

The Week That Was: 2013-11-23 (November 23, 2013)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *Our freedom to doubt was born out of a struggle against authority in the early days of science. It was a very deep and strong struggle: permit us to question — to doubt — to not be sure. I think that it is important that we do not forget this struggle and thus perhaps lose what we have gained.* Richard Feynman, Value of Science

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Number of the Week: 0.42%

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THIS WEEK:

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

COP-19: The 19 Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) ended in Warsaw on Saturday not with a bang but a whimper. Early reports on the conference expressed concern that the conference would not accomplish much. In that, the conference appears to have succeeded. As of writing This Week, reports are sketchy, but it appears that dozens of nations signed an agreement that they would make “contributions” towards reducing global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. What the word “contributions” means is anyone’s guess.

The influential German news magazine *Der Spiegel* aptly termed the conference a Climate Circus. Though it has many clowns, the Climate Circus does not have the merriment of a real circus. According to reports, one of the highlights occurred when 132 developing nations walked out. They were demanding payments for damages from climate change, not only in the future but since the start of the industrial revolution, which roughly coincided with the ending of the Little Ice Age. This should not have been a surprise to developed nations that have spent tens of billions of US dollars on a science that is more focused on hyperbole, making alarming long-term projections from unvalidated climate models, rather than rigorously testing the models against independent data. The argument of the developing nations is very rational. If Western governments believe their claim that carbon dioxide emissions are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming, they should pay for it. According to the White House report on Federal Climate Change Expenditures, in FY 2013 alone, the US government spent \$2.5 billion on the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), which does not bother to rigorously test any of the assumptions in the climate models against independent data. Yet, the administration expects the public to accept the authority of the USGCRP.

Another highlight occurred when green non-government organizations walked out. Perhaps they should not be allowed back in. Many are subsidized by UN and the funding countries. According to the White House report, in FY 2013, the US spend \$851 million on International Assistance, which includes helping to fund the Climate Circus. The next Climate Circus is scheduled for Lima, Peru, then on to Paris for the supposed finale of a new treaty to stop global warming/climate change. Perhaps the only thing that will stop the circuses is nature’s continued refusal to obey human models of the climate. For articles on COP-19, see links under Climate Circus, for the White House report see:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/legislative_reports/fcce-report-to-congress.pdf

Missing Heat: The Hadley-Climatic Research Unit Temperature (HadCRUT) data, the generally accepted standard for surface-air temperature data, shows little or no warming trend for over 16 years. The lack of warming has produced a number of questionable explanations on where is the missing heat. The latest is that it is hiding in the Arctic. Specifically, the HadCRUT data do not adequately cover the Arctic. Using two approaches, one a statistical technique and the second based satellite data from University of Alabama, Huntsville, (UAH) researchers Kevin Cowtan and Robert Way calculated a warming trend for the area that is not covered by HadCRUT and stated that if the Arctic data is included the data set would show a warming trend. The paper was published in Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society.

A number of blogs effectively question the significance of these findings. However, the entire episode is contrived. The satellite data, interpreted by both UAH and Remote Sensing Systems and independently verified by measurements from weather balloons, are the most comprehensive data set available. Why bother interpreting these data for the areas not covered by HadCRUT? See links under Measurement Issues.

The Gap: In analyzing the Cowtan & Way paper, Christopher Monckton repeats a caution given by Roy Spencer. Though it is important, the emphasis on the deficiency of the models should not be solely on the fact that the warming trend has stopped. Rather, the emphasis should be on the growing gap between model projections and observations. The entire fear of global warming was based on assertions that the model projections are valid and they should be the basis for government policy. The growing gap shows the models projections are wrong and should not be the basis for government policy. A strong El Niño year may end the current pause in warming, but the gap will likely remain. As Chip Knappenberger and Patrick Michaels assert, the models project too much warming. See links under Measurement Issues and Models Issues.

JKF and the Moon: Former Senator and Apollo Astronaut Harrison Schmitt, who drove the “golf cart” on the moon, has a thought provoking article on the developments and thinking that led President Kennedy to challenge America to shoot for the Moon. It was in the middle of the Cold War, four years after the launch of Sputnik-1 by the Soviet Union, which prompted a number of economists, including Paul Samuelson, to state that the Soviet economy will surpass that of the US. The “impossible” mission was accomplished in a little over eight years.

Fifty years ago was a time when government-funded big science accomplished a great deal. The scientists of that era realized that in order to advance knowledge, assumptions and theories must be constantly questioned and tested against all available data. According to veterans of the NASA effort, fierce debates would erupt over the proper way to proceed and who was right.

Unfortunately, such an attitude is lacking in today’s government-funded big climate science.

Please see link under Other Scientific News

What Makes a Skeptic: The blog Scottish Sceptic [UK spelling] asks: “Why do sceptics put up with cyber bullying?” The insults are commonplace and even come from prominent officials. In another post, the blog quotes some of the insults. The blog suggests skeptics are intellectual loners – not social loner – and do not need group support, or group think.

As illustrated in the Quote of the Week: modern science was developed by those who had the ability to think alone, the ability to challenge ideas, and to challenge one another. Fierce debates

occurred in the development of Natural Philosophy – now called Science. See links under Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

SCC: On her blog, Judith Curry has a discussion on the Social Cost of Carbon (SCC). As with SEPP, she concludes that the government contrived index is a surrogate for a national carbon tax. It has the burden of a tax to the public, with no revenues to the government. Though not mentioning him by name, her discussion includes the excellent study by Craig Idso, “The Positive Externalities of Carbon Dioxide:” published by SPPI. Curry suggests that the uncertainty involved in the SCC is colossal, and she is not convinced we have confidence even in the sign – either a net cost or a net benefit. See link under Seeking a Common Ground.

Climate Funding: According to reports, EU climate commissioner Connie Hedegaard announced that “20% of the EU’s budget will go towards fighting climate change,” which has been occurring for hundreds of millions of years. No doubt some in the EU believe that this dedication will be followed by other international leaders who want to be considered climate heroes. President Obama may wish to be in this group, but good luck with the US House of Representatives, thankfully. See link under Funding Issues.

Number of the Week: 0.42%. Following up on the paper by Cowtan & Way, Werner Brozek analyzed satellite data produced by RSS, the entity independent of UAH, for the extent of coverage Northern Hemisphere not covered by the satellite observations. He finds that the RSS data cover all of the Northern Hemisphere up to 82.5 degrees N Latitude. From this he calculates that the area of the Northern Hemisphere not covered represents 0.42% of the globe.

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ARTICLES:

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

1. The 'Spy' Who Fooled the EPA

Under deep CIA cover at the Office of Air and Radiation.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 21, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304439804579208262999418146?mod=hp_opinion

2. Second Life for an Old Oil Field

Texas' Permian Basin, Where Output Peaked in '70s, Now a Hot Site for Horizontal Drilling

By Tom Fowler, WSJ, Nov 19, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304868404579194571527374000?mod=WSJ_Energy_2_4_Right<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304073204579170023892274000>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

Contrasting Good and Bad Science: Disease, Climate Change and the Case of the Golden Toad

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Nov 21, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/21/contrasting-good-and-bad-science-disease-climate-change-and-the-case-of-the-golden-toad/>

“Convenient assumptions should not be turned prematurely into “facts,” nor uncertainties and ambiguities suppressed... *Anyone can write a model: the challenge is to demonstrate its accuracy and precision*... Otherwise, the scientific debate is controlled by the most articulate, colorful, or adamant players. (emphasis added)” Carl Wunsch

The ZOD FILES: Climate documents from 2007 'must stay SECRET'

By Andrew Orlowski, The Register, Nov 18, 2013 [H/t Bishop Hill]

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2013/11/18/uk_open_and_transparent_means_youll_never_read_our_climate_documents_bwahhahhah/

[SEPP Comment: ZOD refers to the IPCC Zero Order Drafts]

Challenging the Orthodoxy

German Climate Experts Confirm McIntyre: IPCC’s Last Minute Chart Substitution Was A “Dubious Illusory Trick”

By Sebastian Lüning and Fritz Vahrenholt, Trans: P. Gosselin, Nov 16, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/16/german-climate-experts-confirm-mcintyre-ipccs-last-minute-chart-substitute-was-a-dubious-illusory-trick/>

Monckton responds: the economics, the creatures, the acidification!

Posted by Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 18, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/11/monckton-bada/>

[SEPP Comment: Major topics are CO2 mitigation, social benefits of carbon dioxide, and reduced ocean alkalinity (erroneously called ocean acidification)].

The skillful predictions of climate science

By Paul Matthews, The IPCC Report, Nov 20, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://ipccreport.wordpress.com/2013/11/20/the-skillful-predictions-of-climate-science/>

Climate Circus

Climate negotiators strike last-minute deal

By Bernie Becker, The Hill, Nov 23, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/191264-climate-negotiators-strike-last-minute-deal>

Warsaw climate conference produces little agreement

By Lenny Bernstein, Washington Post, Nov 22, 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/warsaw-climate-conference-produces-little-agreement/2013/11/22/705a06d0-538f-11e3-a7f0-b790929232e1_story.html

Spiegel Describes COP 19 ... “UN Conference Descends Into A Climate Circus” ... NGOs Fume And Boycott ... Every Single Issue In Dispute

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 21, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/21/spiegel-describes-cop-19-un-conference-descends-into-a-climate-circus-ngos-fume-and-boycott-every-single-issue-in-dispute/>

UN Climate Summit Rejects Its Own Science – Links Typhoon Haiyan to Global Warming – UN Summit Degenerates Into Unscientific Claims to Advance Political Agenda – Climate Depot Special Report

By Mark Morano, Climate Depot, Nov 19, 2013

<http://www.climatedepot.com/2013/11/19/climate-depot-special-report-on-typhoon-haiyan-presented-at-un-climate-summit-in-warsaw/>

UN climate conference COP19 tells blatant lies to the public about sea level rise & snow cover

By Staff Writer, Hockey Schtick, Nov 15, 2013 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2013/11/un-climate-conference-cop19-tells.html>

Wasting energy on a successor to Kyoto

Japan's climate reversal demonstrates limits of UN talks

Editorial, Financial Times, UK, Nov 19, 2013

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/08fcd736-5116-11e3-9651-00144feabdc0.html?siteedition=intl&siteedition=intl#axzz21AJ8PxJH>

132 countries exit Warsaw climate talks

Thank God

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, Nov 20, 2013

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2013/11/132-countries-exit-warsaw-climate-talks.html>

[SEPP Comment: Using Richard Feynman's description of an international conference to redistribute wealth to describe the COP 19 conference.]

Climate Change Alarm Is A U.N. Extortion Racket

Editorial, IBD, Nov 21, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/112113-680267-poor-countries-walk-out-of-united-nations-global-warming-meeting.htm>

Warsaw Climate Talks Freshly Expose Real Agenda: Global Wealth Redistribution

By E. Calvin Beisner, Master Resource, Nov 19, 2013

<http://www.masterresource.org/2013/11/warsaw-talks-wealth-redistribution/>

2 degree target – a matter of policy guesswork

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 16, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/16/2-degree-target-a-matter-of-policy-guesswork/>

Climate Talks Hit a New Low

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Meadia, Nov 21, 2013

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/11/21/climate-talks-hit-a-new-low/>

Growing Clamor About Inequities of Climate Crisis

By Steven Lee Myers and Nicholas Kulish, NYT, Nov 16, 2013 [H/t William Readdey]

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/17/world/growing-clamor-about-inequities-of-climate-crisis.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=edit_th_20131117&r=0

Climate change: 'Developing nations equally responsible'

By Nitin Sethi, The Hindu, Nov 19, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/climate-change-developing-nations-equally-responsible/article5368700.ece>

Britain Joins Australia in Rejecting Demands for Climate Compensation

By Ben Webster, Times, Via GWPF, Nov 20, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/britain-joins-australia-rejecting-demands-climate-compensation/>

Global Warming Envoys Set to Chart Path to Pollution Cuts

By Alex Morales & Ewa Krukowska, Bloomberg, Nov 22, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-11-22/global-warming-envoys-set-to-chart-path-to-pollution-cuts.html>

FT Calls Out Futility of Climate Talks

By Walter Russell Mead, Via Meadia, Nov 20, 2013

<http://blogs.the-american-interest.com/wrm/2013/11/20/ft-calls-out-futility-of-climate-talks/>

Latest from the Climate Fail Files

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Nov 16, 2013

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2013/11/latest-from-the-climate-fail-files.php>

Defending the Orthodoxy

Just 90 companies caused two-thirds of man-made global warming emissions Chevron, Exxon and BP among companies most responsible for climate change since dawn of industrial age, figures show

By Suzanne Goldenberg, Guardian, Nov 20, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/20/90-companies-man-made-global-warming-emissions-climate-change?CMP=tw_t_gu

Link to paper: Tracing anthropogenic carbon dioxide and methane emissions to fossil fuel and cement producers, 1854–2010

By Richard Heede, Climate Change, Nov 2013

<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10584-013-0986-y>

[SEPP Comment: Given the booming environment from atmospheric CO2 enhancement, should these companies be considered heroes?]

The Shale Revolution's Global Footprint

By Javier Solana, Project Syndicate, Nov 20, 2013

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/javier-solana-examines-the-impact-of-shale-energy-on-europe-and-asia>

[SEPP Comment: A plea for limiting CO2 emissions in an era of expanding energy resources.]

No excuses: Cut carbon dioxide emissions now, scientists urge

By John Roach, NBC New, Nov 21, 2013

<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/no-excuses-cut-carbon-dioxide-emissions-now-scientists-urge-2D11624572>

[SEPP Comment: Typical propaganda photo.]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

The nature of scientific advice

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 21, 2013

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2013/11/21/the-nature-of-scientific-advice.html>

Without some external check on its integrity the advice is worthless. We need red teams, and quickly.

[SEPP Comment: A desperate need that the NIPCC team provided.]

Frog extinction theory is going extinct

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 21, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/21/frog-extinction-theory-is-going-extinct/>

Another known unknown – volcanic outgassing of CO2

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 16, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/16/another-known-unknown-volcanic-outgassing-of-co2/>

Link to article: Long Invisible, Research Shows Volcanic CO2 Levels Are Staggering (Op-Ed)

By Robin Wylie, Live Science, Oct 15, 2013

<http://www.livescience.com/40451-volcanic-co2-levels-are-staggering.html>

From 90% to 95% confidence level: How IPCC claims can be at the same time consistent and absurd.

We have been expecting too much from the IPCC about its confidence level increase: the explanation may actually be simple... and surprising.

Stephane Rogeau, WUWT, Nov 21, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/21/from-90-to-95-confidence-level-how-ipcc-claims-can-be-at-the-same-time-consistent-and-absurd/>

[SEPP Comment: In issues of science, it is not a matter of what the public expects, it is a matter of what can be scientifically calculated. Fred Singer devastated the IPCC thinking in an article carried in the last TWTW, which, among other things, exposes the argument from ignorance.]

William Nordhaus and Climate Delusions

By Norman Rogers, American Thinker, Nov 16, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/11/william_nordhaus_and_climate_delusions.html

[SEPP Comment: Questioning a prominent economist on his use of modeling in climate science.]

Social Benefits of Carbon

Modern Growth Trends of Earth's Forests

By Staff Writers, SPPI & CO2 Science, Nov 20, 2013

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/modern_growth_trends_of_earths_forests.html

Real-world observations suggested that today's forest carbon sinks may well become even stronger carbon sinks as air temperatures and atmospheric CO2 concentrations continue to rise.

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Leading IPCC Climate Scientist Warns: “Climate Science Will Lose Its Credibility If It Keeps Spreading Panic”!

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 19, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/19/leading-ipcc-climate-scientist-warns-climate-science-will-lose-its-credibility-if-it-keeps-spreading-panic/>

Unminced Words By Climate Scientist Hans von Storch In Long Interview. “Scientists Too Quick To Claim Last Word”!

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 18, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/18/unminced-words-by-climate-scientist-hans-von-storch-in-long-interview-scientists-too-quick-to-claim-last-word/>

Japan axes targets to cut greenhouse gases... on the day Cameron blames climate change for natural disasters

New target calls for reducing emissions by 3.8% from 2005 level

UN delegates in Warsaw express disappointment at change

Japan turned back to coal, oil and gas after Fukushima power plant wrecked

By Tamara Cohen, Mail, UK, Nov 15, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2508018/Japan-axes-targets-cut-greenhouse-gases--day-Cameron-blames-climate-change-natural-disasters.html>

Steag Starts Coal-Fired Power Plant in Germany

By Julia Mengewein, Bloomberg, Nov 15, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-11-15/steag-starts-germany-s-first-coal-fired-power-plant-in-8-years.html>

Ten new hard-coal power stations, or 7,985 megawatts, are scheduled to start producing electricity in the next two years,

Generating electricity by burning coal currently makes a profit of 9.16 euros a megawatt hour, compared with a loss of 19.31 euros a megawatt hour from gas, according to data compiled by Bloomberg based on next-year German power prices.

The Latest Meteorologist Survey Destroys The Global Warming Climate 'Consensus'

By James Taylor, Forbes, Nov 20, 2013

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamestaylor/2013/11/20/the-latest-meteorologist-survey-destroys-the-global-warming-climate-consensus/>

Link to survey: <http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/pdf/10.1175/BAMS-D-13-00091.1>

[SEPP Comment: Link to the survey states it is a Preliminary Accepted Version. More importantly, it is a survey employed by the leadership of the AMS and an entity at GMU, who have been trying to convince members to toe the party line.]

Seeking a Common Ground

20 tips for interpreting scientific claims

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 20, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/20/20-tips-for-interpreting-scientific-claims/>

Link to the Paper: Policy: Twenty tips for interpreting scientific claims

By William J. Sutherland, David Spiegelhalter & Mark Burgman, Nature, Nov 20, 2013

<http://www.nature.com/news/policy-twenty-tips-for-interpreting-scientific-claims-1.14183>

[SEPP Comment: Curry presents the 10 most relevant to climate studies.]

Fallacies of risk

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 20, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/20/fallacies-of-risk/>

Social cost of carbon

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 21, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/21/social-cost-of-carbon/#more-12947>

At Last, A Plan B to Stop Global Warming

By Bjorn Lomborg, The Times, Via GWPF, Nov 18, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/bjorn-lomborg-last-plan-stop-global-warming/>

Only the Europeans and a few others remain devoted to significant expenses for tiny outcomes. The EU is committed to cutting carbon emissions by 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020. This will, according to an averaging of all the available energy-economic models, cost \$250 billion per year. By the end of the century (after a total cost of more than \$20 trillion) this will reduce the projected temperature increase by a mere 0.05°C.

Lowering Standards

The Decline and Fall of the Emperor Penguin?

Climate Change and Shrinking Ice Threaten Polar Birds

By David Levin, Oceanus, Nov 21, 2013

<http://www.whoi.edu/oceanus/feature/the-decline-and-fall-of-the-emperor-penguin>

[SEPP Comment: Disappointing to see such a speculative article published by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Dependent computer models that have not been validated and are contradicted by expanding Antarctic sea ice.]

Cost from disasters quadrupled in 30 years: World Bank

By Staff Writers, Warsaw (AFP), Nov 18, 2013

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Cost from disasters quadrupled in 30 years World Bank 99.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Cost_from_disasters_quadrupled_in_30_years_World_Bank_99.html)

Expanding the Orthodoxy

3 Lessons for Long-Term Climate Finance

By Taryn Fransen, Smita Nakhooda and Takeshi Kuramochi, World Resources Institute, Nov 11, 2013

<http://www.wri.org/blog/3-lessons-long-term-climate-finance>

Research shows that limiting global warming to 2 degrees C will require shifting \$5.7 trillion away from business-as-usual activities and toward sustainable development projects.

Hagel, citing climate change, rolls out Arctic strategy

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 22, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/191231-hagel-citing-climate-change-rolls-out-arctic-strategy>

Link to report: Arctic Strategy

By Staff Writers, DOD, Nov 2013

http://walter.thehill.com/sites/default/files/arctic_0.pdf

Questioning European Green

Why energy prices have risen so much

By Gordon Hughes, Herald Scotland, Nov 17, 2013 [H/t Bishop Hill]

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/why-energy-prices-have-risen-so-much.22719407?utm_source=headlines&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=email%2Balert

Stripping away the complexity, the net effect of subsidies for renewables and taxes on CO2 emissions is to offer an average price for electricity generated from the main sources of renewable energy - wind and wood chips - that is at least double the equivalent pool price of electricity which is determined by the cost of running gas-fired generating plants.

German firms at risk if Berlin does not revise energy law-EU Commissioner

By Annika Breidhardt, Reuters, Nov 19, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/11/19/germany-energy-idUKL5N0J437P20131119>

Is Energy in the UK “uninvestable”? Time for Government to get a grip.

By Nick Butler, Financial Times, Nov 16, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.ft.com/nick-butler/2013/11/16/is-energy-in-the-uk-uninvestable-time-for-government-to-get-a-grip/>

[SEPP Comment: Being greener than thou can have consequences.]

UK Energy Bills Set to Rise by £500M

Household could pay almost £500m more for energy over the next two years even if the government scraps future green taxes on utility bills, analysts have warned.

By Ali Hussain, Sunday Times, Via GWPF, Nov 17, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/uk-energy-bills-set-rise-500m/>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Breaking ranks on environmental issues

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Nov 22, 2013

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/breaking-ranks-environmental-issues>

[SEPP Comment: Speaking out against some tenants of the environmental industry, earns the shunning by their former colleagues.]

‘Democratize’ Just the Latest Phony Campaign to Sell Renewables

By Paul Chesser, NL&PC, Nov 20, 2013

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2013/11/20/democratize-just-latest-phony-campaign-sell-renewables>

Green Jobs

Chim-Chim Kerching! The return of the chimney sweep

Chimney sweeps enjoy a boom as Britons return to the traditional wood fire amid soaring energy bills

By Rebecca Burn-Callander, Telegraph, UK, Nov 8, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/festival-of-business/10436774/Chim-Chim-Kerching-The-return-of-the-chimney-sweep.html>

[SEPP Comment: Unintended consequences of foolish policy. For the amount of energy produced, fireplaces produce far more real pollution than modern coal plants.]

Funding Issues

Wealthy nations pledged billions to help the poor adapt to climate change. Where did it all go?

By Brad Plumer, Washington Post, Nov 18, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/11/18/wealthy-nations-promised-billions-to-help-the-poor-adapt-to-climate-change-where-did-it-go/>

Africa Faces \$350 Billion a Year Adaptation Cost as Planet Warms

By Alex Morales, Bloomberg, Nov 19, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-11-19/africa-faces-350-billion-a-year-adaptation-cost-as-planet-warms.html>

[SEPP Comment: Show me the warming in Africa!]

EU directs 20% of budget to climate change on eve of UN finance meeting

By Sophie Yeo, RTCC, Nov 20, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.rtcc.org/2013/11/19/eu-directs-20-of-budget-to-climate-change-on-eve-of-un-finance-meeting/>

None of these people could *possibly* have a reason to like Big-Government

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 20, 2013

<http://joannenova.com.au/2013/11/none-of-these-people-could-possibly-have-a-reason-to-like-big-government/#more-31831>

[SEPP Comment: Funding of the government Australian broadcast system, which heavily promotes global warming and carbon tax.]

United Nations tells business: Support us on climate change

By Steve Goreham, Washington Times, Nov 19, 2013

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/climatism-watching-climate-science/2013/nov/19/united-nations-tells-business-support-us-climate-c/>

[SEPP Comment: The typical response of business: if you make it profitable for us, we will support you. Therein lays the danger.]

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

A few more storms like Typhoon Haiyan may finally make our leaders act on climate change

By Jeffrey Sach, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Nov 15, 2013 [H/t Dennis Manuta]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-few-more-storms-like-typhoon-haiyan-may-finally-make-our-leaders-act-on-climate-change/2013/11/15/f1b5baa0-4c94-11e3-be6b-d3d28122e6d4_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend

[SEPP Comment: Apparently he does not understand data.]

After Haiyan: how to act on scientific advice that's politically inconvenient?

In the aftermath of typhoon Haiyan, debates over extreme weather require us to think harder about the relationship between the evidence, politics and institutions of scientific advice

By Roger Pielke Jr, Guardian, Nov 19, 2013

<http://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Largest lake in Britain and Ireland has lost three-quarters of winter water birds

By Staff Writers, Belfast UK (SPX), Nov 18, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Largest_lake_in_Britain_and_Ireland_has_lost_three_quarters_of_winter_water_birds_999.html

Link to paper: Chlorophyll-a concentrations and macroinvertebrate declines coincide with the collapse of overwintering diving duck populations in a large eutrophic lake

By Tomakova, et al. Freshwater Biology, Oct 22, 2013

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/fwb.12261/abstract>

[SEPP Comment: Cannot resist blaming climate change for the unintended consequences of conservation.]

More bad global warming news: Acidification harming sea urchins

By Stephanie Pappas, NBC News Nov 18, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/more-bad-global-warming-news-acidification-harming-sea-urchins-2D11624175>

[SEPP Comment: Global warming causes acidification of the oceans?]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Emissions of CO2 driving rapid oceans 'acid trip'

By Matt McGrath, BBC News, Nov 17, 2013

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-24904143>

[SEPP Comment: Biodiversity at sea vents with heavy emissions of CO2 or sulfur dioxide is indicative of what will happen with a modest increase in atmospheric CO2? Doubtful!]

How the BBC turned a catastrophic crisis into a drama about global warming

Listeners given a bogus message on Radio 4's Today programme

They were told storms like Typhoon Haiyan are linked to global warming

Same claim, which has no scientific basis, echoed by David Cameron

By David Rose, Mail, UK, Nov 16, 2013

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2508573/How-BBC-turned-catastrophic-crisis-drama-global-warming.html>

Island biodiversity in danger of total submersion with climate change

By Staff Writers, London, UK (SPX), Nov 19, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Island_biodiversity_in_danger_of_total_submersion_with_climate_change_999.html

[SEPP Comment: More non-science using long-term projections from climate models that have not been validated.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Why do sceptics put up with cyber bullying?

By Scottish Sceptic, His Blog, Nov 19, 2013 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://scottishsceptic.wordpress.com/2013/11/19/why-do-sceptics-put-up-with-cyber-bullying/>

The police visited today

By Staff Writer, Scottish Sceptic, Nov 19, 2013 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://scottishsceptic.wordpress.com/2013/11/19/the-police-visited-today/>

Do climate sceptics really deserve to be executed because of Typhoon Haiyan?

By James Delingpole, Telegraph, UK, Nov 14, 2013

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/jamesdelingpole/100245988/do-climate-sceptics-really-deserve-to-be-executed-because-of-typhoon-haiyan/>

Models v. Observations

Astronaut Walter Cunningham: “Absence of Supporting Data...Climate Models Have Never Successfully Predicted Anything”!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 20, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/20/astronaut-walter-cunningham-absence-of-supporting-data-climate-models-have-never-successfully-predicted-anything/>

Video

Report predicts wild weather for U.S. Southeast in coming decades

By Staff Writers, Gainesville, Fla. (UPI), Nov 19, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Report_predicts_wild_weather_for_US_Southeast_in_coming_decades_999.html

[SEPP Comment: What is wild? Another regional climate assessment based on computer models that no one bothers to validate.]

Models Issues

With or Without a “Pause” Climate Models Still Project Too Much Warming

By Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger and Patrick J. Michaels, CATO, Nov 19, 2013

<http://www.cato.org/blog/or-without-pause-climate-models-still-project-too-much-warming>

Measurement Issues

Coverage bias in the HadCRUT4 temperature record

By Kevin Cowtan and Robert Way, Press Release, University of York, No Date

<http://www-users.york.ac.uk/~kdc3/papers/coverage2013/background.html>

Link to paper: Coverage bias in the HadCRUT4 temperature series and its impact on recent temperature trends

By Cowtan and Way, Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, Nov 12, 2013

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/qj.2297/abstract>

'Missing heat' discovery prompts new estimate of global warming

By Staff Writers, York, UK (SPX), Nov 18, 2013

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Missing_heat_discovery_prompts_new_estimate_of_global_warming_999.html

Why the Global Warming ‘Pause’ Hasn’t Gone Away

This new paper does not affect the fact that the temperature databases, with their own allowances for data-free regions, show no warming for 16-years, or at the very least no warming for about 95% of the globe for 16-years.

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, Nov 18, 2013

<http://www.thegwgf.org/pause/>

Cowtan & Way off course

By Christopher Monckton, WUWT, Nov 20, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/20/cowtan-way-off-course/>

Uncertainty in Arctic temperatures

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 18, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/18/uncertainty-in-arctic-temperatures/>

The 2.8% effect

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 19, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/19/the-2-8-effect/>

Cowtan and Way 2013

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Nov 18, 2013

<http://climateaudit.org/2013/11/18/cotwan-and-way-2013/>

Could the Perspectives of Cowtan and Way Negate RSS’s 17 Year Pause? (Now Includes all October Data except Hadcrut)

By Werner Brozek, WUWT, Nov 20, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/20/could-the-perspectives-of-cowtan-and-way-negate-rsss-17-year-pause-now-includes-all-october-data-except-hadcrut/>

Spiegel On Cowtan And Way: “Feeling of Foreboding”...Other Studies On Antarctic, Mann et al, Tell Us “Caution Is Advised”

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 16, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/16/spiegel-on-cowtan-and-way-feeling-of-foreboding-other-studies-on-antarctic-mann-et-al-tell-us-caution-is-advised/>

Data corruption by running mean ‘smoothers’

By Greg Goodman, Climate Etc. Nov 22, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/22/data-corruption-by-running-mean-smoothers/#more-13852>

Changing Weather

November tornado outbreak in the quietest tornado year on record sign global cooling has begun

By Joseph D’Aleo, ICECAP, Nov 18, 2013 [H/t Paul Redfern]

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

[blog/november-tornado-outbreak-in-the-quietest-tornado-year-on-record-sign-global-cooling-has-begun](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/november-tornado-outbreak-in-the-quietest-tornado-year-on-record-sign-global-cooling-has-begun)

How Rare was the November Midwest Tornado Outbreak?

By Paul Homewood, WUWT, Nov 19, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/19/how-rare-was-the-november-midwest-tornado-outbreak/>

The Truth About Tornadoes

DOES global warming weaken tornadoes?

By Richard Muller, NYT, Nov 20, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

[http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/21/opinion/the-truth-about-](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/21/opinion/the-truth-about-tornadoes.html?adxnml=1&adxnmlx=1385136604-3VQ42UqNEWE9Gvo32joZMQ)

[tornadoes.html?adxnml=1&adxnmlx=1385136604-3VQ42UqNEWE9Gvo32joZMQ](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/21/opinion/the-truth-about-tornadoes.html?adxnml=1&adxnmlx=1385136604-3VQ42UqNEWE9Gvo32joZMQ)

Graphs of the Day: Major US Hurricane Drought Continues

By Roger Pielke Jr, His Blog, Nov 22, 2013

<http://rogerpielkejr.blogspot.com/2013/11/graphs-of-day-major-us-hurricane.html>

[SEPP Comment: Don’t tell the administration.]

Are UK Winters Becoming More Extreme?

By Paul Homewood, Not A Lot Of People Know That, Nov 19, 2013

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2013/11/19/are-uk-winters-becoming-more-extreme/>

[SEPP Comment: More bureaucratic science contradicted by facts.]

Austrian Meteorologists Stupefied Into Silence! Data From Alps Show Marked Cooling Over Last 2-3 Decades!

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 22, 2013

<http://notrickszone.com/2013/11/22/austrian-meteorologists-stupefied-into-silence-data-from-alps-show-marked-cooling-over-last-2-3-decades/>

Don't expect much wild weather this winter, NOAA forecast says

By Seth Borenstein, AP, Nov 21, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.nbcnews.com/science/dont-expect-much-wild-weather-winter-noaa-forecast-says-2D11632488#dont-expect-much-wild-weather->

Changing Climate

Climate and Human Civilization over the last 18,000 years

By Andy May, WUWT, Nov 17, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/17/climate-and-human-civilization-over-the-last-18000-years/>

Ancient Pollen Yields Dramatic Finds at Sea of Galilee

Israeli researchers uncover link between drought and the rapid decline of ancient civilizations, using pollen samples from under water.

By: Karin Kloosterman, ShalomLife, Nov 12, 2013 [H/t Howard Hayden]

<http://www.shalomlife.com/health/21009/ancient-pollen-yields-dramatic-finds-at-sea-of-galilee/>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Heat 'not undermining Greenland's ice sheet'

By John Ross, Australian, Nov 19, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/melting-not-undermining-greenland-ice-sheet/story-e6frgcjx-1226762772954>

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the claims of some, the unusual 2012 summer melt did not accelerate the flow of the ice.]

Study: Greenland Ice Sheet was smaller 3000-5000 years ago than today

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 22, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/22/study-greenland-ice-sheet-was-smaller-3000-5000-years-ago-than-today/>

New paper: [Eastern] Arctic temperatures [may have] peaked before 1950, declining since

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 19, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/19/new-paper-arctic-temperatures-peaked-before-1950-declining-since/>

Link to paper: Eurasian Arctic climate over the past millennium as recorded in the Akademii Nauk ice core (Severnaya Zemlya)

By: T. Opel, D. Fritzsche, and H. Meyer, Climate of the Past, 2013

<http://www.clim-past.net/9/2379/2013/cp-9-2379-2013.html>

[SEPP Comment: The measurements from the latest years of an ice core are uncertain.]

Inverse Underwater Hockey Sticks?

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 18, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/18/inverse-underwater-hockey-sticks/>

Changing Earth

Volcano discovered smoldering under a kilometer of ice in West Antarctica

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 17, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/17/volcano-discovered-smoldering-under-a-kilometer-of-ice-in-west-antarctica/>

Acidic Waters

Coastal Ocean Acidification: Answering the Seattle Times

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Nov 18, 2013

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2013/11/coastal-ocean-acidification-answering.html>

[SEPP Comment: Further exposing the false claims that increased CO₂ is destroying shellfish. The problem was limited to big tanks containing oyster larvae of non-native Pacific oysters from Japan that cannot reproduce in the cold waters of the Pacific Northwest.]

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Species Range Shifts in a Warming World

Reference: Ettinger, A.K. and Lambers, J.H.R. 2013. Climate isn't everything: Competitive interactions and variation by life stage will also affect range shifts in a warming world. *American Journal of Botany* 100: 1344-1355.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/nov/19nov2013a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: The advance of the leading edge of the tree line may be more important than any other consideration.]

How Close is Modeled Precipitation to Measured Precipitation?

Reference: Song, H., Lin, W., Lin, Y., Wolf, A.B., Neggers, R., Donner, L.J., Del Genio, A.D. and Liu, Y. 2013. Evaluation of precipitation simulated by seven SCMs against the ARM observations at the SGP site. *Journal of Climate* 26: 5467-5492.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/nov/19nov2013a2.html>

Given such findings, it is clear that it will be quite some time before proper confidence can be placed in these single-column models.

The Increasing Water-Use Efficiencies of Temperate and Boreal Forests of the Northern Hemisphere Over the Past Two Decades

Reference: Keenan, T.F., Hollinger, D.Y., Bohrer, G., Dragoni, D., Munger, J.W., Schmid, H.P. and Richardson, A.D. 2013. Increase in forest water-use efficiency as atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations rise. *Nature*: 10.1038/nature12291.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/nov/20nov2013a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: Alarm! California's redwoods are growing faster than any time in the tree ring record. Are they becoming obese?]

Atmospheric CO₂ Enrichment and Plants of Warm and Dry Regions

Reference: Donohue, R.J., Roderick, M.L., McVicar, T.R. and Farquhar, G.D. 2013. Impact of CO₂ fertilization on maximum foliage cover across the globe's warm, arid environments. *Geophysical Research Letters* 40: 3031-3035.

<http://nipccreport.org/articles/2013/nov/20nov2013a3.html>

"our results confirm that the direct biochemical impact of the rapid increase in Ca [atmospheric CO₂ concentrations] over the last 30 years on terrestrial vegetation is an influential and observable land surface process." Or to put it more directly, the greening of the Earth continues, courtesy of the ongoing rise in the air's CO₂ content.

The Political Games Continue

Obama, GOP battle over credit for surging oil and gas production

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 22, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/191163-white-house-gop-battle-over-energy-production-surge>

Senate's filibuster rule change should help Obama achieve key second-term priorities

By Zachary A. Goldfarb, Washington Post, Nov 21, 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/senates-filibuster-rule-change-will-help-obama-achieve-key-second-term-priorities/2013/11/21/ccf43c4c-52dd-11e3-9fe0-fd2ca728e67c_story.html

Litigation Issues

Greens, industry spar over 'sue and settle'

By Julian Hattem, The Hill, Nov 22, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/191215-greens-industry-spar-over-sue-and-settle>

[SEPP Comment: If justice is the goal, why is the process kept secret?]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

London Banks Quit Carbon Trading

At least 10 London banks have scaled back or closed their carbon trading desks amid turmoil in the European emissions trading scheme.

By Jim Pickard and Ajay Makan, Financial Times, Via GWPF, Nov 20, 2013

<http://www.thegwpf.org/london-banks-quit-carbon-trading/>

Global Warming Pragmatism

By Robert Samuelson, Real Clear Politics, Nov 18, 2013

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2013/11/18/global_warming_pragmatism_120691.html

[SEPP Comment: It is amazing the number of people who will advocate major policy based on polls asking trite questions. The lack of knowledge about global warming is due to the failure of the climate establishment to properly conduct scientific investigation and should not be the basis for policy.]

A Carbon Tax on Everything -- Really, Robert?

By J. Robert Smith, American Thinker, Nov 19, 2013

http://www.americanthinker.com/2013/11/a_carbon_tax-everything_--_really_robert.html

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Energy Economist: tough times for European utilities may have a lesson for the US

By Ross McCracken, Platts, Nov 22, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.platts.com/2013/11/22/ee-nov13/>

[SEPP Comment: Utilities in a "death spiral"?

Four charts showing why it's time to end the biofuel mandate

By Mark Perry, AEIdeas, Nov 18, 2013 [H/t Cooler Heads]

<http://www.aei-ideas.org/2013/11/four-charts-showing-why-its-time-to-end-the-biofuel-mandate/>

Feds gave billions to energy firm with no business model

By Luke Rosiak, Washington Examiner, Nov 7, 2013

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/article/2538646>

[SEPP Comment: The first of a three-part series exposing how Washington squanders resources, no matter the political party involve.]

The Wind Production Tax Credit Should Not Be Extended

By Davis Swan, Energy Central, Nov 4, 2013 [H/t AWED]

<http://www.energycentral.com/generationstorage/wind/articles/2765/The-Wind-Production-Tax-Credit-Should-Not-Be-Extended>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

EPA guidelines seek green standards on procurement

By Ben Goad, The Hill, Nov 20, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/190963-epa-issues-guidelines-for-environmentally-preferable-federal>

[SEPP Comment: Subject to modification until published.]

The EPA's war on coal not supported by facts

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Nov 19, 2013

http://washingtonexaminer.com/examiner-editorial-the-epas-war-on-coal-not-supported-by-facts/article/2539438?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Reoccurring%20-%2011/20/2013&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

Link to report: The Black Box: EPA defies Congress on “secret science” used to justify environmental regulations

By James Taylor, CRC, Nov 12, 2013

<http://capitalresearch.org/2013/11/green-watch-november-2013-the-black-box-epa-defies-congress-on-secret-science-used-to-justify-environmental-regulations/>

EPA ‘Public Listening Session’ Turns Into Sierra Club Talking Session

By Taylor Smith, WUWT, Nov 20, 2013

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/11/20/epa-public-listening-session-turns-into-sierra-club-talking-session/>

[SEPP Comment: As intended.]

House bill warns of EPA threat to fire hydrants

By Pete Kasperowicz, The Hill, Nov 22, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/energyenvironment/191208-members-look-to-block-epa-rule-requiring-lead-free-fire>

[SEPP Comment: What is the dose level from occasional exposure to water from fire hydrants?]

Energy Issues – Non-US

Poland Builds Electronic Wall to Keep Out German Renewables

German renewables are invading Poland.

By Giles Parkinson, Green Tech Media, Nov 18, 2013 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/poland-builds-electronic-wall-to-keep-out-german-renewables>

[SEPP Comment: A new type of trade war – keep your cheap, unreliable electricity out!]

Energy agency official: On climate, oil sands aren't the big problem

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 18, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/190530-energy-agency-official-on-climate-oil-sands-arent-the-big-problem>

IEA predicts price pinch

The export markets of Europe and Japan will decline as a result of higher electricity prices, according to the International Energy Agency's 2013 edition of its World Energy Outlook (WEO).

By Staff Writers, WNN, Nov 12, 2013

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE IEA predicts price pinch 1211131.html>

[SEPP Comment: The exports of Europe and Japan will decline, not the markets.]

Energy Issues -- US

Chicago turns on to clean energy

By Staff Writers, WNN, Nov 15, 2013

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/EE-Chicago-turns-on-to-clean-energy-1511134.html>

[SEPP Comment: Not one word about cost to the public.]

Obama touts clean energy agenda

By Cameron Joseph, The Hill, Nov 16, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/190483-obama-touts-clean-energy-agenda>

U.S. Should Embrace Its Energy Superpower Status

By Mark Perry, IBD, Nov 18, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-perspective/111813-679623-us-is-an-energy-powerhouse-no-thanks-to-government-regulation.htm?p=full>

[SEPP Comment: Given the behavior of Washington, it would be better to ignore it.]

Washington's Control of Energy

Alaska's Oil in Jeopardy

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Nov 19, 2013

http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/11/19/alaskas-oil-in-jeopardy/?utm_content=bufferd13d8&utm_source=buffer&utm_medium=twitter&utm_campaign=Buffer

Interior announces \$14.2B in energy revenue

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Nov 19, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/190723-interior-announces-2nd-highest-energy-revenue-on-record>

[SEPP Comment: The quantities are not presented, and the dollar amounts are suspicious. However, if true, how much more would be available if Washington did not stop or slow down oil and gas production in federally controlled lands and waters. See link immediately above.]

House approves bill to speed up drilling

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 20, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/190946-house-approves-bill-to-speed-drilling-permits-open-more-lands>

Outside View: The strange debate over LNG exports

By Richard Schmalensee and Margo Thorning, Washington (UPI) Nov 21, 2013

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Outside_View_The_strange_debate_over_LNG_exports_999.html

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Saudis launch major gas drilling in Red Sea

By Staff Writers, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia (UPI), Nov 21, 2013

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Saudis_launch_major_gas_drilling_in_Red_Sea_999.html

Return of King Coal?

White House ‘delighted’ by UK coal move

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 20, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/190885-white-house-delighted-uk-wont-fund-overseas-coal-plants>

[SEPP Comment: Poverty promoters.]

Coal sector must 'change dramatically': climate chief

By Staff Writers, Warsaw (AFP), Nov 18, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Coal_sector_must_change_dramatically_climate_chief_999.html

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Court orders DOE to halt collection of nuclear waste fees

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Nov 19, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/190771-energy-dept-ordered-to-stop-collecting-nuclear-waste-storage-fees>

[SEPP Comment: Now refund the fees collected based on a promise that the administration reneged.]

Unavoidable Answer for the Problem of Climate Change

By Eduardo Porter, NYT, Nov 19, 2013 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/20/business/economy/unavoidable-answer-to-problem-of-climate-change.html?partner=rss&emc=rss&_r=1&

Wall Street Journal and Fear

By Donn Dears, Power for USA, Nov 22, 2013

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/11/22/wall-street-journal-and-fear/http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2013/11/22/wall-street-journal-and-fear/>

Fukushima operator starts dangerous fuel-rod removal

By Staff Writers, Tokyo (AFP), Nov 18, 2013

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Fukushima_operator_starts_dangerous_fuel-rod_removal_999.html

[SEPP Comment: What adjective should one use in describing the work of nuclear weapons handlers?]

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Wind company pays fine over eagle deaths

By Julian Hatten, The Hill, Nov 22, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/191247-wind-company-pays-fine-over-eagle-deaths>

[SEPP Comment: A token penalty compared with what oil companies are charged and no agreement that they will kill no more.]

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

The folly of corn ethanol

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 17, 2013

<http://judithcurry.com/2013/11/17/the-folly-of-corn-ethanol/>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Energy Dept. loses \$139M in Fisker auto loan default

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Nov 22, 2013

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/191258-energy-dept-loses-139-million-in-auto-loan-gone-bad>

[SEPP Comment: How much will the State of Delaware lose thanks to the involvement of Vice President Biden?]

Environmental Industry

Tennessee Valley Authority Makes Major Coal Plant Retirement Announcement

By Staff Writers, Knoxville TN (SPX), Nov 18, 2013

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Tennessee_Valley_Authority_Makes_Major_Coal_Plant_Retirement_Announcement_999.html

According to the Clean Air Task Force, pollution from the Colbert coal plant in Alabama alone contributed to 940 asthma attacks, 83 heart attacks, and 57 deaths per year.

[SEPP Comment: Would like to see the scientific research that supported that statement.]

Other Scientific News

JFK and the Moon: Anatomy of a Historic Decision

By Harrison Schmitt, Americas Uncommon Sense, Nov 22, 2013

<http://americasuncommonsense.com/blog/2013/11/22/55-space-policy-and-the-constitution-7/>

NASA Issues 2014 Call for Advanced Technology Concepts

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Nov 19, 2013

http://www.space-travel.com/reports/NASA_Issues_2014_Call_for_Advanced_Technology_Concepts_999.html

Satellites to probe Earth's strange shield

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Nov 18, 2013

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Satellites_to_probe_Earths_strange_shield_999.html

Microbiologists reveal unexpected properties of methane-producing microbe

By Staff Writers, Amherst MA, (SPX) Nov 19, 2013

http://www.biofueldaily.com/reports/Microbiologists_reveal_unexpected_properties_of_methane-producing_microbe_999.html

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Pentagon Wants To Power Navy With Used Cooking Grease

Editorial, IBD, Nov 20, 2013

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/112013-680070-navy-goes-green-with-alternative-fuels.htm>

[SEPP Comment: When US oil production is increasing significantly, this Navy wants to spend more money on expensive fuels that are difficult to produce, the Pentagon way.]

\$4.5M Fed Study: 'Effects of Climate Change on Indoor Air

By Penny Star, CNS News, Nov 15, 2013 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/penny-starr/45m-fed-study-effects-climate-change-indoor-air>

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ARTICLES:

1. The 'Spy' Who Fooled the EPA

Under deep CIA cover at the Office of Air and Radiation.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 21, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304439804579208262999418146?mod=hp_opinion

The Environmental Protection Agency wants to be the nation's super-regulator, though it might first try to regulate its own employees. At least the ones pretending to be James Bond.

The Department of Justice in late September announced a plea agreement with John C. Beale, until recently a senior career employee at EPA's Office of Air and Radiation. Beale, 64, has admitted to devoting most of his 23-year career to bilking taxpayers of some \$900,000 in pay and expenses. "Saturday Night Live" couldn't come up with this story.

Information released by law enforcement, and details from an investigation by Louisiana Senator David Vitter, show that the fraud began when Beale stated in his 1989 EPA job application that he'd worked for the U.S. Senate, though there is no record of such employment. By 1994 Beale was claiming he was a CIA operative to justify prolonged absences. Apparently this raised no eyebrows at EPA.

Prosecutors estimate that from 2000 to 2013 Beale was absent from his EPA duties for a total of 2.5 years, claiming to be working for "Langley" or on a special EPA "research project." In 2008 he was gone for six months but never submitted a leave request. Around May 2011, Beale claimed to be retiring and celebrated with colleagues on a dinner cruise. An EPA manager admitted to not seeing Beale at the office after that, though not noticing until November 2012 that Beale was still on the payroll.

Beale used his "research" excuse to have taxpayers fund at least five trips to Los Angeles—worth \$57,000 in travel expenses—to visit relatives and stay at nice hotels. Beale also claimed that he'd contracted malaria while serving in Vietnam, requiring taxpayers to cough up \$18,000 for a handicapped parking spot in downtown Washington, D.C. He didn't serve in Vietnam and he didn't have malaria.

Beale was paid despite his absences and he received retention incentive bonuses that for a time made him among the highest paid employees at EPA. Mr. Vitter's office has noted that Beale was only approved to receive these bonuses for six years, yet EPA somehow handed them out for 23. Spooks the world over are jealous.

To recap: The same agency that wants to regulate the nation's carbon economy failed to vet a new hire, swallowed his spy stories, and paid a salary and bonuses to an employee who didn't come to work and whom it didn't notice was missing. EPA Inspector General Arthur Elkins, who is

investigating the agency's employment and supervisory practices, says this fraud was the result of "an absence of even basic internal controls at the EPA."

Mr. Vitter is pushing for a Senate hearing into EPA mismanagement, but Environment and Public Works Chairman Barbara Boxer is resisting. Amid all of the other current demonstrations of government incompetence, perhaps she figures this is simply too embarrassing.

2. Second Life for an Old Oil Field

Texas' Permian Basin, Where Output Peaked in '70s, Now a Hot Site for Horizontal Drilling

By Tom Fowler, WSJ, Nov 19, 2013

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304868404579194571527374000?mod=WSJ_Energy_2_4_Right<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304073204579170023892274000>

One of Texas' oldest oil fields, in decline for decades, has become one of the hottest places in the country to drill for crude, as energy companies create clusters of wells with layers of horizontal branches.

The Permian Basin—86,000 square miles centered on Midland, Texas—has been pumping oil since the 1920s, though production peaked at about 2 million barrels a day in the early 1970s. For decades, geologists have known that oil could be found in different layers of rock piled up like a stack of geologic pancakes.

But now drillers are starting to tap those layers simultaneously from a single site—and are committing billions of dollars to do so.

Occidental Petroleum Inc., the largest producer in the Permian, said it plans to spend \$500 million there in 2014 and has created a new "exploitation team" to identify more drilling locations.

Concho Resources Inc., one of dozens of smaller producers focusing on the Permian, is accelerating its growth plans over the next three years to double oil output by 2016. And Apache Corp., the second-largest producer in the region, said its daily oil production in the Permian grew 18% to hit a record; it plans to increase its investments there following the recent sale of operations in Canada and Egypt.

"I think the Permian is going to have years of surprises in it and most of them are going to be good," Apache CEO Steven Farris said in a conference call with analysts earlier this month.

Because of the Permian's many thick layers—Wolfcamp, Cline and Spraberry are the names of just a few—a group of wells on one site can potentially tap into several different oil reservoirs, each wellbore going down just far enough to reach its targeted layer and then turning sideways.

About 70% of the wells drilled in the Permian this year are vertical, but as companies better understand the geology they will increasingly start to drill horizontally, allowing each well to tap more oil, said Robert Christensen, an energy analyst with Cannacord Genuity.

Drilling in the Permian isn't easy, however. In many areas the surface layers of rock are much harder than in some other oil fields, so it can take longer and cost more to drill. A sharp fall in oil prices could make operations there uneconomic.

And some of the layers are low quality compared with the Bakken Shale in North Dakota and the Eagle Ford shale in Texas, where oil production has soared in the past few years thanks to horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing.

Permian oil has grown more modestly, from about 850,000 barrels a day in 2008 to 1.3 million barrels this year. But analysts expect the daily rate will rise more—to as much as 1.9 million barrels per day by 2018 according to Bentek Energy, an energy-market analysis company.

Spending in the Permian Basin has already more than tripled since 2008, from about \$6 billion to \$18 billion in 2012, according to research firm Wood Mackenzie, and is expected to top \$19.8 billion by the end of 2013.

The increased activity has helped West Texas cities like Midland and Odessa to some of the lowest unemployment rates in the country, at 3.2% and 3.8% respectively as of August. The national average is 7.3%.

For energy companies, one benefit of working in a place with established oil wells is that drillers don't have to rush in before their leases on land expire; most leases automatically continue in effect once oil starts coming out of the ground (the industry calls this "leases held by production").

So companies including Occidental, ConocoPhillips and Pioneer Natural Resources say they are working slowly and methodically to understand the geology and the best spots to drill.

That leads some experts to say the boom in the Permian is just beginning. "We're just in innings two or three of the game," said Matt Portillo, a research director at Tudor Pickering Holt & Co.

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