

The Week That Was: 2012-02-04 (February 4, 2012)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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On the Road Again: From February 6 to 17, Fred Singer will be traveling to the Southwest and West US to spread the joyous news that the NIPCC Reports are correct and the IPCC models do not conform to observations. Humanity has little to fear from the false claims of unprecedented and dangerous global warming. His public talks include (no reservations needed):

Feb 6 HOUSTON, TX

Noon Rice Univ, Physics Colloquium

7 pm University of Houston, Theater, College of Architecture, lecture with dessert reception.

Feb 7 AUSTIN, TX

7 pm Univ of Texas- Mezes Hall, Room MEZ 1.306

Feb 8 LOS ANGELES

6pm UCLA Room: Haines A82

Feb 9 ORANGE, CA

10am Chapman Univ, (but RSVP to Prof Don Booth 714-997-6804

Feb 14 SAN DIEGO

4 – 6 pm Cal State Univ, San Diego, Aztec Hall, Room 107,

Feb 15 ALBUQUERQUE, NM

6-8pm Public Lecture. at UNM Law School For info visit www.riograndefoundation.org

Feb 16 ALBUQUERQUE, NM

5pm SIGMA XI LECTURE at Univ of NM Conference Center, Room C

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Quote of the Week:

“That men do not learn very much from the lessons of history is the most important of all the lessons history has to teach.”— Aldous Huxley

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Number of the Week: \$26 Million

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THIS WEEK:

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

Positive or Normative Science: Physics is a positive science. For example, the critical assumptions of the standard model are repeatedly, rigorously tested. By contrast, economics is largely, but not exclusively, a normative science where critical assumptions are not rigorously tested (often the assumptions are value judgments). For example, the failure of the US economy to respond to the massive 2009 stimulus bill as predicted by elaborate Keynesian models is a failure of the models in which critical assumptions have not been rigorously tested.

Climate science, based on physics, is a positive science. However, climate science as interpreted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is largely a normative science. Critical assumptions used in the models have not been rigorously tested, thus the results are projections, not predictions. These include the assumption that carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are the major driver of climate change. The models used by the IPCC failed to predict the current decade-plus long trend of no

temperature increase. As Vincent Gray of New Zealand, an IPCC expert reviewer since the beginning, writes: “It is the total absence of satisfactory prediction, instead of the IPCC ‘projections’ which leads me to state, unequivocally, that there is no scientifically based evidence that climate has been shown to be affected by emissions of trace gases into the atmosphere.”

Much of climate science as practiced by the IPCC, and those dependent on it, is more akin to economics than it is to physics.

Wall Street Journal Blow-out: The article “No Need to Panic About Global Warming” by 16 distinguished scientists published in the Wall Street Journal on January 27 (see last week’s TWTW, Article #1) has caused a ruckus with some climate scientists. Thirty-eight signed a letter “Check With Climate Scientists for Views on Climate” published in the Wall Street Journal on February 1.

The letter makes a medical analogy, but uses it to establish a strawman argument: an argument that ignores the main issue. The issue not has the globe warmed since about 1850 or that climate is changing, it has never been static, but what is the cause? Keeping with the medical analogy, one is reminded about the cause of peptic ulcers.

For about 100 years, expert doctors were convinced that stress, spicy food, and alcohol caused most peptic ulcers and in severe cases would cut out sections of the stomach and intestines from their patients to stop ulcers. Then a pair of veterinarians demonstrated that bacterial infections caused most ulcers by deliberately infecting themselves and then curing themselves.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the principal cause of global warming / climate change is not carbon dioxide emissions. Yet alarmist climate scientists are refusing to admit the physical evidence and are inventing various ingenious ways to explain why the projected global warming is not occurring. While the skeptics declare it is not carbon dioxide that is the main cause of global warming / climate change, and to disembowel a modern nation’s economy by severely cutting fossil fuels use would be a grave error. Please see Articles # 1 and # 2, and links to comments by Patrick Michaels and Indur Goklany under “Challenging the Orthodoxy.”

The Quest for the Missing Heat: The missing heat can be roughly defined as the difference between the IPCC model projections of how hot temperatures should be now and the actual observations, which are much cooler. In two press releases, NASA’s Goddard Institute of Space Studies (NASA-GISS) and a joint release from NASA’s Langley Research Center and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory each claimed they have found the missing heat: it is hiding in the deep oceans.

Both studies bring up similar issues. They assume the projections from unverified models are correct. They mistake temperatures for temperature trends. It is the temperature trend of no current warming that is important not the current temperatures. There is no explanation why the heat went missing in recent years when it was not missing when the models were created. And they fail to explain how the deep ocean heats without first heating the surface. Please see links under “Defending the Orthodoxy” and criticisms, especially the one by Robert Bradley, under “Questioning the Orthodoxy.”

Atmospheric Temperature Trend: Roy Spencer reports that for January 2012 the temperature for the lower troposphere was below the January norm for the entire period from December 1979. Please see: <http://www.drroyspencer.com/2012/02/uah-global-temperature-update-for-january-2012-0-09-deg-c/>

Nuclear Waste Storage: Once again a “Blue Ribbon Commission” has called upon a solution for nuclear waste storage. The approximately forty-year-old issue is an excellent example of how environmental industry manipulates public opinion by creating false fears in order to limit the public’s access to energy.

First the environmental industry creates a fear of nuclear waste, and then it creates a fear of recycling nuclear waste. Instead, it creates a demand for a central repository, and then creates fear of shipping to the central repository as well as a fear of the repository by placing impossible demands on it – such as no nuclear lead for 10,000 to 100,000 years. This demand demonstrates an amazing conceit that human knowledge will not advance beyond present day.

The success of the false fear was realized when President Obama stopped the Yucca Mountain project after the expenditure of Billions of dollars paid by ratepayers of nuclear generated electricity. Now, the environmental industry is demanding that no new nuclear power plants be built until there is a central repository. This process ignores that safe storage can be done in dry casks and, as Fred Singer wrote in the Wall Street Journal in 1985, the most sensible use of spent fuel is to recycle it. Throughout this entire process politicians from both parties and numerous ideologies have been cleverly manipulated to waste time and money at the expense of the ordinary citizen. For Singer’s article “Seeking a Sane Way to Store Nuclear Waste” please see the SEPP web site: <http://www.sepp.org/science-editorials.cfm?whichyear=2012>. For links to the findings of the commission please see “Nuclear Energy and Fears.”

Number of the Week: \$26 Million: On Thursday, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune admitted that between 2007 and 2010 the organization took \$26 Million from Chesapeake Energy Corporation for the Sierra Club’s campaign against coal-fired electrical power plants. Chesapeake is one the nation’s largest producers of natural gas and extensively uses deep underground hydraulic fracturing “fracking” and sees its future in natural gas-fired power plants.

In making the announcement on the Sierra Club’s web site, Brune implied that it will be joining in the campaign against “fracking” for natural gas. No doubt, the leadership of Chesapeake Energy is elated to hear that the animal they fed so generously to use against their competitors may soon turn on them, probably using the same tactics it used against Chesapeake’s competitors in fuels to power electrical generation.

As readers of TWTW realize, SEPP considers the health claims against coal fired utilities and deep underground hydraulic fracturing to be greatly exaggerated and have little scientific foundation.

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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. Check With Climate Scientists for Views on Climate

By Kevin Trenberth, and Others, Letter WSJ, Feb 1, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204740904577193270727472662.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLEThirdBucket

2. Posted Response to Above Letter

By Ken Haapala, WSJ, Feb 3, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204740904577193270727472662.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLEThirdBucket#articleTabs%3Dcomm

3. Keystone Can Help the Gulf—and the Northeast

U.S. refiners could make great use of Canadian oil, if only Washington would let them.

By Lucian Pugliese, WSJ, Jan 30, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204573704577184730401558626.html?mod=ITP_opinion_0

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Bicentennial Decrease of the Total Solar Irradiance Leads to Unbalanced Thermal Budget of the Earth

Habibullo I. Abdussamatov, Pulkovo Observatory of the RAS

Applied Physics Research Vol. 4, No. 1; February 2012

Abstract, Copied in ICECAP

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes->

[blog/bicentennial-decrease-of-the-total-solar-irradiance-leads-to-unbalanced-the/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/bicentennial-decrease-of-the-total-solar-irradiance-leads-to-unbalanced-the/)

[SEPP Comment: Is a new Little Ice Age on the way? At least some Russian scientists think so.]

Climategate Continued

Geoffrey Boulton and IPCC Secrecy

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jan 31, 2012

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/01/31/geoffrey-boulton-and-ipcc-secrecy/#more-15521>

[SEPP Comment: Further exposing the IPCC efforts to suppress contradicting studies. In this case the 2004 study by McKittrick and Michaels which was not included in the 2007 AR4. Such efforts should be compelling evidence that US Federal government agencies cannot rely on IPCC reports to meet the Federal standards for “influential scientific assessments.”]

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Global Economic Damages from Tropical Cyclones – Sins of Omission

By Indur Goklany, WUWT, Feb 3, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/02/03/global-economic-damages-from-tropical-cyclones-sins-of-omission/#more-55887>

Global warming activists seek to purge ‘deniers’ among local weathermen

By Caroline May, Daily Caller, Jan 30, 2012 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://dailycaller.com/2012/01/30/global-warming-activists-seek-to-purge-deniers-among-local-weathermen/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

The De-Industrialisation of Europe

By Roger Helmer, MEP, Feb 2, 2012 [H/t Anne Debeil]

<http://rogerhelmermep.wordpress.com/2012/02/02/the-de-industrialisation-of-europe/>

[SEPP Comment: A Member of the European Parliament commenting on decline of Europe as a viable economic region. Next step, preserve it for tourists only.]

The Hitchhiker's Guide to Climate Change

By Tom Quirk, Quadrant, February 2, 2012

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2012/02/hitchhikers-guide-to-climate-change>

[SEPP Comment: Significant questions concerning the IPCC Models.]

NASA Games

By Joe D'Aleo, ICECAP, Jan 25, 2012

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

[SEPP Comment: Are NASA – GISS adjustments a corruption of the temperature record.]

Defending the Orthodoxy

Earth's Energy Budget Remained Out of Balance Despite Unusually Low Solar Activity

By Adam Voiland, NASA, Jan 30, 2012 [H/t Anthony Watts, WUWT]

<http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/energy-budget.html>

"The fact that we still see a positive imbalance despite the prolonged solar minimum isn't a surprise given what we've learned about the climate system, but it's worth noting because this provides **unequivocal** evidence that the sun is not the dominant driver of global warming," Hansen said. [Boldface added]
[SEPP Comment: James Hansen's latest calculations on the missing heat to defend the position that greenhouse gases are the primary force driving global warming.]

NASA Study Solves Case of Earth's 'Missing Energy'

By Staff Writers, Pasadena CA (JPL) Feb 02, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/NASA_Study_Solves_Case_of_Earth_Missing_Energy_999.html

Confuses temperatures with temperature trends

Heats the deep ocean without surface heating

A dangerous shift in Obama's 'climate change' rhetoric

What happened to "climate change" and "global warming"?

The Earth is still getting hotter, but those terms have nearly disappeared from political vocabulary.

By Maxwell T. Boykoff, Washington Post, Jan 27, 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-dangerous-shift-in-obamas-climate-change-rhetoric/2012/01/26/gIQAYnwzVQ_story.html

[SEPP Comment: Could it be the Earth is not getting hotter?]

Climate change a 'fundamental' risk, expert warns

By Staff Writers, AAP, Jan 31, 2012 [H/t Anthony Watts, WUWT]

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/more-news/climate-change-a-fundamental-health-risk/story-fn7x8me2-1226257929702>

[SEPP Comment: Without question, natural climate change has destabilized civilizations via food shortages, disease and unrest. Therefore we must prepare for natural climate change when it occurs. The good professor uses model projections of extreme climate change that are meaningless, rendering his claims of the future without merit.]

In Defense of Clean Energy

Editorial, NYT, Jan 27, 2012

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/28/opinion/in-defense-of-clean-energy.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha211>

[SEPP Comment: No mention of the high cost of this energy. To protect children from mercury would require no days at the beach.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Forget global warming - it's Cycle 25 we need to worry about (and if NASA scientists are right the Thames will be freezing over again)

Met Office releases new figures which show no warming in 15 years

By David Rose, Daily Mail, UK, Jan 29, 2012 [H/t Warren Wetmore]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2093264/Forget-global-warming--Cycle-25-need-worry-NASA-scientists-right-Thames-freezing-again.html>

[SEPP Comment: The article that no doubt triggered the press releases from NASA-GISS.]

The Mail on Sunday, the Met Office and the Temperature Standstill

By David Whitehouse, The Observatory, Jan 31, 2012

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/4868-the-mail-on-sunday-the-met-office-and-the-temperature-standstill.html>

[SEPP Comment: Averaging over particular time periods may lose information and mislead readers on specific trends. The way NASA-GISS describes the data is misleading.]

On Dentists, Cardiologists, Climatologists and Evidence-Based Remedies

By Indur Goklany, WUWT, Jan 31, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/01/31/on-dentists-cardiologists-climatologists-and-evidence-based-remedies/#more-55753>

[SEPP Comment: Response by Goklany to the letter from climatologists presented as Article # 1.]

The Current Wisdom: Climate Change Controversy in the Wall Street Journal

By Patrick Michaels, CATO, Feb 2, 2012 [H/t Anthony Watts, WUWT]

http://www.cato.org/pub_display.php?pub_id=14073

[SEPP Comment: Response by Michaels to the letter from climatologists presented as Article # 1.]

When Global Warming Freezes Over

Editorial, IBD, Jan 30, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/Article/599442/201201301844/climate-change-warming-over-little-ice-age.htm>

When the earth refuses to warm

By Wesley Pruden on January 31, 2012 [H/t John Shepard]

http://www.prudenpolitics.com/index.php/pruden/full_column/when_the_earth_refuses_to_warm

Signing Global Warming's Certificate of Death

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Jan 31, 2012

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/>

Dear James Hansen: Climate Non-Alarmists Are Intellectually Grounded & Well Intentioned (Sir, are you suffering from a 'fatal conceit'?)

By Robert Bradley Jr, Master Resource, Feb 1, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/02/james-hansen-fatal-conceit/#more-18454>

German Fear of Warming Plummet ... Yet-To-Be-Published Skeptic Book Climbs to Amazon.de. number 4!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jan 30, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/01/30/german-fear-of-warming-plummet-yet-to-be-published-skeptic-book-climbs-to-amazon-de-no-4/>

Global warming will lead to fresher blueberries, plentiful fish and fewer winter deaths, finds official study (oh yes, and a lot of flooding)

By Kate Silver, Daily Mail, Jan 26, 2012

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2092085/Imagine-grazing-blueberries-fresh-plaice-warm-winters-Global-warming-doesnt-sounds-bad.html>

[SEPP Comment: Since government reports must continue to frighten the public.]

Limits to Growth

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Feb 3, 2012

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/limits-growth>

[SEPP Comment: A brief review of predictions of reports from several highly influential internationalists, who were wrong.]

Questioning European Green

Climate alarmism is falling out of favour in the rest of the world - but Europe hasn't noticed

By Roger Helmer, MEP, Feb 1, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://conservativehome.blogs.com/platform/2012/02/from-rogerhelmermep-climate-alarmism-is-falling-out-of-favour-in-the-rest-of-the-world-but-europe-ha.html>

We might as well hang up a sign in the airports: "Closed for Business".

UK Government will have 'solar industry destruction' on its hands if it pursues supreme court appeal

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX) Feb 01, 2012

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/UK_Government_will_have_solar_industry_destruction_on_its_hands_if_it_pursues_supreme_court_appeal_999.html

[SEPP Comment: *The future of solar depends upon subsidies. How is that sustainable energy?]*

European Energy Policy: The 'Fatal Conceit' Continues (EU's 'Energy Roadmap' to 2050 Reconsidered)

By Kent Hawkins, Master Resource, Jan 30, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/01/eu-roadmap-2050/#more-18436>

Spain subsidy cuts seen threatening thousands of jobs

By Staff Writers, Madrid (AFP), Jan 31, 2012

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Spain_subsidy_cuts_seen_threatening_thousands_of_jobs_999.html

[SEPP Comment: *At what point does a subsidized industry become sustainable?]*

Greece cuts subsidies for solar power producers

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Feb 1, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/01/greece-solar-idUSL5E8D11XY20120201>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

100 countries back world environment agency: France

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP) Jan 31, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/100_countries_back_world_environment_agency_France_999.html

[SEPP Comment: *Of course, they want your money!]*

Problems within the Orthodoxy

India opposes UN panel's 'back door' for green caps

By Nitin Sethi, TNN Jan 31, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-01-31/developmental-issues/31008994_1_sustainable-development-rich-countries-climate-talks

A move to let the UNSG's office and its team to oversee further action on the report is bound to cause concern of decision-making shifting to a less-democratic UN institution and outside the purview of the UN climate talks or the UN General Assembly, where each country holds a single vote.

[SEPP Comment: *There is nothing democratic about the UN. People don't vote, nations do and many are far from democratic.*]

Rio summit must yield new model: Brazil minister

By Staff Writers, Porto Alegre, Brazil (AFP) Jan 27, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Rio_summit_must_yield_new_model_Brazil_minister_999.html

[SEPP Comment: *Global warming no longer works to bilk the taxpayers of the West.*]

In Davos, Climate Change Is Dead And Buried

By Staff Writers, The Times, Feb 2, 2012

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-climate-record/4884-in-davos-climate-change-is-dead-and-buried.html>

Subscription required for the full story.

Seeking a Common Ground

The Reason We Need To Agree Which Of Three Fundamentally Different Hypotheses Regarding The Role Of Human In The Climate System Is Correct

By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Feb 1, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/02/01/the-reason-we-need-to-resolve-which-of-three-fundamentally-different-hypotheses-regarding-the-role-of-human-in-the-climate-system-are-correct/>

Policy responses based on a limited focus on greenhouse gas emissions, as a mechanism to influence how humans are impacting climate, will result in poorly thought out policy responses.

Climate scenarios: 2015-2050

'Nature is about to carry out a very interesting experiment'

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Jan 31, 2012

<http://judithcurry.com/2012/01/31/climate-scenarios-2015-2050/#more-6931>

[SEPP Comment: Discussing if global warming will come roaring back.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

NOAA Climate Survey – A Biased Approach To Assess NOAA Employees's View Of Climate Science

By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Feb 3, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/02/03/noaa-climate-survey-a-biased-approach-to-assess-noaa-employeeess-view-of-climate-science/>

[SEPP Comment: A thoughtful analysis of a misleading survey of NOAA employees. As usual, leading questions produce the desired responses.]

Ninety Seven Percent Is Not What You Think

By Art Horn, ICECAP, Feb 2, 2012

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/ninety_seven_percent_is_not_what_you_think/

[SEPP Comment: The "97% of scientists" number so frequently claimed by alarmists is not as impressive as it sounds.]

Models v. Observations

Protomodels

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 1, 2012

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/2/1/protomodels.html>

[SEPP Comment: Since the climate models the IPCC uses are not validated and do not make meaningful temperature predictions, would it not be more correct to call them Protomodels?

Our Article "Regional Climate Downscaling – What's The Point? By Pielke And Wilby 2012 Has Been Published

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Feb 2, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/02/02/our-article-regional-climate-downscaling-whats-the-point-by-pielke-and-wilby-2012-has-been-published/>

[SEPP Comment: Regional climate projections based on global models that have no predictive skill are totally meaningless and a waste of money.]

Measurement Issues

The Problem with Proxies

By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Jan 30, 2012

<http://www.worldclimatereport.com/index.php/2012/01/30/the-problem-with-proxies/#more-525>

[SEPP Comment: Problems with proxies: forest fires in the western US are not necessarily a good proxy for the El Nino – Southern Oscillation.]

Changing Weather

Villagers scramble for fuel in Europe's big chill

By Marton Dunai, Reuters, Feb 2, 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/02/weather-europe-idUSL5E8D27NL20120202>

[SEPP Comment: Europe, especially Eastern Europe is experiencing a big chill.]

European and Asian Cold Hits Hard

By Joe D'Aleo, Weatherbell Analytics, Feb 2, 2012

<http://www.weatherbell.com/weather-news/european-and-asian-cold-hits-hard/>

The turn to cold has been the result of polar warming and collapse of the AO as seen in this cross section and graph. [in the article]

Correlation between summer Arctic sea ice cover and winter weather in Central Europe

By Staff Writers, Potsdam, Germany (SPX) Feb 03, 2012

http://www.terradyaily.com/reports/Correlation_between_summer_Arctic_sea_ice_cover_and_winter_weather_in_Central_Europe_999.html

[SEPP Comment: There may be other factors involved that have not been considered.]

Changing Earth

First land plants plunged Earth into ice age

By Michael Marshall, New Scientist, Feb 1, 2012 [H/t Peter Salonijs]

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn21417-first-land-plants-plunged-earth-into-ice-age.html>

When Lenton added this effect of non-vascular plants to a climate model of the Ordovician, the CO₂ dropped from about 22 times modern levels to just **eight times modern levels. That was enough to trigger an ice age in the model of Ordovician Earth.** [Boldface added]

Volcanoes May Have Sparked Little Ice Age

Wynne Parry, LiveScience, Jan 30, 2012 [H/t Tom Sheahan]

http://www.livescience.com/18205-ice-age-volcanoes-sea-ice.html?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=LS_01312012

[SEPP Comment: How does this work with the IPCC claiming there was no Little Ice Age?]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

The New USDA Plant Zone Maps: Planting the Seeds of Faulty Logic

By Anthony Lupo, ICECAP, Jan 30, 2012

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/the-new-usda-plant-zone-maps-planting-the-seeds-of-faulty-logic/>

[SEPP Comment: The new USDA planting zone map, which uses improved methods and reflects the Urban Heat Island effect, is being incorrectly used by the AP and others to promote global warming.]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

US Military Sets Ambitious Environmental Goals

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Feb 01, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/US_Military_Sets_Ambitious_Environmental_Goals_999.html

The Obama administration recently announced a joint partnership between private-sector companies, the Department of Agriculture, U.S. Navy, and the Department of Energy to invest \$510 million in biofuel production over three years

[SEPP Comment: Changing the term invest to spend or waste would be more accurate. The Secretary of the Navy suggesting using 336 million gallons of biofuel by 2020 from 300 thousand gallons today should be grounds for dismissal with dishonor. With Pew leading the change, the US military is sure to fail in its major purpose – defense of the nation.]

China Cuts Subsidies for Solar Projects on Declining Costs

By Staff Writers, Bloomberg, Feb 2, 2012

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-02/china-cuts-subsidies-for-pilot-solar-projects-on-declining-costs.html>

The subsidy applies only to projects developed by owners who will consume the power for their own use under the so-called Golden Sun program.

[SEPP Comment: These subsidies for off grid power are starkly different than subsidies in Western countries that apply to on grid power.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Agenda-Driven "Science" at EPA

By Paul Driesen and Willie Soon, Townhall, Feb 1, 2012

http://townhall.com/columnists/pauldriesen/2012/02/01/agendadriven_science_at_epa

Paul Krugman's Toxic Shock Syndrome: Mercury Madness

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Feb 2, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/02/02/paul-krugmans-toxic-shock-syndrome-mercury-madness/>

NPRA Calls on EPA to Reconsider Cellulosic Biofuel Volumes

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX) Feb 02, 2012

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/NPRA_Calls_on_EPA_to_Reconsider_Cellulosic_Biofuel_Volumes_999.html

EPA stands by 'fracking' study but calls reach limited

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Feb 1, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/208061-epa-stands-by-fracking-study-but-calls-reach-limited>

[SEPP Comment: Totally incompetent would be a better term than limited.]

Environmental Rules Prompt Closure of More Coal Plants, Pause Development of New Plant

By Staff Writers, Power News, Feb 1, 2012

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4365.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2363858&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e66050d0

[SEPP Comment: Another victory for Lisa Jackson and the EPA]

Energy Issues – Non-US

Tight oil kills the peak oil theory

Tight oil could make oil markets less tight

By Peter Orzag, Feb 1, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/02/01/tight-oil-kills-the-peak-oil-theory/>

[SEPP Comment: To SEPP peak oil is a long dead idea.]

Canada launches new oil sands monitoring policy

Yadullah Hussain, Financial Post, Feb 3, 2012

http://business.financialpost.com/2012/02/03/stung-by-critics-canada-launches-new-oil-sands-monitoring-policy/?_lsa=f6dc3d5b

The cost of ethanol

Canada's ethanol policies aim to help the environment but all they do is harm farmers and their livestock

By Kevin Grier and Al Mussell, Financial Post, Jan 31, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/01/31/the-cost-of-ethanol/>

US Administration's Control of Oil and Gas

Natural gas sector set up by Obama to be sabotaged?

Industry insiders fear rules, taxes

By Ben Wolfgang, Washington Times, Jan 29, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/jan/29/natural-gas-sector-set-up-by-obama-to-be-sabotaged/>

Obama's Anti-Keystone Pipeline Decision: The Latest in Unconstitutional Moves in Energy Policy

By Harrison Schmitt, American Common Sense, Jan 31, 2012

<http://americasuncommonsense.com/>

President Obama's Domestic Energy State Of Delusion

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jan 31, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/01/31/president-obamas-domestic-energy-state-of-delusion/>

Obama on Energy: An Exercise in Nuance

By W.A. Beatty, American Thinker, Feb 2, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/02/obama_on_energy_an_exercise_in_nuance.html

[SEPP Comment: Under the Administration's energy policies, production of oil and natural gas from Federal lands has declined, not expanded as suggested in the State of the Union address.]

Salazar: Interior closing in on gas 'fracking' rules

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jan 30, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/207533-salazar-interior-closing-in-on-gas-fracking-rules>

[SEPP Comment: As Federal regulations reduce the quantity of oil and gas produced from Federal lands, the Federal government will issue more regulations! What nonsense!]

Return of King Coal?

EIA on Coal: The Beat Goes On

By Frank Clemente, Energy Facts Weekly, Jan 30, 2012

<http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=29bc7d5d85828d574f86c157a&id=3df73fa2b6&e=>

[SEPP Comment: The conflict between the practical use of coal and those who desire to shut it off will intensify.]

Oil Spills & Consequences

Hidden Victims' of Gulf Drilling Slowdown (Obama's Negative Employment Multiplier)

By Kevin Mooney, Master Resource, Jan 31, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/01/hidden-victims-of-gulf-drilling-slowdown-obamas-negative-multiplier-still-in-effect/#more-18465>

Gulf Deepwater Drilling Ban's Hidden Victims

Editorial, IBD, Jan 31, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/Article.aspx?id=599612&p=1&ibdbot=1>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Blue Ribbon Commission Underscores Urgent Need for Reform of Nuclear Waste Management Program

Witnesses and Members Call for Revival of Yucca Mountain

Press Release, House Energy and Commerce Committee, Feb 1, 2012

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/news/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=9255>

Members welcomed several of the commission's recommendations, which propose a series of reforms to help solve our nation's growing nuclear waste challenge.

Blue Ribbon Commission: U.S. Nuclear Waste Policy "Completely Broken Down"

By Staff Writers, Power News, Feb 1, 2012

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4368.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2363858&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e660500d0

Official: Lack of nuclear waste dump is a 'serious failure of the American government'

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Feb 1, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/207963-official-delay-in-establishing-nuke-waste-dump-serious-failure-of-the-american-government>

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy

Wind Energy, Noise Pollution

Living near wind turbines can be hazardous to your health.

By Robert Bryce, National Review, Feb 2, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/289920/wind-energy-noise-pollution-robert-bryce>

Interior moves closer to Atlantic wind leasing

By Ben Geman - 02/02/12 01:36 PM ET

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/208305-interior-moves-closer-to-atlantic-wind-leasing>

US DoC Finds Massive Surge of Chinese Solar Imports

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Feb 02, 2012

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/US_DoC_Finds_Massive_Surge_of_Chinese_Solar_Imports_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Photo-voltaic electricity increases electricity bills to the public. To further subsidize the industry, lower cost panels must be banned? How does increasing the utility costs to the public increase prosperity?]

New Report Further Polarizes Solar Manufacturers on China-Tariff Issue

By Staff Writers, Power News, Feb 1, 2012

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4364.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2363858&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Except for environmental types and for isolated conditions, the photo-voltaic industry would not except without mandates and subsidies. Now it wants protection from foreign competition.]

Obama's Green Energy Investments Continue to Fail

Editorial, IBD, Feb 2, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/Article/599948/201202021852/obama-green-energy-investments-arent-paying-off.htm>

The Volt: What Happens When Ideology Gets Ahead of Reality

By Marita Noon, Energy Tribune, Feb 1, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/9719/The-Volt-What-Happens-When-Ideology-Gets-Ahead-of-Reality>

[SEPP Comment: There is no excuse for government committing to building products for which the technology to make them successful is not available.]

Malaysia approves Australian rare earths plant

By Staff Writers, Kuala Lumpur (AFP) Feb 1, 2012

http://www.spacemart.com/reports/Malaysia_approves_Australian_rare_earths_plant_999.html

California Dreaming

California Issues Clown Car Mandate

Editorial, IBD, Jan 30, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/Article.aspx?id=599405&p=1&ibdbot=1>

[SEPP Comment: The happy face of the car is worth a look.]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Algal Symbionts Appear to Determine Responses of Calcifying Organisms to Ocean Acidification

Reference: Hikami, M., Ushie, H., Irie, T., Fujita, K., Kuroyanagi, A., Sakai, K., Nojiri, Y., Suzuki, A. and Kawahata, H. 2011. Contrasting calcification responses to ocean acidification between two reef foraminifers harboring different algal symbionts. *Geophysical Research Letters* 38: 10.1029/2011GL048501.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/jan/31jan2012a1.html>

Genetic Adaptation to Extreme Environmental Change

Reference: Lande, R. 2009. Adaptation to an extraordinary environment by evolution of phenotypic plasticity and genetic assimilation. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* 22: 1435-1446.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/jan/31jan2012a2.html>

Warming and Cooling in the Bay of Biscay

Reference: deCastro, M., Gomez-Gesteira, M., Alvarez, I. and Gesteira, J.L.G. 2009. Present warming within the context of cooling-warming cycles observed since 1854 in the Bay of Biscay. *Continental Shelf Research* 29: 1053-1059.

On the Potential Extinction of High-Elevation Species

Reference: Randin, C.F., Engler, R., Normand, S., Zappa, M., Zimmermann, N.E., Pearman, P.B., Vittoz, P., Thuiller, W. and Guisan, A. 2009. Climate change and plant distribution: local models predict high-elevation persistence. *Global Change Biology* 15: 1557-1569.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/feb/1feb2012a2.html>

Health, Energy, and Climate

Regulators' ruling means Chicago can keep getting air pollution funds

By Paul Merrion, Chicago Business, Feb 1, 2012 [H/t Steve Goreham]

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/article/20120201/NEWS02/120209966/regulators>

[SEPP Comment: It is not about health, it is politics and money.]

New malaria data show more adult victims

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Feb 3, 2012

http://www.acsh.org/factsfears/newsID.3369/news_detail.asp

[SEPP Comment: More related to banning DDT than any global warming.]

Oh Mann!

Status Update on UVA/Mann FOIA

By David Schnare, ATI, Feb 1, 2012

<http://www.atinstitute.org/status-update-on-uvamann-foia/>

[SEPP Comment: The University of Virginia continues to play tricks; slowing the process of open inquiry. The legal work is proceeding; but no formal announcements until April – at the earliest.]

Environmental Industry

Three States to Require Insurers to Disclose Climate-Change Response Plans

By Felicity Barringer, NYT, Feb 1, 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/02/business/energy-environment/three-states-tell-insurers-to-disclose-responses-to-climate-change.html?_r=1&src=rechp

[SEPP Comment: And what will you do to prevent the next ice sheet to advance on Manhattan?]

No energy is good to the greens

By Nicolas Loris, NY Post, Jan 26, 2012

http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/no_energy_is_good_to_the_greens_wsXNrqw5yFCaXJXRtAnwK

This Week in Clean Economy: Pressure Is on Obama to Finalize National Solar Plan

Advocates trumpet the nation's first solar plan on public lands and urge quick action. Election-year debate over jobs spills into U.S.-China solar spat.

By Maria Gallucci, Inside Climate News, Feb 3, 2012

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20120203/week-clean-economy-obama-solar-energy-public-lands-california-state-of-the-union-environmentalists-china-tariffs>

Sierra Club took \$26M from gas industry to fight coal-fired plants

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Feb 3, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/208477-sierra-club-took-26m-from-gas-industry-to-fight-coal>

Other Scientific News

Russian drill approaching long-buried lake

By Staff Writers, Moscow (UPI), Feb 2, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Russian_drill_approaching_long-buried_lake_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A scientific exploration delayed for years by the environmental industry.]

Other News that May Be of Interest

‘First Light’ Taken by NASA’s Newest CERES Instrument, includes stunning “blue marble” image

By Anthon Watts, WUWT, Feb 3, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/02/03/first-light-taken-by-nasas-newest-ceres-instrument-includes-stunning-blue-marble-image/#more-55937>

[SEPP Comment: Links to stunning photos of the earth.]

How NASA Solved a 100 Million Dollar Problem for Five Bucks

By Brent Rose for Gizmodo, Cape Canaveral FL, (SPX) Feb 02, 2012

http://www.space-travel.com/reports/How_NASA_Solved_a_100_Million_Dollar_Problem_for_Five_Bucks_999.html

NASA's THEMIS Satellite Sees a Great Electron Escape

By Karen C. Fox for Goddard Space Flight Center

Greenbelt, MD (SPX) Jan 31, 2012

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/NASA_THEMIS_Satellite_Sees_a_Great_Electron_Escape_999.html

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Opinion: Why we should regulate sugar like alcohol

By Laura Schmidt, CNN, Feb 1, 2012

http://edition.cnn.com/2012/02/01/health/opinion-regulate-sugar-alcohol/?hpt=hp_bn4

[SEPP Comment: Using chlorophyll as a catalyst, through photosynthesis green plants combine carbon dioxide and water to make sugar. Let's ban green plants!]

More sweet nothings about sugar

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Feb 2, 2012

http://www.acsh.org/factsfears/newsID.3363/news_detail.asp

[SEPP Comments: Response to the above article from American Council on Science and Health.]

The Arctic is already suffering the effects of a dangerous climate change

By Staff Writers, Brussels, Belgium (SPX), Feb 02, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/The_Arctic_is_already_suffering_the_effects_of_a_dangerous_climate_change_999.html

“Tipping points are defined as critical points within a system, of which future condition may be qualitatively affected by small perturbations. On the other hand, tipping elements are defined as those components of the Earth system that may show tipping signs”

“According to the experts, the Arctic shows the largest concentration of potential tipping elements in Earth's Climate System: Arctic Sea-Ice; Greenland Ice-Sheet; North Atlantic deep water formation regions; boreal forests; plankton communities; permafrost; and marine methane hydrates among others.”

[SEPP Comment: How did these tipping points adjust to the end of the last ice age – much less the warm period that followed?]

Asthma rate and costs from traffic-related air pollution are much higher than once believed

By Staff Writers, Amherst, MA (SPX) Jan 31, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Asthma_rate_and_costs_from_traffic_related_air_pollution_are_much_higher_than_once_believed_999.html

[SEPP Comment; By virtually every measurement, air is becoming cleaner in the US, yet asthma rates are increasing. The Centers of Disease Control states that the causes of asthma are unknown.]

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ARTICLES:

1. Check With Climate Scientists for Views on Climate

By Kevin Trenberth, and Others, Letter WSJ, Feb 1, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204740904577193270727472662.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLEThirdBucket

Do you consult your dentist about your heart condition? In science, as in any area, reputations are based on knowledge and expertise in a field and on published, peer-reviewed work. If you need surgery, you want a highly experienced expert in the field who has done a large number of the proposed operations.

You published "No Need to Panic About Global Warming" (op-ed, Jan. 27) on climate change by the climate-science equivalent of dentists practicing cardiology. While accomplished in their own fields, most of these authors have no expertise in climate science. The few authors who have such expertise are known to have extreme views that are out of step with nearly every other climate expert. This happens in nearly every field of science. For example, there is a retrovirus expert who does not accept that HIV causes

AIDS. And it is instructive to recall that a few scientists continued to state that smoking did not cause cancer, long after that was settled science.

Climate experts know that the long-term warming trend has not abated in the past decade. In fact, it was the warmest decade on record. Observations show unequivocally that our planet is getting hotter. And computer models have recently shown that during periods when there is a smaller increase of surface temperatures, warming is occurring elsewhere in the climate system, typically in the deep ocean. Such periods are a relatively common climate phenomenon, are consistent with our physical understanding of how the climate system works, and certainly do not invalidate our understanding of human-induced warming or the models used to simulate that warming.

Thus, climate experts also know what one of us, Kevin Trenberth, actually meant by the out-of-context, misrepresented quote used in the op-ed. Mr. Trenberth was lamenting the inadequacy of observing systems to fully monitor warming trends in the deep ocean and other aspects of the short-term variations that always occur, together with the long-term human-induced warming trend.

The National Academy of Sciences of the U.S. (set up by President Abraham Lincoln to advise on scientific issues), as well as major national academies of science around the world and every other authoritative body of scientists active in climate research have stated that the science is clear: The world is heating up and humans are primarily responsible. Impacts are already apparent and will increase. Reducing future impacts will require significant reductions in emissions of heat-trapping gases.

Research shows that more than 97% of scientists actively publishing in the field agree that climate change is real and human caused. It would be an act of recklessness for any political leader to disregard the weight of evidence and ignore the enormous risks that climate change clearly poses. In addition, there is very clear evidence that investing in the transition to a low-carbon economy will not only allow the world to avoid the worst risks of climate change, but could also drive decades of economic growth. Just what the doctor ordered.

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Katharine Hayhoe, Ph.D., Director, Climate Science Center, Texas Tech University

Rasmus Benestad, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, The Norwegian Meteorological Institute

Gerald Meehl, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Climate and Global Dynamics Division, National Center for Atmospheric Research

Michael Oppenheimer, Ph.D., Professor of Geosciences; Director, Program in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy, Princeton University

Peter Gleick, Ph.D., co-founder and president, Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security

Michael C. MacCracken, Ph.D., Chief Scientist, Climate Institute, Washington

Michael Mann, Ph.D., Director, Earth System Science Center, Pennsylvania State University

Steven Running, Ph.D., Professor, Director, Numerical Terradynamic Simulation Group, University of Montana

Robert Corell, Ph.D., Chair, Arctic Climate Impact Assessment; Principal, Global Environment Technology Foundation

Dennis Ojima, Ph.D., Professor, Senior Research Scientist, and Head of the Dept. of Interior's Climate Science Center at Colorado State University

Josh Willis, Ph.D., Climate Scientist, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Matthew England, Ph.D., Professor, Joint Director of the Climate Change Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Australia

Ken Caldeira, Ph.D., Atmospheric Scientist, Dept. of Global Ecology, Carnegie Institution

Warren Washington, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, National Center for Atmospheric Research

Terry L. Root, Ph.D., Senior Fellow, Woods Institute for the Environment, Stanford University

David Karoly, Ph.D., ARC Federation Fellow and Professor, University of Melbourne, Australia

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Donald Wuebbles, Ph.D., Professor of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Illinois

Camille Parmesan, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, University of Texas; Professor of Global Change Biology, Marine Institute, University of Plymouth, UK

Simon Donner, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Canada

Barrett N. Rock, Ph.D., Professor, Complex Systems Research Center and Department of Natural Resources, University of New Hampshire

David Griggs, Ph.D., Professor and Director, Monash Sustainability Institute, Monash University, Australia

Roger N. Jones, Ph.D., Professor, Professorial Research Fellow, Centre for Strategic Economic Studies, Victoria University, Australia

William L. Chameides, Ph.D., Dean and Professor, School of the Environment, Duke University

Gary Yohe, Ph.D., Professor, Economics and Environmental Studies, Wesleyan University, CT

Robert Watson, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Chair of Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia

Steven Sherwood, Ph.D., Director, Climate Change Research Centre, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Chris Rapley, Ph.D., Professor of Climate Science, University College London, UK

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James J. McCarthy, Ph.D., Professor of Biological Oceanography, Harvard University

Stefan Rahmstorf, Ph.D., Professor of Physics of the Oceans, Potsdam University, Germany

Julia Cole, Ph.D., Professor, Geosciences and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Arizona

William H. Schlesinger, Ph.D., President, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Jonathan Overpeck, Ph.D., Professor of Geosciences and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Arizona

Eric Rignot, Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory; Professor of Earth System Science, University of California, Irvine

Wolfgang Cramer, Professor of Global Ecology, Mediterranean Institute for Biodiversity and Ecology, CNRS, Aix-en-Provence, France

2. Posted Response to Above Letter

By Ken Haapala, WSJ, Feb 3, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204740904577193270727472662.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLEThirdBucket#articleTabs%3Dcomm

The globe's climate refuses to obey global climate models. Rather than addressing the physical evidence, the advocates of unprecedented and dangerous global warming now resort to medieval science, an appeal to authority. Climate science, as practiced by the IPCC, has long used this technique. The first two assessment reports gave representations of the physical evidence over the past 1000 years with a medieval warm period and the Little Ice Age, both of which are unrelated to carbon dioxide concentrations. The third report suppressed this evidence with Mr. Mann's hockey-stick, a deficient computer reconstruction of the past 1000 years. The latest report (2007) suppressed climate history entirely, absurdly considering only the past fifty years. This is as if climate change did not exist prior to fifty years ago, or as if the natural phenomena that caused significantly warmer periods over the past 10,000 years suddenly stopped.

According to the GAO, from 1993 to FY 2010 the US government spent about \$107 Billion on climate change with some \$31 Billion for climate science. For this, we have elaborate climate models that have no better predictive power than complex investment models used by financial organizations that failed when the market changed. It is time to test the assumptions in the climate models, not with the models but against the physical evidence, including the historic evidence.

3. Keystone Can Help the Gulf—and the Northeast

U.S. refiners could make great use of Canadian oil, if only Washington would let them.

By Lucian Pugliaresi, WSJ, Jan 30, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204573704577184730401558626.html?mod=ITP_opinion_0

Opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline comes in many forms. Former House speaker and current Democratic Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi suggested at a press briefing this month that the pipeline would have no value to the U.S.: "This oil was always destined for overseas. It's just a question of whether it leaves Canada by way of Canada, or it leaves Canada by way of the United States."

Really? The refiners who would be at the end of the pipeline do not re-export crude oil. Instead they produce high-value petroleum products for U.S. and foreign markets such as Brazil, Mexico and Europe.

According to the federal Energy Information Administration, the U.S. exported three million barrels per day of finished petroleum products in October 2011, a new high (versus domestic sales of 19 million

barrels per day from all sources, including imports). Yet the U.S. imports two million barrels per day of finished petroleum products thanks to transportation inefficiencies.

For example, increased production of refined products from Gulf Coast refiners could serve East Coast markets but doesn't, thanks to the 1920s Jones Act. This protectionist legislation requires that all goods transported by water between U.S. ports be carried in (high-cost, naturally) ships built, owned, operated and crewed by Americans—and the existing fleet is tied up in long-term charters.

Canadian crude is perfectly matched to the complex and expensive refinery technology of many Gulf Coast refineries. The production of refined petroleum products is a tough, low-margin business operating in an environment of stiff foreign competition, flat domestic demand, congressional mandates for exotic biofuels, and an avalanche of existing and proposed environmental regulations. U.S. Gulf Coast refiners are now well positioned because they have access to growing markets in Latin America, and have made multibillion dollar investments in advanced processing technology that permits them to run lower-cost crudes, such as blended bitumen from the oil sands in Alberta. At least that was the plan before President Obama's war on fossil fuels.

This bright spot in the domestic refining industry is important. High feedstock costs, declining demand, new fuel standards, expanding environmental regulations and foreign competition are now taking a heavy toll on older and less complex refineries. By summer 2012, with the closing of the ConocoPhillips and Sunoco plants in Pennsylvania, the Northeast will have lost over 700,000 barrels per day of capacity since 2008. The American integrated oil company Hess announced Jan. 18 that it would close its refinery in the U.S. Virgin Islands, which provides large volumes of gasoline, heating oil and jet fuel in the Northeast.

If the Gulf Coast refineries can expand access to Canadian crudes, the combination of low-cost refinery fuel in the form of natural gas and currently installed processing technologies will yield a world-class refining center with a competitive advantage in the production of refined products. U.S. refiners will be in a strong position to expand their access to markets throughout the Western hemisphere and into Europe.

President Obama's jobs council has called for an "all-in approach" to energy policy and expedited permitting for energy projects. Meeting these objectives requires open markets that capitalize on production and transportation efficiencies.

Admittedly, the production of refined products doesn't have the politically correct caché of electric cars and the failed, government-sponsored Solyndra solar plant. But the economic value and subsequent employment growth from producing petroleum products is large and long term.

We are at the leading edge of an American petroleum renaissance. The combination of lower costs for both crude oil and natural gas provides a great opportunity for U.S. refinery capacity to increase over the next decade. But this will require a predictable and sensible regulatory regime—a regime noticeably lacking during the Obama administration.

Mr. Pugliaresi is president of the Energy Policy Research Foundation.

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