

The Week That Was: 2014-03-08 (March 8, 2014)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *“Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I’m not sure about the universe.”* Albert Einstein [H/t ICECAP]

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Number of the Week: 17% & 11%

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Challenging the Orthodoxy: Two major papers came out, severely questioning and contradicting the latest work of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), especially the Summary for Policymakers. One paper “Bounding GHG Climate Sensitivity for Use in Regulatory Decisions”, was produced by The Right Climate Stuff (TRCS) research team – “a volunteer group composed primarily of more than 25 retired NASA Apollo Program veterans, who joined together in February 2012 to perform an objective, independent study of scientific claims of significant Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW).” They put their distinguished reputations on the line in performing this volunteer work, without compensation from government, private interests, etc. This paper will be discussed below.

The second paper is “A Sensitive Matter: How The IPCC Hid The Good News On Global Warming” by Nicholas Lewis and Marcel Crok with a foreword by Judith Curry. It was published by the Global Warming Policy Foundation. The paper details the enormous disconnect between the Summary for Policymakers and the Scientific Report (WGI) in the IPCC’s Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). The summary is alarmist, but the scientific report does not justify alarm. This paper will be discussed next week. Patrick Michaels and “Chip” Knappenberger had a two articles discussing the Lewis & Crok report, emphasizing that the IPCC exaggerated the influence of carbon dioxide (CO₂) on temperatures; without such exaggeration there would be little cause for alarm about global warming/climate change. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

TRCS: As discussed in the October 5, 2013 TWTW, the IPCC scientific report and summary had many weaknesses, not the least of which was exposed by Nir Shaviv. On his web site, Shaviv produced what he called the most boring graph he ever plotted. Starting with the 1979 Charney report, supported by the US National Research Council, “likely equilibrium range of sensitivity” to a doubling of CO₂ remained at 1.5 to 4.5°C, except for a slight narrowing of 2 to 4.5°C in the IPCC’s Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) (2007). AR5 contained the more traditional estimate of 1.5 to 4.5°C. It is incredible that after 35 years of research and tens of billions of dollars spent, the Climate Establishment has not been able to improve on the estimates in the 1979 Charney report.

The current TRCS report contains an analysis of the upper bound, the worst-case scenario, of a temperature increase by 2100, without any regulatory limit on fossil fuel use. The Climate Establishment should have done this decades ago.

The TRCS team analysis is data driven, not model driven. They chose the Hadley Center – Climatic Research Unit (HadCRU4) surface data that goes back to 1850. The satellite data, independently confirmed by weather balloons, is better, but it starts in December 1978, too short for the purpose. The data reveal an approximately 62-year cycle, peaking about 2013. The causes of the cycle are not clear. According to its summary, IPCC estimates are based on warming since 1950, thereby fail to account for this cycle.

The critical estimate of maximum temperature increase by 2100 is 1°C above today's temperatures, or about 1.8°C increase since 1850, well below the contrived 2°C that IPCC supporters and some politicians claim must be prevented. In short, the demand for drastic, economically destructive emissions controls is not justified. Also, the overall warming trend may be in part due to a rebound from the Little Ice Age, and the total warming to 2100 may be significantly less than 1°C. The 1850 atmospheric CO₂ concentration was about that of the pre-industrial concentrations of about 280 parts per million (ppm).

The TRCS team asserts that the IPCC and its followers, calculate the wrong metric, standard of measurement. The team uses transient climate sensitivity (the effect of current atmospheric CO₂). The IPCC and its followers use equilibrium climate sensitivity and fail to account for the absorption of CO₂ by the biosphere, which is clearly shown by satellite photos over the past three decades.

The TRCS team report contains an extensive discussion on the calculation of the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) and why the team believes that the current calculations should not be used as a justification for government policies. Further, drawing on their experience from intense, independent examination following the Challenger and Discovery disasters, the team calls for the formation of an independent and objective scientific review board to review the methodologies being used to calculate SCC.

Some may disagree with timing of maximum use of fossil fuels before market-driven transitioning to alternative energy sources. However, that is minor compared with the rigorous effort of trying to put an upper bound on the potential warming from fossil fuel use and associated CO₂ emissions. The analysis clearly shows that we have more than sufficient time to get the science of climate change right and that we should not be panicked into adopting dangerous and economically destructive policies.

Why the Climate Establishment has failed to perform such a desperately needed analysis was, perhaps, best answered by Nir Shaviv. *"If you have a theory which is correct, then as progressively more data comes in, the agreement becomes better... However, if the basic premises of a theory are wrong, then there is no improved agreement as more data is collected. In fact, it is usually the opposite that takes place, the disagreement increases."*

See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, <http://www.sciencebits.com/AR5-FirstImpressions>, and <http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2013/TWTW%2010-5-13.pdf>

Arctic Ice Melt: There is little question that the Arctic has been warming for the past three decades. Based on satellite observations, that is the only major region of the earth that has had pronounced warming. An examination of a collection of 27 high-quality proxy data shows that the temperatures of the Atlantic portion of the Arctic may have been as warm or warmer during the Roman Warm Period and the Medieval Warm Period.

Another study suggests that the greater inflow of warmer water from the rivers in the Arctic may be responsible for the late summer ice melt that has been observed in recent years, 2013 excluded. See links under Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC, Changing Cryosphere http://nsstc.uah.edu/climate/2012/november/trend_Dec78_Nov12_alt.png.

Uncertainty: In Climate Etc., Judith Curry posted her power-point presentation used during her talk “Causes and implications of the pause” at a workshop by American Physical Society, the purpose of which was to explore changing the APS climate change statement. The slides include those showing the significant divergence between model projections and observations. She explores some of the explanations for this divergence. The summary of the major uncertainties is particularly useful, especially the unknowns. If the leadership of APS performed the same analysis as the TRCS team did, the APS climate change statement would be radically altered. See link under Seeking a Common Ground.

Extreme Weather: Last week Secretary of State John Kerry told students and government officials of Indonesia that climate change is a weapon of mass destruction and Indonesia should not use its resources in fostering economic growth. Further, he and President Obama do not have time to talk to global warming skeptics, calling their science shoddy

Not to be outdone, the president’s science advisor, John Holdren attacked Roger Pielke Jr. for his testimony to Congress that climate change has not increased extreme weather. Pielke directly rebutted Holdren’s claims in a letter, in his posts, and in an article he wrote. Further Pielke is a co-author of a new paper based on the financial records of the large re-insurance entity, Munich Re. *The bottom line here is that a signal of greenhouse gas emissions cannot be found in the aggregate loss data from Munich Re.*

As if to buttress Pielke’s findings, Warren Buffett, whose holding company owns a large insurance company, stated in an interview: *“The public has the impression that because there’s been so much talk about climate that events of the last 10 years from an insured standpoint and climate have been unusual,” he continued. “The answer is they haven’t.” “I love apocalyptic predictions” on climate change, Buffett told CNBC on Monday, because they probably do affect rates.*

Further, as if to counter the wealthy John Kerry, Pielke has an article on “What Does It Mean to be Anti-Growth?” *The reality is that to be anti-growth today is actually to be anti-growth with respect to poor countries.... . So when you encounter an anti-growth advocate, ask him or her, which kind are you, Neo-Malthusian, Peak Earther, or Luddite?* See links under Changing Weather and Environmental Industry.

Defense Review: Every four years the US Department of Defense produces its Quadrennial Defense Review. The Chapter on Future Security Environment has an extensive paragraph on the dangers of global warming/climate change: *“The pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world. These effects are threat multipliers that will aggravate stressors abroad such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions – conditions that can enable terrorist activity and other forms of violence.”* The chapter does not mention the possibility of Russia seizing military control of a portion of a European country as it did by seizing control of the Crimea in the Ukraine. See links under Expanding the Orthodoxy.

US Energy: Some commentators have suggested that President Obama use the new-found US energy prowess to counter Russian influence over the Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Many of these commentators seem to have little understanding of the long time-frame involved and the costs of transporting liquefied natural gas, a frequently mentioned fuel. Use of fossil fuels would be

contrary to the observed policy of the Administration of suppressing the use of fossil fuels. If Obama did as the commentators suggest, would Security of State Kerry accuse the President of using a weapon of mass destruction? See links under Energy Issues – US.

The Grid Experiment: The North American Electric Reliability Corporation and the California Independent System Operation Corporation have produced a report on issues faced by grid operators when politicians insist that unreliable wind and solar be integrated into the electrical grid. The load must be balanced, or the grid will fail. *The operating characteristics of VERs [variable energy resources] —not just the energy or capacity being provided—will fundamentally change the basic composition of essential reliability services. The system must continue to work reliably.* California may become a very expensive test site. See link under California Dreaming.

Market Crash: Christopher Monckton has an amusing post on the difference in stock index value of \$100 placed in 2002 in “clean” green stocks as compared with “dirty” oil and gas stocks. See link under Energy Issues – Non-US.

Un-Validated Models: TWTW has been criticized for its negative view of using climate models, which have not been validated, to make predictions far into the future. The negative view is not limited to climate models. For example, some members of SEPP were less than impressed when the White House declared that, based on its models, the “Stimulus Bill” would prevent unemployment from exceeding 8% and it would quickly go down to 6% and soon go as low as 5%. Without the bill, unemployment would reach 9%. The bill was passed, and unemployment went to 10%. After five years of expansionary fiscal and monetary policy, the unemployment rate fell slowly to a rate of 6.7%, in February, 2014. The less formal U6 unemployment rate, which includes those who seek full-time jobs, but can only find part-time jobs, and those who left the work force, stands at 12.6%, which is higher than any value prior to the “Stimulus Bill.” The calculations start in 1994.

There is clearly something wrong the models. One of the major issues is the value of what is called the multiplier. What is the impact of additional government spending? The Congressional Budget Office has estimated the multiplier may range from 0.5 to 2.5. At 0.5, \$100 additional spent by government would have a total economic impact of \$50, or one-half of the moneys spent. Clearly the failure to validate models has significant consequences. See links under Model Issues.

Number of the Week: 17% and 11%. A study by the Breakthrough Institute reports that for 2012, the total energy output of German wind farms was 17% of nameplate capacity (the frequently touted number used by wind promoters). According to the report, the figures come from Germany’s BdeW utility consortium, which gathers data from all electric utilities. The links are in German. The output for solar for 2012 was 11% of nameplate capacity. If the numbers are correct, then the US EIA should re-visit its estimate of a 34% production capacity for wind. [Note: TWTW does not agree with the report’s claims of adverse health effects of fossil fuels, as they apply to westernized nations using modern power plants.]

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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. At Energy Confab, Oil Chiefs Fret Over Costs

An Industry That Once Worried About Supply Now Finds Rising Production Costs a Concern
By Russell Gold, WSJ, Mar 6, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304732804579423473478126620?mod=WSJ_business_LeadStoryRotator&mg=reno64-wsj

2. EPA Takes First Step to Restrict Pebble Mine Project in Alaska

Alaska Mine Could Also Be One of World's Largest Copper Sources

By Alicia Mundy, WSJ, Feb 28, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304026804579411553575928572?mg=reno64-wsj>

3. China Sets Targets to Curb Pollution

By Wayne Ma, WSJ, Mar 4, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304585004579419911740859426?mod=WSJ_Energy_LeftSummaries&mg=reno64-wsj

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

It's the Sun, Stupid

By Edmund Contoski, American Liberty, Feb 28, 2014

<http://www.amlibpub.blogspot.com/2014/02/its-sun-stupid.html>

[SEPP Comment: Title may be excessive.]

Climategate Continued

Data and Corrections for Rosenthal et al 2013

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Mar 2, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/03/02/data-and-corrections-for-rosenthal-et-al-2013/>

[SEPP Comment: A different version of Mann's Nature trick by others.]

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Bounding GHG Climate Sensitivity for Use in Regulatory Decisions, Executive Summary

Lead Author: Harold H. Doiron, Report of the Right Climate Stuff Team, February 2014

<http://www.therightclimatestuff.com/ExecutiveSummaryBoundingGHGClimateSensitivityForUseInRegulatoryDecisions140228.pdf>

Full Report: Bounding GHG Climate Sensitivity for Use in Regulatory Decisions

Lead Author: Harold H. Doiron, Report of the Right Climate Stuff Team, February 2014

<http://www.therightclimatestuff.com/BoundingClimateSensitivityForRegDecisions.pdf>

A Sensitive Matter: How The IPCC Hid The Good News On Global Warming

By Nicholas Lewis and Marcel Crok, Forward by Judith Curry, GWPF, No Date

<http://www.thegwpf.org/content/uploads/2014/02/A-Sensitive-Matter-Foreword-inc.pdf>

Global Warming IS REAL, argues sceptic mathematician - it just isn't THERMAGEDDON

IPCC hid the good news? Let's find out

By Andrew Orłowski, The Register, Mar 6, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2014/03/06/global_warming_real_just_not_as_scary_as/

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Sherwood's fabrication [of the Lewis & Crok report]

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 6, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/6/sherwoods-fabrication.html>

Climate Insensitivity: What the IPCC Knew But Didn't Tell Us

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO. Mar 5, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/climate-insensitivity-what-ipcc-knew-didnt-tell-us>

Climate Insensitivity: What the IPCC Knew But Didn't Tell Us Part II

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO. Mar 6, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/tags/global-science-report>

German Meteorology Professor: Don't Expect Warming Until Mid Century! ... CO2 Models "Have A Fundamental Problem"!

Bu Horst Malberg, EIKE, Translated by P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 3, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/03/03/german-meteorology-professor-dont-expect-warming-until-mid-century-co2-models-have-a-fundamental-problem/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

UN Climate Chief Sees 'Silver Lining' in Extreme Weather: Raises Issue to 'Highest Political Levels'

By Patrick Goodenough, CNS News, Mar 6, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/patrick-goodenough/un-climate-chief-sees-silver-lining-extreme-weather-raises-issue>

Who pressed the pause button?

The slowdown in rising temperatures over the past 15 years goes from being unexplained to overexplained.

Editorial, The Economist, Mar 8, 2014 [H/t Power Line]

<http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21598610-slowdown-rising-temperatures-over-past-15-years-goes-being>

[SEPP Comment: The editors of the Economist cannot admit there is great uncertainty in the climate science.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Lewis and Crok: Climate less sensitive to CO2 than models suggest

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Mar 5, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/03/05/lewis-and-crok-climate-less-sensitive-to-co2-than-models-suggest/>

IPCC Plays Down Climate Sensitivity

By Graham Lloyd, The Australian, Via GWPF, Mar 7, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/ipcc-plays-climate-sensitivity/>

The Insiders: Liberals are destroying the planet

By Ed Rogers, Opinion, Post Partisan, Feb 28, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/wp/2014/02/28/the-insiders-liberals-are-destroying-the-planet/>

Our politicians have not made the case for a practical, beneficial, cost-effective, global plan that would address climate change efficiently and effectively.

[SEPP Comment: Introduces the concept of Prudent Rationals.]

Obama Picks Alarmist as Climate Adviser

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Mar 4 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Obama-Climate-Adviser-Holdren/2014/03/04/id/555902>

Georgia Voices: Global-warming skeptics are winning the debate

Editorial, Augusta Chronicle, Mar 4, 2014 [H/t Bob Carter]

http://mdjonline.com/view/full_story/24678229/article-Georgia-Voices--Global-warming-skeptics-are-winning-the-debate?instance=secondary_story_left_column

Social Benefits of Carbon

Biospheric Productivity in South America

By Staff Writers, SPPI, Mar 6, 2014

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

Link to report: Productivity in South America

Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, Mar 5, 2014

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/biospheric_south_america.pdf

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Globalist eco-progressives getting pretty excited about their prospects for that 2015 global climate treaty

By Erika Johnsen, Hot Air, Mar 1, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://hotair.com/archives/2014/03/01/globalist-eco-progressives-getting-pretty-excited-about-their-prospects-for-that-2015-global-climate-treaty/>

[SEPP Comment: We do not know what is happening, we do not know why it is happening, but we will pass laws to stop it from happening.]

No set targets jeopardize climate deal in 2015

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Mar 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/199800-no-set-targets-jeopadizes-climate-deal-in-2015>

Seeking a Common Ground

Causes and implications of the pause

My invited talk at the American Physical Society Meeting in Denver.

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Mar 4, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/03/04/causes-and-implications-of-the-pause/>

Is independent thinking still prized in science? Perhaps not on climate change

By Anthony Sadar, Washington Examiner, Mar 5, 2014

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/is-independent-thinking-still-prized-in-science-not-on-climate-change/article/2545087>

Christy & Emanuel have A Conversation on Climate Change

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Mar 4, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/03/christy-emanuel-have-a-conversation-on-climate-change/>

[SEPP Comment: More to come.]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Roman and Medieval Warmth in the Arctic Atlantic Region

Reference: Hanhijarvi, S., Tingley, M.P. and Korhola, A. 2013. Pairwise comparisons to reconstruct mean temperature in the Arctic Atlantic Region over the last 2,000 years. *Climate Dynamics* 41: 2039-2060.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/mar/4mar2014a2.html>

Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide: Reducing Its Own Greenhouse Effect

Reference: Shevliakova, E., Stouffer, R.J., Malyshev, S., Krasting, J.P., Hurtt, G.C. and Pacala, S.W. 2013. Historical warming reduced due to enhanced land carbon uptake. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 110: 16,730-16,735.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/mar/4mar2014a3.html>

Intertidal Macroalgae and the Threat of Global Warming

Reference: Clark, J.S., Poore, A.G.B., Ralph, P.J. and Doblin, M.A. 2013. Potential for adaptation in response to thermal stress in an intertidal macroalga. *Journal of Phycology* 49: 630-639.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/mar/4mar2014a4.html>

CMIP3 & CMIP5 Models Characterizing Amazonian Precipitation

Reference: Joetzer, E., Douville, H., Delire, C. and Ciais, P. 2013. Present-day and future Amazonian precipitation in global climate models: CMIP5 versus CMIP3. *Climate Dynamics* 41: 2921-2936.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/mar/5mar2014a1.html>

Model Issues

Obama signs bill funding drought forecast program

By Justin Sink, The Hill, Mar 6, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/200142-obama-signs-bill-funding-drought-forecast-program>

[SEPP Comment: It would be great if NOAA could forecast the weather six months in advance!]

Why It Is So Hard to Figure Out What the Stimulus Did

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Feb 26, 2014

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=24144&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EcoPD

Link to report: Why It's So Hard to Figure Out What the Stimulus Did

By Peter Suderman, Reason.com, Feb 18, 2014

<http://reason.com/blog/2014/02/18/why-its-so-hard-to-figure-out-what-the-s>

Changing Weather

New Paper on Global Disaster Losses

By Roger Pielke, Jr., His Blog, Mar 3, 2014

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2014/03/new-paper-on-global-disaster-losses.html>

No climate change impact on insurance biz: Buffett

By: Matthew J. Belvedere, CNBC, Mar 3, 2014

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/101460458>

2nd Coldest U.S. Winter in 35 Years

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Mar 3, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/03/2nd-coldest-u-s-winter-in-35-years/>

[SEPP Comment: Based upon his independent analysis of stations that report every 6 hours, adjusted for the Urban Heat Island effect (changes in population).]

Massive Arctic cold wave descends into southern USA

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/02/massive-arctic-cold-wave-descends-into-southern-usa/>

Great Lakes ice reaches new post 1980 high 91%. - Niagara Falls freezing over

By Staff Writers, ICECAP, Mar 4, 2014

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes->

[blog/great_lakes_ice_reaches_new_high_91_niagara_falls_freezing_over1/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/great_lakes_ice_reaches_new_high_91_niagara_falls_freezing_over1/)

In the UK, it was much wetter in 1929

By Paul Homewood, WUWT, Mar 7, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/07/in-the-uk-it-was-much-wetter-in-1929/>

Changing Climate

10,000 years on the Bering land bridge

By Staff Writers, Salt Lake City UT (SPX), Mar 03, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/10000_years_on_the_Bering_land_bridge_999.html

Dartmouth-led research shows temperature, not snowfall, driving tropical glacier size

By Staff Writers, Hanover NH (SPX), Feb 26, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Dartmouth_led_research_shows_temperature_not_snowfall_driving_tropical_glacier_size_999.html

Furthermore, the ebbs and flows of other glaciers in tropical South America are similar to the Qori Kalis extents, indicating a regionally consistent pattern of past climate conditions. On a global scale, the results suggest that glaciers were larger than present and depositing moraines in both northern and southern hemispheres at about the same time, indicating that the climate mechanisms which caused the late Holocene cooling likely influenced a globally synchronous pattern of cooling.

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Warm Rivers Play Role in Arctic Sea Ice Melt

By Staff Writers, Pasadena CA (JPL), Mar 06, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Warm_Rivers_Play_Role_in_Arctic_Sea_Ice_Melt_999.html

New paper finds "remarkable" growth of glaciers on Tibet plateau over past decade "challenging to explain"

By Staff, The Hockey Shtick, Mar 4, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://hockeyshtick.blogspot.co.uk/2014/03/new-paper-finds-remarkable-growth-of.html>

Link to paper: Evaluation of Glacier Changes in High Mountain Asia Based on 10-year GRACE-RL05 Models

By Shuang Yi*, Wenke Sun, Journal of Geophysical Research Solid Earth, Mar 4, 2014

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2013JB010860/abstract>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Food in America is more affordable than ever before because the US farm sector keeps getting more and more productive

By Mark Perry, AEIdeas, Mar 4, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.aei-ideas.org/2014/03/food-in-america-is-more-affordable-than-ever-before-because-the-us-farm-sector-keeps-getting-more-and-more-productive/>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Climate change causes high, but predictable, extinction risks

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Mar 04, 2014

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Climate change causes high but predictable extinction risks 999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Climate%20change%20causes%20high%20but%20predictable%20extinction%20risks%20999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Cannot predict the extent of change or direction, but can predict risks? Why is NASA funding this?]

European flood risk could double by 2050

By Staff Writers, Vienna, Austria, (SPX) Mar 05, 2014

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/European flood risk could double by 2050 999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/European%20flood%20risk%20could%20double%20by%202050%20999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Two-thirds from socioeconomic growth.]

Global warming felt to deepest reaches of ocean

By Staff Writers, Montreal, Canada (SPX), Mar 05, 2014

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Global warming felt to deepest reaches of ocean 999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Global%20warming%20felt%20to%20deepest%20reaches%20of%20ocean%20999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Too much speculation!]

Lowering Standards

New Global Warming Report a Disgrace

Royal Society/National Academy of Sciences propaganda would enrage Newton.

By Tom Harris, PJ Media, Mar 2, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/new-global-warming-report-a-disgrace/>

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

Learning To Distinguish Different Types Of Cold

By Steven Goddard, Real Science, Mar 4, 2014 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2014/03/04/learning-to-distinguish-different-types-of-cold/>

Link to Voice of Russia: US record cold: if people disturb climate, crazy weather events occur – meteorologist

Interview of Jeff Masters, director of meteorology at the Weather Underground, Voice of Russia, Mar 4, 2014

http://voiceofrussia.com/2014_03_04/US-record-cold-if-people-disturb-climate-crazy-weather-events-occur-meteorologist-2478/

[SEPP Comment: Distinguishing between natural cold weather, global cooling cold weather, and global warming cold weather, when the temperatures are about the same.]

COLD SHOULDER: ABC, CBS Exclude Scientists Critical of Global Warming for More Than 1,300 Days

By Sean Long, CNS News, Mar 6, 2014

<http://cnsnews.com/mrctv-blog/sean-long/cold-shoulder-abc-cbs-exclude-scientists-critical-global-warming-more-1300-days>

[SEPP Comment: Making the skeptics invisible.]

Time running out for Great Barrier Reef: scientists

By Staff Writers, Sydney (AFP), March 06, 2014

http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Time_running_out_for_Great_Barrier_Reef_scientists_999.html

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

The Social Cost of Carbon

By Marlo Lewis, Capital Research Center, Feb, 2014

<http://capitalresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/GW1402-final-draft-as-posted-140128.pdf>

The Statute of Liberty is threatened by ‘global warming’...again

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 5, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/05/the-statute-of-liberty-is-threatened-by-global-warming-again/>

Link to paper: Loss of cultural world heritage and currently inhabited places to sea-level rise

By Ben Marzeion and Anders Levermann 2014 Environ. Res. Letters, Mar 4, 2014

<http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/9/3/034001/article>

[SEPP Comment: Projecting 2000 years hence.]

Apocalypse Not: The Oscars, The Media And The Myth Of ‘Constant Repetition Of Doomsday Messages’ On Climate

By Joe Romm, Climate Progress, Mar 2, 2014 [H/t Bud Bromley]

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/03/02/3349451/oscars-media-doomsday-climate/#>

[SEPP Comment: A constant doomsday message has not been ongoing?]

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

An Obama Advisor Is Attacking Me for Testifying That Climate Change Hasn't Increased Extreme Weather

By Roger Pielke, Jr., New Republic, Mar 5, 2014

<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/116887/does-climate-change-cause-extreme-weather-i-said-no-and-was-attacked>

John Holdren's Epic Fail

By Roger Pielke Jr., His Blog, Mar 1, 2014

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2014/03/john-holdrens-epic-fail.html>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Pentagon warns of climate change 'threat multipliers'

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Mar 4, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/pentagon-warns-of-climate-change-threat-multipliers/article/2545075?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20eoccurring%20-%2003/05/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today

Link to report: Quadrennial Defense Review, 2014

By Staff Writers, Pentagon, 2014

http://www.defense.gov/pubs/2014_Quadrennial_Defense_Review.pdf

Quadrennial Defense Review 2014: Lions and Tigers and ManBearPigs, Oh My!

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Mar 7, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/03/07/quadrennial-defense-review-2014-lions-and-tigers-and-manbearpigs-oh-my/>

Questioning European Green

Denmark's Energy Minister Rasmus Petersen Plans To Scrap New Windpark Projects, Citing High Electricity Costs!

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 5, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/03/05/denmarks-energy-minister-rasmus-petersen-plans-to-scrap-new-windpark-projects-citing-high-electricity-costs/>

EU dilemma: Cheap energy or climate action

By Staff Writers, Bloomberg, Mar 5, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/eu-dilemma-cheap-energy-or-climate-action-20140305-345xn.html>

[SEPP Comment: A great example of the logical fallacy of a False Dilemma. What can the EU do to prevent climate change, which has been on-going for hundreds of millions of years?]

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Renewable energy in decline, less than 1% of global energy

By Steve Goreham, Communities Digital News, Mar 1, 2014

<http://www.commdiginews.com/environment/renewable-energy-in-decline-less-than-1-of-global-energy-11004/>

De-Growth Advocates Would Take Us Back To Harder Times

Editorial, IBD, Mar 5, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/030514-692238-de-growth-would-set-back-centuries-of-economic-progress.htm>

Non-Green Jobs

European chemicals industry could be wiped out in a decade, says Ineos boss

Jim Ratcliffe, the man at the centre of last year's Grangemouth dispute, writes to EC president warning that 6m jobs are at risk

By Alistair Osborne, Telegraph, UK, Mar 6, 2014 [H/t Anne and Lars Debeil]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/industry/10681902/European-chemicals-industry-could-be-wiped-out-in-a-decade-says-Ineos-boss.html>

The Political Games Continue

House votes to limit environmental reviews

By Pete Kasperowicz, The Hill, Mar 6, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/200129-house-votes-to-limit-environmental-reviews>

[SEPP Comment: Included a provision prohibiting agencies from considering the "social cost of carbon" in project analyses.]

House GOP blocks heart of Obama's climate platform

By Matthew Daly, AP, Mar 6, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://azstarnet.com/ap/washington/house-gop-blocks-heart-of-obama-s-climate-platform/article_fedacd17-a502-5419-ae01-a8e855e74934.html

[SEPP Comment: Carbon capture and storage has gone from commercially available to technically feasible, according to the EPA.]

Litigation Issues

Will the Supreme Court permit EPA climate decisions to stand?

If it does, the impacts on our lives, livelihoods, liberties and living standards will be enormous

By Paul Driessen, WUWT, Mar 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/03/will-the-supreme-court-permit-epa-climate-decisions-to-stand/>

Chevron Gets Justice From Environmentalist Frauds

Editorial, IBD, Mar 5, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/030514-692240-chevron-wins-case-after-years-millions-spent.htm>

Den gröna marxismens största nederlag? [Article on Chevron is in English]

By James Delingpole, Anthropocene, Mar 6, 2014 [H/t Anne and Lars Debeil]

<http://antropocene.se/2014/march/den-grona-marxismens-storsta-nederlag.html>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Zombie carbon market falls 60%, revived by EU decree – media spins “soaring success”

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Mar 6, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/03/zombie-carbon-market-falls-60-revived-by-government-decree-media-says-it-soars/#more-34150>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Rep. Camp's Bold Move: End of the Wind PTC (and other energy subsidies too)

By Lisa Linowes, Wind Action, Mar 3, 2014

<http://www.windaction.org/posts/39966-rep-camp-s-bold-move-end-of-the-wind-ptc-and-other-energy-subsidies-too#.UxXLBfmwJkA>

Subsidy Hunters: Solar Companies Quit Spain For Britain

By Graham Keeley, The Times, Via GWPF, Mar 3, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/subsidy-hunters-solar-companies-quit-spain-britain/>

Wind Farm Plans In Tatters After Government Cuts Green Subsidies

By Robert Mendick, Telegraph, UK, Via GWPF, Mar 2, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/wind-farm-plans-tatters-government-cuts-green-subsidies/>

Economic Opportunities and Rebates

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Mar 4, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/03/04/economic-opportunities-and-rebates/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA's Climate Regulations Will Harm American Manufacturing

By Nicolas Loris and Filip Jolevski, Heritage Foundation, Mar 4, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2014/03/epas-climate-regulations-will-harm-american-manufacturing?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_content=MB_140306&utm_campaign=morningbell

Obama's budget wish list: Money and manpower for regulations

By Ben Goad, The Hill, Mar 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/administration/199887-obamas-wish-list-money-and-manpower-for-regulations>

Senate GOPs: Report 'Will Cast a Shadow' Over EPA's Inspector General

In dispute are actions taken by EPA's Region 6 against a natural gas company after receiving a complaint from a Texas homeowner.

By Bill Straub, PJ Media, Mar 3, 2014

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/senate-gops-report-will-cast-a-shadow-over-epas-inspector-general/>
[SEPP Comment: More on the EPA's false claims against hydraulic fracturing.]

EPA announces new sulfur emission limits

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Mar 3, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/199706-epa-finalizes-strict-sulfur-emissions-rule>

Energy Dept. proposes new standards for clothes washers

By Benjamin Goad, The Hill, Mar 3, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/199742-energy-dept-proposes-new-standards-for-clothes-washers>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Don't put your pension into Greens, Mrs Worthington...

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Mar 6, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/06/dont-put-your-pension-into-greens-mrs-worthington/>

Deepening Energy Crisis: Britain Has Become 'Uninvestable', Analyst Warns

By Danny Fortson, The Sunday Times, Via GWPF, Mar 2, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/deepening-energy-crisis-britain-uninvestable-energy-analyst-warns/>

Germany's Energiewende: A Path to Economic Self-Destruction

By Walter Russell Mead & Staff, American Interest, Feb 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/blog/2014/02/27/germanys-energiewende-a-path-to-economic-self-destruction/>

Economics Expert Slams German Feed-In Act, Calling It "An Abuse Of State Power"... "Belongs In The Dustbin"

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 7, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/03/07/economics-expert-slams-german-feed-in-act-calling-it-an-abuse-of-state-power-belongs-in-the-dustbin/>

Energy Issues -- US

America Has A New Weapon To Use – The E-Bomb

By Fraser Nelson, Telegraph, UK, Mar 6, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/10680902/America-has-a-new-weapon-to-use-against-Russia-the-E-Bomb.html>

Green Lobby Isolated As U.S. Hopes Shale Boom Can Curb Putin

By Coral Davenport and Steven Erlanger, The New York Times, Via GWPF,
Mar 7, 2014 Via GWPF

<http://www.thegwpf.org/green-lobby-isolated-u-s-hopes-shale-boom-curb-putin/>

Link to article, U.S. Hopes Boom in Natural Gas Can Curb Putin

By Coral Davenport and Steven Erlanger, The New York Times, Mar 5, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/06/world/europe/us-seeks-to-reduce-ukraines-reliance-on-russia-for-natural-gas.html>

Obama stands by energy strategy while pushing climate change fund

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Mar 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/199821-obama-stands-by-energy-strategy-while-pushing-climate-fund>

Energy Security in the Age of Putin

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Mar 5, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/03/energy-security-in-the-age-of-putin.php>

Link to report Index of U.S. Energy Security Risk

By Staff Writers, US Chamber of Commerce, 2013

<http://www.energyxxi.org/2013-us-index-of-energy-security-risk>

End of Civilization as We Know It

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Mar 7, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/03/07/end-of-civilization-as-we-know-it/>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Natural gas industry buoyed by advancing technology

By Timothy Puko, TribLive, [Pittsburg] Mar 1, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://triblive.com/business/headlines/5681030-74/gas-drilling-wells#axzz2unRNogYO>

[SEPP Comment: Only part of the stunning technological advancements in the oil and gas industry.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Commercial operation at Hongyanhe 2

By Staff Writers, WNN, Feb 28, 2014

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NN-Commercial-operation-at-Hongyanhe-2-2802144.html>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Germany’s Green Energy Bust

Energiewende by the Numbers

By Will Boisvert, Breakthrough Institute, Jul 30, 2013

<http://thebreakthrough.org/index.php/programs/energy-and-climate/germanys-green-energy-bust>

Has Renewable Energy Peaked?

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Mar 2, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/03/has-renewable-energy-peaked.php>

O&M offshore plays larger role as climate change takes a toll

By Jason Deign, Wind Energy Update, Mar 3, 2014

http://social.windenergyupdate.com/operations-maintenance/om-offshore-plays-larger-role-climate-change-takes-toll?utm_source=ebrief0503&utm_medium=email&utm_content=0503&utm_campaign=WEU

[SEPP Comment: Who would have thought that maintenance would be difficulty in the stormy sea? Blame the stormy seas and the salt water corrosion on climate change.]

BrightSource's Desmond says Ivanpah facility a model for future projects

Transcript by Staff Writers, EETV, Mar 5, 2014

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1794/transcript>

[SEPP Comment: No discussion of costs.]

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

Geothermal offers cost-effective alternative to volatile fuel prices and propane shortages

By Staff Writers, Fort Wayne IN (SPX), Mar 06, 2014

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Geothermal_offers_cost_effective_alternative_to_volatile_fuel_prices_and_propane_shortages_999.html

Homeowners who install a geothermal system prior to Dec. 31, 2016, can take advantage of a federal renewable energy tax credit that offers a tax incentive of 30 percent of the installed cost of the system. This credit can be used in combination with utility rebates and state tax incentives, where available, to make geothermal systems more affordable than ever.

[SEPP Comment: If the system is so good, why does it need subsidies?]

The value of biomass

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Mar 7, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/value-biomass>

Link to paper: Potential greenhouse gas benefits of transatlantic wood pellet trade

By Puneet Dwivedi, et al., Environmental Research Letters, Feb 18, 2014

<http://iopscience.iop.org/1748-9326/9/2/024007/article>

California Dreaming

Energy Running Out of California

By Joel Kotkin, Orange County Register, Mar 4, 2014

<http://www.joelkotkin.com/content/00875-energy-running-out-california>

Maintaining Bulk Power System Reliability While Integrating Variable Energy Resources CAISO Approach.

By Staff Writers, NERC & CAISO, Nov 2013 [H/t Kevon Martis, Master Resource]

http://www.nerc.com/pa/RAPA/ra/Reliability%20Assessments%20DL/NERC-CAISO_VG_Assessment_Final.pdf

Environmental Industry

What Does It Mean to be Anti-Growth?

By Roger Pielke, Jr., Earth Island Journal, No Date

<http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/eij/article/pielke/>

Not even climate change will kill off capitalism

As long as the conditions for investment and profit remain, the system will adapt. Which is why we need a revolution

By Razmig Keucheyan, Guardian, UK, Mar 6, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/mar/06/not-even-climate-change-will-kill-off-capitalism>

Other Scientific News

Large mammals were the architects in prehistoric ecosystems

By Staff Writers. Aarhus, Denmark (SPX), Mar 05, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Large_mammals_were_the_architects_in_prehistoric_ecosystems_999.html

Microbes, How Low Can You Go?

By Aaron L. Gronstal for Astrobiology Magazine, Moffett Field CA (SPX), Mar 04, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Microbes_How_Low_Can_You_Go_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

China's premier 'declares war' on pollution

By Staff Writers, Beijing (AFP), March 05, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Chinas_premier_declares_war_on_pollution_999.html

It's all water over the dam - but how and when it falls has huge impact on salmon

By Tom Rickey for PNNL News, Richland WA (SPX), Mar 05, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Its_all_water_over_the_dam_but_how_and_when_it_falls_has_huge_impact_on_salmon_999.html

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Climate change threatens Chipotle's guacamole

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Mar 5, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/199941-climate-change-threatens-chipotles-guacamole>

[SEPP Comment: Apparently, the owners of the restaurant chain believed the climate prophets who claimed that the price of avocados will increase by 40%.]

US researchers propose Earth's infrared radiation as renewable energy source

By Staff Writers, Boston (XNA), Mar 06, 2014

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/US_researchers_propose_Earths_infrared_radiation_as_renewable_energy_source_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Is it not greenhouse gases capturing the earth's infrared radiation that causes the greenhouse effect?]

ExxonMobil chief, neighbors sue over fracking concerns

By Staff Writers, New York (AFP), Feb 27, 2014

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/ExxonMobil_chief_neighbors_sue_over_fracking_concerns_999.html

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ARTICLES:

1. At Energy Confab, Oil Chiefs Fret Over Costs

An Industry That Once Worried About Supply Now Finds Rising Production Costs a Concern
By Russell Gold, WSJ, Mar 6, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304732804579423473478126620?mod=WSJ_business_LeadStoryRotator&mg=reno64-wsj

HOUSTON—Underneath their swagger and bravado, global energy chiefs gathered here for their annual U.S. conference expressed a palpable sense of dread over the soaring costs of their signature oil and gas projects.

"All of us are facing new realities and pressures," John Watson, chairman and chief executive of Chevron Corp., told a hotel ballroom jammed with an international assortment of men in suits and the occasional woman. "Labor and capital costs have doubled over the last decade."

To pay for the rising price of extracting fossil fuels, the industry needs triple-digit oil prices, Mr. Watson warned.

"The \$100 barrel is the new \$20," he said—a sobering statement since global oil prices haven't been in the \$20 range since 2002.

Where once concerns focused on the apparent shortage of new elephant-size oil and natural gas fields, this year's IHS CERAWEEK produced a lot of anxiety over soaring costs.

Executives "are optimistic about the resource and worried about cost," said William Maloney, the executive vice president in charge of North American production for Norwegian state-controlled oil producer Statoil.

The energy industry thinks big and boasts of taking on moonshot-style challenges. Drill for oil in waters 2 miles deep while perched atop a giant platform the size of skyscraper? Done that. Create an industrial plant to chill natural gas in a country without measurable infrastructure? Coming right up.

In speeches and conversations, executives routinely talk of projects estimated to cost \$40 billion or more. In comparison, \$40 billion represents the total economic output of the nation of Kenya, and more than the amount President Obama has requested to run the Department of Homeland Security next year.

BP PLC's Shah Deniz project hopes to tap a natural-gas field the size of Manhattan underneath the Caspian Sea. After it drills down and draws out the gas molecules, the British company will ship them more than 2,000 miles across seven countries to Europe. It will cost an estimated \$45 billion, said Al Cook, the vice president in charge of the project.

These megaprojects are no longer the exclusive domain of firms such as BP and Exxon Mobil Corp. In 2000, just seven companies tackled projects that cost \$5 billion or more, according to Luc Messier, the head of project development and procurement for ConocoPhillips. Now there are more than 35, including many by state-owned oil companies flush with government cash.

The result: companies are competing for the same service contractors, engineers and equipment, causing lengthy delays and ballooning costs. Rob Franklin, Exxon Mobil's president of gas and power marketing, estimates the cost of big gas projects has quadrupled over the past few years.

At the conference, it is not unusual to bump into the chief executive of a big gasoline refiner, or come across the Nigerian oil minister. English is the lingua franca, but groups of men in dark-blue business suits speak Russian, Portuguese, Chinese and a dozen other languages

While the big projects provoke the most angst, there is widespread recognition that the small scale—especially around the U.S. shale boom—has had significant impact. The one place where cost inflation wasn't at the forefront of discussions was shale energy development and how it has benefited the U.S. To drill and hydraulically fracture a well in Pennsylvania or North Dakota costs \$10 million, at most.

Tim Probert, an adviser to the chief executive of oil-field services provider Halliburton Co., said the industry has successfully driven down costs in the U.S. Now it needs to "make better wells" that produce more oil and gas.

Everyone wants to "emulate America's shale success," said Sam Laidlaw, chief executive of Centrica, a British energy company. Rising oil and gas production has boosted the economy and is luring petrochemical companies to invest along the U.S. Gulf Coast where raw materials are plentiful and inexpensive.

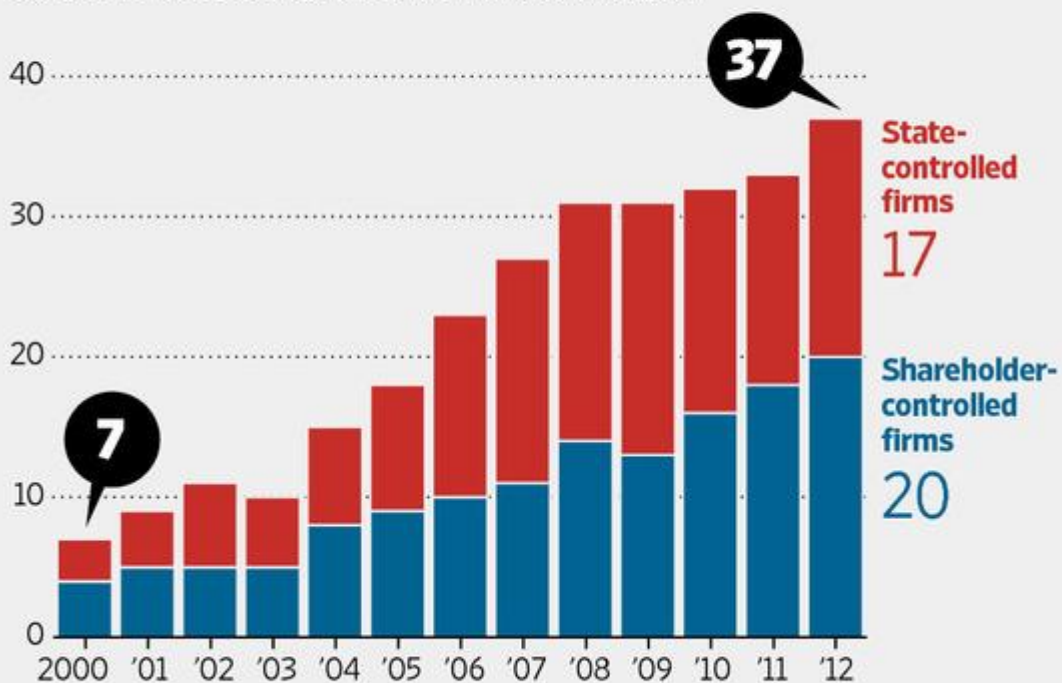
"The U.S. is once again the place to be," said Joe Kaeser, president and CEO of Siemens AG, a German industrial conglomerate, who said cheap energy is leading the manufacturing renaissance.

For an industry still trying to figure out how to do its megaprojects without spending megabillions at a time when energy prices may have plateaued, the best of times may be the most expensive.

"The industry's increasing demand for goods and services around the world caused significant cost escalation," Chevron's Mr. Watson said. "So costs have caught up with energy prices."

Big Oil, Big Costs

The number of companies taking on mega projects that cost \$5 billion or more to build has ballooned, highlighting how expensive it's getting to pump more oil and gas.



Sources: Schlumberger Business Consulting; ConocoPhillips

The Wall Street Journal

2. EPA Takes First Step to Restrict Pebble Mine Project in Alaska

Alaska Mine Could Also Be One of World's Largest Copper Sources

By Alicia Mundy, WSJ, Feb 28, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304026804579411553575928572?mg=reno64-wsj>

The Environmental Protection Agency took the first step Friday to restrict, if not prohibit, the development of Pebble Mine, a proposed open-pit copper and gold mine in Alaska that could be one of the world's largest copper sources.

The EPA said the project poses a serious risk to the salmon fisheries and native tribes in the Bristol Bay area. Administrator Gina McCarthy, in a media call, said the agency is turning to a little-used authority under the Clean Water Act to protect the fisheries, which produce about half the world's wild sockeye salmon.

The EPA was acting, she said, "to ensure protection for the world's most productive salmon fishery from the risks it faces from what could be one of the largest open pit mines on Earth." Under a provision in the law, the EPA can prevent the mining company from getting a government permit if the agency has enough data to show serious environmental dangers.

In January the EPA released the results of a three-year scientific study which Ms. McCarthy said produced "ample reason to believe that the Pebble Mine would likely have significant and irreversible negative impacts" on the Bristol Bay watershed.

The Pebble Limited Partnership, which is leading development of the mining site, said it intends to fight the EPA's move. "We're pretty confident we're going to drive a stake in it," Pebble CEO Tom Collier said in an interview.

The partnership hasn't yet formally applied for a federal permit, he said, adding he believes the EPA "does not have legal authority" to move to block the mine before a permit is issued.

A spokesman for the EPA, Thomas Reynolds, said, "The agency's authority is very clear under the Clean Water Act."

Mr. Collier also criticized the EPA's scientific study, saying its outcome was "predetermined." The company has written to the EPA's Inspector General, requesting an investigation into whether there was "collaboration" between environmental groups and EPA officials to "manipulate the review process" and stop the mine.

Mr. Collier said environmental groups have encouraged native tribes to petition the EPA, which triggered the agency's formal review of Pebble Mine's effect on Bristol Bay.

Mr. Reynolds said, "Every single day, the EPA talks with business, industry, and advocacy groups—it's our business to talk with them." Ms. McCarthy stressed the EPA's process on Pebble Mine is only beginning.

The EPA announcement is one more blow to Vancouver-based Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd. and its roughly \$5 billion project. Northern Dynasty has estimated the copper and gold mine deposits could ultimately be worth between \$300 and \$500 billion.

Last year, in the wake of falling mining commodity prices as well as a campaign by the environmental community against the mine, Northern Dynasty's partner, Anglo American, withdrew from the project. Some international jewelers also said they wouldn't process Pebble minerals.

In December a major investor in Northern Dynasty, the international mining giant Rio Tinto, said it was reviewing its stake in the company. Rio Tinto had received letters from pension-fund managers in California and New York City criticizing the mine proposals because of environmental concerns. Rio Tinto is still conducting its review of strategic assets including Northern Dynasty, said a spokesman for Pebble Mine.

Joel Reynolds, Western Director of the Natural Resources Defense Council, praised the EPA's move. "The science is sound, EPA's legal authority is clear, and the people of Bristol Bay have demanded protection. It's time to say no to Pebble Mine," he said.

3. China Sets Targets to Curb Pollution

By Wayne Ma, WSJ, Mar 4, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304585004579419911740859426?mod=WSJ_Energy_LeftSummaries&mg=reno64-wsj

BEIJING—China on Wednesday provided more details on how it plans to reform some of its tightly regulated resource prices this year and gave hard targets for reducing pollution in 2014.

"The problems of consumption of resources and environmental pollution are prominent," the National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top economic planning agency, said in an annual report. "In particular, smog frequently engulfs large areas of China and seriously affects people's lives and health."

The report was presented to the National People's Congress, which opened on Wednesday.

The NDRC said it would introduce tiered-pricing models for resources that would charge some users higher prices based on the amount they consume.

The tiered model will be used for natural gas and water consumed by residential users and for electricity consumed by industrial users in sectors such as cement and electrolytic aluminum, the commission said.

The NDRC added it would adjust the so-called city-gate price for gas consumed by nonresidential users based on a formula that includes their gas consumption in 2012. The city-gate price is the cost of gas paid to pipeline owners by local gas utilities.

The NDRC added that it would reform the price of electricity transmission and distribution and improve its system for pricing coal to electricity, but didn't provide further details.

Meanwhile, the NDRC also pledged to further cut pollutants this year. The commission will reduce chemical-oxygen demand and ammoniacal nitrogen, indicators of water quality, by 2% in 2014. It also will cut sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emissions, indicators of air quality, by 2% and 5%, respectively, in 2014.

Finally, the NDRC said it would reduce energy consumption per unit of gross domestic product by 3.9% and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP by 4% in 2014.

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