

**The Week That Was: 2013-11-09 (November 9, 2013)**  
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**The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

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**Quote of the Week:** *The scientist has a lot of experience with ignorance and doubt and uncertainty, and this experience is of very great importance, I think.* Richard Feynman, Value of Science

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**Number of the Week:** 7

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**THIS WEEK:**

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

**EPA and the Supreme Court:** Writing in American Thinker, Fred Singer expresses some of his views on the difficulty the EPA may have in explaining to the Supreme Court its legal justification in expanding regulations that apply to motor vehicles to stationary sources such as power plants. It appears that EPA is changing the law to suit the administration's policy. One of a number of issues is setting National Ambient Air Quality Standards for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) that is well mixed globally in the earth's atmosphere and enforcing such standards on countries that are increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, such as China. See Article # 1 for the review of the logical trap that EPA may have created for itself.

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**Is economics a science?** Robert Shiller, one of the co-recipients of this year's Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences, asks this provocative question. He points out that economics is more focused on policy, rather than the discovery of fundamentals. He asserts that once economists focus on economic policy, a great deal of what is involved is not science, but politics and political posturing. He addresses some of the critics of the "pseudoscience" of economics who claim it uses the trappings of science, like dense mathematics, but only for show.

A similar question could be asked about climate science as practiced by the climate establishment, the heavily government funded scientists who are in the pursuit of attempting to demonstrate humans are the major cause of climate change, rather than uncovering the natural causes. They focus more on climate models, incorporating data into the models without testing fundamental assumptions in the models and testing the predictive power of the models. Granted, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was formed to uncover the human influence on climate change (then called global warming). However, by failing to emphasize its limited scope in its grand announcements, the IPCC misleads the public. It has become more of a public policy advocate, than a scientific entity. For Shiller's discussion see link under Seeking a Common Ground.

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**War on Science?** In Below the Bottom Line, last week's TWTW linked to a paper by Lewandowsky, Mann, et al. entitled "The Subterranean War on Science." The opening paragraph starts with "Science denial kills." It combines whooping cough, tobacco deaths, climate deaths, mass migrations, etc. with those who dare challenge the climate establishment. In short, anyone who demands rigorous science and points out the deficiencies in the science in forums outside of peer reviewed literature is labeled as engaged in a war on science.

As witnessed by the editorial policy of *Science Magazine*, the peer review process on global warming/climate change has been dominated by the climate establishment at the expense of reputable scientists who are making substantial advances in understanding the natural causes of climate change. As explained above, natural causes are beyond the scope of the IPCC charge.

As Judith Curry points out, the real war on science is from the climate clique, who are playing power politics with their positions. The skeptics are gaining because nature does not agree with the climate clique's flawed interpretation of a natural science. As Curry states the policy relevant science needs to be transparent and accountable, audited by a wide range of people. See links under Seeking a Common Ground, which also contain the link to the paper by Lewandowsky, Mann, et al. For an amusing comment about prior work by Lewandowsky from non-establishment Steve McIntyre, see link under Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

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**Willie Soon:** The Boston Globe published an article on astrophysicist Willie Soon, who was one of the authors of the recent report by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) and a critique of the IPCC's Summary for Policymakers. The title, "Researcher helps sow climate-change doubt", speaks to the quality of the piece. Czech physicist Luboš Motl, who lived in Cambridge, just outside of Boston, identified the article as propaganda, which seems to fit well. Would the Boston Globe published a similar article on Lewandowsky and Mann? See links under Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

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**The Legacy:** Journalists who follow such things report that President Obama may focus on stopping climate change as his legacy for the second term as President. Since the Washington climate establishment does not recognize the natural causes of climate change, the stopping climate change part of the legacy will probably be short-lived. The issues are how much damage will instituting this legacy do to the economy, economic freedom, and to the credibility of government agencies and scientific institutions. See links under Expanding the Orthodoxy.

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**Promoting the Legacy:** According to reports, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz insisted the technology for carbon capture and storage (CCS) is ready. This technology is critical for the construction of new coal-fired power plants, which cannot be constructed under new EPA regulations without it.

The statements by Moniz are contradicted by a report from the Congressional Research Service which states that the technology may be available by 2020, if all goes well. DOE is funding 18 research projects exploring CCS. Further, reports state that injection of CO<sub>2</sub> may have caused small earthquakes. How this plays out in deploying CCS technology remains to be seen.

Moniz may become just one more academician who sacrifices credibility to advance the administration's policy.

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**Conservatives Promoting the Legacy:** Donn Dears has a critique of an op-ed by two conservatives (former Secretary of State George Shultz and Federal Express founder Fred Smith) who promote greater government control of energy production and use. The argument of energy security is a false one. As long as we live in a global economy, no source of production is immune from changes in global price. The issue is, can the resources be delivered when needed? The great expansion in oil and natural gas production did not need government subsidies, in fact, it happened in spite of Washington. Why should any particular energy using industry benefit from

government subsidies at the expense of others? See links under Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

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**The Boom:** The Geological Society of America held a meeting during which several people questioned the sustainability of surging oil and gas production by using smart drilling, which includes hydraulic fracturing. A number of comments are highly suspect using terms such as “sweet spots”, which applies more to conventional drilling rather than smart drilling of dense shale. Well-life of the new techniques is an established issue. Thus, more fracking may be needed. But to claim it is a short-term boom is too much. The success rates in shale are spectacular, compared with conventional wells. See links under Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past? For a direct comparison of the benefits of drilling against not drilling see Article # 5.

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**EPA Listening?** At the EPA headquarters on Nov 7, EPA held one of its listening events on the need for rules to regulate carbon dioxide emissions at existing coal-fired power plants and other major emitters of CO<sub>2</sub>. The EPA web site, hand-outs, etc.; frequently used the term Carbon Pollution in discussing the event. No doubt, EPA will use these events to claim that the public demands regulation of existing plants.

Though he recognized that nothing he could say would change matters, Ken Haapala (KAH) represented SEPP. He greeted those assembled as carbon-based life-forms and asked is life a pollutant? He asserted that human breathing increases carbon dioxide concentration of the air used by 100 times and asked does your breathing endanger human health? By this time, many in the audience were sitting up, listening; not necessarily with pleasure.

KAH reviewed the 3 major lines of evidence the EPA used for its endangerment finding: 1) a human fingerprint (hot spot), which does not exist; 2) recent unprecedented and dangerous warming, which stopped 16 years ago and was not unprecedented; 3) climate models are reliable, all of which failed to predict warming would stop and greatly overestimate warming. EPA is basing its policy on failing science and climate models that are wrong.

Then, he reviewed the Federal funding since 1993 and asked what has \$165 Billion bought us? Some very good instruments to measure climate change, particularly from satellites. But, these are largely ignored. Much has been spent on failing science, failing climate models, and extreme exaggerations of the human influence on climate.

Why this failure? Because government-funded climate science tries to blame humanity for naturally occurring climate change. Based on its failing science, EPA is issuing economically destructive regulations on power plants

It is past time for the EPA to study the principles of empirical science and of model testing. Its credibility is at stake. In addition, the EPA should study the tremendous benefits to humanity and the environment from enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide.

The comments were submitted to the EPA panel including references to the following documents, with links: Climate Change Reconsidered II, Physical Science; NIPCC’s Summary for Policymakers, Physical Science; and The Positive Externalities of Carbon Dioxide.

Upon conclusion of the comments, a view of the audience revealed many nervous smiles. It is great to see smiling faces at EPA headquarters on a dreary fall morning.

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**Additions and Corrections:** Australian Des Moore correctly questioned a poorly constructed statement on the social costs of carbon (SCC) in last week’s TWTW. Adding the SCC onto appliances, no doubt to be expanded greatly, has the negative effect of a tax without the revenue. Whether or not it will be expanded into a tax in the form of a monetary penalty remains to be seen. As always, TWTW deeply appreciates additions and corrections.

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**Number of the Week:** 7. The first paragraph of Section 1. Policy in last Friday’s executive order contained 7 false or severely misleading statements. “The impacts of climate change -- including an increase in prolonged periods of 1) excessively high temperatures, 2) more heavy downpours, an 3) increase in wildfires, 4) more severe droughts, 5) permafrost thawing, 6) ocean acidification, and 7) sea-level rise -- are already affecting communities, natural resources, ecosystems, economies, and public health across the Nation.” [Numbers added]

On this, Mr. Obama plans to build his legacy. See <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/11/01/executive-order-preparing-united-states-impacts-climate-change>

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**ARTICLES:**

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

**1. SCOTUS Revisits EPA Regulation of CO2**

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Nov 5, 2013

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/11/scotus\\_revisits\\_epa\\_regulation\\_of\\_co2.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/11/scotus_revisits_epa_regulation_of_co2.html)

**2. Al Gore Still Stranded,**

By Charles Battig, American Thinker, Nov 2, 2013

[http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2013/11/al\\_gore\\_still\\_stranded.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2013/11/al_gore_still_stranded.html)

**3. We Need an Independent Panel to Re-assess Climate Science & Policy**

By Michael Kelly, Letter, Times, Via GWPF, Nov 7, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/michael-kelly-re-assess-climate-science/>

**4. Does Environmentalism Cause Amnesia?**

Climate-change alarmists warn us about coming food shortages. They said the same in 1968.

By Brent Stephens, WSJ, Nov 4, 2013

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303482504579177651057373802?mod=](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303482504579177651057373802?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

[WSJ Opinion LEADTop](#)

*[SEPP Comment: Amusing citation.]*

**5. Fracking, Poverty and the New Liberal Gentry**

The energy bonanza has bypassed New York, where socialites and celebrities have come out in force to stop it.

By Fred Siegel, Op-Ed, WSJ, Nov 7, 2013

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303936904579178201737694182?mod=](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303936904579178201737694182?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

[WSJ Opinion LEADTop](#)

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**NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

### ***Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?***

#### **Cosmic Rays and Climate – to be or not to be?**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 6, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/06/cosmic-rays-and-climate-to-be-or-not-to-be/>

*[SEPP Comment: A contrast in views.]*

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

#### **Current Wisdom: Observations Now Inconsistent with Climate Model Predictions for 25 (going on 35) Years**

By Paul Knappenberger and Patrick Michaels, CATO, Nov 5, 2013

<http://www.cato.org/blog/current-wisdom-observations-now-inconsistent-climate-model-predictions-25-going-35-years>

#### **Climate Change, Patterns of Evidence**

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Nov 8, 2013

<http://www.thegwfp.org/climate-change-patterns-evidence/>

*[SEPP Comment: The orthodoxy is running out of claims – and excuses.]*

#### **Miller et al.’s “Unprecedented Recent Summer Warmth in Arctic Canada”: Bad assumptions, poor logic, and contrary to other evidence of Arctic temperatures.**

By Don Easterbrook, WUWT, Nov 2, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/02/miller-et-al-s-unprecedented-recent-summer-warmth-in-arctic-canada-bad-assumptions-poor-logic-and-contrary-to-other-evidence-of-arctic-temperatures/>

#### **The journalist and the IPCC**

By Anthony Sadar, Washington Examiner, Nov 3, 2013

[http://washingtonexaminer.com/the-journalist-and-the-ippc/article/2538385?custom\\_click=rss#null](http://washingtonexaminer.com/the-journalist-and-the-ippc/article/2538385?custom_click=rss#null)

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

#### **Is It Too Late to Prepare for Climate Change**

By Elizabeth Kolbert, The New Yorker, Nov 5, 2013

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/comment/2013/11/is-it-too-late-to-prepare-for-climate-change.html>

#### **Die Welt: Scientists Not Really Sure Where Heat Has Gone...Rahmstorf Peeved By Skeptics’ Success**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 7, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/07/die-welt-scientists-not-really-sure-where-heat-has-gone-rahmstorf-peeved-by-skeptics-success/>

Rahmstorf adds that this has been “a success scored by the skeptics who are trying to seed doubt over global warming using arguments that aren’t really serious.”

*[SEPP Comment: According to Rahmstorf: since I disagree with the conclusions based on observations of nature, the arguments cannot be serious.]*

#### **Is global heating hiding out in the oceans**

By Staff Writers, New York NY (SPX), Nov 05, 2013

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Is\\_global\\_heating\\_hiding\\_out\\_in\\_the\\_oceans\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Is_global_heating_hiding_out_in_the_oceans_999.html)

## **Stop Subsidizing Climate Change**

By Kevin Watkins, Project Syndicate, Nov 6, 2013

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/kevin-watkins-on-the-world-s-worst-subsidies>

*[SEPP Comment: Not imposing a tax based on the artificial calculation of an illusionary political concept, the social cost of carbon dioxide, is not a subsidy,]*

## **Greenhouse Gas Concentrations in Atmosphere Reach New Record**

By Staff Writers, Press Release, WMO, Nov 6, 2013

[http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press\\_releases/pr\\_980\\_en.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_980_en.html)

The World Meteorological Organization's annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin shows that between 1990 and 2012 there was a 32% increase in radiative forcing – the warming effect on our climate – because of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other heat-trapping long-lived gases such as methane and nitrous oxide.

*[SEPP Comment: Yet no surface warming for 16 years. Could there be something wrong with the WMO's theory?]*

## **Max Planck Institute Study Leaves Forcing Citizens To Sacrifice For The Future As The Only Option Left**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 5, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/05/max-planck-institute-study-leaves-forcing-citizens-to-sacrifice-for-the-future-as-the-only-option-left/>

## ***Questioning the Orthodoxy***

### **One religion is enough**

The global warming activists are as misguided as they are alarmist

By John Howard, Spectator, Nov 5, 2013 [H/t Des Moore]

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/australia/australia-features/9071781/one-religion-is-enough/>

## **Chemistry's climate of skepticism**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 4, 2013 [H/t Anne and Lars Debeil]

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/04/chemistrys-climate-of-skepticism/>

## **Public Relations (Spin Doctors) Deliberately Deceived Public About Global Warming and Climate Change**

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Nov 6, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/06/public-relations-spin-doctors-deliberately-deceived-public-about-global-warming-and-climate-change/>

## **Speaking volumes**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 7, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/11/7/speaking-volumes.html>

Readers may recall the exchanges in the House of Commons yesterday, when an alleged failure of sceptics to come to speak to the Science and Technology Committee was said by Mark Walport to "speak volumes". (It seems fairly clear that in fact I was the only sceptic invited, but that's by the by).

## **Correlation Does Not Equal Causation and Causes Do Not Equal Effects**

By Lee Gerhard, SPPI, Nov 5, 2013

[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/correlation\\_does\\_not\\_equal\\_causation\\_and\\_causes\\_do\\_not\\_equal\\_effects.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/correlation_does_not_equal_causation_and_causes_do_not_equal_effects.html)

Government science cannot be trusted to be unbiased and objective once it becomes part of the political process.

*[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the paper, there have been replications to the 1896 experiment by Arrhenius, which also produced a strong logarithmic decrease on the influence of increasing CO<sub>2</sub> on the greenhouse effect.]*

### **German Media Openly Question Alarmist Science... FOCUS Magazine: "Scientists Fear New Little Ice Age"**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 4, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/04/german-media-openly-question-alarmist-science-focus-scientists-fear-new-little-ice-age/>

### **Global warming 'pause' may last for 20 more years and Arctic sea ice has already started to recover**

Study says warmer temperatures are largely due to natural 300-year cycles

Actual increase in last 17 years lower than almost every prediction

Scientists likened continuing pause to a Mexican wave in a stadium

By David Rose, Mail Online, UK, Nov 2, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2485772/Global-warming-pause-20-years-Arctic-sea-ice-started-recover.html>

### **Global Warming Alarmists Are Overrun By The Facts**

Editorial, IBD, Nov 5, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/110513-678061-no-global-warming-for-20-years.htm>

### **IPCC Is This Century's 'Chicken Little'**

By Andrew Burrell, The Australian, Via GWPF, Nov 4, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/ipcc-centurys-chicken-little/>

### **The Church Of Climate Scientology: How Climate Science Became A Religion**

By Alex Epstein, Forbes, Nov 7, 2013 [H/t NCTCS]

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/alexepstein/2013/11/07/the-church-of-climate-scientology-rationalizes-some-of-the-worst-policies-in-our-history/>

### ***Social Benefits of Carbon***

#### **Plant Productivity: Growth Response to CO<sub>2</sub> When Coupled with Ozone**

By Staff Writers, SPPI & CO<sub>2</sub> Science, Nov 6, 2013

[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/plant\\_productivity\\_growth\\_response\\_to\\_co2\\_when\\_coupled\\_with\\_ozone.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/plant_productivity_growth_response_to_co2_when_coupled_with_ozone.html)

Full Report:

[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/plant\\_productivity.pdf](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/plant_productivity.pdf)

### **The harsh mistress**

President Obama tries to tempt the sun to show a little love

Editorial, Washington Times, Nov 5, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/nov/5/editorial-the-harsh-mistress/>

*[SEPP Comment: Error in the editorial: the proposal for FY 2014 is \$21.4 Billion, following the \$22.2 Billion spent in 2013.]*

### ***Problems in the Orthodoxy***

#### **UN Admits Practically No Chance Of Meeting CO2 Emissions Target – Ignores 15-Year Temperature Stagnation -**

By P. Gosslin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 6, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/06/un-admits-practically-no-chance-of-meeting-co2-emissions-target-ignores-15-year-temperature-stagnation/>

#### **Hopes for strong 2015 climate deal fade, as risks grow**

By Alistair Doyle and Nina Chestney, Planet Ark, Nov 7, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://planetark.org/wen/70295>

#### **Britain starts paying cash to help industry with EU CO2 costs**

By Staff Writers, Planet Ark, Nov 8, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://planetark.org/wen/70303>

#### **Good news: Australians not partying in Poland, chopping committees at home instead, axing the tax.**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 9, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/11/good-news-australians-not-partying-in-poland-chopping-committees-at-home-instead-axing-the-tax/#more-31644>

#### **IPCC Summary: The Real Story**

Media outlets remain oblivious to the IPCC's tainted-by-activism personnel.

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Nov 4, 2013

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/11/04/ipcc-summary-the-real-story/>

*[SEPP Comment: Infected with greens.]*

#### **UN climate talks amid new warnings of dire warming**

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Nov 08, 2013

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/UN\\_climate\\_talks\\_amid\\_new\\_warnings\\_of\\_dire\\_warming\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/UN_climate_talks_amid_new_warnings_of_dire_warming_999.html)

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

#### **Is Economics a Science?**

By Robert Shiller, 2013 Nobel Laureate, Project Syndicate, Nov 6, 2013

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/robert-j--shilleron-whether-he-is-a-scientist>

*[SEPP Comment: In a few years, we may be seeing similar articles on climate science.]*

#### **A subterranean war on science?**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 6, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/06/a-subterranean-war-on-science/>

#### **The Supraterranean War On Sanity: Scientists Versus Civilians**

By William Briggs, His Blog, Nov 3, 2013

<http://wmbiggs.com/blog/?p=9800>

*[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]*

### **Mutually Assured Delusion (MAD)**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 5, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/05/mutually-assured-delusion-mad/>

*[SEPP Comment: Exploring group think.]*

### **Practice-relevant climate adaptation science**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 8, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/08/practice-relevant-climate-adaptation-science/#more-13675>

### **The path forward: adaptation, not alarmism**

By Anthon Watts, WUWT, Nov 8, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/08/the-path-forward-adaptation-not-alarmism/>

### **California Biologist's New Book Shakes Climate Science Cartel**

By Wayne Lusvardi, Master Resource, Nov 5, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/11/steele-book-climate-skepticism/#more-28308>

“Despite media horror stories, many species have benefitted from recent climate change. Those species that are struggling have invariably been affected by issues other than climate change and require very different remedies. Controlling our carbon footprints will never address the most pressing issues of habitat loss and watershed degradation.”

### ***Lowering Standards***

#### **National Geographic's Needless Scaremongering**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 5, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/05/national-geographics-needless-scaremongering/>

### **Natural Disasters, Armed Conflict, and Public Health**

By Jennifer Leaning, and Debarati Guha-Sapir, New England Journal of Medicine, Nov 13, 2013

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMra1109877?query=TOC>

Natural disasters, particularly floods and storms, will become more frequent and severe because of climate change.

*[SEPP Comment: The climate litany of potential disasters is not suitable for protecting public health.]*

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

#### **Obama's Executive Order on Climate**

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Nov 6, 2013

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2013/11/obamas-executive-order-on-climate.html>

### **Obama grasps for climate legacy as second-term agenda crumbles**

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 8, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/189754-obama-grasps-for-climate-legacy-as-second-term-agenda-crumbles>

### **UN Agenda 21 Will Rule The US Waves**

By Dennis Ambler, SPPI, Apr 14, 2011

[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/un\\_agenda\\_21\\_will\\_rule\\_us\\_waves.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/un_agenda_21_will_rule_us_waves.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Regardless of current changes, the objective of UN control remains the same.]*

### **Pentagon pushes 680 green projects, despite money woes**

By Cheryl K. Chumley, Washington Times, Nov 6, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/nov/6/defense-pushes-680-green-projects-despite-money-wo/>

### **200 million people at risk from toxic pollution: environmentalists**

By Staff Writers, Geneva (AFP), Nov 04, 2013

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/200\\_million\\_people\\_at\\_risk\\_from\\_toxic\\_pollution\\_environmentalists\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/200_million_people_at_risk_from_toxic_pollution_environmentalists_999.html)

Hundreds of millions of people worldwide risk exposure to toxic pollution, environmental groups warned Monday, publishing a list of the world's worst areas, including an African processing site for European electronics.

### **Utech named Obama's top climate adviser**

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Nov 8, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/189720-utech-to-be-obamas-top-climate-adviser>

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

#### **The competitive impact of emissions reductions**

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Nov 8, 2013

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/competitive-impact-emissions-reductions>

*[SEPP Comment: Is the Committee on Climate Change so isolated from what is happening in other countries, that it cannot realistically discuss the absurdity of UK's carbon budgets?]*

### **Waning Acceptance ....Survey Shows Germans No Longer Willing To Pay Higher Prices For Green Electricity**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 6, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/06/waning-acceptance-survey-shows-germans-no-longer-willing-to-pay-higher-prices-for-green-electricity/>

### **Cashing in on our misery: Britons forked out £1m to energy firms during megastorm**

ENERGY firms netted a £1million windfall from the taxpayer as last week's killer storm ripped across the country.

By Mathew Davis, Express, Nov 3, 2013

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/440829/Cashing-in-on-our-misery-Britons-forked-out-1m-to-energy-firms-during-megastorm>

### **Is Shale the Answer to Europe's Energy Problem?**

By Walter Russell Meade. Via Meadia, Nov 2, 2013

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/11/02/is-shale-the-answer-to-europes-energy-problem/>

### **In Britain, era of 'green Conservative' withers**

By Anthony Faiola, Washington Post, Nov 1, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/in-britain-era-of-green-conservative-withers/2013/11/01/2a0ea2fe-424f-11e3-b028-de922d7a3f47\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/in-britain-era-of-green-conservative-withers/2013/11/01/2a0ea2fe-424f-11e3-b028-de922d7a3f47_story.html)

## **Merkel Facing Power Dilemma as Coal Plants Open: Energy Markets**

By Julia Mengewein, Bloomberg, Nov 4, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-11-04/merkel-facing-power-dilemma-as-coal-plants-open-energy-markets.html>

## ***Questioning Green Elsewhere***

### **Razor taken to CSIRO**

By Noel Towell, Mark Kenny, Bridie Smith, Sydney Morning Herald, Nov 8, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/razor-taken-to-csiro-20131107-2x4fu.html>

## **The Externality Debate: Remember Subjectivity in Economic Science**

By David Howden, Master Resource, Nov 8, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/11/externality-debate-economics/>

## **Wood-burning power plants: Misguided climate change solution?**

By Steve Gorham, Washington Times, Nov 8, 2013

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/nov/8/wood-burning-power-plants-misguided-climate-change/>

## ***Funding Issues***

### **China asks rich nations to commit to \$100bn climate fund**

By Staff Writers, Brics Post, Nov 5, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

[http://thebricspost.com/china-asks-rich-nations-to-commit-to-100bn-climate-fund/#.UnkqZ\\_mbOaq](http://thebricspost.com/china-asks-rich-nations-to-commit-to-100bn-climate-fund/#.UnkqZ_mbOaq)

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

### **Churchill polar bear attack shamelessly used to advance global warming agenda**

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Nov 4, 2013

<http://polarbearscience.com/2013/11/04/churchill-polar-bear-attack-shamelessly-used-to-advance-global-warming-agenda/>

## **Green Tape Prevents Volunteers Rural Firefighters from Reducing Bushfire Risk**

Press Release, Volunteer Firefighters Association, NCTCS, Nov 5, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/11/green-tape-prevents-volunteers-rural.html>

*[SEPP Comment: Preventing the removal of fuel load increases risks.]*

## **McAneney on Australian Bushfires**

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Nov 5, 2013

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2013/11/mcaneney-on-australian-bushfires.html>

*[SEPP Comment: See link immediately below.]*

## **Climate change and bushfires - you're missing the point!**

By John McAneney, The Conversation, Oct 31, 2013

<http://theconversation.com/climate-change-and-bushfires-youre-missing-the-point-19649>

## **The report of 2013 United States wildfires is “greatly exaggerated”**

Wildfires in 2013 are down 20% from 2012, and less than half the number and acreage burned than in 2006!

By James Rust, CFact, Nov 5, 2013

[http://www.cfact.org/2013/11/05/the-report-of-2013-united-states-wildfires-is-greatly-exaggerated-2/?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+cfact+%28CFACT%29&utm\\_content=Yahoo%21+Mail](http://www.cfact.org/2013/11/05/the-report-of-2013-united-states-wildfires-is-greatly-exaggerated-2/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+cfact+%28CFACT%29&utm_content=Yahoo%21+Mail)

### **Wendy Bacon's Warmist Wonderland**

The UTS academic's 222-page study of Australian newspapers' treatment of climate change is far worse than silly. It is more than a bit sinister

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Nov 7, 2013

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2013/11/wendy-bacons-warmist-wonderland/>

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

#### **More False Claims from Lewandowsky**

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Nov 7, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/11/07/more-false-claims-from-lewandowsky/#more-18571>

That Lewandowsky should make untrue statements will hardly occasion surprise among CA readers. However, drawing conclusions from a subpopulation of zero does take small population statistics to a new and shall-we-say unprecedented level.

### **Warming report sees violent, sicker, poorer future**

By Seith Borenstein, AP, Nov 2, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

[http://hosted2.ap.org/APDEFAULT/3d281c11a96b4ad082fe88aa0db04305/Article\\_2013-11-02-Climate%20Impacts/id-ce1915d3e7a44ced96c1a604a3a5a640](http://hosted2.ap.org/APDEFAULT/3d281c11a96b4ad082fe88aa0db04305/Article_2013-11-02-Climate%20Impacts/id-ce1915d3e7a44ced96c1a604a3a5a640)

Pennsylvania State University climate scientist Michael Mann, who wasn't part of the international study team, told the AP that the report's summary confirms what researchers have known for a long time: "Climate change threatens our health, land, food and water security."

### **Challenging "save the polar bear" propaganda**

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Nov 5, 2013

<http://polarbearscience.com/2013/11/05/challenging-save-the-polar-bear-propaganda/#more-3516>

### **Politicized Congressional Temperature Trends**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 8, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/06/politicized-congressional-temperature-trends/>

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.***

#### **Researcher helps sow climate-change doubt**

Industry-funded Cambridge astrophysicist adds to partisan divide

By Christopher Rowland, Boston Globe, Nov 5, 2013

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/news/nation/2013/11/05/harvard-smithsonian-global-warming-skeptic-helps-feed-strategy-doubt-gridlock-congress/uHssYO1anoWSiLw0v1YcUJ/story.html>

[SEPP Comment: See two links immediately below.]

### **Boston Globe: hit piece on Willie Soon**

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, Nov 5, 2013

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/11/boston-globe-hit-piece-on-willie-soon.html#more>

### **The Boston Globe's Failed Assassination Of Willie Soon**

By William Briggs, His Blog, Nov 6, 2013

<http://wmbriggs.com/blog/?p=9828>

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

#### **RSS Reaches Santer's 17 Years**

By Just the Facts, WUWT, Nov 4, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/04/rss-reaches-santers-17-years/>

### ***Measurement Issues***

#### **Rosenthal et al 2013**

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Nov 2, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/11/02/rosenthal-et-al-2013/>

While the calculations in this table seem peculiar – ranging from apparent arithmetic errors to questionable extrapolation from temperature change to ocean heat content, one should not presume that a corrected version of this table necessarily makes sense: the entire enterprise of attempting to compare changes in ocean heat content based on proxy data on Intermediate Water seems both ill-conceived and forced.

*[SEPP Comment: Further issues with the study, published in Science, claiming to measure historic temperatures of the western Pacific.]*

#### **Ocean heat content around Indonesia shows Medieval Warm Period and 2C warmth in Holocene**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 4, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/11/ocean-heat-content-around-indonesia-shows-medieval-warm-period-and-2c-warmth-in-holocene/>

*[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]*

#### **NOAA Data Tampering Reaches A Tipping Point**

By Steven Goddard, Real Science, Nov 3, 2013 [ICECAP]

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2013/11/03/noaa-data-tampering-reaches-a-tipping-point/>

*[SEPP Comment: More manipulation of historic data.]*

#### **Study: 'Climate change scientists must turn their attention to clean skies'**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 6, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/06/study-climate-change-scientists-must-turn-their-attention-to-clean-skies/>

#### **Australia is either Green genius or Kyoto-criminal depending on fires and forests: Tom Quirk**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 5, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/11/australia-is-either-green-genius-or-kyoto-criminal-depending-on-fires-and-forests-tom-quirk/>

*[SEPP Comment: Problems in accounting for CO2 emissions from natural sources.]*

### ***Changing Weather***

#### **One of most intense typhoons ever recorded hits Philippines**

By Staff Writers, Manila (AFP), Nov 08, 2013

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/One\\_of\\_most\\_intense\\_typhoons\\_ever\\_recorded\\_hits\\_Philippines\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/One_of_most_intense_typhoons_ever_recorded_hits_Philippines_999.html)

But Masters said it was premature to blame climate change for Haiyan.

"The historical record of typhoons and hurricanes is too short and of too low quality to say if climate change may have played a role," he said.

*[SEPP Comment: Reports after the storm state that it killed many, but it was not as intense as earlier headlines stated.]*

### **Storminess and the Inefficient Atmospheric Heat Engine**

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Nov 6, 2013

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/11/storminess-and-the-inefficient-atmospheric-heat-engine/>

### ***Changing Climate***

**‘Let’s face it. The climate has never been more boring.’**

By Robert G. Brown, WUWT, Nov 4, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/04/lets-face-it-the-climate-has-never-been-more-boring/>

### ***Changing Seas***

**Scientists Find That Sea Level Rise Is Much Slower Than Expected...No Human Fingerprint**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 5, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/05/scientists-find-that-sea-level-rise-is-much-slower-than-expected-no-human-fingerprint/>

**Developers Dismiss Sea Level Rise Claims – Plan To Build 30 New Luxury Hotels In The Maldives – Nasheed’s Cash Machine**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 3, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/03/developers-dismiss-sea-level-rise-claims-plan-to-30-new-luxury-hotels-in-the-maldives-nasheeds-cash-machine/>

### ***Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice***

**Global Sea Ice Area Seventh Highest On Record For The Date – Closing In On The All Time Record**

By Steven Goddard, Real Science, Nov 6, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2013/11/06/global-sea-ice-area-seventh-highest-on-record-for-the-date-closing-in-on-the-all-time-record/>

**Renowned Warmist Scientist Peter Lemke: Antarctic Sea Ice “More Extensive, Thicker, And More Densely Packed” Than In 1992!**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 8, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/08/renowned-warmist-scientist-peter-lemke-antarctic-sea-ice-more-extensive-thicker-and-more-densely-packed-than-in-1992/>

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

**Boudreaux says no**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 4, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/11/4/boudreaux-says-no.html>

*[SEPP Comment: Challenging the claim that global warming, now called climate change, will produce famine. A rapid cooling will, but governments would not know how to react to it.]*

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

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

### **Sinking Islands: Fact or Fiction?**

Reference: Biribo, N. and Woodroffe, C.D. 2013. Historical area and shoreline change of reef islands around Tarawa Atoll, Kiribati. *Sustainability Science* 8: 345-362.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/nov/5nov2013a1.html>

### **Neotropical Wet Forest Diversity: More Responsive to Temperature or CO2?**

Reference: Royer, D.L. and Chernoff, B. 2013. Diversity in neotropical wet forests during the Cenozoic is linked more to atmospheric CO2 than temperature. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 280: 10.1098/rspb.2013.1024.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/nov/5nov2013a2.html>

### **Hot Times on the Kamchatka Peninsula**

Reference: Nazarova, L., de Hoog, V., Hoff, U., Dirksen, O. and Diekmann, B. 2013. Late Holocene climate and environmental changes in Kamchatka inferred from the subfossil chironomid record. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 67: 81-92.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/nov/5nov2013a3.html>

### **Larval Development of Barnacles in a Future CO2-Enriched Ocean**

Reference: Pansch, C., Schlegel, P. and Havenhand, J. 2013. Larval development of the barnacle *Amphibalanus improvisus* responds variably but robustly to near-future ocean acidification. *ICES Journal of Marine Science* 70: 805-811.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/nov/6nov2013a2.html>

[SEPP Comment: Comparing effects of different pH levels (7.6, 7.8, & 8.1) on non-calcifying larval stages of certain barnacles.]

### ***Litigation Issues***

#### **States file brief against EPA rules**

By Julian Hattam, The Hill, Nov 7, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/court-battles/189650-states-file-brief-against-epa-rules>

[SEPP Comment: This is different than the litigation against the EPA for regulating CO2 emissions from power plants.]

#### **The EPA Gets High on Greenhouse Gases**

By Richard Epstein, Defining Ideas, Oct 21, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.hoover.org/publications/defining-ideas/article/159836>

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

#### **Congress May Let Tax Credit for Wind Industry Expire**

Free market groups applaud decision, wind lobby says it will slow down industry

By CJ Ciaramella, Washington Free Beacon, Nov 4, 2013

<http://freebeacon.com/congress-may-let-tax-credit-for-wind-industry-expire/>

#### **Let the Wind PTC Die Down Immediately**

By Nicolas Loris, Heritage, Oct 8, 2013

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2013/10/wind-production-tax-credit-ptc-extension>

#### **Stagnating U.S. Wind (government addiction creates bubble symptoms)**

By Lisa Linowes, Master Resource, Nov 4, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/11/stagnating-us-windpower/>

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

#### **Submission to EPA hearing on ‘carbon pollution’ standards**

By Terry Oldberg, WUWT, Nov 7, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/07/submission-to-epa-hearing-on-carbon-pollution-standards/>

#### **Another Big Green power player moves up in Obama's Washington**

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Oct 31, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/another-big-green-power-player-moves-up-in-obamas-washington/article/2538284>

#### **Vitter presses EPA on ‘black box’ carbon cost estimate**

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 6, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/189324-vitter-presses-epa-on-%E2%80%99black-box%E2%80%99-carbon-cost-estimate>

#### **Greens cheer EPA wetlands proposal**

By Julian Hattam, The Hill, Nov 6, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/pending-regs/189448-greens-cheer-drinking-water-proposal-as-comment-period-closes>

*[SEPP Comment: Expansion of regulatory control of privately owned properties.]*

#### **EU will ban vacuum cleaners...above 1,600 W since [starting] Sept 2014**

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, Nov 4, 2013

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/11/eu-will-ban-vacuum-cleaners.html#more>

*[SEPP Comment: Although power is not always directly related to effectiveness, it often is the case. Now consumers may be required to take twice the time to clean, but they will use less energy per minute. Bureaucratic thinking at its best.]*

#### **Mining Policy Designed to Benefit Our Own-Mighty Rare**

By Marita Noon, Energy Tribune, Nov 5, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/79685/mining-policy-designed-to-benefit-our-own-mighty-rare#sthash.C24fnpwH.dpbs>

*[SEPP Comment: Rare earths are needed for many industrial applications, including magnets for wind turbines. Will the greens who promote wind power promote the mining of rare earths?]*

### ***Energy Issues – Non-US***

#### **Enemies of the people**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 4, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/11/4/enemies-of-the-people.html>

*[SEPP Comment: Opposing development of coal bed methane, which has been going on for years.]*

#### **Responses to Bazilian and Pielke on Global Energy Access**

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Nov 7, 2013

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2013/11/responses-to-bazilian-and-pielke-on.html>

### ***Energy Issues -- US***

#### **White House revisits ‘social cost of carbon’**

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 4, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/189152-white-house-revises-agrees-to-seek-comment-on-%E2%80%98social-cost-of-carbon%E2%80%99>

### **Politically correct coal rally missed the target**

By Tom Harris, Tauton Gazette, Nov 2, 2013

<http://www.tauntongazette.com/newsnow/x915439939/GUEST-OPINION-Politically-correct-coal-rally-missed-the-target>

### **5 Charts That Explain the Great Energy Shift**

The rise of fracking and the decline of coal

By Todd Woody, The Atlantic, Nov 4, 2013

<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/11/5-charts-that-explain-the-great-energy-shift/281116/>

*[SEPP Comment: The article fails to discuss that competitive coal-fired power plants would have a dampening effect on natural gas prices.]*

### ***Washington's Control of Energy***

#### **Scientists Blast Obama's Global Warming Myth: You're Basing Politics on Faulty Computer Models Rather than Science**

By Suzanne Hamner, The Daily Sheeple, Nov 4, 2013 [H/t ICECAP]

[http://www.thedailysheeple.com/scientists-blast-obamas-global-warming-myth-youre-basing-politics-on-faulty-computer-models-rather-than-science\\_112013](http://www.thedailysheeple.com/scientists-blast-obamas-global-warming-myth-youre-basing-politics-on-faulty-computer-models-rather-than-science_112013)

### **Another Wolf in Sheep's Clothing**

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Nov 8, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/11/08/another-wolf-in-sheeps-clothing/>

### **Let Markets Decide Natural Gas' Role in Transportation**

By: Gordon Tomb, Energy Tribune, Nov 6, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/79697/let-markets-decide-natural-gas-role-in-transportation#sthash.SXUg0Eie.dpbs>

### **The Crumbling Environmentalist Case Against the Keystone Pipeline**

Data undermine concerns about carbon emissions, pipeline safety

By Lachlan Markay, Washington Free beacon, Nov 6, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://freebeacon.com/the-crumbling-environmentalist-case-against-the-keystone-pipeline/>

### **Keystone XL Pipeline: What Are the Core Issues?**

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Nov8, 2013

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2013/11/08/keystone-xl-pipeline-what-are-the-core-issues/>

### **Will Obama/Kerry Kick Keystone XL Oil Can Down The Road Past 2014 Elections?**

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Nov 5, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/11/05/will-obamakerry-kick-keystone-xl-oil-can-down-the-road-past-2014-elections/>

*[SEPP Comment: Or beyond?]*

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

### **Audacious wildcatters trigger fracking revolution**

By Michael Barone, Washington Examiner, Nov 1, 2013

[http://washingtonexaminer.com/audacious-wildcatters-trigger-fracking-revolution/article/2538356?utm\\_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Recurring%20-%2011/04/2013&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest](http://washingtonexaminer.com/audacious-wildcatters-trigger-fracking-revolution/article/2538356?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Recurring%20-%2011/04/2013&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest)

### **New Attack on Fracking**

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Nov 5, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/11/05/new-attack-on-fracking/>

### **Could fracking boom peter out sooner than DOE expects?**

The future of the U.S. fossil fuel industry rests largely on fracking, which has brought a surge in oil and gas production. Energy experts disagree, though, on how long this boom will last.

By Wendy Koch, USA Today, Nov 3, 2013

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/11/03/fracking-boom-bust-us-energy-independence/3328561/>

*[SEPP Comment: Members of the Post Carbon Institute say so, therefore it must be true!]*

### **What do we know about fracking**

By Staff Writers, Boulder CO (SPX), Oct 29, 2013

[http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/What do we know about fracking 999.html](http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/What%20do%20we%20know%20about%20fracking%20999.html)

### ***Return of King Coal?***

#### **IEA recognizes reality: Coal is the path out of poverty in Southeast Asia.**

By Frank Clemente, Energy Facts Weekly, Nov 7, 2013

<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=29bc7d5d85828d574f86c157a&id=caeeafab99&e=>

### ***Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences***

#### **Trio of Texas universities win bid to launch offshore safety center**

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy, Fuel Fix, Nov 7, 2013

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/11/07/trio-of-texas-universities-win-bid-to-launch-offshore-safety-center/>

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

#### **Nuclear essential for climate stability**

By Staff Writers, WNN, Nov 4, 2013

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE-Nuclear-essential-for-climate-stability-0411137.html>

### **Greens dispute climate scientists on nuclear power**

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 5, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/189258-greens-dispute-climate-scientists-on-nuclear-power>

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

Report Examines Broader Issues Relevant to Climate Change - Nuclear Energy Nexus

By Staff Writers, Press Release, Nov 7, 2013

<http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/2013/climatechnagenp.html>

Link to the Report: Climate Change and Nuclear Power, 2013

By Staff Writers, IAEA, 2013

[http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Publications/PDF/Pub\\_Climate-Change-NP-2013\\_web.pdf](http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Publications/PDF/Pub_Climate-Change-NP-2013_web.pdf)

[SEPP Comment: May be the very wrong approach for nuclear energy.]

### ***Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind***

#### **California Valley Solar Ranch: What for \$1.24 Taxpayer Billion?**

By Jerry Graf, Master Resource, Nov 7, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/11/california-valley-solar-ranch-boondoggle/#more-28346>

#### **NOAA shows that wind farms affect weather radar, and that affects their primary mission of forecasting and safety**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 7, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/07/noaa-shows-that-wind-farms-affect-weather-radar-and-that-affects-their-primary-mission-of-forecasting-and-safety/>

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

#### **Electric Car Is No. 1 Seller In Norway 2 Months In Row!! (Thanks To Subsidies Totaling Over \$90,000 Per Car)**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 7, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/07/electric-car-is-no-1-seller-in-norway-2-months-in-row-thanks-to-subsidies-totalling-over-90000-per-car/>

[SEPP Comment: Automobile imports into Norway are subject to massive import taxes from which electric vehicles are exempt.]

#### **Electric Car Rentals Stalled in U.S. by Range Anxiety**

By Ehren Goossens, Bloomberg, Oct 14, 2013 [H/t NCPA]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-10-13/electric-car-rentals-stalled-in-u-s-by-range-anxiety.html>

### ***Carbon Schemes***

#### **Moniz: 'Technology is ready' for carbon capture**

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Nov 7, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/189654-moniz-technology-is-ready-for-carbon-capture-at-plants>

#### **Carbon Capture: A Technology Assessment**

By Peter Folger, CRS, Oct 21, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/217491.pdf>

#### **Will Technology Save the Coal Industry -- Again?**

By Amy Harder, National Journal, Oct 29, 2013 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/new-energy-paradigm/will-technology-save-the-coal-industry-again-20131029>

The coal industry was able to adopt the scrubber technology in the 1990s because the government worked with it, unlike today, [Senator] Manchin lamented.

#### **Greenhouse Gas Standards for New Facilities Present Significant Technology Challenges**

By Catrina Rorke, Sam Batkins, American Action Forum, Oct 18, 2013 [H/t NCPA]

<http://americanactionforum.org/research/greenhouse-gas-standards-for-new-facilities-present-significant-technology>

## **DOE to Fund 18 Research Projects to Drive Down Costs of Carbon Capture**

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Nov 7, 2013

[http://www.powermag.com/doe-to-fund-18-research-projects-to-drive-down-costs-of-carbon-capture/?hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=2780153&hq\\_l=6&hq\\_v=5e660500d0](http://www.powermag.com/doe-to-fund-18-research-projects-to-drive-down-costs-of-carbon-capture/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2780153&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e660500d0)

## **Gas injection probably triggered small earthquakes near Snyder, Texas**

By Staff Writers, Austin TX (SPX), Nov 06, 2013

[http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Gas\\_injection\\_probably\\_triggered\\_small\\_earthquakes\\_near\\_Snyder\\_Texas\\_999.html](http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Gas_injection_probably_triggered_small_earthquakes_near_Snyder_Texas_999.html)

### ***California Dreaming***

## **Imperial South Solar PV Plant Begins Commercial Operations**

By Thomas Overton, Power News, Nov 5, 2013

[http://www.powermag.com/tenaska-imperial-south-solar-pv-plant-begins-commercial-operations/?hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=2780153&hq\\_l=10&hq\\_v=5e660500d0](http://www.powermag.com/tenaska-imperial-south-solar-pv-plant-begins-commercial-operations/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2780153&hq_l=10&hq_v=5e660500d0)

### ***Health, Energy, and Climate***

## **New study shows Malaria has little to do with temperature or climate, but more with household size**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 7, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/07/new-study-shows-malaria-has-little-to-do-with-climate-but-more-with-household-size/>

### ***Environmental Industry***

## **First GMO rice to be launched in Philippines in 2016: researchers**

By Staff Writers, Manila (AFP), Nov 05, 2013

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/First\\_GMO\\_rice\\_to\\_be\\_launched\\_in\\_Philippines\\_in\\_2016\\_researchers\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/First_GMO_rice_to_be_launched_in_Philippines_in_2016_researchers_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: How many have preventable deaths and crippling illnesses has the environmental industry caused by creating delays based on its false claims?]*

## **Joel Kotkin Vs. California's Green Gentry**

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Meadia, Nov 6, 2013

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/11/06/joel-kotkin-versus-californias-green-gentry/>

## **Reducing Livability: How Sustainability Planning Threatens the American Dream**

By Randal O'Toole, CATO, Oct 28, 2013

<http://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/reducing-livability-how-sustainability-planning-threatens-american>

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

## **Multiple Missions Will Get China Moving On Mars**

By Morris Jones for SpaceDaily.com, Sydney, Australia (SPX) Nov 06, 2013

[http://www.marsdaily.com/reports/Multiple\\_Missions\\_Will\\_China\\_Moving\\_On\\_Mars\\_999.html](http://www.marsdaily.com/reports/Multiple_Missions_Will_China_Moving_On_Mars_999.html)

## **Mythbusting India's Mars Mission**

By Morris Jones for SpaceDaily.com, Sydney, Australia (SPX) Nov 06, 2013

[http://www.marsdaily.com/reports/Mythbusting\\_Indias\\_Mars\\_Mission\\_999.html](http://www.marsdaily.com/reports/Mythbusting_Indias_Mars_Mission_999.html)

**U of M scientists solve major piece in the origin of biological complexity**

By Staff Writers, Minneapolis MN (SPX), Nov 08, 2013

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/U\\_of\\_M\\_scientists\\_solve\\_major\\_piece\\_in\\_the\\_origin\\_of\\_biological\\_complexity\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/U_of_M_scientists_solve_major_piece_in_the_origin_of_biological_complexity_999.html)

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

**What Happens When Research Yields Unpopular Findings**

By William Briggs, His Blog, Nov 5, 2013

<http://wmbriggs.com/blog/?p=9825>

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**BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

**Global warming led to dwarfism in mammals twice**

By Staff Writers, Ann Arbor MI (SPX), Nov 06, 2013

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Global\\_warming\\_led\\_to\\_dwarfism\\_in\\_mammals\\_twice\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Global_warming_led_to_dwarfism_in_mammals_twice_999.html)

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**ARTICLES:**

**1. SCOTUS Revisits EPA Regulation of CO2**

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Nov 5, 2013

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/11/scotus\\_revisits\\_epa\\_regulation\\_of\\_co2.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/11/scotus_revisits_epa_regulation_of_co2.html)

On October 15, 2013, the US Supreme Court (SCOTUS) granted 'Certiorari' to Petitioners who have been suing the EPA over regulations to control CO2. In 2007, SCOTUS had ruled that CO2 may be considered a pollutant under the Clean Air Act (CAA), provided EPA could demonstrate that continued emission of CO2 would harm 'human health and welfare.' In 2009, EPA published the required Endangerment Finding, which was subsequently attacked on scientific grounds by a collection of plaintiffs. [Full disclosure: SEPP is one of the many plaintiffs involved in this lawsuit.]

However, in June 2012, the Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit ruled against plaintiffs, giving deference on the science to EPA. EPA had proceeded to institute emission limits for motor vehicles, essentially by setting mileage standards. EPA is now arguing that, having successfully set CO2 limits for motor vehicles in May 2010, the CAA requires that emission limits be set on all other emitters of CO2. Using their statutory authority to set New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), EPA has proposed stringent limits on new power plants that will make new coal plants virtually impossible to construct. The EPA also wants to limit emissions from existing coal plants, arguing that EPA can set guidelines which the states would have to follow in regulating emissions from existing plants.

In the coming case, plaintiffs are essentially appealing the decision of the DC Circuit Appeals Court and hope to prevail -- even though SCOTUS is not likely to listen to scientific arguments -- although publication of the authoritative NIPCC report "Climate Change Reconsidered-II" (Heartland, 2013) cannot be ignored. In fact, the Supreme Court has restricted its Cert to the single question: Is EPA permitted to extend its authority to regulate emissions from motor vehicles to stationary sources?

The EPA is likely to use a section of the Clean Air Act called Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD). They have a strong case; it will require considerable ingenuity for the plaintiffs' lawyers to prevail over the EPA. One sees at least two possibilities.

#### A. NAAQS (National ambient air quality standards)

The CAA requires the setting of NAAQS. However, it is a fact that

1. EPA has not set a NAAQS for CO<sub>2</sub>
2. EPA does not know how to set a NAAQS for CO<sub>2</sub>. There is no scientific basis for doing so.
3. Even if EPA were to set a NAAQS, there is no way in which EPA can demonstrate that its regulations can achieve it; further, there is no way whereby EPA can enforce it -- since CO<sub>2</sub> is global and EPA cannot control emissions from other nations, like China.
4. But without a NAAQS as a goal, any effort to set emission limits must be judged to be 'arbitrary and capricious.' In other words, without a specific target, there is no rational way for setting emission limits for power plants or other emitters.

#### B. Tailoring Rule

In the regulation of 'criteria pollutants' (of which there are currently six) the arcane provisions of the CAA require EPA to regulate emissions from sources that emit more than either 100 or 250 tons per year.

These limits are ok for CO<sub>2</sub> from individual small sources, motor vehicles and even big trucks. But when applied to stationary sources, there would be millions of them, including apartment and office buildings, hospitals, schools, prisons, etc.

Clearly, EPA is unable to muster an effort to issue controls for all such sources. They have therefore arbitrarily raised the lower limit to 75,000 to 100,000 tons per year -- by issuing a so-called 'Tailoring Rule.' It would permit regulation of major sources, such as power plants, refineries, and other large industrial installations.

However, EPA cannot simply change the law to suit its convenience. This cannot be done by administrative action; it must be done by the author of the law -- which is Congress. Again, EPA's revised lower limit may be considered "arbitrary and capricious"

What to do?

The sensible course for EPA is to go back to Congress and suggest an amendment to the Clean Air Act to permit continuing without setting a NAAQS for CO<sub>2</sub> and for allowing a 'Tailoring Rule' that makes CO<sub>2</sub> regulation more manageable. But it is unlikely that EPA will choose to do this. Because once the matter goes back to Congress, it is no longer under the control of the executive branch of government.

Congress, in its wisdom, could decide to do away with the PSD (Prevention of Significant Deterioration) requirement for CO<sub>2</sub> and thus not permit EPA to extend emission controls to power stations. Or, going even further, Congress may decide that CO<sub>2</sub> is not to be considered as a criteria pollutant and cannot be regulated at all under the Clean Air Act. In other words, Congress

may decide that CO2 is not a 'pollutant' -- and thus overturn and make irrelevant the Supreme Court decision of 2007.

There is little doubt that the House, as currently constituted, would choose one of these routes. It is entirely possible that the US Senate will go along -- even though it has a Democratic majority. But 16 Democratic senators are up for re-election in 2014 -- with some from coal states in the Midwest. So there is a strong possibility that the Congress will consider CO2 to be a non-pollutant. Even if the White House were to apply a veto, there is a good chance that it will be overturned -- which would constitute a big defeat for the Obama Administration.

But political futures are hard to predict. Much may ride on the outcome of Obamacare and other snafus that might affect public opinion about the White House and thereby the mood of Congress. One thing for sure: public policy should not be set by unelected bureaucrats.

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## **2. Al Gore Still Stranded,**

By Charles Battig, American Thinker, Nov 2, 2013

[http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2013/11/al\\_gore\\_still\\_stranded.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2013/11/al_gore_still_stranded.html)

How fortunate Mr. Gore and Generation Investment Management (GIM) were able to secure a half-page "opinion" piece in the October 30, 2013 Wall Street Journal. Readers should be grateful that GIM is so concerned for their financial well-being that they wrote this exposé of misguided investments in fossil fuels. The article reads like a self-serving stock prospectus designed to persuade potential investors sell off or short carbon assets, lest they be "stranded" with toxic investments. Perhaps GIM would then be so kind as to take those freed funds under its own management and redirect them to the profitable "renewables" niche market in which they specialize.

Mr. Gore himself is stranded with the outsized and unfulfilled climate catastrophe claims of his 2006 An Inconvenient Truth. They live on in this latest anti-carbon crusade. The central claim of the WSJ article of a "consensus within the scientific community that increasing the global temperature by more than 2°C will likely causing devastating and irreversible damage to the planet" is unsubstantiated. Quoting a mythical consensus does not qualify as scientific truth. The inconvenient, but factual, truth is that even as atmospheric carbon dioxide has risen about 9% the past 15 years, global temperatures have remained level. Sea level rates of rise have not accelerated; no major hurricanes have struck the U.S. since 2005. Fossil fuels remain the mainstay of reliable energy production, here and overseas. Coal-based energy production is increasing on a worldwide basis. Germany exemplifies this trend as the energy void created by closures of their nuclear power plants is being filled by coal-fired electrical generation.

Like the iconic polar bears used to promote global warming catastrophe, Mr. Gore is now the one stranded on an Arctic ice floe of shrinking credibility.

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## **3. We Need an Independent Panel to Re-assess Climate Science & Policy**

By Michael Kelly, Letter, Times, Via GWPF, Nov 7, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/michael-kelly-re-assess-climate-science/>

Letter to the editor of The Times: Sir, When I hear the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser one week, and the Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills ten days later, with several members of the House of Lords in the interim, all referring to the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change (IPCC) as being more certain than ever of mankind's role in changing the climate, but none of them qualifying the statement by admitting that man is still a bit player compared with the Sun and with nature over the past 150 years, then there is need for a really independent assessment of the interface between science and policy in this most important and contentious subject (Global warming battle "has become a religion" Nov 6).

Who is to adjudicate though? I suggest a panel made up from the Royal Statistical Society and the Royal Academy of Engineering. These people are numerate and scientific but outside the immediate science. If they can be persuaded that the evidence and likely impact of mankind is so strong that we must revolutionise society in short order, then we must.

In 1868 William Stanley Jevons FRS urged the UK to abandon the Industrial Revolution, as the then addiction to coal was such that when coal ran out (about now) the collapse of the UK would be too terrible to contemplate. With hindsight, Jevons was clearly wrong. Who is to say that the latter-day Jevonses will not be proved wrong? Let us please have the debate in some degree of historical context and before a properly sceptical audience.

*Professor Michael J. Kelly, Prince Philip Professor of Technology, University of Cambridge*  
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#### **4. Does Environmentalism Cause Amnesia?**

Climate-change alarmists warn us about coming food shortages. They said the same in 1968.

By Brent Stephens, WSJ, Nov 4, 2013

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303482504579177651057373802?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEADTop](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303482504579177651057373802?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

*[SEPP Comment: Amusing citation.]*

Warming is becoming a major problem. "A change in our climate," writes one deservedly famous American naturalist, "is taking place very sensibly." Snowfall, he notes, has become "less frequent and less deep." Rivers that once "seldom failed to freeze over in the course of the winter, scarcely ever do so now."

And it's having an especially worrisome effect on the food supply: "This change has produced an unfortunate fluctuation between heat and cold, in the spring of the year, which is very fatal to fruits."

That isn't a leaked excerpt from the latest report of the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, but it may as well be. Last week, Canadian journalist Donna Laframboise of the website No Frakking Consensus posted a draft of a forthcoming IPCC report on the alleged effects climate change will have on food production. The New York Times then splashed the news on its front page Saturday. It's another tale of warming woe:

"With or without adaptation," the report warns, "climate change will reduce median yields by 0 to 2% per decade for the rest of the century, as compared to a baseline without climate change. These projected impacts will occur in the context of rising crop demand, projected to increase by 14% per decade until 2050."

If this has a familiar ring, it's because it harks back to the neo-Malthusian forecasts of the 1960s and '70s, when we were supposed to believe that population growth would outstrip food production. This gave us such titles as "Famine 1975!", a 1967 best seller by the brothers William

and Paul Paddock, along with Paul Ehrlich's vastly influential "The Population Bomb," a book that began with the words, "The battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970s and 1980s hundreds of millions of people will starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now."

In case you're wondering what happened with that battle to feed humanity, the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization has some useful figures on its website. In 1968, the year Mr. Ehrlich's book first appeared, Asia produced 46,321,114 tons of maize and 439,579,934 of cereals. By 2011, the respective figures had risen to 270,316,205, up 484%, and 1,289,633,254, up 193%.

It's the same story nearly everywhere else one looks. In Africa, maize production was up 247% between 1968 and 2011, while production of so-called primary vegetables has risen 319%; in South America, it's 308% and 199%. Meanwhile, the world's population rose to just under seven billion from about 3.7 billion, an increase of about 90%. It is predicted to rise by another 33% by 2050.

But what about the supposedly warming climate? According to the EPA, "average temperatures have risen more quickly since the late 1970s," with the contiguous 48 states warming "faster than the global rate." Yet U.S. food production over the same time has also risen by robust percentages even as the number of acres under cultivation has been steadily falling for decades.

In other words, even if you believe the temperature records, a warming climate seems to correlate positively with greater food production. This has mainly to do with better farming practices and the widespread introduction of genetically modified (GMO) crops, and perhaps also the stimulative effects that carbon dioxide has on photosynthesis (though this is debated). Warming also could mean that northern latitudes now not suited for farming might become so in the future.

But whatever the reason, the world isn't likely to be getting any hungrier. Quite the opposite: Purely natural (as opposed to man-made) famines are becoming unknown. As the Irish economist Cormac Ó Gráda noted in a 2010 paper, "in global terms, the margin over subsistence is now much wider than it was a generation ago. This also holds for former famine zones such as India and Bangladesh, whereas China, once the 'land of famine,' nowadays faces a growing problem of childhood obesity." Only in Africa is food scarcity still an issue, but even there recent food crises in Malawi and Niger did not result in major loss of life.

What does hurt people is bad public policy. Exhibit A is the U.S. ethanol mandate—justified in part as a response to global warming—which diverted the corn crop to fuel production and sent global food prices soaring in 2008. Exhibit B is the cult of organic farming and knee-jerk opposition to GMOs, which risk depriving farmers in poor countries of high-yield, nutrient-rich crops. Exhibit C was the effort to ban DDT without adequate substitutes to stop the spread of malaria, which kills nearly 900,000 people, mostly children, in sub-Saharan Africa alone with each passing year. The list goes on and on.

Environmentalists tend to have conveniently short memories, especially when it comes to their own mistakes. They would do better to learn from history. Just take the quote about the warming climate with which this column began. It's from "Notes on the State of Virginia" by Thomas Jefferson, published in 1785.

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## **5. Fracking, Poverty and the New Liberal Gentry**

The energy bonanza has bypassed New York, where socialites and celebrities have come out in force to stop it.

By Fred Siegel, Op-Ed, WSJ, Nov 7, 2013

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303936904579178201737694182?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEADTop](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303936904579178201737694182?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADTop)

The transformation of American liberalism over the past half-century is nowhere more apparent than in the disputes now roiling a relatively obscure section of upstate New York. In 1965, as part of his "war on poverty," President Lyndon Johnson created the Appalachian Regional Commission. Among the areas to be served by the commission were the Southern Tier counties of New York state, including Broome, Tioga and Chemung. The commission's central aim was to "Increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation."

Like so many Great Society antipoverty programs, the effort largely failed. The Southern Tier counties remain much as they appeared in the 1960s, pocked by deserted farms and abandoned businesses, largely untouched by the prosperity that blessed much of America over the past five decades.

Beginning about a dozen years ago, remarkable improvements in natural-gas drilling by means of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, seemed to promise a way out of poverty. The massive Marcellus Shale Formation under New York and Pennsylvania has proved to be "the most lucrative natural gas play in the U.S.," Business Week recently noted, because the shale produces high-quality gas and is easily shipped to New York and Philadelphia.

In Pennsylvania, a state long familiar with carbon production through oil drilling and coal mining, Democratic Gov. Ed Rendell backed fracking during his tenure from 2003-11, and the state has experienced a boom in jobs and income. Between 2007 and 2011, in Pennsylvania counties with more than 200 fracking wells, per capita income rose 19%, compared with an 8% increase in counties with no wells, as petroleum analyst Gregg Laskoski wrote for U.S. News & World Report in August.

In New York, the potential natural-gas bonanza has been stillborn. Political support for fracking came largely from Southern Tier landowners scratching out a living on land much of which has been left fallow. These supporters sometimes referred to the environmental benefits of natural gas as opposed to coal. But their core argument was that fracking offered the only chance to rescue a dying region. Many landowners were being crushed by the heavy burden of New York's high taxes—among the highest property taxes in the nation—and by regulation that made it hard to eke out a living from small dairy herds.

The landowners have been no match for an antifracking coalition that drew on the liberal well-to-do and celebrities, including Yoko Ono and Richard Plunz, a professor at the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture, whose primary residences are in New York City but who also own second homes upstate. These better-known opponents have been joined by other progressives, often from Manhattan, in alliance with the liberal gentry of upstate university towns such as Ithaca, Binghamton and Oneonta. Fracking is occurring in 31 states and has been approved for California and Illinois. But in New York, the antifrackers turned opposition to fracking into a litmus test for liberals.

The antifracking movement has taken on something of the anti-industrial Tory ethos of mid-19th-century England. The romantic sentiments underlying the antifracking movement have been expressed by Adelaide Gomer, the Duncan Hines heiress, who directs the Park Foundation of Ithaca. The foundation finances much of the antifracking movement. "Hydrofracking," Ms. Gomer wrote in a 2010 petition, "will turn our area into an industrial site. It will ruin the ambience, the beauty of the region. But, moreover, it will poison our aquifers. We can live without gas, but we cannot live without water."

Fracking supporters know that the process occurs far below aquifers and is not a danger to water supplies—which in any event proponents would have no interest in poisoning. These advocates are, in the standard sense, conservationists concerned with preserving the land even as they use it. The antifrackers, by contrast, seem most interested in maintaining the upstate region as a pristine setting for gracious living and tourism. Unlike the 19th-century British Tories, who felt a paternal obligation to look after the well-being of the peasants they governed, today's liberal gentry operates on a narrowly self-interested basis.

In 2008, the administration of New York's Gov. David Paterson seemed generally positive about fracking, even while emphasizing the need for updated regulations to protect the environment. But while Mr. Paterson was considering the problem, HBO presented "Gaslands," an agitprop film that depicted Pennsylvania as "getting fracked to hell." The film sensationally portrayed water coming out of kitchen water taps being ignited with a flame—the result of fracking, we were told, though the phenomenon was the result of naturally occurring methane.

"Gaslands" had an enormous impact, and it was buttressed by a series of articles in the New York Times NYT +1.47% so biased against fracking that the newspaper's public editor twice apologized for them. The media's antifracking message meshed well with the Park Foundation's subsidies of protests around the region and in Albany. Faced with a surge of antifracking sentiment, the state in 2008 imposed a moratorium.

Five years later, the supposedly temporary ban to allow the study of health and regulatory considerations remains in place. Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who took office in 2010, last year floated a compromise. The areas near the reservoirs for New York and Syracuse, the liberal gentry of Ithaca and the wealthy retirees of Cooperstown would be able to maintain the status quo. The 100 towns that had passed local bans on fracking would have their wishes respected. Mr. Cuomo would have confined fracking areas to sections of the Southern Tier Counties of Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Steuben and Tioga. In those areas, the shale is deep within the earth and there are no aquifers—even antifracking activists would have a hard time finding a threat to the water table.

The proposed compromise might have seemed reasonable. But the antifrackers who had demonized the gas industry responded with a resounding, no. At a rally earlier this year, actor Mark Ruffalo, another antifracking celebrity, warned the politically ambitious Mr. Cuomo: "We'll cream you if you open New York state to fracking." On Wednesday last week in Albany, the state capital, actress Debra Winger was a prominent speaker at an antifracking protest.

Dick Downey, a retired teacher and fracking supporter living in Otego, N.Y., wrote in his local paper, the Daily Star, in 2011 that "the class divide in the argument over drilling in New York is the elephant in the living room. Everyone's aware of it but no one is talking about it. It pits generational farmers against the newly arrived, well-to-do pensioners against those just hanging on."

Poverty and social class don't seem significant issues for the residents of Ithaca, the center of the antifracking movement. Perched on the edge of beautiful Lake Cayuga, one of New York's Finger Lakes, Ithaca is home to Cornell University, Ithaca College and the Park Foundation. Ithaca claims to have more restaurants per capita than New York City. In the 2000 presidential election, more residents voted for Ralph Nader than for George W. Bush.

Great Society liberalism had, for all its faults, an ideal of inclusiveness. The environmental anti-industrial liberalism is implicitly organized around exclusion. Environmentalism, with its powerful not-in-my-backyard and not-in-your-backyard currents in upstate New York, has become an ideological cover for the pursuit of self-interest. New York's liberals are fighting to preserve the status quo, poverty and all.

*Mr. Siegel is a scholar in residence at Saint Francis College in Brooklyn and a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute's Center for Civic Innovation. This essay is adapted from an article that will be published next spring in Society magazine.*

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