

The Week That Was 2010-08-14 (August 14, 2010)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Fred Singer will be lecturing overseas Aug 8 to Sept 21, including India, Israel, and Sicily. He asks that you send him only high-priority e-mail. Please direct other correspondence to Ken Haapala. Lectures open to the public are: Aug 27 U of Rome; Aug 30 or 31 Munich; Sept 13 or 14 Berlin; Sept 16 or 17 Paris. Also at Princeton U on Sept 23, Annandale, VA on Sept 25, and Purdue U on Sept 27. To attend, contact ken@haapala.com for details.

Don't forget to attend the SEPP-SEEE Climate-Energy Forum at 10:30 am on Sept 25 at the Ernst Community Center of the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College

CHANGES AT TWTW AND SEPP WEB SITE:

Starting this week we will be using an email service to distribute TWTW. It does not allow attachments. Thus to view the entire TWTW please go to the link: www.haapala.com/sepp/the-week-that-was.cfm. You can also find the complete TWTW at www.SEPP.org as well. To better serve you, SEPP is constructing a new web site temporarily located at www.haapala.com/sepp. Since it is under construction many of the links do not work as yet. During this time, www.SEPP.org will be fully functional. Once complete, the new web site will be backed by powerful research tools that should assist in any inquiries you may have.

Quote of the Week

*“Urgent and unprecedented environmental and social changes challenge scientists to define a new social contract...a commitment on the part of all scientists to devote their energies and talents to the most pressing problems of the day, in proportion to their importance, **in exchange for public funding.**”* Jane Lubchenco, NOAA Administrator, 1997 AAAS presidential address [Boldface added, H/t Joe D’Aleo, ICECAP]

Number of the Week: 1826

THIS WEEK:

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

Possibly the big news of the week is that the American Chemical Society is conducting a survey of its membership on its public policy position regarding climate change: should it keep its public policy position, drop it, or revise it? This is the opportunity for those who do not agree with the present position to voice their views.

Last weekend a major ice berg broke off the Petermann Glacier on Greenland about 620 miles south of the North Pole. This is the largest ice berg to break off from Greenland in 48 years. Initial reports did not attribute this event to “global warming” and Professor Andreas Muenchow of the University of Delaware, who has been studying this glacier noted it had been growing for the past 7 to 8 years.

However, almost immediately some climate scientists were informing Congress that this was only the beginning. According to Professor Richard Alley of Penn State, we may pass a ‘tipping point’ in ten years and a rise in temperatures of 2 to 7 degrees C would wipe out Greenland’s ice sheet and sea levels will rise by some 23 feet (3 meters) submerging coastal cities (<http://tiny.cc/f8c12>). (Please see Greenland Glacier Calving and Sea Level” below by Nils-Axel Momer. Dr. Momer points out that this rate of sea

level rise is many times greater than what occurred with the great ice of the Northern Hemisphere melted. The referenced article also points out that according to ice core borings, in the past 10,000 years Greenland has been as much as 2.5 °C warmer than today.

Also perplexing is that the ice cores show the current temperature is almost *minus* 31°C. A warming of 7°C would bring it to *minus* 24°C, hardly the melting point of ice.

The capping of the BP oil spill well appears to be successful and the oil in the Gulf of Mexico is disappearing. This is causing concern among some environmental groups who cannot accept that the oil would disappear so quickly. They are losing a major sales point in raising the money needed to replenish their treasuries after the failure of cap-and-trade. Apparently, they cannot accept the fact that light crude of the type from the BP spill evaporates and in the Gulf there are countless organisms that dine on petroleum as brought out in previous TWTW's.

Number of the Week: 1826. As of August 13, 115 days into the spill, this is the total number of visibly oiled dead birds collected by US Fish and Wildlife. The statistic does not mean the oil killed the birds. The total number of visibly oiled birds collected, alive or dead, is 3727. The total number of visibly oiled sea turtles collected stands at 461, 17 of which were dead. The total number of visibly oiled mammals collected stands at 5, 4 of which were dead.

http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill/pdfs/collection_08132010.pdf

This is not the environmental disaster projected in the press and does not appear to approach the environmental disaster due to the cold in Bolivia which was referenced in last week's TWTW.

Russia continues to suffer from heat, drought, and smoke. As described below, the heat and drought appears to be a weather pattern – a high pressure blocking system. (Please see “The Great Russian Heat Wave 2010”). The most persistent fires are those in peat that was drained many years ago. (Please see “Past Errors to Blame for Russian Peat Fires”).

It continues to appear the “Cap and Tax” in the US Senate is dead – but surprises may come. Even Al Gore has embarked on the blame game. (Please see “Gore concedes on climate this year”).

Book of the Week: [*Heaven and Earth: Global Warming, the Missing Science*](#) by Ian Plimer exemplifies why so few geologists are on the great global warming express. By what some consider a slight of hand, the vaunted *Summary for Policymakers* by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) covers the carbon cycle for the past 50 years of the earth's climate history. Plimer covers the carbon cycle for past 4,000 million years. Changes in the sun, earth, ice, water, and air of earth's climate history are detailed in [*Heaven and Earth*](#). Fiery volcanoes, slush ball earth, drastic changes in the carbon dioxide / oxygen composition of the atmosphere are all part of the remarkable tapestry of the history of this planet. Yet, life formed, changed it, and survived.

Perhaps Australia's pre-eminent academic geologist, Plimer exposes the weak physical evidence of the IPCC in claiming that man is causing unprecedented and dangerous “global warming.” which, by focusing on the past 50 years, diverts attention from major inconsistencies in this hypothesis. The IPCC cannot explain that ice ages existed when the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was many times greater than today and many times greater than man could possibly make it by burning fossil

fuels. The IPCC cannot explain why in the past 10,000 years the earth experienced periods warmer than today even though the IPCC asserts that carbon dioxide was roughly stable until the 20th Century.

During times of high carbon dioxide concentrations, life flourished. It did not stagnate or was threatened as the IPCC suggests. Plimer demolishes the *fear due jour* by US EPA and NOAA claiming "ocean acidification" from human carbon dioxide emissions will destroy much of ocean life. He describes oceans as complex chemical solutions in rough balance and that sea floor rocks and sediments of the earth are an important part of this balance which makes the oceans alkaline. [EPA experiments of dropping hydrochloric acid into sea water do not capture this vital balance.] As Plimer describes, millions of years of undersea volcanic activity emitting massive quantities of sulfuric acid and carbon dioxide directly into the oceans have failed to acidify them and man's carbon dioxide emissions will not. [Side note: The volcanic hot deep sea vents that are rich in sulfuric acid and carbon dioxide feed a form of life that is dependent on chemosynthesis rather than photosynthesis.]

Although not for the casual reader, [Heaven and Earth](#) reveals much of what is ignored in commonly expressed climate science and is important for serious study of this complex subject.

[Heaven and earth: global warming, the missing science by Professor Ian Plimer (School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, The University of Adelaide, AU), 2009, Connor Court Publishing Pty Ltd. ISBN 9781921421143 (ppk), 503 pp including extensive footnotes and 10 pp index.]

SEPP SCIENCE EDITORIAL #25-2010 (Aug 14, 2010)
Guest editorial by Sherwood Idso, Keith Idso, and Craig Idso

[The State of Earth's Climate 2009: How can so many people be so wrong?](#)
The State of Earth's Climate 2009 [BAMS vol 13, no 31: 4 August 2010]

In a ["Highlights"](#) report of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's *State of the Climate in 2009* document, which was prepared under the direction of the U.S. National Climatic Data Center, we can read the principal findings of what the document describes as the work of "more than 300 scientists from 48 countries." Their primary conclusion, as stated in the Report's first paragraph, is that "global warming is undeniable," and the Report goes on from there to describe "how we know the world has warmed." But this, and all that follows, tells us next to *nothing* about what has *caused* the warming, which is the crux of the whole contentious matter.

The Report next states, for example, that "recent studies show the world's oceans are heating up," which is fine; but then -- as if hoping no one will question them -- the Report says the oceans are warming, "as they absorb most of the extra heat being added to the climate system from the build-up of heat-trapping gases," which contention is *far* from a proven fact, and is -- in fact -- merely an *hypothesis* and a bad one at that, as we shall soon see.

Another fault of the Report is its hyping of "melting Arctic sea ice," while it remains silent on the state of *Antarctic* sea ice, which has been doing just the *opposite* as it has *grown* in extent. Likewise, a major *inconsistency* of the Report is its stating, with respect to temperature, that "a particular year can experience record-breaking highs and lows in any given location," while, "as a whole, global climate continues to warm." This is very true; and it can also do so while, as a whole, global climate *cools* or remains unchanged. And it implies the same thing for *all* types of weather phenomena (such as droughts, floods, hurricanes, etc.), which means that the occurrence of *any* unusually dramatic weather phenomenon in *any* "particular year" should imply *nothing* about the long-term trend of that phenomenon or the

presumed trajectory of the global climate within which it is embedded. Yet the Report goes on to describe *six* such extreme events that occurred in the "particular year" of 2009, which would have to have been done for no other reason than to imply that these weather extremes were caused by global warming, which flies in the face of their earlier contention that record-breaking low temperatures in any year say nothing about the long-term thermal tendency of the planet.

Last of all, the Report states that "people have spent thousands of years building society for one climate and now a new one is being created -- one that's warmer and more extreme," which leads us to wonder

How could more than 300 scientists from 48 countries possibly be so wrong? Any student of history and palaeoclimate well knows that earth's climate has changed *dramatically* over the past "thousands of years." During the central portion of the current interglacial period, for example, *many* parts of the planet were a few to several degrees Centigrade *warmer* than they currently are. And only a *thousand* years ago, the Medieval Warm Period was holding sway. Although many of the scientists of *Climategate* infamy tried mightily to make that period of warmth "go away," the *Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change* has for quite some time now posted a review of a different research project *every single week* that testifies to the reality of the Medieval Warm Period. And that ever-growing body of research is demonstrating *beyond any doubt* that there was a several-hundred-year interval of warmth back then that was at many different times (stretching from decades to centuries), and in numerous places (throughout the entire world), significantly *warmer* than the Report's highly-touted first decade of the 21st century, and at a time when the atmosphere's CO2 concentration was *far* less than it is today.

What makes this particular failure of the Report so *doubly damning* is the fact that it *claims* that *each* of the "more than 30 different climate indicators" it has analyzed "is placed into historical context." That is obviously not true. And for a parameter so *central* to the *core* of the global *warming* discussion as *temperature* to not be put into proper long-term context is *inexcusable*, although quite *understandable*, especially when one realizes the implications it would hold for the Report's unfounded contentions about the *present* state of earth's climate.

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ARTICLES: [For the numbered articles below please see the link: www.haapala.com/sepp/the-week-that-was.cfm.

1. American Chemical Society Climate Change Policy Survey of Membership

Updating the ACS Climate Change Policy Position [H/t

http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_ARTICLEMAIN&node_id=259&content_id=CNBP_025274&use_sec=true&sec_url_var=region1&uuid=486e6e78-063e-4b24-a86d-214d6ffae70

2. Gore concedes on climate this year

By Steve Milloy, GreenHellBlog, August 10, 2010 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://greenhellblog.com/2010/08/10/gore-concedes-on-climate-this-year/>

3. The World Drills On

Editorial, WSJ, Aug 7, 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703426004575339290774710032.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

ClimateGate Continues

Mann and his bristlecones

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Aug 7, 2010

<http://climateaudit.org/2010/08/07/mann-and-his-bristlecones/>

[SEPP Comment: A rather technical challenge to the latest of Mann's tree ring studies.]

Russian Kola data refutes the Mann hockey stick

By Anthony Watts, Watts Up With That? Aug 7, 2010 [H/t Francois Guillaumat]

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2010/08/07/russian-kola-data-refutes-the-mann-hockey-stick/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Note to the Administration so-called “Science Team”, the EPA and Supreme Court: CO2 is Not a Pollutant but a Huge Benefactor

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, August 7, 2010

http://icecap.us/images/uploads/Note_to_the_Administration_so.pdf

Historical Tropical Cyclone Activity

By Ryan Maue, FSU,

<http://www.coaps.fsu.edu/~maue/tropical/historical.php>

[SEPP Comment: Observations do not support claims that global warming will cause more intense hurricanes and cyclones.]

NOAA, CONGRESS, USHCNVW and an Expensive New Climate Network

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Aug 7, 2010

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

[SEPP Comment: Joe D'Aleo challenges the claims by NOAA that poor maintenance and siting of monitoring stations can be adjusted for by mathematical manipulation of the data – and there is no Urban Heat Island effect!]

Greenland Glacial Calving and Sea Level

Morner to Congress: No “huge rise in sea level” to foresee: Observations Rules Out Modeling

By Nils-Axel Momer, ICECAP, Aug 13, 2010

<http://icecap.us/images/uploads/Canyouge.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: The alarmists are becoming more desperate – projecting faster sea level rise than occurred during the melting of the great glaciers that covered much of Northern Hemisphere.]

Bumper corn, soybean crops forecast

Carmi Times, Aug 12, 2010

<http://www.carmitimes.com/topstories/x839830397/Bumper-corn-soybean-crops-forecast>

[SEPP Comment: US agriculture is not suffering from 2010 being, thus far, a warm year.]

Climate change: Behold, the gospel according to the UN

The Methodist Church is adopting the IPCC's report on global warming as holy writ, finds Christopher Booker

By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Aug 7, 2010 [H/t Francois Guillaumat]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/7932201/Climate-change-Behold-the-gospel-according-to-the-UN.html>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Al Gore: ‘The United States Government as a Whole Has Failed Us’ on Global Warming

By Jeff Poor, Business & Media Institute, Aug 11, 2010
<http://www.businessandmedia.org/articles/2010/20100811071403.aspx>

Analysis: Extreme weather plagues farming, talks flounder

By Timothy Gardner, Reuters, Aug 12, 2010
<http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE67B3W320100812>

Climate-Change Fight Shifting To Western US Coal Mines

By Mark Peters, Dow Jones Newswires, Aug 12, 2010
http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100812-706777.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_middleHeadlines

Biggest ice island for 48 years breaks off Greenland glacier

By Daminen Pearse, The Guardian, UK, Aug 7, 2010
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/aug/07/biggest-ice-island-greenland>

Greenland ice sheet faces ‘tipping point in 10 years’

Scientists warn that temperature rise of between 2C and 7C would cause ice to melt, resulting in 23ft rise in sea level

By Suzanne Goldenberg, Guardian, UK, Aug 10, 2010 [H/t ICECAP]
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2010/aug/10/greenland-ice-sheet-tipping-point>

Scientists: Summer Catastrophes Fit Predictions

Asian Floods, Russian Wildfires, Arctic Ice Flow Mirrors 2007 U.N. Report on Climate Change
CBS News, Aug 12, 2010

[SEPP Comment: No mention of freezing in South America – or plagues or locus.]

Heat Wave

The Great Russian Heat Wave of 2010

World Climate Report, Aug 12, 2010
<http://www.worldclimatereport.com/>

Death rate doubles in Moscow as heatwave continues

BBC News, Aug 9, 2010
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-10912658>

Past Errors to Blame for Russia’s Peat Fires

By Andrew Kramer, NYT, Aug 12, 2010
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/13/world/europe/13russia.html?_r=1&th&emc=th

Chilean capitol experiences coldest July since 1908

AJ Colby, WKYC-TV, Aug 9, 2010 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]
<http://www.wkyc.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=143322&catid=91>

Cap and Tax and Similar Schemes

Spinning the Defeat of Cap-and-Trade

By Marlo Lewis, Open Market. Com, August 11, 2010
<http://www.openmarket.org/2010/08/11/spinning-the-defeat-of-cap-and-trade/>

[SEPP Comment: Solid reasons why carbon dioxide cap and trade is distinctly different from sulfur dioxide cap and trade, thereby confounding the promoters.]

EU to Probe U.S. Biodiesel Tariffs

By Matthew Dalton, WSJ, Aug 12, 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704407804575424750813493056.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines

BP Spill and Aftermath

Drilling Moratorium Crippling Gulf, Says Industry

By James Rosen, Fox News, Aug 11, 2010

http://liveshots.blogs.foxnews.com/2010/08/11/drilling-moratorium-crippling-gulf-says-industry/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Morning%2BBell

Here Comes Ingenuity! Offshore Drilling Will Be Better, Cleaner, Safer in the New Era (Julian Simon speaks to us today)

By Robert Bradley, Master Resource, Aug 11, 2010

<http://www.masterresource.org/2010/08/here-comes-ingenuity-simon/>

Learning From Mexican Spill, Researchers Fight for Funds

By Ana Campoy, WSJ, Aug 9, 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703988304575413713217516980.html?mod=ITP_pageone_1

Our Real Gulf Disaster

By Lou Dolinar, National Review, Aug 12, 2010 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/243665/our-real-gulf-disaster-lou-dolinar>

Energy Issues

A Call for Energy Realism

By Duncan Currie, National Review Online, Aug 2, 2010 [H/t Francois Guillaumat]

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=128926936>

Green Subsidies Gone Mad

Robert Bryce, Energy Tribune, Aug 5, 2010 [H/t Francois Guillaumat]

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/4885/Unplugged!-Why-Electric-Cars-Are-the-Next-Big-Thing-And-They-Always-Will-Be>

EPA and Other Regulators On the March

Texas Fight! What Other States Can Learn from Texas v. U.S. EPA

By Daren Bakst, Master Resource, Aug 12, 2010

<http://www.masterresource.org/2010/08/texas-fight-us-epa/>

Review of Recent Articles by NIPCC

For full list of articles see www.NIPCCreport.org

A Millennial-Scale Climatic Oscillation in the Tropical Andes

Reference: Fritz, S.C., Baker, P.A., Ekdahl, E., Seltzer, G.O. and Stevens, L.R. 2010. Millennial-scale climate variability during the Last Glacial period in the tropical Andes. *Quaternary Science Reviews* **29**: 1017-1024. Archived Aug 11, 2010

www.nipccreport.org/articles/2010/aug/11aug2010a3.html

[SEPP Comment: Shifts in climate of the Northern Hemisphere coincide with climate shifts in the tropical South America]

Daily Temperature Range and Human Mortality

Reference: Tam, W.W.S., Wong, T.W., Chair, S.Y. and Wong, A.H.S. 2009. Diurnal temperature range and daily cardiovascular mortalities among the elderly in Hong Kong. *Archives of Environmental and Occupational Health* **64**: 202-206. Archived Aug 10, 2010
www.nipccreport.org/articles/2010/aug/10aug2010a3.html

The Holocene Temperature History of Northern Europe

Reference: Seppa, H., Bjune, A.E., Telford, R.J., Birks, H.J.B. and Veski, S. 2009. Last nine-thousand years of temperature variability in Northern Europe. *Climates of the Past* **5**: 523-535. Archived Aug 10, 2010
www.nipccreport.org/articles/2010/aug/10aug2010a4.html

Bird Biodiversity in China

Reference: Qian, H., Wang, S., Li, Y. and Wang, X. 2009. Breeding bird diversity in relation to environmental gradients in China. *Acta Oecologica* **35**: 819-823. Archived Aug 10, 2010
www.nipccreport.org/articles/2010/aug/10aug2010a5.html

Miscellaneous Topics That May Be of Interest

Spinal-Fluid Test Is Found to Predict Alzheimer's

By Gina Kolata, NYT, Aug 9, 2010

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/10/health/research/10spinal.html?_r=1&th&emc=th

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Oysters Herpes: Latest Symptom of Global Warming

By Rachel Kaufman, National Geographic News, Aug 6, 2010 [H/t Best on the Web]

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/08/100806-oyster-herpes-global-warming-climate-change-science/>

Scientists Finally Learn How to Drink Champagne

By Sam Brand, Tonic, Aug 12, 2010 [H/t Best of the Web]

<http://www.tonic.com/article/scientists-finally-learn-how-to-drink-champagne/>

[SEPP Comment: What is best is what accentuates the champagne – carbon dioxide.]

Are Plastics Making Us Fat?

By Allysia Finley, WSJ, Aug 13, 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703545604575407201305888876.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop

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ARTICLES

1. American Chemical Society Climate Change Policy Survey of Membership

Updating the ACS Climate Change Policy Position [H/t

http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_ARTICLEMAIN&node_id=259&content_id=CNBP_025274&use_sec=true&sec_url_var=region1&uuid=486e6e78-063e-4b24-a86d-214d6ffae70

Your input is being sought in preparation for revision of the ACS public policy [position concerning global climate change](#).

The American Chemical Society [adopts public policy statements](#) on issues of concern to ACS members and the chemical community. [The process for consideration and approval](#) of these statements is the responsibility of the ACS Board of Directors and its Committee on Public Affairs and Public Relations. The statements have a three-year lifetime before they are reconsidered and updated, retired, or extended. They serve as the basis for member and staff advocacy on public policy issues.

Typically, the work to prepare the drafts of the statements is done by national ACS committees with interest in the topics. The [Joint Board-Council Committee on Environmental Improvement \(CEI\)](#) fills that role for the global climate change statement.

2. Gore concedes on climate this year

By Steve Milloy, GreenHellBlog, August 10, 2010 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://greenhellblog.com/2010/08/10/gore-concedes-on-climate-this-year/>

Speaking about the likelihood of climate bill being passed by Congress in 2010, Al Gore told a conference call of supporters tonight that, “this battle has not been successful and is pretty much over for this year.” Gore bitterly denounced the Senate and federal government stating several times, “The U.S. Senate has failed us” and “The federal government has failed us.” Gore even seemed to blame President Obama by emphasizing that “the government *as a whole* has failed us... although the House did its job. [emphasis added]”

Gore urged his listeners to take the “realistic view that they had failed badly.” Gore said that “Comprehensive legislation is not likely to be debated” and that a “lame duck debate” is a “very slim possibility indeed.” (N.B. We thought, because Gore told us, that “the debate” was over.)

Gore said “the government was not working “as our founders intended it to” and laid more blame at the feet of fossil fuel interests who conducted a “cynical coordinated campaign” with “unprecedented funding” and “who have spent hundreds of millions of dollars just on lobbying.” He criticized “polluters” for “dumping global warming pollution into the atmosphere like it was an open sewer.”

Gore blamed the skeptics for “attacking science and scientists.” “They [the skeptics] did damage and cast doubt,” Gore said.

Asked why the alarmists were ineffective in addressing Climategate, Gore bitterly blamed a “biased right-wing media... bolstered by professional deniers.” Gore claimed the Wall Street Journal published 30 editorial and news articles about Climategate and “not a single one presented [his] side of the science.”

Speaking about the post-2010 prospects for a climate bill, Gore tried to boost morale by stating that “the battle is not over” and that “we [alarmists] have no choice but to win the battle.” Gore said that “reality is [the alarmists] ally” and then, among other things, blamed recent flooding in Nashville and the Russian heatwave/forest fires on global warming.

He concluded by observing that “it is darkest before dawn” and “we have not yet begun to fight.”

In a warm-up discussion before Gore addressed the call, National Wildlife Federation chief Larry Schweiger referred to the skeptics as “enemies” and that he hoped the alarmists would “outlive the bastards.”

3. The World Drills On

Editorial, WSJ, Aug 7, 2010

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703426004575339290774710032.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

With reason to hope that the ruptured oil well in the Gulf of Mexico is being brought under control, it's time to start thinking into the future. The Obama Administration is sticking by its ruinous deepwater drilling moratorium, when it would be better to take a hint from the rest of the world's oil-producers. Their response to the Gulf disaster? Learn from it, and drill on.

Norway, run by the very model of modern environmentalists, announced a deep-water drilling halt until the spill is done. However, its ban applies only to new drilling, unlike the Obama Administration's total ban.

Norway also announced it's moving ahead with a deep water push into the Barents and Norwegian Seas, putting up 94 new blocks for drilling leases. Minister of Petroleum and Energy Terje Riis-Johansen made clear he views the stoppage as temporary.

Brazil is accelerating its drilling pace, announcing it would spend some \$200 billion the next five years to tap newly discovered offshore reserves at depths to 23,000 feet. State-controlled Petrobras, the world's biggest deep water producer, recently struck oil three miles under Brazil's sea—a reserve that could yield 380 million barrels of oil and natural gas.

Australian Resources Minister Martin Ferguson has offered 31 new leases off his country's coast that allow for wells at twice the depth of the BP Macondo. As recently as 2000, Australia was self-sufficient in oil and gas but its import costs are rising. The new leases reverse that trend.

"There is no intention by the government to scale back the development of the oil and gas industry in Australia," Mr. Ferguson said. "It is important in terms of the nation's energy security, jobs and the overall economy." Maybe he'd consider a position at Interior?

New Zealand has authorized its first permit to drill off the east coast of its North Island, with Energy and Resources Minister Gerry Brownlee saying it is vital that the country "attract investment" from the same oil companies that U.S. politicians are bashing.

Canada continues to allow drilling in deep water off Newfoundland and Labrador and is moving ahead with exploration licenses in the Arctic. The U.K. is still drilling in deep water in the North Sea.

Many of these countries even hope to benefit from America's politically motivated moratorium by bidding for deep water rigs now working in the Gulf. Brazil's Petrobras is looking far and wide for deep water drilling rigs, with a goal of 60 by 2017, and it's looking to sign long-term contracts with owners of rigs now idled in the Gulf.

These are hardly rogue nations. What they share is an understanding that environmental concerns must be balanced with the reality that oil and gas remain crucial to economic growth, and that their reserves are increasingly in deep water. The leaders of these nations are also confident that the oil industry has the technology and know-how to do this right, with proper oversight.

America's oil and gas reserves are no less essential to the U.S. economy, notwithstanding President Obama's romance with "green jobs." Every day the Administration spends trying to justify its moratorium is one more day when the U.S. is losing jobs that may not return.

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