

The Week That Was: 2014-11-15 (November 15, 2014)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: “The private sector can be expected to develop improved solar and wind technologies which will begin to become competitive and self-supporting on a national level by the end of the decade if assisted by tax credits and augmented by federally sponsored R&D.” American Wind Energy Association, et al. (1983). Quoted in Renewable Energy Industry, Joint Hearing before the Subcommittees of the Committee on Energy and Commerce et al., House of Representatives, 98th Cong., 1st sess. [H/t Robert Bradley Jr.]

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Number of the Week: \$18.862 Billion

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THIS WEEK:

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

China-US Agreement? On November 4, President Obama and his supporters incurred a major defeat in the non-presidential election. The opposing party, the Republicans, expanded control of the US House of Representatives, took control of the US Senate, and expanded control over the legislative bodies in a number of states.

As if to save face, President Obama traveled to China to announce an agreement to reduce China-US emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), a signature issue of the President’s current term. In evaluating this agreement, TWTW was unable to find a joint, signed agreement and had to rely on press releases from the White House. The following are among the salient points in the White House press release with a deadline of Beijing, China, 12 November 2014.

3. *Today, the Presidents of the United States and China announced their respective post-2020 actions on climate change, recognizing that these actions are part of the longer range effort to transition to low-carbon economies, mindful of the global temperature goal of 2 °C. The United States intends to achieve an economy-wide target of reducing its emissions by 26%-28% below its 2005 level in 2025 and to make best efforts to reduce its emissions by 28%. China intends to achieve the peaking of CO₂ emissions around 2030 and to make best efforts to peak early and intends to increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 20% by 2030. Both sides intend to continue to work to increase ambition over time.*

4. *The United States and China hope that by announcing these targets now, they can inject momentum into the global climate negotiations and inspire other countries to join in coming forward with ambitious actions as soon as possible, preferably by the first quarter of 2015. The two Presidents resolved to work closely together over the next year to address major impediments to reaching a successful global climate agreement in Paris.*

5. *The global scientific community has made clear that human activity is already changing the world’s climate system. Accelerating climate change has caused serious impacts. Higher temperatures and extreme weather events are damaging food production, rising sea levels and more damaging storms are putting our coastal cities increasingly at risk and the impacts of climate change are already harming economies around the world, including those of the United States and China. These developments urgently require enhanced actions to tackle the challenge.*

[SEPP strongly disagrees with this paragraph and calls for compelling physical evidence supporting this view.]

This announcement is strikingly one-sided.

President Obama will leave office on January 20, 2017, after the 2016 election, long before the post-2020 time frame of the announcement. President Obama is attempting to encumber his successor with an impractical concept that will hobble the US economy.

In effect, this announcement gives President Obama the pretense of being a world leader in his campaign against carbon dioxide emissions and the coal industry. Probably, he will take advantage of the announcement during the November 15-16 meeting of the G20, the “premier forum for international economic corporation and decision-making.”

The announcement obligates China to nothing prior to 2030. Several analysts estimate that by 2030 China’s drive for industrialization will be largely over and its population will plateau. There is no logical reason for the President of China to not agree to such an announcement that will save face for President Obama. China can use the announcement to its advantage, claiming it has agreed to reduce CO2 in the future, and its potential competitors should agree to do the same. All this concurred to by the U.S. For a diverse array of comments please see Article #1 and links under China – US Agreement?

Green Reaction to the Announcement: After taking a major blow in the US election, the environmental industry was very favorable to the China-US announcement. Many see it as a way to create an international agreement at UN Conference of Parties (and Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol) in Paris from November 30 to December 11, 2015. No doubt, President Obama and the administration will work diligently in attempts to assure that the meeting will be a success.

To do so, requires another year of maintaining the fiction that the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) understands the causes of climate change, particularly the natural causes, and that the models it uses capture the natural causes. See Article # 2 and links under China – US Agreement? [In Article # 2, the recital of US renewable energy projects is particularly noteworthy, how many would exist without government subsidies and mandates?]

Cold Water on the Announcement: President Obama does not have the advantage of the President of China, the United States is not an authoritarian government, though China seems to be becoming less of one. The president’s press releases do not have the force of law. No doubt, he continues to expect that his powers under executive orders will remain unrestrained. As a result of the election, he cannot expect the Senate to rubber stamp his announcements, nor can he expect the Senate will continue to ignore bills passed by the House, without considering them, as was the case under the leadership of Senator Harry Reid. The entire playing field has changed.

Already Senator Inhofe, who was severely attacked by the greens, has declared that the US funding for the special UN climate fund is an issue in the past for the US. Other funding issues, both national and international will follow. See links under China – US Agreement?, Funding Issues, The Political Games Continue.

Ivory Tower Contempt? In general, TWTW has ignored issues regarding President Obama's first signature issue – what is known as Obamacare, or affordable health care. Over the past several months videos were taken of lectures by a major architect of the Obamacare program, MIT Economics Professor Jonathan Gruber. In these videos, Gruber demonstrates a callous disregard for the foundations of American government, the public, and the concept of integrity in public service – issues that apply well beyond affordable health care.

To make matters worse, former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who helped force through Obamacare with limited discussion, pretended that Mr. Gruber was of no importance in implementing Obamacare. Quickly, examples of Ms. Pelosi touting Mr. Gruber's analysis appeared, from Ms. Pelosi's web site.

The attitude expressed by Jonathan Gruber, an expert on health care, does not bode well for experts on other subjects. The traditional media has not picked up on the topic. But, the traditional media is becoming less important in forming public views. In a Congress that has many people who are skeptical about the certainty that human emissions of CO₂ are the primary cause of global warming/climate change, those advocating the Administration's view may expect some tough questioning. See links under Problems in the Administration.

Challenging the Orthodoxy: Political writer Paul Driessen and climate scientist David Legates argue that the US, or any other country, cannot develop models making accurate climate forecasts until those funding these models abandon the fixation that CO₂ is the control knob of the earth's temperatures. This view of CO₂ dominance has been advanced by members of NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), including its current director, Gavin Schmidt.

Separately, long-time NASA researcher Roy Spencer argues that what controls climate for North America during human lifetimes are the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) and the Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation (AMO) – two natural climate cycles. Though these researches have spoken out before against the dogma that dominates climate research, such challenges are refreshing. As Carl Sagan wrote: Arguments from authority carry little weight. This view is reinforced by many others, including in the writings of Bertrand Russell, who emphasized it is not the authority or expert that counts, but how and why the authority substantiates his views. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Seeking a Common Ground.

Arctic Methane: Over the years, SEPP has read many warnings that a warming of the Arctic will release vast quantities of methane that will create a massive greenhouse effect. The issue was contested in the reports of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) Climate Change Reconsidered II. An airborne research study by NASA finds no signs of rising Arctic methane in Alaska, which has warmed appreciably in the past few decades. See links under Questioning the Orthodoxy.

Natural Disasters: NIPCC lead author Madhav Khandekar has produced a study of flooding in India using 200 years of data compiled by the British. Contrary to reports, there was nothing new about recent floods in Kashmir. The report highlights the need for better climate models to predict natural variability and lessen the impact of naturally occurring events, particularly on a regional basis.

Roger Pielke, Jr. who temporarily stopped his blog, wrote a book: *Disasters & Climate Change*. The book is reviewed by Doug Hoffman. It finds no significant increase in extreme weather

events, contrary to claims by the Administration. One of the main points the book brings out is that the media repeatedly asks if climate change is a causal factor in an event. Basically, the question as stated is unanswerable. See links under Changing Weather.

Number of the Week: \$18.862 Billion. According to an August 2013 White House report, the 2013 Current Budget Authority for Clean Energy Technologies, Energy Provisions That May Reduce Greenhouse Gases, and Energy Payments in Lieu of Tax Provisions totaled \$18.862 Billion – over 20 years, after a temporary subsidy would make solar and wind competitive.
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/legislative_reports/fcce-report-to-congress.pdf

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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. Green Leap Forward

Obama trades higher U.S. energy costs now for distant Chinese promises.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 12, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/green-leap-forward-1415838404?mod=hp_opinion

2. A Game-Changing Climate Agreement

The U.S. and China are sending one of the most powerful market signals the world has ever seen.

By Fred Krupp, WSJ, Nov 12, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/fred-krupp-a-game-changing-climate-agreement-1415838017?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj

Mr. Krupp is the president of the Environmental Defense Fund.

3. North Dakota to Require Producers to Treat Crude Before Shipping

Move Comes Amid Growing Safety Concerns About Oil-Laden Trains

By Chester Dawson and Russell Gold, WSJ, Nov 13, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/north-dakota-to-require-producers-to-treat-crude-before-shipping-1415913185?mod=WSJ_hps_MIDDLE_Video_Top

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

Gergis2K and the Oroko “Disturbance-Corrected” Blade

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Nov 11, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/11/11/gergis2k-and-the-oroko-disturbance-corrected-blade/>

PAGES2K and Nature’s Policy against Self-Plagiarism

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Nov 14, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/11/14/pages2k-and-natures-policy-against-self-plagiarism/#more-20249>

Suppressing Scientific Inquiry

First They Came For Climate Sceptics: EU Chief Scientist Forced Out By Green Lobby

By Ben Webster, The Times, Via GWPF, Nov 14, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/first-they-came-for-climate-sceptics-eu-chief-scientist-forced-out-by-green-lobby/>

[SEPP Comment: The chief scientific adviser to the European Commission has been ousted after a lobbying campaign led by Greenpeace, which objected to her support for genetically modified crops.]

Genetic modification and Europe

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Nov 14, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/genetic-modification-and-europe>

[SEPP Comment: Further thoughts on the role of the EU Chief Scientific Adviser.]

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Man-made Global Warming (AGW) is Real: Men Really Created It

By Tim Ball, WUWT, Nov 9, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/09/man-made-global-warming-agw-is-real-men-really-created-it/>

IPCC's Latest Report: The End Is Nigh Unless Mankind Repents of Its Fuelish Ways

By Marlo Lewis, CNS News, Nov 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/commentary/marlo-lewis/ipcc-s-latest-report-end-nigh-unless-mankind-repents-its-fuelish-ways>

Accurate Climate Forecasts: End the CO2 Fixation (Part I)

By Paul Driessen and David Legates, Master Resource, Nov 12, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/climate-change/accurate-climate-forecasts-end-co2-fixation-part/>

Accurate Climate Forecasts: End the CO2 Fixation (Part II)

By Paul Driessen and David Legates, Master Resource, Nov 13, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/climate-change/accurate-climate-forecasts-end-co2-fixation-part-ii/>

A Busted El Nino and the New Weather Norm

By Roy Spencer, His Blog, Nov 12, 2014

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2014/11/a-busted-el-nino-and-the-new-weather-norm/>

The trouble with including natural climate cycles in the national discussion of global warming is both political and scientific: (1) it doesn't fit the global warming narrative driven by policy goals, and (2) we don't understand what causes natural climate cycles, and so they cannot be included in computer climate models.

Fossil fuels: The moral choice

By Alex Epstein, Fox News, Nov 14, 2014

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2014/11/14/fossil-fuels-moral-choice/>

The One Statistic Climate Catastrophists Don't Want You to Know

By Patrick Michaels, CATO, Nov 13, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/one-statistic-climate-catastrophists-dont-want-you-know>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Defending the Orthodoxy

NASA official says in NY Times if you question climate models then you must also question Newtonian mechanics

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Nov 12, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/11/nasa-official-says-in-ny-times-if-you.html>

[SEPP Comment: False line of reasoning. The models have not been validated.]

The Bonfire of the Subsidies

By Kevin Watkins, Project Syndicate, Nov 11, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/g20-brisbane-summit-fossil-fuel-subsidies-by-kevin-watkins-2014-11>

[SEPP Comment: Promoting the contrived goal of limiting global warming to less than 2°C above the planet's pre-industrial level – as if we know what it was.]

China – US Agreement?

U.S.-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change

By Staff Writers, Office of the Press Secretary, The White House, Nov 11, 2014

Beijing, China, 12 Nov 2014

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/11/us-china-joint-announcement-climate-change>

FACT SHEET: U.S.-China Joint Announcement on Climate Change and Clean Energy Cooperation

President Obama Announces Ambitious 2025 Target to Cut U.S. Climate Pollution by 26-28 Percent from 2005 Levels

By Staff Writers, Office of the Press Secretary, The White House, Nov 11, 2014

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/11/fact-sheet-us-china-joint-announcement-climate-change-and-clean-energy-c>

No Agreement in Beijing -- Just a Surrender

By William R. Hawkins, American Thinker, Nov 14, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/11/no_agreement_in_beijing_just_a_surrender.html

Sen. Inhofe: 'A non-binding charade'

China will face zero consequences if it does not live up to its word.

James Inhofe, USA Today, Nov 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/11/12/greenhouse-gas-emissions-sen-james-inohe-editorials-debates/18940687/>

Nothing New, as China “Intends” to Cap Emissions

By Patrick Michaels, CATO, Nov 12, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/nothing-new-china-intends-cap-emissions>

While China has good “intentions” we get real “unemployment”. Such a deal!

Obama, Xi Agree on Meaningless Climate Deal

By Myron Ebell, Global Warming.org, Nov 12, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/11/12/obama-xi-agree-on-meaningless-climate-deal/>

The audacity of climate cynicism

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Nov 13, 2014

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/the-audacity-of-climate-cynicism/article/2556109?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2011/13/14&utm_medium=email

The China Heist

Massive “climate aid” to developing nations will not aid the climate, but it will harm our economy.

By Rupert Darwall, National Review, Nov 14, 2014

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/392688/china-heist-rupert-darwall>

The Real Story on China Climate Change Deal: We Make Changes Now, They Wait Until 2030

By Nicolas Loris. Daily Signal, Nov 12, 2014

http://dailysignal.com/2014/11/12/real-story-china-climate-change-deal-make-changes-now-wait-2030/?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=morningbell&mk_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRokvqrMZKXonjHpfsX66O0pUKOylMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjI4CSsVmI%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFQrLBMaIozrgOWxU%3D

Obama's Climate Deal With China An Empty Gesture

Editorial IBD, Nov 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/111214-726178-obama-climate-deal-with-china-meaningless-sham.htm>

Obama P*wned

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Nov 13, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/11/13/obama-pwned/>

[SEPP Comment: Not much of a reduction in fossil fuel use in China.]

Dealing with denial

America’s concessions are more real than China’s

Editorial, The Economist, Nov 15, 2014

<http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21632508-americas-concessions-are-more-real-chinas-dealing-denial>

Observations on the US-China climate announcement

By Benjamin Zycher, The Hill, Nov 14, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/energy-environment/224076-observations-on-the-us-china-climate-announcement>

China, U.S. agree to limit greenhouse gases

By David Nakamura and Steven Mufson, Washington Post, Nov 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/china-us-agree-to-limit-greenhouse-gases/2014/11/11/9c768504-69e6-11e4-9fb4-a622dae742a2_story.html

China, U.S. make joint climate change commitments

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Nov 11, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/china-u.s.-make-joint-climate-change-commitments/article/2556053>

China climate negotiator defends flexible carbon target

By Staff Writer, AFP, Nov 14, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/china-climate-negotiator-defends-flexible-carbon-target-073210530.html#1IACXNR>

Climate Deal with China: U.S. Makes Cuts, PRC Can Increase Emissions for 16 Years

"The president has gotten very little and he's given away much in the agreement."

By Bridget Johnson, PJ Media, Nov 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://pjmedia.com/blog/climate-deal-with-china-u-s-makes-cuts-prc-can-increase-emissions-for-16-years/?singlepage=true>

Emissions Reduction by the Numbers

By Jeffrey Frankel, Project Syndicate, Nov 14, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/china-us-carbon-emissions-formula-by-jeffrey-frankel-2014-11>

[SEPP Comment: Rating countries by the extent to which they promised to cut CO2 emissions.]

Election over, so US, China agree to make unenforceable long term commitment with no consequences

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 12, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/11/election-over-so-us-china-agree-to-make-unenforceable-long-term-commitment-with-no-consequences/>

Hallelujah! Climate Salvation in our Time!

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Nov 13, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/11/hallelujah-climate-salvation-in-our-time.php>

In Climate Deal With China, Obama May Set 2016 Theme

By Coral DaVenport, NYT, Nov 12, 2014 [H/t William Readdy]

[http://mobile.nytimes.com/2014/11/13/world/asia/in-climate-deal-with-china-obama-may-set-theme-for-](http://mobile.nytimes.com/2014/11/13/world/asia/in-climate-deal-with-china-obama-may-set-theme-for-2016.html?emc=edit_th_20141113&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=37546268&r=0&referrer=)

[2016.html?emc=edit_th_20141113&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=37546268&r=0&referrer=](http://mobile.nytimes.com/2014/11/13/world/asia/in-climate-deal-with-china-obama-may-set-theme-for-2016.html?emc=edit_th_20141113&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=37546268&r=0&referrer=)

Twenty-one percent of Americans think producing electricity from coal is a good idea, while 91 percent of Americans think making electricity from sunlight is a good idea.

[SEPP Comment: Would the New York Times run a survey that asked is producing electricity from unreliable sunlight a better idea than producing it from reliable coal? Would you ride the subway when there was no electricity?]

In China: Obama Announces 'Ambitious Goal' to Fight Global Warming

By Patrick Goodenough, CNS News, Nov 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/patrick-goodenough/china-obama-announces-ambitious-goal-fight-global-warming>

Obama Outmaneuvers Republicans on Climate Change

By Christopher Flavelle, Bloomberg, Nov 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.bloombergvew.com/articles/2014-11-12/obama-outmaneuvers-republicans-on-climate-change>

Climate change self-delusion

Only the U.S. will fulfill its pact with China to reduce emissions

By Stephen Moore, Washington Times, Nov 14, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/nov/14/stephen-moore-climate-change-self-delusion/print/>

US Election

Energy Was A Big Winner In Last Week's GOP Wave

By Merrill Matthews, IBD, Nov 11, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-viewpoint/111114-725946-energy-issues-played-key-role-in-republican-win.htm?p=full>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Alaska shows no signs of rising Arctic methane, NASA study shows

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, Nov 13, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/11/141113134856.htm>

Link to paper: Methane emissions from Alaska in 2012 from CARVE airborne observations

By Rachel Chang, et al, PNAS, Nov 10, 2014

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/11/06/1412953111>

IPCC's 95% Synthesis er Synthetic Science

By Geoff Brown, AU-CSP, Nov 10, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/11/ipccs-95-synthesis-er-synthetic-science.html>

A more optimistic view of Churchill polar bears and Hudson Bay freeze-up

By Susan Crokford, Polar Bear Science, Nov 11, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/11/11/a-more-optimistic-view-of-churchill-polar-bears-and-hudson-bay-freeze-up/>

Senator wrong on climate, free speech

By Herbert Stevens, Providence Journal, Rhode Island, Nov 10, 2014

<http://www.providencejournal.com/opinion/commentary/20141110-herbert-e.-stevens-senator-wrong-on-climate-free-speech.ece>

Polar bear listed as a migratory species by [the Convention of the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)] to restrict oil exploration & extraction.

[UNEP provides taxpayer funded services to organizations such as CMS.]

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Nov 9, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/11/09/polar-bear-listed-as-a-migratory-species-by-unep-to-restrict-oil-exploration-extraction/>

Social Benefits of Carbon

IU biologists collaborate to refine climate change modeling tools

By Staff Writers, Bloomington IN (SPX), Nov 12, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/IU_biologists_collaborate_to_refine_climate_change_modeling_tools_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The increased root activity demonstrates the social benefits of enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide in promoting plant growth.]

Problems in the Administration

Grubinations, White House Edition

By Scott Johnson, Power Line, Nov 15, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/11/grubinations-white-house-edition.php>

GruberGate

By Scott Johnson, Power Line, July 31, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/07/grubergate.php>

Gruber Strikes Again

By Paul Mirengoff, Power Line, Nov 10, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/11/gruber-strikes-again.php>

Third Gruber Video About Obamacare Fooling American Voters

By Jeff Dunetz, The Lid, Nov 12, 2014

<http://yidwithlid.blogspot.com/2014/11/breaking-third-gruber-video-about.html>

Gruber #4

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Nov 14, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/11/gruber-4.php>

Gruber? Gruber? Who's Gruber

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Nov 13, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/11/gruber-gruber-whos-gruber.php>

[SEPP Comment: For an answer, Rep. Nancy Pelosi should check her web site.]

Seeking a Common Ground

Sagan's baloney detection rules

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Nov 9, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/11/09/sagans-baloney-detection-rules/#more-16146>

The constancy of change and the new catastrophism: a personal reflection on crisis-driven science

By Nick Eyles and Andrew Maill, Speaking of Geoscience, Oct 10, 2014 [H/t Energy and Environmental Newsletter]

<http://geosociety.wordpress.com/2014/10/10/the-constancy-of-change-and-the-new-catastrophism-a-personal-reflection-on-crisis-driven-science/>

Models v. Observations

New climate consensus: GCMs are lousy

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 10, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/11/10/new-climate-consensus-gcms-are-lousy.html>

An Empirical Review of Recent Trends in the Greenhouse Effect

By Robin Pittwood, Kiwi Thinker, WUWT, Nov 8, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/08/an-empirical-review-of-recent-trends-in-the-greenhouse-effect/>

Model Issues

On the Elusive Absolute Global Mean Surface Temperature – A Model-Data Comparison

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Nov 10, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/10/on-the-elusive-absolute-global-mean-surface-temperature-a-model-data-comparison/>

Claim: “golden age of climate science, models” is upon us

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 13, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/13/claim-golden-age-of-climate-science-models-is-upon-us/>

Supercomputers Enable HiRes Climate Models

By Staff Writers, Berkeley CA (SPX), Nov 13, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Latest_Supercomputers_Enable_High_Resolution_Climate_Models_Truer_Simulation_of_Extreme_Weather_999.html

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Seven Years Ago, An IPCC Lead Author Exposed Critical Weaknesses of the IPCC Foretelling Tools

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Nov 13, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/13/seven-years-ago-an-ipcc-lead-author-exposed-critical-weaknesses-of-the-ipcc-foretelling-tools/>

Measurement Issues

“Hottest Year” Update

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Nov 15, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/11/15/hottest-year-update/>

[SEPP Comment: NASA-GISS is wrong again.]

How variable are ocean temperatures?

By Staff Writers, Phys.org, Nov 10, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://phys.org/news/2014-11-variable-ocean-temperatures.html>

Link to paper: Ocean surface temperature variability: Large model–data differences at decadal and longer periods

By Thomas Laepple and Peter Huybers, PNAS, Nov 10, 2014

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/11/05/1412077111>

Changing Weather

New Paper: Kashmir Floods Nothing New, Not Due To Climate Change

By Staff Writers, GWPF, Nov 12, 2014

<http://www.thegwgf.com/new-paper-kashmir-floods-nothing-new-not-due-to-climate-change/>

Floods and Droughts in the Indian Monsoon: Natural variability trumps human impact

By Madhav Khandekar, GWPF, 2014

<http://www.thegwgf.org/content/uploads/2014/11/Monsoon-Floods.pdf>

Review: Disasters & Climate Change by Roger Pielke, Jr.

By Doug Hoffman, The Resilient Earth, Nov 6, 2014

<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/review-disasters-climate-change-roger-pielke-jr>

Study Shows Tropical Storm Intensity Has Not Increased

Poleward migration of storms means that tropical cyclone intensity has not increased, as expected, with global warming, according to new research

By Leon Clifford, Reporting Climate Science, Nov 11, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.reportingclimatescience.com/news-stories/article/study-shows-tropical-storm-intensity-has-not-increased.html>

Link to paper: Validating Atmospheric Reanalysis Data Using Tropical Cyclones as Thermometers

By James P. Kossin, AMS, Sep 9, 2014)

<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/BAMS-D-14-00180.1>

35 Degrees Below Zero And Colder Spreads, Grips 2 Million Square Kilometers Swath Of Central Siberia

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 10, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/11/10/35-degrees-below-zero-and-colder-spreads-grips-2-million-square-kilometers-swath-of-central-siberia/>

Chill of an Early Winter

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, Nov 9, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/11/chill-of-an-early-winter.php>

[SEPP Comment: Hinderaker asks the question why is global warming such a partisan issue? "I think because there is hardly any evidence to support the alarmists' case, so the whole thing is a matter of faith and politics, not science."]

Harsh Winter Outlook Made a Bit More Dire by Siberia Snow

By Brian Sullivan, Bloomberg, Nov 6, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-11-06/harsh-winter-outlook-made-a-bit-more-dire-by-early-snow.html>

[SEPP Comment: It's not the polar vortex this time as claimed by the Administration last year?]

Changing Seas

Claim: Warmest oceans ever recorded

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 14, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/14/claim-warmest-oceans-ever-recorded/>

[SEPP Comment: The author does not state when systematic measuring started.]

The oceans' sensitive skin

By Staff Writers, Kiel, Germany (SPX), Nov 12, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/The_oceans_sensitive_skin_999.html

Link to paper: Effects of ocean acidification on the biogenic composition of the sea-surface microlayer: Results from a mesocosm study

By Gaigani, et al. Journal of Geophysical Research,

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014JC010188/abstract;jsessionid=12271672BEE58F1A473F88B0857565EB.f01t04>

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Berkeley Lab scientists identify new driver behind Arctic warming

By Staff Writers, Phys.org, Nov 03, 2014 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://phys.org/news/2014-11-berkeley-lab-scientists-driver-arctic.html>

Link to paper: Far-infrared surface emissivity and climate

By Feldman, et al, PNAS, Nov 3, 2014

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/10/29/1413640111>

'Dark Ice' Speeds Up Melting in Greenland (Photos)

By Kelly Dickerson, Live Science, Nov 9, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.livescience.com/48538-greenland-dark-ice-sheets-photo.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Nothing new here.*]

Robots in the Antarctic study 'rapidly melting ice'

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 12, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/12/robots-in-the-antarctic-study-rapidly-melting-ice/>

[SEPP Comment: *"Rapidly" may be in geological time, rather than in human time.*]

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Drought-defying tomato harvest breaks California record

By Dale Kasler, Sacramento Bee, Nov 12, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/business/article3792494.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Farmers adjust to drought conditions, high prices, with some help from nature.*]

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Bolt from the blue: warming climate may fuel more lightning

By Will Dunham, Reuters, Nov 13, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/bolt-blue-warming-climate-may-fuel-more-lightning-195851689.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Climate models cannot forecast 21st century temperatures, but can forecast lightning bolts?*]

Lightnings may increase by 12% per 1 °C of warming

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, Nov 15, 2104

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/11/lightnings-may-increase-by-12-per-1-c.html#more>

[SEPP Comment: *See link immediately above.*]

Claim: New Global Maps Detail Human-Caused Ocean Acidification

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 10, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/10/claim-new-global-maps-detail-human-caused-ocean-acidification/>

Study: Global warming worsening watery dead zones

By Seth Borenstein, AP, Nov 10, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/study-global-warming-worsening-watery-dead-zones-150602291.html>

[SEPP Comment: *The models do not work for prediction, but let's pretend they do.*]

Sustainability, astrobiology illuminate future of life in universe, civilization on Earth

By Staff Writers, Rochester NY (SPX), Nov 10, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Sustainability_astrobiology_illuminate_future_of_life_in_universe_civilization_on_Earth_999.html

Lowering Standards

More Deceptive Images From The BBC

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Nov 15, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/11/15/more-deceptive-images-from-the-bbc/>

As for the grossly deceptive impression that black smoke is being given off, this is in clear breach of the BBC Guidelines, which state: “Care should be taken not to use images to mislead the audience.”

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

Corals in Hot Water?

Racing time to predict the fate of corals in a warming ocean

By Evan Lubofsky, Oceanus, Nov 13, 2014

<http://www.whoi.edu/oceanus/feature/corals-in-hot-water>

[SEPP Comment: Extensive evidence shows corals adjust by changing the organisms that help them in a symbiotic relationship.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

“Meltdown: Terror at the Top of the World” — new book exploits polar bear attack to sell fear of sea ice decline

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Nov 13, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/11/13/meltdown-terror-at-the-top-of-the-world-new-book-exploits-polar-bear-attack-to-sell-fear-of-sea-ice-decline/>

A Dose of Climate Reality for Maine

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, Nov 11, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/11/a_dose_of_climate_reality_for_maine.html

As the climate warms, it could actually be generating more cold outbreaks in the USA.

Here’s how

By Anthony Sharwood, News, AU, Nov 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.news.com.au/technology/environment/as-the-climate-warms-it-could-actually-be-generating-more-cold-outbreaks-in-the-usa-heres-how/story-fnjwvztl-1227118716283>

[SEPP Comment: The Rossby waves, which create the so-called polar vortex, were identified in the 1930s. Both Tim Ball and WeatherBell has a superior explanations for Siberian cold entering in the mid-west and the east.]

EU sees light at the end of the climate tunnel

By Daniel J. Graeber, Brussels (UPI), Nov 11, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/EU_sees_light_at_the_end_of_the_climate_tunnel_999.html

Farmers and scientists divided over climate change

By Staff Writers, West Lafayette IN (SPX), Nov 12, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Farmers_and_scientists_divided_over_climate_change_999.html

Link to paper: Agricultural stakeholder views on climate change: Implications for conducting research and outreach

By Prokopy, et al. American Meteorological Society, 2014

<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/pdf/10.1175/BAMS-D-13-00172.1>

[SEPP Comment: Survey games: grouping corn producers with agricultural advisors, climatologists, government funded scientists as “stakeholders.” There is a major difference in commitment.]

G20 Spends \$88 Billion a Year on Fossil-Fuel Exploration

By Alex Morales, Bloomberg, Nov 10, 2014

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-11-11/g20-spends-88-billion-a-year-on-fossil-fuel-exploration.html>

[SEPP Comment: The author fails to recognize the difference between a state-owned industry and a privately-owned industry.]

Greens Should Stop Claiming More Warming Means More War

By John Horgan, Scientific American, Nov 6, 2014 [H/t Climate Depot]

http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/cross-check/2014/11/06/greens-should-stop-claiming-global-warming-means-more-war/?WT.mc_id=SA_sharetool_Twitter

Problems with the Iowa Climate Statement

By Sierra Rayne, American Thinker, Nov 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/11/problems_with_the_iowa_climate_statement.html

Questioning European Green

New Commission floats first 'kill list' of green EU laws

By Staff Writers, EurActiv, Nov 14, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.euractiv.com/sections/sustainable-dev/new-commission-floats-first-kill-list-green-eu-laws-310005>

Non-Green Jobs

Report: Energy jobs have led economic recovery

By Joshua Cain, Fuel Fix, Nov 13, 2014

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/11/13/report-energy-jobs-have-led-economic-recovery/>

Funding Issues

Obama to pledge \$3B to UN fund aiding poor nations' climate fight

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Nov 14, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/224161-report-obama-to-pledge-25b-to-aid-poor-countries-in-climate-fight>

Inhofe: Obama's climate fund pledge not realistic priority

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Nov 14, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/224186-inhofe-obamas-climate-fund-pledge-not-realistic-priority>

Obama's Climate Fund Pledge: “Absolutely No Chance Whatsoever”

By Lisa Friedman, E&E News, Via GWPF, Nov 14, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.com/obamas-climate-fund-pledge-absolutely-no-chance-whatsoever/>

“Absolutely no chance whatsoever” is how incoming Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) described the chances of Obama's climate fund pledge approval.

Climate change – follow the money

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Nov 10, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/10/climate-change-follow-the-money/>

Climate change: India to keep up pressure on first world

By Aesha Datta and Richa Mishra, Business Line, Hindu, Nov 10, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/climate-change-india-to-keep-up-pressure-on-first-world/article6584147.ece>

The Political Games Continue

Congress Must Rein In Runaway EPA

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Nov 10, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/EPA-IPAA-REINS-Act/2014/11/10/id/606355/>

[SEPP Comment: How does government get rid of an entrenched bureaucracy? Send it to the North Slope of Alaska?]

Keep The Shale Boom Rollin' With A Congressional KEEP Energy Act

By Mark Mills, Forbes, Nov 10, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/markpmills/2014/11/10/keep-the-shale-boom-rollin-with-a-congressional-keep-energy-act/>

Litigation Issues

Greens sue to protect walruses from Arctic oil drilling

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Nov 10, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/223575-greens-sue-to-protect-walruses-from-arctic-oil-drilling>

How Climate Alarmists Continue to Hijack Successful Walrus Conservation

By Jim Steele, WUWT, Nov 13, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/11/13/how-climate-alarmists-continue-to-hijack-successful-walrus-conservation/>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

No proof walrus are “struggling from the loss of sea ice” as new Earthjustice lawsuit claims

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Nov 10, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/11/10/no-proof-walrus-are-struggling-from-the-loss-of-sea-ice-as-new-earthjustice-lawsuit-claims/#more-6393>

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Carbon Tax Advocates Discuss Post-Election Prospects; Ignore Lesson of Plato’s Republic

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Nov 12, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/11/12/carbon-tax-advocates-discuss-post-election-prospects-ignore-lesson-of-platos-republic/#more-21839>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

AWEA’s Case against the PTC Extension

By Robert Bradley, Master Resource, Nov 14, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/production-tax-credit-ptc/awea-vs-ptc/>

Americans for Prosperity: Keep the PTC Expired (Obama supply-side energy strategy on the ropes)

By Robert Bradley Jr, Master Resource, Nov 11, 2014

<https://www.masterresource.org/production-tax-credit-ptc/33002/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Business groups brace for deluge of regs

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Nov 11, 2014

<http://thehill.com/regulation/223769-biz-groups-brace-for-deluge-of-regulation>

The coming climate onslaught

President Obama readies a sweeping list of executive actions.

By Andrew Restuccia and Erica Martinson, Politico, Nov 11, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/11/climate-rules-obama-112792.html>

House Republican wants watchdog probe of lost EPA text messages

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Nov 10, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/223564-rep-smith-to-watchdog-investigate-epa-chiefs-lost-text-messages>

[SEPP Comment: EPA will not let the public read messages intended to be held in the public trust.]

Energy stat shop working on climate rule study

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Nov 7, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/223357-energy-stat-shop-working-on-climate-rule-study>

Feds move to protect ocean-dwelling coral

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Nov 12, 2014

<http://thehill.com/regulation/223876-feds-move-to-protect-ocean-dwelling-coral>

Bird species threatened by extinction, FWS says

By Tim Devaney, The Hill, Nov 12, 2014

<http://thehill.com/regulation/223888-gunnison-sage-grouse-threatened-by-extinction-fws-says>

Energy Issues – Non-US

Energy is Europe's 'big disadvantage': Deutsche co-CEO

By Katy Barnato, CNBC, Nov 10, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/102169375#>.

Britain's energy policy is a national disgrace, but Germany's is even worse

Germans now pay more in green surcharges alone for their power than Americans pay for the whole package

By Jeremy Warner, Telegraph, UK, Nov 7, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/comment/jeremy-warner/11217272/Britains-energy-policy-is-a-national-disgrace-but-Germanys-is-even-worse.html>

German Vice Chancellor Puts Brakes On “Ruinous” Rush To Green Energies: “Others Think We’ve Lost Our Marbles”

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Nov 11, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/11/11/german-vice-chancellor-gabriel-puts-brakes-on-ruinous-rush-to-green-energies-others-think-weve-lost-our-marbles/>

BILLIONS of pounds raised from shale gas in the North will go to a sovereign wealth fund to benefit the region, it was announced last night.

By Marco Giannangeli, Express, UK, Nov 9, 2014

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/533125/Billions-pounds-shale-gas-benefit-North>

IEA: 40% of World's Power Fleet Will Need to Be Replaced by 2040

By Sonal Patel, Power, Nov 12, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/iea-40-of-worlds-power-fleet-will-need-to-be-replaced-by-2040/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2980264&hq_l=12&hq_v=5e660500d0

OPEC says energy demand to soar 60% by 2040

By Staff Writers, Vienna (AFP), Nov 07, 2014

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/OPEC_sees_global_energy_demand_soaring_60_percent_by_2040_999.html

Energy Issues -- US

No Energy Policy Has Been A Blessing For Shale Boom

By Mark Perry, IBD, Nov 11, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-brain-trust/111114-725970-us-shale-production-booms-without-mandates-regulation-subsidies.htm?p=full>

The Driving Force Behind the US Oil Boom

By James Stafford of Oilprice.com, Washington DC (SPX), Nov 07, 2014

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/The_Driving_Force_Behind_the_US_Oil_Boom_999.html

[SEPP Comment: There is no question that US oil-service companies are important in developing and spreading technology. To call them The driving force may be too much.]

Oncor Wants to Spend \$5.2 Billion on Energy Storage

By Thomas Overton, Power, Nov 11, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/oncor-wants-to-spend-5-2-billion-on-energy-storage/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2980264&hq_l=16&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: The plans of the Texas utility depend on a projected decrease in the cost of energy storage.]

Stop That Fracking Pipeline!

By Dennis T. Avery, American Thinker, Nov 10, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/11/stop_that_fracking_pipeline.html

[SEPP Comment: An amusing view.]

Washington's Control of Energy

House votes to build Keystone

By Cristina Marcos, The Hill, Nov 14, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/224189-house-votes-to-build-keystone>

An Obama veto of Keystone XL could be pretty unpopular

By Aaron Blake, Washington Post, Nov 13, 2014

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/11/13/an-obama-veto-of-keystone-xl-risks-irritating-plenty-of-people/>

Keystone Stalls As Russia And China Ink Pipeline Deal

Editorial, IBD, Nov 10, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/111014-725757-russia-and-china-sign-pipeline-deal.htm?p=full>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Hydraulic Fracturing Saved Consumers Up to \$248 Billion Last Year

By Staff Writers, Institute for Energy Research, Nov 6, 2014

<http://instituteforenergyresearch.org/analysis/hydraulic-fracturing-saved-consumers-248-billion-last-year/>

EIA: 'Modest' benefits from LNG exports

By Daniel J. Graeber, Washington (UPI), Nov 12, 2014

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/EIA_Modest_benefits_from_LNG_exports_999.html

Most fracking chemicals as toxic as common household substances

By Staff Writers, Boulder CO (SPX), Nov 13, 2014

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/Major_class_of_fracking_chemicals_no_more_toxic_than_common_household_substances_999.html

[SEPP Comment: A more accurate headline would have read: “Most fracking chemicals are no more toxic than common household substances.”]

Return of King Coal?

India set to defy warnings on coal’s climate impact

While even China, the world’s leading coal producer, begins to recognize the fuel’s serious polluting effects, India has announced it aims to double production to meet soaring energy demand.

By Alex Kirby, Climate News Network, Nov 7, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.climate news network.net/india-set-to-defy-warnings-on-coals-climate-impact/>

Robert Bryce: Coal trumps IPCC, again

By Robert Bryce, Twin Cities.com, Nov 13, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

http://www.twincities.com/columnists/ci_26932379/robert-bryce-coal-trumps-ipcc-again

Nuclear Energy and Fears

Dr. Jerry Cuttler’s presentation on the widespread myths about nuclear energy and exaggerated radiation dangers

By Jerry Cuttler, ACSH, Nov 13, 2014

<http://acsh.org/2014/11/dr-jerry-cuttlers-presentation-widespread-myths-nuclear-energy-exaggerated-radiation-dangers/>

Japan local government approves first reactor restart

By Staff Writers, Tokyo (AFP), Nov 07, 2014

http://www.nuclearpowerdaily.com/reports/Japan_local_government_approves_first_reactor_restart_999.html

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Google-Owned Solar Company Requests \$540 Million Bailout To Help Pay \$1.6 Billion Loan

By Chuck Ross, Daily Caller, Nov 9, 2014 [H/t Joe Bast]

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/11/09/google-owned-solar-company-requests-540-million-bailout-to-help-pay-1-6-billion-loan/>

Ivanpah Solar Plant Owners Don't Deserve Bailout

Editorial, IBD, Nov 11, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/111114-725969-rich-ivanpah-owners-want-taxpayers-to-pay-for-their-mistake.htm>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

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

Another Clean Energy Failure

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Nov 14, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/11/14/another-clean-energy-failure/>

IGCC power plants are not a viable clean energy alternative. Wind and solar may also not be viable alternatives, except as niche supplies, similar to geothermal.

Geothermal Revisited

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Nov 11, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/11/11/geothermal-revisited/>

[SEPP Comment: Those who take photos of power plants emitting steam, then implying it is pollution would have a field day at geothermal plants in Iceland.]

California Dreaming

California spends \$33 million to coddle 800 cormorants

By Arnold Cusmariu, American Thinker, Nov 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/11/california_spends_33_million_to_coddle_800_cormorants_.html

Other Scientific News

American Leadership in Space -- Now or Never

By Robert Charles, American Thinker, Nov 12, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2014/11/american_leadership_in_space_now_or_never.html

Despite landing fumble, comet probe working well

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Nov 13, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Despite_landing_fumble_comet_probe_working_well_999.html

NASA Rocket Experiment Finds the Universe Brighter Than We Thought

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Nov 10, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/NASA_Rocket_Experiment_Finds_the_Universe_Brighter_Than_We_Thought_999.html

Scientific collaborative publishes landmark study on the evolution of insects

By Staff Writers, San Francisco CA (SPX), Nov 12, 2014

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Scientific_collaborative_publishes_landmark_study_on_the_evolution_of_insects_999.html

"Microbiome" of Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs shifts during infectious disease outbreaks

Interaction between microbiome and infectious pathogens may drive disease

By Cheryl Dybas, NSF, Nov 12, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=133263&WT.mc_id=USNSF_1

[SEPP Comment: Global warming is not the cause?]

Orbital blames rocket engine failure for launchpad blast

By Staff Writers, Washington (AFP), Nov 05, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Orbital_blames_rocket_engine_failure_for_launchpad_blast_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

The Population Challenge

By Bjørn Lomborg, Project Syndicate, Nov 14, 2014

<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/solutions-to-world-population-problems-by-bj-rn-lomborg-2014-11>

[SEPP Comment: A different look at the world population issue.]

The EU dispenses with its CSA [Chief Science Adviser]

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Nov 13, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/11/13/the-eu-dispenses-with-its-csa.html>

Desal: no water provided but Victorian families pay \$450pa for bikies and drunks

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Nov 12, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/11/desal-no-water-provided-but-victorian-families-pay-450pa-for-bikies-and-drunks/>

Missing links

By John Brignell, Number Watch, Nov 11, 2014

<http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2014%20November.htm>

[SEPP Comment: Humbling praise.]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

A conversation inside the White House

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Nov 10, 2014

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2014/11/a-conversation-inside-white-house.html>

[SEPP Comment: Amusing: A growing weather prediction gap between competing countries!]

Climate Change Made Simple

By Stephen Green, PJ Media, Nov 12, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://pjmedia.com/vodkapundit/2014/11/12/climate-change-made-simple/?singlepage=true>

“Earlier I said that expecting stasis on a planet where the continents are in motion would be insanity — and yet stasis is precisely what climate alarmists are trying to sell you, built on a foundation of ignorance.”

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ARTICLES:

1. Green Leap Forward

Obama trades higher U.S. energy costs now for distant Chinese promises.

Editorial, WSJ, Nov 12, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/green-leap-forward-1415838404?mod=hp_opinion

The climate-change campaign against fossil fuels has been having a hard time with democracy. Voters in the U.S. support fracking and the Keystone XL pipeline, Australia repealed its carbon tax, and frustration with green energy costs is rising across Europe. So perhaps it's not surprising that President Obama has turned to a dictatorship for help with his anticarbon ambitions.

In that sense, the emissions accord sealed Tuesday night between the U.S. and China is a perfect reflection of the mindset of Western climate-change activists. Cheap and abundant energy is popular among Americans because it raises living standards and helps the economy grow.

The romance of the fresh princelings of Beijing is that they needn't abide such barriers to enlightened governance as elections, a free press, transparency, the rule of law and two political parties. They can simply order economic transformation in the next five-year plan, and censor any dissenters as Al Gore wants to do in the U.S. Thus in China Mr. Obama has found the ideal climate-change partner: A technocratic elite that can instruct the bourgeoisie how they must light their homes and commute to work.

We and many others have been skeptical of a U.S.-China carbon pact, though that was because we assumed the White House and green lobby would demand terms that imposed at least some discipline on Chinese behavior. We discounted the possibility that Mr. Obama preferred the illusion of progress, and that his green allies could be rolled as cheaply as the terms of Tuesday's accord.

Under the nonbinding, no-detail agreement, Supreme Leader Xi Jinping promises “to intend to achieve the peaking of CO2 emissions around 2030,” and then maybe after that to decline. This is another way of describing the status quo.

Forecasts from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, BP's Statistical Review of World Energy and the academic journal Energy Policy all expect Chinese energy consumption to crest in two decades due to demographic and urbanization trends. Mr. Obama has in essence persuaded the Chinese to do what they planned to do anyway.

Mr. Xi also agreed to shift at least 20% of Chinese energy production to non-fossil-fuels by 2030. But this too is what China has already intended, albeit largely by replacing dirty coal with nuclear power. China's Communist Party has relied on coal to fuel rapid economic growth but that is increasingly becoming a political liability as the air becomes unbreathable. Then there is widespread groundwater contamination and an eat-at-your-own-risk food supply.

This tangible damage has inspired a revolt against the corruption and eyes-wide-shut ecological denial that defines China's political system. The harm—measured in health problems and

premature deaths, not merely higher temperatures predicted decades away in climate computer models—also should remind America’s green central-planners that autocracies are the world’s worst polluters. Think of the death of the Aral Sea under the Soviets, or dead pigs floating down the Yangtze.

All of which suggests that this accord is less about China than American climate politics. One of the main arguments against U.S. carbon rationing has been that such economic masochism is pointless as long as Chinese and Indian emissions continue to grow. Mr. Obama will now claim the Middle Kingdom is signed onto his anticarbon agenda, even if its promises are distant and vague.

In return for Mr. Xi’s assurances, Mr. Obama pledged that the U.S. will cut emissions by as much as 28% below 2005 levels by 2025. This implies doubling the annual pace of CO2 reductions over the 17% marker that Mr. Obama set in 2009. So using the Sino-American deal as cover, Mr. Obama will now say he is obliged to impose a new burst of aggressive carbon regulations, no matter the harm to U.S. growth.

The difference is that American governance, unlike China’s, is supposed to follow the rule of law; companies can’t refuse to obey regulations because the CEO’s brother-in-law belongs to the Party. Yet most of the rule-makings to enforce Mr. Obama’s promises to China will emerge from his administrative-state tunnels like the Environmental Protection Agency without a vote in Congress. Under this President, the political systems of the East and West may share more features than patriots care to admit.

This condominium between the world’s No. 1 and No. 2 carbonizers is also supposed to inspire a new global climate treaty in Paris next year, but other nations may draw a different lesson about Mr. Obama’s negotiation methods. The Chinese no doubt saw how much the President wanted an agreement and that he would accept nearly anything that could pass as one.

Meaningless global warming promises are much easier than corralling weapons of mass destruction in North Korea, or convincing Beijing to fight Islamic State, or for that matter stopping Chinese cyber-attacks on U.S. military and corporate targets. Mr. Xi must have been delighted to see a U.S. President agree to make America less economically competitive in return for rhetorical bows to doing something someday about climate change.

2. A Game-Changing Climate Agreement

The U.S. and China are sending one of the most powerful market signals the world has ever seen.

By Fred Krupp, WSJ, Nov 12, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/fred-krupp-a-game-changing-climate-agreement-1415838017?tesla=y&mod=djemMER_h&mg=reno64-wsj

Mr. Krupp is the president of the Environmental Defense Fund.

When the U.S. and China announced their climate agreement Wednesday, I thought of Sen. John Warner. The former five-term Republican used to warn his colleagues that if America did not lead on climate change, China would “hide behind our skirts of inaction” and avoid making any emissions reductions.

Now that the two countries have set new goals to cut greenhouse-gas emissions, the argument that the U.S. can't act because China won't act has finally begun to fade. A very understandable anxiety—that America can't cut carbon emissions while our biggest competitor keeps burning dirty energy with no end in sight—can now be put to rest.

China is already doing a great deal to boost clean energy, but went much further in this agreement. For the first time China pledged to slow and stop rising greenhouse-gas emissions by 2030 or earlier, while increasing non-fossil-fuel generation to at least one-fifth of its total energy mix. The U.S. committed to cutting its own emissions, by 2025, to 26%-to-28% below 2005 levels, up from a current 2020 target of 17% below 2005. Meeting these commitments will require both countries to double down on emissions reductions.

The numbers are significant but not sufficient. Both countries have committed to increasing their ambition over time. But the numbers aren't what matter most about this agreement. It is a game changer because it can begin to transform the way the world thinks about climate action. Instead of nations using each other as excuses for inaction, they will challenge each other to do better. I say this for two reasons:

First, because the announcement is a diplomatic breakthrough. Having the world's two biggest emitters making joint commitments to reduce carbon pollution is a huge shot in the arm for global climate cooperation.

Second, because it is a giant boost for clean-energy markets. Having the world's two largest economies competing to accelerate the adoption of no-carbon and low-carbon technologies will send one of the most powerful market signals we have ever seen. China, spurred by its smog-burdened cities and the growing costs from the impact of climate change, will be increasing its already substantial investments in solar and wind, working with the U.S. on new approaches to cleaner energy and reducing the country's reliance on fossil fuels.

In fact, America's fears of competition from China may now be cast in a new, positive direction: Who will dominate—and profit from—the renewable-energy resources that will power the world's low-carbon economy? In the past century, fossil fuels were the surest route to wealth and power. Now, the companies that produce and sell carbon-free and low-carbon technologies—from solar and wind to energy efficiency and nuclear—will be advantaged. And the U.S. must demonstrate that it is up to the task of competing with China in all of these areas.

I am an optimist about America's ability to innovate and adapt. The price of solar panels has been cut 75% since 2008, and the U.S. added more solar capacity in the past two years than in the previous 30 years combined. Texas and Kansas are showing what is possible with wind power. (One day last year, wind generated nearly 40% of Texas' electricity.) In Nevada, Tesla is building the world's largest advanced automotive-battery factory. In New York, Solar City is building a massive solar-photovoltaic factory. Market leaders like Google and Wal-Mart are making huge investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency. The U.S.-China agreement will only increase the pace of this trend—which will, in turn, make the goals set this week easier to achieve.

The world's two largest economies have now decisively committed themselves to the path of clean energy. Each has recognized the danger of being left behind in what amounts to a 21st-century arms race—the battle for dominance of the next energy economy.

3. North Dakota to Require Producers to Treat Crude Before Shipping

Move Comes Amid Growing Safety Concerns About Oil-Laden Trains

By Chester Dawson and Russell Gold, WSJ, Nov 13, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/north-dakota-to-require-producers-to-treat-crude-before-shipping-1415913185?mod=WSJ_hps_MIDDLE_Video_Top

North Dakota plans unprecedented steps to ensure crude pumped from the state's Bakken Shale oil producing region is safe enough to be loaded into railroad tank cars and sent across the country.

In the first major move by regulators to address the role of gaseous, volatile crude in railroad accidents, the North Dakota Industrial Commission, which regulates energy production in the state, said it would require Bakken Shale well operators to strip gases from crudes that show high vapor pressures.

"We believe the vast majority of our Bakken oil will fall well below the standard," Lynn Helms, director of the state's Department of Mineral Resources, said at a news conference.

The proposed state rule will require all operators to run crude oil through equipment that heats up the crude and forces out gases from the liquid. An estimated 15% of current producers without such equipment will have to submit quarterly test results showing their wells don't exceed the state's proposed 13.7 pounds a square inch vapor pressure limit, Mr. Helms said.

A representative for the North Dakota Petroleum Council, an industry lobbying group, criticized the proposed rules for "micromanaging the industry," and said they could lead to unintended consequences such as increased burning of excess natural gas at well sites.

The proposal also would prohibit blending condensate or natural gas liquids back into crude and require rail loading terminals to inform state regulators of any oil received for shipment exceeding the vapor pressure limits, Mr. Helms said.

He said the new rules would cost industry, but not enough to make drilling Bakken oil uncompetitive.

Scott Skokos, an organizer with landowners' group Dakota Resource Council, called the move by the regulator "a step in the right direction."

The state's decision follows months of officials' playing down the possibility that Bakken crude was more volatile and could explode more readily than other North American crudes.

Several oil trains have derailed and exploded since 2013, spurring concern about the safety of growing numbers of oil-carrying trains delivering oil produced by the shale boom.

The Wall Street Journal reported in February that Bakken crude contained several times the amount of combustible gases as oil from elsewhere. Relying on an analysis of data collected at a pipeline in Louisiana, the Journal pointed out that oil from the Bakken Shale had a far higher vapor pressure, making it much more likely to emit combustible gases, than dozens of other crude oils.

The proposed rules specify how wells should treat the oil to ensure it is “in a stable state,” according to Mr. Helms.

Executives from the top oil companies working in the Bakken Shale told state regulators in a September hearing that their crude is safe to transport by train using existing treatment methods, opposing potentially costly requirements that they make the oil less volatile before shipping it.

But studies by the U.S. and Canada have indicated that Bakken crude is more volatile than other grades of oil. Industry-funded studies, including one commissioned by the NDPC, have said Bakken oil is no different than other types of light oil.

The state expects to issue final rules by December 11th.

Production of light shale oil through hydraulic fracturing has soared, accounting for most of the additional three million barrels a day of oil that the U.S. produces today compared with 2009. Much of that is shipped to refineries by railcars, especially crude produced from Bakken Shale due to the area’s few pipelines.

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