

**The Week That Was: 2012-06-02 (June 2, 2012)**  
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**The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

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**Quote of the Week:**

*"The number of those who reason well in difficult matters is much smaller than the number of those who reason badly. If reasoning were like carrying burdens, where several horses will carry more sacks of grain than one alone, I should agree that several reasoners would avail more than a single one; but reasoning is like running and not like carrying, and one Arab steed will outrun a hundred pack horses."*  
Galilei, G., 1960, *The Assayer*, in, *The Controversy on the Comets of 1618*, translated by Stillman Drake: University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, p. 300-301. [H/t David Demming]

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**Number of the Week: \$69 Billion**

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**THIS WEEK:**

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

**The Heartland Controversy:** On her blog, Judith Curry expressed her views on the Heartland Institute; including some statements that were somewhat less than complimentary. Joe Bast responded, which is included as Article #1, which can be found on the SEPP web site, followed by Fred Singer's letter to the Chicago Sun-Times. Curry's view of the Heartland billboard tactic is, of course, her privilege. Is Heartland right in using this tactic, similar to those frequently used by global warming advocates, such as labeling skeptics as deniers? That is an opinion left to each individual. SEPP was a co-sponsor of the Heartland conference and intends to be one in any future conferences. As expressed by Czech President Václav Klaus, it is one of the few forums that publicly states the science is far from settled. Please see Article #1 and the links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and the Heartland Controversy.

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**Ocean Acidification, Changing Alkalinity:** Emeritus Professor Cliff Ollier exposes the myth that increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide is causing significant ocean acidification. Ocean acidification is a marketing term used to instill fear and it is not scientifically accurate. Ollier states oceans are alkaline with a pH above 7 and that the pH changes by location and with seasons. Locations where carbon dioxide is high by naturally occurring CO<sub>2</sub> bubbling from the ocean floor are abundant with marine life.

The comments by Ollier are drastically different from those used in a November 2010 Congressional hearing by NOAA scientist Richard Feely, who was supported by Benjamin Santer of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Richard Alley of Penn State. Feely claimed ocean acidification from atmospheric carbon dioxide has increased 20%, which is resulting in dire coral die-off, and if it continues, millions of species will become extinct. During the Q & A, Feely asserted that a pH of 7.7 [alkaline] will cause the Arctic and Antarctic oceans to become corrosive from top to bottom. Please see Ollier's comments in the link under Challenging the Orthodoxy and TWTW's comments on the hearing at <http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2010/TWTW%202010-11-20.pdf>

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**Climate Change:** A new study by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute suggests that the decline in the monsoon rains led to the slow collapse of the Harappan Civilization on the Indus plateau between 3000 and 3900 years ago. This further confirms what HH Lamb suggested in his classic *Climate, History, and the Modern World*. Lamb pointed out that the drying of the Sahara occurred with the **cooling** that followed the Holocene Climate Optimum. The monsoon rains no longer came that far north. Many dismissed a wet Sahara, which has been confirmed by satellite observations of river beds.

Lamb also suggested that the Indus civilization may also have been adversely affected by this cooling with the drying of the Indus plains and, similarly, Chinese civilization with a drying of the plains in central China. The current study supports Lamb's suggestion. All this is unrelated to atmospheric carbon

dioxide. Climate change is real, significant, and natural. The recent human global contribution, and the influence of atmospheric carbon dioxide, is yet to be determined. Unfortunately, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) failed to determine the natural causes of climate change before claiming humans are responsible for global warming. Please see link under Changing Climate.

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**Wind and Solar Companies Leaving Spain:** Faced with a financial crisis, in January the Spanish government eliminated any subsidies for new wind and solar projects. Now, Spanish alternative energy companies are abandoning their home country, looking for subsidies elsewhere. This is not a particular surprise for those who realize that companies producing electricity from alternative sources depend on subsidies and / or mandates.

Several years ago, researchers at the King Juan Carlos University in Spain stating the subsidies were unsustainable. The US National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL) produced a study dismissing a study. The major point of the critics was that an input-output model was not used – although the NREL study failed to identify one for Spain. One does not need an elaborate input-output model to determine some government sponsored economic activities are not sustainable. Gradually, governments of some countries are discovering the hard truth of this race for 21<sup>st</sup> century energy. No one will win except the promoters. Please see links under Questioning European Green.

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**Number of the Week: \$69 Billion** According to a report by Bloomberg, Bloomberg New Energy Finance estimated that the solar and wind expenditures in Spain totaled \$69 Billion since 2004 – four times the per capita expenditures in the US. Except for legacy projects, Spanish companies are no longer investing in domestic projects. Expenditures in new photovoltaic solar projects are expected to fall to \$107 million in 2013 from \$1.5 billion last year. Expenditures on new wind projects are expected for fall to \$244 million in 2014 from \$2 billion this year. Please see link under Questioning European Green.

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**Doubt has been eliminated (?):** Judith Curry has an interesting post on scientific uncertainty, addressing, in part, a speech by UN Commission on Sustainable Development, Gro Harlem Brundtland, and the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Climate Change in 2007, trumpeting the IPCC AR-4. What is missing in the post is that there is massive doubt in the validity of the models and the doubt in the various temperature forcing factors considered in the models. This doubt is largely covered-up and appears in an appendix of the main report presenting the level of understanding of the forcing factors. The IPCC's failure to openly discuss the lack of knowledge of natural and manmade temperature forcing factors does not eliminate doubt, but merely ignores it. Please see link under Seeking a Common Ground.

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**A Golden Age of Gas:** The International Energy Administration issued a special report on hydraulic fracturing for natural gas with the title *Golden Rules for a Golden Age of Gas*. No doubt, the Sierra Club is less than thrilled by the title. After years of labeling coal a dirty fuel and promoting natural gas as the alternative, the club is now labeling natural gas as a dirty fuel. An upcoming TWTW will discuss the rules in light of a paper by Norm Kalmanovitch, a Canadian Professional Geophysicist, on the safety and exaggerated hazards of hydraulic fracturing.

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**Michael Mann:** Several readers requested TWTW to comment on a review of the new book by Michael Mann written by *Washington Post* writer Juliet Eilperin and published in the Post. Please realize the following are comments on the review taken from the perspective of a critic of the hockey-stick, and not a review of the book. The review makes several significant omissions that may or may not be in the book.

The review, and apparently the book, employs several red herrings to divert the reader from the main issue – is Mr. Mann's hockey stick rigorous science and the results scientifically acceptable? One red herring is the discussion of the peer review process as a final argument. The peer review process is an important first step, only. It alerts others that the paper may be worthy of consideration. A second red

herring is the discussion of the statistical technique of principal component analysis. The assumption is that it is widely accepted technique. However, it is a source of great controversy among professional statisticians. (See Montford under Oh Mann).

Several of the omissions are particularly significant. Are all the pertinent data included? Apparently, they are not. This is one of the motivating factors for the Freedom of Information requests. Are the results reproducible? Apparently, they are not. The data was not made available to McIntire and McKitrick or any other independent researchers. Further, as pointed out by McIntire and McKitrick, and later by Wegman, the model itself produces a distinct hockey-stick shape from noise.

More importantly, is the hockey-stick, which shows little or no Medieval Warm Period and Little Ice Age, supported by other, independent, studies using other techniques. Some studies claim they show no such periods. However, there are a multitude of studies showing such periods. Many of these studies are in the database compiled by Sherwood, Craig, and Keith Idso which are available at <http://www.co2science.org/subject/subject.php>, and some are in the data base of the NIPCC reports <http://www.nipccreport.org/> They show that these periods were, generally, global. More published studies appear monthly showing a Medieval Warm Period and a Little Ice Age.

Can the hockey-stick come from confounding variables? Tree ring proxies are particularly influenced by confounding variables such as moisture and surrounding vegetation. However, any analysis of the last 150 years must take into account carbon dioxide fertilization which greatly increases the growth of trees. The original data for the bristlecone pines, the most important proxy in the hockey-stick, came from studies on carbon dioxide fertilization, such as by Graybill and Idso.

There is no compelling argument why the hockey-stick should be accepted as rigorous science and this review does not provide one. A more rigorous review is provided by Brandon Shollenberger: <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/03/11/shollenbergers-technical-review-of-manns-recent-book/>

The review gives the impression that Mr. Mann is a victim. If he is, he is a victim of the IPCC. In its Third Assessment report (AR3) the IPCC dropped climate history as presented in the first two assessment reports with a Medieval Warm Period and a Little Ice Age. In AR3, the IPCC emphasized the hockey-stick, especially in the Summary for Policymakers. This contributed to governments spending well over one hundred billion dollars on the claim that carbon dioxide emissions are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming, a claim that has yet to be substantiated. Mr. Mann was a featured author of AR3. The hockey-stick was not featured the last IPCC report, AR4, published in 2007. Please see links under Oh Mann.

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**Amplifications and Corrections:** Two weeks ago, TWTW discussed a study from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography claiming that global warming will cause snowpack of Sierra Mountains to largely melt this century, threatening agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley. TWTW pointed out that a large part of the moisture is captured by dams in the early spring for irrigation in the summer. As long as the moisture falls it makes no difference if it is rain or snow.

Emeritus Professor Cliff Ollier suggested checking Google for “Advancing Glaciers,” there are plenty of examples in the western US, which is the case.

John Christy of the University of Alabama, Huntsville, sent a study which he recently completed and which has been accepted by the Journal of Hydrometeorology. The study, “Searching for Information in 133 Years of California Snowfall Observations”, covers the western Sierra Mountains which feed the Central Valley including the San Joaquin Valley. Some of the over 500 stations the data go back to 1878. The stations were subdivided into 18 regions. For some stations, data were missing. “For those regions

characterized by consistent monitoring and with the most robust statistical reproducibility, no statistically significant trends in their periods of record (up to 133 years) nor in the most recent 50 years are found. This result encompasses the main snowfall region of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.”

Once again, data trumps models. Please see <http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/JHM-D-11-040.1>  
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**ARTICLES:**

For the numbered articles below please see this week’s TWTW at: [www.sepp.org](http://www.sepp.org). The articles are at the end of the pdf.

**1. Your Post on Heartland. Plus: Fred Singer to the Chicago Sun-Times**

By Joe Bast, Heartland Institute to Judith Curry, May 25, 2012

**2. Romney’s historic opportunity**

Plan for low-cost energy will fuel economic recovery

By Fred Singer, Washington Times, May 29, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/may/29/romneys-historic-opportunity/?page=all#pagebreak>

**3. Renewable Energy Can't Run the Cloud**

Data centers now consume about 1.3% of all global electricity.

By Robert Bryce, WSJ, May 28,, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303610504577420251668850864.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEFTTopOpinion](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303610504577420251668850864.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion)

*[SEPP Comment: Many in Washington do not recognize that modern communications, including the Cloud, require reliable, affordable electricity.]*

**4. U.S. Gas Exports Put on Back Burner**

By Tennille Tracy, WSJ, May 30, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304821304577436470209675022.html?mod=WSJ\\_Energy\\_leftHeadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304821304577436470209675022.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines)

*[SEPP Comment: The administration is playing the political game.]*

**5. Sierra Clubs Natural Gas**

The green lobby picks its next fossil fuel target.

Editorial, WSJ, May 30, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304363104577390432521371296.html?mod=ITP\\_opinion\\_2](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304363104577390432521371296.html?mod=ITP_opinion_2)

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**NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

***Science: Is the Sun Rising?***

**Nicola Scafetta: The Theory Is Very Simple**

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, May 29, 2012

<http://thegwpf.org/the-observatory/5835-nicola-scafetta-the-theory-is-very-simpl.html>

*[SEPP Comment: Further comment on the hypothesis of the influence of solar system cycles on the earth’s climate.]*

***Climategate Continued***

**Myles Allen Calls For “Name and Shame”**

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, May 31, 2012

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/05/31/myles-allen-calls-for-name-and-shame/#more-16194>

*[SEPP Comment: Repeatedly, data used by the IPCC is not archived or available for independent review.]*

### **Myles Allen and a New Trick to Hide-the-Divide**

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, May 26, 2012

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/05/26/myles-allen-and-hide-the-divide/>

*[SEPP Comment: In AR4 the IPCC should have stated why it was no longer emphasizing the hockey-stick.]*

### **Yamal that hurts! CRU gets touchy, responds to McIntyre and Montford without naming them**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 29, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/05/29/yamal-that-hurts-cru-gets-touchy-responds-to-mcintyre-and-montford-without-naming-them/#more-64442>

### ***Suppressing Scientific Inquiry***

#### **Shale study's lead author faces 'green' backlash**

College distances itself from fracking findings

By Ben Wolfgang, Washington Times, May 28, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/may/28/shale-studys-lead-author-faces-green-backlash/>

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

#### **It's about freedom**

By Václav Klaus, Financial Post, May 28, 2012 [H/t Roger Cohen]

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/05/28/vaclav-klaus-its-about-freedom/>

### **The Myth of 'Acidification' of Oceans**

To demonise CO2 yet again, a false claim is that human production of CO2 will cause the oceans to become acid.

By Cliff Ollier, Quadrant, May 24, 2012

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2012/05/the-myth-of-acidification-of-oceans>

### **Comprehensive Alps Study Clearly Refutes Humans Are Causing More Weather Variability and Extremes!**

By P Gosselin No Tricks Zone, May 25, 2012 [H/t WUWT]

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/05/25/comprehensive-alps-study-clearly-refutes-humans-are-causing-more-weather-variability-and-extremes/>

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

#### **New Climate Models Fall Short**

By Doug Hoffman, The Resilient Earth, from GWPF, May 30, 2012

<http://thegwgf.org/the-climate-record/5849-new-climate-models-fall-short.html>

*[SEPP Comment: Trying to work in tiny airborne particles, aerosols, as the explanation for no recent warming trend.]*

### **Supercomputer will help researchers map climate change down to the local level**

By Stephen Nash, Washington Post, May 28, 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/supercomputer-will-help-researchers-map-climate-change-down-to-the-local-level/2012/05/28/gJQAv7S9wU\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/supercomputer-will-help-researchers-map-climate-change-down-to-the-local-level/2012/05/28/gJQAv7S9wU_story.html)

*[SEPP Comment: A newer, bigger computer will not necessarily make the models, the lack of data, and, especially, the lack of critical model testing any better.]*

### **A new dark age?**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, May 26, 2012

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/5/26/a-new-dark-age.html>

BBC Transcript:

[https://sites.google.com/site/mytranscriptbox/home/20120525\\_r4](https://sites.google.com/site/mytranscriptbox/home/20120525_r4)

*[SEPP Comment: Those who defend the orthodoxy are claiming that the skeptics who expose the lack of rigor in climate science are attacking science and promoting the end of the enlightenment. Contrary to the report, AAAS is hardly America's leading academy of science.]*

### **New energy minister for Germany**

By Staff Writers, WNN, May 23, 2012

[http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NP\\_New\\_energy\\_minister\\_for\\_Germany\\_2305122.html](http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NP_New_energy_minister_for_Germany_2305122.html)

Germany has a new minister for energy, environment and nuclear safety in Peter Altmaier, a CDU/CSU heavyweight who has been charged with making the country's 'energy transition' a reality.

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

#### **Global Warming Alarmism: When Science IS Fiction**

By Larry Bell, Forbes, May 29, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/05/29/global-warming-alarmism-when-science-is-fiction/>

#### **The Integrity of the Australian Academy of Science**

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Jun 2, 2012

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/magazine/issue/2012/6/our-planet-saving-science-lobbyist-the-integrity-of-the-australian-academy-of-science>

#### **A Partisan Look at U.S. Science Policy**

by Jeffrey Mervis, Science Insider, May 23, 2012 [H/t Reference Frame]

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2012/05/a-partisan-look-at-us-science.html>

#### **More on IPCC Chapter Head Neil Adger – & Stephen Schneider**

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, May 31, 2012

<http://nofrakkingconsensus.com/2012/05/31/more-on-ipcc-chapter-head-neil-adger-stephen-schneider/>

#### **The unbearable stench of fishiness**

By Michael Kile, Quadrant, May 28, 2012

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2012/05/the-unbearable-stench-of-fishiness>

**Red herring**, n., 1. A dried and smoked herring. 2. Anything that diverts attention from a topic or line of inquiry; including any expression in which a piece of information (or its omission) is, or is intended to be, misleading. 3. Origin: From the practice of using preserved (or rotten) fish, especially herring, to confuse hunting dogs and persons hungry for the truth.

#### **Climate "Deniers" Winning the War**

By Marita Noon, Townhall, May 28, 2012

<http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2012/05/28/climate-deniers-winning-the-war>

#### **Global Green Agenda Continues To Fail**

By Walter Russell Mead, American Interest, May 28, 2012

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/05/28/global-green-agenda-continues-to-fail/>

#### **Sorry Global Warming Alarmists, The Earth Is Cooling**

By Peter Ferrara, Forbes, May 31, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/peterferrara/2012/05/31/sorry-global-warming-alarmists-the-earth-is-cooling/#comments>

[SEPP Comment: It would be more correct to state no warming trend for over a decade.]

### ***Questioning European Green***

#### **Spain Cuts Payouts, Ejects Clean-Power Industry**

By Alex Morales and Ben Sill, Bloomberg, May 30, 2012

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-05-29/spain-ejects-clean-power-industry-with-europe-precedent-energy>

#### **Gas rebranded as green energy by EU**

Victory for gas lobby as aims of €80bn EU innovation programme altered to channel money to 'low-carbon' fossil fuel

By Fiona Harvey, Guardian, UK, May 29, 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/may/29/gas-rebranded-green-energy-eu>

[SEPP Comment: Based on a secret document obtained by the Guardian.]

#### **Household energy bills will be 'unaffordable' by 2015 [UK]**

If pricing trends continue, average annual energy bill will top £1,500 in three years.

By Martin Fagan, Energy Choices, May 30, 2012

<http://www.energychoices.co.uk/news/household-energy-bills-will-be-unaffordable-by-2015-300512.html>

[SEPP Comment: Forcing households to severely ration their electricity use may be part of the plan.]

#### **Sting in the tail as Government announces new solar PV tariffs**

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), May 28, 2012

[http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Sting\\_in\\_the\\_tail\\_as\\_Government\\_announces\\_new\\_solar\\_PV\\_tariffs\\_999.html](http://www.solardaily.com/reports/Sting_in_the_tail_as_Government_announces_new_solar_PV_tariffs_999.html)

#### **As Doubts Grow, Merkel Promises Green Energy Transition Will Succeed**

Jochen Gaugele, Matthias Kamann and Stefan von Borstel, Die Welt, From GWPF, May 31, 2012

<http://thegwpf.org/energy-news/5859-as-doubts-grow-merkel-promises-green-energy-transition-will-succeed.html>

#### **UK Electricity “Set to Become Unaffordable” Within 3 Years Independent Report Finds.**

Haunting the Library, May 31, 2012

<http://hauntingthelibrary.wordpress.com/2012/05/31/uk-electricity-set-to-become-unaffordable-within-3-years-independent-report-finds/>

#### **UK Coalition on Energy: Dumb and Dumber**

By Peter C Glover, Energy Tribune, May 29, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/10754/UK-Coalition-on-Energy-Dumb-and-Dumber>

#### **Alex Salmond's £46 billion green 'gamble' with Scotland's economy**

Alex Salmond is gambling with Scotland's economy by placing a £46 billion “fantasy” bet on green energy despite its “catastrophic” record of making money, one of the world's leading banks has told MSPs.

By Simon Johnson, Telegraph, UK, May 31, 2012 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/scotland/9301048/Alex-Salmonds-46-billion-green-gamble-with-Scotlands-economy.html>

#### **The wind farm rebellion blows across Britain as campaigners take heart from village's victory**

By Tamara Cohen, Emily Andrews, and Mark Duell, Daily Mail, UK, May 31, 2012 [H/t GWPF]  
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2152460/The-wind-farm-rebellion-blows-Britain-campaigners-heart-villages-victory.html>

### ***Expanding the Orthodoxy***

#### **The IPCC: Going Where No Scientist Should Go**

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, May 29, 2012

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/05/29/the-ipcc-going-where-no-scientist-should/>

[SEPP Comment: More reasons why the IPCC is political organization, not a scientific one.]

#### **US officials, others say no to UN Internet control**

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), May 31, 2012

[http://www.spacemart.com/reports/US\\_officials\\_others\\_say\\_no\\_to\\_UN\\_Internet\\_control\\_999.html](http://www.spacemart.com/reports/US_officials_others_say_no_to_UN_Internet_control_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: A preposterous idea.]

### ***Rio + 20 – World Control?***

#### **Alabama Fights a UN Land Grab**

By Justice Gilpin-Green, Townhall, May 31, 2012

[http://townhall.com/columnists/townhallcomstaff/2012/05/31/alabama\\_fights\\_a\\_un\\_landgrab](http://townhall.com/columnists/townhallcomstaff/2012/05/31/alabama_fights_a_un_landgrab)

[SEPP Comment: UN control of land use decisions, embodied in Agenda 21, will be featured in Rio + 20.]

#### **Brazil readies 15,000 security forces for Rio summit**

By Staff Writers, Rio De Janeiro (AFP), May 28, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Brazil\\_readies\\_15000\\_security\\_forces\\_for\\_Rio\\_summit\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Brazil_readies_15000_security_forces_for_Rio_summit_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Expecting a peaceful crowd.]

### ***Problems within the Orthodoxy***

#### **Slow progress since Earth Summit 20 years ago**

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), May 26, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Slow\\_progress\\_since\\_Earth\\_Summit\\_20\\_years\\_ago\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Slow_progress_since_Earth_Summit_20_years_ago_999.html)

#### **Climate talks stall with nations 'wasting time'**

By Richard Black, BBC, May 25, 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-18210642>

### ***Funding Fights***

#### **Top US companies shelling out to block action on climate change**

Analysis of 28 companies finds cases of support for thinktanks that misrepresent climate science, including Heartland Institute

By Suzanne Goldenberg, Guardian, UK, May 30, 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/may/30/companies-block-action-climate-change>

[SEPP Comments: Based on an analysis by the Union of Concerned Scientists. The amount is a pittance compared with the \$68.4 Billion the US spent on global warming in the past four years – with little accountability. Much of the money was spent in fighting EPA expansion of regulations.]

#### **Does Climate Money matter? Is a monopoly good for a market?**

By Joanne Nova, Her Blog, May 30, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/05/does-climate-money-matter-is-a-monopoly-good-for-a-market/>

#### **Spot the conflict: GE owns NBC, the Weather channel and lots and lots of wind turbine factories**

By Joanne Nova, Her Blog, Jun 1, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/06/spot-the-conflict-ge-owns-nbc-the-weather-channel-and-lots-and-lots-of-wind-turbine-factories/#more-19520>

[SEPP Comment: Jo Nova did not include that GE makes gas turbines that can replace coal-fired utility plants as the EPA drives them out of business and makes components for the smart grid, which will be needed for alternative electricity. No wonder it supported US cap-and-trade.]

### ***Heartland Controversy***

#### **Heartburn at Heartland**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, May 24, 2012

<http://judithcurry.com/2012/05/24/heartburn-at-heartland/#more-8472>

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

#### **Doubt has been eliminated (?)**

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, May 26, 2012

<http://judithcurry.com/2012/05/26/doubt-has-been-eliminated/#more-8522>

#### **Guest Post On “Fire Suppression Policy, Weather And Western Wildland Fire Trends: An Empirical Analysis”**

By Johnston and Klick, Pielke Climate Science, Jun 1, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/06/01/guest-post-on-fire-suppression-policy-weather-and-western-wildland-fire-trends-an-empirical-analysis-by-johnston-and-klick-2012/>

[SEPP Comment: Recent large western fires may be more the result of past policies than global warming / climate change.]

#### **Beetle-infested pine trees contribute more to air pollution and haze in forests**

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), May 28, 2012

[http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Beetle\\_infested\\_pine\\_trees\\_contribute\\_more\\_to\\_air\\_pollution\\_and\\_haze\\_in\\_forests\\_999.html](http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Beetle_infested_pine_trees_contribute_more_to_air_pollution_and_haze_in_forests_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Beetle infestations of standing timber, without cutting the timber out, can also contribute to hot, extensive fires in the West.]

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

#### **The more science you know, the less worried you are about climate**

‘Abandon focus on sound science’, say trick-cyclists

By Lewis Page, The A Register, May 29, 2012 [H/t Tom Sheahan]

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/05/29/science\\_and\\_maths\\_knowledge\\_makes\\_you\\_sceptical/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/05/29/science_and_maths_knowledge_makes_you_sceptical/)

#### **Yale study concludes public apathy over climate change unrelated to science literacy**

By Staff Writers, New Haven CT (SPX), May 30, 2012

[http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Yale\\_study\\_concludes\\_public\\_apaty\\_over\\_climate\\_change\\_unrelated\\_to\\_science\\_literacy\\_999.html](http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Yale_study_concludes_public_apaty_over_climate_change_unrelated_to_science_literacy_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: A different view of the study linked immediately above.]

#### **Study: Climate Change Skeptics Know More About Science Than Believers**

By Erica Ritz, Blaze, May 28, 2012 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://www.theblaze.com/stories/ready-study-climate-change-skeptics-know-more-about-science-than-believers/>

[SEPP Comment: Another version. Skeptics answered 57% correctly; warmists, 56%. Not much of a difference.]

#### **The polarizing impact of science literacy and numeracy on perceived climate change risks**

By Kahan, D, et al, Nature Climate Change, May 27, 2012  
<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1547.html#f1>  
[SEPP Comment: The study discussed in the links above.]

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

#### **Paging David Appell and Nick Stokes again: time to fess up and apologize**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 28, 2012  
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/05/28/paging-david-appell-and-nick-stokes-again-time-to-fess-up-and-apologize/#more-64411>  
[SEPP Comment: Last year's widely publicized story of death threats against climate scientists continues to implode.]

#### **Killing jobs to save the sage grouse**

Junk science, weird science and plain nonsense  
By William Perry Pendley, Washington Times, May 31, 2012  
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/may/31/killing-jobs-to-save-the-sage-grouse/>  
[SEPP Comment: The decline of the grouse happened well before extensive residential or oil development of the central west. Unlike the West coast, vast areas are undeveloped..]

#### **U.N. Warns 'Door' is 'About to Close' on Halting 2-degree Celsius Rise in Global Temperature**

By Penny Starr, CNS News, May 25, 2012 [H/t Bud Bromley]  
<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/un-warns-door-about-close-halting-2-degree-celsius-rise-global-temperature>  
[SEPP Comment: A bureaucratic, made up convention with no scientific support.]

### ***Models v. Observations***

#### **Coastal N.C. counties fighting sea-level rise prediction**

Science panel predicts 1-meter sea-level rise by 2100; counties say that could harm economic development  
By Bruce Henderson, Charlotte Observer, May 25, 2012  
<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2012/05/25/3265614/coastal-nc-counties-fighting-sea.html>  
[SEPP Comment: Why bother with measurements of what is occurring when you have a model predicting what you desire?]

#### **Grappling With Reality – A Comment On The Skeptical Science Post By Dana1981 “Modeled and Observed Ocean Heat Content – Is There a Discrepancy?”**

By Roger Pielke, Sr, Pielke Climate Science, May 29, 2012  
<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/05/29/grappling-with-reality-a-comment-on-the-skeptical-science-post-by-dana1981-modeled-and-observed-ocean-heat-content-is-there-a-discrepancy/>  
[SEPP Comment: Is there a discrepancy? YES! Is it significant? YES!]

### ***Changing Weather***

#### **FEMA Director: Frequency of Tornadoes Cyclical, Won't Say If Global Warming Involved**

By Fred Lucas, CNSNews, May 31, 2012 [H/t WUWT]  
<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/fema-director-frequency-tornadoes-cyclical-wont-say-if-global-warming-involved>  
[SEPP Comment: Often restraint is admirable.]

#### **56 Years of Deadly Tornadoes On One Gorgeous Map**

By Mario Aguilar, Gizmodo, May 30, 2012  
<http://gizmodo.com/5914311/56-years-of-deadly-tornadoes-on-one-gorgeous-map>

*[SEPP Comment: The graph of tornado frequency and deaths there from is also interesting.]*

**As hurricane season starts, the FSU hurricane season forecast is the odd man out citing “active”**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jun 1, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/06/01/as-hurricane-season-starts-the-fsu-hurricane-season-forecast-is-the-odd-man-out/#more-64755>

*[SEPP Comment: Becoming one of the orthodoxy.]*

***Changing Climate***

**Climate change led to collapse of ancient Indus civilization**

By Staff Writers, Woods Hole MA (SPX), May 29, 2012

[http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Climate\\_change\\_led\\_to\\_collapse\\_of\\_ancient\\_Indus\\_civilization\\_999.html](http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Climate_change_led_to_collapse_of_ancient_Indus_civilization_999.html)

**Discovery Of Historical Photos Sheds Light On Greenland Ice Loss**

By Staff Writers, Columbus OH (SPX), Jun 01, 2012

[http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Discovery\\_Of\\_Historical\\_Photos\\_Sheds\\_Light\\_On\\_Greenland\\_Ice\\_Loss\\_999.html](http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Discovery_Of_Historical_Photos_Sheds_Light_On_Greenland_Ice_Loss_999.html)

Taken together, the imagery shows that glaciers in the region were melting even faster in the 1930s than they are today,

*[SEPP Comment: The article claims that sulfur pollution probably caused the cooling of Southeast Greenland from 1943 to 1972, and it stopped with the passage of the US Clean Air Act! A global cooling during that period is generally accepted. It is doubtful that the cooling would be stopped by the US Clean Air Act.]*

***Changing Seas***

**Sea Level Rise ~ a spurious notion?**

By Geoff Brown, Climate Sceptics Blog, May 30, 2012

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com/2012/05/sea-level-rise-spurious-notion.html>

*[SEPP Comment: The perceived sea level rise at a Pacific atoll was caused by human activity on the atoll, not an actual rise.]*

***Changing Sea Ice***

**Heavy ice could delay start of Shell Alaska's Arctic drilling**

By Staff Writers, Physorg, May 28, 2012 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://phys.org/news/2012-05-heavy-ice-shell-alaska-arctic.html>

***Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine***

**Groundwater depletion in semiarid regions of Texas and California threatens US food security**

By Staff Writers, Austin TX (SPX), May 30, 2012

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Groundwater\\_depletion\\_in\\_semiarid\\_regions\\_of\\_Texas\\_and\\_California\\_threatens\\_US\\_food\\_security\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Groundwater_depletion_in_semiarid_regions_of_Texas_and_California_threatens_US_food_security_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: As far as food security is concerned, eliminating the mandate for biofuels will do much to enhance food crop production.]*

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

**EU Carbon trading crashes: German bourse closes and Irish end carbon rort**

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, May 29, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/05/eu-carbon-trading-crashes-german-bourse-closes-and-irish-end-carbon-rort/>

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

#### **New York's RPS: High-cost, Ineffectual, and Anti-environmental (30% goal perils)**

By Lisa Linowes, Master Resource, May 31, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/05/new-york-rps-problems/#more-20213>

*[SEPP Comment: New York State's Renewable Portfolio Standard is not reducing electricity rates as the state's politicians and bureaucrats claimed. Further, they overestimated the average capacity of the wind farms: expected 28.8%; delivered 22.7% in 2010 and 23.6% in 2011. One wonders what is the capacity factor when the electricity is needed the most?]*

### **Cleaner Energy**

Editorial, NYT, May 27, 2012 [H/t Dennis Manuta]

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/28/opinion/cleaner-energy.html?emc=eta1>

*[SEPP Comment: The NYT has yet to acknowledge that the US is on course to significantly reduce its dependence on mid-east oil from innovation on private lands, not subsidies and mandates for solar and wind.]*

### ***EPA and other Regulators on the March***

#### **U.S. EPA: Playing Fast and Loose with Health and Welfare**

By Paul Driessen, Master Resource, May 27, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/05/us-epa-vs-health-welfare/#more-20181>

*[SEPP Comment: Washington's energy policies are economically regressive; the poor will pay a greater portion of their income for these policies than the rich.]*

### **EPA's War On Fossil Fuels — Waged With Tax Dollars**

By James Rust, Somewhat Reasonable, May

<http://blog.heartland.org/2012/05/epas-war-on-fossil-fuels-waged-with-tax-dollars/#more-8991>

### **With Alaska's Pebble Partnership, The EPA Waves The Precaution Flag**

By Patrick Michaels, Forbes, May 24, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/patrickmichaels/2012/05/24/with-alaskas-pebble-partnership-the-epa-waves-the-precaution-flag/>

### **EPA holds 12-hour hearings with environmentalists to slow coal production**

By Josh Peterson, Daily Caller, May 24, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://dailycaller.com/2012/05/24/epa-holds-12-hour-hearings-with-environmentalists-to-slow-coal-production/>

*[SEPP Comment: Last week's TWTW gave Ken Haapala's personal perspective. The time limit for written comments is June 25.]*

### **Australian PM: miners don't own minerals**

By Staff Writers, Canberra, Australia (UPI), May 31, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Australian\\_PM\\_miners\\_dont\\_own\\_minerals\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Australian_PM_miners_dont_own_minerals_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Therefore, after licenses are issued the government can tax the industries and the licenses anyway it pleases?]*

### ***Energy Issues – Non-US***

#### **Greens think more supply raises prices**

By Alex Pourbaix, Financial Post, May 25, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/05/25/greens-think-more-supply-raises-prices/>

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

### **If We Only Had a Stable Energy Policy**

By Robert Rapier, Energy Tribune, Jun 1, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/10797/If-We-Only-Had-a-Stable-Energy-Policy>

*[SEPP Comment: One that would prevent innovation?]*

### **Unconventional Energy Meets Conventional Politics: Which Will Win?**

By Steven Hayward, Real Clear Politics, May 16, 2012

[http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2012/05/16/unconventional\\_energy\\_meets\\_conventional\\_politics\\_which\\_will\\_win\\_99670.html](http://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2012/05/16/unconventional_energy_meets_conventional_politics_which_will_win_99670.html)

### **All (Green) Thumbs**

By Jonah Goldberg, Townhall, Jun 1, 2012

[http://townhall.com/columnists/jonahgoldberg/2012/06/01/all\\_green\\_thumbs](http://townhall.com/columnists/jonahgoldberg/2012/06/01/all_green_thumbs)

### **Forget Bain — Obama's public-equity record is the real scandal**

By Marc Thiessen, Washington Post, May 24, 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/forget-bain-obamas-public-equity-record-is-the-real-scandal/2012/05/24/gJQAXnXCnU\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/forget-bain-obamas-public-equity-record-is-the-real-scandal/2012/05/24/gJQAXnXCnU_story.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Surprising for the Washington Post.]*

### **Flexible fuel to end foreign oil dependence**

Domestic energy solutions could slash trade deficit

By Robert McFarlane, Washington Times, May 30, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/may/30/flexible-fuel-to-end-foreign-oil-dependence/>

*[SEPP Comment: Fuel change is happening without subsidies or mandates. Ethanol is damaging small engines, methanol may be worse.]*

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

#### **Golden Rules for a Golden Age of Gas (Released 29 May 2012)**

World Energy Outlook, IEA, May 29, 2012

<http://www.worldenergyoutlook.org/goldenrules/#d.en.27023>

#### **IEA says proper rules can bring gas 'golden age'**

By Staff Writers, London (AFP), May 29, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/IEA\\_says\\_proper\\_rules\\_can\\_bring\\_gas\\_golden\\_age\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/IEA_says_proper_rules_can_bring_gas_golden_age_999.html)

#### ***Major Investors Back IEA Call for 'Golden Rules'***

By Staff Writers, Boston MA (SPX), May 31, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Major\\_Investors\\_Back\\_IEA\\_Call\\_for\\_Golden\\_Rules\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Major_Investors_Back_IEA_Call_for_Golden_Rules_999.html)

#### **Natural gas golden age threatened by pollution: IEA**

By Matthew Brown, Financial Post, May 29, 2012

[http://business.financialpost.com/2012/05/29/canadian-natural-gas-export-potential-may-be-limited-iea/?\\_lsa=98968a53](http://business.financialpost.com/2012/05/29/canadian-natural-gas-export-potential-may-be-limited-iea/?_lsa=98968a53)

*[SEPP Comment: A different view of the same announcement as stated above.]*

#### **New study: Development of shale has saved consumers \$250 billion since '09**

By Staff Writers, Energy in Depth, May 29, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.energyindepth.org/new-study-shale-development-saved-consumers-250-billion-since-2009/>

*[SEPP Comment: Washington is unimpressed. It has been Washington's policy to drive up energy costs to consumers.]*

### **Energy's better mousetrap**

Shale gas boom results from reducing restrictions on the private sector

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, May 30, 2012

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2012/05/30/peter-foster-energys-better-mousetrap/>

### **Drilling boom spurring clean up push**

By Jennifer Dlouhy, Fuel Fix, May 29, 2012

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/05/29/drilling-boom-spurring-clean-up-push/>

### ***Washington's Control of Oil and Gas***

**Analysis: Bush's EPA tougher on oil-and-gas companies than Obama's**

By Ben Geman, The Hill, May 30, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/230139-analysis-bush-epa-tougher-on-oil-and-gas-companies-than-obama>

*[SEPP Comment: A surprise headline. There is a significant difference between vigorously enforcing laws and arbitrarily expanding regulatory power – such as EPA's new rules on carbon dioxide emissions.]*

### ***Return of King Coal?***

**Is There Still a Case for Coal?**

By Robert Bryce, Manhattan Institute, May 2012

[http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/ir\\_13.htm](http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/ir_13.htm)

*[SEPP Comment: Those who declare we need solar and wind for energy security are among the first to demand the shut-down of coal fired utilities – which provide over 40 percent of electricity and depend only on domestic supplies.]*

### **Like a “Friend” and Burn Some Coal**

By Mark Mills, Energy Facts Weekly, May 29, 2012

<http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=29bc7d5d85828d574f86c157a&id=581ab9d862&e=>

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

**A nuclear future?**

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, May 31, 2012

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/nuclear-future>

### **GAO: NRC Should Examine Requirement That Reactor Operators Conduct Probabilistic Risk Assessments**

By Staff Writers, Power News, May 31, 2012

[http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4698.html?hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=2454801&hq\\_l=9&hq\\_v=5e660500d0](http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4698.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2454801&hq_l=9&hq_v=5e660500d0)

### **Japan to decide on nuclear power restart**

By Staff Writers, Tokyo (UPI), May 29, 2012

[http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Japan\\_to\\_decide\\_on\\_nuclear\\_power\\_restart\\_999.html](http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Japan_to_decide_on_nuclear_power_restart_999.html)

### **Germany needs 20 bn euro investment in power grid: operator**

By Staff Writers, Bonn (AFP). May 29, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Germany\\_needs\\_20\\_bn\\_euro\\_investment\\_in\\_power\\_grid\\_operator\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Germany_needs_20_bn_euro_investment_in_power_grid_operator_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Shutting the nuclear plants will require a significant realignment of the grid.]*

### **SMR vendors apply for government funds**

By Staff Writers, WNN, May 22, 2012

[http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NN-SMR\\_vendors\\_apply\\_for\\_government\\_funds-2205124.html](http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NN-SMR_vendors_apply_for_government_funds-2205124.html)

Three developers of small modular reactor (SMR) technology - Babcock & Wilcox, NuScale Nuclear and Westinghouse - have submitted applications to the US Department of Energy (DoE) for funding to support first-of-a-kind engineering, design certification and licensing.

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

#### **NERC: Texas, California, New England Could Face Reliability Issues This Summer**

By Staff Writers, Power News, May 31, 2012

[http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4693.html?hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=2454801&hq\\_l=6&hq\\_v=5e66050d0](http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4693.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2454801&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e66050d0)

*[SEPP Comment: Renewable mandates are not helping Texas.]*

#### **Commerce Dept. Imposes Tariff on Chinese Wind Towers**

By Staff Writers, Power News, May 31, 2012

[http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4691.html?hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=2454801&hq\\_l=5&hq\\_v=5e66050d0](http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4691.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2454801&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e66050d0)

*[SEPP Comment: First solar wars, now wind wars; could they be no win wars?]*

#### **US Antidumping Tariffs Impact Solar Module Shipments to North America**

By Staff Writers, El Segundo CA (SPX), May 31, 2012

[http://www.solardaily.com/reports/US\\_Antidumping\\_Tariffs\\_Impact\\_Solar\\_Module\\_Shipments\\_to\\_North\\_America\\_999.html](http://www.solardaily.com/reports/US_Antidumping_Tariffs_Impact_Solar_Module_Shipments_to_North_America_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Unfortunately, state mandates will continue to require solar and wind.]*

#### **California Tribes Suing to Halt Construction of Wind Factory on Sacred Land**

By Gale Courey Toensing, Indian Country, May 29, 2012 [H/t Catherine French]

[http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/05/29/california-tribes-are-suing-to-halt-the-construction-of-a-wind-factory-on-sacred-land-115296?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_content=california-tribes-are-suing-to-halt-the-construction-of-a-wind-factory-on-sacred-land-115296&utm\\_campaign=fb-posts](http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2012/05/29/california-tribes-are-suing-to-halt-the-construction-of-a-wind-factory-on-sacred-land-115296?utm_medium=social&utm_content=california-tribes-are-suing-to-halt-the-construction-of-a-wind-factory-on-sacred-land-115296&utm_campaign=fb-posts)

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

#### **Can the US Military Afford More Biofuels?**

By Geoffrey Styles, Energy Tribune, May 25, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/10750/Can-the-US-Military-Afford-More-Biofuels?>

*[SEPP Comment: Questioning the Great Green Fleet.]*

### ***Carbon Schemes***

#### **Report: 8 Large-Scale CCS Projects On Track To Begin Operations Within Five Years**

By Staff Writers, Power News, May 31, 2012

[http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4694.html?hq\\_e=el&hq\\_m=2454801&hq\\_l=11&hq\\_v=5e660500d0](http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/4694.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2454801&hq_l=11&hq_v=5e660500d0)

### ***Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC***

***For a full list of articles see [www.NIPCCreport.org](http://www.NIPCCreport.org)***

**How Adult Oyster Exposure to Ocean Acidification Impacts the Response of Their Offspring to Elevated Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>**

Reference: Parker, L.M., Ross, P.M., O'Connor, W.A., Borysko, L., Raftos, D.A. and Portner, H.-O. 2012. Adult exposure influences offspring response to ocean acidification in oysters. *Global Change Biology* 18: 82-92.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/may/29may2012a2.html>

### **Ocean Warming and Acidification Impacts on Western Australian Coral Reefs**

Reference: Cooper, T.F., O'Leary, R.A. and Lough, J.M. 2012. Growth of Western Australian corals in the Anthropocene. *Science* 335: 593-596.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/may/29may2012a3.html>

[SEPP Comment: Increased temperatures apparently lead to increased coral calcification rates and no effect from possible declining alkalinity. The term the Anthropocene is questionable.]

### **Biofuels or Bust**

Reference: Jaeger, W.K. and Egelkraut, T.M. 2011. Biofuel economics in a setting of multiple objectives and unintended consequences. *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 15: 4320-4333.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/may/30may2012a2.html>

Summing things up, therefore, they conclude that "judged on the basis of reducing fossil fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions," their results suggest that U.S. biofuel policies "have been ineffective and highly costly, producing negligible reductions in fossil fuel use and significant increases, rather than decreases, in greenhouse gas emissions."

### **The Effects of Dramatic Climate Change on Marine Planktonic Microbes: A History Lesson**

Reference: Cermeño, P. 2011. Marine planktonic microbes survived climatic instabilities in the past. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* 279: 474-479.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/may/30may2012a4.html>

[SEPP Comment: Surprise, they are tough little creatures.]

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

#### **American Shale Gas Solves Poverty Too**

By Walter Russell Mead, American Interest, May 31, 2012

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2012/05/31/american-shale-gas-solves-poverty-too/>

#### **Surprise! Current Motor Fuel Taxes Exceed the Estimated Social Cost of Carbon (SCC) in Most Industrialized Countries**

By Indur Goklany, Master Resource, May 30, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/05/us-gasoline-taxes-vs-epa-socially-cost-carbon/#more-20120>

[SEPP Comment: To be fair, in the US the justification for the taxes is to pay for road; but, based on the latest information available, about 40% is being diverted for other activities.]

### **Oh Mann!**

#### **Book review: Michael Mann's 'The Hockey Stick and the Climate Wars'**

By Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post, May 25, 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/book-review-michael-manns-the-hockey-stick-and-the-climate-wars/2012/05/25/gJQAIYzQqU\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/book-review-michael-manns-the-hockey-stick-and-the-climate-wars/2012/05/25/gJQAIYzQqU_story.html)

#### **Jeff Masters on Mann and PCA**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, May 18, 2012

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/5/18/jeff-masters-on-mann-and-pca.html>

**This new paper may explain the widespread belief in the value of Michael Mann's methods and the 'bet' on the Hockey Stick**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 28, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/05/28/this-new-paper-may-explain-the-widespread-belief-in-the-value-of-michael-manns-methods-and-the-bet-on-the-hockey-stick/>

[SEPP Comment: The paper is on gambling.]

### ***Environmental Industry***

#### **Der Spiegel Skewers the World Wildlife Fund**

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, May 30, 2012

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2012/05/30/der-spiegel-skewers-the-world-wildlife-fund/>

[SEPP Comment: A summary of the lengthy article linked below.]

#### **WWF Helps Industry More than Environment**

By Jens Glüsing and Nils Klawitter, Der Spiegel, May 29, 2012 [H/t Donna Laframboise]

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/wwf-helps-industry-more-than-environment-a-835712.html>

The WWF is the most powerful environmental organization in the world and campaigns internationally on issues such as saving tigers and rain forests. But a closer look at its work leads to a sobering conclusion: Many of its activities benefit industry more than the environment or endangered species.

### ***Other Scientific News***

#### **CryoSat goes to sea**

By Staff Writers, ESA, May 28, 2012

[http://www.esa.int/esaLP/SEM037ZWD2H\\_LPcryosat\\_0.html](http://www.esa.int/esaLP/SEM037ZWD2H_LPcryosat_0.html)

[SEPP Comment: Mapping the sea floor. Will it find many previously unknown volcanoes?]

#### **American Physics Dreams Deferred**

By Dennis Overbye, NYT, May 21, 2012

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/22/science/american-scientists-fear-losing-edge-in-physics.html?\\_r=2&hp=&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1338228834-ByKfngn/Drftfyb9leNZvCg](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/22/science/american-scientists-fear-losing-edge-in-physics.html?_r=2&hp=&adxnnl=1&adxnnlx=1338228834-ByKfngn/Drftfyb9leNZvCg)

[SEPP Comment: The enormous spending on questionable global warming / climate change is taking a toll on other science.]

#### **Electric Moon Jolts the Solar Wind**

By Bill Steigerwald for Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt MD (SPX) Jun 01, 2012

[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Electric\\_Moon\\_Jolts\\_the\\_Solar\\_Wind\\_999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Electric_Moon_Jolts_the_Solar_Wind_999.html)

#### **Scientists Discover the "Vitamin B12 Claw"**

Newfound protein is key for algae growth in the ocean

By Lonny Lippsett, Oceanus, May 31, 2012

<http://www.who.edu/oceanus/viewArticle.do?id=139531&sectionid=1021>

[SEPP Comment: The discussion of carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas reduces the possible importance of the finding. Increased carbon dioxide creates a more robust environment!]

#### **Landslides linked to plate tectonics create the steepest mountain terrain**

By Staff Writers, Seattle WA (SPX), Jun 01, 2012

[http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Landslides\\_linked\\_to\\_plate\\_tectonics\\_create\\_the\\_steepest\\_mountain\\_terrain\\_999.html](http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Landslides_linked_to_plate_tectonics_create_the_steepest_mountain_terrain_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: No surprise here.]

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

#### **No 16-oz sugary drinks for you, New Yorkers**

By Staff Writers, Health Facts and Fears, May 31, 2012

[http://www.acsh.org/factsfears/newsID.3662/news\\_detail.asp](http://www.acsh.org/factsfears/newsID.3662/news_detail.asp)

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**BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

**Astrologers Say Celestial Charts Favor Obama Over Romney**

By Greg McCune, Reuters, Published in NYT, May 29, 2012

[http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2012/05/29/us/politics/29reuters-usa-campaign-astrologers.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2012/05/29/us/politics/29reuters-usa-campaign-astrologers.html?_r=1)

[SEPP Comment: *The Gray Lady is getting desperate. As suggested by Best of the Web, is global warming next? Or have they already predicted it?*]

**Warm, dry El Nino weather puts baby sea turtle at risk**

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), May 31, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Warm\\_dry\\_El\\_Nino\\_weather\\_puts\\_baby\\_sea\\_turtle\\_at\\_risk\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Warm_dry_El_Nino_weather_puts_baby_sea_turtle_at_risk_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: *No scientific support for the claim that El Ninos will become more common.*]

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**ARTICLES:**

**1. Your Post on Heartland. Plus: Fred Singer to Chicago Sun-Times**

By Joe Bast, Heartland Institute to Judith Curry, May 25, 2012

Dr. Curry,

Thanks for reproducing in your recent post my account of the left’s attacks on our scientists and donors. It’s a story that isn’t getting nearly enough attention in the blogosphere. I’m disappointed, though, that you also reproduced, at length and even endorsed, the lies and distortions written about us by Suzanne Goldenberg. A simple call or email to me or Jim Lakely would have given us a chance to correct her many misstatements.

I won’t ask for a correction or apology, but please understand that ...

(a) Concerning ICCC-7, we set a record for the number of cosponsors (60), 12 speakers asked to speak after only 2 withdrew, and the mood was decidedly upbeat. Opponents (including “Forecast the Facts” and Occupy Wall Street) promised to disrupt the conference and failed utterly – fewer than 50 people showed up for their rallies. Those who did show up wore boots on their heads and refused Christopher Monckton’s invitation to debate.

(b) You didn’t see many new faces on the program because 50 warmists invited to speak refused to show up, and we had set aside space on the program for them. I’ve said after nearly every conference since the 3<sup>rd</sup> one that “this is probably our last conference,” and I’ve made a fundraising pitch, because the ICCCs are expensive and I suspect they are subject to the law of diminishing returns, but we keep doing them due to popular demand. Stay tuned for news about ICCC-8.

(c) Concerning Heartland’s financial health, we’ve raised more money since the Fakegate incident than in the previous 11 months, and are on track to double our income this year. We’ve doubled the number of current donors since February. With only one exception so far, the donors we’ve lost either didn’t give in 2011 (or even in 2010) or have agreed to fund spin-off organizations we are creating, such as the R Street Institute, so the result is no net loss of our effectiveness, and actually an increase.

(d) The campaign against our directors and donors being conducted by “Forecast the Facts,” 350.org, and Greenpeace – not by “anonymous individuals” as you strangely suggest – in fact is unprecedented because it could not have occurred had not Peter Gleick stolen and revealed our donor list. But we are obviously well on our way to building a new and much larger donor base that is “Greenpeace proof.”

(e) Our PR response to Fakegate has been called “brilliant” even by the folks at DesmogBlog. History will record it as another major scandal that helped bring down the man-made global warming movement. But the MSM and environmental groups doubled down on their strategic mistake, understanding that the only way to prevent Fakegate from “becoming another Climategate” is to take down Heartland and its network of scientists and donors. Their tactics compelled us to match their intensity.

(f) I am not surprised or disappointed that you and other bloggers disapprove of our tactics. It is simply not your role in the controversy to be aggressive or controversial. But it is ours.

(g) The billboard, which cost \$200, generated more than \$5 million in earned media so far, and that figure doesn’t include television, radio, and tens of millions of page visits and online commentaries. Was the MSM coverage overwhelmingly negative? Of course. How could it be otherwise? There has been no positive coverage of skeptics since Fakegate broke, none at all, and reporters have made it clear that they will not report the debate fairly, so there is no longer any point in trying to appeal to their ethics or honesty. Thanks to the billboard, 37 million Americans now know that the debate over climate change continues.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me or Jim Lakely if you have questions or suggestions.

Joseph Bast

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To the Editor of the Chicago Sun-Times

Re: Billboard likening believers in global warming to criminals pulled  
BY TINA SFONDELES Transportation reporter tsfondeles@suntimes.com May 5, 2012  
<http://www.suntimes.com/news/transportation/12340958-418/billboard-likening-believers-in-global-warming-to-criminals-pulled.html>

I have only two questions. My first one is: Is it true? Is the Unabomber really a passionate believer in [human-caused] Global Warming?  
I suppose so -- but I have not read his manifesto.

My other question: Is this a good way to inform the public that believers in GW are not necessarily wonderful, caring people? In other words, does the billboard message counter the propaganda that if you really care about the planet and humanity, you must accept the results of mathematical models that the climate will undergo catastrophic warming in the next decade (or century -- take your pick) -- destroying life on Earth as we know it (according to some).

There may be better ways to inform the public; I just don't know. I am a climate scientist and not an expert on PR. All I know is that thermometers show no warming since at least 1998 and that therefore model results are suspect.

If that makes me a climate skeptic -- and evil (in some people's eyes), so be it.

*Full disclosure: The Heartland Institute is the publisher of some of my climate books and pays me author’s royalties.*

S. Fred Singer  
Prof Emeritus, U of VA

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## **2. Romney’s historic opportunity**

Plan for low-cost energy will fuel economic recovery

By Fred Singer, Washington Times, May 29, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/may/29/romneys-historic-opportunity/?page=all#pagebreak>

Energy, the lifeblood of the economy, is President Obama's Achilles heel. Mitt Romney should hit him hard, spelling out a coherent policy of low-cost, secure energy that would boost the U.S. economy, ensure jobs and prosperity, and raise people up from poverty. He should pledge specific goals: lower gasoline prices, cheaper household electricity, cheaper fertilizer for farmers and lower food prices for everybody, cheaper transport fuels for aviation and for trucking, and lower raw-material costs for the chemical industry.

### Obama has made it easy for Romney

It's a winning situation for Mr. Romney - Mr. Obama already has provided him most of the ammunition:

Under Mr. Obama, the price of gasoline has more than doubled, from \$1.80 a gallon. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu wanted the price to rise to "European levels of \$8 to \$10."

He vetoed the Keystone XL pipeline, which would have brought much-needed, secure oil from Canada to Gulf Coast refineries and created "shovel-ready" jobs.

He has kept much federal land off-limits for oil and gas production - particularly in Alaska and offshore.

Even where exploration is permitted, drilling permits face bureaucratic opposition.

In his 2008 campaign, Mr. Obama promised that electricity prices would "skyrocket." He kept his promise - with help from the misguided Renewable Electricity Standard, which forces utilities to buy costly "green" power from solar/wind projects.

Mr. Obama also promised that coal-fired electric plants would go "bankrupt" - thanks to extreme, onerous regulations. The latest Environmental Protection Agency plan stops new construction by setting impossible-to-obtain emission limits for carbon dioxide. EPA likely will use the CO2 excuse to close down existing coal-fired plants - and may even prevent construction of power plants fired by natural gas (as the California Public Utilities Commission has decided).

One already can see signs of impending EPA efforts to stop exploitation of shale gas, claiming that "fracking" causes water pollution.

The Obama administration from top to bottom seems possessed by pathological fear of catastrophic climate change and obsessed with the idea that no matter what happens to the economy or jobs, it must stop emission of carbon dioxide.

### What Romney must do to win the November election

Mr. Romney can confidently promise to reduce the price of gasoline to \$2.50 a gallon. The world price of oil would have to fall below \$60 a barrel from its present \$90. That's entirely possible because the low price of natural gas - down to \$2 per 1,000 cubic feet from its 2008 peak of \$13 - is helping relieve demand for oil. Many wells also produce high-value oil and natural gas liquids, so natural gas becomes a byproduct that can be profitably sold at even lower prices.

Natural gas currently sells for less than 15 percent of the average price of crude oil, on an energy per British thermal unit basis. It pays to replace oil-based fuels, such as diesel and gasoline, with either

liquefied natural gas or compressed natural gas - for heavy road vehicles, earth movers, diesel-electric trains, buses and fleet vehicles. Lower prices also make it profitable to convert natural gas directly to gasoline or diesel. Direct conversion would use the existing distribution infrastructure; the technology is proven and commercially feasible. Forget about methanol, hydrogen and other exotics.

At present, 60 percent of all imported energy expenditures are for oil. The U.S. can become not only energy-independent but even an exporter of fuels - with a huge improvement in balance of payments.

Mr. Romney can confidently promise that he will cut the price of electricity in half - not only through low-priced natural gas but also by the much higher efficiency of gas-fired power plants. They can easily reach 60 percent efficiency or more, compared to the present 35 percent to 40 percent for nuclear or coal-fired plants. Higher efficiencies reduce not only the cost of fuel per kilowatt hour but effectively lower the capital cost per kilowatt.

Even greater efficiencies are possible if such plants are located in urban centers. "Co-generation" would use the heat normally discharged into the environment (and wasted) for hot water, space heating and many other applications. Such "distributed generation" also improves security against terrorism and simplifies disposal of waste heat.

Low-cost natural gas also produces cheap fertilizer for farmers, thus lowering food prices, and feedstock for chemical plants, for cheaper plastics and other basic materials. Industries can now return to the United States and provide jobs locally.

To win election, Mr. Romney must convey this optimistic outlook to the voting public.

*S. Fred Singer is professor emeritus at the University of Virginia and director of the Science & Environmental Policy Project. An expanded version of this commentary can be found on [americanthinker.com](http://americanthinker.com).*

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### **3. Renewable Energy Can't Run the Cloud**

Data centers now consume about 1.3% of all global electricity.

By Robert Bryce, WSJ, May 28,, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303610504577420251668850864.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_LEFTTopOpinion](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303610504577420251668850864.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFTTopOpinion)

*[SEPP Comment: Many in Washington do not recognize that modern communications, including the Cloud, require reliable, affordable electricity.]*

Before Facebook's recent initial public offering, the media obsessed over superlatives. It was the largest-ever IPO for a U.S. technology company. It was the third-largest in U.S. history. And now the obsession is over the company's lackluster revenue prospects and possible misconduct by investment bankers involved in the offering.

Missing here is any awareness of the enormous quantities of electricity Facebook and other data-intensive technology companies require. Those requirements expose a fundamental mismatch between the high-power-density world of Big Data and the low-density electricity production inherent in most renewable energy projects.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Feb. 1, Facebook said that it stores more than 100 petabytes of information. (That's 100 million gigabytes.) Facebook spreads that gargantuan quantity of data among a handful of warehouse-size data centers filled with servers located in Virginia, California and Oregon. The company's new data center is a 300,000 square-foot facility in Prineville, Ore., that draws 28 megawatts, enough power for about 28,000 homes.

That's not unusual. The power needed by data centers has been a hot topic for more than a decade as local electricity grids have been forced to adapt to huge new loads. Google alone reports that it operates 11 data centers in six states and five foreign countries that require some 260 megawatts of power, enough for 260,000 homes.

As more computing moves into the "cloud"—the network of data centers that deliver information and software to our mobile devices and computers—electricity use is soaring. Data centers now consume about 1.3% of all global electricity. That amount of energy, about 277 terawatt-hours per year, exceeds the electricity use of dozens of countries, including Australia and Mexico.

And that quantity of energy will continue to grow. Intel expects the number of devices connected to the Internet—ranging from smartphones to GPS-enabled locaters on shipping containers—to grow to 15 billion by 2015 from 2.5 billion today.

Last month, Greenpeace issued a report called "How Clean is Your Cloud?" The environmental group graded a series of technology companies, including Facebook, Apple, Dell, Amazon and others, on the percentage of what it calls "dirty energy" used by their data centers. Greenpeace—which, of course, has a Facebook page—gave the social-media company a "D" for what it calls "energy transparency." It is also claiming to have convinced Facebook to "unfriend" coal-fired electricity.

Never mind that 40% of all global electricity production comes from coal. Let's consider what the "clean energy" footprint of one of these big data centers might look like.

Apple has touted its plan to use solar energy to help run its massive new data center in Maiden, N.C. But in a recent blog post ([perspectives.mvdirona.com](http://perspectives.mvdirona.com)) titled "I Love Solar Power But," James Hamilton, a vice president and engineer on Amazon's Web services team, calculated that the 500,000 square-foot facility would need about 6.5 square miles of solar panels.

He noted that setting aside that kind of space in densely populated regions, where many data centers are built, is "ridiculous" and would be particularly difficult because the land couldn't have any trees or structures that could cast shadows on the panels.

Wind? An average wind-energy project has an electricity-generating capacity of about two watts per square meter. Even assuming that a wind project produces electricity 100% of the time (it won't), Facebook's data center in Prineville would need a wind project covering about 14 million square meters, nearly 5.5 square miles, or about four times the size of New York City's Central Park.

The mismatch between the power demands of Big Data and the renewable-energy darlings of the moment are obvious. U.S. data centers are now consuming about 86 terawatt-hours of electricity per year, or about 43 times as much electricity as is produced by all the solar-energy projects in America.

"Clean energy" is a great friend for Facebook, Apple and every other energy consumer in America—as long as those consumers don't use much energy at all.

*Mr. Bryce is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute. His latest book is "Power Hungry: The Myths of 'Green' Energy and the Real Fuels of the Future" (Public Affairs, 2010).*

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#### **4. U.S. Gas Exports Put on Back Burner**

By Tennille Tracy, WSJ, May 30, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304821304577436470209675022.html?mod=WSJ\\_Energy\\_leftHeadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304821304577436470209675022.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines)

*[SEPP Comment: The administration is playing the political game.]*

The Obama administration is telling Japan and other allied countries they will have to wait before moving forward on plans to buy American natural gas, people involved in the talks said.

A dramatic increase in U.S. natural-gas production has led several U.S. companies, including Sempra Energy and Dominion Resources Inc, to seek permits from the Department of Energy to export gas to countries that lack free-trade agreements with the U.S. Exxon Mobil Corp. Chief Executive Rex Tillerson said Wednesday his company was looking at exporting from the U.S. Gulf Coast and Canada.

Sempra and Dominion are working with Japanese partners that want to import the gas as their country looks for new power sources. The U.S. currently exports relatively small amounts of natural gas via pipelines to Canada and Mexico, but a wave of recent export proposals marks the first time in decades that companies have sought to liquefy U.S. gas and transport it overseas.

But exports have become a hot-button topic for some lawmakers in Washington and have highlighted uncertainty about what kind of energy power the U.S. wants to become as companies unearth huge supplies of natural gas in shale rock.

"We are going to have to answer some basic questions about our role as a producer," Michael Levi, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, said. "The fact that some of these debates have been so difficult stems from their novelty."

Japan's prime minister raised the gas-export issue with President Barack Obama at an April 30 meeting, one of several occasions on which Tokyo has pushed the administration.

But the U.S. has told Japan, a leading military ally in the Pacific, it will have to wait, in large part because of the political sensitivities, participants in the talks said.

"I think it's going to require more people taking a look at it," an administration official said, adding, "We're very sympathetic to Japan. They're in a very difficult situation."

Following the disaster at its Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant last year, Japan pulled the plug on all of its nuclear reactors, forcing it to replace a power source that generated about 30% of its electricity. The government is studying whether to restart some of the reactors, but nuclear power is likely to play a smaller role in five or 10 years.

That is when the U.S. natural gas could start arriving, but only if the U.S. grants permits to export terminals that would liquefy the gas for shipping across the Pacific.

Japan isn't the only country waiting. "The requests come from everywhere," the administration official said. Natural gas is much cheaper in the U.S. than in Europe and Asia, where the fuel's value is often tied to the price of oil. Companies importing American gas would be able to reduce costs with contracts tied to the lower U.S. prices.

Mr. Tillerson laid out the case for exports at Exxon's shareholder meeting Wednesday, saying they would create jobs and help the U.S. trade balance. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, a Republican from Alaska, asked President Obama in April to expedite permits for natural-gas exports. She said exports could give Alaska a market for gas from its North Slope, which lacks a gas pipeline to the lower 48 states.

Opponents, including Rep. Ed Markey of Massachusetts and some other congressional Democrats, say the U.S. could boost its energy security by keeping its natural gas at home. Oil-and-gas entrepreneur T. Boone Pickens, in an interview, objected to the idea of selling the gas at a discount to global prices. "You're kind of giving your own stuff away, and it's stupid to do that," said Mr. Pickens, who wants U.S. trucks to use natural gas.

Japanese officials said they recognized the Obama administration's political challenges.

"It is difficult for the U.S. to say yes [to exports] because of the presidential election," said Hirohide Hirai, director of the petroleum and natural-gas division of Japan's economy ministry. "There won't be any deal with any country before November."

U.S. officials say they are weighing how exports would affect job creation, trade and the domestic price of natural gas. A price spike would hurt consumers and weaken a competitive advantage enjoyed by U.S. manufacturers that use natural gas as a raw material. An Energy Department assessment is due later this year, and an administration official said decisions will follow in a "timely manner."

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### **5. Sierra Clubs Natural Gas**

The green lobby picks its next fossil fuel target.

Editorial, WSJ, May 30, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304363104577390432521371296.html?mod=ITP\\_opinion\\_2](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304363104577390432521371296.html?mod=ITP_opinion_2)

The media are finally catching up to America's shale natural gas boom, with even Fortune magazine waddling in with a cover story. But the bigger recent news is that one of the most powerful environmental lobbies, the Sierra Club, is mounting a major campaign to kill the industry.

The battle plan is called "Beyond Natural Gas," and Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune announced the goal in an interview with the National Journal this month: "We're going to be preventing new gas plants from being built wherever we can." The big green lobbying machine has rolled out a new website that says "The natural gas industry is dirty, dangerous and running amok" and that "The closer we look at natural gas, the dirtier it appears; and the less of it we burn, the better off we will be." So the goal is to shut the industry down, not merely to impose higher safety standards.

This is no idle threat. The Sierra Club has deep pockets funded by liberal foundations and knows how to work the media and politicians. The lobby helped to block new nuclear plants for more than 30 years, it has kept much of the U.S. off-limits to oil drilling, and its "Beyond Coal" campaign has all but shut down new coal plants. One of its priorities now will be to make shale gas drilling anathema within the Democratic Party.

The political irony is that not too long ago the Sierra Club and other greens portrayed natural gas as the good fossil fuel. The Sierra Club liked natural gas so much (and vice versa) that from 2007-2010 the group received \$26 million in donations from Chesapeake Energy and others in the gas industry, according to an analysis by the Washington Post. Some of that money was for the Beyond Coal campaign.

One reason for this once-mutual affection is that natural gas produces much less carbon emissions than does coal—and the Sierra Club claims to want fewer such emissions.

The federal Energy Information Administration reports that in 2009 "the 4% drop in the carbon intensity of the electric power sector, the largest in recent times, reflects a large increase in the use of lower-carbon natural gas because of an almost 50% decline in its price." The Department of Energy reports that natural gas electric plants produce 45% less carbon than coal plants, though newer coal plants are much cleaner.

Researchers at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences found that electric power plants reduced their greenhouse gases by 8.76% in 2009 alone. Most of the carbon reduction was driven not by mandates or regulation but by the economics of lower gas prices. The lead researcher, professor Michael McElroy, says: "Generating one kilowatt-hour of electricity from coal releases twice as much CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere as generating the same amount from natural gas, so a slight shift in the relative price of coal and natural gas can result in a sharp drop in carbon emissions."

Even the liberal Union of Concerned Scientists admits benefits from burning natural gas, finding that the resulting drop in emissions from sulfur, mercury and nitrogen oxides "translate into public health benefits, as these pollutions have been linked with problems such as asthma, bronchitis, lung cancer and heart disease for hundreds of thousands of Americans."

So why is the Sierra Club suddenly portraying natural gas as a villain? The answer surely is the industry's drilling success. The greens were happy to support natural gas as a "bridge fuel to the 21st century" when it cost \$8 or more per million BTUs and seemed to be in limited domestic supply.

But now that the hydraulic fracturing and shale revolution has sent gas prices down to \$2.50, the lobby fears natural gas will come to dominate U.S. energy production. At that price, the Sierra Club's Valhalla of wind, solar and biofuel power may never be competitive. So the green left has decided it must do everything it can to reduce the supply of gas and keep its price as high as possible.

The losers if this effort succeeds would be the millions of Americans who are benefitting from the shale boom. Shale gas supports some 600,000 jobs in the natural gas industry, according to an analysis by the consulting firm IHS Global Insight. That's almost eight times more jobs than are employed by the wind industry.

But the losers would also include electricity consumers paying lower prices at home; the steel workers in Youngstown, Ohio who have been rehired to make pipe for gas drillers in the Marcellus Shale; and the thousands of high-paying jobs in chemicals, fertilizer and other manufacturing that is returning to the U.S. because natural gas prices are so much lower.

The Sierra Club campaign underscores that the modern green agenda is about far more than clean air and water and protecting wildlife. The real goal is to ban all fossil fuels—regardless of economic cost. It's hard to imagine a campaign that poses a greater threat to the U.S. economy, energy security and American health.

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