

The Week That Was: 2011-11-5 (November 5, 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](#)

Summary: <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/2011/pdf/FrontMatter.pdf>

Chapter Review and Full Report <http://www.nipccreport.org/reports/2011/2011report.html>

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Quote of the Week:

The future is certain, only the past is unpredictable. Attributed to an old Polish radio announcement. [H/t Tom Quirk]

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Number of the Week: 2.8 times

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THIS WEEK:

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

BEST: The Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature (BEST) project continues to gather praises and criticisms. In an op-ed published in the European edition of the *Wall Street Journal*, Fred Singer praises the effort and points out shortcomings, which many news commentators failed to recognize. Shortcomings include land surface data only, the bulk of the data coming from only one data set, and one-third of the data showing a cooling, not a warming, but the distribution of this cooling was not explained. In addition, there are significant inconsistencies between the land surface data and the satellite data as well as proxy data. The land surface data is not independently substantiated. Please see Article #1

TEMPERATURE TRENDS: Fred Singer, David Whitehouse, and others have pointed to the enormous discontinuities in the land surface data. They assert that unless these discontinuities are explained, it is inappropriate to fit a trend line to the data. It is similar to fitting a straight line between two points along a sine curve, which would show whatever trend the presenter desires. Whitehouse, and others, point out that for over ten years the land surface temperature data show no warming. Muller stated this lack of warming may be the result of changing ocean oscillations. If ocean oscillations can stop the measured warming of the land from carbon dioxide emissions, then, logically, in another phase, these oscillations would intensify the measured warming. Yet, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) dismisses ocean oscillations as a cause of measured warming. The extent to which ocean oscillations influence measured temperatures must be thoroughly research and explained. Otherwise their influence will be included with human influences on temperatures. Please see Article # 1, links under, “Challenging the Orthodoxy”, “Measurement Issues” and the comments by David Douglass under “Changing Seas.”

INFLUENCE of IPCC: Following a 90 minute private talk with Richard Muller, Judith Curry posted on her web site that Muller justified his strong public announcements of the BEST team’s finding, which were not yet peer reviewed, by stating he did not want the IPCC to ignore them in preparing the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), due to be published in 2013 – 2014. Apparently, to be considered papers must be submitted for publication by November of this year.

Perhaps this deadline explains the rash of papers announced that make dire predictions about future climate but appear to be inconsistent with climate history. The infamous “hockey-stick” was featured in AR3 in an effort to suppress climate history; the summary of AR4 ignored climate history prior to 1950; it appears that this will be the case again – ignoring events the carbon dioxide caused warming cannot explain. Please see link under “Seeking a Common Ground.”

HYPOTHESIS TESTING: Judith Curry has posted an exchange between her and Kevin Trenberth, who was an author of the summary of AR4 and a lead coordinating author of Chapter 3 of the scientific section of AR4. Trenberth asserts that when conducting hypothesis tests: "the man-made climate apocalypse is coming" hypothesis should become the null hypothesis. Of course, this is the ultimate appeal to the authority of the IPCC. In his usual intense, but amusing style, Lubos Motl takes exception to Curry, Trenberth, and mathematical physicist Myles Allen. Please see link under “Seeking a Common Ground.”

NUMBER OF THE WEEK: 2.8 times. The UN announced October 31 as the day in which the earth attained 7 billion inhabitants of the earth. Of course, there is no way of knowing how correct this may be. There were the articles treating the event with dread, others with celebration. The estimated number of inhabitants of the earth in 1950 was 2.5 billion. Now, with over 60 years of unprecedented and dangerous global warming there are 2.8 times as many inhabitants as there were in 1950. Please see links under “Health, Energy, and Climate.”

BOOK REVIEW: *Climate of Corruption: Politics and Power Behind the Global Warming Hoax* by Larry Bell

As he states, Larry Bell is a space guy. He is an endowed professor of space architecture who founded and directs the Sasakawa International Center for Space Architecture specializing in designing habitats for extreme environments on earth and in space. He has received numerous international honors for his contributions to space development, including ones from Japan and the former Soviet Union. Also, he founded several successful companies.

Mr. Bell explains that the prompting of others made him study and then write a book on climate, exposing where the science has been manipulated by some who use it to advocate a particular ideology. However, one may suspect that his familiarity with successful application of science in the development of space exploration as compared with the current incorrect claims of science in climate studies drove him as well.

Bell has written a non-technical, very readable book for the layman. It broadly surveys climate science and how that science was hijacked by political opportunists. Bell’s approach is holistic; he looks upon the climate from the perspective of spaceship earth and from that perspective, states he became what is labeled a climate skeptic, a doomsday denier.

Bell recognizes that many participants of the IPCC process are dedicated hard working scientists, but many of the important conclusions are not based on science, and are contrary to what is in the best interests of humanity. As with Donna Laframboise, Bell gives examples of lead coordinating authors of IPCC reports who are not top experts on the field, contrary to what the IPCC claims.

He writes that exaggerated statements do not serve to promote understanding of the environment and have resulted in a war on energy by the governments of many of the world's most developed nations. Bell gives specific examples how environmental organizations are leading many politicians and agencies in Washington to set energy policy that is contrary to the economic interests of the nation.

One may quibble with some minor issues, such as the viability of high-speed rail transportation in the US, but overall the book is an excellent survey of the issues as they have become. It is a refreshing read from the perspective of an environmentalist who has spent a career thinking about and developing human habitats. Bell writes the book is: "Dedicated to Al Gore, whose invention of the Internet made this book possible, and whose invention of facts made it necessary."

Climate of Corruption: Politics and Power Behind the Global Warming Hoax by Larry Bell, Professor of Space Architecture, University of Houston, 2011, Greenleaf Book Group Press, Austin, TX, ISBN: 978-1-60823-083-7, 298 pp including endnotes and 16 pp index. Available on Amazon.

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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. Why I Remain a Global-Warming Skeptic

Searching for scientific truth in the realm of climate.

By Fred Singer, WSJ-EUROPE, Nov 4, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204394804577012014136900828.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

A Solar Cycle Primer From SDO

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 28, 2011

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/A_Solar_Cycle_Primer_From_SDO_999.html

Climategate Continued

Closing Thoughts on BEST

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Nov 1, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/2011/11/01/closing-thoughts-on-best/>

[SEPP Comment: The BEST report is not a rebuttal to Climategate!]

Help Robert Rohde Locate Argentina

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Oct, 31, 2011

<http://climateaudit.org/2011/10/31/help-robert-rohde-locate-argentina/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Best Confirms Global Temperature Standstill

By David Whitehouse, The Observatory, Oct 29, 2011
<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/4230-best-confirms-global-temperature-standstill.html>

Scientific heresy

By Matt Ridley, Royal Society of the Arts Lecture posted by Bishop Hill, Nov 1, 2011
<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2011/11/1/scientific-heresy.html>
pdf: <http://www.bishop-hill.net/storage/ScientificHeresy.pdf>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Key UN report ties climate change to extreme weather

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 1, 2011
http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Key_UN_report_ties_climate_change_to_extreme_weather_999.html

Human-caused climate change a major factor in more frequent Mediterranean droughts

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 02, 2011
[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Human caused climate change a major factor in more frequent Mediterranean droughts_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Human_caused_climate_change_a_major_factor_in_more_frequent_Mediterranean_droughts_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Before claiming cause, a review of several thousands of years of history would be in order.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

WWF-Affiliated Personnel in Working Group 1

By Dona Laframboise, NFC, Nov 2, 2011
<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2011/11/02/wwf-affiliated-personnel-in-working-group-1/>
[SEPP Comment: As with other sections, the critical science section of AR4 has WWF members.]

The Climate Scam Continues

Editorial, IBD, Oct 31, 2011
<http://news.investors.com/Article.aspx?id=589962&p=1>

UN Climate Warnings Are So 1989

By Dona Laframboise, NFC, Nov 1, 2011
<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2011/11/01/un-climate-warnings-are-so-1989/>
[SEPP Comment: The window of opportunity to stop unprecedented and dangerous global warming closed in 2000. We are doomed!]

The Voice of the Climate Change Critics

By Joanna Della-Ragione, Express, UK, Nov 1, 2011
<http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/281054/The-voice-of-the-climate-change-critics>

CO2 emitted by the poor nations and absorbed by the rich. Oh the irony. (And this truth must not be spoken)

By Joanne Nova, Her Blog, Nov 3, 2011
<http://joannenova.com.au/2011/11/co2-emitted-by-the-poor-nations-and-absorbed-by-the-rich-oh-the-irony-and-this-truth-must-not-be-spoken/#more-18671>
[SEPP Comment: Contrary to IPCC demands, should the poor countries be paying a tribute to the rich countries for the rich countries absorbing the CO2 emissions of the poor countries?]

Questioning European Green

Europe's green energy chaos

By Andrew Mackillop, European Energy Review, Oct 31, 2011

<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3318>

The EU's climate and energy policies are too expensive, too ambitious, too complex - and ineffective to boot, argues Andrew MacKillop. Brussels' blind faith in drastically reducing CO2 emissions and liberalising energy markets will profit only a select group of companies and officials at the expense of everyone else. EU officials would do well to rethink their plans - before the public rises up in anger.

Blow for home owners as Government halves solar panel payments

Solar panels look set to be a far less lucrative investment for many householders, as a result of new Government proposals unveiled this week.

By Emma Simon, Telegraph, UK, Oct 31, 2011

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/investing/8860876/Blow-for-home-owners-as-Government-halves-solar-panel-payments.html>

[SEPP Comment: Government grand plans may run into difficulty when the citizens object to paying for the plans that have no benefit except to a few.]

Problems within the Orthodoxy

BASIC countries show united front ahead of Durban meet

By Ananth Krishnan, The Hindu, Nov 1, 2011 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article2589530.ece>

UN climate talks 'no walk in park': S.African president

By Staff Writers, AFP, Oct 31, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UN_climate_talks_no_walk_in_park_SAfrican_president_999.html

Seeking a Common Ground

Discussion with Rich Muller

By Judith Curry, Climate, Etc, Oct 30, 2011

<http://judithcurry.com/2011/10/30/discussion-with-rich-muller/#more-5540>

Reversing the null hypothesis

By Lubos Motl, His Blog, Nov 4, 2011

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2011/11/reversing-null-hypothesis.html#more>

[SEPP Comment: An amusing, challenging, and important discussion on the claim that the correct null hypothesis should be that humans are causing global warming, which is neither null nor a hypothesis.]

Peatland carbon storage is stabilized against catastrophic release of carbon

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 04, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Peatland_carbon_storage_is_stabilized_against_catastrophic_release_of_carbon_999.html

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Governments must plan for migration in response to climate change

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 31, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Governments_must_plan_for_migration_in_response_to_climate_change_999.html

Global warming target to stay below 2 degrees requires more action this decade

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 31, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Global_warming_target_to_stay_below_2_degrees_requires_more_action_this_decade_999.html

Measurement Issues

When Did The Land Warm?

By David Whitehouse, The Observatory, Nov 2, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/the-observatory/4252-when-did-the-land-warm.html>

Author of controversial climate change article said Wall Street Journal changed the headline: “I don’t think I would have done it if they had told me”

By Staff Reporter, Capitol Report – New Mexico, Oct 31, 2011 [H/t Marc Morano]

<http://www.capitolreportnewmexico.com/?p=6691>

Comments On The BEST FAQ

By Roger Pielke, Sr, His Blog, Nov 1, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/11/01/comments-on-the-best-faq/>

[SEPP Comment: Questioning the BEST finding of an insignificant Urban Heat Island effect and the completeness of the study of station quality.]

Two new papers on surface temperatures,

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 3, 2011

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2011/11/3/two-new-papers-on-surface-temperatures.html>

Changing Weather

Usual Suspects: Draft IPCC Report Links Extreme Weather To Climate Change

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 1, 2011

<http://www.thegwpf.org/science-news/4246-usual-suspects-draft-ipcc-report-links-extreme-weather-to-climate-change.html>

AFP obtained a copy of the draft report's 20-page Summary for Policymakers, which is subject to revision by governments before release on November 18.

A New Study on Insured Losses and Climate Change

By Roger Pielke, Jr, His Blog, Nov 2, 2011

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2011/11/new-study-on-insured-losses-and-climate.html>

[SEPP Comment: No significant trend – contradicting a study by global reinsurer Munich Re claiming a connection between weather extremes and climate change.]

Millions Can't Read This

By Joe D'Aleo, WeatherBell LLC,

<http://www.weatherbell.com/newsletter-11-01-2011-d>

Late October Northeast Snowstorm Is Not Unprecedented (Updated)

By Art Horn, Meteorologist, ICECAP, Nov 3, 2011

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/new-and-cool/late_october_northeast_snowstorm_is_not_unprecedented1/

Changing Climate

Are extremes increasing and if so why?

By Joseph D'Aleo, CCM, Weatherbell Analytics, Nov 3, 2011

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/are_extremes_increasing_and_if_so_why/

Changing Seas

New Paper Just Accepted “The Pacific Sea Surface Temperature” By David H. Douglass 2011

By Roger Pielke, Sr, His Blog, Oct 31, 2011

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2011/10/31/new-paper-just-accepted-the-pacific-sea-surface-temperature-by-david-h-douglass-2011/>

David e-mailed that if he had been able to attend the Santa Fe meeting this week he would have “shouted” that calculating trends across a climate shift have no meaning.

[SEPP Comment: The paper is not yet posted.]

Prehistoric Greenhouse Data from Ocean Floor Could Predict Earth Future

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 01, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Prehistoric Greenhouse Data from Ocean Floor Could Predict Earth Future 999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Prehistoric_Greenhouse_Data_from_Ocean_Floor_Could_Predict_Earth_Future_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Why not start with ocean circulations of today?]

Changing Sea Ice

Scientists Predict Faster Retreat for Antarctic Thwaites Glacier

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 31, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Scientists Predict Faster Retreat for Antarctic Thwaites Glacier 999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Scientists_Predict_Faster_Retreat_for_Antarctic_Thwaites_Glacier_999.html)

Changing Earth

Lessons from the Christchurch, New Zealand earthquake

By Staff Writers, SPX, Nov 04, 2011

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Lessons from the Christchurch New Zealand earthquake 999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Lessons_from_the_Christchurch_New_Zealand_earthquake_999.html)

Litigation Issues

North Dakota Suing Minnesota Over Alleged Interstate Commerce Infringements

By Staff Reporters, Plains Daily Report, Nov 2, 2011 [H/t Paul Chesser]

<http://plainsdaily.com/entry/north-dakota-suing-minnesota-over-alleged-interstate-commerce-infringements/>

[SEPP Comment: Minnesota attempts to prohibit electricity from North Dakota from coal generation.]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

First renewable energy exchange opens in Amsterdam

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 3, 2011

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/First renewable energy exchange opens in Amsterdam 999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/First_renewable_energy_exchange_opens_in_Amsterdam_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: According to the report, this is a biomass exchange. The environment will be saved by burning more biomass. Those in New England who lost power in the October snowstorm are burning more wood in their stoves, is causing air pollution; therefore saving the environment?]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Energy's IG: Goal of stimulus law unrealistic

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Nov 2, 2011 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/191339-energy-department-ig-goals-of-stimulus-law-were-unrealistic>

[SEPP Comment: 2 ½ Years too late.]

EIA Report: Clean Energy Standard Could Boost Renewables But Drastically Increase Power Prices

By Staff News, POWERnews, Nov 2, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4144.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2317095&hq_l=12&hq_v=5e660500d0

... the report did not adequately anticipate how regulatory certainty and innovative policies can “mobilize capital and unleash the power of the public and private sector in revamping our aging energy infrastructure with new, cleaner, more efficient and sustainable technologies,” Rep. Eddie Johnson (D-TX)

[SEPP Comment: There is no regulatory certainty. The EPA’s consistent efforts to intensify regulations far beyond what Congress envisioned when passing the regulatory laws falsifies Rep. Johnson’s claim.]

Wind-power industry holds breath over the future of federal subsidy

By Puneet Kollipara, Houston Chronicle, Oct 30, 2011

<http://www.chron.com/business/article/Wind-power-industry-holds-breath-over-the-future-2243909.php>

Analysis of Impacts of a Clean Energy Standard

By Staff Writers, EIA, Oct, 2011

http://science.house.gov/sites/republicans.science.house.gov/files/documents/Letters/Analysis%20of%20Impacts%20of%20a%20Clean%20Energy%20Standard_.pdf

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA Grants First Ever Single-Source Petition; Finds for N.J., Against Penn. Coal Plant

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Nov 2, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4141.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2317095&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the statement New Jersey’s Department of Environmental Protection, sulfur dioxide is not known to cause asthma.]

EPA chief’s toxic emissions

Extremist hyperbole undermines her credibility and ability to serve

By Steve Milloy, Washington Times, Nov 2, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/nov/2/epa-chiefs-toxic-emissions/>

Energy Issues

Israel gas terminal plan sharpens Med rift

By Staff Writers, UPI, Nov 2, 2011

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Israel_gas_terminal_plan_sharpens_Med_rift_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Israel becoming a mid-east energy giant?]

Europe's new energy frontier

By Viad Popovici, European Energy Review, Oct 27, 2011

<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3309>

Pakistan mulls importing electricity from India

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 2, 2011

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Pakistan_mulls_importing_electricity_from_India_999.html

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Energy firm says 'fracking' triggered British earth tremors

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 2, 2011

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Energy_firm_says_fracking_triggered_British_earth_tremors_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Needs to be researched thoroughly.]

Shale Gas Reserves Could Reignite U.S. Economy

By Paul Barrett, Bloomberg, Nov 3, 2011

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-11-03/shale-gas-reserves-have-potential-to-reignite-u-s-economy.html>

Shale Gas Revolution

By David Brooks, NYT, Nov 3, 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/04/opinion/brooks-the-shale-gas-revolution.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha212

[SEPP Comment: An appeal for reason.]

Shale Gas: Cornell's GHG Paper Continues to Attract Criticism

By Steve Everley, Master Resource, Nov 2, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/11/shale-gas-cornell-criticism/#more-17242>

Administration's Control of Oil and Gas

Keystone Pipeline Delay Puts Energy Future On Hold

Editorial, IBD, Nov 3, 2011

<http://news.investors.com/Article.aspx?id=590518&p=1>

Feds issue record number of deep-water drilling permits in October

By Jennifer Dlouhy, Fuel Fix, Nov 2, 2011

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2011/11/02/feds-issue-record-number-of-deep-water-drilling-permits-in-october/>

But the data belies an interesting twist: The permits don't necessarily translate to a big boost in drilling rigs operating in the Gulf of Mexico. According to FBR Capital Markets, just five drilling rigs are contracted to work on the newly permitted wells. In fact, nine of the 10 new permits were for just one rig.

[SEPP Comment: More game playing with numbers – and America's energy future.]

Return of King Coal?

Bluff Collapse at Wisconsin Coal Plant Sends Coal Ash into Lake Michigan

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Nov 2, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4139.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2317095&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e66050d0

[SEPP Comment: This engineering failure to build a purported an air quality control facility will produce more demands for intensified EPA control of coal power plants.]

Nuclear Energy and Fears

TEPCO Finds Fission By-Products at Fukushima Daiichi

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Nov 2, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4146.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2317095&hq_l=10&hq_v=5e660500d0

No uncontrolled reaction at Fukushima: operator

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 3, 2011

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/No_uncontrolled_reaction_at_Fukushima_operator_999.html

Japan restarts first nuclear plant since disaster

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 2, 2011

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Japan_restarts_first_nuclear_plant_since_disaster_999.html

Belgium to switch off nuclear, operator sees blackout ahead

By Staff Writers, AFP, Oct 31, 2011

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Belgium_to_switch_off_nuclear_operator_sees_blackout_ahead_999.html

Czechs bet on nuclear power for their future

By Staff Writers, AFP, Oct 30, 2011

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Czechs_bet_on_nuclear_power_for_their_future_999.html

Bangladesh signs deal for first nuclear plant

By Staff Writers, AFP, Nov 2, 2011

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Bangladesh_signs_deal_for_first_nuclear_plant_999.html

Technology makes storing radioactive waste safer

By Staff Writers, SPX Nov 04, 2011

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Technology_makes_storing_radioactive_waste_safer_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A possible solution to a complex problem.]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Energy

Invitation to a Dialogue: Renewable Energy

Editorial Pages, NYT, Nov 1, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/02/opinion/invitation-to-a-dialogue-renewable-energy.html>

[SEPP Comment: An unusual offer to comment. If you so desire, take advantage.]

World's top solar power plant switches on

By Staff Writers, UPI, Nov 3, 2011

http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Worlds_top_solar_power_plant_switches_on_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The capital costs are interesting – estimated at \$549 Billion. The first phase is about \$1 Billion per square mile for 2.5 square miles. The total envisioned size is 34,740 square miles. Seems to be a big disconnect. Will China finance it?]

Obama administration announces desert 'solar energy zones'

'Solar energy zones' — set up in the Mojave and elsewhere in the West by the Bureau of Land Management — are meant to encourage development in areas without environmental or cultural conflicts. By Julie Cart, LA Times, Oct 28, 2011 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-solar-desert-20111028,0,7889585.story>

Chinese Wind Market To Overtake Germany by 2018, Second Only to the UK

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 31, 2011

http://www.winddaily.com/reports/Chinese_Wind_Market_To_Overtake_Germany_by_2018_Second_Only_to_the_UK_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Note to US: let them.]

US Biofuel Production Increase: Fact or Wishful Thinking

By. John C.K. Daly, SPX, Oct 31, 2011

[http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/US Biofuel Production Increase Fact or Wishful Thinking 999.html](http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/US_Biofuel_Production_Increase_Fact_or_Wishful_Thinking_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Mostly wishful.]

California Dreaming

Cap-and-Cry: California's Global Warming Program (avoided warming of 0.005°C by 2050 under CARB regulations)

By Chip Knappenberger, Master Resource, Nov 3, 2011

[http://www.masterresource.org/2011/11/cap-and-cry-californias-global-warming-program-avoided-warming-of-0-005°C2%B0c-by-2050-under-carb-regulations/#more-17265](http://www.masterresource.org/2011/11/cap-and-cry-californias-global-warming-program-avoided-warming-of-0-005%C2%B0c-by-2050-under-carb-regulations/#more-17265)

California's New Green Tax

As the world retreats from cap and trade, Sacramento signs on.

Editorial, WSJ, Oct 31, 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203687504576654833439619372.html?mod=WSJ Opinion_AboveLEFTTop](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203687504576654833439619372.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_AboveLEFTTop)

California's high-speed train wreck

By Philip Klein, Washington Examiner, Nov 2, 2011

http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/11/californias-high-speed-train-wreck?utm_source=TEMPLATE:%20Washington%20Examiner%20Opinion%20-%202011/03/2011&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

Maryland Climate Plan Passes Key Tests in UMD Studies

By Neil Tickner, Press Release, UMD, Nov 2, 2011 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.newsdesk.umd.edu/uniini/release.cfm?ArticleID=2545>

[SEPP Comment: California may not be alone any more.]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Fifty Years of Tropical Cyclones Impacting China

Reference: Ying, M., Yang, Y-H., Chen, B-D. and Zhang, W. 2011. Climatic variation of tropical cyclones affecting China during the past 50 years. *Science China Earth Sciences* 54: 10.1007/s11430-011-4213-2.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/1nov2011a1.html>

For the whole of China and essentially all of its component parts, major measures of tropical cyclone impact have either remained constant or slightly decreased, which is quite different from what the IPCC has been predicting for the world as a whole over the past decade or more..

Temporal Derivative of Total Solar Irradiance and Anomalous Indian Summer Monsoon: Empirical Evidence for a Sun-Climate Connection

Reference: Agnihotri, R., Dutta, K. and Soon, W. 2011. Temporal derivative of Total Solar Irradiance and anomalous Indian Summer monsoon: An empirical evidence for a sun-climate connection. *Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics* 73: 1980-1987.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/1nov2011a3.html>

Solar Forcing of Winter Climate Variability in the Northern Hemisphere

Reference: Ineson, S., Scaife, A.A., Knight, J.R., Manners, J.C., Dunstone, N.J., Gray, L.J. and Haigh, J.D. 2011. Solar forcing of winter climate variability in the Northern Hemisphere. *Nature Geoscience* 4: 753-757.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/nov/2nov2011a3.html>

The Medieval Warm Period (and Little Ice Age) in Coastal Syria

Reference: Kaniewski, D., Van Campo, E., Paulissen, E., Weiss, H., Bakker, J., Rossignol, I. and Van Lerberghe, K. 2011. The medieval climate anomaly and the little Ice Age in coastal Syria inferred from pollen-derived palaeoclimatic patterns. *Global and Planetary Change* 78: 178-187.

Health, Energy, and Climate

Seven billion and counting

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Nov 2, 2011

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/seven-billion-and-counting>

A tale of three islands

The world's population will reach 7 billion at the end of October. Don't panic.

By Staff Writers, The Economist, Oct 22, 2011

<http://www.economist.com/node/21533364>

World population hits 7 billion on Oct. 31, or thereabouts

Though it's impossible to say exactly when it will happen, demographers have chosen the date to mark the milestone. Humanity remains on a steep growth curve.

By Kenneth Weiss, LA Times, Oct 31, 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-seven-billionth-baby-20111031,0,455314.story>

7 Billion Is Overpopulated? It's Just A Start

Editorial, IBD, Nov 2, 2011

<http://news.investors.com/Article.aspx?id=590346&p=1>

The World's Condom, Electricity and Climate Divides

By Andrew Revkin, Dot Earth, NYT, Nov 2, 2011

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/02/the-worlds-condom-electricity-and-climate-divides/?ref=science>

[SEPP Comment: A statistic that would be most interesting is the penetration of electricity to the poor as compared with electricity.]

Oh Mann!

Judge restricts release of emails among climate scientists

By Geoff Mohan, LA Times, Nov 2, 2011

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/11/climategate-emails-michael-mann-university-of-virginia.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+GreenspaceEnvironmentBlog+%28Greenspace%29

Michael Mann wades into the UVA thicket as intervenor

By Chris Horner, ATI, WUWT, Nov 2, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/11/02/michael-mann-wades-into-the-uva-thicket-as-intervenor/#more-50501>

Environmental Industry

Obamaland: American Mules Must Eat Certified Weed-Free Hay

By Marita Noon, Townhall, Oct 31, 2011

http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2011/10/31/obamaland_american_mules_must_eat_certified_weed-free_hay/page/full/

Anti-Keystone pipeline lawsuit coming

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Oct 29, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/190575-new-anti-keystone-pipeline-lawsuit-in-the-offing>

[SEPP Comment: But, of course!]

Other Scientific News

Faster-than-light experiment to run again

By Staff Writers, UPI, Oct 28, 2011

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Faster-than-light_experiment_to_run_again_999.html

Antarctic killer whales may seek spa-like relief in the tropics

By Staff Writers, SPX, Oct 31, 2011

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Antarctic_killer_whales_may_seek_spa_like_relief_in_the_tropics_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The quest for warming?]

Other News that May Be of Interest

Cold Fusion Experiment: Major Success or Complex Hoax?

By John Brandon, Fox News, Nov 2, 2011 [H/t Warren Wetmore]

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/11/02/andrea-rossi-italian-cold-fusion-plant/>

White Coke Cans Fund Polar Bear Myths

By Paul Chesser, National Legal and Policy Center, , 10/31/2011 - 09:26

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2011/10/31/white-coke-cans-fund-perpetuation-polar-bear-myths>

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

'Snowtober' fits U.N. climate change predictions

By Geoff Mohan, LA Times, Nov 1, 2011

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2011/11/snowtober-fits-climate-change-predictions.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+GreenspaceEnvironmentBlog+%28Greenspace%29

[SEPP Comment: Every climatic event fits U.N. climate change predictions.]

Forests not keeping pace with climate change

By Staff Writer, SPX, Nov 02, 2011

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Forests_not_keeping_pace_with_climate_change_999.html

[SEPP Comment: How measured?]

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ARTICLES:

1. Why I Remain a Global-Warming Skeptic

Searching for scientific truth in the realm of climate.

By Fred Singer, WSJ-EUROPE, Nov 4, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204394804577012014136900828.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Last month the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature Project released the findings of its extensive study on global land temperatures over the past century. Physics professor Richard Muller, who led the study, heralded the findings with a number of controversial statements in the press, including an op-ed in this newspaper titled "The Case Against Global-Warming Skepticism." And yet Mr. Muller remains a true skeptic—a searcher for scientific truth. I congratulate Mr. Muller and his Berkeley Earth team for undertaking this difficult task in the realm of climate.

The Berkeley study reported a warming trend of about 1° Celsius since 1950, even greater than the warming reported by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). I disagree with this result, which perhaps makes me a little more of a skeptic than Mr. Muller.

Mr. Muller has been brutally frank about the poor quality of the weather-station data, noting that 70% of U.S. stations involve uncertainties of between two and five degrees Celsius. One could interpret the Berkeley study's results as confirmation of earlier studies and of the IPCC's conclusions, despite the poor quality of the stations used. But perhaps the issue is that the Berkeley study and the ones that came before suffer from common errors. I suspect that the temperature records still are affected by the urban heat-island effect—a term given to any local warming, whatever its cause—despite efforts to correct for this. The urban heat-island effect could include heat produced not only in urban areas, but also due to changes in land use or poor station siting. Therefore, I suggest additional tests:

1. Disassemble the "global average" temperature to get a better picture of what's going on regionally. This could involve plotting both the IPCC's and the Berkeley study's data only for tropical regions, separating the northern and southern hemispheres and testing for seasonal variation and differences between day and night.
2. Better describe what we can think of as the demographics of weather stations, a major source of possible error. The IPCC used 6,000 stations in 1970 and only about 2,000 in 2000. Let's examine their latitude, altitude and possible urbanization, and see if there have been major changes in the stations sampled between 1970 and 2000. For example, it is very likely that airports were used as temperature stations in both 1970 and 2000, because airport stations are generally of high quality. But airports are likely warming rapidly because of increasing traffic and urbanization. So if the number of airport stations remained constant at, say, 1,200 over that 30-year interval, the warming observed there might have increased between 20% and 60% over the same period of time, thereby producing an artificial warming trend.
3. The Berkeley study used a total of 39,000 weather stations, an impressive number. But again, we need to know if that number changed significantly between 1970 and 2000, and how the demographics of the stations changed—both for stations that showed cooling and for those that showed warming.

But the main reason that I am skeptical about the IPCC, and now the Berkeley, findings, is that they disagree with most every other data source I can find. I confine this critique to the period between 1978 and 1997, thereby avoiding the Super El Niño of 1998 that had nothing to do with greenhouse gases or other human influences.

Contrary to both global-warming theory and climate models, data from weather satellites show no atmospheric temperature increase over this period, and neither do the entirely independent radiosondes carried in weather balloons. The Berkeley study confined its findings to land temperatures as recorded by weather stations. Yet oceans cover 71% of the earth's surface, and the marine atmosphere shows no warming trend. The absence of warming is in accord with the theory that climate is heavily impacted by solar variability, and agrees with the solar data presented in a 2007 paper by Danish physicist Henrik Svensmark in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society A.

Moreover, independent data using temperature proxies—various non-thermometer sources such as tree rings, ocean and lake sediments, ice cores, stalagmites, and so on—also support an absence of warming between 1978 and 1997. Coral data also show no pronounced warming trend of the sea surface, and there are good reasons to believe that reported sea-surface warming is an artifact of thermometer measurements.

The IPCC's 2007 Summary for Policy makers claims that "Most of the observed increase in global average [surface] temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely [90-99% sure] due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations." While Mr. Muller now seems to agree that there has been such global average warming since the mid-20th century, he nonetheless ended his op-ed by disclaiming that he knows the cause of any temperature increase. Moreover, the Berkeley team's research paper comments: "The human component of global warming may be somewhat overestimated." I commend Mr. Muller and his team for their honesty and skepticism.

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