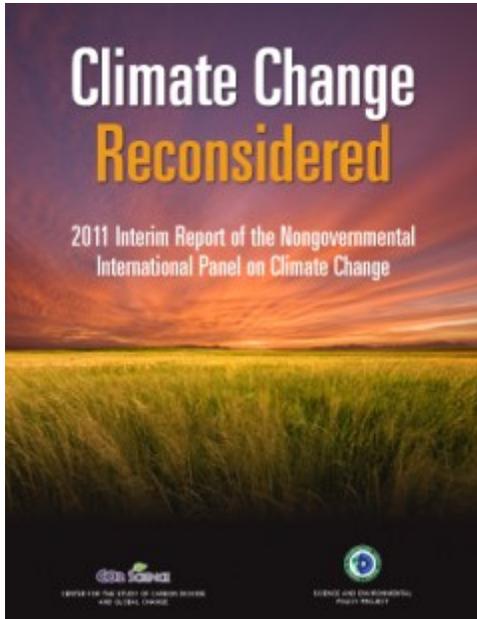


The Week That Was: 2011-09-3 (September 3, 2011)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Climate Change Reconsidered: 2011 Interim Report

[S. Fred Singer](#), [Craig Idso](#), [Robert M. Carter](#) – August 29, 2011 Published by [Heartland Institute](#)



The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), already under severe criticism for violating the requirements of academic peer review and relying on secondary sources, comes under attack again in a new report co-produced by three nonprofit research organizations.

According to the new report, “natural causes are very likely to be [the] dominant” cause of climate change that took place in the twentieth and at the start of the twenty-first centuries. “We are not saying anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHG) *cannot* produce some warming or have not in the past. Our conclusion is that the evidence shows they are not playing a substantial role.”

The authors of the new report go on to say “the *net* effect of continued warming and rising carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere is most likely to be beneficial to humans, plants, and wildlife.”

Both conclusions contradict the findings of the widely cited reports of the IPCC.

(The links below worked previously, but when checked on Sep 4, failed to resolve. The issue may be temporary. If not, resolved by next week.)

[Click here](#) for an executive summary of the book (PDF).

[Click here](#) to review the book chapter-by-chapter.

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Quote of the Week:

“Hence, the correlation of warming with industrial and socioeconomic development ceases to be statistically significant.” IPCC AR 4, p 244. Refuted by IPCC expert reviewer Ross McKittrick.

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Number of the Week: From \$53 Billion to \$140 Billion

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THIS WEEK:

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

Videos from the Sixth International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC) sponsored by Heartland Institute are available on the web. Go to: <http://climateconference.heartland.org/watch-live/>

Quote of the Week: Last Sunday, a web based seminar organized by Peter Bonk was broadcast courtesy of the American Chemical Society at the Society’s conference. The Seminar was entitled “Critical Look at Global Warming Data: The Wickedly Complex System Called Climate.” The scientists presenting, from their individual localities, were Judith Curry, Bob Carter, Richard Lindzen, Nir Shaviv, and Ross McKittrick. The Quote of the Week was emphasized in McKittrick’s presentation. McKittrick and Steve McIntyre are noted for exposing the infamous hockey-stick.

The quote is taken from the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), published in 2007. McKittrick was an expert reviewer for the report. Prior to the deadline for papers to be considered in AR4, McKittrick and Patrick Michaels, and another group, De Latt and Maurellis, published in peer review journals separate studies showing a very strong correlation between land-based temperatures and socioeconomic development, such as industrialization, urbanization, etc. The land-based temperatures used by McKittrick and Michaels are the ones from the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) of East Anglia University, which are widely used, and which CRU claims have been adjusted for socioeconomic influences.

As an expert reviewer, in the drafts of the AR4, McKittrick objected to the exclusion of these papers from the report. Then, without explanation, after the final review, the published AR4 contained the Quote of the Week. Contrary to the surrounding text, there is no supporting documentation for the statement, nor are there any citations. Such is the peer review process as practiced by the IPCC and its advocates. Additional studies showing the very strong correlation between land-based temperatures have been subsequently published, with great difficulty.

If the studies are correct, then the temperature sets are corrupted and, in turn, so are the results of the IPCC models that rely on these temperature sets. Most likely, they overestimate the influence of greenhouse gases (GHG), especially carbon dioxide (CO2) on global temperatures. The calculated estimates for the influence of all the variables calculated from the temperature sets must be recalculated – not a pleasant prospect for those advocating that GHG emissions are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming. For McKittrick’s presentation and a description of the difficulty to get papers published in climate journals if the papers contradict the IPCC, please see the links referenced under “Climategate Continued” and “Suppressing Scientific Inquiry.”

Other Presenters: Judith Curry presented her reasons why she became somewhat skeptical of the IPCC science and its claims. Unfortunately, TWTW was unable to find a link to the presentation. Bob Carter gave a repeat of his excellent presentation at the Sixth International Conference on Climate Change held in June and sponsored by Heartland. Please see the above link. Richard Lindzen presented his latest work on the sensitivity of the climate to increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide. Also, he explained why he

thinks those who claim that increased atmospheric carbon dioxide will cause a cooling incorrectly interpret greenhouse theory and measurements. This will be discussed next week.

Nir Shaviv gave a lucid presentation of his view of the importance of the CLOUD experiment by CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. Shaviv has published work that the earth's climate is far more sensitive to changes of the sun than assumed by the IPCC. His work, and that of others, suggests that the solar cycle appears to be linked with changes in low-level cloud cover (low level clouds have a cooling effect). Also, he asserts that the most likely link is that proposed by Svensmark: cosmic rays at high energy levels, which vary with varying solar activity, enhance the formation of clouds by promoting the condensing of water vapor. This is not to say that other influences, such as dust, do not promote the formation of clouds.

However to Shaviv, the atmosphere over significant parts of the globe seems to be devoid of influences such as dust, thus other influences are necessary to explain cloud formation in these parts of the globe. To Shaviv, the CLOUD experiment demonstrates a mechanism for such cloud formation. Of course, much work remains to be done. But now, three separate experiments, with increasing levels of controls, seem to support the solar – cosmic ray hypothesis for cloud formation, or, at least, have not rejected it. Please see links referenced under “Science: Is the Sun Rising?”

CERN – CLOUD: Possibly the most challenging position in European science this week is that of CERN's Director-General Rolf-Dieter Heuer. According to documents from CERN, this year CERN has a budget of 1,096.154 MCHF (about 1.36 billion USD) and employs some 6,000 scientists. The four largest contributors are, in descending order: Germany, UK, France, and Italy, providing a total of 61 percent of its budget. By far, the largest research effort of CERN is the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest and highest-energy particle accelerator, which is being used to push the knowledge of the standard model of particle physics. There are about eight smaller research experiments on-going, including CLOUD, which has about 63 research scientists. The funding for CLOUD through 2011 was committed in 2007, but TWTW was unable to discern the actual amount.

Several weeks ago, Director-General Heuer stated that he instructed the scientists in the CLOUD experiment to frankly state the results of the experiments, but not to interpret them. Many of those who advocate the Solar-Cosmic Ray hypothesis of cloud formation thought this to be a sign that the results are favorable – the hypothesis was not rejected. By most accounts, results are favorable, thus creating additional significant questions about the rigor of IPCC science which declares that carbon dioxide is the principle cause of global warming / climate change.

Now Director-General Heuer must explain the results of CLOUD to the political leaders of the countries contributing to CERN. Many of the countries, including the four largest contributors, have made major financial and policy commitments based upon IPCC science. These commitments include significant reductions in carbon dioxide emissions; carbon trading that benefits various developing countries; and promotion of alternative sources of energy, particularly electricity generation. The net effect of these commitments are increasing in the cost of electricity in these nations, thus lower the standards of living of the general population and lessening the competitive advantage of the nation's products on international markets. No doubt, many of the politicians who advocated economic sacrifices to reduce carbon dioxide emissions are not happy with the results of CLOUD, even though the results have been somberly presented. Please see Article # 2, and links referenced under “Science: Is the Sun Rising?” and “Commentary; Is the Sun Rising?”

Spencer-Braswell: On July 30, TWTW carried the press release that a new paper has been published by Roy Spencer and Danny Braswell in the on-line journal, *Remote Sensing*. The new paper addresses issues arising from criticism of a prior paper. It proposes an explanation for disparity between actual

measurements of global warming as compared with the projections in the IPCC models. In a strange turn of events, this week the editor of *Remote Sensing*, Wolfgang Wagner, resigned, criticizing the paper and saying he should not have accepted it. Yet, the editor did not demand that the paper be retracted.

In a world that is becoming increasingly aware of the political influence exerted over scientific journals by proponents of the IPCC, one cannot avoid becoming suspicious about such events. However, at this time it is better to see how this plays out rather than speculating about it. Please referenced links under “Spencer-Braswell” and under “Suppressing Scientific Inquiry.”

Political Games: Even though Congress is still on its August recess, the political games are intensifying. Last week, Speaker of the House John Boehner requested from the White House a list of the most expensive regulations under consideration by the administration. On Monday, Eric Cantor, the majority leader of the US House of Representatives, announced his plans to target ten sets of regulations, to eliminate them. On Tuesday, the White House delivered the list of seven expensive regulations, expecting to cost \$1 Billion or more. Additional controls on ground level ozone were the most expensive. As suggested previously in TWTW, the proposed ozone regulations would give the EPA power to restrict virtually all future industrial development in all but sparsely uninhabited portions of the nation – power that it does not now have. The EPA claimed health benefits are dubious.

On Friday, the August employment report came out with virtually no employment growth and an unemployment rate of 9.1%. Except for brief recessions, since 1995 until the onset of the current recession in mid 2008, the US unemployment rates have been around 4.5 to 5.5%. Since peaking in October 2009 at 10.1%, the unemployment rate has been at or above 9%, except for February and March of this year (8.9% and 8.8%). The US is experiencing economic stagnation and many claim new EPA regulations are one of the causes.

Almost immediately after the employment report was made public, the administration announced that it is suspending EPA implementation of ozone rules until 2013. The environmental industry immediately expressed outrage.

Whether or not the events are related is not clear. But it appears that President Obama realizes that if he wishes to be re-elected next year, he must face the current economic stagnation. What will happen to EPA regulations already announced remains to be seen. As stated earlier in TWTW, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson claimed that cross-state regulations would reduce new asthma cases by 400,000 each year. Yet from 1980 to 2009, the emissions of these already regulated gases, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, fell by two-thirds. During the same period, asthma prevalence in the US population grew by 265%. (Please see links under “Let the Political Games Continue.”

Green Jobs: In a paper, “The Myth of Green Jobs,” published by the Global Warming Policy Foundation, economist Gordon Hughes makes several critical points that should be considered by all politicians who promote wind power. Among them are: one, labor inputs (costs) are a cost, not a benefit. Two, “There is no general reason to assume that future technical progress and improvements in efficiency will favour renewable sources of energy over non-renewable sources.” Three, there is no reason to assume that a long term comparative advantage of a particular nation over other nations can be achieved. Four, when the costs of back-up and transmission lines are included, green energy is capital intensive, “about 9 to 10 times the cost to meet the same demand by conventional power plants” (at least for the UK). Please see referenced links under “Questioning European Green.”

Exxon-Russia: Washington’s long hostility to development of oil resources in the Arctic is well documented. What is not as broadly known is that, in terms of reserves, the world’s largest **private** oil

company does not even make the top ten. Exxon-Mobil places 17 in the 2007 rankings in terms of oil and gas reserves. The 16 above it are all government owned.

This week, Exxon-Mobil announced an agreement with OAO Rosneft, owned by the government of Russia, to jointly develop oil fields in the Arctic as well as giving the Russian oil company the right to buy into development of Exxon-Mobil oil fields in the US, including the Gulf of Mexico. The agreement gives Exxon access to the Arctic, which it needs to develop in the future. Potentially, it makes future shut-downs of drilling by the US government, such as the administration's moratorium and deliberately slow permitting of drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, a possible international incident. Please see Article # 3, links under "Energy Issues" and

http://www.petrostrategies.org/Links/Worlds_Largest_Oil_and_Gas_Companies_Sites.htm

Number of the Week: From \$53 Billion to \$140 Billion. These are the monetized public health benefits estimated by the EPA under its New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) published in May 3, 2011. The regulations may close down coal-fired power plants generating about 9% of the US electricity. Certainly, it is time to cycle out many of the older coal-fired power plants, replacing them with more efficient, cleaner plants. But the proper way to accomplish this expensive and complex task is to have the new plants operational before the old plants are closed down. If the public health issues are as stark as the EPA analysis suggests, the EPA should be promoting construction of new plant. It is not. It is insisting on closure of old plants without provisions of replacements. The EPA's top-down edicts are the most expensive, and harmful, way to accomplish such a change.

EPA's claimed benefits appear to suffer from double counting – not particularly unusual for EPA standards but unacceptable for financial standards. The issue will be discussed further next week. Please see link link under "EPA and Others on the March."

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below please see this week's TWTW at: www.sepp.org. The articles are at the end of the pdf.

1. A Warmer Planet Is a More Peaceful Planet

By Craig D. Idso, American Thinker, Aug 31, 2011

http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/08/a_warmer_planet_is_a_more_peaceful_planet.html

2. Time for a more mature debate on climate change

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Sep 1, 2011

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/time-more-mature-debate-climate-change>

3. Exxon Tries Bear Wrestling

With the U.S. locking up Alaskan and Arctic oil, a major turns to Russia.

Editorial, WSJ, Sep 2, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904716604576542851590507210.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Role of sulphuric acid, ammonia and galactic cosmic rays in atmospheric aerosol nucleation

By Jasper Kirkby, et al. Nature, Aug 25, 2011

<http://www.worldaffairsboard.com/attachments/science-technology/26144-global-warming-fact-fiction-nature10343.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: Link to full article]

Role of sulphuric acid, ammonia and galactic cosmic rays in atmospheric aerosol nucleation

Important Supplementary Information

By Jasper Kirkby, et al. Nature, Aug 25, 2011

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v476/n7361/extref/nature10343-s1.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: Stunning graphs not included in full article]

Henrick Svensmark: The Cosmic-Ray/Cloud Seeding Hypothesis Is Converging With Reality

By David Whitehouse, The Observatory, Sep 2, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/3779-henrik-svensmark-the-cosmic-raycloud-seeding-hypothesis-is-converging-with-reality.html>

The CLOUD is clearing

By N.J. Shaviv, Science Bits, Aug 26, 2011

<http://www.sciencebits.com/CLOUDresults>

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Cloudy Science Reporting

By David Whitehouse, The Observatory, Sep 1, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/3763-cloudy-science-reporting.html>

Science getting settled

New, convincing evidence indicates global warming is caused by cosmic rays and the sun — not humans

By Lawrence Solomon, Financial Post, CA, Aug 26, 2011

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2011/08/26/lawrence-solomon-science-now-settled/>

Cloudy outlook for global-warming faithful

New data shed light on sun's climate role

Editorial, Washington Times, Aug 30, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/aug/30/cloudy-outlook-for-global-warming-faithful/>

Watching A Green Fiction Unravel

Editorial, IBD, Aug 30, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=583272&p=1>

Unsettling science

By Lorne Gunter, National Post, CA, Sep 2, 2011

<http://www.nationalpost.com/opinion/columnists/Unsettling+science/5342944/story.html>

Climategate Continued

The influence of anthropogenic surface processes and inhomogeneities on gridded global climate data

By Ross McKittrick, Univ of Guelph, Aug 28, 2011

<http://rossmckittrick.weebly.com/> (as of Aug 28, 2011)

NSF on Jones' Email Destruction Enterprise

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Sep 2, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/2011/09/02/nsf-on-jones-email-destruction-enterprise/>

“Like Muir Russell, both the Penn State Inquiry Committee and the NSF OIG neglected to consider obvious and fundamental questions about Mann’s participation in Jones’ document destruction enterprise and arrived at empirical conclusions that were unsupported by the inadequate record that they had collected.” ... “During the time that I’ve been involved in climate, the U.S. NSF has had a pernicious role in enabling and endorsing Climategate conduct.”

The IAC Report One Year Later

By Donna Laframboise, No Consensus, Sep 1, 2011 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]

<http://nofrakkingconsensus.com/2011/09/01/the-iac-report-one-year-later/>

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Bias in the Peer Review Process: A Cautionary and Personal Account

By Ross McKittrick, from *Climate Coup*, edited by Patrick Michaels, 2011

http://rossmckittrick.weebly.com/uploads/4/8/0/8/4808045/gatekeeping_chapter.pdf

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Warmist heads are exploding - More examples of cognitive dissonance or outright lies

By Joseph D’Aleo, ICECAP, Sep 1, 2011

<http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes->

[blog/warmist heads are exploding more examples of cognitive dissonance or outrig/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/warmist-heads-are-exploding-more-examples-of-cognitive-dissonance-or-outright-lies/)

Climate Science and Corruption

By Russell Cook, American Thinker, Aug 30, 2011

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2011/08/climate_science_and_corruption.html

Defending the Orthodoxy

Conservatives flee from science

Rejecting the facts about climate change

By Steve Chapman, Chicago Tribune, Sep 1, 2011 [H/t Paul Redfern]

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/columnists/ct-oped-0901-chapman-20110901,0,1332482.column>

Task Force Climate Change

Climate Skepticism & Ways Forward

By Cmdr. Blake McBride, U.S. Navy Task Force Climate Change, Sep 2011

http://www.centerforabetterlife.com/eng/magazine/article_detail.lasso?id=207&source=1

[SEPP Comment: *The new normal, dramatic climate change? Commander, when was climate ever static?*]

Der Spiegel: Global Warming Now Causes Sea Level Drop...Through Weather Shifts!

By P Gosselin No Tricks Zone, Aug 31, 2011 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]

<http://notrickszone.com/2011/08/31/der-spiegel-global-warming-now-causes-sea-level-drop-through-weather-shifts/>

NASA’s Hansen Arrested Outside White House at Pipeline Protest

By Mark Drajem, Bloomberg, Aug 29, 2011 [H/t Anthony Watts, WUWT]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-29/nasa-s-hansen-arrested-outside-white-house-at-pipeline-protest.html>

[SEPP Comment: At least his willing to be arrested for his beliefs.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Rick Perry Needn't Sweat His Global Warming Skepticism

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Aug 30, 2011

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2011/08/30/rick-perry-neednt-sweat-his-global-warming-skepticism/>

Questioning European Green

The Myth of Green Jobs

By Gordon Hughes, GWPF, Aug 2011

http://www.thegwgf.org/images/stories/gwgf-reports/hughes-green_jobs.pdf

Top Economist Warns Green Jobs 'Creation' Will Undermine Recovery

By Benny Peiser, GWPF, Sep 2, 2011

<http://thegwgf.org/press-releases/3773-top-economist-warns-green-jobs-creation-will-undermine-recovery.html>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Propaganda posing as environmental literacy

Maryland opens classrooms to environmental extremism

Editorial, Washington times, Aug 30, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/aug/30/propaganda-posing-as-environmental-literacy/>

Problems within the Orthodoxy

Natural Cycle Driving Cold Winter Extremes But Not Warm Winter Extremes

By Staff Writers, SPX, Sep 02, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Natural_Cycle_Driving_Cold_Winter_Extremes_But_Not_Warm_Winter_Extremes_999.html

“Guirguis' team concludes that the extreme cold events by and large fell into norms that would be expected during the negative phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), a prominent regional climate mode known to bring cold weather to northern Eurasia and Eastern North America.”

[SEPP Comment: The IPCC does not recognize the NAO as a contributor to natural temperature change.]

Emerging powers press rich world on CO2 cuts

By Staff Writers, AFP, Aug 26, 2011

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Emerging_powers_press_rich_world_on_CO2_cuts_999.html

Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate?

Past Alarmism and the Future of Manmade Global Warming

Researchers identify 26 past scares analogous to the global warming alarm.

By Dr. Kesten Green and Tom Harris, Pajamas media, Aug 28, 2011

<http://pajamasmedia.com/blog/past-alarmism-and-the-future-of-manmade-global-warming/>

Models v. Observations

An Example Of The Need For A Bottom-Up Resource-Based Perspective Of Vulnerability With Respect To Electric Power

By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Aug 29, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/08/29/an-example-of-the-need-for-a-bottom-up-resource-based-perspective-of-vulnerability-with-respect-to-electric-power/>

[SEPP Comment: Power outages caused by Hurricane Irene demonstrate that a bottom up review of risks from extreme events, including hurricanes, is needed more than top down global climate predictions of changes.]

Spencer-Braswell

Editor-in-Chief of Remote Sensing Resigns from Fallout Over Our Paper

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Sep 2, 2011

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2011/09/editor-in-chief-of-remote-sensing-resigns-from-fallout-over-our-paper/>

Comment On The Resignation of Wolfgang Wagner As Editor-In-Chief Of The Journal “Remote Sensing” In Response To The Publication Of Spencer And Braswell (2011)

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Sep 2, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/09/02/comment-on-the-resignation-of-wolfgang-wagner-as-editor-in-chief-of-the-journal-remote-sensing-in-response-to-the-publication-of-spencer-and-braswell-2011/>

Journal editor resigns over 'flawed' paper co-authored by climate sceptic

Prof Wolfgang Wagner says research was not properly peer-reviewed and wrongly accepted by Remote Sensing

By Leo Hickman, Guardian..UK, Sep 2, 2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/sep/02/journal-editor-resigns-climate-sceptic-paper>

Changing Weather

Irene damages to US more than \$10 bn: firm

By Staff Writers, AFP, Aug 31, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Irene_damages_to_US_more_than_10_bn_firm_999.html

Changing Climate

Insightful Interview In EOS Of Dr. De-Zheng Sun “Climate Dynamics: Why Does Climate Vary?”

By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, Sep 2, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/09/02/insightful-interview-in-eos-of-dr-de-zheng-sun-climate-dynamics-why-does-climate-vary/>

“This interview, and the AGU book that was the reason for the interview, should be read. It further shows that the IPCC 2007 reports ignored the broader view of the climate system which is what is needed if we are going to robustly interpret how humans are altering it.”

Debunked: the “climate change causes wars” myth

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Aug 29, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/08/29/debunked-the-climate-change-causes-wars-myth/#more-46132>

[SEPP Comment: There is a link to the full paper.]

Changing Earth

US quake rattled nuclear plant's waste casks-report

By Roberta Rampton, Reuters, Sep 1, 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/01/usa-nuclear-dominion-idUSN1E78000I20110901>

Dominion: Virginia Quake May Have Exceeded North Anna's Seismic Design Basis

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Aug 31, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3994.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2273746&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e66050d0

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Ask what she won't stand for...

By Jo Anne Nova, Her Blog, Sep 1, 2011

<http://joannenova.com.au/2011/09/ask-what-she-wont-stand-for/#more-16900>

[SEPP Comment: Will the Prime Minister resign?]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Obama halts EPA's proposed air-quality regs

By Dave Boyer, Washington Times, Sep 2, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/sep/2/obama-halts-epas-proposed-air-quality-regs/>

Obama shelves EPA smog rule in huge defeat for environmental groups

By Ben Geman and Erik Wasson, The Hill, Sep 2, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/179357-white-house-shelves-smog-rule-in-huge-defeat-for-green-groups>

Cost of Clean Air

Editorial, IBD, Sep 2, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/583773/201109021852/Cost-Of-Clean-Air.htm?>

Battle Heats Up Over EPA's Proposed New Regulation of Electric Generating Plants

By Douglas Gregory, Cornwall Alliance, August 30, 2011 [H/t Tom Sheahen]

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/blog/item/battle-heats-up-over-epas-proposed-new-regulation-of-electric-generating/>

[SEPP Comment: A different set of regulations from ozone.]

Energy Issues

The Middle Kingdom meets the Middle East

By Staff Writers UPI, Aug. 31, 2011 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2011/08/31/The-Middle-Kingdom-meets-the-Middle-East/UPI-24651314807887/

[SEPP Comment: China is becoming more dependent on foreign oil. Saudi Arabia exports to China than to the US.]

Exxon Reaches Arctic Oil Deal With Russians

By Andrew Kramer, NYT, Aug 30, 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/31/business/global/exxon-and-rosneft-partner-in-russian-oil-deal.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha25

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Spreading 'Big Oil' Subsidy Disinformation

By Paul Driessen, Townhall, Aug 26, 2011

<http://townhall.com/columnists/pauldriessen/2011/08/26/spreading-big-oil-subsidy-disinformation>

How Much U.S. Shale Gas Is There, Really?

A new estimate suggests there's 80 percent less gas than previously thought. That may still be plenty.
By Mike Orcutt, MIT Technology Review, Aug 31, 2011 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.technologyreview.com/energy/38463/?p1=MstRcnt>

[SEPP Comment: To answer such questions, one must assess four variables: geology, technology, economics, and politics. The article is lacking.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

NRC Approves Changes to Emergency Preparedness Regulations

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Aug 31, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3995.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2273746&hq_l=7&hq_v=5e660500d0

Japan's FIT: Out with nuclear, in with wind?

The introduction of a feed-in tariff was intended to increase Japan's renewable energy share to 20% by 2020. But has a last-minute deal knocked the punch out of the policy?

By Rikki Stancich, Wind Energy Update, Aug 29, 2011

http://social.windenergyupdate.com/uncategorised/japan%E2%80%99s-fit-out-nuclear-wind?utm_source=Communicator&utm_medium=E-Brief&utm_campaign=3008

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy

Wind Power Is Dying

By Tait Trussell, Front Page, Aug 28, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://frontpagemag.com/2011/08/28/wind-power-is-dying/>

The Administration's Solar Eclipse

Editorial, IBD, Sep 1, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=583621&p=1>

Obama's solar stimulus snafu

Government-subsidized green jobs aren't evergreen

Editorial, Washington Times, Aug 31, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/aug/31/obamas-solar-stimulus-snafu/>

Our Least Sustainable Energy Option

By Paul Driessen, Townhall, 9/1/2011

http://townhall.com/columnists/pauldriessen/2011/09/01/our_least_sustainable_energy_option/print

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

For a full list of articles see www.NIPCCreport.org

Antarctic Sea Ice Extent

Reference: Turner, J., Comiso, J.C., Marshall, G.J., Lachlan-Cope, T.A., Bracegirdle, T., Maksym, T., Meredith, M.P., Wang, Z. and Orr, A. 2009. Non-annular atmospheric circulation change induced by stratospheric ozone depletion and its role in the recent increase of Antarctic sea ice extent. *Geophysical Research Letters* 36: 10.1029/2009GL037524.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/aug/31aug2011a3.html>

"The only thing we can conclude at this point in time, therefore, is that for some still-unproven reason, and in spite of the supposedly unprecedented increases in mean global air temperature and

CO₂ concentration that the planet has experienced since the late 1970s, Antarctica sea ice extent has stubbornly continued to just keep on growing.”

Water Runoff from Europe’s Upper Rhine River Basin

Reference: Hanggi, P. and Weingartner, R. 2011. Inter-annual variability of runoff and climate within the Upper Rhine River basin, 1808-2007. *Hydrological Sciences Journal* 56: 34-50.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/aug/31aug2011a2.html>

The Carbon Status of Earth's Peatlands

Reference: Beilman, D.W., MacDonald, G.M., Smith, L.C. and Reimer, P.J. 2009. Carbon accumulation in peatlands of West Siberia over the last 2000 years. *Global Biogeochemical Cycles* 23: 10.1029/2007GB003112.

“permafrost thaw may promote a *boost* in peat carbon sequestration in affected sites,” and, therefore, they state that “future warming could result in a shift northward in long-term West Siberian Lowland carbon sequestration.”

Ocean Acidification and Otolith Development in Clown Fish

Reference: Munday, P.L., Hernaman, V., Dixon, D.L. and Thorrold, S.R. 2011b. Effect of ocean acidification on otolith development in larvae of a tropical marine fish. *Biogeosciences* 8: 1631-1641.

Health, Energy, and Climate

Health “co-benefits”

By Matt Ridley, Bishop Hill, Aug 29, 2011

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2011/8/29/health-co-benefits.html>

[SEPP Comment: Britain’s Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) rejection of the concept of health co-costs for society from global warming mitigation efforts as calculated by Indur Goklany.]

Oh Mann!

UVA goes all in on Climate Gate FOIA coverup

By: Christopher C. Horner, Washington Examiner, Aug 27, 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/2011/08/uva-goes-all-climate-gate-foia-coverup>

Other Scientific News

40 year old Mariner 5 solar wind problem finds answer

By Staff Writers, SPX, Aug 31, 2011

[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/40_year_old_Mariner_5_solar_wind_problem_finds_answer_999.htm](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/40_year_old_Mariner_5_solar_wind_problem_finds_answer_999.html)

[1](#)

Unfounded pesticide concerns adversely affect the health of low-income populations

By Staff Writers, SPX, Aug 31, 2011

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Unfounded_pesticide_concerns_adversely_affect_the_health_of_low_income_populations_999.html

Climate in the Past Million Years Determined Greatly by Dust in the Southern Ocean

By Staff Writers, ScienceDaily (Sep. 1, 2011, [H/t Anthony Watts, WUWT])

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/09/110901093240.htm>

Cloud control: Giant lasers fired into the sky could be used to create rainfall

- * Technique could unlock the secrets of weather cycles
- * Humans could decide where and when it rains

By Stephen Hull, Daily Mail, Aug 31, 2011 [H/t Warren Wetmore]
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2032057/Laser-assisted-water-condensation-used-create-rainfall.html>

Cutting soot emissions fastest and cheapest to slow global warming

By Staff Writers, SPX, Sep 02, 2011
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Cutting_soot_emissions_fastest_and_cheapest_to_slow_global_warming_999.html

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Mental illness rise linked to climate

By Erik Jensen Health, Sydney Morning Herald, Aug 29, 2011 [H/t Anthony Watts, WUWT]
<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/mental-illness-rise-linked-to-climate-20110828-1jger.html>

Panda poop may be a treasure trove of microbes for making biofuels

By Staff Writers, SPX, Aug 30, 2011
http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Panda_poop_may_be_a_treasure_trove_of_microbes_for_making_biofuels_999.html

'Catastrophic' Vermont Floods Kill Three, Governor Blames Climate Change

By Staff Writers, Environment News Service, Aug 30, 2011 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]
<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/aug2011/2011-08-30-092.html>
U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont told reporters, "There are some who believe that this is the worst natural disaster to hit the state since the 1927 floods."
[SEPP Comment: Governor, what caused the 1927 floods – static climate?]

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ARTICLES:

1. A Warmer Planet Is a More Peaceful Planet

By Craig D. Idso, American Thinker, Aug 31, 2011
http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/08/a_warmer_planet_is_a_more_peaceful_planet.html

By A new report published August 24 by [Naturemagazine](#) claims that "global climate is a major factor in organized patterns of violence" around the world. The report's author, Solomon Hsiang of Columbia University, writes that his work "represents the first major evidence" that warming temperatures foster the conditions for civil unrest and war.

One problem: the study is 180 degrees away from reality. Even Nature felt it necessary to publish a dissenting view in the same edition of the magazine, giving Halvard Buhaug at the Peace Research Institute in Oslo space to write that he remains "skeptical about any potential causal connection" between warmer global temperatures and war.

Naturally, the mainstream media took the alarmist report at face value, creating headlines such as "Study Proves Climate a Trigger for Conflict" (ABC News), "El Niño a Factor in Some Country Conflicts, Study Finds" (MSNBC), and "Study: Climate is Major Violence Trigger" (Washington Post).

These reporters, however, like Hsiang, would do well to read [Climate Change Reconsidered: 2011 Interim Report](#), released Monday by The Heartland Institute, the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, and Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP). It just so happens to have a subsection titled "[War and Social Unrest](#)," which I wrote, that points to peer-reviewed papers showing that global cooling, not warming, tends to bring about social unrest and human misery.

China is a good test case for the relationship between global warming and social stability because it has been a well-populated, primarily agricultural country for millennia, and it has a relatively well-recorded history over this period. Accordingly, several scientists have conducted analyses of factors influencing social stability in China.

Z.B. Zhang and others cited in Heartland's report compared proxy climate records with historical data on wars, social unrest, and dynastic transitions in China from the late Tang to Qing Dynasties (mid-ninth century to early twentieth century). Their 2005 research revealed that war frequencies, peak war clusters, nationwide periods of social unrest, and dynastic transitions were all significantly associated with cold, not warm, phases of China's oscillating climate.

Specifically, all three distinctive peak war clusters (defined as more than 50 wars in a ten-year period) occurred during cold climate phases, as did all seven periods of nationwide social unrest and nearly 90 percent of all dynastic changes that decimated this largely agrarian society. The researchers conclude that climate change was "one of the most important factors in determining the dynastic cycle and alternation of war and peace in ancient China," with warmer climates having been immensely more effective than cooler ones in terms of helping "keep the peace."

A similar study from last year, also cited in Heartland's report, examined data on Chinese history, including temperature, wars and rebellions, epidemics, famines, and population for the past millennium. Over the study interval of 911 years, it was found that nomad migrations, rebellions, wars, epidemics, floods, and droughts were all higher during cold periods. The Chinese researchers write, "Recent studies have demonstrated that wars and social unrests in the past often were associated with cold climate phases" and "climate cooling may have increased locust plagues through temperature-driven droughts or floods in ancient China."

Following in the footsteps of Zhang and others, in 2010, Richard S. J. Tol of the University of Amsterdam and Sebastian Wagner of the Institute for Coastal Research in Geesthacht, Germany essentially did for Europe what the Chinese researchers did earlier for China. In introducing their study, the authors state that in "gloomier scenarios of climate change, violent conflict plays a key part," noting that in such visions of the future, "war would break out over declining water resources, and millions of refugees would cause mayhem."

Tol and Wagner note that "the Nobel Peace Prize of 2007 was partly awarded to the IPCC and Al Gore for their contribution to slowing climate change and thus preventing war." However, they observe, "scenarios of climate-change-induced violence can be painted with abandon," because there is "little research to either support or refute such claims."

Consequently, and partly to fill this research void, Tol and Wagner conducted an analysis of the subject for Europe. As with the scientists who studied China, their results indicate that "periods with lower temperatures in the pre-industrial era are accompanied by violent conflicts." However, they determined, "this effect is much weaker in the modern world than it was in pre-industrial times." All of this suggests, in their words, "that future global warming is not likely to lead to [civil] war between [within] European countries."

Therefore, they conclude, "should anyone ever seriously have believed that, this paper does put that idea to rest."

Or, at least it should -- if the media could get interested in studies that find the truth but don't make for such sensationalist headlines.

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2. Time for a more mature debate on climate change

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Sep 1, 2011

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/time-more-mature-debate-climate-change>

It is interesting to see how the apparently impenetrable facade of received wisdom on climate change has begun to weaken and show signs of crumbling. Many supporters of the mainstream view have become less antagonistic towards legitimate criticism and the tone of this criticism has in some cases become more moderate as alternative views are more widely reported. Could this be the start of a new phase of mature and rational debate on the issue?

Don't hold your breath, because for every sign of proper scientific discussion, there are still plenty of dismissive or downright belligerent views expressed. Not all believers in anthropogenic global warming necessarily regard the science as settled, but there are still plenty who at least act as though they do. Take, for example, the long-awaited results from the CLOUD experiment (Cosmics Leaving Outdoor Droplets) at CERN. The press release on a paper published in Nature (CERN's CLOUD experiment provides unprecedented insights into cloud formation) is suitably neutral, but the results have been interpreted rather differently by those with different views on AGW.

But first, we should remember what the experiment is all about. Readers are probably familiar with the hypothesis proposed by Henrik Svensmark of the Danish Space Research Centre in Copenhagen that low level cloud formation, initiated by high energy cosmic rays, is mediated by variations in the Sun's magnetic field, for which the sunspot cycle is a proxy. More specifically, as the Sun's magnetic field weakens, more cosmic rays penetrate the atmosphere, making more clouds, reducing the amount of sunlight reaching the surface and thus lowering temperatures. Conversely, when the Sun's magnetic activity is higher (and when there are plenty of sunspots), the Earth is shielded to some extent from cosmic rays and temperatures tend to be higher.

Work over the last few years in Denmark had provided evidence that high energy particles (similar to cosmic rays) could induce nucleation and cloud formation, but the results of the more sophisticated CLOUD experiment were keenly awaited to see whether they could provide more definitive evidence. Broadly, the answer was yes: under very carefully controlled conditions, such as would be found as at various heights in the atmosphere, the presence of traces of sulphuric acid and ammonia did result in the formation of nuclei for cloud formation, and the addition of high energy particles increased the rate of nucleation considerably. In essence, Svensmark's basic hypothesis has been shown to be compatible with observations.

However, this is not the whole story. Jasper Kirkby, spokesman for the experiment and lead author of the Nature paper, is quoted as saying "We've found that cosmic rays significantly enhance the formation of aerosol particles in the mid troposphere and above. These aerosols can eventually grow into the seeds for clouds. However, we've found that the vapours previously thought to account for all aerosol formation in the lower atmosphere can only account for a small fraction of the observations - even with the enhancement of cosmic rays."

Not surprisingly, the first results do not tell the whole story and, indeed, pose additional questions. The understanding of cloud formation is still far from complete. Since clouds have an important part to play in determining ground temperatures (as anyone unfortunate enough to have spent August in north-west Europe will be only too well aware) and the IPCC modellers recognise that their models do not make a proper allowance for clouds, further experiments which might improve understanding should be welcomed by all scientists.

But initial reaction to the Nature paper has been mixed. Nigel Calder, a long term promoter of the Svensmark hypothesis, who collaborated with him to write *The Chilling Stars* (recommended for those who want to understand more about this issue) put out a blog posting entitled simply CERN experiment confirms cosmic ray action. However, the subtitle, *The global warmists' dam breaks*, perhaps gives a better impression of his views.

Meanwhile, Gavin Schmidt, on the blog RealClimate ('Climate science from climate scientists') posted a piece with an equally neutral title: *The CERN/CLOUD results are surprisingly interesting....* But it's not long before we come to this quote: "It is eminently predictable that the published results will be wildly misconstrued by the contrarian blogosphere as actually proving this link. However, that would be quite wrong." He then proceeds to justify his case, in particular pointing to the lack of decline in cosmic rays over recent decades. However, this misses the point: the hypothesis suggests a more subtle effect, since only very high energy cosmic rays penetrate the atmosphere sufficiently to nucleate the low level clouds which might have a cooling influence. It is not total cosmic ray flux which is important, but the high energy part.

The BBC, often criticised by sceptics for its unquestioning acceptance of the IPCC view, report *Cloud simulator tests climate models*. But the tone of the report downplays any possible influence of cosmic rays. The only quotes are from Dr Kirkby and Professor Mike Lockwood from Reading University, who said "The result that will get climate change sceptics excited is that they have found that through the influence of sulphuric acid, ionisation can enhance the rate of water droplet growth. Does this mean that cosmic rays can produce cloud? No."

Clearly, there is a lot more work to be done on this whole issue. But we should not forget that the first results of CLOUD are still at least consistent with the Svensmark hypothesis. The effect is much smaller than would be needed to have the impact he suggests, but the experiment has also so far failed to reproduce the nucleation rates necessary for cloud formation, with or without the impact of cosmic rays. Until this is done, the hypothesis certainly cannot be dismissed.

And, in contrast, we should not forget that the enhanced greenhouse effect has no direct supporting evidence, merely the apparent certainty that there is no other explanation for the pattern of temperature rise over the last century or so. Any 'evidence' put forward is either purely circumstantial or the output of computer models tuned to account for past changes. Since they have singularly failed to account for the temperature plateau of the last decade, confidence in them seems to be misplaced.

In these circumstances, rather than circling the wagons, it is the duty of all true scientists to maintain an open mind and not simply protect their own pet theories to the death. If only...

3. Exxon Tries Bear Wrestling

With the U.S. locking up Alaskan and Arctic oil, a major turns to Russia.

Editorial, WSJ, Sep 2, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424053111904716604576542851590507210.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop

Few companies wring more earnings from a dollar of investment than Exxon Mobil, so we assume CEO Rex Tillerson knows the risks he's taking by getting into business with Vladimir Putin to explore for oil in the Russian Arctic. Exxon's official partner may be Rusneft, the Russian oil company, but in Moscow the de facto chairman of every board is Mr. Putin. If he turns against you, your investment may vanish faster than you can say Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

That well-known political risk makes it all the more disconcerting to see a U.S. oil company committing to invest billions of dollars in Russia's Arctic Sea, while much of America's own Arctic territories remain off-limits for political reasons. Exxon has long experience drilling in Alaska, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is less risky or costly than drilling in the Arctic Sea will be. But Democrats in Washington have barred that and elsewhere in Alaska from energy exploration.

The Obama Administration is using regulations to thwart development in the American far north. The primary gambit is to sit on lease permits. Conoco spent five years to get at one of its leases in the National Petroleum Preserve, only to be denied by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps denied an Exxon permit on the North Slope. Shell this year threw in the towel in the Beaufort Sea after a five-year fight for a permit with the EPA. No wonder Exxon Mobil decided to do business with the Russians. What's the alternative?

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