

The Week That Was: 2011-09-17 (September 17, 2011)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Climate Change Reconsidered: 2011 Interim Report

[S. Fred Singer](#), [Craig Idso](#), [Robert M. Carter](#) – August 29, 2011 Published by [Heartland Institute](#)

Summary: <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/2011/pdf/FrontMatter.pdf>

Chapter Review and Full Report <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/2011/2011report.html>

[Note: These links work as of now – we apologize for any inconvenience from previous failure.]

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Quote of the Week:

*In the APS it is ok to discuss whether the mass of the proton changes over time and how a multi-universe behaves, but the evidence of global warming is **incontrovertible**? The claim (how can you measure the average temperature of the whole earth for a whole year?) is that the temperature has changed from ~288.0 to ~288.8 degree Kelvin in about 150 years, which (if true) means to me is that the temperature has been amazingly stable, and both human health and happiness have definitely improved in this “warming” period. Nobel laureate in Physics Ivar Giaever in a letter resigning from the American Physical Society (APS) over its public statement about global warming.*

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Number of the Week: About 50 percent more

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THIS WEEK:

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

Videos from the Sixth International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC) sponsored by Heartland Institute are available on the web. Go to: <http://climateconference.heartland.org/watch-live/>

Save the Date: October 22 from 11 am to 1 pm. SEPP and VA-SEEE will be hosting a forum in Richmond at Virginia Commonwealth University. Details to follow.

American Physical Society: In the quote above, physicist Ivar Giaever expresses his displeasure concerning the absolutism that has infested the global warming issues. The certainty of many advocates and their hostility to those who question the claims of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has made public scientific discourse on the issues extremely difficult. The directors of the society issued the public statement without bothering to consult with its members. This is contrary to the traditional concepts of a scientific society. Dr. Giaever kindly provided Fred Singer, among others, with a copy of the full letter which is reproduced as Article # 1.

Christy and Spencer: John Christy and Roy Spencer have been under significant personal attacks by global warming advocates including scientists employed by the Federal government and who are lead authors of the 2007 IPCC Assessment Report (AR4). Apparently, one of the great crimes of Christy and Spencer is that for over thirty years they have openly published, monthly, the temperatures as derived from satellites, and they make corrections when errors, usually slight, are discovered. They published the corrections to the errors, most of which they have found themselves. The data and source codes are publicly available. It is by such steps that science advances. Those who announce surface temperatures should be so forthright. Please see

the comments by Roger Pielke, Sr. under “Communicating Better to the Public, Make Things Up.”

Solar – Cosmic Ray Hypothesis: Largely ignored by the popular press, the solar – cosmic ray hypothesis on cloud formation is gaining traction in the public. One of the criticisms of the hypothesis is that cosmic ray intensity has not changed significantly since 1980. However, the intensity has varied during the period. In a 2007 study published by the Danish National Space Center, Svensmark and Friis-Christensen showed that temperature trends in the ocean and troposphere were similar to cosmic ray trends, inverted. The match between tropospheric temperatures and cosmic rays improved significantly when the influences of El Niño, the North Atlantic Oscillation, volcanic aerosols, and a linear trend were removed.

The crux of the issue appears to be the use of surface-[air] temperatures as global temperatures. As discussed in the September 3 TWTW, Ross McKittrick has shown a strong correlation of surface-air temperatures over land and socioeconomic variables. This correlation indicates that these temperatures reflect human activities such as land use changes, as well as, natural changes and changes in greenhouse gases (GHG). As long as advocates ignore the association demonstrated by McKittrick, and refuse to use tropospheric measurements, their findings will reflect human activities other than emissions of GHG.

Please note that in interviews, Svensmark has stated that he thinks recent changes in temperatures reflect four variables: 1) cloud changes as stated in the solar – cosmic ray hypothesis, 2) ocean oscillations, 3) volcanic activity, and 4) GHG.

The Wall Street Journal published several interesting responses to its article on the solar-cosmic ray hypothesis. These are reproduced as Article # 2. Also see links under “Science: Is the Sun Rising?”

Gulf Oil Spill: The US Department of the Interior has released its final report on the BP well blowout in the Gulf of Mexico. The authors were unable to pinpoint an exact cause, but passed blame to virtually all parties concerned, including regulators, for lax procedures and supervision. The authors made a number of recommendations including stronger blow out preventers, higher standards on procedures, and more vigorous supervision.

One of the surprises in the blow-out was the lack of a back-up plan with dedicated resources should a deepwater well blowout occur. A consortium of major oil companies has put together such a plan with the resources necessary. Further, recent announcements of major finds clearly demonstrate that the area is rich in oil and gas resources.

Although some articles state all 23 deepwater rigs remaining in the Gulf are actively drilling, other articles state that another rig is departing and that many more may depart because the Department of Interior is not issuing permits in a timely manner. The rigs cost up to \$1 million a day to maintain and operate. The Department of Interior is remiss in failing to recognize the economic benefits for the nation in developing the resources. Please see links under “Oil Spills and Consequences.”

Number of the Week: Although common in some social sciences, polls are not of particular value in physical sciences. However some produce amusing results. According to a poll of likely American voters taken before Al Gore's 24 hour show on global warming, about 50% more believe in haunted houses than in Al Gore's expertise in global warming / climate change (37% and 24%, respectively). How this reflects on American voters is subject to individual interpretation.

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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. Letter from Ivar Giaever, Nobel laureate in physics, to the American Physical Society

2. Cosmic Rays, Cloud Influences and Climate Change

Letters, WSJ, Sep 14, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904265504576565323313059638.html?mod=ITP_opinion_1

3. Canada's Oil Sands Are a Jobs Gusher

By Mary Anastasia O'Grady, WSJ, Sep 12, 2011

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904836104576560933917369412.html>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Clouds Of Climate Change

By Deepak Lal, Business Standard, Sep 16, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/opinion-pros-a-cons/3887-deepak-lal-clouds-of-climate-change.html>

“The Sun-Weather Relationship Is Becoming Increasingly Important”

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Sep 14, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/3868-the-sun-weather-relationship-is-becoming-increasingly-important.html>

Climategate Continued

More Hypocrisy from the Team

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Sep 16, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/2011/09/16/more-hypocrisy-from-the-team/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Nobel physicist quits US group over climate stance

By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 15, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Nobel_physicist_quits_US_group_over_climate_stance_999.html

Defending the Orthodoxy

Al Gore: ‘The message still has to be about the reality we’re facing’

By Brad Plumer, Washington Post, Sep 12, 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/al-gore-the-message-still-has-to-be-about-the-reality-were-facing/2011/09/12/gIQAZjNxMK_blog.html

Al Gore's '24 Hours' On Climate Change

By Staff Writers, NPR, Sep 14, 2011

<http://www.npr.org/2011/09/14/140471055/al-gores-24-hours-on-climate-change>

More Gore Hot Air

Editorial, IBD, Sep 12, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=584556&p=1>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Riding to the Defense of Climate Models

By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Sep 16, 2011

<http://www.worldclimatereport.com/index.php/2011/09/16/riding-to-the-defense-of-climate-models/#more-508>

[SEPP Comment: In defending climate models, the defenders show divergence between model projections and observations.]

The Gore-a-thon on WUWT

By Anthony Watts with Cartoons from Josh, WUWT, Sep 16, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/climate-fail-files/the-gore-a-thon-on-wuwt/>

[SEPP Comment: A bit of humor.]

Questioning European Green

The lights may go out in Germany even sooner than in Britain

Germany's energy policy looks like a disaster in the making.

By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Sep 16, 2011

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8739451/The-lights-may-go-out-in-Germany-even-sooner-than-in-Britain.html>

EDF price rise means nearly 7 million people pushed into fuel poverty

By Staff Writers, My Finances, UK, Sep 15, 2011 H/t GWPF

<http://www.myfinances.co.uk/cut-your-bills/2011/09/15/edf-price-rise-means-nearly-7-million-people-pushed-into-fu>

"Last winter over three quarters of people rationed their energy use because of cost[7], while over 14 million households went without heating at some point to keep their energy costs down."

Obsession With Renewable Energy 'Will Add £500 To UK Households' Fuel Bill Within Four Years'

Jason Groves, This is Money, Sep 15, 2011

<http://www.thegwgf.org/uk-news/3876-obsession-with-renewable-energy-will-add-p500-to-uk-households-fuel-bill-within-four-years-.html>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Skinning The Cat With Climate Justice

By Meteorologist Art Horn, Icecap, in the Energy Tribune, Sep 14, 2011

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

Peak Oil: Security Policy Implications of Scarce Resources

Study from the German Army looks into the security consequences of peak oil. It was published last year and has now become available in an English translation. It was made available through the internet by energybulletin.net.

Bundeswehr Transformation Centre, European Energy Review, Sep 16, 2011

<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3219>

[SEPP Comment: As significant new discoveries are being made, largely thanks to improvements in technology, the German military is preparing for peak oil.]

Energy transition: Power companies can't do it on their own

European Climate Foundation calls on policymakers to engage the financial community

By Karel Beckman, European Energy Review, Sep 15, 2011

<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3213>

The ECF's Roadmap 2050, which got a tremendous amount of publicity last year and is still regarded as one of the standard climate change policy reports in Europe, had an optimistic message. It said, yes, we can – it is technically possible and financially affordable to move to a zero-carbon energy system in Europe over the next four decades. So, in theory, the future looked bright.

[SEPP Comment: Now who will pay for it?]

Problems within the Orthodoxy

No climate breakthrough in Durban: Maldives

By Staff Writers, AFP, Sep 15, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/No_climate_breakthrough_in_Durban_Maldives_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Prospects for the UN to obtain a binding treaty on climate this year are dim. With most developed countries facing economic stagnation, few political leaders which to face the public to propose a binding treaty delivering significant wealth to rich potentates of third world countries.]

Climate engineering

Technology Assessment, GAO, 11-71, no date, H/t Catherine French

<http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d1171high.pdf>

“Climate engineering technologies do not now offer a viable response to global climate change.”

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Scientific Robustness Of The University Of Alabama At Huntsville MSU Data

By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Sep 12, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/09/12/scientific-robustness-of-the-university-of-alabama-at-huntsville-msu-data/>

Only One in Four Voters Considers Gore a Global Warming Expert

By James Taylor, Heartlander, Sep 9, 2011

<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2011/09/09/only-one-four-voters-considers-gore-global-warming-expert>

Changing Weather

Chatting With a NOAA Meteorologist About This Drought: What It Is and What It Ain't

By Brantley Hargrove, Dallas Observer, Sep 16, 2011 [H/t Joe D'Aleo, WeatherBELL Analytics]

http://blogs.dallasobserver.com/unfairpark/2011/09/chatting_with_a_noaa_meteorolo.php

[SEPP Comment: Apparently such a drought can be predicted, but the severity cannot.]

Pakistan's breadbasket reels from more floods

By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 15, 2011

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Pakistans_breadbasket_reels_from_more_floods_999.html

Changing Climate

800,000 years of abrupt climate variability

By Staff Writers, SPX, Sep 12, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/800000_years_of_abrupt_climate_variability_999.html

“An international team of scientists, led by Dr Stephen Barker of Cardiff University, has produced a prediction of what climate records from Greenland might look like over the last 800,000 years”

[SEPP Comment: A prediction of the past? Over the existing record for both locations, to what extent do the Antarctic changes correspond with Arctic changes?]

Observations of Climate Change from Indigenous Alaskans

By Staff Writers, SPX, Sep 15, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Observations_of_Climate_Change_from_Indigenous_Alaskans_999.html

“They expressed concerns ranging from safety, such as unpredictable weather patterns and dangerous ice conditions...”

[SEPP Comment: If only climate and weather could be constant ...]

Changing Seas

Arctic Sea Ice: Going For A Long Time

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Sep 13, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/3859-arctic-sea-ice-going-for-a-long-time.html>

Arctic ice recovering after falling short of 2007

By Joe D'Aleo, ICECAP, Sep 16, 2011

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/arctic_ice_recovering_after_falling_short_of_2007/

Arctic ice cover hits historic low: scientists

By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 10, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Arctic_ice_cover_hits_historic_low_scientists_999.html

[SEPP Comment: According to their models!]

'The Island President': a fight against climate change

By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 11, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/The_Island_President_a_fight_against_climate_change_999.html

Acidic Waters

That's One Tough Protist!

Reference: Bernhard, J.M., Mollo-Christensen, E., Eisenkolb, N. and Starczak, V.R. 2009. Tolerance of allogromiid Foraminifera to severely elevated carbon dioxide concentrations: Implications to future ecosystem functioning and paleoceanographic interpretations. *Global and Planetary Change* 65: 107-114.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/sep/13sep2011a4.html>

“It can tolerate exposure to CO2 concentrations beyond the wildest imaginations of the world's climate alarmists and still come bounding back.”

[SEPP Comment: From NIPCC reviews below]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Despair on the land

By Debbie Buller, Quadrant, Sep 13, 2011

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2011/09/despair-on-the-land>

[SEPP Comment: No property rights for farmers that pay for water.]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Australia introduces carbon legislation

By Staff Writers, UPI, Sep 14, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Australia_introduces_carbon_legislation_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A tax becomes an investment to some politicians.]

Labor plants poison pills in carbon tax

By Henry Ergas, The Australian, Sep 16, 2011 [H/t Anthony Watts WUWT]

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/opinion/labor-plants-poison-pills-in-carbon-tax/story-e6frgd0x-1226138227483>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

GE Says Gas-Turbine Orders Jump

By Ben Lefebvre, WSJ, Sep 15, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111903927204576571072747941288.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines

[SEPP Comment: No wonder GE supports cap and trade and mandates.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA Regulations Still Killing Jobs

Editorial, IBD, Sep 14, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=584791&p=1>

Luminant to Idle Two Coal Units, Implement Derates on CSAPR Compliance Concerns

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Sep 14, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4011.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2282467&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e660500d0

“The standard time frame for permitting, constructing, and installing new emission controls is several years, yet the rule allowed less than six months.”

Texas power company says EPA rules force it to close plants, cut jobs

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Sep 12, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/180939-texas-power-company-says-it-will-shutter-coal-units-lay-off-workers-to-comply-with-epa-rules>

EPA Got It Wrong, Obama Got It Right on Ozone Limits: View

Editorial, Bloomberg, Sep 11, 2011

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/print/2011-09-12/epa-got-it-wrong-obama-got-it-right-on-setting-new-limits-on-ozone-view.html>

EPA climate rule schedule slips

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Sep 15, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/181723-epa-climate-rule-schedule-slips>

Energy regulators split on EPA rules' impact

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Sep 14, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/181383-energy-regulators-split-on-epa-rules-impact>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Domestic Oil & Gas Production: America's Hadrian Wall

By Gary Hunt, Master Resource, Sep 15, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/09/domestic-energy-hadrians-wall/#more-16642>

Study: No Adverse Health Effects from Natural Gas Drilling in Fort Worth

By Bonner Cohen, Heartlander, Aug 2, 2011

<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2011/08/02/study-no-adverse-health-effects-natural-gas-drilling-fort-worth>

PEW study urges Canada to suspend Arctic oil exploration

By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 9, 2011

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/PEW_study_urges_Canada_to_suspend_Arctic_oil_exploration_999.html

Canadian producers set fracking guidelines

By Staff Writers, UPI, Sep 9, 2011

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Canadian_producers_set_fracking_guidelines_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A step to aggressively address questionable criticisms of the environmental industry.]

Administration's Control of Oil and Gas

Twenty More Gulf Rigs at Risk: 'Mikhail Obama, Tear Down This Wall'

By Kevin Mooney, Master Resource, Sep 14, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/09/twenty-more-gulf-rigs-at-risk/>

Gulf of Mexico rig count 'unsustainable' without quicker permits: FBR

By Staff Writers, Platts, Sep 17, 2011

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Oil/6448981>

Oil Drilling Rebounds in Gulf After Spill

By Russell Gold, WSJ, Sep 15, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904491704576571052525514860.html?mod=WSJ_hp_LEFTWhatsNewsCollection

[SEPP Comment: The 23 rigs remaining may be drilling right now. But, the reporter failed to address the ten that left. (One is scheduled to leave this week.) May be behind a pay wall.]

Oil Spills & Consequences

Report Rips Firms, Oversight

Investigators Say Companies and Regulators Were at Fault for Gulf Blowout, Spill

By Russell Gold and Angel Gonzalez, WSJ, Sep 15, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904060604576570600492781420.html?mod=WSJ_hp_LEFTWhatsNewsCollection

[SEPP Comment: May be behind a pay wall.]

Interior Dept.-Coast Guard report faults BP, contractors for Gulf oil spill

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Sep 14, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/181481-federal-report-faults-bp-contractors-for-gulf-spill>

US fisheries kill 4,600 sea turtles per year: study

By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 14, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/US_fisheries_kill_4600_sea_turtles_per_year_study_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Compared with 18 turtles found dead with visible oil in the year after the BP blowout. Autopsies on some showed they probably died from drowning rather than oil.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Nuclear plant firms adopt landmark code of conduct

By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 15, 2011

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Nuclear_plant_firms_adopt_landmark_code_of_conduct_999.html

Today's plants far safer than Fukushima: US expert

By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 15, 2011

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Todays_plants_far_safer_than_Fukushima_US_expert_999.html

Fukushima third reactor temperature down

The operation of a core spray has helped to bring the temperature of Fukushima Daiichi 3 below 100°C - the benchmark for cold shutdown.

By Staff Writers, World Nuclear News, Sep 6, 2011

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS_Fukushima_third_reactor_temperature_down_0609111.html

Research on US nuclear levels after Fukushima could aid in future nuclear detection

By Staff Writers, SPX, Sep 12, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Research_on_US_nuclear_levels_after_Fukushima_could_aid_in_future_nuclear_detection_999.html

[SEPP Comment: No doubt the ability to measure tiny concentrations will be misused by the anti-nuclear industry.]

Explosion at French Nuclear Waste Site Kills 1, Injures 4

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Sep 14, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4012.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2282467&hq_l=7&hq_v=5e660500d0

Reid goes nuclear on waste storage

NRC vote leaves Yucca Mountain unresolved

Editorial, Washington Times, Sep 14, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/sep/14/reid-goes-nuclear-on-waste-storage/>

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy

Solargate Unraveled

Editorial, IBD, Sep 14, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=584795&p=1>

Five myths about the Solyndra collapse

By Brad Plumer, Washington Post, Sep 14, 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/five-myths-about-the-solyndra-collapse/2011/09/14/gIQAfkyvRK_blog.html

Solyndra Scandal Ends Green Jobs Myth

By Lachland Markay, The Foundry, Sep 16, 2011 [H/t Tom Sheahen]

http://blog.heritage.org/2011/09/16/morning-bell-solyndra-scandal-ends-green-jobs-myth/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Morning%2BBell

President Obama's Green Jobs Pretense Is An Unmitigated Fiasco

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Sep 6, 2011

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2011/09/06/president-obamas-green-jobs-pretense-is-an-unmitigated-fiasco/>

Administration doubling down on renewable loans

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Sep 15, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/181733-administration-not-backing-down-on-renewable-loans>

Renewable energy: too cheap to meter?

By A. Barton Hinkle, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sep 13, 2011

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/rtd-opinion/2011/sep/13/tdopin02-renewable-energy-too-cheap-to-meter-ar-1304276/>

Global investment in clean energy hits \$243 bn: UN

By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 13, 2011

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Global_investment_in_clean_energy_hits_243_bn_UN_999.html

[SEPP Comment: No estimate on the expected rate of return on the investment.]

Germany keen to buy solar-generated electricity from Greece

By Staff Writers, AFP, Sept 11, 2011

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Germany_keen_to_buy_solar-generated_electricity_from_Greece_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The government of Greece is broke, who will pay for this 20 billion euro project? The cost of the transmission lines will be interesting.]

US DOE to support 41 offshore wind energy R&D projects

By Staff Writers, Wind Energy Update, Sep 12, 2011

http://social.windenergyupdate.com/uncategorised/weekly-intelligence-brief-september-5-%E2%80%93-september-12?utm_source=WEU%2BE-Brief&utm_medium=Newsletter1309&utm_campaign=WEU

Big blades: Brave, new world for logistics

When GE unveiled its plans to research and develop a 15MW machine, it became evident that 6-7MW turbines fall short of the limits of blue sky thinking on turbine capacity. But will logistics bring these aspirations back to earth?

By Gail Rajgor, Wind Energy Update, Sep 12, 2011

http://social.windenergyupdate.com/turbine-supply-chain/big-blades-brave-new-world-logistics?utm_source=WEU%2BE-Brief&utm_medium=Newsletter1309&utm_campaign=WEU

[SEPP Comment: Impressive engineering.]

Biomass schemes will boost destructive timber imports, claims wood industry

Wood companies and green campaigners say subsidies to power companies threaten both jobs and rainforests

By Terry Macalister, Guardian, Sep 11, 2011 [H/t James Taylor]

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/sep/11/biomass-schemes-boost-timber-imports?commentpage=last#end-of-comments>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

That's One Tough Protist!

Reference: Bernhard, J.M., Mollo-Christensen, E., Eisenkolb, N. and Starczak, V.R. 2009. Tolerance of allogromiid Foraminifera to severely elevated carbon dioxide concentrations: Implications to future ecosystem functioning and paleoceanographic interpretations. *Global and Planetary Change* 65: 107-114.
<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/sep/13sep2011a4.html>

“It can tolerate exposure to CO2 concentrations beyond the wildest imaginations of the world's climate alarmists and still come bounding back.”

Foliar Isoprene Emissions: Now and in the Future

Reference: Wilkinson, M.J., Monson, R.K, Trahan, N., Lee, S., Brown E., Jackson, R.B., Polley, H.W., Fay, P.A. and Fall, R. 2009. Leaf isoprene emission rate as a function of atmospheric CO2 concentration. *Global Change Biology* 15: 1189-1200.
<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/sep/14sep2011a5.html>

Global Tropical Cyclone Activity

Reference: Maue, R.N. 2011. Recent historically low global tropical cyclone activity. *Geophysical Research Letters* 38: 10.1029/2011GL047711.
<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/sep/13sep2011a1.html>

Drought in China Since 1950

Reference: Wang, A., Lettenmaier, D.P. and Sheffield, J. 2011. Soil moisture drought in China, 1950-2006. *Journal of Climate* 24: 3257-3271.
<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/sep/13sep2011a3.html>

Oh Mann!

Michael Mann Supporters Make Case for Release of Emails

By Paul Chesser, Press Release, American Tradition Institute, Sep 14, 2011
<http://www.atinstitute.org/michael-mann-supporters-make-case-for-release-of-emails/>
[SEPP Comment: The bitter fight indicates there is something in the emails.]

Environmental Industry

Duke - Progress Merger Provides Shakedown Opportunity for Activists

By Paul Chesser, NLPC, Sep 14, 2011
<http://nlpc.org/stories/2011/09/14/greens-want-their-cut-duke-progress-merger>

Trying to Snooker Smucker

By Paul Driessen, Townhall, Sep 14, 2011
http://townhall.com/columnists/pauldriessen/2011/09/14/trying_to_snooker_smucker

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

A balloon the size of Wembley and the world's longest hose... can this stop global warming?

* Hose pipe would shoot particles into the atmosphere like erupting volcano
By Tamara Cohen, Daily Mail, Sep 14, 2011 [H/t Malcolm Ross]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2037104/Global-warming-Can-balloon-size-Wembley-stadium-stop-it.html#ixzz1Xu4RzsU2>

Floating 12 miles above our heads, this Wembley Stadium-sized helium balloon tethered to a ship may one day help save the planet from global warming.

[SEPP Comment: No doubt, to be environmentally conscientious, wind turbines will pump the water mixture 12 miles high, otherwise the energy required would be enormous. The pressures involved are interesting.]

Can scientists look at next year's climate?

By Staff Writers, SPX, Sep 14, 2011

http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Can_scientists_look_at_next_year_climate_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Once climate was defined as the weather at one location over thirty years. Now it changes yearly?]

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ARTICLES:

1. Letter from Ivar Giaever, Nobel laureate in physics, to the American Physical Society

From: Ivar Giaever [giaever@biophysics.com]

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 12:42 PM

To: kirby@aps.org

Cc: Robert H. Austin'; 'William Happer'; 'Larry Gould'; 'hal lewis'; 'S. Fred Singer'; Roger Cohen

Subject: I resign from APS

Dear Ms. Kirby

Thank you for your letter inquiring about my membership. I did not renew it because I can not live with the statement below:

Emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities are changing the atmosphere in ways that affect the Earth's climate. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide as well as methane, nitrous oxide and other gases. They are emitted from fossil fuel combustion and a range of industrial and agricultural processes.

The evidence is incontrovertible: Global warming is occurring.

If no mitigating actions are taken, significant disruptions in the Earth's physical and ecological systems, social systems, security and human health are likely to occur. We must reduce emissions of greenhouse gases beginning now.

In the APS it is ok to discuss whether the mass of the proton changes over time and how a multi-universe behaves, but the evidence of global warming is **incontrovertible**? The claim (how can you measure the average temperature of the *whole* earth for a *whole* year?) is that the temperature has changed from ~288.0 to ~288.8 degree Kelvin in about 150 years, which (if true) means to me is that the temperature has been amazingly stable, and both human health and happiness have definitely improved in this "warming" period.

Best regards,

Ivar Giaever

Nobel Laureate 1973

PS. I included a copy to a few people in case they feel like using the information.

2. Cosmic Rays, Cloud Influences and Climate Change

Letters, WSJ, Sep 14, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904265504576565323313059638.html?mod=ITP_opinion_1

Anne Jolis's "[The Other Climate Theory](#)" (op-ed, Sept. 7) is a welcome message of realism on climate. Painful changes in the U.S. economy are being justified by the mantra that the earth's climate is dictated by CO₂ in the atmosphere; elaborate computer models assert that doubling CO₂ concentrations will warm the earth by an intolerable three or four degrees Celsius, or even more. This is contrary to straightforward theoretical estimates and empirical observations, indicating that the direct warming potential of CO₂ is only about one degree Celsius, which would most likely be a benefit to world. The recent European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) experiments, discussed by Ms. Jolis, support extensive observational evidence that cosmic rays reaching the earth's surface have a large influence on climate.

Additional important climate drivers include complicated fluctuations of major oceanic currents and volcanic eruptions. Even if we could hold CO₂ levels fixed, the climate would continue to change because of other influences. In a time of serious world problems, wasteful expenditures justified by nonproblems like CO₂ make no sense.

William Happer

Professor of Physics

Princeton University

Princeton, N.J.

Ms. Jolis's stated objective is to examine the causes associated with climate change. As such, the issue that should be addressed relates to changes in cosmic-ray intensity: i.e., assuming cosmic rays do influence clouds, have cosmic-ray intensities changed during the time when global atmospheric temperatures have changed?

Numerous measurements show that global atmospheric temperatures have been increasing since 1980 and continue to increase to this day. Cosmic-ray data over a range of years containing this period is shown at <http://cr0.izmiran.rssi.ru/clmx/main.htm>.

There has been no significant change in cosmic-ray intensity over the same period in which we have seen the increase in global temperatures.

The issue for climate change is not whether cosmic rays influence clouds, the issue is whether cosmic-ray intensities have changed during the years when global atmospheric temperatures have changed. They have not.

Raymond L. Orbach

Director, Energy Institute

The University of Texas

at Austin

Austin, Texas

Mr. Orbach was director of the Department of Energy's Office of Science 2002-09, and undersecretary for science 2006-09 at the DOE.

It is important for readers to understand that the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as many other organizations invested in the idea that humans are the major cause of late 20th-century climate change, have never been seriously interested in pursuing natural causes of climate

change. Since inception, the IPCC has been nearly totally preoccupied with trying to make the case for strong anthropogenic global warming (AGW), primarily via CO2 emissions. This has led to biases and distortions of the scientific process, and the "tribal behavior" by climate scientists that we have seen in a variety of contexts, e.g., the Climategate emails and IPCC report "errors."

The real scientific climate debate has been taken up by the so-called skeptics as they have searched to understand the underlying causes of climate change, including both natural and anthropogenic sources. In fact, there are not one but two roughly defined schools of thought. All agree that AGW is far smaller than the IPCC claims, and there exists a substantial body of empirical evidence to support this. However, one school holds that the predominate influences arise from astronomical sources, such as the cosmic-ray mechanism. The other school believes that the earth is quite capable of changing its climate quickly and significantly via its own unforced chaotic variations.

This debate among skeptics has proceeded under the media's radar screen.

Roger W. Cohen, Ph.D.

La Jolla, Calif.

Climate science has not yet established how much clouds impact climate—there is even debate about whether clouds warm or cool the earth—or to what extent clouds have fluctuated over the last, you pick it, 20, 50, 100, 1,000 years, or the specific ways in which clouds interact with solar input (i.e., how much they reflect back into space).

It is all but acknowledged (climate scientists on the global-warming government-funding bandwagon have a hard time acknowledging anything that could undermine their beliefs) that because of these uncertainties about clouds, all climate models do a terrible job modeling how clouds impact climate. Change the assumptions about the amount of clouds or how they impact global temperatures by more than 1% and you can completely explain all global warming (and cooling).

Politicians who believe that the more government can control what we do in our daily lives, the better those daily lives will be, see man-made global warming as the ultimate tool for such control. Thus, they are more than happy to fund scientists who support that viewpoint. Let's see how robust the funding for the CERN CLOUD experiment is going forward.

John P. Miller, Ph.D.

Portola Valley, Calif.

The cosmic-ray theory is also discussed in the landmark book "Heaven and Earth—Global Warming, the Missing Science" (2009) by Prof. Ian Plimer of the University of Adelaide, Australia. Prof. Plimer's work was so profound as to become the primary enabler for the recent defeat of a climate-change bill in the Australian legislature.

It is long past time for the EPA's management to follow the strong recommendation of its own National Center for Environmental Economics scientists who, in a very comprehensive internal report to management (March 2009), were highly critical of claims regarding the worth of the IPCC climate models. Their urgent, but ignored, plea was for the EPA to undertake its own independent assessment of whether or not human activity influences climate.

Chuck Wilkerson

El Segundo, Calif.

3. Canada's Oil Sands Are a Jobs Gusher

By Mary Anastasia O'Grady, WSJ, Sep 12, 2011

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904836104576560933917369412.html>

For all its soaring rhetoric, President Obama's "jobs speech" last week didn't demonstrate a lick of insight into why economies grow or how wealth is created. It was merely trademark Obamanomics: using government diktat to move money that's over here, over there.

Having spent an hour the day before with Ron Liepert, the energy minister from the Canadian province of Alberta, I found it especially disturbing to hear nothing in the speech about reversing the administration's anti-fossil-fuels agenda. Canada has recovered all the jobs it lost in the 2009 recession, and Alberta's oil sands are no small part of that. The province is on track to become the world's second-largest oil producer, after Saudi Arabia, within 10 years. Meanwhile Mr. Obama clings to his subsidies for solar panels and his religious faith in green jobs.

U.S. unemployment is high because capital is on strike. Short-term offers to coax investors into taking new risks aren't going to cut it when they have been forewarned that the president intends to pay for it all by raising taxes in the out years. The market dropped over 300 points the day after Mr. Obama's speech.

On the regulatory front the picture is even gloomier. Much of America's vast untapped energy potential lies dormant because Mr. Obama's regulatory watchdogs have spent the past three years throwing sand in the gears of the permitting process for exploration and exploitation on federal lands. Separately, TransCanada has been trying since September 2008 to get a permit to build the Keystone XL pipeline from Alberta to the Gulf Coast. The Environmental Protection Agency has so far blocked it.

A glimpse of what all this has cost the U.S. economy can be seen by looking north to Canada, where animal spirits have been unleashed in the energy sector. Canada's close economic ties to the U.S. have traditionally meant that when the U.S. gets the sniffles, Canada gets swine flu. This time it's been different. Part of the reason is that Canada's housing market was not poisoned by a federal government push to put unqualified borrowers into homes they could not afford. After the 2008 collapse of the housing bubble in the U.S., the Canadian financial sector remained strong.

That alone was not enough to protect Canada from the effects of the U.S. recession. The manufacturing sector was hit hard, and in the first quarter of 2009 the economy contracted by an annualized 7.9%.

Yet Canada has outperformed the U.S. since then. In 2010, according to the International Monetary Fund, Canada grew at 3.2% versus 2.9% in the U.S. In 2011, the IMF estimates Canada will grow at 2.9%; unemployment is now 7.3%. The IMF's U.S. growth forecast is 2.5% this year, and U.S. unemployment is 9.1%.

One explanation for Canada's more robust growth is its strong commitment to energy, which has become more valuable in U.S. dollar terms under Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's inflationary policies. Alberta is now producing two million barrels per day but expects that number will grow to four to five million within a decade.

Alberta's oil and gas industry supports more than 271,000 direct jobs and hundreds of thousands of indirect jobs in sectors such as construction, manufacturing and financial services. The province has an unemployment rate of 5.6%. There are also some 960 American companies involved in Alberta energy, supplying equipment and technology, among other things. As an example, Mr. Liepert says, "dozens of Caterpillar tractors, made in Illinois and Michigan and costing \$5 million a piece" work the oil sands. He says the region is on track to create more than 400,000 direct American jobs by 2035. The Bakken region of North Dakota, where private land ownership gives drillers relief from federal obstructionism, shares a similar, if smaller, story. Oil production there is booming, and North Dakota unemployment is 3.3%.

TransCanada's Keystone XL pipeline, if the U.S. ever issues the permit, will mean \$20 billion in investment. The company says the construction phase will require 13,000 direct hires and indirect new jobs could total 118,000 in the U.S.

But Keystone XL is only a fraction of the potential that could be released if Mr. Obama changed his energy policy. In a study commissioned by the American Petroleum Institute and released last week, the energy consultancy Wood MacKenzie estimates that pro-development policies could, by 2030, "support an additional 1.4 million jobs, and raise over \$800 billion of cumulative additional government revenue."

On the other hand, according to the study, current policies "which slow down the issuance of leases and drilling permits, increase the cost of hydraulic fracturing through duplicative water or air quality regulations, or delay the construction of oil sands export pipelines such as Keystone XL, will likely have a detrimental effect on production, jobs, and government revenues."

A serious jobs proposal would address these issues. Mr. Obama doesn't have one.

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