

The Week That Was: 2017-10-28 (October 28, 2017)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Quote of the Week. *"The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day."* – Albert Einstein

Number of the Week: \$0.00? Zero?

THIS WEEK:

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

Funding Climate Science: Internal to the globe, the earth's climate is partially determined by the movement of two dynamic fluids: 1) the atmosphere; and 2) the oceans. Fluid dynamics is not thoroughly understood; thus, the actions of these fluids cannot be clearly defined.

But, it is an external force, the sun, which is the dominant controller of the earth's climate. Once thought to be fixed, it is now shown that the energy from the sun varies, not only in radiant energy; but also, in solar magnetism and solar wind. Experiments at CERN, and elsewhere, have shown that the formation of clouds is by promoted cosmic rays, which are moderated by the intensity of solar wind.

To understand what happens to this highly complex system if a minor greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO₂), is added to the atmosphere, is very challenging and not easily resolved. There will be many mistakes made and hypotheses tentatively accepted even though they may be faulty. This tentative acceptance and later rejection is part of the human experience in science and in other activities. It is important to question hypotheses, and discard those found wanting. Rigorous science requires that the process occur, and be noted, so ideas can advance. Apparently, rejection of false hypotheses is not being made public by the climate establishment.

For example, it appears that the climate establishment has discarded the so called "hot-spot", once called the distinct human fingerprint. First so proclaimed in an IPCC Physical Sciences Working Group meeting in Madrid in late November 1995, the "hot-spot" became the justification for the statement: *"the balance of evidence points towards a discernible human influence on global climate."* It was important in helping obtain the over \$40 billion US government has spent in "climate science" since 1993, tens of billions on "climate change financing" and the tens of billions in tax subsidies for poor alternatives to fossil fuels – mainly solar and wind [the amounts are based on government reports and government definitions]. In "fighting" climate change, the US is spending almost as much as it did on all the Apollo missions, in 2012 dollars. The funds do not include the moneys the state department turned over to UN organizations in the closing days of the Obama Administration.

Part of the funds spent by the US went to the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and one of its parent organizations, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), largely through the State Department and the USAID. The IPCC has become an established political organization continuing to investigate the influence of greenhouse gases,

mainly CO₂, on the earth's temperatures, but not rigorously rejecting or modifying hypotheses found faulty. Thus, the IPCC is masking its activities and undermining its own scientific credibility. It did the same with Mr. Mann's "hockey-stick."

The budgets of the State Department examined do not reveal the sources of funds given to the UN organizations in the closing days of the Obama Administration. Further, the latest budget of the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) is the FY 2017 requested budget of \$2.790 billion, but it is not enacted by Congress and contains \$10 million from USAID. The budget page contains the cryptic note: "DOS [Department of State] has been included as a non-add agency in the past, but reported no USGCRP funding during this time period." Does anyone know what DOS is spending? See TWTWs dated December 31, 2016, and February 4, 2017 and links under Financing Issues.

Discovering CO₂ Influence: Several readers have submitted suggestions on what may be wrong with the IPCC approach to discover the influence of CO₂. Of course, these would apply to the follow-on reports by the USGCRP, EPA, etc. The suggestions can be classified into two general groups, not mutually exclusive. They are: 1) major issues with the Kiehl-Trenberth global-energy annual budget and 2) the possibility that the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) reveals a signal of CO₂ warming.

Energy Flows: Australian Meteorologist William Kininmonth writes TWTW that the plausible argument embodied in the Kiehl-Trenberth model ignores critical factors of energy flows. Essentially, if energy flow to space in the form of infrared radiation (IR) is reduced by greenhouse gases (CO₂), then the surface, and atmospheric, temperatures will rise until the inflowing and outgoing radiation is balanced – at the top of the atmosphere.

This approach ignores findings by Trenberth and Caron (2001) that average annual top of atmosphere net radiation varies significant by latitude. It is positive at the tropics (net incoming) and highly negative in the polar regions (net outgoing). The difference in energy is transported towards the poles by ocean and atmospheric circulations with only limited impact on surface temperature.

Further, Kininmonth challenges the term "heat trapping gases" because: *"There is sufficient CO₂ in the atmosphere such that across the CO₂ wavebands all the IR emission from the surface is completely absorbed within the first few tens of metres of the boundary layer; the CO₂ cannot 'trap' any more of the surface IR emission."*

[SEPP Chairman Fred Singer has made a similar assertion concerning the term "heat trapping gases", stating the major energy flow from the surface to the atmosphere (troposphere up to about 50,000 feet (15,000 m)) is not by infrared radiation; but, by convection, including the transfer of latent heat by evapotranspiration.]

Using equations presented in the IPCC first assessment report (1990), Kininmonth calculates that to achieve the global climate model projections of surface temperatures rising between 2.0C and 4.5C for a doubling of CO₂ requires water vapor amplification of some 6 to 15 times greater the direct effect of CO₂, which is unrealistic. For the 2009 model, see link under Defending the Orthodoxy.

Endangerment Finding: Retired career EPA senior analyst Alan Carlin explains why he believed the EPA finding that greenhouse gases, particularly CO₂, was seriously flawed when made, and remains so. Given his previous dedication to the EPA, his views merit extensive quoting: [Boldface in the original]

“1. Bottom Up GCMs Used by Alarmists Prove Nothing. *The principal justification offered by climate alarmists for their beliefs is that by using bottom up general circulation models (GCMs) they believe they can predict how the climate as a whole will operate by considering how they believe it operated in a large number of individual geographic grid cells. They claim that the models show that global temperatures are primarily determined by atmospheric CO₂ levels. These GCMs are modified weather models, which generally are not valid and therefore not useful much beyond two weeks because of the chaotic nature of climate. But the alarmist model builders claim that they can usefully run these models over periods of decades or even centuries and get valid results.*

“Climate modelers are not scientists. They are not doing science. Their climate model projections have no physical meaning. Their climate model projections have never had any physical meaning.

“Unfortunately, many people are impressed by big computer models and those that write them; they do not understand them and take this approach seriously, which only proves that garbage fed into a large computer model yields garbage out.

“2. The Few Available Top Down Studies Conclude that Observed Climate Change since 1960 Can Be Explained by Natural Factors. *The bottom up computer modeling could never produce valid results and has always been a waste of time and effort despite the expenditure of billions of dollars by various national governments and the UN. In very recent years a very different, top down approach has been tried by a few researchers; so far the results have been exactly the opposite of the alarmist models—that CO₂ levels have no significant effects on global temperatures; changes in global temperatures since about 1960 can be fully explained by known natural factors.*

“3. Earth Has a Very Extensive Natural Temperature Control System which Rules Out the Alarmists’ Predicted Catastrophic Temperature Increases. *There is substantial evidence that Earth has a very effective natural temperature control system that continuously and automatically keeps down temperatures, particularly near significant bodies of water due to the very unusual properties of the water molecule. This makes it impossible that there can be any substantial increase in temperatures in tropical areas (where much of the heat from the sun enters the climate system) near water, and hence no danger of the catastrophic increases predicted by the alarmists. And most of Earth’s surface is water. The temperature control system includes a number of emergent climate phenomena, including clouds, thunderstorms, tornadoes, monsoons, hurricanes, ocean currents, and coastal fog.*

“4. The Alarmists’ Whole Approach Ignores the Effects of Earth’s Temperature Control System. *It only deals with “forcings” allegedly resulting from higher CO₂ levels as if the Earth had no natural temperature control system. To prove their conclusions it must be shown that whatever temperature increases may result from higher levels of CO₂ are not dissipated by Earth’s temperature control system in such a way as to negate the temperature increasing effects of these alleged forcings. So unless it can be shown that CO₂ decreases the effectiveness of the temperature control system CO₂ increases would be largely if not totally irrelevant...*

“5. Their Basic Hypothesis Does Not Satisfy the Scientific Method since reasonable inferences based on their key alarmist hypothesis can be shown to be false.

“6. Numerous Other Significant Inconsistencies between climate alarmist science and real world observations; there are so many, in fact, that very extensive books have been written about them by distinguished scientists and carefully reviewed by numerous experts.

“None of this was seriously discussed when the Endangerment Finding was approved in great haste and little serious discussion in 2009. Clearly it is long past time for the robust, meaningful discussions that Administrator Pruitt and most skeptics believe are necessary. Altering our entire way of life at monumental costs, negative benefits, and no meaningful discussion are simply not a prudent course for public policy and will result in enormous losses for taxpayers, ratepayers, and the nation unless EPA or the courts change the Obama Administration’s Endangerment Finding. The Trump Administration is trying to reduce the impact of the Obama CO2 emission reduction regulations but could be much more effective and efficient about it by reopening the Endangerment Finding and making the needed robust, meaningful discussion part of the proceedings.

On his web site, Carlin provides support for these assertions. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Thankless Task: Economics professor Dieter Helm of the University of Oxford has undertaken what may be a thankless task. He was charged with developing a market structure that would deliver the objectives of the UK 2008 Climate Change Act (CCA) at lowest cost. This is far different than developing an energy market that delivers lowest cost electricity. The opening paragraph of the Executive Summary gives an idea of what may create an uproar.

“This review has two main findings. The first is that the cost of energy is significantly higher than it needs to be to meet the government’s objectives and, in particular, to be consistent with the Climate Change Act (CCA) and to ensure security of supply. The second is that energy policy, regulation and market design are not fit for the purposes of the emerging low-carbon energy market, as it undergoes profound technical change.”

There is a serious question regarding the practical nature of “profound technical change.” What is achievable, and at what cost? Nearly every week there is an announcement of a potential battery, or other electricity storage, breakthrough. But in one hundred years none have been available on a commercial scale except hydro-pumped storage.

The Summary concludes with:

“Not to implement these recommendations is likely to perpetuate the crisis mentality of the industry, and these crises are likely to get worse, challenging the security of supply, undermining the transition to electric transport, and weakening the delivery of the carbon budgets. It will continue the unnecessary high costs of the British energy system, and as a result perpetuate fuel poverty, weaken industrial competitiveness, and undermine public support for decarbonisation. We can, and should, do much better, and open up a period of falling prices as households and industry benefit from the great technological opportunities over the coming decades.”

Again, what are the great technological opportunities? See links under Energy Issues – Non-US

New Electricity Pricing Scheme? Although the US does not suffer under the burden of the UK 2008 Climate Change Act, the Energy Department apparently recognizes that increased reliance on solar and wind can create instability to the grid. It has suggested a plan to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to ensure grid reliability. This plan would allow “recovery of costs of fuel-secure generation units” – give a pricing preference to sources of energy that are dispatchable; that is, human controlled to turn on, off, and change intensity as needed.

Immediately there was push-back. But, as South Australia and the growing belly of the California Duck illustrate, the problem is serious. Energy expert Donn Dears explains the situation. However, the CEO of the nation’s largest electricity market operator suggested FERC an alternative: “describe essential reliability services like stability that we use and don't pay for today.” In so doing, the market operators may be able to establish economic values on these characteristics, which are vital in modern civilizations. It may be similar to performance targets of voltage, frequency and reliability, which were common before politicians wished to impose their ideological desires on electricity. See links under Energy Issues – US.

Accuse First, Evidence May Come! The herbicide glyphosate is under insistent attack by European Greens, although they have little or no proof it causes harm. The effort is part of a well-established practice by greens to get rid of products they do not like, no matter the human benefits the products have.

Probably the most deplorable example was the outright banning of DDT by the EPA during the Nixon Administration. Although its insecticide properties were not discovered until 1940, the chemical was highly useful in ridding body lice and other insect infestations on people living in crowded conditions such as in prisoner-of-war camps. US GIs took dry “showers” using DDT. Periodic indoor spraying of huts with DDT was found to be highly effective in controlling malaria in tropical countries. But if it is fashionable to blame the chemical, without evidence, don’t bother with evidence.

Please note that neither SEPP nor Fred Singer have taken any money, fees, gratuities, donations, etc. from Monsanto, the manufacturer of Glyphosate (Round-up) as claimed by Mr. Michael Mann in the *Washington Post*. See links under Questioning European Green and Article #1.

Carbon Dioxide, A Social Cost or Benefit? Manhattan attorney Francis Menton discusses yet another estimate of the bureaucratic concept called the social cost of carbon (dioxide). This was recently performed analysis by the EPA, and it demonstrates how a few changes in assumptions such as altering the discount rate from 3% to 7% can drastically alter the results from \$51 per ton to \$1 per ton.

At the same time, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) came out with a study at the request of Senators Maria Cantwell and Susan Collins estimating the costs of climate change at \$34 billion to \$112 billion per year by late century, discounted to \$9 billion to \$28 billion in today’s dollars. The GAO estimate was based on the 2014 National Assessment by USGCRP. Of course, no one has bothered to verify and validate the models used.

Interestingly, the CO2 Science group reviews a third assessment of the increase in plant primary production from increasing CO2. As the reviewer states:

“Thus, we have two independent findings from two independent scientific teams confirming there has been a large increase in global GPP [Gross Primary Production – greening] since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. And from the additional work of Cheng et al., we know that that increase has largely resulted from the growth-enhancing, water-saving and stress-alleviating benefits of atmospheric CO2 fertilization of plants.”

When will those in the corridors of Washington realize that CO2 is vital for plants, the environment, and life on the planet as we generally recognize it? See links under Defending the Orthodoxy, Questioning the Orthodoxy, and Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science.

Number of the Week: \$0.00? (zero) TWTW performed a web search for the budget of USGCRP for FY 2018, which began on October 1, 2017. The search uncovered no budget, enacted or requested, and no budget except one requested for FY 2017, not enacted. Given that the USGCRP has acted as a conduit for moneys to the IPCC and UNFCCC, and that it produced national assessments based on climate models that it failed to verify and validated, this may be a positive sign. An August 14, 2017 Congressional Research Service report on Federal Research and Development Funding: FY2018 stated on p 9.

“In FY2017, 13 departments and agencies participated in the USGCRP. USGCRP efforts are coordinated by the NSTC Subcommittee on Global Change Research. Additional USGCRP information can be obtained at <http://www.globalchange.gov>. This section will be updated when the USGCRP updates its budget information.”

See links under Funding Issues.

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

The Global Warming Thought Police Want Skeptics In 'Jail'

By Kerry Jackson, IBD, Oct 24, 2017

<http://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/the-global-warming-thought-police-want-skeptics-in-jail/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC

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>

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>

Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate

S. Fred Singer, Editor, NIPCC, 2008

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

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Scott Pruitt is Dead Right: EPA Never Seriously Considered the Science Used in Its 2009

GHG/CO2 Endangerment Finding

By Alan Carlin, Carlin Economics and Science, Oct 25, 2017

<http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/3961>

Remembering Madrid '95: A Meeting that Changed the World

By Bernie Lewin, Enthusiasm, Scepticism and Science, Nov 23, 2015

<https://enthusiasmscepticismscience.wordpress.com/2015/11/21/remembering-madrid-95-a-meeting-that-changed-the-world-2/#more-1838>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Earth's Global Energy Budget

By Kevin E. Trenberth, John T. Fasullo, and Jeffrey Kiehl, NACAR, American Meteorological Society, Mar 1, 2009

<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/2008BAMS2634.1>

[SEPP Comment: *With minor corrections to the 1997 model.*]

Climate change already costing government billions: GAO

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Oct 24, 2017

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/356837-gao-climate-change-already-costing-government-billions>

Link the report: Climate Change: Information on Potential Economic Effects Could Help Guide Federal Efforts to Reduce Fiscal Exposure

By Staff Writers, GAO, September 2017

https://www.energy.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?a=files.serve&File_id=90ECDE3F-38AF-47DB-8326-D38046D1E87E

GAO: Trump should craft strategy to deal with economic harm of climate change

By Josh Siegel, Washington Examiner, Oct 23, 2017 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/gao-trump-should-craft-strategy-to-deal-with-economic-harm-of-climate-change/article/2638403>

Inside Scott Pruitt's Mission to Remake the EPA

By Justin Worland, Time, Oct 26, 2017

<http://time.com/4998279/company-man-in-washington/>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

The "Social Cost Of Carbon" Becomes A Little Less Fraudulent

By Francis Menton, Manhattan Contrarian, Oct 24, 2017

<http://manhattancontrarian.com/blog/2017/10/24/the-social-cost-of-carbon-becomes-a-little-less-fraudulent>

Link to study: Regulatory Impact Analysis for the Review of the Clean Power Plan: Proposal By Staff Writers, EPA, Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. October 2017

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-10/documents/ria_proposed-cpp-repeal_2017-10.pdf

Death of the polar bear as climate change icon validates Mitch Taylor's skepticism

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Oct 24, 2017

<https://polarbearsience.com/2017/10/24/death-of-the-polar-bear-as-climate-change-icon-validates-mitch-taylors-skepticism/>

[In 2009] “the IUCN Polar Bear Specialist Group booted 20-year member Mitch Taylor out of their organization, explaining that his skeptical views on human-caused global warming were “extremely unhelpful” to their polar bear conservation agenda.”

The Third World Is Coming Around Fast On The Climate Scam

By Francis Menton, Manhattan Contrarian, Oct 19, 2017

<http://manhattancontrarian.com/blog/2017/10/19/the-third-world-is-coming-around-fast-on-the-climate-scam>

Lies and Manipulation: The Sorry State of Global Climate Alarmism

Guest opinion by Vijay Jayaraj, WUWT, Oct 24, 2017

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2017/10/24/lies-and-manipulation-the-sorry-state-of-global-climate-alarmism/>

After Paris!

Paris Agreement Clarification: Developing Countries Need Not Make ANY Emission Reductions

By Tom Harris, Master Resource, Oct 24, 2017

<https://www.masterresource.org/paris-climate-agreement/paris-developing-nations-no-obligation/>

“When the Senate ratified the UNFCCC, the Foreign Relations Committee reported that future emissions targets agreed to under the Convention “would have to be submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent.” Obama never did this.”

IEA sees Southeast Asia oil demand growing until at least 2040

By Florence Tan, Reuters, Oct 23, 2017

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-asia-energy-iea/iea-sees-southeast-asia-oil-demand-growing-until-at-least-2040-idUSKBN1CT03R>

IEA Says Southeast Asia Will Keep Coal Demand High

By Darrell Proctor, Power, Oct 26, 2016

<http://www.powermag.com/iea-says-southeast-asia-will-keep-coal-demand-high/>

Nicaragua signs Paris climate agreement

By Staff Writers, Managua (AFP), Oct 23, 2017

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Nicaragua_signs_Paris_climate_agreement_999.html

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

Analyzing 25 Years of Count Data for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Probst, J.C., Therrien, J.-F., Goodrich, L.J. and Bildstein, K.L. 2017. Increase in numbers and potential phenological adjustment of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (*Archilochus colubris*) during autumn migration at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, eastern Pennsylvania, 1990-2014. *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology* **129**: 360-364. Oct 27, 2017

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V20/oct/a16.php>

[SEPP Comment: *A famous location for eastern US bird watchers.*]

Terrestrial Gross Primary Productivity Increased by 31 Percent Over the Past Century

Campbell, J.E., Berry, J.A., Seibt, U., Smith, S.J., Montzka, S.A., Launois, T., Belviso, S., Bopp, L. and Laine, M. 2017. Large historical growth in global terrestrial gross primary production.

Nature 544: 84-87. Oct 25, 2017

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V20/oct/a14.php>

“Thus, we have *two independent findings* from *two independent scientific teams* confirming there has been a large increase in global GPP since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. And from the additional work of Cheng et al., we know that that increase has largely resulted from the growth-enhancing, water-saving and stress-alleviating benefits of atmospheric CO₂ fertilization of plants.”

The Impact of Cold Spells on Human Mortality in China

Wang, L., Hu, M., Zeng, W., Zhang, Y., Rutherford, S., Lin, H., Xiao, J., Yin, P., Liu, J., Chu, C., Tong, S., Ma, W. and Zhou, M. 2016. The impact of cold spells on mortality and effect modification by cold spell characteristics. *Scientific Reports* 6: 38380, DOI: 10.1038/srep38380.

Oct 23, 2017

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V20/oct/a13.php>

Changing Weather

These Maps Can Show What Winter Will Be Like Where You Live

By Lisa Marie Segarra, Time, Oct 20, 2017 [H/t Timothy Wise]

[http://time.com/4990947/winter-](http://time.com/4990947/winter-forecast/?utm_source=time.com&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=the-brief&utm_content=2017102016pm&xid=newsletter-brief)

[forecast/?utm_source=time.com&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=the-brief&utm_content=2017102016pm&xid=newsletter-brief](http://time.com/4990947/winter-forecast/?utm_source=time.com&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=the-brief&utm_content=2017102016pm&xid=newsletter-brief)

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

New Paper: Defying Models, There Has Been No Long-Term Linear Decline In Arctic Sea Ice

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Oct 26, 2017

<http://notrickszone.com/2017/10/26/new-paper-defying-models-there-has-been-no-long-term-linear-decline-in-arctic-sea-ice/#sthash.k3K6L9AE.dpbs>

[SEPP Comment: *Depends on starting points.*]

Lowering Standards

BBC is accused of being a 'left-wing mouthpiece' after grovelling apology for failing to challenge Lord Lawson over interview claim that temperatures haven't risen in past decade

By James Tapsfield, and Alexander Robertson, Mail on Line, Oct 25, 2017

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5016521/BBC-accused-left-wing-bias-Lord-Lawson-apology.html>

“Ninety seven per cent of climate change scientists, [claim] climate-warming trends over the past century are extremely likely due to human activities, according to NASA.

“The IPCC has also forecast a temperature rise of 2.5 to 10 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century.”

The BBC’s Green Journalism

By Andrew Montford, GWPF, Oct 25, 2017

<https://www.thegwpf.com/green-journalism/>

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

Another ‘Manntastic’ modeling claim: sea level rise will cause NYC to flood

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 23, 2017

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2017/10/23/another-manntastic-modeling-claim-sea-level-rise-will-cause-nyc-to-flood/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

NRDC latest advocacy group to present the big lie for media consumption

By Staff Writers, ICECAP, Oct 23, 2017

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

Questioning European Green

In Germany, green power has many seeing red

A backlash of epic proportions is building over rising prices for conventional energy

Photo Caption: “Wind turbines near Werl, North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. Germany has spent an estimated €189 billion since 2000 on renewable energy subsidies. But emissions have been stuck at roughly 2009 levels, and rose last year.”

By Stanley Reed, Gulf News, Oct 21, 2017 [H/t GWPF]

<http://gulfnews.com/business/sectors/features/in-germany-green-power-has-many-seeing-red-1.2107561>

[SEPP Comment: According to a dairy farmer, solar subsidies are “safe money, not like cows.”]

The Glyphosate Scandal

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Oct 23, 2017

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/the-glyphosate-scandal/>

“Last week, The Times reported how the scientist who advised the IARC to classify glyphosate as carcinogenic received \$160,000 from law firms suing Monsanto on behalf of cancer victims.”

The Glyphosate-Gate Scandal

By Geoffrey Kabat, Forbes, Via GWPF, Oct 24, 2017

<https://www.thegwpf.com/the-glyphosate-gate-scandal/>

“The recent revelations regarding IARC’s glyphosate assessment throw these issues into stark relief. Scientists and agencies need to be transparent. It’s not acceptable for an agency to argue that “we are impartial authorities, trust us.” Rather, we should follow the rule, ‘Trust but verify’ – or rather, ‘Distrust but verify.’ These revelations make it clear that, where high-stakes issues involve powerful beliefs, substantial financial rewards, and opportunities for advancement, neither individuals nor authoritative agencies can be assumed to be free of conflicts-of-interest.”

EU Fudge Likely to Defeat Green Campaign to Ban Glyphosate

Editorial, Financial Times, Via GWPF, Oct 24, 2017

<https://www.thegwpf.com/eu-likely-to-defeat-green-campaign-to-ban-glyphosate/>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

How Green is ‘Green’ Energy?

By Luke Gibson, Elspeth N. Wilman, and William F. Laurance, Trends in Ecology & Evolution, Oct 23, 2017 [H/t GWPF]

[http://www.cell.com/trends/ecology-evolution/fulltext/S0169-5347\(17\)30238-0](http://www.cell.com/trends/ecology-evolution/fulltext/S0169-5347(17)30238-0)

Funding Issues

Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development Fact Sheet: FY 2018 Budget Request

Office of the Spokesperson, DOS, May 23, 2017

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/05/271052.htm>

USGCRP Budget by Agency FY 2015 – FY 2017

By Staff Writers, USGCRP, Accessed Oct 27, 2017

<http://www.globalchange.gov/about/budget>

Federal Research and Development Funding: FY2018

By John F. Sargent Jr., Congressional Research Service, August 14, 2017

<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44888.pdf>

Litigation Issues

A Big Easy Windfall: Trial Lawyers Take Aim At Louisiana's Oil Industry

By Paul Driessen, IBD, Oct 23, 2017

<http://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/a-big-easy-windfall-trial-lawyers-take-aim-at-louisianas-oil-industry/>

Oil & Gas in the Capitals “Pipeline Poetic Justice”

By Roger Bezdek, Contributing Editor, World Oil, October 2017

<file:///C:/Users/Owner/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/25K5JV/RK/Pipeline%20poetic%20justice.pdf>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Rudd’s last minute gift to renewables -industry \$7 billion extension til 2030

Apologies to foreign readers as we rake over the Stupidest Energy Policy on Earth. This really takes the cake.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Oct 23, 2017

<http://joannenova.com.au/2017/10/rudds-last-minute-gift-to-renewables-industry-7-billion-extension-til-2030/>

Dissident Coalition MPs push for earlier end to renewable energy subsidies

Tony Abbott, Craig Kelly and Matt Canavan argue government should cut off support to some renewable investments in 2020

By Katharine Murphy, Guardian, UK, Oct 24, 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/oct/24/dissident-coalition-mps-push-for-earlier-end-to-renewable-energy-subsidies>

Government accused of underestimating CfD costs

Aurora Energy Research claims true subsidy costs could be £80 million a year higher

By Jamie Hailstone, Utility Week, UK, Oct 23, 2017

<http://utilityweek.co.uk/news/Government-accused-of-underestimating-CfD-costs/1315282#.WfDZ5GhSyUI>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Pruitt's EPA Ends 'Sue and Settle' Gravy Train Sham

By Larry Bell, Newmax, Oct 23, 2017

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/caa-mact-platform-republican/2017/10/23/id/821478/>

Return to Due Process at EPA

By Burchell Wilson, Economics 21, Oct 22, 2017 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<https://economics21.org/html/return-due-process-epa-2641.html>

Regulatory scheme killed by EPA's Scott Pruitt cost taxpayers \$68 billion

By Paul Bedard, Washington Examiner, Oct 24, 2017

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/regulatory-scheme-killed-by-epas-pruitt-cost-taxpayers-69-billion/article/2638414>

EPA plans to streamline air pollution permitting

By Devin Henry, The Hill, Oct 25, 2017

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/357162-epa-plans-to-streamline-air-pollution-permitting>

Energy Issues – Non-US

The Helm Review – open thread

By Euan Mearns, Energy Matters, Oct 27, 2017

<http://euanmearns.com/the-helm-review-open-thread/#more-19987>

Link to report: Cost of Energy Review

By Dieter Helm, for UK government, Oct 25, 2017

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/654902/Cost_of_Energy_Review.pdf

Centre For Policy Studies Publishes Damning Report On Electricity Imports

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 23, 2017

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2017/10/23/centre-for-policy-studies-publishes-damning-report-on-electricity-imports/>

Link to report: The Hidden Wiring

By Tony Lodge and Daniel Mahony, Centre for Policy Studies, Oct 23, 2017

<http://www.cps.org.uk/publications/the-hidden-wiring/>

Energy Customers Foot the Bill for Failed Climate Policy

By John Constable, The Times, Via GWPF, Oct 27, 2017

<https://www.thegwpf.com/energy-customers-foot-the-bill-for-failed-climate-policy/>

“Government has got into the business of ‘picking winners’. Unfortunately, losers are good at picking governments.”

'Excessive' green taxes are forcing up fuel bills, official review finds

By Jillian Ambrose and Gordon Rayner, Telegraph, UK, Oct 25, 2017

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2017/10/25/energy-cost-review-lays-blame-governments-door/>

Ireland faces data centre challenge to power demand

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 21, 2017

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2017/10/21/ireland-faces-data-centre-challenge-to-power-demand/#more-30508>

[SEPP Comment: To meet the demand for reliable power, Ireland will need an interconnector to the UK. To meet demand for reliable power, UK needs to expand interconnections to the Continent, including France. Is France cutting back reliable power from nuclear?]

Energy Issues – Australia

Aussies eating junk to get better weather, old coal plant increases 73,000% in value in two years

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Oct 24, 2017

<http://joannenova.com.au/2017/10/aussies-eating-junk-to-get-better-weather-old-coal-plant-increases-730000-in-two-years/>

“The NSW government sold Vale Point power for \$1m two years ago. It’s now valued at \$730m:”

Only 10% of power allowed from solar in Broome WA to stop grid “fluctuations”

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Oct 26, 2016

<http://joannenova.com.au/2017/10/only-10-of-people-allowed-to-use-solar-in-broome-wa-to-stop-grid-fluctuations/>

Turnbull’s energy policy an election death warrant

By Peta Credlin, Daily Telegraph, AU, Oct 21, 2017

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/rendezview/turnbulls-energy-policy-an-election-death-warrant/news-story/8c0579b3376747d5a4a49088cb6ee4cc>

“The mere fact that Labor say they’ll support his new energy policy is enough for ordinary Australians to know it’s more about his personal climate change obsessions than them, their power bills and making ends meet.”

Energy Issues -- US

Controversial Fuel-Secure Rule

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Oct 27, 2017

<http://www.powerforusa.com/2017/10/27/controversial-fuel-secure-rule/>

PJM says Perry's grid proposal 'not workable'

By Rod Kuckro, E&E News reporter, October 24, 2017

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/2017/10/24/stories/1060064425>

Return of King Coal?

Death of U.S. Coal Industry Greatly Exaggerated

By Roger Bezdek, MISI, Mid-October, 2017

<http://misi-net.com/publications/PUF2.0-Mid1017.pdf>

Second of Four Parts

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Raise Concern Over ‘Energiewende’ Failures: BDesh, India Need To Draw Their Lessons

By Ritu Sharma, NUCLEAR ASIA, Energy Bangla, Oct 26, 2017

<http://energybangla.com/experts-raise-concern-over-energiwende-failures-bdesh-india-need-to-draw-their-lessons-right/>

Small Nuclear Power Reactors

By Staff Writers, World Nuclear Association, October 2017 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-cycle/nuclear-power-reactors/small-nuclear-power-reactors.aspx>

Postscript/ Appendix

“Some of the developments described in this paper are fascinating and exciting. Nevertheless, it is salutary to keep in mind the words of the main US pioneer in nuclear reactor development.

Admiral Hyman Rickover in 1953 - about the time his first test reactor in USA started up - made some comments about ‘academic paper-reactors’ vs. real reactors.”

[SEPP Comment: A very long essay on small reactor schemes.]

The myth of a nuclear-free Austria

By Roger Andrews, Energy Matters, Oct 25, 2017

<http://euanmearns.com/the-myth-of-a-nuclear-free-austria/#more-19933>

“To sum up. Despite its ban on nuclear electricity Austria still imports and uses large quantities of it, and then it compounds the felony [?] by re-exporting some of it to neighboring countries. One has to wonder how the Austrian public would react if they knew about this, which they almost certainly don’t. One also has to wonder how the Austrian government would react if they knew about it, but maybe they already do. The anti-nuclear bandwagon is just rolling too fast for them to jump off.”

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Trying to Make Sense of Musk Love and Solar Hype

By Planning Engineer, Climate Etc. Oct 27, 2017

<https://judithcurry.com/2017/10/27/trying-to-make-sense-of-musk-love-and-solar-hype/#more-23451>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

The Cobalt Cliff Will Cap Tesla's Model 3 Production Capacity At 250,000 Units Per Year

By John Petersen, Seeking Alpha, Oct 23, 2017 [H/t Don Bogard]

<https://seekingalpha.com/article/4115479-cobalt-cliff-will-cap-teslas-model-3-production-capacity-250000-units-per-year>

[SEPP Comment: Not cheery news for electric vehicle manufacturers.]

Snake Oil Salesmen and Electric Vehicles

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Oct 24, 2017

<http://www.powerforusa.com/2017/10/24/snake-oil-salesmen-and-electric-vehicles/>

Other Scientific News

The world’s first trees grew by splitting their guts

By Dennis Normile Science Mag, Oct. 23, 2017

http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/10/world-s-first-trees-grew-splitting-their-guts?utm_campaign=news_daily_2017-10-23&et rid=274816153&et_cid=1619934

Other News that May Be of Interest

Campus insanity versus freedom of speech

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Oct 21, 2017

<https://judithcurry.com/2017/10/21/campus-insanity-versus-freedom-of-speech/#more-23433>

How to Turn Fishermen Into Conservationists

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Oct 21, 2017

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/fishery-reform/>

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

End of everything

By Staff Writers, Climate Change Predictions.org October 19, 2017

<http://climatechangepredictions.org/uncategorized/9213>

“Climate change means, quite plausibly, the end of everything we now understand to constitute our humanity. If action isn’t taken soon, the Amazon rainforest will eventually burn down, the seas will fester into sludge that submerges the world’s great cities, the Antarctic Ice Sheet will fragment and wash away, acres of abundant green land will be taken over by arid desert.”

The Baffler, Sept 2017

Food shortage

By Staff Writers, Climate Change Predictions.org, October 22, 2017

<http://climatechangepredictions.org/uncategorized/9221>

“Millions may face protein deficiency as a result of human-caused carbon dioxide emissions.

“If CO2 levels continue to rise as projected, the populations of 18 countries may lose more than 5% of their dietary protein by 2050 due to a decline in the nutritional value of rice, wheat, and other staple crops, according to new findings from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

“Researchers estimate that roughly an additional 150 million people may be placed at risk of protein deficiency because of elevated levels of CO2 in the atmosphere.”

Eureka Alert, 2 Aug 2017

ARTICLES:

1. Climate Alarmists Use the Acid-Rain Playbook

The parallels between the two environmental frenzies are many, but the stakes are much higher now.

By Rupert Darwall, WSJ, Oct 25, 2017

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/climate-alarmists-use-the-acid-rain-playbook-1508969822>

SUMMARY: The author of “Green Tyranny:” writes:

A majority of scientists might say a scientific theory is true, but that doesn’t mean the consensus is reliable. The science underpinning environmental claims can be fundamentally wrong—as it was in one of the biggest environmental scares in recent decades.

The acid-rain alarm of the 1970s and ’80s was a dry run for the current panic about climate change. Both began in Sweden as part of a war on coal meant to bolster support for nuclear power. In 1971 meteorologist Bert Bolin wrote the Swedish government’s report on acid rain to

the United Nations. Seventeen years later he became the first chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

There are many parallels between acid rain and global warming. Each phenomenon produced a U.N. convention—the 1979 Geneva Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution in the case of acid rain, and the 1988 Framework Convention on Climate Change. And each convention led to a new protocol—the 1985 Helsinki Protocol and the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Public alarm surrounding acid rain was far more intense, especially in Germany, where popular reaction to media stories about acid rain reached a pitch of hysteria not yet seen with global warming. A 1981 Der Spiegel cover story featured an image of smokestacks looming over a cove of trees with the title “The Forest Is Dying.”

“The most striking parallels are the role of scientific consensus in underpinning environmental alarm and the way science is used to justify cuts in emissions. The emission of sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere “has proved to be a major environmental problem,” Bolin wrote in his 1971 report. National scientific academies across North America and Europe were in complete agreement. “We have a much more complete knowledge of the causes and consequences of acid deposition than we have for other pollutants,” a report by the National Academy of Sciences’ National Research Council said in 1981. According to the NRC, the circumstantial evidence was “overwhelming.” Many thousands of lakes had been affected, rivers were losing salmon, fisheries in the Adirondacks were in a bad way, red spruce were dying, and production from Canadian sugar maple trees had been affected. Acid rain was a scientific slam dunk.

“Politicians duly parroted what the scientists told them. “Acid rain has caused serious environmental damage in many parts of the world,” President Jimmy Carter wrote in his 1979 environmental message to Congress. He signed an agreement with Canada to establish five acid-rain working groups, and Congress set up a 10-year National Acid Precipitation Assessment Program, which went by the catchy acronym Napap.

“To Canadian anger, President Ronald Reagan was more skeptical than his predecessor. The head of Canada’s Federal Assessment and Review Office accused Mr. Reagan of “blatant efforts to manipulate” the science being done by the working groups. A formal note of protest from Ottawa pointed to the more than 3,000 scientific studies on acid rain yielding “sufficient scientific evidence” for policies to cut emissions.

[Opposing Reagan for the nomination] “Vice President George Bush promised Canada that if elected president, he would act on the problem. But as acid-rain cap-and-trade legislation was making its way through Congress, the Environmental Protection Agency encountered a major problem. Napap’s draft report concluded that the science was wrong. Yes, power-station emissions make rain more acidic—rain is naturally acidic, and more so during thunderstorms—but changes to ecosystems, the report said, were mainly caused by changes in land use. The felling of trees and the burning of stumps in the Adirondacks had reduced the acidity of the forest floor. After conservationists put a stop to it, the soil gradually returned to its previous acidity.

“Rather than admit it had the science wrong, the EPA set about suppressing the inconvenient findings. The Napap report was delayed until after key provisions of cap-and-trade legislation had been agreed to in Congress. As outlined in a 1992 article in Reason, the EPA then waged a dirty-tricks campaign to discredit Edward C. Krug, a soil expert and the leading dissident Napap scientist. It assembled a group of compliant scientists to conduct a sham peer review and

conclude that Mr. Krug was a bad scientist. The episode ended with an assistant administrator of the EPA, William Rosenberg, apologizing to Mr. Krug to avoid a threatened libel action.

“To this day, the zombie science of acid rain lives on at the EPA’s website, which falsely states that acidification of soil, streams and lakes is caused by emissions from power stations. The EPA reckons the annual cost of anti-acid-rain measures in the U.S. will reach \$65 billion in 2020, but it no longer claims that the money will prevent ecosystem damage. Now it just claims to be improving public health.

The author concludes that Scott Pruitt’s approach may be a great improvement by requiring open debate on the issues of CO2 caused global warming.

2. Trump Plan for Coal, Nuclear Power Draws Fire From Environmental, Oil Groups

Critics from factions often at odds are calling Trump administration’s proposal a bailout for struggling power plants

By Timothy Puko, WSJ, Oct 22, 2017

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/environmentalists-energy-companies-unite-in-fight-against-electrical-grid-plan-1508677201>

Summary: The reporter writes:

“A Trump administration proposal aimed at shoring up coal-fired and nuclear power plants across the nation has generated opposition from an array of energy and consumer interests, including some who are often at odds on energy policy.

“Oil and gas companies, wind and solar power producers, some public utilities, electricity consumers and environmentalists—rarely natural allies—are all publicly opposing the Energy Department’s proposal. The plan would effectively guarantee profits for some nuclear and coal-fired power plants, prompting critics that also include former federal regulators to call it a bailout for struggling plants that undermines competitive markets.

The reporter discusses specific groups opposing the proposal, then concludes with:

“The [proposal] I put forward was a way to kick-start a national discussion about reliability and the grid,” Mr. Perry told the House Committee on Energy and Commerce last week. “And from the best I can tell, we’ve been pretty successful at doing that.”

3. The Fatal Flaw in California’s Cap-and-Trade Program

Emitters can just leave—which is why the state has now delayed carbon’s real day of reckoning to 2030.

By Richard Sexton and Steven Sexton, WSJ, Oct 20, 2017

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-fatal-flaw-in-californias-cap-and-trade-program-1508538322?tesla=y>

SUMMARY: The authors, a professor of agricultural and resource economics at the University of California, Davis and his son, is a professor of public policy and economics and a faculty fellow of the energy initiative at Duke University, write:

“When California’s Gov. Jerry Brown signed a 10-year extension of the state’s cap-and-trade program this summer, it was heralded as a rebuke of President Trump, who had just announced he would withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accord. While the nation was failing on climate change, the story went, states could succeed. The trouble is that California could leak—like a sieve.

“In the decade since Mr. Brown’s predecessor, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, first signed the Global Warming Solutions Act, the cap-and-trade program has done little to abate carbon emissions, let alone planetary warming. Under the law, companies in California that emit carbon in their production processes must secure scarce permits for the right to do so. The theory is that this creates an incentive to invest in green power and energy efficiency.

“Yet the law’s designers still have not confronted the central conundrum of trying to impose a state or regional climate policy: As firms compete for a limited supply of carbon permits, they are put at a disadvantage to out-of-state rivals. Production flees the state, taking jobs and tax revenues with it. Emissions ‘leak’ outside California’s cap to other jurisdictions.”

After discussing failed attempts to stop companies from leaving the state and that without the US the Paris Agreement will fail, the authors conclude:

“‘California is leading the world in dealing with the principal existential threat that humanity faces,’ Mr. Brown said during this summer’s signing ceremony. ‘What could be a more glorious undertaking?’ But five years into cap and trade, neither he nor the state’s regulators have shown that regional climate policy can overcome the leakage problem and actually succeed. If they truly want to lead, they need to offer more than hot air.”