

The Week That Was: 2013-02-09 (February 9, 2013)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *The Stone Age didn't end for lack of stone, and the oil age will end long before the world runs out of oil.* Former Saudi oil minister Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani (NYT "The Breaking Point, Aug 21, 2005)

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Number of the Week: 2%

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THIS WEEK:

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

Fred Singer: Chairman of SEPP, was interviewed by Anthony Wile of the Daily Bell, a publication of the non-profit Foundation for the Advancement of Free-Market Thinking (FAFMT). The topic was popular myths in politically correct science. For the transcript, please see Article # 1.

Secretary Chu: Last Friday, when he announced that was leaving office, Secretary of Energy Stephen Chu sent a letter to the employees highlighting the accomplishments of his administration. In it, probably unintentionally, he highlights issues regarding Washington setting industrial policy, especially energy policy. It should be remembered that many of the problems faced by the Nobel Laureate in physics predate his appointment to office. These problems include ethanol from cellulose, which was embraced by former President Bush who left office in 2009.

Also, many problems arose when Congress, in 2009, suddenly allocated the Department of Energy \$36 Billion in the so-called "Stimulus Bill." One can empathize with bright young employees, with little practical experience, being tasked with allocating huge sums of money. No doubt they were besieged by hoards of slick promoters, equivalent to the Wall Street groups that promoted securities backed by sub-prime mortgages. But what was inexcusable was the failure to recognize and articulate the causes of technological change, and subsequent prosperity, or even articulate basic facts about nature. Based on his letter, it appears that this brilliant man still fails to recognize these important concepts.

Secretary Chu refers to the above quote, which may or may not apply to oil. What Mr. Chu fails to recognize is that the Stone Age ended when new technologies were used to produce vastly superior tools at low cost, namely developments in metallurgy that created the Bronze Age and then the Iron Age. In fact, some cultures that did not understand metallurgy, or lacked the resources, remained in the Stone Age as late as the 19th or 20th centuries. The new Washington group-think, reflected in Mr. Chu's letter, is that technological advancement can be achieved by using subsidies, mandates, or regulations to force inferior products, or excessively expensive products, onto the public.

For example, Mr. Chu states that the cost per kilowatt hour of electricity from wind generators is falling, and approaching the cost from traditional sources such as coal, natural gas, nuclear, etc. He ignores the critical issue – that wind power is unreliable. For over a century (the first fully automatic wind generator was built in 1887) wind power has failed to compete with traditional power sources because it is unreliable. Until an affordable, commercial storage capability for

electricity is developed, wind power will remain unreliable and sub-standard, except when isolated from other sources. The same applies for solar power, though someday industrial solar power may be affordable and reliable. The frequently cited claim that wind power needs subsidies because fossil fuels received subsidies in the past is disingenuous. The tax “subsidies” to fossil fuels did not occur until the huge income tax hikes to pay for World War I, long after coal-fired power plants proved superior to wind power.

Mr. Chu goes on to cite the great increase in installed capacity of wind. However, the bottom line is not total capacity, but the installed capacity that is reliable. He also invokes the now common Washington mantra about the need to protect future generations from dangerous and unprecedented global warming / climate change arising from human emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) – a concept that fails to withstand rigorous empirical examination.

As common in Washington group-think, he does not ask about the damages done to future generations by Washington squandering huge sums of money on technologies that have failed for decades or for over a century. Robert Bradley, on Master Resource, and Lubos Molt, on Reference Frame, include some of the above remarks and make further comments on Mr. Chu’s letter. For the letter and comments please see links under Energy Issues – US.

The Australian Experiment: When challenged about the failure of a wind farm to produce electricity when the winds fail, a favorite response of the wind promoters is that if sufficient farms are built over a broad area then the entire system will produce even if the winds fail on a few farms. The amount of excess capacity needed never seems to enter the discussion. It is important to remember that the electrical grid operator (distributor) must balance electricity output with consumption within fairly tight tolerances, or the entire system fails.

Australian Tom Quirk provided TWTW a reference to a paper in the peer-reviewed British journal, Energy and Environment, that describes a study of the production from 21 farms spread out over the grid for eastern Australia which is described as, geographically, the largest, most widely dispersed, single interconnected grid in the world. Unlike many studies, such as the ones by the US National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) which relied on computer models, this study relies on hard data. The results are grim, but not unexpected.

The study focuses on the year 2010, which was, apparently, not significantly different from other years. The study uses an unusually low standard of 2% of installed capacity for the Minimum Acceptable Level (MAL). It relies on data provided by the grid operator that covers average power output over five minutes. Shorter time periods are preferable and instantaneous output is ideal.

For 2010, the entire fleet (the combined output of all wind farms) failed to produce 2% of installed capacity 109 times. The longest period was for 70 minutes. One wind farm, described as typical, failed 559 times in the six months. The longest period was for 2.8 days. Not only does the entire fleet fail frequently, but also it fails throughout the year. Clearly, such performance would be unacceptable for any traditional method of generating electrical power.

After analyzing the data, the authors state that wind cannot be used for base load, the daily minimum requirement, and that the installed capacity of required back-up must be at least 80% of

installed wind farm capacity. In eastern Australia the required back up is open cycle gas turbines (basically jet engines) which far less efficient than closed cycle gas turbines. But the closed cycle systems cannot react sufficiently quickly to variation of wind power output. Further, the open cycle turbines must be operating constantly on stand-by mode, wasting energy when the electricity is not needed.

Wind power promoters, and their supporting politicians, are leading the public into an expensive wind trap. Please see link under Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind.

U.S. Energy Innovation: On February 5, Mary Hutzler, a long time analyst with the US Energy Information Agency and now a senior fellow with the Institute for Energy Research, testified on energy innovation in the US and almost two generations of Federal government efforts to limit the safe, practical development of public energy resources on public lands, for the benefit of the public. The testimony appears in three parts on Master Resource with a link to the testimony.

One many not agree with every point she makes, but the testimony gives an excellent foundation of the enormous fossil fuel resources in the US. Please see links under Washington’s Control of Energy.

Climate Sensitivity: Over the past few weeks, TWTW has linked to studies questioning the sensitivity of the planet to a doubling of atmospheric CO₂ or equivalence in other greenhouse gases (GHG). To go out on a limb, the consensus view of the orthodoxy, which is not a consensus of scientists, appears to be that a doubling of CO₂ will increase temperatures by about 1.5°C to 4.5°C, with a likelihood of 3°C (about 3 to 8°F, likelihood of 5.5°F). On her blog, Climate Etc, Judith Curry posts numerous comments on Climate Sensitivity. Her concluding comment merits repeating.

“Until we better understand natural internal climate variability, we simply don’t know how to infer sensitivity to greenhouse gas forcing. The issue of how climate will change over the 21st century is highly uncertain, and we basically don’t know whether or not different scenarios of greenhouse gas emissions will be (or not be) the primary driver on timescales of a century or less. Oversimplification and overconfidence on this topic have acted to the detriment of climate science. As scientists, we need to embrace the uncertainty, the complexity and the messy wickedness of the problem. We mislead policy makers with our oversimplifications and overconfidence.”

Please see link under Seeking a Common Ground

Snow Anyone? Moscow has had an unusually hard winter with extreme cold and heavy snows. Last week, TWTW linked to a piece in the *New York Times* lamenting the lack snow in the Northeast US. On Friday night – Saturday Nature obliged. The snows are significant – over 2 to near 3 feet in certain parts of New England. Based on reports, it appears that amounts from the current storm are somewhat less than the storm of 1888 for locations that have records dating that far back. Places such as New York City received far less snow in the current storm. 1888 was also the year of the Schoolhouse Blizzard, which was one of three blizzards in the 1880s to hit the

Great Plains of the US with such fury it that prompted people such as Theodore Roosevelt to wonder if the Great Plains can be permanently inhabited by humans.

Of course, the Global Warming Chorus is croaking that this is all due to global warming / climate change. Please see links under Changing Weather and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Blizzard_of_1888 [H/t Lars Hagen]

Number of the week: 2%. The study cited above under “The Australian Experiment” used 2% of installed capacity as the Minimum Acceptable Level (MAL) to calculate the frequency in which a fleet of wind farms failed during 2010. It is useful to keep in mind to this low estimate of reliable power when wind promoters brag about installed capacity, though zero percent may be more accurate.

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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. Fred Singer on the Myths of Politically Correct Science

Interview With Anthony Wile, Daily Bell, Feb 3, 2013

<http://www.thedailybell.com/28619/Anthony-Wile-Frederick-Singer-on-the-Myths-of-Politically-Correct-Science>

2. The Fish and Wildlife Service Is Not for the Birds

The federal government plans to allow wind turbines to kill bald eagles for 30 years.

By Robert Bryce, WSJ, Feb 1, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324039504578259824223563736.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_0

3. Planes, Trains and Bike Paths

Ray LaHood's transportation legacy

Editorial, WSJ, Feb 2, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324156204578274043919406354.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_2

4. An Alaskan Challenge for 'All of the Above' Energy

An accident with no environmental impact is being exploited for political purposes in an effort to halt offshore exploration in Alaska.

By Sean Parnell, WSJ, Feb 2, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324039504578262303073398808.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_0

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Monsoons In China Fluctuate In Sync With Solar Activity...No Correlation With CO2

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 7, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/02/07/monsoons-in-china-fluctuate-in-sync-with-solar-activity-no-correlation-with-co2/>

Translated from: China's Summer Rains Fluctuated During The 20th Century In Sync With The Solar 11-Year Cycles

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt, Their Blog, Feb 7, 2013

<http://www.kaltesonne.de/?p=7822>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Decreased Surface Wind as a Contributor to Warming

February 5th, 2013 by Roy W. Spencer, Ph. D.

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/02/decreased-surface-wind-as-a-contributor-to-warming/>

In Their Own Words: Climate Alarmists Debunk Their "Science"

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Feb 5, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/02/05/in-their-own-words-climate-alarmists-debunk-their-science/#comment-3324>

Global warming overestimated by factor of two

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 9, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/2/9/global-warming-overestimated-by-factor-of-two.html>

Link to paper: Using data to attribute episodes of warming and cooling in instrumental records

Ka-Kit Tung and Jiansong Zhou, PNAS, Feb 5, 2013

<http://www.pnas.org/content/110/6/2058>

Yet another paper shows the hot spot is missing

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 2, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/02/yes-another-paper-shows-the-hot-spot-is-missing/#more-25053>

Occam's Razor, the Null Hypothesis, and Anthropogenic Global Warming

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Feb 5, 2013

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2013/02/occams-razor-the-null-hypothesis-and-anthropogenic-global-warming.php>

[SEPP Comment: Another review of Professor Carter's excellent essay discussed in last week's TWTW.]

Defending the Orthodoxy

Scientists to Obama: Convene climate change 'summit' to map out federal action

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Feb 8, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/281909-scientists-to-obama-convene-climate-change-summit-to-map-out-federal-action>

[SEPP Comment: As nature refuses to obey these scientists, they call upon the President to defend them against nature?]

Looking to the Future at Energy Innovation 2013

By Matthew Stepp, Consumer Energy Report, Feb 4, 2013 [H/t Joseph D'Aleo]

<http://www.energytrendsinsider.com/2013/02/04/looking-to-the-future-at-energy-innovation-2013/#more-13184>

Environment Canada quick off the mark with global warming propaganda

U.S. Inaugural Address spurs Canadian Government climate statements

By Tim Ball and Tom Harris, Frontier, Feb 4, 2013

<http://www.fcpp.org/blog/environment-canada-quick-off-the-mark-with-global-warming-propaganda/>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Climate seers as blind guides

Forecasters often use unscientific computer models

By J. Scott Armstrong, Washington Times, Feb 4, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/feb/4/climate-seers-as-blind-guides/>

10 Killer Questions for Climate Extremists

By Christopher Monckton, SPPI, Feb 6, 2013, [H/t Tomas Sheahen]

<http://sppiblog.org/news/10-killer-questions-for-climate-extremists>

Environment Canada's Ignorance Guarantees Political Climate Science And Wrong Policy.

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Feb 3, 2013

<http://drtimball.com/2013/environment-canadas-ignorance-guarantees-political-climate-science-and-wrong-policy/>

Tyndall Centre gives up on science

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 6, 2013

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2013/2/6/tyndall-centre-gives-up-on-science.html>

Report shows UN admitting solar activity may play significant role in global warming

By Maxim Lott, Fox News, Feb 1, 2013 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/02/01/report-show-un-admitting-solar-activity-may-play-significant-role-in-global/>

Met Office Decadal Forecast–2007 Version

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That [H/t GWPF]

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2013/02/06/met-office-decadal-forecast2007-version/>

[SEPP Comment: Comparing Met forecasts with actual data.]

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Amazon forest more resilient to climate change than feared – study

By Alister Doyle, Reuters, Feb 7, 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/06/us-climate-amazon-idUSBRE91510020130206>

Unable to find link to the actual article

[SEPP Comment: According to his web site Cox is a lead author of Chapter 7 of the IPCC report.]

Four Top Swedish Climate Scientists Publish Critical Letter Slamming Potsdam Institute Climate Alarmism

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

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/02/05/four-top-swedish-climate-scientists-publish-critical-letter-slamming-potsdam-institute-climate-alarmism/>

[SEPP Comment: Further commentary questioning the organization the World Bank used to produce a highly alarmist study.]

Do forests drive wind and bring rain? Is there a major man-made climate driver the models miss?

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Feb 2, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/02/do-forests-drive-wind-and-bring-rain-is-there-a-major-man-made-climate-driver-the-models-miss/#more-26699>

Link to paper: Where do winds come from? A new theory on how water vapor condensation influences atmospheric pressure and dynamics,

By Makarieva, A. M., Gorshkov, V. G., Sheil, D., Nobre, A. D., and Li, B.-L., Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics, Jan 25, 2013

<http://www.atmos-chem-phys.net/13/1039/2013/acp-13-1039-2013.pdf>

A Closer Look at Moderating Views of Climate Sensitivity

By Andrew Revkin, Dot Earth, Feb 4, 2013 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/04/a-closer-look-at-moderating-views-of-climate-sensitivity/?smid=tw-share>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Climate Gets 20 Percent of Seven-Year European Budget

By Staff Writers, Environmental News, Feb 8, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://ens-newswire.com/2013/02/08/climate-gets-20-percent-of-seven-year-european-budget/>

“Climate action objectives will represent at least 20% of EU spending in the period 2014-2020 and therefore be reflected in the appropriate instruments to ensure that they contribute to strengthen energy security, building a low-carbon, resource efficient and climate resilient economy that will enhance Europe’s competitiveness and create more and greener jobs,” the final agreement states.

Teaching climatism in schools: Next generation science standards

By Steve Goreham, Washington Times, Feb 6, 2013

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/feb/6/teaching-climatism-schools-next-generation-science/>

Energy leaders say climate crisis more urgent

By Staff Writers, New Delhi (AFP), Feb 6, 2013

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Energy_leaders_say_climate_crisis_more_urgent_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Now the increase in temperatures is 6 deg C by 2100. The World Energy Council is hardly a group of energy leaders.]

Climate Science Turns Comic – John Schellnhuber Now Depicted As Planet-Saving Comic Hero In Germany

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 6, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/02/06/climate-science-turns-comic-john-schellnhuber-now-depicted-as-planet-saving-comic-hero-in-germany/>

Funding Fights

Fixing the National Weather Service's Computer Gap

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Jan 28, 2013 [H/t Climate, Etc.]

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2013/01/fixing-national-weather-services.html>

When U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell learned about the lack of computer power for U.S. numerical weather prediction at a luncheon I attended, she asked an important question of the head of the NWS: how can this be when Congress has appropriated large amounts of funds for weather and climate computers? He did not answer, but the answer is clear: nearly all of these resources have been unavailable for weather prediction--most are used for climate studies.

Seeking a Common Ground

Sensitivity about sensitivity

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Feb 4, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/02/04/sensitivity-about-sensitivity/#more-11057>

How Not to Argue for Increased R&D Funding,

By Roger Pielke, Jr, His Blog, Feb 6, 2013

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2013/02/how-not-to-argue-for-increased-r-funding.html>

The obtuse part is Geim's equating of advances in basic research as both necessary and sufficient for economic growth, when neither may be the case.

[SEPP Comment: After decades of exaggeration about global warming, extreme exaggeration for other causes may not be sufficient.]

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

Temperature Stagnation Suddenly Being Discovered In Climate Models...Erred Scientists Desperately Clinging!

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 4, 2013 [H/t Anne Debeil]

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/02/04/temperature-stagnation-suddenly-being-discovered-in-climate-models-erred-scientists-desperately-clinging/>

NOAA Corrects Their 2012 State of the Climate Report – 2012 Was NOT the Warmest La Niña Year on Record

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Feb 6, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/06/noaa-corrects-state-of-the-climate-offers-no-credit/>

[SEPP Comment: Slight error, too bad it was repeated with great fanfare all over the world and the correction is being ignored. But, the state of the climate is what we state when we state it.]

Increases in extreme rainfall linked to global warming

By Staff Writers, Adelaide, Australia (SPX) Feb 08, 2013

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Increases_in_extreme_rainfall_linked_to_global_warming_99_9.html

Link to paper: Global increasing trends in annual maximum daily precipitation.

By Westra, Alexander, and Zwiers, Journal of Climate, 2012

<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/JCLI-D-12-00502.1>

"Assuming an increase in global average temperature by 3 to 5 degrees Celsius by the end of the 21st century, this could mean very substantial increases in rainfall intensity as a result of climate change."

[SEPP Comment: The good lecturer reduces the meaningfulness of his findings by his intensity of his assumptions as to the future.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

‘Roasted, toasted, fried and grilled’: climate-change talk from an unlikely source

By David Runnalls, Globe and Mail, Can, Feb 1, 2012 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/commentary/roasted-toasted-fried-and-grilled-climate-change-talk-from-an-unlikely-source/article8077946/>

[SEPP Comment: Hyperbole knows no bounds. This from the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund. No wonder, except for a few countries such as China, the international financial situation is bleak.]

Global Warming To Bring Colder/Warmer Winters

By Paul Homewood, WUWT, Feb 8, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/08/global-warming-to-bring-colderwarmer-winters/>

Chris Mooney’s Chartsmanship in the Service of Alarmism

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Feb 7, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/07/chris-mooneys-chartsmanship-in-the-service-of-alarmism/>

[SEPP Comment: A great example of chartsmanship – drawing the graph to mislead rather than to illuminate. See Number Watch: <http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/chartmanship.htm>.]

Polar bear researchers urge governments to act now and save the species

By Staff Writers. Edmonton, Canada (SPX) Feb 08, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Polar_bear_researchers_urge_governments_to_act_now_and_save_the_species_999.html

Link to paper: Rapid ecosystem change and polar bear conservation

By Derocher, et al, Conservation Letters, Jan 25, 2013

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/conl.12009/abstract>

Andrew Derocher refuses to accept that polar bears have been saved

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Feb 5, 2013 [H/t WUWT]

<http://polarbearscience.com/2013/02/05/andrew-derocher-refuses-to-accept-that-polar-bears-have-been-saved/>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above. Perhaps the term “polar bear advocate” should be changed to “polar bear profiteer.”]

Changing Weather

Here comes the snow

By Joseph D’Aleo, ICECAP, Feb 7, 2013

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/here_comes_the_snow1/

Heaviest Snowfall in a Century Hits Moscow – WWF has logic fail

Compiled by Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 5, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/02/05/heaviest-snowfall-in-a-century-hits-moscow-wwf-has-logic-fail/>

[SEPP Comment: *When nature disagrees with your forecasts, make things up.*]

NOAA Slays the Billion-Dollar Disaster Meme

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Feb 3, 2013

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.co.uk/2013/02/noaa-slays-billion-dollar-disaster-meme.html>

Superstorm Sandy (Part III: Political Actions)

By Paul Driessen and Patrick Moffitt, Master Resource, Feb 2, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/02/superstorm-sandy-part-iii/>

[SEPP Comment: *It is not sufficient to blame others, what will political leaders do to protect against future storms?*]

Changing Earth

Volcano Location: Greenhouse-Icehouse Key? Episodic Purging of 'Carbonate Capacitor' Drives Long-Term Climate Cycle

By Jade Boyd, Science Daily, Feb 6, 2013 [H/t WUWT]

http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/02/130207115014.htm?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+sciencedaily+%28ScienceDaily%3A+Latest+Science+News%29

Link to Article: Continental arc-island arc fluctuations, growth of crustal carbonates, and long-term climate change.

By Lee, Shen, et al, Geosphere, Dec 13, 2013

<http://geosphere.gsapubs.org/content/early/2012/12/13/GES00822.1.abstract>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Understanding the historical probability of drought

By Staff Writers, (SPX), Feb 06, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Understanding_the_historical_probability_of_drought_999.html

Link to Article: Comparison of Drought Probability Assessments Based on Atmospheric Water Deficit and Soil Water Deficit

By Torres, Lallato and Ochsner, ASA, Jan 29, 2013

<https://dl.sciencesocieties.org/publications/aj/abstracts/0/0/agronj2012.0295>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

A History of Drought in the Southern United States Since 1895

Reference: Chen, G., Tian, H., Zhang, C., Liu, M., Ren, W., Zhu, W., Chappelka, A.H., Prior, S.A. and Lockaby, G.B. 2012. Drought in the Southern United States over the 20th century: variability and its impacts on terrestrial ecosystem productivity and carbon storage. *Climatic Change* 114: 379-397.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/feb/5feb2013a1.html>

Coral Resilience to Ocean Acidification and Global Warming

Reference: McCulloch, M., Falter, J., Trotter, J. and Montagna, P. 2012. Coral resilience to ocean acidification and global warming through pH up-regulation. *Nature Climate Change* 2: 623-627. <http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/feb/5feb2013a2.html>
[SEPP Comment: Corals adapt to changing alkalinity.]

Cloud Ice Water Content & Cloud Ice Water Path in CMIP5 GCMs

Reference: Li, J.-L.F., Waliser, D.E., Chen, W.-T., Guan, B., Kubar, T., Stephens, G., Ma, H.-Y., Deng, M., Donner, L., Seman, C. and Horowitz, L. 2012. An observationally based evaluation of cloud ice water in CMIP3 and CMIP5 GCMs and contemporary reanalyses using contemporary satellite data. *Journal of Geophysical Research* 117: 10.1029/2012JD017640. <http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/feb/5feb2013a3.html>

Canadian and U.S. Droughts of the Medieval Warm Period

Reference: Laird, K.R., Haig, H.A., Ma, S., Kingsbury, M.V., Brown, T.A., Lewis, C.F.M., Oglesby, R.J. and Cumming, B.F. 2012. Expanded spatial extent of the Medieval Climate Anomaly revealed in lake-sediment records across the boreal region in northwest Ontario. *Global Change Biology* 18: 2869-2881. <http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/feb/6feb2013a2.html>

Litigation Issues

Treasury fights to keep carbon emails secret

By CJ Ciaramella, Free beacon, Feb 5, 2013

<http://freebeacon.com/carbon-copies/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Another Made Up Mandate on Energy that Doesn't Exist

By Marita Noon, Townhall, Feb 3, 2013

http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2013/02/03/another-made-up-mandate-on-energy-that-doesnt-exist-n1504035?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Is it time to get rid of the EPA?

By Henry Miller Daily Caller, Feb 4, 2013

<http://dailycaller.com/2013/02/04/is-it-time-to-get-rid-of-the-epa/>

The EPA's Lisa Jackson: The Worst Head of the Worst Regulatory Agency, Ever

By Henry Miller, Forbes, Jan 30, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/henrymiller/2013/01/30/the-epas-lisa-jackson-the-worst-head-of-the-worst-regulatory-agency-ever/>

EPA moves forward with climate change protection plan, asks for comments

By Ben Goad, The Hill, Feb 8, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/281915-epa-puts-forward-climate-change-adaptation-plan>

Link to the draft plan: <http://epa.gov/climatechange/pdfs/EPA-climate-change-adaptation-plan-final-for-public-comment-2-7-13.pdf>

EPA: Power plants accounted for two-thirds of industrial emissions in 2011

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Feb 5, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/281247-epa-power-plants-accounted-for-two-thirds-of-emissions-in-2011>

Line to the EPA Report: GHGRP 2011: Reported Data, Feb, 5, 2013

<http://www.epa.gov/ghgreporting/ghgdata/reported/index.html>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Why the World May Never Experience a Shale Boom

By Energy Burrito, Oil Price.com, Jan 31, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Natural-Gas/Why-the-World-May-Never-Experience-a-Shale-Boom.html>

[SEPP Comment: Excellent caution: the experience does not exist to be confidently able to extrapolate from the US to the rest of the world.]

Each stalled pipeline project costing Canada \$30M-\$70M a day, new report suggests

By Lauren Krugel, Canadian Press, Feb 7, 2013

http://business.financialpost.com/2013/02/07/each-stalled-pipeline-project-costing-canada-30m-70m-a-day/?_lsa=fac1-efca

[SEPP Comment: In the US and Canada, environmentalists and bureaucrats do not care about costs.]

Energy Issues -- US

DOE's Chu's Resignation Letter: Ten Questions

By Robert Bradley, Jr, Master Resource, Feb 5, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/02/chu-resignation-letter-10-questions/>

[SEPP Comment: The link contains the letter.]

Steven Chu quits, misunderstands the end of Stone Age

By Lubos Motl, Reference Frame, Feb 2, 2013

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/02/steven-chu-quits-misunderstands-end-of.html>

Study: CBO underestimates revenues from expanded oil-and-gas drilling

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Feb 5, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/281185-study-federal-oil-and-gas-revenues-from-expanded-drilling-understated->

Link to summary and study: Beyond the Congressional Budget Office

By Joseph Mason, IER, Feb, 2013

<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/beyond-the-congressional-budget-office/>

[SEPP Comment: All that is needed is a change in energy policy, not special subsidies.]

Pandering on Price

By Marita Noon, Townhall, Feb 7, 2013

http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2013/02/07/pandering-on-price-n1507046?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl

Let's Inaugurate a Term of Energy Realism

By Michael Economides, Energy Tribune, Feb 7, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/72711/lets-inaugurate-a-term-of-energy-realism>

U.S. Beating China in Race for Clean Skies

By Rudy Takala and David Kreutzeer, The Foundry, Feb 8, 2013

<http://blog.heritage.org/2013/02/08/u-s-beating-china-in-race-for-clean-skies/>

Washington's Control of Energy

U.S. Energy Innovation (Part I: Expanding "Depletable" Resources)

By Mary Hutzler, Master Resource, Feb 6, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/02/us-energy-i-expanding-resources/>

Part II: Coal Issues: <http://www.masterresource.org/2013/02/u-s-energy-ii-coal/>

Part III: Federal Land Potential: <http://www.masterresource.org/2013/02/u-s-energy-iii-federal-lands/>

Growing Canadian oil exports to U.S. bittersweet for producers as price discount bites

By Yadullah Hussain, Financial Post, Feb 7, 2013

http://business.financialpost.com/2013/02/07/growing-canadian-oil-exports-to-u-s-bittersweet-for-producers-as-price-discount-bites/?_lsa=facl-efca

Interest Group Wants to End Natural Gas Exports

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Feb 7, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=22821&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

Link to full report New Special Interest Group Pushes to Stop Natural Gas Exports

By Daniel Simmons, IER, Jan 29, 2013

<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/2013/01/29/other-aea-pushes-to-limit-natgas-exports/>

[SEPP Comment: Energy isolationism. How would the members respond if regulations were passed to ban exports of their products?]

Domestic Energy: Triumph in the Face of Adversity

By Gary Jason, American Thinker, Feb 5, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/02/domestic_energy_triumph_in_the_face_of_adversity.html

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Full Throttle Ahead: US Tips Global Power Scales with Fracking

The United States is sitting on massive natural gas and oil reserves that have the potential to shift the geopolitical balance in its favor. Worries are increasing in Russia and the Arab states of waning influence and falling market prices.

By Spiegel Staff, Spiegel Online, Feb 1, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/new-gas-extraction-methods-alter-global-balance-of-power-a-880546.html>

Spreading an Energy Revolution

By Christof Ruhl, BP, NYT, Feb 5, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/06/opinion/global/spreading-an-energy-revolution.html?_r=0

North Dakota's Bakken Oil Finally Hits the East Coast

By Matthew Philips, Bloomberg, Feb 6, 2013

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2013-02-06/north-dakotas-bakken-oil-finally-hits-the-east-coast>

America's Oil Revival

By William Tucker, Spectator, Feb 8, 2013

<http://spectator.org/archives/2013/02/08/americas-oil-revival>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

U.S. Halts Drilling on Gulf Wells with Flawed Bolts

By Carroll, Catts & Wethe, The Hill, Feb 7, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-06/u-s-halts-drilling-on-gulf-wells-with-flawed-ge-bolts.html>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Forked Tongue

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Feb 6, 2013

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/02/06/forked-tongue/>

[SEPP Comment: We are for nuclear energy but we will oppose any means of disposing of the waste.]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Wind Farms in Eastern Australia-Recent Lessons

By Paul Miskelly, Energy & Environment, Dec 2012 [H/t Tom Quirk]

<http://multi-science.metapress.com/content/fl734hj8j458n4j7/>

VantagePoint curbs cleantech fund raising due to lack of interest

By Katie Fehrenbacher, Gigaom, Feb 5, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://gigaom.com/2013/02/05/vantagepoint-curbs-cleantech-fund-raising-due-to-lack-of-interest/>

[SEPP Comment: Even Al Gore's investment firm is pulling back from "clean-tech." Could it be that it is over-sold, under-delivers, and sub-prime? Some of the stated "successes" were backed by government loan guarantees, that may go into default.]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Vehicles

Pricing Electric Cars

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Feb 4, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=22806&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

Link to full Article, The True Cost of Powering an Electric Car,

By Carroll Lachnit, Edmunds, Dec 21, 2012

<http://www.edmunds.com/fuel-economy/the-true-cost-of-powering-an-electric-car.html?mktcat=advice-fuel-economy->

[article&kw=the+true+cost+of+powering+an+electric+car&mktid=ob61762686&msite=w](http://www.edmunds.com/fuel-economy/the-true-cost-of-powering-an-electric-car.html?mktcat=advice-fuel-economy-article&kw=the+true+cost+of+powering+an+electric+car&mktid=ob61762686&msite=w)

Insight: Electric cars head toward another dead end

By Norihiko Shirouzu and Yoko Kubota and Paul Lienert, Reuters, Feb 4, 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/04/us-autos-electric-hydrogen-idUSBRE91304Z20130204>

[SEPP Comment: Largely for the same reasons they failed 100 years ago.]

Carbon Schemes

Requiring Deeper Cuts in CO2 Emissions

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Feb 9, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/02/09/requiring-deeper-cuts-in-co2-emissions/>

California Dreaming

Could Monterey Shale Save California?

Editorial, IBD, Feb 5, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/020513-643335-california-monterey-shale-could-exceed-bakken-boom.htm>

Brown vs. Green: Clash of the Titans in California

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Meadia, Feb 4, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/02/04/brown-vs-green-clash-of-the-titans-in-california/>

Solar development absorbing Calif. farmland

By Staff Writers, AP, Feb 4, 2013

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/02/04/solar-development-absorbing-calif-farmland/>

Health, Energy, and Climate

South Africa using its smarts — and DDT — to prevent malaria

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Feb 7, 2013

<http://www.acsh.org/south-africa-using-its-smarts-and-ddt-to-prevent-malaria/>

New study finds a link between smog and birth weight — maybe

By Staff Writer, ACSH, Feb 7, 2013

<http://www.acsh.org/new-study-finds-a-link-between-smog-and-birth-weight-maybe/>

[SEPP Comment: Describes no measurements of exposure, and shows no causal link.]

Other Scientific News

Study Shows that Gases Work with Particles to Promote Cloud Formation

By Holly Evarts, Press Release, Columbia University, Feb 4, 2013

<http://engineering.columbia.edu/study-shows-gases-work-particles-promote-cloud-formation>

Link to paper: Surfactants from the gas phase may promote cloud droplet formation

By Sareen, et al, PNAS, Feb 4, 2013

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/01/29/1204838110.abstract?sid=29e2f7ea-50f2-456e-b541-3d510ed9f097>

Spring may come earlier to North American forests

By Catherine Zandonella, for Princeton Research, Princeton NJ (SPX), Feb 01, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Spring_may_come_earlier_to_North_American_forests_999.html

Link to Article: Predicting changes in temperate forest budburst using continental-scale observations and models.

By Jeong, Su-Jong, David Medvigy, Elena Shevliakova, and Sergey Malyshev. 2013. Geophysical Research Letters. Jan 25, 2013

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1029/2012GL054431/abstract>

[SEPP Comment: *Once an early spring was welcome, not to be feared.*]

Other News that May Be of Interest

Shale Gas Boom Now Visible From Space

By Staff Writers, CNBC, Jan 28, 2013

http://www.cnbc.com/id/100412356/Shale_Gas_Boom_Now_Visible_From_Space

[SEPP Comment: *Further evidence of the need for pipelines.*]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Could Climate Change Be Al-Qaida's Best Friend in Africa?

By Abraham Riesman, Slate, Feb 7, 2013

http://www.slate.com/blogs/future_tense/2013/02/07/mali_islamist_insurgents_could_climate_change_be_al_qaida_s_best_friend.html

Study: Global Warming Can Be Slowed By Working Less

A new analysis suggests that a more 'European' schedule would reduce the effects of climate change

By Jason Koebler, US News, Feb 4, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/02/04/-study-global-warming-can-be-slowed-by-working-less>

Birds may need a hand to weather climate change

By Staff Writers, Durham, UK (SPX), Feb 06, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Birds_may_need_a_hand_to_weather_climate_change_999.html

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ARTICLES:

1. Fred Singer on the Myths of Politically Correct Science

Interview With Anthony Wile, Daily Bell, Feb 3, 2013

<http://www.thedailybell.com/28619/Anthony-Wile-Frederick-Singer-on-the-Myths-of-Politically-Correct-Science>

Introduction: Dr. S. Fred Singer (Siegfried Fred Singer) is an American atmospheric physicist, professor emeritus of environmental science at the University of Virginia and president of the Science and Environmental Policy Project, which he founded in 1990. Dr. Singer is a prolific author, having published more than 200 technical papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals as well as editorial essays and articles that have appeared in leading publications. Front-cover stories appearing in Time, Life and US News & World Report have featured his accomplishments. Dr. Singer is author, coauthor or editor of more than a dozen books and monographs and has given hundreds of lectures and seminars on global warming, including to the science faculties at

Stanford University, University of California-Berkeley and many others. He is elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), American Geophysical Union, American Physical Society, and American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Daily Bell: Good to meet you. Please give us some background. Where did you grow up and go to school?

Fred Singer: I grew up in Vienna, Austria, left school at the age of 13 and apprenticed at an optical machine shop. I left in 1939, crossing the border into Holland the same day Hitler marched into Czechoslovakia, on March 15, 1939. I continued to England and worked as a teenage optician in Northumberland. I joined my parents in Ohio in 1940, shortly after the London Blitz had started and after the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk.

Daily Bell: You received a Ph.D. from Princeton University in 1948 in physics. Why did you get interested in physics? What kind of physics?

Fred Singer: In 1941, I was admitted to Ohio State University and studied electrical engineering; I finished in 1943 and was admitted to Princeton University as a graduate student of physics. It gave me the theoretical background for engineering. My Ph.D. came after service in the US Navy in World War 2 and dealt with cosmic rays, essentially high-energy physics.

Daily Bell: You've questioned the link between UVB and melanoma rates, and between CFCs and stratospheric ozone loss. Explain, please.

Fred Singer: The link between solar UVB and melanoma is problematic. It is possible that solar UVA is the main cause; UVA is not absorbed by ozone. However, there could be many different causes for melanoma, a serious form of skin cancer. I have never questioned the connection between CFCs and stratospheric ozone loss; my only concern was whether enough CFCs entered the stratosphere to deplete ozone.

Daily Bell: You are well known for denying the health risks of passive smoking. Is passive smoke deadly? Does it cause cancer? What does cause cancer?

Fred Singer: I definitely do not deny the health risks of passive smoking but it is not as deadly as direct smoking. I would not be surprised if passive smoking causes lung cancer and other diseases. However, the analysis done by the EPA is based on poor science and is not in accord with epidemiology. Cancer is produced by all kinds of causes; smoking is definitely one of the major causes.

Daily Bell: Explain your view on global warming and climate change. What's the difference and why?

Fred Singer: Climate change includes both global warming and global cooling, as well as regional changes. It is not known to what extent human activities are responsible for climate change or global warming.

Daily Bell: Please summarize some of your books. What was Global Effects of Environmental Pollution about, for instance?

Fred Singer: My first book dealing with the climate change issue was published in 1970 with the title of Global Effects of Environmental Pollution. It was updated several years later, titled The Changing Global Environment; it is currently being digitized and reprinted by the Springer publishing company. My book The Ocean in Human Affairs deals with the science, history and other aspects of the ocean, including its influence on human exploration. Global Climate Change presents both sides of the global warming debate. My book Greenhouse Debate Continued discusses mainly the shortcomings of the IPCC report of 1990. My book Hot Talk, Cold Science (1997) and its second edition of 1999 describe the evidence against an appreciable human influence on global climate. My co-authored Climate Change Reconsidered assembles peer reviewed papers and other evidence against any appreciable human effect on climate. It can therefore be viewed as responding to the IPCC claim for AGW.

Daily Bell: Thanks. What did you do while you served in the armed forces, and in what capacity did you work in government?

Fred Singer: I enlisted in the US Navy at age 19, hoping to become a radar officer; however, the Navy decided to use me in anti-mine warfare. After the end of hostilities I was detailed to work under the mathematician John von Neumann, designing an early electronic computer.

I've held several government positions: First with the Office of Naval Research as a scientific liaison officer in Europe, then with the Department of Commerce as the first director of the weather satellite service, then at the Department of Interior as deputy assistant secretary of water quality and research, then as deputy assistant administrator of EPA and finally as the chief scientist of the Department of Transportation.

Daily Bell: You were a leading figure in early space research and established the National Weather Bureau's Satellite Service. How did that come about?

Fred Singer: My contribution to space research grew out of my high-altitude research with rockets (1946-50). I developed the idea of satellites and was then able to put them into effect as director of the weather satellite program. As a result of my experience in satellites, satellite design, instrumentation and atmospheric physics I was asked to establish the National Weather Bureau's weather satellite service, and set that up in 1962-64. From there I went to the University of Miami to set up a new school: It included oceanography, climate science – and dealt with Earth sciences generally.

Daily Bell: How did you become such a global warming skeptic? Your critics say you are irresponsible for advocating your positions. Are you?

Fred Singer: My skepticism about global warming is purely based on the observed evidence – which shows no appreciable warming while there had been large increases in greenhouse gases. I feel that scientific criticism is the most responsible sort of thing – both from the point of view of science and from the point of view of national policy.

Daily Bell: In 2006 you were named by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as one of a minority of scientists said to be creating a standoff on a consensus on climate change. Was this an unfair charge?

Fred Singer: The CBC forgot to mention that thousands of scientists hold the position that I hold and therefore not a "minority" of scientists, at least not a small minority.

Daily Bell: You argue there is no evidence that global warming is attributable to human-caused increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide, and that humanity would benefit if temperatures do rise. Why do you feel this is a responsible position to take?

Fred Singer: As far as we can tell, the increase of CO₂ has not been producing corresponding warming. For example, there has been no warming in the 21st century – despite the large increase of greenhouse gases.

Daily Bell: You are an opponent of the Kyoto Protocol and have said of the climate models that scientists use to project future trends that "models are very nice, but they are not reality and they are not evidence." How is it possible that so many scientists can be so wrong while you are correct?

Fred Singer: I am one of many who oppose the Kyoto Protocol, both for scientific reasons and for economic reasons. It is basically a political document, a treaty based on climate models rather than observed evidence.

Daily Bell: You have been accused of pushing "climate-denier" and "junk science" lines on behalf of large corporate interest groups. Is this fair?

Fred Singer: I have never been supported by any corporation and have therefore developed my work on climate science without any such support.

Daily Bell: The National Center for Public Policy Research lists you as someone who journalists can interview on climate change policy. Why do they offer your name?

Fred Singer: There are many organizations that list me as a source for sound science on the global warming issue.

Daily Bell: Lately, you've appeared to change your mind. You've strongly criticized those who have claimed that (a) the greenhouse effect violates the Second Law of Thermodynamics and that rising carbon dioxide levels do not cause temperatures to rise. Please explain.

Fred Singer: I am opposed to those who criticize the global warming scare, basing it on what I consider to be incorrect physics. CO₂ is certainly a greenhouse gas and should produce some increase in atmospheric temperatures but it is so small we cannot detect it. The concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere is sufficient to affect climate but the atmosphere has developed in another direction.

Daily Bell: ... that natural variations in carbon dioxide dwarf human contributions. Comment?

Fred Singer: Over geological history there has been much fluctuation – much greater than any human influences. However, over the last 100 years the source has been largely human.

Daily Bell: You are said to have had a change of heart and have lost patience with many AGW deniers. Is this true? Why?

Fred Singer: I have no use for those who oppose the IPCC based on incorrect science.

Daily Bell: In 1995, as president of the Science and Environmental Policy Project (a think tank based in Fairfax, Virginia) you launched a publicity campaign about "The Top Five Environmental Myths of 1995," a list that included the US Environmental Protection Agency's conclusion that secondhand tobacco smoke is a human carcinogen. What made you come to the conclusion that the dangers of secondhand smoke are a myth?

Fred Singer: Secondhand smoke may well be a carcinogen; however, the statistical analysis carried out by EPA is full of mistakes. I have been one of those who attacks smoking, as a member of an anti-smoking organization. Cigarette smoking is definitely unhealthy.

Daily Bell: You've also criticized radon as fake science. Can you explain?

Fred Singer: It is the considered opinion of experts that radon in low concentration is not a carcinogen.

Daily Bell: You don't believe a hole in the ozone layer is a danger. Why not?

Fred Singer: The so-called hole in the ozone layer is a temporary thinning in the month of October in the Antarctic; I do not believe it is dangerous.

Daily Bell: You recently concluded that unchecked growth of climate-cooking pollution is "unequivocally good news." Why? Because "rising CO2 levels increase plant growth and make plants more resistant to drought and pests." Do you stand by this conclusion?

Fred Singer: Agricultural experts pretty much agree that a higher level of CO2 promotes plant growth and makes plants more resistant to droughts and pests.

Daily Bell: Why are so many false myths about science circulated? What is the agenda of those who continue to maintain that the world is warming at catastrophic levels?

Fred Singer: There are many false myths about science that circulate – usually based on insufficient expertise. There are those who warn of catastrophic events from future warming; their aim appears to be to scare the population. I suspect that many are motivated by monetary considerations.

Daily Bell: Are islands drowning?

Fred Singer: As far as I am aware, islands are not drowning.

Daily Bell: Why have you fought this fight? You've been smeared, derided and even slandered. Has it been worth it? Will the forces of climate change win out?

Fred Singer: I think it is worth fighting for sound science even if one is smeared and slandered. My belief is the global warming scare will be over in the matter of a decade or so.

Daily Bell: Will we continue to bury carbon in the ground? Shouldn't this money be spent elsewhere for better causes?

Fred Singer: The idea of burying carbon dioxide in the ground is a bad one, and I hope we do not carry out such projects. There are much better ways of spending the money; the world is full of places that need support.

Daily Bell: Are you winning the good fight?

Fred Singer: I think we are winning a good fight.

Daily Bell: Does the sort of idiocy you've been fighting make you believe humankind is doomed?

Fred Singer: I don't think humankind is doomed, even though this has been predicted many times.

Daily Bell: Thanks!

Daily Bell After Thoughts

Fred Singer is one of those people who have fought against power elite promotions like global warming because they offended his common sense and scientific background. He didn't gain from it, necessarily, but he obviously found it difficult to keep silent.

There are many people around the world who have pushed back against elite promotions and often we don't hear about them. Often, we don't hear because such people do not have their stories told by the mainstream media. The mainstream media predictably focuses on telling stories the powers-that-be WANT to have reported.

News used to be "man bites dog" – but not in the modern era. These days, predictably one will be exposed to reporting regarding gun violence, social breakdown, political superstars and the like. The dividing line between news and not-news is whether it furthers global governance or not. News supports elite internationalism these days.

Yes, whatever events support authority and denigrate the free market are often deemed newsworthy. People who support the UN's mindless charitable hypocrisy are feted. People who create profitable businesses helpful to society labor in obscurity and may be accused of various kinds of exploitation.

We're happy to bring you interviews with people like Fred Singer. You may not have heard of him – and perhaps he comes across as a bit curmudgeonly here – but he is one of the good guys

when it comes to speaking out against the various idiocies of the modern age. We need more Fred Singers, not fewer. Hopefully, the Internet era is increasingly conducive to their growth.

The Daily Bell is published by a non-profit foundation, The Foundation for the Advancement of Free-Market Thinking (FAFMT)

2. The Fish and Wildlife Service Is Not for the Birds

The federal government plans to allow wind turbines to kill bald eagles for 30 years.

By Robert Bryce, WSJ, Feb 1, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324039504578259824223563736.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_0

On June 20, 1782, the Continental Congress, after nearly six years of haggling and numerous design changes, finally approved the Great Seal of the United States. In doing so, it made the bald eagle our national symbol. This year, in the name of clean energy, the Fish and Wildlife Service is considering changing federal rules so that a wind-energy developer can be granted an "incidental-take" permit allowing wind projects to kill bald eagles and golden eagles for up to 30 years.

On Jan. 15, the Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the New Era Wind Farm—a proposed project near Red Wing, Minn.—might kill as many as 14 bald eagles per year. Despite that toll, the agency said the developer of the 48-turbine wind farm could go ahead and apply for an eagle-kill permit. If granted, it could be the first project to get one. At least one other wind-energy concern, Oregon's West Butte Wind Project, also has applied for an incidental-take permit, and others are sure to follow.

The Fish and Wildlife Service said that its estimate for bald eagle kills at the New Era facility was a "worst-case scenario" that "would not damage" the local population of bald eagles. That might be true. Nevertheless, the possibility that federal authorities are willing to issue such a permit once again exposes the double standard at work when it comes to renewable energy.

For years, the wind industry has had de facto permission to violate both the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (which protects 1,000 species) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Federal authorities have never brought a case under either law—despite the Fish and Wildlife Service's estimate that domestic turbines kill some 440,000 birds per year.

While the wind industry enjoys its exemption from prosecution under these federal wildlife laws, the Interior Department has aggressively brought cases against the oil-and-gas industry. In 2011, the Fish and Wildlife Service filed criminal indictments against three drillers who were operating in North Dakota's Bakken field. One of those companies, Continental Resources, was indicted for killing a single bird (a Say's Phoebe) that is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This law was adopted in 1918, at a time when several bird species were being decimated by hunters.

Compare the action taken against Continental Resources with the Pine Tree wind project, a three-year-old facility owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Since 2009, nine golden eagle carcasses have been recovered at the project and reported to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Los Angeles Times reporter Louis Sahagun reported on Feb. 16, 2012, that at least six of the birds had been struck by turbine blades. Yet there have been no indictments. Jill Birchell,

special agent in charge of law enforcement for the Fish and Wildlife Service in California and Nevada refused to comment on the Pine Tree case, other than to tell me that "it is an ongoing criminal investigation."

Federal law has protected the bald eagle since 1940, the golden eagle since 1962. Violating the Eagle Protection Act can result in a fine of \$250,000 and imprisonment for two years. From 1976 to 2007, the bald eagle also was protected under the Endangered Species Act. It got off the federal endangered-species list—among only a handful of animals ever to do so—thanks to decades of conservation efforts, including captive-breeding projects, some of which were sponsored by the Fish and Wildlife Service. Today, there are about 10,000 breeding pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 states. But they are still protected by both the Eagle and Migratory Bird acts.

Getting a permit to kill eagles has always been difficult. Indian tribes are allowed to obtain eagle feathers for religious purposes. In addition, some scientific and educational entities can be permitted to possess eagle parts.

The wind-energy lobby has sought such permission for years, insisting that eagle-kill permits ought to last longer than the current limit of five years. Last April the Fish and Wildlife Service agreed, and it published a Federal Register notice saying it planned to extend incidental-take permits to 30 years so as to "facilitate the responsible development of renewable energy."

Although the agency hasn't made a final ruling on the 30-year permit, the proposal has riled environmental groups and several Native American tribes. The Natural Resources Defense Council, the Defenders of Wildlife, the National Audubon Society, the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society submitted a joint statement to the Fish and Wildlife Service saying that the 30-year term was too long and that there was a "lack of sufficient baseline population data" on the two eagle species.

An eagle-kill permit "infuriates me," says Daniel Stussy, who owns a 20-acre farm on the border of the proposed New Era Wind Farm in Minnesota. "As a hunter, if I mistook the bald eagle for a Canada goose, a big fine would be the least of my worries. I couldn't even go to town for coffee because I'd be so ashamed."

Kelly Fuller of the American Bird Conservancy has a stronger warning: "If you want to turn the public against the wind industry, building a project that kills a lot of bald eagles will do it."

Mr. Bryce is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and the author of "Power Hungry: The Myths of 'Green' Energy and the Real Fuels of the Future" (PublicAffairs, 2010).

3. Planes, Trains and Bike Paths

Ray LaHood's transportation legacy

Editorial, WSJ, Feb 2, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324156204578274043919406354.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_2

Ray LaHood had no particular qualifications to be President Obama's Transportation Secretary apart from his 14-odd years as a Republican Congressman who specialized in pork-barrel

spending, and it showed. He's the politician who found a way to lose \$6.50 selling a \$9.50 hamburger to diners with no other options.

Sixteen dollars is how much it costs Amtrak to prepare a burger amid \$80 million in annual losses for its subsidized food service operations, according to federal auditors. Mr. LaHood, who announced this week he is leaving the Cabinet after four years, is likely to be remembered for similar achievements, such as presiding over a transportation policy predicated on the best the 19th century had to offer: railroads and bicycles.

"This is the end of favoring motorized transportation at the expense of non-motorized," Mr. LaHood wrote in 2010 about a funding rule "sea change" meant to promote bike paths instead of highways. He also doled out \$8 billion in grants for high-speed rail projects that were stapled onto the 2009 stimulus because Mr. Obama "was aggravated when he was told that none of the money from the stimulus would be spent on a signature project, a modern-day Hoover Dam or Interstate Highway System," as Ryan Lizza reported in the New Yorker magazine.

The President, according to the New York Times, thought that "simply building new futuristic trains . . . could lift the spirits of a recession-battered nation." Mr. LaHood's political maneuvering ensured one signature boondoggle—the \$100 billion San Francisco-to-Anaheim bullet train—would be built, despite growing public opposition and the fact that California has no money. The first leg, which Mr. LaHood's department is financing, will connect Merced to Bakersfield in the sparsely populated Central Valley.

"President Obama's legacy will be high-speed rail," Mr. LaHood told Congress in December. As a just reward for his tenure, Mr. LaHood's next job should be managing the books for the California choo-choo.

4. An Alaskan Challenge for 'All of the Above' Energy

An accident with no environmental impact is being exploited for political purposes in an effort to halt offshore exploration in Alaska.

By Sean Parnell, WSJ, Feb 2, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887324039504578262303073398808.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_0

President Obama often says that he wants to make energy a major focus of his second-term agenda. In the coming days, his administration will have an opportunity to prove it.

The Obama administration is currently undertaking a 60-day "Expedited Assessment of 2012 Arctic Operations," an Interior Department investigation that will dictate whether one oil company, Shell, can continue pursuing Outer Continental Shelf drilling in Alaska's Beaufort and Chukchi Seas off the state's North Slope. Shell has invested more than \$4 billion in Alaska, although the company hasn't yet been allowed to drill even one well into an oil or gas formation.

With billions of dollars of private investment at stake, the focus of the Interior investigation is an unfortunate marine-transportation accident, the grounding of the drilling ship Kulluk in a storm on Dec. 31. The ship ran aground on a small island off the Alaska coast, 1,000 miles away from any oil and gas exploration work. But the accident is being exploited for political purposes in an

effort to halt offshore exploration in Alaska. As the governor of the state, I hope—for the sake of America's national and economic security—that the effort fails.

Responsible resource development off Alaska's coasts is hardly a new phenomenon. The state has seen hundreds of exploration and development wells drilled offshore, including wells in both the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

Surely, the Interior investigation of the Kulluk grounding is appropriate, but it must be a fair one. Investigators—and the public—should keep in mind that the incident occurred in bad weather and the recovery was accomplished quickly, with no loss of life and no impact on the environment. By way of comparison, according to the U.S. Coast Guard, in 2012 there were 592 vessel casualties in Alaska. In nearly every one of these cases, there was no Interior Department review. The 60-day Kulluk study ends March 8.

Environmental activists, many of whom have never been to Alaska, are attempting to use this transportation incident as an excuse to pressure the White House to suspend offshore-drilling permits.

Two facts are often overlooked by these activists:

First, no one cares about Alaska's environment more than the Alaskans who live there. Second, oil producers want to maximize their profit, and mishaps like Kulluk grounding hurt their bottom line. Maritime accidents are in no one's interest.

For Alaska's economy and America's energy security, I hope Shell and other energy producers choose to keep their drilling operations in Alaska. But they are rightly concerned about federal hurdles (in the form of permitting delays, investigations, etc.) as they consider whether to drill in Alaska or move investment dollars abroad under more favorable regulatory conditions.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who is leaving his post in March, has repeatedly said that Arctic oil exploration is an important part of the Obama administration's "all of the above" energy strategy.

In this case, with America's national-security interests and its economic interests in jobs and energy on the line, we will learn whether the Obama administration is truly committed to that "all of the above" approach.

Mr. Parnell is the governor of Alaska.

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