

The Week That Was: 2012-06-09 (June 9, 2012)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week:

“...the dreary professors of a dismal science.” Thomas Carlyle

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Number of the Week: 0.42 mm

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THIS WEEK:

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

Rio + 20: As customary shortly before a major international conference on the environment / climate, the public is bombarded with studies by international groups predicting how dire the situation is and how little time civilization has before the world reaches a tipping point (whatever that means), which will end civilization as we know it. The demands are all too familiar. Stop the use of energy, stop the consumption of resources, and return to a simpler life. The general prescription is also all too familiar; give UN organizations control of the resources of the world.

This vision began in Stockholm 40 years ago and was broadly accepted by “international leaders” in Rio 20 years ago. Forty years have not improved on the vision. In fact, if anything, they have proved the vision wrong. Although war and famine are still a curse, the wide-spread famines frequently predicted never materialized. Today, famines are largely associated with war and authoritarian governments, not a world-wide lack of food. The US Census Bureau estimates that in March, 2012, the world population stood at 7 Billion while 40 years ago it was estimated to be 3.86 Billion, an increase of some 81%.

In spite of population growth, humans are living longer and healthier than ever before. Hundreds of millions, if not billions, are being relieved of the curse of poverty – in a large measure through the use of energy from fossil fuels, water power, and nuclear power. For many, these are replacing muscle power, both human and animal, and making humans more productive and less exhausted from a day’s labors. As the people are becoming more prosperous, population growth rates are declining rapidly. A couple does not need a large family to provide for them as they age, and, no doubt, for other reasons. Muslim nations are an exception to this trend of declining population growth. By 2050 population is expected to top reach 9.31 Billion, or a 33% increase, with the growth rate of less than 0.5% per year and continuing to decline.

Nonetheless, this week the UN Environmental Programme released a study, Global Environmental Outlook – 5, declaring the world has only a few years before it becomes unsustainable, whatever that means. To prevent this proclaimed unsustainable situation, the governments of the world must give to the UN authoritarian power over the world’s resources, including people and their income. Interestingly, the study was released on June 6th, the 68th anniversary of D-Day, the day the western allies assaulted Normandy to free Western Europe from the authoritarian power of Hitler. Who says UN bureaucrats and their scientists are not without humor? Please see links under Expanding the Orthodoxy, Rio + 20 and http://www.npg.org/facts/world_pop_year.htm

Quote of the Week: “ the dreary professors of a dismal science.” Thomas Carlyle commenting on the work of the economists, Malthus (population doctrine) and Ricardo (theory of distribution with wages at a subsistence level). Thomas Malthus is best known for his first essay, in which, through mathematics he developed the concept that population will outstrip agricultural production. This was popularly viewed that humanity will always suffer from overpopulation and famine, and most will live at a subsistence level. David Ricardo developed a system of distribution of goods in which, even with trade of goods, the wages of the general population would go to a subsistence level.

Although both, particularly Ricardo, made other contributions to economics, both are best known for these predictions on the fate of humanity. The past 180 years has demonstrated both to be wrong. Among other things, they failed to take into account human imagination – innovation.

The New Dreary Professors: As practiced by many, the new dismal science is environmentalism. This includes climate science as interpreted by many government entities, including the UN International Governmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC). The June 6th report by the UN Environmental Programme is but one example of the new dismal science. Like the work of Malthus, frequently these reports rely heavily on mathematical models that imperfectly describe the actual world.

However, there is a major difference between Malthus and Ricardo, and the new dreary professors. Malthus and Ricardo thought they were describing the plight of humanity which would be subsistence living. The new dreary professors prescribe a reduction in standards of living, subsistence living, to achieve a goal – saving the world. However, they have not established the world needs saving and rely mostly on great exaggerations of what may come about. The former can be called a science; the latter, a religion. Please see links under Expanding the Orthodoxy and Rio + 20.

Bjørn Lomborg: is a notable example of an environmentalist who does not subscribe to the prevailing doctrine. He continually asserts that poverty is destructive to the environment and that prosperous nations can afford the resources that protection of the environment requires. If one is beyond a subsistence level, then he is free to devote time and resources for other activities; without reducing his ability to provide for his livelihood. Lomborg insists that bringing people out of poverty will benefit the environment. This can be demonstrated by the rapidly improving general environment of the developed world. No wonder many institutional environmentalists heap scorn on the Skeptical Environmentalist. Please see link under Rio + 20.

Frac'ing Gas: As mentioned in last week's TWTW, the International Energy Agency (IEA), which certainly does not represent global warming skeptics, announced proposed new "Golden Rules" for using hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas and, presumably, oil. These rules do not appear to be particularly odious, and many proposed procedures are practiced in the United States today. The rules are general, thus subject to interpretation in the future. This is always a concern, given the ability of the environmental industry to twist the meaning of words. When the US Clean Air Act was passed, few would have believed the Supreme Court would rule that it would apply to the non-toxic, environmentally critical gas, carbon dioxide (CO₂).

The reports on the rules indicate that many in Europe do not have a grasp of US Federalism and the entities regulating oil and gas production in the US. Some reports indicate the process of hydraulic fracturing (frac'ing) was developed in secret and not subject to regulation. This view is understandable, because the production of natural gas and oil from dense shale using innovative frac'ing surprised the environmental industry and those in Washington who wish to control oil and gas availability to the public. A brief summary of regulatory authority, history of frac'ing, innovation, and false claims is in order.

Other than land controlled by the Federal government, the production of oil and gas is regulated by state entities. For Texas, the largest oil producing state, the regulatory agency is the Railroad Commission of Texas that has regulated the industry for 90 years and, at one point, limited production to increase price.

Hydraulic fracturing (frac'ing) of oil and gas wells has been practiced for over 60 years. Certain chemicals are used to speed the flow of oil / gas from the fractured rock to the well head. These activities have been regulated by the appropriate state agencies.

By the early 2000s, those who follow the oil and gas industry recognized something different was happening – significant quantities of natural gas were being produced from the “tight”, non-porous shale formation around Fort Worth, Texas, called the Barnett Shale formation, which was deep underground. This was previous thought impossible. In the past, after frac’ing the hairline fractures in the gas bearing rock would close from the intense pressure of the overlaying rock and the flow of natural gas would stop. George Mitchell developed the method of using fine sand to keep the hairline fractures open. The sand is now called a proppant. When these techniques were combined with horizontal drilling, where drills could follow the layer of gas bearing rock for miles, a new industry was born.

Although nothing taken alone was new, the combination was innovative. The Texas Railroad Commission regulated the process. Similarly, agencies in North Dakota were responsible for regulating the developing of a similar process to extract oil from the Bakken formation.

Unfortunately, the US EPA, prompted by the environmental industry, made false claims concerning the contamination of well water by Range Resources which used the process in the Fort Worth area. When the Railroad Commission of Texas held a public hearing that gave the EPA opportunity to present its evidence, the EPA failed to appear. The Commission has publicly stated that it does not know of any contamination of ground water and drinking water from frac’ing in Texas. Agencies responsible for such activities in their respective states have made similar statements.

Yet the EPA and the environmental industry continue to claim this process is controversial. It is controversial because they have used their political power to make it so. Please see Articles linked under Oil and Gas – the Present or the Future and <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/about/faqs/hydraulicfracturing.php>

Safety in Wells: Well drilling safety is a major concern for all major oil and gas companies. With over 40 years experience in drilling in hostile environments, Canadian Professional Geophysicist Norm Kalmanovitch presents his technical explanation on the safety of hydraulic fracturing (frac’ing) for oil and gas. Please see Article # 2 and the referenced links therein.

Political Labeling of Skeptics: Frequently the political term “conservative” is applied to global warming skeptics and “liberal” applied to those who are not skeptics. Such political labeling of conservative or liberal is not appropriate. Some skeptics are hardly politically conservative. A more correct classification may be those who insist on rigorous science before claiming science justifies massive, costly public policy and those who do not. The use of long term projections from computer models that have not been verified and validated is not rigorous science and justifying public policy by using these models is not liberal or conservative. Please see link under Seeking a Common Ground.

EPA’s MACT: The EPA’s new regulations on boilers known as Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MACT) is forcing many utilities to shut down their coal-fired electrical generating plants because installing the equipment is too costly. It is one thing to orderly plan the replacement of plants with new ones with better emission controls, it is another for regulators to demand quick instillation of such controls. Since EPA has proposed carbon dioxide emission rules that will effectively prevent the construction of new coal-fired power plants, the EPA is effectively abolishing an industry that has served Americans well for 130 years since Edison opened the first coal fired plant in Manhattan.

The EPA’s claims of public health benefits are dubious and include double counting of benefits from regulations already in place. Senator James Inhofe has promised a Senate vote on the MACT regulations. Normally, TWTW ignores such promises, but Senator Inhofe’s track record is impressive. Please see links under The Political Games Continue and EPA and other Regulators on the March.

Climategate: Recently, the American Meteorological Society (AMS) published a study by Gergis, et al reporting that in the region surrounding Australia and New Zealand the temperatures today are above those during the Medieval Warm Period. This was used to buttress claims that the current warm period is unprecedented. Steve McIntyre, and others, quickly pointed out that the study cannot be replicated because many of the proxies used do not produce statistically significant results. There are other errors as well. The AMS web site on the article now states: “The requested article is not currently available on this site.” So much for the impression given by Mann and others that peer review is the defining process in science. Please see links under Climategate Continued and <http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/JCLI-D-11-00649.1> (if the latter is still there).

The Gleick Affair: Peter Gleick, who impersonated a member of the Heartland Institute board of directors and thereby obtained private documents, then posted them on the web, has been re-instated as president of the Pacific Institute. Please see the comments by Joseph Bast, the president of Heartland in Article #1, and links under The Gleick Affair.

Amplifications and Corrections: Dennis Ambler reminded TWTW of a publication he wrote on the claims of ocean acidification (changing alkalinity) including the process establishing the pH of the oceans prior to the industrial era. Ambler also pointed out that NOAA scientist Richard Feely is an IPCC author for AR5. Given Mr. Feely’s testimony to Congress, which some thought was misleading, we should expect something like “worse than we thought” in the discussion of changing pH of the oceans.

Number of the Week: 0.42 mm. According the American Petroleum Institute, 0.42 mm (0.017 inches) is the most popular size fraction for silica sand used in hydraulic fracturing. The sand must withstand compressive stresses of 4,000 to 6,000 psi before breaking apart or rupturing. From tiny grains of sand mighty fortunes are built. http://www.victorynickel.ca/resources/frac-sand_article.pdf

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below please see this week’s TWTW at: www.sepp.org. The articles are at the end of the pdf.

1. Heartland Institute Responds to Pacific Institute’s Reinstatement of Gleick

By Joseph Bast, The Heartland Institute, Jun 7, 2012

<http://heartland.org/press-releases/2012/06/07/heartland-institute-responds-pacific-institutes-reinstatement-gleick>

2. No Frac’ing Way

By Norm Kalmanovitch, Jun 4, 2012

3. I will not contribute to UCS to take on the global warming deniers

By Philip Kearney, May 13, 2012

4. Power Shortage Vexes Texas

Report Urges Price Increase to Spur Industry to Build More Generating Plants

By Rebecca Smith, WSJ, Jun 4, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303506404577444571241195192.html?mod=ITP_pageone_1

5. Industry Tries to Ease Fracking Worry

By Tennille Tracy, WSJ, Jun 4, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303506404577446733314082556.html?mod=ITP_pageone_1

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

Gergis “Significance”

By Steve McIntire, Climate Audit, Jun 6, 2012

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/06/06/gergis-significance/>

[SEPP Comment: The claimed statistical significance of a number of proxies in the paper was not reproducible.]

Another Hockey Stick broken

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 7, 2012

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/6/7/another-hockey-stick-broken.html>

[SEPP Comment: The next day, Bishop Hill reported that the new paper was no longer available at the AMS Journal website.]

Law Dome in Mann et al 2008

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jun 4, 2012

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/06/04/law-dome-in-mann-et-al-2008/>

[SEPP Comment: More dropping of data that doesn't fit the story line.]

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Arctic stratospheric clouds unrelated to tropospheric temperature

By Lubos Motl, Reference Frame, Jun 2, 2012

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2012/06/arctic-stratospheric-clouds-unrelated.html>

[SEPP Comment: Discussion of a paper suggesting that far more is occurring in the atmosphere than the IPCC models consider.]

Medieval Warm Period And Little Ice Age Show Up In South America Too – Far Far Away From North Atlantic

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jun 6, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/06/06/medieval-warm-period-shows-up-in-south-america-too-far-far-away-from-north-atlantic/>

Alabama Bans U.N. Agenda 21 Sovereignty Surrender

Editorial, IBD, Jun 7, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/article/614173/201206071903/alabama-fights-un-agenda-21-land-grab.htm>

[SEPP Comment: Agenda 21 is one of the mechanisms whereby the UN is trying to establish control over local resources.]

Defending the Orthodoxy

Reduced water flows to hit power supplies

By Staff Writers, Wageningen, Netherlands (UPI) Jun 6, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Reduced_water_flows_to_hit_power_supplies_999.html

[SEPP Comment: More model projections to create a threat.]

Clinton in Arctic to see impact of climate change

By Jim Mannion, AFP, Jun 2, 2012 [H/t Reed Gibby]

<http://ca.news.yahoo.com/clinton-arctic-see-impact-climate-change-151737949.html>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Former Top USN Admiral Sees Navy Moored In Shallow Climate Science And Green Energy Hype

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jun 3, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/06/03/former-top-usn-admiral-sees-navy-moored-in-shallow-climate-science-and-green-energy-hype/>

Asian Air Pollution Warms U.S More than Our GHG Emissions (More futility for U.S. EPA)

by Chip Knappenberger, Master Resource, Jun 7, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/06/asian-air-pollution-warming/#more-20224>

The Royal Society that serves The Government does not serve The People

By Joanne Nova on Paul Homewood, Her Blog, Jun 4, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/06/the-royal-society-that-serves-the-government-does-not-serve-the-people/#more-21996>

Naomi Oreskes, Conspiracy Queen

By Norman Rogers, American Thinker, Jun 7, 2011

http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/06/naomi_oreskes_conspiracy_queen.html

Questioning European Green

Pressure to go Green is Leading to Higher Energy Prices

By Dave Summers, Oil Price, Jun 4, 2012 From GWPF]

<http://thegwgf.org/uk-news/5883-pressure-to-go-green-is-leading-to-higher-energy-prices.html>

Report demonstrates the lunacy and dangers of Europe's carbon emissions control plans

By Staff Writers, ICECAP, Jun 7, 2012

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/report-demonstrates-the-lunacy-and-dangers-of-europes-carbon-emissions-cont/>

Wind of change

Telegraph View: George Osborne's proposal to cut wind farm subsidies is welcome and necessary.

Editorial, Telegraph, UK, Jun 5, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/9311499/Wind-of-change.html>

Half of Britons set to be in fuel poverty

By Julian Milnes, H & V News, Jun 7, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.hvnplus.co.uk/news/half-of-britons-on-brink-of-fuel-poverty/8631371.article?blocktitle=LATEST-NEWS&contentID=2339>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Earth Is Headed for Disaster, Interdisciplinary Scientific Review Concludes

By Paul Basken, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Jun 6, 2012 [H/t Joe D'Aleo]

<http://chronicle.com/article/Earth-Is-Headed-for-Disaster/132165/>

Short-Term Politics Stifles Pentagon's Green Energy Ambitions

By Jen Alic, Washington DC (SPX), Jun 08, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Short_Term_Politics_Stifles_Pentagons_Green_Energy_Ambitions_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The US military uses significant fuel to have the best equipment available for combat. Everything else is a luxury.]

Classroom Clashes (Pt. 2): Teaching climate change

By Carrie Madren, AAAS, Jun 4, 2012

<http://membercentral.aaas.org/blogs/stemedu/classroom-clashes-pt-2-teaching-climate-change>

Rio + 20 – World Control?

Global Environmental Outlook – 5

UN Environment Programme, UNEP, Jun 6, 2012

<http://www.unep.org/geo/>

Very appropriate for D-Day

Bjørn Lomborg on the Rio Green Summit: Poverty Pollutes

A message from Bjørn Lomborg to organizers of the Rio+20 environmental summit: poverty pollutes.

By Bjørn Lomborg, Newsweek, May 28, 2012

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/newsweek/2012/05/27/bjorn-lomborg-on-the-rio-green-summit-poverty-pollutes.html>

U.N.: Earth near 'biophysical limits'

By Staff Writers, Rio De Janeiro (UPI), Jun 7, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UN_Earth_near_biophysical_limits_999.html

Warming nears point of no return, scientists say

By David Perlman, San Francisco Chronicle, Jun 7, 2012 [H/t Gordon Fulks]

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/06/06/BA1T1OT26G.DTL>

[SEPP Comment: Since we are beyond hope, why not sit back and enjoy a warmer world. Certainly warming is superior to ice ages.]

Consumption driving 'unprecedented' environment damage: UN

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), June 6, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Consumption_driving_unprecedented_environment_damage_UN_999.html

Rio Summit: Enviros Want \$100 Billion from US for Climate Fund

By Christopher Horner, Breitbart, Jun 5, 2012

<http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2012/06/05/what-the-left-wants-at-upcoming-rio-climate-change-conference>

Bureaucratizing the environment: Rio+20

By Martin Livermore, The Scientific Alliance, Jun 6, 2012

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/bureaucratizing-environment-rio20>

No bravo for Rio+20

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Jun 7, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/06/07/peter-foster-no-bravo-for-rio20/>

Rio+ 20 Earth summit could collapse, WWF warns

Countries fail to agree on draft text for sustainable development goals and definition of key objectives including green economy

By John Vidal, Guardian, Jun 6, 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jun/06/rio-earth-summit-wwf>

Alice in Wonderland: UNEP Warns of New “Tipping Points” Being Reached.

By Staff Writer, Haunting the Library, Jun 6, 2012

<http://hauntingthelibrary.wordpress.com/2012/06/06/alice-in-wonderland-unep-warns-of-new-tipping-points-being-reached/>

Green decline 'may bring irreversible change'

By Richard Black, BBC, Jun 6, 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-18339905>

Problems within the Orthodoxy

UK On Collision Course With Europe Over Renewable Energy Targets

From GWPF, Jun 6, 2012

<http://thegwpf.org/uk-news/5898-uk-on-collision-course-with-europe-over-renewable-energy-targets.html>

Can Japan No Longer Afford Ambitious CO2 Cuts?

By Mari Iwata, WSJ Japan, Jun 7, 2012

<http://blogs.wsj.com/japanrealtime/2012/06/07/can-japan-no-longer-afford-ambitious-co2-cuts/>

Funding Fights

Union of Concerned Scientists Cooks the Books, Media Swallow It

An environmentalist lobbying group claims corporations pay vast sums to misrepresent climate science.

By Ronald Bailey, Reason, Jun 5, 2012

<http://reason.com/archives/2012/06/05/follow-the-pennies>

Masters of Hypocrisy: the Union of Concerned Scientists

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Jun 8, 2012

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/06/08/masters-of-hypocrisy-the-union-of-concerned-scientists/>

[SEPP Comment: To some, taking money from foundations that were set up by oil and other corporations is unforgivable, unless they are the recipients.]

The Gleick Affair

Peter Gleick Reinstated at Pacific Institute

By Felicity Barringer, NYT, Jun 7, 2012

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/06/07/peter-gleick-reinstated-at-pacific-institute/>

Embattled climate expert back at Pacific Institute

By Peter Fimrite, San Francisco Chronicle, Jun 8, 2012

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/06/07/BAK51OUH3V.DTL>

Gleick "cleared"

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 7, 2012

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/6/7/gleick-cleared.html>

Seeking a Common Ground

Uncertainty is not your friend (?)

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Jun 6, 2012

<http://judithcurry.com/2012/06/06/uncertainty-is-not-your-friend/#more-8686>

[SEPP Comment: Starts off with a red herring: greater uncertainty means greater risk. If the forecasts are dire, with great risk of extreme events; uncertainty of the forecasts can also mean that they may be totally wrong and extreme events have a low probability.]

Conservative perspectives on climate change

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Jun 3, 2012

<http://judithcurry.com/2012/06/03/conservative-perspectives-on-climate-change/#more-8645>

Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague?

Conjunctive Use in Response to Potential Climate Changes in the Central Valley, California

By Staff Writers, USGS, Feb 28, 2012 [H/t WUWT]

<http://ca.water.usgs.gov/projects/cvhm/climate.html>

Climate Change Threatens Power Output, Study Says

By Matthew Wald, NYT, Jun 4, 2012

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/06/04/climate-change-threatens-power-output-study-says/>

Data show US experiencing hottest year on record thus far

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jun 7, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/231497-data-shows-us-experiencing-hottest-year-on-record-thus-far>

[SEPP Comment: Is this significant? The area encompasses about 2 percent of the globe.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Price tag on climate change in Latin America: \$100 billion

By Marcelo Teixeira, Reuters, Jun 5, 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/05/us-brazil-climate-change-idUSBRE85408B20120605>

[SEPP Comment: Another demand from an international group for payments.]

Climate-Catastrophe Skeptics - If You Can't Beat 'Em, Shrink 'Em!

By Charles Clough, American Thinker, Jun 4, 2012 [H/t Cornwall Alliance]

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/06/climate-catastrophe_skeptics_-_if_you_cant_beat_em_shrink_em.html

Models v. Observations

Accuracy and balance out of the window at the Institute of Civil Engineers

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jun 8, 2012

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2012/6/8/accuracy-and-balance-out-of-the-window-at-the-institute-of-c.html>

Changing Climate

4,000 years ago, climate change caused massive civilization collapse

By Charles Choi, Fox News, May 29, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2012/05/29/4000-years-ago-climate-change-caused-massive-civilization-collapse/>

[SEPP Comment: Another description of the effects of a change in climate on, at that time, the broadest irrigation system known. See TWTW – 6/2/12. Climate change is real, significant, and natural.]

A 15,000 year record of vegetation and climate change from a treeline lake in the Rocky Mountains, Wyoming, USA

By Mensing, S, et al. The Holocene, July, 2012

<http://hol.sagepub.com/content/22/7/739>

[SEPP Comment: The climate has changed over the past 15,000 years, without human influence.]

New paper shows Wyoming was warmer 6,000 years ago than the present

The Hockey Schtick, May 31, 2012 [H/t Marc Morano]

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2012/05/new-paper-shows-wyoming-was-warmer-6000.html>

Sierra Nevada 200 year megadroughts confirmed

By Staff Writers, Reno NV (SPX) Jun 07, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Sierra_Nevada_200_year_megadroughts_confirmed_999.html

"Although the ancient cycle of megadroughts seems to occur every 650 to 1150 years and the last one was 750 years ago, it is uncertain when the next megadrought will occur."

Changing Seas

EOS Article On Sea Level Rise “Sea Level Rise And The Ongoing Battle Of Tarawa” By S. Donner 2012

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Jun 4, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/06/04/eos-article-on-sea-level-rise-sea-level-rise-and-the-ongoing-battle-of-tarawa-by-s-donner-2012/>

[SEPP Comment: Additional information on why it is important to focus on all activity affecting local sea level rise, including human reshaping of the shoreline, rather than focusing on single dramatic events.]

Historical Imagery of Greenland Glaciers Lessens Sea Level Rise Alarm

By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, Jun 4, 2012

<http://www.worldclimaterreport.com/index.php/2012/06/04/historical-imagery-of-greenland-glaciers-lessens-sea-level-rise-alarm/#more-541>

Changing Sea Ice

Facts Get In The Way—Again—Of A Good Global Warming Story

Editorial, IBD, Jun 5, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/article/613849/201206051909/heavy-polar-ice-1930s-photos-argue-against-global-warming.htm>

Beneath Arctic Ice, Life Blooms Spectacularly

Pools of water atop ice acts as lenses to focus sunlight

By Elizabeth Halliday, Oceanus, Jun 7, 2012

<http://www.whoi.edu/oceanus/viewArticle.do?id=140109§ionid=1021>

[SEPP Comment: Could a thinning of the Arctic summer ice be benefiting life in the Arctic?]

Acidic Waters

Acid Seas; Back to Basics

By Dennis Ambler, SPPI, Feb 12, 2010

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/acid_seas.html

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Conjunctive Use in Response to Potential Climate Changes in the Central Valley, California

By Staff Writers, USGS, Feb 28, 2012 [H/t WUWT]

<http://ca.water.usgs.gov/projects/cvhm/climate.html>

Forget peak oil, the global water crisis will shake humanity to its core

By Gus Lubin, Financial Post, Jun 7, 2012

http://business.financialpost.com/2012/06/07/forget-peak-oil-the-global-water-crisis-will-shake-humanity-to-its-core/?_lsa=98968a53

The Political Games Continue

Inhofe: Senate Will Vote in Next Two Weeks on Effort to Stop Obama War on Coal

Highlights New Video of Top EPA Official Admitting "Pain" of EPA Regs on Coal Communities

By Matt Dempsey & Katie Brown, Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, Jun 4, 2012

http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=b9cacaf1-802a-23ad-4459-39890f9d90ff

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Global Carbon Market Hits \$176 Billion in 2011

By Joanne Nova, Her Blog, Jun 6, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/06/global-carbon-market-hits-176-billion-in-2011/#more-21940>

[SEPP Comment: World Bank, among others, are racking it in. Have we reached peak carbon?]

US calls on EU to abandon 'lousy' carbon tax on airlines

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP) June 6, 2012

http://www.spacemart.com/reports/US_calls_on_EU_to_abandon_lousy_carbon_tax_on_airlines_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The tax is causing a division preventing the new carbon order.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

All Pain and No gain

The Illusory Benefits on the Utility MACT

By Marlow Lewis, William Yeatman & David Bier, CEI, Jun 2012

<http://www.globalwarming.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Marlow-Lewis-William-Yeatman-and-David-Bier-All-Pain-and-No-Gain.pdf>

EPA's Flawed Science: From Pretense of Knowledge to Fatal Conceit

by Kathleen Hartnett White, Master Resource, Jun 5, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/06/epas-flawed-science/#more-20296>

EPA's Unethical Air Pollution Experiments

By John Dale Dunn MD JD, American Thinker, Jun 3, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/06/epas_unethical_air_pollution_experiments.html

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Golden age of gas comes at a price

By Alex Forbes, European Energy Review, Jun 4, 2012

http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id_mailing=280&toegang=92c8c96e4c37100777c7190b76d28233&id=3724

[SEPP Comment: The article and the interview make clear that the International Energy Agency has been politicized by global warming alarmists. The article uses terms such as Wild West style of oil and gas development in Texas and Louisiana with no knowledge of the regulatory powers of state agencies.]

Does A Golden Age of Gas Depend on Golden Rules for Gas?

By Geoffrey Styles, Energy Tribune, Jun 7, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/10843/Does-A-Golden-Age-of-Gas-Depend-on-Golden-Rules-for-Gas?>

Meet The Oil Shale Eighty Times Bigger Than The Bakken

By Christopher Helman, Forbes, Jun 4, 2012 [H/t Warrant Wetmore]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/christopherhelman/2012/06/04/bakken-bazhenov-shale-oil/>

Washington's Control of Oil, Gas and other Forms of Energy

Where Will You Be When the Lights Go Out?

By Marita Noon, Townhall, Jun 3, 2012

http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2012/06/03/where_will_you_be_when_the_lights_go_out

Industry groups: Administration overestimating emissions at 'fracking' sites

By Joe Picard, The Hill, Jun 4, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/230773-industry-groups-administration-overestimating-emissions-at-fracking-sites>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

US seeks to keep internal emails from BP in spill case

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jun 8, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/231739-us-seeks-to-keep-internal-emails-from-bp-in-spill-case>

[SEPP Comment: May suggest incompetency in Washington or more.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Fukushima's doses tallied

Studies indicate minimal health risks from radiation in the aftermath of Japan's nuclear disaster.

By Geoff Brumfiel, Nature, May 23, 2012 [H/t John Dunn]

<http://www.nature.com/news/fukushima-s-doses-tallied-1.10686>

Radiation and Nuclear Power

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Jun 7, 2012

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2012/06/07/radiation-and-nuclear-power/>

Federal Court Orders DOE to Reevaluate Nuclear Waste Fund, Rules Fee Is Unlawful

By Staff Writers, Power News, Jun 6, 2012

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4704.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2458708&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e66050d0

[SEPP Comment: Washington continues to collect fees for a project it abandoned.]

Nuclear is not the solution to the energy challenge, it is part of the problem

By Thiemo Gropp, European Energy Review, Jun 4, 2012

<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3729>

As the UK gears up for a crucial decision on the building of new nuclear power plants, the voices in support of nuclear energy are getting louder. They claim that climate change cannot be addressed without an expansion of nuclear capacity. Renewable energies are said to be too costly and immature. Actually, the reverse is true, argues Thiemo Gropp, Director of the Desertec Foundation. Nuclear power is too costly and immature. What the UK and Europe should be doing is investing in building a supergrid that can support the expansion of renewables.

[SEPP Comment: Pave the deserts with solar panels?]

Europe's Green Energy Suicide

If it's cheap and plentiful—even low in carbon-dioxide emissions—much of the continent wants no part of it.

By Rael Jean Isaac

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304203604577398541135969380.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Wind down wind subsidies

Facts should cause fad to blow over

By Paul Driessen, Washington Times, Jun 6, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/jun/6/wind-down-wind-subsidies/>

Wind Wipe Out? (Worst feared at AWEA convention)

By Robert Bradley Jr, Master Resource, Jun 6, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/06/wind-wipe-out-awea/#more-20330>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

The Current High-Frequency Dynamics of Ocean pH

Reference: Hofmann, G.E., Smith, J.E., Johnson, K.S., Send, U., Levin, L.A., Micheli, F., Paytan, A., Price, N.N., Peterson, B., Takeshita, Y., Matson, P.G., Crook, E.D., Kroeker, K.J., Gambi, M.C., Rivest, E.B., Frieder, C.A., Yu, P.C. and Martz, T.R. 2011. High-frequency dynamics of ocean pH: A multi-ecosystem comparison. *PLoS ONE* 6: e28983.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/jun/5jun2012a3.html>

Urban Atolls of the World's Oceans: Succumbing to Rising Seas?

Reference: Ford, M. 2012. Shoreline changes on an urban atoll in the central Pacific Ocean: Majuro Atoll, Marshall Islands. *Journal of Coastal Research* 28: 11-22.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/jun/5jun2012a2.html>

The Evolving Status of the Western Greenland Ice Sheet

Reference: Hoffman, M.J., Catania, G.A., Neumann, T.A., Andrews, L.C. and Rumrill, J.A. 2011. Links between acceleration, melting, and supraglacial lake drainage of the western Greenland Ice Sheet. *Journal of Geophysical Research* 116: 10.1029/2010JF001934.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/jun/6jun2012a3.html>

Climate Change: Back to the Future

Reference: Leith, C.E. 1975. Climate Response and Fluctuation Dissipation. *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences* 32: 2022-2026.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/jun/6jun2012a5.html>

Health, Energy, and Climate

One more benefit of warming?

By Indur Goklany, WUWT, Jun 5, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/05/one-more-benefit-of-warming/>

Environmental Industry

Sierra Club ramps up pressure for wind credit extension

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jun 5, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/230989-sierra-club-ramps-up-pressure-for-wind-credit-extension>

[SEPP Comment: Of course, no hydro, no coal, no natural gas, what else is left!]

Other News that May Be of Interest

2012 Annular solar eclipse – follow-up

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 8, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/08/2012-annular-solar-eclipse-followup/>

[SEPP Comment: A stunning artistic poster including a great photo of the total eclipse.]

New desalination approach addresses water reclamation challenges

By Denise Deveau, Financial Post, Jun 7, 2012

<http://business.financialpost.com/2012/06/07/new-desalination-approach-addresses-water-reclamation-challenges/>

New small solid oxide fuel cell reaches record efficiency

By Staff Writers, Richland WA (SPX), Jun 08, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/New_small_solid_oxide_fuel_cell_reaches_record_efficiency_999.html

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Sweden may have to import garbage

By Staff Writers, Stockholm, Sweden (UPI) Jun 7, 2012

http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Sweden_may_have_to_import_garbage_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Environmental initiatives have their costs.]

For first time in years, the world is producing more oil than it needs

By Brad Plumer, Washington Post, Jun 5, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/oil-prices-are-collapsing--is-that-a-good-thing/2012/06/05/gJQAYm3zFV_blog.html

[SEPP Comment: Devoid understanding of basic economics.]

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ARTICLES:

1. Heartland Institute Responds to Pacific Institute’s Reinstatement of Gleick

By Joseph Bast, The Heartland Institute, Jun 7, 2012

<http://heartland.org/press-releases/2012/06/07/heartland-institute-responds-pacific-institutes-reinstatement-gleick>

The Board of Directors of the Pacific Institute announced yesterday it was “pleased to welcome Dr. Peter Gleick back to his position as president” of the organization. The announcement comes three months after Gleick, a prominent climate scientist, confessed to stealing confidential board documents from The Heartland Institute.

Gleick also circulated a memo, purportedly describing Heartland’s “climate strategy,” that he originally claimed to have received from Heartland, and later claimed to have received “in the mail” from an anonymous source. Heartland and others identified the memo as a fake and continue to believe it was most likely written by Gleick himself to damage Heartland’s reputation.

Since the “Fakegate” scandal broke in February, environmental groups including Greenpeace and 350.org have used the fake memo to launch disinformation campaigns against Heartland’s donors and the scientists who participate in its climate change research programs.

The following statement from Joseph Bast, president of The Heartland Institute, may be used for attribution. For more information, contact Director of Communications Jim Lakely at jlakely@heartland.org or 312/377-4000.

“Fakegate – which began when a fake memo was circulated to defame the world’s most prominent source of skepticism on man-made global warming – has now generated a fake investigation claiming to exonerate the person at the center of the scandal.

“Whereas The Heartland Institute has been [open and honest](#) with the public and the press, sharing [emails](#) and the results of its own [internal investigations](#), the Pacific Institute has refused to identify who conducted its investigation, to release its report, or even to respond to our [inquiries](#) about what [questions](#) were asked of Gleick.

“As near as we can tell, this was not an investigation. It was a whitewash.

“The Pacific Institute’s [board of directors](#) has failed to perform its duty and should be deeply ashamed. We have asked the federal government to prosecute Gleick for what we believe were serious crimes he committed, and we await its decision.”

2. No Frac’ing Way

By Norm Kalmanovitch, Jun 4, 2012

With the U.S. on the brink of energy self-sufficiency from ‘shale-gas’ production, the Environmentalist Lobby is once again making false claims about frac’ing in pursuit of their anti- energy, ideologically driven agenda. The only weapon against this propaganda is knowledge, because a population which is no longer ignorant of the facts, will also no longer be victimized by the draconian measures undertaken as a result of these fraudulent claims by the self-righteous Environmentalist Lobby.

The first two commercial applications of hydraulic fracturing of reservoirs to improve oil flow were done near Duncan, Oklahoma, and near Holliday, Texas, on March 17, 1949. There was no environmental damage from either of these two frac’s (‘frac’ is an industry contraction for hydraulic fracturing of reservoirs), and there has been no reported environmental damage from any of the hundreds of thousands of frac’s undertaken since, rendering all claims of contamination of drinking water from the current massive frac jobs used for shale-gas production completely fraudulent, because there has never been any actual evidence supporting this Environmentalist Lobby ‘anti-energy’ propaganda-driven conjecture.

A frac job can only be undertaken if there is perfect integrity of the steel casing from the surface down to the reservoir that is to be hydraulically fractured; and this precludes any possibility of frac fluids leaking directly into the drinking-water aquifers because they are protected by the double layer of surface casing cemented into the well-bore and the production casing cemented into the surface casing.

The fractures induced in the gas-bearing shales are essentially horizontal; and since the gas shales such as the Barnett Shale [Texas] are on average over a mile below any drinking water aquifers; there is no possibility that these fractures will travel through the overlying mile of solid rock allowing contamination of drinking water in these shallow aquifers.

The question is not whether there is contamination of drinking water from the frac’ing procedure undertaken in shale-gas operations as much as it is a question of how false claims by the environmentalist lobby can go unchallenged.

By falsely claiming the self-righteous moral high ground of being the so called “protectors of the environment”, the Environmentalist Lobby has leveraged itself into a position of such authority that they can make false claims with impunity. This is what they are doing by falsely claiming a global warming to still be a threat a full decade after the world had already started to cool; and it is what they are now doing with fraudulent warnings about hydraulic fracturing.

In 1991 Saddam Hussein set over 700 Kuwaiti oil wells ablaze, creating the world's greatest human-caused environmental disaster.

<http://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/news/topstory/2003/0321kuwaitfire.html>

To put out these fires and stop the flow with the available technology of the time, drilling the relief wells would have taken at least a week for each well and the environment could not tolerate the three years of oil fires that this would have taken. One company, on its own initiative and without any financial inducement from any government, stepped forward to find a way to save the environment from this human-caused disaster and stop the heavy flowing wells to allow the firefighters to put the fires out. The company's team of seasoned experts not only came up with a solution, they designed and fabricated the equipment to do the job and had it on the ground in Kuwait within weeks of when the fires were started by Hussein's retreating army. This process of "stinging" used on one-third of the wells allowed the blowout-specialist teams such as Canada's Safety Boss and Red Adair to stop the flow and put out the fires of over 700 wells in under ten months instead of three years. For blowout control see

<http://www.jwco.com/technical-literature/p10.htm>

(Compare this to the 86 days the combined brain trust of BP's engineers and the Obama team of academics took to come up with the solution of undoing six bolts, removing the broken riser, replacing it with an open ended assembly containing three valves, and then shutting the three valves to end the oil flow from the BP Macondo blowout in the Gulf of Mexico, while ignoring 70,000 suggestions (including mine) from seasoned experts, which could have stopped the flow within a few days of the explosion.

The company that came up with the solution for the environmental disaster in Kuwait was Halliburton – a company widely despised by the Environmentalist Lobby. I bring up Halliburton because this is the company that was involved with the first frac's back on March 17, 1949 and is still the world leader in hydraulic fracturing technology.

Science is science and data is data -- and both are immune to the perceived integrity of entity presenting scientific data, as is presented by Halliburton with these two graphs of fracture height and ground water depth.

http://www.indymedia.ie/attachments/feb2012/data_confirm_safety_of_well_fracturing.pdf

FIGURE 1
Barnett Shale Mapped Fracture Treatments (TVD)

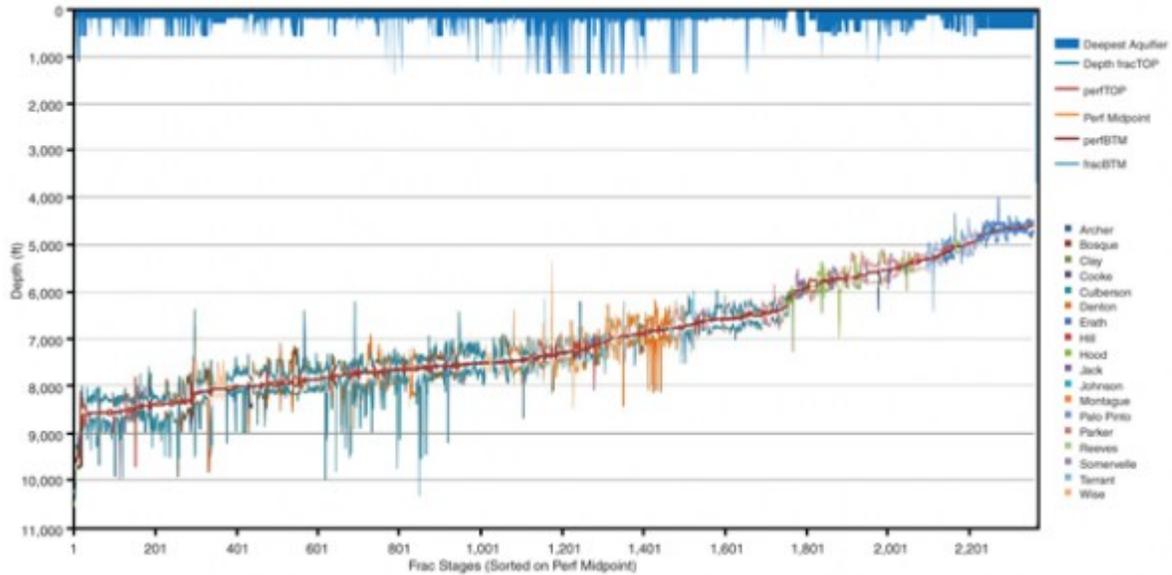
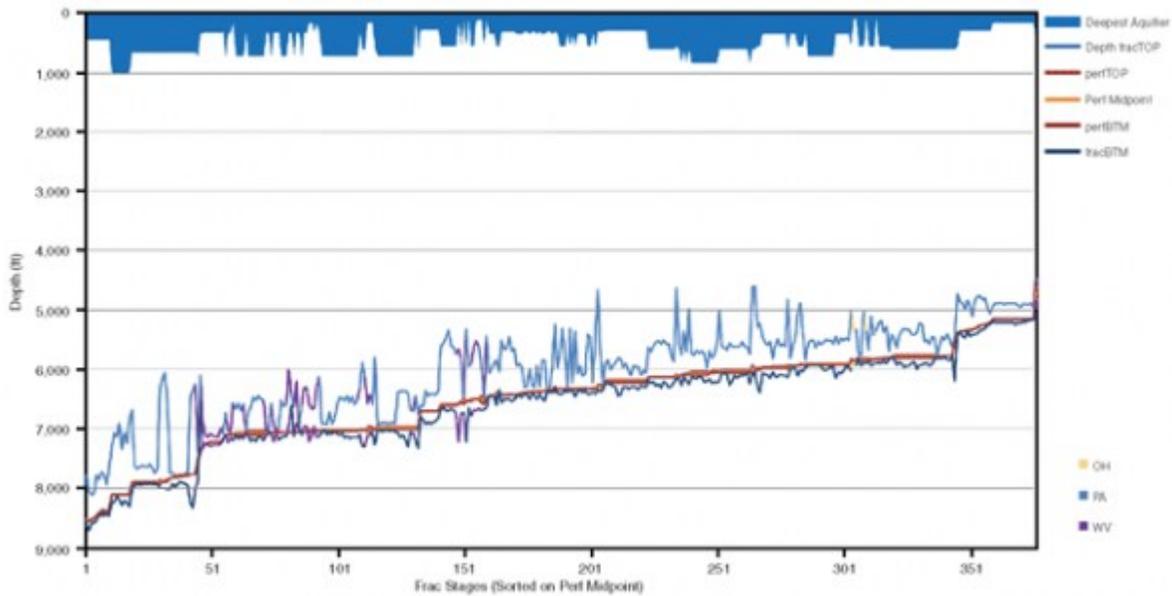


FIGURE 2
Marcellus Shale Mapped Fracture Treatments (TVD)



These two graphs demonstrate that all claims of induced fractures leading to contamination of drinking water in near-surface aquifers are completely fraudulent; and those people making these false claims should be held accountable for the damage caused to the economy resulting from these false claims.

Statements by regulatory officials on well water contamination from hydraulic fracturing

This is a listing of the confirmation by state regulators that there has never been a single valid claim of frac'ing resulting in contaminated drinking water -- as is fraudulently being claimed by the Environmentalist Lobby.

http://energyindepth.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/EID_State-Regulators.pdf

<http://www.iogcc.state.ok.us/Websites/iogcc/Images/2009StateRegulatoryStatementsonHydraulic%20Fracturing.pdf>

Examples of chemicals use in frac fluid

This is a listing of the so called ‘toxic frac fluid’ that is supposedly contaminating drinking water.

http://www.halliburton.com/public/projects/pubsdata/Hydraulic_Fracturing/disclosures/CleanStim_Pop_up.html

People need to educate themselves about the oil industry, and drilling practice in particular, to understand the measures taken to protect the environment when wells are drilled.

Listing (self reported) of frac wells, including water and chemicals used: <http://fracfocus.org/>

Additional information on hydraulic fracturing from the Texas Railroad Commission which controls oil and gas production in Texas

<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/about/faqs/hydraulicfracturing.php#frac8>

This is one of the sites where proper information can be obtained:

<http://www.kgs.ku.edu/Publications/Oil/primer12.html>

With respect to frac’ing and contamination of near-surface ground water, the following excerpt from this site on drilling surface-hole demonstrates the measures taken to protect these water resources:

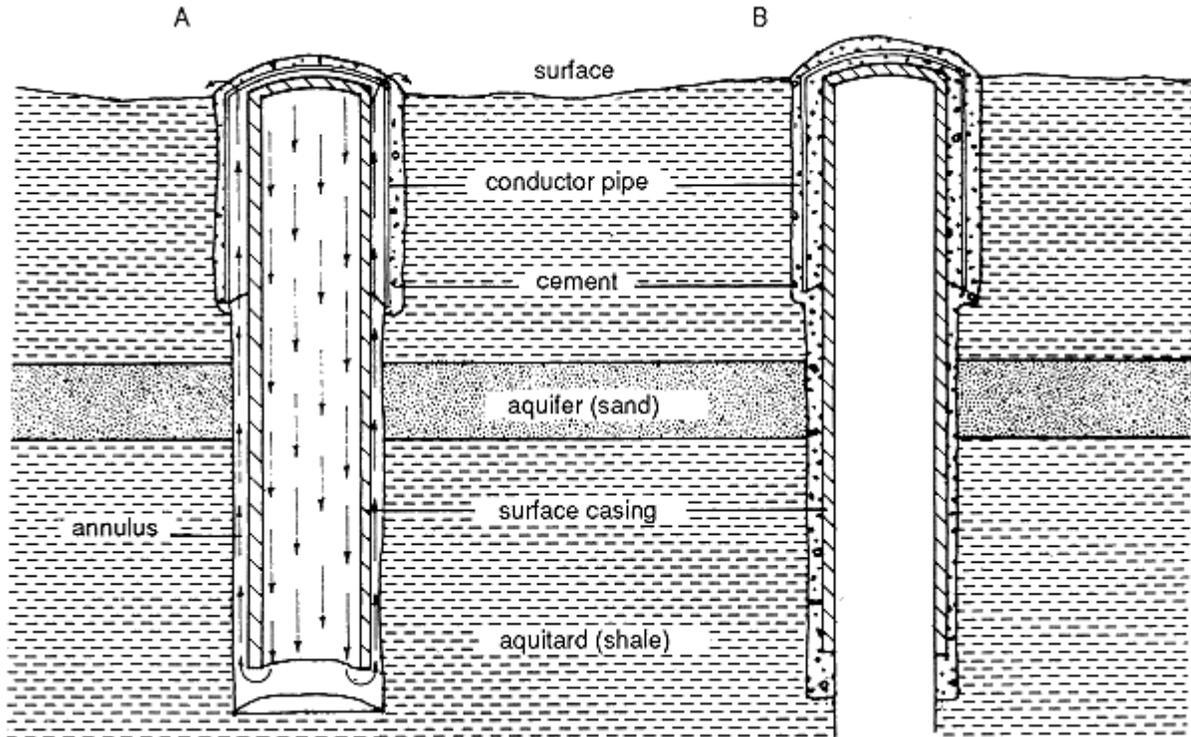
Drilling the surface hole

When a well is spudded in, a large-diameter drill bit is used to drill to a predetermined depth. This is for the purpose of drilling the surface hole. The surface hole is lined with casing. The casing protects aquifers which may contain freshwater, provides a mounting place for the blowout preventer, and serves as the support for the production casing that will be placed in the well bore if the drilling program is successful.

The surface hole may be several hundred or several thousand feet deep. Steel casing of the proper diameter is inserted. Sufficient cement is pumped down the surface casing to fill the space between the outside of the casing and the well bore all the way to the surface. This is to insure the protection of freshwater aquifers and the security of the surface casing (fig. 24). The casing and the cement are tested under pressure for a period of 12 hours before drilling operations may be resumed.

A piece of equipment known as a blowout preventer is attached at the top of the surface casing. This device is required to control the well in the event that abnormal pressures are encountered in the bore hole that cannot be controlled with drilling fluid. If high-pressure gas or liquid blows the drilling fluid out of the well bore, the blowout preventer can be closed to confine the gas and fluids to the well bore.

Figure 24--A casing is installed in the surface hole to prevent the contamination of freshwater zones and to support the production casing. A) The conductor pipe has been cemented into place. A predetermined amount of casing has been inserted into the well bore below the deepest freshwater zone. Cement is pumped down the inside of the casing until cement flows to the surface through the annulus. B) The cement in the bottom of the casing has been drilled out so that drilling can be resumed.



The American Public has been misled by the Environmentalist Lobby long enough. For the sake of the economy these fraudulent claims must be challenged, and those making these false claims should be held accountable for the damage they have done to society.

Norm Kalmanovitch P.Geoph
 Calgary Alberta Canada

Norm Kalmanovitch is a Canadian Professional Geophysicist with over forty years of world wide experience, which included 'site specific geophysical surveys' for drilling hazard identification and 'overpressure prediction' which were part of the necessary precautions taken for safe drilling in the critically environmentally sensitive Canadian Beaufort Sea.

His knowledge of hazards and drilling systems could have easily prevented the tragedy of the BP blowout in the Gulf of Mexico, and it was likely that his suggestion to pump kill mud down the kill line on the BOP after the assembly was installed that stopped the flow was used to neutralize the pressure and stabilize the well, preventing the possibility of further flow a month before the relief well was completed.

3. I will not contribute to UCS to take on the global warming deniers [Union of Concerned Scientists]

By Philip Kearney, May 13, 2012

I am not a denier. I am a skeptic and I feel that many of those you would refer to as deniers are in the same category- scientific skeptics. I know a lot of those types. From what I read I am finding that a lot of other scientists and their organizational groups have acquired a belief in the certainty of the hypothesis that global warming is human caused. I have yet to see any measured quantities, or results calculated from those quantities, where the uncertainties vanish! If that is claimed to be the case then it is not science.

All scientists should be skeptics.

When I first started to realize that people were serious about anthropogenic global warming I looked at the information available to me. The main conclusion I remember from that time was that there had been a reported increase in the average global temperature during much of the 20th century of 0.6 C +/- 0.2 C (IPCC). This is presumably in agreement with predictions of some sort of climate model and correlated with an increase in CO₂. To me that means a 3 sigma result. Back in the mid 1970's, as a young physicist, I presented a paper at an International Cosmic Ray Conference. My presented result showed a 3 sigma effect. The conclusion of most of the attending physicists in the audience was that 3 sigma was a good reason for further investigation but, by itself, did not establish the effect. It was a lesson learned.

A word I have heard often is "consensus" of scientists. Consensus proves nothing in science. I do not know the breakdown in categories of the scientists in UCS, but I would hazard a guess that the number of actual climate scientists is not a large percentage of the total. If the rest are like myself they do not have the resources, time, or the training to follow in detail the climate modeling process and data collection techniques in order to check the claimed results. This is particularly true when those making the original claims appear very reluctant to provide the original data used in the modeling process. As such most non-climate scientists are drawing conclusions based on information they did not establish on their own.

I have heard talks by a few scientists who deal with climate. Regarding this topic some are on one side and some on the other. I am willing to listen to both sides – not one side to the exclusion of the other. The most recent information I have heard is that there has been no net global warming for the past 10 years or so. However, even this conclusion has its' problems. Were the measurements made in the atmosphere and if so at what elevations? Or, were they surface measurements or sea temperatures at what depth? And further, which measurements are the ones to be given the most weight in which of the various models? And even knowing that last item does not make the models correct.

Although I offer no approval of 'hacking' the Climate Gate episode has shown me what some folks will do to avoid having to deal with evidence presented by those with information to the contrary. Consider the emails of Phil Jones to colleagues stating **"Try and change the received date. Don't give those skeptics something to amuse themselves with.** Or another message: (To Warwick Hughes, Australian scientist) **"Why should I make the data available to you, when your aim is to try and find something wrong with it."** That's just not the way science is done! It leaves me with the conclusion that I will never trust anything that he (Jones) or his group try to present as a scientific result.

Further, the hacked emails appear to show attempts (successful?) to load the journal referee process with only those who are in agreement with the AGW community. This is particularly offensive. If educated skeptics cannot be permitted to present well considered alternative viewpoints in a reviewed journal then what is printed in the journal becomes religious dogma. In that case it leaves no choice except for the likes of Limbaugh, Palin etc to be the main source of contrary information on the topic.

Apparently the hacked emails were not intended to mean what they actually said because investigations cleared the CRU staff. However, I read that despite the claim that the East Anglia committee was presumed to be formed independent of the school and program, one of the investigative committee members had been on the faculty at East Anglia for 18 years, in the School of Environmental science and associated with the CRU. So much for having no links or connections.

The purpose of this letter is not to promote one alternative process or the other. I am not a climate scientist and can only speculate as to which contributions to the global warming are the most important forcing terms cosmic rays, water vapor, sunspots or other solar activity, ocean currents, CO₂ etc. I do

know that correlations do not show causality. Which comes first, CO₂ or warming? Let us suppose the earth, including the ocean water, is warming from some alternative cause. Choose one. A heated ocean will certainly cook out CO₂ from the ocean waters and add it to the atmosphere. Yes indeed, we would now have a correlation between global temperature increase and an atmospheric CO₂ increase, but the causal effects are reversed. My letter is to suggest to UCS, and CRU, that the processes by which the conclusions have been reached do not appear to be those used in a reputable scientific program.

A scientific result that is to stand the test of time needs to have the whole investigation by which the conclusions are reached replicated by independent scientists not associated with those who did the original work. This needs to include original data. From reading the emails I get the feeling that Phil Jones and Michael Mann are unwilling to let this happen. It may cost a good deal of money to do a replication properly but it is going to cost a whale of a lot more if the countries of the world implement remedial actions for severe reductions in CO₂.

As I read the news of weather around the world I personally feel we are warming somewhat. But why not when we are still coming out of an ice age? Will the warming continue, cease, or reverse itself? I don't know. I do remember the 3 sigma lesson, however.

Philip Kearney, PhD, Retired
Emeritus Professor of Physics, Colorado State University
pdkearney@comcast.net

4. Power Shortage Vexes Texas

Report Urges Price Increase to Spur Industry to Build More Generating Plants

By Rebecca Smith, WSJ, Jun 4, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303506404577444571241195192.html?mod=ITP_pageone_1

Texas, which is facing an electricity shortage, should let power prices rise sharply to give companies more incentive to build badly needed generating plants, experts said in a new report to state grid officials.

But consumer groups and a coalition of the state's cities said higher energy costs would hurt customers while the U.S. economy remains sluggish.

As Texas's population has grown, power demand has surpassed increases in generating capacity, which is one solution to the state's problem. That has prompted grid operators to warn the state will be close to the edge this summer and could experience rolling blackouts if a few extra power plants break down.

Texas, whose 25 million residents make it the second most populous state after California, is expected to have a 2,500 megawatt shortfall in generating capacity—equivalent to five large power plants—as early as 2014. In addition to plant retirements, low natural gas costs that have lowered prices, pushing them to levels that are insufficient to support new investments, experts say.

The report, released Friday, said Texas officials either must accept increasing numbers of rolling blackouts as a fact of life or raise a price ceiling so more money flows to power-generation companies. The Brattle Group recommended that the state's price ceiling for electricity at peak demand, already the highest in the U.S. at \$3,000 a megawatt hour, should be tripled to \$9,000 a megawatt hour.

Even as the state grapples with power-supply questions, most Texas consumers are paying less for electricity than before the power system was deregulated a decade ago, state utility regulators say. Under the Texas system, consumers buy electricity from dozens of suppliers, under fixed-price or variable-price

contracts. While amounts paid can vary, prices have been trending down, overall, due to low natural-gas costs, which is used to produce much of the state's electricity.

The state has an unusual electricity system, in which generators only make money when they actually sell electricity. In other deregulated markets, like those in the East, Midwest and mid-Atlantic region, generators also are eligible for so-called capacity payments that cover a portion of their fixed costs, which some experts say encourages them to build power plants.

Electricity-supply problems in Texas are compounded because it doesn't meaningfully interconnect with other states' electric lines, so it can't import the power it needs when emergencies arise.

The state's power market "is at a juncture where something needs to change," said Sam Newell, a consultant at the Brattle Group, which prepared a 139-page report for the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, or Ercot, the organization that runs the state's electric grid.

Generators have said power prices are now too low to justify investments in new power plants and have tabled some projects.

The recommendation came as state lawmakers and utility regulators debated proposed fixes to the state's system.

The chairwoman of the state utility commission has recommended that the price ceiling be raised 50% to \$4,500 a megawatt hour, this summer, over the vigorous objection of some lawmakers.

Power industry analysts said Friday that a higher price cap in Texas would improve the finances of companies that own power plants there, including Houston-based Calpine Corp. CPN +0.48% and New Jersey-based NRG Energy Inc. Stock prices of most independent generation companies have been hit lately due to low prevailing power prices. One big owner of independent power plants, Dynegy Inc. of Houston, is undergoing bankruptcy reorganization.

The Brattle Group said that even a \$9,000 price cap might prove insufficient to goad generators into building as many new plants as are needed to create a proper cushion of reserves. Brattle Group's Mr. Newell said it is unlikely spot-market prices would hit a \$9,000 bid cap very often, but he said "there's a lot of uncertainty in these estimates."

Consumer advocates said raising the price ceiling could deliver a windfall profit to power generators who would be under no obligation to build more plants. Instead, they could sit back and collect higher revenues, in effect, profiting from the shortage.

Geoffrey Gay, an attorney for a coalition representing 160 Texas cities, said it's in generators' best interest to "hope for a shortage so they can maximize profits."

5. Industry Tries to Ease Fracking Worry

By Tennille Tracy, WSJ, Jun 4, 2012

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303506404577446733314082556.html?mod=ITP_pageone_1

The natural-gas industry opened its first major attempt Monday to rein in concerns that a greenhouse gas released during drilling endangers the environment, saying government emissions estimates are far too high.

Concerns over methane, the primary component in natural gas, have risen as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," becomes more common and unleashes a boom in natural-gas production. In fracking, companies pump water, sand and chemicals at high pressure into the ground, creating fractures in shale rock that makes it easier for natural gas to escape.

Some methane escapes into the atmosphere as the natural gas is being drilled and transported, but experts differ over how much.

A pair of influential energy groups, the American Petroleum Institute and America's Natural Gas Alliance, released a study Monday finding that the Environmental Protection Agency's estimates of emissions were twice as high as their own. The groups estimated that 4.4 million metric tons of methane escaped from producing unconventional natural gas in 2010, whereas the EPA has determined that number to be nearly 8.8 million metric tons.

"The fact that these emissions are much less than earlier, more limited estimates...is good news for the future of U.S. natural gas development and the game changing benefits of job creation and economic growth that will come with it," American Petroleum Institute director Howard Feldman said.

He added that the industry "has been reducing emissions and will continue to reduce emissions."

The two groups said the largest source of methane emissions in the U.S. was "enteric fermentation"—gas produced in the guts of cows and other ruminant animals and expelled. The EPA has said natural-gas drilling was No. 1.

Of the new industry report, the EPA said, "We are always open to reviewing relevant information that may help inform the science around important standards."

The EPA in April said it would require oil and natural-gas companies to use equipment that prevents emissions from escaping into the atmosphere. The rule targeted emissions known as volatile organic compounds, but the agency said it also would lead to cuts in methane.

The science on methane leaks is in its early stages. Earlier this year, university scientists and the Environmental Defense Fund said natural gas was better for the environment than coal when used for generating electricity. But its benefits are questionable when used as a fuel for cars and heavy-duty trucks, they said in a report examining methane leaks from gas production, processing and delivery.

Robert Howarth, a Cornell University professor of ecology and environmental biology and a vocal critic of natural-gas drilling, has said natural gas could be worse for global warming than coal because of what he describes as large methane leaks. "It's foolhardy to pursue shale gas further based on the information we have on hand," Mr. Howarth said in an interview.

President Barack Obama has promoted natural gas as a valuable domestic fuel. Under his watch, the EPA has passed stringent new rules for coal-fired power plants that has hastened the retirement of aging coal units and spurred the construction of natural-gas plants.

If the concern over methane leaks continues to build, it could have big consequences for the natural-gas industry. The environmental group Sierra Club already is trying to block exports of natural gas because it says exports would encourage more production and lead to greater emissions.

"People are paying attention [to methane emissions] because natural gas could become the dominant fuel source for the country," Sierra Club lawyer Craig Segall said.

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