

The Week That Was: 2016-12-03 (December 3, 2016)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week. “...Yet, in holding scientific research and discovery in respect, as we should, we must also be alert to the equal and opposite danger that public policy could itself become the captive of a scientific technological elite.” – Dwight Eisenhower, 1961 [H/t Fran Manns]

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Number of the Week: 1,100 feet (335 meters)

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THIS WEEK:

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

Western Lysenkoism? Writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, Roger Pielke Jr. describes why he left the field of climate science. It was not because he was not concerned with possible harmful impacts of global warming, now called climate change. He had expressed his concerns frequently. He left the field because of attacks for his challenge of one component of the claims of the extreme global warmers, that extreme weather events were increasing. Monetary losses from extreme weather events were not increasing. Pielke produced evidence that the claim was false. Such evidence is unacceptable to global warming extremists, the so-called Climate Establishment. Apparently, one must accept all components of the doctrine from the Climate Establishment, or suffer personal attacks.

Based on information released by WikiLeaks, major players in the Clinton Presidential Campaign wanted to drive Pielke out of the climate change discussions – and succeeded. Pielke writes:

“When substantively countering an academic’s research proves difficult, other techniques are needed to banish it.”

“I believe climate change is real and that human emissions of greenhouse gases risk justifying action, including a carbon tax. But my research led me to a conclusion that many climate campaigners find unacceptable: There is scant evidence to indicate that hurricanes, floods, tornadoes or drought have become more frequent or intense in the U.S. or globally. In fact, we are in an era of good fortune when it comes to extreme weather. This is a topic I’ve studied and published on as much as anyone over two decades. My conclusion might be wrong, but I think I’ve earned the right to share this research without risk to my career.”

The effort to banish Pielke was long and involved. The journal *Foreign Policy* labeled Pielke a “climate change denier” in 2011. He even challenged a part of the 2007 report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was based on guesses rather than fact! A reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* wrote Pielke: “You should come with a warning label: Quoting Roger Pielke will bring a hailstorm down on your work from the *London Guardian*, *Mother Jones*, and *Media Matters*.” Politicians involved in the purge include President Obama’s science adviser John Holdren and Arizona Rep. Raul Grijalva, the ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, who was a leader of the Congressional Witch Hunt. Of course, lead climate reporter Justin Gillis of *The New York Times* failed to properly respond to correct criticisms of his reporting.

All this placed Pielke on the “do not call” lists of many reporters. Such actions reveal how certain news organizations censor the news.

In a separate article, Member of the European Parliament from the Midlands (UK) Roger Helmer compares the Climate Establishment (which he calls Warmism) with Lysenkoism. The narrow mindset of Lysenkoism (groupthink) was tremendously destructive to advances in biology in the Soviet Union. Helmer came across a definition in Wikipedia that struck him;

“The term Lysenkoism can also be used metaphorically to describe the manipulation or distortion of the scientific process as a way to reach a predetermined conclusion as dictated by an ideological bias, often related to social or political objectives.”

Helmer draws parallels between Lysenkoism and “climate science” as it is treated in the West. For the West, Helmer thinks the main difference between Lysenkoism and Warmism, “is that the damage done by Warmism is on a far larger scale and will be far more difficult to reverse.”

The Global Warming Policy Foundation made an extensive summary of Pielke’s essay. For links to the essay and Helmer’s essay see links under Censorship.

Or Puritans? Another parallel between the Climate Establishment and an extremist group can be drawn between the alarmists and Puritans. This 16th and 17th century religious movement originated in England and grew to dominate the Massachusetts Bay Colony to the point of hanging several Quakers. Narrow-minded, Puritans were intolerant of other religions and practiced shunning those who were unacceptable. In 1850, the historical novel by Nathaniel Hawthorn, *The Scarlet Letter: A Romance*, shocked many readers as to the intolerance depicted in the novel. The main character, Hester Prynne, was forced to wear a scarlet “A” for Adulteress. Perhaps those reporters who maintain “do not call” lists for global warming skeptics use the letter “D” for Denier.

Two Components to Carbon Dioxide Caused Global Warming: Since the October 22 issue, TWTW has discussed the 1979 National Academies of Sciences, *Climate Research Board: Carbon Dioxide and Climate: A Scientific Assessment*, called the Charney Report. The report discussed two components to global warming from CO₂: 1) the primary effect; and 2) the secondary effect of a strong positive feedback from increased water vapor. Both these effects take place in the troposphere (roughly the atmosphere below 50,000 feet (15,000 meters)). The report states:

“The primary effect of an increase of CO₂ is to cause more absorption of thermal radiation from the earth’s surface and thus to increase the air temperature in the troposphere.”

“A strong positive feedback mechanism is the accompanying increase of moisture, which is an even more powerful absorber of terrestrial radiation.”

“We estimate the most probable global warming for a doubling of CO₂ to be near 3°C with a probable error of ±1.5°C. Our estimate is based primarily on a review of a series of calculations with three-dimensional models of the global atmospheric circulation, which is summarized in Chapter 4.”

The first component, the science of warming from CO₂ – alone, is established empirically by laboratory experiments. The experiments show the influence is logarithmic, initially significant but rapidly diminishing in net influence. Adding CO₂ to the today's atmosphere has little net warming effect, probably not measurable beyond natural variation.

The second component, increasing water vapor, the dominant effect, was speculated and has not been empirically demonstrated to be significant, after 35 years. Except for the predicted hot-spot, which no one can find, the IPCC, the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) and other entities have failed to identify any pronounced warming trend from increased water vapor.

A recent paper estimated global water vapor variability trends from 1979 to 2014. The trends are not significant, with the greatest one of 0.61% increase per decade (0.06% per year).

All too often, members of the Climate Establishment attack those who question the lack of warming as being “anti-science.” They frequently assert the first component of the hypothesized global warming, but ignore that the more important second component has not been empirically established. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Defending the Orthodoxy.

EPA Endangerment Finding? With the upcoming change in administration, it may be timely to request a re-evaluation of the 2009 EPA finding that greenhouse gases (GHGs), mainly carbon dioxide, endanger public health and welfare. However, this needs to be approached carefully.

As discussed by Rivkin and Grossman, Nov 26 TWTW:

“When an agency changes course, it must provide a reasoned explanation to address factual findings supporting its prior policy. In certain instances that requirement may impose a real burden. For example, a rule rescinding the EPA’s “Endangerment Finding” regarding the effects of greenhouse gases would have to address the evidence underlying it. A failure to provide a satisfactory explanation of a change in policy may render a rule ‘arbitrary and capricious’ and vulnerable to legal challenge.”

In short, to successful request a re-evaluation of the Endangerment Finding may require what is called “prima facie” evidence, that it is evident on its face and without contradictory evidence. A review of the EPA Technical Support Document, which is part of the finding, may be in order.

... “The first line of evidence arises from the basic physical understanding of the effects of changing concentrations of GHGs, natural factors, and other human impacts on the climate system. The second line of evidence arises from indirect, historical estimates of past climate changes that suggest that the changes in global surface temperature over the last several decades are unusual (Karl et al, 2009). The third line of evidence arises from the use of computer-based climate models to simulate the likely patterns of response of the climate system to different forcing mechanisms (both natural and anthropogenic). Confidence in these models comes from their foundation in accepted physical principles and from their ability to reproduce observed features of current climate and past climate changes (IPCC, 2007a).” p. 45.

As stated above, the evidence of the second component of global warming, stated by the modelers, of amplified warming from increased water vapor, has not been empirically established. Thus, the first line of evidence is flawed on its face. Further, as John Christy succinctly demonstrated in his February 2 testimony, the global climate models overestimate the

atmospheric warming below 50,000 feet in the tropics by three times. Thus, the third line of evidence, confidence in the models, is refuted on its face. The upcoming year may prove very interesting. See Article # 1 in the November 26 TWTW and links Under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Defending the Orthodoxy.

Two Components to the Paris Agreement? In an editorial, Michael Bloomberg, Bloomberg Businessweek etc., asserts that: *“But I am confident that no matter what happens in Washington, no matter what regulations the next administration adopts or rescinds, no matter what laws the next Congress may pass, we will meet the pledges that the U.S. made in Paris.”* Bloomberg states that progress in “fighting climate change” is driven by cities, businesses and citizens, with no letting up. China is committed and that cooperation between Washington and China made the Paris Agreement possible.

China’s commitment to the Paris Agreement includes no curtailment of CO2 emissions until 2030. Meanwhile, the US must curtail emissions and pay into the Green Climate Fund, both of which will be harmful to the US economy.

In March, without Congressional authorization, the Obama administration paid \$500 million of a \$3 billion, four-year pledge, to the UN Green Climate Fund, resulting in a 150% increase in staffing of the Fund. The World Bank is the interim trustee. The Paris Agreement has not been approved by the Senate as a treaty. With a change in administration, additional payments are in doubt.

China has pledged up to \$5.1 Billion to the South-South Cooperation Fund on Climate Change which is significantly different from the UN controlled Green Climate Fund. *“South-South cooperation on the other hand is based on solidarity and mutual benefit between developing countries as equals, and without obligations as there is no colonial history among them. This is the position of the developing countries and their umbrella grouping, the G77 [not G-7] and China.”*

Bloomberg should know China is a major player in the G-77, which China helped form separate from the West, and that it is not only the amount of money that is important, but who controls it. See links under After Paris! and After The US Election – Opposed.

Cost of Climate Change: Oren Cass of the Manhattan Institute analyzed the Obama Administration Plan for fighting climate change, assuming CO2 is a major cause. *“The IPCC has estimated a temperature increase by 2100 in the A1B scenario of 3.3°C, while the Model for the Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Induced Climate Change (MAGICC), developed through support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, puts warming in that scenario at 3.4°C.”* Even using the IPCC’s and the USGCRP’s highly questionable estimates of global warming by the end of the century, Cass estimates the Administration’s plan is far more expensive than adjusting for it happening. See links under The Administration’s Plan – Push-Back

Dying Corals or Resilient Corals? It is almost predictable. During an El Niño, which is fading, the tropical Pacific warms, corals cast their symbiotic algae, and volumes are written about dying coral reefs. It is as if during the onset of winter in the temperate regions, volumes are written about dying vegetation. That does not mean the event is permanent. See links under Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science and Changing Seas. Also, see the link on daily natural fluctuations of pH under Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science.

OPEC Jitters: For years, industrialized countries such as the US worried about what OPEC will do to oil production and prices. Now OPEC worries what will US independent producers do to oil production and prices. The US independent oil companies are not controlled by governments and government budgets. Since the bipartisan 2005 Energy Act, Washington has not controlled oil and natural gas production on private and state-owned lands. Production has boomed, but curtailed with the lengthy drop in oil prices, which has benefited all but the producers. How low oil prices can go is now an issue of concern for OPEC.

Geoffrey Styles shares some of his views concerning the newly minted OPEC deal: OPEC had miscalculated in at least two ways. *“First, as many experts have noted, it correctly identified US shale producers as the new marginal suppliers to the market but failed to anticipate how quickly these companies could respond to a dramatic price cut.”* Second, it miscalculated *“the capacity of the cartel’s members--even some of the strongest--to endure the austerity that protracted low prices would bring. Although many of these countries have among the world’s lowest-cost oil reserves to find and produce, it turned out that their effective cost structures, including transfers to their national budgets, were really no lower than those of the Western oil majors that have also struggled for the last two years.”*

Donn Dears brings in a third issue – the DUCs – Drilled by Not Completed wells. He estimates the number of oil DUCs at 3,800 and natural gas DUCs at 900. How these issues will play out in firming up oil prices is yet to be seen. But, \$100 per barrel oil is unlikely without major disruption such as a major war. Has anyone told the green energy advocates in the Pentagon? See links under Energy Issues – Non-US and Energy Issues – US.

Reversing Flow: The US now has become a net exporter of natural gas, with much of the exports going to Mexico via new pipelines. The Obama administration killed the Keystone pipeline to bring oil from Canada to refineries in Texas, but did not kill new natural gas pipelines to Mexico. Perhaps the outgoing Administration can explain to the US # 1 trading partner, Canada, that the border crossings into Mexico got under the radar of the greens.

As it is, now some major pipeline companies are reversing the traditional flow of natural gas from the South to the Northeast to make it flow from Pennsylvania, Ohio, etc. to the South. See links under Energy Issues – Non-US, Energy Issues – US, and Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Number of the Week: 1,100 feet (335 meters). According to reports, on Dec. 1, construction of the 1,172-mile Dakota Access Pipeline will be all but finished. The only thing left to build, says its owner, Energy Transfer Partners, will be about 1,100 feet of pipe to be laid beneath Lake Oahe, a sliver of water south of Bismarck, N.D., that is man-created by a dam on the Missouri River. The construction is being held up by native Indian tribes, claiming traditional burial grounds, not established, and greens, aided by the Administration. See links under Energy Issues - - US

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Kenneth Haapala, President
Science and Environmental Policy Project

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

The Bray (Hallstatt) Cycle

Guest essay by Andy May and Javier, WUWT, Nov 24, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/11/24/the-bray-hallstatt-cycle/>

Climategate Continued

Climategate: Never Forget (President-elect Trump hasn't)

By Robert Bradley Jr. Master Resource, Nov 29, 2016

<https://www.masterresource.org/climategate/climategate-trump/>

Censorship

Roger Pielke Jr.: My Unhappy Life as a Climate Heretic

By Roger Pielke Jr. WSJ, Via GWPF, Dec 3, 2016

<http://www.thegwpf.com/roger-pielke-jr-my-unhappy-life-as-a-climate-heretic/>

The Lessons of Lysenko

By Roger Helmer, Member, European Parliament (MEP), Nov 29, 2016

<https://rogerhelmermep.wordpress.com/2016/11/29/the-lessons-of-lysenko/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC

Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate

S. Fred Singer, Editor, NIPCC, 2008

http://www.sepp.org/publications/nipcc_final.pdf

Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming

The NIPCC Report on the Scientific Consensus

By Craig D. Idso, Robert M. Carter, and S. Fred Singer, NIPCC, Nov 23, 2015

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/>

Download with no charge

<https://www.heartland.org/policy-documents/why-scientists-disagree-about-global-warming>

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Physical Science

Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, 2013

<https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-II/CCR-II-Full.pdf>

Summary: <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2a/pdf/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Biological Impacts

Idso, Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, 2014

<http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/ccr2b/pdf/Full-Report.pdf>

Summary: <https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-IIb/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Prepared Testimony to House Committee on Science, Space & Technology

By John Christy, UAH, Feb 2, 2016

<https://science.house.gov/sites/republicans.science.house.gov/files/documents/HHRG-114-SY-WState-JChristy-20160202.pdf>

A Short Summary of Soon, Connolly and Connolly

By Andy May, Petrophysicist, Accessed Nov 29, 2016

<https://andymaypetrophysicist.com/a-short-summary-of-soon-connolly-and-connolly/>

“However, satellite records only go back to 1979 and global surface temperature measurements go back to 1880, or even earlier. The period from 1979 to today is too short to draw any meaningful conclusions given the length of both the solar cycles and the ocean heat distribution cycles. Even the period from 1880 to today is pretty short. We do not have the data needed to draw any firm conclusions. The science is definitely not settled.”

Climate danger

By Charles Battig, Letter, Houston Chronicle, Nov 23, 2016

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/letters/amp/Friday-letters-Climate-danger-study-history-10633551.php>

“Flawed science as fact is the real danger.”

Global water vapor variability and trend from the latest 36 year (1979 to 2014) data of ECMWF and NCEP reanalyses, radiosonde, GPS, and microwave satellite

By Biyan Chen and Zhizhao Liu, Journal of Geophysical Research, Oct 8, 2016

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2016JD024917/abstract>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Carbon Dioxide and Climate: A Scientific Assessment

Ad Hoc Study Group on Carbon Dioxide and Climate

By Jule G. Charney, et al, Climate Research Board, National Academy of Sciences, July 23-27, 1979

<https://www.nap.edu/read/12181/chapter/1#vii>

Endangerment and Cause or Contributed Findings for Greenhouse Gases under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act

By Benjamin DeAngelo, et al. EPA – Includes Alan Carlin (an opponent of the finding)

Expert reviewers include: William Emanuel, NASA, Thomas Karl, NOAA, Gavin Schmidt, NASA, Susan Solomon, NOAA, Dec 7, 2009

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/endangerment_tsd.pdf

p. 47 (59 on my screen)

5(a) Attribution of Observed Climate Change to Anthropogenic Emissions

Climate model predictions are telling a consistent story

Press Release, Aarhus University, EurekAlert, Nov 23, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2016-11/au-cmp112316.php

Link to paper: Similar estimates of temperature impacts on global wheat yield by three independent methods

By Bing Liu, et al. Nature Climate Change, Oct 20, 2016

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/v6/n12/full/nclimate3115.html>

Climate model predictions are telling a consistent (if wrong) story

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 23, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/11/23/climate-model-predictions-are-telling-a-consistent-if-wrong-story/>

[SEPP Comment: Watts produces data indicating the consistency of the models is meaningless.]

Expect More Superstorms Like Sandy, Warn Scientists

Damaging storms in the U.S. Northeast are likely to become “more frequent and more powerful.”

By John Metcalfe, City Lab, Nov 28, 2016 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://www.citylab.com/weather/2016/11/expect-more-superstorms-like-sandy-warn-scientists/508697/?utm_source=yahoo&yptr=yahoo

Link to paper: Persistent northward North Atlantic tropical cyclone track migration over the past five centuries

By Lisa M. Baldini, et al. Scientific Reports, Nov 23, 2016

<http://www.nature.com/articles/srep37522>

[SEPP Comment: Strongly disagree with the assumption and conclusions in the abstract that:

“Since ~1870 A.D., these shifts were largely driven by anthropogenic greenhouse gas and sulphate aerosol emissions. Our results strongly suggest that future emission scenarios will result in more frequent tropical cyclone impacts on the financial and population centres of the northeastern United States.” The work of Roger Pielke, Jr. demolishes these assertions.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Cognitive Dissonance will return as the pause resumes - but will it be too late?

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Nov 28, 2016

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/cognitive_dissonance_will_return_as_the_pause_resumes_but_will_it_be_too_la/

Reducing Human CO2 Emissions: A Non-Solution to a Non-Problem

By Alan Carlin, Carlin Economics and Science, Dec 1, 2016

<http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/3205>

Five Stages of Climate Grief

By Paul Driessen, Town Hall, Nov 26, 2016

<http://townhall.com/columnists/pauldriessen/2016/11/26/five-stages-of-climate-grief-n2250780>

1875: The Global Warming Solution

By Tony Collins, American Thinker, Dec 2, 2016

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016/12/1875_the_global_warming_solution.html

Climate Professor Says German Climate Science Hyped By Sloppy, Politically Corrupted Media!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 27, 2016

<http://notrickszone.com/2016/11/27/climate-professor-says-german-climate-science-hyped-by-sloppy-politically-corrupted-media/#sthash.vnTqSRAb.dpbs>

“Prof. Dr. Werner Kirstein calls climate protection a form of populism where governments hope to garner praise for their climate protection efforts.”

After Paris!

Washington Won't Have Last Word on Climate Change

Editorial By Michael Bloomberg, Bloomberg, Nov 22, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2016-11-22/washington-won-t-have-last-word-on-climate-change>

China Commits \$5.1 Billion to South-South Cooperation on Climate Change and Development

Two new Chinese funds totaling US\$ 5.1 billion to help developing countries tackle climate change and development problems could be a game changer in South-South cooperation and international relations

By Martin Khor, Director of South Centre, Nov 23, 2015

[http://www.i-sis.org.uk/China_Commits_\\$5.1_Billion_to_South-South_Cooperation_on_Climate_Change.php](http://www.i-sis.org.uk/China_Commits_$5.1_Billion_to_South-South_Cooperation_on_Climate_Change.php)

Reality Check: Despite Climate Change Vow, China Pushes to Dig More Coal

By Keith Bradsher, NYT, Via GWPF, Dec 1, 2016

<http://www.thegwpf.com/reality-check-despite-climate-change-vow-china-pushes-to-dig-more-coal/>

Link to full article: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/29/business/energy-environment/china-coal-climate-change.html?_r=0

China's Global Warming Hoax Exposed

Editorial, IBD, Dec 1, 2016

<http://www.investors.com/politics/editorials/chinas-co2-commitments-go-up-in-smoke/>

After The US Election -- Opposed

Over 2,000 scientists urge Trump to respect ‘scientific integrity and independence’

By Juliet Eilperin and Chris Mooney, Washington Post, Nov 30, 2016 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/11/30/22-nobel-prize-winners-urge-trump-to-respect-scientific-integrity-and-independence/?utm_term=.3d97769e26ed

[SEPP Comment: From reporters who present only one side of the climate issue.]

Climate Change in the Trumpocene Age

Bo Lidegaard argues that the US president-elect’s ability to derail global progress toward a green economy is more limited than many believe.

By Bo Lidegaard, Project Syndicate, Dec 2, 2016

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/onpoint/climate-change-in-the-trumpocene-age-2016-12?barrier=true>

[SEPP Comment: The green economy may fly off the track even without much help from Trump.]

Climate-Data Deniers Are Trying to ‘Bork’ Trump’s EPA Transition Leader

By Nicolas Loris, Daily Signal, Dec 1, 2016

<http://dailysignal.com/2016/12/01/climate-data-deniers-are-trying-to-bork-trumps-epa-transition-leader/>

World mayors gather to plot Trump-era climate plan

By Staff Writers, Mexico City (AFP), Nov 30, 2016

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/World_mayors_gather_to_plot_Trump-era_climate_plan_999.html

[SEPP Comment: More waste of taxpayer money.]

After The US Election -- Neutral

Earth to Trump

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 27, 2016

<https://judithcurry.com/2016/11/27/earth-to-trump/#more-22540>

“This is a welcome opportunity to redirect NASA Earth Science research towards other topics that are not directly related to or motivated by human caused climate change.”

[SEPP Comment: Unfortunately, NASA-GISS is the one that receives the press for human-caused climate change.]

Industry to Trump: Some climate deals are worth keeping

By John Siciliano, Washington Examiner, Nov 26, 2016 [H/t Tim Wise]

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/industry-to-trump-some-climate-deals-are-worth-keeping/article/2608139>

After The US Election -- Favorable

Global Warming: Trump Is Adult Supervision The Climate Kids Need

By Kerry Jackson, IBD, Nov 21, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/global-warming-trump-is-adult-supervision-the-climate-kids-need/>

Kimberley Strassel: Donald Trump’s Environmental Reset

By Kimberley A Strassel, WSJ, Via GWPF, Nov 25, 2016

<http://www.thegwpf.com/kimberley-strassel-donald-trumps-environmental-reset/>

The Trump that baffles pundits

By Thomas Lifson, American Thinker, Dec 1, 2016

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016/12/the_trump_that_baffles_pundits.html

“But this is one case [tax breaks for Carrier], and is serving a good function. It has been bandied about that Indiana is forking over \$700,000 a year in tax benefits, or \$700 per employee per year. That has to be much less than the cost to the state of unemployment benefits and the whole panoply of expenses that come with mass layoffs.”

Trump offering a new social contract -- and industrial policy

By Thomas Lifson, American Thinker, Dec 2, 2016

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016/12/trump_offering_a_new_social_contract_and_industrial_policy.html

The Administration's Plan – Independent Analysis

COP 21 Carbon Cutting Absurdity, Part 2 of 3

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Nov 29, 2016

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2016/11/29/cop-21-carbon-cutting-absurdity-part-2-of-3/>

“It is impossible to eliminate all coal-fired power plants and 1/3 of natural gas power plants by 2050, without destroying America’s standard of living by forcing Americans to accept huge reductions in the use of electricity, such as for air-conditioning, appliances, communications, WiFi, TV, etc., and without crippling American industry.”

[SEPP Comment: Will a political revolution occur first?]

The Administration's Plan – Push-Back

REPORT: Fighting Global Warming Is WAY More Expensive Than Letting It Happen

By Andrew Follett, Daily Caller, Dec 1, 2016 [H/t GWPF]

<http://dailycaller.com/2016/12/01/report-fighting-global-warming-is-way-more-expensive-than-letting-it-happen/>

Link to report: Climate Costs in Context (Summary)

By Oren Cass, Manhattan Institute, Dec 1, 2016

<http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/climate-costs-context-9589.html>

Full report: <http://www.manhattan-institute.org/sites/default/files/IB-OC-1116.pdf>

Seeking a Common Ground

Perversions of open-minded thinking on climate change

By Kip Hansen, Climate Etc. Dec 1, 2016

<https://judithcurry.com/2016/12/01/perversions-of-open-minded-thinking-on-climate-change/>

Why Fake Data When You Can Fake a Scientist?

Making up names and CVs is one of the latest tricks to game scientific metrics.

By Adam Marcus & Ivan Oransky, Nautilus, Nov 24, 2016

<http://nautil.us/issue/42/fakes/why-fake-data-when-you-can-fake-a-scientist>

[SEPP Comment: Exposing the gaming of the metrics by which scientific publications are judged.]

You Ought to Have a Look: Climate Fretting and Why Its Unjustified

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Dec 2, 2016

<https://www.cato.org/blog/you-ought-have-look-climate-fretting-why-its-unjustified>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

The Direct Effects of Elevated CO2 on the Asian Corn Borer

Xie, H., Zhao, L., Yang, Q., Wang, Z. and He, K. 2015. Direct effects of elevated CO2 levels on the fitness performance of Asian corn borer (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) for multigenerations.

Climate Dynamics 44: 3469-3479. Dec 2, 2016

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V19/dec/a2.php>

[The researchers investigated] “the direct impact of elevated CO2 on the Asian corn borer (*Ostrinia furnacalis*), a moth that consistently causes 10-30 percent maize yield losses annually in China.”

The research “suggest[s] that *O. furnacalis* larvae and pupae reared in elevated CO2 conditions would have lower fitness, including increased mortality, reduced pupal weight and, in multiple generations, longer development times,’ all of which is good news as it reduces the future annual loss of maize to this significant insect pest.”

[SEPP Comment: A surprise.]

How Reef Invertebrate Diversity Responds to Coral Mortality

Nelson, H.R., Kuempel, C.D. and Altieri, A.H. 2016. The resilience of reef invertebrate biodiversity to coral mortality. *Ecosphere* 7: e139. Dec 1, 2016

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V19/dec/a1.php>

“These efforts revealed that (1) ‘dead coral habitats support invertebrate assemblages that can be more diverse and abundant than live coral habitats,’ and that (2) ‘coral habitat (whether live or dead) in turn supports higher diversity and abundance than structurally simple sand areas without coral.’”

Six Months of Natural pH Fluctuations on the Heron Island Reef Flat

Kline, D.I., Teneva, L., Hauri, C., Schneider, K., Miard, T., Chai, A., Marker, M., Dunbar, R., Caldeira, K., Lazar, B., Rivlin, T., Mitchell, B.G., Dove, S. and Hoegh-Guldberg, O. 2015. Six month *in situ* high-resolution carbonate chemistry and temperature study on a coral reef flat reveals asynchronous pH and temperature anomalies. *PLoS ONE* 10: e0127648, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0127648. Nov 30, 2016

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V19/nov/a17.php>

“Among their findings, the researchers report observing large variability in daily pH values (see Table 1, pink shaded values), with differences often exceeding the magnitude of the predicted decline by 2100 (see Figure 1). What is more, they note that ‘as with many other reefs, the nighttime pH minima on the reef flat were far lower than pH values predicted for the open ocean’ by the end of this century.”

Models v. Observations

Prospects for a Prolonged Slowdown in Global Warming in the Early 21st Century

By Nic Lewis, Climate Etc. Nov 30, 2016

<https://judithcurry.com/2016/11/30/prospects-for-a-prolonged-slowdown-in-global-warming-in-the-early-21st-century/>

Measurement Issues -- Surface

Stunning new data indicates El Nino drove record highs in global temperatures suggesting rise may not be down to man-made emissions

Global average temperatures over land have plummeted by more than 1C

Comes amid mounting evidence run of record temperatures about to end

The fall, revealed by Nasa satellites, has been caused by the end of El Nino

By David Rose, Daily Mail, UK, Nov 26, 2016

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3974846/Stunning-new-data-indicates-El-Nino-drove-record-highs-global-temperatures-suggesting-rise-not-man-emissions.html>

Global temperatures have fallen – so why isn’t it being reported?

By Ross Clark, The Spectator, UK, Nov 29, 2016

<http://blogs.spectator.co.uk/2016/11/global-temperatures-fallen-isnt-reported/>

Study Sheds New Insights Into Global Warming Trends

By Buis and Roberts, JPL & Univ of Delaware, Nov 23, 2016

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/jpl/study-sheds-new-insights-into-global-warming-trends>

Link to paper: The global warming hiatus: Slowdown or redistribution?

By Yan & Boyer, et al. Earth’s Future, Nov 22, 2016 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2016EF000417/abstract>

Measurement Issues -- Atmosphere

UAH Global Temperature Update for November 2016: +0.45 deg. C

November Temperature Up a Little from October; 2016 Almost Certain to be Warmest in 38 Year Satellite Record

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Dec 1, 2016

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2016/12/uah-global-temperature-update-for-november-2016-0-45-deg-c/>

“UPDATE: It should be pointed out that 2016 will end up being 0.03-0.04 deg. C warmer than 1998, which is probably not a statistically significant difference given the uncertainties in the satellite dataset adjustments.”

Changing Weather

Cold Kills: The coldest decade of the millennium

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 1, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/12/01/cold-kills-the-coldest-decade-of-the-millennium/>

Atlantic Hurricane season ends slightly above normal in count, but with major hurricane drought intact

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 30, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/11/30/atlantic-hurricane-season-ends-slightly-above-normal-in-count-but-with-major-hurricane-drought-intact/>

Germany's Mean Temperature For November 0.5°C Colder Than Normal As Cold Grips Europe

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 30, 2016

<http://notrickszone.com/2016/11/30/germanys-mean-temperature-for-november-0-5c-colder-than-normal-as-cold-grips-europe/#sthash.i6nib2v8.dpbs>

NOAA forecasts major December cold blast for nearly all the USA

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 1, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/12/01/noaa-forecasts-major-december-cold-blast-for-nearly-all-the-usa/>

[SEPP Comment: Except Maine and Hawaii.]

Changing Climate

Huge reduction in African dust plume impacted climate 11,000 years ago

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, Nov 23, 2016

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161123143643.htm>

Link to paper: Glacial to Holocene changes in trans-Atlantic Saharan dust transport and dust-climate feedbacks.

By Ross H Williams, et al, Science Advances, Nov 23, 2016

<http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/2/11/e1600445>

How did the Sahara Desert get so dry?

By Brooks Hays, College Station, Texas (UPI), Nov 30, 2016

http://www.terraily.com/reports/How_did_the_Sahara_Desert_get_so_dry_999.html

“Over time, the rain belt that once provided the Sahara with moderate rainfall has slowly moved northward toward the Mediterranean.”

[SEPP Comment: Or did the Intertropical Convergence Zone shift south, due to a cooling in the Northern Hemisphere after the Holocene Climate Optimum?]

Changing Seas

Coral survey reveals 5,000-year-old genotypes

By Brooks Hays, State College, Pa. (UPI), Nov 30, 2016

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Coral_survey_reveals_5000-year-old_genotypes_999.html

"Our study shows, on the one hand, that some *Acropora palmata* genotypes have been around for a long time and have survived many environmental changes, including sea-level changes, storms, sedimentation events and so on," Iliana Baums, associate professor of biology at Pennsylvania State University, said in a news release. "This is good news because it indicates that they can be very resilient. On the other hand, the species we studied is now listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act because it has suffered such sharp population declines, indicating that there are limits to how much change even these very resilient corals can handle."

Warming causes epic reef die-off: expert

By Case Smit, Reply, Australian Climate Sceptics, Dec 2, 2016

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2016/12/warming-causes-epic-reef-die-off-exper.html#more>

New Paper: Human Climate Forcing ‘Below Detection’ ... Deep Oceans Warm By ‘2°C Within 200 Years’ 100% Naturally

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Dec 1, 2016

<http://notrickszone.com/2016/12/01/new-paper-human-climate-forcing-below-detection-deep-oceans-warm-by-2c-within-200-years-100-naturally/#sthash.aXaVTho7.dpbs>

[SEPP Comment: The paper states 2,000 years, not 200.]

Report tallies the 'cost of doing nothing' on sea level rise in Hampton Roads

By Tamara Ditrich, Daily Press, Nov 22, 2016 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/science/dp-nws-report-cost-of-doing-nothing-20161122-story.html>

Link to report: Costs of Doing Nothing: Economic Consequences of Not Adapting to Sea Level Rise in the Hampton Roads Region

By George Van Houtven, et al. RTI, Nov 2016

http://law.wm.edu/news/stories/2016/documents/Final%20Report_Hampton%20Roads%20SLR%20.pdf

“Global sea levels have risen at a higher rate since the mid - 19th century than during the previous two millennia, and this trend is expected to continue (IPCC, 2013).”

[SEPP Comment: Strongly question the assertion.]

The “blob” in the Pacific turns from warm to cold – and it’s even bigger

By Antony Watts, WUWT, Nov 30, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/11/30/the-blob-in-the-pacific-turns-from-warm-to-cold-and-its-even-bigger/>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

New study reveals that West Antarctica's largest glacier may have started retreating as early as the 1940s

By Staff Writers, NSF, Nov 23, 2016

https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=190473&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_e v=click

[SEPP Comment: Or thousands of years before that.]

Today's Arctic Compares with 150 years ago

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Nov 29, 2016

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2016/11/29/todays-arctic-compares-with-150-years-ago/>

Link to full article: Today's Arctic Compares with 150 years ago

By Ron Ciutz, Science Matters, Nov 27, 2016

<https://rclutz.wordpress.com/2016/11/27/todays-arctic-compares-with-150-years-ago/>

There Has Been No Significant Net Change In Arctic Sea Ice Extent In The Last 80+ Years

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Nov 28, 2016

<http://notrickszone.com/2016/11/28/there-has-been-no-significant-net-change-in-arctic-sea-ice-extent-in-the-last-80-years/#sthash.I3gkDz6W.dpbs>

[SEPP Comment: Choosing start and end points!]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Farmed fish doing alright at CO2 levels twenty, fifty, seventy times higher than today

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 30, 2016

<http://joannenova.com.au/2016/11/farmed-fish-doing-alright-at-co2-levels-twenty-fifty-seventy-times-higher-than-today/>

Lowering Standards

What Does A Trump Presidency Mean For Climate-Change Education?

By Tania Lombrozo, NPR, Nov 21, 2016 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.npr.org/sections/13.7/2016/11/21/502847128/what-does-a-trump-presidency-mean-for-climate-change-education>

Link to press release: The global climate 2011-2015: heat records and high impact weather

By Staff Writers, WMO, Nov 8, 2016

<http://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/global-climate-2011-2015-hot-and-wild>

Full Report: http://ane4bf-datapl.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wmocms/s3fs-public/1179_EN.pdf?WevaJ8QIS5ntCjcWd7OYyZfhIDKuews9

[SEPP Comment: A UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) special promoting the UN Paris Agreement which is based on UN IPCC Science. The IPCC is organized under the WMO.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

What Emily Shuckburgh Forgot To Tell You

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Nov 30, 2016

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2016/11/30/what-emily-shuckburgh-forgot-to-tell-you/#more-25253>

[SEPP Comment: Rebutting claims by a scientist with the British Antarctic Survey, including some claims that were inconsistent with findings of the Survey.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Crooked Science Finds A Friend In Trump

By Dominique Browning, Huffington Post, Nov 28, 2016

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/crooked-science-finds-a-friend-in-trump_us_583c9f65e4b093650ff04013

Questioning European Green

EU Revises Energy Policy, Fails To Set CO2 Targets For Member States

By Laurence Norman, The Wall Street Journal, Via GWPF, Nov 30, 2016

<http://www.thegwpf.com/eu-revises-energy-policy-fails-to-set-co2-targets-for-member-states/>

Close To The Bone!

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Nov 29, 2016

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2016/11/29/close-to-the-bone/>

For real time see: <http://www.gridwatch.templar.co.uk/>

“I have said it before, and I will say it again – what the hell are we supposed to do in a few years time when we no longer have the 8GW currently being supplied by coal?”

Renewables Should No Longer Have Grid Priority, Says E.U. Energy Commissioner

By Staff Writers, Handelsblatt Global, Nov 30, 2016

<https://global.handelsblatt.com/breaking/renewables-should-no-longer-have-grid-priority-says-e-u-energy-commissioner>

[SEPP Comment: According to the commissioner, keep renewable priority on existing capacity, but not for new capacity.]

Funding Issues

Oil Giants Spend \$115 Million A Year To Oppose Climate Policy

New report reveals slick strategies oil companies use to ensure their survival.

By Casey Williams, The Huffington Post, Nov 4, 2016 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/oil-companies-climate-policy_us_570bb841e4b0142232496d97

[SEPP Comment: The US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) spends \$2.5 Billion promoting CO2-caused global warming. Which organizations use money more efficiently?

Neither government efforts to promote foolish policy nor lobbying to prevent foolish policy are illegal.]

Litigation Issues

Junk science is no way to win a jackpot: Column

Lawyers in the hunt to strike it rich are ignoring scientific nuance and misleading juries.

By Alex Berezow and Hank Campbell, USA Today, Nov 17, 2016

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2016/11/17/jackpot-verdicts-junk-science-ovarian-cancer-talcum-powder-column/93451262/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA plans to withdraw pollution regulations for seven Texas power plants

By Ryan Handy, Fuel Fix, Nov 29, 2016 [H/t WUWT]

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2016/11/29/epa-withdraws-pollution-regulations-for-seven-texas-power-plants/>

EPA in a rush to save auto rules from Trump

By John Siciliano, Washington Examiner, Nov 30, 2016

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epa-in-a-rush-to-save-auto-rules-from-trump/article/2608531>

Energy Issues – Non-US

OPEC Cuts Output, US Shale Rejoices

By Staff Writers, The American Interest, Nov 30, 2016

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/2016/11/30/opec-cuts-output-us-shale-rejoices/>

Texas Shale Is Big Winner as OPEC Deal Brightens Oil Outlook

By Joe Carroll, Alex Nussbaum, and David Wethe, Bloomberg, Nov 30, 2016

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-11-30/oil-shares-soar-as-emerging-opec-deal-brightens-price-outlook>

Some Thoughts on the OPEC Deal

By Geoffrey Styles, GSW Strategy Group, Dec 1, 2016

<http://energyoutlook.blogspot.com/2016/12/some-thoughts-on-opec-deal.html>

The OPEC deal is done. Here's what to expect from oil markets next

By Tom DiChristopher, CNBC, Nov 30, 2016

<http://www.cnbc.com/2016/11/30/the-opec-deal-is-done-heres-what-to-expect-from-oil-markets-next.html>

What next for shale?

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Dec 2, 2016

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2016/12/02/what-next-for-shale/>

Winter power crunch fears as UK-France cables severed during storm

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Nov 29, 2016

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2016/11/29/winter-power-crunch-fears-uk-france-cables-severed-storm/>

[SEPP Comment: Making implementation of emergency measures more likely.]

Capacity problem looms as main UK interconnector damaged

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 1, 2016

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2016/12/01/capacity-problem-looms-as-main-uk-interconnector-damaged/>

Blackout: the sequel

By Euan Mearns, Energy Matters, Nov 28, 2016

<http://euanmearns.com/blackout-the-sequel/#more-15875>

[SEPP Comment: Continued problems in trying to meet Scotland's consumption after the Torness nuclear power plant went down. Closing coal-fired plants can be unfortunate for once electricity independent Scotland.]

Canada approves Trans Mountain, Line 3 pipelines, rejects Northern Gateway

By Staff Writers, BBC, Nov 29, 2016 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38139449>

Parts of South Australia blackout again: BHP Chief warns of jobs and investment cuts

Just another day with a grid on the edge

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 1, 2016

<http://joannenova.com.au/2016/12/parts-of-south-australia-blackout-again-bhp-chief-warns-of-jobs-and-investment-cuts/>

UK Electricity Part 3: Wind and Solar

Guest post by Alex Terrell and Andy Dawson:, Energy Matters, Dec 1, 2016

<http://euanmearns.com/uk-electricity-part-3-wind-and-solar/>

[SEPP Comment: Detailed and technical analysis on how wind and solar may be able to fill future UK needs.]

Why Southern China Broke Up Its Power Grid

An abundance of high-voltage DC makes big AC grids unstable

By Peter Fairley, IEEE Spectrum, Nov 23, 2016

<http://spectrum.ieee.org/energy/the-smarter-grid/why-southern-china-broke-up-its-power-grid>

[SEPP Comment: Interesting article on what may become significant changes to major power grids.]

Energy Issues -- US

Can the U.S. Become an Energy Superpower in 2017?

By Dave Merrill and Christine Buurma, Bloomberg, Nov 30, 2016

https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2016-energy-pipelines/?cmpid=BBD113016_BIZ

[SEPP Comment: Reversing the flow of natural gas to north to south?]

North Dakota's Pipe Dreams Are the Key to Its Future

The controversial Dakota Access project could be “the difference between survival and shutdown.”

By Matthew Philips, Bloomberg, Dec 1, 2016

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-12-01/north-dakota-s-pipe-dreams-are-the-key-to-its-future>

Dakota Pipeline Opponents Speak with Forked Tongue

By Daniel John Sobieski, American Thinker, Dec 2, 2016

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2016/11/dakota_pipeline_opponents_speak_with_forked_tongue.html

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

New U.S. border-crossing pipelines bring shale gas to more regions in Mexico

By Victoria Zaretskaya and Faouzi Aloulou, EIA, Dec 1, 2016

<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=28972>

Turn the World Around - Perryville Hub's Pivotal Role in Transforming U.S. Natural Gas Flows, Part 2

By Sheetal Nasta, RBN Energy, Nov 27, 2016

<https://rbnenergy.com/turn-the-world-around-perryville-hubs-pivotal-role-in-transforming-us-natural-gas-flows-part2>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Swiss nuclear plants to remain on grid

By Urs Geiser, Swissinfo.ch, Nov 27, 2016

http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/vote-november-27_power-on-or-off-for-swiss-nuclear-plants-/42703330

Fusion energy—a time of transition and potential

By Stewart Prager And Michael C. Zarnstorff, Phys.org, Nov 30, 2016

<http://phys.org/news/2016-11-fusion-energya-transition-potential.html>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

The Colossal African Solar Farm That Could Power Europe

We visit a vast power plant at the door to the Moroccan desert that is helping to define the energy future of the world.

By Sandrine Ceurstemont, BBC, Nov 29, 2016

<http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20161129-the-colossal-african-solar-farm-that-could-power-europe>

[SEPP Comment: Highly questionable, including water to drive steam turbines.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy -- Other

The crazy Swansea Bay tidal scheme has re-emerged from the deep

By Christopher Booker, The Telegraph, UK, Via GWPF, Nov 26, 2016

<http://www.thegwpf.com/christopher-booker-the-crazy-swansea-bay-tidal-scheme-has-re-emerged-from-the-deep/>

Carbon Schemes

Canada to Phase Out Coal Generation by 2030, Stricter Power Plant Rules on Horizon

By Sonal Patel, Power Mag, Nov 21, 2016

http://www.powermag.com/canada-to-phase-out-coal-generation-by-2030-stricter-power-plant-rules-on-horizon/?hq_e=el&hq_m=3311605&hq_l=15&hq_v=5e660500d0

“The Canadian government projects that by 2040, nearly 1.3 GW of power plants could be equipped with CCS, mostly in Alberta and Saskatchewan.”

[SEPP Comment: CCS is yet to be commercially viable, except in rare cases when used for oil extraction in wells.]

California Dreaming

California targets dairy cows to combat global warming

By Staff Writers, AP, Nov 29, 2016 [H/t Paul Redfern]

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/11/29/california-targets-dairy-cows-to-combat-global-warming.html>

[SEPP Comment: Perhaps dairy farmers will demand elimination of the use of fossil fuels in hydraulic pumps. Make Southern California sustainable!]

Health, Energy, and Climate

Health, safety and unintended consequences

By Martin Livermore, The Scientific Alliance, Dec 2, 2016

<http://scientific-alliance.org/node/1028>

Oh Mann!

Whatever happened to Michael Mann’s defamation suit? (2016 edition)

By Jonathan H. Adler, Washington Post, Nov 25, 2016 [H/t Elliot Cramer]
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2016/11/25/whatever-happened-to-michael-manns-defamation-suit-2016-edition/?tid=ss_mail

Other Scientific News

Life before oxygen

By Staff Writers, Cincinnati OH (SPX), Nov 30, 2016

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Life_before_oxygen_999.html

Link to paper: Sulfur-oxidizing bacteria prior to the Great Oxidation Event from the 2.52 Ga Gamohaan Formation of South Africa

By Czaja, Beukes, and Osterhout, Geology, Oct 2016

<http://geology.gsapubs.org/content/44/12/983.full>

Other News that May Be of Interest

Rice farming used as 'summer crop' by early Indus civilization

By Staff Writers, Cambridge UK (SPX), Nov 22, 2016

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Rice_farming_in_India_much_older_than_thought_used_as_summer_crop_by_Indus_civilization_999.html

Link to paper: Feeding ancient cities in South Asia: dating the adoption of rice, millet and tropical pulses in the Indus civilization

By Petrie, Bates, Higham, and Singh, Antiquity, Nov 21, 2016

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/antiquity/article/div-classtitlefeeding-ancient-cities-in-south-asia-dating-the-adoption-of-rice-millet-and-tropical-pulses-in-the-indus-civilisationdiv/AB5A1D3E0EBFEE0AB8ACE7E96DF6C33C>

Six maps that show the anatomy of America's vast infrastructure

By Tim Meko, The Washington Post, Dec 1, 2016

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/national/maps-of-american-infrastructure/>

[SEPP Comment: Maps showing vital infrastructure, not including highways.]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

The Ninth First Climate Refugees

Guest Post by Willis Eschenbach [see update], WUWT, Nov 30, 2016

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2016/11/30/the-ninth-first-climate-refugees/>

[SEPP Comment: The fear of a tsunami is now called fear of climate change.]

Worse than we thought – atmospheric concentration of CO2!

By Staff Writers, Climate Change Predictions.org, Nov 28, 2016

<http://climatechangepredictions.org/uncategorized/7434>

[SEPP Comment: This type of modeling is the source of fear of CO2-caused global warming?]

“The MIT Integrated Global System Model is used to make probabilistic projections of climate change from 1861 to 2100.

“Since the model’s first projections were published in 2003 substantial improvements have been made to the model and improved estimates of the probability distributions of uncertain input parameters have become available.

“The new projections are considerably warmer than the 2003 projections, e.g., the median surface warming in 2091 to 2100 is 5.1°C compared to 2.4°C in the earlier study.

Their median projection for the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide in 2095 is a jaw-dropping 866 ppm. [ClimateProgress, 23 Feb 2009](#)”

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ARTICLES:

1. My Unhappy Life as a Climate Heretic

My research was attacked by thought police in journalism, activist groups funded by billionaires and even the White House.

By Roger Pielke Jr. WSJ, Dec 2, 2016

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/my-unhappy-life-as-a-climate-heretic-1480723518>

SUMMARY: See: <http://www.thegwpf.com/roger-pielke-jr-my-unhappy-life-as-a-climate-heretic/>

2. Shoreline Gentry Are Fake Climate Victims

A reduction in federal subsidies is behind lower coastal home values.

By Holman Jenkins, WSJ, Nov 25, 2016

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/shoreline-gentry-are-fake-climate-victims-1480111739>

SUMMARY: Jenkins criticizes exaggerated claims of shoreline problems, particularly when the claims are made by the well-off. He writes:

“The fake news problem is getting serious. An example appeared on the front page of the New York Times on Friday, under the headline “Rising Seas Turn Coastal Houses Into a Gamble.”

“Supposedly elevated sea levels caused by global warming have homeowners and developers worried about the value of their coastal properties.

“Supposedly their concern has been heightened by the election of Donald Trump, “who has long been a skeptic of global warming.”

“Supposedly the Trump selection of Myron Ebell, a policy specialist who challenges the media consensus on global warming, to head the EPA transition has “intensified these worries in Florida and among many climate scientists.”

“The emphasis is ours—though, of course, it’s probably true that somebody “in Florida” buys the thesis of this story, even if it’s just a Times reporter passing through.

“Only in the second half of a 3,099-word opus is the truth not so much revealed as hinted. Halting and piecemeal reform of the federal flood-insurance subsidy program that has so benefited wealthy seaside homeowners is why beach-front housing prices are being reset.

“A Sarasota couple found it harder to sell their Florida house when shoppers noticed a \$7,000 annual flood insurance bill. “This experience will become more common, economists say, as the federal government shifts away from subsidizing flood insurance rates to get premiums closer to reflecting the true market cost of the risk,” the paper notes in passing.

“Bingo. When Teddy Roosevelt built his Sagamore Hill on Long Island, he did so a quarter mile from shore at an elevation of 115 feet not because he disdained proximity to the beach or was

precociously worried about climate change. The federal government did not stand ready with taxpayer money to defray his risk.

“Estimates vary, but sea levels may have risen at two millimeters a year over the past century. Meanwhile, tidal cycles along the U.S. east coast range from 11 feet every day (in Boston) to two feet (parts of Florida).

“On top of this, a ‘notable surge event’ can produce a storm surge of seven to 23 feet, according to a federal list of 10 hurricanes over the past 70 years.

“We should not exaggerate the degree to which homeowners are being asked to shoulder their own risks. Washington is doling out five-figure checks to Jersey homeowners to raise houses on pilings to reduce the federal government’s future rebuilding costs. But, to state the obvious, normal tidal variation plus storm surge is the danger to coastal property. Background sea-level rise is a non-factor. A FEMA study from several years ago found that fully a quarter of coastal dwellings are liable to be destroyed over a 50-year period.

“Though it pleased New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to pretend Superstorm Sandy in 2012 was caused by global warming, the storm wasn’t even a hurricane by the time it hit shore—it just happened to hit at peak tide. Sure, certain people in Florida and elsewhere like to conflate the two. It’s in their interests to do so. But the Times is not obliged to make front-page climate propaganda out of a false syllogism.

“Alas, climate change is one of the worst things to happen to journalism. Our industry’s base of financial support was already being eroded by digital economics. Our intellectual credibility is assailed by fake news, on one hand, and by the rise of bloggers, on the other, many of whom are more perceptive, disciplined thinkers.

“Climate change is the cheapest grace on offer these days. Climate reporters aren’t expected to understand the science or its limits—understanding is actively discouraged. Just memorize the word ‘consensus’ and fling ‘denier’ at anybody who proves inconvenient.”

3. The Real Enemy for Trump Is Mercantilism, Not Globalism

As in Adam Smith’s day, the state favors some firms through regulations, taxes, subsidies and licenses.

By Hernando de Soto, WSJ, Nov 27, 2016

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-real-enemy-for-trump-is-mercantilism-not-globalism-1480279192>

The founder of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy in Lima, Peru, writes”

“For us non-Americans it is sometimes hard to understand Donald Trump because he speaks and writes in what the British philosopher Bertrand Russell called “little patches of color”—micro-facts that must be pieced together to form a meaningful picture.

“For me, an economist from South America who works around the world making capitalism more inclusive and trying to adapt blockchain technology to that purpose, the picture Mr. Trump seems to be painting is that the American people and economy are being held back by elites who obtain privileges in a corrupt government that is mismanaging globalization and immigration, while

failing to contain terrorism. These are problems that we outside of North America and Western Europe—90% of the world’s population—also face.

“We all have an interest in repairing the noble endeavor of globalization, which, since World War II, has been making it possible for people around the world to become better acquainted with and benefit through free markets. When accepting the Republican nomination for president, Mr. Trump said “Americanism, not globalism, will be our credo.” Perhaps he is unaware that the world outside of the U.S. faces similar challenges. That he is blaming America’s economic competitors for many of those challenge is an abandonment of U.S. global leadership.

“Yet if America steps away from the world, another leader will emerge. Chinese President Xi Jinping was more than happy to tell attendees at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in my home city of Lima, Peru, this month that his country would support all those who want to keep global markets open. Delegates from around the world rose to their feet and applauded.

“As I’ve pieced together Mr. Trump’s little patches of color, I’ve come to realize that his real enemy is not globalism but mercantilism—the early stage of capitalism that prevailed in Europe from the 16th to 18th centuries also known as “crony” or “noninclusive” capitalism. Adam Smith and other modernizers combated mercantilist governments for granting favored producer and consumer elites with special rights by means of complex regulations, subsidies, bailouts, taxes, licenses and bilateral treaties that allowed them to access large-scale global markets and import cheap labor.

“Over time mercantilism was reduced significantly. But it has made a comeback in the 21st century. One way is through the emergence of complex bilateral trade agreements—surely better than no trade at all but riddled with labyrinths through which special interests prowl to capture surplus value and smuggle in low-cost labor.

“Mr. Trump’s “100-Day Action Plan to Make America Great Again” calls for “special task forces” to identify and close the loopholes through which privileges are granted in complex trade agreements. This, if done properly, could improve trade while bringing greater benefits to a broader number of people.

“Today, in developing countries, these same trade agreements are frequently challenged—not by governments but by the people excluded from their privileges. Why is this coming to the fore now? Because after the defeat of communism 27 years ago, ordinary people expected to be allowed to benefit directly from international trade agreements but most of them received only the kind of sops that mercantilism gave them.

“What they didn’t get—and need the most to benefit from globalization—are the rights to form companies that can employ talent and build business hierarchies outside the family or tribal pecking order; to reduce risks with limited liability. They did not get the property and intellectual rights to divide and protect their assets, and pledge them to raise capital and credit. Nor did they get the transferable certificates to combine these rights to generate surplus value to capture, store and monetize it. Now they’re migrating to the U.S. and Europe, flooding cities, cutting corners and feeding the ranks of terrorism.

“Columbia University economist Jagdish Bhagwati has lamented that bilateral treaties, which give partners the right to exclude and discriminate against countries not included in the agreement, have replaced multilateral global trade agreements whose benefits were automatically

shared by all countries. This, says Mr. Bhagwati, creates a 'spaghetti bowl' of regulations, armies of lawyers and new elites organized to cut their way through the morass.

"In 18th-century France, six volumes of stifling regulations on the textiles trade led to the execution of 16,000 businessmen who could not comply. Europe's tortured mercantilist past is reminiscent of the Arab Spring, which was triggered in early 2011 when some 100 entrepreneurs throughout the region self-immolated in protest for not being allowed to do business. The first one to go was Mohamed Bouazizi, a Tunisian fruit vendor who died—wearing Western-style sneakers, jeans, a T-shirt and a zippered jacket—protesting the expropriation of his produce.

"Bouazizi, like the frustrated Americans who voted for Mr. Trump, are not victims of globalization but of mercantilism. The question is whether Mr. Trump's administration can fashion his little patches of color into a meaningful big picture—not only of America but of the world."

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