

# **The Week That Was: 2019-12-28 (December 28, 2019)**

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### **The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

**Quote of the Week:** When asked, what he would tell a generation living 1,000 years from now, Bertrand Russell (1959) replied:

*“I should like to say two things, one intellectual and one moral:*

*“The intellectual thing I should want to say to them is this: When you are studying any matter or considering any philosophy, ask yourself only what are the facts and what is the truth that the facts bear out. Never let yourself be diverted either by what you wish to believe or by what you think would have beneficent social effects if it were believed, but look only and solely at what are the facts. That is the intellectual thing that I should wish to say.”* – Bertrand Russell (1959)

**Number of the Week: Three-Fold Increase in Fish**

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**THIS WEEK:**

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

**The Worst of Times or The Best of Times:** According to the United Nations, its supporting organizations, and many other organizations engaged in what they consider to be science, we are in a climate crisis, or climate emergency. The cries of children that adults have robbed them of their future are repeated on supposedly rational forums and publications. The future is dire and we must change our ways or face extinction.

Yet by many objective standards, this decade might be the best, most prosperous decade humanity experienced in recorded history. The differences between what the UN and its supporters claim and what the data show are stark. Taking advantage of the “lull” in news that occurs over the holidays, this TWTW and the next will present data supporting the assertion that we are living in the best of times in modern history with fewer weather related deaths, per capita, emphasized herein and other data on agriculture, prosperity, war, etc. emphasized next week.

In his essay, “We’ve just had the best decade in human history. Seriously,” Matt Ridley discusses some of the issues that will be presented. But he does not discuss the reasons. Human imagination can greatly benefit humanity. Unfortunately, it can be perverse as well.

Perhaps the greatest gift of humanity to humanity is the scientific method. Developed over millennia in many cultures, it began to reach great fruition in western Europe in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries and was adopted by westernized countries. The scientific method has been applied to many industries and activities, raising the standards of living far beyond subsistence farming. Also, the method gave rise to horrific weapons. For years, the scientific method was referred to as western science.

One of the best teachers of the scientific method in English was the Nobel co-laureate in physics Richard Feynman. He told stories to make critical points. One such story was of primitive Pacific Islanders observing the activities at a World War II landing strip and building similar facilities out of wood and straw with hopes that airplanes would arrive bringing wonderful items. He called this mind-set Cargo-Cult Science. The trappings and symbols, of a science do not make a science.

In a famous lecture presented at the fifteenth annual meeting of the National Science Teachers Association in 1966, Feynman gave his view of what science is. After a long introduction with stories he states:

*“This phenomenon of having a memory for the [human] race, of having an accumulated knowledge passable from one generation to another, was new in the world—but it had a disease in it: it was possible to pass on ideas which were not profitable for the race. The race has ideas, but they are not necessarily profitable.*

*“So, there came a time in which the ideas, although accumulated very slowly, were all accumulations not only of practical and useful things, but great accumulations of all types of prejudices, and strange and odd beliefs.*

*“Then a way of avoiding the disease was discovered. This is to doubt that what is being passed from the past is in fact true, and to try to find out ab initio [from the beginning] again from experience what the situation is, rather than trusting the experience of the past in the form in which it is passed down. **And that is what science is: the result of the discovery that it is worthwhile rechecking by new direct experience, and not necessarily trusting the [human] race[s] experience from the past. I see it that way. That is my best definition.**”*

[Comment: The first [human], [from the beginning], and boldface were added by TWTW.]

It is the constant need to recheck rather than trust past beliefs that is giving rise to a great disparity between the UN science with its interpretation of the world, and what many independent critics of UN science state is occurring in the world. The UN work is built on a science that is being outdated by observations over the past 40 years. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Seeking a Common Ground.

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**Contradicting a Climate Crisis – Our World in Data:** As stated on its website, the independent organization Our World in Data presents data to address:

*“Poverty, disease, hunger, climate change, war, existential risks, and inequality: The world faces many great and terrifying problems at the same time. It is these large problems that our work at Our World in Data focuses on.*

*“The world has the resources to do much better. And thanks to the work of thousands of researchers around the world who dedicate their lives to studying the world’s largest problems we often have a good understanding of them. But we believe that a key reason why we fail to achieve the progress we are capable of is that we do not make enough use of this existing research and data: the important knowledge is often stored in inaccessible databases, locked away behind paywalls and buried under jargon in academic papers.*

*“The goal of our work is to make the knowledge on the big problems accessible and understandable. As we say on our homepage, Our World in Data is about Research and data to make progress against the world’s largest problems.”*

The website also gives its principal supporters to include the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, German businesswoman Susanne Klatten, and the London-based Nuffield Foundation (2015 &

16). A host of other sponsors and donors is listed. In 2014, independent researchers Hannah Ritchie and Max Roser posted their extensive work on Natural Disasters website of Our World in Data. In November 2019 this work was revised. The summary states:

- *Natural disasters kill on average 60,000 people per year, globally.*
- *Globally, disasters were responsible for 0.1% of deaths over the past decade. This was highly variable, ranging from 0.01% to 0.4%.*
- *Deaths from natural disasters have seen a large decline over the past century – from, in some years, millions of deaths per year to an average of 60,000 over the past decade.*
- *Historically, droughts and floods were the most fatal disaster events. Deaths from these events are now very low – the most deadly events today tend to be earthquakes.*
- *Disasters affect those in poverty most heavily: high death tolls tend to be centered in low-to-middle income countries without the infrastructure to protect and respond to events.*

Under the specific heading of Annual deaths from natural disasters the authors state:

*“In the visualization shown here we see the long-term global trend in natural disaster deaths. This shows the estimated annual number of deaths from disasters from 1900 onwards from the EMDAT International Disaster Database.1*

*“What we see is that in the early-to-mid 20th century, the annual death toll from disasters was high, often reaching over one million per year. In recent decades we have seen a substantial decline in deaths. In most years fewer than 20,000 die (and in the most recent decade, this has often been less than 10,000). Even in peak years with high-impact events, the death toll has not exceeded 500,000 since the mid-1960s.*

*“This decline is even more impressive when we consider the rate of population growth over this period. When we correct for population – showing this data in terms of death rates (measured per 100,000 people) – we see an even greater decline over the past century. This chart can be viewed here. [Chart not shown in TWTW but shown on the website.]*

*“The annual number of deaths from natural disasters is also available by country since 1990. This can be explored in the interactive map.”*

These findings directly contradict the claims of a climate crisis or climate emergency by the UN and its supporters. Very simply, despite increases in population, death tolls from natural disasters are not increasing. Claims of human cause are irrelevant. Death tolls have fallen drastically, thanks to a number of reasons including increased resilience which can result from increased prosperity. The authors give multiple sets of data for the US and the Globe for weather events such as Flood, Wind, Heat, Cold, Weather events, etc. The claims of the UN and its supporters do not stand up to analysis.

Further, the Global Tropical Cyclone Activity shows no increase in frequency and accumulated energy during its entire dataset from 1971 to November 30, 2019. The claims of climate crisis are false. See links under Seeking a Common Ground.

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**UN Fables Not Facts:** The UN has created a parody, a mockery, of the scientific method by demanding precise values for vague concepts it has created and by substituting fables for facts.

The clear issue is what will happen to temperatures with a doubling of carbon dioxide? The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) promotes the values in the 1979 Charney Report, asserted by US climate modelers without any supporting evidence. The laboratory results of a modest warming in the range of about 1 °C (about 2 °F) were greatly amplified by presumed increases in the most significant greenhouse gas – water vapor. There was no experimental or observational evidence offered to support the claim – only speculative calculations that might be erroneous.

Without addressing the core question, what will happen if CO<sub>2</sub> doubles, the UN IPCC focuses on offering various scenarios, storylines or fables, on what may happen as countries increase CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Thus, much of the discussion is on which fable is more likely to happen?

Feedbacks and equilibrium climate sensitivity and are also mishandled and assigned values that are speculative. There may be a number of positive or negative feedbacks. But these need to be demonstrated by experiment on atmospheric gases or by atmospheric observations. They have not been convincingly demonstrated.

As discussed in last week's TWTW, in his new paper Richard Lindzen addressed the important issue of the temperature difference between the equator and the polar regions during the last major ice age and the last major warm period. The temperatures in the tropics did not change much from the cold era to the warm era. Thus, we should not expect a strong tropical "hot spot" during the current warming. Observational evidence of temperature trends show one is not occurring, thus a strong positive feedback from water vapor is not occurring. The US models have not been adjusted to reflect the absence of a strong positive feedback which, in 1979, the US modelers insisted existed, but never demonstrated.

Similarly, the UN IPCC concept of an equilibrium climate sensitivity has little meaning. The earth has never been in climate equilibrium, except for erroneous mathematical simulations of the earth's climate such as appeared in the infamous "hockey-stick." One could argue that at the peak of an ice age or peak of a warm period the earth is at a climate equilibrium, but that would be quickly debunked by those who recognize the Milankovitch cycles, discussed in last week's TWTW.

In Climate Etc. former climate modeler Judith Curry discusses what harm is there in recognizing that the key issue is how much warming will occur from a doubling of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from today? The question is: what is important for humanity now? Thus, making the UN claims of warming from the 1880s frivolous. She also posts a counter argument to her position by a defender of the UN position. In the Curry post and the counter argument a new concept is introduced: TCRE, transient climate response to cumulative carbon emissions, i.e., the relationship between temperatures and cumulative emissions.

The TCRE concept appears to have little value. If the current levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> are not causing significant warming of the atmosphere, why introduce new concepts that avoids the singular issues? How much atmospheric warming is occurring from CO<sub>2</sub> today? Secondly, how much will occur with a doubling of CO<sub>2</sub>? Yes, there is uncertainty about the climate in the late part of this century.

But we do not understand the natural causes of climate change and they are more significant than human emitted greenhouse gases. We cannot predict next month's weather, why expect more

precise predictions for 80 years from now? See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Defending the Orthodoxy.

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**Scenarios:** In the first of two parts, Roger Pielke Jr. describes how the use of scenarios has been distorted by the climate science community. He states:

*“Scenarios of the future have long sat at the center of discussions of climate science, impacts and adaptation and mitigation policies. Scenario planning has a long history and can be traced to the RAND Corporation during World War 2 and, later (ironically enough) Shell, a fossil fuel company. Scenarios are not intended to be forecasts of the future, but rather to serve as an alternative to forecasting. Scenarios provide a description of possible futures contingent upon various factors, only some of which might be under the control of decision makers.”*

Unfortunately, the IPCC presents scenarios, which can be called fables, as plausible outcomes, with the worst occurring if the nations of the world do not submit to UN control of CO2 emissions. The UN has no control of natural variability, and the IPCC ignores it. See link under Science, Policy, and Evidence.

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**Energy Poverty:** Writing in Real Clear Energy, Katie Tahauha of the Texas Public Policy Foundation addresses unfortunate new terms selected by two English dictionaries. She states:

*“It’s that time of year. As New Year’s Eve approaches, we look back on 2019 seeking nuggets of wisdom from twelve more months of the human experience. Unfortunately, the Word of the Year selections from two top dictionaries reveal just how misplaced this year’s priorities were.*

*“The Oxford English Dictionary selected ‘climate crisis’ as the term that ‘reflects the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the passing year.’ Striking a similarly dismal note, Dictionary.com’s selection was ‘existential.’*

*“A better word of the year for 2019? Energy poverty.”*

She goes on to state:

*“Even household chores pose a threat without energy. Nearly 4 million perish annually from preventable lung and heart disease caused by inhaling soot when cooking over an indoor fire. The natural gas or electric stoves we take for granted would literally save lives in developing countries.”*

TWTW may disagree with the size of the estimates of those who die from preventable lung and heart disease from indoor fires but agrees that indoor cooking and heating fires are preventable health threats. See links under Questioning the Orthodoxy.



**Dear Reader of The Week That Was,**

**The Science & Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)** is a 501-c-3 organization, incorporated in Virginia. Its Federal I.D. Number is 54-1645372 and donations are US tax deductible. Established in 1990 by S. Fred Singer to challenge government environmental policies based on poor science, SEPP stands for objective science, based on physical evidence and rigorous adherence to the scientific method.

No matter how elaborate, results from numerical models that are not thoroughly tested against physical evidence are speculative and cannot be relied upon. Testing the results from using parts of a model against the results from the entire model is a ruse used by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Major government policies based on speculation and misleading “modeling” are a waste of resources.

Our founder, Dr. Singer, is Chairman emeritus. Physicist Dr. Thomas Sheahan is Chairman. Other distinguished scientists serve on the board of directors. Ken Haapala continues as president and oversees general operations. We continue to be very productive.

Two prevalent myths are damaging our economy and hurting the less fortunate: 1) greenhouse gases, chiefly carbon dioxide, are causing dangerous global warming; and 2) wind and solar can easily replace fossil fuels, nuclear, and hydro in electricity generation. Both are false, yet widely accepted. We continue to contest these myths, and others, with hard evidence.

In collaboration with like-minded groups, we produce hard-hitting comments for the public record and provide scientific testimony on Federal government climate and energy policy. We are actively attempting to eliminate or change the EPA’s endangerment finding, despite a lack of physical evidence, that carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>, poses a danger to public health.

In 2007, SEPP established NIPCC (Non-governmental International Panel on Climate Change) to respond to the false claims of the UN-IPCC, and its followers, who claim, without hard evidence, that the use of fossil fuels and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, will lead to climate disasters. The Heartland Institute continues the NIPCC efforts with well-attended sessions of the International Conference on Climate Change and the NIPCC reports at [www.NIPCCreport.org](http://www.NIPCCreport.org).

Contrary to frequent attacks, SEPP does not receive support from oil, tobacco, or chemical companies – or government organizations. SEPP accepts donations from private individuals and small contributions from foundations. The appropriate IRS tax filings are made by an independent CPA and are “Open to Public Inspection.”

SEPP is frugal, beholden to no one, and our writings are clear from any outside influence, except physical evidence and logic.

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**Number of the Week: Three-Fold Increase in Fish.** Since 2010, researchers at Southern Cross University have been studying the impact of the very salty discharge from a desalination plant near Sydney, including periods when the plant temporarily ceased operations. The lead researcher stated:

*“There was a 279 per cent increase in fish life. It is an important result, as large-scale desalination is becoming an essential component of future-proofing the water supplies of major cities, such as Sydney, Perth, and Melbourne’ Professor Kelaher said.”*

The paper’s abstract states:

*“At 12 times before, eight times during, and four times following the cessation of discharging hypersaline brine, we sampled reef fishes at two outlet sites and two close reference sites, as well as four reference sites that were located from 2–8 km from the outlet. At each site and each time of sampling, five 50 m video transects were used to sample reef fish assemblages. Following the commencement of discharging, there was a 279% increase in the abundance of fish around the outlet, which included substantially greater abundances of pelagic and demersal fish, as well as fishes targeted by recreational and commercial fishers. Following the cessation of discharge, abundances of fishes mostly returned to levels such that there was no longer a significant effect compared to the period prior to the commencement of the desalination plant’s operations. Overall, our results demonstrate that well-designed marine infrastructure and processes used to support the growing demand for potable water can also enhance local fish abundances and species richness.”*

If such increases in fish population are confirmed by other studies of other discharges from desalination plants, then the news is extremely positive. Desalination has become practical, affordable, alternative to groundwater pumping in coastal areas where land subsidence has become a problem, such as the Tidewater region of Virginia. [There is some issue about terminology: is a 279 per cent increase an almost threefold increase or an almost fourfold increase?] See links under Other News that May Be of Interest

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#### **NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

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

**Reverse Polarity Sunspots appear on the Sun – ending a 39 day stretch of spotless days**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Dec 24, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/12/24/reverse-polarity-sunspots-appear-on-the-sun-ending-a-39-day-stretch-of-spotless-days/>

##### ***Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC***

**Climate Change Reconsidered II: Physical Science**

Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), 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, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), 2014

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/climate-change-reconsidered-ii-biological-impacts/>

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

### **Climate Change Reconsidered II: Fossil Fuels**

By Multiple Authors, Bezdek, Idso, Legates, and Singer eds., Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change, April 2019

<http://store.heartland.org/shop/ccr-ii-fossil-fuels/>

Download with no charge:

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Climate-Change-Reconsidered-II-Fossil-Fuels-FULL-Volume-with-covers.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, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (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](http://www.sepp.org/publications/nipcc_final.pdf)

### **Global Sea-Level Rise: An Evaluation of the Data**

By Craig D. Idso, David Legates, and S. Fred Singer, Heartland Policy Brief, May 20, 2019

<https://www.heartland.org/template-assets/documents/publications/SeaLevelRiseCCRIL.pdf>

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

#### **3 degrees C?**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Dec 23, 2019

<https://judithcurry.com/2019/12/23/3-degrees-c/#more-25553>

### **Activists Don't Succeed, But Try, Try Again on Climate Attribution Science,**

By Spencer Walrath, Energy in Depth, Dec 19, 2019

<https://eidclimate.org/activists-dont-succeed-but-try-try-again-on-climate-attribution-science/>

Link to paper: [Attributing ocean acidification to major carbon producers](#)

By R. Linker, et al. Environmental Research Letters, Dec 11, 2019

<https://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/Environmental%20Research%20Letters%20publication.pdf>

### **We've just had the best decade in human history. Seriously**

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Dec 21, 2019

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/best-decade-in-history/>

### **On Climate Sensitivity**

By Richard Lindzen, with Review Assistance from Roy Spencer, CO2 Coalition, 2019  
[http://co2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Lindzen\\_On-Climate-Sensitivity.pdf](http://co2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Lindzen_On-Climate-Sensitivity.pdf)

### **Failed Serial Doomcasting**

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Dec 27, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/12/27/failed-serial-doomcasting/>

### **The Laughable Lust for Seriousness**

By Tim Blair, Quadrant, AU, Dec 27, 2019

<https://quadrant.org.au/magazine/2019/12/the-laughable-lust-for-seriousness/>

“The lust for seriousness is the most craven of vices. And it leads to the worst outcomes. Over many decades, for example, generations of very serious people—state and federal politicians, mostly—have sat around and considered how best to manage Australia’s energy needs. They took careful stock of our abundant supplies of coal, our enormous gas reserves and our huge uranium deposits. They conducted serious studies, they consulted serious experts and they worked serious hours.

“And then they delivered a system that charges among the highest energy prices on earth.”

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

#### **Five reasons COP25 climate talks failed**

By Marlowe Hood, AFP, Dec 25, 2019

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Five\\_reasons\\_COP25\\_climate\\_talks\\_failed\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Five_reasons_COP25_climate_talks_failed_999.html)

“Among the nearly 30,000 diplomats, experts, activists and journalists accredited to attend the summit were hundreds of high-octane fossil fuel lobbyists.

“They are collectively the elephant in the room: everyone knows what causes climate change but it is considered impolitic within the UN climate bubble to point fingers.”

*[SEPP Comment: What caused the ending of ice ages?]*

### **Two more degrees by 2100!**

By Vaughan Pratt, Climate Etc. Dec 27, 2019

<https://judithcurry.com/2019/12/27/two-more-degrees-by-2100/#more-25576>

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

#### **A Better Word of the Year for 2019: Energy Poverty**

By Katie Tahuahua, Real Clear Energy, Dec 20, 2019

[https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2019/12/20/a\\_better\\_word\\_of\\_the\\_year\\_for\\_2019\\_energy\\_poverty\\_110503.html](https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2019/12/20/a_better_word_of_the_year_for_2019_energy_poverty_110503.html)

### **Study: No Discernible Link From CO2 Forcing To Climate For 97% Of The Last 425 Million Years**

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Dec 23, 2019

<https://notrickszone.com/2019/12/23/study-no-discernible-link-from-co2-forcing-to-climate-for-97-of-the-last-425-million-years/>

### **A Decided Lack Of Equilibrium**

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Dec 26, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/12/26/a-decided-lack-of-equilibrium/>

## **350 Papers Published Since 2017 Subvert The Claim That Post-1850s Warming Has Been Unusual, Global**

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, Dec 26, 2019

<https://notrickszone.com/2019/12/26/350-papers-published-since-2017-subvert-the-claim-that-post-1850s-warming-has-been-unusual-global/>

## **Bushfires and Climate Change: No Link Whatsoever**

By James Jeffery, Quadrant, AU, Dec 26, 2019

<https://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2019/12/bushfires-and-climate-change-no-link-whatsoever/>

## ***After Paris!***

### **A year of ineffective climate madness looms**

By David Wojick, CFACT, Dec 26, 2019

<https://www.cfact.org/2019/12/26/a-year-of-ineffective-climate-madness-looms/>

“Politicians promising the impossible, to be delivered in the far distant future, do no harm. Hence their popularity.”

## **The Real World Intrudes on the UN Climate Conference**

By William R. Hawkins, American Thinker, Dec 24, 2019

[https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2019/12/the\\_real\\_world\\_intrudes\\_on\\_the\\_un\\_climate\\_conference.html](https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2019/12/the_real_world_intrudes_on_the_un_climate_conference.html)

## **UN's Madrid Climate Meetings Produce Net-Zero Benefits**

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Dec 23, 2019

<https://www.newsmax.com/larrybell/madrid-ipcc-maldives-sea-levels/2019/12/23/id/947056/>

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

### **Leading Evolutionary Biologist Says “CO2 Is A Blessing”, Rejects Cult-Like “Earth Heat Death” Claims**

German evolutionary biologist and physiologist Prof. Dr. Ulrich Kutschera told in an interview that “CO2 is a blessing for mankind” and that the claimed “97% consensus” among scientists is “a myth”

By P Gosselin, from Die kalte Sonne, Via No Tricks Zone, Dec 22, 2019

<https://notrickszone.com/2019/12/22/leading-evolutionary-biologist-says-co2-is-a-blessing-rejects-cult-like-earth-heat-death-claims/>

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

### **What Is Science?**

By Richard Feynman, National Science Teachers Association, 1966

<http://www.feynman.com/science/what-is-science/>

## **Natural Disasters**

By Hannah Ritchie and Max Roser, Our World in Data, November 2019

<https://ourworldindata.org/natural-disasters>

## **Global Tropical Cyclone Activity**

By Ryan N. Maue, Climate Atlas, Dec 29, 2019]

<http://climatlas.com/tropical/>

### ***Science, Policy, and Evidence***

#### **In 2020 Climate Science Needs To Hit The Reset Button, Part One**

By Roger Pielke, Forbes, Dec 22, 2019 [Jeff Reynolds]

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rogerpielke/2019/12/22/in-2020-climate-science-needs-to-hit-the-reset-button-part-one/#7cb54a92482c>

### ***Measurement Issues -- Surface***

#### **Dead Dingoes Don't Lie, But Climate Scientists Do**

By Tony Heller, Real Climate Science, Dec 26, 2019

<https://realclimatescience.com/2019/12/dead-dingoes-dont-lie-but-climate-scientists-do/>

“None of the claims being made about record heat or fires are credible, but that is standard operating procedure for climate scientists.”

### ***Changing Weather***

#### **Provisional US Tornado Stats—Another Year Without An EF-5**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 27, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/12/27/provisional-us-tornado-stats-another-year-without-an-ef-5/>

#### **From arctic blasts to heat waves, this year's weather broke more than 120,000 records in the US**

By Christina Walker, CNN, Dec 24, 2019

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/12/23/us/2019-us-weather-records-trnd/index.html>

### **The Old Polar Vortex**

By Tony Heller, Real Climate Science, Dec 26, 2019

<https://realclimatescience.com/2019/12/the-old-polar-vortex/>

### ***Changing Seas***

#### **What Can You See, Indicating Sea Levels are Rising?**

By Jennifer Marohasy, Her Blog, Dec 28, 2019

<https://jennifermarohasy.com/2019/12/what-can-you-see-indicating-sea-levels-are-rising/>

#### **Popular Outer Banks island cut apart by Hurricane Dorian is reforming and growing**

By Mark Price, News & Observer, Dec 20, 2019 [H/t Bill Balgord]

<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/article238588758.html>

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

#### **Dec. 22 Arctic Ice Nearly Normal**

By Ron Clutz, Science Matters, Dec 23, 2019

<https://rclutz.wordpress.com/2019/12/23/dec-22-arctic-ice-nearly-normal/>

### **Too Much Snow For Rudolf!**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 26, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/12/26/too-much-snow-for-rudolf/>

### ***Changing Earth***

#### **Scientists find huge meteor crater in northeast China**

By Staff Writers, Harbin, China (XNA), Dec 27, 2019

[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Scientists\\_find\\_huge\\_meteor\\_crater\\_in\\_northeast\\_China\\_999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Scientists_find_huge_meteor_crater_in_northeast_China_999.html)

### ***Lowering Standards***

**“The Lancet” on Health and Climate Change: A Tale of Editorial Bias**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 23, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/12/23/the-lancet-on-health-and-climate-change-a-tale-of-editorial-bias/#more-42752>

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Use Yellow (Green) Journalism?***

**Climate Change to make Boxing Day cricket extinct. ABC and Monash make history extinct.**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 27, 2019

<http://joannenova.com.au/2019/12/climate-change-to-make-boxing-day-cricket-extinct-abc-makes-history-extinct/>

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

**Bloomberg: RCP8.5 Climate Catastrophe is Unlikely – Because of Cheap Renewables**

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Dec 25, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/12/25/bloomberg-rcp8-5-climate-catastrophe-is-unlikely-because-of-cheap-renewables/>

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

**FT: Low Interest Rates are an Opportunity to Spend Big on Renewable Energy**

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, Dec 27, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/12/27/ft-low-interest-rates-are-an-opportunity-to-spend-big-on-renewable-energy/>

**Study Shows How Pollution, Climate Change Could Make Us Dumber**

By Bruce Y. Lee, Forbes, Dec 22, 2019

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2019/12/22/study-shows-how-pollution-climate-change-could-make-us-dumber/#329367533a96>

“I am a writer, journalist, professor, systems modeler, computational and digital health expert, avocado-eater, and entrepreneur, not always in that order.”

“For the paper, Kristopher Karnauskas and Shelly Miller from the University of Colorado and Anna Schapiro from the University of Pennsylvania found studies that showed the relationship between CO2 levels and thinking ability and created a predictive model of what might happen over time, giving current trends in fossil fuel pollution.”

*[SEPP Comment: The Navy and NASA have extensive studies on the relationship between CO2 and thinking ability. Did the modelers use these studies?]*

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Do a Poll?***

**Chemophobia: Nearly 40% Of Europeans Want A Chemical-Free World**

By Alex Berezow, ACSH, Dec 18, 2019

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/12/18/chemophobia-nearly-40-europeans-want-chemical-free-world-14465>

“A new study reveals that nearly 40% of Europeans want to ‘live in a world where chemical substances don't exist.’ Another 82% didn't know that table salt is table salt, whether it is extracted from the ocean or made synthetically.”

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children***

#### **"I don't want to die!" Climate Exploitation of Children**

By Charles Rotter, WUWT, Dec 23, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/12/23/i-dont-want-to-die-climate-exploitation-of-children/>

Video by Friends of Science

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Use Children for Propaganda***

#### **Greta The Movie**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 23, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/12/23/greta-the-movie/#more-42746>

*[SEPP Comment: Greta's comment “We've had enough” followed by a long pause should be directed to those who are shamelessly using her for propaganda.]*

### ***Questioning Green Elsewhere***

#### **Green ideology, not climate change, makes bushfires worse**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 24, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/12/24/green-ideology-not-climate-change-makes-bushfires-worse/>

*[SEPP Comment: According to the Volunteer Fire Fighters Association of New South Wales.]*

#### **2019 Wildfires burn 20 times as much land as managed fuel reduction in NSW (so far)**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 22, 2019

<http://joannenova.com.au/2019/12/2019-wildfires-burn-20-times-as-much-land-as-managed-fuel-reduction-in-nsw/>

#### **Climate change and bushfires — More rain, the same droughts, no trend, no science**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Dec 24, 2019

<http://joannenova.com.au/2019/12/climate-change-and-bushfires-more-rain-the-same-droughts-no-trend-no-science/>

*[SEPP Comment: The graph comparing 67 years of areas of prescribed burns and bushfires is telling.]*

#### **Are Australian Wildfires Due To Climate Change?**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 24, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/12/24/are-australian-wildfires-due-to-climate-change/>

### ***Litigation Issues***

#### **Exxon and Evidence 101**

By John S. Baker, Jr. Real Clear Energy, Dec 20, 2019

[https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2019/12/20/exxon\\_and\\_evidence\\_101\\_110502.html](https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2019/12/20/exxon_and_evidence_101_110502.html)

“The problem for all these attorneys general is that states have no jurisdiction over climate change. Whatever one thinks about climate change, the climatic phenomena know no borders. If anything should be done about climate change, it is properly committed to the federal government.”

*[SEPP Comment: Why should lack of jurisdiction stop an ambitious AG?]*

### **Court orders EPA to write temperature control plans for Columbia, Snake**

By George Plaven, Capital Press, Dec 27, 2019 [H/t Ken Schlichte]

[https://www.capitalpress.com/ag\\_sectors/water/court-orders-epa-to-write-temperature-control-plans-for-columbia/article\\_546fbc56-2810-11ea-ab49-f7acc454b367.html](https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/water/court-orders-epa-to-write-temperature-control-plans-for-columbia/article_546fbc56-2810-11ea-ab49-f7acc454b367.html)

“The ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is likely to intensify the ongoing debate over breaching four Lower Snake River dams in Eastern Washington to increase salmon and steelhead runs.”

*[SEPP Comment: Maybe the court will order plans for rainfall!]*

### **It May Have Just Gotten A Lot Easier To Sue Exxon And Shell For Climate Change Devastation**

A new investigation provides the most “robust” evidence yet connecting fossil fuel companies to climate-related human rights violations, legal experts say.

By Kyla Mandel, HuffPost, Dec 12, 2019

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/philippines-commission-on-human-rights-fossil-fuel-companies-liable-climate-change\\_n\\_5df1698de4b01e0f29597ad8](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/philippines-commission-on-human-rights-fossil-fuel-companies-liable-climate-change_n_5df1698de4b01e0f29597ad8)

“Over the last three years, the Philippines Commission on Human Rights (CHR) has been gathering evidence on whether huge oil, coal, gas and mining companies — such as Shell, Chevron and Exxon — can be held liable for the human suffering caused by climate change.”

### ***Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes***

#### **AEP’s Carbon Tax Fantasy**

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Dec 27, 2019

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2019/12/27/aeps-carbon-tax-fantasy/>

#### **The Carbon Tax: the Big City 'Incentivizes' Rural Vermonters**

By John Klar, American Thinker, Dec 26, 2019

[https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2019/12/the\\_carbon\\_tax\\_the\\_big\\_city\\_incentivizes\\_rural\\_vermonters.html](https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2019/12/the_carbon_tax_the_big_city_incentivizes_rural_vermonters.html)

*[SEPP Comment: In Vermont, imaginative slogans replace analysis?]*

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

#### **Congress Says Nay to Expanding EV Tax Credits**

By Matt Posky, The Truth About Cars, Dec 23, 2019 [H/t WUWT]

<https://www.thetruthaboutcars.com/2019/12/congress-says-nay-to-expanding-ev-tax-credits/>

“President Donald Trump was also alleged to have been against expanding EV credits, according to Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI). ‘There has been extreme resistance from the president,’ she told Bloomberg last week. ‘I don’t know why the White House would want to stop jobs and the future of the auto industry.’”

*[SEPP Comment: If EVs are the future, why do they need subsidies?]*

### ***Energy Issues – Non-US***

#### **Global Natural Gas Electricity Is Gaining On Coal**

By Jude Clemente, Forbes, Dec 15, 2019

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/judeclemente/2019/12/15/global-natural-gas-electricity-is-gaining-on-coal/#7b8951477bfd>

## **Gazprom Makes Ukraine Deal as U.S. Sanctions Russia Pipeline**

By Mathew Carr, Olga Tanas, Dina Khrennikova, and Daniel Flatley, Bloomberg, Dec 21, 2019  
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-12-21/u-s-sanctions-may-push-russia-to-sign-a-gas-deal-with-ukraine>

## **Norway Names Controversial Climate Change Skeptic As New Oil Minister**

By Tsvetana Paraskova, Oil Price.com, Dec 18, 2019  
<https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/Norway-Names-Controversial-Climate-Change-Skeptic-As-New-Oil-Minister.html>

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

#### **4 Things To Know About The N.H. Coal Plant Targeted By Climate Protesters**

By Annie Ropeik, Ne Hampshire Public Radio, Dec 19, 2019  
<https://www.nhpr.org/post/4-things-know-about-nh-coal-plant-targeted-climate-protesters#stream/0>

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

#### **Chevron's \$10B Impairment: “another symptom of peak oil demand and the demise of the oil industry”?**

By David Middleton, WUWT, Dec 27, 2019  
<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/12/27/chevrons-10b-impairment-another-symptom-of-peak-oil-demand-and-the-demise-of-the-oil-industry/>

## **The Best And Worst Oil Predictions Of 2019**

By Julianne Geiger, Oil Price.com, Dec 15, 2019  
<https://oilprice.com/Energy/Oil-Prices/The-Best-And-Worst-Oil-Predictions-Of-2019.html>

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

#### **Russia's New Floating Nuclear Power Plant Begins Delivering Electricity To The Arctic**

By Tyler Durden, Zero Hedge, Dec 24, 2019 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]  
<https://www.zerohedge.com/geopolitical/russias-new-floating-nuke-power-plant-begins-delivering-electricity>

## **Top 6 Nuclear Power Achievements of the Year**

By Aaron Larson, Power Mag, Dec 2, 2019  
<https://www.powermag.com/top-6-nuclear-power-achievements-of-the-year/>

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

#### **Wind, solar face future without subsidies**

By James Osborne, Houston Chronical, Via GWPF, Dec 26, 2019  
<https://www.thegwpf.com/u-s-congress-abolishes-subsidies-for-wind-solar-energy/>

## **Energy & Environmental Newsletter: December 23, 2019**

By John Droz, Master Resource, Dec 23, 2019  
<https://www.masterresource.org/alliance-for-wise-energy-decisions/energy-environmental-newsletter-12-23-2019/>

### ***Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles***

## **German Professor Of Mechanical Engineering Says Electric Mobility “A Pointless Dream”...”Will Never Work”**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Dec 25, 2019

<https://notrickszone.com/2019/12/25/german-professor-of-mechanical-engineering-says-electric-mobility-a-pointless-dream-will-never-work/>

## **Police Wasted £1.5 Million on electric Cars That Can’t Chase Criminals**

By Kurt Zindulka, Breitbart, Dec 26, 2019 [H/t WUWT]

<https://www.breitbart.com/europe/2019/12/26/uk-police-wasted-million-electric-cars-cant-catch-criminals/>

## ***California Dreaming***

### **California in the age of wildfires: Living in the state of denial**

“It’s probably going to take more people dying, or losing their homes and getting displaced, before people realize this situation is not going to go away”

By Daphne White, San Francisco Curbed, Dec 27, 2019 [H/t Bob Zybach]

<https://sf.curbed.com/2019/12/27/21039413/california-fire-wildfire-crisis-decade>

*[SEPP Comment: California’s “Age of Wildfires” is an entirely artificial construct created by government policies. A better term could be an “Age of Fueling Wildfires” by incompetent governments.]*

## **Wet Years, Dry Years**

By Willis Eschenbach, WUWT, Dec 25, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/12/25/wet-years-dry-years/>

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

### **Gretins want to ban asthma inhalers**

By Lubos Motl, The Reference Frame, Dec 22, 2019

<https://motls.blogspot.com/2019/12/gretins-want-to-ban-asthma-inhalers.html#more>

“Asthma carbon footprint 'as big as eating meat”

## ***Environmental Industry***

### **Are BPA Alarmists Beating A Dead Molecule?**

By Josh Bloom, ACSH, Dec 18, 2019

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2019/12/18/are-bpa-alarmists-beating-dead-molecule-14464>

## ***Other Scientific News***

### **385-million-year-old tree root reveals world's oldest modern forest**

By Brooks Hays, Washington (UPI), Dec 20, 2019

<http://www.terraviva.com/reports/385-million-year-old-tree-root-reveals-worlds-oldest-modern-forest-999.html>

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

### **Sydney’s desalination discharge boosts fish life in time of climate uncertainty**

Press Release by Southern Cross University, Dec 19, 2019

<https://www.scu.edu.au/engage/news/latest-news/2019/sydneys-desalination-discharge-boosts-fish-life-in-time-of-climate-uncertainty.php>

Link to paper: Effect of Desalination Discharge on the Abundance and Diversity of Reef Fishes  
By Brendan P. Kelaher, et al. Environmental Science Technology, Dec 18, 2019

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.est.9b03565>

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## **BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

### **Eco-builders are clutching at straws**

Charles Rotter, WUWT, Dec 23, 2019

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2019/12/23/eco-builders-are-clutching-at-straws/>

[SEPP Comment: Links to an article in *The Times* (UK) of people building new homes using bales of straw. Will it work in California or Australia?]

### **The Emmas! Major New Eco-Awards Named After Emma Thompson**

Press Release, GWPF, Dec 21, 2019

<https://www.thegwpf.com/the-emmas-major-new-eco-awards-named-after-emma-thompson/>

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## **ARTICLES**

### **1. PG&E: Wired to Fail**

The utility has sparked deadly fires and pipeline explosions, left millions of Californians in the dark and gone bankrupt twice in less than 15 years. Here's what went wrong.

By Russell Gold, Rebecca Smith and Katherine Blunt, WSJ, Dec 28, 2019

[https://www.wsj.com/articles/pg-e-wired-to-fail-11577509261?mod=hp\\_lead\\_pos1](https://www.wsj.com/articles/pg-e-wired-to-fail-11577509261?mod=hp_lead_pos1)

TWTW Summary: The reporters write:

*“PG&E Corp. Chief Executive Tony Earley liked the idea the minute he heard it. He would change the signature line on company emails — ‘PG&E is committed to protecting our customers’ privacy’ — to promote safety instead.*

*“Six months after a top state regulator suggested it, nothing had happened.*

*“‘We have one more level of governance to go through before we can change,’ Jack Hagan, the regulator, recalled Mr. Earley saying.*

*“‘I said, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me.’ He couldn’t get it done.’*

*“For the past 15 years, PG&E has plotted a round trip from one bankruptcy to another. In between, it navigated the aftermath of a catastrophic natural-gas pipeline explosion and a series of increasingly demanding green-energy mandates from state regulators.*

*“Managing that push and pull would have challenged any company. It proved to be especially challenging for a plodding utility undergoing management upheaval, heavily regulated and saddled with aging, neglected equipment.*

*“Executives were so focused on the past and the future that the present sneaked up on them. PG&E’s electric lines, after years of deferred maintenance, were threatening drought-parched California. When the Camp Fire started to burn in late 2018, eventually killing 85 people, it was*

*the first of four fires that PG&E reported it sparked that day. It was its 408th of 2018, and the 1,961st since record-keeping started in mid-2014.*

*“Thousands of pages of documents and scores of interviews show Mr. Earley, like the CEO before him and the one who followed him, struggled to steer the ship. One tried to reimagine the company. When that failed, the next one labored to return to the basics of safely delivering power. The last was left to face the consequences.*

*“‘We acknowledge that we’ve fallen short in the past, too many times with tragic consequences,’ PG&E said in a written statement, adding that it has made many needed changes in personnel and practices. ‘We know we have much more work to do to meet the challenge of safely providing electric service in a changed and changing climate.’”*

Skipping over many efforts by company executives the account brings up an important point on renewable energy:

*“California Regulators kept up the pressure to meet the state’s aggressive renewable energy goals.*

*“By 2012, PG&E was spending more than \$1.2 billion a year to meet the targets, more than double what it spent in 2003, according to PG&E filings, and it was projected to top \$2 billion by 2015. Mr. Peevey, the utilities commission head, addressed concern that Californians faced a ‘rate bomb’ as the deals kicked in.*

*“‘There is no free lunch here,’ he told state senators, explaining that the contracts, though expensive, were making California an energy leader, and costs for future projects would fall.*

*“By 2015, the state found PG&E was paying an average of 12 cents a kilowatt hour for renewable electricity. Four years earlier, it paid less than 8 cents.*

According to an accompanying chart, in 2012, when PG&E was spending \$1.2 billion on renewable targets, it spent \$0.47 billion on electric maintenance and \$0.32 billion on gas maintenance.

[TWTW Comment: This report is a decades-long account on the inability of PG&E to satisfy all its masters, including its stock and bond holders, regulators, politicians etc. But the reporters fail to mention that the ultimate master, those to whom the Constitution of the State of California grants final power, is the State Legislature.]

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## **2. The Roundup Stickup**

A trial lawyer allegedly argued it’s cheaper to be extorted than sued.

Editorial, WSJ, Dec 25, 2019

[https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-roundup-stickup-11577299381?mod=opinion\\_lead\\_pos2](https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-roundup-stickup-11577299381?mod=opinion_lead_pos2)

TWTW Summary: The editorial states:

*“Tort lawyers often use the threat of jackpot verdicts to extort settlements from business targets. But when does a shakedown become criminal extortion? Last week the federal government charged Timothy Litzenburg for allegedly crossing that legal line.*

*“Mr. Litzenburg, 37, made a name for himself at the Miller Firm in Virginia, where he was part of a team suing Bayer on behalf of a groundskeeper who said the weed killer Roundup caused his cancer. Trial lawyers profit by taking a hefty chunk of a settlement or damages. But when Mr. Litzenburg opened his own law firm last year, he allegedly had a different business model in mind.*

*“The feds say the extortion plot began in September when Mr. Litzenburg sent a draft complaint to ‘Company 1,’ identified by the Wall Street Journal as Amsterdam-based chemical maker Nouryon. The lawyer said the company had created chemical compounds used in Roundup and ‘knew of the carcinogenic properties of these chemicals but failed to warn’ users about the risks, the federal complaint says.*

*“Mr. Litzenburg allegedly followed up his draft lawsuit threat with an offer, which he repeated in emails and recorded phone calls. The company could pay the plaintiff \$5 million, enter into a \$200 million ‘consulting arrangement’ with him and his associates, and avoid what Mr. Litzenburg allegedly described as ‘the parade of horrors that has been the Roundup litigation for Bayer/Monsanto.’*

*“‘Another thing I can guarantee and warrant: in the absence of a so-called ‘global’ or final deal with me, this will certainly balloon into an existential threat’ to the company, Mr. Litzenburg allegedly wrote in an email. The federal complaint says he warned that ‘defense costs and cost to ultimately resolve the thousands or tens of thousands of cases would be well into the billions, setting aside the associated drop in stock price and reputation damage.’*

*“Mr. Litzenburg also allegedly said that ‘even if you guys win cases and drive value down,’ there was unlikely ‘any way for you to get out of it for less than a billion dollars. And so, you know, to me, uh, this is a fire sale price that you guys should consider.’*

*“If the company paid up, Mr. Litzenburg allegedly said he’d discourage others from filing future lawsuits. To deter plaintiffs, he’d even consider participating in a pre-trial deposition to which the company could bring its own toxicology experts, ‘and we ask the wrong questions,’ creating a ‘transcript where I basically got whacked,’ Mr. Litzenburg allegedly said in a recorded call. The transcript could be ‘kept in a vault somewhere to pull out if you ever got bothered by someone that didn’t know me or whatever,’ he said, according to the complaint.*

*“Instead of agreeing to Mr. Litzenburg’s alleged offer, the company called federal prosecutors”.*

The editorial states that the subject did not respond to requests for comment, and his attorney claims that documents may contain inaccuracies. The editorial continues

*“Mr. Litzenburg will get his day in court, but the entire Roundup litigation is a stickup. The Environmental Protection Agency and international regulators have conducted extensive research and concluded that glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, isn’t carcinogenic. That evidence hasn’t stopped three juries from imposing more than \$2.4 billion in penalties. Judges have cut those cumulative damages to some \$189 million, and the verdicts are being appealed. But Bayer faces Roundup lawsuits from some 42,700 plaintiffs.*

*“Mr. Litzenburg may have figured he could get away with his alleged extortion because he’s seen first-hand the damage that junk-science litigation can do regardless of the truth.”*

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