

The Week That Was: 2013-01-05 (January 5, 2013)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *It is a truism that almost any sect, cult, or religion will legislate its creed into law if it acquires the political power to do so.* -Robert A. Heinlein, science-fiction author (1907-1988)

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Number of the Week: A 10 percent certainty of 10,000,000 is equal to a 100 percent certainty of 1,000,000.

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THIS WEEK:

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

Annual 2012 Temperatures: According to Roy Spencer and John Christy, based on comprehensive satellite measurements, 2012 was the ninth warmest year since the satellite record began 34 years ago. It was the warmest year for the continental US (Alaska included). No doubt alarmists will proclaim that this is proof of human caused global warming. However, the US comprises less than 2% of the earth's surface, hardly global. There are indications the NOAA will announce that 2012 was the warmest for the US since surface-air record keeping began about 1890. However, the statistical manipulation that has taken place in the historic record, particularly a later day calculated cooling of the 1930's, makes the historic record somewhat questionable. Of course, none of this goes to cause. Please see link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Greenhouse Skeptics: On his web site, Roy Spencer posted a provocative essay on some misconceptions by those who reject the greenhouse theory, as compared with those who are skeptical of the claim that humans are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming. Among the misconceptions Spencer discusses are: the greenhouse effect violates the second law of thermodynamics; energy input alone determines temperatures; and that the rate of infrared absorption in the atmosphere equals the rate of infrared emission.

On his web site, Lubos Molt fully agrees with Spencer and restates Spencer's points somewhat differently. Molt also addresses some of the early criticism of Spencer's post. Both are an excellent follow-up on Fred Singer's provocative essay, "Climate Deniers Are Giving Us Skeptics a Bad Name," published in American Thinker on February 29, 2012.

As to the greenhouse effect violating the second law of thermodynamics, it is useful to recall Vincent Gray's reminder that the laws of thermodynamics were articulated before the discovery of energy transfer by radiation, thus initially applied only to conduction and convection. The timing has resulted in a confusion lasting for generations. Please see links under Challenging Greenhouse Skeptics and

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/02/climate_deniers_are_giving_us_skeptics_a_bad_name.html

IPCC AR5 WGI: New Zealander Vincent Gray has been an expert reviewer on all five of the Assessment Reports by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) is due out in 2013 – 14. The second draft of the scientific section, called Working Group I (WGI), was posted on the internet by Alec Rawls. Subsequently, Vincent

Gray provided SEPP with his comments on WGI. Gray's general comments are in this TWTW and a summary of his specific comments will be in next week's TWTW. Please see Article # 2.

Bridging the Political Divide: *Nature* published a provocative essay by Daniel Sarewitz calling for scientists, regardless of political affiliation or ideology, to work together to prevent politicians, particularly conservative politicians, from attacking science. To Sarewitz, the US community must decide if it wishes to be an independent national asset or a special interest group supporting the Democratic Party.

In commenting on the essay, Roger Pielke Jr, points out that scientific institutions, such as the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the American Geophysical Union (AGU), have taken political positions. Pielke further points out that the journal for AAAS, *Science*, has taken political positions as well. [One could also add that the journal of the AGU, *EOS*, published a highly misleading survey supposedly showing that scientists support the claim that human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) are causing dangerous global warming.] Pielke buttresses his arguments by stating that scientific integrity appears to be an issue to the scientific community only when a Republican is president.

As Pielke states, "our scientific institutions are far too important to be allowed to become pawns in the political battles of the day." The issues go not only to the scientific community, but also to the funding authorities and their administrators. Many government funded studies contain lax scientific standards. For example, numerous studies are based on long term projections from climate models used by the IPCC. But the models have never been verified and validated, thus the results are purely speculative. In the past, members of SEPP have suggested to senior administrators of the National Science Foundation that a small portion of the climate science funding be allocated to global warming skeptics, but to no avail. Please see links under Seeking a Common Ground.

Another "Nature Trick?" A number of articles appeared reporting that the West Antarctic ice sheet shows one of the strongest warming trends on the globe. On Watts Up With That, David Middleton exposes the study in *Nature* on which these reports are based. According to Middleton, the data cover two separate time frames: 1957 to 1975 and 1980 to 2012. The first set show a moderately significant warming trend and the second set show an insignificant warming trend, with no warming after 1991. The researchers just stitch the data together to provide a long term warming trend. Please see links under Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague?

Lisa Jackson: The first recipient of the SEPP April Fools Award, a lump of coal named in her honor, Lisa Jackson announced she is leaving as administrator of the EPA after President Obama's inauguration. The announcement came shortly after the Inspector General of the EPA announced that the office is investigating Ms. Jackson's use of private email accounts to conduct government business – some 7100 emails. EPA has agreed to begin releasing the emails after the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) successfully sued under the Freedom of Information Act. One can only speculate if the events are related.

Under Ms. Jackson, the EPA has greatly expanded the regulation of many industries, particularly the coal-fired electricity utility industry. Many of the EPA scientific claims, such as the toxic

effect of mercury emissions from coal-fired plants, are highly questionable at best. TWTW considers the EPA's ruling that greenhouse gases, particularly CO2, endangers public health and welfare is without scientific merit. At this time, it is not known who will replace Ms. Jackson and if that person would be an improvement or not. Please see Article # 3 and links under EPA and other Regulators on the March.

Wind Subsidies: This week Congress passed a tax and spending bill to prevent the so called "fiscal cliff." The bill provided for increasing income tax rates to high income households, and extending certain tax benefits to selected groups such as the production tax credit for the wind industry. The extension is for projects that are started in 2013, even though they do not come on line. Past TWTWs have articulated at least five reasons why wind is inferior to traditional methods of generating electricity. The new bill demonstrates the hypocrisy that underlines many of Washington's actions. Only households or corporations with high taxable income can take advantage of a tax credit. It is of no benefit for those who pay little or no income taxes. Many of those politicians who demanded high income groups be taxed more, were among the most strident in demanding tax credits for wind, which benefit high income groups. Please see link under Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Changing Climate: Several controversial articles have appeared on climate change. One article suggested that rapid climate change, namely in precipitation, in Africa two million years ago triggered cognitive development in early humans. A second study suggested that changes in the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) resulted in the demise in an artistically advanced culture in Australia some 7,000 years ago. On her web site, Jo Nova has some striking examples of the aboriginal art.

Number of the Week (Actually the Logic of the Week): A 10 percent certainty of 10,000,000 is equal to a 100 percent certainty of 1,000,000. Professor of Musicology Richard Parncutt of the University of Graz, in Austria, proposed on a University web site that global warming deniers (skeptics) be tried and subject to the death penalty. Normally, TWTW does not bother discussing such rants but there are two points that are illuminating: 1) his logic; and 2) how he, and others who use similar reasoning, would apply this reasoning to those who have promoted misguided policies that resulted in the preventable deaths of millions.

One, the professor states: "If ten million people are going to die with a probability of 10%, that is like one million people dying with a probability of 100%." Apply this logic to a 10% chance of receiving \$10,000,000. Yet, similar logic underlies the EPA linear, no threshold model in determining health hazards – if a massive dose is toxic to humans, than a tiny dose applied to many humans will be toxic to some.

Two, by the early 1950s British colonial doctors demonstrated that the indoor spraying of native dwellings with DDT about every six months was very effective in controlling malaria in the tropics. In 1972, EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus banned the use of DDT on the scientifically unsupported claim that it may cause cancer in humans. By then, malaria was no longer a health issue in the US. Using this claim, certain US government agencies and environmental nongovernment organizations (NGOs) demanded the banning of all use of DDT in other countries, including indoor spraying, as a condition for receiving US governmental aid. In

countries that did so, malaria rates soared, millions died, and hundreds of millions suffered from preventable malaria. Please see links under Below the Bottom Line.

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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. Climate Science vs Politics: The Road Ahead

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Dec 27, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/12/climate_science_vs_politics_the_road_ahead.html

[SEPP Comment: Please note that the Supreme Court did not specifically require independent review, but EPA procedures do.]

2. Expert Review of IPCC Assessment Report (AR5WGI), Reviewer of All Five Reports

By Vincent Gray, New Zealand, Nov, 2012

<http://www.sepp.org/science-editorials.cfm?whichcat=Report&whichsubcat=IPCC%20Assessment%20Report>

3. The Jackson Damage

The economic harm the EPA chief wrought.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 27, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324669104578205570067758176.html>

4. Silicon Valley's Green Energy Mistake

Political venture capital turns out to be a loser.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 27, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323401904578159660625274422.html>

[SEPP Comment: The Silicon Valley investors are realizing the folly of green energy while Washington promotes it.]

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Comments on US Atmospheric Temperatures

By Roy Spencer and John Christy, Roy Spencer’s Blog, Jan 3, 2012 [H/t Gordon Fulks]

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/01/uah-v5-5-global-temperature-update-for-december-2012-0-20-deg-c/>

Op-Ed: EPA's carbon regs not based on sound science

By Joe D’Aleo, Washington Examiner, Dec 27, 2012

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/op-ed-epas-carbon-regs-not-based-on-sound-science/article/2516956#.UONZom-X8Z4>

Is Weather More Extreme In A Warmer World? The Answer is in the Ice

By Art Horn, Energy Tribune, Dec 26, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/69116/is-weather-extreme-in-a-warmer-world>

German Scientists Shoot Down Recent Claims Of “Rapid Warming” In Antarctica – Overall Continent Is Cooling!

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 28, 2012

Translated from Western Antarctica warms more quickly than thought – however, hardly at all in the last 25 years

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/12/28/german-scientists-shoot-down-recent-claims-of-rapid-warming-in-western-antarctica-overall-continent-is-cooling/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

US science: The Obama experiment

Nearly four years after US President Barack Obama pledged to put science in its rightful place, Nature asks if he kept his word.

By Jeff Tollefson, Nature, Sep 26, 2011

<http://www.nature.com/news/us-science-the-obama-experiment-1.11481>

Time to Confront Climate Change

Editorial, NYT, Dec 27, 2012

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/28/opinion/time-to-confront-climate-change.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&r=1&>

Challenging Greenhouse Skeptics

Misunderstood Basic Concepts and the Greenhouse Effect

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jan 1, 2012

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/01/misunderstood-basic-concepts-and-the-greenhouse-effect/>

Greenhouse effect doesn't contradict any laws of physics

By Lubos Motl, Reference Frame, Jan 1, 2012

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/01/greenhouse-effect-doesnt-contradict-any.html#more>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Global Climate Planning: Down But Not Out (Doha's ‘bitter defeat’ does not mean it's over)

By Craig Rucker, Master Resource, Dec 31, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/12/doha-defeat-but-not-over/#more-23472>

Welcome to a Kyoto-free-world: Best use was to show how bad a nanny-state-unfree-market is.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 1, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/01/welcome-to-a-kyoto-free-world-best-use-was-to-show-how-bad-a-nanny-state-unfree-market-is/#more-26237>

This Is Called Cheating (Part 2)

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Dec 22, 2012

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/12/22/this-is-called-cheating-part-2/>

Time for an Adult Approach to Climate Change

By Tom Harris, Caribarena Antigua, Dec 29, 2012

<http://www.caribarena.com/antigua/opinions/opinion-pieces/102692-time-for-an>

Questioning European Green

Poland and Czech Republic Ban German Green Energy

By Daniel Wetzel, Die Welt, via GWPF, Dec 29, 2012

<http://www.thegwpf.org/poland-czech-republic-ban-germanys-green-energy/>

Growing Criticism: Germany's Transition To Renewable Energy Is Leading To All Pain And No Gain

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 31, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/12/31/growing-criticism-germanys-transition-to-renewable-energy-is-leading-to-all-pain-and-no-gain/>

Greenest Government Ever: 'Bribes' to Halt Wind Farm Opposition

By Jonathan Leake, Sunday Times, via GWPF, Dec 30, 2012

<http://www.thegwpf.org/greenest-government-ever-bribes-halt-wind-farm-opposition/>

[SEPP Comment: Everyone wins except those who use electricity.]

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Ottawa must get real on climate change

From trying to reduce CO2 emissions to throwing money away on wind and solar power, the federal government is on the wrong track

By Tom Harris, Vancouver Sun, Dec 26, 2012

<http://www.canada.com/business/Opinion+Ottawa+must+real+climate+change/7745889/story.html>

A Running Leap Off the Green Energy Cliff

By Keith Kohl, Energy & Capital, Jan 4, 2013 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://www.energyandcapital.com/articles/running-leap-off-green-energy-cliff/2956>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Russia will not renew its commitment to the Kyoto Protocol.

By Staff Writers, Voice of Russia, Dec 31, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

http://english.ruvr.ru/2012_12_31/Russia-wont-renew-Kyoto-Protocol/

Kyoto climate change treaty sputters to a sorry end

Kyoto Protocol aimed for 5% cut in carbon emissions — instead, we got a 58% increase

By Max Paris, CBC News, Dec 31, 2012

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/story/2012/12/20/pol-kyoto-protocol-part-one-ends.html>

As the Kyoto Protocol Dies, Remember Those Who Called It (Part II)

By Robert Bradley Jr., Master Resource, Dec 27, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/12/kyoto-quotes-ii/#more-23461>

“This Agreement Will be Good for Enron Stock!!” (Enron's Kyoto memo turns 15)

By Robert Bradley Jr, Master Resource, Dec 24, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/12/enron-kyoto-memo-15/#more-23360>

Seeking a Common Ground

Science must be seen to bridge the political divide

Scientists in the United States are often perceived as a Democratic interest group. For science's sake this has to change,

By Daniel Sarewitz, Nature, Jan 2, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/news/science-must-be-seen-to-bridge-the-political-divide-1.12119>

A New Year's Resolution for Scientists

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Jan 2, 2013

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2013/01/a-new-years-resolution-for-scientists.html>

There is of course nothing wrong with partisanship or with scientists participating in politics, they are after all citizens. However, our scientific institutions are far too important to be allowed to become pawns in the political battles of the day.

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

The Misunderstood Greenhouse effect.

By Geoff Brown, NCTCS, Jan 3, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/01/the-mis-understood-greenhouse-effect.html>

German/Austrian Academia Descends Into Madness – A Reaction To Parncutt's Death Penalty Calls For Science Critics

By P. Gosselin, Dec 27, 2012

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/12/27/germanaustrian-academia-descends-into-madness-reaction-to-parncutts-death-penalty-calls-for-free-speechers/>

Dire tones from the University of Graz: music professor calls for the death penalty for climate science dissenters

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt

Trans: P. Gosselin

Climate fast attack plan

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Feb 18, 2012

<http://judithcurry.com/2012/02/18/climate-fast-attack-plan/>

[SEPP Comment: Judith Curry's choice of the most important climate story of the year.]

Link for other lists: <http://judithcurry.com/2012/12/30/year-in-review/#more-10817>

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

Antarctic warming courtesy of Mr. Fix-it

By David Middleton, WUWT, Dec 27, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/27/antarctic-warming-courtesy-of-mr-fix-it/>

Link to Article: Central West Antarctica among the most rapidly warming regions on Earth

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo1671.html>

W. Antarctic warming among world's fastest

By Staff Writers, Columbus, Ohio (UPI), Dec 24, 2012

http://www.terraily.com/reports/W_Antarctic_warming_among_worlds_fastest_999.html

AR5 Chapter 11; Hiding the Decline (Part II)

By David Hoffer, WUWT, Dec 30, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/30/ar5-chapter-11-hiding-the-decline-part-ii/>

Changing Weather

Updated: Normalized Hurricane Losses 1900-2012

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Dec 31, 2012

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2012/12/updated-normalized-hurricane-losses.html>

What does the reinsurance market say about all this? Willis Re explains:

"most reinsurers are still within their annual catastrophe budgets for 2012 and not facing any capital impact... In the absence of Superstorm Sandy, reinsurers would have found it difficult to resist buyer pressure for further concessions. As such, Sandy's impact has helped to stabilize market pricing on an overall basis and reinsurers have largely delivered to their clients in terms of capacity and continuity."

In other words, thank goodness for Sandy.

The Political Superstorm that Devastated New York

By Paul Driessen, Townhall, Dec 29, 2012

http://townhall.com/columnists/pauldriessen/2012/12/29/the-political-superstorm-that-devastated-new-york-n1475682?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl

Jan. 1 snow cover set U.S. record

By Staff Writers, State College, Pa. (UPI) Jan 3, 2012

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Jan_1_snow_cover_set_US_record_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A ten year record.]

Changing Climate

Fluctuating Environment May Have Driven Human Evolution

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, Dec 24, 2012

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/12/121226080906.htm>

Link to study: Water, plants, and early human habitats in eastern Africa

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2012/12/20/1209405109>

Evidence of ENSO mega-drought triggered collapse of prehistory Aboriginal society in northwest Australia

By McGowan, et al, Geophysical Research Letters, Nov 23, 2012

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2012GL053916/abstract>

Two million years of climate change made us what we are

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 3, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/01/climate-change-made-us-human/#more-26249>

Changing Sea Ice

The great Arctic cyclone of August 2012

By Ian Simmonds & Irina Rudeva, University of Melbourne, GRL, Dec 15, 2012 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.agu.org/pubs/crossref/2012/2012GL054259.shtml>

Record Arctic Storm Melted Sea Ice

By Just the Facts, WUWT, Dec 27, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/12/27/record-arctic-storm-melted-sea-ice/>

Changing Earth

Trees worldwide a sip away from dehydration

Plumbing systems operate on a razor's edge, leaving forests vulnerable

By Susan Milius, Science News, Dec 29, 2012 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/346630/description/Trees_worldwide_a_sip_away_from_dehydration

Link to letter in Nature:

http://people.fas.harvard.edu/~eebutler//Homepage/Plants_and_Climate_files/Choat_etal_2012.pdf

[SEPP Comment: Not one word about increased atmospheric carbon dioxide increases the ability of plants to survive stress.]

NTU's ground-breaking study warns of more great quakes in the Himalayas

By Staff Writers, Singapore (SPX) Jan 01, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/NTUs_ground_breaking_study_warns_of_more_great_quakes_in_the_Himalayas_999.html

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Sea Surface Temperatures of the Southern Okinawa Trough

Reference: Wu, W., Tan, W., Zhou, L., Yang, H. and Xu, Y. 2012. Sea surface temperature variability in the southern Okinawa Trough during last 2700 years. *Geophysical Research Letters* 39: 10.1029/2012GL052749.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/dec/25dec2012a1.html>

Cyanobacteria of the Subtropical North Atlantic Ocean

Reference: Lomas, M.W., Hopkinson, B.M., Losh, J.L., Ryan, D.E., Shi, D.L., Xu, Y. and Morel, F.M.M. 2012. Effect of ocean acidification on cyanobacteria in the subtropical North Atlantic. *Aquatic Microbial Ecology* 66: 211-222.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/dec/25dec2012a2.html>

"ocean acidification [reduction of alkalinity] would likely result in a positive feedback on the growth and physiology of natural populations, resulting in a positive change in their role in ocean carbon and nitrogen cycles," which is, of course, great news for the biosphere!

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/dec/25dec2012a2.html>

Just How Icy was the Little Ice Age?

Reference: Osborn, G., Menounos, B., Ryane, C., Riedel, J., Clague, J.J., Koch, J., Clark, D., Scott, K. and Davis, P.T. 2012. Latest Pleistocene and Holocene glacier fluctuations on Mount Baker Washington. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 49: 33-51.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/dec/26dec2012a2.html>

Earth's Land and Water Surfaces: Net Sources or Sinks for CO2?

Reference: Ballantyne, A.P., Alden, C.B., Miller, J.B., Tans, P.P. and White, J.W. 2012. Increase in observed net carbon dioxide uptake by land and oceans during the past 50 years. *Nature* 488: 70-72.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/dec/26dec2012a3.html>

The Political Games Continue

Election over, administration unleashes new rules

By Matthew Daly, AP, Dec 13, 2012

<http://news.yahoo.com/election-over-administration-unleashes-rules-081641511--finance.html>

Litigation Issues

Will the Supreme Court Review EPA's Greenhouse Gas Regulations?

By Marlo Lewis, Global warming.org, Jan 4, 2013

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2013/01/04/will-the-supreme-court-review-epas-greenhouse-gas-regulations/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Wind PTC Extension Approved as Lawmakers Strike Fiscal Cliff Package Deal

By Staff Writers, Power News, Jan 3, 2013

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/5284.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2591459&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Did EPA Chief Lisa Jackson resign because emails she sent from a secret alias account will go public next month?

It was revealed in November that EPA Chief Lisa Jackson, 50, had sent thousands of emails tied to coal regulation from a secret alias account

The EPA chief announced on Thursday that she will resign after four years on the job for 'new challenges, time with my family and new opportunities to make a difference'

Chris Horner, of the Competitive Enterprise Institute, said the scrutiny over the alias emails regarding the Obama administration's alleged 'war on coal,' is clearly a factor behind Jackson's decision to step down

Jackson's resignation is effective following the President's State of the Union address next month

By Damian Ghigliotty, Daily Mail, UK, Dec 27, 2012

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2253999/Did-EPA-Chief-Lisa-Jackson-resign-secret-emails-public-month.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>

EPA Finalizes Standards for Industrial Boilers, Certain Incinerators

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Jan 3, 2013

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/5281.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2591459&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e660500d0

Is The EPA's Lisa Jackson Trying To Dodge A Federal Probe?

Editorial, IBD, Dec 27, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/122712-638555-lisa-jackson-resigns-while-inspector-general-investigates-emails.htm>

Lisa Jackson leaving EPA and path of economic destruction

By Steve Goreham, Washington Times, Jan 2, 2012

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/jan/2/lisa-jackson-leaving-epa-and-path-economic-destruc/>

EPA's illegal human experiments could break Nuremberg Code

Agency claims unfettered discretion in treatment of test subjects

By Steve Milloy, Washington Times, Dec 31, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/dec/31/epas-illegal-human-experiments-could-break-nurembe/>

Lisa Jackson's Destructive Crusade

By Henry Payne, National Review, Dec 28, 2012 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/planet-gore/336534/jacksons-destructive-crusade-henry-payne#>

Energy Issues – Non-US

The New Era of Oil Renaissance

By EconMatters, NASDAQ, Dec 30, 2012

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/the-new-era-of-oil-renaissance-cm202887#.UORLO3eQmbV>

US, Canada, and Oz Prepare for the Asian Gas Wars

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Media, Dec 29, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/12/29/us-canada-and-oz-prepare-for-the-asian-gas-wars/>

Don't Fall for the Shale Boom Hype - Chris Martenson Interview

An interview by James Stafford for oilprice.com, London, UK (SPX) Dec 31, 2012

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Dont_Fall_for_the_Shale_Boom_Hype_Chris_Martenson_Interview_999.html

Energy Issues -- US

Assessing Energy Policy

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Jan 2, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/01/02/assessing-energy-policy/>

[SEPP Comment: The US energy policy is highly distorted by the fear that CO2 causes unprecedented and dangerous global warming.]

Trains carry more oil across U.S. amid boom

By Matthew Brown and Josh Funk, AP, Dec 30, 2012

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2012/12/30/trains-oil-boom-economy/1796505/>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Fracking and Elizabeth Barrett Browning

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Dec 28, 2012

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2012/12/28/fracking-and-elizabeth-barrett-browning/>

New York State Health Department: Fracking is safe, but don't tell anyone

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Jan 3, 2013

<http://www.acsh.org/new-york-state-health-department-fracking-is-safe-but-dont-tell-anyone/>

Link to NYT article: <http://mobile.nytimes.com/2013/01/03/nyregion/hydrofracking-safe-says-ny-health-dept-analysis.xml>

Saudis Sweat Bullets As Energy Revolution Changes the Rules

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Meadia, Dec 29, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/12/29/saudis-sweating-bullets-over-energy-revolution/>

Exxon Mobil moves ahead with \$14-billion Hebron oil field off Newfoundland

Jeffrey Jones, Reuters, Jan 4, 2013

<http://business.financialpost.com/2013/01/04/exxon-mobil-moves-ahead-with-14-billion-hebron-oil-field-off-newfoundland/>

Washington's Control of Oil and Gas

Obama's Energy Dilemma: Back Energy-Fueled Growth or Please Green Lobby

By Joel Kotkin, New Geography, Dec 7, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.newgeography.com/content/003293-obama-s-energy-dilemma-back-energy-fueled-growth-or-please-green-lobby>

Don't Kill The Economically Beneficial Shale-Gas Boom

By Robert J. Samuelson, IBD, Dec 24, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-viewpoint/122412-638223-shale-gas-fracking-most-important-energy-event-in-decades.htm>

Even With Bipartisan Push, Is Keystone XL Still A Pipe Dream?

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Dec 30, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/12/30/even-with-bipartisan-push-is-keystone-xl-still-a-pipe-dream/>

Keystone XL pipeline reroute avoids most ecological areas: Nebraska report

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Jan 4, 2013

<http://business.financialpost.com/2013/01/04/keystone-xl-pipeline-reroute-avoids-most-ecological-areas-nebraska-report/>

Return of King Coal?

Coal News

By Dennis Ambler, SPPI, Jan 1, 2013

<http://sppliblog.org/news/8926#more-8926>

In fact, the world will burn around 1.2 billion more tonnes of coal per year by 2017 compared to today – equivalent to the current coal consumption of Russia and the United States combined.

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Transocean to pay \$1.4 billion in civil, criminal fines for 2010 Gulf spill

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Jan 3, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/275425-transocean-to-pay-14-billion-in-fines-for-2010-gulf-spill>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Wind farms vs wildlife

The shocking environmental cost of renewable energy

By Clive Hambler, The Spectator, UK, Jan 5, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/features/8807761/wind-farms-vs-wildlife/>

Wind Power’s Negative Externalities: Here Come the Lawsuits (Part II)

By Sherri Lange, Master Resource, Jan 3, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/01/wind-powers-negative-externalities-here-come-the-lawsuits-part-ii/>

[SEPP Comment: Will wind farms become the new asbestos in providing incomes to lawyers?]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Fisker Failures May Prevent Delaware Getting Its Money Back

By Paul Chesser, NIPC, Dec 28, 2012 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2012/12/27/fisker-failures-may-prevent-delaware-getting-its-money-back>

Environmental Industry

The GM Reactionaries

By Henry Miller, Project Syndicate, Dec 31, 2012

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/the-economic--health--and-environmental-benefits-of-gm-crops-by-henry-i--miller-and-graham-brookes>

[SEPP Comment: “Pathological science” is on the rise.]

Gore Takes Big Oil Cash From Anti-Semitic Al Jazeera

Editorial, IBD, Jan 3, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/010313-639260-gore-helps-oil-financed-anti-semitic-platform.htm>

Other Scientific News

Did the PBSG game the polar bear listing process?

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Dec 26, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://polarbearscience.com/2012/12/26/did-the-pbsg-game-the-polar-bear-listing-process/>

“...for the sake of polar bear conservation, views that run counter to human induced climate change are extremely unhelpful.”

Other News that May Be of Interest

New York State Health Department: Fracking is safe, but don’t tell anyone

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Dec 17, 2012

<http://www.acsh.org/vaccines-news-part-2-the-return-of-thimerosal/>

[SEPP Comment: The dangers of misleading studies trumpeted by alarmists.]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Death threats anyone? Austrian Prof: global warming deniers should be sentenced to death

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 24, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/12/death-threats-anyone-austrian-prof-global-warming-deniers-should-be-sentenced-to-death/#more-26127>

Parncutt Death Threat: Uni of Graz “shocked”, Monckton gets it withdrawn with apology. John Cook says nothing.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 28, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/12/parncutt-death-threat-uni-of-graz-shocked-monckton-gets-it-withdrawn-with-apology-john-cook-says-nothing/#more-26183>

2012: Global warming became reality

Record melting of Arctic Ocean ice. Record heat and droughts. New York under water. Believe climate change now?

By Seth Borenstein, AP, Dec 26, 2012

http://www.salon.com/2012/12/26/2012_global_warming_became_reality/

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ARTICLES:

1. Climate Science vs Politics: The Road Ahead

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Dec 27, 2012

http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/12/climate_science_vs_politics_the_road_ahead.html

[SEPP Comment: Please note that the Supreme Court did not specifically require independent review, but EPA procedures do.]

There is good news and bad news about climate. The good news is that science evidence has made it quite clear that the human contribution to a possible global warming is minor; in fact it cannot even be identified in the data record. The bad news is that the media and politicians pay no attention whatsoever to the science and are marching ahead full-speed with efforts to control CO2 emissions -- thereby hurting the economy, destroying jobs, and stunting economic growth.

They are under the illusion that there is a nearly complete scientific consensus in support of catastrophic anthropogenic global warming (CAGW).

First, the good news

As one of the many official "expert reviewers" of the UN-IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), I have had a chance to examine the so-called evidence to back up the IPCC conclusion (with claimed >95% certainty!!) that a reported global warming of the 1980s and 1990s is anthropogenic and that models can be used to predict a future temperature increase of around 2-3 degrees by 2100. I found that IPCC uses the same flimsy evidence in its fifth assessment report (AR5), due in 2013, as they did in AR4 (Assessment Report #4, published in 2007); except that there they only claimed 90% certainty.

If there is to be an IPCC-AR6, it will surely claim 99%, based on the same flimsy "evidence" - a comparison of uncertain model results with even less certain global surface temperature data. In AR5, this comparison involves just one graph in a chapter on "Attribution." Yet the IPCC studiously avoids discussing the several striking examples where observations disagree with climate models: no global warming during at least the past decade -- in spite of rapidly rising CO2 levels; Antarctic is cooling -- not warming; absence of the model-predicted "hot spot" in the tropical atmosphere, and others.

All of this is detailed in peer-reviewed publications and summarized in the reports of NIPCC (Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change), which directly contradict the results of the IPCC. Since NIPCC's founding in 2007, its voluminous reports have been published by the Heartland Institute www.NIPCCreport.org. During 2013, NIPCC will publish a final summary report at about the same time as the IPCC-AR5. Important news: The Chinese Academy of Sciences has translated these NIPCC reports for publication in 2013 -- the first national academy to do so.

The other good news is that the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which has been slowly dying since the UN conference in Copenhagen in Dec. 2009, is finally going to be officially buried this month, in December 2012. Judging from the latest UN gabfest in Doha, Qatar, it is unlikely that another international control regime will be constituted by 2015 as planned, because of opposition to such international agreements from China, India, and other rapidly developing countries. Among the poorer countries, there is growing talk about the need for "climate reparations" to reimburse them for some claimed damage caused by CO2 emissions in the past, mainly from the United States. We should keep in mind, of course, that the major effect of the increase in CO2 has been to improve agricultural performance. Perhaps these countries should be thankful to China and India for rapidly increasing CO2 emissions, thereby greening the planet.

The bad news

While the international control effort may be dead, we aren't getting rid of the national efforts to control emissions. The situation in the EU is sort of ludicrous with unrealistic future targets of 20%, 50%, and even up to 80% reduction being bandied about. But the future is coming closer - and so is some degree of realism. In some nations, particularly Britain, there has been serious rethinking on the matter of CO2 emissions targets, with U-turns being announced frequently.

It is particularly disturbing that the World Bank has commissioned a thoroughly alarmist report on Global Warming - and that this report could lead to a substantial misallocation of multi-billions of development funds. Poor countries badly need reliable low-cost electric power; they may instead be forced into dubious windmill and solar projects that claim "sustainability" and zero-CO2 emissions -- but are uneconomic, intermittent, and not suitable for industrial development

In the United States, there has been a determined effort by the EPA to abolish the use of abundant domestic coal in power plants. This is in line with the president's promise to make electricity prices "skyrocket" and his plan to make climate-change policy a centerpiece in his second term.

His efforts to push through cap and trade legislation failed in 2009, after barely passing the House. But the EPA has been issuing regulation after regulation that impinge on the use of coal, such as requiring Best Available Control Technology (BACT) to control mercury emissions. This is a hopeless task as most mercury is now emitted by China into the global atmosphere where it'll spread worldwide.

What has saved the situation in the US is the bonanza of cheap natural gas, which is rapidly replacing coal as the fuel for power plants. But we don't know if the price of natural gas will remain at the current low level once EPA issues more regulations concerning fracking technology.

EPA Endangerment Finding (EF)

The basic driver of EPA efforts to control CO2 emissions is their proposed Endangerment Finding (EF). It was issued on Dec 7, 2009 (another "day that shall live in infamy") in response to the 2007 decision of the US Supreme Court, declaring CO2 a pollutant subject to regulation under the 1970 Clean Air Act (CAA) -- provided EPA can demonstrate by independent analysis that it has a harmful impact on human health and welfare.

The EF was challenged immediately since it used flawed IPCC science to claim a deleterious impact on climate. Unfortunately, we lost our lawsuit in the Court of Appeals of the District of Columbia. In June 2012, the Court's 3-judge panel ruled in favor of the EPA; it said in essence "we're not scientists, we cannot decide between EPA's scientific claims and those of the plaintiff, and therefore we give deference to the administrative agency." In Dec. 2012, the same Court rejected our request for an *en banc* hearing - but with two important dissents.

Fortunately, we have resourceful lawyers. They have pointed out that EPA did not do the "independent analysis" required by the Supreme Court; they should be required to go back to the drawing board and then submit their findings to their Scientific Advisory Board. I think this will simply delay another challengeable EF, but such a delay might be useful in educating the media and the public, particularly once EPA regulations start to raise energy prices.

Another promising approach to fighting the EPA on this issue is to go back to the 1970 Clean Air Act, the basic law. After all, the purpose of emission controls is to achieve an ambient air quality that will not harm human health and welfare. The CAA (Section 108) therefore requires the EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for "criteria pollutants." We need to challenge the EPA to set such a standard for CO2, to justify it by "independent analysis," and to demonstrate how their proposed CO2-control regulations will achieve such a NAAQS standard. I would imagine that this would be an impossible task for the EPA; bearing in mind that they have no control over China or other rapidly developing countries.

As Marlo Lewis (Competitive Enterprise Institute) has reminded us, the activist Center for Biological Diversity and 350.Org petitioned the EPA more than two years ago to establish a NAAQS for CO2 at 350 parts per million (roughly 50 parts per million below current concentrations) -- and for other GH gases at pre-industrial levels. Yet the EPA has not responded; Perhaps they realize that any level selected may be considered "arbitrary and capricious" - or unobtainable.

Finally, there is the remedy of last resort. Congress can simply amend the Clean Air Act and forbid the EPA from regulating CO2. The next election is in November 2014, and there is a possibility that both House and Senate would vote for such an amendment in 2015.

But then again, with Obama still in the White House, such an amendment can be vetoed.

However, there is always the possibility that a veto can be overridden, so that some sort of political accommodation between the Congress and the President may result.

Whatever the outcome of this legal maneuvering, the science says fairly clearly that CO2 is not a significant climate driver but a boon to global agriculture. It is hoped that this message can be spread in the media and to the public -- and produce a desirable political impact.

2. Expert Review of IPCC Assessment Report (AR5WGI), Reviewer of All Five Reports
By Vincent Gray, New Zealand, Nov, 2012, General Comments, slightly edited for clarity

<http://www.sepp.org/science-editorials.cfm?whichcat=Report&whichsubcat=IPCC%20Assessment%20Report>

Dear Fred and Ken

Now the contents of the AR5-WGI 2nd Draft seem to be publicly available I see no reason why I should not make available my comments (attached)

You might note that I am far more radical than any of the critics published so far. I consider that the basic models are all fatally flawed for a whole host of reasons. They violate several basic principles of Physics and mathematics. They replace heat transfer by conduction convection and latent heat by radiation, and they ignore altogether the dominant influence of the “chaos” of air and ocean movement which effectively forbids the long term forecasting they favour...

Their earlier “projections” were all one hundred years ahead, to ensure that their scientist would enjoy their generous pensions before the “Projections” were proved to be wrong, but they have been tempted to make “projections: much earlier. The UK Met Office is suffering yet another cold winter after projecting: the end of snow and the destruction of equipment to deal with it. The current frat actually compares their “projections” with what has happened recently and it is not impressive.

I have also had a thorough look at ARI [Assessment Report I, 1990] which few people seem to have read. Its mention of “predictions: which is mainly in the “Executive Summary” at the beginning, disappear as soon as they give details, when the “predictions” all disappear in a collection of “best estimates” and “statements of confidence” from their collection of biased, well paid supporters. All this subsequently degenerated into an elaborate system of “attribution” “simulation” and various levels of “likelihood” and “confidence” made by people paid to do so

Cheers

3. The Jackson Damage

The economic harm the EPA chief wrought.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 27, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324669104578205570067758176.html>

More than four years after the 2008 panic, the U.S. economy still hasn't rebounded to its normal potential growth trend. So the legacy of one of the main culprits—Lisa Jackson of the Environmental Protection Agency, who announced Thursday she is resigning—must include the millions of Americans who can't find a job or haven't seen their incomes rise.

The EPA chief is among President Obama's most abusive and reckless regulators—his repressed green id. Over her four years, Ms. Jackson inflicted an unprecedented surge of new rules on private business, including the most expensive ever in the history of government by several orders of magnitude. A "major" regulation used to be defined as imposing costs of \$100 million or more. The EPA now routinely issues multibillion-dollar rules with little more than a press release.

Ms. Jackson most notably cranked up clean-air regulation that will force a third or even as much as half of the U.S. coal-fired electric fleet out of existence. She also rewrote laws to declare carbon emissions a "dangerous pollutant" even though the laws were written in the 1970s. Along with other rules, including auto efficiency standards, she started a re-engineering of the U.S. energy system, without so much as a Congressional vote.

Ms. Jackson used her discretion to make these rules as aggressive and punitive as possible, even if they couldn't survive legal scrutiny. To the extent this surge contributed to business uncertainty and stole dollars otherwise available for private investment, Ms. Jackson's agenda explains why the economic recovery and job creation are weaker than they ought to be by historical standards. Take the champagne off ice.

Nothing like this was expected out of Ms. Jackson, a New Jersey political functionary under then-Governor Jon Corzine. She turned out to be a master power-politics operator. Her most consequential victory was steamrolling Cass Sunstein at the White House regulatory review office.

Mr. Sunstein was a promoter of sensible regulation only when the benefits justified the costs, and he often opposed Ms. Jackson's methods internally. When he succeeded in persuading the President to yank a purely discretionary EPA rule on ozone in 2011, Ms. Jackson went around town threatening to resign and make trouble for Mr. Obama among his environmental base.

Her authority was never challenged seriously again. The EPA now routinely rigs its estimates to exaggerate benefits—which all of a sudden include such shapeless concepts as racial justice and economic redistribution—and underestimate costs, when it admits costs exist at all.

Astonishingly enough, the green lobby regards Ms. Jackson's term as something of a disappointment, because she didn't do enough on the supposedly humanity-defining problem of global warming and compromised too often. We'd hate to see who they think should continue the revolution she started.

4. Silicon Valley's Green Energy Mistake

Political venture capital turns out to be a loser.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 27, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323401904578159660625274422.html>

[SEPP Comment: The Silicon Valley investors are realizing the folly of green energy while Washington promotes it.]

Silicon Valley's investment wizards are fleeing the so-called green economy, and not a moment too soon for American prosperity. As painful as the era of enviro-investing has been for taxpayers and shareholders, there's an emerging silver lining. It's likely that in 2013 fewer people will spend their time trying to turn political projects into companies.

A recent survey from our corporate cousins at Dow Jones VentureSource and the National Venture Capital Association finds that "clean technology" is inspiring pessimism among venture capitalists. Fully 61% expect less clean-tech investment in 2013 compared to 2012. On the flip

side, a majority expect more investment next year in business information technology, a traditional U.S. economic strength.

The survey reflects a natural and healthy shift in Silicon Valley. Talent and resources are moving back to the technologies that gave the valley its name—and away from trendy eco-projects that failed.

When Silicon Valley was committed to addressing market needs, it enriched the world with Intel, Apple, Google and Cisco. When venture investors tried to profit from political agendas, they saddled taxpayers with stinkers like Abound Solar, Range Fuels and the infamous Solyndra, which went bust last year after receiving more than half a billion dollars in federal loans.

Success has proven elusive even for the smartest guys in the solar-heated room. Five years after Al Gore joined the prestigious venture-capital firm Kleiner Perkins to back environmentally correct companies, the collaboration has yielded few successful exits for Mr. Gore and his partners, along with some spectacular disasters.

This week brought further embarrassment for a Kleiner-backed and taxpayer-subsidized project called Fisker Automotive. In an interview with Delaware's News Journal, the head of the state's economic development office, Alan Levin, discussed the \$21.5 million that was provided by the state in return for a Fisker promise to build green cars there. "All we want are the jobs or our money back," Mr. Levin told the newspaper.

Fisker, an electric-car maker, is currently not making any cars due to various design and production problems. Last year the Department of Energy stopped lending money to Fisker after the company missed development deadlines, but federal taxpayers were already on the hook for more than \$190 million. Fisker's problems have lately been exacerbated by the October bankruptcy of a key supplier, A123 Systems, which also received federal loans.

Last week another green company backed by Kleiner, Glori Energy, withdrew its plans for an initial public offering (IPO), blaming poor market conditions. Perhaps Glori will be able to go public next year, and IPOs are a great way for venture investors to cash out of an investment, but Kleiner has enjoyed very few of them in its clean-tech portfolio.

And what appeared to be a true success earlier this year is looking, well, less so. On Wednesday the Journal pronounced Enphase Energy, a Kleiner-backed company that went public in March, the worst IPO of the year. Shareholders who bought at the opening lost about half their money in nine months. The shares of Kleiner-backed Amyris Inca biomass company, have lost more than 80% of their value since the firm's 2010 IPO.

VentureSource counts more than 60 companies engaged in "clean tech" that have received investments from Kleiner Perkins. Kleiner calls its environmental investments "greentech" and says that among the green firms receiving Kleiner equity investments, three have been acquired or merged into other companies. The assets of another company were sold. But since Mr. Gore joined up in 2007, Enphase and Amyris are the only two Kleiner green companies to go public, and their performance doesn't leave investors begging for more.

Their rough ride might be among the reasons that another green energy firm, SolarCity, offered shares at its recent public debut about 40% below the expected price. Yuliya Chernova of Dow Jones Venture Wire reports that "solar investors lost massive amounts of money over the past two years by betting on manufacturers that overbuilt factories and saw prices for their products fall." She quotes a fund manager who notes that "there aren't a lot of people going to investment committees saying, 'This one is different.'"

Back at Kleiner, the biggest headaches probably don't come from the ones that have gone public, but from the green ventures that haven't yet been sold to other investors. Among the biggest in that category is Fisker. Kleiner and other investors have sunk more than \$1 billion into the firm, a huge sum by the standards of venture capital, which has traditionally funded small start-ups.

Like many venture firms, Kleiner doesn't disclose much detail about its investments, and the firm says that information on investment returns is confidential. In a recent interview with the Journal, Kleiner partner John Doerr said that the revenues of companies in Kleiner's green portfolio are rising rapidly. But it's not clear where Kleiner will generate green home runs to offset struggling firms like Fisker.

Mr. Doerr made another claim in his Journal interview: "Our green investing doesn't depend on government policies. It's about basic supply and demand."

If even Al Gore's partner John Doerr is now on record questioning the need for government assistance, we'd say it's well past time for Washington to turn off the subsidy spigot. Many of the potential beneficiaries are already moving on to more worthwhile pursuits.

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