

# The Week That Was: 2011-11-19 (November 19, 2011)

## Brought to You by SEPP ([www.SEPP.org](http://www.SEPP.org))

### The Science and Environmental Policy Project

#####

#### Climate Change Reconsidered: 2011 Interim Report

S. Fred Singer, Craig Idso, Robert M. Carter – August 29, 2011 Published by [Heartland Institute](http://www.HeartlandInstitute.org)

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

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

#####

#### Quote of the Week:

*"If a man is offered a fact which goes against his instincts, he will scrutinize it closely, and unless the evidence is overwhelming, he will refuse to believe it. If, on the other hand, he is offered something which affords a reason for acting in accordance to his instincts, he will accept it even on the slightest evidence."*

-- Bertrand Russell [H/t Gordon Fulks]

#####

#### Number of the Week: 2

#####

#### THIS WEEK:

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

**IPCC Uncertainty?** On Friday a special report on extreme weather was released by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stating that the world can expect more extreme weather events, but perhaps not as much warming as previously predicted. The change appears prompted by the realization that nature is not obeying IPCC climate models, so why should humans? The pause in warming for about the last ten years cannot be explained by the IPCC doctrine as expressed in the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), especially the Summary for Policymakers (SPM). Will this mean that the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), scheduled for 2013 – 2014, will be more realistic than the past reports, especially in the describing consequences of realistic global warming / climate change? Or is it merely an effort to rationalize the failure of the models?

That is impossible to determine at this time, but it appears unlikely that the attribution studies will become realistic. In an interview, IPCC Chairman Rajendra Pachauri said that the glaciers of the Himalayan Mountains may not melt until 2040 or 2050, rather than the previously stated 2035 in AR4. The new prediction is only slightly less absurd than the prior one. As reported in the TWTW (e.g. November 13, 2010) the government of India discovered the IPCC knows little about the science of the Himalayan glaciers.

Ben Santer, of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, an author in all four IPCC reports, has taken an aggressive position as to the failure of nature – so what? Ten years is not a sufficient time for a trend, which may be true. Santer now states that at least 17 years is needed. Where this period came from is not determined. In previous papers, Santer stretches the error bounds of observations to claim that the observations fit the models. The act is a reversal of traditional scientific practice, to continue to refine the models to assure their error bounds are within the observations.

Interestingly, in his statements before members of Congress on Monday, Santer failed to mention the pause in warming. Also, after making disparaging remarks concerning the work of the University of Alabama, Huntsville, on satellite measurements, Santer presented the data from the work with a straight line from the start point to an end point indicating a trend that is not present in the data. The data is better interpreted as no trend from 1979 to 1997, a jump in temperatures with the super El Niño of 1998, then

little or no trend thereafter. Please see Articles # 1, #2 and links under “Defending the Orthodoxy,” and “Measurement Issues.”

\*\*\*\*\*

**Number of the Week: 2.** Billed as the *Congressional Climate Briefing to Push “End of Climate Change Skepticism”* by Representatives Edward Markey and Harry Waxman, the press conference was held in the House Natural Resources Committee room, which is designed to comfortably seat the 48 members of the committee plus staffers, witnesses, etc.

The witnesses were: Richard Muller of BEST, Ben Santer, and William Chameides of Duke.

The only member of the committee who attended was Markey, accompanied by Harry Waxman who is not a member of the committee, **bringing the total members of Congress attending to 2.**

For a contrast in reporting the event, please see the impressions of Ken Haapala, The Empty Chamber, and the report from a news service from links under “Measurement Issues.”

\*\*\*\*\*

**Durban Conference:** From November 28 to December 9, Durban, South Africa, will host the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the 2009 conference in Copenhagen some 24,000 delegates attended and 11,800 attended last year’s conference in Cancun. These conferences gave birth to the Kyoto Protocol that is due to expire at the end of 2012. No doubt the mood will be somber, there appears to be little enthusiasm to continue or expand the Protocol. Please see Article # 2 and the links under “Problems within the Orthodoxy.”

\*\*\*\*\*

**IPCC and NIPCC in China:** Last week’s TWTW referenced a review of a balanced, straightforward paper from five esteemed scientists at the distinguished Key Laboratory, the University of Peking, in Beijing. The paper, *Global Warming: The View from China*, summarizes well the differences between the findings of the IPCC and the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC). TWTW failed to give the link to the paper: <http://climategate.nl/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/fangetal.pdf>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**California Agriculture:** Shortly after he became Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu announced in a press conference in Southern California that global warming threatens agriculture in California. As pointed out in the April 2, 2011 TWTW, Secretary Chu was poorly informed on the sources of water for California’s agriculture. However, in a perverse way, the fearful response to the false threat of dangerous global warming may threaten agriculture in California, or at least make agricultural products far more expensive.

As reported in previous TWTWs (e.g. October 2, 2010) environmental zealotry has caused the sudden turn off of water during the growing season to western San Joaquin Valley, resulting in turning hundreds of thousands of acres of farm land, including tens of thousands of acres of tree orchards, into scrub land and desert. Environmental zealots claimed that the water needed for agriculture was needed by the delta smelt, even though the smelt has survived for decades of the diversion of water for agriculture.

The new threat will be the cost of transporting water for human uses. Much of the water used in Southern California comes from Northern California and from the Colorado River, to the east. Water from the north requires a lift in one location, alone, of 1926 feet, and water from the Colorado requires a total lift of 1617 feet. The electricity costs for the pumps are enormous.

California has instituted strict renewable energy mandates, necessitating electricity from unreliable solar and wind sources that will be very expensive to build and maintain and will require expensive back-up. No doubt, electricity costs will increase dramatically, which will significantly increase the cost of water. Increasing cost of water will intensify the existing conflict between water for agriculture uses and for urban uses.

In the conflict between water for fish vs. water for human agriculture, the advocates of the fish won. Probably everyone will lose in the conflict between water from human urban areas vs. human agriculture. Please see links under “California Dreaming.”

\*\*\*\*\*

**Moore’s Law:** A number of commentators have noticed that some high-tech companies from the Silicon Valley are investing in solar and wind power, stating that these entrepreneurs understand Moore’s Law. Often, these commentators have misstated Moore’s Law as predicting ever lowering prices. The law actually applies to ever-shrinking electronic circuitry, or stated differently, the increasing density of circuitry that can be placed on a chip of a particular size. This capital-intense minimization has led to declining prices.

Conversely, the size of the facilities for generating electricity from solar and wind are expanding significantly. Except for efficiencies in manufacturing, as demonstrated 100 years ago by Henry Ford, how Moore’s Law applies to solar and wind is unclear. Several commentators who correctly state Moore’s Law predict ever-lowering costs in solar and wind energy from increasing efficiencies of manufacturing. Yet, they avoid one issue. Nature, which is erratic, does not obey Moore’s Law or any other law of man. Please see links under “Alternative Clean (Green) Energy.”

\*\*\*\*\*

**James Hansen:** NASA’s James Hansen is back in the news for two reasons. He has a new paper claiming that the Moscow heat wave during 2010 and the Texas heat wave during 2011 provide a form of statistical proof of global warming. The pause in warming must be justified somehow! The study was quickly refuted by several commentators, most devastatingly by Lubos Motl.

The second reason Hansen is in the news is that he failed to report some \$1,600,000 of outside income over several years as required by his contract for government employment. Normally, TWTW would not bother with such, but this is an exception for a number of reasons. One, in 1988 with great publicity, Hansen announced with great certainty that global warming threatens humanity. Two, with great publicity, Hansen declared that President Bush was trying to muzzle him. And, three, he was cited as the scientific advisor of Al Gore’s scientifically disgraceful film. Apparently, Hansen believes that his celebrity status exempts him from the regulations that govern other government scientists. Please see links under “Defending the Orthodoxy” and “Other News.”

\*\*\*\*\*

**Zbigniew Jaworowski M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc:** Dr. Zbigniew Jaworowski has passed away. Tim Ball wrote a fitting personal tribute. It was Jaworowski who suggested the first report of NIPCC (2008) be entitled *Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate*. Please see the link under “Other Scientific News.”

#####

## **ARTICLES:**

For the numbered articles below please see this week’s TWTW at: [www.sepp.org](http://www.sepp.org). The articles are at the end of the pdf.

### **1. Why BEST Will Not Settle the Climate Debate**

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Nov 17, 2011

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/11/why\\_best\\_will\\_not\\_settle\\_the\\_climate\\_debate.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/11/why_best_will_not_settle_the_climate_debate.html)

### **2. Kyoto died long ago: RIP and good riddance**

By S. Fred Singer, *Nature Magazine*, Nov 16, 2011

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v479/n7373/full/479267b.html>

### **3. Obama's Oil Abdication**

Cuba, Mexico, the Bahamas, Canada and Russia are all moving ahead on projects adjacent to our borders.  
By Lisa Murkowski, WSJ, Nov 13, 2011  
[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204190704577026392654471870.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEFTTopOpinion](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204190704577026392654471870.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion)

#####

## **NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

### ***Climategate Continued***

#### **The EPA and Upside-Down Mann**

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Nov 13, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/2011/11/13/the-epa-and-upside-down-mann/#more-14941>

*[SEPP Comment: EPA's improperly used Mann's faulty reconstruction of temperature history to reject petitions for reconsideration of the Endangerment Finding.]*

### **Misrepresenting hide the decline**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 14, 2011

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2011/11/14/misrepresenting-hide-the-decline.html>

### ***Challenging the Orthodoxy***

#### **The chemistry of ocean pH and "acidification"**

By Brice Bosnich, Joannenova.com, Nov 17, 2011

<http://joannenova.com.au/2011/11/the-chemistry-of-ocean-ph-and-acidification/#more-18584>

Comment by Jo Nova: The ocean acidification threat is a big can of worms

### ***Defending the Orthodoxy***

#### **Mann to receive Hans Oeschger Medal from European Geosciences Union**

Press Release, Penn State, Nov 16, 2011 [H/t Paul Chesser]

[http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub\\_releases/2011-11/ps-mtr111611.php](http://www.eurekaalert.org/pub_releases/2011-11/ps-mtr111611.php)

### **GuardianEco loses the plot**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 18, 2011

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2011/11/18/guardianeco-loses-the-plot.html>

### **Deconstructing GOP's climate contradictions**

By Rep. Henry Waxman, Politico, Nov 13, 2011

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1111/68251.html>

### **Global warming speaker deservedly gets cool reception at energy summit**

By Courtney Edelhart, ICECAP, Nov 17, 2011

[http://icecap.us/index.php/go/in-the-news/global\\_warming\\_speaker\\_gets\\_cool\\_reception\\_at\\_energy\\_summit/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/in-the-news/global_warming_speaker_gets_cool_reception_at_energy_summit/)

### **U.N. Panel Finds Climate Change Behind Some Extreme Weather Events**

By Justin Gillis, NYT, Nov 18, 2011

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/19/science/earth/un-panel-finds-climate-change-behind-some-extreme-weather-events.html?\\_r=2&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/19/science/earth/un-panel-finds-climate-change-behind-some-extreme-weather-events.html?_r=2&hp)

### **Only a totalitarian New World Order can save us now says Naomi Klein**

By James Delingpole, Telegraph, UK, Nov 14, 2011

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100117165/only-a-totalitarian-new-world-order-can-save-us-now-says-naomi-klein/>

### **Pull together on climate issues, academics urged**

By Kristen Van Schie, The Star, Nov 14, 2011 [H/t Hans Schreuder]

<http://www.iol.co.za/the-star/pull-together-on-climate-issues-academics-urged-1.1175151>

### **Europe: Climate Protection Takes the Back Seat**

By Staff Writers, Natural Gas Europe, Nov 15, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.naturalgaseurope.com/europe-unconventional-gas-climate-protection-lower-priority-economic-trouble>

### ***Icon of the Movement***

#### **James Hansen and 3-sigma “proofs”**

By Lubos Motl, Reference Frame, Nov 16, 2011

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2011/11/james-hansen-and-3-sigma-proofs.html#more>

[SEPP Comment: A technical explanation of why all three of Hansen’s critical assumptions are wrong.]

#### **Hansen ignores his long list of failed predictions - finds solace in heat waves**

By Art Horn, ICECAP, Nov 16, 2011

[http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/hansens\\_ignores\\_his\\_long\\_list\\_of\\_failed\\_predictions\\_finds\\_solace\\_in\\_heat\\_wa/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/hansens_ignores_his_long_list_of_failed_predictions_finds_solace_in_heat_wa/)

### ***Questioning the Orthodoxy***

#### **Polar Bears: Reports of their demise have been greatly exaggerated**

By Roger Helmer, Member of the European Parliament, Nov 12, 2011

<http://rogerhelmermep.wordpress.com/2011/11/12/polar-bears-reports-of-their-demise-have-been-greatly-exaggerated/>

#### **The Latest Report From The IPCC Is Seeking To Rationalize The Failure Of Global Multi-Decadal Climate Models To Skillfully Predict Extreme Events In The Next Few Decades**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Nov 18, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/11/18/the-latest-report-from-the-ipcc-is-seeking-to-rationalize-the-failure-of-global-multi-decadal-climate-models-to-skillfully-predict-extreme-events-in-the-next-few-decades/>

#### **A Few Comments on the IPCC SREX Report**

By Roger Pielke, Jr, His Blog, Nov 18, 2011

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2011/11/few-comments-on-ipcc-srex-report.html>

#### **What Does CO2 Have To Do With Climate?**

By John Hinderaker, PowerLine, Nov 13, 2011

[http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2011/11/what-does-co2-have-to-do-with-climate.php?utm\\_source=pulseneews&utm\\_medium=referral&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+powerlineblog%2Flivefeed+%28Power+Line%29](http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2011/11/what-does-co2-have-to-do-with-climate.php?utm_source=pulseneews&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+powerlineblog%2Flivefeed+%28Power+Line%29)

[SEPP Comment: Continuing a controversy.]

### ***Questioning European Green***

#### **Germany’s Green Energy Revolution Falters**

Translated by Philipp Mueller, GWPF, Nov 16, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/international-news/4368-germanys-green-energy-revolution-falters.html>

### **German Proposal to Cut Solar Target Would ‘Starve’ Industry**

By Stefan Nicola, Bloomberg, Nov 17, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-11-17/german-proposal-to-cut-solar-target-would-starve-industry.html>

*[SEPP Comment: If it dies without government support, is it not an economic bubble?]*

### **Dutch fall out of love with windmills**

By Ivana Sekularac, Reuters, Nov 16, 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/16/us-dutch-wind-idUSTRE7AF1JM20111116?feedType=RSS&feedName=everything&virtualBrandChannel=11563>

### **Energy Bills to Rocket by 60%**

By Dana Gloger, Express, UK, Nov 16, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/283979/ENERGY-BILLS-TO-ROCKET-BY-60->

### **Britain's Green Suicide Gathering Pace**

By Chris Tighe, Financial Times, Nov 16, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/uk-news/4353-britains-green-suicide-gathering-pace.html>

### **Good riddance to the great solar scam**

Britain's plunge into this grotesque subsidy has come at a time when other countries have pulled back

By Dominic Lawson, The Independent, Nov 15, 2011

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/dominic-lawson/dominic-lawson-good-riddance-to-the-great-solar-scam-6262348.html>

### ***Expanding the Orthodoxy***

#### **Act now – or be locked in**

Messages from the IEA's Energy World Energy Outlook 2011

By Alex Forbes, European Energy Review, Nov 14, 2011

<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3355>

### **Climate Change: A Threat to US Security**

By Tim Wall, Discovery News, Nov 17, 2011

<http://news.discovery.com/earth/defense-scientists-want-climate-change-intel-111117.html>

### **'Climate vulnerable' countries meet in Bangladesh**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 14, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Climate\\_vulnerable\\_countries\\_meet\\_in\\_Bangladesh\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Climate_vulnerable_countries_meet_in_Bangladesh_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Need the \$100 Billion per year the UN promised from developed countries.]*

### **Climate change threatens Nile, Limpopo rivers: study**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 14, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Climate\\_change\\_threatens\\_Nile\\_Limpopo\\_rivers\\_study\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Climate_change_threatens_Nile_Limpopo_rivers_study_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Same as above.]*

### ***Problems within the Orthodoxy***

#### **Climate Change**

Negotiations in Durban over greenhouse-gas emissions should not try to revive Kyoto.

Editorial, Nature, Nov 16, 2011

[http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v479/n7373/full/479267b.html?WT.ec\\_id=NATURE-20111117](http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v479/n7373/full/479267b.html?WT.ec_id=NATURE-20111117)

### ***Seeking a Common Ground***

#### **Global Warming, Human-Induced Carbon Emissions, and Their Uncertainties**

By Fang J Y, Zhu J L, Wang S P, et al. Sci China Earth Sci, Oct. 2011, 54: 1458–1468,

doi: 10.1007/s11430-011-4292-0

<http://climategate.nl/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/fangetal.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: References NIPCC reports.]

#### **Natural Variability To Dominate Weather Events Over Coming 20-30 Years**

Press Release, GWPF, Nov 18, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/press-releases/4369-natural-variability-to-dominate-weather-events-over-coming-20-30-years.html>

#### **Debate in the Economist**

Motion: This house believes that subsidizing renewable energy is a good way to wean the world off fossil fuels.

For: Matthias Fripp: Research fellow, Environmental Change Institute and Exeter College, Oxford University

Against: Robert Bradley: Founder and chief executive officer, Institute for Energy Research

Final Vote: 48% yes; 52% no. The motion is defeated.

<http://www.economist.com/debate/debates/overview/217>

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate?***

#### **IPCC Special Report on Extreme Events**

By Judith Curry, Climate, Etc, Nov 18, 2011

<http://judithcurry.com/2011/11/18/ipcc-special-report-on-extreme-events/#more-5915>

#### **Warmists say 10 years of non-warming proves nothing. Give them another seven years**

By Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun, AU, Nov 18, 2011 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]

[http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/warmists\\_say\\_10\\_years\\_of\\_non\\_warming\\_proves\\_nothing\\_give\\_them\\_another\\_seven#93975](http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/warmists_say_10_years_of_non_warming_proves_nothing_give_them_another_seven#93975)

[SEPP Comment: It made no difference when the alarmists proclaimed that the hot year of 1998 “proved” global warming.]

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.***

#### **Climate Change Weather Effects Unknown: IPCC Report**

The Australian, Nov 18, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/4370-climate-change-weather-effects-unknown-ipcc-report.html>

#### **Regions must brace for weather extremes: UN climate panel**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 13, 2011

<http://news.yahoo.com/regions-must-brace-weather-extremes-un-climate-panel-193801167.html>

#### **More Nonsense From The Guardian On Climate Change**

By Tim Worstall, GWPF, Nov 18, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/best-of-blogs/4364-more-nonsense-from-the-guardian-on-climate-change.html>

#### **Santer: 17 year-temp records needed to separate human from natural contributions**

By Steve Milloy, ICECAP, Nov 17, 2011

[http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/santer\\_17\\_year\\_temp\\_records\\_needed\\_to\\_separate\\_human\\_from\\_natural\\_contribut/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/santer_17_year_temp_records_needed_to_separate_human_from_natural_contribut/)

### **When The BEST Ain't Good Enough, Make Stuff Up**

By Ben Pile, Climate Resistance, Nov 18, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-climate-record/4367-ben-pile-when-the-best-aint-good-enough-make-stuff-up.html>

[SEPP Comment: Goes more to the interpreters of the results than the researchers.]

### **Measurement Issues**

#### **Ex-skeptic tells US Congress climate change is real**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 14, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Ex-skeptic\\_tells\\_US\\_Congress\\_climate\\_change\\_is\\_real\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Ex-skeptic_tells_US_Congress_climate_change_is_real_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: See link below.]

#### **The Empty Chamber**

By Ken Haapala, WUWT, Nov 17, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/17/the-empty-chamber/>

[SEPP Comment: See link above.]

### **Changing Weather**

#### **Atlantic Hurricanes: Fewer, Worse .. Less Menacing**

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

<http://www.worldclimaterreport.com/index.php/2011/11/16/atlantic-hurricanes-fewer-worse%E2%80%A6less-menacing/#more-514>

#### **La Nina returns, but weaker impact seen: UN weather agency**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 17, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/La\\_Nina\\_returns\\_but\\_weaker\\_impact\\_seen\\_UN\\_weather\\_agency\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/La_Nina_returns_but_weaker_impact_seen_UN_weather_agency_999.html)

### **The Political Games Continue**

#### **The Deletion Of NOAA's Climate Service As A Separate Group Within NOAA In The Federal Budget**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Nov 18, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/11/18/the-deletion-of-noaas-climate-service-as-a-separate-group-within-noaa-in-the-federal-budget/>

This decision by the House of Representatives and the Conference Committee (which reconciles House and Senate bills) is a good one.

### **Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes**

#### **The truth will out on Labor's carbon scam**

By Miranda Devine, Telegraph, AU, Nov 17, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/opinion/the-truth-will-out-on-labors-carbon-scam/story-e6frezz0-1226197176697>

...the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, which this week issued warnings to businesses that they will face whopping fines of up to \$1.1m if they blame the carbon tax for price rises.

### **Subsidies and Mandates Forever**

## **Direct Federal Financial Interventions and Subsidies in Energy in Fiscal Year 2010**

By Staff Writers, Executive Summary, EIA, Aug 1, 2011 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.eia.gov/analysis/requests/subsidy/>

## **Energy Subsidies vs. Energy Sense: What Have We Learned in the Past 3 Years?**

By Donald Hertzmark, Master Resource, Nov 18, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/11/energy-subsidies-sense/#more-17449>

[SEPP Comment: The link to the EIA did not work. The July, 2011 EIA report can be found at:

<http://www.eia.gov/analysis/requests/subsidy/pdf/subsidy.pdf>

## ***EPA and other Regulators on the March***

### **Administration announces tighter vehicle fuel-economy standards**

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Nov 16, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/193987-administration-unveils-tighter-vehicle-fuel-economy-standards>

## **The EPA's Reliability Cover-Up**

Why did the agency erase its own doubts about the U.S. electrical grid?

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 14, 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204358004577030110213488278.html?grcc=0031643cb04d6d399776086292b5ffbcZ1&mod=WSJ\\_hps\\_sections\\_opinion](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204358004577030110213488278.html?grcc=0031643cb04d6d399776086292b5ffbcZ1&mod=WSJ_hps_sections_opinion)

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

## ***Energy Issues***

### **Canadian urges quick decision on new pipeline route**

By Rob Gilles, AP, Nov 15, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/nov/15/canadian-urges-quick-decision-on-new-pipeline-route/>

## **FP Letters to the Editor: Cleaning up a natural disaster**

Re: "Keystone XL put on hold: Nov 11

By Patrick Robinson, Tom Harris, Letters, Financial Post, Nov 14, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/11/14/fp-letters-to-the-editor-cleaning-up-a-natural-disaster/>

## ***Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?***

### **Natural Gas Is Boosting U.S. Regional Economies**

By Mark Perry, Carpe Diem, Nov 12, 2011

<http://mjerry.blogspot.com/2011/11/nat-gas-boosting-regional-economies.html>

## **US Government Confirms Link Between Earthquakes and Hydraulic Fracturing**

By John C.K. Daly, SPX, Nov 15, 2011

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/US\\_Government\\_Confirms\\_Link\\_Between\\_Earthquakes\\_and\\_Hydraulic\\_Fracturing\\_99.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/US_Government_Confirms_Link_Between_Earthquakes_and_Hydraulic_Fracturing_99.html)

[SEPP Comment: Questionable conclusions, there is big difference between an area with faults and areas without faults.]

## ***Administration's Control of Oil and Gas***

### **Obama's Indefensible Pipeline Punt**

By Vaclav Smil, The American, Nov 15, 2011

<http://american.com/archive/2011/november/obamas-indefensible-pipeline-punt>

### **TransCanada backs new route for stalled US pipeline**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 14, 2011

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/TransCanada\\_backs\\_new\\_route\\_for\\_stalled\\_US\\_pipeline\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/TransCanada_backs_new_route_for_stalled_US_pipeline_999.html)

### **The Keystone Debacle**

Was Obama's decision to delay the Canadian oil pipeline shrewd politics? Maybe not.

By Lucian Pugliaresi, WSJ, Nov 16, 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204190504577037754000084544.html#mod=djemEditorialPage\\_t](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204190504577037754000084544.html#mod=djemEditorialPage_t)

### **Offshore industry hopes for grace period on new rules**

By Jennifer Dlouhy, Houston Chronicle, Nov 14, 2011

<http://www.chron.com/business/article/Offshore-industry-hopes-for-grace-period-on-new-2269335.php>

### ***Oil Spills & Consequences***

#### **Chevron Brazil says it will seal errant oil well**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 15, 2011

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Chevron\\_Brazil\\_says\\_it\\_will\\_seal\\_errant\\_oil\\_well\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Chevron_Brazil_says_it_will_seal_errant_oil_well_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Apparently the leak is calculated to be 400 bbls per day.]

### ***Nuclear Energy and Fears***

#### **UN atomic agency praises Fukushima clean-up**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 15, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UN\\_atomic\\_agency\\_praises\\_Fukushima\\_clean-up\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UN_atomic_agency_praises_Fukushima_clean-up_999.html)

#### **EON to sue Germany over nuclear exit**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 14, 2011

[http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/EON\\_to\\_sue\\_Germany\\_over\\_nuclear\\_exit\\_999.html](http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/EON_to_sue_Germany_over_nuclear_exit_999.html)

#### **Restart begins at North Anna**

By Staff Writers, WNN, Nov 14, 2011

[http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS-Restart\\_begins\\_at\\_North\\_Anna-14111107.html?utm\\_source=World+Nuclear+News&utm\\_campaign=7014e42f21-WNN\\_Weekly\\_8\\_14\\_November\\_201111\\_14\\_2011&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS-Restart_begins_at_North_Anna-14111107.html?utm_source=World+Nuclear+News&utm_campaign=7014e42f21-WNN_Weekly_8_14_November_201111_14_2011&utm_medium=email)

[SEPP Comment: The plant was shut down after the August 23 earthquake that hit Virginia.]

### ***Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy***

#### **A Gold Rush of Subsidies in the Search for Clean Energy**

By Eric Lipton and Clifford Krauss, NYT, Nov 11, 2011

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/12/business/energy-environment/a-cornucopia-of-help-for-renewable-energy.html?\\_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=th2](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/12/business/energy-environment/a-cornucopia-of-help-for-renewable-energy.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=th2)

[SEPP Comment: The New York Times finally gets it!]

#### **Despite Paul Krugman's Cheerleading, Solar Energy Has A Cloudy Future**

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Nov 15, 2011

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2011/11/15/despite-paul-krugmans-cheerleading-solar-energy-has-a-cloudy-future/>

## **Secretary Chu's 'Clean Energy Race' Blather**

There simply is no green energy race with China. No one needs the product.

By Marlo Lewis, PJ Media, Nov 18, 2011

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/secretary-chu%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98clean-energy-race%E2%80%99-blather/>

## **Onshore wind: Grid parity by 2016**

By Staff Writers, WEU, Nov 14, 2011

[http://social.windenergyupdate.com/uncategorised/weekly-intelligence-brief-november-7-%E2%80%93-november-14?utm\\_source=WEU%2BNewsletter%2B1511&utm\\_medium=E-Brief%2B1511&utm\\_campaign=WEU](http://social.windenergyupdate.com/uncategorised/weekly-intelligence-brief-november-7-%E2%80%93-november-14?utm_source=WEU%2BNewsletter%2B1511&utm_medium=E-Brief%2B1511&utm_campaign=WEU)

*[SEPP Comment: Parity without reliability.]*

## **Paul Krugman Flunks Moore's Law**

He apparently has spent too much time in the sun.

By William Tucker, American Specator, Nov 15, 2011

<http://spectator.org/archives/2011/11/15/paul-krugman-flunks-moores-law>

## **Is There A Moore's Law For Solar?**

By Michael Kanellos, Forbes, Nov 9, 2011

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelkanellos/2011/11/09/is-there-a-moores-law-for-solar/>

## **Is the Photovoltaic Price Trend Sustainable?**

By Geoffrey Styles, Energy Tribune, Nov 18, 2011

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/9192/Is-the-Photovoltaic-Price-Trend-Sustainable?>

## **Investment bubble: Is the wind energy sector about to pop?**

With investment in green energy at an all-time high, wind energy developers and operators have never had it so good. But is there a risk that things are perhaps a little too good?

By Jason Deign in Barcelona, WEU, Nov 14, 2011

[http://social.windenergyupdate.com/turbine-supply-chain/investment-bubble-wind-energy-sector-about-pop?utm\\_source=WEU%2BNewsletter%2B1511&utm\\_medium=E-Brief%2B1511&utm\\_campaign=WEU](http://social.windenergyupdate.com/turbine-supply-chain/investment-bubble-wind-energy-sector-about-pop?utm_source=WEU%2BNewsletter%2B1511&utm_medium=E-Brief%2B1511&utm_campaign=WEU)

## **Latest on Biofuels**

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Nov 18, 2011

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2011/11/18/latest-on-biofuels/>

## **Carbon Schemes**

### **CCS in Europe under serious threat**

By Sonja van Renssen, Nov 17, 2011

[http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id\\_mailing=223&toegang=115f89503138416a242f40fb7d7f338e&id=3361](http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id_mailing=223&toegang=115f89503138416a242f40fb7d7f338e&id=3361)

He points to what has already been achieved: an EU directive setting up a regulatory framework for storage, a €1bn investment from EU economic recovery funds, the promise of carbon market funds to come, and a strong base for knowledge sharing in the form of the CCS Network.

*[SEPP Comment: How much more do they need?]*

## **California Dreaming**

### **The energy, and expense, of bringing water to the Southland**

The twin forces of power costs and climate-change regulations are threatening Southern California's long love affair with imported water, forcing the region to consider more mundane sources closer to home.

By Bettina Boxall, LA Times, Nov 13, 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-water-power-20111114,0,6079847.story>

### **California Approves High-Priced Mojave Solar Project Over Objections**

By Todd Woody, Forbes, Nov 10, 2011

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/toddwoody/2011/11/10/california-approves-high-priced-mojave-solar-project-over-objections/>

### ***Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC***

***For a full list of articles see [www.NIPCCreport.org](http://www.NIPCCreport.org)***

### **Upper Tropical Tropospheric Temperature: Simulations vs. Reality**

Reference: Fu, Q., Manabe, S. and Johanson, C.M. 2011. On the warming in the tropical upper troposphere: Models versus observations. *Geophysical Research Letters* 38: 10.1029/2011GL048101.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/15nov2011a1.html>

"in view of the importance of the enhanced tropical upper tropospheric warming to the climate sensitivity and to the change of atmospheric circulations, it is critically important to understand the causes responsible for the discrepancy between the models and observations."

### **Organismal Response to Ocean Acidification: The Role of Evolution**

Reference: Sunday, J.M., Crim, R.N., Harley, C.D.G. and Hart, M.W. 2011. Quantifying rates of evolutionary adaptation in response to ocean acidification. *PLoS ONE* 6: e22881.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/15nov2011a3.html>

### **Identifying Natural Contributions to Late Holocene Climate Change**

Reference: Humlum, O., Solheim, J.-K. and Stordahl, K. 2011. Identifying natural contributions to late Holocene climate change. *Global and Planetary Change* 79: 145-156.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/16nov2011a2.html>

### **Global Warming and the Greening of Northwest China**

Reference: Zhao, X., Tan, K., Zhao, S. and Fang, J. 2011. Changing climate affects vegetation growth in the arid region of the northwestern China. *Journal of Arid Environments* 75: 946-952.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/16nov2011a4.html>

### **Has the Magnitude of Floods Across the USA Changed with Global CO2 Levels?**

Reference: Hirsch, R.M. and Ryberg, K.R. 2011. Has the magnitude of floods across the USA changed with global CO2 levels? *Hydrological Sciences Journal* DOI:10.1080/02626667.2011.621895.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/16nov2011a5.html>

### ***Oh Mann!***

#### **Why I want Mike Mann's Emails**

By David Schnare, WUWT, Nov 14, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/14/why-i-want-mike-manns-emails/>

### ***Other Scientific News***

#### **Zbigniew Jaworowski M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc**

By Tim Ball, His Blog, Nov 14, 2011

<http://drtimball.com/2011/zbigniew-jaworowski-m-d-ph-d-d-sc/>

## **Deforestation causes cooling in Northern US and Canada**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 18, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Deforestation\\_causes\\_cooling\\_in\\_Northern\\_US\\_and\\_Canada\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Deforestation_causes_cooling_in_Northern_US_and_Canada_999.html)

The impact of deforestation on global warming varies with latitude, according to new research from a team of scientists representing 20 institutions from around the world.

*[SEPP Comment: For those who have spent time with minimal shelter in the North Woods in the winter, this is not a surprising finding. But it should be articulated as regional finding not a global finding.]*

## **Will this Red Planet rover send groundbreaking data over?**

The Mars Science Laboratory – nicknamed Curiosity – was developed at JPL and will be the fourth rover to traverse the planet's harsh terrain. But unlike the earlier Martian vehicles, Curiosity will do more than look for evidence of water.

By Mike Anton, Los Angeles Times, Nov 13, 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-mars-rover-20111113,0,6643188.story>

*[SEPP Comment: It does not obtain its energy from solar panels, but from PU-238. Should DOE be considering the same?]*

## **A squid mystery in Mexican waters is unraveled by a Stanford biologist and a class of biology students**

Stanford marine biologist William Gilly is studying Humboldt squid in Mexico's Sea of Cortez, where the creatures have been spawning at a much younger age and a far smaller size than normal. El Niño is apparently to blame.

By Louis Bergeron, Stanford News, Nov 17, 2011 [H/t WUWT]

<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2011/november/gilly-humboldt-squid-111711.html>

## ***Other News that May Be of Interest***

### **Dr. James Hansen's growing financial scandal, now over a million dollars of outside income**

By Christopher Horner, Posted by Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 18, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/18/dr-james-hansens-growing-financial-scandal-now-over-a-million-dollars-of-outside-income/>

*[SEPP Comment: Hansen obtained great publicity when he claimed, falsely, that President Bush was attempting to muzzle him. Failure to properly report over \$1,600,000 is hardly a minor oversight.]*

#####

### **BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

#### **Europe Bans X-Ray Body Scanners Used at U.S. Airports**

By Michael Grabell, ProPublica, Nov 15, 2011

<http://www.propublica.org/article/europe-bans-x-ray-body-scanners-used-at-u.s.-airports>

Although the amount of radiation is extremely low, equivalent to the radiation a person would receive in a few minutes of flying, several research studies have concluded that a small number of cancer cases would result from scanning hundreds of millions of passengers a year.

*[SEPP Comment: The linear-no threshold model at its best. Many EPA studies are as ridiculous.]*

#### **Bolivia expects huge benefits from Chinese-built satellite**

By Staff Writers, XNA, Nov 14, 2011

[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Bolivia\\_expects\\_huge\\_benefits\\_from\\_Chinese\\_built\\_satellite\\_999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Bolivia_expects_huge_benefits_from_Chinese_built_satellite_999.html)

...the satellite will benefit Bolivia, one of Latin America's least developed countries, in different areas such as education, medicine and communication.

## Bioenergy Key to Global Growth

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 18, 2011

[http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Bioenergy\\_Key\\_to\\_Global\\_Growth\\_999.html](http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Bioenergy_Key_to_Global_Growth_999.html)

## Hormonal water tied to prostate cancer?

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Nov 17, 2011

[http://www.acsh.org/factsfears/newsID.3179/news\\_detail.asp](http://www.acsh.org/factsfears/newsID.3179/news_detail.asp)

## Groundbreaking study quantifies health costs of climate-change related disasters in the US

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 14, 2011

[http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Groundbreaking\\_study\\_quantifies\\_health\\_costs\\_of\\_climate\\_change\\_related\\_disasters\\_in\\_the\\_US\\_999.html](http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Groundbreaking_study_quantifies_health_costs_of_climate_change_related_disasters_in_the_US_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: What nonsense! Another NRDC study, this one from 2002 to 2009. What were the costs of the great Mississippi floods of the 1920s or the great dust bowl of the 1930s?]

#####

## ARTICLES:

### 1. Why BEST Will Not Settle the Climate Debate

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Nov 17, 2011

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/11/why\\_best\\_will\\_not\\_settle\\_the\\_climate\\_debate.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/11/why_best_will_not_settle_the_climate_debate.html)

Global warming has re-entered public consciousness in recent days, partly because of the buzz surrounding the release of warming results from the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature (BEST) project. The reaction of the "warmistas" has been jubilant, yet hilariously wrong. Will they ever learn?

They've latched on to the BEST result as their last best hope for rescuing misbegotten schemes to control emissions of the greenhouse gas CO<sub>2</sub>. Leading the pack has been the *Washington Post* (Oct. 25), whose columnist tried to write off Republican presidential candidates Bachmann, Cain, and Perry as "cynical diehards," deniers, idiots, or whatever.

I sent the WP a letter pointing out obvious errors, but I got a peculiar response. It turned out that they were willing to publish my letter, but not my credentials as emeritus professor at the University of Virginia and former director of the U.S. Weather Satellite Service. Apparently, they were concerned that readers might gain the impression that I knew something about climate.

Unfortunately, it has become expedient (for those who condemn CO<sub>2</sub> as the cause of warming) to deride their opponents with terms like "climate deniers." A complacent and inattentive media has made the problem worse, by giving the impression that anyone who doesn't buy the CO<sub>2</sub> hypothesis doesn't believe that climate changes, and hence is a total Luddite. Even the WSJ got carried away. Prof. Richard Muller, the originator and leader of the BEST study, complained to me that some eager editor changed the title of his op-ed (Oct. 21) to "The Case Against Global-Warming Skepticism" from his original "Cooling the Global Warming Debate."

The (formerly respected) scientific journal *Nature* chimed in and announced in an (Oct. 26) editorial[i] that any results confirming "climate change" (meaning anthropogenic global warming -- AGW) are welcome, even when released before peer review. Of course, we've known for many years that *Nature* does not welcome any *contrary* science results, but it's nice to have this confirmation.

Their hearts filled with bubbling joy and their brains befuddled, none of the warmistas have apparently listened to the somewhat skeptical pronouncements from Prof. Muller. He emphasizes that the analysis is based only on land data, covering less than 30% of the earth's surface and housing recording stations that are poorly distributed, mainly in the U.S. and Western Europe. In addition, he admits that 70% of U.S.

stations are badly sited and don't meet the standards set by government; the rest of the world is probably worse. He disclaims to know the cause of the warming found by BEST and favors naturally caused oscillations of the atmosphere-ocean system that no climate model has yet simulated or explained.

The fact that the BEST results agree with previously published analyses of warming trends from land stations may indicate only that there is something very wrong with all of these. There are two entirely different ways to interpret this agreement on surface warming. It might indicate important confirmation, but logic allows for an alternate possibility: since both results rely on surface thermometers, they are not really independent and could be subject to similar fundamental errors. For example, both datasets could be affected by urban heat islands or other non-global effects -- like local heating of airports, where traffic has been growing steadily.

But the main reason I have remained a skeptic is that the atmosphere, unlike the land surface, has shown no warming during the crucial period (1978-1997), either over land or over ocean, according to satellites and independent data from weather balloons. And did you know that climate models run on high-speed computers all insist that the atmosphere must warm faster than the surface -- and so does atmospheric theory?

BEST has no data from the oceans, which cover 71% of the planet's surface. True, oceans are not subject to urban heat islands, but they have problems with instrumentation. It is very likely that the reported warming during 1978-97 is simply an artifact -- the result of the measurement scheme rather than an actual warming. Anyway, supporting data don't show any ocean warming, either.

And finally, we have non-thermometer temperature data from so-called proxies: tree rings, ice cores, lake and ocean sediments, stalagmites. Most of these haven't shown any warming since 1940!

Contrary to some commentary, BEST in no way confirms the scientifically discredited hockey stick graph, which was based on multi-proxy analysis and had been so eagerly adopted by climate alarmists. In fact, the hockey stick authors never published their post-1978 temperatures in their 1998 paper in *Nature* - or since. Their proxy record suddenly just stops in 1978 -- and is then replaced by a thermometer record that shows rapid warming. The reason for hiding the post-1978 proxy data: it's likely that they show no warming. Why don't we try to find out?

None of the warmistas can explain why the climate hasn't warmed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, while CO<sub>2</sub> has been increasing rapidly. It's no wonder that Herman Cain, a former math and computer science major in college, says that "man-made global warming is poppycock" (NYT, Nov. 12). He blames climate fears on "scientists who tried to concoct the science" and "were busted because they tried to manipulate the data."

Mr. Cain is not far from the truth -- at least when one listens to Rich Muller. Muller's careful to make no claim whatsoever that the warming he finds is due to human causes. He tells us that one third of the stations show cooling, not warming. Muller admits that "the uncertainty [involved in these stations] is large compared to the analyses of global warming." He nevertheless insists that if he uses a large enough set of bad numbers, he could get a good average. I am not so sure.

Muller thinks that he has eliminated the effects of local heating, like urban heat islands. But this is a difficult undertaking, and many doubt that the BEST study has been successful in this respect. Some of Muller's severest critics are fellow physicists: Lubos Motl in the Czech Republic and Don Rapp in California. Somewhat harshly, perhaps, Rapp would change the study designation from BEST to "WORST" (World Overview of Representative Station Temperatures).

I am one of those doubters. While many view the apparent agreement of BEST with previous analyses as confirmation, I wonder about the logic. It might be a good idea if BEST would carry out some prudent internal checks:

\*\* Plot number of stations used between 1970 and 2000 and make sure that there have been no significant changes in what I call the "demographics": station latitudes, altitudes, or anything that could induce an artificial warming trend.

\*\*I would pay particular attention to the fraction of temperature records from airport stations -- generally considered among the best-maintained, but subject to large increases in local warming.

\*\* I would also decompose the global record of BEST into regions to see if the results hold up.

Of course, the most important checks must come from records that are independent of weather station thermometers: atmospheric temperatures, ocean temperatures, and temperatures from non-thermometer proxy data. But even then, it may be difficult to pinpoint the exact causes of climate change.

I conclude, therefore, that the balance of evidence favors little if any global warming during 1978-1997. It contradicts the main conclusion of the IPCC -- i.e., that recent warming is "*very likely*" (90-99% certain) caused by anthropogenic greenhouse gases like CO<sub>2</sub>.

And finally, what to do if CO<sub>2</sub> is the main cause, and if a modest warming has bad consequences -- as so many blindly assume? I am afraid that the BEST project and Muller are of no help.

On the one hand, Muller is dismissive of policies to control CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the U.S. -- much less in his State of California. In an Oct. 31 interview with the Capital Report of New Mexico, he stated:

... the public needs to know this, that anything we do in the United States will not affect global warming by a significant amount. Because, all projections show that most of the future carbon dioxide is going to be coming from China, India, and the developing world. ... [A]nything we do that will not be followed by China and India is basically wasted.

On the other hand, Muller told MSNBC's *Morning Joe* (Nov.14):

[W]e're getting very steep warming ... we are dumping enough carbon dioxide into the atmosphere that we're working in a dangerous realm, where I think, we may really have trouble in the next coming decades.

So take your choice. But remember -- there is no evidence at all for significant future warming. BEST is a valuable effort, but it does not settle the climate debate.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **2. Kyoto died long ago: RIP and good riddance**

By S. Fred Singer, *Nature Magazine*, Nov 16, 2011

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v479/n7373/full/479267b.html>

The 1997 Kyoto Protocol, due to expire in 2012, will be 14 years old next month; it has been on life support for all its existence. It should never have been born. If there was ever a case for abortion, this is it: a classic case of incest combined with rape. I trace its origin mainly to the zealous midwifery of Al Gore and Tim Wirth, both former US senators. That was before others discovered that Kyoto could be used as a

vehicle for transferring money from unsuspecting taxpayers into their own pockets — while claiming to “save” humanity, the climate, the world -- whatever.

Its “scientific” underpinning came from the infamous phrase in the Summary of the IPCC report of 1996: “ the balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate.” In turn, this insubstantial, ambiguous phrase was based on Chapter 8 of the Report itself, which incorporated a “doctored” graph (i.e. changed from its original published version), another key graph that used data selectively, and finally, wholesale alterations in the text – made just before printing, after it had been approved by its scientist-authors. These text changes carefully removed any phrases skeptical of anthropogenic contributions and substituted phrases like “The body of statistical evidence ... now points to a discernible human influence on global climate.? [See F. Seitz in Wall Street J, Aug. 13,2006; Nature 381, 2006; SF Singer, Energy&Env 22, 2011].

The economic damage inflicted worldwide is hard to overestimate; it must surely amount to hundreds of billions of dollars. Most of it has been sheer waste; developing nations hoping for a bonanza got mostly promises. What a pity! So much good could have been done if these resources had been used to address real societal problems. I will leave it to others to do the accounting of where the money went, and estimate also the ongoing and future costs that are traceable to the misguided science and politics that spawned the Protocol.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **3. Obama's Oil Abdication**

Cuba, Mexico, the Bahamas, Canada and Russia are all moving ahead on projects adjacent to our borders.

By Lisa Murkowski, WSJ, Nov 13, 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204190704577026392654471870.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEFTTopOpinion](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204190704577026392654471870.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion)

Last week the Obama administration proposed a modest expansion of offshore oil drilling in the Arctic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico in its first concessions on offshore production since last year's Deepwater Horizon spill. The five-year plan would, however, keep Atlantic and Pacific sites off-limits in order to avoid a controversial decision before the 2012 election.

As we continue our endless debate on whether we should have more Outer Continental Shelf development and where, all our neighbors have chosen to proceed. Cuba, Mexico, the Bahamas, Canada and Russia are all moving ahead on offshore development adjacent to our borders.

Each of those nations has weighed the economic benefits of offshore production against the potential environmental risks. All five have decided it is in their best interest to proceed. This means two things for our nation.

First, we fail to boost our offshore production at our own expense. America's neighbors are not drilling for fun or for sport; they've chosen to proceed to create new jobs, generate new revenues, and increase the energy supply and prosperity of their citizens.

If America pursues greater offshore development—with appropriate safeguards—the same benefits will manifest within our borders. Jobs will be created. Federal and state treasuries will receive a much-needed boost from royalties and leasing revenues. Our tremendously costly and dangerous dependence on foreign oil will be slashed.

Right now, America needs all of the benefits that offshore development provides, and we have more than enough resources to make it happen.

According to the Department of the Interior, our offshore areas hold more than 86 billion barrels of recoverable oil and 420 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The Arctic Ocean alone is projected to hold 20% of the world's undiscovered oil and gas. Yes, opening up regions in the Arctic and the Gulf of Mexico to leases is a positive step, but it does not nearly go far enough.

If we refuse to produce more of our energy resources, we will lose significant opportunities to rebuild our economy and restore our international competitiveness. But that's not the only looming consequence. Less obvious, but just as real, are the environmental impact that may still result even if we refuse to boost offshore production.

Like it or not, development is now under way in waters all around us. Mexico is advancing on a deepwater well only 22 miles from U.S. waters in the Gulf of Mexico. Before year's end, Cuba is scheduled to drill 60 miles from Key West, and the Bahamas are proceeding with leases not much farther away. Canada is actively drilling projects not far from Maine's coastline and proceeding towards development in the Beaufort Sea, just east of Alaskan waters. Along Alaska's western boundary, Russia is aggressively moving into the Arctic Ocean, with exploration at the very edge of the boundary of Alaskan waters.

In a few years, the U.S. could wind up in a regrettable position—exposed to all of the risks of offshore development but with no control and none of the rewards. Imagine that foreign development is not done to our standards and a spill occurs. Neither geology nor ocean currents will respect our national boundaries. In some areas, like the Beaufort and Chukchi seas, the only way we will have oil-spill response capabilities in place or within a reasonable distance is if we are pursuing our own offshore development.

Sitting on the sidelines will also mean we have minimal influence on the standards and regulations for foreign operations. Regardless of our relations with neighbors, it's not realistic to expect them to match our requirements if we are not demonstrating that they are both workable and profitable.

Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Michael Bromwich recently testified that, while some gaps exist in spill response, the U.S. has "huge advantages based on the number of decades we've been involved in this business of exploring and producing offshore."

He's right. And so today, we face a stark choice. We can sit between active drilling operations in neighboring countries, complaining that it's too risky to develop our own resources while the world around us does exactly that. In this case, we will lose the economic opportunities but still face essentially the same environmental threats. That makes no sense.

Our nation's best option is not to lag but to lead on offshore development—not only so that we can show others how it's done, but also to ensure our own protection and prosperity. The time for that leadership is now, not at some more politically convenient time after next year's election.

*Ms. Murkowski, a Republican, is a U.S. senator from Alaska.*

#####