

The Week That Was: 2013-01-12 (January 12, 2013)
Brought to You by SEPP (www.SEPP.org)
The Science and Environmental Policy Project

#####

Quote of the Week: *We do not believe any group of men adequate enough or wise enough to operate without scrutiny or without criticism. We know that the only way to avoid error is to detect it, that the only way to detect it is to be free to inquire. We know that in secrecy error undetected will flourish and subvert.* —J Robert Oppenheimer.

#####

Number of the Week: 9,500 in 2012. Ten year average: 106,000

#####

SAVE THE DATE: February 2 -- 1:30 to 3:30 A SEPP / VA-SEEE presentation on National and Virginia Energy Issues. At the Conference Center, Norfolk International Airport, 2200 Norview Avenue Norfolk, VA. Details to Follow.

#####

THIS WEEK:

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

British MET Office: The MET Office has come under severe criticism for two sets of predictions, some of the criticism is justified and some is not. The MET office made very inaccurate predictions of precipitation and drought. The biggest fault with the MET office appears to be its overconfidence in its short term predictions. As repeated many times, regional models have shown little skill in predicting beyond 10 days.

Using Environment Canada predictions Tim Ball illustrates this general failure. As he states, the issue is not the lack of computational power. “The real problems are inadequate data, lack of understanding of most major mechanisms, incorrect assumptions, and a determination to prove, instead of falsify, the AGW hypothesis.” The AGW hypothesis is that man’s emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂), are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming.

The second, and major, set of criticisms pertained to an adjustment in MET’s 2011 mid-term global temperature forecasts. During 2012, the MET has modified its global climate model to reflect more current temperatures and, apparently, incorporate changes in ocean currents and other natural causes of global warming / climate change. These changes lead to a forecast that there would be no warming trend to 2017 – something quite different than the previous forecast. The MET is to be congratulated in its efforts to break from the dogma of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and its acolytes, who insist that GHG control climate, except for a slight variation in sunlight. It is doubtful if the now almost non-existent predictive ability of the climate models can be improved without breaking from the IPCC dogma.

Unfortunately, the MET made the change without any announcement, on Christmas Eve. The change was picked-up the blogger, Tallbloke, who recognized its significance (Amusingly, Tallbloke was identified by the police as a person of interest in the investigation of the Climategate leaks.) If the new MET forecast proves correct and, since there has been no surface warming trend in the data compiled by the MET Hadley Center and the Climatic Research Unit (CRU), this would mean no warming trend for two decades, contradicting all predictions of a dire future of runaway warming.

Prediction in the chaotic non-linear climate system is extremely difficult, and failure is to be expected, and admired with corrected. The independence of the MET in adjusting its model should be welcomed by all. Please see links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Models v. Observations.

The Sun: A second note of encouragement this week came with the publication of the papers produced during a NASA conference on solar variability and the earth's climate. The papers suggested that even small variation in luminosity of the sun (0.1%) can have a significant influence on the earth's climate. For example, ultraviolet radiation can vary by factors of 10 or more which can have a large effect on the chemistry and thermal structure of the upper atmosphere, and, in turn, on the earth's climate.

Unfortunately, the publication contained what is now an almost mandatory disclaimer in government climate science: "no satellite measurements have indicated that solar output and variability have contributed in a significant way to the increase in global mean temperature in the past 50 years." As support for the statement the report cites the work of lead authors of the IPCC Summary for Policymakers and "American's Climate Choices" by the National Research Council. The latter report has little scientific rigor.

However, recognition that the sun's contribution to the earth's climate is complex, varied, and not well understood goes far beyond typical IPCC dogma. Please see links under Science: Is the Sun Rising?

The Race to the Bottom: In the run-up to the Doha conference, which, thankfully, failed; a number of organizations, considered scientific, made ever more outlandish predictions of future temperatures if humans keep emitting CO₂. Half jokingly, TWTW suggested that there may be a race among these organizations, which would be the most outlandish. If there was, the World Bank was probably the winner with a prediction of a warming as much as 4 deg C (7.2 deg F). Recently World Bank President Jim Yong Kim announced that he was so taken by prediction that he wishes the Bank to participate in a master plan to avoid temperature increases and sea level rise. Please see link under Expanding the Orthodoxy.

This week there seems to be a new race afoot. Which scientific organization is willing to rid itself of the burdens of scientific rigor and / or integrity the fastest? Several of the participants and their qualifications are listed below.

NOAA's State of the Climate (SOTC): As discussed in last week's TWTW, John Christy reported that for the US, except Hawaii, 2012 was the hottest in the 34 year old satellite record and the 9th warmest year globally. In its report, NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) announced that for the US, 2012 was the hottest ever and the second worse for extreme weather events. NOAA claims the records go back to 1895.

NOAA's announcement was immediately picked up by the global warming chorus, demanding the government take greater control over the climate, namely reduce CO₂ emissions. The mechanism by which atmospheric CO₂ controls the severe cold occurring in Eurasia is not clear.

There are several major issues with the NOAA report, which are discussed in the links below and few mentioned here. NOAA made no effort to bring out that the US temperatures are inconsistent with global temperatures. Globally, 2012 is far from the hottest ever. Further, NOAA made no mention that, globally, severe weather events were down significantly.

Further, NOAA has demonstrated that there are significant issues with its temperature record, with manipulation of historic data, changing instruments sites, and poor siting of instruments that make them subject to small changes in the surroundings. One of the biggest issues is the severity of the heat and drought in the 1930s. Earlier, NOAA announced July 2012 was the hottest July ever, only to quietly back down as it became evident that July 1938 was hotter. We can expect that NOAA's announcement will be modified in the near future, but without major press releases – the damage to science and credibility already complete. Please see links under Defending the Orthodoxy and Questioning the Orthodoxy.

Science Magazine: At the end of an essay on scientific breakthroughs in 2012, Editor-in-Chief Bruce Alberts states a parallel between public acceptance that cigarette smoking causes lung cancer and CO2 cause global warming. Alberts fails to acknowledge that the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer was established by rigorous statistical analysis with adherence to strict principles as articulated by Sir Bradford Hill. There has been no rigorous statistical relationship established between CO2 emissions and global warming, particularly if all of the current warm period, the Holocene, is considered. Further, there has been no global warming of the atmosphere for at least a decade and no surface warming for 16 years as reported in HadCRU data. Failure to note these salient facts demonstrates the bias of the author. Please see link under Defending the Orthodoxy and for a brief statement of some of the strict principles, as articulated by John Brignell http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/big_liars.htm

IPCC AR5 – Working Group II: The IPCC has announced its displeasure with the leak of the draft of the AR5 report by Working Group II, which “assesses the scientific, technical, environmental, economic and social aspects of the vulnerability (sensitivity and adaptability) to climate change of, and the negative and positive consequences for, ecological systems, socio-economic sectors and human health, with an emphasis on regional sectoral and cross-sectoral issues.” <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/>. It should. The leak reveals the usual gang of environmental suspects from WWF, Greenpeace, etc. The leak appeared on Donna Laframboise's web site. Please see links under IPCC Leak.

MIT Technology Review: The editors of the review sent President Obama a letter with statements such as: “It's time to acknowledge that green jobs were always just political cover for that motive. You must say unambiguously that the real reason to transform our energy system is to avoid the most catastrophic effects of global warming.” Obviously, these editors may know more about technology than the physics of global warming.

Draft U.S. Climate Assessment Report: This report, released on Friday, predicts a rise in temperatures of up to 10 deg F (5.6 C) by the end of the century. A quick glance suggests it may have all of the rigor of a report, done under Al Gore while he was Vice President, by a predecessor organization to the U.S. Global Change Research Program. That report was the first which the courts ruled did not meet the requirements of the US Data Quality Act also called Information Quality Act. Please see links under Defending the Orthodoxy.

American Geophysical Union (AGU): It pains members of SEPP to add the once distinguished AGU to this list. But the new leadership of that organization has made Michael Mann a Fellow and invited the likes of John Cook, Peter Gleick, Stephan Lewandowsky, and Naomi Oreskes to speak at its convention. No doubt the new leadership of the AGU will NOT invite long time AGU Fellow Fred Singer to rebut the false claims Oreskes made attacking the integrity of four distinguished scientists, three of whom are deceased. Please see links under Defending the Orthodoxy.

Al Gore: Mr. Gore does not come under the list. But the sale of the television channel in which he is an investor and promoter to a news group backed by the oil rich nation of Qatar demonstrates the cynicism and opportunism of many promoters of global warming / climate change and alternative energy. Please see links under Other News that May Be of Interest.

Corrections and Amplifications: Last week TWTW promised the specific comments on IPCC AR5 from five-time expert reviewer Vincent Gray. They will appear next week. Instead, his history with the IPCC can be found under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Bulldog Christopher Horner, who finally got the EPA to begin releasing emails under secret accounts, said the correct number is 12,000 emails, not 7100 as TWTW reported. And this is only the beginning.

Reader Anton Garrett requested a reference for the effectiveness of indoor spraying DDT in controlling malaria in tropical nations. A web search produced no concise history, but a 2000 report of the dilemma that banning DDT causes can be found: “Balancing risks on the backs of the poor,” by Attaran, et al, Nature Medicine, Jul 2000,

<http://www.malaria.org/attarannaturemed.html>

Number of the Week: 9,500 in 2012, ten year average: 106,000. These are the number of deaths world-wide from natural catastrophes as reported by the largest re-insurer of insurance companies, Munich Re. “Some 67% of overall losses and 90% of insured losses were attributable to the USA – the respective averages are 32% and 57%.” 2012 was an extraordinary year for the US, not a typical year or a trend. Sandy was the biggest loss because it hit one of the most vulnerable points in the US. The global warming chorus has no basis for using US weather events as proof that government control of GHG, particularly CO2, is needed. Please see link under Changing Weather.

#####

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. Bernie Sanders's Windy Letter Blows a Lot of Hot Air

By Charles Battig, VA-SEEE, Letter WSJ, Jan 10, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323374504578221670878789696.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_1

2 The Kyoto Scorecard

The U.N.'s anticarbon scheme didn't work out as planned.

Editorial, WSJ, Jan 4, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323374504578219180748528630.html#mod=djemEditorialPage_t

3. The EPA Is Politicized—So Make It Official

This federal regulatory agency, like many others, would be better run by a bipartisan commission.

By Steven Hayward, WSJ, Jan 8, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323320404578216034024416590.html?mod=ITP_opinion_0

#####

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

NASA on the sun: ‘...tiny variations can have a significant effect on terrestrial climate.’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 9, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/09/nasa-on-the-sun-tiny-variations-can-have-a-significant-effect-on-terrestrial-climate/>

Link to full report: The Effects of Solar Variability on Earth's Climate: A Workshop Report

By Committee on the Effects of Solar Variability on Earth's Climate; Space Studies Board;

Division on Engineering and Physical Science; National Research Council

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13519

Sun's 2013 Solar Storm Peak Expected to Hit Century Low

By Elizabeth Howell, Space.com, Jan 4, 2013

<http://news.yahoo.com/suns-2013-solar-storm-peak-expected-hit-century-150744846.html>

Climategate Continued

Duke C [Climate Audit reader] Punctures More Attempted UEA Obtuseness

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jan 11, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/01/11/duke-c-and-more-uea-obtuseness/#more-17331>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Wrong Prediction, Wrong Science; Unless It's Government Climate Science.

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Jan 8, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/08/wrong-prediction-wrong-science-unless-its-government-climate-science/>

The IPCC - a history

NZ Climate Truth Newsletter No 303

By Vincent Gray, NCTCS, Jan 7, 2013

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2013/01/the-ipcc-history-by-ipcc-expert.html>

Unique paper looks for natural factors in station data—shows significant probabilities of natural signal

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 10, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/10/unique-paper-looks-for-natural-factors-in-station-datashows-significant-probabilities-of-natural-signal/>

Link to paper: How Natural is the Recent Centennial Warming? An Analysis of 2249 Surface, Temperature Records, By Horst-Joachim Lüdecke, Rainer Link, and Friedrich-Karl Ewert, EIKE
http://www.eike-klima-energie.eu/uploads/media/How_natural.pdf

New Study Finds No Significant Human-Induced Warming

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Jan 5, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2013/01/new-study-finds-no-significant-human-induced-warming.php>

Link to paper: Polynomial cointegration tests of anthropogenic impact on global warming

By Beenstock, Reingewertz, and Paldor; <http://www.earth-syst-dynam-discuss.net/3/561/2012/esdd-3-561-2012.html>

“This implies that recent global warming is not statistically significantly related to anthropogenic forcing. On the other hand, we find that greenhouse gas forcing might have had a temporary effect on global temperature.”

New PIK logic from Potsdam: Heavier snowfalls causing glacier shrinkage (and when you eat more, you lose weight)

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt, Translated P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jan 11, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/01/11/catastrophe-obsessed-potsdam-climate-institute-logic-when-you-eat-more-you-lose-weight/>

A Look At Global Mean Temperatures in 2013: Cooling Ahead!

By Fritz Vahrenholt, Frank Bosse, Translated. P. Gosselin, Jan 9, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/01/09/ocean-heat-content-based-model-by-german-scientists-shows-continued-global-cooling/>

[SEPP Comment: Seeking the missing heat – in the North Atlantic, not in the southern oceans as Hansen suggests. Ocean heat content leads temperatures of the northern hemisphere by about 12 months.]

Waste Heat as a Contributor to Observed Warming

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Jan 9, 2013

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2013/01/waste-heat-as-a-contributor-to-observed-warming/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

The Breakthroughs of 2012

By Bruce Alberts, Editor-in-Chief, Science, Dec 21, 2012

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/338/6114/1511.summary>

UN climate official wants ‘strong’ response to record heat

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jan 9, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/276275-un-climate-official-wants-strong-response-to-record-us-temps>

NOAA SOTC for December 2012

Posted by Anthon Watts, WUWT, Jan 8, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/08/noaa-sotc/>

Link to the Report: State of the Climate, National Overview, Annual 2012
<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2012/13>

Not Even Close: 2012 Was Hottest Ever in U.S.

By Justin Gillis, NYT, Jan 8, 2013

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/09/science/earth/2012-was-hottest-year-ever-in-us.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20130109

NOAA: 2012 was warmest year ever for US, second most 'extreme'

By Elizabeth Chuck, NBC, Jan 8, 2013, [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://usnews.nbcnews.com/news/2013/01/08/16413805-noaa-2012-was-warmest-year-ever-for-us-second-most-extreme?lite>

2012 Was the Hottest Year in U.S. History. And Yes — It's Climate Change

By Bryan Walsh, Time Magazine, Jan 8, 2013

<http://science.time.com/2013/01/08/2012-was-the-hottest-year-in-u-s-history-and-yes-its-climate-change/>

America's Hottest Year On Record And A Cooler Future

Editorial, IBD, Jan 9, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/010913-639963-hottest-year-2012-but-met-office-predicts-cooler-climate.htm>

AGU Honors Gleick

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Jan 5, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/01/05/agu-honors-gleick/>

American Geophysical Union – cheat, deceive, steal, “It’s OK”.

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 10, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/01/american-geophysical-union-cheat-deceive-steal-its-ok/#more-26308>

Dear Mr. President: Time to Deal with Climate Change

In a letter to President Obama, the editors of MIT Technology Review argue that addressing climate change must take top priority in the next four years. Jan 2, 2013

<http://www.technologyreview.com/featuredstory/508841/dear-mr-president-time-to-deal-with-climate-change/>

Gutting Democracy to Save the Planet

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Jan 12, 2013

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/01/12/gutting-democracy-to-save-the-planet/>
[SEPP Comment: Commentary on the letter from editors of MIT Technology Review.]

Major report warns climate change could raise temperatures by 10 degrees

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jan 11, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/276769-federal-report-finding-unambiguous-warming-fuels-calls-for-tougher-action>

Link to the Report “Federal Advisory Committee Draft Climate Assessment Report Released for Public Review” by National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee of the U.S. Global Change Research Program, <http://ncadac.globalchange.gov/>

Draft U.S. Climate Assessment Report

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Jan 12, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/01/12/draft-u-s-climate-assessment-report/#more-10910>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

2012 probably not the hottest on record, after all

Skewed data stoke climate alarmist fears

By Tom Harris and Tim Ball, Washington Times, Jan 11, 2013 [H/t SPPI]

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jan/11/2012-probably-not-the-hottest-on-record-after-all/>

NOAA Temperature Fraud Expands (Part 1)

By Steven Goddard, Real Science, Jan 11, 2013 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://stevengoddard.wordpress.com/2013/01/11/noaa-temperature-fraud-expands-part-1/>

Hottest year ever? Skeptics question revisions to climate data

By Maxim Lott, Fox News, Jan 10, 2013 [H/t Roger Cohen]

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2013/01/10/hottest-year-ever-skeptics-question-revisions-to-climate-data/>

Is NOAA Misleading the Public by Including Tropical Cyclones in its 2012 Climate Extremes Index Ranking?

By Bob Tisdale, Climate Observations, Jan 8, 2013

<http://bobtisdale.wordpress.com/2013/01/08/is-noaa-misleading-the-public-by-including-tropical-cyclones-in-its-2012-climate-extremes-index-ranking/>

The logical case against climate panic

By Monckton of Brenchley, WUWT, Jan 6, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/06/the-logical-case-against-climate-panic/>

Peter Lilley vs. Nick Stern: Another Rebuttal

By Peter Lilley, GWPF, Jan 10, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/peter-lilley-nick-stern/>

[SEPP Comment: More on what is wrong with the influential Stern report on climate change.]

How to Destroy Science: Cast Self-Interest as Public Interest

By Norman Rogers, American Thinker, Jan 10, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/01/how_to_destroy_science_cast_self-interest_as_public_interest.html

Cogs in the Climate Machine

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Jan 10, 2013

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/01/10/cogs-in-the-climate-machine/>

[SEPP Comment: One media myth after another about the IPCC.]

Global warming, the tool of the West

By Stanislav Mishin, Pravda, RU, Jan 4, 2013 [H/t Roger Cohen]

http://english.pravda.ru/opinion/columnists/04-01-2013/123380-global_warming-0/

This is a religion replete with an army of priests, called Government Grant Scientists.

Global warming catches fire

Crusade against carbon dioxide threatens the environment

Editorial, Washington Times, Jan 8, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jan/8/global-warming-catches-fire/>

How Fossil Fuels Saved Humanity from Nature and Nature from Humanity

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Jan 9, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=22716&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EnvPD

Link to study: Humanity Unbound: How Fossil Fuels Saved Humanity from Nature and Nature from Humanity

By Indur M. Goklany, CATO

<http://www.cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/humanity-unbound-how-fossil-fuels-saved-humanity-nature-nature-humanity>

IPCC Leaks

The Secret Santa Leak

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Jan 8, 2013

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/01/08/the-secret-santa-leak/>

IPCC Legal Notice

By Donna Laframboise, NFC, Jan 9, 2013

<http://nofrackingconsensus.com/2013/01/09/ipcc-legal-notice/>

[SEPP Comment: A notice from the IPCC to remove leaked emails from her web site.]

UN climate panel denounces fresh data leaks

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Jan 09, 2013

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/UN_climate_panel_denounces_fresh_data_leaks_999.html

The usual suspects

By Philippa Martyr, Quadrant, Jan 9, 2013

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2013/01/the-usual-suspects>

[SEPP Comment: List of contributors to Australasia section of the IPCC-AR5 WGII draft report]

“What's particularly striking about the entire list is the degree to which every single person on it depends on climate change propagation for a living.”

Questioning European Green

Why IS Britain about to pay £110billion to enter a new Dark Age? A damning indictment of the new 'Green-friendly' Energy Bill

By David Rose, Mail Online, Jan 5, 2013 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2257826/Why-IS-Britain-pay-110billion-enter-new-Dark-Age-A-damning-indictment-new-Green-friendly-Energy-Bill.html>

Quarter of mothers forced to turn their heating off to afford food for their children: Survey warns of increase in 'fuel poverty'

Survey finds 56 per cent of families turn heating off when children leave
Bill increase causing people to use blankets and extra clothing to keep warm
Experts say number of households suffering fuel poverty will double by 2016
By Mario Ledwith, Mail Online, Jan 5, 2013

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2257849/Quarter-mothers-forced-turn-heating-afford-food-children-Survey-warns-increase-fuel-poverty.html>

[SEPP Comment: A survey indicating the success of British energy policy in driving up energy costs to save the planet.]

British group pans wind farm compensation

By Staff Writers, Plymouth, England (UPI), Jan 7, 2013

http://www.winddaily.com/reports/British_group_pans_wind_farm_compensation_999.html

Expanding the Orthodoxy

World Bank to strengthen focus on climate change

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Jan 10, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/276567-world-bank-to-strengthen-focus-on-climate-change>

Seeking a Common Ground

To keep politics out of science, scientists need to be more scientific, not more political

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 7, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/01/to-get-politics-out-of-science-scientists-need-to-be-more-scientific-not-more-political/#more-26279>

Editorial: Deciding Whether It's Climate or Weather

From The Australian, Via GWPF, Jan 11, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/editorial-deciding-climate-weather/>

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

Phil Trans B says end of world nigh

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 12, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/1/12/phil-trans-b-says-end-of-world-nigh.html>

Link to Paper Can a collapse of global civilization be avoided?

By Paul R. Ehrlich and Anne H. Ehrlich, Proceedings of the Royal Society B, Jan 8, 2013

<http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/280/1754/20122845.full>

Oil Sands Industry in Canada Tied to Higher Carcinogen Level

By Ian Austen, NYT, Jan 7, 2013

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/13/world/americas/oil-sand-industry-in-canada-tied-to-higher-carcinogen-level.html?_r=1&

the levels of contaminants measured by the researchers “did not exceed Canadian guidelines and were low compared to urban areas.”

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Avoiding a climate-change apocalypse

By Katrina Vanden Heuvel, Washington Post, Jan 8, 2013 [H/t Dennis Manuta]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/katrina-vanden-heuvel-a-climate-change-apocalypse/2013/01/07/f440d704-58e4-11e2-9fa9-5fbdc9530eb9_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend

'Horrible' sea level rise of more than 3 feet plausible by 2100, experts say

By John Roach, NBC News, Jan 6, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://science.nbcnews.com/news/2013/01/06/16369939-horrible-sea-level-rise-of-more-than-3-feet-plausible-by-2100-experts-say?l>

Link to Paper: Future sea level rise from ice sheets by Bamber & Aspinall in Nature Climate Change

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/index.html>

Models v. Observations

The avalanche starts to roll: British weather service drastically scales back its prognoses for warming

By Fritz Vahrenholt and Sebastian Lüning, Trans. by P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jan 10, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/01/10/vahrenholt-scale-back-shows-hadcruts-and-hansens-earlier-prognoses-on-the-verge-of-dramatic-failure/>

MET Office Forecasts No Global Temperature Rise

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Jan 7, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/met-office-forecasts-global-temperature-rise/>

Link to MET Office web page: <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/climate/seasonal-to-decadal/long-range/decadal-fc>

Spot the Difference – MET Office Promises to Review Controversial Wording of ‘Forecast’ Graph

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know and GWPF, Jan 11, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/met-office-manipulate-forecast-data/>

MET Office Says No Warming Before 2017: How Did the Media Do?

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Jan 9, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/met-office-warming-2017-media-do/>

The Guardian’s Verdict: Objection, M’Lud!

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Jan 10, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/guardians-verdict-objection-mlud/>

I note as an aside M’lud that no one predicted a 15-year standstill. [in global temperatures]

Climate Revisions Validates Sceptics

By Graham Lloyd, The Australian, vai, GWPF, Jan 13, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/climate-revisions-validate-sceptics/>

Decadal Forecasting - What is it and what does it tell us?

By Staff Writers, MET Office, Jan 10, 2013
<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/news/decadal-forecasting>

Met Office Accused Of Misleading Public Over Rainfall Trends

By Benny Peiser, WUWT, Jan 5, 2013
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/05/met-office-accused-of-misleading-public-over-rainfall-trends/>

Measurement Issues

Does NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) keep two separate sets of climate books for the USA?

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Jan 6, 2013
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/06/does-noaas-national-climatic-data-center-ncdc-keep-two-separate-sets-of-climate-books-for-the-usa/>

Changing Weather

Reinsurer Munich Re Natural Catastrophe Statistics Report 2012: Far Less Global Damage From Weather In 2012!

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Jan 3, 2013
<http://notrickszone.com/2013/01/03/reinsurer-munich-re-natural-catastrophe-statistics-report-2012-far-less-global-damage-from-weather-in-2012/>

Link to Press Release: Natural catastrophe statistics for 2012 dominated by weather extremes in the USA,

http://www.munichre.com/en/media_relations/press_releases/2013/2013_01_03_press_release.aspx

Down to -50C: Russians freeze to death as strongest-in-decades winter hits (PHOTOS)

By Staff Writers, RT, Dec 19, 2013 [H/t Adrain Gibby]
<http://rt.com/news/russia-freeze-cold-temperature-379/>
[SEPP Comment: Pictorial relief for those who believe that US temperatures are too hot.]

Heat down under, snow in Jerusalem, brutal cold in Asia will be here next 4- 6 weeks.

By Joe D'Aleo, ICECAP, Jan 11, 2012
http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/heat_down_under_snow_in_jerusalem_brutal_cold_in_asiawill_be_here_next_4_6/

Record low temperatures in Bangladesh

By Staff Writers, Dhaka, Bangladesh (UPI) Jan 9, 2013
http://www.terraily.com/reports/Record_low_temperatures_in_Bangladesh_999.html
... an unexpected result of global warming, scientists said.

Temperatures in China hit 28-year low

By Staff Writers, Reuters, Jan 5, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]
<http://worldnews.nbcnews.com/news/2013/01/05/16369310-temperatures-in-china-hit-28-year-low?lite>

Changing Climate

Systems at Risk

By Lee Howell, Project Syndicate, Jan 8, 2013

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/the-world-economic-forum-s-global-risks-assessment-by-lee-howell>

[SEPP Comment: Adaptation is vital, but by continuing to spout the wrong causes, governments will fail to achieve realistic solutions.]

Changing Earth

Japan quake study sounds alarm at 'creeping fault' doctrine

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Jan 09, 2013

http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Japan_quake_study_sounds_alarm_at_creeping_fault_doctrine_999.html

The potential impact of volcanic overprinting of the Eddy Minimum

By David Archibald, WUWT, Jan 7, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/01/07/the-potential-impact-of-volcanic-overprinting-of-the-eddy-minimum/>

[SEPP Comment: An essay pointing out that four of the five past solar minima were associated with cold climates, some intensified by volcanic activity.]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

The greening of the planet

Satellites confirm that green vegetation is increasing

By Matt Ridley, published in WSJ, Jan 5, 2013

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/the-greening-of-the-planet.aspx>

Peak (?) farmland

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc, Jan 5, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/01/05/peak-farmland/#more-10857>

Falling on a Genetically Modified Sword

By Staff Writers, ACSH, Jan 7, 2013

<http://www.acsh.org/falling-on-a-genetically-modified-sword/>

[SEPP Comment: Mark Lynas who helped coin the term “frankenfood” has apologized for his ignorance of the importance of genetically modified crops.]

Half of all food ‘wasted’ report claims

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Jan 11, 2013

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/half-all-food-wasted-report-claims>

[SEPP Comment: Thoughts penetrating beyond the headlines.]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

The Ability to Identify Category 4 and 5 Atlantic Hurricanes with Mid-20th-Century Tools

Reference: Hagen, A.B. and Landsea, C.W. 2012. On the classification of extreme Atlantic hurricanes utilizing mid-twentieth-century monitoring capabilities. *Journal of Climate* 25: 4461-4475.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jan/1jan2013a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: Based on the analysis, prior methods [1944 to 1953] underestimated severe hurricanes.]

Eight Decades of Glacier Movements in Southeast Greenland

Reference: Bjork, A.A., Kjaer, K.H., Korsgaard, N.J., Khan, S.A., Kjeldsen, K.K., Andresen, C.S., Box, J.E., Larsen, N.K. and Funder, S. 2012. An aerial view of 80 years of climate-related glacier fluctuations in southeast Greenland. *Nature Geoscience*: 10.1038//NGEO1481.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jan/1jan2013a3.html>

[SEPP Comment: Recent glacial retreat was matched by a similar glacial retreat in the 1930s.]

Effects of Ocean Acidification on Marine Coccolithophores

Reference: Smith, H.E.K., Tyrrell, T., Charalampopoulou, A., Dumousseaud, C., Legge, O.J., Birchenough, S., Pettit, L.R., Garley, R., Hartman, S.E., Hartman, M.C., Sagoo, N., Daniels, C.J., Achterberg, E.P. and Hydes, D.J. 2012. Predominance of heavily calcified coccolithophores at low CaCO₃ saturation during winter in the Bay of Biscay. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA* 109: 8845-8849.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jan/1jan2013a4.html>

[SEPP Comment: Contradicting laboratory results, elevated CO₂ concentrations and lowering of pH are anti-correlated with reduced calcification rates.]

Six Millennia of North Atlantic Temperatures at Reykjanes Ridge

Reference: Moros, M., Jansen, E., Oppo, D.W., Giraudeau, J. and Kuijpers, A. 2012.

Reconstruction of the late-Holocene changes in the Sub-Arctic Front position at the Reykjanes Ridge, north Atlantic. *The Holocene* 22: 877-886.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jan/8jan2013a3.html>

[SEPP Comment: Of the five distinct cold periods since the beginning of the Holocene, the last one, the Little Ice Age was the coldest. The warm periods that followed the earlier four cold periods were not caused by atmospheric carbon dioxide.]

Expanding the Biosphere's Limits to Growth

Reference: Running, S.W. 2012. A measurable planetary boundary for the biosphere. *Science* 337: 1458-1459.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2013/jan/9jan2013a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: Using land and water to grow plants for Biofuels are a waste of resources.]

The Political Games Continue

Sen. Sanders, after US hits heat record, floats new climate bill

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jan 9, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/276353-sen-sanders-after-us-heat-record-floats-new-climate-bill>

Sen. Boxer adds climate change post to environment committee staff

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Jan 10, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/276623-boxer-creates-climate-change-position-on-committee-staff>

[SEPP Comment: The post goes to an attorney from the National Wildlife Federation, who played “a key role” in the Supreme Court decision that carbon dioxide is a pollutant.]

Litigation Issues

Will the Supreme Court Review EPA’s Greenhouse Gas Regulations? Part II

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Jan 8, 2012

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2013/01/08/will-the-supreme-court-review-epas-greenhouse-gas-regulations-part-ii/#more-15698>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

The carbon trading money tree

When something is too good to be true, you should be hearing warning bells.

By Kelvin Kemm, C-Fact. Jan 7, 2013

http://www.cfact.org/2013/01/07/the-carbon-trading-money-tree/?utm_source=CFACT+Updates&utm_campaign=65dc27afdb-The_carbon_trading_money_tree1_11_2013&utm_medium=email

The Market and Mother Nature

By Thomas Friedman, NYT, Jan 8, 2013 [H/t Dennis Manuta]

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/09/opinion/friedman-the-market-and-mother-nature.html?emc=eta1&r=0>

[SEPP Comment: We need taxes – based on fear of the future warming that is not scientifically substantiated.]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

The Multiple Distortions of Wind Subsidies

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Jan 8, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=22711&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EnvPD

Tax credit extension a reprieve for wind

By Staff Writers, Washington (UPI), Jan 4, 2013

http://www.winddaily.com/reports/Tax_credit_extension_a_reprieve_for_wind_999.html

The Infant Industry Argument and Renewable Energy Production

By Dr. Sergey Mityakov, George Marshall Institute, Dec 20, 2012

<http://www.marshall.org/article.php?id=1163>

Link to Full Report: <http://www.marshall.org/pdf/materials/1163.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: Within two years of Edison using a coal plant to generate electricity, the first wind mill was used to generate electricity. Wind power is hardly an infant industry.]

The Economic Impact of Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard

By Staff Writers, NCPA, Jan 10, 2013

Link to study: David G. Tuerck, Paul Bachman and Michael Head, "The Economic Impact of Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard,"

<http://www.beaconhill.org/BHISTudies/PA-AEPS2012/PA-AEPS-study-BHI-Dec-2012.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: Fortunately for the citizens of Pennsylvania less expensive electricity from natural gas will help make up for political ignorance.]

Former White House aide defends 'green' stimulus, says 720K jobs were created

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Jan 9, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/276293-former-white-house-aide-defends-green-stimulus>

Link to Aldy's January 2012 draft paper: <http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-DP-12-03.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: \$90 Billion in government spending led to \$100 Billion in private capital. The calculation is for job-years – one job lasting one year. The largest category is renewable generation (192,900), the second is energy efficiency – installing insulation (179,000) and the third largest is transit (158,200). How many of the jobs continue after the subsidies stop.]

EPA and other Regulators on the March

The EPA Pushes the Envelope, Again

A long train of abuses suggests an institutional culture that sees the law as an impediment.

By A. Barton Hinkle, Reason, Jan 9, 2013

<http://reason.com/archives/2013/01/09/the-epa-pushes-the-envelope-again>

Economic Failure at U.S. EPA: NAM Study Raises the Hard Questions

By Travis Fisher, Master Resource, Jan 9, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/01/nam-study-raises-the-hard-questions/#more-23583>

E-mail Scandal at the EPA

The Obama administration embraces secrecy and stonewalling.

By John Fund, National Review, Jan 5, 2013

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/336995/e-mail-scandal-epa-john-fund#>

20 Windsorgate questions for Obama administration

By Mark Tapscott, Washington Examiner, Jan 10, 2013

http://washingtonexaminer.com/20-windsorgate-questions-for-obama-administration/article/2518121#.UPAQRnfb_fE

EPA Rules, Economy, Natural Gas Prices Prompt Georgia Power to Retire 2 GW of Coal, Oil Power

By Staff Writers, POWERnews, Jan 10, 2013

http://www.powermag.com/news/5289.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2595372&hq_l=6&hq_v=5e66050d0

Energy Issues – Non-US

Canadian crude price discount to WTI hits \$41

By Yadullah Hussain, Financial Post, Jan 11, 2013

<http://business.financialpost.com/2013/01/11/canadian-crude-price-discount-to-wti-hits-41/>

[SEPP Comment: Canadian oil producers are paying dearly for Washington's refusal to permit the Keystone pipeline.]

UK's New Year Shale Gas Resolution

By Peter Glover, Energy Tribune, Jan 7, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/69918/uks-new-year-shale-gas-resolution>

A Carrington Catastrophe

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Jan 11, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/01/11/a-carrington-catastrophe/>

Energy Issues -- US

UPDATE 2-Phillips 66 makes \$1 bln commitment to ship Bakken crude

* 5-yr commitment the longest crude-by-rail deal so far

* Global to ship crude via Canadian Pacific's railway

By Selam Gebrekidan, Reuters, Jan 8, 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/08/refinery-bayway-bakken-crude-idUSL1E9C844X20130108>

[SEPP Comment: By rail, indicating the pressing need for new pipelines.]

Virginia: Energy Capital of East Coast?

By Marita Noon, Townhall, Jan 8, 2013

http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2013/01/08/virginia-energy-capital-of-east-coast-n1483556?utm_source=thdaily&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl

Rare Earth and Uranium Mining Potential in the States

By Staff Writers, ACPA, Jan 8, 2013

http://www.ncpa.org/sub/dpd/index.php?Article_ID=22710&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EnvPD

Link to full report: <http://www.alec.org/docs/DIG-IT-WEB.pdf>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

No contamination from fracking found in 2 Arkansas counties-USGS

* USGS sampled 127 wells in Fayetteville shale area

* Study shows fracking can be done safely, author says

* Draft EPA study linked fracking, water pollution in Wyoming

By Ayesha Rascoe, Reuters, Jan 9, 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/10/usa-fracking-arkansas-study-idUSL1E9C9FCZ20130110>

[SEPP Comment: The Wyoming wells did not involve deep underground fracturing of dense shale. EPA is redoing the study.]

New York's Fracking Opportunity

By Katie Tubb, Heritage.org, Jan 10, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://blog.heritage.org/2013/01/10/new-yorks-fracking-opportunity/>

Washington's Control of Oil and Gas

More good news for Keystone

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Jan 8, 2013

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2013/01/08/peter-foster-more-good-news-for-keystone/>

[SEPP Comment: Lisa Jackson leaving EPA and the finding by Nebraska that the new route is environmentally sound may favor the Keystone.]

Is Keystone XL DOA in Term No. 2?

There are no more campaign promises to make -- and there's an incoming secretary of State who makes environmentalists hurrah.

By Bridget Johnson, PJ Media, Jan 8, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/is-keystone-xl-doa-in-term-no-2/>

[SEPP Comment: It is not over yet for Keystone, there are many bear traps in Washington.]

Oil-and-gas lobby envisions improved relationship with the White House

By Zack Colman, The Hill, Jan 8, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/276109-oil-and-gas-lobby-envisions-improved-white-house-relationship>

[SEPP Comment: Not everyone believes this vision is correct.]

Oil, gas industries see boon without tax increases

Want administration's commitment to more drilling for more revenues

By Ben Wolfgang, Washington Times, Jan 9, 2013

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2013/jan/8/oil-industry-obama-energy-production-fix-economy/>

[SEPP Comment: Same speech as above, different headline. SEPP attended the speech.]

Return of King Coal?

In Georgia, Obama is winning the war on coal

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Jan 8, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://washingtonexaminer.com/examiner-editorial-in-georgia-obama-is-winning-the-war-on-coal/article/2517941#.UPBDvnfb_fF

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks, Etc, & Consequences

Interior vows 'high-level' Arctic-drilling review after Shell's mishaps

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Jan 8, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/276143-interior-vows-high-level-arctic-review-after-shells-mishaps>

[SEPP Comment: Bad news for Shell.]

EPA raps Shell for Arctic air violations

By Jennifer A. Dlouhy, Fuel Fix, Jan 10, 2013

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/01/10/epa-raps-shell-for-arctic-air-violations/>

[SEPP Comment: More news for Shell.]

A lot was riding on that snapped Arctic rig line

By Loren Steffy, Fuel Fix, Jan 11, 2013

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/01/11/steffy-a-lot-was-riding-on-that-snapped-arctic-rig-line/>

Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Dear Christian Science Monitor: Wind Is Not Sacred but a Sacrilege

By Mary Kay Barton, Master Resource, Jan 11, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/01/dear-christian-science-monitor-wind-is-not-sacred/#more-23593>

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

Biofuel production causes pollution: Study

By Alister Doyle, Reuters, Jan 6, 2012 [H/t William Readdy]

<http://www.torontosun.com/2013/01/06/biofuels-cause-pollution-not-as-green-as-thought-study>

Obama's Green Ethanol Bureaucrats Starve The Poor

Editorial, IBD, Jan 8, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/010813-639798-obama-epa-bureaucracy-will-not-lift-ethanol-mandate-even-for-poor.htm>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Electric Cars Don't Sell But Let's Build More Anyway

Editorial, IBD, Jan 10, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/011013-640224-nissan-leaf-electric-cars-not-ready.htm>

Environmental Industry

The Greens’ Attack on Mariculture

They fear human involvement with nature.

By Robert Zubrin, National Review, Jan 3, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise.]

<http://www.nationalreview.com/articles/336808/greens-attack-mariculture-robert-zubrin#>

Government of, by and for activists

By Ron Arnold, Canada Free Press, Jan 6, 2013

<http://www.canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/government-of-by-and-for-activists>

Other Scientific News

Antarctic lake reached after millennia

By Staff Writers, Vladivostok, Russia (UPI), Jan 10, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Antarctic_lake_reached_after_millennia_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Successful extraction of an ice core from Lake Vostok, sealed by ice for 20 million years.]

Unlike we thought for 100 years: Molds are able to reproduce sexually

By Staff Writers, Bochum, Germany (SPX), Jan 10, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Unlike_we_thought_for_100_years_Molds_are_able_to_reproduce_sexually_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

For Sale: NASA Space Shuttle Stuff

By Staff Writers, Washington (RIA Novosti), Jan 08, 2013

http://www.space-travel.com/reports/For_Sale_NASA_Space_Shuttle_Stuff_999.html

Polar bear population now 22,600-32,000 – when tallied by nation

By Susan Crawford, Polar Bear Science, Jan 8, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://polarbearsience.com/2013/01/08/polar-bear-population-now-22600-32000-when-tallied-by-nation/>

Update at: <http://polarbearsience.com/2013/01/09/the-32000-population-estimate-for-polar-bears-is-not-an-error-due-to-counting-overlapping-territories-twice/>

Principle of proportionality

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Jan 7, 2013

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2013/1/7/principle-of-proportionality.html>

[SEPP Comment: A request by Pat Swords on his reasoning for challenging the Irish Renewable Energy Program.]

Al Gore's Oil-Fueled Al-Jazeera Deal Follows A String Of Green Energy Fiascos

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Jan 8, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/01/08/al-gores-oil-fueled-al-jazeera-deal-follows-a-string-of-green-energy-fiascos/>

Green Hypocrisy as Al Gore Sells Out for Petro-Dollars

By Peter Glover, Energy Tribune, Jan 10, 2013

<http://www.energytribune.com/70283/green-hypocrisy-as-al-gore-sells-out-for-petro-dollars>

Archaeologists Find Clues to Viking Mystery

Abandoned Colony in Greenland

By Günther Stockinger, Spiegel Online, Jan 10, 2013 [H/t Peter Salenius]

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/zeitgeist/archaeologists-uncover-clues-to-why-vikings-abandoned-greenland-a-876626.html>

[SEPP Comment: The loss of trade and increased difficulty of hunting seals both of which came with increased ice sheets may have been more important than re-establishing a Viking identity.]

New York Times Dismantles Its Environment Desk

Times says demise of the nine-person team, created in 2009, won't affect climate coverage.

By Katherine Bagley, InsideClimate News, Jan 11, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130111/new-york-times-dismantles-environmental-desk-journalism-fracking-climate-change-science-global-warming-economy>

#####

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Counting the cost of mercury pollution

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX,) Jan 08, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Counting_the_cost_of_mercury_pollution_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Mercury poisoning is real, the bureaucratic process of counting is not.]

Gone Bezerkers. Climate change will turn humans into hobbits

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Jan 8, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/01/gone-bezerkers-climate-change-will-turn-humans-into-hobbits/#more-26316>

#####

ARTICLES:

1. Bernie Sanders's Windy Letter Blows a Lot of Hot Air

By Charles Battig, VA-SEEE, Letter WSJ, Jan 10, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323374504578221670878789696.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_1

Sen. Bernie Sanders's Jan. 3 Letter in defense of the wind industry blows a lot of hot air and deploys an array of smoke and mirrors.

"Create American jobs" and "help avoid the planetary calamity of global warming," Sen. Sanders offers, except that the real-world record shows that the majority of solar and wind-turbine manufacture has moved to China. Sen. Sanders ignores the fact that renewable-energy imposition needlessly drives the cost of energy up for all consumers. Renewable-energy leader Germany claims such sources provide about 25% of energy needs. What is not mentioned is that it is also building 23 new coal-fired plants; also not mentioned is the number of industries dealing with automatic process shut-downs because of instabilities in grid-power secondary to the erratic nature of solar and wind energy. Last year the German press reported that 600,000 households per year are getting their power cut off because of unaffordable electricity bills.

Sen. Sanders rants over the tax code and subsidies for conventional power. He decries business write-offs/deductions used by all businesses. He implies unfairness in federal subsidies going to fossil-fuel and nuclear industry, and not to wind energy. He misses the fact that fossil-fuel/nuclear plants deliver reliable power 24/7, unlike intermittent wind and solar, and are a more cost-effective investment. Based on kWh produced per dollar subsidy, renewables are grossly inefficient.

There is no "calamity of global warming." The U.K. Met Office reports no global warming for the past 16 years, even as CO2 levels rise. Scientists cannot "foresee" the temperatures in 2100 because they do not have validated computer models. Current models produce a variety of answers based on incomplete or erroneous understanding of the inherently chaotic nature of climate, first documented by MIT scientist E. Lorenz in 1964.

2 The Kyoto Scorecard

The U.N.'s anticarbon scheme didn't work out as planned.

Editorial, WSJ, Jan 4, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323374504578219180748528630.html#mod=djemEditorialPage_t

The Kyoto Protocol on climate change used to be a big deal. So big that the future of humanity was said to hinge on its implementation. Did you know it expired on New Year's Day? We're guessing you didn't, but don't worry. It's no big deal.

Adopted in 1997 and in force since 2005, the U.N. compact was intended to lock its signatories into curbing or cutting their greenhouse-gas emissions relative to 1990 levels. It didn't work out as planned.

Japan promised a 6% reduction relative to its 1990 levels, but instead saw a 7.4% increase, despite 20 years of economic stagnation. Australia, where growth has been more robust, pledged to let carbon increase by no more than 8%. Instead its 1990-2010 emissions rose 47.5%.

The Netherlands promised a 6% cut but wound up with 20% higher emissions by the end of 2010. Canada, one of the pact's most enthusiastic early backers, committed to a 6% cut but saw a 24% emissions increase above 1990 levels. In 2011 Ottawa announced it was withdrawing from Kyoto to avoid the penalties it would have owed for missing its target.

On paper, the EU as a whole looks set to meet its overall 2012 emissions target. But that's mainly thanks to economic stagnation and the closure of inefficient Soviet-era industries. Europe's cap-and-trade system also encourages industry to move production abroad while pocketing payments in the form of "carbon credits."

As for the U.S., it saw an emissions increase of only 10.3% between 1990 and 2010, despite economic and population growth that outpaced most of the industrialized world. Some of the thanks here go to the shale-gas revolution, which uses technology that still hasn't gotten past most European regulators. This triumph of American ingenuity might never have happened if Al Gore had managed to drag the U.S. into Kyoto 15 years ago.

So is that it? Not precisely. In December, the U.N. announced a last-minute "extension" of the protocol until 2020, though this is life-support by press release. New Zealand, Russia and Japan have followed Canada's lead and are now officially out of Kyoto's carbon strictures, while the world's largest emitters in China and the U.S. were never in. Now only Australia and the EU remain.

In its day, the Kyoto Protocol did its share of economic damage by distorting energy markets and encouraging job-killing legislation. Some of that damage will remain. Still, count this as another eco-cure that arrived with a bang and departed, as so many of them do, with a whimper.

3. The EPA Is Politicized—So Make It Official

This federal regulatory agency, like many others, would be better run by a bipartisan commission. By Steven Hayward, WSJ, Jan 8, 0213

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323320404578216034024416590.html?mod=IT_P_opinion_0

Lisa Jackson, who announced on Dec. 27 that she was stepping down as head of the Environmental Protection Agency, will be leaving under a cloud. It turns out that she had been using an email account, under the alias "Richard Windsor," to conduct official business, in an apparent attempt to evade federal transparency laws, including the Freedom of Information Act. After the account came to light in the fall, the Justice Department agreed to release thousands of emails later this month.

This disturbing episode is only one of many under Ms. Jackson's administration. Will her successor be any better? In a way, the question is beside the point. The agency's regulatory machine—and its advancement of the Obama administration's green agenda—would proceed on automatic pilot even if the president didn't bother to appoint a successor.

Here is a suggestion: Reform the EPA by politicizing it. What! Do I mean to say that the agency isn't political enough already? Actually, in one important sense it isn't—and that is part of the problem.

Both the EPA and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission do much the same thing—that is, protect the public against environmental risks. But there is a big difference between the two. The EPA is headed by a single administrator and given wide latitude under various environmental statutes to make sweeping regulatory determinations on his or her sole authority. The NRC, by contrast, is run by a five-member commission drawn from both parties, just as are several other independent regulatory bodies such as the National Labor Relations Board, the Federal Trade Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

There is a reason Congress has adopted the commission model. While a bipartisan consensus exists for regulating some parts of the economy by independent agencies that harness specialized expertise, there remains an underlying partisan disagreement about the means and ends of policy. The commission model recognizes and accommodates these disagreements, with a process that emphasizes public debate and is more transparent and accountable.

The EPA's single-administrator model, on the other hand, is based on what amounts to a conceit that some policy matters are beyond politics or meaningful controversy. This is the apotheosis of the Progressive Era ideal, or rather myth, of enlightened administration by neutral experts. It is also a tactic to deny that what are deeply political administrative decisions are in fact political. The single-administrator model makes it much easier for an ideologue like Ms. Jackson to use the regulatory process as a steamroller to achieve policy goals.

A bipartisan commission would change this dynamic. The president would, as is customary, still appoint a majority of the commissioners, including the chairman. But the minority would have their dissent on policy matters on the record.

In regulatory bodies such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission, minority commissioners and their staffers act as brakes on permanent bureaucrats and agency staff, and the minority commissioners are able to exert influence over final policy decisions. At the EPA, however, bureaucrats can embrace self-serving justifications, stifle dissent and represent their manipulated scientific findings and economic assessments as beyond controversy or uncertainty—which U.S. administrative law then makes difficult to challenge successfully in court.

Changing the EPA into a commission won't solve all of its problems. But it would make it much harder for the EPA to ignore or suppress contrary scientific evidence on issues such as global warming, air pollution and toxic risks. It would also make it harder to impose regulations—as happens today—with fanciful cost-benefit ratios that go unchallenged.

In the case of global-warming regulation, for example, an EPA that operated on the commission model would find it problematic to censor its own dissenting employees the way it did in 2009 with Alan Carlin, a 30-year career official who challenged the agency's "endangerment" finding on greenhouse gases, which was the first step on the EPA's way to issuing emissions regulations.

Mr. Carlin was told to cease his work on the issue and not to communicate his views publicly. An inspector general's report subsequently vindicated his critique of the agency's finding, but it was too late to hold up the regulatory juggernaut. Mr. Carlin has since retired.

If you think reforming the EPA into a five-member commission is a modest reform of little consequence, here's a suggestion. Have House Republicans introduce a bill to do this, and watch how ferociously the environmental establishment fights it.

Mr. Hayward is a visiting professor at Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy and the author of the "Almanac of Environmental Trends" (Pacific Research Institute, 2011).

#####