

The Week That Was: 2018-10-06 (October 6, 2018)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Quote of the Week: *““Scientists best serve public policy by living within the ethics of science, not those of politics. If the scientific community will not unfrock the charlatans, the public will not discern the difference – science and the nation will suffer.”* – Philip Handler, former President of the US National Academy of Sciences [H/t Gordon Fulks]

Number of the Week: 759

THIS WEEK:

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

NIPCC in Praise of Fossil Fuels: The Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) has issued a draft of the Summary for Policymakers of its upcoming extensive report on fossil fuels, *Climate Change Reconsidered II: Fossil Fuels*. NIPCC was founded by SEPP Chairman Emeritus S. Fred Singer as a counter to the biased reports of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is becoming ever more strident in claiming climate change / global warming can be stopped by controlling carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

To implement this questionable belief, the parent organization of the IPCC, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) organized the 2015 Paris Agreement (Accord) to limit CO₂ emissions on a specific schedule with strong limits imposed on developed countries first. Further, the Paris Agreement called for developed countries to pay amounts called “Nationally Determined Contributions” into a UN controlled fund, the Green Climate Fund. The Green Climate Fund was to assist developing countries in “adaptation and mitigation” practices that may counter climate change.

At the last minute, the Obama Administration refused to sign the drafted agreement, which appeared to be a treaty, and demanded changes that made the agreement less of a treaty. The Obama Administration asserted the Paris Agreement was an executive agreement, not a treaty, thus avoiding the need to submit it to the US Senate for concurrence of two-thirds of the Senators present. The Obama Administration realized it was unlikely that two-thirds of the Senators would concur.

Thus, the Obama Administration established the mechanism for the Trump Administration to withdraw from the executive agreement. On June 1, 2017 Trump Administration announced withdrawal from the Paris Agreement which becomes effective on November 4, 2020. It has earned the wrath of the Greens.

The upcoming NIPCC report is the third of a series under the title of *Climate Change Reconsidered*. The first one was on the Physical Science and the second one on Biological Impacts. Both reports included studies that the IPCC ignores. The most glaring deficiency in the IPCC reports is its chosen ignorance of atmospheric temperature trends, where the greenhouse gas effect occurs. Atmospheric temperature data from satellites is the most comprehensive temperature data ever compiled and it refutes the claims of the IPCC that humanity is causing

severe global warming / climate change by emissions of CO₂. The actions of the IPCC clearly show it is a political organization, not a scientific one, and its reports are not scientific.

The NIPCC report on fossil fuels was produced by over one hundred international scientists and scholars who came together to understand the causes and consequences of climate change, both natural and human caused. NIPCC has no formal attachment to any government or government agency or sponsorship from government agencies. The three sponsoring organizations, CO₂ Science, The Heartland Institute, and SEPP are independent, with their own management and governing boards, and file their own tax returns, which are “open to public inspection.” As anyone inspecting its IRS Form 990 can conclude, SEPP receives no money from fossil fuel organizations and in recent years its taxes are filed by an independent CPA.

Among the findings reported in the Summary for Policymakers:

“• Fossil fuels deliver affordable, plentiful, and reliable energy that is closely associated with key measures of human development and human welfare. There is a strong positive relationship between low energy prices and economic prosperity. Economic prosperity in turn is crucial to human health and welfare. Wind and solar power are incapable of delivering the affordable, plentiful, and reliable energy that is delivered by fossil fuels.

“• Fossil fuels require the development of substantially less surface area than renewable energy sources, rescuing precious wildlife habitat from development. The power density of fossil fuels enables humanity to meet its need for energy, food, and natural resources while using less surface space, rescuing precious wildlife habitat from development. In 2010, fossil fuels utilized roughly the same surface area as devoted to renewable energy sources yet delivered 110 times as much power.

“• The environmental and human welfare impacts of fossil fuels are overwhelmingly positive. Sixteen of 25 identified impacts of fossil fuels are net positive. Eight are uncertain, only one is net negative. Some of the identified impacts include agriculture, air quality, extreme weather events, human health, and human mortality.

“• Reducing fossil fuel use to achieve dramatic reductions in carbon dioxide emissions would inflict tremendous economic hardship. Reducing greenhouse gases to 90 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 would require a 96% reduction in world GDP, reducing per-capita GDP to \$1,200 from \$30,600 now forecast. Per-capita income would be at about the level it was in the United States and Western Europe in about 1820 or 1830, before the Industrial Revolution.”

It is important to note that modern technology negates the harmful emissions of soot and other pollutants from coal-fired power plants. The alarming photos of pollution in Asia, and elsewhere, are largely a result of use of coal for individual heating, without modern pollution controls, or from antiquated systems.

Of the 25 environmental and human welfare impacts of fossil fuels identified in the report, the only negative impact from use of fossil fuels is oil spills. Oil spills and gas leaks need to be controlled as much as feasible. As readers of TWTW during the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, (from April 20 to September 19, 2010, and thereafter) may recall the damage to wildlife was greatly exaggerated in the press. Red tide off the coast of Florida is far more damaging to wildlife.

Further, the Gulf of Mexico has naturally occurring oil seepages and microbes that thrive on oil. With the use of dispersants to break-up the large globs of oil, the microbes had a feast and within weeks devoured most of the oil. Nature surprised many “experts” who predicted the oil slick may reach the White Cliffs of Dover in the English Channel.

Of course, as with any human action one can still find some damage, or change, from this spill. Hopefully, both government and oil companies learned from this spill, including a fast reaction team, which has been organized by oil companies, and the value of precise directional drilling of a “relief well” that can seal a blowout with cement. The Gulf of Mexico contains enormous amounts of oil, not clearly known. But it is under great pressure and great care needs to be taken to insure another Deepwater Horizon does not occur.

See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, the past TWTWs at <http://sepp.org/the-week-that-was.cfm>, especially the one April 23, 2011 for the count of animals collected by US Fish and Wildlife with visible oil for the year following the blow-out, and <https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/common/briefing/Treaties.htm>

The full volume of the NIPCC report on fossil fuels will be released during the week December 4 in Katowice, Poland, to provide a balance to the UNFCCC 24th Conference of Parties.

IPCC Summary in Waiting: The Summary for Policymakers for the latest IPCC report, Assessment Report – 6, is due out on October 8. TWTW will reserve speculating on its contents. However, NOAA’s National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI) has published revised calculations of the Global Historical Climatology Network Monthly Temperature Dataset under the guise of homogenizing data. The article states the new revision is not as drastic as the past revision, version 3.

As readers of TWTW may recall, NOAA’s NCEI has homogenized the hottest decade for record breaking high temperatures in the US, the 1930s, out of its dataset. It will be interesting to find if the new IPCC report is based on the new NCEI dataset. Since the IPCC relies on surface temperature data, using NOAA’s NCEI datasets undermines the credibility of the report. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy and Measurement Issues -- Surface

National Research Council Report: Last week’s TWTW discussed an article by Bert Bolin, the first chairman of the IPCC discussing its history. Bolin discussed a 1982 US assessment report on the effects of CO₂ on temperatures, in addition to the 1979 Charney Report. According to Bolin this National Research Council was headed by Joseph Smagorinsky, Director of the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Retired meteorologist Richard Lindzen suggested this was not correct. Lindzen is correct and Bolin erred. According to the report, Smagorinsky headed the CO₂/Climate Review Panel and the Climate Research Committee. William Nierenberg headed the Carbon Dioxide Assessment Committee, Richard Reed the Committee on Atmospheric Science, Verner Suomi the Climate Board, and Herbert Friedman and Robert White were Cochairmen of the Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Resources. Nierenberg wrote the forward to the second assessment report.

As Lindzen states, William Nierenberg became an outspoken critic of global warming alarm and was co-founder of the George Marshall Institute.

Nierenberg, along with Fredrick Seitz, Fred Singer, and Robert Jastrow were targets for unsubstantiated accusations by Oreskes and Conway in “Merchants of Doubt.” Oreskes and Conway consider themselves “historians of science” but offer no solid evidence substantiating their accusations that, for example, Frederick Seitz and Fred Singer were paid by tobacco companies to criticize second-hand smoke studies, which fail rigorous tests for statistical significance. Apparently, the “historians of science” do not realize that skepticism is critical for science to advance. The global warming science advanced by the IPCC fails basic testing of what is occurring in the atmosphere.

Interestingly, representatives from Exxon and Xerox were members of the Commission on Physical Sciences, Mathematics, and Resources. Could this be a source for the discredited Exxon Knew movement? For links see last week’s TWTW under Defending the Orthodoxy.

Wildfires: Meteorologist Cliff Mass is not a global warming skeptic. On his web site he has a frank discussion on wildfires, once called forest and prairie fires, in Washington State. He assesses whether they are a climate-dominated problem or a surface-management problem. He concludes that the fire/smoke issue is the result of:

1. *“Nearly a century of fire suppression and poor forest management that have produced unnatural, explosive forests, particularly on the dry side of our state.*
2. *Huge influx of people into the urban-wildland interface and forest areas that help initiate fires and make us more vulnerable to them.*
3. *Invasion of highly flammable, non-native species like cheatgrass.”*

He reminds his readers that fire is a natural part of the state’s east-side forests. See link under Seeking a Common Ground.

Change in the Supreme Court: Former federal Court of Appeals Judge for the DC Circuit, Brett Kavanaugh has joined Supreme Court after stunningly bitter Senate hearings. He was accused of physical sexual harassment or assault by a woman who suddenly recalled the event in 2012 after a lapse of thirty years but could not recall the date or the location. There was no evidence supporting her recalled story. The question arises on why the hearings were so bitter when no evidence supporting the accusations was presented. It is as if part of the Senate has reversed the standing assumption in US law that the accused is presumed innocent to the accused is presumed guilty.

EPA veteran Alan Carlin discusses some of the issues regarding climate, especially EPA’s that greenhouse gases, mainly CO₂, endanger public health and welfare. He mentions the petitions for reconsideration of the finding, to which SEPP is a party. His second suggestion, that the revised Supreme Court may overturn the 5-4 opinion rendered in the 2007 decision Massachusetts v. EPA.

Then-Justice John Paul Stevens wrote the opinion which favored Massachusetts based on the claim that it is losing territory to the sea from sea level rise. Yet, sea level rise has been occurring for over 18,000 years. Stevens also wrote the opinion for the Court that, if the EPA finds the emissions endanger public health and welfare greenhouse gases, mainly CO₂, are pollutants that can be regulated under the Clean Air Act because these emissions come from automobiles and

similar vehicles. In the above-referenced endangerment finding the EPA made that statement and expanded tailpipe emissions to include power plants, particularly coal-fired plants.

Both the logic and the evidence supporting this view is flimsy. The late Robert Carter, a NIPCC editor, said calling CO2 a pollutant is contrary to language, logic, and science. The evidence offered by the EPA is equally weak. As shown in TWTWs over the past few weeks, what is called the well-established theory does not exist.

A second component of the EPA finding is the global climate models. As presented by John Christy to both houses of congress, and by the recent McKittrick-Christy hypothesis test, the models greatly overestimate actual atmospheric warming trends. Thus, are meaningless for any finding of endangerment.

An editorial in the Wall Street Journal states that Justice Stevens took the very unusual step of lobbying against the approval of Justice Kavanaugh for the Supreme Court. One can speculate that Stevens is concerned that his “landmark” opinion may not survive a second visit by the Supreme Court. See Article # 1 and links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Additions and Corrections – Exponential Sea Level Rise: Last week’s TWTW brought up the claims that we are to expect an exponential increase in sea level rise thanks to the IPCC and a paper by James Hansen, et al. Several readers questioned the word exponential, which would be a change becoming ever more rapid. Hansen et al. did not give a specific exponential function, so it could be anything. See links in the July 21, TWTW.

Propaganda: On September 30, Climate Week 2018 in New York City ended. This was promoted by The Climate Group an “international non-profit, founded in 2004, with offices in London, New Delhi and New York” with the goal of keeping global warming under 2 degrees C. By coincidence, Ken Haapala was staying near the UN, which is part of the event, but saw no unusual activity except an advertisement on a television screen in a taxi cab. Perhaps everyone had departed for South Korea in anticipation of IPCC AR6.

According to reports, but unseen by Haapala, there are a number of mobile billboards set-up in pedestrian areas, displaying the signs such as “Climate Denial Kills,” and “50,000,000 Climate Refugees.” According to the mayor’s office this effort is being done in conjunction with the Climate Museum which raised the funds for the citywide “art installation.” See link under Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda, <http://climatemuseum.org/>, and <https://www.theclimategroup.org/news-and-briefings/climate-tv>

Number of the Week: 759 tornados counted as of Oct 3. Roy Spencer reports that NOAA’s Storm Prediction Center’s tornado count is unusually low, slightly below the previous low in the 65 years of records. Spencer observes:

“This lack of tornadic storms in recent years should also correlate with lesser severe thunderstorm activity in general in the U.S., since the conditions which produce large hail and damaging winds are generally the same as are required for tornadoes (strong instability, plentiful moisture, and wind shear).”

See links under Changing Weather.

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

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

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Fossil Fuels

By Multiple Authors, Bezdek, Idso, Legates, and Singer eds., Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change, Draft Summary for Policymakers, Oct 3, 2018

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/10-05-18-DRAFT-CCRII-Fossil-Fuels-Summary-for-Policy-Makers.pdf>

International Panel Calls for End to Global War on Fossil Fuels

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 5, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/10/05/international-panel-calls-for-end-to-global-war-on-fossil-fuels/>

Warmer temperatures lead to decreases in premature deaths

By Geoff Brown, The Australian Climate Sceptics Blog, Oct 6, 2018

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com/2018/10/warmer-temperatures-lead-to-decreases.html>

How the Supreme Court Could Now End the Climate Wars

By Alan Carlin, Carlin Economics and Science, Oct 5, 2018

<http://www.carlineconomics.com/archives/4624>

Defending the Orthodoxy

The World Is 'Nowhere Near On Track' to Hit Global Warming Goal, UN Report Warns

By Erin Corbett, Fortune, Sep 27, 2018

<http://fortune.com/2018/09/27/un-climate-change-report/>

Climate scientists are struggling to find the right words for very bad news

A much-awaited report from the U.N.'s top climate science panel will show an enormous gap between where we are and where we need to be to prevent dangerous levels of warming.

By Chris Mooney and Brady Dennis, Washington Post, Oct 3, 2018

https://www.washingtonpost.com/energy-environment/2018/10/03/climate-scientists-are-struggling-find-right-words-very-bad-news/?utm_term=.f479507a6f58&wpisrc=nl_green&wpm=1

[SEPP Comment: How do we continue to pretend we are the world's experts, when we know so little?]

United Nations report spotlights government inaction on climate

By Staff Writers, AFP, Oct 1, 2018

<https://www.rappler.com/science-nature/environment/213173-un-report-confronts-nations-tough-choices-climate>

"In my view, 1.5C stabilization is extremely difficult if not impossible at this point, while 2C stabilization is an uphill challenge but doable," Michael Mann, director of the Earth System Science Center at Pennsylvania State University, told AFP.

Climate Change Is a Global Injustice. A new study shows why.

The US is second only to India when it comes to the economic cost of global warming.

By Umair Irfan, Vox, Sep 26, 2018

<https://www.vox.com/2018/9/26/17897614/climate-change-social-cost-carbon>

Link to "authoritative research": UNLOCKING THE INCLUSIVE GROWTH STORY OF THE 21ST CENTURY: Accelerating Climate Action in Urgent Times

By Staff Writers, The New Climate Economy, 2018

<https://newclimateeconomy.report/2018/>

[SEPP Comment: An injustice that has existed since the dawn of humanity?]

Massachusetts ranked most energy efficient state, Wyoming worst: study

By Miranda Green, The Hill, Oct 4, 2018

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/409959-massachusetts-ranked-most-energy-efficient-state-wyoming-worst>

Link to study: ACEEE 2018 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard

By Staff Writers, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, 2018

<https://aceee.org/press/2018/10/aceee-2018-state-energy-efficiency>

[SEPP Comment: Could population densities influence the results? Wyoming is the least populated state in the US, and the least densely populated outside of Alaska.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Climate Science: Have Stats, Will Doctor

By Walter Starck, Quadrant, Oct 3, 2018

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2018/10/climate-science-stats-will-doctor/>

"We now have a whole generation of academics whose careers are steeped in the lucrative notion that catastrophic climate change is a genuine peril. What's needed is an appropriately resourced science court to police malpractice, of which there is much, and no more grants for the guilty."

Scientists Look to Jupiter, Saturn's Moon Titan for Global Warming Insight

By Charles Q. Choi, Space.com, Oct 1, 2018

<https://www.space.com/41974-jupiter-titan-methane-global-warming-earth.html>

“However, methane is an even more potent greenhouse gas, pound for pound capable of warming the planet more than 25 times more than carbon dioxide over the span of a century, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).”

[SEPP Comment: By starting with a false premise, we will find truth?]

The Problem with Puffins

Guest Essay by Kip Hansen, WUWT, Oct 5, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/10/05/the-problem-with-puffins/>

After Paris!

Dump Paris says former BHP Chief Jerry Ellis

By Jo Nova Her Blog, Sep 29, 2018

<http://joannenova.com.au/2018/09/dump-paris-says-former-bhp-chief-jerry-ellis/#more-60726>

Australia Freezes Millions for Global Climate Fund ‘In Crisis’

By Graham Lloyd, The Australian, Via GWPF, Sep 28, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/australia-freezes-millions-for-global-climate-fund-in-crisis/>

New Paper Exposes India’s Climate Hypocrisy

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 5, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/10/05/new-paper-exposes-indias-climate-hypocrisy/#more-35261>

Change in US Administrations

Trump Officials Say there’s ‘A Major Problem’ With the UN’s Upcoming Climate Report, Leaked Comments Show

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Oct 3, 2018

<https://dailycaller.com/2018/10/03/trump-officials-un-climate-report/>

Interior Dept. implements new science policy

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Oct 4, 2018

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/409984-interior-implements-new-science-policy>

“This is an attempt to cherry-pick the kind of science that they want to put forward,” said Yogin Kothari, the Union of Concerned Scientists’ senior Washington representative.”

[SEPP Comment: The Union of Concerned Scientists calls hypothesis testing “cherry picking” why not transparency?]

Larry Kudlow Sheds Light on What Will Likely be a Major Priority for Trump in 2019

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Oct 4, 2018

<https://dailycaller.com/2018/10/04/larry-kudlow-pipelines-2019/>

Booker and Holt Caricature EPA Science Transparency Rule at Senate Hearing

By Marlo Lewis Jr. CEI, Oct 5, 2018

<https://cei.org/blog/booker-and-holt-caricature-science-transparency-rule-senate-hearing>

Social Benefits of Carbon Dioxide

The most amazing greening on Earth – thanks to increased Carbon Dioxide

By Patrick Michaels, WUWT, Oct 4, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/10/04/the-most-amazing-greening-on-earth-thanks-to-increased-carbon-dioxide/>

Link to paper: Satellite Leaf Area Index: Global Scale Analysis of the Tendencies Per Vegetation Type Over the Last 17 Years

By Simon Munier, et al. Remote Sensing, Mar 9, 2018

<https://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/10/3/424/htm>

Seeking a Common Ground

Is Global Warming A Significant Contributor to Washington State Wildfires, Now or in the Future?

By Cliff Mass, Weather and Climate Blog, Sep 30, 2018

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2018/09/is-global-warming-significant.html>

“How Trolls Troll” ...Nutrition Expert Posts Video On “Trolling” And How To Deal With Them

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Oct 5, 2018

<http://notrickszone.com/2018/10/05/how-trolls-troll-nutrition-expert-posts-video-on-trolling-and-how-to-deal-with-them/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

Two Centuries of Drought in Arid Central Asia

Zhang, R., Zhang, T., Kelgenbayev, N., He, Q., Maisupova, B., Mambetov, B.T., Chen, F., Dosmanbetov, D., Shang, H., Yu, S. and Yuan, Y. 2017. A 189-year tree-ring record of drought for the Dzungarian Alatau, arid Central Asia. *Journal of Asian Earth Sciences* 148: 305-314. Oct 4, 2018

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V21/oct/a3.php>

“There is little indication it [drought] has increased in frequency and/or intensity over the past two centuries and its fluctuation appears to be driven by natural and not anthropogenic (human-caused global warming) forcings.”

The Absent Influence of Ocean Acidification on a Coastal Flatfish

Andrade, J.F., Hurst, T.P. and Miller, J.A. 2018. Behavioral responses of a coastal flatfish to predation-associated cues and elevated CO₂. *Journal of Sea Research* 140: 11-21. Oct 3, 2018

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V21/oct/a2.php>

“Or, as a second possibility, they write that ‘the observed resiliency of speckled sanddab may be related to the experimental approach or the specific set of behaviors examined,’ noting that ‘the 4-6-week acclimation time to elevated CO₂ conditions used in this study is longer than that applied in many studies that have shown OA-induced behavioral disruptions.’”

Elevated CO₂ Stimulates the Competitive Abilities of a Tropical Tree Species

Melo, N.M.J., Rosa, R.-E.G., Pereira, E.G. and Souza, J.P. 2018. Rising [CO₂] changes competition relationships between native woody and alien herbaceous Cerrado species.

Functional Plant Biology 45: 854-864. Oct 1, 2018

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V21/oct/a1.php>

“Given these several findings, it should come as welcomed news that the Brazilian scientists conclude that ‘these changes in growth patterns under elevated [CO₂] will modify allocation of resources, improving the competition potential of the [endemic] woody species over the alien grass species in the Cerrado.’”

Measurement Issues -- Surface

The Global Historical Climatology Network Monthly Temperature Dataset, Version 4

By Matthew J. Menne, Claude N. Williams, Byron E. Gleason, J. Jared Rennie, and Jay H. Lawrimore, NOAA National Center for Environmental Information, AMS Journal, Sep 21, 2018
<https://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/JCLI-D-18-0094.1>

Measurement Issues -- Atmosphere

UAH Global Temperature Update for September, 2018: +0.14 deg. C

By Roy Spencer: His Blog, Oct 2, 2018
<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2018/10/uah-global-temperature-update-for-september-2018-0-14-deg-c/>

Link to Global Temperature Report, August 2018 Map and Graph
By Earth System Science Center, UAH
<https://www.nsstc.uah.edu/climate/>

Changing Weather

New Record Low Tornado Count as of October 3

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Oct 4, 2018
<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2018/10/new-record-low-tornado-count-as-of-october-3/>
Link to NOAA: Inflation Adjusted Annual Tornado Running Total
Data Set by Harold Brooks and Greg Carbin, NOAA, Storm Prediction Center
<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/wcm/adj.html>

US Tornado Activity Is the Lowest in 65 Years of Record Keeping

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Oct 4, 2018
<http://dailycaller.com/2018/10/04/us-tornado-activity-low/>

Climate-driven variability in the occurrence of major floods across North America and Europe

By Glenn Hodgkins, Journal of Hydrology, Sep 2017
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S002216941730478X#%21>
“The number of significant trends was about the number expected due to chance alone.”

CO2 Connection Demolished... New Findings: “No Statistically Significant Trends In US Flooding And Rainfall From Tropical Storms!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Oct 3, 2018
<http://notrickszone.com/2018/10/03/co2-connection-demolished-new-findings-no-statistically-significant-trends-in-us-flooding-and-rainfall-from-tropical-storms/>

Changing Seas

Nothing Unprecedented about The Sea Surface Temperatures for Hurricane Florence’s Storm Track

Guest essay by Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Oct 3, 2018
<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/10/03/nothing-unprecedented-about-the-sea-surface-temperatures-for-hurricane-florences-storm-track/>

China Pearl River Delta Sea Level Rise Earlier In The Holocene Was Far More Extreme Than Today

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Oct 2, 2018

<http://notrickszone.com/2018/10/02/china-pearl-river-delta-sea-level-rise-earlier-in-the-holocene-was-far-more-extreme-than-today/>

Link to paper: Holocene sea-level history of the northern coast of South China Sea

By HaixianXiong, et al., Quaternary Science Reviews, Aug 15, 2018

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277379117305218>

[SEPP Comment: Consistent with NIPCC reports.]

FAIL: 30-year-old climate prediction proves to be a load of bunkum

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 3, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/10/03/fail-30-year-old-climate-prediction-proves-to-be-a-load-of-bunkum/>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

In The Arctic, AMO/NAO ‘Predominantly Force Ocean Temperatures’ And ‘Cause Major Melting Events’

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Oct 1, 2018

<http://notrickszone.com/2018/10/01/in-the-arctic-amo-nao-predominantly-force-ocean-temperatures-and-cause-major-melting-events/>

Hot Days In Greenland Are Perfectly Normal

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 3, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/10/03/hot-days-in-greenland-are-perfectly-normal/>

Reality bites: Thick Sea Ice Is Making Arctic Travel And Shipping A Nightmare

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 4, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/10/04/reality-bites-thick-sea-ice-is-making-arctic-travel-and-shipping-a-nightmare/>

Arctic sea ice update

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 2, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/10/02/arctic-sea-ice-update-3/>

‘Arctic sea ice continues its downward spiral’... Warmunists keep using that word. I do not think it means what they think it means.

Guest drive-by by David Middleton, WUWT, Oct 2, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/10/02/arctic-sea-ice-continues-its-downward-spiral-warmunists-keep-using-that-word-i-do-not-think-it-means-what-they-think-it-means/>

Un-Science or Non-Science?

How will climate change stress the power grid? Hint: Look at dew point temperatures

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, Sep 24, 2018

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/09/180924144028.htm>

Link to paper: A Data-Driven Approach to Assessing Supply Inadequacy Risks Due to Climate-Induced Shifts in Electricity Demand

By Sayanti Mukherjee & Roshanak Nateghi, Risk Analysis, Sep 24, 2018

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/risa.13192>

“It describes the limitations of prediction models used by electricity providers and regulators for medium- and long-term energy forecasting. And it outlines a new model that includes key climate

predictors -- mean dew point temperature and extreme maximum temperature -- that researchers say present a more accurate view of how climate change will alter future electricity demands.”
[SEPP Comment: First, assume the IPCC models, that fail to track current atmospheric warming, are right? Second, build a new model based on the models assumed to be right but are wrong?]

Lowering Standards

Wheat Yields To Fall (As They Continue To Rise)!

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Oct 5, 2018

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2018/10/02/wheat-yields-to-fall-as-they-continue-to-rise/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Fact check: Wind power is a story of American growth and innovation

By Curtis Walter, Into the Wind, The AWEA Blog, Oct 1, 2018

<https://www.aweablog.org/fact-check-wind-power-story-american-growth-innovation/>

[SEPP Comment: Ignoring the fact that wind power is not reliable and was replaced by reliable electricity from the grid until politicians demanded mandates for grid operators and gave lavish subsidies for wind power.]

Humanities research politicized too: Silly fake papers “feminist Mein Kampf” get through peer review

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Oct 4, 2018

<http://joannenova.com.au/2018/10/humanities-research-politicized-too-fake-papers-feminist-mein-kampf-get-through-peer-review/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda

New York City Filled with Road Signs Flashing Climate Warnings, Including ‘Climate Denial Kills’

By Mike Bastasch, Daily Caller, Oct 10, 2018

<http://dailycaller.com/2018/10/04/new-york-road-signs-bill-de-blasio/>

Questioning European Green

Germany’s Energiewende program exposed as a catastrophic failure

Guest essay by Larry Hamlin, WUWT, Sep 30, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/09/30/germanys-energiewende-program-exposed-as-a-catastrophic-failure/>

Litigation Issues

Caught lying: NYC climate lawsuit really IS about restraining industry, not saving the planet

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Oct 1, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/10/01/caught-lying-nyc-climate-lawsuit-really-is-about-restraining-industry-not-saving-the-planet/>

Enviro Lawyer's Comments Could Sink NYC's Climate Crusade

By Chris White, Daily Caller, Oct 1, 2018

<http://dailycaller.com/2018/10/01/new-york-city-climate-lawsuits/>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Goldstein: Carbon taxes for dummies

By Lorrie Goldstein, The Province, Can, Sep 26, 2018 [H/t GWPF]

<https://theprovince.com/opinion/columnists/goldstein-carbon-taxes-for-dummies/wcm/44a5f306-5809-429f-9059-96b7500b12e3>

[SEPP Comment: Hitting the one truth and four myths of carbon taxes in Canada: the truth is that carbon taxes will raise taxes.]

Wishful thinking about an energy tax

By Gerard Scimeca, Washington Times, Oct 2, 2018

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/oct/2/a-conservative-approach-to-a-carbon-tax-does-not-e/>

Global Flipping. Manitoba dumps carbon taxes too

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Oct 5, 2018

<http://joannenova.com.au/2018/10/winning-manitoba-abandon-carbon-taxes-too/#more-60865>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Ex-Koch engineer to lead EPA office on scientific research

By Miranda Green, The Hill, Oct 2, 2018

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/409532-ex-koch-engineer-to-lead-epa-office-on-scientific-research>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Germany Risks Permanent Loss of Control of Energiewende, Federal Audit Office Warns

By Daniel Wetzel, Die Welt, trans. GWPF, Sep 29, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/germany-risks-complete-loss-of-control-of-energiewende-federal-audit-office-warns/>

Who Will Win Europe's Energy Cold War? Russia And The U.S.

By Mark Mills, IBD, Sep 26, 2018

<https://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/eu-energy-russia-dependence-trump/>

Energy Issues -- US

Colorado should rethink its risky Energy Plan

By David Wojick, CFACT, Oct 5, 2018

<http://www.cfact.org/2018/10/05/colorado-should-rethink-its-risky-energy-plan/>

For the Poor, How Much Energy Is Enough?

By Greg Rehmke, Master Resource, Oct 2, 2018

<https://www.masterresource.org/energy-poverty/for-the-poor-how-much-energy-is-enough/>

Washington's Control of Energy

GOP Senators Demand EPA Fix Permitting 'Abuses' Used by Democratic States to Block Energy Projects

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Oct 5, 2018

<https://dailycaller.com/2018/10/05/gop-senators-epa-permits-dem-states/>

GOP senators ask EPA to block states that have 'hijacked' rule to stop fossil fuel production

By Miranda Green, The Hill, Oct 5, 2018

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/410116-gop-lawmakers-ask-epa-to-help-stop-states-that-hijack-rule-to-stop>

“The lawmakers said the current statute is being used to “fight” fossil fuel projects rather than protect water quality. They did not offer examples of projects that might have been unfairly struck down under the provision.”

[SEPP Comment: Examples: New York state opposing natural gas pipelines from Pennsylvania to New England, Keystone XL, Dakota Access pipeline?]

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Peak Oil Politically Motivated Conjecture

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Oct 2, 2018

<http://ddears.com/2018/10/02/peak-oil-politically-motivated-conjecture/>

Rush to Judgment About Oil

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Oct 5, 2018

<http://ddears.com/2018/10/05/rush-to-judgment-about-oil/>

[SEPP Comment: “The Stone Age Did Not End Because the World Ran Out of Stones, and the Oil Age Will Not End Because We Run Out of Oil.” – Attributed to Ahmed Zaki Yamani who was the Minister of Oil for Saudi Arabia for more than twenty years. Still waiting to run out of stones so we can emerge from the stone age.]

The Rise of Natural Gas Generation in Europe

By Sonal Patel, Power Mag, Oct 1, 2018

<https://www.powermag.com/the-rise-of-natural-gas-generation-in-europe/>

The Incredible Economic Opportunities of Offshore Energy Exploration

By Jim Nicholson, National Review, Oct 1, 2018

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/10/the-incredible-economic-opportunities-of-offshore-energy-exploration/>

Good riddance to Obama's gas flaring rule

By Barry Russell, Washington Examiner, Oct 1, 2018

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/good-riddance-to-obamas-gas-flaring-rule>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Massachusetts residents get to “freeze in the dark” for “social justice”!

Guest ridicule by David Middleton, WUWT, Oct 4, 2018

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2018/10/04/massachusetts-residents-get-to-freeze-in-the-dark-for-social-justice/>

Nuclear Energy and Fears

3 Reasons Nuclear Power Plants Are More Expensive In The West (It's Not Regulation)

By Jeff McMahon, Forbes, Oct 2, No link to study

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcmahon/2018/10/01/3-reasons-nuclear-reactors-are-more-expensive-in-the-west-hint-its-not-regulation/#11eac5ea5d1a>

[SEPP Comment: Lack of a supporting industry?]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

El Hierro third quarter 2018 performance update

By Roger Andrews, Oct 2, 2018

<http://euanmearns.com/el-hierro-third-quarter-2018-performance-update/#more-22597>

According to Andrews in comments: “The only way of achieving a really significant increase in GdV’s output would be by using the sea as the lower reservoir. This would increase storage capacity to about 500 MWh, but it would require replacement of turbine/penstock components with corrosion-resistant materials and the construction of new intake facilities. It would also work only if the upper reservoir could be filled, and there are reasons to believe that stability problems may not allow it to be. The UR [upper reservoir] has in fact been at or near empty ever since project startup.”

Saudi Arabia Shelves Work on SoftBank’s \$200 Billion Solar Project

Saudi officials set to unveil new plan for renewable energy in October

By Rory Jones and Summer Said, WSJ, Via GWPF, Oct 1, 2018

<https://www.thegwpf.com/green-flop-saudi-arabia-shelves-200-billion-solar-project/>

Wind Power Has Been Helping Humans For Over 1,000 Years

By Jake Richardson, Clean Technica, Oct 2, 2018

<https://cleantechnica.com/2018/10/02/wind-power-has-been-helping-humans-for-over-1000-years/>

[SEPP Comment: Yet, it is still not reliable.]

Wide-scale US wind power could cause significant warming

A Harvard study raises questions about just how much wind should be part of a climate solution.

By James Temple, MIT Technology Review, Oct 4, 2018 [H/t ICECAP]

<https://www.technologyreview.com/s/612238/wide-scale-us-wind-power-could-cause-significant-warming/>

Link to paper: Climatic Impacts of Wind Power

By Lee Miller and David Keith, Joule, Oct 4, 2018

[https://www.cell.com/joule/fulltext/S2542-4351\(18\)30446-X](https://www.cell.com/joule/fulltext/S2542-4351(18)30446-X)

“The warming effect is: small compared with projections of 21st century warming...”

“Wind power has a 10-fold lower power density than solar, but wind power installations directly occupy much less of the land within their boundaries. The environmental and social consequences of these divergent land occupancy patterns need further study.”

[SEPP Comment: As with greenhouse gas warming, wind power warming is strongest at night.]

Warning! Wind power warms local climate for next hundred years, needs 5 – 20 times as much land

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Oct 6, 2018

<http://joannenova.com.au/2018/10/warning-wind-power-warms-local-climate-for-next-hundred-years-needs-5-20-times-as-much-land/>

Energy & Environmental Newsletter: October 1, 2018

By John Droz, Jr., Master Resource, Oct 1, 2018

<https://www.masterresource.org/alliance-for-wise-energy-decisions/energy-environmental-newsletter-10-1-2018/>

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

Oil lobby clashes with Trump over ethanol plan

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Sep 28, 2018

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/408952-oil-lobby-clashes-with-trump-over-ethanol-plan>

Overlooked trade-offs of environmentally protective hydropower operation: Impacts to ancillary services and greenhouse gas emissions

By Joseph Rand, River Research and Applications, Sep 5, 2018

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/rra.3354>

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

The World’s Most Beautiful Battery

High in the Austrian Alps, a utility has adapted a 70-year-old facility to store solar and wind energy for when it’s needed most.

By Jonathan Tirone, Bloomberg, Oct 1, 2018

<https://www.bloomberg.com/features/2018-kaprun-hydroelectric-station-battery/>

[SEPP Comment: Pumped hydro-storage in the Alps. According to the article pumped hydro-storage first started in Italy and Switzerland in the late 19th century?]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

It's Time To Unplug Taxpayer Subsidies for Electric Cars

By Sen John Barrasso, IBD, Oct 5, 2018

<https://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/electric-cars-subsidies/>

Carbon Schemes

The Make America First Case for Carbon Capture

By Beau Rothschild, Real Clear Energy, Oct 5, 2018

https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2018/10/05/the_make_america_first_case_for_carbon_capture_110349.html

“A new study from Nature Climate Change suggests only India suffers more from carbon pollution than the U.S.”

Link to report of “study” U.S. is second biggest loser from climate change economically, bombshell study finds

Study blows up "total myth" that climate action benefits other countries more.

By Joe Romm, Think Progress, Sep 24, 2018

<https://thinkprogress.org/u-s-is-second-biggest-loser-from-climate-change-economically-bombshell-study-finds-677ae19f3787/>

Link to “study”: Country-level social cost of carbon

By Ricke, Drouet, Caldeira, and Tavoni, Nature Climate Change, Oct 2018

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-018-0282-y.epdf?referrer_access_token=mJhBxkFVmPTA5LjEJaQ8XtRgN0jAjWeI9jnR3ZoTv0Ms70oz073vBeHQkQJXsJbee8ZREj2S6_6onKkLAlgfEZXqMcb8a9MZyUmeQspMdzRIrOp4QXjYDM9K5-UMUoCr-6aU0OUq-o8ng7E-n4k4_pOKKYJVkuvXqFLVxD1nf4wWlqectVNDRAK7UmJl_XyycEO8U7BKmxbB2olAhdbsHqPXy.tifq9-K9ktVun3EQGP9CgsLU-zw7eI3S8o3utBC4q67S8qNKwmXDxtDjzWeCQv-9c8nW-yA1y2DOYcKYVG7usuHr7rUQj_FJImztlo&tracking_referrer=thinkprogress.org

[SEPP Comment: We have excellent examples where UN climate reports of carbon dioxide-caused warming have failed and, except for highly specialized circumstances, many examples where carbon (dioxide) capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) have failed. But we should spend untold billions more to try to make this failed technology succeed? Using failed models to make calculations about failed concepts is not meaningful.]

California Dreaming

California Lead-Paint Ruling Is Ripe For Supreme Court Review

By Caitlin Colman, IBD, Oct 3, 2018

<https://www.investors.com/politics/commentary/california-lead-paint-ruling-supreme-court/>

[SEPP Comment: Another nuisance lawsuit with damages dating from 1904?]

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Restaurants in Austin banned from throwing away food

By Avery Anapol, The Hill, Oct 2, 2018

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/409594-restaurants-in-austin-now-banned-from-throwing-away-food>

[SEPP Comment: Nothing like the smell of food waste in August!]

Why didn't someone think of this before?

By Staff Writers, Climate Change Predictions.org, Oct 4, 2018

<http://climatechangepredictions.org/uncategorized/3748>

“We don't have to relinquish our cars, move to the woods, and get off the grid to conquer climate change. The real solution is simple and easy: eat plants.

“Though the figures vary, World Bank scientists have attributed up to 51 percent of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions to the livestock industry.

“The cows, pigs, chickens and other animals raised for food across the globe — and the industry of which they're a part — contribute more to rising temperatures and oceans than all the planes, cars, trucks, boats and trains in the world. Huffington Post, 1 Dec 2014”

ARTICLES:

1. John Paul Schumer

The former Justice plays last-minute confirmation politics.

Editorial, WSJ, Oct 5, 2018

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/john-paul-schumer-1538759502>

Summary: The editorial states that no public lobbying Supreme Court nominees by a former Supreme Court Justice was one many norms and traditions that were changed by opponents of Brett Kavanaugh, then continues:

“From a retirement redoubt in Boca Raton, former Justice John Paul Stevens chose the eve of a Senate vote to sound like a Democrat on the Judiciary Committee. The 98-year-old, who retired from the Court in 2010, praised Judge Kavanaugh and one of his rulings in a 2014 book. But on Thursday the former Justice had a confirmation conversion.

“‘At that time, I thought (Kavanaugh) had the qualifications for the Supreme Court should he be selected,’ Mr. Stevens said, as quoted by the Palm Beach Post. ‘I’ve changed my views for reasons that have no relationship to his intellectual ability . . . I feel his performance in the hearings ultimately changed my mind.’

“The former Justice said Judge Kavanaugh’s response to the sexual misconduct allegations raised questions of political bias. ‘I think there’s merit to that criticism and I think the Senators should really pay attention [to] that,’ Justice Stevens told a group of seniors, the newspaper said.

“So in the name of protecting the Supreme Court from politics, the former Justice plays politics with the Court. Justice Stevens may no longer hear cases, but no one will miss that he is saying precisely what Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer wants him to say. That’s why the tradition has been for former Justices to stay quiet during even the most contentious confirmation battles.”

The editorial discusses Mr. Stevens op-ed in March arguing the Second Amendment, Right to Bear Arms, was a “relic of the 18th century” then continues:

“We don’t recall hearing Justice Stevens object in 2016 when current Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg called Donald Trump a threat to the country. Justice Stevens’s concern over the politicization of the Court runs in only one ideological direction—against judges who adhere to the original meaning of the Constitution. His opposition is one more reason to confirm Brett Kavanaugh.”
