

The Week That Was: 2014-03-15 (March 15, 2014)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Quote of the Week: “...simulation methods suffer from a fundamental weakness. They tend to focus attention on optimizing something within the initial assumptions rather than examining the latter; ... In practice, however, simulation models outside relatively simple mechanical situations, like problems of traffic, easily become gimmicks divorced from reality and used for the sole purpose of blinding the public with science.” Stanislav Andreski, **Social Science as Sorcery** [H/t Paul Dellevigne]

Number of the Week: \$7,140,000 per hour

Challenging the Orthodoxy: Last week, TWTW linked to two new papers that challenge the climate science as represented by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in its 2013 Assessment Report (AR5), particularly the Summary for Policymakers. TWTW discussed “Bounding GHG Climate Sensitivity for Use in Regulatory Decisions” by The Right Climate Stuff team (TRCS), which found that if governments did nothing to restrict carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions, the upper bound of temperature increase by 2100 is 1°C above today’s temperatures, and may be significantly less. This calculates to a warming of about 1.8°C since 1850, well below the contrived 2°C that IPCC supporters and some politicians claim must be prevented. In short, drastic, economically destructive emissions controls are not justified. Also, the TRCS team states that the correct metric is the transient climate sensitivity (the effect of current atmospheric CO₂) and not the equilibrium climate sensitivity used by the IPCC and its followers. The latter fails to account for the ongoing absorption of CO₂ by the biosphere. In effect, the process used by the IPCC calculates what will happen if a doubling of CO₂ happened overnight.

This week, TWTW hits some of the main points of the second paper written by Nicholas Lewis and Marcel Crok, “A Sensitive Matter: How The IPCC Hid The Good News On Global Warming”, and some of the criticisms of this paper by the climate establishment. Similar to the TRCS team report, Lewis and Crok rely on surface data, not the more comprehensive and rigorous satellite data, which covers more than 30 years. IPCC uses surface data to reach its conclusions.

Lewis and Crok emphasize that the full report of Working Group I, the scientific section, mentions the possibility that the earth’s climate is not as sensitive to CO₂ as stated in the Summary, but it does not adequately discuss the sensitivity. Lewis and Crok assert the recent studies show a far lower sensitivity to CO₂ and to the cooling effect of aerosols (droplets and fine particles in the atmosphere). These findings contradict the climate models. The models have a high cooling effect for aerosols offsetting a high warming effect for CO₂ and enhanced atmospheric water vapor. If Lewis and Crok are correct, then the low end of the IPCC range of warming of 1.5 to 4.5°C from a doubling of CO₂ would be appropriate, or, perhaps, even too high. Further, the IPCC report failed to give a best estimate for climate sensitivity. It may be that a best estimate based on empirical data would be 2°C, or less, while most models show about 3°C or more. If a doubling of CO₂ produces a warming of 2°C or less, then all the effort to calculate dire consequences for warming becomes largely meaningless. With this report, the TRCS team report, and the NIPCC report, the public has strong reasons to question the rigor of the IPCC reports and its followers. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy,

<http://www.therightclimatestuff.com/>, and
<http://nippcreport.org/reports/CCR2A/CCR2PhysicalScience.html>.

Push Back: As expected, the climate establishment is reacting harshly to the Lewis and Crok report. Among the strange assertions from the climate establishment was that Lewis and Crok place more weight on studies using observational data rather than on model analysis. As long as climate science is a physical science, the focus of effort should be on the data from observations, and not analysis of climate models.

Also, Lewis and Crok were accused of “cherry picking”, an all-too-familiar accusation against those who engage in hypothesis testing using data. For 35 years, the climate establishment has failed to narrow the range of its values of climate sensitivity of 1.5 to 4.5°C and it will continue to fail to narrow this range until the climate establishment adopts procedures of weeding out climate models that fail to successfully forecast, or predict, the future. Lewis and Crok provided something that the climate establishment has failed to provide. Another objection was that the reported sensitivity was still within range the IPCC reports, thus the paper is consistent with the IPCC and means little. This criticism ignores that fact that the low-end estimate of 1.5°C does not indicate any danger to humanity from warming. But, the high end estimate of three times that warming, 4.5°C, should be a matter of significant concern.

A paper by Drew Shindell of NASA-GISS (Goddard Institute for Space Studies) states that:
“Here I analyse results from recent climate modelling intercomparison projects to demonstrate that transient climate sensitivity to historical aerosols and ozone is substantially greater than the transient climate sensitivity to CO₂. ” Shindell uses models to support models, rather than use observations to support models, which is a major issue if climate science is an empirical science. Further, as Anthony Watts points out, Shindell is a public employee, yet his study is pay-walled, hidden from the public. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy and Questioning the Orthodoxy.

Solar Irradiance: The only natural cause for climate change discussed by the IPCC in its Summary for Policymakers is change in Solar Irradiance, chiefly ultraviolet and visible light. The IPCC dismisses solar irradiation as a major cause of 20th century warming and considers its effect as very small. A new paper based research from Cardiff University is titled: “Sun’s energy influences 1,000 years of natural climate variability in North Atlantic.” The paper suggests that low solar irradiance promotes frequent and persistent blocking of the westerly winds that may have contributed to the cold European winters of the Little Ice Age. In **Climate History and the Modern World**, HH Lamb discussed the possibility of wind pattern variation as a possible cause of the severe cold periods in the Little Ice Age. See links under Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Tipping Point? Europe may be at a tipping point, not the type discussed in climate science, which seems to be unrelated to physical science. Europe’s tipping point, or points, relate to the questioning of “green energy” policies and the opposition to hydraulic fracturing of dense shale to extract natural gas. P. Gosselin reports that Sigmar Gabriel, Chairman of the socialist SPD Party and Vice Chancellor of Angela Merkel’s coalition government wrote on his Facebook that Germany and all of Europe is facing a huge challenge from the high price of electricity as compared to the USA. Germany and Europe face deindustrialization. The governments must think about how to reduce state-induced burdens on industry.

The second tipping point is gas from shale. The EU Parliament voted to impose more stringent rules of extraction of oil and conventional natural gas, but specifically excluded gas from shale from these rules. Russia's take-over of Crimea seems to have energized some politicians into thinking that natural gas production is not the most undesirable of activities. Of course, "*The Greens believe there is already sufficient evidence to ban fracking, but ensuring informed permit decisions through the environmental impact assessment procedure must be the absolute minimum,*" Sandrine Belier, environment spokeswoman for the European Greens, said. The Greens have yet to back up their words with action. See links under Energy Issues – Non-US

Hydrocarbon Revolution: Much has been written about the revolutionary developments in extraction of oil and gas from shale, and from other formations. But techniques such as fracturing, hydraulic fracturing, directional drilling, have been used for decades. What is really new is the high technology of supercomputers and other technology including precise sensors. See link under Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Additions and Corrections: Last week, TWTW presented an analysis of wind power in Germany that showed the 2012 production to be 17% of installed capacity. TWTW suggested EIA may wish to re-analyze its estimate of productive capacity of 34% (now 33%). Reader George Taylor, Director of Palmetto Energy Research, pointed out the 2013 USA annual average capacity factor was about 32% and that the USA has some of the world's best resources for wind, after South Australia. However, the capacity factor varies by season and region. Also, capacity factor is meaningless by itself and becomes meaningful with a given costs. Taylor emphasized that unreliable (non-dispatchable) wind is a poor competitor with reliable sources of electrical generation, such as gas, coal, and nuclear. In the absence of hydro generation, wind fails to move developed countries beyond fossil fuels. Taylor drew attention to a study he co-wrote on the hidden costs of wind power. As always, TWTW appreciates readers who make additions and corrections. See link under Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Number of the Week: \$7,140,000 per hour. Tom Steyer, a wealthy contributor to the Democratic Party promised party leaders \$100 Million in campaign contributions for the 2014 election if he could see action in fighting climate change. Twenty-eight Senators gave him 14 hours of speeches from the Senate floor on the imagined horrors of global warming/climate change. This works out to be about \$7,140,000 per hour. Now we have the going rate for renting the Senate floor, including 28 Senators. See links under The Political Games Continue.

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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. 'One of the Largest Federal Land Grabs'

New critters headed for the endangered list could limit U.S. energy production.

By James Freeman, WSJ, Mar 11, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304250204579432732182044754?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADSecond&mg=reno64-wsi

2. 5 Reasons U.S. Gas is No Quick Fix For the Ukraine Crisis

By Lynn Cook and Alison Sider, WSJ, Mar 11, 2014

<http://blogs.wsj.com/five-things/2014/03/11/5-reasons-u-s-gas-is-no-quick-fix-for-europe/>

3. How the Other California Lives

Some of the most productive farm land in the world is going fallow thanks to a man-made water shortage. A long-time grower explains.

By Allysia Finley, WSJ, Mar 7, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303775504579396093119215448?mod=I_T_P_opinion_0&mg=reno64-wsj

4. Clouds Shroud China's Bloated Solar Sector

By Abheek Bhattacharya, WSJ, Mar 12, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304914904579434693930547268?mod=WSJ_Energy&mg=reno64-wsj

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Science: Is the Sun Rising?

Sun's energy influences 1,000 years of natural climate variability in North Atlantic

Press Release, Cardiff Univ., Mar 9, 2014

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2014-03/cu-sei030714.php

Link to paper: Solar forcing of North Atlantic surface temperature and salinity over the past millennium

By Paola Moffa-Sánchez, Andreas Born, Ian R. Hall, David J. R. Thornalley & Stephen Barker, Nature Geoscience, Mar 9, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo2094.html>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Professor Bob Carter on the latest NIPCC report

Audio, One hour Interview by Hereward Fenton, Part 2 of 2, Truth News Australia, March 1, 2014 [H/t NCTCS]

http://www.truthnews.com.au/radio/story/2013_03_01_bob_carter_on_nipcc_report

A Sensitive Matter: How The IPCC Hid The Good News On Global Warming

By Nicholas Lewis and Marcel Crok, Foreward by Judith Curry, GWPF, No Date

<http://www.thegwpf.org/content/uploads/2014/02/A-Sensitive-Matter-Foreword-inc.pdf>

Myles out of line

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 12, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/12/myles-out-of-line.html>

Does “Inhomogeneous forcing and transient climate sensitivity” by Drew Shindell make sense?

By Nic Lewis, Climate Audit, Mar 10, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/03/10/does-inhomogeneous-forcing-and-transient-climate-sensitivity-by-drew-shindell-make-sense/>

[SEPP Comment: Somewhat technical.]

Geologist Sebastian Lüning: Scientific Evidence Showing Sun/Oceans As Primary Climate Drivers Is ‘Massive, Overwhelming’!

By P. Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 14, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/03/14/geologist-sebastian-luening-scientific-evidence-showing-sun-oceans-as-primary-climate-drivers-is-massive-overwhelming/>

The Germany-based European Institute for Climate and Energy EIKE announces that the 7th International Climate and Energy Conference is taking place at the Steigenberger Hotel in Mannheim, April, 10 2014.

Defending the Orthodoxy

Inhomogeneous forcing and transient climate sensitivity

By Drew T. Shindell, Nature Climate Change, Mar 9, 2014

http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate2136.html?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=52084d98db-Carbon_Brief_Weekly_18_7_137_18_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-52084d98db-215218249

Touchy subjects

By J.L.P. The Economist, Mar 13, 2014

http://www.economist.com/blogs/babbage/2014/03/climate-science?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=52084d98db-Carbon_Brief_Weekly_18_7_137_18_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-52084d98db-215218249

Second, the difference between Dr Shindell's estimate for the TCR (1.7°C) and that by Messrs Lewis and Crok ($1.3\text{-}1.4^{\circ}\text{C}$) is not great if you think of the transient response as a guide to how much warming the Earth is likely to suffer.

[SEPP Comment: *Back to the Little Ice Age, anyone?*]

Agreeing to disagree on climate policy

By Geoffrey M. Heal and Antony Millner, PNS, Approved Jan 23, 2014

http://www.pnas.org/content/111/10/3695.abstract?maxtoshow=&hits=6&RESULTFORMAT=&andorexacttitle=and&titleabstract=climate%252Cgreenhouse%252C+warming&andorexacttitleabs_=or&andorexactfulltext=and&searchid=1&usestrictdates=yes&resourcetype=HWCIT&ct

[SEPP Comment: *Arguing the trivial, while ignoring the significant – enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide is a major benefit to humanity and the environment.*]

Questioning the Orthodoxy

The Shindell climate sensitivity paper: another ‘GISS miss’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 11, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/11/the-shindell-paper-another-giss-miss/>

Democrats, NASA Scientists And Global Warming

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

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/031114-692856-nasa-scientists-cast-doubt-on-climate-change.htm?p=full>

Report: UN officials hid overblown global warming estimates

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Mar 7, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/03/07/report-un-officials-hid-overblown-global-warming-estimates/>

HARRIS: Senate Democrats’ anti-scientific hot-air marathon

Climate science is no more ‘settled’ than the ever-changing climate itself

By Tom Harris, Washington Times, Mar 11, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/11/harris-the-senates-anti-scientific-hot-air-marathon/>

When You Can't Think, You Need to Think

By Anthony J. Sadar, American Thinker, Mar 10, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/03/when_you_cant_think_you_need_to_think.html
[SEPP Comment: Amusing global warming slant on a popular TV advertisement.]

Public apathy on climate change is a cause for celebration, not concern

By Brendan O'Neill, Telegraph, UK, Mar 11, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/brendanoneill2/100262659/public-apathy-on-climate-change-is-a-cause-for-celebration-not-concern/>

Far from being irrational, the mass public apathy towards climate change that so freaks out eco-experts is entirely sensible and logical; in fact, it renews my faith in humankind.

Uppity Deniers, Unite!

By Leann Horrocks, American Thinker, Mar 14, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/2014/03/uppity_deniers_unite.html?utm_source=3-14-14&utm_campaign=AT+Newsletter+3-14-14&utm_medium=email

Guessing Games And Climate ‘Science’

By Michael Kile, Quadrant, Mar 13, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2014/03/guessing-games-climate-science/>
[SEPP Comment: In the horse race of climate prediction, don't be fooled by false precision.]

Social Benefits of Carbon

Effects of Elevated C02 on Soil Carbon Sequestration

By Staff Writers, SPPI, Mar 12, 2014

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/effects_of_elevated_c02_on_soil_carbon_sequestration.html

Full report:

Effects of Elevated C02 on Soil Carbon Sequestration

By Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, March 12, 2014

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/soil_carbon.pdf

Going Green With Rising CO2

By Doug Hoffman, Resilient Earth, Mar 12, 2014

<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/going-green-rising-co2>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Game, Set, Match Fossil Fuels? James Hansen Sleepless in Ningbo

By Robert Bradley Jr. Master Resource, Mar 13, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/03/game-set-match-fossil-fuels-hansen/#more-29927>

[SEPP Comment: Interesting quotations from Hansen.]

It's Game Over for Keystone XL opponents ‘Game Over’ Claims

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 13, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/13/its-game-over-for-keystone-xl-opponents-game-over-claims/>

[SEPP Comment: Senate testimony by Hansen.]

Seeking a Common Ground

Why Cost/Benefit Study Needed on Climate Change Policies

Statement by the Galileo Movement & Institute for Private Enterprise, 6 March 2014 [AU]

http://www.ipe.net.au/standalone/cost_benefit_HOTP_060314.html

[SEPP Comment: An objective study done by an entity that does not benefit from increased regulation.]

Your Environment - the complete record of air and water pollution levels in Canada

By Ross McKittrick, His Blog, (Under Construction)

<http://www.yourenvironment.ca/>

Wherever you live in Canada, there is a good chance that air and water pollution in your community has been monitored in the past, and may be monitored today. There are also likely to be climate records going back many decades. This website is designed to give you fast and easy access to official records of environmental quality wherever you live, or wherever you want to look.

[SEPP Comment: A useful service.]

Barycentric climatology was never a good science

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, Mar 12, 2014

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/03/barycentric-climatology-was-never-good.html#more>

Positioning skeptics

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Mar 9, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/03/09/positioning-skeptics/>

The Art of Science Advice to Government

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Mar 12, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/03/12/the-art-of-science-advice-to-government/>

Barents Sea polar bear condition varies with AMO and spring sea ice conditions

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

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/03/10/barents-sea-polar-bear-condition-varies-with-amo-and-spring-sea-ice-conditions/>

Davis Strait polar bear habitat higher now than in 1979 and early 1980s

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

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/03/13/davis-strait-polar-bear-habitat-higher-now-than-in-1979-and-early-1980s/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Three Decades of Global Greening of Earth's Terrestrial Surfaces

Reference: Eastman, J.R., Sangermano, F., Machado, E.A., Rogan, J. and Anyamba, A. 2013. Global trends in seasonality of Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), 1982-2011. *Remote Sensing* 5: 4799-4818.

<http://nippcreport.org/articles/2014/mar/11mar2014a1.html>

Modelling Aerosol-Cloud Interactions ... Correctly

Reference: Rosenfeld, D., Sherwood, S., Wood, R. and Donner, L. 2014. Climate effects of aerosol-cloud interactions. *Science* 343: 379-380.

<http://nippcreport.org/articles/2014/mar/11mar2014a3.html>

And so it is no surprise that Rosenfeld *et al.* conclude "fully resolved, global, multiyear simulations are not likely to become feasible for many decades." Yes, that's right - *many decades*. And this analysis of the situation makes one wonder if the policy cart is being pushed *way* before the horse, when it comes to pushing for such drastic CO₂ emission reductions that are continually promoted in order to prevent what may eventually be found to actually be no problem at all.

Floods of the European Alps

Reference: Glur, L., Wirth, S.B., Buntgen, U., Gilli, A., Haug, G.H., Schar, C., Beer, J. and Anselmetti, F.S. 2013. Frequent floods in the European Alps coincide with cooler periods of the past 2500 years. *Scientific Reports* 3: 10.1038/srep02770.

<http://nippcreport.org/articles/2014/mar/12mar2014a1.html>

North Atlantic Copepods Exposed to Very Acidified Seawater

Reference: Pedersen, S.A., Hansen, B.H., Altin, D. and Olsen, A.J. 2013. Medium-term exposure of the North Atlantic copepod Calanus finmarchicus (Gunnerus, 1770) to CO₂-acidified seawater: effects on survival and development. *Biogeosciences* 10: 7481-7491.

<http://nippcreport.org/articles/2014/mar/12mar2014a2.html>

[SEPP Comment: Testing survival, growth and development at CO₂ levels of 3300, 7300, and 9700 ppm. Current level is approximately 380 ppm.]

Models v. Observations

Observing water vapor feedback during 'the pause'

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 11, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/11/observing-water-vapor-feedback-during-the-pause/>

[SEPP Comment: How can one certainty in the modeled long term feedback of water vapor when the entire period of observed feedback is during the current trend of no warming?]

Measurement Issues

'Record temperatures' placed in context with station history

DayRec: An Interface for Exploring United States Record-Maximum/Minimum Daily Temperatures

By Greg Kent, WUWT, Mar 10, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/10/record-temperatres-placed-in-context-with-station-history/>

Changing Weather

California drought in context

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc., Mar 10, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/03/10/california-drought-in-context-2/>

Link to article: Scientists: Past California droughts have lasted 200 years

By Paul Rogers of San Jose Mercury News, Jan 31, 2014

<http://news.msn.com/in-depth/scientists-past-california-droughts-have lasted-200-years>

Global Warming? Not Always

By Martin Hoerling, New York Times - March 10, 2014

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/09/opinion/sunday/global-warming-not-always.html?ref=opinion&r=0>

[SEPP Comment: Hoerling demonstrates courage by writing articles contrary to the Administration's politic position.]

NCDC Winter data - CONUS and all 9 climate regions down the last 20 years

By Staff Writers, ICECAP, Mar 14, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/joes-blog/ncdc_winter_data_conus_and_all_9_climate_regions_down_the_last_20_years/

Huge tract of Australia in 'biggest ever drought'

By Staff Writers, Sydney (AFP), March 07, 2014

http://www.terrordaily.com/reports/Huge_tract_of_Australia_in_biggest_ever_drought_999.html

Changing Climate

Claim: UCLA study yields more accurate data on thousands of years of climate change

By Anthony Watts, Press Release, WUWT, Mar 14, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/14/claim-ucla-study-yields-more-accurate-data-on-thousands-of-years-of-climate-change/>

Climate of Genghis Khan's ancient time extends long shadow over Asia of today

Press Release, National Science Foundation, Mar 10, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=130669&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

[SEPP Comment: An exception to the general concept that a warmer world is beneficial to humanity because it promotes abundant food.]

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

NASA Data Sheds New Light on Changing Greenland Ice

By George Hale for Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt MD (SPX), Mar 13, 2014

http://www.terrordaily.com/reports/NASA_Data_Sheds_New_Light_on_Changing_Greenland_Ice_999.html

Changing Earth

Volcanoes saw species survive ice ages: study

By Staff Writers, Sydney (AFP), March 11, 2014

http://www.terrordaily.com/reports/Volcanoes_saw_species_survive_ice_ages_study_999.html

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Observing water vapor feedback during ‘the pause’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 11, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/11/observing-water-vapor-feedback-during-the-pause/>

[SEPP Comment: How can one express confidence that the models correctly assess long-term feedback of water-vapor when the entire period of observed feedback is 2002 to 2009, during the current trend of no warming?]]

Computer model predicts vastly different ecosystem in Antarctica's Ross Sea in the coming century

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 12, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/12/computer-model-predicts-vastly-different-ecosystem-in-antarcticas-ross-sea-in-the-coming-century/>

Lowering Standards

What the CSIRO State of the Climate report forgot to tell you

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Mar 11, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/03/what-the-csiro-state-of-the-climate-report-forgot-to-tell-you/>

[SEPP Comment: A government agency would leave critical information when presenting the facts of global warming/climate change?]

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

Recent estimates of low climate sensitivity were flawed

Better accounting for aerosols shows CO₂ just as potent as we thought.

By Scott Johnson, ars technica, Mar 12, 2014

http://arstechnica.com/science/2014/03/recent-estimates-of-low-climate-sensitivity-were-flawed/?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=52084d98db-Carbon+Brief+Weekly+18+7+137+18+2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-52084d98db-215218249

Scientists challenge climate skeptic claims that UN panel overestimates warming

By Roz Pidcock, Carbon Brief, Mar 6, 2014

http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/03/scientists-challenge-climate-skeptic-claims-that-un-panel-overestimates-warming?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=52084d98db-Carbon+Brief+Weekly+18+7+137+18+2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-52084d98db-215218249

Diary date: correct messages edition

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 14, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/14/diary-date-correct-messages-edition.html>
[SEPP Comment: Do not comment on the failure of the climate models.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Experts quiet climate-change skeptics: Warming leads to longer cold snaps

By Ana Sayfa, Periscope Post, Mar 13, 2014 [H/t Climate Depot]

<http://periscopepost.com/science-27/experts-quiet-climate-change-skeptics-warming-leads-to-longer-cold-snaps-7030.html>

Omitted Damages: What's Missing From the Social Cost of Carbon

By Peter Howard, The Cost of Carbon Project, Mar 13, 2014

http://costofcarbon.org/files/Omitted_Damages_Whats_Missing_From_the_Social_Cost_of_Carbon.pdf

[SEPP Comment: A joint project of the Environmental Defense Fund, the Institute for Policy Integrity, and the Natural Resource Defense Council.]

Told you so

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 13, 2014
<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/13/told-you-so.html>

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

The works of Lord Deben

By Matt Ridley, Bishop Hill, Mar 12, 2014
<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/12/the-works-of-lord-deben.html>

Walport and his evidence

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 11, 2014
<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/11/walport-and-his-evidence.html>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

John Kerry Addresses Climate Change in First Policy Guidance as Secretary of State 'We Need To Elevate the Environment in Everything We Do.'

By Jeryl Bier, Weekly Standard, Mar 12, 2014
http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/john-kerry-addresses-climate-change-first-policy-guidance-secretary-state_784314.html

Questioning European Green

Christopher Booker: Owen Paterson Plans 'Dry Homes' Instead Of 'Wet Lands' By Christopher Booker, Sunday Telegraph, Via GWPF, Mar 8, 2014 <http://www.thegwpf.org/owen-paterson-plans-dry-homes-wet-lands/>

Jan Fleischhauer: Germany, Russia & Energy Security

The Crimean crisis is forcing Germany to reconsider its green energy transition
By Jan Fleischhauer, Spiegel online, Via GWPF, Mar 14, 2014
<http://www.thegwpf.org/jan-fleischhauer-germany-russia-energy-security/>

Lomborg Congratulates German Climate Effort: "For €100 Billion...Climate Change Delayed 37 Hours"

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 8, 2014
<http://notrickszone.com/2014/03/08/lomborg-congratulates-germany-for-e100-million-climate-change-delayed-37-seconds/>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Clean Coal and Gassy Money and Wasted Energy By Anthony Cox, CSP, Mar 15, 2014 <http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/03/clean-coal-and-gassy-money-and-wasted.html>

Non-Green Jobs

Jim Ratcliffe: Open Letter To Mr José Manuel Barroso By Jim Ratcliff, Chairman INEOS, GWPF, Mar 10, 2014 <http://www.thegwpf.org/jim-ratcliffe-open-letter-jose-manuel-barroso/> [SEPP Comment: Letter from the chairman of one of the world's largest chemical companies to the president of the European Commission.]

Michael Fallon to pledge help for industry as high energy costs put jobs 'at risk'

Energy minister admits not enough has been done to protect industry from rising prices that are making the UK uncompetitive

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Mar 10, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/10686476/Michael-Fallon-to-pledge-help-for-industry-as-high-energy-costs-put-jobs-at-risk.html>

Funding Issues

Inhofe: Obama Wasted \$120 Billion on Global Warming Which Could Buy 1400 F-35s

By Melanie Hunter, CNS News, Mar 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/melanie-hunter/inhofe-obama-wasted-120-billion-global-warming-which-could-buy-1400-f>

White House Wastes Billions On Corrupt Green Dream

Editorial, IBD, Mar 14, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/031414-693396-obama-wastes-120-on-renewable-energy-allows-draconian-defense-cuts.htm>

Obama's 2015 Budget: Wish List Climate Spending (\$10.8 billion for what?)

By Megan Toombs, Master Resource, Mar 12, 2014

<http://www.masterresource.org/2014/03/obamas-2015-budget-wish-list-climate-spending-10-8-billion-for-what/#more-29916>

The Political Games Continue

Democrats talk about climate, rake in billionaire bucks

By Timothy Carney, Washington Examiner, Mar 11, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/democrats-talk-about-climate-rake-in-billionaire-bucks/article/2545478?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Recurring%20-%202014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

Democrats hold all-night 'talkathon' on climate change on Senate floor

By Staff Writer, AP, Mar 11, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/03/11/democrats-hold-all-night-talkathon-on-climate-change-on-senate-floor/>

Democrat Climate Caucus Reveals Its Stupidity

By Alan Caruba, Warning Signs, Mar 9, 2014

<http://factsnotfantasy.blogspot.com/2014/03/democrat-climate-caucus-reveals-its.html>

Stop Talking About Climate Change And Pass A Bill

By Dana Milbank, IBD, Mar 11, 2014

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-on-the-left/031114-692864-marathon-climate-change-talk-really-does-nothing.htm?p=full>

The Insiders: The Democrats' disconnect on global warming

By Ed Rogers, Washington Post, Mar 11, 2014

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-partisan/wp/2014/03/11/the-insiders-the-democrats-disconnect-on-global-warming/>

The 6 Most Brain-Freezing Quotes From the Global Warming Talkathon

Monday night, Senate Dems cited the settled science of The Lorax, the NHL, and the Koch Brothers.

By Andrew Johnson, NRO, Mar 11, 2014

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/373116/6-most-brain-freezing-quotes-global-warming-talkathon-andrew-johnson>

“Right after I turned 17 and got my New Jersey driver’s license, one of the earliest places I drove was a trip — the only trip I’ve ever taken — was to Hawaii,” the Garden State senator Cory Booker said.

[SEPP Comment: California and Hawaii are separated by about 2500 miles (4000km) of Pacific Ocean.]

Global Warming and The Children of Tama

By Robert Tracinski, The Federalist, Mar 13, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://thefederalist.com/2014/03/13/the-children-of-tama/>

[SEPP Comment: A rather long article reviewing the ritual.]

Committee to examine Obama Administration’s approach for enforcing wildlife laws and impacts on U.S. Energy; Subpoena issued for long-sought documents

U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, Mar 11, 2014

<http://www.windaction.org/posts/40025-committee-to-examine-obama-administration-s-approach-for-enforcing-wildlife-laws-and-impacts-on-u-s-energy-subpoena-issued-for-long-sought-documents#.UyB8KvmwJkA>

[SEPP Comment: Exploring the favoritism wind power receives in lack of enforcement of certain laws.]

Litigation Issues

Appeals court backs EPA steam-plant emissions rule

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Mar 12, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/200559-appeals-court-backs-epa-steam-plant-emissions-rule>

Do green claims hold up in court?

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 14, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/14/do-green-claims-hold-up-in-court.html>

Stunning Supreme Court victory vindicates property owners beset by Big Green's 'rails-to-trails' movement

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Mar 11, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/stunning-supreme-court-victory-vindicates-property-owners-beset-by-big-greens-rails-to-trails-movement/article/2545498?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest%20Reoccurring%20-2003/12/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

Climate Scientist: Liberals Will Use Carbon Tax to Make Government Bigger

By Melanie Hunter, CNS News, Mar 13, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]
<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/melanie-hunter/climate-scientist-liberals-will-use-carbon-tax-make-government-bigger>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Wind power tax credit ‘dead’ in Congress this year

By Alex Nussbaum, Bloomberg, Mar 11, 2014

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-03-11/wind-power-tax-credit-dead-in-congress-this-year.html>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

House GOP launches probe into EPA rule

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Mar 12, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/200633-house-gop-launches-probe-into-epa-climate-rule>

Obama designates Calif. coastline as national monument

By Justin Sink, The Hill, Mar 11, 2014

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/200466-obama-designates-calif-coastline-as-national-monument>

[SEPP Comment: Clinton used the act to put millions of acres off-limits to any beneficial development. Will this administration do the same?]

Obama administration pollutes guidelines for healthy eating with unhealthy ideologies

By Jeff Steir, Washington Examiner, Mar 9, 2014

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/obama-administration-pollutes-guidelines-for-healthy-eating-with-unhealthy-ideologies/article/2545343>

[SEPP Comment: Will they promote carbon-free food?]

Will the Supreme Court permit EPA climate decisions to stand?

By Paul Driessen, ICECAP, Mar 11, 2014

http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/will_the_supreme_court_permit_epa_climate_decisions_to_stand3/

Energy Issues – Non-US

EU parliament excludes shale gas from tougher environmental code

By Barbara Lewis, Reuters, Mar 12, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2014/03/12/eu-shalegas-idUKL6N0M932O20140312>

Putin’s Army Drives Europe Towards Shale Revolution

As Putin’s army masses in the East, Europe starts to rethink its opposition to fracking.

By Keith Johnson, Foreign Policy, Via GWPF, Mar 14, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/putins-army-drives-europe-shale-revolution/>

Putin Mocks The West And Threatens To Turn Off Gas Supplies

By Damien McElroy, Telegraph, UK, Via GWPF, Mar 8, 2014

<http://www.thegwpf.org/putin-mocks-west-threatens-turn-gas-supplies/>

Use Fracking to Subdue Russia

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Mar 10, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Fracking-Putin-Ukraine-Russia/2014/03/10/id/556979>

Germany's Vice Chancellor Starts To Get It...Gravely Warns Germany, Europe

"Threatened By High Energy Costs"

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Mar 13, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/03/13/germanys-vice-chancellor-starts-to-get-it-warns-germany-europe-threatened-by-high-energy-costs/>

E.ON to Close 13 GW in Europe

By Sonal Patel, Power Mag, Mar 13, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/e-on-to-close-13-gw-in-europe/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2847560&hq_l=5&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: *Regulations and subsidies forcing closing of conventional power plants.*]

COLUMN-Britain must not strangle shale gas with bureaucracy: Kemp

By John Kemp, Reuters, Mar 13, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/03/13/britain-shalegas-idINL6N0MA2IY20140313>

[SEPP Comment: *Environmental organizations continue to cite risks that have not been demonstrated.*]

Tensions between British government parties over energy policy blamed for wind deal collapse

Wind energy export deal worth €7bn will not meet deadline

By Ronan McGreevy, Irish Times, Mar 8, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.irishtimes.com/business/sectors/agribusiness-and-food/tensions-between-british-government-parties-over-energy-policy-blamed-for-wind-deal-collapse-1.1717065>

West cannot ask India to stop using coal: Sunita Narain

By Sunita Narain, Free Press Journal, Mar 13, 2014

<http://freepressjournal.in/west-cannot-ask-india-to-stop-using-coal-sunita-narain/>

Energy Issues -- US

End of Civilization as We Know It Part 2

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

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/03/14/end-of-civilization-as-we-know-it-part-2/>

American Gas Won't Deliver Europe From Putin

By Walter Russell Mead & Staff, American Interest, Mar 10, 2014

<http://www.the-american-interest.com/blog/2014/03/10/american-gas-wont-deliver-europe-from-putin/>

Crude oil shipments up 83 percent on US railroads

By Staff Writers, AP, Mar 13, 2014

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/03/13/crude-oil-shipments-up-83-percent-on-us-railroads/>

Washington's Control of Energy

Examiner Editorial: Faster federal energy permits would boost jobs, revenues

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Mar 12, 2014

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/examiner-editorial-faster-federal-energy-permits-would-boost-jobs-revenues/article/2545553>

Link to IER letter to Rep. Ryan

By Thomas Pyle, IER, Mar 12 2014

<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Ryan-Letter-Final-1.pdf>

Heed Europe's Plea For U.S. Natural Gas Exports

Editorial, IBD, Mar 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/031014-692727-europe-wants-increases-us-natural-gas-exports.htm>

Ukraine crisis brings urgency to Senate Democrats' push on natural gas exports

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Mar 12, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/ukraine-crisis-brings-urgency-to-senate-democrats-push-on-natural-gas-exports/article/2545569?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20Recurring%20-%2003/13/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today

Rail carries Canadian crude while Keystone pipeline decision simmers

By Curtis Tate, McClatchy DC, Mar 6, 2014

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2014/03/06/220248/rail-carries-canadian-crude-while.html>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

New Spy Technology to Spawn Oil Revolution

By James Burgess of Oilprice.com, Washington DC (SPX), Mar 06, 2014

http://www.oilgasdaily.com/reports/New_Spy_Technology_to_Spawn_Oil_Revolution_999.html

China on Course to Exceed 2015 Shale Target With Fuling Find

By Aibing Guo, Bloomberg, Mar 12, 2014

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-03-11/china-on-course-to-exceed-2015-shale-gas-target-with-fuling-find.html>

Return of King Coal?

Economy First: Bangladesh To Increase Coal Power Generation From 2% To 50%

By Joseph Allchin, NYT, Via GWPF, Mar 10, 2014

[http://www.thegwpf.org/economy-first-bangladesh-increase-coal-power-generation-2-50/\[SEPP Comment: Time to send in weapons-of-mass-destruction Kerry?\]](http://www.thegwpf.org/economy-first-bangladesh-increase-coal-power-generation-2-50/[SEPP Comment: Time to send in weapons-of-mass-destruction Kerry?])

Polar Vortex Emboldens Industry to Push Old Coal Plants: Energy

By Mark Chediak and Harry R. Weber, Bloomberg, Mar 10, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2014-03-09/polar-vortex-emboldens-industry-to-push-old-coal-plants-energy>

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

BP reaches deal with EPA to end federal suspension

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Mar 13, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/bp-reaches-deal-with-epa-to-end-federal-suspension/article/2545649?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20Recurring%20-2003/14/2014&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today

Nuclear Energy and Fears

US MOX plant left cold by budget

By Staff Writers, WNN, Mar 5, 2014

<http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/WR-US-MOX-plant-left-cold-by-budget-0503147.html>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Perverted Logic

By Donn Dears, Power For USA

<http://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/03/11/perverted-logic-2/>

The Hidden Cost of Wind Electricity

Why the full cost of wind generation is unlikely to match the cost of natural gas, coal or nuclear generation

By George Taylor and Thomas Tanton, American Tradition Institute, Dec 2012

<http://www.atinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Hidden-Cost.pdf>

The problem with wind farms: All those dead birds

By Rob Nikolewski, New Mexico Watchdog, Mar 13, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://newmexico.watchdog.org/20809/the-problem-with-wind-farms-all-those-dead-birds/>

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

Activated Carbon Processing Facility and Biomass Plant Hit The Auction Block

By Staff Writers, Kawaihae HI (SPX), Mar 13, 2014

[\[http://daily.com/reports/Activated_Carbon_Processing_Facility_and_Biomass_Power_Plant_In_Hawaii_Hit_The_Auction_Block_999.html\]\(http://daily.com/reports/Activated_Carbon_Processing_Facility_and_Biomass_Power_Plant_In_Hawaii_Hit_The_Auction_Block_999.html\)](http://www.energy-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Analysis: Tesla may have made over \$100 million off the CARB enabled battery swap ZEV credit scheme

By Alberto Zaragoza Comendador, WUWT, Mar 12, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/12/analysis-tesla-may-have-made-over-100-million-off-the-carb-enabled-battery-swap-scheme/>

California Dreaming

California Solar Output Sets New Record

By Aaron Larson, Power Mag, Mar 12, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/california-solar-output-sets-new-record/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2847560&hq_l=15&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Solar peaked on March 8, provided 18% of the state's electricity consumption. What did it provide six hours later?]

Drought Stokes California's Class War

By Joel Kotkin, His Blog, No Date [H/t GWPF]
<http://www.joelkotkin.com/content/00876-drought-stokes-californias-class-war>

Health, Energy, and Climate

The good news you don't hear about diseases

Malaria, TB and Aids are in steady retreat

My Times column is on malaria, TB and Aids -- all in steady decline, a fact that officials and journalists seem reluctant to report:

By Matt Ridley, Rational Optimist, Mar 14, 2014

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/the-good-news-you-don't-hear-about-diseases.aspx>

[SEPP Comment: Addressing the claim that global warming may expand the range of malaria bearing mosquitoes.]

The Food Babe Hath Spoken, And Subway Bread Will Still Suck

By Josh Bloom, Science 2.0, Mar 13, 2014

http://www.science20.com/pfired_still_kicking/food_babe_hath_spoken_and_subway_bread_will_still_suck-131716

[SEPP Comment: The nonsense of the saying if you can't spell it or pronounce it, you probably shouldn't eat it.]

Oh Mann!

Quote of the week: Steyn ups the ante on the Mann lawsuit

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 10, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/10/quote-of-the-week-steyn-ups-the-ante-on-the-mann-lawsuit/>

Environmental Industry

TRIPLETT: Rich 'greens' spend liberally to kill hated fossil fuels

By William Triplett, Washington Times, Mar 7, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/mar/7/triplett-a-liberal-dose-of-green-gelt/>

Peter Foster: Vladimir Putin's green allies

By Peter Foster, Financial Post, Mar 7, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://opinion.financialpost.com/2014/03/07/peter-foster-vladimir-putins-green-allies/>

Clean Air Task Force's Schneider proposes trading plan for existing source rule

Transcript by Staff Writers, EETV, Mar 10, 2014

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1796/transcript>

[SEPP Comment: Not mentioned in the interview is that the Clean Air Task Force demands severe regulation of natural gas and gas-fired power plants. <http://www.catf.us/blogs/ahead/tag/natural-gas,carbon-capture-and-storage,methane/>.]

Environmental Groups are Flirting with Extinction

By Keith Kloor, Discover, Mar 7, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<https://blogs.discovermagazine.com/collideescape/2014/03/07/environmental-groups-flirting-extinction/>

Four Reasons Why The Environmental Movement Belongs on 'The Biggest Loser'

By Steven Hayward, Forbes, Mar 13, 2014

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/stevenhayward/2014/03/13/four-reasons-why-the-environmental-movement-belongs-on-the-biggest-loser/>

Never trust a green

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Mar 13, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/3/13/never-trust-a-green.html>

Sierra Club to #Up4Climate Senators: Don't Forget About Population Control

By Staff Writers, Washington Free Beacon, Mar 10, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://freebeacon.com/sierra-club-to-up4climate-senators-dont-forget-about-population-control/>

Other Scientific News

Plasma plumes help shield Earth from damaging solar storms

By Jennifer Chu for MIT News, Boston MA (SPX), Mar 10, 2014

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Plasma_plumes_help_shield_Earth_from_damaging_solar_storms_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

In U.S., Most Do Not See Global Warming as Serious Threat

Nearly two in three believe global warming will happen during their lifetimes

By Jeffrey Jones, Gallup Politics, Mar 13, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/167879/not-global-warming-serious-threat.aspx>

New ozone-depleting gases found in atmosphere

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), March 09, 2014

http://www.terrordaily.com/reports/New_ozone-depleting_gases_found_in_atmosphere_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Insignificant amounts.]

Snow Sponge

By Cliff Mass, Weather Blog, Mar 13, 2014

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2014/03/snow-sponge.html>

[SEPP Comment: Interesting analysis, except for the part about future global warming.]

Natural selection has altered the appearance of Europeans over the past 5,000 years

By Staff Writers, Mainz, Germany (SPX), Mar 12, 2014

http://www.terrordaily.com/reports/Natural_selection_has_altered_the_appearance_of_Europeans_over_the_past_5000_years_999.html

Deer proliferation disrupts a forest's natural growth

By Staff Writers, Ithaca NY (SPX), Mar 10, 2014

http://www.terrordaily.com/reports/Deer_proliferation_disrupts_a_forests_natural_growth_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Bring back the wolves!]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Climate Craziness of the Week: 'warming causing lobster cannibalism'

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 11, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/11/climate-craziness-of-the-week-warming-causing-lobster-cannibalism/>

[SEPP Comment: It has been long established that lobsters eat other lobsters when they can.]

National Wildlife Federation ‘jumps the shark’ – claims school animal mascots are at risk for climate change

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Mar 11, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/03/11/national-wildlife-federation-jumps-the-shark-claims-school-animal-mascots-are-at-risk-for-climate-change/>

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ARTICLES:

1. 'One of the Largest Federal Land Grabs'

New critters headed for the endangered list could limit U.S. energy production.

By James Freeman, WSJ, Mar 11, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304250204579432732182044754?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEADSecond&mg=reno64-wsj

The Obama Administration may have finally found a way to stop the boom in U.S. energy production. Delaying approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, maintaining export limits and discouraging refinery construction haven't stopped a revolution that will soon make the United States the world's largest producer of crude oil. But a Journal editorial this morning notes that Washington may add a record 757 new species to the endangered list by 2018. Included on the roster of potentially protected critters are two range birds—the greater sage grouse and the lesser prairie chicken—that could severely restrict energy production across a broad swath of the American West.

"The prairie chicken sits atop Texas's Permian Basin oil bonanza, and the sage grouse is near the Bakken Shale in North Dakota," notes the editorial. An Interior Department report claims the impact on the sage grouse of oil and gas operations is "universally negative and typically severe," even though current horizontal drilling techniques leave only a small footprint on the landscape.

2. 5 Reasons U.S. Gas is No Quick Fix For the Ukraine Crisis

By Lynn Cook and Alison Sider, WSJ, Mar 11, 2014

<http://blogs.wsj.com/five-things/2014/03/11/5-reasons-u-s-gas-is-no-quick-fix-for-europe/>

American politicians are making a lot of noise about how the U.S. should start exporting natural gas to Europe, which at the moment is at the mercy of Vladimir Putin when it comes to about a third of the fuel it uses. But despite the long-term promise of "the energy weapon," it's hard to see how fast-tracking permits to export U.S. natural gas could hurt Russia – or help Ukraine – any time soon. Here are five caveats to consider.

1. THERE'S A REASON NATURAL GAS MOSTLY MOVES IN PIPELINES

Loading natural gas onto a ship for export across the ocean requires turning it into a liquid – which means chilling it to -260°F. Building the gigantic machinery and cooling towers required to liquefy the fuel costs billions of dollars, and each plant takes several years to build.

2. LNG EXPORTS FROM THE U.S. ARE CURRENTLY ALMOST NONEXISTENT

Prior to the shale boom, the U.S. expected to be a major importer of natural gas rather than an exporter, so the few plants that exist were built to receive imports. The dwindling amounts of U.S. LNG that leave the country right now are shipped to Japan from an aging plant in Alaska; even tinier amounts move south to Mexico on special trucks.

3. THE U.S. WON'T EXPORT MUCH NATURAL GAS BEFORE 2020

When energy companies realized the United States had huge natural gas reserves that could be tapped by hydraulic fracturing, they raced to raise money and get permits to build new terminals. But until recently the federal government was slow to issue permits, and these massive projects are time-consuming to construct. The first major LNG export plant won't start shipping gas from Louisiana until late 2015.

"Government decision making has been in a state of near paralysis when it comes to approving LNG export applications", said ExxonMobil Gas & Power Marketing Co. President Rob Franklin. Federal regulators now say they're speeding up the permitting process, but building up more LNG plants will take the better part of this decade.

4. THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T DECIDE WHERE EXPORTS GO

Energy companies, not the government, will sell the gas – and almost certainly to the highest bidder, as U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz told a gathering of energy executives in Houston last week. Considering the huge demand for LNG from countries like Japan, China and South Korea, U.S. exports might ultimately go east to Asia instead of west to Europe.

5. RUSSIAN GAS IS MUCH CHEAPER

Russian companies planning new LNG terminals expect to pay just 40 cents per million British thermal units for the gas they'll turn into liquid, while U.S. companies will probably pay \$4 or more, according to Mark Gyetvay, Chief Financial Officer of Novatek, the biggest gas producer in Russia that isn't controlled by the state. So American companies might find themselves at a disadvantage peddling LNG in Europe.

3. How the Other California Lives

Some of the most productive farm land in the world is going fallow thanks to a man-made water shortage. A long-time grower explains.

By Allyisia Finley, WSJ, Mar 7, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303775504579396093119215448?mod=I_TP_opinion_0&mg=reno64-wsj

When Americans think of California, they tend to think of Silicon Valley, Hollywood and the golden coast—"a place where the grass is really greener, warm, wet and wild" as Santa Barbara native Katy Perry swoons in "California Gurls." Or they think of the liberals and environmentalists who dominate state government.

Yet there's another California, set back from the left coast, in the abundantly fertile Central Valley, which produces half of America's fruits and vegetables; more than 98% of its almonds, pistachios and walnuts; a third of U.S. dairy exports—and Trader Joe's Two Buck Chuck wine. This California has come under siege from the California of politicians and regulators, a siege that has been especially harmful during the current prolonged period of drought and water shortages. The storms that hit the state a couple of weeks ago didn't make a dent in the water shortfall or in the farmers' larger problems.

Just ask Mark Watte, a second-generation dairyman and nut grower from rural Tulare, who doesn't mince words. "Everywhere you turn, they are coming at us with this nonsensical b.s.!" he says.

Who are "they"? Environmentalists, though the beleaguered California farmer cautions against using that word: "Most of them don't really care about the environment. They are obstructionists."

The 61-year-old farmer tends to speak with exclamation marks when he's revved up—and that's often these days. Mr. Watte sat down to chat recently at the Tulare Golf Course restaurant, where the dress code is jeans-and-flannel and the music strictly country. He was joined by Rep. Devin Nunes, who grew up working on a family-owned dairy farm that is still managed by his 95-year-old grandmother.

The congressman rolls out a large map of California's sprawling irrigation system showing its rivers, canals, dams and lakes. The ultimate aim of the environmentalists, Mr. Watte says, is to wipe out 1.3 million acres of farmland and return the valley basin to its once-swampy state.

West-side growers have already taken tens of thousands of acres out of production. This year they plan to leave fallow half a million more acres, a drastic move spurred by a depletion of aquifers and suspension of state water deliveries. Harris Farms alone is taking 9,000 acres that would have grown melons, tomatoes, bell peppers, broccoli, cabbage and lettuce out of production. One result of farmers scaling back is that 72 million heads of lettuce won't be produced in California and likely will be imported instead from Mexico.

Mr. Watte explains that west-side farmers in the Central Valley are idling all their crops except for high-value nut trees, which the farmers are paying a premium to keep on the drip. An acre-foot of water (enough to submerge an acre of land in one foot of water) can cost up to \$1,300 compared with about \$40 a few years ago. Meanwhile, some farmers are drilling deeper wells at a cost of \$1 million per hole. These wells may last only five years, and the groundwater is often too salty to irrigate crops.

East-side farmers like Mr. Watte who were blessed with rich aquifers are also having to pump deeper. Later, on a tour of his farm, he drops a rock down a well. The "plunk" that reverberates is music to his ears since it means he still has groundwater. But he expects many pumps to break by this fall due to heavy use, which could force him to leave some land fallow. He also worries that farmers are causing "long-term permanent environmental damage" by depleting aquifers. "Once an aquifer is gone, you can't restore it."

"I'm more worried about 2024 than 2014," says Mr. Watte who has worked on the farm since his father transplanted their family here from Long Beach in 1958. Mr. Watte and one of his two brothers, Brian, took over the business when their dad retired in 1984 and have since tripled its footprint to 4,500 acres. While Mr. Watte's three daughters aren't involved in day-to-day operations, a son-in-law and nephew help run the business.

Liberals blame the water shortage on record dry weather and climate change. (Climate models predict that California will get wetter if the world is warming, but never mind.) Those explanations ignore that San Joaquin farmers haven't received 100% of their contractual water allocations from the federal Central Valley Project since 2006, even in years of heavy rain or snow. Farmers got only 45% of the water they were due in 2010, when precipitation was 110% of the norm. Regulations ostensibly intended to protect fish like the three-inch delta smelt, steelhead and chinook salmon, Mr. Watte says, are to blame.

He explains that California Democratic Rep. George Miller in 1992 led the first major water siege with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, which allocated 1.2 million acre-feet of water to wildlife—enough to sustain 1.2 million families and 300,000 acres. The law aggravated the existing acrimony between farmers and environmentalists, and resulted in a turf war between federal and state regulators.

Eventually, green groups, farmers, the feds and state reached an armistice with the 1994 Bay Delta Accord, which jettisoned a demand by environmental groups to restore fish to a dry stretch of the San Joaquin River. Sen. Dianne Feinstein in October 1994 expressed her unequivocal opposition to "any effort to take water from Friant Dam for the purpose of restoring a long gone fishery on the San Joaquin River." Such a water diversion, she said, would have proved devastating to "10,000 small, family farms."

But environmental groups soon broke the peace by suing for more water diversions to protect salmon and smelt. By 2009, Ms. Feinstein's views had reversed: She backed the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act, whose goal was to restore fish to what had been a dry river bed. But not just any fish—specifically, cold-water salmon that hadn't been documented at the site since the 1940s. Cold-water salmon require "huge volumes of water" to thrive, Mr. Watte notes, and he thinks that was exactly the point. The environmentalists "don't care about fish," he says. "The fish are just a prop, a vehicle to get our water."

That may sound paranoid, but consider that about 400,000 acre-feet of water over the past two years have been diverted from farm use merely to conduct salmon test-runs on the dry river. Such prodigious use of water for seemingly everything but farming is starting to seem familiar to growers. For the past seven years, federal regulators have been flushing hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta into the San Francisco Bay on the pretext of protecting three-inch smelt from pumps that send water to farmers in the Central Valley.

It's ironic, Mr. Watte says, that the biggest threat to the smelt is "Sacramento and other communities that are pumping their sewage into the delta—or not treating it the way they should be." Another irony: Government biologists kill more smelt each year conducting population surveys than do the delta's water pumps. Meanwhile, Mr. Watte notes, San Francisco is piping in "pristine water from Yosemite"—thereby circumventing the delta—while liberals demand that more water be diverted from farmers to restore the smelt's polluted ecosystem.

Regulations also make it nearly impossible to build or expand reservoirs to store water from wet years. Consider the saga of adding to the Lake Kaweah reservoir more than two decades ago. "I'm on a water board that added 21 feet of height to the lake," says Mr. Watte. "It took us 20 years and \$55 million to accomplish that, and of that \$55 million, about \$20 million was for environmental mitigation."

Such mitigation included coddling the elderberry beetles of the Sierra foothills. Elderberry bushes "are not endangered, but the elderberry beetle that lives in the bushes are," Mr. Watte says. "So we gave the contractor a significant bonus to be done by a certain date because it was the beginning of elderberry beetle breeding season," and heaven forbid that construction disturb beetles feeling "amorous."

The reservoir improved flood protection, which "you would think would be a good thing," says Mr. Watte—but then the water board was told by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Fish and Wildlife Service that it had to "mitigate for the lack of flooding," he says, incredulous 15 years later. So the water board paid a farmer to flood a separate field occasionally for the benefit of the local flora and fauna.

But when the state Department of Fish and Wildlife examined the flooding site, the inspectors discovered burrowing owls—which the state has designated a "species of special concern." The state required owl safeguards. An elaborate ritual was devised to trap and release the owls far from the flooding, even though, as Mr. Watte notes, the owls tended to fly away when the area got wet and return when it dried out.

The environmental burdens are bad enough for farmers, but then there are the government-exacerbated costs of doing business, including truck rules recently imposed by the California Air Resources Board adding \$7 per ton to the cost of transporting hay and a mysterious \$16 per acre "environmental charge" on Mr. Watte's irrigation-district assessment. That money is rebated to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation—for purposes that Rep. Nunes says he has been so far unable to divine.

These added costs hamper innovation, which Central Valley farmers happen to be good at. Though inhabitants of coastal California may be unaware, these farmers have pioneered technology to conserve water and improve land productivity. Tens of thousands of farmers from around the world flock to Tulare each winter for the World Ag Expo.

While giving a tour of his farm, Mr. Watte flags a couple of GPS-equipped, self-driving tractors. He shows off a machine that shakes pistachios off trees and catches the nuts before they hit the ground. Even flood irrigation, which environmentalists decry as wasteful, he says, is highly efficient due to the use of laser land leveling.

Rep. Nunes and Mr. Watte later take a drive through Tulare, a tight-knit immigrant city of about 60,000. "This is old America," Mr. Watte says. Though tiny, Tulare is home to some of the nation's largest dairy plants, making Saputo, Land O'Lakes and Häagen-Dazs products. "What happens to workers in the absence of wheat to feed the cows that make the milk that feed these big plants?" he muses.

Unemployment in the valley ticked up in December even as the statewide rate fell to 8.3% from 8.5% thanks to robust job growth in the Bay Area. Kings, Tulare and Merced counties, where the unemployment rate ranges from 12.8% to 14.2%, lost more than 4,000 jobs in November 2013. Signs like "Food Grows Where Water Flows" and "No Water = No Jobs" dot Highway 99, which runs up the valley's east side.

Democrats' solution to the water crisis is to give farmers handouts. President Obama dropped by Democratic Rep. Jim Costa's Fresno district Feb. 14 to announce \$135 million to restock food banks and indemnify ranchers for dead cattle. Mr. Obama "came out, did his face time, and threw some money at" the problem, says Mr. Watte. "It's a slap in our face. It's like leaving a waitress a quarter tip."

As if helping to prove Mr. Watte's point, President Obama, Gov. Jerry Brown and Sens. Feinstein and Barbara Boxer have denounced a congressional bill backed by California's GOP delegation

that would temporarily waive species protections so farmers would be first in the water line when it rains. Mr. Brown called the bill an "unwelcome and divisive intrusion into California's efforts to manage this severe crisis."

A few days after the president issued a veto threat, northern California was hit by a deluge. Government responded quickly: To protect the three-inch smelt from the delta pumps that would have directed the rainfall to Central Valley farmers desperate to irrigate their land, regulators flushed 95,000 acre-feet of water into the ocean.

4. Clouds Shroud China's Bloated Solar Sector

By Abheek Bhattacharya, WSJ, Mar 12, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304914904579434693930547268?mod=WSJ_Energy&mg=reno64-wsj

For a Chinese solar-equipment maker to default may seem like a rare sign of consolidation in an overcrowded sector. Yet don't expect new light to shine on this industry.

Shanghai Chaori Solar has become the first company of any stripe to default in China's domestic bond market. That it was a solar company underscores Beijing's desire to instill some market discipline in a bloated sector fueled by local government-funded companies that have kept making panels despite plummeting prices in recent years. Chaori's default comes after rival Suntech failed. Investors are now turning to another panel-maker, Baoding Tianwei, which this week reported a second year of losses, to see if officials will let it fail.

This consolidation is partly why panel prices stabilized last year, says CLSA's Charles Yonts. Higher demand also helped, with China alone doubling its purchases of panels.

The problem is that prices may not rebound. Manufacturers are investing again, with leading panel-makers planning to increase supply by roughly 30% this year, according to NPD Solarbuzz. Global panel-making capacity should be roughly 60 gigawatts in 2014, more than two-thirds in China, the European Photovoltaic Industry Association forecast last year.

That's still too much, considering the world's demand for new solar-generated power may just be 45 gigawatts in 2014, says Nomura. China now accounts for 30% of global demand, according to Mr. Yonts—and it doesn't help that starting in January, the government cut by 10% the above-market price it pays utility-size solar farms in the provinces that previously bought most of the panels.

These farms are far from the regions that need power and burden the transmission network. China is instead offering incentives to build roof-top installations. But that's easier planned than done: It's tough to secure ownership rights to rooftops or arrange financing, says Frank Haugwitz, an independent solar energy consultant.

Other big markets aren't looking promising either. Germany is cutting subsidies and Japan may follow suit, while the U.S. has set up trade barriers against China.

That could explain why panel prices are down 4.4% since November, according to PVinsights. This bodes ill for China's panel survivors, which should otherwise benefit from their competitors'

going under. Trina Solar and Jinko Solar, which just started returning to profitability after many quarters of losses, are among the biggest panel players.

Consolidation won't continue unless Beijing can force local governments to cut production—and give up the jobs that go with it. That's a tough sell as China's economic growth weakens

