

The Week That Was: 2010-09-25 (September 25, 2010)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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At 8 pm on September 27, Fred Singer and Ken Haapala will be panelists in a Global Warming Forum held at the Loeb Playhouse of Purdue University sponsored by the Purdue College of Engineering, College of Science, and the Global Policy Research Institute. The two other panelists will be Susan Avery, President and Director of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, and Robert Socolow, Co-Director, the Carbon Mitigation Initiative, Princeton University. The Moderator is Moira Gunn, host of NPR's Tech Nation and BioTech Nation. The Forum is free and open to the public.

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PLEASE NOTE that the complete TWTW, including the articles, can be downloaded in an easily printable form at the web site:

<http://www.haapala.com/sepp/the-week-that-was.cfm>.

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The Heartland Institute is holding a conference in Sydney on October 1. The speakers include Chris de Freitas, Bob Carter, Cory Bernardi, David Evans, Alan Moran, Barun S. Mitra, and Jo Nova. For information see:

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/pages/whats-on>

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Quote of the Week:

"To kill an error is as good a service as, and sometimes better than, the establishing of a new truth or fact" Charles Darwin [H/t Vincent Gray]

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Number of the Week: 2 Million Jobs

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THIS WEEK:

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

Apparently re-invigorated by its August holiday, this week Congress renewed its anti-energy proposals. Several senators introduced a bill requiring a Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) that 3% of US electricity be generated by renewable by 2012 and 15% by 2021. Fred Singer discussed RES in his August 7 Science Editorial in TWTW. Government favored industries, such as solar and wind industries, require such a bill. The subsidies found in the stimulus bill run out at the end of this year and these the favored industries could not stand up to price competition from coal or natural gas. Nuclear and hydro are also out of favor.

As discussed previously in TWTW, American prosperity was built on reliable affordable energy, especially electricity. With reliable electricity, came great efficiency. Manufacturing can be conducted with precision, office workers could depend that the lights would turn on, elevators would work, and high tech industries could rely on dependable computer power. Solar, and particularly wind, give none of this. And the required generation from back-up sources uses these sources inefficiently. Also, there are serious questions whether wind generation actually reduces carbon dioxide emissions.

In effect, many of our political leaders would have us believe that the 21st Century prosperity can be obtained by replacing the dependable family car with an expensive to purchase and operate exotic car that often does not start and frequently dies in heavy traffic when it is needed the most.

It may be a burden on others, but it makes the politicians “feel good” they have “done something” to address a non-existent problem.

We can fully expect that such legislation will be supported by the chorus claiming that climate extremes demonstrate the need for action. Another claim will be to reduce oil imports for foreign countries; but, as mentioned in a previous TWTW only 1.1% of electricity generation comes from oil. And, of course, we will be bombarded with green jobs – which economic studies show are extremely expensive, temporary, and, generally, foreign-based. (Please see articles under “Subsidies and Mandates Forever.”)

Renewable Electricity Standard is in full force in California. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) decreed that in 10 years California must obtain 33% of its electricity from alternative sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal. California has 12% unemployment. Those pointing out that California can ill afford further job losses, that cost and benefits reports issued from CARB are hopelessly opportunistic, and that citizens will suffer from increases electricity rates are branded as being on the payroll of the oil industry and opposed to clean air. (Please see articles under “California Dreaming.”)

Number of the Week: 2,000,000 Jobs

With calls for RES, the “clean energy” industry produced a study claiming legislation is needed to prevent almost two million US clean jobs from being lost to China. Careful reading reveals these are non-existing jobs that may be lost if we lose the “clean energy race” with China. Who wishes to be in a race to produce unreliable electricity that requires subsidies and mandates? The enormous growth in electricity generation in China has been in coal and hydro generation. Are we losing millions of jobs to China by falling behind in the coal and hydro electrical generation race?

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SEPP SCIENCE EDITORIAL #28-2010 (Sep 25, 2010)

Guest Editorial by Dr. Harrison “Jack” Schmitt

Harrison H. Schmitt is a former United States Senator from New Mexico as well as a geologist and former Apollo Astronaut. He currently is an aerospace and private enterprise consultant and a member of the new Committee of Correspondence.

DOMINATING ROLE OF OCEANS IN CLIMATE CHANGE

The scientific rationale behind the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed massive intrusion into American life in the name of fighting climate change has no scientific or constitutional justification. This hard left excursion into socialism, fully supported by the Congressional Leadership and the President, has no basis in observational science, as has been discussed previously relative to climate history, temperature, and carbon dioxide.

In addition, oceans of the Earth play the dominant role in the perpetuation and mediation of naturally induced change of global climate.¹ Density variations linking the Northern and Southern Hemisphere portions of the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans through the Southern Ocean drive the primary circulation

system that controls hemispheric and global climate. Differences in temperature and salt concentration produce these density variations that circulate heat around the planet. For the last several years in this circulating environment, the sea surface temperature of the oceans appears to be leveling off or decreasing² with no net heat increase for the last 58 years³ and particularly since 2003⁴ and possibly since 1990⁵. The long-term climatic implications of this recent broad scale cooling are not known.

Density increase due to evaporation in the North Atlantic creates a salt-rich, cold, deepwater current that flows south to join the Antarctic Circumpolar Current. Upwelling from that Circumpolar Current brings nutrient and carbon dioxide-rich deep seawater into the upper Southern Ocean. This Southern Ocean water then moves north toward the equator where it joins a warm water current flowing from the North Pacific, through the tropics and the Indian Ocean, and then northward through the Atlantic to become the Gulf Stream. The Gulf Stream flows into the North Atlantic where, as part of a continuous process, wind-driven evaporation increases salt concentration and density and feeds the deepwater flow back to the south. Natural interference in the normal functioning of the ocean conveyor can occur. For example, melting of Northern Hemisphere ice sheets, accumulation of melt-water behind ice dams, and abrupt fresh water inputs into the North Atlantic cause major disruptions in global ocean circulation.⁶

The oceans both moderate and intensify weather and decadal climate trends due to their great capacity to store solar heat as well as their global current structure, slow mixing, salinity variations, wind interactions, and oscillatory changes in heat distribution over large volumes.⁷ The Northern Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO),⁸ the El Niño-La Niña Southern Pacific Oscillation (ENSO),⁹ the long period anchovy-sardine Southern Pacific Oscillation,¹⁰ the Gulf Stream Northern Atlantic Oscillation (NAO),¹¹ the Indonesian Through-Flow (ITF),¹² the Agulhas Current¹³, and other related ocean currents and cycles have demonstrably large, decadal scale effects on regional as well as global climate.¹⁴

Possibly the greatest oceanic influence on global climate results from the full hemispheric reach and scale of the Southern Ocean's Circumpolar Current as it circulates around Antarctica and between the continents of the Southern Hemisphere.¹⁵ In particular, the northward migration of the cold to warm water front off South Africa during ice ages may restrict warm, salty water of the western Indian Ocean's Agulhas Current from entering the South Atlantic and eventually amplify ice age cooling in North America and Europe.¹⁶

In several major portions of the global ocean heat conveyor, natural variations in heating, evaporation, freshwater input,¹⁷ atmospheric convection, surface winds, and cloud cover can influence the position and strengths of related, but local ocean currents near the continents. This variation in current positioning, therefore, modifies carbon dioxide uptake and release, storm patterns, tropical cyclone frequency,¹⁸ phytoplankton abundance,¹⁹ drought conditions, and sea level rise that drive the reality of, as well as our perceptions of climate change.

For example, since about 7000 years ago, sea level rise has averaged about eight inches (20cm) per century for a total of about 55 feet (16m).²⁰ This same approximate rate appears to have held from 1842 to the mid-1980s.²¹ The trend in sea level rise between the early 1900s and 1940 showed no observable acceleration attributable to increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide.²² Satellite data show an apparent 50% increase of this rate after 1992, but this presumably will slow again soon due to the effects of the current period of global cooling. If the current slow rate of long-term global warming should continue for 100 years, the total sea level rise attributable to worldwide glacier melting and ocean thermal expansion would be no more than about four inches (10cm).²³

Greenland's ice sheet also plays a cyclic role in sea level changes. In the 1950s, Greenland's glaciers retreated significantly only to advance again between 1970 and 1995,²⁴ a pattern of retreat and then advance repeated again between 1995 and 2006²⁵. Predicting future sea level rise from short-term observation of Greenland's glaciers would seem to have little validity, particularly as there appears to be a

half a decade lag in observable melting and accretion responses relative to global temperature variations²⁶. The same conclusion now can be made relative to Himalayan glaciers.²⁷

There also seems to be little danger of a catastrophic melting of the East Antarctic Ice Sheet that would cause a major rise in sea level.²⁸ Great uncertainty also exists relative to the natural dynamics and history of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet with Ross Sea sedimentary cores suggesting that major cycles of ice cover changes have occurred over the last five million years.²⁹ Overall, short-term sea level changes relate more to local geological dynamics than to glacial variations.³⁰

Compilations of temperature changes in the oceans and seas, as preserved by oxygen isotope variations in shells from cores of bottom sediments, provide a record of natural oceanic reactions to cycles of major climate change back for 1.8 million years.³¹ For example, geological analysis of sea level changes over the last 500,000 years show a remarkable correlation with major natural climate change.³² These data further indicate that the Earth probably is approaching the peak of the warming portion of a normal climate cycle that began with the end of the last Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago.³³

The oceans play the major role in removing carbon from the atmosphere. Seawater calcium and various inorganic and organic processes in the oceans fix carbon from dissolved carbon dioxide as calcium carbonate,³⁴ planktonic and benthic organisms, and inedible forms of suspended carbon³⁵. In so doing, these processes constitute major factors in global cycles of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration. Calcium availability in the oceans, in turn, relates to major geological dynamics, including mountain building, volcanism, river flows, and the growth, alteration, and destruction of crustal plates beneath the oceans.

Over the last 28 million years, marked variations in precipitated seawater calcium isotopes, particularly beginning about 13 million years ago, indicate major changes in sources of calcium rather than major variations in the quantity of atmospheric carbon dioxide.³⁶ This change in seawater calcium isotopic makeup may relate to events that included the partial deglaciation of Antarctica³⁷. As most plant activity requires carbon dioxide, low atmospheric carbon dioxide values would reduce the rate of biologically assisted rock weathering. A limit on such weathering may buffer minimum atmospheric carbon dioxide to between 150 and 250ppm by limiting levels of seawater calcium.³⁸

Significant introductions of calcium into the oceans from any source would be expected to result in a drawdown of atmospheric carbon dioxide to maintain chemical balances in local as well as global seawater. Ultimately, the history of seawater calcium concentrations may explain many of the long-term variations in carbon dioxide levels shown in various studies; however, correlations between calcium dynamics and carbon dioxide levels are not at sufficient geological resolution to make firm, dated correlations.

Slightly increased acidification of the local environments of sea dwelling organisms in the oceans may occur related to the absorption of new emissions of carbon dioxide. On the other hand, in spite of extreme alarmist hand wringing to the contrary³⁹, loss of ocean carbon dioxide due to naturally rising temperature works to mitigate this trend as will the broad chemical buffering of ocean acidity by both organic and inorganic processes⁴⁰.

Iron ion and iron complex concentrations in seawater, mediated by oxidation potential (Eh) and hydrogen ion concentration (pH or acidity), play an additional role in organic carbon fixation. Relatively simple laboratory experiments suggest that increases in ocean acidity might reduce availability of chelated iron in the life cycle of phytoplankton.⁴¹ The complexity of this process in nature, however, and the many other variables that potentially would play a role in iron metabolism, indicate a need for a much more comprehensive experimental analysis before conclusions can be drawn.

Exactly what may happen in specific ecosystems remains uncertain relative to small increases or decreases in the acidity of ocean habitats or the change in the ratios of dissolved oxygen and carbon dioxide. Coral reefs, for example, have been very adaptable over geologic time and extensive research strongly suggests that they adapt well, on a global scale, to climatic changes and the small associated chemical changes in the oceans.⁴² So far, research indicates that some organisms benefit and some do not, as might be expected.⁴³ Indeed, this interplay between losses and gains has occurred many times in the geologic past as nature has continuously adjusted to climatic changes much greater than the slow warming occurring at present. The Earth's vast layers of carbonate rocks derived from carbon fixing organisms, including ancient, now dead coral reefs, as well as deeply submerged coral reefs on existing sea mounts,⁴⁴ show that the production and evolution of such organisms remains a continuous, if possibly, locally or regionally punctuated process.

In the face of the overwhelming dominance of the oceans on climate variability, it would appear foolish in the extreme to give up liberties and incomes to politicians in Washington and at the United Nations in the name of "doing something" about slow climate change.

The President, regulators, and Congress have chosen to try to push Americans along an extraordinarily dangerous path. That path includes unconstitutional usurpation of the rights of the people and the constitutionally reserved powers of the States as well as the ruin of economic stagnation. The Congress that takes office in 2011 absolutely must get this right!

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Acidification- Science

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below please see:

www.haapala.com/sepp/the-week-that-was.cfm.

1.EPA rules threaten the economy

By Sen. James Inhofe, The Hill, Sep 22, 2010 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://thehill.com/special-reports/energy-a-environment-september-2010/120423-epa-rules-threaten-the-economy>

2. Up Next: The Industry Braces For New Curbs, Well Is Declared Sealed, Closing One Chapter

By Guy Chazan, WSJ, Sep 20, 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704858304575497932631276978.html>

3. Climate Fraud

By Vincent Gray, Icecap, Sep 22, 2010

<http://www.icecap.us/>

4. Rescuing Climate Science From Agenda-Driven Politics

By Bill Frezza, Real Clear Markets, Sep 20, 2010

http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/09/20/rescuing_climate_science_from_agenda-driven_politics_98675.html

5. Veil Lifted on French Academy Debate on Climate

By Barbara Cassassus, Science Magazine, Sep 20, 2010 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

IPCC Studies and Reports Have Nothing To Do with Climate Change

By Tim Ball, Canada Free Press, Sep 20, 2010 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/27867>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Motion to Stay Makes Strong Case Court Should Overturn EPA Global Warming Rules

By Marlo Lewis, Open Market, Sep 22, 2010

<http://www.openmarket.org/2010/09/22/motion-to-stay-epa-makes-strong-case-court-should-overturn-epa-global-warming-rules/>

WH Science Advisor gives away warmist game

By Henry Percy, American Thinker, Sep 22, 2010 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2010/09/wh_science_advisor_gives_away.html

Questioning the Arctic Ice Melt and Temperature Scare

By Jack Dini, Hawaii Reporter, Sep 21, 2010 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.hawaiireporter.com/questioning-the-arctic-ice-melt-and-temperature-scare>

Hedging on global warming

Climate alarmists change vocabulary for losing argument

Editorial Washington Times, Sep 17, 2010

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/sep/17/hedging-on-global-warming/>

Is clean energy a good investment?

By Myron Ebell, Politico, Sep 23, 2010

http://www.politico.com/arena/perm/Myron_Ebell_23E163BD-B529-44D8-A5A1-B8BB22D9C863.html

More on Warm Summer in Central and Eastern Unites States

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Sep 20, 2010

<http://www.icecap.us/>

[“Before 2007 in version 1 of USHCN there was an urban adjustment that reduced temperatures in urban areas according to the population. That was removed in 2007 which resulted in a cooling of the temperatures before 1980 and a warming of the recent decades.”]

Blog Warfare – Warmists attack their own

By Joanne Nova, Sep 25, 2010

<http://joannenova.com.au/2010/09/blog-warfare-warmist-attacks-their-own/#more-10510>

[“Hello, Richard, yes, exactly, and you are catching up fast on the world in 1990. Around then, an intolerant culture was established that scorned anyone who so much as asked difficult questions. Some eminent scientists were sacked. Al Gore's staffers attacked Fred Singer so viperously that he took them to court and won. But what message did that send to the world's scientists? You can speak your doubts on the hypothesis of man-made-catastrophe, but be prepared to spend thousands on lawyers, risk your job, and lose your friends. Singer won the battle, but Al won that war.

If Richard Black would like the debate to be less polarized and more scientific he could start by getting over his own noxious use of the derogatory term “denier”.]

Media Climate Change Bias; Only Melting Ice Makes News

By Tim Ball, Canada Free Press, Sep 16, 2010 [H/t Deke Forbes]

<http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/27726>

Pressure mounting for Rajendra Pachauri to resign as IPCC head

By Heidi Blake, Telegraph, UK, Sep 23, 2010 [H/t Malcolm Ross]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/8019691/Pressure-mounting-for-Rajendra-Pachauri-to-resign-as-IPCC-head.html>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Congressman Calls For Schools To ‘Promote The Agenda’ Of Climate Change, Population Limitation

Rep. John Sarbanes says more environmental education in public schools will promote the agenda of climate change and population growth.

By Nicholas Ballasy CNSNews.com. Sep 22, 2010 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/75645>

NSF Launches New Climate Change Education Partnership Program

Integrating federal research and solutions for climate and global change

Press Release, United States Global Change Research Program [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.globalchange.gov/whats-new/452-nsf-launches-new-climate-change-education-partnership-program>

USF Grant to get people thinking about rising sea levels

By Lindsay Peterson, Tampa Bay Online, Sep 19, 2010 [H/t Brad Veek]

<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2010/sep/19/na-usf-grant-to-get-people-thinking-about-rising-s/>

Seeking A Middle Ground

Skeptics doing it right

By Thomas Fuller, Examiner.com, Sep 23, 2010

<http://www.examiner.com/environmental-policy-in-national/skeptics-doing-it-right?cid=examiner-email>

BP Oil Spill and Aftermath

Science and the Gulf

Editorial, NYT, Sep 19, 2010

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/20/opinion/20mon1.html?th&emc=th>

Landrieu to block OMB nominee unless oil drilling ban lifted

By Ben Geman and Walter Alarkon, The Hill, Sep 23, 2010

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/120639-landrieu-to-block-omb-nominee-unless-oil-drilling-ban-lifted>

Energy Issues

Unsustainable Cow Manure

By Paul Driessen, Townhall, Sep 21, 2010

http://townhall.com/columnists/PaulDriessen/2010/09/21/unsustainable_cow_manure

March of the wind farm: World’s biggest offshore turbine site to be switched on today off the Kent Coast

By David Derbyshire, Mail Online, Sep 23, 2010 [H/t Mark Duchamp]
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1314440/Worlds-biggest-offshore-wind-farm-switched-today-Kent-coast.html#ixzz10MEddXtX>

“Why They Go Green” (WSJ editorial says much in few words)

By Robert Bradley, Master Resource, Sep 23, 2010 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]
<http://www.masterresource.org/2010/09/why-green-wsj/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Legislative Briefs: Bingaman, Udall Introduce 15%-by-2021 RES Bill

Power News, Sep 22, 2010 [H/t Toshio Fujita]
http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/Legislative-Briefs-Bingaman-Udall-Introduce-15-percent-by-2021-RES-Bill_3006.html

GE CEO Says U.S. Is Falling Behind in Energy

By Paul Glader, WSJ, Sep 23, 2010
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703384204575509760331620520.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines

[SEPP Comment: After cap and trade failed, a leader of the big lobbying combine, US CAP, has a few things to sell including wind turbines, gas turbines (for back-up), devices for transmission of electricity from wind generators to users, and smart grid switching (to balance the erratic electricity from wind).

Almost Two Million US Clean Energy Jobs Lost

By Staff Writers, Energy Daily, Sep 23, 2010 [H/t Toshio Fujita]
http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Almost_Two_Million_US_Clean_Energy_Jobs_Lost_999.html
[SEPP Comment: Jobs that never existed are now lost.]

Britain’s energy policy is in crisis

The Government’s policy on renewable energy is wasteful and counter-productive
By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Sep 18, 2010 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8010926/Britains-energy-policy-is-in-crisis.html>

California Dreaming

California Toughens Energy Standards

AP, WSJ, Sep 24, 2010
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703384204575510641110378352.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines

The Brothers Koch and AB 32

Editorial, NYT, Sep 20, 2010 [H/t David Manuta]
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/21/opinion/21tue1.html?th&emc=th>
[SEPP Comment: Avoid the issues, attack personalities. Those who accurately state that AB 32 will be economically destructive are accused of attacking the Clean Air Act.]

California Commission Approves Third Major Project in Three Weeks

Power News, Sep 22, 2010, [H/t Toshio Fujita]
http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/California-Commission-Approves-Third-Major-CSP-Project-in-Three-Weeks_3009.html

EPA and other Regulators On the March

EPA chief: ‘All the scare tactics are on the side of lobbyists’

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Sep 23, 2010

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/120585-epa-chief-all-the-scare-tactics-are-on-the-side-of-industry-lobbyists>

[SEPP Comment: The unsubstantiated claims of unprecedented and dangerous global warming are not a scare tactic to the EPA.]

New Smog Proposals From EPA Draw Fire

By Stephen Power, WSJ, Sep 20, 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704858304575497724034346304.html?mod=ITP_pageone_1

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Northern Hemisphere Temperature Reconstruction Clearly Shows the Medieval Warm Period and Little Ice Age (Plus a Whole Lot More)

Reference: Ljungqvist, F.C. 2010. A new reconstruction of temperature variability in the extra-tropical northern hemisphere during the last two millennia. *Geografiska Annaler* **92A**: 339-351. Archived Sep 23, 2010

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2010/sep/23sep2010a3.html>

The North American Summer Arctic Front

Reference: Ladd, M.J. and Gajewski, K. 2010. The North American summer Arctic front during 1948-2007. *International Journal of Climatology* **30**: 874-883. Archived Sep 23, 2010

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2010/sep/23sep2010a4.html>

Floods of the Eastern United States

Reference: Villarini, G. and Smith, J.A. 2010. Flood peak distributions for the eastern United States. *Water Resources Research* **46**: 10.1029/2009WR008395.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2010/sep/23sep2010a2.html>

[SEPP Comment: The study covering 75 years of observations – no significant trends]

Models Warm the Lower Troposphere Too Much: A Fingerprint Test with Updated Data

Reference: Christy, J.R., Herman, B., Pielke Sr., R., Klotzbach, P., McNider, R.T., Hnilo, J.J., Spencer, R.W., Chase, T., and Douglass, D. 2010. What do observational datasets say about modeled troposphere temperature trends since 1979? *Remote Sensing* **2**: 2148-2169.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2010/sep/22sep2010a1.html>

Other Scientific Issues

Parting the waters: Computer modeling applies physics to Red Sea escape route

NCAR & UCAR News Center, Sep 21, 2010 [H/t A.J. Meyer]

<http://www2.ucar.edu/news/parting-waters-computer-modeling-applies-physics-red-sea-escape-route>

Fresh water may have cooled North Atlantic

By Edwin Cartlidge, Physics World, Sep 22, 2010 [H/t A.J. Meyer]

<http://physicsworld.com/cws/article/news/43789>

[SEPP Comment: What was the source of the fresh Arctic water – Greenland?]

Miscellaneous Topics of Possible Interest

Cleaner, Healthier Cookstoves

Editorial, NYT, Sep 23, 2010

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/24/opinion/24fri4.html?_r=1&th&emc=th

[SEPP Comment: For years, John Christy has advocated that every third world village should have an electrical generator large enough to run a microwave and a light bulb in each hut. This would greatly reduce the respiratory and eye diseases associated with traditional fuels, reduce the ecological damage from the search for traditional fuels, and improve the life of the villagers. That the New York Times finds wide-spread respiratory diseases surprising is in itself surprising.]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Could the garbage heap help save us from global warming?

By Hugh Price, Washington Post, Sep 18, 2010 [Ht/ David Manuta]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/17/AR2010091705373.html?referrer=emailarticle>

The left's war on home appliances

European nanny-state regulations are coming to America

Editorial, Washington Times, Sep 17, 2010

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2010/sep/17/the-lefts-war-on-home-appliances/>

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ARTICLES:

1.EPA rules threaten the economy

By Sen. James Inhofe, The Hill, Sep 22, 2010 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://thehill.com/special-reports/energy-a-environment-september-2010/120423-epa-rules-threaten-the-economy>

On Labor Day in Milwaukee, President Obama vowed to “keep fighting every single day, every single hour, every single minute, to turn this economy around and put people back to work and renew the American Dream.” Stirring rhetoric, no doubt; but to the employees at Thilmany Papers, a company that employs 850 people in two specialty paper mills in Wisconsin, it means little.

That’s because the Obama Environmental Protection Agency is threatening their livelihoods. The threat comes from EPA’s proposal to regulate industrial boilers, the Boiler MACT rule. As with most EPA rules, the Boiler MACT (maximum achievable control technology standards) sounds arcane, and seems to be the remote province of federal technocrats. This is certainly true, but its impact will be pervasive and damaging. Here’s what Thilmany had to say about it: “Our business, like many others, encounters many challenges. However, none threaten the continued existence of our business like this [proposed rule].”

The United Steelworkers (USW) union emphatically opposes the Boiler MACT proposal. As the USW sees it, the proposal “will be sufficient to imperil the operating status of many industrial plants.” The USW represents hundreds of thousands of workers, “in the most heavily impacted industries, among them pulp & paper, steel, and rubber.” In the union’s view, “Tens of thousands of these jobs will be imperiled. In addition, many more tens of thousands of jobs in the supply chains and in the communities where these plants are located also will be at risk.”

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA), which represents major manufacturers with more than 750,000 employees, couldn’t have been more adamant: “We cannot emphasize more forcefully the

need to the EPA to completely rethink this rule.” That’s because IECA’s member companies “are enormously concerned that the high costs of this proposed rule will leave companies no recourse but to shut down the entire facility, not just the boiler.”

It would be one thing if the Boiler MACT were an isolated instance of a flawed policy. But this flawed policy is part of a larger Obama EPA agenda to set industrial policy for the nation. EPA’s industrial policy should frighten those who hold jobs in factories across America — indeed, for those who aspire to live the American dream. For EPA’s policy sees a growing, thriving, job-creating manufacturing sector as incompatible with its unique brand of environmentalism.

The most prominent manifestation of EPA’s anti-industrial policy is the agency’s pending regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. EPA’s rules will extend the federal bureaucracy into every corner of American life. The Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council believes EPA’s global warming regulations will cause “a cessation of expansion, hiring, investment, construction and new business start-up activity.” EPA’s new rules will require, among many other things, businesses of all kinds — from cement and steel plants to auto parts manufacturers to Wal-Marts — to obtain from EPA costly and time-consuming permits for construction and expansion.

On top of this, EPA is planning to revise the current ozone standard under the Clean Air Act. This standard was lowered during the Bush administration in 2008 — yet apparently not far enough for Obama’s EPA. Despite the fact that no new compelling public health studies have emerged to justify a lower standard, the Obama EPA supports ozone levels approaching, in some areas, what’s present in the air naturally, absent any human contribution.

EPA’s expected new ozone standard will mar several hundred counties across the country with a scarlet “non-attainment” designation. This means more than just failing to meet the new standard: Such a designation severely constrains the ability of local communities to expand and create jobs.

EPA estimates the new ozone standard could cost the economy as much as \$90 billion. Unions for Jobs and the Environment, a coalition of unions that includes, among others, the AFL-CIO, the Teamsters, the IBEW and the United Mine Workers, says the potential new standards “will lead to significant jobs losses across the country.”

President Obama speaks grandiosely about restoring the American dream. Yet, all the while, his EPA churns out rules that will crush America’s industries and the manufacturing jobs they support. It’s time to stop EPA’s impending nightmare of shuttered factories and tradesmen with pink slips. And it’s time to restore the appropriate balance between environmental protection and economic growth.

Sen. Inhofe is ranking Republican on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

2. Up Next: The Industry Braces For New Curbs, Well Is Declared Sealed, Closing One Chapter

By Guy Chazan, WSJ, Sep 20, 2010

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704858304575497932631276978.html>

BP PLC's Gulf of Mexico well was declared permanently sealed Sunday as a page turned on a disaster that fouled huge swaths of the Gulf Coast, damaged the Obama White House and rocked the U.S. oil industry.

The U.S. government's point man for the spill-response effort said Sunday that BP had killed the well by pumping in mud and cement from below through a relief well. BP's well "is effectively

dead," said Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen in a statement after tests verified the strength of a cement plug placed at its bottom.

It was the last act of a struggle to subdue a well that blew out five months ago off the Louisiana coast, destroying the Deepwater Horizon rig that drilled it, killing 11 men and triggering the worst offshore spill in U.S. history.

The "bottom kill" involved flooding the gap between the well casing and the rock formation that surrounds it with cement through a well that intersected the Deepwater Horizon well at a depth of 18,000 feet.

The operation finished Friday, and cement tests Sunday confirmed that the well had been sealed.

BP said Sunday the spill had so far cost about \$9.5 billion, including the spill response, containment, efforts to plug the well, grants to Gulf states, claims paid and federal costs.

Although the well is now plugged for good, the repercussions of the disaster will be felt for years. The work of restoring the tarnished ecosystems of the Gulf Coast is just beginning.

And the oil industry, which was unprepared for a disaster on this scale, is bracing for change as U.S. government oversight increases.

The difficulties of drawing a line under the disaster have been underscored by the lack of consensus on how much damage the spill actually caused. In August, the government released a study that indicated that nearly 75% of the five million barrels spilled from BP's well was already gone from the Gulf or being rapidly broken down by bacteria, raising hopes that the long-term environmental impact of the spill might not be as great as initially feared.

That view has come under attack. Scientists at the University of Georgia say the rate of evaporation and biological breakdown has been exaggerated. Recent findings by scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution showed that oil from the spill has formed an underwater plume 22 miles long.

BP and the government mobilized an effort to stem the tide of oil, with a 30,000-strong army recruited to protect the Gulf shore and more than 5,000 ships deployed in the recovery effort. The company said Sunday that about 25,000 people, 2,600 vessels and dozens of aircraft continued to be engaged in the response effort.

And a mile below the surface of the sea, BP worked to stem the flow of oil with a string of ad-hoc contraptions. The failure of several initial attempts seemed to underline how ill-prepared the company had been for an underwater blowout.

That has galvanized BP's rivals—including [Exxon Mobil](#) Corp. and [Royal Dutch Shell](#) PLC—into action. In July, they said they were forming a \$1 billion joint venture to set up a new rapid-response system for containing a deep-water oil spill.

The Gulf disaster is also redefining Big Oil's relationship with the U.S. government. Authorities have shed their hands-off approach as they rush to make offshore drilling safer. Companies are

bracing for new government rules. The oil companies themselves are also likely to become more cautious, especially in their drilling operations.

Yet the major oil companies could emerge as winners in the post-Deepwater Horizon world, as smaller players that have often been at the forefront of deep-water exploration are squeezed out.

3. Climate Fraud

By Vincent Gray, Icecap, Sep 22, 2010

<http://www.icecap.us/>

In this issue I will answer an Email from Barry for a comment on a paper by Peterson on the First Difference Method.

I would like to put this in the perspective of my 20 years of intensive study.

It all began when many people became convinced that the “planet” was being “destroyed” by human greenhouse gas emissions and the every measure must be used to “save” the “planet” from this impending disaster.

It was evident from the beginning that the regular scientific techniques could not be used. The quality of the data and the extent of our knowledge of the climate were inadequate. Many honest scientists (for example W G Hessel) and even prominent warmists in their lucid moments (for example Jim Hansen) admitted that this was so. I have summarized this impossibility in a recent paper ([here](#)). This paper has been rejected by “Energy and Environment” It seems that even they dare not be publicly associated with what everyone knows is true.

Since the end (saving the planet) justifies any means, they had no alternative but fraud.

It consists of a large number of fraudulent devices.

*Doublespeak and Spin.

This is the use of ambiguous and emotive language to conceal the absence of content. See my recent update of “Doublespeak”[here](#).

* Deliberately fraudulent scientific papers

I have listed some of these in my “Global Scam” paper [here](#).

The “hockey stick”, the downplaying of solar and ocean events, Himalayan glaciers, Hide the Decline, are others.

*Suppression of evidence

Original temperature observations are suppressed or lost, Undesired gas concentration measurements are suppressed as “noise” (i.e. unwelcome data”) All evidence of variability has to be eliminated.

*Organized Guesswork

The apparent recommendations of the IPCC are the “Carefully considered opinions” of “Experts”. All of them being indoctrinated supporters, programmed to provide the guesses required for the demands of the warmers. The procedure is described by the IPCC (see my “Spin” paper [here](#)).

*Abandonment of fundamental statistical principles

All the opinions of the “experts” have no statistical significance according to basic requirements of mathematical statistics. Samples are never representative. Averages are never validly derived. Uncertainties are usually absent or are themselves “expert” guesses. Temperature “anomalies” are treated as if they were constants and subjected to “homogenization” and various pseudo statistical treatments like the ‘First Difference Method’ and “Bayesian statistics” with the sole object of enhancing any “trend”. Joe D’Aleo and Anthony Watts have documented a whole army of similar fraudulent “correction” techniques, all designed to correct upwards [here](#).

*Distortion of climate news events

All climate events are distorted to fit a “climate change” model through control of all news media. In some ways this is their most effective technique as most of us have been so overwhelmed with this constant and unrelenting propaganda that we end up beginning to think that maybe there might be something in it after all; and perhaps a little bit of the “precautionary principle” might be acceptable.

*Attacks on Opponents

“Deniers” are prevented from publication in learned Journals controlled by the warmists with control of the peer review process. We are lackeys of Big Oil, without a career, only retired people can survive

*All honourable men (and a few women)

How could so many respectable prestigious and decorated people be parties to such a comprehensive deception. We know so many of them. They are Nobel prizewinners, Australians and Wellingtonians of the year, we cannot insult them with such a thing as truth, can we?

“To kill an error is as good a service as, and sometimes better than, the establishing of a new truth or fact” Charles Darwin

4. Rescuing Climate Science From Agenda-Driven Politics

By Bill Frezza, Real Clear Markets, Sep 20, 2010

http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2010/09/20/rescuing_climate_science_from_agenda-driven_politics_98675.html

I just got back from an extraordinary presentation aptly titled "A Change in Climate: A Fresh Approach to Climate Science." If you're one of those people appalled by the politicization of science by celebrities, congressmen, and the Nobel Committee, I highly recommend you take a look at the work of Professors Kerry Emanuel and Daniel Rothman at the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences at MIT.

Kerry and Dan are neither climate change zealots nor global warming deniers. In fact, they are not even in the business of making climate predictions. In their view the wildly varying climate forecasts spit out by hugely complex black-box computer models have not only become disconnected from sound science but have drawn all the money and talent away from the critical challenge of trying to *understand* how basic climate mechanisms work.

Why does carbon dioxide and temperature covary as they do in glacial cycles? We don't know.

What causes the deep meridional overturning of the ocean, redistributing heat around the planet? We don't know.

What accounts for the apparent stability of biogeochemical cycles? We don't know.

Are two or more statistically stable climate states possible for the same climate forcing conditions, such as solar radiation and atmospheric composition? We don't know.

We may have a good idea why the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has been increasing over the past 100 years but why has it been generally declining over the last 50 million years? We don't know.

Kerry and Dan assert that the predictive powers of climate models have plateaued and are not likely to improve until questions like these are answered. Worse, over-reliance on computer models to drive draconian energy policy that threatens to dislocate huge swaths of the global economy has helped contribute to a major loss of credibility for the entire field of climate science.

To counter these trends MIT is launching a new program called the Lorenz Initiative named after the late professor Edward N. Lorenz, father of modern Chaos Theory. This program is designed to bring together talented physicists, chemists, biologists, and applied mathematicians from outside the climate field to "create an institutional culture that accords its highest values to science that quantitatively predicts or explains observations and experiments."

Imagine feeling compelled to issue a call to develop science that predicts or explains observations and experiments. Isn't that the very definition of science? Even more telling, these MIT professors believe that such a research environment would be "unique in the field of climate science." What does this say about fever swamps like the University of East Anglia and Penn State?

Clearly, government funding for a program like this is not going to come from politicians determined to demonize anyone that refuses to accept the dogma that imminent climate catastrophe is settled science. Hence, MIT is looking for private financing to bootstrap this initiative.

This, of course begs the question of what will happen to the Lorenz Initiative if it accepts donations from the likes of Exxon, BP, the Koch brothers, and others who might be motivated to encourage fundamental research. When I posed that question to our earnest scientists they paused then offered the hope that offsetting donations from across the political spectrum might insulate them from accusations of being in the pay of the carbon cabal.

Maybe. But I wouldn't count on seeing much money from George Soros or the Sierra Club any time soon. Like the apocryphal patent commissioner accused of trying to shut down the US patent office in 1899 because everything worthwhile had already been invented, I suspect those who fervently believe that catastrophic global warming is a special kind of fact that should never be questioned would just as soon see these two scientists go away. Which would be a pity since understanding climate is arguably the most complex scientific challenge ever faced by mankind.

Bill Frezza is a partner at Adams Capital Management, an early-stage venture capital firm.

5. Vail Lifted on French Academy Debate on Climate

By Barbara Cassassus, Science Magazine, Sep 20, 2010 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/>

PARIS—The French Academy of Sciences finally produced a statement after a full day of debate on climate change Monday that had been shrouded in secrecy.

The debate followed a rumpus triggered by former research minister Claude Allègre and a handful of other scientists, who have contested the causes of climate change. The debate was ordered by Education and Research Minister Valérie Pécresse in April, after more than 600 scientists signed a petition alleging "denigration" by Allègre in his book *L'imposure climatique (The Climate Fraud)* and asking her to disavow it.

The statement appears to be in response to an outburst at the weekend from the French daily *Le Monde*.

In a front-page editorial, the paper lambasted a total blackout on the debate, the identity of the participants and their submissions. "What is it (that the Academy is) afraid of," it asked. The secrecy "arouses suspicion."

According to the statement, participants in the debate concluded that links between solar radiation variations and the earth's orbit are not contested, but that the jury is still out on the importance of the impact of solar activity cycles.

Participants agreed, the statement said, there was a consensus on the direct impact of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases produced by human activity, but that their indirect effects are still controversial. One of the ways towards better understanding of climate patterns is the physiochemistry of clouds, they agreed.

As for who attended the debate, the mystery has been unravelled: 93 academy members, including Allègre, and 24 outsiders.

The reason that publicizing the details of the meeting was important, said *Le Monde*, was that pirated e-mails and errors in the last report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) already aroused "considerable mistrust." But the reaction in the Anglo Saxon world, particularly from scientific institutions, was immediate, the newspaper noted. Five independent inquiries were conducted, none of which contested the IPCC's main conclusions. "Climatologists were submitted to critical and rigorous questioning ... it would be normal for their detractors to have the same treatment," it added.

The Academy plans to release a report on the meeting next month.

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