extend-old-kyoto-treaty-lots-of-declarations-of-intent/>

Doha Conference: United States must pay for climate change "loss and damage"

By Steve Goreham, Washington Times, Dec 12, 2012

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2012/dec/12/doha-conference-united-states-must-pay-climate-cha/>

Doha-ha-ha-ha-ha

By Michael Kile, Quadrant, Dec 11, 2012

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2012/12/doha-ha-ha-ha-ha>

Seeking a Common Ground

Salad for Ethiopia: How Climate Policy Keeps Poor People Poor

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Dec 10, 2012

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2012/12/salad-for-ethiopia-how-climate-policy.html>

[SEPP Comment: The double-speak of UN officials and other internationalists.]

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

The IPCC was not right. Frame & Stone ignore main IPCC predictions

By Jo Nova, Her Blog,

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/12/the-ipcc-was-not-right-frame-stone-ignore-main-ipcc-predictions/#more-25970>

The link to the December 9 paper in question published in Nature Climate Change is:

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1763.html>

“Assessment of the first consensus prediction on climate change:

The abstract reads: “In 1990, climate scientists from around the world wrote the First Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It contained a prediction of the global mean temperature trend over the 1990–2030 period that, halfway through that period, seems accurate. This is all the more remarkable in hindsight, considering that a number of important external forcings were not included. So how did this success arise? In the end, the greenhouse-gas-induced warming is largely overwhelming the other forcings, which are only of secondary importance on the 20-year timescale.”

The IPCC was wrong. (Matthew England and the ABC mislead Australians)

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 11, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/12/the-ipcc-was-wrong-england-and-the-abc-mislead-australians/#more-25928>

Sweeping intel report sounds alarm on climate threats

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Dec 10, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/271997-sweeping-intel-report-sounds-alarm-on-climate-threats>

The Report is: Alternative Worlds, A Publication of the National Intelligence Council Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Dec 10, 2012

<http://www.dni.gov/index.php/carousel-items/778-global-trends-2030-alternative-worlds-available-for-download>

[SEPP Comment: The government’s heavy expenditures in global warming / climate change are becoming evident in many areas of government.]

World's pension funds ignoring climate risk: survey

By Staff Writers, Sydney (AFP), Dec 11, 2012

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Worlds_pension_funds_ignoring_climate_risk_survey_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Ignoring exaggerated claims from unvalidated models is hardly burying ones head in the sand.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

The End of Pasta

Temperatures are rising. Rainfalls are shifting. Droughts are intensifying. What will we eat when wheat won’t grow.

By Mark Hertsgaard, Newsweek – Science, Dec 10, 2012

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2012/12/09/bakken-oil-boom-and-climate-change-threaten-the-future-of-pasta.html>

[SEPP Comment: A better title would be the End of Science in Newsweek. See comments by Anthony Watts: <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/12/climate-craziness-of-the-week-mark-hertsgaard-embarrasses-himself-with-the-end-of-pasta/>.]

Desperate times

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 12, 2012

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/12/12/desperate-times.html>

Really desperate times

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 13, 2012

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2012/12/13/really-desperate-times.html>

Gas 'will add more to energy bills than renewables' – government advisers

Finding by Committee for Climate Change contradicts coalition's line on energy, despite using government's own research

By Fiona Harvey, The Guardian, Dec 12, 2012 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/dec/13/gas-energy-bills-renewables>

More ice loss through snowfall on Antarctica

By Staff Writers, Potsdam, Germany (SPX), Dec 14, 2012

http://www.terraily.com/reports/More_ice_loss_through_snowfall_on_Antarctica_999.html

Link to Paper: Increased future ice discharge from Antarctica owing to higher snowfall.

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v492/n7428/full/nature11616.html>

“This results in a dynamic ice loss of up to 1.25 metres in the year 2500 for the strongest warming scenario.”

[SEPP Comment: The models cannot account for the current trend of no warming, but they are used to project ice loss up to the year 2500!]

Renewables Provide 46 percent All New US Electrical Generating Capacity in 2012

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Dec 12, 2012

[http://www.energy-](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Renewables_Provide_46_percent_All_New_US_Electrical_Generating_Capacity_in_2012_999.html)

[daily.com/reports/Renewables Provide 46 percent All New US Electrical Generating Capacity in 2012 999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Renewables_Provide_46_percent_All_New_US_Electrical_Generating_Capacity_in_2012_999.html)

"Moreover, their rapid expansion underscores their near-term viability for ultimately phasing out both fossil fuels and nuclear power."

The October report is not yet on-line the September report is at: <http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/sep-2012-energy-infrastructure.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: By failing to distinguish between name plate capacity and the far smaller effective capacity of wind and solar, US FERC is misleading the public.]

Conservatives can be persuaded to care more about the environment

By Yasmin Anwar, Berkeley CA (SPX), Dec 13, 2012

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Conservatives can be persuaded to care more about the environment 999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Conservatives_can_be_persuaded_to_care_more_about_the_environment_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: More psychological nonsense! By making things up, we can get conservatives to think as we do. The author is apparently is unaware that President Nixon created the EPA by an executive order.]

Models v. Observations

Climate modelers see possible warmer, wetter Northeast winters by 2070

By Staff Writers, Amherst MA (SPX), Dec 14, 2012

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Climate_modelers_see_possible_warmer_wetter_Northeast_winters_by_2070_999.html

Link to paper: Assessment of regional climate model simulation estimates over the northeast United States; <http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2012/2012JD018137.shtml>

[SEPP Comment: Comparing the observations from 1971 to 2000 with model projections in the time period of 2041 to 2070.]

How cold will a winter be in two years

By Staff Writers, Potsdam, Germany (SPX), Dec 14, 2012

http://www.terraily.com/reports/How_cold_will_a_winter_be_in_two_years_999.html

Link to the paper: How well do state-of-the-art atmosphere-ocean general circulation models reproduce atmospheric teleconnection patterns? By Dörthe Handorf and Klaus Dethloff,

<http://www.tellusa.net/index.php/tellusa/article/view/19777>

Measurement Issues

Arctic temperature amplification takes a hit in GRL

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 11, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/11/arctic-temperature-amplification-takes-a-hit-in-grl/>

Changing Weather

Sandy and Climate Change

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Dec 14, 2012

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2012/12/14/sandy-and-climate-change/>

Science, Politics and the "Hurricane Deductible"

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Dec 12, 2012

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2012/12/science-politics-and-hurricane.html>

[SEPP Comment: More on politicians trying to have Sandy classified as a tropical storm rather than a hurricane because the insurance deductibles are less for a storm than a hurricane. The back side of the issue is that if it was not a hurricane, why should be Federal taxpayer foot a proposed \$60 Billion dollar bill for the event?]

Philippines typhoon death toll tops 900

By Staff Writers, Manila (AFP), Dec 13, 2012

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Philippines_typhoon_death_toll_tops_900_999.html

[SEPP Comment: As tragic as the loss of life is, the typhoon is no justification for special pleading to have international control of energy use.

Cold snap killing 270 people a day

Beast From The East adding to death toll

By Felix Allen, The Sun, UK, Dec 12, 2012 [H/t P. Gosselin]

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/4693499/Cold-weather-killing-270-people-a-day.html#ixzz2EpIMACLz>

[SEPP Comment: Cold in the UK – “Professor Dame Sally Davies, the Chief Medical Officer, said mortality rises almost a fifth in winter, with 1,560 excess deaths a week. But she said: “Very severe weather can substantially add to this.” The data cited contradicts the general claims that warmth kills more.]

Changing Seas

Sea Level Is Not Rising

By Professor Nils-Axel Mörner, Centre for Democracy and Independence, Dec 6, 2012

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/blog_watch/sea_level_is_not_rising.html

Reprint of a February 2011 paper Maximum of 2-3 inches per century

Seas rising faster, state action needed, experts say

By Rex Springston, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Dec 9, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.timesdispatch.com/news/science/seas-rising-faster-state-action-needed-experts-say/article_474ed3c4-ad18-51c9-86f8-fcd9b5c96d9.html

[SEPP Comment: Virginia sea levels, part of the coast is subsiding.]

Changing Ice

Potsdam Science Goes Off The Rails: Growing Antarctic Ice Sheet Means It Is Actually Shrinking!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 13, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/12/13/potsdam-science-goes-off-the-rails-growing-antarctic-ice-sheet-means-it-is-actually-shrinking/>

Another Global Warming Drive-By

By Timothy Birdnow, American Thinker, Dec 8, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/12/another_global_warming_drive-by.html

Glacially modeled snow job

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 12, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/12/glacially-modeled-snow-job/>

Acidic Waters

Forget the Doom: Coral Reefs Will Bloom

By Graham Lloyd, The Australian, Via GWPF, Dec 11, 2012

<http://www.thegwgf.org/forget-doom-coral-reefs-bloom/>

The link to the paper: Dolomite-rich coralline algae in reefs resist dissolution in acidified conditions, is: <http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1760.html>

Misguided PBS spreads acid ocean alarm

By Steve Goreham, Washington Times, Dec 11, 2012

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2012/dec/11/misguided-pbs-spreads-acid-ocean-alarm/>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Will climate change cause water conflict?

By Staff Writers, Barcelona, Spain (SPX) Dec 14, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Will_climate_change_cause_water_conflict_999.html
[SEPP Comment: Unusual finding from such a conference, economic development may reduce potential future conflict.]

Rachel Was Wrong

Agrochemicals' Benefit to Human Health and the Environment
By Angela Logomasini, CEI, Nov 30, 2012
<http://cei.org/issue-analysis/rachel-was-wrong>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Climate Change and Winter Wheat Yields in Northern China

Reference: Fang, SB, Tan, KY, Ren, SX, Zhang, XS and Zhao, JF. 2012. Fields experiments in North China show no decrease in winter wheat yields with night temperature increased by 2.0-2.5C. *Science China Earth Sciences* 55: 1021-1027.
<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/dec/11dec2012a1.html>

Streamflow Trends in Nepal Since the 1960s

Reference: Gautam, M.R. and Acharya, K. 2012. Streamflow trends in Nepal. *Hydrological Sciences Journal* 57: 344-357.
<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/dec/11dec2012a2.html>
[SEPP Comment: Local variation, but no net change.]

Atmospheric CO2 Enrichment and Pine Bark Beetles

Reference: Novick, K.A., Katul, G.G., McCarthy, H.R. and Oren, R. 2012. Increased resin flow in mature pine trees growing under elevated CO2 and moderate soil fertility. *Tree Physiology* 32: 752-763.
<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/dec/12dec2012a1.html>

Carbon Dioxide and Cassava: Feeding the World's Undernourished

Reference: Rosenthal, D.M., Slattery, R.A., Miller, R.E., Grennan, A.K., Cavagnaro, T.R., Fauquet, C.M., Gleadow, R.M. and Ort, D.R. 2012. Cassava about-FACE: Greater than expected yield stimulation of cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) by future CO2 levels. *Global Change Biology* 18: 2661-2675.
<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/dec/12dec2012a2.html>

Effects of Global Warming on Precipitation in Guangdong Province, China

Reference: Liu, D., Guo, S., Chen, X. and Shao, Q. 2012. Analysis of trends of annual and seasonal precipitation from 1956 to 2000 in Guangdong Province, China. *Hydrological Sciences Journal* 57: 358-369.
<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/dec/12dec2012a3.html>

The Political Games Continue

Sen. Boxer announces plans to form 'climate change caucus'

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Dec 11, 2012
<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/272273-sen-boxer-to-form-climate-change-caucus>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

500 German Authorities Raid Deutsche Bank Amid Alleged Tax Evasion Scam Surrounding CO2 Certificate Trading!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 12, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/12/12/500-german-authorities-raid-deutsche-bank-amid-alleged-tax-evasion-scam-surrounding-co2-certificate-trading/>

Exxon isn't pushing for carbon tax

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Dec 11, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/272201-exxon-exec-were-not-seeking-carbon-tax>

[SEPP Comment: Some long-time Washington observers believe that Exxon is behind the push for a carbon tax from conservative organizations.]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Tax-Blowing Boondoggle: Don't Give Wind Energy More Credit Than It Deserves

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Dec 11, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/12/11/tax-blowing-boondoggle-dont-give-wind-energy-more-credit-than-it-deserves/>

In Bid for Immediate Extension, AWEA Proposes Gradual Phase-Out of Wind PTC

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Dec 13, 2012

http://www.powernews.com/POWERnews/5238.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2581531&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e660500d0

EPA and other Regulators on the March

House Pressures EPA on Emails

Secret Emails subject of inquiry by Energy and Commerce Committee

By: CJ Ciaramella, Washington Free Beacon, Dec 13, 2012

<http://freebeacon.com/house-pressures-epa-on-emails/>

The EPA and December 7th: A date that will live in infamy

By Steve Goreham, Washington Times, Dec 7, 2012

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2012/dec/7/epa-and-december-7th-date-will-live-infamy/>

Government eyes crippling climate-control measures

Raising energy costs will stifle economy, kill jobs

By Paul Driessen, Washington Times Dec 10, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/dec/10/government-eyes-crippling-climate-control-measures/>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Our Energy Future: Three Themes from Exxon's Energy Outlook for 2040

By Matt Smith, Oil Price.com, Dec 14, 2012

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/General/Our-Energy-Future-Three-Themes-from-Exxon-Energy-Outlook-for-2040.html>

Link to the Exxon-Mobil report:

http://www.exxonmobil.com/Corporate/Files/news_pub_eo2013.pdf

The Impossibility of Rapid Energy Transitions

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Dec 11, 2012

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=22661&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

The complete essay can be found at: <http://www.american.com/archive/2012/december/the-impossibility-of-rapid-energy-transitions>

Canadian Shale: The Next Big Bonanza

By Al Fin Energy, GWPF, Dec 12, 2012

<http://www.thegwpf.org/canadian-shale-big-bonanza/>

Enbridge's Northern Gateway pipeline faces fight from scallop farmers

By Jeremy van Loon, Bloomberg News, Dec 12, 2012

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/12/12/enbridges-northern-gateway-pipeline-faces-fight-from-scallop-farmers/>

Petroleum's Great Revival

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Dec 12, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/12/12/peter-foster-petroleums-great-revival/>

Energy Issues -- US

U.S. natural gas exports could break Russian dominance

Sell to NATO and support new pipeline

By Sen. Richard Lugar, Washington Times, Dec 12, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/dec/12/us-natural-gas-exports-could-break-russian-dominan/>

Should Alaska Export More LNG to Asia?

By Geoffrey Styles, Energy Tribune, Dec 13, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/67998/should-alaska-export-more-lng-to-asia>

Block on Keystone pipeline lifted in Texas

By Staff Writers, Chicago (AFP), Dec 13, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Block_on_Keystone_pipeline_lifted_in_Texas_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Not the part of the pipeline from Canada which is still under the thumb of Washington.]

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Arab states rush to join the shale boom

By Staff Writers, Amman, Jordan (UPI), Dec 7, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Arab_states_rush_to_join_the_shale_boom_999.html

Washington's Control of Energy Use

Looking Ahead to 2013

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Dec 11, 2012
<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2012/12/11/looking-ahead-to-2013/>

Oil price distortion costing Canadian economy \$2.5-billion a month

By John Shmuel, Financial Post, Dec 12, 2012
<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/12/12/oil-price-distortion-costing-canadian-economy-2-5-billion-a-month/>

[SEPP Comment: The effect of Washington's control goes beyond its borders.]

Obama's Energy Dilemma: Back Energy-Fueled Growth or Please Green Lobby

By Joel Kotkin, New Geography, Dec 7, 2012
<http://www.newgeography.com/content/003293-obama-s-energy-dilemma-back-energy-fueled-growth-or-please-green-lobby>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

UN approves radiation advice

By Staff Writers, WNN, Dec 10, 2012
http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS_UN_approves_radiation_advice_1012121.html?utm_source=World+Nuclear+News&utm_campaign=16fddb37b9-WNN_Weekly_4_10_December_201212_10_2012&utm_medium=email

The United Nations is to adopt advice on radiation that clarifies what can be said about its health effects on individuals and large populations. A preliminary report has also found no observable health effects from last year's nuclear accident in Fukushima.

Britain approves nuclear reactor design

By Staff Writers, London (AFP), Dec 13, 2012
http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Britain_approves_nuclear_reactor_design_999.html

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Public Must Face True Cost Of Unreliable Renewables

Editorial, IBD, Dec 11, 2012
<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/121112-636672-california-bets-big-on-unreliable-wind-and-solar.htm>

Wind, solar power paired with storage could be cost-effective way to power grid

By Teresa Messmore, Press Release U. of Delaware, Dec 10, 2012 [H/t Anne Debeil]
<http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2013/dec/renewable-energy-121012.html>

The research paper can be found at:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378775312014759>

[SEPP Comment: Critical assumptions include the complete capital costs of the system and the calculated external costs of fossil fuels. The authors assume in 2030 the capital costs of solar and wind will be one-half of what they are today. The calculated external costs are behind a paywall. Add to these the costs of maintaining a reliable system generate electricity when the solar and wind system fail, and the costs distribution system to balance the load and the numbers will become extremely high.]

Wind Benefit Inflation: JEDI (NREL) Model Needs Reality Check

By Lisa Linowes, Master Resource, Dec 12, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/12/wind-benefit-inflation-jedi-nrel-2/#more-23270>

[SEPP Comment: The article raises possible serious deficiencies in the economic evaluation of wind farms in New Hampshire. And it questions the model produced US National Renewable Energy Laboratory that assumes monies spent will always be economically beneficial.]

Solar firms probed for possible ‘misrepresentations’ in getting public money

By Carol D. Leonnig, Washington Post, Dec 13, 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/solar-firms-probed-for-misrepresentations-in-getting-public-money/2012/12/13/0ba07656-4496-11e2-8e70-e1993528222d_story.html?wprss=rss_energy-environment

[SEPP Comment: Even the Washington Post?]

Solar power prices to continue falling through 2025

By Staff Writers, Los Angeles CA (SPX), Dec 13, 2012

[http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Solar power prices to continue falling through 2025 999.html](http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Solar_power_prices_to_continue_falling_through_2025_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: For prices to continue to fall, significant additional research is required say industry, university, and national lab respondents. Trolling for dollars?]

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

At nation's truck stops, talk of diesel, gas, chicken and eggs

By Mike M. Ahlers and Tory Dunnan, CNN, Dec 7, 2012 [H/t David Kreutzer]

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/12/07/us/trucking-gas-future/index.html?iref=allsearch>

Can Algae-Derived Oils Support Large-Scale, Low-Cost Biofuels Production?

By Staff Writers, New Rochelle, NY (SPX), Dec 13, 2012

[http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Can Algae Derived Oils Support Large Scale Low Cost Biofuels Production 999.html](http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Can_Algae_Derived_Oils_Support_Large_Scale_Low_Cost_Biofuels_Production_999.html)

California Dreaming

California's Energy Future: Buildings and Industrial Efficiency

By Allan Chen for Berkeley News, Berkeley CA (SPX), Dec 12, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Californias Energy Future Buildings and Industrial Efficiency 999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Californias_Energy_Future_Buildings_and_Industrial_Efficiency_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Organizations that have tried to have their buildings LEED certified (energy efficient) are finding it is very expensive – usually far more costly than initially estimated. The link to the report is: <http://www.ccst.us/publications/2012/2012bie.pdf>. From the Report: “...current costs of efficiency retrofits are much more expensive [than new construction], on order of \$100,000 for a 2,500 square foot (sf) home (\$40/sf).” New construction is estimated to be: \$5,990-\$26,190 (average around \$13,500). After several other statements the cost estimate is followed by the sentence: “We estimate that the long-term cost premium for highly efficient new buildings is close to zero.” p. 71]

Is California Up Next For An Oil And Gas Boom?

By Lauren Sommer, NPR, Dec 12, 2012

<http://www.npr.org/2012/12/12/167027114/is-california-up-next-for-an-oil-and-gas-boom>

[SEPP Comment: Some of the best old-world style red Burgundy from California (identified by the grape Pinot Noir) is produced in the Santa Lucia Highlands in Monterey County. The grapes will not feel a thing.]

Environmental Industry

Sierra Club's Nilles discusses future of coal, EPA air regulations

By Staff Writers, EE News, Dec 11, 2012

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/transcript/1615>

Greenpeace-WWF Wind Claims Blown Away

By Peter Glover, Energy Tribune, Dec 12, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/67789/greenpeace-wwf-wind-claims-blown-away>

Other Scientific News

What happens to plant growth when you remove gravity?

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Dec 11, 2012

<http://www.space->

[travel.com/reports/What_happens_to_plant_growth_when_you_remove_gravity_999.html](http://www.space-travel.com/reports/What_happens_to_plant_growth_when_you_remove_gravity_999.html)

Onion soaks up heavy metal

By Staff Writers, Delhi, India (SPX), Dec 13, 2012

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Onion_soaks_up_heavy_metal_999.html

Link to paper: <http://www.inderscience.com/offer.php?id=50898>

New test adds to scientists' understanding of Earth's history, resources

By Danielle Torrent for UF News, Gainesville FL (SPX), Dec 07, 2012

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/New_test_adds_to_scientists_understanding_of_Earths_history_resources_999.htm

Link to the paper: <http://geology.gsapubs.org/content/early/2012/11/30/G33849.1.abstract>

Other News that May Be of Interest

End of the American superpower

Administration report surrenders future to the Far East

Editorial, Washington Times, Dec 13, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/dec/12/end-of-the-american-superpower/>

US sends futuristic plane back into space

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), Dec 11, 2012

http://www.space-travel.com/reports/US_sends_futuristic_plane_back_into_space_999.html

Texas Cancer Institute in Hot Water, Again

The Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas is under investigation following further concerns about the legitimacy of its grant review process.

By Jef Akst, The Scientist, Dec 13, 2012 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/33665/title/Texas-Cancer-Institute-in-Hot-Water--Again/>

“Anti-tobacco” funds continue to be diverted into states’ general budgets

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Dec 10, 2012

<http://www.acsh.org/anti-tobacco-funds-continue-to-be-diverted-into-states-general-budgets/>

[SEPP Comment: Would a UN fund on energy use be diverted?]

China patent office becomes world's largest: WIPO

By Staff Writers, Geneva (AFP), Dec 11, 2012

http://www.space-travel.com/reports/China_patent_office_becomes_worlds_largest_WIPO_999.html

Carnegie debuts revolutionary biosphere mapping capability at AGU

By Staff Writers, San Francisco CA (SPX), Dec 07, 2012

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Carnegie_debuts_revolutionary_biosphere_mapping_capability_at_AGU_999.html

Fire, flood or giant calabash... pick your apocalypse

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Dec 10, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Fire_flood_or_giant_calabash_pick_your_apocalypse_999.html

#####

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Professor: Ignoring Global Warming Akin to Manslaughter

By Patrick Seaworth, Ohio State Univ., Dec 6, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.thecollegefix.com/post/12135>

[SEPP Comment: Is failure to state the globe has stopped warming when making grand predictions of intense warming a sin of omission as well?]

Special Report: IPCC, assessing climate risks, consistently underestimates

By Glenn Scherer, The Daily Climate, Dec 6, 2012 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.dailyclimate.org/tdc-newsroom/2012/12/ipcc-climate-predictions>

Shale gas is not a game changer

Shale gas is not a game changer in the UK, a Government adviser has said, as a new report warns production will disrupt communities and risk water supplies.

Editorial, The Telegraph, UK, Dec 10, 2012 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/9735848/Shale-gas-is-not-a-game-changer.html>

[SEPP Comment: A classic example of inept reporting: “The controversial fuel source is forced out of the ground by “fracking”, which sees liquids pumped into rocks to push out the gas.”

Hydraulic fracturing, using water pressure open small cracks in the rock through which the oil or natural gas can flow and using sand and a small amount of chemicals to keep the cracks open.]

Bolivia's eco-friendly trans-oceanic ships

By Staff Writers, Suriqui Island, Bolivia (AFP), Dec 13, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Bolivias_eco-friendly_trans-oceanic_ships_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The UN vision: sail powered cargo ships built of reeds?]

#####

ARTICLES:

1. Welcome to the Salazar Wilderness

Shame on the Interior Department for trying to drum a family-owned enterprise out of business.

By Michael Moritz, WSJ, Dec 11, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323501404578161483500373510.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_0

After a seaside area has been designated as wilderness, when is it considered pristine enough by Washington's standards? Is it after airplanes have been banned from flying over it? After electricity pylons and telephone cables have been removed, cars and bikers prohibited, the roads torn up? When hikers are forbidden access to trails, and kayakers, sailors and snorkelers banished from the water? When eucalyptus trees and other foreign species are eradicated? Or only after Miwok Indians' arrowheads have been excavated and placed in a museum?

Apparently it is none of the above, at least according to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. Instead, he seems to think that turning a tiny portion of the lovely coastline of California's Marin County (part of the National Seashore) into the first marine wilderness in the continental United States also requires destroying a family-run oyster operation that has conducted business in the same spot for eight decades.

So Mr. Salazar recently ordered the business to close within 90 days—a decision that will spell ruin for the Lunny family, owners of Drake's Bay Oyster Farm, which supplies 40% of California's oysters.

The Lunny family, which has made major improvements to the farm operation it took over in 2004, has been hounded for years by a National Park Service with a vendetta so chilling that any rancher on federal lands should be alarmed. Goaded by a clutch of environmental groups, the Park Service has resorted to tactics that might have come straight from Nixon's dirty-tricks department. For instance, the Park Service alleged that the farm's oyster boats disturbed the quiet of the area, but the measurements used were revealed to have been taken in New Jersey—and involved jet skis.

For years, Park Service officials have colluded with the California Coastal Commission to hammer the small oyster company with allegations about purported abuses and violations of some of the many overlapping, confusing and contradictory permits with which it is supposed to comply.

California Sen. Dianne Feinstein has for years been sounding the alarm about the behavior of the Park Service. In a May letter to the California Fish and Game Commission, she outlined her worries—including a mention of the jet-ski episode—and said: "I became concerned about this issue when I found that the science regarding the impacts of the oyster farm had been manipulated, and that the oyster farm operator had been treated in a biased and unfair manner. The Park Service has repeatedly misrepresented the scientific record since 2006 to portray the farm as environmentally harmful, and it is my belief that the Park Service is doing everything it can to justify ending the oyster farm's operations."

Unable to use its doctored studies to close the farm, the Park Service changed tack and resorted to even more dubious arguments. It claimed that a lease signed 40 years ago wasn't renewable. There are only two snags with this argument.

First, the lease doesn't say that it isn't renewable. Second, the congressmen who helped form the Point Reyes National Seashore have firmly stated that their intention was to ensure the continued operation of the small farms that were occupying the land. Yet the Interior Department has ignored the statements of former California Reps. Pete McCloskey (no staunch right-winger, by the way, but a pro-choice advocate and backer of stem-cell research and assisted suicide) and John Burton (a former California Democratic Party chairman).

The Park Service ignored another inconvenient fact: It doesn't control fishing rights in the disputed area. Those are controlled by the State of California. So last week the Lunnys sued Mr. Salazar, the Department of the Interior, the National Park Service and its director. Now a U.S. judge gets to decide whether the federal government can bully this small business out of existence.

Mr. Moritz is chairman of Sequoia Capital.

2. The North American Gusher

We're just beginning to tap the continent's vast hydrocarbon resources.

By Mary Anastasia O'Grady, WSJ, Dec 10, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323501404578163410100902932.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_0

President Obama has promised to get the anemic U.S. economy going again by boosting exports. Besides the export of billions of freshly printed U.S. dollars from the Federal Reserve, it is not clear exactly what the president has in mind.

The obvious export opportunity on the horizon for the U.S. is hydrocarbons—oil, gas and coal. But the economic benefits of American competitiveness in energy haven't been obvious to this administration.

Since becoming president, Mr. Obama has treated hydrocarbon production like an infectious disease to be eradicated. His administration had to commission a study to learn, as announced last week, that allowing American companies to export liquefied natural gas would be beneficial to the U.S. economy. Still, the Department of Energy says it can't make "final determinations" on export applications until it hears from those who object. So much for property rights.

If Mr. Obama is serious about exports, he will need to lose his stale ideas on energy, which date back to the 1970s. In a recent paper titled "Unleashing the North American Energy Colossus," Mark Mills, a resident scholar at the Manhattan Institute, describes the continent as "awash in hydrocarbon resources . . . more than four times greater than all the resources extant in the Middle East."

To tap that wealth, Washington should throw off the regulatory status quo "anchored in the idea of shortages and import dependence," Mr. Mills writes. "A complete reversal of thinking is needed to orient North America around hydrocarbon abundance—and exports."

Among the world's oil and gas producers, the U.S. is now growing the fastest. Even though the growth in U.S. demand for energy is slowing, the decline is offset by rising world demand. If North America's total productive capacity in hydrocarbons increases by just 3% per year over the next 20 years, Mr. Mills says, the continent will become the largest supplier to burgeoning world markets.

Canadian production also is expanding, thanks to smart government policies. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has made resource development a key cog in the Canadian growth wheel. If the Obama administration continues to deny a permit for TransCanada's TRP.T -0.46% Keystone XL pipeline to U.S. refineries, Mr. Harper has said that Canadian product will be sold elsewhere. He has also warned American environmentalists that he won't allow them to treat Canada like a national park where development is verboten.

At a Manhattan Institute symposium last week, Canada's New York Consul-General John Prato cited estimates by the province of Alberta of an incredible 175 billion barrels of recoverable oil in its oil sands. He also noted that natural gas exploration is now migrating to surprising places like New Brunswick, where gas producer Southwest Energy owns 2.5 million acres of undeveloped land.

Mr. Mills's paper points out that the Carter administration put restrictions on the use of natural gas because it believed there was so little to be had. Today's bountiful oil and gas reserves, he notes, are "a function of technology, not of geology," which is why it is revolutionary. "Technology unleashes resources, resource wealth creates capital, and capital is reinvested in new technology that in turn unleashes resources." Market prices and the ability of investors to respond to supply and demand are crucial to this process.

A Mexican revolution in energy might be brewing too. Geologically the country is likely to have reserves similar to those of its North American neighbors. But it risks being left behind because of resource nationalism, enshrined in the constitution, which keeps private investment out. Without plentiful, cheap energy, Mexico will find it increasingly difficult to compete with its NAFTA neighbors in manufacturing.

The state-owned oil company Pemex doesn't have the resources to drill in shale. One solution would be to open shale-gas development to private drillers. While the need for a constitutional amendment is a barrier, Mexican economist Luis de la Calle argues that resistance to the change might be overcome by making a case for treating shale exploration as mining, in which private investment is allowed. "The key is to establish a market that will provide the price signals necessary to guarantee the availability of natural gas in the country at the same terms (price, volume, reliability and length of contract) as in Texas," Mr. de la Calle wrote in Mexico's *El Universal* last week.

Three democracies, sitting on vast resources, each have their own comparative advantages to offer an integrated continental market that could lead the world. Greater North American energy

supplies imply millions of new jobs, higher tax revenues, plentiful energy for continental manufacturing and the end of reliance on hostile producers like Venezuela. But to reach optimum potential, investors need the freedom to explore, exploit and refine hydrocarbons and move output at every stage of production throughout the continent. In other words, governments need to get out of the way.

3. Fracking Good Tidings

Britain heralds an energy revolution that won't require endless taxpayer subsidies.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 13, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323981504578176880251893810.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopBucket

On Thursday the British government lifted its 19-month-old moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, which it imposed after exploratory shale-gas drilling in Lancashire prompted two minor tremors last year. By "minor," we mean that a couple of dozen people felt some shaking, but otherwise there was no damage.

The end of the moratorium takes Britain one step closer to tapping its domestic shale gas, which has the eco-left experiencing shaking fits of its own. But with the U.K. in danger of slipping into triple-dip recession, Prime Minister David Cameron doesn't appear to care anymore what the fear-mongers have to say.

"I think some in the green movement really want us to rule out gas," Mr. Cameron told parliamentarians earlier this week. "Zip. That's it." Yet forgoing domestic gas, he noted, risked "giving our economy much higher energy prices than would otherwise be necessary."

Mr. Cameron himself is already partly responsible for British energy prices being higher than would otherwise be necessary, thanks to subsidies and regulations that prop up inefficient wind farms and other renewables at the expense of gas users. The result is that Britons currently pay roughly \$11 per million BTUs for natural gas, compared to U.S. spot prices of about \$3.50.

Britain's pro-renewable, anti-consumer distortions aren't likely to vanish as long as Mr. Cameron's Conservatives remain in coalition with the Liberal Democrats. But the end of the fracking moratorium at least means that private energy firms can resume probing the 200 trillion cubic feet of natural gas estimated to be beneath the Bowland Basin.

Cuadrilla, the firm furthest along in developing British shale gas, is still several approvals away from bringing gas to market. On that point, Mr. Cameron is also pushing to streamline the regulatory process for gas production, which for Cuadrilla still includes the Lancashire County Council, local planning authorities, and the national Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive and Department of Energy and Climate Change.

In other words, Lancashire shale gas won't be warming British houses by Christmas. But it's good tidings that the PM has started to push publicly for an energy revolution that doesn't require endless taxpayer subsidies.

#####