

The Week That Was: 2014-12-06 (December 6, 2014)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *“If the naysayers do manage to stop agricultural biotechnology, they might actually precipitate the famines and the crisis of global biodiversity they have been predicting for nearly 40 years.”* Norman Borlaug, the father of the Green Revolution -- H/t Margaret Wentz

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Number of the Week: 826,000 Short

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THIS WEEK:

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

The Game in Lima: The annual December meeting of the UN Conference of Parties (now COP-20) to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change has opened in Lima, Peru. This is the last major conference, but not the only one, before the 2015 Conference of Parties in Paris next December. The purpose of the Lima conference is to lay the groundwork for a legally binding agreement at the Paris Conference. The intended purpose of a new agreement is to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which failed and has expired. Based on one's belief of whether or not human carbon dioxide emissions endanger humanity by causing drastic global warming/climate change, these conferences can be described in various ways ranging from the last hope of humanity to a final effort to destroy modern, industrial civilization, which heavily depends on the use of fossil fuels.

Western organizations that promote the dangers of human-caused global warming include the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the World Bank, the European Union, the US Administration, and various once notable scientific institutions. Other organizations include the traditional press. These can be collectively called the climate establishment.

Western organizations that question the dangers of human-caused global warming are generally beyond the reach of the massive government spending on global warming/science change and include the Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP) as well as many other notable organizations. There are clear exceptions to such a convenient division, such as the scientists at the Earth System Science Center in University of Alabama in Huntsville, who report global temperatures as observed by satellites, the most comprehensive global temperature record in existence. These data are independently published monthly and confirmed by data from weather balloons. Further, scientific societies in Russia and China are not strongly supporting the dangers of human-caused global warming. In the traditional western press, those who question the climate establishment are falsely labeled as in the pay of private corporations, including tobacco, coal, and oil companies. Little, if any, physical evidence is advanced to support such claims.

The Global Warming Policy Forum, headquartered in the UK, has likened the on-going climate conferences to a game of cards, such as poker. If so, the major Western nations have tipped their hand. The delegates from the EU are making it clear that they will agree to most anything as long as the agreed upon controls of carbon dioxide emissions are binding. In announcing an agreement with China, US President Obama agreed to limit US emissions of CO₂, without obtaining a comparable limit to China's emissions for at least 16 years. [It is generally agreed that China's

emissions of CO2 exceeded those of the US some years ago (23% v. 16% of world emissions in 2013)

Already in the early part of the Lima conference, China is calling for the West to pledge more money to developing countries, including China, to fund preparations for climate change. Similarly, India is demanding more compensation from the West. The West can only expect greater demands from other developing countries. If one views the conference in Lima as a game, then the delegates from China and India arrived to play high-stakes poker and the delegates from the West arrived with a bag of grammar school marbles. See Article # 5 and links under The China – US Agreement? and A New World Agreement? and

<http://www.statista.com/statistics/271748/the-largest-emitters-of-co2-in-the-world/>

Agreement Doubts: There are a number of doubts that may be present among other delegates that must be overcome by the US delegates before any binding agreement can be reached. Most serious is the President's attitude that he can commit the US to a binding agreement. He failed to obtain US Senate approval to a cap-and-trade bill on carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions in 2009, when he was much more popular and his party had a clear majority of the Senate with opponents holding about 40 of 100 seats (the number of vacant seats varied). The President's popularity has diminished significantly since. Any treaty requires a two-thirds approval by the Senate. It is doubtful if a treaty on carbon dioxide emissions will pass with the opposing party holding, what will be on January 3, 2015, a 54 to 46 majority.

In addition, nature is not cooperating with the announcements of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the climate models used, as well as various government entities that are promoting dangerous human-caused global warming. No doubt, the new Congress will look into the books of the US government entities that are promoting the unsubstantiated claim of human-caused dangerous global warming. Toss into this mix, the fact that hydraulic fracturing of dense shale is showing that the world is not running out of oil and natural gas, and global oil prices are tumbling. All this throws into question the claims that alternatives to fossil fuels are needed for western civilization because fossil fuels will run out and become ever more expensive.

Already many in Europe are questioning the EU position on energy policy, which is becoming a hardship on those with limited incomes and in energy intensive industries.

Mr. Obama continues to insist he has the executive powers to execute a binding international agreement, but Federal courts may have to decide. See Articles # 2, # 3 and # 5, and links under: A New World Agreement?, Problems in the Orthodoxy, Questioning European Green, and Funding Issues.

Executive Powers – Challenged: Mr. Obama, and the Administration, have claimed he has the Executive Powers to enforce his climate plan which calls for significant reductions in US emissions of CO2. Laurence Tribe, a professor at Harvard Law School, has long been a stalwart of the Democratic Party and is hardly a conservative. According to reports, in comments on the EPA's climate plan, Tribe stated:

"The defects in the proposed rule transcend political affiliations and policy positions and cut across partisan lines," Tribe wrote, asking that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) withdraw the proposal... "It is a remarkable example of executive overreach and an

administrative agency's assertion of power beyond its statutory authority. Indeed, the proposed rule raises serious constitutional questions."

In addition, Tribe argued that the rule ignores the separation of powers between the executive and legislative branches and violates the limits on EPA's authority. These comments were prepared for Peabody Energy Corp, a coal firm, and, no doubt, will be discounted by the EPA. However, the comments may be important in the Federal courts. See links under EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA Climate Plan: Comments on the EPA climate plan closed on December 1, for which EPA stated it received well over 1 million comments. Green groups announced they submitted over 3 million comments. TWTW is preparing a synopsis of some of the scientific comments to appear later. See links under EPA and other Regulators on the March.

Climategate: This year marked the fifth anniversary of Climategate and the collapse of a pending international agreement on carbon dioxide emissions that was to occur in Copenhagen in December 2009. Judith Curry has comments on the importance of Climategate to her and how it helped her question the climate establishment. See link under Climategate Continued.

Oh' Mann: One of the outcomes of Climategate was the revelation of the extent to which the climate establishment would avoid using relevant data that draws into question its findings. Mr. Mann's infamous hockey-stick is the most glaring example. Steve McIntyre has continued to dig into the data, which now includes a recent study of the Bristlecone Pines in the White Mountains along the California-Nevada border that were heavily featured in Mr. Mann's hockey-stick. See links under Climategate Continued and Oh' Mann.

Temperature Measurements: The number of claims of the hottest year ever are becoming numbing – especially those that announce before the full data set is available. Roy Spencer shows that it is doubtful if satellite temperatures will support the claim that 2014 will qualify as the hottest year ever. David Whitehead discusses the lack of meaning of claims of hottest year when the error range in measurement may be 10 times that of the value of the increase. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Measurement Issues.

Number of the Week: 826,000 Short. With great fanfare President Obama and the Administration bragged that by 2015 the US would have 1,000,000 electric driven cars on the road by 2015. Writing in the Investor's Business Daily, John Merline estimates that actual number will be about 826,000 short. (Only about 17% of the claimed number will be in use.) Mark Mills explains that the motor and battery pack in an electric auto is heavy when compared with a comparable gasoline auto with fuel tank. Further, gasoline engines are improving dramatically. According to the reports, Federal subsidies for electric autos total over \$8 billion. These include a \$7,500 Federal tax credit, which is used in lieu of taxes to be paid, rather than a deduction which reduces taxable income. Those who pay taxes consider a credit far superior to a deduction. The subsidies do not include state support, which is considerable in states such as California

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Dear Subscriber to The Week That Was,

As you know, support for the Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP) comes entirely from private donations; we do not solicit support from industry or government.

Therefore, we can honestly claim that we are not beholden to anyone and that our writings are clear from any outside influence.

We are also proud of the fact that SEPP is frugal: no fancy offices, no employees, no salaries paid to anyone; in fact, we donate book royalties and lecture fees to SEPP

The past few years have been very productive:

In collaboration with like-minded groups, we produced hard-hitting comments for the record and provided scientific testimony on proposed Federal climate and energy policy. We expect this material to surface in future litigation over excessive regulation.

SEPP has also spawned VA-SEEE (Scientists & Engineers for Energy & Environment), with 7 active chapters throughout Virginia, writing to local papers, testifying in Richmond, etc.

On a global level, we established NIPCC in 2007 (Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change) to respond to the false claims of the UN-IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), and its followers -- that use of fossil fuels, and CO2 emissions, will lead to climate disasters.

All four of the voluminous NIPCC reports and their Summaries are available at www.NIPCCreport.org.

In 2013, the Chinese Academy of Sciences translated and published a book based on two NIPCC reports and organized a Workshop in Beijing.

The Heartland Institute, our publisher, has organized nine well-attended ICCC events (International Conference on Climate Change), featuring many of the 50+ NIPCC authors.

A few weeks ago, Dr Fred Singer, our founder and president celebrated his 90th birthday. After 25 years at the helm, he plans to retire as SEPP president, but hopes to continue as Chairman of the Board for as long as possible.

At this time, we ask you to make a generous, tax-deductible donation to SEPP.

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Thank you -- and Season's Greetings to you and yours.

Kenneth Haapala,
Executive Vice President, Science and Environmental Policy Project

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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. Obama Puts Climate on the 2016 Ballot

The president's unilateral approach ensures that a new global carbon pact will be a campaign issue in two years.

By Rupert Darwall, WSJ, Dec 1, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/rupert-darwall-obama-puts-climate-on-the-2016-ballot-1417478450?mod=hp_opinion

2. 'Peak Oil' Debunked, Again

The world relearns that supply responds to necessity and price.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 4, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/peak-oil-debunked-again-1417739810?mod=WSJ_hps_sections_opinion

3. The Global Shakeout From Plunging Oil

New supply—rather than demand—is dominating the market, and OPEC has been caught by surprise.

By Daniel Yergin, WSJ, Nov 30, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/daniel-yergin-the-global-shakeout-from-plunging-oil-1417386897>

Link to report: Tight Oil Test: US output at lower oil prices

By Staff Writers, IHS, Nov 20, 2014

<http://unconventionalenergy.blogs.ihs.com/2014/11/20/tight-oil-test-us-output-at-lower-oil-prices/>

4. Saudi Arabia Sees Oil Prices Stabilizing Around \$60 a Barrel

OPEC's Biggest Oil Producer Isn't Likely to Push for Production Cuts as a Result

By Summer Said, Sarah Kent and Benoit Faucon, WSJ, Dec 3, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/saudi-arabia-believes-oil-prices-could-stabilize-around-60-a-barrel-1417623664?mod=trending_now_3

5. Ambition Meets Wariness as U.N. Climate Change Talks Begin in Lima

Little Evidence Other Developing Nations Will Follow China's Lead in Carbon-Emissions Targets

By William Mauldin, WSJ, Dec 3, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/ambitions-meet-wariness-as-u-n-climate-change-talks-begin-in-lima-1417622504>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

The legacy of Climategate: 5 years later

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Dec 1, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/12/01/the-legacy-of-climategate-5-years-later/#more-17270>

Sheep Mountain Update

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Dec 4, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/12/04/sheep-mountain-update/>

Link to paper: Changing climate response in near-treeline bristlecone pine with elevation and aspect

By Salzer et al, Environmental Research Letters, Oct 9, 2014

<http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/9/11/114007/article>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Vahrenholt Tells German Audience Of 1200: “Manmade Climate Catastrophe No Longer The Issue

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 1, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/01/vahrenholt-tells-german-audience-of-1200-manmade-climate-catastrophe-no-longer-an-issue/>

2014 a Record Warm Year? Probably Not.

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Dec 4, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/12/2014-a-record-warm-year-probably-not/>

Gruberization of Climate

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Dec 5, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/gruberization_of_climate1/

“The data doesn’t matter. We’re not basing our recommendations on the data. We’re basing them on the climate models,” Professor Chris Folland of the British Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research

World Health Organisation Faulted for Willful Exaggeration

By Staff Writers, GWPF, Dec 1, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/world-health-organisation-faulted-for-willful-exaggeration/>

Link to paper: Unhealthy Exaggeration: The WHO Report on Climate Change

By Indur Goklany, GWPF, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/content/uploads/2014/11/WHO-paper.pdf>

Benny Peiser: Written Testimony On EU Climate Policy To US Senate Committee

By Benny Peiser, GWPF, Dec 3, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/benny-peiser-written-testimony-on-eu-climate-policy-to-us-senate-committee/>

“Why would you locate a new investment in a place with both high labour costs and high energy costs, many of which are self-inflicted?”

Are Polar Bear Researchers Blinded by Belief, or Acting Dishonestly?

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Dec 1, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/01/are-polar-bear-researchers-blinded-by-belief-or-acting-dishonestly/>

Why "90% of the missing heat" cannot be hiding in the oceans

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Dec 1, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/12/why-greenhouse-gas-missing-heat-cannot.html>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Govt. Role in Energy R&D Is Key Amid Challenging Times

By Margot Anderson, Real Clear Politics, Dec 5, 2014

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2014/12/05/govt_role_in_energy_rd_is_key_amid_challenging_times_124858.html

[SEPP Comment: Goals 1 & 2 in the recommended tax policy are mutually inconsistent. 1.

*Encourage development and deployment of domestic, clean and **low-emission** sources of energy;*

2. *Strive to be technology- and energy source-neutral. (Boldface added.) Tax incentives are a poor way to promote research. Often, realistic goals are not established.]*

Why scientists are (almost) certain that climate change is man-made

By Staff Writers, The Economist, Nov 2, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2014/11/economist-explains?fsrc=nlw%7Cnewe%7C3-11-2014%7C>

[SEPP Comment: Does not even begin to address past climate change, or the difference between doubling of CO2 in dry laboratory air and a doubling in the earth's mostly humid air.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Another Explanation of the Global Warming Pause In Doubt

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Dec 1, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/12/another-explanation-of-the-global-warming-pause-in-doubt.php>

Another excuse for 'the pause' – the oceans ate the heat

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/03/another-excuse-for-the-pause-the-oceans-ate-the-heat/>

Whither The Weather?

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Dec 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/04/whither-the-weather/>

Claim: CO2 effects felt on decadal time scales, rather than centuries

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/03/claim-co2-effects-felt-on-decadal-time-scales-rather-than-centuries/>

Did ENSO and the “Monster” Kelvin Wave Contribute to the Record High Global Sea Surface Temperatures in 2014?

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Dec 5, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/05/did-enso-and-the-monster-kelvin-wave-contribute-to-the-record-high-global-sea-surface-temperatures-in-2014/>

The Appalling Truth About Energy Subsidies

By Euan Mearns, Energy Matters, Nov 17, 2014 [H/t Anne Debeil]

<http://euanmearns.com/the-appalling-truth-about-energy-subsidies/>

[SEPP Comment: This is consistent with what TWTW has discussed in the past. The three countries with the greatest fossil fuel subsidies are Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Russia.]

Western Hudson Bay polar bear population is stable: press release

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Dec 5, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/12/05/western-hudson-bay-polar-bear-population-is-stable-press-release/>

The China – US Agreement?

China Broadens Pollution Pledge in Call for More Climate Funding

By Alex Morales and Reed Landberg, Bloomberg, Dec 4, 2014

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-12-04/china-broadens-pollution-pledge-in-call-for-more-climate-funding.html>

[SEPP Comment: The headline by the GWPF may be more accurate: UN Climate Poker: Emboldened China Plays \$100 Billion Trump Card. <http://www.thegwpf.com/un-climate-poker-emboldened-china-plays-100-billion-trump-card/>]

A New World Agreement?

Hot Air on Climate Change in Lima

By Patrick J. Michaels, CATO, Dec 5, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/hot-air-climate-change-lima>

China Says Climate Aid Inadequate, Especially Australia

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Dec 4, 2014

<http://www.voanews.com/content/reu-china-says-climate-aid-inadequate-especially-australia/2546273.html>

Lima climate talks: EU and US at odds over legally binding emissions targets

EU says mandatory carbon emissions cuts should be set for all countries, whereas US wants individual countries to be free to adjust the scale and pace of reductions

By Dan Collyns, The Guardian, UK, Dec 2, 2014

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/dec/02/lima-climate-talks-eu-and-us-at-odds-over-legally-binding-emissions-targets>

“What we need is science-based rigorous regulations...”

[SEPP Comment: Just because politicians and some scientists call regulations science-based does not make it so.]

Developed countries should compensate for emissions: India

By Staff Writers, Economic Times of India, Dec 4, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-12-04/news/56723550_1_indc-developed-countries-india-today

[SEPP Comment: The headline by GWPF may be more accurate: UN Climate Poker: India Demands Western Compensation For CO2 Emissions. <http://www.thegwpf.com/un-climate-poker-india-demands-western-compensation-for-co2-emissions/>]

Making Climate Promises Count

By Stephan Dion and Eloi Laurent, Project Syndicate, Dec 1, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/global-carbon-pricing-system-crucial-by-st-phane-dion-and--loi-laurent-2014-12>

A growing number of experts – including those at the International Monetary Fund, the OECD, and the World Bank – agree that no climate plan can be successful without an effective and efficient carbon-pricing system. The IPCC has concluded that if a single global carbon price is not established soon, it will be virtually impossible to prevent global warming from surpassing 2°C above preindustrial levels – the threshold beyond which the most devastating effects of climate change would become unavoidable.

[SEPP Comment: Avoiding the major question: Can any climate plan be successful without knowledge of the natural causes of climate change?]

UN climate change deal must have legally binding targets, says EU

Time is running out for agreeing legal framework for emissions cuts, EU official warns

By Arthur Neslen, The Guardian, UK, Nov 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]
<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/nov/27/un-climate-change-deal-must-have-legally-binding-targets-says-eu>

Scientific American: Hope after Lima – Preparing the loyalists for failure

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Dec 3, 2014
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/03/scientific-american-hope-after-lima-preparing-the-loyalists-for-failure/>

Social Benefits of Carbon

Why don't we hear about the beneficial side of climate change?

By Ross Clark, The Spectator, Nov 28, 2014 [H/t GWPF]
<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/coffeehouse/2014/11/why-dont-we-hear-about-the-beneficial-side-of-climate-change/>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Climate rhetoric faces the devil in the detail

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Dec 01, 2014
http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Climate_rhetoric_faces_the_devil_in_the_detail_999.html

Good news. Australia say NO to UN Green Climate Fund – bypasses Green Gravy Train

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 5, 2014
<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/12/good-news-australia-say-no-to-un-green-climate-fund-bypasses-green-gravy-train/>

Link to Green Climate Fund web site:

Organized at the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (2010)
<http://news.gcfund.org/>

India says carbon emissions will grow as it drives to beat poverty

By Tommy Wilkes, Reuters, Dec 5, 2014
<http://www.trust.org/item/20141205132540-5dooi/>

Seeking a Common Ground

Misuse of science

By Martin Livermore, The Scientific Alliance, Dec 5, 2014
<http://scientific-alliance.org/node/898>

The United Nations needs a shorter, stronger game plan for humanity

By Bjorn Lomborg, Washington Post, Nov 21, 2014
http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-united-nations-needs-a-shorter-stronger-game-plan-for-humanity/2014/11/21/a65e14d4-6f76-11e4-ad12-3734c461eab6_story.html?mc_cid=96516c08bf&mc_eid=da9b256360

Niceness at home and abroad

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 2, 2014
<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/2/niceness-at-home-and-abroad.html>

Give Gruber a Break

By Charles Battig, American Thinker, Dec 2, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/12/give_gruber_a_break.html

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

Weeds, Pests & Pathogens Beware: The Air's CO2 Content is Rising

The ongoing rise in the air's CO2 concentration may well "increase plant resistance to specific weeds, pests and pathogens," which is great news for future plants and the animals dependent upon them for food...

Goufo, P., Pereira, J., Moutinho-Pereira, J., Correia, C.M., Figueiredo, N., Carranca, C., Rosa, E.A.S. and Trindade, H. 2014. Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) phenolic compounds under elevated carbon dioxide (CO2) concentration. *Environmental and Experimental Botany* 99: 28-37.

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/dec/a6.php>

Assessing Possible Climate Change Impacts on Chinese Food Supply

Overall, Chinese agriculture appears to be relatively resilient to climate change, which is a significant finding for the world's most populous country in being able to adequately feed its inhabitants at the midpoint of the current century.

Ye, L., Tang, H., Wu, W., Yang, P., Nelson, G.C., Mason-D'Croz, D. and Palazzo, A. 2014. Chinese food security and climate change: *Agricultural futures. Economics* 8: 10.5018/economics-ejournal.ja.2014-1.

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/dec/a5.php>

Technological Progress vs. Atmospheric CO2 Enrichment

Attavanich, W. and McCarl, B.A. 2014. How is CO2 affecting yields and technological progress? A statistical analysis. *Climatic Change* 124: 747-762.

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V17/dec/a4.php>

Models v. Observations

UAH Global Temperature Update for Nov. 2014: +0.33 deg. C

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Dec 2, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/12/uah-global-temperature-update-for-nov-2014-0-33-deg-c/>

Measurement Issues

Overheated Media Reporting

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Dec 4, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/warm-year-overheated-reporting/>

"The fact is that if 2014 does become a record, it will be by an insignificant increase and it won't be a record in all the global temperature databases. Satellite data, arguably a much better data set than the surface temperature measurements, show 2014 to be far from record-setting.

The really big story is that the post-1997 'pause' in global surface temperatures continues undiminished when 2014 data is included."

Dubious digits: Is this data really that accurate?

By Staff Writers, Math Drudge, Nov 8, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://experimentalmath.info/blog/2014/11/dubious-digits-is-this-data-really-that-accurate/>

[SEPP Comment: False precision should alert the reader "Buyer Beware!"

Global Temperature Report: November 2014

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/03/global-temperature-report-november-2014/>

On the Difference Between Lord Monckton's 18 Years for RSS and Dr. McKittrick's 26 Years (Now Includes October Data)

By Werner Brozek, edited by Just The Facts, WUWT, Dec 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/02/on-the-difference-between-lord-moncktons-18-years-for-rss-and-dr-mckitricks-26-years-now-includes-october-data/>

[SEPP Comment: The real issue is not the length of the pause or how it is measured. The real issue is that the understanding of climate science as claimed by the IPCC and governmental entities that follow it is not correct. Further, the climate models fail to accurately project temperature changes.]

RSS YTD Temps Only 7th Highest Since 1998

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 5, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/12/05/rss-ytd-temps-only-7th-highest-since-1998/>

Argo And Ocean Heat Content

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Dec 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/04/argo-and-ocean-heat-content/>

Satellites show 2014 was NOT the hottest ever spring (or winter or summer or autumn) in Australia.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 4, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/12/satellites-show-2014-was-not-the-hottest-ever-spring-or-winter-or-summer-or-autumn-in-australia/#more-39813>

Changing Weather

60-Hour Blizzard Paralyzes Northern China, Russian Orient: 90 cm Snow, 105 km/hr Winds, Minus 20°C!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 4, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/04/60-hour-blizzard-paralyzes-northern-china-russian-orient-90-cm-snow-105-kmhr-winds-minus-20c/>

The Myth of More Severe Storms

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Dec 5, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/12/05/the-myth-of-more-severe-storms/>

Europe's Coldest Winter Of The 20thC

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 2, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/12/02/europes-coldest-winter-of-the-20thc/#more-11643>

[SEPP Comment: Did John Holdren's dreaded Polar Vortex saved Moscow from Hitler.]

Quiet 2014 Atlantic Hurricane Season Comes to a Close

By Becky Oskin, Live Science, Nov 30, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/quiet-2014-atlantic-hurricane-season-comes-close-151407412.html>

[SEPP Comment: Nine years since a category 3 or larger hit the U.S.]

The Great Flood Of 1862 [California]

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Nov 30, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/11/30/the-great-flood-of-1862/>

Changing Climate

Colorado mastodon bones show ancient warmer Earth

By Dan Elliott, Washington Post, Nov 28, 2014 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/colorado-mastodon-bones-show-ancient-warmer-earth/2014/11/28/eb476a72-7715-11e4-9d9b-86d397daad27_story.html

[SEPP Comment: Wrong question: "... . . . if we haven't seen all the natural variability in the system and we are causing warming, where are we going?" The real question is what natural variability have we ignored? Is CO2 significant?]

American mastodons made warm Arctic, subarctic temporary home

By Staff Writers, New York NY (SPX), Dec 03, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/American_mastodons_made_warm_Arctic_subarctic_temporary_home_999.html

Claim: Greenhouse gases linked to past African rainfall

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/04/claim-greenhouse-gases-linked-to-past-african-rainfall/>

Link to paper: Coherent changes of southeastern equatorial and northern African rainfall during the last deglaciation

By Bette L. Otto-Bliesner, et al. Science, Dec 5, 2014

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/346/6214/1223.abstract?sid=237159bb-9d8c-478e-a7e8-cc0756d33bb0>

Increasing greenhouse gases linked to rains over Africa thousands of years ago

Past may be prologue for climate in Africa

By Staff Writers, NSF, Dec 4, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133514&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

HH Lamb, Jet Stream Meridionalty & Extreme Weather

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 2, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/12/02/11646/>

Localized climate change contributed to ancient southwest depopulation

By Staff Writers, Pullman WA (SPX), Dec 05, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Localized_climate_change_contributed_to_ancient_southwest_depopulation_999.html

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Antarctica Losing Mt. Everest's Worth of Ice as Melt Triples

By Justin Doom, Bloomberg, Dec 2, 2014

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-12-02/antarctica-loses-ice-as-heavy-as-mt-everest-as-melting-picks-up.html>

Link to Press Release: West Antarctic Melt Rate Has Tripled

By Staff Writers, AGU, Dec 2, 2014

<http://news.agu.org/press-release/west-antarctic-melt-rate-has-tripled/>

Link to paper: Mass loss of the Amundsen Sea Embayment of West Antarctica from four independent techniques

By Tyler Sutterley, Geophysical Research Letters

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014GL061940/abstract?campaign=%20wlytk-41855.5282060185>

[SEPP Comment: The article, press release, and the abstract of the paper contain no discussion of what is happening in eastern Antarctic, or the bulk of the continent. The headline is what in English logic was called a hasty generalization.]

Antarctica: Heat comes from the deep

By Staff Writers, Kiel, Germany (SPX), Dec 05, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Antarctica_Heat_comes_from_the_deep_999.html

Also see: Robot Sub Finds Surprisingly Thick Antarctic Sea Ice

By Becky Oskin, Live Science, Nov 24, 2014

http://www.accuweather.com/en/features/trend/robot_sub_finds_surprisingly_t/37967874

Research casts alarming light on decline of West Antarctic glaciers

By Chris Mooney and Joby Warrick, Washington Post, Dec 4, 2014 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/research-casts-alarming-light-on-decline-of-west-antarctic-ice-sheets/2014/12/04/19efd3e4-7bbe-11e4-84d4-7c896b90abdc_story.html?hpid=z5

[SEPP Comment: It is becoming apparent that the West Antarctic is unique, unrelated to the bulk of the continent and to atmospheric CO2.]

Changing Earth

Most of Earth's carbon may be hidden in the planet's inner core

By Staff Writers, Ann Arbor MI (SPX), Dec 02, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Most_of_Earths_carbon_may_be_hidden_in_the_planets_inner_core_999.html

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Research confirms how global warming links to carbon emissions

By Staff Writers, Liverpool, UK (SPX), Dec 02, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Research_confirms_how_global_warming_links_to_carbon_emissions_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Equations are consistent with the models! The new model is consistent with prior models -- that have never been validated?]

Better Management of Exposure to Potential Future Losses Is Needed for Federal Flood and Crop Insurance

By Staff Writers, GAO, Nov 20, 2014

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-28>

[SEPP Comment: More non-science based on the National Climate Assessment.]

Lowering Standards

Has The Royal Society Abandoned Science?

By Paul Matthews, IPCC Report, Nov 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://ipccreport.wordpress.com/2014/11/27/has-the-royal-society-abandoned-science/>

Royal Society epitomises 'noble cause' corruption

Warmists say they hope 'evidence of trends in extreme weather' will help to 'galvanise' worldwide 'action'. What evidence, asks Christopher Booker.

By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Nov 29, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/11262103/Royal-Society-epitomises-noble-cause-corruption.html>

Scientists Accused Of Plotting To Get Pesticides Banned

By Ben Webser, The Times, Via GWPF, Dec 3, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/green-scientists-accused-of-plotting-to-get-pesticides-banned/>

The BBC's latest green recruit

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 1, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/1/the-bbcs-latest-green-recruit.html>

The Green Blob expands: BBC wants Australian ratings. Their editor Wendy Frew heats August by 90C.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 2, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/12/the-green-blob-expands-bbc-wants-australian-ratings-their-editor-wendy-frew-heats-aust-by-90c/>

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

Dismantling ski lifts and moving villages: Alps adapt to climate change

By Staff Writers, Innsbruck, Austria (AFP), Nov 28, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Dismantling_ski_lifts_and_moving_villages_Alps_adapt_to_climate_change_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Question the first assertion: “With temperatures rising faster in the Alps than the rest of the world, alpine countries are working together to adapt to climate change and hope to set an example.”]

Hotter, weirder: How climate has changed Earth

By Seth Borenstein, AP, Dec 3, 2014 [Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/hotter-weirder-climate-changed-earth-080435621--politics.html>

[SEPP Comment: Climate has been changing the earth for hundreds of millions of years.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Climate Death Forecast ‘Exaggerated’

By Ben Webster, The Times, Via GWPF, Dec 1, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/climate-death-forecast-exaggerated/>

Obama: Your kids ‘could not breathe’ in Beijing

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Dec 3, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/225927-obama-your-kids-could-not-breathe-if-they-were-growing-up-in>

[SEPP Comment: Nothing to do with air in the US!]

Amstrup knows his polar bear predictions are flawed – but continues to promote them

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Nov 29, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/11/29/amstrup-knows-his-polar-bear-predictions-are-flawed-but-continues-to-promote-them/>

Thousands will die if we don't pay the UN enough

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 2, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/12/thousands-will-die-if-we-dont-pay-the-un-enough-and-more-may-die-if-we-do/#more-39751>

Boucher: Is natural gas really cleaner?

By Robin Scully Boucher, Roanoke Times, Nov 30, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/boucher-is-natural-gas-really-cleaner/article_8afe6b49-0067-5237-85fa-9ed8b7ec606c.html

“Fracking requires the use of 2 billion to 3 billion gallons of water per day. The water is contaminated after use.”

[SEPP Comment: An absolutely false claim. After the wells are fracked, there is no need for additional water.]

Tea Partiers and traditional Republicans are split on science

By Chris Mooney, Washington Post, Dec 2, 2014 [H/t Charles Schafer]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2014/12/02/tea-partiers-and-traditional-republicans-are-split-on-science/>

“Conducted quarterly, the Poll randomly interviews approximately 500 respondents from across the state. .. All adult residents of New Hampshire with a working telephone (including new and unlisted numbers) are eligible” <http://cola.unh.edu/survey-center/granite-state-poll>

[SEPP Comment: From this we make great generalizations? 2013 US census estimate of population – New Hampshire, 1,323,459; USA, 316,128,839]

Valuing "subsidies"

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 4, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/4/valuing-subsidies.html>

[SEPP Comment: Using obtuse language.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children

Obama Wants Kids to Learn About Global Warming

The administration wants students and teachers to toe the line on climate change.

By Allie Bidwell, U.S. News, Dec 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/12/03/obama-administration-to-launch-global-warming-education-initiative>

Questioning European Green

Top Renewable Energy Expert Warns Of Collapsing Euro Energy Supply...Germany's Energy Policy "Suicidal"

By Fritz Vahrenholt, Not Tricks Zone Dec 5, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/05/top-renewable-energy-expert-warns-of-collapsing-euro-energy-supply-germanys-energy-policy-suicidal/>

German climate action plan short on fine details

By Bernd Radowitz, ReCharge, Via GWPF, Dec 3, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/green-spin-masters-german-climate-plan-short-on-details/>

Germany's Energy Adventure Intensifies. Eon's Announcement Plunges Power Supply Future Into Chaos, Uncertainty

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 3, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/12/03/germanys-energy-adventure-intensifies-eons-announcement-plunges-power-supply-into-chaos-uncertainty/>

“With 23 billion euros annually, the government subsidizes renewable energy that is worth only 2 billion on the market.”

E.ON to split

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 1, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/1/eon-to-split.html>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

The Gruberization of environmental policies

By Paul Driessen, WUWT, Nov 29, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/29/the-gruberization-of-environmental-policies/>

The progressive war on science

By Margaret Wentz, The Globe and Mail, Nov 29, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-debate/the-progressive-war-on-science/article21821297/>

Non-Green Jobs

German Renewable Energy Company Announces Insolvency: “Victim Of Changed Feed-In Act Conditions”

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 29, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/11/29/german-renewable-energy-company-announces-insolvency-victim-of-changed-feed-in-act-conditions/>

When Emissions Disappear, So Do Jobs

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Dec 4, 2014

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2014/12/04/when-emissions-disappear-so-do-jobs/>

Funding Issues

Oopsie! \$1 Billion in UN Funds to Fight Climate Change Built Coal Power Plants Instead

By Zoe Schlanger, Newsweek, Dec 20, 2014 [H/t Paul Homewood]

<http://www.newsweek.com/oopsie-1-billion-un-funds-fight-climate-change-built-coal-power-plants-instead-288497>

Rich Nations Will Make \$100 Billion Climate Goal, U.S. Says

By Alex Nussbaum, Bloomberg, Dec 1, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-12-01/rich-nations-will-make-100-billion-climate-goal-u-s-says-1-.html>

Abbott government chops UNEP funding by 80% to help reefs, forest. Greens hate it.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 3, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/12/abbott-government-chops-unep-funding-by-80-to-help-reefs-forest-greens-hate-it/>

Climate Funds for Coal Highlight Lack of UN Rules

By Karl Ritter and Margie Mason, AP, Dec 1, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/climate-funds-coal-highlight-lack-rules-27270664>

The Political Games Continue

Republicans to nix Obama climate plan

By Staff Writers, AP, Dec 3, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.news24.com/Green/News/Republicans-to-nix-Obama-climate-plan-20141203>

Congress Moves to Block EPA's Land Grab

By Ron Arnold, Daily Signal, Dec 2, 2014

http://dailysignal.com/2014/12/02/congress-moves-block-epas-land-grab/?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailydigest&mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRoks63KZKXonjHpfsX66O0pUKOylMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjI4FTcdII%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFQrLBMa1ozrgOWxX0TD7slJfbfYRPf6Ba2Jwyq%2FA%3D

Congress' Sneaky Tactic to Grab More Land for the Government

By Robert Gordon and Nicolas Loris, Daily Signal, Dec 2, 2014

http://dailysignal.com/2014/12/02/congresss-sneaky-tactic-grab-u-s-land-government/?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=dailydigest&mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRoks63KZKXonjHpfsX66O0pUKOylMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjI4FTcdII%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFQrLBMa1ozrgOWxX0TD7slJfbfYRPf6Ba2Jwyq%2FA%3D

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

“End Wind Welfare!” Let Me Count the Reasons

By Robert Bradley, Jr, Master Resource, Dec 2, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/promises-versus-reality/end-wind-welfare-advocacy-campaign/>
[SEPP Comment: Free the wind, don't try to shackle it!]

Government to Dole Out \$6.4 Billion to Continue Subsidizing Wind Industry

By Nicolas Lonris, CNS News, Dec 4, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/commentary/nicolas-loris/government-dole-out-64-billion-continue-subsidizing-wind-industry>

GOP hoists ax over green tax break

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Dec 3, 2014

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/gop-hoists-ax-over-green-tax-break/article/2556879?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20-%2012/03/14&utm_medium=email

It's time for tough love on tax credits for the mature wind industry

By Marita Noon, Net Right Daily, Dec 2, 2014

<http://netrightdaily.com/2014/12/time-tough-love-tax-credits-mature-wind-industry/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Obama's law professor blasts EPA climate rule

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Dec 5, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226168-obamas-law-professor-blasts-epa-climate-rule>

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to what EPA spokeswoman Liz Purchia claimed, there was no obligation for the EPA to find carbon dioxide endangers human health.]

EPA: Climate rule input is ‘top priority’

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Dec 1, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/225607-epa-climate-rule-input-is-top-priority>

Five threats to the EPA’s climate rule

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Nov 30, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/e2-wire/225418-five-threats-to-the-epas-climate-rule>

Energy commissioner blasts EPA climate rule

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Dec 2, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/225770-energy-commissioner-blasts-epa-climate-rule>

Greens chide industry, boast 3M comments defending climate rule

By Laura Baron-Lopez, The Hill, Dec 5, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/226098-greens-chide-industry-boast-3m-comments-defending-climate-rule>

“You can accurately judge the viability of a potential energy source by the attitude of green activists to it. If they attack it, it is viable. If they defend it, it is non-viable.” – John Brignell

The Environmental Protection-Racket Agency

By Paul Driessen, IBD, Dec 3, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-perspective/120314-728940-new-ozone-rules-have-enormous-costs-few-benefits.htm?p=full>

Viewpoints on the EPA’s Clean Power Plan Abridged

By Sonal Patel, Power, Dec 3, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/viewpoints-on-the-epas-clean-power-plan-abridged/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2992522&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

Energy Issues – Non-US

The Renewable Energy Myth

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Nov 28, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/magazine/2014/11/renewable-energy-myth/>

“It is beyond bizarre that activists prattle about freeing the world from the “tyranny of oil”, the most cost-efficient and convenient of all energy sources. The phrase makes as much sense as the “tyranny” of physics.”

Department for Exaggeration, Crookery and Conmen

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 2, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/2/departement-for-exaggeration-crookery-and-conmen.html>

[SEPP Comment; DECC is better known as the UK Department of Energy and Climate Change.]

Grid-lock

By John Brignell, Number Watch, Nov 11, 2014

<http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2014%20November.htm#Grid>

[SEPP Comment: Has the UK National Grid lost its way? It claims to be an international electricity and gas company, playing “a vital role in connecting millions of people safely, reliably, and efficiently to the energy they use” <http://www2.nationalgrid.com/UK/Our-company/> *(It also covers parts of Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island in the USA – delivering to 3.4 million electricity consumers and 3.6 million natural gas consumers.)*

<http://www2.nationalgrid.com/about-us/our-history/>

Japan’s fiscal ’13 greenhouse gas emissions worst on record

By Staff Writers, Japan Times, Dec 5, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/12/05/national/japans-fiscal-13-greenhouse-gas-emissions-worst-record/#.VIHYEjHF98F>

The Great Turnaround

By Paul Greenberg, Townhall, Dec 2, 2014

<http://townhall.com/columnists/paulgreenberg/2014/12/02/the-great-turnaround-n1926378/page/full>

Will Russia's Putin Be Defeated By U.S. Fracking?

Editorial, IBD, Dec 3, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/120314-728989-russias-putin-feels-the-pinch-of-fracking-revolution.htm>

Energy Issues -- US

EPA’s goofy green-energy rules

The list of nonsensical excuses for pushing pricey power grows

By Stephen Moore and Kathleen Hartnett-White, Washington Times, Nov 30, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/nov/30/stephen-moore-and-kathleen-hartnett-white-epas-ove/>

Oil Price Collapse Poses Threats to U.S. Shale Gas Boom

By Tomas Overton, Power, Dec 2, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/oil-price-collapse-poses-threats-to-u-s-shale-gas-boom/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2992522&hq_l=13&hq_v=5e660500d0

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Fracking Debunks Obama's 'We Can't Drill Our Way Out'

Editorial, IBD, Dec 3, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/120314-728986-fracking-proves-we-can-drill-our-way-to-low-prices-and-independence.htm>

Natural gas reserves hit all-time high

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Dec 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/225996-natural-gas-reserves-hit-all-time-high>

Link to report: U.S. natural gas reserves increase 10% in 2013 to reach a record 354 Tcf

By Staff Writers, EIA, Dec 4, 2014

<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=19051>

As 1st municipal fracking ban in Texas takes effect, towns test state's oil and gas supremacy

By Emily Schmall, AP, Nov 30, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.startribune.com/politics/national/284260801.html>

Which Huge, Embarrassingly Backward European Country Is Financing Massive Fracking Protests?

By Eric Owens, Daily Caller, Dec 1, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/12/01/which-huge-embarrassingly-backward-european-country-is-financing-massive-fracking-protests/>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant: Solid as a Rock or Ready to Crumble?

By Aaron Larson, Power, Dec 4, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/diablo-canyon-nuclear-plant-solid-as-a-rock-or-ready-to-crumble/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2992522&hq_l=9&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Confusing an earthquake with a tsunami, which caused the problems with Fukushima]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Finally the Truth About Renewables

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Dec 2, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/12/02/finally-the-truth-about-renewables/>

Shady Circumstances Cloud Huge Solar Energy Plant Bailout

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Dec 2, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Google-DOE-Green-Energy-NRG/2014/12/02/id/610506/>

[SEPP Comment: Such government "investments" will eventually bankrupt anyone.]

Virginia mulls offshore wind energy

By Daniel J. Graeber, Washington (UPI), Dec 2, 2014

http://www.winddaily.com/reports/Virginia_mulls_offshore_wind_energy_999.html

[SEPP Comment: As Europe suffers from it.]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy -- Other

Obama Is 826,000 Short of His 1 M Electric Car Promise

By John Merline, IBD, Dec 2, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/blogs-capital-hill/120214-728719-obama-is-826000-short-of-his-1-million-electric-car-promise.htm>

The Future of Cars: Batteries Included?

By Mark Mills, Real Clear Politics, Dec 1, 2014

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2014/12/01/the_future_of_cars_batteries_included_124798.html

Health, Energy, and Climate

Doctor, get a grip of yourself

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 3, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/12/3/doctor-get-a-grip-of-yourself.html>

Oh Mann!

Tree ring proxies RIP

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Dec 5, 2014

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2014/12/5/tree-ring-proxies-rip.html>

Environmental Industry

Holiday Bummer! Neo-Malthusianism (consumption, climate-free conversation decried)

By Robert Bradley Jr, Master Resource, Dec 4, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/climate-exaggeration/holiday-bummer-neo-malthusians/>

When It Comes To Neonics, Activists Understand PR Better Than Chemical Companies Do

By Hank Cambell, Science 2.0, Dec 2, 2014

http://www.science20.com/science_20/when_it_comes_to_neonics_activists_understand_pr_better_than_chemical_companies_do-150299

Other Scientific News

Chinese scientists create new global wetland suitability map

By Staff Writers, Beijing (SPX), Dec 05, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Chinese_scientists_create_new_global_wetland_suitability_map_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

Pro-GMO debaters win over NYC crowd

By Staff Writers, ASCH, Dec 4, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/12/gmo-debate/>

Russian Money Suspected behind Fracking Protests

By Andrew Higgins, NYT, Nov 30, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/01/world/russian-money-suspected-behind-fracking-protests.html?_r=0

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Global Warming Goofiness Around the Globe

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Dec 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/04/global-warming-goofiness-around-the-globe/>

Honey, the Global Warming shrunk our kids

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Dec 1, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/12/01/honey-the-global-warming-shrunk-our-kids/>

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1. Obama Puts Climate on the 2016 Ballot

The president's unilateral approach ensures that a new global carbon pact will be a campaign issue in two years.

By Rupert Darwall, WSJ, Dec 1, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/rupe-r-darwall-obama-puts-climate-on-the-2016-ballot-1417478450?mod=hp_opinion

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Lima, Peru, this week and next will lay the groundwork for a more significant gathering in Paris a year from now: the 21st conference of the 1992 United Nations Convention on Climate Change. The third such conference, in 1997, produced the Kyoto Protocol, the much-heralded but ineffective plan to cut greenhouse-gas emissions without applying to developing nations. The 15th conference, held in Copenhagen five years ago to draw up a successor treaty, collapsed spectacularly under determined opposition from China and India.

The Paris conference, also intended to bring about an agreement covering all the world's emitters, promises to be different—if only in the way it influences the next U.S. presidential election.

The Obama administration drew two lessons from Copenhagen. First, that the key to getting a global climate deal in Paris would be to secure first a bilateral one with China. Second, that seeking a binding treaty is overambitious and unnecessary. An accord that doesn't require Senate approval would suffice. America's international commitments could be implemented by executive actions.

From President Obama's viewpoint, developments are moving in the right direction. At Copenhagen, China's posture was that its carbon-intensity target was its own affair. But on Nov. 12 Mr. Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping announced that China had agreed not to exceed its carbon emissions at 2030 levels, while the U.S. would double the pace of America's greenhouse-gas reductions.

The consequence is that the fate of the current attempt to agree on a global climate pact won't be decided around the negotiating tables in Paris a year from now, but by American voters in November 2016. President Obama has all but guaranteed that where candidates stand on implementing a Paris climate accord will be a campaign issue.

As the president pointed out in the context of immigration reform, “the very nature of an executive action means that a future president could reverse those actions.” A vote in the Senate to ratify a treaty would settle the issue. And by avoiding the Senate and leaving the issue open, President Obama will be forcing his fellow Democrats to defend his energy policies through the next election.

They will have a lot to defend. Hardly anyone thinks that the president's agreement with China will have much of an impact on climate control. In general, climate-policy skeptics have played down the significance of China's pledge to peak its emissions. Some argue that given China's demographic curve, China is only signaling what it would be doing anyway and is unlikely to legally commit to capping its carbon emissions. Critics of the Beijing deal, meanwhile, rightly point out that even on the basis of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change-approved science, it does very little to delay the anticipated rise in global temperature (although that's something that nature is taking care of itself for the time being). The 2030 target gives China's leadership a perverse incentive to pump out emissions to raise their peak level.

However the White House claim that the climate deal with China is a step to achieving the “deep decarbonization” of the global economy is delusory for another reason: It is far too costly.

Since Copenhagen, the principal motivation of Western leaders has not been to reach an effective agreement, but to justify their expensive renewable-energy programs. In the U.S., these have

damaged America's energy-cost advantage, which is one of the few pro-growth factors in the anemic Obama recovery.

For the developing world, however, the climate negotiations have always been about how much money they get. From the outset, the talks were predicated on massive aid transfers from north to south. Climate became the most potent bargaining chip in a decades-old demand for aid to allegedly avoid permanent Third World impoverishment.

Defying the assumptions about permanent impoverishment, the growth of the developing world has been spectacular. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development reckons that in 2010 developing nations' share of world GDP was 49%, up from 40% in 2000, and is projected to reach 57% in 2030.

This means more countries generating more carbon emissions. It also means that Obama-style deep decarbonization of the global economy would require that developed countries pay twice over—once to decarbonize their own economies and a second time for developing ones.

That isn't going to happen. Even without China, the developing world is too large for the indebted, stagnating developed world to pay for global decarbonization.

If the West wants a fig-leaf climate agreement, however, it will have to at least promise to pay for one. At Copenhagen, developed nations pledged \$100 billion a year of climate aid by 2020. The U.N. is having as little success raising money as it had in cutting emissions. So far it has recovered only \$9.3 billion of one-time pledges.

Developing nations are already demanding early capitalization of the Green Climate Fund. A deal in Paris would make President Obama's recent pledge of \$3 billion merely the opening round of escalating cash calls on U.S. taxpayers—unless they vote against the party that promises to continue Mr. Obama's climate policies after his term expires.

For Republicans, this has the makings of a winning issue. In 2016 Mr. Obama will force Democrats to run, in effect, on a platform of fewer jobs, more-expensive energy and an indefinite commitment to paying billions of dollars of climate aid.

Another concern: The administration's climate plans involve a federal takeover of electricity generation, a critical segment of the economy. Kind of like the way ObamaCare took over health care. We can see how that's working out.

Mr. Darwall is the author of "The Age of Global Warming: A History" (Quartet, 2013).

2. 'Peak Oil' Debunked, Again

The world relearns that supply responds to necessity and price.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 4, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/peak-oil-debunked-again-1417739810?mod=WSJ_hps_sections_opinion

It has been 216 years since Thomas Malthus gave birth to the idea that mankind's appetite for natural resources would outstrip nature's capacity to supply them. There have since been regular warnings that the world is running out of soybeans, helium, chocolate, tungsten, you name it—

and that population growth has become unsustainable. The warnings create a political or social panic for a while, only to be proved wrong.

The latest reckoning with reality is the end of the obsession with “peak oil,” which for years had serious people proclaiming that we were entering an era of permanent fossil fuels scarcity. It didn’t work out that way.

That’s a central lesson from this year’s dramatic fall in the price of oil, which reached \$69.49 a barrel of Brent crude on Thursday from a June high of \$112.12. As recently as early November, when oil hovered at \$80, OPEC officials warned they would intervene to hold the price at \$70. But Saudi officials conspicuously refused to support an output cut at last week’s OPEC meeting, and Saudi oil minister Ali al-Naimi has made clear that he’d be comfortable with lower prices.

The short-term Saudi calculation is to drive oil prices down to squeeze their geopolitical adversaries and higher-cost producers. That goes especially for their adversaries across the Persian Gulf in Iran, which depends on oil exports for over 40% of its revenues, and where the regime had designed its budget based on \$100 oil.

The Saudis also hope to slow the explosive growth of U.S. production, which, thanks to the tapping of domestic shale resources through the combination of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing, has risen to some nine million barrels a day from five million in 2008. By some estimates, the price of oil needs to be as high as \$90 a barrel for oil extracted from “tight” deposits such as shale, though oil market research firm IHS believes most tight oil wells have a break-even cost of between \$50 and \$69 dollars a barrel.

But even if the Saudi move slows U.S. drilling, the International Energy Agency forecasts that U.S. production will still surpass Saudi Arabia’s output of 9.7 million barrels a day, and overtake Russia’s 10.3 million, perhaps sometime next year. This would make America the world’s largest oil producer, which it was from the dawn of the oil age through 1974. Thanks to the fracking boom, the U.S. surpassed Russia as the world’s largest natural-gas producer in 2013.

All this is a useful reminder, as IHS’s Daniel Yergin told us the other day, that “technology responds to need and to price.” It was the same story in the 1970s, when the world responded to OPEC’s embargoes by exploiting new resources in Alaska and the North Sea, and again in the 1980s and 1990s, when offshore drilling became technologically feasible and economically profitable at ever-greater depths. And expect more from where that came, as the frackers continue to figure out how to drive down costs, and if new shale deposits in places such as Mexico, Ukraine and Argentina start to be exploited.

Also worth remembering is how spectacularly wrong some recent predictions of doom turned out to be. This is shooting fish in a barrel, but here is Paul Krugman in December 2010, declaring that “peak oil has arrived.”

“What the commodity markets are telling us,” Mr. Krugman averred, “is that we’re living in a finite world, in which the rapid growth of emerging economies is placing pressure on limited supplies of raw materials, pushing up their prices. And America is, for the most part, just a bystander in this story.” Far from being a bystander, America has been the main oil-market innovator.

Such doomsaying is that much more embarrassing because warnings of peak oil are nearly as old as the oil industry. In his book “The Quest,” Mr. Yergin records that in 1885 the state geologist of Pennsylvania warned that “the amazing exhibition of oil” was “a temporary and vanishing phenomenon—one which young men will live to see come to its natural end.”

Given this 130-year record of predictive failure, why does the end-of-oil myth persist? Part of it is that peak oil is more wish than prediction—a desire to see the end of fossil fuels to serve a larger political agenda. It is also a way of scaring governments into pouring money into alternative energy sources that can’t compete with oil and natural gas without subsidies and mandates. Predicting disaster can also be a profitable business and a path to speech-making celebrity.

The happy ending is that the notion that the world is running out of resources always fails because the ingenuity of entrepreneurs, spurred by necessity and incentive, always exceeds the imagination of doomsayers. So we are learning again, and let’s hope memories will be longer this time.

3. The Global Shakeout From Plunging Oil

New supply—rather than demand—is dominating the market, and OPEC has been caught by surprise.

By Daniel Yergin, WSJ, Nov 30, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/daniel-yergin-the-global-shakeout-from-plunging-oil-1417386897>

Link to report: Tight Oil Test: US output at lower oil prices

By Staff Writers, IHS, Nov 20, 2014

<http://unconventionalenergy.blogs.ihs.com/2014/11/20/tight-oil-test-us-output-at-lower-oil-prices/>

The decision by members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries on Thursday not to cut production reflects a profound shift in the world oil market. The demand for oil—by China and other emerging economies—is no longer the dominant factor. Instead, the surge in U.S. oil production, bolstered by additional new supply from Canada, is decisive. This surge is on a scale that most oil exporters had not anticipated. The turmoil in prices, with spasmodic plunges over the past few days, will likely continue.

Since 2008—when fear of “peak oil,” after which global output would supposedly decline, was the dominant motif—U.S. oil production has risen 80%, to nine million barrels daily. The U.S. increase alone is greater than the output of every OPEC country except Saudi Arabia.

The world has experienced sudden supply gushers before. In the early 1930s, a flood of oil from East Texas drove prices down to 10 cents a barrel—and desperate gas station owners offered chickens as premiums to bring in customers. In the late 1950s, the rapidly swelling flow of Mideast oil led to price cuts that triggered the formation of OPEC.

And in the first half of the 1980s, a surge in oil from the North Sea, Alaska’s North Slope and Mexico caused prices to plunge to \$10 a barrel. That posed a much greater crisis for OPEC than today: Over those same years, global demand fell by more than two million barrels a day owing to a deep recession, greater conservation and the switch to coal from oil for electricity generation. This time world oil demand is still growing, but weakly.

For the past three years, oil prices hovered around \$100 a barrel as disruptions in Libya, South Sudan and elsewhere, and sanctions on Iranian exports, eerily balanced out the production

increases from the U.S. and Canada. But the slower global economic growth that became apparent a few months ago was accompanied by weaker demand for oil, just when Libya suddenly quadrupled output to almost a million barrels a day. The result: Prices weakened in September and then tumbled.

OPEC's decision last week reflects the conviction of its "have" nations—the Persian Gulf countries, with very large financial reserves—that cutting output would mean losing market share, particularly to Iran and to what they see as Iran-dominated Iraq. Instead, they have adopted a strategy of leaving it to the market for now; OPEC is waiting, in the words of Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi, for the oil market "to stabilize itself eventually."

It is now clear that the new U.S. production is more resilient than anticipated. There has been a widespread view that at around \$85 or \$90 a barrel extracting "tight" oil from shale would no longer be economical. However, a new IHS analysis based on individual well data finds that 80% of new tight-oil production in 2015 would be economic between \$50 and \$69 a barrel. And companies will continue to improve technology and drive down costs.

True, with prices now near or below \$70 a barrel, U.S. companies are looking hard at their investment plans—where and how much to cut or postpone. But it will take time for these decisions to affect supply. U.S. oil output will continue to rise in 2015.

The OPEC members in big trouble are the "have-nots"—those with small financial reserves and high government budgets. No country clamored more loudly for OPEC production cuts than Venezuela. Once an oil powerhouse, Venezuela depends on oil revenues for up to 65% of government spending. But its production has fallen by a third since 2000. Owing to gross mismanagement, Venezuela's economy is already in chaos, its political system in crisis and unrest is mounting. And Venezuela would be the No. 1 loser if the Keystone XL pipeline is built, as production from Canadian oil sands would displace Venezuelan heavy oil from its largest single market, the U.S. Gulf Coast refineries.

Iran also clamored loudly for a production cut. High prices earlier this year give Tehran some budget cushion, but the government has little leeway for the next fiscal year. Iran depends on oil for half of its budget, and the country is already suffering from sanctions, which have cut its oil exports almost in half. Lower prices will prolong Iran's recession.

A few days ago President Vladimir Putin said that Russia, the world's largest oil producer and not a member of OPEC, is preparing for lower, even "catastrophic" oil prices. Oil provides over 40% of the Russian budget, but Mr. Putin has built up foreign exchange reserves worth a few hundred billion dollars, in part to cope with an oil-price collapse. Still, in an economy that is heavily dependent on imports of food and consumer goods, the falling value of the ruble means rising prices for imports, in effect slashing the incomes of consumers. Combined with the effect of sanctions from the Ukraine crisis, this means Russia is headed for recession.

The biggest impact of lower oil prices on future output may well be not in North America, where many people are looking for it, but in the rest of the world. Even before the collapse in prices, major oil and natural-gas companies had become preoccupied with the continually rising costs of developing new supply and were heeding the call from investors for "capital discipline."

This price decline will turn this preoccupation into an obsession. The result will be a slowdown and reduction in major new investments around the world. The losers will be the nations trying to woo investment for new oil and natural-gas projects. Countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America are already finding that fewer companies are showing up to bid for new opportunities, and such bids that are proffered will be lower, perhaps much lower, than governments were expecting. The days are past when these countries can insist on very tough terms in taxes, royalties and other requirements that drive up costs and cause delay.

The drama is far from over. If prices remain close to their current level, OPEC members will likely come together again to reassess the market, especially as the stronger winter demand fades with the approach of spring. But a pickup in world economic growth, or new disruptions or geopolitical crises in the Middle East or North Africa or elsewhere, could send prices up again.

Mr. Yergin, vice chairman of IHS, is author of "The Quest: Energy, Security, and the Remaking of the Modern World" (Penguin Press, 2012).

4. Saudi Arabia Sees Oil Prices Stabilizing Around \$60 a Barrel

OPEC's Biggest Oil Producer Isn't Likely to Push for Production Cuts as a Result

By Summer Said, Sarah Kent and Benoit Faucon, WSJ, Dec 3, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/saudi-arabia-believes-oil-prices-could-stabilize-around-60-a-barrel-1417623664?mod=trending_now_3

LONDON—OPEC's biggest oil producer, Saudi Arabia, now believes oil prices could stabilize at around \$60 a barrel, a level both it and other Gulf producers believe they could withstand, according to people familiar with the situation.

The shift in Saudi thinking suggests the de facto leader of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries won't push for supply cuts in the near-term, even if oil prices fall further. Brent crude dropped 62 cents a barrel to \$69.92 on Wednesday.

The change in Saudi mind-set also suggests OPEC members may have to adapt swiftly to shifts in the oil market caused by a surge in supply from the U.S. shale revolution and slowing global demand growth. As recently as early November, OPEC officials were talking about \$70 a barrel as the sustained level at which there would be "panic" within its ranks.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Naimi before last week's OPEC meeting, at which the group decided to keep oil output unchanged. Oil prices have since fallen sharply.

The Gulf states "don't have a price target, and if prices drop further below \$60, it won't be for a long time," a Gulf oil official said.

Before last week's OPEC meeting in Vienna, the Saudis had been considering a Venezuelan proposal to cut the producer group's oil output sharply. The possible deal finally fell apart when Russia, a major oil producer that isn't a member of OPEC, refused to participate in a general supply cut, according to people familiar with the situation.

That gave Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies cover to push an unpopular strategy at OPEC's main meeting last Thursday of not changing the cartel's production target, in an attempt to defend

market share rather than prices. That view prevailed, leading Brent crude to fall 10% in the past week.

Analysts said the new insight into Saudi Arabia's views on the oil market was likely to keep prices subdued in the coming months and would thwart chances for a strong rebound.

"It's just another factor that solidifies the bearish outlook," said Kyle Cooper, managing partner of research consultancy IAF Advisors in Houston. The Saudis "have seen their market share be continually diminished, especially in the U.S., and I think they've grown weary of it."

During an early November meeting on the Venezuelan resort island of Margarita, Saudi Arabia's oil minister, Ali al-Naimi, had told Venezuela's foreign minister and OPEC representative, Rafael Ramirez, he would support a cut only if the Venezuelan minister could convince others both inside and outside of the cartel to participate, according to people familiar with the situation.

It was a "mission impossible," said one OPEC delegate. Struggling OPEC members like Iran, Libya and Iraq argue they should be exempted from any move to cut output. Historically, persuading non-OPEC members to join the group in reducing supply has met with limited success.

However, just 48 hours before OPEC's semiannual meeting last Thursday, Mr. Ramirez gathered senior energy officials from Saudi Arabia, Russia and Mexico—another non-OPEC member—in Vienna's Hyatt hotel.

On the table was a proposal to take two million barrels a day of oil supply out of the global market of more than 90 million barrels a day, according to people familiar with the situation. The bulk of the cut was to be shouldered by OPEC, but Russia and Mexico combined were expected to contribute a reduction of 500,000 barrels a day, the people said.

The meeting ended without any deal to cut supply, Mr. Ramirez told reporters immediately afterward. Within hours, Russian state oil company OAO Rosneft said it wouldn't cut its oil output.

Mr. al-Naimi finally decided it would be better to endure short-term pain from low oil prices than risk losing market share in the long run, according to people familiar with the situation.

"The market will stabilize itself eventually," he told reporters.

He conveyed this message first to his Gulf allies—countries such as Kuwait and the U.A.E.—and then during a four-hour debate among all of OPEC's ministers last Thursday, according to delegates briefed on the gathering.

Mr. al-Naimi rebuffed calls led by Venezuela for the oil-producing cartel to reduce its output by 5%, arguing it would cost OPEC market share without guaranteeing prices would improve, the people said.

Mr. al-Naimi told the ministers that enduring lower prices would force high-cost oil producers outside of OPEC, like U.S. shale-oil companies, to cut back production themselves, tightening the market by the second half of 2015, the people added.

The rest of OPEC gave in to Saudi pressure and the cartel reluctantly agreed to maintain its oil production at 30 million barrels a day. On Tuesday this week, the kingdom's cabinet said OPEC's decision reflected the group's "cohesion and unity."

5. Ambition Meets Wariness as U.N. Climate Change Talks Begin in Lima

Little Evidence Other Developing Nations Will Follow China's Lead in Carbon-Emissions Targets

By William Mauldin, WSJ, Dec 3, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/ambitions-meet-wariness-as-u-n-climate-change-talks-begin-in-lima-1417622504>

The U.S., Europe and China are about to confront the gulf between their carbon-cutting ambitions and those of less industrialized countries.

President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping surprised many observers last month by jointly unveiling long-range plans to curb carbon-dioxide emissions. The move followed a pledge by the other big carbon-emitting economy, the European Union, to reduce greenhouse gases as part of a new round of United Nations-led climate negotiations.

Those talks have begun this week in Lima, Peru, and will continue on a higher level next week. But officials and experts say there is little evidence most other developing economies will follow China's lead. The talks are supposed to produce an agreement in Paris next year.

"The risk is a revolt by the South against the North, saying that, 'You caused this problem and now we're going to pay the price,'" said Paul Bledsoe, a former U.S. official and climate expert at the German Marshall Fund, a U.S.-based think tank.

The rift began with the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which put the onus of emissions reductions on the highly industrialized countries that relied heavily on fossil fuels for many decades.

Since then, rapidly emerging economies with big populations and expanding middle classes—China and India, above all—have overtaken many developed counterparts in burning coal and other fuels that scientists have linked to global warming.

Many of these countries, including poorer developing nations and a number of energy producers, don't want to imperil their economic growth if richer countries can make the cuts needed to keep global temperatures from rising more than two degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels over coming decades—a goal world leaders set at the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit.

Resistance from some developing countries has spoiled other rounds of talks and could do the same in Lima, which officials describe as the launch of the most promising set of negotiations in years.

"It is an inherently difficult process because there are many, many countries and many groups of countries that have different interests," said Todd Stern, the State Department's special envoy for climate change and lead U.S. negotiator in the talks.

American and other officials are seeking to blur the old, two-way standoff by encouraging every nation to develop its own emissions-reduction plan to fit its growth expectations and abilities.

The major economies are expected to submit detailed plans by March that will then stir wider domestic and international debates among politicians, the electorate and environmental groups. Governments hope to arrive at a broad climate framework by the end of next year.

The stakes are high. Environmentalists warn inadequate results could lead to higher sea levels and widespread droughts, while opponents in the U.S. and other countries say stricter emission rules could sap economic growth and harm the energy industry.

In the U.S., next year's Republican Senate majority is expected to try to stop President Obama from using Environmental Protection Agency rules to limit power-plant emissions, a key part of the administration's offering in the global talks.

One country clearly on edge over the new push—and China's aggressive targets—is India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is examining a strategy of clearly differentiating India from China and arguing for a much later period for reaching peak emissions, officials and experts say.

Meanwhile, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, which is concerned that climate concerns will eventually lead to a slowdown in oil demand, has called for sharply differentiating the responsibilities of developing nations. The attitude of Russia, facing a strategic standoff with Western countries over its actions in Ukraine, is seen as especially difficult to predict.

In addition to setting battle lines for future negotiations in the next year, officials at the Lima talks expect to clarify what they will put in their plans for emissions reduction so that their progress can be measured and published internationally.

“The countries should leave Lima under no uncertainty as to what should be included in their nationally defined contributions,” said Rachel Kyte, the World Bank's special envoy for climate change.

The governments will also seek to make progress on a text for a final agreement, including on what legal form the pact would take and other sensitive matters, officials said.

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