

The Week That Was: 2013-03-09 (March 9, 2013)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: “...scientists are neither saints nor devils but human beings sharing the common weaknesses of our species.” Freeman Dyson *The Scientist as Rebel*, p. 15] [H/t Donna Laframboise]

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Number of the Week: \$40 Billion US

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THIS WEEK:

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

Changing Sun: In its Fourth Assessment Report, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC – AR4) dismissed the sun as a major influence on the earth’s climate change. AR4 stated that changes in Total Solar Irradiance (TSI - sunshine) are not sufficient to explain the changing climate. The IPCC ignored other forms of energy from the sun, such as solar wind and magnetism.

This week, several articles appeared discussing a just published paper by Willie Soon and David Legates: *Solar irradiance modulation of Equator-to-Pole (Arctic) temperature gradients: Empirical evidence for climate variation on multi-decadal timescales*. The paper asserts that changes in TSI influence changes in the temperature difference between the Equator and the North Pole.

An article in *Quadrant*, explains that the best way to reveal the influence of the sun on temperatures is to use daytime-highs rather than day-night averages. This goes to one of criticism of the models by five-time IPCC Expert Reviewer Vincent Gray (of NZ) that the sun does not shine at every location 24 hours a day as depicted in the models. Please see links under: Science: Is the Sun Rising?

US Assessment Report: In January, the US National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee (NCADAC) published an alarmist draft report on global warming / climate change consequences for the US. Roger Pielke Jr. promptly slammed the report for some of its factual errors, noting that with so much money spent, and so many authors involved, how could the draft report be so wrong?

On his web site, Bob Tisdale presents a more detailed critique. In closing, he suggests the Committee abandon alarmism because, with the internet, false claims are long remembered and evidence can be found to refute them. It remains to be seen if the bureaucratic who wrote the report will understand.

These government efforts are being supervised by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, which has as a motto “Thirteen Agencies, One Vision: Empower the Nation with Global Change Science.” The factually challenged reports reflect on all the agencies involved. Please see links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and <http://ncadac.globalchange.gov/>.

IPCC Run-Up: Just in time to be included in the up-coming IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), researchers from Oregon State University published a report in *Science* magazine that estimates that temperatures of the last decade were hotter than 75% of the time since the end of the last ice age (start of the Holocene about 11,500 years ago). According to an article in the *Oregonian*: "The rate of change in the last 100 years is very much unprecedented compared to anything we've seen in the last 10,000 years," said Marcott, the study's lead author." "If climate models used by the IPCC, temperatures in 2100 would exceed previous Holocene temperatures in 'all plausible greenhouse gas emission scenarios,' the study says." The study is based on 73 sets of climate records, mostly from ocean sediment cores.

Immediately, several red flags come up. One, there has been no warming for at least a decade, and the climate models are failing. One cannot make any scientifically supported projections to 2100 based on the models. Two, researcher Marcott claimed that prior research had not extended global temperatures from proxies beyond the last 2,000 years. Ice cores go far beyond that and the new study is inconsistent with Greenland ice cores, which are supported by significant other proxy data. Three, the sampled time interval is between 20 to 500 years, making it difficult to make any comparisons with the rate of warming in the 20th century.

Four, a simple review of the studies listed in CO2 Science, the web site of Sherman, Craig, and Keith Idso, produces a multitude of studies that contradict the claim that the current warm period is unusual, even in the last 1,000 years. Under Medieval Warm Period, there are studies for every continent. Under Medieval Warm Period, Global, there a multitude of studies listed including one that had 6,144 sets of heat flow measurements from all the continents.

This episode is one more illustration of once distinguished scientific journals hyping an upcoming article by sending out early press releases to selected journalists who will write a sensationalized report on the article before anyone in the scientific community has a chance to read and think about it. Please see Article # 1, links under Defending the Orthodoxy and http://www.co2science.org/subject/m/subject_m.php

Madison Avenue Science: Since the 1920s until recently, Madison Avenue in New York has been identified with the American advertising industry. Here many highly successful ad campaigns for consumer products such as toothpaste, aspirin, toilet paper, and, yes, cigarettes were concocted and implemented. In his book **Propaganda**, pioneer Edward Bernays made it clear he believed in what he was doing, and it was for the good of consumers and the country. He believed it was important for a self-selected elite to influence the general masses as to what to buy, to think, and to vote. Today, the term propaganda is no longer fashionable and has been replaced by "scientific marketing."

Joe D'Aleo has pointed out that sociologist Edward Maibach established a scientific marketing center for the Climate Establishment. Indeed, a review of the web site of The Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University confirms D'Aleo's view. All the trappings of Madison Avenue are there. "We use social science research methods – experiments, surveys, in-depth interviews and other methods – to find ways of effectively engaging the public and policy makers in the problem, and in considering and enacting solutions."

“Our mission is to conduct unbiased public engagement research - and to help government agencies, non-profit organizations, and companies apply the results of this research - so that collectively, we can stabilize our planet's life sustaining climate.” [Note the scientifically false assumption – that humans can stabilize the earth’s climate, which has never been stable.]

One of its programs was titled: “The Climate Change In The American Mind Series - Fall 2012,” which includes a series of reports concluding with: “The final report from Fall 2012 shows that the Alarmed have grown from 10 percent of the American adult population in 2010 to 16 percent in 2012. At the same time, the Dismissive have decreased in size, from 16 percent in 2010 to 8 percent in 2012.”

The site includes a special section for TV weather forecasters and their role as “Climate Educators.” Another section is titled: “Public Perceptions Of NASA And Other Federal Agencies' Climate Research.”

NASA, the National Science Foundation, the National Park Service and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are listed among the major funding organizations.

No doubt, as with Bernays, the organizers of this site believe it is a noble cause. Critics may refer to it as “brain washing” using public tax money. Please see link:

<http://www.climatechangecommunication.org/welcome>

Extreme Weather: Maplecroft, an independent risk analysis firm, which sells its findings to businesses, humanitarian organizations, etc, came out with its report of the natural hazards experienced in 2012. Overall the year was the least deadly year in the past 10, with fatalities at about 10,000 or about 9% of the average for the past ten years of 106,000. Its findings were similar to those of the re-insurance company Munich Re. The major exception was the US, with Sandy and the drought. Please note there were no major mass deaths from earthquakes in 2012, which are unrelated to weather.

The organization’s Socio-economic Resilience Index 2013 ranks countries into four risk categories. The countries under extreme risk are mostly poor countries in Africa. Combining the resilience index with the natural hazard risk illustrates the importance of resilience in overcoming risks of natural disasters.

For example, with its many natural weather hazards, the US is in the top 20 countries most at risk countries for exposure to hurricanes, tsunamis, extra-tropical cyclones, storm surges, flooding, volcanic risk and wildfires. But it ranks at 169th (out of 197 countries) and “low risk” in the Natural Hazard Risk Atlas because it has the resilience to respond. This shows the importance of disaster preparedness. Please see link under Extreme Weather.

Keystone XL: As expected, environmental organizations are furious about the State Department report on the environmental impact of the extension of the Keystone Pipeline proposed to be built from Canada to the US Gulf coast. A critical assumption in the report was that the oil sands will get to market somehow, probably by rail. Plans for rail shipments are underway and it would be very difficult for the Administration to stop rail shipments.

The hard core environmentalists are in a difficult position. As James Hansen explained, the purpose of the Keystone protest was not so much to protect the environment along the pipeline route, but to prevent the oil from reaching refineries, which Hansen believed would promote dangerous global warming. Now, even Hansen is being criticized for his public role in the protest by some of his allies in the press. Please see links under Energy Issues – Non-US and Washington’s Control of Energy.

Václav Klaus: After ten years in office, Václav Klaus retired as President of the Czech Republic. He is one of the few politicians who confronted extreme green and climate alarmism. He understood the goal – control of humanity. His countryman, Lūboř Motl lists some of President Klaus’s many accomplishments. Please see link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Additions and Corrections: A number of readers corrected a sentence in the section on Antarctic Ice Cores: ... prior research with had indicated with changes in temperatures leading changes in ~~temperatures~~ **carbon dioxide** by about 800 years plus or minus several hundred years.

One such study states: “High-resolution records from Antarctic ice cores show that carbon dioxide concentrations increased by 80 to 100 parts per million by volume 600 +/- 400 years after the warming of the last three deglaciations. Despite strongly decreasing temperatures, high carbon dioxide concentrations can be sustained for thousands of years during glaciations;...” The last part goes to the unanswered question that with the onset of an ice age, why do temperatures fall when carbon dioxide levels remain high? CO2 concentrations are not the control knob of climate the Climate Establishment asserts. Please see: Ice Core Records of Atmospheric CO2 Around the Last Three Glacial Terminations, By Hubertus Fischer, et al. Science, 1999,

http://www.climate.unibe.ch/~hfisher/Publications_files/fischer99sci.pdf

Number of the Week: \$40 Billion US. During a speech at a major energy conference, BP CEO Bob Dudley said BP spent over \$24 Billion on spill response, clean-up, fines, restoration, and claims paid to people, businesses and governments. The company has spent or provisioned for over \$40 Billion [including sums already spend]. Even when recognizing the regrettable loss of 11 human lives; the sums spent, or provided for, should be put in some perspective.

BP is the largest deepwater leaseholder in the US section of Gulf of Mexico. Reportedly, the oil spilled (including that recovered) amounts to about 4 million barrels. \$40 Billion is \$10,000 per barrel, about 100 times the going price. After considerable delay, in part from a “boot on the neck” Washington mentality of which Department of Interior Secretary Salazar boasted, the well was capped and the plume virtually disappeared in three weeks, largely eaten by microbes.

Environmentally slanted reporting became an absurdity. Oil soaked pelicans were the poster children in the press. As reported in the April 23, 2011 TWTW, contemporary reports from US Fish and Wildlife showed the agency, which advertised for them, had collected 2303 dead birds with visible oil for the year immediately following the spill. This works out to be \$17,368,650 per bird. Should this be the standard for wind farms?

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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. The Anatomy of Climate Science Hype

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Mar 5, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/03/the_anatomy_of_climate_science_hype.html

2. Letter- Essay reveals "original sin eco-guilt"

By Charles Battig, The Hook, Mar 7, 2013

<http://www.readthehook.com/109233/letter-essay-reveals-guilt-over-original-eco-sin>

Link to article:

Children: Adorable environmental disasters

By Jeff Feldman, The Hook, Feb 21, 2013

<http://www.readthehook.com/109160/children-our-greatest-green-legacy>

[SEPP Comment: Response to an article by a new parent lamenting the future carbon footprint of the baby.]

3. Greens Bash Energy Choice,

By Kimberley Strassel, WSJ, Mar 5, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324178904578340603916828958.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_MIDDLEThird

4. Carbon Power Politics

The next EPA chief and next phase of the Obama green agenda.

Editorial, WSJ, Mar 5, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323478004578306313547424452.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_LEADTop

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Changing sun, changing climate

By Bob Carter, Willie Soon & William Briggs, Quadrant, Mar 8, 2013

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2013/03/changing-sun-changing-climate>

Vahrenholt & Lüning: “Today’s IPCC Is Clueless...IPCC Models Unable To Reproduce Documented Climate Of The Past”

Sun reveals its full climate power: Equator-pole temperature gradient fluctuates in sync with the sun

Translated by P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 7, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/03/07/vahrenholt-luning-todays-ipcc-is-clueless-ipcc-models-unable-to-reproduce-documented-climate-of-the-past/>

Link to article: Solar irradiance modulation of Equator-to-Pole (Arctic) temperature gradients: Empirical evidence for climate variation on multi-decadal timescales

By Willie Soon and David Legates, Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics, Feb 2013

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S136468261200288X>

Impressive negative NAO and AO producing hemispheric cold...links to solar

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Mar 3, 2013

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/impressive-negative-nao-and-ao-producing-hemispheric-coldlinks-to-solar/>

[SEPP Comment: A negative North Atlantic Oscillation features a weak high pressure system in the subtropics and a weak low pressure system roughly over Iceland. A negative Arctic Oscillation features high pressure system over Arctic, causing a deep variation in the jet stream.]

Climategate Continued

The Delusion of Independent Government Appointed Inquiries.

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Mar 8, 2013

<http://drtimball.com/2013/the-delusion-of-independent-government-appointed-inquiries/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Reasons to be grateful to Václav Klaus

By Lúbos Motl, Reference Frame, Mar 7, 2013

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/03/reasons-to-be-grateful-to-vaclav-klaus.html#more>

Those people who are able to think critically started to realize that people aren't saints or infallible just because they call themselves "scientists".

Blog Memo to Lead Authors of NCADAC Climate Assessment Report

By Bob Tisdale, His Blog, Mar 4, 2013

<http://bobtisdale.wordpress.com/2013/03/04/blog-memo-to-lead-authors-of-ncadac-climate-assessment-report/>

Global Microwave SST Feb. 2013: -0.01 deg UAH global temperature +0.18C

By Roy Spencer, UAH, with Comments by Ryan Maue, WeatherBELL Analytics, ICECAP, Mar 5, 2013

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/in-the-news/global-microwave-sst-feb-2013-001-deg-uah-global-temperature-018c/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Oregon State University researchers track temperatures back 11,300 years to gauge global warming

By Scott Learn, Oregonian, Mar 7, 2013

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2013/03/oregon_state_university_resear_2.html

Link to the article: A Reconstruction of Regional and Global Temperature for the Past 11,300 Years

By Shaun A. Marcott, Jeremy D. Shakun, Peter U. Clark, Alan C. Mix, Science, Mar 8, 2013

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/339/6124/1198.abstract>

Global Temperatures Highest in 4,000 Years

By Justin Gillis, NYT, Mar 7, 2013

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/08/science/earth/global-temperatures-highest-in-4000-years-study-says.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130308&r=0

[SEPP Comment: Doubtful.]

Marcott et al claim of ‘unprecedented’ warming compared to GISP ice core data

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 8, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/08/marcott-et-al-claim-of-unprecedented-warming-compared-to-gisp-ice-core-data/>

[SEPP Comment: A quick, rough analysis, but it illustrates there may be difficult issues with the claims in the Marcott et al. article.]

Earth Cooler Today Than 28% of the Past 11,300 Years

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Mar 7, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/earth-cooler-today-28-11300-years/>

[SEPP Comment: Word games with the headlines describing the Marcott et al. article.]

Another hockey stick – this one billed as ‘scarier’ than Mann’s

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 7, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/07/another-hockey-stick-this-one-billed-as-scarier-than-manns/>

Leading “Energy Expert” Frustrated That Germans Are More Scared Of Renewable Energy Than Climate Change

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 8, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/03/08/leading-energy-expert-frustrated-that-germans-are-more-scared-of-renewable-energy-than-climate-change/>

[SEPP Comment: Has five cold winters in a row made global warming desirable, especially for those who are unable to pay their heating bills?]

IPCC Invites In the Activists

When Greenpeace personnel are participating, a political process is underway – not a scientific one.

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Mar 6, 2013

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/03/06/ipcc-invites-in-the-activists/>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Politics: The Real Manmade Climate Crisis (Secretary Kerry, take note)

By Paul Driessen, Master Resource, Mar 4, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/03/politics-manmade-climate-crisis/#more-24541>

Signs of the Times: New York Times Kills Green Blog

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Mar 4, 2013

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2013/03/signs-of-times-new-york-times-kills.html>

Questioning European Green

The green energy mirage will cost the earth

Britain is committed to unsustainable carbon targets only because our politicians duped us

By Rupert Darwall, Telegraph, UK, Mar 5, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/greenpolitics/9910279/The-green-energy-mirage-will-cost-the-earth.html>

Germany's Wind Performance Was Just As Bad As Great Britain's – Sun And Wind Are Often AWOL!

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 4, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/03/04/germanys-wind-performance-was-just-as-bad-as-great-britains-sun-and-wind-are-often-awol/>

Energiewende sees emissions rise

By Staff Writer, WNN, Feb 26, 2013

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE_Energiewende_sees_emissions_rise_2602131.html

Costs exceed benefits

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 6, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/3/6/costs-exceed-benefits.html>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

The Green Agenda and the Political Tipping Point

By Peter Glover, Energy Tribune, Mar 7, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/74785/the-green-agenda-and-the-political-tipping-point>

Can Global Warmist Get Their Story Straight?

By Marita Noon, Townhall, Mar 4, 2013

http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2013/03/04/can-global-warmist-get-their-story-straight-n1524743?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Climate-Change Science Poised to Enter Nation's Classrooms

By Katherine Bagley, Bloomberg, Mar 4, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-04/climate-change-science-poised-to-enter-nation-s-classrooms.html>

[SEPP Comment: Apparently the National Research Council, National Science Teachers Association, AAAS, and others remain ignorant of the fact that global warming stopped over a decade ago and the science of the Climate Establishment cannot explain why.]

A despotism over the mind

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 5, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/3/5/a-despotism-over-the-mind.html>

Seeking a Common Ground

Categorical Thinking and The Climate Debate

By Craig Loehle, on WUWT, Mar 5, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/05/categorical-thinking-and-the-climate-debate/>

Graph of the Day: Global Weather Disasters and GDP

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Mar 5, 2013

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2013/03/graph-of-day-global-disasters-and-gdp.html>

Global tipping point not backed by science

By Staff Writers, Adelaide, Australia (SPX), Mar 04, 2013

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Global_tipping_point_not_backed_by_science_999.html

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

Volcanoes Behind Earth's Cooling; China and India Exonerated

By Staff Writers, Science World Report, Mar 1, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.scienceworldreport.com/articles/5317/20130301/volcanoes-behind-earths-cooling-china-india-exonerate.htm>

[SEPP Comment: There is no mention that volcanic eruptions emit CO2 into the atmosphere, and there is no any evidence presented that volcanic activity for the last 17 years is greater than it was prior to that.]

Aerosols from Moderate Volcanos Now Blamed for Global Warming Hiatus

By Bob Tisdale, His Blog, Mar 2, 2013

<http://bobtisdale.wordpress.com/2013/03/02/aerosols-from-moderate-volcanos-now-blamed-for-global-warming-hiatus/>

[SEPP Comment: Since there is no consensus among Climate Establishment scientists why the globe is not warming, let's invent a reason.]

Report Blames Climate Change for Extremes in Australia

By Matt Siegel, NYT, Mar 4, 2013

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/05/world/asia/australian-government-blames-climate-change-for-angry-summer.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130305&r=0

Mystery black-box method used to make *all new* Australian “hottest” ever records

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Mar 3, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/03/mystery-black-box-method-used-to-make-all-new-australian-hottest-ever-records/#more-26497>

Britain must act now to deal with more extreme weather

By Staff Writers, Environment Agency, Mar 4, 2013

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/news/146242.aspx>

[SEPP Comment: In 2012, one day in five saw flooding and one day in four saw drought – whatever that means.]

Alarmists' lack of Consensus.

By Geoff Brown, NCTCS, Mar 7, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/03/alarmists-lack-of-consensus.html>

Singling out short term trends in air temperature to imply that global warming is not occurring is incorrect and misleading.

[SEPP Comment: It is misleading to point out the globe is no longer warming and the models are failing, as Tim Flannery, the head of the Australian Climate Commission, claims?]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

The Climate Commission plumbs new depths

Just one day after the IPCC Chairman claimed that global warming had stopped happening 17 years ago, the Australian Climate Commission rushed out a press statement, “The Earth Continues to Warm.”

By Barry Brill, Quadrant, Mar 6, 2013

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2013/03/the-climate-commission-plumbs-new-depths>

Australian climate on 'steroids' after hottest summer

By Staff Writers, Sydney (AFP), March 4, 2013

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Australian_climate_on_steroids_after_hottest_summer_999.html

Not the hottest ever summer for most Australians in Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane. Not “extreme” heatwaves either.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Mar 2, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/03/not-the-hottest-ever-summer-for-most-australians-in-sydney-melbourne-or-brisbane-not-extreme-heatwaves-either/#more-27362>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Another dose of Flim-Flannery

The latest exercise in hucksterism from the Australian Climate Commission continues its tradition of distortion by omission and makes a mockery of any pretence to independence and reliability. The previous statement's sleights of hand saw the commission shoot itself in the foot. In combination, the pair of documents amount to two barrels, both feet.

By John McLean, Quadrant, Mar 5, 2013

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2013/03/another-exercise-in-flim-flannery>

In a nutshell, the heatwaves were caused by warm conditions in central Australia, a monsoon running late, and winds distributing the warm air. I wonder which part the Climate Commission believes is under the influence of human activity.

[SEPP Comment: Temperature trends are now irrelevant.]

Canada's glaciers could shrink by a fifth by 2100

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), March 7, 2013

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Canadas_glaciers_could_shrink_by_a_fifth_by_2100_999.html

Models v. Observations

NASA satellite data shows a decline in water vapor

By Ken Gregory, Friends of Science.org, on WUWT, Mar 6, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/06/nasa-satellite-data-shows-a-decline-in-water-vapor/>

The D.C. Snowstorm Forecast Failure

By Cliff Mass, His Weather Blog, Mar 7, 2013

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2013/03/the-dc-snowstorm-forecast-failure.html>

[SEPP Comment: The huge uncertainty in the models was not appropriately discussed in the weather reports. The European Model again did better than the US models.]

DC snowstorm buries climate change hearing

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Mar 6, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/286493-house-committee-cancels-climate-science-hearing-citing-weather>

[SEPP Comment: For DC, the heavy snow did not occur.]

Measurement Issues

A note about temperatures

By John Coleman, on WUWT, Mar 3, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/03/a-note-about-temperatures/>

I conclude the temperature data does not prove global warming. The alarmists are wrong. But the temperature data is so unreliable and garbled that neither alarmists nor skeptics can use it to conclusively prove they are right.

Accurate water vapour measurements for improved weather and climate models

By Staff Writers, Bundesallee, Germany (SPX), Mar 06, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Accurate_water_vapour_measurements_for_improved_weather_and_climate_models_999.html

NASA Eyes Declining Vegetation In The Eastern United States From 2000 To 2010

By Staff Writers, Moffett Field CA (SPX), Mar 05, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/NASA_Eyes_Declining_Vegetation_In_The_Eastern_United_States_From_2000_To_2010_999.html

Link to article “Declining Vegetation Growth Rates in the Eastern United States from 2000 to 2010

BY Christopher Potter, Shuang Li, & Cyrus Hiatt, Natural Resources, Dec 2012

http://geo.arc.nasa.gov/sge/casa/Potter_Li_EasternUS.pdf

[SEPP Comment: There are several issues with the article. The increase in forest cover is primarily from decline in logging rather than decline in wildfires. By the 1880s the eastern forests were virtually logged out. In the Mid-Atlantic States, at least, foresters are noting more robust growth, attributed to increased CO2.]

Changing Weather

2012 least deadly for natural disasters in 10 years, but lack of resilience leaves key economies at ‘extreme risk’ – Maplecroft

By Staff Writers, Maplecroft, Mar 7, 2013

http://maplecroft.com/about/news/nha_2013.html

Winter ranked # 4 snowiest, November to February #2 for the Northern Hemisphere!

By Joseph D’Aleo, ICECAP, Mar 6, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/winter_ranked_4_snowiest_november_to_february_2/

[SEPP Comment: Records started in 1966/67. Addresses the claim that the snow is due to excess water vapor from the melting of Arctic ice.]

Central Europe, Scandinavia Brace For Worst March Temperature Plummet Since 1987!

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 6, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/03/06/central-europe-scandinavia-brace-for-worst-march-temperature-plummet-since-1987/>

This winter has been characterized by its darker, colder and snowier conditions. It was the most sunless German winter since measurements began in 1951. On average the sun appeared for only 96 hours over the three-month period, which is only 62% of the mean of 154 hours.

Changing Seas

Global Warming Report: By End of Century, Sea Will Rise 0.66 Feet--Or 6.6 Feet

By Elizabeth Harrington, CNS News, Mar 6, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/global-warming-report-end-century-sea-will-rise-066-feet-or-66-feet>

[SEPP Comment: The great certainty the IPCC expressed in the projections of models is becoming great uncertainty within the models. This exhibits the lack of rigor of science from the Climate Establishment.]

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Arctic Sea Ice Records and the Great Storm of 2012

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Mar 6, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/arctic-sea-ice-records-great-storm-2012/>

Study: Black carbon aerosol forcing may be an important factor affecting the snow & ice cover in the Northern Hemisphere

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 7, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/07/study-black-carbon-aerosol-forcing-may-be-an-important-factor-affecting-the-snow-ice-cover-in-the-northern-hemisphere/>

Global warming to open 'crazy' shipping routes across Arctic

By John Roach, NBC News, Mar 4, 2013

http://science.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/03/04/17182162-global-warming-to-open-crazy-shipping-routes-across-arctic?lite

Link to abstract: New Trans-Arctic shipping routes navigable by midcentury

By Laurence Smith and Scott Stephenson, PNAS, Mar 4, 2013

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/02/27/1214212110>

[SEPP Comment: And if the climate models are wrong will the mariners suffer the fate of many of those who sought the Northwest Passage? No! Because the crews of modern ships powered, largely, by fossil fuels are more able to endure the hardships of Arctic cold.]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Simulating the Indian Ocean Subtropical Dipole

Reference: Kataoka, T., Tozuka, T., Masumoto, Y. and Yamagata, T. 2012. The Indian Ocean subtropical dipole mode simulated in the CMIP3 models. *Climate Dynamics* 39: 1385-1399.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/mar/5mar2013a3.html>

Tropical Sea Surface Temperature Biases in CMIP 3 & 5 Models

Reference: Li, G. and Xie, S.-P. 2012. Origins of tropical-wide SST biases in CMIP multi-model ensembles. *Geophysical Research Letters* 39: 10.1029/2012GL053777.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/mar/5mar2013a4.html>

Population Growth, Atmospheric Change and Global Food Security

Reference: Ziska, L.H., Bunce, J.A., Shimono, H., Gealy, D.R., Baker, J.T., Newton, P.C.D., Reynolds, M.P., Jagadish, K.S.V., Zhu, C., Howden, M. and Wilson, L.T. 2012. Food security and climate change: on the potential to adapt global crop production by active selection to rising atmospheric carbon dioxide. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 279: 4097-4105

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/mar/6mar2013a1.html>

The Potential for CO₂-Induced Species Changes in Grasslands

Reference: Polley, H.W., Jin, V.L. and Fay, P.A. 2012. Feedback from plant species change amplifies CO₂ enhancement of grassland productivity. *Global Change Biology* 18: 2813-2823.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/mar/6mar2013a3.html>

Litigation Issues

Keystone XL pipeline faces property-rights challenge in Texas

By Laurel Brubaker Calkins, Bloomberg, Mar 3, 2013

http://business.financialpost.com/2013/03/07/keystone-xl-pipeline-faces-property-rights-challenge-in-texas/?_lsa=d06f-35ec

French wind power spun into knots

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Feb 25, 2013 [H/t Anne Debeil]

<http://www.thenational.ae/business/energy/french-wind-power-spun-into-knots>

[SEPP Comment: Tariffs, forcing consumers to more for electricity produced by wind power, are being contested in EU court as being a form of undeclared state aid.]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

EIA: U.S. Power Sector SO₂, NO_x Emissions Lowest Since 1990

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Mar 7, 2013

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/5435.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2631162&hq_l=8&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: A cap-and-trade that did work.]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Wind Jobs at PTC Risk: Not 37,000 per AWEA but 2,525 (these million-dollar jobs displace real jobs, too)

By Robert Bradley, Master Resource, Mar 8, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/03/wind-jobs-ptc-2525/>

Inflated Numbers; Erroneous Conclusions

By Charles Cicchitti, American Energy Alliance, Mar 2013

http://www.americanenergyalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/AEA_Report_Navigant-Wind_20120306.pdf

[SEPP Comment: A sharp challenge to the report, especially the job numbers, used to justify extension of the Production Tax Credit, the major Federal subsidy to the wind industry.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

The Climate and the Constitution

By Jonathan Tobin, Commentary, Mar 5, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.commentarymagazine.com/2013/03/05/the-climate-and-the-constitution-obama-global-warming/>

Cabinet Picks Could Take On Climate Policy

By John Broder and Matthew Wald, NYT, Mar 4, 2013

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/05/us/politics/obama-names-2-to-fill-epa-and-energy-posts.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130305

EPA, Energy Department can tackle climate change on several fronts

By Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post, Mar 5, 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/epa-doe-can-tackle-climate-change-on-several-fronts/2013/03/05/ee6c0d64-85bf-11e2-98a3-b3db6b9ac586_story.html

Congressmen demand investigation of EPA selectively blocking FOIAs

By Mark Flatten, Washington Examiner, Mar 7, 2013

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/article/2523626>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Canada's energy superpower dreams

By Terence Corcoran, Financial Post, Mar 6, 2013

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/03/06/terence-corcoran-canadas-energy-superpower-dreams/>

Will Chavez's death spoil oil sands' party?

By Claudia Cattaneo, Financial Post, Mar 6, 2013

<http://business.financialpost.com/2013/03/06/will-chavezs-death-spoil-oil-sands-party/>

Harper government missing boat on Keystone

By Tom Harris, Winnipeg Free Press, Mar 7, 2013

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/Harper-government-missing-boat-on-Keystone-195907241.html>

Chronicles of Ineptitude, Special Energy Edition

By Steven Hayward, Powerline, Mar 3, 2013

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2013/03/chronicles-of-ineptitude-special-energy-edition.php>

[SEPP Comment: Government errors.]

Energy Issues -- US

US Getting More Economic Bang for Its Energy Buck

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Meadia, Mar 1, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/03/01/us-getting-more-economic-bang-for-its-energy-buck/>

[SEPP Comment: Producing more with less by lowering the cost of energy in producing a product. On a GDP basis, US energy consumption and CO2 emissions are less than 50% of what they were in 1949.]

US was world's largest petroleum producer in November, surpassing Saudi Arabia for first time in ten years

By Mark Perry, AEI, Mar 5, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.aei-ideas.org/2013/03/us-was-worlds-largest-petroleum-producer-in-november-surpassing-saudi-arabia-for-first-time-in-ten-years/>

[SEPP Comments: The number includes all liquid fuels, including natural gas liquids and Biofuels.]

Report: US oil-and-gas production up despite drop on federal lands

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Mar 5, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/286245-report-us-oil-and-gas-production-up-despite-drop-on-federal-lands>

Link to report: U.S. Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production in Federal and Non-Federal Areas

By Marc Humphries, CRS, Feb 28, 2013

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/sites/republicans.energycommerce.house.gov/files/20130228CRSreport.pdf>

A Scientist's Misguided Crusade

By Joe Nocera, NYT, Mar 4, 2013 [H/t Bud Bromley]

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/05/opinion/nocera-a-scientists-misguided-crusade.html?hp&_r=0

Washington's Control of Energy

Obama's War On Drilling: Oil Surplus, Not Scarcity, Is The New Regulatory Excuse

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Mar 3, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/03/03/obamas-war-on-drilling-oil-surplus-not-scarcity-is-the-new-regulatory-excuse/>

Keystone Pipeline: State Department Finds Little Environmental Impact

By Steve Goreham, Washington Times, Mar 4, 2013

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/mar/4/keystone-pipeline-state-department-finds-little-en/>

State: No Environmental Reason To Delay Keystone XL

Editorial, IBD, Mar 4, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/030413-646659-state-department-finds-keystone-xl-pipeline-safe.htm>

Railroads emerge as alternative to Keystone XL pipeline for moving oil sands from Canada

By Steven Mufson and Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post, Mar 2, 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/rail-emerges-as-alternative-to-keystone-xl-pipeline/2013/03/02/dae5d0fe-82ae-11e2-b99e-6baf4ebe42df_story.html

[SEPP Comment: If the numbers are correct, at least 650,000 barrels per day could be moved by rail. However, rail is more expensive and more prone to accidents than a pipeline.]

Why Environmentalists Are Wrong on Keystone XL

By Robert Rapier, Energy Tribune, Mar 6, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/74722/why-environmentalists-are-wrong-on-keystone-xl>

Report: Search for oil, not drilling rules, driving rigs off federal lands

Energy » Shale oil is luring developers to private and state properties, report says.

By Brian Maffy, Salt Lake Tribune, Mar 5, 2013

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/money/55952860-79/oil-gas-report-federal.html.csp>

[SEPP Comment: The low price of natural gas has caused a shift to oil and gas liquids, but the Federal government will not grant timely permits for any wells.]

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Industry leaders gather in Houston for CERAWeek energy conference

By Jeannie Keever, Houston Chronicle, Mar 3, 2013

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/03/03/layers-of-energy-topics-at-ihs-ceraweek/>

BP CEO: ‘Peak oil’ talk quieted by abundance

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Mar 6, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/286501-bp-ceo-peak-oil-talked-quieted-by-abundance>

He said that at current consumption rates, data suggests that the world has 54 years’ worth of proven oil reserves and 64 years worth of proven gas reserves, adding, “more will be found.”

No retreat from Gulf for BP

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Mar 6, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/286521-bp-ceo-no-retreat-from-gulf-of-mexico-despite-spill>

Is the Theory of ‘Peak Oil’ Dead?

By G. Tracy Mehan, American Spectator, Mar 5, 2013

<http://spectator.org/archives/2013/03/05/is-the-theory-of-peak-oil-dead>

Return of King Coal?

Mayor Bloomberg is wrong on coal

By Frank Clemente, Energy Facts Weekly, Mar 7, 2013

<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=29bc7d5d85828d574f86c157a&id=1cdb9dfa21&e=>

[SEPP Comment: The Mayor’s dead man walking is running ahead of the pack. Harmful emissions in the US have declined dramatically thanks to new coal plant technology.]

As U.S. scales back, ‘King Coal’ reigns as global powerhouse

By Patrice Hill, Washington Times, Mar 4, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/mar/4/king-coal-reigns-as-global-powerhouse/>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Second leak at North Sea oil platform forces evacuation

By Staff Writers, London (AFP), March 02, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Second_leak_at_North_Sea_oil_platform_forces_evacuation_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Several interesting points including: 1) the structure is about 35 years old, operating in the brutal conditions of the North Sea, and 2) the operating company is the Abu Dhabi National Energy Company. It remains to be seen how long a wind farm will last in the North Sea.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

WHO: Low radiation risk from Fukushima

By Staff Writers, WNN, Feb 28, 2013

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS_WHO_Low_radiation_risk_from_Fukushima_2802131.html

[SEPP Comment: This low estimate is even from using the ridiculous linear-no threshold model.]

Japan riled by WHO's Fukushima cancer warning

By Staff Writers, Tokyo (AFP), March 1, 2013

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Japan_riled_by_WHOs_Fukushima_cancer_warning_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Not happy with the low estimate, see link immediately above.]

US may face inevitable nuclear power exit

By Staff Writers, Los Angeles, CA (SPX), Mar 05, 2013

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/US_may_face_inevitable_nuclear_power_exit_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The goal of many green organizations.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Bad News for Wind Energy

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Mar 5, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/03/05/bad-news-for-wind-energy/>

[SEPP Comment: Wind power – expensive, unreliable, and short lived.]

Rethinking Wind’s Impact on Emissions and Cycling Costs

By David Wagman, Power, Mar 1, 2013 [H/t Peter Friedman]

http://www.powermag.com/issues/features/Rethinking-Winds-Impact-on-Emissions-and-Cycling-Costs_5406.html

Wind Farms Paid £10,000 a Day to Sit Idle in Blustery Conditions

By Tim Webb, The Times, via GWPF, Mar 6, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/wind-farms-paid-10000-day-sit-idle-blustery-conditions/>

[SEPP Comment: The full article is behind a paywall.]

Why windfarms get paid to switch off

By Mat Hope, Carbon Brief, Mar 4, 2013

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2013/03/why-windfarms-get-paid-to-switch-off>

[SEPP Comment: Questioning the £10,000 a Day in the link above and coming up with a better (?) solution: force households to use electric appliances only when the wind is blowing.]

Another solar manufacturer gives up

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 7, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/07/another-solar-manufacturer-gives-up/>

The BP unit “is the latest sun energy business to fall victim to rampant competition from China, falling prices, overcapacity and lower government subsidies on which the industry still depends.”

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

NASA Begins Flight Research Campaign Using Alternate Jet Fuel

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX) Mar 05, 2013

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/NASA_Begins_Flight_Research_Campaign_Using_Alternate_Jet_Fuel_999.html

[SEPP Comment: It’s bad enough for the Navy to be squandering money on Biofuels, now NASA follows suite. Perhaps they have money to burn.]

Air Quality

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 8, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/3/8/air-quality.html>

[SEPP Comment: Demand that biofuel sources be exempt from air quality rules, then sue the government over air quality.]

Hydrothermal liquefaction - the most promising path to a sustainable bio-oil production

By Staff Writers, Aarhus, Denmark (SPX), Feb 11, 2013

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Hydrothermal_liquefaction_the_most_promising_path_to_a_sustainable_bio_oil_production_999.html

[SEPP Comment: May be promising, but comparing this process to the breakthroughs of the windmill industry is not favorable.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Hyping Electric Vehicle Sales

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Mar 8, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/03/08/hyping-electric-vehicle-sales/>

[SEPP Comment: Clarifying deliberate confusion in naming the new vehicles – does it have an internal combustion engine (ICE) and is the ICE the primary source of power?]

California Dreaming

California's Green Jobs: Where Did They Go?

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Mar 5, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=22912&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

Health, Energy, and Climate

Mice and men: Again no connection

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Mar 7, 2013

<http://www.acsh.org/mice-and-men-again-no-connection/>

Oh Mann!

Mike’s AGU Trick

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Mar 2, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/03/02/mikes-agu-trick/#more-17336>

[SEPP Comment: Perhaps next time the new leadership of the AGU will employ magicians.]

Irony Hypocrisy on steroids–UVa plugs new “Open Science Center” while simultaneously keeping Michael Mann’s science notes away from the public

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 5, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/05/irony-on-steroidsuva-plugs-new-open-science-center-while-simultaneously-keeping-michal-manns-science-notes-away-from-the-public/>

Environmental Industry

New York’s “Sustainability” Plan: aka “Agenda 21”

By Mary Kay Barton, SPPI, Mar 7, 2013

<http://sppliblog.org/news/new-yorks-sustainability-plan-aka-agenda-21#more-9124>

Environmentalists ‘outraged’ by federal Keystone XL report

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Mar 3, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailycaller.com/2013/03/03/environmentalists-outraged-by-federal-keystone-xl-report/>

Other Scientific News

Additional Details on the Large Fireball Event over Russia on Feb. 15, 2013

By Don Yeomans and Paul Chodas for Near-Earth Object Program Office, (JPL) Mar 04, 2013

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Additional_Details_on_the_Large_Fireball_Event_over_Russia_on_Feb_15_2013_999.html

How to Thrive in Battery Acid and Among Toxic Metals

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX,) Mar 08, 2013

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/How_to_Thrive_in_Battery_Acid_and_Among_Toxic_Metals_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

Wine, Weather, and Smoke

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Mar 5, 2013

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2013/03/wine-weather-and-smoke.html>

[SEPP Comment: The smoky taste in that wine may not be from the grape.]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Quote of the Week – blaming Nature for poor model performance

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 7, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/07/quote-of-the-week-blaming-nature-for-poor-model-performance/>

Gov. Cuomo held up on fracking in NY to await health study

By Staff Writer, AP, Mar 2, 2013

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/03/02/gov-cuomo-held-up-on-fracking-in-ny-to-await-health-study/>

[SEPP Comment: According to the article, the governor's advisor on the issue is his former brother-in-law, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who opposed the childhood vaccination because it may cause autism, based on a totally discredited study.]

Global Warming causing biblical plagues – like locusts

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 4, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/03/04/global-warming-causing-biblical-plagues-like-locusts/>

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ARTICLES:

1. The Anatomy of Climate Science Hype

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Mar 5, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/03/the_anatomy_of_climate_science_hype.html

The manipulation behind Study of Ice Age Bolsters Carbon and Warming Link by Justin Gillis, New York Times, March 1, 2013

A NY Times science story (by Justin Gillis, March 1) illustrates some interesting points about science journalism - esp. in the contentious and politically charged issue of climate change. A scientific journal, in this case the renowned Science magazine, wants to gain publicity for its journal among the non-scientific readers of the NY Times. So it sends out a press release about a scientific paper it plans to publish. Of course, it has been 'peer-reviewed' to the satisfaction of the Science editor, but it has not yet been vetted by the scientific community.

Journalists who receive the press release think it will make an interesting story. It appears to involve some new features that contradict what has been discussed up till now. And Science has a generally good reputation. Specifically, the story claims that the deglaciation of 12,000 years ago, the major temperature increase marking the end of the most recent ice age and the beginning of the current warm Interglacial (termed The Holocene), involves also a striking increase in the greenhouse (GH) gas carbon dioxide. Investigators who wrote the paper seem to believe that the rise in carbon dioxide is coincident with the rise in temperature, as shown by their refined studies of ice cores from Antarctica.

This result has an important history. It starts with Al Gore announcing a correlation of several sudden temperature rises and carbon-dioxide increases during the recent ice age, as judged from analysis of Antarctic ice cores. He of course declares that this proves that CO2 has caused 20th-century warming. To his great embarrassment it was then later discovered that the increase in carbon dioxide actually follows the temperature increase by about 600-800 years. And even a non-scientist must realize that the cause must always precede the effect: so the temperature increase must be the cause of the carbon-dioxide increase -- and not the other way round. The mechanism is really quite simple: When the ocean warms, it releases much of its dissolved carbon dioxide -- similar to warming soda pop or champagne releasing CO2 bubbles. So suddenly, the 'smoking gun' that Al Gore has relied on collapses in a heap.

This makes the new result interesting. The authors actually suggest that the carbon dioxide increase played a large role in the temperature increase terminating the last ice age. All of this

sounds very good to the journalist who thinks he has a scoop -- and to Science magazine that can get its name before the public.

Of course, the NYT editor also plays an important role. He realizes the political implications: If the scientific paper is correct, then perhaps Al Gore's claim is vindicated and Congressman Joe Barton (R-TX), who had criticized Al Gore, is wrong. So the story is published before anyone has a chance to see the actual scientific paper and to know what the authors have discovered.

Please note that I'm not suggesting that any of the actual measurements are wrong. As reported, the work was done by a very competent group (in Grenoble, France), which has an excellent reputation on ice-core measurements. It is the interpretation of their findings that can be questioned. And beyond this, it illustrates how science can be used or misused in subtle ways to influence public opinion in directions governed by editorial policy.

Note also that the paper has certainly been "peer reviewed" by Science before being accepted for publication. But all this means is that the journal editor sent it to someone he chose and who will remain anonymous; and that this 'someone' gave him a favorable report. If the editor had wanted to, he could have sent the paper to another reviewer, perhaps to someone who would have been critical about the paper's conclusions. The public seems not to realize this discretionary power of a journal editor, and how little the label "peer review" really means.

It is customary in stories like this one for reporters to get the views of other experts, especially those who might disagree. There is no indication that this happened in this particular case. If Justin Gillis had phoned me for my reaction, I would have asked first of all to see the paper before giving an opinion. But even without seeing the paper, I would ask: Do the authors list the work of the Norwegian geologist Tom Segalstad, who described some problems in dating carbon dioxide found in ice cores. He and his co-author, the late Polish scientist Zbigniew Jaworowski, showed that the errors can be quite large. I would also have asked whether the authors list the relevant work of another Norwegian, Gunnar Myhre, who showed the 'logarithmic' greenhouse effect of carbon dioxide: i.e., rather than proportional, the incremental effect diminishes as the amount of CO₂ increases. This may mean that even if CO₂ was responsible to some extent in aiding the ancient warming, the rapid deglaciation at the end of the last ice age, its effect may not be relevant to today's situation, where the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere is more than double the level during the last ice age.

Finally, I would ask the journalist whether he shouldn't have mentioned the very pertinent fact that there hasn't been any global warming for at least a decade, while carbon dioxide has been increasing rapidly -- in large part because of the construction of so many coal-fired power plants in China.

What I'm suggesting therefore is that the story is unbalanced, one-sided, and should have been edited more severely. By the time the ice-core paper appears in Science magazine, all these concerns will have been forgotten -- although as the scientific community studies the published work in detail, other problems may pop up.

Just to give one example: Could the Arctic have commenced the process of deglaciation a little ahead of the Antarctic? Might that account for a slightly earlier release of CO₂ from a warming

ocean? It's a 'chicken-and- egg' situation that needs to be looked at more carefully before jumping to facile conclusions. But for the NYT, politics trumps science.

2. Letter- Essay reveals "original sin eco-guilt"

By Charles Battig, The Hook, Mar 7, 2013

<http://www.readthehook.com/109233/letter-essay-reveals-guilt-over-original-eco-sin>

Link to article: Children: Adorable environmental disasters

By Jeff Feldman, The Hook, Feb 21, 2013

<http://www.readthehook.com/109160/children-our-greatest-green-legacy>

[SEPP Comment: Response to an article by a new parent lamenting the future carbon footprint of the baby.]

Western Christianity dates back over 2,000 years. An essential part of Christian belief is the concept of Original Sin. The Church provides baptism as a sacrament to provide individuals a “clean slate” by removing both the guilt and the punishment due to Original Sin.

Gia dogma dates to the late 1960s as a philosophical construct of Dr. James Lovelock. While working on a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) project he postulated a unique, symbiotic, and self-regulating relationship between organic and inorganic entities on Earth. Environmentalism worshipers have elaborated upon this concept and preach a life of Earth worship akin to paganism. However, they neglected to provide an equivalent to traditional baptism to extirpate eco-sin.

The public flaunting by Jeff Feldman of his wife’s and his own green eco-guilt (HOOK February 21, 2013) over the normally natural joys of parenthood reflects this omission, and their attendant cognitive dissonance. Many parents announce that “they are having a baby.” Jeff has a new take on biology claiming “We gave birth to a child.” Congratulations.

Jeff laments a postulated 25-to-1 ratio of U.S. consumption to that of developing countries without acknowledging relative economic productivities. Higher birth rates in developing countries are a reflection of their lack of basic sanitation, food, and energy needs leading to higher death rates. As such countries achieve higher living standards, birth rates fall. The moral aim is to raise their standard of living; not to disparage our own. The U.S. fertility rate is now below replacement rate. And no, the Earth is not running out of resources. We are now able to feed more people on less land. We do that so well that we are able to devote valuable farm land to raise crops to burn as fuel in our automobiles.

When you think about hybrid automobiles, think of the large environmental footprint attendant to the manufacture of lithium ion batteries and rare earth use for the motors. Think of electric cars? Think of Fiskar and Tesla failures; think of a coal power-plant providing charging energy. Think of solar, think Solyndra. Think of millions of pounds of carcinogenic waste sludge, in China out of your sight. Just where are those electric cars “commonplace”?

In your role as ambivalent eco-parents, I hope that your publicized angst over your child’s birth does not carry over to his awareness that he might have been a green “eco-error.” I wish him a happy childhood; one free of the stigma of your “original sin” eco-guilt, and able to enjoy all the blessings of growing up in America.

3. Greens Bash Energy Choice,

By Kimberley Strassel, WSJ, Mar 5, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324178904578340603916828958.html?mod=W_SJ_Opinion_MIDDLEThird

The environmental community is throwing a fit over President Obama's nomination of nuclear physicist Ernest Moniz to run the Department of Energy. Their protests are primarily a comment on just how radicalized the green movement has become in recent years.

Mr. Moniz, after all, is exactly the sort of true-believer environmentalist that one would expect Mr. Obama to nominate to follow Steven Chu. The physicist is a huge supporter of throwing taxpayer dollars at renewable energy projects, which has unfortunately become one of DOE's core functions. (See Solyndra, and other bankrupt grant recipients.) Mr. Moniz helped write a 2010 report from his perch on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology that recommended dumping \$16 billion a year into renewables)—or three times the previous amount.

He has warned about climate change, and complained that there hasn't been enough action to combat it. The MIT Energy Initiative, which he directs at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has studied natural gas and fracking, and it has led Mr. Moniz to parrot the usual environmental lines about water contamination and methane leaks. In Senate testimony two years ago, he suggested regulation would be best if "applied uniformly to all shales," which suggests he is in favor (as most greens are) of the feds taking over regulation of fracking from the states.

And yet the left is up in arms. "At a time when the last thing we should be doing is undermining our progress against climate change, Moniz is the wrong choice to head one of the most important agencies in the fight for a sustainable energy future," complained Elijah Zarin, who works at progressive activist group CREDO Action. Food and Water Watch, an anti-fracking outfit, declared that his nomination "could set renewable energy development back years." Greenpeace moaned that Mr. Moniz was a "strange choice to pair with the president's choice to fight global warming."

Mr. Moniz's sin, it would seem, is in favoring natural gas as a "bridge fuel" until such time as the greens' vision of all-renewable world comes to pass. This is hardly controversial, and was in fact exactly the view of nearly every environmental group not so long ago. Green outfits pushed and praised natural-gas as a low-carbon alternative to oil and coal, and liked especially that dwindling natural-gas supplies (at that time) kept gas prices high and closer to the cost of renewables.

But as the fracking breakthrough has produced a gush of natural gas, lowering prices and creating a jobs boom, green groups have violently turned against the fuel and declared anyone who continues to support it a heretic. This would include Mr. Moniz, for daring to suggest, as he did at the Senate hearing, that "natural gas can indeed play an important role in the next couple of decades (together with demand management) in economically advancing a clean energy system." Even though Mr. Moniz wants to further regulate fracking, and ultimately phase gas out, this is still too much for a green movement that, under Mr. Obama, has developed zero tolerance for fossil fuels.

Mr. Moniz is also under attack for holding the view that nuclear should remain part of the energy mix—an uncontroversial view among most policymakers but a new bright line for a growing number of greens. And the physicist gets rapped for the fact that the MIT Energy Initiative has accepted some money from fossil fuel companies. Not that.

What makes these complaints odd is that Mr. Moniz has the potential to be a bigger thorn in conservatives' sides than Mr. Chu. A former Clinton administration official, Mr. Moniz is likely to be more Beltway savvy than his predecessor. And while Mr. Chu largely focused on renewable investment, Mr. Moniz's wide range of interests could signal that he'll drag Energy into bigger fights over fracking and climate.

4. Carbon Power Politics

The next EPA chief and next phase of the Obama green agenda.

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<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323478004578306313547424452.html?mod=W>
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President Obama gave his second-term global warming agenda a lot more definition Monday with a new Environmental Protection Agency chief to replace Lisa Jackson. Picking Gina McCarthy, one of her top lieutenants and the architect of some of the agency's most destructive carbon rules, is a sign he intends to make good on his vow of "executive actions" if Congress doesn't pass cap and tax.

Over the last four years running the EPA's air office, Ms. McCarthy has been a notably willful regulator, even for this Administration. Her promotion is another way of saying that Mr. Obama has given up getting Congress to agree to his anticarbon agenda, especially given the number of Senate Democrats from coal or oil states. The real climate fight now is over the shape of forthcoming rules that could be released as early as this summer, and a brutal under-the-table lobbying campaign is now underway.

The main target, as usual, is the U.S. power industry, which accounts for 40% of U.S. carbon emissions and about one-third of greenhouse gasses. Last year Ms. Jackson and Ms. McCarthy imposed a moratorium on new coal-fired plants, plus other rules that are forcing utilities to shut down older plants and invest billions of dollars to upgrade everything else. The agency is about to go after the leftovers.

The moratorium is known as "new source performance standards," which the EPA issued because it declared carbon a dangerous pollutant under the clean-air laws of the 1970s. These standards say that all future power plants running on fossil fuels—coal or gas—must not emit more than 1,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per megawatt-hour.

Even the most modern, efficient coal boiler emits 1,800 pounds, while combined cycle natural gas turbines come in barely under that threshold. To adapt what Henry Ford said about the color of the Model T, utilities can build any plant they like as long as it runs on natural gas.

This being Washington, new source standards also apply to old sources. But when the EPA issued the diktat last March, it claimed it lacked sufficient information to impose them on existing power

plants and heavy manufacturers, refineries and the like. Which is to say the information it did have is that costly new rules in the middle of an election campaign were politically verboten. Now that the election is over, the EPA suddenly knows enough to proceed.

The rule for existing sources, now under development, would work like this: Because coal and gas are combined in a single category, the EPA would cap an average rate of, say, 1,400 pounds of CO2 per megawatt-hour. In this hypothetical, that would allow a utility to run one coal plant and one gas plant—but the average would decline over time. As it fell, the utility would need to switch to more gas and retire coal. The standards for new plants explicitly refer to natural gas as a "system of emission reduction," when in fact it is a system of emission generation.

If the EPA adopts the proposals that such green groups as the Natural Resources Defense Council are lobbying for, utilities that phase out their coal operations early would generate credits they could sell to other operators to keep their coal plants running longer. If that sounds like cap and trade—well, yes, that's the point.

The White House is trying to fracture industry opposition and peel off companies that stand to profit—namely, the ones that have already switched to gas and could sell the credits to other utilities. It is also saying that carbon trading is more "flexible" than unit-by-unit command and control. This is Mr. Obama's version of Jack Benny's old "your money or your life" routine, except without the punch line.

The average rates could also vary from utility to utility or state to state, whatever is more useful for bribes or punishment. These new source performance standards for the existing electric portfolio might also be the only "executive action" that would mollify the environmental lobby if Mr. Obama does eventually approve the Keystone XL pipeline. The greens may not be able to stop the Canadians from extracting oil from the Alberta tar sands, but they would succeed in wiping out American coal-fired power.

Lately Mr. Obama has been going around saying that the problem is that he's a President, not an "emperor" or "dictator," but on carbon regulation this is a distinction without much difference. Ms. McCarthy has been integral in abusing laws that were written decades ago in order to achieve climate goals that Congress has rejected, all with little or no political debate. Someone should ask her about her antidemocratic politics at her confirmation hearings.

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