

The Week That Was: 2013-08-03 (August 3, 2013)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *"Half the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don't mean to do harm -- but the harm does not interest them. Or they do not see it, or they justify it because they are absorbed in the endless struggle to think well of themselves."*
(T.S. Eliot)

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Number of the Week: \$20 Billion

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THIS WEEK:

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

Sea Level Rise: As nature refuses to obey global climate models and the earth is not warming as projected by the models with increasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, it is becoming increasingly clear that those who insisted that CO₂ emissions would cause catastrophic Anthropogenic (human caused) Global Warming (AGW) are becoming more desperate. One of the fears being promoted is catastrophic sea level rise of multiple feet or meters by the end of the century.

In Article # 1, SEPP Chairman Fred Singer discusses some of the issues regarding sea level rise and why it is difficult to be precise. In summary, unless solid observational evidence is offered otherwise, there is no reason to assume that 21st century sea level rise will be greater than 20th century sea level rise – namely about 7 inches (18 cm).

There is an irony in US government agencies, and other climate researchers, declaring that possible sea level rise may range from 7 inches to up to 33 times that (Hansen – 600 cm, or 236 inches). In its Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change expressed great certainty in the climate science. The US EPA made this certainty an important finding in US Federal Courts. Now government agencies are expressing great uncertainty in climate science. Please see Article #1 and links under Communicating Better to the Public – Make things Up and Changing Seas.

EPA Science: In the *Wall Street Journal*, Lamar Smith, Chairman of the US House Science, Space and Technology Committee expresses concern about the EPA scientific studies that are being used to justify a massive new array of air quality regulations. The EPA refuses to make the studies public, in spite of declaring it would.

“We know this much: Virtually every major EPA air-quality regulation under President Obama has been justified by citing two sets of decades-old data from the Harvard Six Cities Study and the American Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention Study II. The EPA uses the data to establish an association between fine-particulate emissions and mortality.

“For two years, the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, of which I am the chairman, has sought to make this information available to the public. But the EPA has obstructed the committee's request at every step. To date, the committee has sent six letters to the EPA and other top administration officials seeking the data's release.”

As long as the EPA continues to keep the research secret, there is every reason to be suspicious about the quality of the research.

One can assess the quality and clarity of EPA science from the oral arguments used by Angeline Purdy, who was introduced as the scientific and technical expert, before the 3 judge panel of the US Circuit of Appeals for the DC Circuit hearing the challenge to the EPA finding that greenhouse gases endanger human health and welfare (Endangerment Finding).

The most disturbing part is the argument on model validation which is on page 90 of the transcript. She states:

“What reanalysis is, is it’s [sic] one method by which some models are validated, and that is a process by which, you know, again, a model is validated by looking whether its projections match real world data, there may be some things that are incomplete in that data set, inevitably, because maybe it covers 100 locations but doesn’t have a data point at the 101st. So, you take that data set, you run it through a model that has already been valid and that can use principles of physics, what it knows about the climate system to fill in any interstices in that data set, then take the model you’re trying to validate and you compare its projections against that augmented data set.

No model has been validated. One cannot use an un-validated model to validate another model. If a valid model existed, that would be the one used – there would not be some 73 models. All 73 models project far too much warming of the atmosphere over the tropics. Please see Article #2 for the op-ed on EPA secret science.

Thought, Belief, and Scientific Knowledge: Two weeks ago, a low point in the Senate hearing on climate change was reached when Senator Whitehouse questioned Roy Spencer about his religious beliefs. Spencer clearly outclassed the Senator, but the issue remains – some of those skeptical of the claim of catastrophic carbon based AGW are being classified as religious zealots.

During the development of modern empirical science, in the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, many pioneers were religiously devout. They believed that Natural Philosophy (an earlier term for science) was the method to unlock the secrets of nature and fulfill their religious duty. They were able to separate thought from belief, and belief from scientific knowledge.

Spencer and John Christy have undergone bitter criticism for their willingness to publically report atmospheric temperatures from satellite measurements, the most comprehensive measurements available. When RSS discovered an error in the calculations, failure to account for orbital drift, Spencer and Christy promptly admitted the error and corrected it. This is the way science advances.

If religious beliefs give some scientists the strength to stand up to bitter criticism and to conduct their scientific pursuits scrupulously, so be it. Those critics who question these beliefs are engaged in nothing more than *ad hominem* attacks. For a link to the hearing with Spencer’s interrogation beginning about 3 hours and 23 minutes into it please see:

http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Hearings.Choose&Hearing_id=cfe32378-96a4-81ed-9d0e-2618e6ddff46

Collapse of Global Civilization: In March, the Proceedings of the Royal Society, B, published an opinion piece by Paul Ehrlich and Anne Ehrlich claiming that over-population, over-consumption, and climate change will lead to the collapse of global civilization. In the 1970s Paul Ehrlich is famous for prophesying that within a few decades over population would result in massive death, destruction, and disease, which did not happen.

To its credit, the Proceedings of the Royal Society, B, published a rebuttal to claims by the Ehrlichs written by a Michael Kelly, a professor of engineering at Oxford University. Kelly stresses the resilience of human nature and that strong economies will continue to develop the engineering and technological advances to offset environmental and other threats.

The authors offer two different world views, one Malthusian, the other along the lines of Julian Simon. Perhaps if there is a collapse of civilization, it will come from believing prophets such as Paul Ehrlich and believing that authoritarian governments of philosopher kings are needed to save civilization. Please see links under To Its Credit.

Heated Wars: *Science* magazine published another highly questionable study based on un-validated computer models. The study claimed that slight increases in temperature, or changes in perception, will cause a great increase in violence in the form of riots, civil wars, ethnic conflicts, etc. The study is inconsistent with studies of climate history which show, in general, that cold periods are periods of violence, disease, famine, and death, and warm periods, in general, are beneficial to humanity. The combination of warming and increased atmospheric CO2 are increasing harvests, helping to assure plentiful food supply. There are food riots in countries that heavily subsidize food. But these are due to price increases because Western countries are driving up world grain prices by misallocating resources to grow crops for biofuels rather than for human consumption. Please see links under Lowering Standards.

IPCC Personalities: Judith Curry discusses an article in the *Financial Times* that profiles various personalities associated with the IPCC and its reports. In the article, the head of the scientific section (Working Group I) brings up the current pause in temperature increases and says it will be included in the section. But this is not the major issue. The primary issue is the enormous disconnect between the politically negotiated *Summary for Policymakers* and the scientific section. Unless the pause is thoroughly discussed in the *Summary*, we can expect little more than another report that ignores critical science. Please see link under Seeking a Common Ground.

Rating the Blogs: The Society of Environmental Journalists published a rating of the various climate blogs. A dead give-away for its rating system was the repeated use of the word “denier.” According to the authors of the report, Anthony Watts’s blog “is not reliable as a source of factual information.” The statement applies to the society. Please see link under Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Congress: Just before it went on its August recess, the House of Representatives passed a series of bills to restrict future regulations by the EPA and other agencies. This was symbolic, because it is doubtful the Senate will take up the bills. However, it does show that the House recognizes that

the administration's expansion of regulations are an authoritarian expansion of power. Please see links under The Political Games Continue.

Shale Games: Royal Dutch Shell announced it took a pre-tax \$3 Billion write off on its US shale holdings. The company refused to identify the specific shale holdings. It may have been on its holdings in shale formations that produce oil and natural gas by smart drilling. Or it may have been its heavy investments in the Green River Formation, in Wyoming, Utah, and Colorado, in which Shell invested significantly to produce kerogen, which must be heated in order to extract fuel from the shale.

No doubt, opponents of development of shale resources will use this loss to claim that shale oil, or gas, is a temporary boom, which it is not. However, each formation is different and must be explored carefully. One thing does stand out. In the US, independent oil and gas companies have far out performed the majors in the development of oil and gas from shale. Please see Article # 3.

Amplifications and Corrections: Last week TWTW carried an article "Refuting the myths of climate change." The comments failed to note that the article demonstrates that Australia's Bureau of Meteorology has miscalculated average temperatures in Australia. This type of error may also apply in other countries, leading to a distortion of the surface land record. See: <http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2013/07/refuting-the-myths-of-climate-change>

Also last week, TWTW linked to Steve McIntyre's simple model of temperatures, which out performs the global climate models in temperature forecasts. Christopher Essex correctly noted that the global climate models can be scientifically useful because they include a number of other variables. As always, TWTW appreciates such amplifications and corrections.

Number of the Week: \$20 Billion. BP announced that it has allocated nearly all of the \$20 billion compensation fund it said aside for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill and that mounting costs will reduce future profits. The environmental disaster is a financial disaster for BP. Please see Article # 4.

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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. Sea Level Rise Surprise

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Jul 31, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/07/sea_level_rise_surprise.html

2. The EPA's Game of Secret Science

The agency pursues rules that will cost billions but refuses to reveal its research. Maybe a subpoena will be needed.

By Lamar Smith, WSJ, Jul 29, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323829104578624562008231682.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_0

3. Shell Earnings: Energy Giant Falts in Shale

Profit Tumbles 60% as Drilling Problems Lead to Write-Down

By Selina Williams and Justin Scheck, WSJ, Aug 1, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323681904578641183049294110.html?mod=W_SJ_hps_LEFTTopStories

4. BP Says Spill Fund Is Running on Fumes

Payments Related to Gulf Spill Continue to Weigh on Energy Giant

By Justin Scheck, Tom Fowler and Selina Williams, WSU, Jul 30, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323854904578637180606036090.html?mod=W_SJ_business_LeadStoryRotator

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Five or more failed experiments in measuring Global Sea Level: Willie Soon

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Aug 1, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/08/five-or-more-failed-experiments-in-measuring-global-sea-level-willie-soon/#more-29826>

[SEPP Comment: Video presentation.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Global Warming: It's Happening Again

By Dennis Avery, Center for Global Food Issues, Jul 28, 2013

<http://www.cgfi.org/2013/07/global-warming-its-happening-again-by-dennis-t-avery/>

The Age of Hyperbole: How Normal Weather Became 'Extreme'

A media without shame drives us towards energy poverty.

By Tim Ball and Tom Harris, PJ Media, Jul 30, 2013

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/the-age-of-hyperbole/?singlepage=true>

Books: Robert Zubrin's Merchants Of Despair Reveals Racism And Genocide Cloaked In Green Camouflage

Book Review by Larry Bell, Forbes, Jul 31, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/07/31/racism-and-genocide-cloaked-in-green-camouflage/>

Google and dissent

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Aug 2, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/8/2/google-and-dissent.html>

Mere Ecologism

Is modern environmentalism science or faith?

Book Review by Steven Hayward, Weekly Standard, Aug 5, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.weeklystandard.com/articles/mere-ecologism_741007.html

Problems in the Orthodoxy

The green movement is not pro-science

If we are to win against climate change, greens need to replace spin with sober analysis
By Robert Wilson, Guardian, UK, Jul 30, 2013
<http://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science/2013/jul/30/green-movement-science>

Media ‘Green Wars’ Break Out

By Peter Glover, Trending Central, Jul 31, 2013 [H/t GWPF]
<http://www.trendingcentral.com/media-green-wars-break-out/>

Climate Caution Is About the Policies, Not the Science

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Meadia, Aug 2, 2013
<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/08/02/climate-caution-is-about-the-policies-not-the-science/>

Merkel’s Green Shift Backfires as German Pollution Jumps

By Stefan Nicola, Bloomberg, Jul 29, 2013
<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2013-07-28/merkel-s-green-shift-backfires-as-german-pollution-jumps-energy>

Seeking a Common Ground

Climate scientists must not advocate particular policies

I became a climate scientist because I care about the environment, but we have a moral obligation to be impartial

By Tamisn Edwards, Guardian, UK, Jul 31, 2013 [H/t Bishop Hill]
<http://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science/2013/jul/31/climate-scientists-policies>

Uncertainty: lost in translation

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jul 29, 2013
<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/29/uncertainty-lost-in-translation/#more-12308>

FT on the IPCC

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Aug 2, 2013
<http://judithcurry.com/2013/08/02/ft-on-the-ipcc/#more-12422>

Are climate sceptics the real champions of the scientific method?

As part of our series on science and the green movement, Warren Pearce looks at how science is used by their opponents

By Warren Pearce, Guardian, UK, Jul 30, 2013 [H/t GWPF]
<http://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science/2013/jul/30/climate-sceptics-scientific-method>

[SEPP Comment: Article does not consider that repeated statements of great certainty in the findings as asserted by the climate establishment.]

Tall tales and fat tails

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jul 31, 2013
<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/31/tall-tales-and-fat-tails/#more-11920>
[SEPP Comment: Models projecting very high future temperatures, and which have a low probability of being correct are being used to implement very costly climate mitigation policies.]

The 97% ‘consensus’: Part II

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jul 27, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/27/the-97-consensus-part-ii/#more-12324>

Uncertainty: lost in translation

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jul 29, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/29/uncertainty-lost-in-translation/#more-12308>

To Its Credit

Why a collapse of global civilization will be avoided: a comment on Ehrlich & Ehrlich

By Michael J. Kelly PRS B, Jul 31, 2013 [H/t Judith Curry]

<http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/280/1767/20131193.full?sid=5302c067-9178-4bfd-8077-0aceefa92a1f>

Link to original paper: Can a collapse of global civilization be avoided?

By Paul R. Ehrlich and Anne H. Ehrlich, PRS B, Mar 7, 2013

http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/280/1754/20122845.abstract?ijkey=fbc71b781c5a5d83f8f4c7ecb82041f80f8a542f&keytype2=tf_ipsecsha

Ehrlich & Ehrlich: Can a global collapse of civilization be avoided?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Aug 2, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/08/02/ehrlich-ehrlich-can-a-global-collapse-of-civilization-be-avoided/#more-12414>

Lowering Standards

Cool Heads Likely Won't Prevail in a Hotter, Wetter World: Climate Change Will Likely Exacerbate Violence

By Staff Writer, Science Daily, Aug 1, 2013

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/08/130801142422.htm>

Link to paper: Quantifying the Influence of Climate on Human Conflict

By Hsiang, et al., Science, Aug 1, 2013

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/early/2013/07/31/science.1235367>

Hsiang et al Humiliated...Top Experts Deem Paper Claiming That Warming Leads To Conflict Flawed And Exaggerated

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Aug 2, 2013

http://notrickszone.com/2013/08/02/hsiang-et-al-humiliated-top-experts-deem-paper-claiming-that-warming-leads-to-conflict-flawed-and-exaggerated/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

About that ‘warmer temperatures increase violence’ claim...real world crime data doesn’t support it

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Aug 2, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/08/02/about-that-warmer-temperatures-increase-violence-claim/>

Social Benefits of Carbon

The Cost of Carbon Denial

Each ton of carbon we use creates thousands of dollars of wealth.

By Robert Zubrin, National Review Online, Jul 31, 2013

<http://m.nationalreview.com/article/354748/cost-carbon-denial-robert-zubrin>

Questioning European Green

Celebrity activism

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Aug 2, 2013

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/celebrity-activism>

The battle of Balcombe is of national importance

Editorial, Telegraph, UK, Jul 28, 2013

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/telegraph-view/10207813/The-battle-of-Balcombe-is-of-national-importance.html#disqus_thread

Europe's Renewable Romance Fades

By David Garman and Samuel Thernstrom, WSJ, Link IWAG, Jul 30, 2013

<http://www.windaction.org/opinions/39071>

[SEPP Comment: As more renewables go on the grid, the grid becomes unstable and difficult for operators to balance the load.]

UK Shale Gas, Tax Breaks and Coalition Tensions

By: Peter C. Glover, Energy Tribune, Jul 31, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/78512/uk-shale-gas-tax-breaks-and-coalition-tensions#sthash.1dnrGsq6.dpbs>

[SEPP Comment: Why should there tax breaks for particular industries?]

Questioning Green Elsewhere

PSNH to end renewable energy rate program

By Staff Writer, AP, Jul 29, 2013 [H/t Tom Sheahen]

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/07/29/3529169/psnh-to-end-renewable-energy-rate.html>

“Remarkable that anyone would think a program enabling customers to voluntarily pay more for the same electrons would succeed. Breathtaking idiocy.” Roger Cohen, H/t Tom Sheahen

President Obama's Climate Plan Would Kill Hundreds Of Millions Of Birds And Bats

By James Taylor, Forbes, Jul 29, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2013/07/29/president-obamas-climate-plan-would-kill-hundreds-of-millions-of-birds-and-bats/>

Green Jobs

Going Green Fails Yet Again: Siemens CEO Loses His Job

Editorial, IBD, Jul 31, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/073113-665949-siemens-ceo-loescher-fired-over-green-energy.htm>

[SEPP Comment: An unusual take on green jobs.]

Funding Fights

Environment Ministry Accused Of Sleaze In Awarding Research Contracts Exclusively To Potsdam Climate Institute

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jul 30, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/07/30/environment-ministry-accused-of-sleaze-in-awarding-research-contracts-exclusively-to-potsdam-climate-institute/>

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

An event similar to one 15,000 years ago is blamed on global warming today

Posted by Andrew Watts, WUWT, Jul 30, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/30/an-event-15000-years-ago-is-blamed-on-global-warming-today/>

Global warming to cut snow water storage 56 percent in Oregon watershed

By Staff Writers, Corvallis OR (SPX), Jul 31, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Global_warming_to_cut_snow_water_storage_56_percent_in_Oregon_watershed_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Based on a 3.6 deg F temperature increase.]

NASA predicts 8 degrees of warming in the US by 2100

By Ben Bakker, WUWT, Jul 29, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/29/nasa-predicts-8-degrees-of-warming-in-the-us-by-2100/>

[SEPP Comment: Predictions used for the National Climate Assessment! Message to NASA. Show me the validated model!]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Climate change on pace to occur 10 times faster than any change recorded in past 65 million years, Stanford scientists say

By Bjorn Carey Stanford News, Aug 1, 2013 [H/t WUWT]

<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2013/august/climate-change-speed-080113.html>

Without intervention, this extreme pace could lead to a 5-6 degree Celsius spike in annual temperatures by the end of the century.

[SEPP Comment: Their "targeted but broad review" of the scientific literature apparently failed to note no surface warming for over 15 years. Also the researches should check the ice core record of Greenland.]

Study: Sea-level rise threatens 1,400 U.S. cities

How bad is the sea-level rise? Though scientists debate the severity, a new study says at least 316 U.S. cities and towns will be mostly submerged unless pollution can be pulled from the sky.

By Wendy Koch, USA Today, Jul 29, 2013

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/07/29/sea-level-rise-cities-towns/2593727/>

It's like this invisible threat," says author Benjamin Strauss, a scientist at Climate Central, a non-profit, non-advocacy research group based in Princeton, N.J., that's funded by foundations, individuals and federal grants. He says these sea levels are much higher than what's predicted this century — typically 1 to 4 feet — because climate change multiplies their impact over hundreds of years.

Geologist Dr. Don Easterbrook debunks ‘absurd’ new warmist study claiming 1,700 U.S. cities will be below sea level by 2100 — Easterbrook:

‘The rate used by [Lead Author] Strauss for his predictions is more than 10 times the rate over the past century!

By Don Easterbrook, Climate Depot, Jul 30, 2013

<http://www.climatedepot.com/2013/07/30/geologist-dr-don-easterbrook-debunks-new-warmist-study-claiming-1700-u-s-cities-will-be-below-sea-level-by-2100-easterbrook-the-rate-used-by-lead-author-strauss-for-his-predictions-of/>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Michigan State claim: Extreme wildfires likely fueled by climate change

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Aug 1, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/08/01/michigan-state-claim-extreme-wildfires-likely-fueled-by-climate-change/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

‘Denier’ blogs

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Jul 30, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/07/30/denier-blogs/#more-12367>

Models v. Observations

Another Bust: Precipitation Forecasts Come A-Cropper

By Paul Knappenberger and Patrick Michaels, Cato, Aug 1, 2013

<http://www.cato.org/blog/another-bust-precipitation-forecasts-come-cropper>

Measurement Issues

New papers call into question the global sea surface temperature record

By Staff, The Hockey Schtick, Jul 31, 2013

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.co.uk/2013/07/new-papers-call-into-question-global.html>

[SEPP Comment: Such measurement errors we discussed in NIPCC 2008, Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate.]

Another uncertainty for climate models – different results on different computers using the same code

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jul 27, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/27/another-uncertainty-for-climate-models-different-results-on-different-computers-using-the-same-code/>

Changing Weather

Cleaner air may have brought more storms

Pollution during the 20th century appears to have suppressed North Atlantic hurricanes

By Cristy Gelling, Science News, Jul 27, 2013

[http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/351186/description/Cleaner air may have brought more storms](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/351186/description/Cleaner_air_may_have_brought_more_storms)

The Best July Weather in Generations for the Northwest?

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Jul 31, 2013

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2013/07/the-best-july-weather-in-generations.html>

Changing Climate

Ice-free Arctic winters could explain amplified warming during Pliocene

By Staff Writers, Boulder CO (SPX), Jul 31, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Ice_free_Arctic_winters_could_explain_amplified_warming_during_Pliocene_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The authors claim that the formation of the Isthmus of Panama, which may have caused changes in ocean circulation, is not a viable hypothesis. Then what explains the onset of ice ages when CO2 concentrations were high?]

Changing Seas

The Marshall Islands and their Sea Level Changes

Comment by Nils-Axel Mörner, WUWT, Jul 31, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/07/31/the-marshall-islands-and-their-sea-level-changes/>

Drowning in Sea Level Nonsense

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Jul 27, 2013

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2013/07/drowning-in-sea-level-nonsense.html>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Antarctic Shelf-Ice More Stable Than Thought: Potsdam Alarm Stories Becoming Obsolete

By Sebastain Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt (Translated/edited with permission by P. Gosselin), No Tricks Zone, Jul 29, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/07/29/german-scientists-antarctic-shelf-ice-more-stable-than-thought-potsdam-alarm-stories-becoming-obsolete/>

Arctic Ice Growth Since 1971

By Steven Goddard, Real Science, Jul 31, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2013/07/31/arctic-ice-growth-since-1971/>

[SEPP Comment: The great melt depends on the date of the start of the information.]

Changing Earth

Hot times near Svalbard – Volcanic range discovered

By Jorge of Norway, WUWT, Aug 2, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/08/02/hot-times-near-svalbard-volcanic-range-discovered/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Northern Hemisphere Land Snow Cover: Simulations vs. Realit

Reference: Brutel-Vuilmet, C., Menegoz, M. and Krinner, G. 2013. An analysis of present and future seasonal Northern Hemisphere land snow cover simulated by CMIP5 coupled climate models. *The Cryosphere* 7: 67-80.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/30jul2013a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: Little progress in model capability.]

Rice Cultivar Responses to Atmospheric CO2 Enrichment

Reference: Hasegawa, T., Sakai, H., Tokida, T., Nakamura, H., Zhu, C., Usui, Y., Yoshimoto, M., Fukuoka, M., Wakatsuki, H., Katayanagi, N., Matsunami, T., Kaneta, Y., Sato, T., Takakai, F., Sameshima, R., Okada, M., Mae, T. and Makino, A. 2013. Rice cultivar responses to elevated CO₂ at two free-air CO₂ enrichment (FACE) sites in Japan. *Functional Plant Biology* 40: 148-159.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/31jul2013a1.html>

Ocean Acidification: Separating the Winners from the Losers

Reference: Schlegel, P., Havenhand, J.N., Gillings, M.R. and Williamson, J.E. 2012. Individual variability in reproductive success determines winners and losers under ocean acidification: A case study with sea urchins. *PLOS ONE* 7: e53118.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/31jul2013a2.html>

[SEPP Comment: Study of the effects of possible lower ocean alkalinity on sea urchins.]

Crustose Coralline Algae in a CO₂-Enriched Ocean

Reference: Nash, M.C., Opdyke, B.N., Troitzsch, U., Russell, B.D., Adey, W.H., Kato, A., Diaz-Pulido, G., Brent, C., Gardner, M., Prichard, J. and Kline, D.I. 2012. Dolomite-rich coralline algae in reefs resist dissolution in acidified conditions. *Nature Climate Change* 3: 268-272.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jul/31jul2013a3.html>

[SEPP Comment: Contradicting the prevailing opinion.]

The Political Games Continue

House votes to regulate EPA's energy regulations

By Pete Kasperowicz and Ben Geman, The Hill, Aug 1, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/315101-house-votes-to-regulate-epas-energy-regulations>

Lawmakers vote to thwart EPA move on 'social cost of carbon'

By Ben Geman and Pete Kasperowicz, The Hill, Aug 1, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/315091-house-votes-to-thwart-epa-on-social-cost-of-carbon>

House votes to give Congress power over costly regulations

By Ben Goad, The Hill, Aug 2, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/legislation/315241-house-votes-to-give-congress-power-over-major-regulations>

House slams door on carbon tax

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Aug 2, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/315221-house-votes-to-slam-door-on-carbon-tax>

Litigation Issues

Court tosses Texas, industry challenge to EPA greenhouse gas permitting

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jul 26, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/313767-court-tosses-texas-industry-challenge-to-epa-greenhouse-gas-permitting>

[SEPP Comment: The court said the states did not have standing to sue – the states failed to show how they would be injured. Apparently, to the court restricting prosperity and economic growth is not injury.]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

A Republican Case for Climate Action

By William Ruckelshaus, Lee Thomas, William Reilly and Christine Whitman, NYT, Aug 1, 2013 [H/t Dennis Manuta]

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/02/opinion/a-republican-case-for-climate-action.html?emc=eta1&r=0>

[SEPP Comment: Ruckelshaus can be remembered for banning DDT by declaring it may cause cancer, unsupported by science. The subsequent ban in many developing countries, engineered by Western countries, resulted in the preventable deaths of millions of people. Reilly can be remembered for persuading President H.W. Bush to attend the 1992 Rio Conference with its UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which declares that developed countries should take the lead in combating climate change. The justifications for the carbon tax reads as if they came from the EPA endangerment finding.]

Jo Nova in The Australian: Carbon credits market is neither free nor worth anything

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jul 31, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/07/jo-nova-in-the-australian-carbon-credits-market-is-neither-free-nor-worth-anything/>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Czech Government Votes to End Support for Renewables From 2014

By Ladka Bauerova, Bloomberg, Jul 26, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-07-26/czech-government-votes-to-end-support-for-renewables-from-2014.html>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

As new EPA chief, Gina McCarthy vows to act on climate change

By Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post, Jul 30, 2013 [H/t Conrad Potemra]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/as-new-epa-head-gina-mccarthy-vows-to-act-on-climate-change/2013/07/30/dea868e0-f86b-11e2-8e84-c56731a202fb_story.html

McCarthy: EPA will be ‘honest commenter’ on Keystone XL pipeline review

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jul 30, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/314379-mccarthy-epa-will-be-honest-commenter-on-keystone-xl-pipeline-review>

[SEPP Comment: Doubtful!]

New EPA chief to business: Embrace ‘opportunity’ of climate change

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jul 30, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/314317-new-epa-chief-to-industry-embrace-opportunity-of-climate-change>

[SEPP Comment: Only for the selected businesses they approve.]

No wonder McCarthy wants to ignore job-killing EPA regulations

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Jul 31, 2013

http://washingtonexaminer.com/examiner-editorial-no-wonder-mccarthy-wants-to-ignore-job-killing-epa-regulations/article/2533743?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Reoccurring%20-%2008/01/2013&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

Climate Change ‘Deniers’ Not Welcome at Interior – Secy. Jewell

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Jul 31, 2013

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2013/07/31/climate-change-deniers-not-welcome-at-interior-secy-jewell/>

[SEPP Comment: Another open-minded administrator.]

Energy Issues – Non-US

Energy Subsidies and External Costs

By Staff Writers, World Nuclear Association, Jul 23, 2013 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/Economic-Aspects/Energy-Subsidies-and-External-Costs/#.UfbqZI21Fc4>

[SEPP Comment: Breakdown of subsidies, by country, for renewables and nuclear.]

Despite boom, higher costs push Big Oil into slump

By Staff Writers, AP, Aug 2, 2013

http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/08/02/despite-boom-higher-costs-push-big-oil-into-slump/?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=twitter

Saudis Fresh Prince Freaks Out About U.S. Fracking

Editorial, IBD, Jul 30, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/073013-665707-saudi-prince-warns-fracking-threatens-opec.htm?p=full>

Ontario’s Predictable Energy Disaster; Mortgaged To Falsified Climate Science. The Solution Is Readily Available.

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Aug 2, 2013

<http://drtimball.com/2013/ontarios-predictable-energy-disaster-mortgaged-to-falsified-climate-science-the-solution-is-readily-available/>

Energy Issues -- US

Energy Tax Preferences: Rid Them All (Cato letter to House working group revisited)

By Robert Bradley Jr., Master Resource, Jul 29, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/07/rid-energy-tax-preferences/>

Growing Demand Requires Us To Produce More Fossil Fuel

Editorial, IBD, Jul 26, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/072613-665392-need-more-fossil-fuel-to-meet-global-demand.htm?p=full>

US Nuclear Power Policy

By Staff Writers, World Nuclear Association, Jul 31, 2013 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/Country-Profiles/Countries-T-Z/USA--Nuclear-Power-Policy/#.Uf0mrpK1Fc4>

[SEPP Comment: A rather lengthy essay that fails to conclude the US does not have one.]

Washington's Control of Energy

Energy Secretary Moniz: 'There's no war on coal' (+video)

The Department of Energy aims to push down costs for all low-carbon energy technologies, not prioritize one fuel over another, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said Thursday. The coal industry complains that the Obama administration is anti-coal.

By David J. Unger, The Christian Science Monitor, Aug 1, 2013

http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Politics/monitor_breakfast/2013/0801/Energy-Secretary-Moniz-There-s-no-war-on-coal-video

[SEPP Comment: Is he that naïve, ignorant of what others in the administration are doing, or what?]

Energy secretary: Natural gas helps battle climate change – for now

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Aug 1, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/315009-energy-secretary-natural-gas-helps-battle-climate-change-for-now>

Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline Flat Out Fails President's Common-sense Climate Test

By Robert Redford, Huff Post, Jul 25, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-redford/keystone-pipeline-obama_b_3653546.html

President Obama's low-ball estimate for Keystone XL jobs

By Glenn Kessler, Washington Post, Jul 30, 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/president-obamas-low-ball-estimate-for-keystone-xl-jobs/2013/07/29/ce886b1e-f897-11e2-afc1-c850c6ee5af8_blog.html?hpid=z10

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

George Mitchell's Entrepreneurial Edge Unlocked Energy

By Robert Samuelson, IBD, Aug 1, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-perspective/080113-666055-george-mitchell-mastermind-of-modern-fracking.htm>

[SEPP Comment: Through trial and error, Mitchell developed the techniques for extracting natural gas from dense shale which were later improved upon by the development of precise horizontal drilling.]

The exponential rise in 'Saudi Texas's' oil output continues – production has doubled in only 27 months!

By Mark Perry, AEIdeas, Jul 31, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.aei-ideas.org/2013/07/the-exponential-rise-in-saudi-texas-oil-output-continues-the-states-oil-production-has-doubled-in-only-27-months/>

Shell's Shale Write-Down

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Meadia, Aug 1, 2013

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/08/01/shells-shale-write-down/>

The potential prize from fracking is huge

There is bound to be some disruption, but shale gas could cut energy bills and fuel economic recovery

By Michael Fallon, The Telegraph, UK, Jul 31, 2013

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/10213985/The-potential-prize-from-fracking-is-huge.html>

Could Natural Gas Fuel a Trucking Revolution?

By Geoffrey Styles, Energy Tribune, Jul 30, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/78493/could-natural-gas-fuel-a-trucking-revolution#sthash.pCrCXemx.dpbs>

Link to report: IEA sees growth of natural gas in power generation slowing over next 5 years

But 'Golden Age' still in full swing as gas emerges as a significant transportation fuel, new report says

By Staff Writers, IEA, Jun 20, 2013

<http://iea.org/newsroomandevents/pressreleases/2013/june/name,39014,en.html>

[SEPP Comment: In 2014, Ford will offer an engine designed for natural gas conversion in its very popular F-150 pick-up series. The estimated cost of the conversion is \$8000 to \$10,000.

Return of King Coal?

The Cloud Begins With Coal – The Big Picture & A New Report

By Mark Mills, Energy Facts, Jul 30, 2013

<http://us1.campaign-archive2.com/?u=29bc7d5d85828d574f86c157a&id=2f2e433b3b&e=>

[SEPP Comment: A secret?]

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Blowout could tip regulator focus to shallow-water

By Staff Writer, AP, Jul 31, 2013

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/07/31/blowout-could-tip-regulator-focus-to-shallow-water/>

Gangplank to a Warm Future

By Anthony Ingraffea, NYT, Jul 28, 2013

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/07/29/opinion/gangplank-to-a-warm-future.html?_r=0

[SEPP Comment: Condemning the increased drilling for natural gas. See link immediately below.]

Two Climate Analysts Fault Gas Leaks, but Not as a Big Warming Threat

By Andrew Revkin, Dot Earth, Aug 1, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/08/01/two-climate-analysts-fault-gas-leaks-but-not-as-a-big-warming-threat/?partner=rss&e>

According to TWTW reader Clyde Spencer: Something that appears to have been overlooked in these analyses is that the reason methane has a relatively short residency in the atmosphere is that

it is oxidized to CO₂. Therefore, it has an initially large GWP, followed by a smaller but more persistent GWP.

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

EDF to Exit U.S. Nuclear, Cites Natural Gas Impact

By Staff Writers, Power News, Aug 1, 2013

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/5826.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2720997&hq_l=9&hq_v=5e660500d0

Nuke experts blast Fukushima operator over leaks

By Staff Writers, Tokyo, Japan (AFP), July 26, 2013

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Nuke_experts_blast_Fukushima_operator_over_leaks_999.html

Nuclear Power's New Friends?

By Joseph Somsel, American Thinker, Aug 2, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/08/nuclear_powers_new_friends.html

[SEPP Comment: Beware of new friends.]

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Turbine Trouble: Ill Wind Blows for German Offshore Industry

By Michael Fröhlingsdorf, Trans Christopher Sultan, Der Spiegel, DE, Aug 2, 2013 [H/t Wind Action]

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/german-offshore-wind-industry-goes-from-boom-to-bust-a-914158.html>

Half a dozen wind farms are still being built in the North Sea, but there are no follow-up contracts. "The market has collapsed," says Ronny Meyer, the managing director of Windenergie Agentur (WAB), based in the northern port city of Bremerhaven.

[SEPP Comment: A subsidy twice that of terrestrial wind turbines is not enough!]

Australia to move ahead with massive solar project

By Staff Writers, Sydney (UPI), Jul 31, 2013

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Australia_to_move_ahead_with_massive_solar_project_999.html

Dangerous Negawatts

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Jul 30, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/07/30/dangerous-negawatts/>

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy -- Other

High Gasoline Prices and RINs

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

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/08/02/high-gasoline-prices-and-rins/>

By now, most people realize that putting corn, a food, into the gas tank is immoral.

The Dirty Politics of "Clean" Energy

By Marita Noon, Townhall, Jul 28, 2013

http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2013/07/28/the-dirty-politics-of-clean-energy-n1650844?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl

Carbon Schemes

Carbon Capture and Storage and Climate Change

By Jeffrey Michel, Energy Biz, Jul 30, 2013 [H/t Berol Robinson]

http://www.energybiz.com/article/13/07/carbon-capture-and-storage-and-climate-change&utm_medium=eNL&utm_campaign=EB_DAILY&utm_term=Original-Member

Environmental Industry

Liberal Foundation Distributed Money from Bermuda to Liberal Nonprofits

CAP, Sierra Club, others received money from foreign dark money Sea Change Foundation

By Lachlan Markay, Washington Free Beacon, Aug 1, 2013

<http://freebeacon.com/liberal-foundation-distributed-money-from-bermuda-to-liberal-nonprofits/>

[SEPP Comment: A little off-shore money anyone?]

The Environmental Lobby's Great Forest Con

By Niger Innis, Townhall, Jul 28, 2013

http://townhall.com/columnists/nigerinnis/2013/07/28/the-environmental-lobbys-great-forest-con-n1649844?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl

Other News that May Be of Interest

Government Fiddles, Our Nation's Forests Burn

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Aug 1, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=23443&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=DPD

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to what many claim, the burning of US forests is not the result of climate change.]

Hydro Nano Gas Could Completely Neutralize CO2 Emissions

By Staff Writers, Stockholm, Sweden (SPX), Aug 01, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Hydro_Nano_Gas_Could_Completely_Neutralize_CO2_Emissions_999.html

When HNG is injected into fossil fuel burning, the toxic cocktail of pollutant emissions is neutralized

[SEPP Comment: Sounds more like a promotional press release than an accurate report.]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

The One-Acre Natural Attractant Mosquito Trap.

Catalog, Hammacher Schlemmer.

http://www.hammacher.com/Product/81846?source=EMQ10313&cm_ven=WC&cm_cat=20130730_EMQ103&cm_pla=BYR&cm_ite=81846_The%20One-Acre%20Natural%20Attractant%20Mosquito%20Trap

[SEPP Comment: How to use CO2 effectively, without harmful chemicals!]

Wash your solar panels for more energy? Not worth it, experts say

By Staff Writers, San Diego (UPI), Jul 31, 2013

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Wash_your_solar_panels_for_more_energy_Not_worth_it_experts_say_999.html

[SEPP Comment: If there is a 7.4% loss in 145 days, assuming linear relationship, that would be an 18.6% loss in a year. Now we can play arithmetical games, a 100% loss in 5.4 years? Why bother cleaning the panels if the subsidies continue?]

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ARTICLES:

1. Sea Level Rise Surprise

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Jul 31, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/07/sea_level_rise_surprise.html

Driving the seemingly endless climate-treaty negotiations, the most widely feared consequence of Global Warming appears to be a catastrophic rise in sea level (SLR). Environmental advocacy groups are filling the airwaves with lurid images of flooding of Bangladesh and Pacific islands, and raising the specter of hundreds of millions of environmental refugees demanding care and compensation.

Even sober scientists, while not endorsing such obvious scare stories, predict an acceleration of the ongoing global rise, which a system of tidal gauges places at about 18 cm (7 inches) during the 20th century. Economists concerned with trying to estimate a 'social cost' of carbon-dioxide emissions predict huge economic losses from future SLR. Not surprisingly, insurance companies, looking to raise premiums, are cheering them on.

However, more detailed analyses of actual observations suggest an opposite outcome: *A climate warming might even slow down SLR -- rather than accelerate it.* To understand this counter-intuitive result, one must first get rid of false leads -- just as in a detective story. The misleading argument here is the oft-quoted statement that the climate warmed by 1degF (0.6 C) in the last 100 years *and* that SL rose by 18 cm. Both parts of the statement may well be true; but the second part does not necessarily follow from the first.

Curiously, Barack Obama predicted a deceleration of SLR when he accepted his party's nomination in 2008: "*This was the moment when the rise of the oceans began to slow, and our planet began to heal.*" Some tidal-gauge data do show deceleration, but starting in 1960. Hey, wasn't that the year during which Obama was conceived?

Sea Level Since Last Glacial Maximum (source)

(Toscano & Macintyre 2003; Fairbanks 1989)

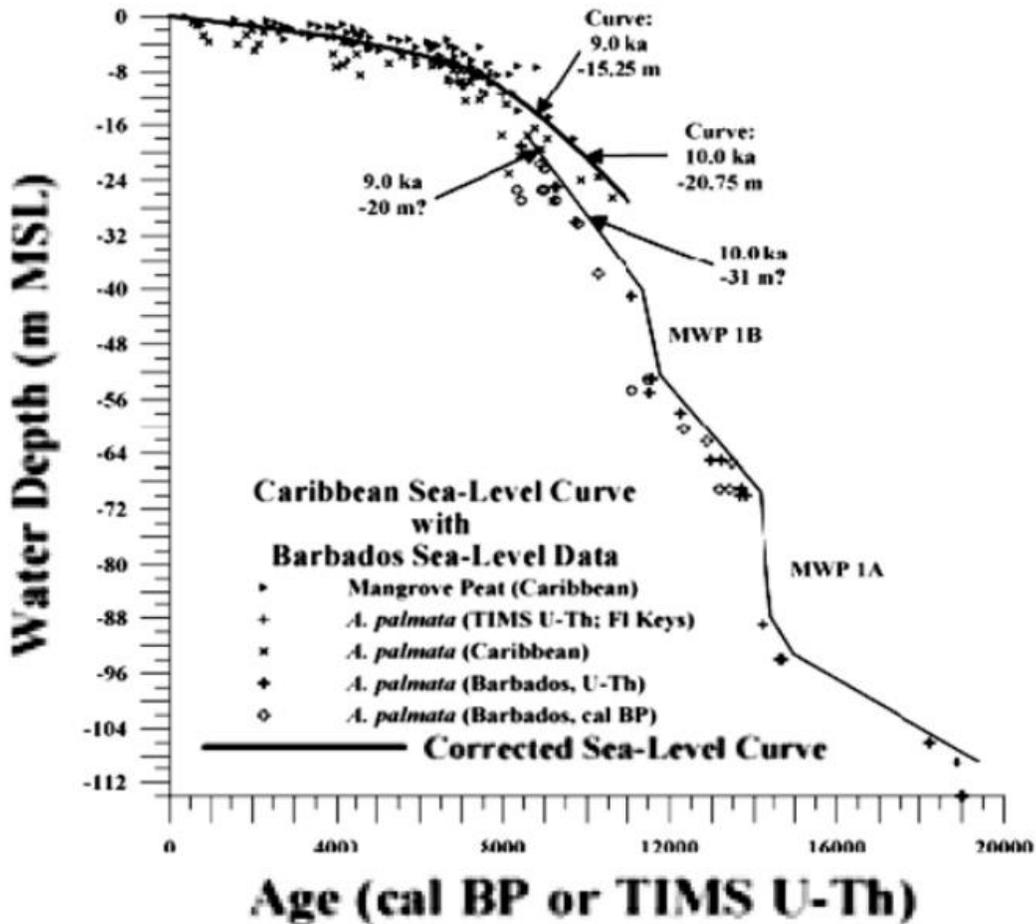


Figure 17: Sea-level rise since the Last Glacial Maximum, as deduced from coral and peat data [Toscano & Macintyre 2003]. The total rise since 18,000 years before present (BP) is about 120 meters. Note the rapid rate of rise as continental ice sheets melted and the more modest and nearly constant rate of rise in the past several millennia – irrespective of global temperature fluctuations. The graph is best understood by reading from the lower right (sea level 18,000 years before present) to the upper left (present sea level).

SLR data problems

The principal SLR data have come from tidal gauges, which measure not only tides but storms and everything else. And from these measurements one extracts a steady rise in local sea level. There are about two dozen stations in the world with long-enough records dating back to the early 1900s, which have been used by the international tidal gauge network, located in Liverpool, England.

Global Sea Level 1900 - 1980 (source)

(Trupin & Wahr 1990)

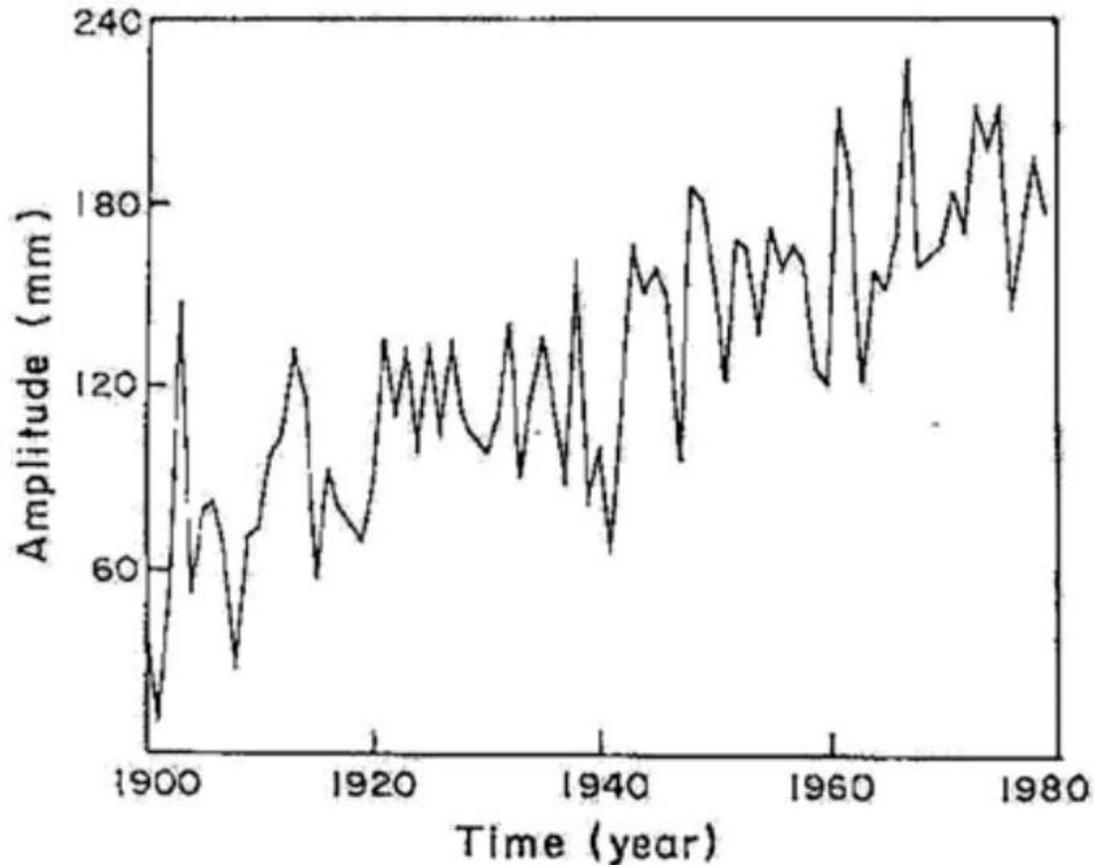


Figure 18: Sea-level (SL) values for 84 tidal-gauge stations with more than 37 years of data [Trupin and Wahr 1990]. They have been corrected for post-glacial rebound. The average rate of rise is ~ 18 cm per century. Note absence of any acceleration in SL rise during warming intervals. While satellite data [Cazenave and Nerem 2004] suggest a higher rate of rise, an analysis by Holgate [2006] shows a lower rate in recent years.

Since 1993, we have also had satellite observations; but these have been plagued with various types of uncertainties -- although in principle, satellites can measure *absolute* sea level independent of any vertical motion of the coastal land surface. The tidal stations are subject to various corrections as well: they measure *relative* sea level with respect to the station which is fixed to the land. Since the melting of glacial ice cover from Northern continents several millennia ago, the land surface has rebounded in these places -- a process called 'isostatic adjustment.' But at the same time also, many tidal stations have been sinking -- as the coastal land subsided because of the depletion of groundwater, of oil and gas, and of other processes that led to the compaction of sediments.

It is clear that satellites have an inherent advantage over tidal stations but their figures don't match up. From data gathered by the GRACE satellite system, we can also factor in detailed

measurements of local gravity changes but the record is too short to draw firm conclusions. With estimates of past SLR all over the place, how does one proceed?

Leading researcher Bruce Douglas terms SLR a "puzzle" (*Physics Today* March 2003), while famed Scripps Institution oceanographer Walter Munk calls it an "enigma" (*ProcNatlAcadSci* 2004). Maybe we should use Churchill's description of Soviet Russia: "*A riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma*"

The difficulty with projections of sea level rise is nicely illustrated by the IPCC. The estimates of its first assessment report (1990) showed a range of 10-367 cm for sea level in 2100. The second report, published in 1996, narrowed the range to 3-124 cm. Its third report, published in 2001, showed 11-77 cm. The fourth assessment report, published in 2007, showed 14-43 cm in its draft form but changed it to 18-59 cm in the final printed version. As can be seen, the maximum SLR decreased successively as estimates improved. All these IPCC projections are very much smaller than the extreme values of about 600 cm by activist-scientist James Hansen (and by climate multi-millionaire Al Gore) -- which assume excessive and rapid melting of the Greenland icecap.

Sea Level Rise to 2100 ([source](#))

(Singer)

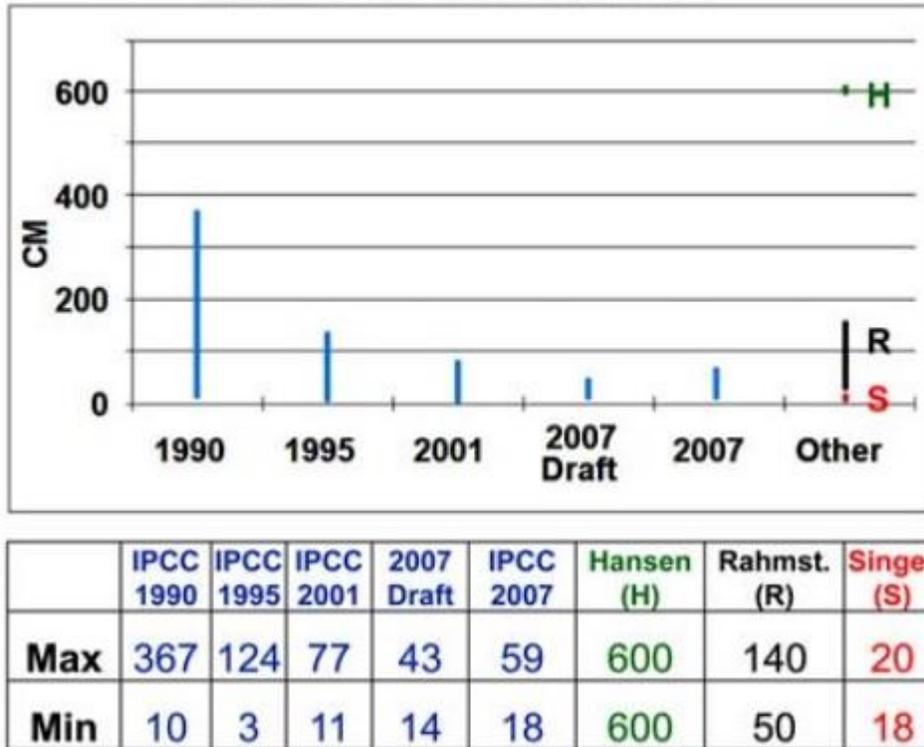


Figure 19: Estimates of sea-level rise to Year 2100 from IPCC reports of 1990, 1995, 2001, and 2007. Note the strong reduction in estimated maximum rise, presumably based on better data and understanding. Also shown are the published seal level rise values of Hansen (H) [2006], Rahmstorf (R) [2007], and Singer (S) [1997]. Both H and R are well outside of the maximum IPCC values. The ongoing rate of rise in recent centuries has been 18 cm per century; therefore, the incremental rate of rise for IPCC 2007 would be 0 to 41 cm, and about 0 to 2 cm for Singer.

This narrowing of estimates by the IPCC has caused great concern among alarmists who feared that the IPCC was being "too conservative." Probably as a result of this peer-pressure, estimates have now increased -- as will be seen in the fifth assessment report, due in September 2013. As a reviewer of IPCC reports, I have been able to look at the "second order draft," which was recently leaked to the press. It gives values for 2100 of 45-110 cm (16-40 inches) - about double what IPCC estimated just six years ago in their fourth report. (There is no guarantee that these values will survive in the final printed version.) Still, they are very much smaller than some of the extreme estimates that have been written up in newspapers and magazines -- and always blamed on Global Warming (GW) from carbon dioxide, released in the burning of fossil fuels.

There are many problems with the basic SLR data, with no easy resolution. For example, the forthcoming (2013) IPCC report shows zero values before 1880 (presumably based on corals), while other coral data and coastal sediments show positive values. Tidal gauge data show no acceleration during the strong warming of 1920-40, and continue to rise during the slight cooling

of 1940-75 and during the "pause" in warming of the past 17 years. However, IPCC-2013 shows increasing values (acceleration) for SLR during the same no-warming period -- and may already have been falsified.

No theory for SLR

There is no overall theory of SLR, encompassing thermal expansion of the oceans, melting of mountain glaciers, and changes, both positive and negative, of Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets. (One may ignore to first approximation the "mining" of fossil groundwater and accumulation of water in reservoirs. Of course, changes in floating sea ice do not affect SLR). A German oceanographer-activist, based in Potsdam, has proposed a "semi-empirical" theory under which SLR is related to sea surface temperature -- and thus to atmospheric CO₂ levels (if one accepts the existence of appreciable climate sensitivity). But his theory has no theoretical foundation whatsoever and also disagrees strongly with all observations.

The first clue that there might be something amiss with the logic is hidden in the IPCC report itself. According to their 1996 compilation of data, the contributions to SLR of the past century come mainly from three sources: (i) Thermal expansion of the warming ocean contributed about 4 cm; (ii) the melting of continental glaciers about 3.5 cm. (iii) The Polar Regions, on the other hand, produced a net *lowering* of SL, mostly from ice accumulation on the Antarctic continent. (The mechanism is intuitively easy to understand but difficult to calculate: A warming ocean evaporates more water, and some of it rains out in the Polar Regions, thus transferring water from the ocean to the polar ice caps.) The surprising result: When one simply adds up all these three contributions (neglecting their large uncertainties), they account for only about 20 percent of the observed rise of 18 cm. The climate warming since 1900 cannot be the cause of the SLR; something is missing here.

But if, as surmised from the absence of observed acceleration during 1920-40, ice accumulation roughly balances ocean thermal expansion and contributions from melting mountain glaciers, why then is SL rising at all? Another riddle requiring a solution.

Why not zero SLR?

The relevant clue comes from corals and from geological observations: It seems that SL has been rising for the past centuries at about the same rate as seen by tidal gauges in the last 100 years -- about 18 cm per century. In other words, SL was rising even during the colder Little Ice age, from about 1400 to 1850 AD. This provides further support for the hypothesis that the observed global SLR since 1900 is reasonably independent of the observed temperature rise.

The explanation for this riddle had been suspected for some time, based on historic data of SLR derived independently from measurements of coral growth and from isotope determinations of ice volume. But the picture was filled in only more recently through estimates of the rate of melting of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS), by tracing its shrinkage during past millennia (through the receding position of its "grounding line," i.e., the line of contact of the ice sheet with the underlying continental land mass.) Note that the WAIS is not floating sea ice; like a mountain glacier, its melting contributes water to the global oceans.

We can therefore describe the broad scenario as follows: The strong temperature increase that followed the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) of about 18,000 years ago has melted enough ice to raise SL by 120 meters (400 feet). The rate of rise was quite rapid at first and controlled by the melting of the huge ice sheets covering North America and the Eurasian land mass. These

disappeared about 8000-5000 years ago; but the WAIS continued to melt, albeit at a much lower rate -- and it is still melting at about the same rate today. Other, smaller WAIS-like ice sheets may have existed in the Antarctic, but have already melted away.

The principal conclusion is that this melting will continue for another 7000 years or so, until the WAIS disappears -- unless another ice age takes over before then. Moreover, there is *nothing* that we can do to stop this future sea level rise! It is as inevitable as the ocean tides -- as long as the Holocene (the present warm interglacial period) survives. Fortunately, coral reefs will continue to grow, as they have in the past, to keep up with SL rise. The rest of us will just have to adapt -- as our ancestors did some 10,000 years ago. At least, we are better equipped to deal with environmental changes.

A final note

What about the effects of putative human-induced global warming on SLR? Will it really increase the rate above its natural value, as predicted by the IPCC? We do have a handle on this question by observing what happened when the climate warmed sharply between 1920 and 1940, before cooling between 1940 and 1975. The answer, first noted in 1997, is quite surprising and could not have been derived from theory or from mathematical models. The data seem to show that SLR *slowed down* slightly when the climate warmed, and then accelerated when the climate cooled. Evidently, ocean-water thermal expansion and mountain-glacier melting were less important than ice accumulation on the Antarctic continent (which lowers SL). Unfortunately, the SL data are not precise enough to withstand scientific challenge -- and reliable data on ice accumulation over the whole Antarctic continent have not been available.

We can now try to answer our original question: Can a Global Warming really lower sea level rise? It all depends on the time-scale: Yes -- if GW lasts only for some decades or less. No -- if warmer temperatures persist for millennia, the WAIS melting rate would increase -- and so would SLR.

By analogy, a future warming produced, putatively, by an increase in greenhouse gases would give the same result: i.e., *reduce the rate of rise of sea level*. This is not a recommendation to burn more coal in order to save Venice from drowning. It is a modest appeal to politicians to take note of new scientific developments and recognize that the drastic limits on energy use called for by climate-treaty negotiators will not stop the rising seas.

NB: This essay ignores many less important features of global SLR, such as the "mining" of groundwater and construction of dams. It also ignores important regional and local effects that depend on isostatic adjustments, ocean currents and wind patterns, land subsidence, etc. Efforts are underway to harmonize conflicting data from tidal gauges and from direct measurements of the ocean surface by satellites

2. The EPA's Game of Secret Science

The agency pursues rules that will cost billions but refuses to reveal its research. Maybe a subpoena will be needed.

By Lamar Smith, WSJ, Jul 29, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323829104578624562008231682.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_0

As the Environmental Protection Agency moves forward with some of the most costly regulations in history, there needs to be greater transparency about the claimed benefits from these actions. Unfortunately, President Obama and the EPA have been unwilling to reveal to the American people the data they use to justify their multibillion-dollar regulatory agenda.

To cite a few examples of where the EPA would like to take the country, the agency is moving forward with strict new limits on ozone that by its own estimates will cost taxpayers \$90 billion per year, which would make the regulation the most costly in history. Other examples include a Mercury and Air Toxics Standard for power plants (previously known as "Utility MACT") that the EPA estimates could cost up to \$10 billion a year. Yet more than 99% of the EPA's health-based justifications for the rule are derived from scientific research that the EPA won't reveal. Taxpayers are supposed to take on faith that EPA policy is backed by good science.

We know this much: Virtually every major EPA air-quality regulation under President Obama has been justified by citing two sets of decades-old data from the Harvard Six Cities Study and the American Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention Study II. The EPA uses the data to establish an association between fine-particulate emissions and mortality.

For two years, the House Science, Space and Technology Committee, of which I am the chairman, has sought to make this information available to the public. But the EPA has obstructed the committee's request at every step. To date, the committee has sent six letters to the EPA and other top administration officials seeking the data's release.

In September 2011, the EPA's then-Assistant Administrator Gina McCarthy committed to provide these data sets to the committee. But the data still remain out of sight. Ms. McCarthy was recently confirmed by the Senate as administrator of the EPA. Now that she leads the agency, Ms. McCarthy has no excuse not to make these taxpayer-funded studies public.

Simple transparency is not the only reason this information should be released. The costs of these rules will be borne by American families. They deserve to know what they are paying for. Time is almost up. If the administration does not provide this data by the end of July, the science committee will force its release through a subpoena.

The federal government has no business justifying regulations with secret information. This principle has been supported by two of the president's own science and technology advisers, John Holdren and Deborah Swackhamer. "The data on which regulatory decisions and other decisions are based should be made available to the committee and should be made public," said Dr. Holdren in testimony before the committee last year. Executive-branch rules dating to the Clinton administration require that federally funded research data be made publicly available, especially if it is used for regulatory purposes.

The data in question have not been subjected to scrutiny and analysis by independent scientists. And the EPA does not subject its cost-benefit claims to peer review. This means we have no way of evaluating the quality of the science being used to justify the agency's claims.

The withholding of information is troubling—and not just because it is being done by "the most transparent administration in history," as the president boasted in February. The National

Academy of Sciences declared in 2004 that the data the EPA is using is of "little use for decision-making." Similarly, President Obama's Office of Management and Budget recently acknowledged that "significant uncertainty remains" about the EPA's claims based on its data sets, saying that the claims "may be misleading" and should be treated with caution.

Yet the EPA presses on: The same data are used to justify the agency's claims about the health benefits of recent proposals to limit emissions for refineries and vehicles. The agency is also poised to use the data to justify its expensive new ozone standards—the EPA's Regulatory Impact Analysis estimated that lowering the ozone standard to 60-70 parts per billion would cost up to \$90 billion per year in compliance costs. The regulation could force large areas of the country into non-attainment, a designation that would drastically limit economic growth. Inevitably, the costs would be borne by working families and would include higher gasoline and electricity prices.

The administration's reliance on secret science doesn't stop there. President Obama's ambitious and costly new climate agenda is backed by a finding from a federal interagency working group regarding the "social cost of carbon." How that "social cost" was determined remains unclear. This new justification for economy-wide regulations was developed without public comment or peer review.

The U.S. saw dramatic improvements in air quality well before the Obama administration came to Washington, yet the White House has upped the ante, launching an aggressive anti-fossil-fuel, regulatory assault on affordable energy—while refusing to reveal the scientific basis for the campaign. The EPA should reveal the research it uses and let the American people decide whether the agency's costly regulations are justified.

Rep. Lamar Smith represents the 21st District of Texas and is chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

3. Shell Earnings: Energy Giant Falters in Shale

Profit Tumbles 60% as Drilling Problems Lead to Write-Down

By Selina Williams and Justin Scheck, WSJ, Aug 1, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323681904578641183049294110.html?mod=WJ_SJ_hps_LEFTTopStories

LONDON—Royal Dutch Shell on Thursday posted a 60% drop in second-quarter profit, largely because the oil and natural-gas giant wrote down the value of its North American shale assets by more than \$2 billion after tax, highlighting the difficulties that energy companies face in finding new oil they can pump at a profit.

Shares in the Anglo-Dutch oil company fell after Shell said its current cost of supplies—a figure that excludes gains or losses from inventories and is therefore equivalent to the net-profit figure reported by U.S. oil companies—declined to \$2.39 billion for the three months ended June 30, compared with \$5.98 billion a year earlier.

Shell cited disappointing drilling results at its North American shale assets, which it said turned out to contain less oil than it had hoped. Even excluding the charge on those assets, Shell's

earnings fell well short of analysts' expectations as the company struggled with production declines and rising costs.

Shell also dropped its target to produce four million barrels of oil and gas a day by either 2017 or 2018. The company, which produced about three million barrels of oil equivalent a day in the past quarter, will instead focus on financial targets, Chief Financial Officer Simon Henry said during an interview.

"If we are solely focused on a volume-related target, we may make less-profitable long-term investments," Mr. Henry said.

"You stand back and you think they're spending more, growing less. They're writing off positions and moving away from production targets," said Santander analyst Jason Kenney. "Shell is basically just struggling still in its cash cycle."

"This is one of the worst sets of Shell results we can remember," analysts at Bernstein Research said in a note.

Shell Chief Executive Peter Voser, who plans to step down early next year, called the results "disappointing."

Mr. Voser also emphasized the troubles that large oil companies are having in capitalizing on the U.S. shale boom. After a decline in natural-gas prices hit Shell's U.S. operations last year, the company said this past January that it was trying to move to shale resources that were richer in oil, rather than less-profitable gas.

On Thursday, Shell indicated that the strategy faces challenges. Mr. Henry said the company took a pretax charge of about \$3 billion—more than \$2 billion after tax—on the \$24 billion in North American shale assets it owns.

He added that finding shale oil has turned out to be more difficult than finding gas in shale formations. "There are sweet spots, but they are more difficult to find and develop," Mr. Henry said. Oil accounts for less than 20% of Shell's 300,000 barrels a day of North American shale production, he said.

Shell declined to give the location of the assets whose value was written down. In North America, the company's shale acreage is located in Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wyoming, Kansas, Colorado, California and British Columbia.

Mr. Voser said the outlook hasn't soured for U.S. shale oil, but added that the charge indicates the greater risks involved in exploring some shale formations.

Shell also warned that its exploration and production division for the Americas is likely to remain unprofitable through at least the second half of the year because of current oil and natural-gas prices. The company announced a strategic review of its North America portfolio with a view to selling about half of its nine main unconventional oil and gas assets there, Mr. Voser said.

Worsening security in Nigeria also hurt earnings, with output there off 100,000 barrels of oil equivalent a day. Total oil and gas production for Shell was 3.062 million barrels of oil equivalent per day, down 1% from a year earlier. Analysts had expected production of 3.146 million barrels of oil equivalent per day.

Shell said Thursday it is reviewing its Nigeria assets and might sell certain properties there. The company in recent weeks notified other companies that four of its Nigeria oil blocks are for sale, two people with knowledge of the situation said. At the same time, Shell has told the Nigerian government that it is interested in buying certain oil licenses in the country from Chevron Corp., said a Nigerian government official. Representatives for Shell and Chevron declined to comment on any potential deal.

Excluding the one-time charges, Shell's profit was \$4.6 billion, down 20% from a year earlier. Revenue fell 3.8% to \$112.67 billion from \$117.07 billion.

4. BP Says Spill Fund Is Running on Fumes

Payments Related to Gulf Spill Continue to Weigh on Energy Giant

By Justin Scheck, Tom Fowler and Selina Williams, WSU, Jul 30, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323854904578637180606036090.html?mod=W_SJ_business_LeadStoryRotator

LONDON—BP said Tuesday it has allocated nearly all of a \$20 billion compensation fund for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, raising fears that the still-mounting costs of the spill may take a bigger-than-expected bite out of future profits.

BP set up the fund in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, before the process of compensating victims began in earnest. It reassured investors at the time, but on Tuesday the company said it had committed \$19.7 billion of the total.

BP says that it has allocated nearly all of a \$20 billion compensation fund related to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill—raising fears that still-mounting costs may take a deeper bite out of future profits than anticipated. Tom Fowler reports.

Though the fund still contains about \$7 billion, a spokesman said, all but \$300 million has been earmarked for various types of injury claims from governments and businesses.

In all, the British oil company said it has taken \$42.4 billion in charges related to the spill, a sum that includes the estimated cost of cleanup, compensation for victims and fines and penalties.

In 4 p.m. trading Tuesday, BP's American depository shares were down 3.2% at \$ 41.74, amid concerns that BP's financial exposure could increase.

The company also posted second-quarter results that disappointed investors. BP said profits from operations declined 24% from a year earlier to \$2.71 billion, in part because of a steeper tax rate, weaker oil prices, higher costs and lower income from Russia. The earnings fell below analysts' expectations of \$3.40 billion.

The shrinking compensation fund raises new questions for BP more than three years after the giant oil spill.

The company has sold more than \$38 billion in assets to help pay for spill-related claims, and the prospect that such payouts will continue could keep the company from acquiring new assets to compete with other oil giants.

In recent months, the number of settlement claims has grown as BP has waged a battle in and out of court to change how compensation is paid. The fight stems from a 2012 settlement BP reached with tens of thousands of Gulf Coast businesses and individuals for economic and property losses.

BP initially estimated it would cost about \$7.8 billion to compensate the seafood industry and other businesses and individuals that claimed economic losses, among other things, from the spill.

So far, BP's payments for spill-related business losses have averaged \$208,000, according to data filed Tuesday by the claims administrator. Both the size and number of claims have exceeded BP's expectations.

As a result, it has increased the estimated cost of the settlement to more than \$9.6 billion, although it expects that figure to grow as thousands more claims are filed in coming months.

Assuming the current rate of acceptance for the claims remains the same—about 55%—there could be another \$4.5 billion in payments due on claims already in the pipeline.

BP asked a federal judge to freeze all its payments while a court-appointed investigator looks into allegations of wrongdoing by lawyers who worked to administer payments; the judge earlier this month denied the request.

BP also has taken aim at plaintiff lawyers, sending letters threatening to claw back payments and running newspaper ads alleging that the claims process has been compromised.

BP Chief Executive Bob Dudley alleged in a television interview earlier this month that the system had been hijacked. The comments prompted U.S. District Court Judge Carl Barbier, who is overseeing the case, to say from the bench that "hyperbole and the use of such language, in my opinion, crosses the line."

While the fight focuses on a compensation fund that has so far accounted for less than 10% of its total spill-related charges, the company's aggressive stance signals to investors that the company is trying to stop the bleeding, said Fadel Gheit, an Oppenheimer & Co. analyst.

BP's fund has paid out around a billion dollars a quarter on average over the past nine months, more than twice the level in the preceding nine months.

The company is still embroiled in a civil trial to determine environmental fines for the spill that could total as much as \$17.6 billion, although the company contends the figure will be closer to \$3.5 billion. The second phase of that trial is scheduled to begin at the end of September

With settlement costs rising and BP in a stronger financial position than two years ago, Mr. Dudley said Tuesday that BP is less likely to negotiate a quick settlement for fines than in the days following the spill. "The balance sheet is strong again so I think this activity could very well go on for quite a long time," he said.

Mr. Dudley said BP is "seeing growth in production from new, high-margin projects."

But in one key area—the Gulf of Mexico—it has continued to struggle.

BP's total liquids production in the U.S., around half of which comes from the Gulf, was 335,000 barrels a day in the second quarter, its lowest level for 15 years, says Peter Hutton, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets.

BP reported Russia income below analysts' estimates in part because of currency factors and a time lag for payment of oil- export duties.

It was the first quarter in which BP reported earnings as a 20% stakeholder in OAO Rosneft, following the Russian company's \$60 billion takeover of BP joint venture TNK-BP in March. The lower Russia income helped drive up the company's overall tax rate and eat into profits, analysts said.

In past decades, BP could curb its exposure to a single country like Russia by expanding into other parts of the world. After top executives grew worried that BP's production was too focused on Alaska and the North Sea, the company in 1998 decided to buy Amoco of the U.S. for \$60 billion.

Such expansion isn't possible now as uncertainty over legal settlements makes it hard to plan major acquisitions.

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