

**The Week That Was: 2011-11-26 (November 26, 2011)  
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

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**SEASONS GREETINGS**

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**SEASONS GREETINGS**

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**Quote of the Week:**

*On two occasions I have been asked, "Pray, Mr. Babbage, if you put into the machine wrong figures, will the right answers come out?" I am not able rightly to apprehend the kind of confusion of ideas that could provoke such a question.* - Charles Babbage, mathematician and computer scientist (1791-1871)

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**Number of the Week: 5,300**

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**THIS WEEK:**

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

**Climategate II:** Early this week another batch of emails from the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at the University of East Anglia started appearing on the internet, apparently first identified by Jeff Id and his Air Vent blog. Over the week it became increasingly evident that the many, if not all, are authentic and were copied at the same time as the first batch of emails that were released two years ago, leading to Climategate.

The University immediately denounced the leak and called it a theft, without substantiation. It could be a hacker or someone very familiar with the CRU. The situation is somewhat analogous to what became known as the Pentagon Papers. Secretly started as a history of the Vietnam War by the Secretary of Defense McNamara during the Johnson administration, these papers were highly critical of how four administrations misled the public as to their intent in Vietnam and were especially critical of the Johnson Administration. The papers were classified top secret.

Without authorization, Daniel Ellsberg copied the papers and subsequently gave the copies to the *New York Times*, which began publishing excerpts, terming them a leak rather than a theft. TWTW will follow the example set by the NYT, and call the Climategate emails a leak.

As with the original, Climategate II involves email correspondence among various individuals, the “team,” who are highly influential in preparing the reports of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as well as other reports such as those by the US Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) and a climate change report by the US National Research Council (NRC).

Global warming alarmists and their supporters in the press have tried to down play the leak by claiming they contain nothing new. Certainly, there is nothing new in the methods, but Climategate II gives additional detail on how members of the team misled the public and manipulated the contents of so-called scientific reports. In the links provided below, and in links that can be sourced from them, many examples can be found.

Among efforts to mislead the public as to the certainty of the global warming science, both Roger Pielke, Sr. and Roger Pielke, Jr, on their respective web sites, explain how research was dropped from important documents. Pielke Sr. explains how the NRC, Ben Santer (US Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory) and Phil Jones (CRU) inappropriately interfered with much needed further research to reconcile surface temperature trends with tropospheric temperature trends.

Roger Pielke, Jr. explains how his research was excluded from the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4). What is particularly ludicrous is the charge by Jones and Kevin Trenberth (US National Center for Atmospheric Research) that the Pielke, et al, scientific paper was political. The IPCC is a political organization with scientific pretensions. Lead chapter authors of the IPCC calling a scientific paper political is illustrative of how the team twists language as the need requires.

The emails show the team was very aware that the warming of the troposphere above the tropics was not occurring as predicted in the models. This has been called the distinct human fingerprint. Ben Santer, et al, have attempted to cover up this disparity by expanding the error bounds of measurements, but their study is vague, at best. On November 14, 2011 Ben Santer participated in a public briefing of Representatives Ed Markey and Harry Waxman. Santer specifically discussed human fingerprints in global warming but failed to discuss the disparity between models and measurements over the tropics. Apparently, at least some members of the team cannot be relied upon to accurately present the state of the science to members of Congress.

Given the events this week, it may be appropriate to re-read John Brignell’s essay “How we know they know they are lying:” <http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/lying.htm>

Please links under “Climategate Continued,” “Suppressing Scientific Inquiry” and Singer June, 2011 [http://www.sepp.org/science\\_papers/Santer\\_critique\\_EnE\\_June2011\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.sepp.org/science_papers/Santer_critique_EnE_June2011_FINAL.pdf)

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**Commentary on Climate Science:** Following release of Climategate II emails, Roy Spencer explains why he believes the major source of the problem, in the US, is with the failure of Congress to fund the opposing point of view – that the causes of climate change are mostly natural. If this was done, the IPCC would be subject to very strong scientific criticism and perhaps science would advance rather than be mired in the notion that the principal cause of global warming is human emissions of carbon dioxide. Members of SEPP have mentioned such a view to funding authorities, with no avail.

Some may find this view a bit cynical. They may reflect on past generations of government funded scientists, who considered scientific integrity paramount, and desire a return to such a view.

Yet, during the debates on the adoption of the US Constitution the wisdom of a more centralized government was intensely argued. Even those who supported a stronger central government recognized

that power attracts the ambitious, and for that reason proposed pitting power against power. Considering the size of many science research budgets, the \$31 Billion the GAO has identified as going to climate science alone from 1993 through Fiscal Year 2010 is enough to attract the ambitious.

Tim Ball and Roger Pielke, Sr, have provided different commentary. Although not specifically commenting on Climategate II, Ball points out that the IPCC was not founded to understand the causes of global warming / climate change but to discover human causes. The failure to establish a baseline of natural causes has led to the willingness of the IPCC to emphasize only the data that supports human causes and largely ignore natural causes. Carbon dioxide emissions became the culprit.

In commenting on an article in *Physics Today*, Pielke Sr. emphasizes that the increasing vagueness of the language used by the global warming alarmists leads to obfuscation of scientific endeavors. He distinguishes between human caused climate change and global warming caused by human emissions of carbon dioxide.

In a paper released about the same time as the Climategate II emails, Ross McKittrick discusses what he thinks needs to be changed in the IPCC process before the IPCC can be considered a reliable source for science. He provides case studies of flaws in entire IPCC process. No doubt, Climategate II will further support his contentions.

Please see links under “Challenging the Orthodoxy,” “Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate or Obfuscate,” and “Seeking a Common Ground.”

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**Number of the Week: 5,300.** According to reports, that is approximately the number of emails released in Climategate II. No doubt, many are ordinary correspondence, but some are revealing. Also according to reports, over 200,000 are encrypted behind a very difficult to crack code.

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**Correction and Amplification:** TWTW reader Sonja A. Boehmer-Christiansen corrected a statement in the December 12 TWTW: “Investigative reporting, such as Donna Laframboise's exposé of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), needed to be done years ago.” Such exposés have appeared in the literature since the 1990s, but largely ignored. She wishes Donna Laframboise better luck than she and her colleagues have experienced. As always, TWTW greatly appreciates corrections and amplifications.

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## 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. A Bad Year for Climate Alarmism

By Fred Singer, Letter to Washington Post, Nov 19, 2011, Not published  
No URL

### 2. Lisa Jackson's Freudian Slip

An unintentionally revealing interview from the EPA chief.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 22, 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article\\_email/SB10001424052970204531404577052433410209746-1MyQjAxMTAxMDIwMjEyNDIyWj.html?mod=wsj\\_share\\_email](http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424052970204531404577052433410209746-1MyQjAxMTAxMDIwMjEyNDIyWj.html?mod=wsj_share_email)

### 3. U.K. Report Gives Clean-Energy Costs

By James Herron, WSJ, Nov 24, 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204452104577056150797645974.html?mod=WSJ\\_Energy\\_leftHeadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204452104577056150797645974.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines)

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**NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

***Climategate Continued***

**Welcome to the ClimateGate FOIA Grepper!!!**

<http://www.ecowho.com/foia.php> [H/t Jo Nova]

[SEPP Comment: A searchable service for both Climategate I & II emails.]

**Release of climate emails - November 2011**

Press Release, University of East Anglia, Nov 22, 2011

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/mac/comm/media/press/CRUstatements/statements/CRUnov11>

**Climategate 2.0 emails – They’re real and they’re spectacular!**

By News Staff, WUWT, Nov 22, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/22/climategate-2-0/>

**Private Expressions of Uncertainty**

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Nov 23, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/2011/11/23/private-expressions-of-uncertainty/>

One of the main themes of the emails is scientists admitting problems privately that they did not clearly admit in public. Ross has emailed me a few starters. Again no editorializing, just listing.

**A Somewhat Late Response to Schneider**

By Ross McKittrick, Climate Audit, Nov 25, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/2011/11/25/a-somewhat-late-response-to-schneider/>

**A new Climategate scandal, familiar cast of characters**

In the wake of Climategate 2.0, action on the IPCC is more needed than ever

By Terence Corcoran, Financial Post, Nov 22, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/11/22/terence-corcoran-climategate-2-0-reveals-familiar-cast-of-characters-blundering-glory/>

**Climategate, Part Duh!**

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Nov 22, 2011

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/>

***Suppressing Scientific Inquiry***

**An E-Mail Communication Between Phil Jones and Ben Santer Indicating Inappropriate Behavior By The US National Research Council**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Nov 25, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/11/25/an-e-mail-communication-between-phil-jones-and-ben-santer-indicating-inappropriate-behavior-by-the-us-national-research-council/>

This is a remarkable e-mail since it indicates that the NRC was in collusion with Phil Jones to suppress issues that I brought up as lead author on the CCSP chapter 6. Chapter 6 was tasked to focus on what further research issues need to be explored to reconcile surface and tropospheric temperature trends.

**FOIA2011 on The Shameful Paper**

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Nov 23, 2011

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2011/11/foia2011-on-shameful-paper.html>

there is a 2005 exchange between Trenberth and Phil Jones about this paper which shows them deciding together to exclude the paper from the IPCC for "political" reasons, and it was indeed excluded.

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

#### **IPCC Climate Claims Falsified by 2010 Record High CO2 Levels.**

By Tim Ball, His Blog, Nov 23, 2011

<http://drtimball.com/2011/ipcc-climate-claims-falsified-by-2010-record-high-co2-levels/>

#### **Climate Sensitivity Estimated from Temperature Reconstructions of the Last Glacial Maximum**

Andreas Schmittner<sup>1,\*</sup>, Nathan M. Urban<sup>2</sup>, Jeremy D. Shakun<sup>3</sup>, Natalie M. Mahowald<sup>4</sup>, Peter U. Clark<sup>5</sup>, Patrick J. Bartlein<sup>6</sup>, Alan C. Mix<sup>1</sup>, Antoni Rosell-Melé<sup>7</sup>, Science, Nov 24, 2011

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2011/11/22/science.1203513.abstract?sid=2cb460be-b25b-4bd3-823d-528e362d94c4>

#### **Climate change fears 'have been exaggerated' and doomsday predictions are overestimates, say scientists**

By Fiona Macrae, Daily Mail, Nov 25, 2011 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2065954/Climate-change-fears-exaggerated-say-scientists-claim-apocalyptic-predictions-unlikely.html>

#### **Global Warming Forecasts 'Exaggerated'**

By David Whitehouse, The Observatory, Nov 25, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/4422-global-warming-forecasts-exaggerated.html>

#### **CO2 climate sensitivity 'overestimated'**

By Jennifer Carpenter, BBC News, Nov 25, 2011

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-15858603>

"One should be very careful about using cold climates to [construct] the future," he added.

*[SEPP Comment: For the last 2.5 million years the dominant climate has been ice ages interrupted by brief warm periods. The evidence such cold periods will not occur in the future is distinctly lacking.]*

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

#### **China to call for extension of Kyoto at climate talks**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 22, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/China\\_to\\_call\\_for\\_extension\\_of\\_Kyoto\\_at\\_climate\\_talks\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/China_to_call_for_extension_of_Kyoto_at_climate_talks_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Why not? It costs China nothing, while thanks to Kyoto restrictions more European businesses are building facilities in China.]*

#### **A bad month for climate-change skeptics**

Editorial, Washington Post, Nov 18, 2011

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-bad-month-for-climate-change-skeptics/2011/11/18/gIQA4amsZN\\_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-bad-month-for-climate-change-skeptics/2011/11/18/gIQA4amsZN_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend)

*[SEPP Comment: See Article # 1, Fred Singer's rebuttal to this article which the Washington Post did not publish, before Climategate II.]*

#### **Carbon surge to test resolve at UN climate talks**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 21, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Carbon\\_surge\\_to\\_test\\_resolve\\_at\\_UN\\_climate\\_talks\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Carbon_surge_to_test_resolve_at_UN_climate_talks_999.html)

## **Bridging the Emissions Gap to Meet 2-Degree Target Doable**

By Staff Writers, UNEP, Nov 23, 2011 [H/t Scientific Alliance]

<http://hqweb.unep.org/NEWSCENTRE/Default.aspx?DocumentID=2659&ArticleID=8955>

[SEPP Comment: Typical propaganda photo included.]

## ***Questioning the Orthodoxy***

### **Rajendra Pachauri – The Little Man Who Told Big Whoppers**

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Nov 19, 2011

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2011/11/19/rajendra-pachauri-the-little-man-who-told-big-whoppers/>

### **The Two Degrees of Warming Threshold is Political, Not Scientific**

By Greg Pollowitz, Planet Gore, Nov 18, 2011 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/planet-gore/283485/two-degrees-warming-threshold-political-not-scientific-greg-pollowitz>

### **Pachauri Interviewed by Pretend Journalist**

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Nov 20, 2011

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2011/11/20/pachauri-interviewed-by-pretend-journalist/>

[SEPP Comment: A puff piece by the Natural Resources Defense Council becomes an article in the Guardian newspaper with major inaccuracies.]

## ***Questioning European Green***

### **Emission Controls: The Exodus Begins**

By Peter C. Glover, Energy Tribune, Nov 23, 2011

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/9229/Emission-Controls-The-Exodus-Begins>

### **Green energy could trigger 'catastrophic' blackouts**

'Unstable' renewable energy sources increase the risk of 'supra-regional' electricity blackouts with multi-billion pound consequences, insurance giant Allianz has warned

By Matthew Holehouse, Telegraph, UK, Nov 23, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/8909585/Green-energy-could-trigger-catastrophic-blackouts.html>

### **Big GWPF Success: British Gas Promises Transparent Energy Bills**

By Staff Writers, GWPF, Nov 24, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/uk-news/4419-big-gwpf-success-british-gas-promises-transparent-energy-bills.html>

## ***Expanding the Orthodoxy***

### **UBC researchers provide recommendations for \$100 billion in annual climate change aid**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 21, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UBC\\_researchers\\_provide\\_recommendations\\_for\\_annual\\_climate\\_change\\_aid\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UBC_researchers_provide_recommendations_for_annual_climate_change_aid_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Going for the Gold!]

### **Climate Change Adaptation: Federal Efforts to Provide Information Could Help Government Decision Making**

GAO-12-238T November 16, 2011

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-12-238T>

*[SEPP Comment: Given the alarmist nature of the Federal government supported climate science, poor decisions are the likely result.]*

### **Climate policies can help resolve energy security and air pollution challenges**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 21, 2011

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Climate\\_policies\\_can\\_help\\_resolve\\_energy\\_security\\_and\\_air\\_pollution\\_challenges\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Climate_policies_can_help_resolve_energy_security_and_air_pollution_challenges_999.html)

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

#### **Obama Blocks \$100 Billion Climate Fund**

By Pilita Clark and Javier Blas, Financial Times, UK, Nov 24, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/international-news/4421-obama-blocks-100-billion-climate-fund.html>

[SEPP Comment: May be premature.]

#### **Showdown nears for climate deal**

Expected debate over Kyoto Protocol threatens to stall progress on other fronts.

By Jeff Tollefson, Nature, Nov 22, 2011

<http://www.nature.com/news/showdown-nears-for-climate-deal-1.9411>

#### **Rich nations 'give up' on new climate treaty until 2020**

Ahead of critical talks and despite pledge for new treaty by 2012, biggest economies privately admit likelihood of long delay

By Fiona Harvey, Guardian, UK, Nov 20, 2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/nov/20/rich-nations-give-up-climate-treaty?newsfeed=true>

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

#### **Climategate 2.0: Bias in Scientific Research**

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Nov 23, 2011

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2011/11/climategate-2-0-bias-in-scientific-research/>

#### **Fix it or fold it**

*If the IPCC's flaws can't be corrected, we should leave*

By Ross McKittrick, Financial Post, Can, Nov 22, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/11/22/fix-it-or-fold-it/>

[SEPP Comment: See full paper at link below.]

#### **What Is Wrong with the IPCC**

Proposals for a Radical Reform

By Ross McKittrick, GWPF, 2011, ISBN: 978-0-9566875-4-8

[http://www.rossmckittrick.com/uploads/4/8/0/8/4808045/mckittrick-ipcc\\_reforms.pdf](http://www.rossmckittrick.com/uploads/4/8/0/8/4808045/mckittrick-ipcc_reforms.pdf)

#### **Climategate is a distraction**

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, [Nov 25, 2011]

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/climategate-distraction>

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

#### **Public Misperception About Scientific Agreement on Global Warming Undermines Policy Support**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 25, 2011

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Public\\_Misperception\\_About\\_Scientific\\_Agreement\\_on\\_Global\\_Warming\\_Undermines\\_Policy\\_Support\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Public_Misperception_About_Scientific_Agreement_on_Global_Warming_Undermines_Policy_Support_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Perhaps the Center for Climate Change Communication should establish clear, precise definitions before conducting or commenting on political polls.]

### **Communicating the science of climate change**

Richard C. J. Somerville and Susan Joy Hassol, Physics Today, Oct. 2011 [H/t Wally Manheimer]

[http://physicstoday.org/resource/1/phtoad/v64/i10/p48\\_s1?bypassSSO=1](http://physicstoday.org/resource/1/phtoad/v64/i10/p48_s1?bypassSSO=1)

It is urgent that climate scientists improve the ways they convey their findings to a poorly informed and often indifferent public.

[SEPP Comment: See link below.]

### **Comments On The Physics Today Article “Communicating The Science Of Climate Change” By Richard C. J. Somerville and Susan Joy Hassol**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Nov 22, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/11/22/comments-on-the-physics-today-article-communicating-the-science-of-climate-change-by-richard-c-j-somerville-and-susan-joy-hassol/>

This article is a tutorial on advocacy of a perspective on policy that really should not be in a journal such as Physics Today. It is an example of a set of individuals using an article (not an op-ed) in a professional science journal to promote their particular views on policy.

[SEPP Comment: See link above.]

### **Greenhouse gases, water vapor and you**

By Dean Kuipers, LA Times, Nov 18, 2011

[http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/11/greenhouse-gases-water-vapor-and-you.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+GreenspaceEnvironmentBlog+%28Greenspace%29](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/11/greenhouse-gases-water-vapor-and-you.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+GreenspaceEnvironmentBlog+%28Greenspace%29)

So, when NOAA’s **Jim Butler confirmed** in our previous post **that carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, and two CFCs cause 95% of global warming**, he meant that **these five gases are at the root of a complex reaction that also involves water vapor and any number of other factors**. [Emphasis added.]

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

#### **Bleak future for Bay area tidal marshes?**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 24, 2011

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Bleak\\_future\\_for\\_Bay\\_area\\_tidal\\_marshes\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Bleak_future_for_Bay_area_tidal_marshes_999.html)

### ***Models v. Observations***

#### **Separating signal and noise in climate warming**

By Anne M Stark for LLNL News, SPX, Nov 21, 2011

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Separating\\_signal\\_and\\_noise\\_in\\_climate\\_warming\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Separating_signal_and_noise_in_climate_warming_999.html)

The satellite data indicate that the lower troposphere has warmed by roughly 0.9 degrees Fahrenheit since the beginning of satellite temperature records in 1979. This increase is entirely consistent with the warming of Earth’s surface estimated from thermometer records.

[SEPP Comment: Another misrepresentation of the satellite data.]

### **Another Excellent, Well-Explained Post By Bob Tisdale Titled “Satellite-Era SST Anomalies: Models Vs Observations Using Time-Series Graphs And 17-Year Trends”**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Nov 22, 2011



<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/11/22/another-excellent-well-explained-post-by-bob-tisdale-titled-satellite-era-sst-anomalies-models-vs-observations-using-time-series-graphs-and-17-year-trends/>  
[SEPP Comment: So much for the new-found 17 year trend needed to show the difference between models and observations.]

### **Measurement Issues**

#### **Important Paper “Remote Sensing Of The Urban Heat Island Effect Across Biomes In The Continental USA” By Imhoff Et Al 2011**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Nov 25, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/11/25/important-paper-remote-new-paper-sensing-of-the-urban-heat-island-effect-across-biomes-in-the-continental-usa-by-imhoff-et-al-2011/>

[SEPP Comment: Possibly challenging one of the BEST findings.]

### **Changing Weather**

#### **Even longtime Alaskans taken off guard by deep freeze**

By Tim Mowry, Fairbanks News Miner, Nov 17, 2011 [H/t Gordon Fulks]

[http://newsminer.com/view/full\\_story/16470974/article-Record-Fairbanks-cold-continues--air-quality-warnings-issued?instance=home\\_news\\_window\\_left\\_top\\_3](http://newsminer.com/view/full_story/16470974/article-Record-Fairbanks-cold-continues--air-quality-warnings-issued?instance=home_news_window_left_top_3)

#### **Protecting Houston from the next big hurricane**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 21, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Protecting\\_Houston\\_from\\_the\\_next\\_big\\_hurricane\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Protecting_Houston_from_the_next_big_hurricane_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Will environmental organizations permit such efforts to prevent human suffering, or will they sue under the National Environmental Policy Act to prevent such efforts as they successfully did in New Orleans.]

### **Changing Climate**

#### **The Odd Omission in IPCC’s Summary for Policy Makers for SREX on Extreme Weather and Climatic Events**

By Indur Goklany, WUWT, Nov 19, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/19/the-odd-omission-in-ipccs-summary-for-policy-makers-for-srex-on-extreme-weather-and-climatic-events/>

[SEPP Comment: See link below.]

#### **Climate change means more frequent droughts and floods, U.N. panel says in report**

By Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post, Nov 18, 2011 [H/t Best of the Web]

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/report-climate-change-means-more-frequent-droughts-floods-to-come/2011/11/15/gIQAfwqHXN\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/report-climate-change-means-more-frequent-droughts-floods-to-come/2011/11/15/gIQAfwqHXN_story.html)

“The science is not getting more uncertain — it’s actually getting more and more certain,” she said. “It’s getting in line with **what people intuitively feel.**” Emphasis added.]

[SEPP Comment: Accompanied by a video: Japan's government gave journalists a tour of the country's tsunami-damaged nuclear power plant for the first time since the March 11 disaster as if the tsunami was a result of climate change.]

#### **Global warming we can all cheer**

By Matt Patterson, NY Post, Nov 18, 2011 [H/t Warren Wetmore]

[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/global\\_warming\\_we\\_can\\_all\\_cheer\\_YuaZ4rbJSIErSIa8lj25I](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/global_warming_we_can_all_cheer_YuaZ4rbJSIErSIa8lj25I)

### **Changing Seas**

## **Rethinking the ocean's role in Pacific climate**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 22, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Rethinking\\_the\\_ocean\\_role\\_in\\_Pacific\\_climate\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Rethinking_the_ocean_role_in_Pacific_climate_999.html)

## **Seaweeds threaten corals**

Release chemicals that cause bleaching

By Indu Mathi S, Down to Earth, India, Nov 30, 2011

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/content/seaweeds-threaten-corals>

## ***Changing Sea Ice***

### **Study: Arctic ice melting 'unprecedented'**

By Staff Writers, UPI, Nov 23, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Study\\_Arctic\\_ice\\_melting\\_unprecedented\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Study_Arctic_ice_melting_unprecedented_999.html)

"Everything is trending up -- surface temperature, the atmosphere is warming, and it seems also that the ocean is warming and there is more warm and saline water that makes it into the Arctic,"

*[SEPP Comment: Another 50 year trend! How does it compare with the Holocene Climate Optimum?]*

## ***Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine***

### **Drought-proof village in bone dry district**

By Sarandha, Down to Earth, India, Nov, 18, 2011

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/content/drought-proof-village-bone-dry-district>

## **Global commission charts pathway for achieving food security in face of climate change**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 24, 2011

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Global\\_commission\\_charts\\_pathway\\_for\\_achieving\\_food\\_security\\_in\\_face\\_of\\_climate\\_change\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Global_commission_charts_pathway_for_achieving_food_security_in_face_of_climate_change_999.html)

## **The Future of Grapes**

By Patrick Michaels, WCR, Nov 21, 2011

<http://www.worldclimaterreport.com/index.php/2011/11/21/the-future-of-grapes/#more-515>

*[SEPP Comment: There will always be wine.]*

## ***The Political Games Continue***

### **U.S. Taxpayers No Longer Have To Fund Anti-American UNESCO**

By Phyllis Schlafly, IBD, Nov 22, 2011

<http://news.investors.com/Article.aspx?id=592510&p=1>

*[SEPP Comment: A path to the future of the IPCC?]*

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

By Henry Waxman, Politico, Nov 13, 2011 [H/t Tom Waeghe]

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

But even as committee Republicans argue the science is unresolved, they have, with one exception, rejected repeated requests to bring scientists before the committee to educate members.

*[SEPP Comment: For many years the committee hearings were stacked with alarmists paid by government entities to spread the alarm.]*

## ***Subsidies and Mandates Forever***

### **U.S. Energy Subsidies: Wind and Solar Have No Argument**

By Robert Bradley, IER, Nov 21, 2011

<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/2011/11/21/u-s-energy-subsidies-wind-and-solar-have-no-argument/>

### **EIA Releases New Subsidy Report: Subsidies for Renewables increase 186 Percent**

By Staff Writers, IER, Aug 3, 2011

<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/2011/08/03/eia-releases-new-subsidy-report-subsidies-for-renewables-increase-186-percent/>

### **Diesel: when bad policy makes for toxic hell**

By Sunita Narain, Down to Earth, Nov 30, 2011

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/content/diesel-when-bad-policy-makes-toxic-hell>

*[SEPP Comment: A view from India.]*

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

#### **EPA/DOT Admit — No, Boast — New Fuel Economy Standards Bypass Congress**

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Nov 21, 2011

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2011/11/21/epanhtsa-admit-no-boast-new-fuel-economy-standard-bypass-congress/>

*[SEPP Comment: No need for a Constitution here.]*

### **EPA moves to require ‘fracking’ chemical info disclosure**

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 23, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/195393-epa-moves-to-require-fracking-chemical-info-disclosure>

*[SEPP Comment: The enviros ask, the EPA gives. It will be interesting to see if the resulting rules are another example of zealotry. See suggestions from Duke University below.]*

### **Contractor Alleges Pressure to Alter Finding on Coal Rule's Cost in Jobs**

By Ryan Tracy, WSJ, Nov 19, 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204517204577046543891592140.html?mod=ITP\\_pageone\\_1](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204517204577046543891592140.html?mod=ITP_pageone_1)

*[SEPP Comment: May be behind a paywall.]*

### **EPA delays rollout of refinery greenhouse gas rule**

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 21, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/194895-epa-delays-rollout-for-refinery-greenhouse-gas-rule>

### ***Energy Issues***

#### **Chevron CEO: “The Imperative of Affordable Energy” (Moral substance trumps ‘green’ form)**

By Robert Bradley Jr, Master Resource, Nov 25, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/11/chevron-ceo-watson-speech/#more-17555>

*[SEPP Comment: Energy must be affordable and reliable.]*

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

#### **Peak oil vanishes; peak green arrives**

Peak oil theory and the green energy fad both arise from a failure to understand how markets work

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Nov 22, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/11/22/peter-foster-peak-oil-vanishes-peak-green-arrives/>

### **Crude awakening**

With new technology, experts imagine what was once unthinkable — making the US oil independent  
By Brad Parks, NY Post, Nov 20, 2011 [H/t Warren Wetmore]  
[http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/crude\\_awakening\\_C6VAbAfvrS9wKVKR1tByNO](http://www.nypost.com/p/news/opinion/opedcolumnists/crude_awakening_C6VAbAfvrS9wKVKR1tByNO)

### **Saudis worry over North American shale oil surge**

By Yadullah Hussain, Financial Post, Nov 21, 2011  
<http://business.financialpost.com/2011/11/21/saudis-worry-over-north-american-shale-oil-surge/>  
[SEPP Comment: Recognize may be more accurate than worry.]

### **Duke study offers seven safeguards for hydraulic fracturing**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 21, 2011  
[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Duke\\_study\\_offers\\_seven\\_safeguards\\_for\\_hydraulic\\_fracturing\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Duke_study_offers_seven_safeguards_for_hydraulic_fracturing_999.html)  
[SEPP Comment: Appear to be reasonable, prudent steps that protect the public as well as possibly protect drillers against frivolous lawsuits.]

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

#### **Obama's Keystone Conundrum: Union Jobs Vs. Environmental Jobs**

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Nov 22, 2011  
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2011/11/22/obamas-keystone-conundrum-union-jobs-vs-environmental-jobs/>

#### **Obama's Disastrous Energy Record**

By Chad Stafko, American Thinker, Nov 25, 2011  
[http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/11/obamas\\_disastrous\\_energy\\_record.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/11/obamas_disastrous_energy_record.html)

#### **Fracking halted in Wayne National Forest pending further study**

By Kathy Thompson, Lancaster Eagle Gazette, Nov 16, 2011  
<http://www.lancastereaglegazette.com/article/20111116/NEWS01/111160304/Fracking-halted-Wayne-National-Forest-pending-further-study>

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

#### **Chevron blames Brazil oil spill on miscalculation**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 19, 2011  
[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Chevron\\_blames\\_Brazil\\_oil\\_spill\\_on\\_miscalculation\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Chevron_blames_Brazil_oil_spill_on_miscalculation_999.html)

#### **Chevron oil spill a wake-up call for Brazil: analysts**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 24, 2011  
[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Chevron\\_oil\\_spill\\_a\\_wake-up\\_call\\_for\\_Brazil\\_analysts\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Chevron_oil_spill_a_wake-up_call_for_Brazil_analysts_999.html)

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

#### **One week to go for nuclear rover**

By Staff Writers, WNN, Nov 18, 2011  
[http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NN\\_One\\_week\\_to\\_go\\_for\\_nuclear\\_rover\\_181111.html?utm\\_source=World+Nuclear+News&utm\\_campaign=77043260ad-WNN\\_Weekly\\_15\\_21\\_November\\_201111\\_21\\_2011&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NN_One_week_to_go_for_nuclear_rover_181111.html?utm_source=World+Nuclear+News&utm_campaign=77043260ad-WNN_Weekly_15_21_November_201111_21_2011&utm_medium=email)

#### **Fukushima radiation 'mostly fell in sea': study**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 17, 2011

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Fukushima\\_radiation\\_mostly\\_fell\\_in\\_sea\\_study\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Fukushima_radiation_mostly_fell_in_sea_study_999.html)

### **Driving on with Fukushima roadmap**

By Staff Writers, WNN, Nov 17, 2011

[http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS\\_Driving\\_on\\_with\\_Fukushima\\_roadmap\\_1711111.html?utm\\_source=World+Nuclear+News&utm\\_campaign=77043260ad-WNN\\_Weekly\\_15\\_21\\_November\\_201111\\_21\\_2011&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS_Driving_on_with_Fukushima_roadmap_1711111.html?utm_source=World+Nuclear+News&utm_campaign=77043260ad-WNN_Weekly_15_21_November_201111_21_2011&utm_medium=email)

### **Swiss nuclear shutdown to cost 16.8 billion euro**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 24, 2011

[http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Swiss\\_nuclear\\_shutdown\\_to\\_cost\\_168\\_billion\\_euro\\_999.html](http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Swiss_nuclear_shutdown_to_cost_168_billion_euro_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: In response to the tsunami that knocked out the cooling systems at Fukushima (the systems survived the earthquake). Entirely landlocked, Switzerland is not noted for tsunamis. Apparently the cost estimates do not address the cost of replacing the power generation lost.]*

### **IAEA Issues New Report on Climate Change and Nuclear Power**

Report Highlights Role of Nuclear in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

By Rodolfo Quevenco, IAE, Nov 25, 2011

<http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/2011/reportclimatechange.html>

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

#### **Chu doubles down on clean energy**

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Nov 18, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/194539-chu-doubles-down-on-clean-energy-message>

*[SEPP Comment: We only lost half the farm the first time, let’s double the bet.]*

### **Wind of change hitting renewable**

By Bill Jamieson, Scotsman, Nov 24, 2011 [H/t Paul Chesser]

[http://www.scotsman.com/news/cartoon/bill\\_jamieson\\_wind\\_of\\_change\\_hitting\\_renewables\\_1\\_1980974](http://www.scotsman.com/news/cartoon/bill_jamieson_wind_of_change_hitting_renewables_1_1980974)

### **Wind farms are useless, says Duke**

The Duke of Edinburgh has made a fierce attack on wind farms, describing them as “absolutely useless”.

By Jonathan Wynne-Jones, Telegraph, UK, Nov 19, 2011 [H/t Mark Duchamp]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/prince-philip/8901985/Wind-farms-are-useless-says-Duke.html>

### **Google quits plans to make cheap renewable energy**

By Alexei Oreskovic, Reuters, Nov 23, 2011 [H/t Debbie Wetlaufer]

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/23/google-idUSN1E7AL1X520111123>

*[SEPP Comment: Perhaps Google realizes that Moore’s Law does not necessarily apply to renewable energy and that making it cheaper than coal was more a marketing slogan than a technological possibility. Google had proposed massive financing of a very expensive electrical transmission system along the coast of the Mid-Atlantic States using power generated by off-shore turbines. That may be gone as well.]*

### **Second-generation ethanol processing is cost prohibitive**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 23, 2011

[http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Second\\_generation\\_ethanol\\_processing\\_is\\_cost\\_prohibitive\\_999.html](http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Second_generation_ethanol_processing_is_cost_prohibitive_999.html)

## **Carbon Schemes**

### **Wyoming CO2 Sequestration Project Falling Apart**

By Michael J. Economides, Energy Tribune, Nov 21, 2011

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/9213/Wyoming-CO2-Sequestration-Project-Falling-Apart>

### **Finally, the plan for the CCS revolution**

Study reveals how to build a CO2 transport system for Europe

By Karel Beckman, European Energy Review, Nov 17, 2011

[http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id\\_mailing=224&toegang=13fe9d84310e77f13a6d184dbf1232f3&id=3360](http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id_mailing=224&toegang=13fe9d84310e77f13a6d184dbf1232f3&id=3360)

[SEPP Comment: Hope against experience.]

### **How CCS can transform our energy future**

By Robin Mills, European Energy Review, Nov 21, 2011

<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3365>

[SEPP Comment: Make the cost of carbon dioxide emissions high enough, CCS becomes viable. Who cares if the economy goes bankrupt in the process?]

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

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

### **Variation in Surface Air Temperature of China During the 20th Century**

Reference: Soon, W., Dutta, K., Legates, D.R., Velasco, V. and Zhang, W. 2011. Variation in surface air temperature of China during the 20th century. *Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics* 73: 2331-2344.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/23nov2011a5.html>

The empirically-based study of Soon et al. (2011), however, goes one step further than all previous studies of the subject by showing how the two empirical results shown in Figures 1 and 2 may be related to key meteorological phenomenon involving the so-called Asian-African westerly jets.

### **Earth's Marine Life Not Going "Quietly Into the Night" of Ocean Acidification**

Reference: Hurd, C.L., Cornwall, C.E., Currie, K., Hepburn, C.D., McGraw, C.M., Hunter, K.A. and Boyd, P.W. 2011. Metabolically induced pH fluctuations by some coastal calcifiers exceed projected 22nd century ocean acidification: a mechanism for differential susceptibility? *Global Change Biology* 17: 3254-3262.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/22nov2011a4.html>

### **The Case for a Quasi Sixty-Year North Atlantic Temperature Oscillation**

Reference: Mazzarella, A. and Scafetta, N. 2011. Evidences for a quasi 60-year North Atlantic Oscillation since 1700 and its meaning for global climate change. *Theoretical and Applied Climatology*: 10.1007/s00704-011-0499-4.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/22nov2011a3.html>

### **Old Growth Forests of Northeast China**

Reference: Zhou, L., Dai, L., Wang, S., Huang, X., Wang, X., Qi, L., Wang, Q., Li, G., Wei, Y. and Shao, G. 2011. Changes in carbon density for three old-growth forests on Changbai Mountain, Northeast China: 1981-2010. *Annals of Forest Science* 68: 953-958.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/23nov2011a4.html>

## **Environmental Industry**

### **Sierra Club Leader Will Step Down**

By John Broder, NYT, Nov 18, 2011

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/18/sierra-club-leader-will-step-down/?scp=5&sq=pope&st=cse>  
[SEPP Comment: Since oil companies are funding some environmental groups, why not a bleach company?]

### **Wilderness Society cuts staff, citing weak economy**

The prominent land preservation group lets 17% of its employees go as some multiyear donations end and spending is reduced.

By Bettina Baxall, LA Times, Nov 19, 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-wilderness-society-20111120.0,7595357.story>

### **Companies not buying enough 'green' palm oil: WWF**

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 22, 2011

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Companies\\_not\\_buying\\_enough\\_green\\_palm\\_oil\\_WWF\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Companies_not_buying_enough_green_palm_oil_WWF_999.html)

### **Other Scientific News**

#### **China plans major effort in pursuing manned space technology**

By Staff Writers, XNA, Nov 22, 2011

[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/China\\_plans\\_major\\_effort\\_in\\_pursuing\\_manned\\_space\\_technology\\_999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/China_plans_major_effort_in_pursuing_manned_space_technology_999.html)

#### **Multidisciplinary team of researchers develop world's lightest material**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 21, 2011

[http://www.spacemart.com/reports/Multidisciplinary\\_team\\_of\\_researchers\\_develop\\_world\\_lightest\\_material\\_999.html](http://www.spacemart.com/reports/Multidisciplinary_team_of_researchers_develop_world_lightest_material_999.html)

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

#### **Is sustainability science really a science**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 25, 2011

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Is\\_sustainability\\_science\\_really\\_a\\_science\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Is_sustainability_science_really_a_science_999.html)

#### **European iodine mystery solved**

By Staff Writers, World Nuclear News, Nov 17, 2011

[http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS\\_European\\_iodine\\_mystery\\_solved\\_1711112.html?utm\\_source=World+Nuclear+News&utm\\_campaign=77043260ad-WNN\\_Weekly\\_15\\_21\\_November\\_201111\\_21\\_2011&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS_European_iodine_mystery_solved_1711112.html?utm_source=World+Nuclear+News&utm_campaign=77043260ad-WNN_Weekly_15_21_November_201111_21_2011&utm_medium=email)

#### **Honda Civic Natural Gas wins 2012 Green Car of the Year Award**

By Susan Carpenter, LA Times, Nov 17, 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-la-auto-show-2011-honda-civic-natural-gas-wins-green-car-of-the-year-award-20111117,0,3207674.story>

[SEPP Comment: According to the article, EPA gives it a 48 MPGe economy rating. This is better than the previous 31 MPG but still does not pass the future EPA standards. The list of the judges is revealing.]

### **Insured disaster**

*The insurance industry has been behind the global-warming fraud since the 1970s*

By Lawrence Solomon, Financial Post, Nov 18, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/11/18/lawrence-solomon-insured-disaster/>

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**BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

## **Caribou supposedly roasted by global warming found unharmed**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 24, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/24/caribou-supposedly-roasted-by-global-warming-found-unharmed/#more-51895>

[SEPP Comment: Over 250,000 missing caribou suddenly re-appear! Is it proof of creationism?]

## **Climate Minister buys a castle with 16 bathrooms... and a massive carbon footprint**

By Victoria Allen and Tamara Cohen, Mail Online, Nov 18,2011

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2063488/Climate-Minister-buys-castle-16-bathrooms--massive-carbon-footprint.html>

[SEPP Comment: We each have to fight climate change in our own way!]

## **Climategate 2.0: the Warmists' seven stages of grief.**

By James Delingpole, The Telegraph, UK, Nov 23, 2011

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100119271/climategate-2-0-the-warmists-seven-stages-of-grief/>

## **Erratic, extreme day-to-day weather puts climate change in new light**

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 21, 2011

[http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Erratic\\_extreme\\_day\\_to\\_day\\_weather\\_puts\\_climate\\_change\\_in\\_new\\_light\\_999.html](http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Erratic_extreme_day_to_day_weather_puts_climate_change_in_new_light_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Given the tremendous increase of number and sensitivity of instrumentation, it is probably impossible to establish an earlier baseline.]

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## **ARTICLES:**

### **1. A Bad Year for Climate Alarmism**

By Fred Singer, Letter to Washington Post, Nov 19, 2011, Not published

No URL

Oh dear! Climate things are going from bad to worse at the Wash Post. First, the uninformed column (Oct 25) misinterpreting recent news of surface temperatures, and now this Nov 18 editorial that perpetuates all previous errors.

First, a simple technical point: The editorial refers to a “congressional hearing” on Nov 14. It was not a Hearing, only a “briefing” arranged by two Democratic Congressmen. There was no representation from the other Party; for that matter, no other Democrats came to the sparsely attended event.

The editorial claims that the climate warmed by 1.6 degrees “in the past 50 years” (emphasis added). This seriously distorts the result of Prof Muller’s Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature (BEST) project. While BEST reports such a warming between 1950 (a lowest-temperature year) and 2000, it also found no warming since 2000 – conveniently ignored by the editorial.

And finally, regardless of any claims by *The Economist*, posing as an authority on climate matters, dividing the IPCC’s mean value of climate sensitivity of 2.5 degC by 5 yields a future temperature rise of only 0.5 degC -- a minor increase by any measure.

Of course, if there were to be an increase in average temperature – no matter what the cause – there would be a slightly greater chance of more heat waves and fewer frosts. That’s simple statistics – a no-brainer. I am under-impressed by this report from a gathering of international IPCC experts in Kampala, Uganda. I



note its release just before the next great pow-wow of nearly 200 delegations in Durban, South Africa, and wonder how much this is costing us.

What has been missed by most, even by many experts, is that BEST does not even prove Global Warming – never mind a likely cause. All BEST does is to confirm previous findings -- that surface thermometers seem to show an unspectacular temperature rise between 1950 and 2000. That's not the same as Global Warming.

One cannot really blame the Wash Post editorial board for swallowing the NOAA claim that GW is “unequivocal.” Not when all other evidence shows essentially no warming of the atmosphere and ocean during the same time period – or even of non-thermometer indicators of temperature like tree-rings, ice cores, lake sediments, corals, stalagmites, and so on.

As to why land surface readings are out of step with all other evidence – that's a scientific puzzle on which there is as yet no consensus.

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## **2. Lisa Jackson's Freudian Slip**

An unintentionally revealing interview from the EPA chief.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 22, 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article\\_email/SB10001424052970204531404577052433410209746-1MyQjAxMTAxMDIwMjEyNDIyWj.html?mod=wsj\\_share\\_email](http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424052970204531404577052433410209746-1MyQjAxMTAxMDIwMjEyNDIyWj.html?mod=wsj_share_email)

Psychoanalysis is usually the wrong way to understand politics, but the Obama Administration may be reviving the field with its Freudian slips. The latest to land on the couch is Environmental Protection Agency chief Lisa Jackson, who gave an unintentionally candid interview this weekend with Thalia Assuras of Energy Now News.

Ms. Jackson was asked about the EPA's regulatory boom and the resulting mass retirements of coal-fired power plants. She responded by claiming that "First off, EPA doesn't require shutting down of any plant," which is technically true: The EPA merely writes rules so stringent that those plants are no longer economic to operate.

When pressed, Ms. Jackson went on to say that "No, I can't say what a business will decide to do. Some businesses are investing in nuclear, some are looking at natural gas. There are states that are leading the way on solar or wind. . . . What EPA's role is to do is to *level the playing field* so that pollution costs are not exported to the population but rather companies have to look at the pollution potential of any fuel or any process or any plant or any utility when they're making their investment decisions." (Our emphasis.)

In fact, when Congress passed the Clean Air Act in 1970, its goal was clean air, not the industrial planning that Ms. Jackson's comments about "levelling the playing field" reveal. Under the law, the EPA is required to set source-specific standards depending on where the emissions come from—natural gas, coal or something else. It certainly doesn't contain a roving mandate for Ms. Jackson to guide investment decisions.

What Ms. Jackson really means is that she is trying to make coal—the workhorse of U.S. electric power—artificially more expensive. This is to serve her anticarbon goals, if not the consumers who will bear the costs and may suffer if the U.S. electric grid is compromised. But at least the EPA chief is finally admitting what she's up to.

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### 3. U.K. Report Gives Clean-Energy Costs

By James Herron, WSJ, Nov 24, 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204452104577056150797645974.html?mod=WSJ\\_Energy\\_leftHeadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204452104577056150797645974.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines)

LONDON—Policies to increase efficiency and give incentives to clean energy technologies will begin saving U.K. households money by 2013, but will add significantly to the energy bills of businesses, the Department of Energy and Climate Change said in a report Wednesday.

The report, which comes as both household incomes and corporate earnings are being squeezed by high price inflation and a weak economy, acknowledged that supporting clean technologies and cutting carbon emissions will have a cost to energy consumers.

However, it also said improvements to energy efficiency, resulting from a £14 billion home insulation and refurbishment backed by the government and industry, should more than offset this cost for households.

Businesses have fewer opportunities to offset the added cost through energy efficiency and should expect a 20% to 30% increase in bills, but the government promised to help them mitigate the effect of higher energy bills on their competitiveness.

The U.K. government statement followed a report from the International Energy Agency that urged all countries to make subsidies for renewable energy more cost effective. The report highlighted the high costs of support for solar power in the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and Spain, where subsidies remained high even as the cost of the technology fell.

After causing a modest increase in bills in 2011 of around 2%, by 2020 the push for clean energy will mean "the average household bill will be 7%, or £94, lower than if the government was not pursuing policies to achieve energy savings and incentivize the shift from fossil fuels to alternatives," the U.K. government said in a statement.

These savings will be the result of lower overall energy use by households and the assumption that, without a move toward alternative energy sources, fossil fuel prices would be higher, it said.

Some consumer groups said these savings won't come quickly enough. "The U.K. is on the brink of an affordability crisis when it comes to household energy," said Thomas Lyon, energy expert at price comparison service uSwitch.com.

More than a quarter of U.K. households are already struggling to pay their energy bills, "and it will be difficult for consumers if they have to carry the cost of these policies before seeing the benefit," he said.

Businesses have fewer opportunities for efficiency savings, so by 2020 their energy bills could be 20% higher, and by 2030 around 30% higher, the government said. It acknowledged this could hurt companies and promised to unveil a package of measures this year to help energy intensive industries in the U.K. remain competitive.

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