

The Week That Was: 2013-07-13 (July 13, 2013)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his income depends on his not understanding it." Upton Sinclair [H/t Gordon Fulks]

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Number of the Week: 10 times earlier, now 4 times

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THIS WEEK:

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

NIPCC in China: Fred Singer, founder of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), presents his views of the importance of the Chinese Academy of Sciences translating the two longest NIPCC reports into Chinese. The Academy has demonstrated a willingness to promote open discussion of scientific findings and opinions that are contrary to those presented in the assessment reports by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which NIPCC considers to be a highly bias, one sided reports with conclusions that cannot be supported by the physical science. Promoting open discussion of the scientific basis of the conflicting reports is sorely lacking in many once venerable Western scientific institutions and universities. Please see Article # 1.

A Slight Shift in Nature? *Nature* magazine has an article discussing that some climate modelers are running their models multiple times and find that the average (mean) of the results show the projected future temperatures are below the results from single runs. Fred Singer has pointed out that multiple runs for chaotic models are necessary before the results converge on a model mean. The results do not imply that the mean of the multiple runs of the model are related to nature. The models have not been shown to successfully capture natural climate change. As long as modelers limit the data to recent climate history, they will not.

Although the article does not discuss it, at least it demonstrates that the certainty expressed by the IPCC and its followers in the findings of the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) is misplaced. Now if only *Nature* will retract the article on the thoroughly discredited hockey-stick. Please see links under Climategate Continued and Model Issues.

DOE: As some members of the climate establishment are realizing that something is wrong with the finding in the IPCC AR4, the US Department of Energy published a report titled U.S. Energy Sector Vulnerabilities to Climate Change and Extreme Weather. The goal of building greater resilience in the US energy sector is laudable, but it is overshadowed by the extremist statements in the report. The report repeats the litany of dire events in the future as reported previously by NOAA, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), EPA, and the US Global Climate Research Program (USGCRP). As discussed in prior TWTWs, these reports contain some excellent science, but the conclusions are not substantiated by the science, which often contradicts the dire claims made.

Among the highly questionable findings are increases in temperatures for the period 2021 to 2050. They are projected to increase between 2.5°F to 2.9°F (1.4°C to 1.9°C).

Intense storms and flooding (as well as droughts) are projected to increase – by 67% in the northeast and the mid-Atlantic seaboard by the end of the century. Category 4 & 5 hurricanes are projected to increase by over 75% -- by the period in 2081 to 2100. The National Weather Service cannot forecast hurricanes a decade in advance, but now DOE is asserting forecasts seven decades in advance.

Sea levels are projected rise by 1 to 4 feet (0.3 to 1.2 meters) by the end of the century. The statement is couched in with the phrase “is plausible.” It is also plausible that by the end of the century a massive meteor will hit the Atlantic and wipe out the entire US Eastern Seaboard.

An appendix presents the likelihood of the outcomes from IPCC AR4, with very likely presented as 90 to 100% probability. Even for this alarmist report the probability estimates are an egregious misrepresentation, because the probabilities are not scientific derived but are opinion.

There is no discussion in the current pause in global warming and the failure to validate the climate models.

With this report, the DOE demonstrates it is one more Federal government agency that has abandoned empirical, physical science for climate alarmism. Please see links under Lowering Standards.

Murry Salby: Professor Murry Salby, a climate skeptic who questions the claim that human carbon dioxide emissions are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming (carbon based AGW) presents an extremely disturbing account of his experiences with Macquarie University in Australia, after he was recruited from the US. The response from the University has been weak, at best. Please see links under Suppressing Scientific Inquiry.

Science Daily: The popular blog, Science Daily, has hit a new low. It quoted sections of an *ad hominem* (to the man) attack on climate skeptics and failed to state the “expert” quoted was a director of Greenpeace, which was clearly stated in the original piece. Please see link under Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

NOAA: Some members of Congress has introduced legislation to shift funding to the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from climate research to research in weather prediction. A number of meteorologists state that the weather models NOAA uses are inferior to European models, and several needed weather satellites may go dark before new satellites are launched. On her blog, Judith Curry carries an excellent discussion on the proposed shift. Please see link under Funding Fights.

Polar Science: Based on 50 to 100 year projections from un-validated models, six months ago NOAA declared the ringed seal are a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This is similar to the prior listing of the polar bear as threatened. The projections are scientifically unsupported and it now appears that the physical science does not support NOAA’s reasoning that the melting of Arctic ice in the summer presents a hostile environment threatening the bears and their principle food source, the seals. Recent reports state that the summer melt promotes the entire food chain in the Arctic Ocean providing more food for the seals during their heavy feeding

season. More seals bearing pups in the spring, provides more food for the bears during their heavy feeding season. Please see links under Models v. Observations.

Social Benefits of Carbon: We are receiving more reports that enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide is promoting greening of deserts, tree growth using less water, and flowering in the Tropics. The report on flowering in the Tropics suggests the cause is a slight increase in warming of the Tropics. But as reported by Roy Spencer and John Christy, the atmospheric warming over the Tropics is not statistically significant, and, based on experiments, it is more plausible to attribute the increased flowering to enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide. Please see links under Social Benefits of Carbon.

Hiding in the Deep: We have more reports that climate scientists, such as Kevin Trenberth of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, are claiming that atmospheric and surface warming are hiding in the deep ocean. Given the enormous capacity of the oceans to absorb heat, and the lack of warming of the atmosphere and the surface, why should anyone care about warming? Please see link under Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague?

News? On her web site, Jo Nova brought up an analysis of news stories on the morning and evening US TV news programs by the major networks, ABC, CBS, & NBC, that mentioned climate change or global warming. The analysis covered the period from Jan 1, 2013 to June 15, 2013. All the stories failed to mention a lull or a pause in global warming. So much for news in television news. Please see the direct link under Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague?

Amplifications and Corrections: TWTW reader Christopher Essex, professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Western Ontario, further discusses the folly of attempting to find scientific meaning in an ensemble of un-validated climate models.

“Ensemble averaging does not cleanse models of their fundamental, enormously challenging deficiencies no matter how many realisations are included. As more and more model realisations are rolled into some ad hoc averaging process, there is no mathematical reason whatsoever why the result should converge to the right answer, let alone converge at all in the limit. Why ever would anyone but the most desperate of minds dare to hope otherwise?”

TWTW always appreciates amplifications and corrections.

Number of the Week: 10 times earlier, now 4 times. Prior reports stated that NOAA had estimated sea level rise by the end of the 21st century to be 20 cm to 10 times that amount, 200 cm – over 6 feet. As discussed above, according to the new DOE report, it is now estimating a rise of 1 foot to 4 times that amount, 4 feet. With this type of precision passing as scientifically meaning, NOAA should be out of the climate business altogether.

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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. China Questions Climate Consensus

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Jul 11, 2013
http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/07/china_questions_climate_consensus.html

2. Can Environmentalists Think? Think of the Keystone XL pipeline as an IQ test for greens

By Brent Stephens, WSJ, Jul 8, 2013
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323368704578593562819939112.html>

3. Exxon: Report Finds Outdated Welding Caused Arkansas Pipeline Rupture

Lab Says Seam Cracks Tied to 1940s Welding Led to March Spill of 5,000 Barrels of Oil

By Alison Sider, WSJ, Jul 11, 2013
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323740804578599921900267376.html?mod=W_SJ_Energy_2_4_Right

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Sun Spots

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Jul 12, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/07/12/sun-spots/>

[SEPP Comment: The articles states the last time sun spots were so low was in 1912, at the beginning of a warming trend from about 1910 to 1940. There is much we really don't know.]

Climategate Continued

What Happened To The 220,000 Leaked Climatic Research Unit (CRU) Emails?

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

<http://drtimball.com/2013/what-happened-to-the-220000-leaked-climatic-research-unit-cru-emails/>

Treeline Changes and Altitude Inhomogeneity

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jul 7, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/07/07/treeline-changes-and-altitude-inhomogeneity/>

[SEPP Comment: The dramatic changes in the altitudes of the treelines in the Polar Urals over time have been largely ignored by those who report tree ring width chronologies. There appears to be major inconsistencies in the results.]

Evasions and Fantasy at Real Climate

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jul 10, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/07/10/evasions-and-fantasy-at-real-climate/#more-18063>

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Is Professor Murry Salby who is critical of AGW theory, being disenfranchised, exiled, from academia in Australia?

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jul 8, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/08/professor-critical-of-agw-theory-being-disenfranchised-exiled-from-academia-in-australia/>

Climate Chairman Left High and Dry by University

By Graham Lloyd, The Australian, via GWPF, Jul 12, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/climate-chairman-left-high-dry-university/>

Macquarie Uni responds to Murry Salby. What they don't say speaks volumes

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 11, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/macquarie-uni-responds-to-murry-salby-what-they-dont-say-speaks-volumes/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Great News from Greenland

By Patrick Michaels, WUWT, Jul 3, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/03/great-news-from-greenland/>

Link to paper: Eemian interglacial reconstructed from a Greenland folded ice core.

By Dahl-Jensen, Nature, Jan 23, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v493/n7433/abs/nature11789.html>

Can we really take the ocean's temperature?

By Bob Carter & John Spooner, Quadrant, July 10, 2013

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2013/07/can-we-really-take-the-ocean-s-temperature>

[SEPP Comment: In addition to Bob Carter, there are several scientists authoring parts of the book. John Spooner provides the cartoons. The kindle version of the book is available for \$10, saving shipping costs.]

Nobody ever calls the weather average

Review of Taxing Air by Bob Carter and John Spooner

By Matt Ridley, His Blog, Jul 12, 2013

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/nobody-ever-calls-the-weather-average.aspx>

Bob Carter, John Spooner: Taxing Air

Book Review by Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Jul 10, 2013

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/07/bob-carter-john-spooner-taxing-air.html#more>

Defending the Orthodoxy

The Right Green Industrial Policies

By Dani Rodrik, Project Syndicate, Jul 11, 2013

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/the-right-green-industrial-policies-by-dani-rodrik>

Obama channels his inner Al Gore in climate change messaging shift

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jul 6, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/309427-obamas-climate-message-changes-with-push-for-executive-action>

Birds outpace climate change to avoid extinction

By Staff Writers, Oxford, UK (SPX), Jul 11, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Birds_outpace_climate_change_to_avoid_extinction_999.html

[SEPP Comment: They have been doing it for millions of years.]

MET Office Denies ‘Soggy Summers’ Forecast

By Staff Writers, GWPF, Jul 8, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/met-office-denies-soggy-summer-forecast/>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Does Caring for “the Least of These” Demand Fighting Global Warming?

By David Legates, ICECAP, Jul 12, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/does_caring_for_the_least_of_these_demand_fighting_global_warming1/

[SEPP Comments: Legates addresses the Evangelical churches which are trying to impose green dictates on poor countries where the poor desperately need energy.]

Dictates From A Climate Change Alternate Universe

By: Art Horn, Energy Tribune, Jul 8, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/78002/dictates-from-a-climate-change-alternate-universe#sthash.hfvknXih.dpbs>

Call for essays: The 2013 Matt Ridley Prize

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jul 6, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/06/call-for-essays-the-2013-matt-ridley-prize/>

I may follow the crowd, but not because it's a crowd

Evidence, not consensus, is what counts

By Matt Ridley, His Blog, Jul 7, 2013

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/i-may-follow-the-crowd,-but-not-because-it's-a-crowd.aspx>

Impact of Global Warming and Rising CO2 on Methane Emissions from Natural Vegetation,

By Staff Writers, SPPI & CO2 Science, July 10 2013

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/warming_nat_veg.pdf

[SEPP Comment: The failure of methane to rise as predicted by many has been perplexing. The paper provides an explanation why increasing atmospheric CO2 concentrations may reduce atmospheric methane concentrations.]

Just the facts ma'am

By Staff Writer, ICECAP, Jul 11, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/just_the_facts_maam1/

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Wildfires may contribute more to global warming than previously predicted

By Staff Writers, Los Alamos NM (SPX), Jul 11, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Wildfires_may_contribute_more_to_global_warming_than_previously_predicted_999.html

Link to paper: Morphology and mixing state of individual freshly emitted wildfire carbonaceous particles

By China, et al., Nature Communications Jul 4, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2013/130704/ncomms3122/full/ncomms3122.html>

Germany says to pull plug on solar subsidies by 2018

By Staff Writers, Berlin (AFP), July 08, 2013

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Germany_says_to_pull_plug_on_solar_subsidies_by_2018_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Another “great success” story gone bad.]

German energy minister hails 'success' of solar subsidy reforms

By Staff Writers, Berlin (UPI), Jul 10, 2013

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/German_energy_minister_hails_success_of_solar_subsidy_reforms_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Cutting subsidies cuts the red ink in supporting solar and costs to consumers.]

Seeking a Common Ground

Axioms of ecological policy

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Jul 12, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/12/axioms-of-ecological-policy/#more-12184>

[SEPP Comment: Curry focuses on the ones that can apply to climate policy. One glaring omission is that policy should not be based on computer models that have not been validated.]

Manufacturing consensus: clinical guidelines

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jul 10, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/10/manufacturing-consensus-clinical-guidelines/#more-12154>

[SEPP Comment: Lessons for the climate industry, which will likely be ignored by the IPCC and its followers.]

Social Benefits of Carbon

Some Trees Use Less Water Amid Rising Carbon Dioxide, Paper Says

By Justin Gillis, NYT, Jul 10, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/11/science/earth/some-trees-use-less-water-amid-rising-carbon-dioxide-paper-says.html?partner=rss&_r=0

Link to paper: Increase in forest water-use efficiency as atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations rise

By Keenan, et al., Nature, Jul 10, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature12291.html>

[SEPP Comment: Even the NYT is catching on, grudgingly! All this supports the work of the Idsos at CO2 Science.org.]

Deserts 'greening' from rising CO2

By Staff Writers, Canberra, Australia (SPX), Jul 10, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Deserts_greening_from_rising_CO2_999.html

Tropical forest blossoms are sensitive to changing climate

By Staff Writers, Santa Barbara CA (SPX), Jul 11, 2013

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Tropical forest blossoms are sensitive to changing climate_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Tropical_forest_blossoms_are_sensitive_to_changing_climate_999.html)

Lowering Standards

Energy Department to boost energy sector climate change efforts

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Jul 11, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/310535-energy-dept-to-boost-energy-sector-climate-change-efforts>

Link to study: U.S. Energy Sector Vulnerabilities to Climate Change and Extreme Weather

By Staff Writers, DOE, July, 2013

<http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2013/07/f2/20130710-Energy-Sector-Vulnerabilities-Report.pdf>

Forecast failure: how the Met Office lost touch with reality

Ideology has corrupted a valuable British institution

By Rupert Darwall, Spectator, UK, Jul 13, 2013

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/features/8959941/whats-wrong-with-the-met-office/>

UN Charts 'Unprecedented' Global Warming

By Alex Morales, Bloomberg, Jul 3, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-03/un-charts-unprecedented-global-warming-since-2000.html>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Obama picks green advocate as Navy energy chief

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Jul 9, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/309771-obama-picks-new-navy-energy-chief>

Red Cross cartoon to demystify Pacific climate change

By Staff Writers, Wellington (AFP), July 03, 2013

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Red_Cross_cartoon_to_demystify_Pacific_climate_change_999.html

Questioning European Green

Britain's Gas Chance

By Bjørn Lomborg, Project Syndicate, Jul 12, 2013

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/offshore-wind-power-versus-the-bowland-shale-by-bj-rn-lomborg>

Green Deal 'could lead to deadly summer overheating'

By Brian Wheeler, BBC, Jul 8, 2013

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-23180965>

[SEPP Comment: Overly insulated houses without air conditioning may lead to summertime problems. Also, such efforts may lead to an increase in indoor air pollution.]

Green Jobs

Obama's Climate Action Plan Will Create Jobs: Study

By Matt Twomey, CNBC, Jul 5, 2013

<http://www.cnn.com/id/100861301>

Link to study: Economic Impacts of the NRDC Carbon Standard
By Synapse Energy Economics, Jun 20, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://docs.nrdc.org/energy/files/ene_13070101a.pdf

[SEPP Comment: Unreal! Among other things, job loss in other sectors of the economy must be fully discussed.]

Funding Fights

Climate vs weather prediction: should we rebalance?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Jul 11, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/11/climate-vs-weather-prediction-should-we-rebalance/#more-12147>

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

Deep oceans warming at an alarming rate

By Larry O'Hanlon Discovery News, Jul 11, 2013

<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/deep-oceans-warming-alarming-rate-6C10606562#deep-oceans-warming-alarming-rate-6C10606562>

The Krebs manoeuvre

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jul 12, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/7/12/the-krebs-manoeuvre.html>

[SEPP Comment: Report the worst and ignore the positive.]

Identifying climate impact hotspots across sectors

By Staff Writers, Potsdam, Germany, (SPX) Jul 04, 2013

http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Identifying_climate_impact_hotspots_across_sectors_999.html

Link to paper not yet established.

[SEPP Comment: The models cannot model global climate, but use them for local climate anyway?]

Networks Do 92 Climate Change Stories; Fail to Mention ‘Lull’ in Warming All 92 Times ABC, CBS and NBC ignore ‘mystery’ warming plateau in favor of alarmism about sea levels, allergies, weather

By Julia Seymour, MRC Business and Media Institute, Jun 25, 2013 [H/t Jo Nova]

<http://www.mrc.org/bias-numbers/networks-do-92-climate-change-stories-fail-mention-lull-warming-all-92-times>

Storm warning: Climate change to spawn more hurricanes

By Doyle Rice, USA Today, Jul 8, 2013

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/weather/2013/07/08/climate-change-global-warming-hurricanes/2498611/>

Link to paper: Downscaling CMIP5 climate models shows increased tropical cyclone activity over the 21st century

By Kerry Emanuel, PNAS, Jul 8, 2013

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/07/05/1301293110.abstract?sid=56d92b1b-9f45-4bab-8a20-f507112592f3>

Oh Wait! Bricks and mortar will create warmer nights (weren't we supposed to blame CO2 for that?)

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 9, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/oh-wait-bricks-and-mortar-will-create-warmer-nights-werent-we-supposed-to-blame-co2-for-that/#more-29418>

[SEPP Comment: Jo Nova exposes another absurd notion.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

The Top 5 Lies About Fracking

Explosions, poisons, pollution, cancer, and global warming all considered.

By Ronald Bailey, Reason, Jul 5, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://reason.com/archives/2013/07/05/the-top-5-lies-about-fracking>

Fact-Checking ‘Gasland Part II’

Anti-fracking film littered with inaccurate and misleading claims

By Lachlan Markay, Washington Free Beacon, Jul 10, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://freebeacon.com/fact-checking-gasland-part-ii/>

Lipstick on a Pig Study

By Josh Bloom, Medical Progress Today, June 28, 2013

<http://www.medicalprogresstoday.com/2013/06/lipstick-on-a-pig-study.php>

[SEPP Comment: Making things up is not confined to climate science.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Climate Change Deniers Using Dirty Tricks from 'Tobacco Wars', Expert Says

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, Jul 4, 2013 [H/t Tom Sheahen]

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/07/130704095132.htm>

MEMO: To the Minister for warmism and paranoia

By Michael Kile, Quadrant, AU, Jul 7, 2013

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2013/07/memo-to-the-minister-for-warmism-and-paranoia>

[SEPP Comment: Rebutting a speech that only “calm reasoned argument” could combat the “sneering anti-intellectualism” and “postmodernist drivel” of “denialists.”]

Fake polite guys, and Fake “skeptical scientists”: Stephen Emmott tries it on

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 7, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/fake-polite-guys-and-fake-skeptical-scientists-stephen-emcott-tries-it-on/#more-29388>

Models v. Observations

Why Less Summer Ice Increases Bear Populations

By Jim Steel, WUWT, Jul 6, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/06/why-less-summer-ice-increases-bear-populations/#more-89443>

Chukchi/Bering Sea ringed seals doing better despite declines in ice and snow: new study

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Jul 11, 2013

<http://polarbearscience.com/2013/07/11/chukchibering-sea-ringed-seals-doing-better-despite-declines-in-ice-and-snow-new-study/#more-2374>

Model Issues

Climate change: The forecast for 2018 is cloudy with record heat

Efforts to predict the near-term climate are taking off, but their record so far has been patchy.

By Jeff Tollefson, Nature, Jul 10, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/news/climate-change-the-forecast-for-2018-is-cloudy-with-record-heat-1.13344>

The forecast for 2018 is cloudy

”The dramatic warming predicted after 2008 has yet to arrive.”

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Jul 11, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/11/the-forecast-for-2018-is-cloudy/#more-12172>

[SEPP Comment: Curry’s comments on the above link are at the end.]

Models Fail: Global Land Precipitation & Global Ocean Precipitation

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Jul 10, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/10/models-fail-global-land-precipitation-global-ocean-precipitation/>

Models Fail: Greenland and Iceland Land Surface Air Temperature Anomalies

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Jul 6, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/06/models-fail-greenland-and-iceland-land-surface-air-temperature-anomalies/>

Measurement Issues

Analysis of UHI [Urban Heat Island] in South Korea,

By Paul Homewood, WUWT, Jul 10, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/10/analysis-of-uhi-in-south-korea/>

Changing Weather

Mesoscale ocean eddies impact weather

By Staff Writers, Zurich, Switzerland (SPX), Jul 10, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Mesoscale_ocean_eddies_impact_weather_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Mesoscale events can range from 5 km to hundreds of km.]

Changing Seas

Ancient forest found preserved under Gulf of Mexico waters

By Staff Writers, Mobile, Ala. (UPI), Jul 9, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Ancient_forest_found_preserved_under_Gulf_of_Mexico_waters_999.html

Corals cozy up with bacterial buddies

By Staff Writers, Cape Cod MA (SPX), Jul 10, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Corals_cozy_up_with_bacterial_buddies_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Along with algae, some corals appear to have a symbiotic relationship with some bacteria.]

Glimpse into the future of acidic oceans shows ecosystems transformed

By Staff Writers, Davis CA (SPX) Jul 10, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Glimpse_into_the_future_of_acidic_oceans_shows_ecosystems_transformed_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The article is misleading by confusing changing alkalinity with changing acidity.]

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Scientists Cast Doubt on Theory of What Triggered Antarctic Glaciation

By Staff Writer, U. Texas, Jul 11, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.utexas.edu/news/2013/07/11/scientists-cast-doubt-on-theory-of-what-triggered-antarctic-glaciation/>

Link to paper: A potential barrier to deep Antarctic circumpolar flow until the late Miocene?

By Dalziel, et al., Geology, Jul 11, 2013

<http://geology.gsapubs.org/content/early/2013/07/10/G34352.1.abstract>

In subglacial lake, surprising life goes on

By Staff Writers, Bowling Green OH (SPX), Jul 08, 2013

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/In_subglacial_lake_surprising_life_goes_on_999.html

Link to paper: Subglacial Lake Vostok (Antarctica) Accretion Ice Contains a Diverse Set of Sequences from Aquatic, Marine and Sediment-Inhabiting Bacteria and Eukarya

By Kocer, et al., Plos One, Jul 3, 2013

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0067221>

Scientists Image Vast Subglacial Water System Underpinning West Antarctica's Thwaites Glacier

By Staff Writers, Austin TX (SPX), Jul 10, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Scientists_Image_Vast_Subglacial_Water_System_Underpinning_West_Antarcticas_Thwaites_Glacier_999.html

Antarctic glacier calves iceberg 8 times as big as Manhattan Island

By Staff Writers, Bremerhaven, Germany, (UPI) Jul 9, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Antarctic_glacier_calves_iceberg_8_times_as_big_as_Manhattan_Island_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Doing what comes naturally – Antarctica is not warming.]

Evidence suggests Antarctic crabs could be native

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Jul 08, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Evidence_suggests_Antarctic_crabs_could_be_native_999.html

Link to paper: Antarctic Crabs: Invasion or Endurance?

By Griffiths, et al., Plos One, July 3, 2013

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0066981>

Changing Earth

1815, 1816 and 1817; A POLAR PUZZLE

By Caleb Shaw, WUWT, Jul 8, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/08/1815-1816-and-1817-a-polar-puzzle/>

[SEPP Comment: Asking a serious question while including a bit of humor. Why did the Arctic thaw in the year without a summer? In 1815 Tambora in Indonesia erupted. Was it soot dropping on Arctic ice changing the albedo that caused the ice to melt?]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Improving crop yields in a world of extreme weather events

By Staff Writers, Riverside, UK (SPX). Jul 04, 2013

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Improving_crop_yields_in_a_world_of_extreme_weather_events_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Useful research diminished by exaggeration about climate.]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Impact of Continental Mass Change on Rate-of-Rise of Sea Level

Reference: Baur, O., Kuhn, M. and Featherstone, W.E. 2013. Continental mass change from GRACE over 2002-2011 and its impact on sea level. *Journal of Geodesy* 87: 117-125.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/9jul2013a1.html>

Equatorial Cold Tongue Bias in CGCMs: Its Impact on ENSO

Reference: Vanniere, B., Guilyardi, E., Madec, G., Doblas-Reyes, F.J. and Woolnough, S. 2013. Using seasonal hindcasts to understand the origin of the equatorial cold tongue bias in CGCMs and its impact on ENSO. *Climate Dynamics* 40: 963-981.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/9jul2013a3.html>

Life in a Cold and Dark Place: Can It Long Be Maintained in a Warming World?

Reference: McMinn, A. and Martin, A. 2013. Dark survival in a warming world. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 280: 10.1098/rspb.2012.2909

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/9jul2013a4.html>

Changes in Diurnal Temperature Range and Human Mortality

Reference: Yang, J., Liu, H.-Z., Ou, C.-Q., Lin, G.-Z., Zhou, Q., Shen, G.-C., Chen, P.-Y. and Guo, Y. 2013. Global climate change: Impact of diurnal temperature range on mortality in Guangzhou, China. 2013. *Environmental Pollution* 175: 131-136

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/10jul2013a1.html>

The South Asian Monsoon: How Difficult It Has Been to Model

Reference: Bollasina, M.A. and Ming, Y. 2013. The general circulation model precipitation bias over the southwestern equatorial Indian Ocean and its implications for simulating the South Asian monsoon. *Climate Dynamics* 40: 823-838.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/10jul2013a3.html>

The Political Games Continue

House Republicans ready attack on Obama's 'social cost of carbon'

By Ben Geman, The Hill Jul 12, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/310667-house-gop-readies-attack-on-social-cost-of-carbon-boost>

Litigation Issues

Court overturns EPA greenhouse gas rule delay

By Julian Hatten, The Hill, Jul 12, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/310781-court-overturns-epa-greenhouse-gas-rule-delay>

[SEPP Comment: EPA cannot grant special favors to biofuels.]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

State of the carbon market in 2013 is so sick the World Bank cancelled the report

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 10, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/state-of-the-carbon-market-in-2013-is-so-sick-the-world-bank-cancelled-the-report/>

No gain and lots of pain with the ETS

By Peter Lang, Quadrant, Jul 8, 2013

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2013/07/no-gain-and-lots-of-pain-with-the-ets>

[SEPP Comment: ETS is the emissions trading scheme.]

About-turn on backloading

By Staff Writers, WNN, Jul 4, 2013

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE-About_turn_on_backloading-0407137.html

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

It's Time To Sequester Green Energy Subsidies, Not Mythical Oil And Gas Tax Breaks

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jul 7, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/07/07/its-time-to-sequester-green-energy-subsidies-not-mythical-oil-and-gas-tax-breaks/>

A Tiny Ray Of Common Sense Shines In Washington

Editorial, IBD, Jul 11, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/071113-663400-gop-suspends-the-light-bulb-ban.htm>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA set to unveil host of new regs

By Julian Hatte, The Hill, Jul 7, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/309397-power-plant-rules-and-more-coming-from-epa-administration>

Environmental Protection Agency Regulation Intrudes on State Rights

By Staff Writer, NCPA, July 11, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=23368&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

EPA sues Oklahoma utility for obeying the law

By David Middleton, WUWT, Jul 10, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/10/epa-sues-ok-utility-for-obeying-the-law/>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Critique of the UK's "energy policy" by Ukip energy policy spokesman

By Roger Helmer, No Date

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zy9nFwgX_MFluUfsj1QK6xEuYrKEO1MaThE-gP_fyBs/edit?pli=1

Holes this size can save UK

Ex-Chancellor tells The Sun he's backing fracking

By Lord Lawson, The Sun, Jul 9, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/features/5004124/Fracking-Lord-Lawson.html>

[SEPP Comment: A photo of a well bore hole about 12 ¼ inches in diameter.]

"Solar power is Israel's only alternative"

Renewable Energy Association of Israel Eitan Parnass is playing the security card in trying to overcome bureaucratic indifference.

By Amiram Barkat, Globes, Jul 10, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.globes.co.il/serveen/globes/docview.asp?did=1000861261&fid=1724>

[SEPP Comment: A natural gas facility is vulnerable to attack and a solar facility is not?]

Energy Issues -- US

Despite Obama's claims, Department of Energy forecasts suggest that fossil fuels are the energy sources of the future

By Mark Perry, AEI, Jul 9, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.aei-ideas.org/2013/07/despite-obamas-claims-department-of-energy-forecasts-suggest-that-fossil-fuels-are-the-energy-sources-of-the-future/>

Energy sources have changed throughout the history of the United States

By Staff Writers, EIA, Jul 3, 2013

<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=11951>

[SEPP Comment: It is important to note that the EIA has made a determined effort to be independent from political influence, regardless who is president.]

Peak rail?

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Jul 12, 2013

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/peak-rail>

Quebec train disaster highlights pipeline shortage

By Staff Writers, Montreal, July 09, 2013

[http://www.energy-](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Quebec_train_disaster_highlights_pipeline_shortage_999.html)

[daily.com/reports/Quebec_train_disaster_highlights_pipeline_shortage_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Quebec_train_disaster_highlights_pipeline_shortage_999.html)

Green Appeasement: Oil, Gas Industry Wasting Billions on ‘Alternatives’

New renewable divisions are about PR, not innovation.

By Anna Franco, PJ Media, Jul 7, 2013

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/green-appeasement-oil-gas-industry-wasting-billions-on-alternatives/>

Washington’s Control of Energy

In the war on coal, the enemy is us

By David Kreutzer, Washington Times, Jul 3, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jul/3/kreutzer-in-the-war-on-coal-the-enemy-is-us/?page=all#pagebreak>

Report: Energy Department Sitting on Billions of Dollars in Natural Gas Projects

Approval could add nearly 500,000 jobs, up to \$73.6B in revenue

By CJ Ciarmella, Washington Free Beacon, Jul 11, 2013

<http://freebeacon.com/report-energy-department-sitting-on-billions-in-dollars-of-natural-gas-projects/>

Link to the report: Liquefied Natural Gas: Why Rapid Approval of the Backlog of Export Applications is Important for U.S. Prosperity

By Margo Thorning, American Council for Capital Formation, Jul 11, 2013

<http://actonlng.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/ACCF-LNG-Margo-Thorning-July-2013.pdf>

As The Earth Cools, Obama's Still Distracted By A Fraudulent Warming Narrative

By Peter Ferrara, Forbes, Jul 8, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/peterferrara/2013/07/08/as-the-earth-cools-obamas-still-distracted-by-a-fraudulent-warming-narrative/>

[SEPP Comment: A more accurate headline would be: As global warming pauses...]

The Battle for Economic and Energy Freedom

By Marita Noon, Energy Tribune, Jul 10, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/78085/the-battle-for-economic-and-energy-freedom#sthash.HMUXiQMI.dpbs>

DOE to toughen energy efficiency standards for new federal buildings

By Zack Colman The Hill, Jul 8, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/309585-doe-to-toughen-energy-efficiency-standards-for-new-federal-buildings>

[SEPP Comment: Good plan, let the government experiment on itself first! Make sure all heating and cooling equipment and elevators are run by wind and solar power.]

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Fracking Pushes U.S. Oil Output to Highest Since 1992

By Asjylyn Loder, Bloomberg Jul 10, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-10/fracking-pushes-u-s-oil-output-to-highest-since-january-1992.html>

Stanford researchers say 'peak oil' concerns should ease

By Mark Golden, Stanford Press Release, July 9, 2013

<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2013/july/peak-oil-supply-070913.html>

Return of King Coal?

Green Dreams in America, Coal in Africa

Obama aims to decrease “carbon pollution” in the U.S., but the dark continent needs coal

By Robert Bryce, NRO, Jul 8, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/352832/green-dreams-america-coal-africa-robert-bryce>

Clean Energy Stagnation

Growth in Renewables Outpaced by Fossil Fuels

By Roger Pielke Jr, Breakthrough Institute, Jul 9, 2013

<http://thebreakthrough.org/index.php/voices/roger-pielke-jr/clean-energy-stagnation/>

Coal As An Environmental Product (Part II)

By Mary Hutzler, Master Resource, Jul 10, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/07/coal-environmental-product-ii/#more-26576>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

BP fights 'feeding frenzy' of US oil spill claims

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), July 08, 2013

<http://www.energy->

[daily.com/reports/BP_fights_feeding_frenzy_of_US_oil_spill_claims_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/BP_fights_feeding_frenzy_of_US_oil_spill_claims_999.html)

US government assessment of BP oil spill 'will not account for damage'

Efforts to put a price on damage from disaster fails to capture full extent of environmental losses in Gulf waters

By Suzanne Goldenberg, The Guardian, UK, Jul 11, 2013

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2013/jul/11/us-assessment-bp-oil-spill-damage>

Link to the report: An Ecosystem Services Approach to Assessing the Impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico

By: Committee on the Effects of the Deepwater Horizon Mississippi Canyon-252 Oil Spill on Ecosystem Services in the Gulf of Mexico; Ocean Studies Board; Division on Earth and Life Studies; National Research Council, National Academies Press, 2013

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=18387

Treating oil spills with chemical dispersants: Is the cure worse than the ailment?

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Jul 09, 2013

<http://www.energy->

[daily.com/reports/Treating_oil_spills_with_chemical_dispersants_Is_the_cure_worse_than_the_ailment_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Treating_oil_spills_with_chemical_dispersants_Is_the_cure_worse_than_the_ailment_999.html)

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Ten Japanese units go for restart

By Staff Writers, WNN, Jul 8, 2013

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS-Ten_Japanese_units_go_for_restart-0807137.html

[SEPP Comment: About 20,000 died as a result of the earthquake and tsunami. No one has died as a result of accident at Fukushima Daiichi. Yet, 48 nuclear plants remain closed after 2 years.]

Fukushima chief's cancer: no link to the disaster of 2011

By Staff Writer, ACSH, Jul 10, 2013

<http://hsdispatch.com/2013/07/10/fukushima-chiefs-cancer-no-link-to-the-disaster-of-2011/>

Japan's growth in renewable energy dims as nuclear strives for comeback

By Mari Fujisaki, The Asahi Shimbun, Jul 7, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

http://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind_news/politics/AJ201307070012

Carbon Schemes

Coal emissions to produce biofuel in Australian plant

By Staff Writers, Sydney (UPI), Jul 3, 2013

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Coal_emissions_to_produce_biofuel_in_Australian_plant_99.html

Health, Energy, and Climate

China 'free coal' policy shaves years off life: study

by Staff Writers

Washington (AFP) July 08, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/China_free_coal_policy_shaves_years_off_life_study_999.html

Link to Study: Evidence on the impact of sustained exposure to air pollution on life expectancy from China's Huai River policy

By Yuyu Chen, et al., PNAS, July 8, 2013

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/07/03/1300018110>

[SEPP Comment: The MIT press release termed the study as “quasi-experimental research.”]

Environmental Industry

The EU's Fast-Approaching Food Tyranny...EU Undertakes To “Radically Transform” People's Dietary Habits!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jul 11, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/07/11/the-eus-fast-approaching-food-tyranny-eu-undertakes-to-dictate-human-food-diets/>

[SEPP Comment: First energy, then food, then humanity – for the sake of humanity!]

Other Scientific News

Time for a scientific journal Reproducibility Index

By Ivan Oransky, Retraction Watch, Jul 8, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com/2013/07/08/time-for-a-scientific-journal-reproducibility-index/>

[SEPP Comment: Proposing an index to rate journals on how well their papers stand up to scrutiny, particularly are the results reproducible?]

Claim: Faint Young Sun Paradox solved

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jul 9, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/09/claim-faint-young-paradox-solved/>

[SEPP Comment: Solved by using un-validated computer models? The solution is 20,000 ppm of CO2 and 1,000 ppm of methane as compared with almost 400 ppm CO2 and 0.7 ppm methane, today. Is the solution unique?]

Length of day governed by Earth’s core processes

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jul 11, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/11/length-of-day-governed-by-earths-core-processes/>

No single origin for agriculture in the Fertile Crescent

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Jul 09, 2013

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/No single origin for agriculture in the Fertile Crescent 999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/No_single_origin_for_agriculture_in_the_Fertile_Crescent_999.html)

Other News that May Be of Interest

Propaganda Through The Ages Has Been The Enemy Of Reason

Editorial, IBD, Jul 12, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/071213-663623-propaganda-makes-free-speech-impossible.htm?p=full>

Accused “Fraudster” Heads Two Journals

A Russian researcher suspected of multiple counts of fakery is chief editor of two scientific publications.

By Kerry Grens, The Scientist, Jul 2, 2013 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://www.the-scientist.com/?articles.view/articleNo/36299/title/Accused--Fraudster--Heads-Two-Journals/>

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Science Speechless Over Embarrassing WWF Claim: Environmental Activists Postulate More Ship Accidents Due To Climate Change

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt

Trans. by P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jul 12, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/07/12/embarrassment-to-science-wwf-postulates-climate-change-will-lead-to-more-seafaring-accidents/>

Some Kind of Narcissism: WWF Says It’s Saving Life Itself

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Jul 10, 2013

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/07/10/some-kind-of-narcissism-wwf-says-its-saving-life-itself/>

[SEPP Comment: WWF saving life itself! This WWF program is funded by the US Agency for International Development – to stop development?]

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ARTICLES:

1. China Questions Climate Consensus

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Jul 11, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/07/china_questions_climate_consensus.html

The world's most populous nation is officially openly debating whether fears of anthropogenic global warming are justified by science. In May 2013, the Chinese Academy of Sciences translated and published the reports of NIPCC (Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change). While providing a platform for discussion of climate issues, the CAS does not necessarily agree with the NIPCC's conclusions -- which are contrary to those of the UN-IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change). Rather, the CAS demonstrates a commendable willingness to encourage open discussion of important scientific questions. It may well be a first; no such discussion has ever been permitted by the UK's Royal Society or by the US National Academy of Sciences.

However, there seems to be a division of opinion within the Chinese Academy, as is evident from the fact that their (Beijing) June 15 Workshop featuring the NIPCC conclusions is to be followed by a September symposium that clearly supports the IPCC point of view. I hope that internal debate of the science will allow the CAS to reach a considered opinion on whether Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW) is a danger to human welfare, as has been claimed by alarmists. [Some pertinent questions are listed at the end of this article.]

But there is more involved here than just debate about climate science. Many personal factors enter in, as they do for scientists everywhere. Once part of the IPCC process, a scientist will typically attend many workshops and symposia during the year, usually at exotic locations (Bali, Cancun, Marrakesh), staying in first class resort hotels. There's also the camaraderie of being part of an international scientific effort, making interesting contacts and forming scientific and personal friendships. And then there is a certain prestige attached to international efforts, often reflected in professional advancement, increases in salary, prizes and honors -- not to mention lucrative research grants from compliant government agencies and generous private donors (that often include 'Big Oil!').

Finally, there's the feeling that the scientific efforts may help to determine important national policies that "save the climate" and advance human welfare. At least that seems to be the opinion which is current in the United States and Europe. But it would be rash to assume that this idealistic hope is really true. One cannot imagine that important decisions about the future of economic growth and national development in China would be held hostage to purely scientific opinions. If anything, national policies tend to be fairly conservative and skeptical about the supposed danger of AGW. In China, such decisions are probably made by the National Development and Reform Commission, which has also handled international negotiations related to the Kyoto Protocol (to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases). China has opposed Kyoto -- and the US, unlike other OECD nations, has never ratified the Protocol.

In support of this view, one can consider the agreement between President Obama and the Chinese president, at their recent meeting in Hawaii, to reduce the emission of HFCs (hydro-fluorocarbons), used in refrigeration as a replacement for CFCs. Their communiqué said nothing about Carbon Dioxide, the most significant greenhouse gas, released in creating energy from fossil fuels, vital for economic growth.

One can of course cite as a counter-example the recently announced climate policy of President Obama, which seems to be driven by fear of AGW -- or, more likely, by fear of losing the political support of climate alarmists. Though a small segment of the US population, the alarmists do include a large fraction of the media and other influential opinion-makers. Mr.

Obama has promised what amounts to a "war on coal," the most plentiful and cheapest fuel for generating electricity. But there's every indication that the White House policy is politically motivated and not driven by science. A good indicator of the real motive is the possibility that Obama will veto the Keystone-XL pipeline, which is to bring Canadian tar-sand oil to Texas refineries. As everyone realizes, such a veto would simply be a sop to environmental activists, since it will hardly affect the decision of the Canadian governments to recover the oil from the tar sands.

On the other hand, China has just said they will experiment with Cap-&-Trade policies. But I suspect the aim here is not simply to reduce the emission of CO₂ but to use it as a driver to improve the efficiency of old coal-fired power plants, which is as low as 11%.

For comparison, most US power plants have efficiencies of at least 35% -- i.e., converting 35% of the heat generated in the combustion of coal into useful electricity. The "super-critical" coal plants now coming into use are capable of efficiencies of 55%. This means that China can build coal-fired electric generating plants producing five times as much power (with the same amount of fuel) as the old types now in use -- certainly a worthwhile goal. But it will do little if anything for the global climate and should not be considered as climate policy.

Some questions for IPCC:

As mentioned earlier, the Chinese Academy of Sciences is planning a September symposium in Beijing to rally the pro-IPCC arguments and try to convince their government that humans make an important contribution to global warming. In anticipation of this symposium, one would like to ask the organizers the following kinds of questions:

1. Can you explain why there has been no significant warming observed in the last 15 years -- in spite of a rapid increase in the atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide?
2. Can one explain why the tropical atmosphere has shown no warming between 1979 and 2000 (ignoring the 1-yr long temperature spike of 1998, caused by a Super-El-Nino), and then again between 2002 and 2012-while models predict that the atmosphere should warm faster than the surface?
3. Can one explain why the Antarctic has been cooling, with Antarctic sea Ice growing steadily-while models predict a global warming with most of the effects at high latitudes?
4. Why is there is a striking difference in observed temperature trends between Northern and Southern hemispheres, not exhibited by climate models?
5. There is also a striking disparity between observed and modeled latitude dependence of clouds and of precipitation. Why is that?
6. Can one explain what caused the observed strong warming between 1910 and 1940? It is unlikely to be anthropogenic, since the level of greenhouse gases was quite low before World War-II.
7. Can current climate models account for the observed Multi-decadal Oscillations of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans?

8. Finally, can one explain the existence of the so called Little Ice Age, between about 1400 and 1800 AD, and the apparent coincidence of extreme cold with low sunspot numbers?

It is clear that the climate models cannot explain what is actually being observed. Yet it is a principle of science that observations must always take precedence. Models have not been validated by actual observations and therefore should not be used to make predictions about the future. The IPCC's most recent report claims that models and observations do agree; but these claims are clearly questionable.

The Chinese Academy of Sciences has taken an important step in trying to answer questions essential for a rational climate policy. The world will watch their pioneering efforts with great interest.

A quick word about carbon dioxide: It is an odorless, non-toxic natural constituent of the Earth's atmosphere. As the basic food for all plants, it is absolutely essential for maintaining life on our planet. CO₂ should not be called a "pollutant." In the geological past, its level has been ten times or more higher than its present value; in fact, our major food crops developed when CO₂ levels were about five times higher. China is now the world's largest emitter of CO₂ and thereby making an important contribution to increasing agricultural yields at a time when much of the global population is still hungry. The world should be grateful to China.

2. Can Environmentalists Think? Think of the Keystone XL pipeline as an IQ test for greens

By Brent Stephens, WSJ, Jul 8, 2013

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323368704578593562819939112.html>

As environmental disasters go, the explosion Saturday of a runaway train that destroyed much of the Quebec town of Lac-Mégantic, about 20 miles from the Maine border, will probably go down the memory hole.

It lacks the correct moral and contains an inconvenient truth.

Not that the disaster lacks the usual ingredients of such a moral. The derailed 72-car train belonged to a subsidiary of Illinois-based multinational Rail World, whose self-declared aim is to "promote rail industry privatization." The train was carrying North Dakota shale oil (likely extracted by fracking) to the massive Irving Oil refinery in the port city of Saint John, to be shipped to the global market. At least five people were killed in the blast (a number that's likely to rise) and 1,000 people were forced to evacuate. Quebec's environment minister reports that some 100,000 liters (26,000 gallons) of crude have spilled into the Chaudière River, meaning it could reach Quebec City and the St. Lawrence River before too long.

Environmentalists should be howling. But this brings us to the inconvenient truth.

The reason oil is moved on trains from places like North Dakota and Alberta is because there aren't enough pipelines to carry it. The provincial governments of Alberta and New Brunswick are talking about building a pipeline to cover the 3,000-odd mile distance. But last month President Obama put the future of the Keystone XL pipeline again in doubt, telling a Georgetown

University audience "our national interest will be served only if this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution."

Did the explosion at Lac-Mégantic not significantly exacerbate the problem of pollution, carbon or otherwise? Why do environmentalists routinely frame political choices in the language of moral absolutes—save/destroy the planet; "don't be mean, go green," and so on—rather than as complex questions involving trade-offs that are best dealt with pragmatically?

When it comes to the question of how best to transport oil, environmentalists tend to act like rabbis being asked for advice on how best to roast a pig: The thing should not be done in the first place. So opposition to Keystone XL becomes an assertion of virtue, indifferent to such lesser considerations as efficiency (or succulence).

But the pig will be roasted. The oil will be pumped. What happens then?

Like water, business has a way of tracing a course of least resistance. Pipelines are a hyper-regulated industry but rail transport isn't, so that's how we now move oil. As the Wall Street Journal's Tom Fowler reported in March, in 2008 the U.S. rail system moved 9,500 carloads of oil. In 2012, the figure surged to 233,811. During the same period, the total number of spills went from eight to 69. In March, a derailed train spilled 714 barrels of oil in western Minnesota.

Predictable, you would think. And ameliorable: Pipelines account for about half as much spillage as railways on a gallon-per-mile basis. Pipelines also tend not to go straight through exposed population centers like Lac-Mégantic. Nobody suggests that pipelines are perfectly reliable or safe, but what is? To think is to weigh alternatives. The habit of too many environmentalists is to evade them.

Perhaps this explains why the environmental movement has excelled ideologically and failed politically. As in fashion, green is a nice color that rarely wears well. So the whole world (minus your correspondent) agrees that climate change is an urgent threat to life as we know it, yet every U.N. megasummit to save the planet ends on a whimpering note. So all Americans are convinced that the threat of climate change is real, but President Obama had to use executive fiat to impose regulations on the coal industry that Congress would have rejected out of hand.

Perhaps this is also the reason climate science is so prone to scientific embarrassment. In 2001, the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change insisted that "global average surface temperatures [will rise] at rates very likely without precedent during the last 10,000 years," and that they would rise sharply and continuously.

Yet in the 15 years since 1998, surface air temperatures have held flat, a fact now grudgingly conceded by the climate-science establishment, despite more than 100 billion tons of carbon dioxide having been pumped into the atmosphere over the same period. "Nature is far more imaginative than we are," Stamatios Krimigis, the eminent Johns Hopkins physicist, said last month when readings from the Voyager spacecraft failed to match expectations for what it would find at the far edge of the solar system. That kind of humility in the face of data is tough for today's environmentalists, who have staked so much on their own models, predictions and certitudes.

It's a pity. The world needs a credible environmental movement. Conservation matters. So does the quality of water and air. In China and Russia today environmentalists have mounted the most effective (and often the most courageous) critique of the toxic combination of coercive states and corrupt businesses. In the developed world, urban life has been massively improved thanks to a keener environmental awareness.

But all that depends on an environmental movement that isn't just another fire-and-brimstone religion, that wants to be part of a solution without castigating everyone else as part of the problem. In other words, a movement that is capable of reasoned thought.

The first application for a Keystone XL pipeline permit was filed with the U.S. State Department in 2008. Since then, the amount of oil being shipped on rails has risen 24-fold. Environmentalists enraged by this column should look at the photo of Lac-Mégantic that goes with it, and think it over.

3. Exxon: Report Finds Outdated Welding Caused Arkansas Pipeline Rupture

Lab Says Seam Cracks Tied to 1940s Welding Led to March Spill of 5,000 Barrels of Oil

By Alison Sider, WSJ, Jul 11, 2013

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323740804578599921900267376.html?mod=W>
[SJ Energy 2 4 Right](#)

An independent report found that a rupture in an Exxon Mobil Corp. pipeline that spilled thousands of barrels of oil in Mayflower, Arkansas, earlier this year was caused by defects tied to when the pipe was built in the 1940s, the company said.

An independent metallurgical laboratory looked at the section of the pipe that ripped open in March, spilling an estimated 5,000 barrels of oil into a residential neighborhood in the small town about 25 miles from Little Rock.

Exxon said Thursday it is reviewing the results of that assessment, which were provided to the company and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration on Wednesday.

The Texas oil giant said that according to the report, hook-shaped cracks along the pipe's seams were the root cause of the pipe's failure, not corrosion. The cracks are related to an outdated welding process that, as The Wall Street Journal reported in April, is no longer performed on new pipes but that still affects thousands of miles of pipelines in use across the U.S.

The lab also found that the pipeline's limited flexibility also contributed to the incident, Exxon said. The report hasn't been made public, and PHMSA is still reviewing it, a spokesman for the agency said.

The section of the pipe that ruptured is more than 60 years old but passed a high-pressure test in 2006 and an internal inspection in 2010 that sought to measure metal loss or other anomalies, Exxon said.

Aaron Stryk, a spokesman for Exxon, said the full results of a more detailed inspection Exxon conducted earlier this year aren't yet available. That inspection, called a transverse flux, uses a magnetic field to find corrosion along seams. It can also detect cracks and other defects, though not as reliably as it can detect corrosion, according to PHMSA's website.

Once the results come out, the company will review whether it needs to make changes to its pipeline integrity management program, Mr. Stryk said.

But it isn't clear how reliable that test will be in detecting potential problems along pipeline seams, said Rick Kuprewicz, a pipeline-safety consultant.

"That's the million dollar question," Mr. Kuprewicz said.

The type of cracks found to have caused the rupture in Mayflower are associated with some types of an early welding process called electric resistance welding, according to PHMSA's website. That process hasn't been used on new pipelines since about 1970, but about a quarter of the 182,500 miles of liquid fuel pipelines across the U.S. were welded that way, according to the most recent federal data.

Other pipeline ruptures have been linked to electrically welded pipe over the years, including a 2007 break in a liquid-propane pipe near Carmichael Miss., which caused a fire that killed two people. In 2011, PHMSA commissioned a study of how to detect problems in these pipes and prevent the pipes from failing while in use.

Arkansas and the U.S. government have sued Exxon for allegedly violating pollution laws. The Arkansas attorney general hasn't yet seen the testing results, a spokesman for the office said.

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