

The Week That Was: 2011-10-15 (October 15, 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>

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Quote of the Week:

You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him find it within himself. - Attributed to Galileo

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Number of the Week: 14

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THIS WEEK:

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

SEPP / VA-SEEE FORUM: October 22 from 11 am to 1 pm. SEPP and VA-SEEE will be hosting a Forum in Richmond at Virginia Commonwealth University. Topics include Fred Singer's latest research on the failure of IPCC models, UN and US efforts to control local land use, energy issues, climate change myths and distortions, benefits of carbon dioxide, EPA litigation, and the changing winds on Capitol Hill. For further details please see: www.sepp.org.

Please Note: Due to the Forum, next week's TWTW will be brief.

The False Dilemma: This week, James Hansen of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (NASA-GISS) complained that well financed global-warming skeptics are better at public relations than the scientists advocating global warming. He explained that this is the reason the public is being swayed not to support the drastic action he demands we must be taken to prevent global warming. As Joe D'Aleo of ICECAP points out, Hansen's lament is contrary to the facts: "No James, you haven't failed because of poor communication. You have failed because your richly financed, pseudo-science is being seen for what it is - a failure."

With his dramatic testimony before the US Congress on global warming in July 1988, Hansen captured the great attention from the media and galvanized a movement that spent tens of billions of dollars on global warming, much of it through taxpayer funded government agencies. His dire predictions and absolute certainty in them may have been partly responsible for changing the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) from a possible scientific organization into an advocacy organization. Apparently, Hansen is incapable of introspection in order to understand what went wrong. The earth has refused to follow his extreme predictions and his certainty in them. Further, the public is beginning to tire from the hyperbole – extreme exaggeration.

The late Steven Schneider famously stated that scientists have a choice, to rigorously pursue science or to be effective, politically. There is no question which direction Hansen took. But Schneider's choice is a false dilemma. Some who vigorously followed Hansen's choice are beginning to discover that they are no longer being considered either scientists or effective. As exemplified by some of the candidates in the US presidential campaign, more politicians are willing to question the science. Of course, these politicians are being attacked as anti-science, but the process is exposing the great deficiencies in climate science. Please see links under "Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate?"

Advocacy Science: On her web site, Judith Curry has posted, with comments, excerpts from two articles that warn of the dangers of scientists becoming political advocates of a particular cause. Unfortunately the articles are behind a pay wall. What is at issue is scientific integrity and credibility, which affects all scientists.

On his web site, Lubos Motl asks if different scientific disciplines should have different confidence levels in the accepted results of models and testing. An article by Charles Hooper points out the reasons why he considers that the climate models are misleading.

This type of controversy has been missing in climate science. Previously, those who dared to question global warming science have been shouted down. Yet, Climategate and major revelations of failures in the science, particularly in the models, have provoked more open discussion of these failures. It is only with such discussion that climate science will advance from a closed discipline to a meaningful science. Please see links under “Seeking a Common Ground.”

EPA Endangerment Finding: The above discussion applies to EPA’s finding that greenhouse gases (GHG), particularly carbon dioxide (CO2), endangers public health and welfare. EPA declares great certainty in the IPCC’s science, a certainty that is unjustified. As discussed in last week’s TWTW, the EPA claims the models have been validated, a claim that even the IPCC does not make. The models have not been validated. Also, EPA claims that the totality of the scientific evidence allows it to assert that it is 90 to 99% certain that human caused climate change threatens public health and welfare.

To buttress the IPCC science, EPA uses reports from the National Research Council and the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP). As with the EPA technical support document, these reports are also based on the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4). As stated by Roger Pielke, Sr, on the subject of global warming, the National Research Council is an advocacy group. Further, the announcement for public comment on the 2012 to 2021 Strategic Plan of the USGCRP starts with the assumption that the science is settled making it yet another advocacy group. Please see links under “Expanding the Orthodoxy” and “Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate?” The latest EPA filing can be found at: <http://rfflibrary.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/epa-endangerment-brief.pdf>. But be warned, it is many pages of legalese.

Spencer-Braswell: On his web site, Roy Spencer continues to post the latest research that he and Braswell conducting on the dual nature of clouds. One characteristic is the changing of clouds as a response to temperature changes, a feedback. The other characteristic is the changing of clouds causing changes in temperatures, a forcing. The research is prompted by challenges by Andrew Dessler, and others. Perhaps this research, and exchange, will lead to a better understanding of this vital component of climate change, a component that is largely ignored. Please see links under “Spencer-Braswell.”

Solar and Wind: Solid data on the performance of specific wind farms and solar arrays is difficult for independent researches to obtain, but it is becoming generally recognized that due to the need for back-up both forms are far more costly for the electricity produced than traditional sources, such as, coal and natural gas. Yet, one of the justifications for subsidizing solar companies is to bring down the costs of solar panels to make photovoltaic solar (PV) cost competitive.

David Bergeron, the president of a solar company in sunny Tucson, Arizona, reports that based on the estimates of levelized costs made by the Energy Information Agency, PV is not competitive in Tucson with coal, the primary source for electricity on the grid – even if the solar panels are free! However, PV is highly suitable for off the grid, isolated uses.

Since electricity generated by wind power is significantly more expensive than coal generated electricity, one the major justifications given by promoters and governments for switching to wind is that wind power will drastically reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Actual data supporting this claim is virtually non-existent. One study from Colorado contradicted the claim. Because wind power is erratic, it needs back-up that can come on line very quickly, and the actual decrease in CO2 emissions, when wind is substituted for coal and natural gas, is quite small.

There are two new reports, one from the Netherlands and one from Ireland, that also contradict the claim that wind power replacing fossil fuel sources for electricity generation will result in significant reductions in CO2 emissions. Both studies show that, absent of hydroelectric for back-up, the reduction in CO2 emissions is minimal.

Please see links under “Questioning European Green” and under “Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy.”

Ozone Hole: Last week, NASA produced an excited press release on the opening of an Ozone Hole over the Arctic. The alarmist tone has been rebutted by Tim Ball. Please see links under “Changing Earth – and Atmosphere.”

Sad Day for Australia: A tax on carbon dioxide emissions has passed the lower house of the Australian Parliament and is expected to pass the upper house. This is being declared as a great victory for Prime Minister Gillard who, while campaigning for election, declared she would not support carbon dioxide taxes. It will be interesting to see if voters remember her promises in the next election. This vote is an example of how governments will use the false fear of global warming / climate change to justify increases in taxes. Please see links under “Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes.”

Number of the Week: 14. That is the reported number of deep water drilling rigs that have left the Gulf of Mexico since the administration instituted its policy of not issuing permits on a timely basis. The rigs cost up to \$1,000,000 per day to operate and independent companies cannot afford to let them stand idle. And people complain that Washington does not have an industrial policy!

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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. Chemistry's Cinderella Story

A Nobel winner who challenged dogma.

Editorial, WSJ, Oct 10, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203476804576616891638078896.html#mod=djemEditorialPage_t

2. Emissions Plan Sparks Concerns

By Alessandro Torello, WSJ, Oct 13, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204774604576627132051888892.html?mod=ITP_pageone_2

[SEPP Comment: *Horrors! Penalizing foreign airlines may prompt retaliation.*]

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Solar changes help create cold northern winters

Fluctuations in ultraviolet light can set up frigid, snowy conditions

By Alexandra Witze, Science News, Oct 10, 2011 [H/t Joe Bast]

http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/335053/title/Solar_changes_help_create_cold_northern_winters

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Met Office wakes up to solar influence on climate

By Paul Hudson, BBC, Oct 12, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/paulhudson/2011/10/met-office-finally-wakes-up-to.shtml>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

IPCC Mischaracterizes Precipitation Changes

By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Oct 11, 2011

<http://www.worldclimaterreport.com/index.php/2011/10/11/ipcc-mischaracterizes-precipitation-changes/>

Cloud Formation: Study Shows Insoluble Dust Particles Can Form Cloud Droplets that Affect Global and Regional Climate

Press Release, Georgia Tech, Oct 13, 2011 [H/t Anthony Watts, WUWT]

<http://gtresearchnews.gatech.edu/insoluble-dust-particles/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Laying The Blame For Extreme Weather

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 12, 2011

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Laying_The_Blame_For_Extreme_Weather_999.html

Extreme weather is always possible, after all. But with warmer oceans, such events are easier to create.

"We're loading the dice in favor of extreme weather events," said Trenberth.'

[SEPP Comment: Yet contrary to what IPCC lead author Trenberth states, cold climates tend to produce the most severe weather events.]

Changes in rainfall patterns are projected for next 30 years

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 12, 2011

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Changes_in_rainfall_patterns_are_projected_for_next_30_years_999.html

[SEPP Comment: No doubt, the extent and direction is determined by the model chosen.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Lifetime of Human Climate Forcings

By Roger Pielke Sr. Pielke Climate Science, Oct 14, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/10/14/lifetime-of-human-climate-forcings/>

[SEPP Comment: There are human activities that cause change in local and regional climate that have a long term effect. Building cities is one such activity.]

The phony 'consensus' on climate change

Editorial, Daily Herald, Utah, Oct 9, 2011 [H/t Craig Idso]

http://www.heraldextra.com/news/opinion/article_e642454a-35b3-57dc-9a75-e7bee5853a9b.html

[SEPP Comment: Craig Idso noted that he never said what he was quoted of saying.]

Questioning European Green

Electricity in The Netherlands .

Windmills increase fossil fuel consumption & CO2 emission.

By C. le Pair, Oct 7, 2011 [H/t John Droz, Jr.]

<http://www.clepair.net/windSchiphol.html>

Wind energy in the Irish power system.

Fred Udo, Oct 5, 2011 [H/t John Droz, Jr]

<http://www.clepair.net/IerlandUdo.html>

Making Wind Farms Obsolete

By Matt Ridley, GWPF, Oct 14, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/uk-news/4102-matt-ridley-making-wind-farms-obsolete.html>

Euro Bank: Wind policy 'direction' needed

By Staff Writers, UPI, Oct 10, 2011

http://www.winddaily.com/reports/Euro_Bank_Wind_policy_direction_needed_999.html

[SEPP Comment: We need to keep the subsidies and feed-in tariffs (surtaxes) high.]

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Public Comment Open On The United State Global Change Research Program Strategic Plan 2012-2021

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Oct 10, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/10/10/public-comment-open-on-the-united-state-global-change-research-program-strategic-plan-2012-2021/>

Pielke's Comment: "The Plan starts with an assumption that they already know the direction of climate change in the coming decades. It does not read as a balanced science plan. I encourage readers of my weblog to submit comments."

Executive Order 13575—Establishment of the White House Rural Council

By Barrack Obama, Office of the Press Secretary, The White House, June 9, 2011 [H/t Kris Allen]

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/06/09/executive-order-establishment-white-house-rural-council>

[SEPP Comment: The word "sustainable" rural communities in Section 1, is a clear term for asserting further Federal government control over rural life. Also, under this administration "safeguarding natural resources" implies denial of productive use.]

Report to lay groundwork for Bingaman's 'clean energy standard'

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Oct 12, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/186987-report-to-lay-groundwork-for-bingamans-clean-energy-standard>

[SEPP Comment: Another term for expensive and economically destructive mandates.]

Problems within the Orthodoxy

EU sets conditions for signing up to Kyoto II

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Oct 10, 2011 [H/t Jo Nova]

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=data/environment/2011/October/environment_October13.xml§ion=environment

Ambitions in check on global climate deal

By Staff Writers, AFP, Oct 8, 2011

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Ambitions_in_check_on_global_climate_deal_999.html

UN climate talks 'stupid, useless and endless' - Maldives

By Staff Writers, AFP, Oct 13, 2011

http://www.terraily.com/reports/UN_climate_talks_stupid_useless_and_endless_Maldives_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The governors of the Maldives are tired of waiting for the big bucks promised to them by the UN if they became the poster child of the threat of global warming.]

Seeking a Common Ground

Advocacy science and decision making

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Oct 13, 2011

<http://judithcurry.com/2011/10/13/advocacy-science-and-decision-making/#more-5268>

“Partisan groups lobbying for preferred outcomes have a long history of the selective use of information to support predetermined conclusions. This is acceptable in politics, but not in science.”

Should different disciplines require different confidence levels?

By Lubos Motl, Blogspot, Oct 14, 2011

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2011/10/should-different-disciplines-require.html>

[SEPP Comment: A provocative, but somewhat technical analysis.]

Predicting Our Demise

By Charles L. Hooper (Hoover Visiting Fellow), Oct 7, 2011 [H/t Timothy Wise]

Climate change models are misleading and unhelpful in forecasting future temperatures.

<http://www.hoover.org/publications/defining-ideas/article/95311>

[SEPP Comment: Uncertainty in the climate models must be clearly stated.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate?

Global warning: climate sceptics are winning the battle

Father of the green movement says scientists lack PR skills to make public listen

By Michael McCarthy, The Independent, Oct 11, 2011

[SEPP Comment: Over two decades of hyperbole have had an impact – but not the one Hansen desired.]

Hansen: A failure to communicate. ICECAP: No! A failed science

By Joe D’Aleo, ICECAP, Oct 11, 2011 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/hansen_failure_to_communicate1/

Advocacy By The National Research Council

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

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/10/12/advocacy-by-the-national-research-council/>

“It is clear that the National Research Council has elected to be an advocate on a particular perspective with respect to climate, and the human role, rather than serving as a facilitator which permits the assessment of the diversity of scientifically supported viewpoints on this issue.”

Will Warmists Face Justice for their Deceptions?

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Oct 8, 2011

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2011/10/will-warmists-face-justice-for-their.html>

America’s Worst Wind-Energy Project

Wind-energy proponents admit they need lots of spin to overwhelm the truly informed.

By Robert Bryce, National Review, Oct 12, 2011

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/279802/america-s-worst-wind-energy-project-robert-bryce>
[SEPP Comment: What to say when the truth hurts: “During the webinar, Justin Rolfe-Redding, a doctoral student from the Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University, discussed ways for wind-energy proponents to get their message out to the public.”]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Planetary Rights

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Oct 13, 2011

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/planetary-rights>

Models v. Observations

A new leaf turns in carbon science

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 11, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/A_new_leaf_turns_in_carbon_science_999.html

The global rate of photosynthesis may be occurring at a rate 25% greater than the models estimate and the El Nino-Southern Oscillation may be a regulator of the oxygen atoms found in CO₂.

Future Forests May Soak Up More Carbon Dioxide Than Previously Believed

By Staff Writer, ScienceDaily, Oct. 13, 2011

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/10/111013153955.htm>

[SEPP Comment: Similar to above, but for US forests. Supports the extensive work of Sherwood, Craig, and Keith Idso.]

Spencer-Braswell

I’ve Looked at Clouds from Both Sides Now – and Before

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Oct 8, 2011

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2011/10/ive-looked-at-clouds-from-both-sides-now-and-before/>

Our GRL Response to Dessler Takes Shape, and the Evidence Keeps Mounting

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Oct 12, 2011

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2011/10/our-grl-response-to-dessler-takes-shape-and-the-evidence-keeps-mounting/>

Changing Weather

Early Season Snowfall Records Broken In United States

By Mark Dunphy, Irish Times, Oct 7, 2011 [H/t Fran Manns]

<http://www.irishweatheronline.com/news/atmosphere/cold/early-season-snowfall-records-broken-in-united-states/40998.html>

Changing Climate

Luminous grains of sand determine year of historic storm flood

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 13, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Luminous_grains_of_sand_determine_year_of_historic_storm_flood_999.html

[SEPP Comments: During the Little Ice Age, the Low Countries experienced more fierce storms from the North Sea than they have experienced during modern warming.]

Britain Faces A Mini ‘Ice Age’

By Laura Caroe, Express, UK, Oct 10, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/276516/Britain-faces-a-mini-ice-age->

Changing Seas

The Baltic Sea contributes carbon dioxide to the atmosphere

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 12, 2011

http://www.terraily.com/reports/The_Baltic_Sea_contributes_carbon_dioxide_to_the_atmosphere_999.html

[SEPP Comment: What to do? Tax the Sea or mandate the emissions to be less?]

Changing Sea Ice

Arctic Sea Ice Continues Decline, Hits Second Lowest Level

By Patrick Lynch, SPX, Oct 05, 2011

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Arctic_Sea_Ice_Continues_Decline_Hits_Second_Lowest_Level_999.html

[SEPP Comment: States differences in definition between sea ice extent and sea ice area. The Aug 13, 2011 TWTW linked to research that stated Arctic sea ice may have disappeared between 6,000 and 8,500 years ago. This reinforces previous studies indicating the same.]

Rapid Loss of Arctic Ice: But Where is the Warming?

By Chip Knappenberger, Master Resource, Oct 11, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/10/rapid-loss-arctic-ice-less-warming/#more-17027>

Changing Earth – and Atmosphere

NASA Leads Study of Unprecedented Arctic Ozone Loss

By Staff Writers, JPL, Oct 04, 2011

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/NASA_Leads_Study_of_Unprecedented_Arctic_Ozone_Loss_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Another alarmist story from NASA, see article below.]

Holes in the Recent Arctic Ozone Hole Story

By Tim Ball, His Blog, Oct 10, 2011

<http://drtimball.com/2011/holes-in-the-recent-arctic-ozone-hole-story/>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Energy, food security to dominate Rio+20: envoy

By Staff Writers, AFP, Oct 13, 2011

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Energy_food_security_to_dominat_Rio+20_envoy_999.html

[SEPP Comment: National or international control of energy would greatly contribute to food insecurity.]

Feeding the World While Protecting the Planet: Global Plan for Sustainable Agriculture

By Staff Writers ScienceDaily, Oct. 12, 2011

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/10/111012151720.htm>

[SEPP Comment: Don't let them eat meat.]

The Political Games Continue

Critical Minerals Ignite Geopolitical Storm

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 12, 2011

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Critical_Minerals_Ignite_Geopolitical_Storm_999.html

House votes to delay EPA ‘boiler’ regulations

By Josiah Ryan, The Hill, Oct 13, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/187557-house-votes-to-delay-epa-boiler-regulations>

House votes to blunt EPA rules on coal ash

By Pete Kasperowicz, The Hill, Oct 14, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/187673-house-votes-to-blunt-epa-rules-on-coal-ash>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Green Europe Imperiled by Carbon Collapse

By Kari Lundgren and Stefan Nicola, Bloomberg, Oct 9, 2011 [H/t Hugh Sharman]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-09/green-europe-imperiled-as-debt-crisis-triggers-46-carbon-market-collapse.html>

“If the Eurozone crisis continues that will lead to an extremely low carbon price and it makes it difficult to invest in low-carbon generation.”

[SEPP Comment: Changing the term “invest” to “waste” would be more accurate.]

Carbon tax bill passes

By David Wroe, Sydney Morning Herald, Oct 12, 2011

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/carbon-tax-bill-passes-20111012-1ljtf.html>

“... nine out of 10 households receiving some assistance to adjust with this reform.”

[SEPP Comment: A new tax to expand government revenues is called a reform.]

Australia parliament passes divisive carbon tax

Australia's lower house of parliament has narrowly passed a bill for a controversial carbon tax.

By Staff Writers, BBC News, Oct 12, 2011

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-15269033>

[SEPP Comment: The BBC calls emitters of carbon dioxide polluters. The terrible decision of the US Supreme Court that termed carbon dioxide a pollutant, contrary to language, logic, and science, is being used around the world.]

There is a free lunch!!

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Oct 14, 2011

<http://joannenova.com.au/2011/10/there-is-a-free-lunch/#more-18303>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

The Department of Energy Should Not Be the Green Banker

By Nicolas Loris and Jack Spencer, Heritage, October 6, 2011

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/Reports/2011/10/The-Department-of-Energy-Should-Not-Be-the-Green-Banker>

Attention all passengers: this plane is flying on abattoir waste

By Reiner Gatermann, European Energy Review, Oct 6, 2011

<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3259>

The main obstacle currently holding back the growth of the market are lack of demand and high price. Still, the world's number one producer of aviation biofuels, Neste Oil from Finland, is confident that the market will start to grow now that airlines will be included in the EU's Emission Trading Scheme from 2012 onwards.

[SEPP Comment: The market for this money-pit in the air would be great if governments provide enough subsidies and mandates.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Judge orders EPA to pay up for malicious prosecution

By Daniel Popeo, Washington Examiner, Oct 8, 2011

http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/10/sunday-reflection-judge-orders-epa-pay-malicious-prosecution?utm_source=10/9%20Washington%20Examiner%20Opinion%20-%2010/09/2011&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

Interior Department reviewing allegations in delta smelt case

By Bettina Boxall, LA Times, Oct 13, 2011

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/10/interior-department-reviewing-allegations-in-delta-smelt-case-.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+GreenspaceEnvironmentBlog+%28Greenspace%29

[SEPP Comment: Aftermath of a federal judge severely questioning the credibility of the testimony of Department of Interior scientists.]

The EPA's Benefit/Cost Jihad on U.S. Electric Utilities

By Garrett Vaughn, Master Resource, Oct 10, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/10/epa-benefit-cost-jihad-utilities/#more-17008>

[SEPP Comments: EPA cost-benefit analysis makes no sense whatsoever.]

States press for delay of EPA mercury rule

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Oct 11, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/186643-25-states-press-court-for-epa-mercury-rule-delay->

[SEPP Comment: EPA is claiming its regulations are beneficial to the economy by creating jobs. Yet such regulations increase the cost of electricity and lower the disposable income of the consumers. These regulations become are form of surtax on electricity consumers. The claimed health benefits are statistical abstractions rather than established prevention of disease.]

25 States Ask Federal Court to Delay EPA Utility MACT Rule

By Staff Writers, Power News, Oct 12, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4087.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2302772&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e66050d0

EPA Eases SO₂, NO_x Limitations for Some States Under CSAPR

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Oct 12, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4084.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2302772&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e66050d0

DOE Stops Short of Delegating Transmission Siting Authority to FERC

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Oct 12, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4090.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2302772&hq_l=12&hq_v=5e660500d0

Energy Issues

New England Grid Faces Myriad Challenges Amid Changing Power Sector Landscape

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Oct 12, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4091.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2302772&hq_l=8&hq_v=5e660500d0

White House feels pressure on oil pipeline

State Department OK doesn't sway greens

By Tim Devaney, Washington Times, Oct 6, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/oct/6/white-house-feels-pressure-on-oil-pipeline/>

Keystone XL pipeline is the wrong target for protesters

Editorial, Washington Post, Oct 10, 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/keystone-xl-pipeline-is-the-wrong-target-for-protesters/2011/10/07/gIQA4se6aL_story.html

[SEPP Comment: Unusual for the Washington Post.]

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Utica Shale May Be Its Own Energy Game-Changer

By Jon Hurdle, AOL Energy, Oct 7, 2011 [H/t Warren Wetmore]

<http://energy.aol.com/2011/10/07/utica-shale-may-be-its-own-energy-game-changer/>

Administration's Control of Oil and Gas

EPA Warns of Oil Threat

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Oct 14, 2011

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2011/10/14/epa-warns-of-oil-threat/>

Return of King Coal?

Mountaintop coal mining moves a step ahead

By Staff Writers, UPI, Oct 7, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Mountaintop_coal_mining_moves_a_step_ahead_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Another defeat for EPA's self-proclaimed expansion of authority. As with all mining, the process can be ugly, but the major issue is reclamation.]

Oil Spills & Consequences

BP paid \$7 bln in Gulf disaster claims: executive

By Staff Writers, AFP, Oct 13, 2011

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/BP_paid_7_bln_in_Gulf_disaster_claims_executive_999.html

Coast Guard: Sunken rig is not the source of the Gulf sheen

By Tom Fower, Fuel Fix, Oct 10, 2011 [H/t The Hill]

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2011/10/10/coast-guard-sunken-rig-is-not-the-source-of-the-gulf-sheen/>

[SEPP Comment: Oil slicks were seen in the Gulf long before ships used or carried oil. Is it time to penalize nature?]

Filipino captain in N.Z. sea pollution crisis charged

By Staff Writers, Tauranga, New Zealand (AFP) Oct 12, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Filipino_captain_in_NZ_sea_pollution_crisis_charged_999.html

[SEPP Comment: It will be interesting to ascertain the actual extent of the "crisis."]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Clean-up in Fukushima

By Staff Writers, World Nuclear News, Oct 5, 2011

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS_Clean_up_in_Fukushima_0510111.html

Finnish EPR Project Delayed Again

By Staff Writers, Power News, Oct 12, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4088.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2302772&hq_l=7&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Already three years late, this is a third generation design for enhanced safety by automatic cutoff and greater containment in case of overheating.]

Green light for nuclear expansion in Britain: minister

By Staff Writers, AFP, Oct 11, 2011

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Green_light_for_nuclear_expansion_in_Britain_minister_999.html

Site selected for new Finnish plant

By Staff Writers, WNN, Oct 5, 2011

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NN-Site_selected_for_new_Finnish_plant-0510114.html

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy

Solar Power Cost: Don’t Forget Intermittency (energy economics 101)

By David Bergeron, Master Resource, Oct 12, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/10/solar-power-cost-intermittency-too/#more-17002>

Backers: Solar plant generates at night

By Fuentes De Andalucia, Spain, UPI, Oct 7, 2011

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Backers_Solar_plant_generates_at_night_999.html

“The average cost per watt delivered is high compared to wind and geothermal energy, she noted, but only slightly more expensive than more traditional forms of solar energy.”

[SEPP Comment: What about the cost compared with coal, etc?]

Wind, solar farm finance at record in Q3-report

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Oct 13, 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/13/clean-tech-investment-idUSL5E7LD2CC20111013>

Solyndra Redux?

Editorial, IBD, Oct 13, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/588057/201110131835/Solyndra-Redux-.htm?>

USC’S biomass plant debacle

How the university’s green dream went bust as it put \$20 million into power plant that now sits idle after three ‘potentially lethal accidents’ and a host of other problems

By Wayne Washington, McClatchy Newspapers, Oct 8, 2011 [H/t Anthony Watts, WUWT]

<http://www.thesunnews.com/2011/10/08/2433284/uscs-biomass-plant-debacle.html>

California Dreaming

California lists flame retardant as a carcinogen

By Staff Writers, LA Times, October 12, 2011

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/10/flame-retardant-prop-65-listing-.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+GreenspaceEnvironmentBlog+%28Greenspace%29

[SEPP Comment: California must be the most dangerous state to live in the US. Many major stores have warning signs that assert chemicals sold there are “known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.”]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Tropical Cyclones: The Models Project More of Them in Our Future, or is it Fewer

Reference: Villarini, G., Vecchi, G.A., Knutson, T.R., Zhao, M. and Smith, J.A. 2011. North Atlantic tropical storm frequency response to anthropogenic forcing: Projections and sources of uncertainty. *Journal of Climate* 24: 3224-3238.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/oct/12oct2011a4.html>

Droughts of Southwestern North America: Past and Present

Reference: Woodhouse, C.A., Meko, D.M., MacDonald, G.M., Stahle, D.W. and Cook, E.R. 2010. A 1,200-year perspective of 21st century drought in southwestern North America. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 107: 21,283-21,288.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/oct/12oct2011a3.html>

The Roman Warm Period at Lake Silvaplana, Switzerland

Reference: Stewart, M.M., Larocque-Tobler, I. and Grosjean, M. 2011. Quantitative inter-annual and decadal June-July-August temperature variability ca. 570 BC to AD 120 (Iron Age-Roman Period) reconstructed from the varved sediments of Lake Silvaplana, Switzerland. *Journal of Quaternary Science* 26: 491-501.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/oct/11oct2011a4.html>

Interannual Variability of 20th-Century Climate in CMIP3 Models

Reference: Scherrer, S.C. 2011. Present-day interannual variability of surface climate in CMIP3 models and its relation to future warming. *International Journal of Climatology* 31: 1518-1529.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/oct/11oct2011a1.html>

“Aggregated over very large regions, the author finds that ‘hardly any robust relations exist between the models' ability to correctly represent Interannual Variability and the projected temperature change’”.

Health, Energy, and Climate

There are good studies, bad studies... and then this

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Oct 11, 2011

http://www.acsh.org/factsfears/newsID.3069/news_detail.asp

Act Now! Make Money From Global Warming

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Oct 9, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/10/09/act-now-make-money-from-global-warming/#more-48939>

Environmental Industry

Terence Corcoran: The ‘ethical oil’ road to global trade war

Ezra Levant’s concept of ethical oil abandons the principles of free trade

By Terence Corcoran, Financial Post, Oct 12, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/10/12/terence-corcoran-the-%E2%80%98ethical-oil%E2%80%99-road-to-global-trade-war/>

[SEPP Comment: Absurd concepts follow absurd claims by the environmental industry.]

Other Scientific News

Every Chromatogram Tells a Story

Technique detects the multitude of chemical compounds in oil

By Lonny Lippsett, Oceanus, Oct 12, 2011

<http://www.who.edu/oceanus/viewArticle.do?id=117729§ionid=1000>

Measuring Billions of Elusive Neutrinos Flowing Through the Earth

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 10, 2011

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Measuring_Billions_of_Elusive_Neutrinos_Flowing_Through_the_Earth_999.html

Rethinking connection between soil as a carbon reservoir and global warming

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 11, 2011

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Rethinking_connection_between_soil_as_a_carbon_reservoir_and_global_warming_999.html

Southern California's tectonic plates revealed in detail

By Staff Writers, SPX Oct 11, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Southern_California_tectonic_plates_revealed_in_detail_999.html

Long-Lost Lake Offers Clues to Climate Change

By Greg Hand, SPX, Oct 13, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Long_Lost_Lake_Offers_Clues_to_Climate_Change_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The study is interesting. But to suggest that the disappearance of a temporary lake that was formed during the great ice melt at the end of the last Ice Age will provide clues to our future climate is stretching it.]

The Strange Rubbing Boulders Of The Atacama

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 13, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/The_Strange_Rubbing_Boulders_Of_The_Atacama_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

China says 100 mln [million] farmers to move to cities by 2020

By Staff Writers, AFP Oct 10, 2011

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/China_says_100_mln_farmers_to_move_to_cities_by_2020_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Once they see the bright lights of the city, it's hard to get them back on the farm. This was a common lament in the US in the early part of the 20th century. It led to the belief that bringing electricity to rural areas would stop the urban migration. It didn't.]

Jeremy Rifkin: wrong and wronger

Anti-capitalist -author's track record of error remains unblemished

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Oct 11, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/10/11/peter-foster-rifkin-wrong-and-wronger/>

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Columbus blamed for Little Ice Age

Depopulation of Americas may have cooled climate

By Devin Powell, Science News, [H/t Best of the Web]

http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/335168/title/Columbus_blated_for_Little_Ice_Age

[SEPP Comment: According to Michael Mann, cited in the article, the Little Ice Age did not exist. Although not uniform throughout the world, significant research indicates the Little Ice Age may have

started about 200 years before Columbus sailed; thus, the causal relationship is somewhat difficult to establish.]

Global warming to bring back Black Death?

By Steve Milloy, Canada Free Press, Oct 13, 2011

<http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/41253>

Al Gore Now a Great Lakes Expert

By Russ Harding, Mackinac Center, Oct 14, 2011

<http://www.mackinac.org/15876>

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ARTICLES:

1. Chemistry's Cinderella Story

A Nobel winner who challenged dogma.

Editorial, WSJ, Oct 10, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203476804576616891638078896.html#mod=djemEditorialPage_t

When it comes to scientific discovery, the world loves a Cinderella story: The lone genius, from Galileo to Darwin to Wegener, who bucks the received wisdom of his field and makes us see the world anew. The scientific community, however, would often prefer to keep its Cinderellas in the attic. Just ask Israel's Dan Shechtman.

Mr. Shechtman, who last week won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, is credited with the discovery in 1982 of quasicrystals, patterned but nonrepeating atomic structures that resemble the mosaics found in medieval Islamic art. For observing under an electron microscope what the scientific community held to be a physical impossibility, Mr. Shechtman was accused of "bringing disgrace" on his lab. Linus Pauling, the chemistry (and peace) Nobel, called the discovery "nonsense" and denounced Mr. Shechtman as a "quasi-scientist." It took two years before a scientific journal would deign to publish his findings.

Today, Mr. Shechtman's observations have been fully validated and quasicrystals are beginning to have commercial applications. But his story is a reminder that a consensus of scientists is no substitute for, and often a bar to, great science. That's especially so when the consensus hardens into a dogmatic and self-satisfied enterprise.

Isn't there another field in which a similar kind of consensus has taken hold, with similarly unpleasant consequences for those who question its core assumptions? Take a guess. Meantime, it's worth noting that, as with Cinderella, Mr. Shechtman's story has a happy ending. No doubt this will turn out to be true for others who dare to think different.

2. Emissions Plan Sparks Concerns

By Alessandro Torello, WSJ, Oct 13, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204774604576627132051888892.html?mod=ITP_pageone_2

[SEPP Comment: Horrors! Penalizing foreign airlines may prompt retaliation.]

BRUSSELS—Some European Union countries are raising concerns that efforts to break a deadlock with other major world economies over an EU plan to regulate greenhouse-gas emissions could end up discriminating against their own airlines.

EU law requires any airline landing at or departing from an EU airport to hold permits to emit CO2 as of next January. That has put the 27-country bloc at odds with other governments that say the EU has acted unilaterally, exerting authority beyond its borders and creating controversy that will delay global efforts to limit emissions from airlines. The European Commission, the EU executive body that originally proposed the plan, estimates it could add as much as €12 (\$16) a trip to the cost of a flight.

China threatened retaliation, and the U.S. Congress is considering legislation that would block U.S. airlines from participating in the plan.

The legislation allows the EU to exclude foreign airlines from holding permits if their home countries have adopted similar environmental measures to cut carriers' emissions, a move that could ease tensions before the law takes effect.

But some EU members say they are increasingly concerned the commission might accept measures that would penalize their own airlines.

"We believe it is necessary...to obtain detailed information about the commission's views concerning the application of the possible exclusion clause," and in particular on how the commission plans to assess the potential equivalent measures, the Italian government said in a document prepared for a meeting of EU environment ministers.

Joop Atsma, Dutch state secretary for infrastructure and the environment, supported the Italian initiative. The system, as it is outlined now, "is disturbing the level playing field in competition in the global airline industry," he said.

Germany and France, home to [Deutsche Lufthansa](#) AG and Air France KLM, Europe's two biggest airlines, are also wary of the issue, even though they continue to support the EU plan, diplomats said.

"Some member states voiced concerns that these measures could have a negative impact on the competitiveness of their national airlines," the EU said after Monday's meeting. The commission "informed [the ministers] that it has an ongoing dialogue" with the International Civil Aviation Organization, the forum where the issue of regulating global airline emissions is discussed.

The commission said governments supported the legislation, and that it will continue to implement it as planned, while also keeping discussions open with non-EU countries.

"We will continue the implementation [of the plan] and we will continue the talks with third countries," a spokesman for the commission's climate department said.

The next ICAO meeting on Nov. 2 will be key to assessing whether there is progress toward a global plan to deal with airline emissions.

Airline associations estimate the permits will cost carriers more than €17 billion through 2020. Lufthansa, for example, has said it expects the system to cost it as much as €350 million a year.

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