

**The Week That Was: 2014-03-01 (March 1, 2014)**  
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**The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

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**Quote of the Week:** *In this age of specialization men who thoroughly know one field are often incompetent to discuss another.* Richard Feynman. Caltech Lunch Forum, May 2, 1956

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**Number of the Week:** 4 Million

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**Supreme Court:** (From a Federalist Society Podcast)

*“On Monday, February 24, 2014, the Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the highly anticipated greenhouse gas case, Utility Air Regulatory Group v. Environmental Protection Agency. The issue at hand is whether the EPA permissibly determined that its regulation of greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles triggered permitting requirements under the Clean Air Act for stationary sources that emit greenhouse gases. In adopting the regulations now before the Court, the EPA construed specialized provisions of the Clean Air Act designed primarily to regulate a limited number of air pollutants for which the EPA has established “National Ambient Air Quality Standards” to apply to any airborne compound regulated under any provision of the Clean Air Act, including carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. To avoid the costs and administrative burdens that would otherwise result from this interpretation, the EPA purported to alter specific numerical permitting thresholds that Congress had written into the Clean Air Act. Additionally, the EPA claimed the power to make further alterations to these thresholds on an ongoing basis. Our expert offered a summary and his impressions of the oral arguments.”*

Below is SEPP’s summary of Mr. Gasaway’s summary.

The issues addressed were 1) how can the EPA Prevent Significant Deterioration (PSD) of the atmosphere under the Clean Air Act and 2) under what permitting process. On a case by case basis, the number of permits for greenhouse gases (GHG) could include up to 6 million facilities, which would be an absurd result. Without legislative guidance, the EPA raised the threshold of emissions from a facility before it requires permitting under the claim of administrative necessity.

Among the possible outcomes are: 1) clear win for the EPA, 2) clear win for the plaintiffs, court to say no to the EPA, and 3) a middle ground that if a facility needs to apply for a PSD, then it can be regulated for GHG.

[During the arguments, the Justices can interrupt at any time.] The questions asked with presented five major groups. 1) Extreme deference – the issue is so complex that the courts must defer to the expert agency, the EPA. 2) What would Congress do? Exclude CO2 or make exceptions to the strict limits in the law. 3) In the future will the EPA try to reduce dividing line between regulated and unregulated facilities? For what other pollutants will the EPA try to re-write regulations? 4) A major issue is applying a decision that pertained to motor vehicles to stationary facilities. There was no case law for this in the EPA brief. What is the best case law that can apply? 5) If the EPA should lose in part, what is the second-best position for the EPA? (If you don’t win, how would like to lose?)

To the last question, the Solicitor General, representing the EPA, answered in a way that surprised the commentator, Robert Gasaway: separate carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from the five other GHG and regulate it separately.

To Mr. Gasaway, the bottom line for the Solicitor General is that the problem is increasingly urgent, and rapid action is necessary. [SEPP Comment: Climate change is an increasingly urgent problem because global warming has stopped?]

The bottom line for the plaintiffs was two-fold: 1) that even if only large facilities are regulated, the details of the permitting would be a major administrative burden and 2) the re-writing of the statutes by the EPA is a contradiction to the Constitutional concept of separation of powers.

Predictions: None!

Please see links under Litigation Issues.

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**Lowering Standards:** The US National Academy of Science and the Royal Society issued a joint booklet that neatly packages the Climate Establishment's views on climate science. The introduction states: *The Royal Society and the US National Academy of Sciences, with their similar missions to promote the use of science to benefit society and to inform critical policy debates, offer this new publication as a key reference document for decision makers, policy makers, educators, and other individuals seeking authoritative answers about the current state of climate-change science.*

The slick document is framed around 20 questions such as: *Does the recent slowdown of warming mean that climate change is no longer happening?* Notice the combining of warming with climate change. These are two very distinct issues. Humans causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming is one issue. Natural climate change is another. It has been ongoing for hundreds of millions of years, which the document addresses in another section, claiming that the human influence is causing faster warming than observed in the past. The rate of warming in the last part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was not faster than the rate in the early part of the century.

Among the questions that are missing or inadequately answered are: Why did the late 20<sup>th</sup> century warming trend stop; why did the climate models fail to predict the trend would stop; why do the climate models greatly overestimate the warming trend; why is the warming largely limited to the northern part of the Northern Hemisphere, etc.?

Many TWTW readers would object to the discussion on ocean acidification, an emotionally-laden term. *Direct observations of ocean chemistry have shown that the chemical balance of seawater has shifted to a more acidic state (lower pH) (see Figure 7).* Figure 7 gives a pH range of 8.11 to 8.07, and attempts to correlate the decline with CO<sub>2</sub>. A pH of 8.07 is not an acidic state but a less alkaline one.

Except for a question on reducing Arctic sea ice contrasting expanding Antarctic sea ice, the issue of uncertainty is largely ignored and the Report implies great certainty in the climate science as presented by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and others.

The authors of the report are apparently unaware that much of this work has been addressed and found wanting by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC). See links under Lowering Standards and <http://nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2a/ccr2physicalscience.html>  
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**Headed for the Exits?** Major participants in the IPCC, which now declares 95% certainty in its work, are falling over themselves in publishing excuses why the climate models are failing. One of the latest was a paper by Ben Santer, Susan Solomon, Gavin Schmidt, and others published, in Nature Geoscience. They added changes in the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and volcanoes to the mix for a post-hoc try to explain failing climate models. If ENSO is an important variable in natural climate change, then sensitivity of the earth to increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide may be greatly overestimated.

The addition of recent volcanos is far from compelling because there have been no major, recent eruptions similar to Pinatubo in 1991, when the volcanic influence could be observed. TWTW reader Clyde Spencer observed: “Strangely, there is no baseline cited for this study to verify that the volcanic aerosols for the period of study are higher than in the recent past, thus explaining the hiatus in strong warming. Again, models are relied upon for explanation.”

An observation by David Whitehouse on the graphs presented in the paper is particularly amusing. With removal of the influence of El Nino and El Chichon and Pinatubo from the temperature data “one sees that the lower atmosphere shows a standstill since 1993, that is 20 years! This is in itself a remarkable graph extending the ‘pause’ into the start of its third decade.”

In attempting to explain why the climate models are failing, the authors are undermining the work of the IPCC and the expressed 95% certainty in that work, in which they participated.

Andrew Montford draws attention to another paper just published by Gavin Schmidt, et al., that the failure of the earth to warm is one “incredible, *incredible* coincidence.” From the preview: *Climate models projected stronger warming over the past 15 years than has been seen in observations. Conspiring factors of errors in volcanic and solar inputs, representations of aerosols, and El Niño evolution, may explain most of the discrepancy.* See links under Un-Science or Non-Science?

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**Feynman is Right:** On February 23, string theorist Michio Kaku publically insulted global warming skeptics on CNN. He stated: “*They also read a lot but then they put it in an ideological context and they see everything through this lens and they don't do the homework. They don't do the computer programs. They don't critique the mathematics. ...And so for us there's nothing to debate. We cannot debate them, because they have no programs, no data, no formulas. There's nothing but ideology.*”

Contrary to Kaku’s claims, the issues are that the climate models are failing; the climate programs are failing; and the formulas are failing; when tested against the data – physical observations. It is unfortunate that a popular physicist speaks out against other scientists without understanding the issues involved. The only “ideology” skeptics embrace is that physical science be based on observations of the physical world. See link under Defending the Orthodoxy.  
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**Social Cost-Benefits of Carbon:** Apparently, because US government agencies failed to file proposed regulations in the Federal Register, as required by law, until the deadline for comments on these regulations were due, the deadline was extended to February 27, 2014. Although Fred

Singer and Ken Haapala had made individual filings, SEPP joined CEI in its comprehensive filing objecting to US government calculations of the so-called Social Cost of Carbon (SCC), which really refers to carbon dioxide emissions. Attorney Francis Menton wrote solid commentary, which emphasized EPA's imploding science. Anthony Watts posted it on WUWT.

The entire affair reflects poorly on the Department of Agriculture (DOA), whose scientists help make US agriculture the envy of the world. DOA is one of the 11 government entities devising the highly questionable concept of SCC and participated in the Technical Support Document. As presented in that document, the benefits of enhanced atmospheric CO2 are calculated in some way as part of the FUND model, along with rate of temperature change and level of temperature anomaly. This is nonsense!

The NIPCC studies present a great body of work, over 5,000 laboratory and field studies, demonstrating that an atmosphere with enhanced CO2 is of great benefit for virtually all forms of plant life, especially food crops. Many of these studies include a wide range of CO2 concentrations and show increased plant response to increasing CO2 concentrations. The benefits to agriculture are well known and plant nurseries increase CO2 concentrations in their greenhouses. Yet, this empirical evidence is ignored in favor of some computer model of questionable validity.

The Department of Agriculture should be capable of calculating the enormous economic benefits of CO2 enhancement. A lone researcher has, Craig Idso. It is obvious that the SCC is a politically manipulated concept that fails to recognize that carbon dioxide is essential for all green plants; thus, for humanity. See links under Social (Costs?) of Carbon and <http://co2science.org/education/reports/co2benefits/co2benefits.php>

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**CCS:** The heads of the EPA and the Department of Energy have adamantly declared in public that the Administration is not in a War against Coal and facilities for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) are commercially available. These facilities would be needed to build new coal-fired power plants under the proposed CO2 regulations for new power plants. On February 10, 2014, the Congressional Research Service released a report stating: *"To date, there are no commercial ventures in the United States that capture, transport, and inject large quantities of CO2 (e.g., 1 million tons per year or more) solely for the purposes of carbon sequestration."* See link under Carbon Schemes.

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**Oh Mann!** Mr. Mann's litigation claiming others libeled him is having considerable difficulty in the form of Steve McIntyre. McIntyre wrote: *Integral to Mann's litigation are representations that he was "investigated" by 6-9 investigations, all of which supposedly gave him "exonerations" on wide-ranging counts, including "scientific misconduct", "fraud", "academic fraud", "data falsification", "statistical manipulation", "manipulation of data" and even supposed findings that his work was "properly conducted and [sic] fairly presented". Mann also represented that these investigations were widely covered in international and national media and thus known to Steyn and the other defendants.*

McIntyre is in round five of his series challenging Mr. Mann's court filings – an investigation by NOAA Office of the Inspector General OIG and shows that *"Mann's pleadings misrepresented the findings of this investigation both through grossly selective quotation and mis-statement."*

All this effort prompts two questions regarding Mr. Mann's attorneys. One, who is paying them? Two, to protect themselves from possible libel, should they hire McIntyre to review any future court filings? See links under Oh Mann!

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**Additions and Corrections:** Last week TWTW erroneously gave Bernie Lewin credit for uncovering the source of the iconic graph of temperature trends of 1000 years that appeared in the first IPCC Assessment Report. Lewin immediately informed TWTW that the credit for uncovering the source of the graph goes to Steve McIntyre.

Last week TWTW linked to an article in WUWT on levelized costs for new generation contained in the EIA Annual Energy Outlook 2013. In discussing the January 2013 report when it came out, TWTW stated that it finds EIA work to be of high quality but the capacity factors assigned to Non-Dispatchable Technologies appear too high. Their capacity factor for wind is 34%, for off-shore wind is 37%, solar PV 25%, and solar thermal 20%. It is increasingly clear that on-shore wind should be no more than 30%, probably less, and solar PV is too high as well. The available data of wind-offshore is not sufficient for arriving at a capacity factor, and solar thermal is speculation. See links

<http://climateaudit.org/2008/05/09/where-did-ipcc-1990-figure-7c-come-from-httpwwwclimateauditorgp3072previewtrue/>

and

[http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aeo/electricity\\_generation.cfm](http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aeo/electricity_generation.cfm)

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**Number of the Week:** 4 Million manufacturing jobs LOST. According to the EUObserver "The EU's manufacturing sector has been in steady decline for the past 20 years and now accounts for just 15 percent of economic output. Meanwhile, 4 million manufacturing jobs across Europe have been lost since 2008, according to the European Commission's latest figures." These 4 million jobs are not coming back with ever higher energy costs, particularly in electricity. Yet, the US Administration uses EU countries with the highest electricity costs as its example to follow.

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### **ARTICLES:**

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

#### **1. The Kerry Climate Capers**

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 26, 2014

[http://americanthinker.com/2014/02/the\\_kerry\\_climate\\_capers.html](http://americanthinker.com/2014/02/the_kerry_climate_capers.html)

#### **2. Bullying Is A National Disgrace But National Policy**

By Charles Battig, M.D., Virginia Free Citizen, Feb 25, 2014

<http://virginiafreecitizen.com/2014/02/25/bullying-national-disgrace-national-policy/>

#### **3. The 'Absurd Results' Power Grab**

Can the EPA simply rewrite a law to suit its policy goals?

Editorial, WSJ, Feb 23, 2014

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304914204579397003756191282?mod=I\\_TP\\_opinion\\_2&mg=reno64-wsj](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304914204579397003756191282?mod=I_TP_opinion_2&mg=reno64-wsj)

#### **4. Jenkins: Personal Score-Settling Is the New Climate Agenda**

The cause of global carbon regulation may be lost, but enemies still can be punished.

By Holman Jenkins, WSJ, Feb 28, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304026804579411021545493020?>

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## **NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

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

#### **Watch the Sun**

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Feb 28, 2014

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/02/28/watch-the-sun/>

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

#### **Volcanoes And The 'Pause'**

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Feb 27, 2014

<http://www.thegwgf.org/volcanoes-20-year-pause/>

Link to paper: Volcanic contribution to decadal changes in tropospheric temperature

By Santer, et al., Nature Geoscience, Feb 23, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo2098.html>

### **More Evidence for a Low Climate Sensitivity**

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, WUWT, Feb 28, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/28/more-evidence-for-a-low-climate-sensitivity/>

### **Global Cooling**

By Gerrit J. van der Lingen, SPPI, Feb 27, 2014

[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/global\\_cooling.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/global_cooling.html)

Link to paper: Title, author, and date as above

[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/global\\_cooling.pdf](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/global_cooling.pdf)

### **Let's Be Very Clear Mr. Kerry: No Scientific Evidence Of 'Dangerous' Human Climate Influence Exists**

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Feb 24, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2014/02/24/lets-be-very-clear-mr-kerry-no-scientific-evidence-of-dangerous-human-climate-influence-exists/>

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

#### **Climate change is not debateable**

Michio Kaku, Transcript by Staff Writers, CNN, Feb 23, 2014 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://cnnpressroom.blogs.cnn.com/2014/02/23/climate-change-is-not-debateable/>

### **Climate warrior ramps it up**

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 24, 2014

<http://thehill.com/business-a-lobbying/lobbyist-profiles/199107-climate-warrior-ramps-it-up>

[SEPP Comment: Apparently, Senator Whitehouse from Rhode Island never learned about the hurricane of 1938, one of the most destructive to hit southern New England. "Downtown Providence, Rhode Island was submerged under a storm tide of nearly 20 feet."

<http://www.weather.gov/box/1938hurricane/>

### **Climate change: Is it time for international agreements to recognize national laws?**

By Ed Markey, John Gummer and Cedric Frolick, CNN, Feb 27, 2014

[http://www.cnn.com/2014/02/27/opinion/climate-change-international-opinion/index.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+rss%2F+cnn\\_latest+%28RSS%3A+Most+Recent%29](http://www.cnn.com/2014/02/27/opinion/climate-change-international-opinion/index.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+rss%2F+cnn_latest+%28RSS%3A+Most+Recent%29)

### ***Questioning the Orthodoxy***

#### **EPA Evidence on Warming Far From Conclusive**

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Feb 28, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/EPA-Evidence-Warming-Conclusive/2014/02/28/id/555356>

#### **97% of pictures are worth 1000 climate words**

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Feb 26, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/26/97-of-pictures-are-worth-1000-climate-words/>

#### **Some Like It Hot**

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Feb 28, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/some-it-hot>

#### **Money Dictates Kerry's Climate Stance**

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Feb 24, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Kerry-Climate-Keystone-China/2014/02/24/id/554373>

#### **The climate question: Alarmists in panic**

Editorial, The Tribune-Review, Pittsburgh, PA, Feb 23, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://triblive.com/opinion/editorials/5618234-74/climate-alarmists-consensus#axzz2u9jrpyMO>

The flat 15-year trend falsifies “the greenhouse climate models, all of which predict a strong future warming.” Yet governments base climate policy on those models, Mr. Singer writes.

#### **Don't Believe The President's Climate Change Hype**

By Paul Driessen, IBD, Feb 26, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-perspective/022614-691355-climate-change-is-a-fact.htm>

#### **EPA: Carbon emissions reduction has little impact on climate change**

By Davy Boyer, Washington Times, Feb 24, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/feb/24/epa-carbon-emissions-reduction-has-little-impact-o/>

#### **Greenpeace Co-Founder Tells Truth About Climate Change**

Editorial, IBD, Feb 27, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/022714-691587-greenpeace-co-founder-says-no-evidence-of-global-warming.htm>

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

#### **The Interaction of CO<sub>2</sub> and Non-Ozone Air Pollutants on Plant Growth**

By Staff Writers, SPPI, Feb 28, 2014

[http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/the\\_interaction\\_of\\_c02\\_and\\_non\\_ozone\\_air\\_pollutants\\_on\\_plant\\_growth.html](http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/the_interaction_of_c02_and_non_ozone_air_pollutants_on_plant_growth.html)

Link to paper: The Interaction of CO<sub>2</sub> and Non-Ozone Air Pollutants on Plant Growth

Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, Feb 26, 2014

<http://www.co2science.org/subject/g/summaries/growthotherpollutants.php>

### ***Social (Costs?) of Carbon***

**A look at the behind the scenes legal battle with the EPA over the ‘social cost of carbon’ and looming carbon tax**

By Francis Menton, WUWT, Feb 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/24/a-look-at-the-behind-the-scenes-legal-battle-with-the-epa-over-the-social-cost-of-carbon-and-looming-carbon-tax/>

**CEI Comment Letter to Office of Management and Budget, Technical Support Document on Social Cost of Carbon**

By Marlo Lewis and CEI Staff, February 26, 2014

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/209635466/CEI-Comment-Letter-to-Office-of-Management-and-Budget-Technical-Support-Documents-on-Social-Cost-of-Carbon-February-26-2014-1>

**Menace to Society: Commentary on the Social Cost of Carbon**

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Feb 27, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/02/27/menace-to-society-commentary-on-the-social-cost-of-carbon/>

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

**An Impasse on Climate Change**

By Gary Libecap, Defining Ideas, Jan 15, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.hoover.org/publications/defining-ideas/article/165756>

*[SEPP Comment: A lengthy post on why the international efforts to regulate carbon dioxide emissions are failing.]*

**Spiegel On 15-Year Pause: “Biggest Mystery In Climate Science” ... Scientists Caught With Their Pants Down**

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 28, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/28/spiegel-on-15-year-pause-biggest-mystery-in-climate-science-scientists-caught-with-their-pants-down/>

**Mexico, China led on climate action in 2013**

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 27, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/199420-mexico-china-led-on-climate-action-in-2013>

*[SEPP Comment: Governments punishing the public for government-created fears. No link to study.]*

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

**A question of balance**

By Martin Livermore, The Scientific Alliance, Feb 28, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/question-balance>

**A case of the vapours: source of ‘climate-active’ organic aerosol particles pinned down**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 26, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/26/a-case-of-the-vapours-source-of-climate-active-organic-aerosol-particles-pinned-down/>

Link to paper: A large source of low-volatility secondary organic aerosols, Mikael Ehn et al; Nature 506, DOI: 1038/nature13032, Feb 26, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v506/n7489/full/nature13032.html>

[SEPP Comment: For years, environmental groups in the US have been claiming the organic aerosol particles creating the haze in mountains came from automobiles.]

### **Where is the National Weather Service's New Supercomputer?**

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Feb 25, 2014

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2014/02/where-is-national-weather-services-new.html>

[SEPP Comment: Incompetence.]

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

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

### **Errant CMIP5 Modelling of South American Tropical Precipitation**

Reference: Yin, L., Fu, R., Shevliakova, E. and Dickinson, R.E. 2013. How well can CMIP5 simulate precipitation and its controlling processes over tropical South America? *Climate Dynamics* 41: 3127-3143.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/feb/25feb2014a3.html>

### **Reef-Building Corals Acclimating to Elevated Water Temperatures**

Reference: Mayfield, A.B., Fan, T.-Y. and Chen, C.-S. 2013. Physiological acclimation to elevated temperature in a reef-building coral from an upwelling environment. *Coral Reefs* 32: 909-921.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/feb/25feb2014a4.html>

### **Longwave Feedbacks in Climate Models**

Reference: Huang, Y. 2013. On the longwave climate feedbacks. *Journal of Climate* 26: 7603-7610.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/feb/26feb2014a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: Cannot agree if the effect is positive or negative.]

### **Plant Responses to Very Low Atmospheric CO2 Concentrations**

Reference: Temme, A.A., Cornwell, W.K., Cornelissen, J.H.C. and Aerts, R. 2013. Meta-analysis reveals profound responses of plant traits to glacial CO2 levels. *Ecology and Evolution* 3: 4525-4535.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2014/feb/26feb2014a3.html>

### **Models v. Observations**

#### **Government Weather and Climate Forecasts Are Failures.**

By Tim Ball, A Different Perspective, Feb 25, 2014

<http://drtimball.com/2014/government-weather-and-climate-forecasts-are-failures/>

[SEPP Comment: An amusing essay on historical forecasting and why forecasting has not improve in 2300 years.]

### **Met Office defends its forecasting**

By Marcus Denby, Western Daily Press, Feb 23, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.westerndailynews.co.uk/Met-Office-defends-forecasting/story-20681647-detail/story.html>

[SEPP Comment: The Met's cutting edge science is rusting.]

### **Measurement Issues**

#### **3 Days till Launch of the Global Precipitation Mission (GPM) Core Observatory**

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Feb 24, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/02/3-days-till-launch-of-the-global-precipitation-mission-gpm-core-observatory/>

*[SEPP Comment: The satellite is in orbit. Hopefully, it will give accurate information on precipitation, so needed to understand how much water vapor is accumulating the atmosphere.]*

### **Changing Weather**

#### **Top 5 coldest and snowiest Winters for many, especially in the North Central**

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP Mar 1, 2014

[http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/top\\_5\\_coldest\\_and\\_snowiest\\_winters\\_for\\_many\\_especially\\_in\\_the\\_north\\_central/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/top_5_coldest_and_snowiest_winters_for_many_especially_in_the_north_central/)

Meteorological winter ended with a flourish in the north [central] with record temperatures and extreme wind chills. The winter in this region has ranked among the great winters historically including the three in the late 1970s, 1916/17-1917/18 and 1894/95.

*[SEPP Comment: The central Mid-West and East Coast are preparing for a “spring” storm with snowfall in Washington forecast to be 6 to 10 inches (15 to 25 cm) and a low Monday night of 8°F (-13°C)]*

#### **‘Pineapple Express’ pattern for drought stricken California is shaping up – how long will it last?**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 28, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/28/pineapple-express-pattern-for-drought-stricken-california-is-shaping-up-how-long-will-it-last/>

#### **U. lecturer argues global warming doesn't cause polar vortex**

By Elizabeth Paul, Princetonian, Feb 19, 2014 [H/t Roger Cohen]

<http://dailyprincetonian.com/news/2014/02/u-lecturer-argues-global-warming-doesnt-cause-polar-vortex/>

*[SEPP Comment: It has been around since the earth had an atmosphere and rotated on its axis.]*

### **Changing Climate**

#### **Decline of Bronze Age ‘megacities’ linked to climate change**

By Staff Writers, U. of Cambridge, Feb 27, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/decline-of-bronze-age-megacities-linked-to-climate-change>

*[SEPP Comment: Suggested decades ago by human-caused global warming skeptic H.H. Lamb. He suggested the shift in the monsoons was a result of cooling (at least in the Northern Hemisphere) from the Holocene Climate Optimum – totally unrelated to CO2.]*

### **Changing Seas**

#### **The island that 'grew back': Pacific isle that disappeared after devastating typhoon reappears 100 years after its destruction**

By Sarah Griffiths, Mail, UK, Feb 21, 2014

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2564730/The-island-grew-Pacific-isle-disappeared-devastating-typhoon-reappears-100-years-destruction.html>

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

#### **Current ice melt rate in Pine Island Glacier may go on for decades**

By Anne M Stark for LLNL News, Livermore CA (SPX), Feb 25, 2014

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Current\\_ice\\_melt\\_rate\\_in\\_Pine\\_Island\\_Glacier\\_may\\_go\\_on\\_for\\_decades\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Current_ice_melt_rate_in_Pine_Island_Glacier_may_go_on_for_decades_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: It did 8,000 years ago. Something other than CO2 is involved.]

### ***Changing Earth***

#### **Coast Of Wales: Recent Storm Uncovers Ancient Forest That Was Under Sea Water 4500 Years Ago**

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 25, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/25/coast-of-wales-recent-storm-uncovers-ancient-forest-that-was-under-sea-water-4500-years-ago/>

[SEPP Comment: The uplift or subsidence of the region may be more important than global sea levels, which rose quickly as the ice age glaciers melted starting about 18,000 years ago and have been rising slowly for about 3,000 years.]

#### **Volcanoes, including Mount Hood in the US, can quickly become active**

Magma stored for thousands of years can erupt in as little as two months

Press Release by Staff Writers, NSF, Feb 18, 2014

[http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=130334](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=130334)

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

#### **Our Farmers Get An A+ For Low Pesticide Residues**

By Steve Savage, Science 2.0, Feb 24, 2014 [H/t ACSH]

[http://www.science20.com/agricultural\\_realism/our\\_farmers\\_get\\_low\\_pesticide\\_residues-130344](http://www.science20.com/agricultural_realism/our_farmers_get_low_pesticide_residues-130344)

#### **Better livestock diets to combat climate change and improve food security**

By Staff Writers, Vienna, Austria (SPX), Feb 28, 2014

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Better\\_livestock\\_diets\\_to\\_combat\\_climate\\_change\\_and\\_improve\\_food\\_security\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Better_livestock_diets_to_combat_climate_change_and_improve_food_security_999.html)

Link to paper: Climate change mitigation through livestock system transitions

By Petr Havlik, et al, Feb 24, 2014

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/02/19/1308044111>

#### **China's smog suffocating agriculture?**

By Staff Writers, Beijing (UPI), Feb 26, 2013

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Chinas\\_smog\\_suffocating\\_agriculture\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Chinas_smog_suffocating_agriculture_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: China must address real pollution as the developed countries did.]

### ***Un-Science or Non-Science?***

#### **Volcanoes And The 'Pause'**

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Feb 27, 2014

<http://www.thegwgf.org/volcanoes-20-year-pause/>

Link to paper: Volcanic contribution to decadal changes in tropospheric temperature

By Santer, et al., Nature Geoscience, Feb 23, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo2098.html>

#### **The mind-boggling coincidence hypothesis**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 27, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/2/27/the-mind-boggling-coincidence-hypothesis.html>

Link to paper: Reconciling warming trends

By Gavin A. Schmidt, Drew T. Shindell & Kostas Tsigaridis, Nature Geoscience, Feb 27, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v7/n3/full/ngeo2105.html>

### **Increase in Arctic Cyclones is Linked to Climate Change**

By Staff Writers, Sydney, Australia, (SPX) Feb 24, 2014

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Increase\\_in\\_Arctic\\_Cyclones\\_is\\_Linked\\_to\\_Climate\\_Change\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Increase_in_Arctic_Cyclones_is_Linked_to_Climate_Change_999.html)

A new study in Geophysical Research Letters uses historical **climate model simulations** to demonstrate that there has been an Arctic-wide decrease in sea level pressure since the 1800's. [Boldface added.]

### **Study projects big thaw for Antarctic sea ice**

Posted by Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 27, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/27/study-projects-big-thaw-for-antarctic-sea-ice/>

### **Unstable Atlantic deep ocean circulation under future climate conditions**

By Staff Writers, Bergen, Norway (SPX), Feb 28, 2014

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/Unstable\\_Atlantic\\_deep\\_ocean\\_circulation\\_under\\_future\\_climate\\_conditions\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/Unstable_Atlantic_deep_ocean_circulation_under_future_climate_conditions_999.html)

### ***Lowering Standards***

#### **Scientists More Certain Than Ever on Climate Change, Report Says**

By John Roach, NBC News, Feb 26, 2014

<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/scientists-more-certain-ever-climate-change-report-says-n39661>

Link to the report: Climate Change: Evidence and Causes

An overview from the Royal Society and the US National Academies of Sciences

Signed by Ralph Cicerone and Paul Nurse, No Date

<http://dels.nas.edu/resources/static-assets/exec-office-other/climate-change-full.pdf>

#### **NAS/RS Report on Climate Change: Evidence and Causes**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Feb 27, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/02/27/nasrs-report-on-climate-change-evidence-and-causes/>

#### **Bovver boys in pinstripes**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 27, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/2/27/bovver-boys-in-pinstripes.html>

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

#### **UNSW climate scientists shift goal posts, publish irrelevant “extreme hot days” trend**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Mar 1, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/03/unsw-climate-scientists-shift-goal-posts-publish-irrelevant-extreme-hot-days-trend/#more-34069>

[SEPP Comment: Desperately seeking cover.]

#### **China's Plan To Clean Up Air In Cities Will Doom The Climate, Green Campaigners Warn**

By William Kelly, InsideClimate News, Via GWPF, Feb 26, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/chinas-plan-clean-air-cities-doom-climate-green-campaigners-warn/>

## **Climate Alarmists Never Called Out For Spreading Fear**

Editorial, IBD, Feb 25, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

[http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/022514-691193-hold-global-warming-climate-change-  
alarmist-accountable.htm?p=full](http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/022514-691193-hold-global-warming-climate-change-alarmist-accountable.htm?p=full)

*[SEPP Comment: Could it be that fear invokes public concern, reported by the press, while reason does not invoke fear and is not reported?]*

## **Scientist communicators**

Editorial, Nature Climate Change, Feb 26, 2014 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/v4/n3/full/nclimate2167.html>

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

### **Kerry doubles down on climate change**

By Julian Pecquet, The Hill, Feb 26, 2014

[http://thehill.com/blogs/global-affairs/global-trade-economy/199323-kerry-doubles-down-on-  
climate-change-threat](http://thehill.com/blogs/global-affairs/global-trade-economy/199323-kerry-doubles-down-on-climate-change-threat)

## **A large part of Europe could be flooded by the middle of the century**

By Estelle Winters, Moscow (Voice of Russia), Feb 28, 2014

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/A\\_large\\_part\\_of\\_Europe\\_could\\_be\\_flooded\\_by\\_the\\_middle\\_of  
the\\_century\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/A_large_part_of_Europe_could_be_flooded_by_the_middle_of_the_century_999.html)

## **Al Gore brings climate change message to Kansas City**

By Brian Burnes, Kansas City Star, Feb 22, 2014

<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/02/22/4843012/al-gore-brings-climate-change.html>

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

### **Hypocrisy at the Anti-Defamation League?**

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Feb 26, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/02/hypocrisy-at-the-anti-defamation-league/>

## **Skeptics Smearred As Holocaust Deniers, ADL Silent**

By Staff Writers, Popular Technology, Feb 28, 2014

<http://www.populartechnology.net/2014/02/skeptics-smearred-as-holocaust-deniers.html>

*[SEPP Comment: 28 individuals equating human-cause global warming with Holocaust denial.]*

## **Gestapo-like ADL raid on Roy Spencer**

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Feb 27, 2014

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/02/gestapo-like-adl-raid-on-roy-spencer.html#more>

*[SEPP Comment: A powerful, somewhat lengthy essay pointing out that the crimes of Nazism were not limited to one ethnic group, but distorted and damaged “all aspects of human and social life.”]*

## **Anti Defamation League Gone Intellectually AWOL... Totally Oblivious To Deluge Of Defamation Poured Onto Climate Science Skeptics**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 27, 2014

[http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/27/anti-defamation-league-gone-intellectually-awol-totally-  
oblivious-to-deluge-of-defamation-poured-onto-climate-science-skeptics/](http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/27/anti-defamation-league-gone-intellectually-awol-totally-oblivious-to-deluge-of-defamation-poured-onto-climate-science-skeptics/)

## **The Merchants of Smear**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 24, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/24/the-merchants-of-smear/>

## ***Questioning European Green***

### **137 CEOs From Europe's Manufacturing Industry Call For New EU Energy & Climate Strategy**

IFIEC Europe press release, GWPF, Feb 27, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/137-ceos-europes-manufacturing-industry-call-eu-energy-climate-strategy/>

### **All Pain And No Climate Gain ... Expert Government Committee Recommends "Complete Scrapping" Of Feed-In Act!**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 26, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/26/all-pain-and-no-climate-gain-expert-government-committee-recommends-complete-scrapping-of-feed-in-act/>

*[SEPP Comment: Another in a series of reports that the Germany's Green Experiment has produced bitter results.]*

## ***Questioning Green Elsewhere***

### **Crushing People Into Tight Housing Won't Cut CO2 Levels**

By Lawrence McQuillan, IBD, Feb 26, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-viewpoint/022614-691354-high-density-housing-wont-cut-greenhouse-gas.htm>

## ***Green Jobs***

### **Clean energy utopia would be a job-killer**

By Charles Battig, Letter, Richmond Times Dispatch. Feb 23, 2014

[http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor/article\\_38ef1bf0-8716-5212-865a-16021490c986.html](http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor/article_38ef1bf0-8716-5212-865a-16021490c986.html)

## ***Non-Green Jobs***

### **EU summit to focus on industry rather than climate-draft**

By Barbara Lewis, Reuters, Feb 28, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/02/28/eu-climate-industry-idUKL6N0LX3QS20140228>

## ***The Political Games Continue***

### **Cold snap prompts wave of energy bills [legislation]**

By Pete Kasperowicz, The Hill, Feb 28, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/energy-environment/199575-cold-snap-prompts-wave-of-energy-bills>

### **Vitter Accuses Inspector General of Providing Cover for EPA in Investigation**

"Remarkably, in conducting its investigation of EPA email practices, the OIG never examined, in any way, actual staff emails."

By Bill Straub, PJ Media, Feb 26, 2014

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/vitter-accuses-inspector-general-of-providing-cover-for-epa-in-investigation/>

### ***Litigation Issues***

#### **Court to Rule on Greenhouse Gases - Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA – Podcast**

By Robert Gasaway, Environmental Law & Property Rights and Litigation Practice Groups  
Podcast, Feb 25, 2014, 45:33 minutes [H/t James Wallace]

<http://www.fed-soc.org/publications/detail/court-to-rule-on-greenhouse-gases-utility-air-regulatory-group-v-epa-podcast>

#### **Justice Kennedy skeptical of EPA's powers**

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 24, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/199079-justice-kennedy-skeptical-of-epas-powers>

#### **'King' Obama's EPA Likely To Be Weaker After High Court Ruling**

By Dana Milbank, IBD, Feb 25, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-on-the-left/022514-691162-epas-authority-likely-to-be-reduced-by-supreme-court.htm>

From a Washington Post reporter

[Justice] Breyer was delighted. "I'm not a net emitter of carbon dioxide," he declared. "That means I'm a part of sustainable development."

#### **Supreme Court takes on greenhouse gas emissions case**

By Sean Lengell, Washington Examiner, Feb 24, 2014

[http://washingtonexaminer.com/supreme-court-takes-on-greenhouse-gas-emissions-case/article/2544536?utm\\_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20Reoccurring%20-%2002/25/2014&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today](http://washingtonexaminer.com/supreme-court-takes-on-greenhouse-gas-emissions-case/article/2544536?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20Reoccurring%20-%2002/25/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today)

#### **Obama's Climate-Change Policy Questioned at Supreme Court**

By Greg Stohr and Mark Drajem, Bloomberg, Feb 24, 2014

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-02-24/obama-s-climate-change-policy-questioned-at-u-dot-s-dot-high-court-1>

#### **Supreme Court weighs EPA powers on clean air**

Greenhouse gas rules probed

By Stephen Dinan, Washington Times, Feb 24, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/feb/24/supreme-court-weighs-epa-powers-on-clean-air/>

#### **EU's Highest Court Rules Spain Fuel Tax is Unlawful**

Spain May Have to Refund as Much as €13 Billion to End-Users

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304709904579408523787730610?mod=WSJ\\_business\\_IndustryNews\\_DLW&mg=reno64-wsj](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304709904579408523787730610?mod=WSJ_business_IndustryNews_DLW&mg=reno64-wsj)

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

#### **Merkel Advisers Urge Germany to End Clean-Energy Subsidy Program**

By Stefan Nicola, Bloomberg, Feb 26, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-02-26/merkel-advisers-urge-germany-to-end-clean-energy-subsidy-program.html>

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

#### **EPA says 'coal is in energy mix'**

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Feb 28, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/199630-epa-says-coal-is-in-energy-mix>

#### **DOE rolls out new standards for commercial refrigerators**

By Ben Goad, The Hill, Feb 28, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/199583-doe-rolls-out-new-standards-for-commercial-refrigerators>

*[SEPP Comment: No mention of costs. As seen in DOE's participation of the calculations of the SCC, the costs of these actions may be imaginary numbers.]*

#### **The Environmental Protection Agency's Breathtakingly Lawless Attempt To Regulate Greenhouse Gases**

By Marlo Lewis, Forbes, Feb 25, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/realspin/2014/02/25/the-environmental-protection-agencys-breathtakingly-lawless-attempt-to-regulate-greenhouse-gases/>

#### **Emails: Another top EPA official used private email account to aid environmentalists**

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Feb 24, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/02/24/emails-another-top-epa-official-used-private-email-account-to-aid-environmentalists/>

#### **NRDC's Reynolds discusses lobbying battle following release of EPA's watershed assessment**

Transcript by Staff, EETV, Feb 26, 2014

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1790/transcript>

*[SEPP Comment: EPA made regulations as desired by the environmental groups, were private email accounts while conducting government business involved?]*

#### **Honeycutt: Proposed ozone standards are based on contradictions**

By Michael Honeycutt, Houston Chronicle, Feb 22, 2014 [H/t Gordon Fulks]

<http://www.chron.com/opinion/outlook/article/Honeycutt-Proposed-ozone-standards-are-based-on-5258662.php>

### ***Energy Issues – Non-US***

#### **Climate policy robs the world's poor of their hopes**

We need technologies that work in the US and in Pakistan, say Roger Pielke and Daniel Sarewitz

By Roger Pielke and Daniel Sarewitz, Financial Times, Feb 26, 2014

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/fe4fc7ec-9ee2-11e3-8663-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=intl#axzz2ulbEnu7D>

#### **Germans told of billions lost to trade due to energy policy**

By Jeevan Vasagar, Financial Times, Feb 26, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/352dfaf4-9efc-11e3-8663-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=intl#axzz2uZ3MECjK>

#### **Industry bosses demand EU action on soaring energy prices**

By Benjamin Fox, EUobserver, Feb 28, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://euobserver.com/news/123305>

### **17% Of All German Households Now In Energy Poverty! Spiegel Writes Of An “Energy Cost Explosion”!**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 24, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/24/17-of-all-german-households-now-in-energy-poverty-spiegel-writes-of-an-an-energy-cost-explosion/>

### **BASF to focus investments outside Europe**

By Chris Bryant, Financial Times, Feb 25, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/c0c9b448-9e2c-11e3-95fe-00144feab7de.html?siteedition=intl#axzz2uNUPp9Sa>

### **Shifting energy trends blunt Russia’s natural-gas weapon**

By Steven Mufson, Washington Post, Feb 28, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/shifting-energy-trends-blunt-russias-natural-gas-weapon/2014/02/28/7d090062-9ef7-11e3-a050-dc3322a94fa7\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/shifting-energy-trends-blunt-russias-natural-gas-weapon/2014/02/28/7d090062-9ef7-11e3-a050-dc3322a94fa7_story.html)

Also see GWPF for clear graphs:

<http://www.thegwpf.org/ukraine-crisis-shale-revolution-blunts-russias-natural-gas-weapon/>

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

#### **Maintaining the Advantage: Why the U.S. Should Not Follow the EU’s Energy Policies**

By Robert Bryce, Manhattan Institute, Feb 13, 2014 [H/t NCPA]

[http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/eper\\_13.htm#Uw4VP\\_ldXCu](http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/eper_13.htm#Uw4VP_ldXCu)

#### **Energy Realism Amid Climate Alarmism: James Hansen Rides Again**

By Robert Bradley Jr. Master Resource, Feb 25, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/02/energy-reaslism-amid-climate-alarmism-james-hansen-rides-again/#more-29722>

“People who entreat the government to solve global warming but offer support only for renewable energies will be rewarded with [a fossil-fuel world]. Quote from Jim Hansen

### ***Washington’s Control of Energy***

#### **Critics take aim at upcoming federal report on Atlantic drilling**

By Jennifer Dlouhy, Houston Chronicle, Feb 26, 2014

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/02/26/critics-take-aim-at-upcoming-federal-report-on-atlantic-drilling/>

#### **Keystone: Environmentalists Suddenly Rediscover Property Rights**

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Feb 27, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/02/keystone-environmentalists-suddenly-rediscover-property-rights.php>

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

#### **Dream of US oil independence slams against shale costs**

By Asjlyln Loder, Bloomberg, Feb 27, 2014

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/02/27/dream-of-us-oil-independence-slams-against-shale-costs/>

“To sustain in the short term, the U.S. needs prices at \$65 a barrel,” Maugeri said. “That’s a critical level. Below that level, many opportunities will vanish.”

*[SEPP Comment: There is no question oil from shale is more expensive to produce than oil from the fields in the Mid-East. This article does not discuss two important considerations. One, the success rates are much higher than traditional success rates in the US. Two, after the fast initial drop-off, the wells continue to produce, and it appears that they will produce for a long time. World market prices will determine if the drilling boom continues.]*

### **Boundless Natural Gas, Boundless Opportunities**

By James Stafford of Oilprice.com, Washington DC (SPX) Feb 28, 2014

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Boundless\\_Natural\\_Gas\\_Boundless\\_Opportunities\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Boundless_Natural_Gas_Boundless_Opportunities_999.html)

### **China To Beat Shale Gas Production Target, Report Says**

By Staff Writers, Xinhua News Agency, Via GWPF, Mar 1, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/china-beat-shale-gas-production-target-report/>

*[SEPP Comment: GWPF added a map of the major unconventional natural gas resources in China.]*

### **Colorado First State to Clamp Down on Fracking Methane Pollution**

By Jennifer Oldham, Bloomberg, Feb 23, 2014

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-02-24/colorado-first-state-to-clamp-down-on-fracking-methane-pollution.html>

Current natural gas production from shale formations:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/infographics/2014-02-20/can-the-u-s-sustain-its-natural-gas-boom.html>

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

#### **In Europe, Dirty Coal Makes a Comeback**

By Stefan Nicola and Ladka Bauerova, Bloomberg, Feb 27, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-02-27/in-europe-dirty-coal-makes-a-comeback>

*[SEPP Comment: Since 1990 the global consumption of brown coal, lignite, fell 40% to a little over 300 metric tons. Now IEA projects it to increase.]*

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

#### **BP starts pumping crude at major deep-water Gulf project**

By Collin Eaton, Houston Chronicle, Feb 24, 2014

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/02/24/bp-starts-pumping-crude-at-major-deep-water-gulf-project/>

*[SEPP Comment: The oil is there, proper extraction is needed.]*

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

#### **Three years after Fukushima disaster prompted Japanese vow to abandon nuclear energy, the country plans to reopen power plants... and possibly build MORE**

By Simon Tomlinson, Mail, UK, Feb 26 2014

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2568430/Three-years-Fukushima-disaster-prompted-Japanese-vow-abandon-nuclear-energy-country-plans-reopen-power-plants-possibly-build-MORE.html?ITO=1490&ns\\_mchannel=rss&ns\\_campaign=1490](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2568430/Three-years-Fukushima-disaster-prompted-Japanese-vow-abandon-nuclear-energy-country-plans-reopen-power-plants-possibly-build-MORE.html?ITO=1490&ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490)

#### **Japan to lift part of Fukushima evacuation order: official**

By Staff Writers, Tokyo (AFP), Feb 24, 2014

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Japan\\_to\\_lift\\_part\\_of\\_Fukushima\\_evacuation\\_order\\_official\\_99.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Japan_to_lift_part_of_Fukushima_evacuation_order_official_99.html)

### **North American scientists track incoming Fukushima plume**

By Jonathan Amos, BBC News, Feb 25, 2014 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

[http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26329323#story\\_continues\\_1](http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-26329323#story_continues_1)

*[SEPP Comment: Great propaganda picture of yellow approaching the West Coast of the US.]*

### **Radiation affects 13 US nuclear plant employees**

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), Feb 27, 2014

[http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Radiation\\_affects\\_13\\_US\\_nuclear\\_plant\\_employees\\_999.html](http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Radiation_affects_13_US_nuclear_plant_employees_999.html)

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

#### **AWEA's Own Study Shows Skyrocketing Electricity Prices in Wind Power States**

By James Taylor, Heartland, Feb 27, 2014

<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2014/02/27/aweas-own-study-shows-skyrocketing-electricity-prices-wind-power-states>

### **Wind power eases off**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Feb 25, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/2/25/wind-power-eases-off.html>

*[SEPP Comment: Issues on the rate of decline of power produced as wind turbines age.]*

### **Wind farms paid £30m to shut down during high winds**

Energy minister Michael Fallon orders wind farms to cut compensation charges as figures show they are paid millions for turbines to stand still in stormy weather

By Tim Ross, Telegraph, UK, Feb 23, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/10655742/Wind-farms-paid-30m-to-shut-down-during-high-winds.html>

### **China Narrows Gap to U.S. in EY Renewable-Energy Ranking [EY, formerly Ernst & Young]**

By Alex Morales, Bloomberg, Feb 24, 2014

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-02-25/china-narrows-gap-to-u-s-in-ey-renewable-energy-ranking.html>

In contrast, U.S. wind installations plummeted to 1,084 megawatts last year from 13,131 megawatts in 2012 after a tax credit lapsed, according to American Wind Energy Association data. Even so, the subsequent renewal of the credit means wind projects under construction now top 12,000 megawatts, it said

*[SEPP Comment: The US can win by losing the race. Contrary to the report, the extension of the tax credit has not passed in Congress.]*

### **Offshore Wind Industry Slowed by Birds, Bombs, Sharks**

By Alex Morales, Bloomberg, Feb 20, 2014 [H/t NCPA]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-02-20/offshore-wind-industry-thwarted-by-birds-bombs-sharks.html>

*[SEPP Comment: No discussion of production as compared with nameplate capacity.]*

### ***Carbon Schemes***

#### **Carbon Capture and Sequestration: Research, Development, and Demonstration at the U.S. Department of Energy**

By Peter Folger, Specialist in Energy and Natural Resources Policy, CRS, Feb 10, 2014  
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/222083.pdf>

#### **The FutureGen Carbon Capture and Sequestration Project: A Brief History and Issues for Congress**

By Peter Folger, Specialist in Energy and Natural Resources Policy, CRS, Feb 10, 2014  
<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/222082.pdf>

### ***California Dreaming***

#### **California farmers won't get federal water**

By Scott Smith, AP, Feb 21, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]  
<http://news.yahoo.com/california-farmers-won-39-t-federal-water-182640605.html>

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

#### **Climate change won't reduce deaths in winter**

By Staff Writers, Exeter UK (SPX), Feb 27, 2014  
[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Climate\\_change\\_wont\\_reduce\\_deaths\\_in\\_winter\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Climate_change_wont_reduce_deaths_in_winter_999.html)

### ***Oh Mann!***

#### **Mann Misrepresents NOAA OIG**

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Feb 27, 2014  
<http://climateaudit.org/2014/02/27/mann-misrepresents-noaa-oig/#more-18950>

#### **Free Speech for Mann, But Not for Thee**

By Robert Tracinski, Real Clear Politics, Feb 20, 2014  
[http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2014/02/20/free\\_speech\\_for\\_mann\\_but\\_not\\_for\\_thee\\_121649.html](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2014/02/20/free_speech_for_mann_but_not_for_thee_121649.html)

#### **Warning to Michael Mann: apologise for your lie or risk facing from me what you've done to Steyn**

By Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun, AU, Feb 25, 2014  
[http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/warning\\_to\\_michael\\_mann\\_apologise\\_for\\_your\\_lie\\_or\\_risk\\_facing\\_from\\_me\\_what/](http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/warning_to_michael_mann_apologise_for_your_lie_or_risk_facing_from_me_what/)

### ***Environmental Industry***

#### **Environmentalists; Carbon Bigfoots?**

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Feb 24, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]  
<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/02/environmentalists-carbon-bigfoots.php>

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

#### **120 automatically generated gibberish papers made it to journals**

By Luboš Motl, The Reference Frame, Mar 1, 2012  
<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/03/120-automatically-generated-gibberish.html#more>

Link to retractions: Publishers withdraw more than 120 gibberish papers

Conference proceedings removed from subscription databases after scientist reveals that they were computer-generated.

By Richard Van Noorden, Nature, Feb 25, 2014

[http://www.nature.com/news/publishers-withdraw-more-than-120-gibberish-papers-1.14763?WT.mc\\_id=TWT\\_NatureNews](http://www.nature.com/news/publishers-withdraw-more-than-120-gibberish-papers-1.14763?WT.mc_id=TWT_NatureNews)

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

#### **Is the Environmental Movement Net CO2 Positive? (James Hansen wants to know)**

By Robert Bradley Jr., Master Resource, Feb 24, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/02/is-the-environmental-movement-net-co2-positive-james-hansen-wants-to-know/>

#### **Talk About Natural Gas: Cow Belches Top Methane List**

By Alicia Munday, WSJ, Feb 26, 2014

<http://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2014/02/26/talk-about-natural-gas-cow-belches-top-methane-list/>

Link to Report: National Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data

By Staff Writers, EPA, February 2014

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/usinventoryreport.html>

#### **'Tailpipe Johnny' Dingell Leaves Ugly Legacy**

By Henry Miller, IBD, Feb 25, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-viewpoint/022514-691161-john-dingells-tenure-marked-by-arrogance-and-abuse.htm>

#### **UNEP launches global platform to protect forests**

By Chris Mgidu, Nairobi, Kenya (SPX), Feb 26, 2014

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UNEP\\_launches\\_global\\_platform\\_to\\_protect\\_forests\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UNEP_launches_global_platform_to_protect_forests_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Will it track unrelenting forest growth?]*

#### **Why Helping the Poor May Hurt the Climate**

Can Economies Develop Without Warming the Globe?

By Stephanie Pappas, Live Science, Feb 23, 2014 [H/t Hugh Sharman]

<http://www.livescience.com/43600-economic-development-carbon-intensity.html>

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#### **BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

#### **Boxer warns Keystone will cause cancer**

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Feb 26, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/199329-boxer-pivots-keystone-xl-talk-to-health-impacts>

#### **Claim: Offshore Wind Turbines for 'Taming Hurricanes'**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 27, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/27/claim-offshore-wind-turbines-for-taming-hurricanes/>

Link to study: Taming hurricanes with arrays of offshore wind turbines

Mark Z. Jacobson, Cristina L. Archer & Willett Kempton, Nature Climate Change, Feb 26, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/v4/n3/full/nclimate2120.html>

#### **The Top Ten Reasons global temperature hasn't warmed for the last 15 years**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 28, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/28/the-top-ten-reasons-global-temperature-hasnt-warmed-for-the-last-15-years/>

## Climate Scepticism Anno 1871

Imaginary Changes of Climate, Pall Mall Gazette, Via GWPF, Jan 10, 1871 [H/t Steven Goddard]  
<http://www.thegwpf.org/climate-scepticism-anno-1871/>

## NASA Photo Confirms North Korea Only Country That Is Really Taking Climate Change Seriously, Acting Responsibly!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Feb 25, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/02/25/nasa-photo-confirms-north-korea-only-country-that-is-really-taking-climate-change-seriously-acting-responsibly/>

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### ARTICLES:

#### 1. The Kerry Climate Capers

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 26, 2014

[http://americanthinker.com/2014/02/the\\_kerry\\_climate\\_capers.html](http://americanthinker.com/2014/02/the_kerry_climate_capers.html)

It looks like John Kerry's peace efforts may not garner him a Nobel Prize - so why not try Global Warming?

*"The science is unequivocal, and those who refuse to believe it are simply burying their heads in the sand. We don't have time for a meeting anywhere of the [Flat Earth Society](#). And in a sense, climate change can now be considered another weapon of mass destruction, perhaps the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction." - John Kerry, in Jakarta on Feb 16, 2014*

Our Secretary of State, John Kerry, sometimes known as "Ketchup Kerry," has serious ambitions for fame and fortune. Actually, he has already achieved fortune -- by marrying two wealthy women, the second of which made him a billionaire - with five residences, a yacht, and a private jet. But fame has eluded him -- so far. Many speculate that he is trying to get the Nobel Peace Prize, like Barack Obama and Al Gore before him -- and PLO terrorist chieftain Yasser Arafat before them.

One sure way would be arranging a real and lasting Middle East peace accord between Arabs and Israelis. Good luck with that! The Palestinians' popularly elected Hamas government, now ruling Gaza with an iron hand, has already made it crystal-clear that they do not want any kind of peace agreement. The other half of the Palestinian Authority (PA) runs the disputed West-Bank territories, which Israel captured in a defensive war in 1967. On the West Bank, there is no elected government; at least there hasn't been one for many years. Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas), whose term as president of the PA expired six years ago, does not want to risk an election, which he is sure to lose to the terrorist Hamas.

Another big hope for Kerry is to achieve a nuclear breakthrough with Iran. But such a feat is also likely to elude him, since it seems fairly certain that Iran will break any agreement in order to build a nuclear weapon.

Never discouraged, Kerry is also trying to achieve peace in what has become a civil war in Syria. Not much chance of that, either. Bashar Assad, backed by Iran and maybe Russia, will never resign as president of Syria -- and the Sunni Moslem majority fighting him is unlikely to give up. These rebels feel sure that demography will win out in the end -- and they draw major support from Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Sunnis elsewhere.

But ever resourceful, Kerry has now tried a new gambit: Climate Change, formerly known simply as "Global Warming." In a heavily publicized speech in Jakarta, Indonesia, he slammed climate skeptics, labeling them "deniers," "shoddy scientists," likening them to believers in a "flat earth." For good measure, he also invoked the phony 97% consensus on climate science.

However, a survey of more than 1,800 members of the American Meteorological Society showed that less than half believe humans are the primary cause of any recent warming. Reviews of published climate papers by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) report on thousands of peer-reviewed studies that contradict the alarmist global-warming narrative; the Chinese Academy of Sciences has published a condensed version of NIPCC reports. But many scientific organizations and academies are still sharply split on the issue of dangerous AGW (anthropogenic global warming).

Clearly, Kerry is aiming for the big climate meeting in Paris in 2015, which he hopes will lead to a new Kyoto Protocol. Good luck with that also! Quoting Dr Charles Battig, "the failed 2010 Kerry-Lieberman 'American Power Act' apparently lives on in Kerry's psyche." Also, Kerry seems to have forgotten, conveniently, that as a Senator in July 1997 he voted for the anti-Kyoto Byrd-Hagel Resolution. Perhaps someone should remind him.

Much has changed since 1997; but one constant is that the proponents of AGW have yet to publish any firm evidence that man-made CO2 is doing anything dangerous. They hadn't done it in 1988 when James Hansen told a Congressional committee that we are headed to disaster; they hadn't done it in 1997 when the Kyoto Protocol was signed by almost 200 countries (but never ratified by the US Senate); and they haven't done it now.

So the science about global warming cannot be called "settled." It no longer supports AGW -- if indeed it ever did; in fact, there has been no significant warming trend for at least 16 years, while atmospheric carbon dioxide increased by more than 8%. Japan, India, and Russia are opposed to a new Kyoto Treaty, as are Australia and Canada. The position of China is enigmatic; apparently, Kerry takes their polite smiles for assent. But economic considerations, and the need to create more jobs, dictate further industrial expansion and use of the cheapest means to create energy: fossil fuels, primarily coal.

So how is Kerry doing these days? Not at all well on his foreign policy ventures -- and his pronouncements on climate have been ridiculed by most scientists, except for confirmed "[Global Warming Nazis](#)" -- to use the label invented by Dr Roy Spencer.

Kerry's "flat earth" analogy has been neatly shot down by Professors [Richard McNider and John Christy](#), of the University of Alabama. They point out, quite logically, that the flat earth position was held by the Establishment and that the skeptics of that time, including Pythagoras, relied on empirical evidence that the Earth was round. So Kerry has the argument just exactly 180 degrees wrong.

Kerry also raises the specter that AGW is worse than weapons of mass destruction (WMD). So how many millions has AGW killed so far? If truth be told, a slightly warmer climate (since about 1850) and more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere have promoted more productive agriculture and may have saved many millions from starvation. Besides, the Medieval Warm Period (MWP) was warmer than today and permitted a higher standard of living. It was the Little Ice Age (LIA) that killed off millions by starvation and disease during 1400-1800.

Two Democratic lawmakers are defending John Kerry's remark likening climate change to a weapon of mass destruction. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (R.I.) and Rep. Henry Waxman (Calif.) said Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and former Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) were wrong to criticize Kerry's speech on the consequences of climate change. "Secretary Kerry needs allies in this fight for the future of our planet," the Democrats wrote in a letter to McCain and Gingrich. "History will not look back and fault him for leading the charge to prevent the worst impacts of climate change while we still have time. But," they added, "history may question why Republican leaders who were once their party's champions on climate change fled the field at a crucial moment." Gingrich took to Twitter and airwaves to call Kerry "delusional" and "dangerous to our safety." McCain also faulted Kerry for comparing climate change to terrorism, poverty and epidemics, asking "on what planet does he reside?"

[Incidentally, the latest fear imagined by Global Warming Nazis is the "methane bomb." They imagine that a warming will release billions of tons of methane from frozen tundra, and maybe even from the ocean, causing overwhelming greenhouse warming. However, we can point to the warmer MWP and the much warmer periods of 5000-8000 years ago: no such methane release was observed.]

Yet, there are plenty of controversies left. Scientific supporters of AGW are still working earnestly, trying to explain the absence of a significant warming trend of the last 16 years. In the meantime, mischief-makers, actively promoted by the White House, are trying to blame global warming for weather disasters. Good examples are the instability of the Polar Vortex that brought extremely cold weather to the US this past winter -- while Obama has been trying hard to blame the California drought on AGW. In Britain, chief meteorologist Dame Julia Slingo has blamed the unusual flooding in southwestern England on AGW. Her views have been disputed by the UK Met Office; her own scientists have "[hung her out to dry](#)."

Meanwhile, Al Gore is still actively promoting AGW -- just to show he really earned his Nobel Peace Prize. At the 20-million-dollar home of Tom Steyer, the billionaire hedge-fund manager trying to raise 100 million dollars for AGW propaganda, Gore referred to him as "Mr. Tipping Point." The group does not ignore extra-terrestrial concerns about Global Warming. At the recent annual UFO conference, it was announced that Aliens want a warmer planet before they will come to Earth. Apparently, they've forgotten the remarkable speech by the late Michael Crichton: "Aliens Cause Global Warming."

When it comes to AGW, Kerry is as much of a clown as Gore -- and so is the White House staff. The serious argument now is the one before the Supreme Court, which has to decide by July whether the EPA Endangerment Finding (EF) about CO2 can be used to effectively stop the building of new coal-fired electric plants and even shut down existing ones. The bad science of the EF will likely be rehashed by the Court, but there is a little chance of reversing its truly awful 2007 decision in Massachusetts v. EPA, which declared non-toxic and beneficent CO2 a pollutant. On the contrary, all signs point to the fulfillment of Obama's 2008 campaign promise to make electricity prices "sky-rocket." How sad.

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## **2. Bullying Is A National Disgrace But National Policy**

By Charles Battig, M.D., Virginia Free Citizen, Feb 25, 2014

<http://virginiafreecitizen.com/2014/02/25/bullying-national-disgrace-national-policy/>

Wikipedia gives the following definition: “Bullying is the use of force, threat, or coercion to abuse, intimidate, or aggressively impose domination over others. The behavior is often repeated and habitual. One essential prerequisite is the perception, by the bully or by others, of an imbalance of social or physical power. Behaviors used to assert such domination can include verbal harassment or threat, physical assault or coercion, and such acts may be directed repeatedly towards particular targets.”

A search on Google provides multiple websites devoted to the topic. They include Federal websites, medical and psychological websites, and private organizations, including: <http://www.stopbullying.gov/>, <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/bullying.html>, and <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/>.

Unarguably bullying is recognized as a serious social, medical, and psychological ill. It is therefore puzzling to see such widespread bullying employed at multiple levels in our Federal Government and beyond.

Yet, ever since President Theodore Roosevelt, the Commander-in-Chief has historically employed the “bully pulpit.” The current administration has become particularly enamored with the concept, as many have noted. The IRS and EPA have their own track records of regulatory actions taken which fit the bullying definition. The FCC has suggested an interest in monitoring the media, prompting fears of potential media bullying.

## EPA BULLYING

Here in Virginia, local governments have taken to bullying their citizens under the guise of protecting the environment, as exemplified by legal prosecution of a mother for unauthorized birthday parties on her farmland.

The field of scientific research would seem remote from these political, power-play activities, but the real-world record is quite sadly otherwise. If the concept of bullying is extended to the medical research field, then there exists bullying of data. Raw data are tortured till they give the answer sought. Legions of computers troll the data looking for desired associations to bolster pet hypotheses. Negative findings are bullied into silence, lest they draw attention to inconsistencies in crafted correlations already favored by the bully.

The once-trusted scientific research process has stumbled enough to have drawn attention from even the Wall Street Journal. The 2007 article notes: “Dr. Ioannidis is an epidemiologist who studies research methods at the University of Ioannina School of Medicine in Greece and Tufts University in Medford, Mass. In a series of influential analytical reports, he has documented how, in thousands of peer-reviewed research papers published every year, there may be so much less than meets the eye... These flawed findings, for the most part, stem not from fraud or formal misconduct, but from more mundane misbehavior: miscalculation, poor study design or self-serving data analysis. ‘There is an increasing concern that in modern research, false findings may be the majority or even the vast majority of published research claims,’ Dr. Ioannidis said. ‘A new claim about a research finding is more likely to be false than true.’”

CNN had its own take in 2011 which included: “John Budd’s research also shows an increase [of faulty research] over time. He’s a professor at the University of Missouri who spent years studying why publications are retracted. He found that between 1997 and 2008, 47% of the articles were pulled because of ‘misconduct or presumed misconduct.’”

As reported in the NY Times, patient harm has been directly linked to such data tampering in the case of researcher Andrew Wakefield, who had claimed: “to have found a link between the [measles] vaccine gastrointestinal problems found in many autistic children and autism itself. His work was subsequently discredited, and the BMJ, a British medical journal, concluded that flaws in his scientific study were not honest mistakes but an “elaborate fraud.”

In the case of clean air standards, the big bully on the scene seems to be the EPA. In an era of increasingly clean air standards and documented ever-cleaner air, certain anomalies stand out. One is the claimed increase in childhood asthma even as air quality has continuously improved. Cleaner air correlated with increased asthma? Indoor air may be more polluted than outdoor air.

EPA funded studies include those done by the American Lung Association, and the American Cancer Society. The EPA has placed reliance on two air quality studies: the Harvard Six Cities Study (HSCS) and the American Cancer Society’s Cancer Prevention Study II (CPS II). Both studies began in the 1980s, and linked information on individuals to air pollution data obtained from monitoring stations...notably outdoor air monitors. From these studies, the EPA concluded that fine dust particles were a health hazard and required new levels of regulation. In 1997 the first-ever Clean Air Act regulations on particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter were promulgated by the EPA. Not emphasized was the fact that the composition of this particulate matter varies across the country.

Most scientific results are expected to be made available to other researchers for further study and confirmation. The Harvard researchers promised the participants confidentiality, and claim on this account that the data could not be shared. Confidentiality agreements are common, and why a work-around in these two particular studies could not be accommodated remains an unanswered question. Similar refusal to make raw scientific data public has been a hallmark of radical environmentalists in the Climategate affair, and in the University of Virginia /M. Mann sequestering of publicly funded climate research.

As the EPA air quality standards have such wide-reaching cost impacts on the economy, it has been challenged by Congress to produce the raw data. Were the raw data bullied to give favored findings, and alternative explanations ignored? What level of relative risk was chosen to prove the air-quality health impact link?

In the interim, independent researchers have challenged the assumptions and methodology used by the EPA in establishing its claims. Former EPA chief Lisa Jackson testified September 22, 2011 before congress: “I was briefed not too long ago. If we could reduce particulate matter to healthy levels, it would have the same impact as finding a cure for cancer in our country.”

When Johns Hopkins-trained biostatistician Steve Milloy examined a similar cohort of residents in California by examining actual hospital admission records, he found “no correlation between changes in ambient PM2.5 and mortality” from any cause of death.” Other experts in statistical analysis have given similar testimony before Congress bemoaning the availability of EPA data for independent analysis.

Academic freedom morphs into academic bullying when favorite causes are threaten by non-conforming research findings. James Enstrom had been a member of the research faculty, UCLA School of Public Health, conducting epidemiological research there since 1973 until he published his studies challenging the California air quality bureaucracy claims of deadly air pollution. UCLA promptly responded by firing Enstrom, exercising its role as the big bully on campus.

Children are taught that bullying is unjust, yet they grow up to see themselves surrounded by a nation of bullies. Hypocrisy is learned at an early age.

*Dr. Charles Battig, (online here) is a retired physician and electrical engineer. In the 1960s he served as "principal scientist in bio-medical monitoring systems" at North American Aviation Los Angeles in support of the Apollo Moon Mission. Later he served in the U.S. Public Health Service at NIH, Bethesda MD, in the biomedical engineering branch. Following teaching appointments in anesthesiology at UCLA and Mt. Sinai, NYC, he entered the private practice of anesthesiology until retirement.*

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### **3. The 'Absurd Results' Power Grab**

Can the EPA simply rewrite a law to suit its policy goals?

Editorial, WSJ, Feb 23, 2014

[http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304914204579397003756191282?mod=I TP\\_opinion\\_2&mg=reno64-wsj](http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304914204579397003756191282?mod=I TP_opinion_2&mg=reno64-wsj)

The Obama Administration's penchant for rewriting the law via regulation will get a major test on Monday when the Supreme Court hears a challenge to the Environmental Protection Agency's "carbon endangerment" rule. This case is especially significant because it will determine whether the agency can rewrite its own previous rewrite of the Clean Air Act to bypass the normal channels of democratic consent.

The Clean Air Act of 1970 and its 1990 amendments never mention carbon dioxide as a pollutant. Though global warming has nothing to do with "clean air," the environmental lobby sued to force the EPA to regulate CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by cars and other "mobile sources." In 2007, in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, a 5-4 majority sided with the greens, with Justice Anthony Kennedy joining the liberals.

That ruling merely held that the EPA could declare carbon a pollutant under the Clean Air Act, not that the agency must, but President Obama's climateers have taken it as a license to regulate carbon across the economy. Beyond tailpipes, they've moved to emissions from so-called stationary sources, mainly power plants but also heavy industry such as factories and cement makers.

Problem is, the Clean Air Act is one of America's largest and most prescriptive laws, with little provision for executive discretion. If the EPA decides to regulate something, Congress in the statute tells the EPA how the agency must regulate for its many specific clean-air programs.

Since the Clean Air Act was never designed to address CO<sub>2</sub> and greenhouse gases are unlike the pollutants the law was meant to address, the stationary source programs would wreak economic havoc if applied to carbon. The statute mandates that the EPA regulate emissions above the specific numerical threshold of 100 tons of a conventional pollutant like sulfur dioxide or ozone. But ubiquitous carbon is released in quantities many orders of magnitude larger than 100 tons, and thus in practice the rule would sweep up some six million schools, hospitals, farms, churches, office buildings and even some large homes.

The incredible thing about *Utility Air Regulatory Group v. EPA*, which consolidates six related lawsuits, is that the EPA agrees with all that. The agency argues that following the law as written would be "unrecognizable" to the Congress that enacted the law and claims that enforcing the law would be an "administrative impossibility." The other doctrine the EPA is asserting is known as

"absurd results," meaning that the literal interpretation of the statute would lead to irrational or unreasonable outcomes.

The executive branch has always used the absurd results doctrine to make minor adjustments or to justify not enforcing a legal provision. And this is what the EPA should have done to avoid crowbarring carbon into what it admits is an unworkable regulatory framework. Instead, for the first time the agency is using the legal theory to arrogate the power to revise plain statutory language. Instead of 100 tons for carbon, the EPA unilaterally invented the new limit of 75,000 tons.

The Supreme Court is merely being asked to vacate the stationary source rule-making, not to revisit *Mass v. EPA*, alas. All the challenge asks is that if the EPA decides to regulate CO<sub>2</sub>, then it must obey the rule of law and regulate CO<sub>2</sub> as the Clean Air Act instructs.

The White House is trying to avoid doing so because the political pros know that stationary source permitting by the EPA's own estimates costs as much as \$125,120 and can be delayed for as long as 10 years. Democratic voters attend church and own small businesses too, and the political backlash would be fierce.

The White House could have persuaded Congress to adopt a new round of clean-air amendments, or to pass cap and trade. It tried the latter in 2009-2010 and failed. Justice Kennedy, the swing vote, must decide if federal regulators can assume the power to rewrite laws on their own without the authority granted by Congress. That would be the most absurd result of all.

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#### **4. Jenkins: Personal Score-Settling Is the New Climate Agenda**

The cause of global carbon regulation may be lost, but enemies still can be punished.

By Holman Jenkins, WSJ, Feb 28, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304026804579411021545493020?>

Surely, some kind of ending is upon us. Last week climate protesters demanded the silencing of Charles Krauthammer for a Washington Post column that notices uncertainties in the global warming hypothesis. In coming weeks a libel trial gets under way brought by Penn State's Michael Mann, author of the famed hockey stick, against National Review, the Competitive Enterprise Institute, writer Rand Simberg and roving commentator Mark Steyn for making wisecracks about his climate work. The New York Times runs a cartoon of a climate "denier" being stabbed with an icicle.

These are indications of a political movement turned to defending its self-image as its cause goes down the drain. That's how thoroughly defunct, dead, expired is the idea that humanity might take charge of earth's atmosphere through some supreme triumph of the global regulatory state over democracy, sovereignty, nationalism and political self-interest, the very facts of political human nature.

Business World columnist Holman Jenkins Jr. on why climate-change activists are losing the battle for public opinion. Photo: Getty Images

Let's restate more accurately a plan recently announced by Thomas Steyer, a California hedge-fund billionaire whose idea is to make the coming midterms about climate change: He would spend \$100 million to flog an issue voters don't care about, to defeat Republicans whose defeat

would have no impact on climate change, in order to replace them with Democrats whose election would have no impact on climate change.

Mr. Steyer's thinking is puzzling unless his goal is to make \$100 million disappear. If his purpose were to elect Democrats, wouldn't his money go further attacking Republicans on matters of interest to voters? If he wants to move the ball on climate change, wouldn't a better place to start be undoing the damage his fellow climate lobbyists have done to the cause with their hysterical exaggerations, false statements and moral bullying?

He could begin by running ads leveling with Americans about climate science. We know with comfortable certainty that human industry is adding to carbon dioxide, a so-called greenhouse gas, in the atmosphere. An insoluble noise-to-signal problem, though, is how much the human component may have influenced climate change already. And forecasts of future warming depend on theoretical models that are highly speculative and necessarily suspect.

Then there's the political problem: Nothing America could do by itself would make a significant difference. Anything agreed with other countries, given diplomatic incentives, would be an empty gesture designed mainly to benefit incumbent politicians.

Indeed, a rational case for action on cost-benefit grounds is challenging to make at all. Even if it weren't, the nature of human power games, which advocates are powerless to change, means the effort could easily degenerate into a corrupt scramble for climate pork (see America's ethanol and Germany's solar subsidies).

If this sounds like a counsel of despair, think again. The counsel of despair was to rest mankind's hopes on a colossal pipedream. A world-wide social engineering project was never going to happen—luckily, since its results would have been less charming than activists imagine.

After 35 years, it's time to accept that adaptation is the way ahead. The problems of climate change, whatever its causes, are the same old human problems of poverty, disease and natural hazards like floods, storms and droughts. The best hope on offer is the continued accumulation of human wealth and knowledge.

Those who wish to slit their wrists at this point, feel free. But think about this: When human knowhow produces new energy technologies to replace current energy technologies, as it eventually will, we know the new technologies will be lower carbon. Why? Because extracting and distributing fossil fuels is fantastically expensive and becoming more so.

Chevron's massive Gorgon gas project in the coastal waters of Australia is expected to cost \$54 billion. Exxon, Shell and several others are spending \$116 billion to get oil from under the Caspian Sea in a remote part of Kazakhstan. Not to be flip, but a battery 10 times more efficient than today's would largely undermine the economics of these projects and make its inventor extraordinarily rich.

But engineering and venture capital (Mr. Steyer's job until he retired a year ago) are hard work and require personal resilience, while the pleasure of climate warriorhood is sitting at your little blog and picturing yourself a moral hero whose opponents deserve to be silenced if not exterminated. In our time, climate activism has devolved into self-medication for the moderately

mentally ill (and who's to say this is not a useful service). Anyone genuinely concerned about the climate future might do better to get an engineering or finance degree.

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