

The Week That Was: 2013-07-27 (July 27, 2013)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *Men never do evil so completely and cheerfully as when they do it from religious conviction.* Blaise Pascal, [H/t Number Watch
<http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/religion.htm>]

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Number of the Week: 2/3, 1/2, or less?

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THIS WEEK:

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

EPA Endangerment Finding: The US Solicitor General, Department of Justice, and EPA attorneys filed their petition to the US Supreme Court requesting that it deny the petition from the group in which SEPP participates asking for the court to review the decision by the US Circuit Court of Appeals upholding the EPA Endangerment Finding (EF) that greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂), endanger public health or welfare. [For legal purposes the timing is December 7, 2009, the date of the EF.]

The standard asserted in the petition is quite loose. “Although it found some ‘uncertainties’ in the scientific data, the EPA ‘determined that the body of scientific evidence compellingly supports’ the finding that greenhouse gases **may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health and public welfare by driving global climate change.**” [Boldface added.]

Elsewhere the petition states: “... EPA explained that the global warming by greenhouses gas emissions will produce an increase in heat-related deaths; an increase in respiratory illness and premature death relating to poor air quality; and increased risk of death, injury, and disease relating to extreme weather events; and an increase in food- and water-borne diseases.” It goes on to state: “greenhouse gas pollution is reasonably anticipated to endanger public welfare by causing ‘net adverse impacts on U.S. food production and agriculture, with the potential for significant disruptions on crop failure in the future’” by endanger[ing] U.S. forestry in both the near and long term”...

SEPP Comment: In spite of an enormous body of experimental and observational evidence that enhanced atmospheric CO₂ is benefiting agriculture and forestry, the EPA can reasonably anticipate that CO₂ will cause significant harm.

The petition states: “The EPA relied principally on ‘recent synthesis and assessment reports’ of three scientific organizations: the United States Global Climate Research Program, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and the National Research Council.”

It is here where we can assess the standards of science exhibited by the EPA, and the scientific organizations on which it relies: US Global Climate Research Program the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the National Research Council.

At the time of the endangerment finding there were several dozen global climate models, now there are at least 73. The US has 19. One climate model is sufficient – if it has been validated.

- EPA offers no direct physical evidence that greenhouse gases are causing significant global warming or the dire future hazards.
- EPA relies heavily on global climate models for forecasts of future harm from increasing temperatures.
- From 1990 (first IPCC report) to the 2009 EF, the EPA and the scientific organizations upon which it relies have failed to produce a valid model
- Two decades is twice the time it took the Apollo team to model how to land men on the moon and bring them back, and to successfully complete the mission.
- Without direct physical evidence or a valid model, the EPA cannot establish causation – that greenhouse gases are responsible for significant global warming or climate change.
- The failure to validate a model is recognized by the IPCC because after the 1990 report the IPCC shifted from using the scientifically proper term “model predictions” to “model projections.”
- The term “model projections” is scientifically nebulous.
- All studies based on the models that have not been validated are scientifically nebulous, such as those that claim dire future weather events.
- Climate change has been occurring for hundreds of millions of years. The EPA has produced no evidence that it can successfully explain natural climate change.
- Without understanding the natural causes of climate change, the EPA cannot scientifically understand the human influence on climate.
- Without model validation, or a separate rigorous probability analysis, the confidence (likelihood) expressed by the EPA in the model results is opinion, not scientifically derived.

What we see is the failure of these government entities to properly conduct rigorous scientific research and that the consequences can become dire. Why have they failed to validate the models? Only the administrators of these programs can say. It is not for the lack of money. As stated in prior TWTWs, based on estimates by the GAO and the Congressional Research Service, the US has spent some \$160 to \$170 Billion on climate change activities from 1992 to 2012. Some administrators may claim they were not tasked with the responsibility of validating a model. But that is an excuse, if it is true, their reports should state that the report is based on un-validated climate models, clearly and predominately, so there is no misunderstanding. As stated previously,

the Court's decision on whether or not to hear the case will be on legal grounds, not scientific grounds. Unable to link to the EPA petition at this time.

A Beginning of Model Validation? On his web site Climate Audit, Steve McIntyre had a pair of intriguing posts. The first, on July 21, was a teaser. It showed a simple model that visually outperformed the latest complex model from the Hadley Centre/Climatic Research Unit (HadCRUT4) for describing temperature trends from 1900 to today. The model shows a modest increase in temperatures in response to carbon dioxide emissions. A doubling of atmospheric CO₂ would result in a temperature increase of 1.67 deg C. This is a little more than one-half of claimed "likelihood" 3 deg C, according to the IPCC.

In his July 26 post, McIntyre states many of his readers surmised that the simple model was one devised by Guy Callendar and published in 1938. Callendar was an early proponent of the greenhouse effect and believed that increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide would be beneficial for humanity, including promoting plant growth, providing protection against extreme cold, and it may delay the return of another Ice Age, with destructive glaciation making much of the Northern Hemisphere uninhabitable.

Using established statistical techniques, McIntyre ran the Callendar model against 12 modern global circulation models and found that none of the 12 performed better and 10 performed far worse. It is too early to jump to conclusions from this analysis except to suggest that if simple models outperform complex models, then why rely on the complex models. "As [Steve] Mosher observed in a comment on the predecessor post, a more complicated model ought to be able to advance beyond the simple model and, if there is a deterioration in performance, there's something wrong with the model." Advocates of complexity could argue, that their models produce results other than temperature as well, which is true, but temperature increase is the central issue. For the somewhat technical discussion please see links under Models v Observations.

The Pause: The British Met Office [formerly, Metrological Office] produced three reports with titles starting with "The recent pause in global warming:" David Whitehead observes that the reports may say more about the messenger than the message. Among other things, the reports imply there is nothing unusual about the current standstill. Which would come as a surprise to the EPA and its certainty in its findings. One of the models that was run multiple times reproduces the pause – which speaks to the lack of rigor in the models. Perhaps the models can be likened to a pot of hot water in which gelatin has been dissolved. The final form depends upon the mold in which it is cooled, with temperature data being the mold.

The reports also suggest the missing heat is hiding in the deep ocean. How a warming of the atmosphere, where the greenhouse effect takes place, thousands of feet above the surface enters the deep oceans without leaving its trace is a mystery to be explained. The reports also state that the highest level of projected warming has been reduced, and that the most likely level is reduced by 10%. Although the terms verified and validity are mentioned, there is no effort to rigorously validate the models.

At least the Met Office recognizes there is a pause, which is something that the US Administration does not. Please see links under Lowering Standards.

The Methane Bomb: Occasionally, an article appears claiming the warming of the Arctic will trigger an enormous discharge of methane, which, in turn, will cause significantly more global warming. A new one appeared in *Nature*, claiming a massive reserve of methane hydrates will be released with the warming of the seabed of the East Siberian Arctic Shelf. A model was run estimating the staggering monetary costs to the world, about 85% of the 2012 world economy. Of course, it did not occur to the authors, or the editors, to ask why did this not occur about 8,000 to 5,000 years ago when the northern part of the Northern Hemisphere was considerably warmer than today? Or, since these methane deposits have existed for hundreds of thousands or millions of years, why did they not escape during the last interglacial period which was considerably warmer than today? Interestingly, Anthony Watts posted on his web site a comments on the paper by Gavin Schmidt of NASA-GISS, some of the points critical of the paper. Schmidt’s final point is particularly noteworthy: “But we should not take what-if sensitivity experiments as predictions.” Please see links under Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up

EIA Report: The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) issued its annual report, which will be discussed in future TWTWs. The report projects a 56% increase in world energy consumption by 2040, with fossil fuels continuing to supply about 80% of the world’s energy. It is amusing to note that some editors chose to emphasize growth in renewables, even though renewables will continue to provide a small part of the growth in energy use. Please see links under Energy Issues – Non-US.

Number of the Week: 2/3, or 1/2, or less? How much should the IPCC reduce the” most likely warming” estimate for the 21st century in the upcoming report as compared with its 2007 report? Paul Knappenberger and Patrick Michaels present an interesting discussion on the IPCC’s dilemma. Recent studies come up estimates far lower than that the IPCC used previously. To use these estimates in the upcoming report would undermine the following report on the dire consequences from the projected warming. (It would undermine the EPA endangerment finding as well.) Knappenberger and Michaels are betting the IPCC will essentially ignore the recent studies and mislead policymakers and the world. This would be consistent with the history of the IPCC, dismiss or ignore that you cannot explain. Please see link under Problems in the Orthodoxy

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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. China Weighs Environmental Costs

Beijing Tries to Emphasize Cleaner Industry Over Unbridled Growth After Signs Mount of Damage Done

By Richard Silk, WSJ, Jul 23, 2013

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324879504578597462908226052.html>

[SEPP Comment: Doubt if China’s consideration includes the concept invented by the West – carbon pollution. It appears the effort is to replace obsolete, inefficient plants coal-fired plants with more efficient coal-fired plants.]

2. E.ON Considering Power Plant Relocation

Mothballed European Plants May be Moved to Emerging Markets

By Hendrik Varnholt and Jan Hromadko, WSJ, Jul 24, 2013
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323610704578625952435949988.html>
[SEPP Comment: *What a novel idea! Move your power plants to countries that want them.*]

3. Canada Oil Firm Still Unable to Stop Leaks

Four Separate Leaks Reported at Air-Force Base in Alberta
By Chester Dawson, WSJ, Jul 25, 2013
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323971204578626273811559896.html?mod=W>
[SJ Energy 2_4_Right](#)

4. Poles, scientists misuse climate issue

By Charles Battig, VA-SEEE, Letter, The Daily Progress, Jul 26, 2013
http://www.dailyprogress.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/pols-scientists-misuse-climate-issue/article_01ff07fc-f5ee-11e2-b678-001a4bcf6878.html
[SEPP Comment: *Oh' Mann Again!*]

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

Science Media Centre spins the pause
By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jul 22, 2013
<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/7/22/science-media-centre-spins-the-pause.html>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

September Release Planned for Climate Change Reconsidered II
By Jim Lakely, Somewhat Reasonable, Jul 26, 2013
<http://blog.heartland.org/2013/07/september-release-planned-for-climate-change-reconsidered-ii/>
[SEPP Comment: *A definitive statement of critical issues unresolved prior to a purported definitive statement of a non-existing consensus.*]

Refuting the myths of climate change

By Des Moore & Tom Quirk, Quadrant, Jul 25, 2013
<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2013/07/refuting-the-myths-of-climate-change>
[SEPP Comment: *Thorough, somewhat technical, analysis with a “down under” slant.*]

The Logical Case against Climate Panic

By The Viscount Monckton of Brenchly, SPPI, Jul 23, 2013
http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/the_logical_case_against_climate_panic.html
Logic is the heartbeat of all true learning – the soul of the Classics, the Sciences and Religion. Once everyone studied the Classics, to know that in logic there is a difference between true and false; the Sciences, to discern where it lies; and Religion, to appreciate why it matters. Today, few study all three empires of the mind. Fewer study the ordered beauty of the logic at their heart.

Veteran German Meteorologist Calls Climate Findings “Procured” ...Sees Only 0.5°C Of Warming For CO2-Doubling

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jul 24, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/07/24/veteran-german-meteorologist-calls-climate-findings-procured-sees-only-0-5c-of-warming-for-co2-doubling/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Shifting patterns of temperature volatility in the climate system

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Jul 26, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Shifting_patterns_of_temperature_volatility_in_the_climate_system_999.html

[SEPP Comment: It is the climate establishment that claimed uniformity.]

Earth's self regulation of Carbon Dioxide is remarkably stable

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jul 23, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/23/earths-self-regulation-of-carbon-dioxide-is-remarkably-stable/>

“Warming is the one thing that we know with most certainty will occur under climate change in the tropics, but there are still large uncertainties about the future precipitation in tropical regions,” says Dr Canadell, who is also Executive Director of the Canberra-based Global Carbon Project.

[SEPP Comment: Atmospheric warming over the tropics is not significant.]

Has global warming stopped? No - it's just on pause, insist scientists, and it's down to the oceans

Temperatures still expected to reach predicted 2015 levels with only a five-year delay after 12 of the 14 hottest years on record

By Steve Connor, Independent, Jul 22, 2013

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/has-global-warming-stopped-no-its-just-on-pause-insist-scientists-and-its-down-to-the-oceans-8726893.html>

Rapid upper ocean warming linked to declining aerosols

By Staff Writers, Canberra, Australia (SPX), Jul 24, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Rapid_upper_ocean_warming_linked_to_declining_aerosols_999.html

It's not just the heat - it's the ozone: Study highlights hidden dangers

By Staff Writers, SPX, Jul 23, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Its_not_just_the_heat_its_the_ozone_Study_highlights_hidden_dangers_999.html

[SEPP Comment: What is the cause of an increase in ozone production? Could it be certain emissions from green plants?]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

All quiet on the third front

By John Brignell, Number Watch, Jul 22, 2013

http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2013_july.htm

“Ten Billion and Catastrophe?”

By Dennis Avery, Center for Global Food Issues, Jul 17, 2013

<http://www.cgfi.org/2013/07/ten-billion-and-catastrophe-by-dennis-t-avery/>

Natural Gas: Pipeline To Prosperity...Bridge Fuel To Nowhere

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jul 23, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/07/23/natural-gas-pipeline-to-prosperity-bridge-fuel-to-nowhere/>

Global Warming Is Not The World's Top Problem, Energy Is

By Hank Campbell, Science 2.0, Jul 26, 2013

http://www.science20.com/science_20/blog/global_warming_not_worlds_top_problem_energy-117173

[SEPP Comment: Providing for a better future for the poor.]

IER's Robert Murphy on the Social Cost of Carbon

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Jul 24, 2013

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2013/07/24/iers-robert-murphy-on-the-social-cost-of-carbon/#more-17199>

[SEPP Comment: Addressing bureaucratic absurdity.]

Problems in the Orthodoxy

The IPCC AR5 Is in Real Trouble

By Paul Knappenberger and Patrick Michaels, Cato, Jul 26, 2013

<http://www.cato.org/blog/ipcc-ar5-real-trouble>

The start of the end — Mainstream press says “Politicians go cold on global warming”

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 23, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/the-start-of-the-end-mainstream-press-says-politicians-go-cold-on-global-warming/>

Andrew Neil on Ed Davey climate change interview critics

By Andrew Neil, BBC, Jul 22, 2013 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-23405202>

[SEPP Comment: A response to alarmists who were critical of Neil of BBC for asking tough questions.]

The 97% ‘consensus’

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jul 26, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/26/the-97-consensus/#more-12315>

Global warming scare is dying

By Charles Adler, Toronto Sun, Jul 18, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.torontosun.com/2013/07/18/global-warming-scare-is-dying>

Seeking a Common Ground

NOAA: 2012 Heat Wave March and July explained by natural variability - similar to 1910, 1934

Posted by Staff, ICECAP, Jul 25, 2013

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

Link to paper: The Making of An Extreme Event: Putting the Pieces Together

By Dole, et al, AMS, No date given.

Several lines of evidence strongly implicate natural variations as the primary cause for the extreme event. [March 2012 US warmth]

<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/BAMS-D-12-00069.1?af=R&>

[SEPP Comment: One group in NOAA demonstrating scientific integrity.]

What's behind the battle of received wisdoms?

By Ben Pile, Making Science Public, Jul 23, 2013

<http://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/makingsciencepublic/2013/07/23/whats-behind-the-battle-of-received-wisdoms/>

And those who shout most loudly about science turn out to be advancing an idea of science which, rather than emphasising [sic] the scientific method, puts much more store — let's call it 'faith' — in scientific institutions. Hence, the emphasis on the weight, number and height of scientific evidence articles, and expertise, rather than on the process of testing competing theories.

Lowering Standards

Raptures of the Deep

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Jul 24, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/raptures-deep/>

Links to MET Briefing papers: The recent pause in global warming (1): What do observations of the climate system tell us?

By Staff, Met Office, July 2013

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/media/pdf/q/s/Paper1_Observing_changes_in_the_climate_system.PDF

The recent pause in global warming (1): What are the potential causes?

By Staff, Met Office, July 2013

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/media/pdf/q/0/Paper2_recent_pause_in_global_warming.PDF

The recent pause in global warming (3) What are the implications for projections of future warming?

By Staff, Met Office, July 2013

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/media/pdf/q/2/Paper3_Implications_for_projections.pdf

Part 1 – Comments on the UKMO Report about “The Recent Pause in Global Warming”

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Jul 25, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/25/part-1-comments-on-the-ukmo-report-about-the-recent-pause-in-global-warming/>

UK Met Office on the pause

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jul 23, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/23/uk-met-office-on-the-pause/#more-12279>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

CIA Backs \$630,000 Scientific Study on Controlling Global Climate

Conspiracy theorists, rejoice!

By Dana Liebelson & Chris Mooney, Mother Jones, Jul 17, 2013

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2013/07/cia-geoengineering-control-climate-change>

Link to project information: Geoengineering Climate: Technical Evaluation and Discussion of Impacts

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, CIA,

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/projectview.aspx?key=49540>

[SEPP Comment: CIA controlling the climate will be very interesting since we do not know the natural causes of change. But the CIA is in charge.]

Questioning European Green

Listening to Science

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Jul 26, 2013

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/listening-science>

[SEPP Comment: The precautionary principle is a barrier to advancement not an aid to reason.]

Germany: Coal Power Expanding, Green Energy Stagnating

By Staff Writer, Der Westen, Trans by Philipp Mueller, GWPF, Jul 25, 2013

<http://www.thegwgf.org/germany-coal-power-expanding-green-energy-stagnating/>

Merkel Aid Clash With EU Raises Risk From Exxon to Bayer

By Stefan Nicola & Naomi Kresg, Bloomberg, Jul 17, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-16/merkel-to-press-eu-to-allow-industry-energy-intensive-waivers.html>

[SEPP Comment: Institute policies that cost electrical ratepayers a fortune, then burden the households even further by bribing corporations not to leave – green government.]

ScottishPower blames government energy efficiency schemes for rising costs

ScottishPower has reignited the row over who is to blame for rising energy bills after reporting the costs of government energy efficiency schemes had more than doubled since last year.

By Emily Gosden, The Telegraph, Jul 24, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/10200859/ScottishPower-blames-government-energy-efficiency-schemes-for-rising-costs.html>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Great Green Fleet = Big Red Ink

By David Kreutzer, The Foundry, Jul 24, 2013

<http://blog.heritage.org/2013/07/24/great-green-fleet-big-red-ink/>

Let's get our priorities right

By Bjørn Lomborg, WUWT, Jul 20, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/20/lomborg-lets-get-our-priorities-right/>

Let's burn forests and millions of dollars! It's another Nanny-State business "success"

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 24, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/lets-burn-forests-and-millions-of-dollars-its-another-nanny-state-business-success/#more-29692>

Green Jobs

Green Jobs: Surely You're Joking, Mr. President

By David Kreutzer, The Foundry, Jul 26, 2013

<http://blog.heritage.org/2013/07/26/green-jobs-surely-youre-joking-mr-president/>

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

Alaska's boreal forests burning more with climate change

By Betina Boxall, LA Times, Jul 22, 2013

<http://www.latimes.com/news/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-alaska-boreal-forests-wildfire-20130722,0,383693.story>

[SEPP Comment: The historic evidence indicates massive fires as the boreal forests died back from cold following the warm period of 8,000 to 5,000 years ago.]

Declining sea ice strands baby harp seals

By Staff Writers, Durham NC (SPX), Jul 26, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Declining_sea_ice_strands_baby_harp_seals_999.html

Link to paper not found.

[SEPP Comment: At issue is winter and spring sea ice; not fall ice melt. No statements about the ice conditions in the critical season.]

New iceberg theory points to areas at risk of rapid disintegration

By Staff Writers, Ann Arbor MI (SPX), Jul 23, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/New_iceberg_theory_points_to_areas_at_risk_of_rapid_disintegration_999.html

Link to paper: Diverse calving patterns linked to glacier geometry

By J. N. Bassis & S. Jacobs, Nature Geoscience, Jul 21, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo1887.html>

[SEPP Comment: Poor reporting.]

Study explains Pacific equatorial cold water region

By Staff Writers, Corvallis OR (SPX), Jul 26, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Study_explains_Pacific_equatorial_cold_water_region_999.html

Because this is a huge expanse [of equatorial ocean] that takes up heat from the atmosphere, understanding how it does so is critical to seasonal weather patterns, El Nino, and to global climate change.

[SEPP Comment: Stirring the cream in the coffee cup example! How does it take heat from the atmosphere that is not measured in the atmosphere, especially that which is claimed to be occurring thousands of feet above the ocean? This may be an experiment on exploring the depths of gullibility among journalists.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Arctic methane breach an 'economic time bomb'

By Staff Writers, Paris, France (AFP), July 24, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Arctic_methane_breach_an_economic_time_bomb_999.html

Link to paper: Vast costs of Arctic change

By Whiteman, Hope, and Wadhams, Nature, Jul 24, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v499/n7459/full/499401a.html>

Gavin on why the Arctic methane alarm is implausible

By Gavin Schmidt, NASA GISS, on WUWT, Jul 25, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/25/gavin-on-why-the-arctic-methane-alarm-is-implausible/>

Arctic time bomb (?)

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jul 25, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/25/arctic-time-bomb/#more-12300>

[SEPP Comment: Curry questions the plausibility of the time bomb report.]

Is the Arctic Melt Going to Cost Us Dearly?

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Meadia, Jul 25, 2013

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/07/25/is-the-arctic-melt-going-to-cost-us-dearly/>

[SEPP Comment: More questions on the Arctic time bomb.]

Delaware’s “Future Weather”

We’re getting burned by phony science and authoritarian power grabs

By Paul Driessen and David Legates, SPPI, Jul 24, 2013

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

[SEPP Comment: All levels of government are infected by climate experts who have a model that has not been validated.]

Vulnerable Maryland weighs threat of sea-level rise

By Darryl Fears, Washington Post, Jul 21, 2012 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/vulnerable-maryland-weighs-threat-of-sea-level-rise/2013/07/21/37201d50-efe9-11e2-bed3-b9b6fe264871_story.html

“Our estimate is we should prepare for a sea level that’s going to be almost up to my chest, well over my knees,” Boesch said. “We better prepare for that. We need to be ready to make some difficult and tough decisions about what we’re going to protect.”

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Dr. Willie Soon Guest Comment: “Is What I Say Beyond the Boundaries of Reasonable Discussion?”

By Russell Cook, Gelbspan Files, Jul 26, 2013

<http://gelbspanfiles.com/?p=609>

[SEPP Comment: Describing attacks on Soon and the constant attacks on skeptics by those who disagree with their science and falsely claim massive funding from oil and gas industries.]

Models v. Observations

Results from a Low-Sensitivity Model

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jul 21, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/07/21/results-from-a-low-sensitivity-model/>

Guy Callendar vs the GCMs

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jul 26, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/07/26/guy-callendar-vs-the-gcms/#more-18244>

Measurement Issues

Why Antarctic Sea Ice Is the Better Climate Change Indicator

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Jul 22, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/22/why-antarctic-sea-ice-is-the-better-climate-change-indicator/>

[SEPP Comment: The Arctic sea ice is subject to many types of variations (confounding variables), making it a poor indicator of greenhouse gas warming.]

No Consensus among Three Global Precipitation Datasets

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Jul 23, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/23/no-consensus-among-three-global-precipitation-datasets/>

Changing Weather

Cold spring weather catastrophic for Poland's stork populations

By Staff Writers, Wolsztyn, Poland (UPI), Jul 25, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Cold_spring_weather_catastrophic_for_Polands_stork_populations_999.html

It may get wet yet! How one Met office expert is convinced the heatwave is a 'blip'... and that we're still in for a WASHOUT summer

Scientists talked of a cycle of soaking and predicted a cool and wet month
But Britain's longest heatwave for seven years is set to continue next week
UK is on course for the driest July since records began in 1910
But one Met Officer expert insists it's just a 'blip'

By Adam Lee-Potter and Jill Reilly, Mail Online, Jul 22, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2372011/UK-heatwave-2013-It-wet-How-Met-office-expert-convinced-heatwave-blip.html>

Changing Climate

Evidence of Medieval Warm Period in North America: South of the United States

By Staff, SPPI & CO2 Science, Jul 17, 2013

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

The warm weather may be a precursor to a Little Ice Age

By David Whitehouse, PS Europe, Jul 23, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.publicserviceeurope.com/article/3822/the-warm-weather-may-be-a-precursor-to-a-little-ice-age>

[SEPP Comment: A big question mark!]

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Arctic Summer Snowstorm

By Joseph D'Aleo, WUWT, Jul 25, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/25/oh-what-a-difference-a-year-makes-in-greenland-melting/>

Ancient Antarctic ice got muddy

By Staff Writers, New York NY (SPX), Jul 23, 2013

[http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Ancient Antarctic ice got muddy 999.html](http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Ancient_Antarctic_ice_got_muddy_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: This was before the beginning of the current period of ice ages. Likely prior to the thermohaline circulation and the strong currents circulating around Antarctica. Strangely, the article does not discuss these.]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Interactive Effects of CO₂ and Water Stress on Agricultural Crop Growth

By Staff, SPPI and CO₂ Science, Jul 25, 2013

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/interactive_effects_of_c02_and_water_stress_on_agricultural_crop_growth.html

Impact of Rising CO₂ on Agricultural Methane Emissions

By Staff Writers, SPPI & CO₂ Science, Jul 23, 2013

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/impact_of_rising_c02_on_agricultural_methane_emissions.html

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Corals Moving Northward in the Western Mediterranean Seas

Reference: Serrano, E., Coma, R., Ribes, M., Weitzmann, B., Garcia, M. and Ballesteros, E. 2013. Rapid northward spread of a zooxanthellate coral enhanced by artificial structures and sea warming in the Western Mediterranean. *PLOS ONE* 8: e52739.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/23jul2013a2.html>

Southern Ocean Bottom Water Formation in CMIP5 Models

Reference: Heuze, C., Heywood, K.J., Stevens, D.P. and Ridley, J.K. 2013. Southern Ocean bottom water characteristics in CMIP5 models. *Geophysical Research Letters*: 10.1002/grl.50287.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/23jul2013a4.html>

Climate Change Conversations: Establishment Scientists Getting It Wrong

Reference: Shakhashiri, B.Z. and Bell, J.A. 2013. Climate Change Conversations. *Science* 340: 9.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/24jul2013a1.html>

Holocene Temperatures at the Western Greenland Ice Sheet Margin

Reference: Axford, Y., Losee, S., Briner, J.P., Francis, D.R., Langdon, P.G. and Walker, I.R. 2013. Holocene temperature history at the western Greenland Ice Sheet margin reconstructed from lake sediments. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 59: 87-100.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/24jul2013a3.html>

The Political Games Continue

Critical Thinking on Climate Change

Minority Report: US Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee, Jul 18, 2013

http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=f4ace657-9490-4f4c-86f3-25d367e2085c

[SEPP Comment: The Republican report prior to last week's hearing.]

Why is Obama lying on climate change?

By Marita Noon, Townhall, Jul 21, 2013 [H/t Jim Rust]
<http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2013/07/21/why-is-obama-lying-on-climate-change-n1645569/page/full>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

The real free market is making the fake carbon markets pointless

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 26, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/the-real-free-market-is-making-the-fake-carbon-markets-pointless/>

Link to paper: Climate policy and dependence on traded carbon

By Andrew, Davis and Peters, Environmental Research Letters, Jul 24, 2013

<http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/8/3/034011>

Carbon programs' backlash in Australia, EU bode ill for U.S. efforts to fight climate change

By Tim Devaney, Washington Times, Jul 18, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jul/18/carbon-programs-backlash-in-australia-eu-bode-ill/>

Current Wisdom: We Calculate, You Decide: A Handy-Dandy Carbon Tax Temperature-Savings Calculator

By Patrick Michaels and Paul Knappenberger, Cato, Jul 23, 2013 [H/t Jo Nova]

<http://www.cato.org/blog/current-wisdom-we-calculate-you-decide-handy-dandy-carbon-tax-temperature-savings-calculator>

[SEPP Comment: Cleaver idea, but the calculator did not work Saturday afternoon.]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Ethanol industry has EPA as ally in battle against big oil

By Timothy Carney, Washington Examiner, Jul 19, 2103

http://washingtonexaminer.com/ethanol-industry-has-epa-as-ally-in-battle-against-big-oil/article/2533290?utm_source=Tim%20Carney%20Reoccurring%20%2007/21/2013&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Timothy%20P%20Carney

Shepherds Flat developers took full advantage federal, state and local taxpayer subsidies to fund the \$2 billion wind farm

By Ted Sickinger, The Oregonian, Jul 21, 2013 [H/t Wind Action]

http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2013/07/shepherds_flat_wind_farm_devel.html

[SEPP Comment: How to milk a wind mill.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

House bill slashes EPA budget by 34 percent

By Erik Wasson and Ben Geman, The Hill, Jul 22, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/appropriations/312537-house-bill-slashes-epa-budget-by-34-percent>

[SEPP Comment: And block rules on carbon dioxide emissions from power plants.]

New EPA chief exhorts agency staff to 'act now on climate change'

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Jul 22, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/312561-new-epa-chief-to-staff-this-is-a-defining-time-for-epa>

[SEPP Comment: May not have a budget in a few years, see link immediately above.]

Overriding Consumer Preferences with Energy Regulations

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Jul 23, 2013, July 23, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=23409&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

Energy Issues – Non-US

Federal report: World energy consumption to grow 56 percent by 2040

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jul 25, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/313449-federal-report-world-energy-consumption-to-increase-56-percent-by-2040>

Link to the report: International Energy Outlook 2013

By Staff, US Energy Information Administration, July 25, 2013

<http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/ieo/>

EIA Projects Massive Growth for Renewables, Nuclear Power Through 2040

By Sonal Petal, Power News, Jul 25, 2013

http://www.powernews.com/POWERnews/5813.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2716920&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

Chevron Draws Europe Toward Natural Gas Independence: Energy

By Ladka Bauerova, Bloomberg, Jul 24, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-23/chevron-anticipates-europeans-prefer-fracking-to-putin-energy.html>

Energy Issues -- US

U.S. Energy Policy: New Mindset Needed ('energy security' narrative must go)

By Peter Grossman, Master Resource, Jul 26, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/07/energy-security-narrative-must-go/>

[SEPP Comment: Abandon the arrogance of US energy policy. The issue is not independence of the markets, but physically security in time of war.]

Demoralize the anti-oil fringe

By Robert Bradley, Leader & Times, Jul 25, 2013

http://www.leaderandtimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12687:demoralize-the-anti-oil-fringe&catid=29:opinion&Itemid=58

[SEPP Comment: Environmentalists protesting prosperity for the poor.]

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Natural Gas Liquids: A Revolution Within the US Shale Boom

By Tim Daiss, Energy Tribune, Jul 23, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/78355/natural-gas-liquids-a-revolution-within-the-us-shale-boom#sthash.2g5yqRYi.dpbs>

Now gas-rich Israel goes for oil in East Med

By Staff Writers, Tel Aviv, Israel (UPI), Jul 24, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Now_gas-rich_Israel_goes_for_oil_in_East_Med_999.html

DOE official: Chinese natural gas could 'wreak havoc' on markets

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Jul 25, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/313489-doe-official-chinese-natural-gas-could-wreak-havoc-on-markets>

[SEPP Comment: What could be a boon for China would wreak havoc on the bureaucratic interpretation of markets.]

Frac Bounty: All Should Participate (resource creation for economic revival

By Paul Driessen, Master Resource, Jul 25, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/07/fracing-bounty-all-should-participate-resource-creation-for-economic-revival/#more-26791>

Mineral Rich Australia May Contain World's Next Major Oil Find

By. John C.K. Daly of Oilprice.com, Washington DC (SPX), Jul 24, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Mineral_Rich_Australia_May_Contain_Worlds_Next_Major_Oil_Find_999.html

Return of King Coal?

The war on coal

We're all inconsiderate carbon polluters now

Editorial, Washington Times, Jul 22, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jul/22/the-war-on-coal/>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Radioactive water leaked into sea at Fukushima: TEPCO

By Staff Writers, Tokyo, Tokyo Province (AFP), July 22, 2013

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Radioactive_water_leaked_into_sea_at_Fukushima_TEPCO_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Will the leak pollute the world's oceans? Absurd!]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

As Dog Days Of Summer Grip Europe, German Windparks And Consumers Take A Massive Hit

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jul 26, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/07/26/as-dog-days-of-summer-grip-europe-german-windparks-and-consumers-take-a-massive-hit/>

Energy impact

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jul 21, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/7/21/energy-impact.html>

[SEPP Comment: The photo of wind turbines and gas wells in Germany is revealing – which would you prefer in your backyard?]

Environmental concerns over solar farms should not overshadow wider benefits to rural economies

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Jul 24, 2013

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Environmental_concerns_over_solar_farms_should_not_overshadow_wider_benefits_to_rural_economies_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Substitute gas wells for solar farms and imagine the different response.]

Wind Farm Rotor Failures

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Jul 26, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/07/26/wind-farm-rotor-failures/>

[SEPP Comment: Describing repairs to a rotor blade, with photos. Imagine the costs involved in doing it offshore.]

Wind farm bird deaths more than thought

By Staff Writer, IWAG, Jul 21, 2013 [H/t Wind Action]

<http://www.windaction.org/news/38980>

Link to paper: Comparing bird and bat fatality-rate estimates among North American wind-energy projects

By K. Shawn Smallwood, Wildlife, Mar 26, 2013

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wsb.260/abstract>

[SEPP Comment: Dislike headlines such as more than thought! Who was doing the thinking? Estimates about 543,000 birds, 83,000 of which are soaring birds of prey, and about 888,000 bats in US.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy -- Other

South Africa, Riots and the Price of Food

Rising food prices were an important factor in the riots in South Africa last year. And the US is in a unique position to help combat the problem, say researchers

By Staff Writer, MIT Technology Review, Jul 24, 2013

http://www.technologyreview.com/view/517396/south-africa-riots-and-the-price-of-food/?utm_campaign=newsletters&utm_source=newsletter-daily-all&utm_medium=email&utm_content=20130724

[SEPP Comment: No food – just biofuels!]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

‘Demand’ for Nissan Leaf is All Hype and Subsidies

By Paul Chesser, NLPC, Jul 23, 2013

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2013/07/23/demand-nissan-leaf-all-hype-and-subsidies>

California Dreaming

California Energy Policy: Southeastern States

By Lance Brown, Master Resource, Jul 24, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/07/california-energy-policy-southeastern-states/#more-26711>

[SEPP Comment: California is longer a beacon but a lighthouse warning of a dangerous threat.]

Other Scientific News

World changing technology enables crops to take nitrogen from the air

By Staff Writers, Nottingham, UK (SPX), Jul 26, 2013

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/World_changing_technology_enables_crops_to_take_nitrogen_from_the_air_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Potentially a huge benefit for agriculture, will greens oppose it by advocating the anti-advancement precautionary principle.

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Spain Levies Consumption Tax on Sunlight

By Mike Shedlock, Global Trend Analysis, Jul 26, 2013 [H/t WUWT]

<http://globaleconomicanalysis.blogspot.com/2013/07/spain-levies-consumption-tax-on-sunlight.html>

Climate change is making poison ivy grow bigger and badder

By David Templeton, Pittsburg Post Gazette, Jul, 22, 2013

<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/news/health/climate-change-is-making-poison-ivy-grow-bigger-and-badder-696379/>

Indoctrination At Schools In Germany Reaches New Level ...Children Taught “Men Cause Climate Change”

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jul 23, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/07/23/indoctrination-at-schools-in-germany-reaches-new-level-children-taught-men-cause-climate-change/>

[SEPP Comment: Sexism in climate education!]

N.Y. professor suggests regulating air condition to cool global warming

By Jeff Maher, ABC, Jul 22, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.news10.net/news/local/article/251443/2/Does-air-conditioning-need-to-be-regulated>

[SEPP Comment: Would this New York sociologist suggest turning off the heat in the winter?]

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ARTICLES:

1. China Weighs Environmental Costs

Beijing Tries to Emphasize Cleaner Industry Over Unbridled Growth After Signs Mount of Damage Done

By Richard Silk, WSJ, Jul 23, 2013

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324879504578597462908226052.html>

[SEPP Comment: Doubt if China’s consideration includes the concept invented by the West – carbon pollution. It appears the effort is to replace obsolete, inefficient plants coal-fired plants with more efficient coal-fired plants.]

BEIJING—China is rethinking how it manages its economy, as mounting evidence reveals the heavy toll that unbridled growth has had on the environment and on health.

The government said recently it would name and shame China's dirtiest cities as well as force factories to disclose environmental standards publicly, in an attempt to bring them into line. It also set a target of cutting emissions intensity in key industries by 30% by 2017's end.

These latest environmental- protection steps are part of "the most aggressive policy effort to address air-quality issues in Chinese history," said Jun Ma, chief economist for Greater China at Deutsche Bank. They are part of Beijing's strategy to confront the damaging environmental consequences of a rollicking economy.

But moves to clean up the nation's backyard face ingrained resistance from many officials, especially local ones, who are immersed in a culture that rewards economic performance alone. Growth "was always one of the key indicators," said Hu Tao, a former Chinese environment ministry researcher now at the World Resources Institute in Washington. "The system encouraged local governments to focus on developing faster."

Even environment minister Zhou Shengxian acknowledges the need for change. "If development turns healthy people into unhealthy people, this is a parody of development," he said this month, according to the official Xinhua news agency. "We need to slow down from the current pace of growth."

The starkest evidence yet of the danger posed to China from its past blind eye toward pollution emerged this month, as a new study blamed air pollution from coal combustion for reducing life expectancy by more than five years in some parts of the country. Earlier this year, intense smog over much of the country and supplies of rice tainted with cadmium, a toxin, caused public alarm.

Beijing appears to be responding to the pressure. China's recently installed President Xi Jinping said in June that local officials would no longer be promoted purely on the basis of economic record. In the past, regional officials delivering punchy growth could expect promotion. Now, pollution will be a factor.

"There are several targets which are already included in the assessment standards of officials," said Li Wei, a professor at Beijing Normal University. "Developing the economy of your local area is necessary, but it isn't the only condition. If you want full marks, you have to manage the environment well."

The government recently launched trial emissions trading in the southern city of Shenzhen. While the program likely will have little immediate impact, its benefits could blossom over the longer term, Mr. Ma said.

As important as the environment is to a growing middle class, government officials still benefit more from projects that maximize growth. A February study by America's National Bureau of Economic Research found that spending on transport infrastructure boosts Chinese city mayors' chances of promotion, while outlays to fix environment damage their prospects.

China reported second-quarter GDP growth of 7.5% this week, after growth slowed to 7.8% last year from the year-earlier 9.3%, the weakest rate of expansion in more than a decade.

While China and the U.S. recently agreed to phase out one type of greenhouse gas, the Chinese argue that developed economies must take the lead in cutting carbon emissions.

Though it is the world's second-largest economy, China has a lower per capita income than that of Brazil or South Africa. And while it has vowed to cut energy intensity—the energy used per unit of economic output—there appears to be next to no chance of an outright drop in its emissions.

As it tries to manage the delicate trade-off between environment and the economy, China is looking for ways to calculate the hidden costs of its environmental laissez-faire. For the past several years, China's Ministry of Environmental Protection has measured "green GDP," an alternate indicator of economic growth reflecting the costs of pollution. In most years, results weren't made public because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The latest ministry study shows the trend hasn't been encouraging. It found the cost of pollution was about 1.5 trillion yuan (\$250 billion) in 2010, representing 3.5% of that year's GDP, according to a newspaper linked to the Ministry of Environmental Protection. The ministry declined to confirm the figure, saying it was for internal use only. That total, though, would be well up from CNY511.8 billion, or 3.1% of GDP, in 2004, the most-recent year for which the ministry has released the result officially. China's official figures are conservative compared with some outside estimates.

The World Bank put the total cost of all pollution and resource depletion in China at 9% of gross national income in 2009. Environmental activist group Greenpeace came to a starker conclusion, putting that cost of coal pollution alone at 7.1% of the country's GDP in 2007. These are latest figures.

Efforts to highlight the cost of pollution, however, face opposition from local governments who fear the impact on their evaluation metrics. "Local governments were reluctant to release this kind of information about their performance if it was deducting money from their GDP," said the World Resources Institute's Mr. Tao.

2. E.ON Considering Power Plant Relocation

Mothballed European Plants May be Moved to Emerging Markets

By Hendrik Varnholt and Jan Hromadko, WSJ, Jul 24, 2013

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323610704578625952435949988.html>

[SEPP Comment: What a novel idea! Move your power plants to countries that want them.]

FRANKFURT—German utility is considering dismantling some European power plants that have been mothballed because of poor profitability and relocating them to faster-growing emerging markets such as Turkey, people familiar with the matter told The Wall Street Journal Wednesday.

The radical idea underscores the dire situation facing many utilities in Europe, where the combination of weak energy demand caused by the economic crisis and the rapid expansion of renewable energy is undermining the conventional power-generation business.

E.ON isn't the only company considering drastic measures. On Tuesday, Swedish utility Vattenfall AB, opened the door to the sale of its power business in continental Europe. E.ON's main German rival, has warned it could shut down a fifth of its power plants.

One of the plants that E.ON could pack up and ship overseas is the 430-megawatt combined-cycle gas turbine power plant in Malzenice, Slovakia, said a person familiar with the company's thinking. If E.ON's calculations prove that a move is economically viable, the plant could be moved to Turkey, which is a more attractive market with stronger energy-demand growth, the person said.

E.ON expanded into Turkey earlier this year in partnership with local conglomerate Haci Omer Sabanci Holding. Together, the companies plan to develop around 8,000 megawatts of power generation capacity by 2020, equivalent to around 10% of Turkey's overall capacity.

E.ON has invested around €400 million (\$526 million) in the gas-fired Slovakian plant, but it will go offline in October less than three years after it was commissioned because it has been making a loss, E.ON said earlier this month.

Power plants fueled by gas are suffering the most in Europe because of a combination of high fuel prices and intense competition from cheaper coal supplies. The surge in production of wind and solar energy is also reducing demand for gas-fired power, because these forms of renewable energy compete directly with facilities like Malzenice in serving peak electricity demand.

Since it began operating in January 2011, the Malzenice plant has operated for only around 5,600 hours, well below its target of 4,000 hours to 5,000 hours per year, E.ON has said.

E.ON isn't alone in its troubles. Germany's largest power producer by capacity, RWE, has also warned that it is struggling to operate its fleet of fossil-fuel power plants profitably. Chief Executive Peter Terium has said that around one-fifth of the company's 50 gigawatt power generation capacity is at risk of being shut down.

Swedish state-controlled utility Vattenfall wrote down the value of its power plants by €3.5 billion Tuesday, blaming low power prices and muted energy demand across Europe.

Oystein Loseth, the company's chief executive said he didn't expect the European power market to recover in the foreseeable future. Vattenfall will now consider the full or partial sale of its continental European business, although it will retain full control of its operations in the Nordic region.

Relocation could be an economically viable last resort for other smaller plants like E.ON's Malzenice facility if the market doesn't improve, said Thomas Kaestner, a Munich-based energy expert at consultancy Ernst & Young.

The chairman of Slovakian energy regulator URSO said in a statement that his office has no authority to challenge decisions taken by owners of power plants. However, regulators could prove to be an obstacle to extending the relocation of power plants to other countries.

Germany's federal grid regulator, for example, has said that it won't accept any more plant closures south of the river Main, because of serious concerns over the reliability of the power supply in the south of the country following the shut down of several nuclear reactors there.

3. Canada Oil Firm Still Unable to Stop Leaks

Four Separate Leaks Reported at Air-Force Base in Alberta

By Chester Dawson, WSJ, Jul 25, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323971204578626273811559896.html?mod=W_SJ_Energy_2_4_Right

Canada's largest independent oil producer has been unable to stop a series of leaks from underground wells, according to regulators in Alberta, raising questions about a technology the industry has championed as less environmentally disruptive than the open-pit mining of oil sands.

Four separate leaks, the first of which was reported on May 20, comprise the equivalent of 175 barrels of oil and spread over at least 100 acres on the grounds of a Canadian air-force base in northeastern Alberta, according to preliminary figures from the chief provincial regulatory body. While the amount of oil is relatively small, it has contaminated a vast area of boreal forest, including killing some wildlife. It also represents a relatively rare case in which a producer hasn't been able to immediately identify the cause of a leak and correct it, drawing special scrutiny from regulators and environmentalists.

"We don't know when they're going to get control of it," said Alberta Energy Regulator spokesman Bob Curran.

Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., the operator of the troubled well sites in Northeastern Alberta, issued a statement late Thursday that didn't include figures on the amount of oil leaked, but which said the "initial impacted area" was about 50 acres. It also attributed the leak to unspecified "mechanical failures of wellbores in the vicinity of the impacted areas."

Government officials say the leak poses no threat to people, but that it has affected wildlife and vegetation native to the muskeg-covered landscape of northern Alberta. It has killed 11 birds, four small mammals such as beavers and 21 amphibians, according to CNRL and the Alberta environment ministry.

"If we believe that a law has been broken there will be compliance action, but it is too early to speculate," said ministry spokeswoman Nikki Booth.

CNRL said Thursday it has 120 employees and contractors on site attempting to contain the leak and limit damage.

The Alberta Energy Regulator, or AER, ordered a halt to all steaming operations at what CNRL calls its Primrose facility on July 17 following the most recent leak on June 24, expanding a partial ban that it had issued in response to the earlier leaks this year.

The suspension order doesn't affect oil recovery from the area, which usually occurs after steaming has concluded. CNRL's latest financial reports show its total oil production was 681,000

barrels per day during the first three months of the year, including 109,000 barrels per day extracted from Primrose.

In its first-quarter earnings statement, CNRL said Primrose "generates returns amongst the highest in the company's portfolio," adding that it expects to drill up to 120 new wells per year at the site to boost production levels to 120,000-125,000 barrels per day for the next five to 10 years.

The Calgary-based company reported similar leakage at its Primrose wells in 2009, the cause of which was never identified in a government report released in January. At least 7,581 barrels of heavy oil were leaked and subsequently recovered in that incident, according to the AER report.

"It's clear they never got to the bottom of it," said Chris Severson-Baker, a managing director at the Pembina Institute, a Canadian environmental think tank. "Having multiple failures shows a failure of the design and approval process."

The leak has sparked criticism the company has been slow to disclose the scope of the problem and explain its efforts to arrest the leakage. Some critics say the inability prevent such leaks points to larger problems with these methods to tap heavy oil, or bitumen, trapped deep in subterranean oil sands deposits.

"If the company doesn't know how to stop it, we really shouldn't be using this technology to extract bitumen" from oil sands, said Mike Hudema, a climate and energy campaigner with Greenpeace Canada, which staged a protest on Thursday in concert with Native American groups in front of CNRL's headquarters in downtown Calgary.

CNRL's Primrose site uses one of two major types of steam-based extraction techniques to access oil too deep for surface mining. Called cyclic steam stimulation, or CSS, it involves injecting high-pressure steam into underground oil deposits embedded in rock, creating fissures for petroleum to seep out.

Production using CCS and another form of lower-pressure in-situ extraction, which is called steam-assisted gravity drainage, are critical to accessing the nearly 80% of Alberta's total heavy oil reserves located deep underground. Oil producers say this form of extraction is more environmentally friendly than open pit mines because the aboveground well pads used are less disruptive to the surrounding landscape and don't leave behind toxic tailings ponds.

While commercial production at so-called in-situ oil sand mines dates back 30 years, only recently has it become a major source of growth for Canada's oil-sands industry. Of the 1.8 million barrels of oil a day produced from Canada's oil sands last year, more than half came from in these in-situ mines, according to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

CAPP projects in-situ extraction will leap to 3.5 million barrels per day by 2030, vastly exceeding the growth of open-pit mining, which will grow to 1.7 million barrels per day by then.

Access to the area affected by the leak is restricted because it is located on the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range, the largest air force fighter base in Canada. Other major oil producers such as Cenovus Energy Inc. operate wells on the base, but haven't reported leaks.

Under the agreement allowing development of oil sands within the boundaries of air base, all employees working there must undergo a safety orientation class and off-road driving training "due to the potential risk involved with operating on an active air-to-ground weapons range."

4. Pols, scientists misuse climate issue

By Charles Battig, VA-SEEE, Letter, The Daily Progress [VA], Jul 26, 2013

http://www.dailyprogress.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/pols-scientists-misuse-climate-issue/article_01ff07fc-f5ee-11e2-b678-001a4bcf6878.html

[SEPP Comment: Oh' Mann Again!]

Charlottesville was recently visited by a traveling road show featuring gubernatorial hopeful and businessman Terry McAuliffe and climate-change celebrity Michael Mann. Daily Progress coverage includes Mann's claim that Attorney General and Republican gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli "thinks that climate change is a hoax" ("Ex-UVa professor Mann stumps with McAuliffe in Charlottesville," July 1, online).

After all the legal proceedings in which Mann has participated, surely he knows that the legal issue was based on his climate data analysis techniques. Controversy over such techniques continues today.

No one claims climate change to be a hoax; climate change is the normal and natural history of the Earth over all geologic timespans.

The shorthand term "climate change" obscures the true scientific goal of identifying and quantifying the human vs. natural contributions to climate change. All-encompassing "climate change" replaced the initial "global warming" once the actual record of global temperature inconveniently plateaued, even as atmospheric carbon dioxide continued to rise. For the past 16 years, global temperature records show no increase (the Daily Mail, Oct. 13, 2012, online), breaking the association with growing fossil fuel use.

The Progress story included this McAuliffe statement: "When science doesn't agree with what the attorney general wants, he went and sued them. That's not a welcoming message."

HemoSonic's president and founder, William Walker, commented: "Scientists need the chance to work without political interference. The scientific community needs to be safe from political attack."

No argument with those statements, except they ignore the de facto double standard of politicized climate research. Then-Gov. Tim Kaine's and the University of Virginia's treatment of professor Pat Michaels illustrates the academic hazard of not hewing to the global-warming party line. The Sept. 27, 2007, Daily Progress reported that Michaels identified "his resignation [as] a sad result of the fact that his state climatologist funding had become politicized ... which ... compromised his academic freedom." Where was the UVa academic outrage then?

McAuliffe recently told Alpha Natural Resources "what they need done to make sure we have a healthy work force of coal, that coal can continue" ("McAuliffe talks coal at Bristol campaign event," TriCities.com, May 8). But in 2009, McAuliffe stated that he "never wants another coal

plant built” (“McAuliffe blows hot and cold on coal,” Richmond Times Dispatch Politifact, May 8).

Meanwhile the poor folks in Tunica, Miss., are still waiting for his promised new car plant.

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