

The Week That Was: 2014-09-06 (September 6, 2014)
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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week: *The great principles of right and wrong are legible to every reader; to pursue them requires not the aid of many counselors. The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest. Only aim to do your duty, and mankind will give you credit where you fail.*
Thomas Jefferson, A Summary View of the Rights of British America, 1775

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Number of the Week: \$540 per barrel of oil

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THIS WEEK:

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

SEPP Handout: SEPP has modified its double-sided, one-page handout on Climate Fears and Finance to include a brief comparison between Federal government expenditures on alternative energy and NIH expenditures on health.

The Lobby

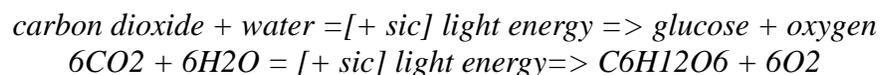
In August 2013, the White House reported in FY 2013, US expenditures on Clean Energy Technologies were \$5.783 billion, Energy Tax Provisions That May Reduce Greenhouse Gases were \$4.999 billion, and Energy Payments in Lieu of Tax Provisions were \$8.080 for a total \$18.862 billion. Such expenditures created a sustained green lobby for climate change.

For FY 2013, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reported its expenditures on cancer research were \$5.274 billion and expenditures on all categories of clinical research were \$10.604 billion. Government expenditures on alternative energy sources and research were 78% greater than NIH expenditures on all categories of clinical research on known threats to human health. The fear of climate change has distorted spending priorities in the Federal government. See:

http://www.sepp.org/key_issues/ClimateFearsandFinance9-3.pdf

Photosynthesis: On September 4, the Minority Staff of the US Senate Environment and Public Works Committee released a remarkable document for Washington on global warming/climate change. *Critical Thinking on Climate Change: Empirical Evidence to Consider Before Taking Regulatory Action and Implementing Economic Policies* contains a section discussing photosynthesis and the benefits of enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂)

Photosynthesis is the process whereby plants using light energy from the sun convert carbon dioxide and water to glucose sugar and oxygen gas through a series of reactions. The general equation for photosynthesis is:



Humans exhale CO₂ at a rate of approximately 40,000 parts per million (ppm). Humans inhale CO₂ at the rate it currently exists in the atmosphere, which is just below 400 ppm. Accordingly, humans exhale CO₂ at a much higher rate than they inhale. Not a single former [EPA] Administrator [who testified before the committee] could answer a question on these rates.

As all four EPA Administrators made clear, EPA's decision to regulate CO2 is the first time the agency has ever regulated a gas that is necessary to and makes life on earth possible. As well, it is also the only gas the federal government has ever tried to regulate that humans exhale at a greater rate than they inhale. Given both these facts, the claim that CO2 is a "pollutant" deserves further scrutiny.

Finally, all four former EPA Administrators were unable to name even a single product that could be made out of wind and sunlight. Everything in modern society, from computers, laptops, solar panels, iPads and flat screen televisions, to advanced medical equipment and all our nation's critical infrastructure is built out of fossil resources and their derivative products.

Perhaps the above equation will remind the members of the Department of Agriculture who have forgotten the concept of photosynthesis and are busily calculating the bureaucratically contrived Social Cost of Carbon. The process creates the food and the oxygen animals need to live.

Other updates in the report include:

- *Wildfires and forestry management have garnered additional public attention of late, and so was split into its own section with additional information.*
- *A new section has been added on the impacts European countries have seen as a result of their climate regulations.*
- *A new section has been added on Polar Bear populations and claims of mass extinctions.*
- *Nearly all sections have been updated with new information.*
- *An addendum was added to provide examples of how the Obama Administration's National Climate Assessment report ignores critical scientific evidence when submitted by top researchers and scientists*

The report presents numerous critical questions on topics such as climate models, benefits of CO2, sea level rise, extreme weather events, polar bears and the purpose of climate regulations. The report contains a chapter titled "The Science is Settled: The Government Can't Control Climate."

There is now a different mode of thinking by some in Washington that directly contrasts that popular mindset that carbon dioxide is the control knob of earth's temperatures and is causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming. See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Sea Ice and Polar Vortex: *Nature Communications* published a study linking recent severe cold winters with a weakened polar vortex caused by loss of Arctic sea-ice. The paper has eleven data points in the satellite record between 1979 and 2012. At best it can be called a hasty generalization. Coincidentally, this week the National Snow and Ice Data Center announced that it has recovered earlier photos from the Nimbus satellites that show large gaps in the winter Arctic sea ice during the 1960s, a period considered colder than today. The photos weaken the claim of a link between Arctic sea ice and recent severe winters.

However, there is a more important point. That is, the general ignorance of climate history demonstrated by the Climate Establishment. In his book, *Climate, History and the Modern World*, H.H. Lamb asserts that the deadliest winter storms ever to hit northern Europe during its recorded history occurred during the Little Ice Age.

The Climate Establishment has tried to dismiss the Little Ice Age as a European phenomenon. However, one of Lamb's students, Tim Ball, uncovered the enormously rich climate and weather records of the Hudson Bay Company. The records cover the Hudson area as far south as the Dakotas and west to southwestern Alberta. The area includes plains, forests and tundra. In Climatology chapter of the *Eighteenth-Century Naturalists of Hudson Bay*, which Ball co-authored, Ball presents evidence dating to the early 1700s that the climate of area varied and the Little Ice Age was marked by periods of extremely cold winters. The recorded evidence is largely ignored by the Climate Establishment, including Environment Canada, a government agency.

These records show that the Little Ice Age was, at least, a Northern Hemisphere phenomenon, not strictly a European one. Other records show that Arctic sea ice advanced during the Little Ice age, probably cutting the Nordic settlers of Greenland off from the sea, which led to their demise. Much of Iceland was surrounded by ice, and it was dire period for the people.

This history tends to contradict the link between melting Arctic sea ice and extremely cold winters. Also, it calls into question the policies of journals that publish studies that demonstrate a lack of knowledge of the history of climate change. See links under Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice.

Is the Party Over? The UN Climate Summit in New York City on September 23 appears be a dud. The leaders of both China and India have sent their regrets. The countries are the number 1 and number 3 world emitters CO₂, accounting to about one-third of global emissions. One can speculate that perhaps the leaders realize that CO₂ is vital plant food. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been very blunt in his criticism of the science produced by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Whether they intend to or not, not participating in the Summit and subsequent agreements to restrict CO₂ and energy use could be a tremendous relief for most of the people in the world. See links under Problems in the Orthodoxy.

Water Shortages: Modern hydraulic fracturing of shale for oil and natural gas uses large volumes of water for each well. A new report claims that extracting oil and gas in arid areas can be severely limited by water shortages. However, hydraulic fracturing is booming in arid and semi-arid areas of the West, such as west Texas and New Mexico. There are major issues the report fails to emphasize. One is recycling, which is being performed. The second is the tremendous water resources, previously unknown, the processes are unveiling. Indeed, too much water is a burden in some areas. See: Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Trivial Pursuit: John Brignell has another post on the foolishness of the EU (and the US Department of Energy) spending great amounts of money trying to improve the electric efficiency of electric appliance. (As discussed in the August 30 TWTW, the Department of Energy got \$16.8 billion in the so-called “stimulus bill.”). Specifically, Brignell addresses hair dryers and the physical properties of water.

Electrical appliances were often called labor saving devises. Sacrificing the labor saving features of the appliance for energy efficiency, reduces the effectiveness of the appliance. The DOE and EPA ignore this trade-off in claiming financial saving for the consumer for appliances that cost more. See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

More Trivial Pursuit: Anthony Watts discusses an article comparing the carbon footprint of game downloaded via disks purchased in stores as compared with downloaded via the internet.

He brings up a past post on the carbon footprint of the new NCAR supercomputing center in Wyoming, which produces most of its electricity from coal. It would be amusing to see a calculation of the carbon footprints of the world's climate models. Could we fight climate change by shutting down the climate models? See links under Below the Bottom Line

Additions and Corrections: SEPP Board Member Tom Sheahan, a MIT physicist who retired from the National Renewable Energy Laboratories, pointed out that the concept of on the Energy Return On Invested (EROI) discussed in the August 30 TWTW is an important issue. Unlike the concept called Levelized Cost of Electricity used by the Energy Information Agency (EIA), EROI takes into account costs of energy storage for an unreliable form of electricity generation, particularly for modern society. Until less expensive, and less energy intensive, forms of storage can replace pumped storage, PV Solar and Wind are not practical for a modern society. To its credit, EIA does separate dispatchable (reliable) technologies from non-dispatchable technologies. See: <http://theenergycollective.com/barrybrook/471651/catch-22-energy-storage> and http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aeo/electricity_generation.cfm

Number of the Week: \$540 a barrel. In his discussion of the problems with the Climate Summit and Europe's energy example Andrew McKillop calculates that ordinary electricity users in Germany are "paying around 25 euro cents a kiloWattour – in oil terms the equivalent of about \$540 a barrel."

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ARTICLES:

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

1. The Climate Change Agenda Needs to Adapt to Reality

Limiting carbon emissions won't work. Better to begin adjusting to a warmer world.

By Edward Lazear, WSJ, Sep 2, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/edward-p-lazear-the-climate-change-agenda-needs-to-adapt-to-reality-1409700618>

2. Whatever Happened to Global Warming?

Now come climate scientists' implausible explanations for why the 'hiatus' has passed the 15-year mark.

By Matt Ridley, WSJ, Sep 4, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/matt-ridley-whatever-happened-to-global-warming-1409872855>

Link to Article by Bob Carter: There IS a problem with global warming... it stopped in 1998

By Bob Carter, Telegraph, UK, Apr 9, 2006

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/3624242/There-IS-a-problem-with-global-warming...-it-stopped-in-1998.html>

3. Coal Renaissance Risks Tarnishing the EU's Green-Energy Credentials

By Vanessa Mock, WSJ, Sep 3, 2014

<http://blogs.wsj.com/brussels/2014/09/03/coal-renaissance-risks-tarnishing-the-eus-green-energy-credentials/>

4. BP's Decision to Drill 100 More Feet Set Disaster in Motion, Judge Rules

Move Was 'Dangerous' and 'Motivated by Profit,' Ruling Finds

By Russell Gold, WSJ, Sep 4, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/bps-decision-to-drill-100-more-feet-set-disaster-in-motion-judge-rules-1409874104?tesla=y&mod=WSJ_business_IndustryNews_DLW&mg=reno64-wsj

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Rewriting Sunspot History

By Christopher Monckton, SPPI, Sep 3, 2014

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

[SEPP Comment: Uncertainty of what the sun may do, creates great uncertainty in IPCC science, even though the politicians will not admit it.]

Climategate Continued

Who Wrote EPA's "Myths vs Facts"?

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, Aug 31, 2014

<http://climateaudit.org/2014/08/31/who-wrote-epas-myths-vs-facts/#more-19621>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Critical Thinking on Climate Change: Empirical Evidence to Consider Before Taking Regulatory Action and Implementing Economic Policies

By Minority Staff, US Senate Environment and public Works Committee, Sep 4, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=3f33b3c9-a28b-4f6c-a663-50c7d02fda24

Analysis of the Second Order Draft of the Working I Contribution to IPCC 5AR

By John McLean, SPPI, Sep 3, 2014

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/analysis_of_the_second_order_draft_of_the_working_i_contribution_to_ipcc_5ar.html

This new review is unlike the previous analysis because it focuses not only on a statistical analysis but also various review comments, many of which were simply noticed in passing. [SEPP Comment: The statement by Don Easterbrook in the forward is unusually pithy on the deficiencies in the report.]

Climate science in 'Jeopardy'

Everyone loses when researchers play games with the evidence

By Anthony Sadar and JoAnn Truchan, Washington Times, Sep 4, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/sep/4/sadar-truchan-climate-science-in-jeopardy/>

Temperature

By Vincent Gray, NZClimate Truth Newsletter No 335, Sep 2, 2014

<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/09/temperature.html>

"The Politics of Polar Bears" lengthy excerpt airs across Canada – cue the outrage

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, Sep 3, 2014

<http://polarbearscience.com/2014/09/03/the-politics-of-polar-bears-lengthy-excerpt-airs-across-canada-cue-the-outrage/>

Trivial pursuit: Brussels rules

By John Brignell, Number Watch, Sep 1, 2014
http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/2014_september.htm

Who Is More Irrational - Consumers or Regulators?

By Bjorn Lomborg, Forbes, Sep 1, 2014
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/bjornlomborg/2014/09/01/who-is-more-irrational-consumers-or-regulators/>

Defending the Orthodoxy

A climate for change: The U.S. can help drive a new round of global carbon cuts

Editorial, Washington Post, Aug 28, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]
http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-climate-for-change-the-us-can-help-drive-a-new-round-of-global-carbon-cuts/2014/08/28/9f3ecbf8-2d9f-11e4-9b98-848790384093_story.html
[SEPP Comment: A five part series that asserts carbon dioxide is a fundamental pollutant and emissions must be stopped to clean the air in China. As seen by the 72% decline in the US in major pollutants, the real pollutants in the air can be removed without the need of restricting life-giving carbon dioxide.]

EDITORIAL: Pressing the climate hoax

The Obama administration signs up for a war on carbon dioxide
Editorial, The Washington Times, Sep 1, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]
<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/sep/1/editorial-pressing-the-climate-hoax/>

But what about the oceans? Research shows declining levels of acidity in Sierra Nevada lakes

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 4, 2014
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/04/but-what-about-the-oceans-research-shows-declining-levels-of-acidity-in-sierra-nevada-lakes/>
[SEPP Comment: No question that the 72% reduction the 6 major pollutants in the air since 1970 has benefited human health and the environment. But that does justify regulation of carbon dioxide?]

Why we're so blase about global warming

By Jack Shafer, Reuters, Aug 29, 2014 [H/t GWPF]
<http://blogs.reuters.com/jackshafer/2014/08/29/why-were-so-blase-about-global-warming/>
[SEPP Comment: An age-perception issue?]

Why Obama is Bypassing Congress on Climate

By Danny Shaw, Map Light, Aug 27, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]
<http://maplight.org/content/73520>

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Global Warming Policy Foundation Launches Campaigning Arm

By Staff Writers, GWPF, Sep 1, 2014
<http://www.thegwpf.org/global-warming-policy-foundation-launches-campaigning-arm/>

Which principle: precaution or progress?

By Ivo Vegter, Daily Maverick, Sep 1, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.dailymaverick.co.za/opinionista/2014-09-01-which-principle-precaution-or-progress/#.VAi8BfldV-5>

“The precautionary principle implicitly prohibits progress, by placing impossible burdens of proof upon industry and innovation. It can cause as much harm as it ostensibly prevents, so it precludes its own application. It is vague and arbitrary, which gives bureaucrats and their professional advisors the power to subvert the rulemaking process for their own benefit.”

A current pause in global warming: McKittrick

By Lorne Gunter, Toronto Sun, Sep 3, 2014

<http://www.torontosun.com/2014/09/03/a-current-pause-in-global-warming-mckittrick>

[SEPP Comment: More on the analysis by McKittrick.]

The High Cost of Climate-Change Politics

By Anthony Sadar, American Thinker, Aug 30, 2014

http://www.americanthinker.com/blog/2014/08/the_high_cost_of_climatechange_politics.html

Coming Soon to Climate Change: The ‘Rewind’ Button?

By Steven Hayward, Power Line, Aug 30, 2014

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2014/08/coming-soon-to-climate-change-the-rewind-button.php>

Errors and frauds of global warming science

By Gary Novak, Pravda, Sep 1, 2014 [H/t ACS]

http://english.pravda.ru/science/earth/01-09-2014/128413-global_warming_science-0/

[SEPP Comment: Contrary to the assertions of the author, modeling can be very valuable in science, but the components of the model must be constantly tested against empirical evidence.]

Joseph Perkins: Global-warming science a long con

By Joseph Perkins, Orange County Register, Aug 28, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/warming-633132-global-years.html>

Let's Tax the Climate Alarm Industry

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, Sep 2, 2014

<http://www.newsmax.com/LarryBell/Climate-Change/2014/09/02/id/592051/>

IPPR does climate and energy

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Sep 1, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/9/1/ippr-does-climate-and-energy.html>

Myth of arctic meltdown: Stunning satellite images show summer ice cap is thicker and covers 1.7million square kilometres MORE than 2 years ago...despite Al Gore's prediction it would be ICE-FREE by now

By David Rose, Mail, UK, Sep 1, 2014 [H/t William Readdy]

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2738653/Stunning-satellite-images-summer-ice-cap-thicker-covers-1-7million-square-kilometres-MORE-2-years-ago-despite-Al-Gore-s-prediction-ICE-FREE-now.html>

Social Benefits of Carbon

About Face: Why the world needs more CO₂: The failed science of global warming!

Book Review by Geoff Brown, Australia Climate Sceptics, Sat 6, 2014
<http://theclimatescepticsparty.blogspot.com.au/2014/09/about-face-why-world-needs-more-co2.html>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

Ban-Ki Moon's Climate Summit Dead In The Water

By Andrew McKillop, The Market Oracle, Sep 4, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.marketoracle.co.uk/Article47182.html>

As new climate change summit looms, UN environment efforts still a mess, study says

By George Russell, Fox News, Sep 2, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/09/02/as-new-climate-change-summit-looms-un-environment-efforts-still-mess-study-says/>

[SEPP Comment: The UN programs are in disarray? Shocking!]

China and Indian Leaders Skipping UN Climate Summit

By Sangwon Yoon and Mark Drajem, Bloomberg, Sep 4, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-09-03/xi-and-modi-said-to-skip-un-climate-summit-later-this-month.html>

Climate talks: Five things to know

By Timothy Cama, The Hill, Aug 31, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/216285-climate-talks-five-things-to-know>

[SEPP Comment: It is increasingly apparent that, contrary to this reporter's assessment, some world leaders are not interested in international regulations of CO2.]

Poverty, Not Climate Change, Bigger Concern for China and India

By David Kreutzer, Daily Signal, Sep 5, 2014

<http://dailysignal.com/2014/09/05/poverty-climate-change-bigger-concern-china-india/>

Teachers Day speech: PM Modi says no climate change

By Staff Writers, India Today, Sep 5, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/teachers-day-speech-pm-modi-says-no-climate-change/1/381198.html>

The 8% Consensus: Only 11 of 144 Countries Have Backed The Kyoto Protocol's Extension

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Sep 4, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/09/04/the-8-consensus-only-11-of-144-countries-have-backed-the-kyoto-protocols-extension/>

Two Months and Risky Business is Already an Afterthought

By Paul Chesser, NL&PC, Sep 2, 2014

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2014/09/02/two-months-and-risky-business-already-afterthought>

Seeking a Common Ground

A look at the cutting edge of the climate sciences, & the lessons we can learn.

By Editor, Fabius Maximus, Sep 4, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://fabiusmaximus.com/2014/09/04/pause-climate-science-debate-change-71458/>

[SEPP Comment: Disagree strongly with the summary, it is precisely the lack of science on the other side that drives SEPP.]

Gavin Schmidt's analogy ceasefire

...I agree with him...

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, Sep 2, 2014

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/09/gavin-schmidts-analogy-ceasefire.html#more>

[SEPP Comment: In science argument by analogy is not particularly fruitful.]

Half-truths, Lies & Climate Change

By Doug Hoffman, The Resilient Earth, Sep 1, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://theresilientearth.com/?q=content/half-truths-lies-climate-change>

[SEPP Comment: Exposing myths from a number of sources.]

How long is the pause?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Sep 1, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/09/01/how-long-is-the-pause/#more-16779>

[SEPP Comment: The important point is not the length of the no trending, but the epic failure of the climate models, which the IPCC used to predict, with great certainty, dangerous human-caused future warming.]

Science for development: getting real?

By Tracey Elliott, The Royal Society, Aug 13, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

http://blogs.royalsociety.org/in-verba/2014/08/13/science-for-development-getting-real/?dm_i=I1,2QGEK,BRN6FZ,9YOIC,1

Stepping away from the 'Climate War'

The Debate is finally over on "Global Warming" – Because Nobody will Debate

By Caleb Rossiter, WUWT, Sep 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/03/stepping-away-from-the-climate-war/>

Link to full essay: My LAST Piece on "Climate Change," I Promise

By Caleb Rossiter, His Blog, No date

<http://www.calebrossiter.com/Last%20Climate.html>

Both sides have their central websites that constantly compile articles and arguments for the media and public: the catastrophists' realclimate.org and Union of Concerned Scientists versus the skeptics' staid Science and Environmental Policy [Project] "The Week that Was" at sepp.org and the wild and wooly climatedepot.org.

[SEPP Comment: Disagree with Rossiter's assessment of the UAH data. How it is handled is transparent and subject to intense review.]

Slingo at the IoP

By Colonel Shotover, Bishop Hill, Sep 4, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/9/4/slingo-at-the-iop.html>

[SEPP Comment: In her presentation at the Institute of Physics, the enthusiasm Met Office chief scientist Julia Slingo showed for the efforts in modeling weather impressed a global warming skeptic.]

Trenberth's science communication interview

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Sep 3, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/09/03/trenberths-science-communication-interview/#more-16802>

[SEPP Comment: Based on personal experience when asking a pointed scientific question following a Trenberth lecture, Curry is too kind. His followers attempted to attack the person posing the very germane question. Fortunately, other members in the audience followed-up, and forced a significant back-track on Trenberth's assertions.]

What exactly is going on in their heads?

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. Sep 5, 2014

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/09/05/what-exactly-is-going-on-in-their-heads/>

Measurement Issues

Pitman says BOM don't "fiddle" with data — it's magical science by Elite Centres of Excellence

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Sep 2, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/09/pitman-says-bom-dont-fiddle-with-data-its-magical-science-by-elite-centres-of-excellence/>

BOM homogenisation in Deniliquin creates discontinuities and changes trends

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Sep 5, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/09/bom-homogenisation-in-deniliquin-creates-discontinuities-and-changes-trends/>

[SEPP Comment: Another example of the Bureau of Meteorology turning a cooling into a warming.]

Data Games

By Joe D'Aleo, Hudson Litchfield News, Sep 5, 2014

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

[SEPP Comment: More reasons why SEPP considers the surface record inferior to satellite record.]

Temperature Adjustments In Greenland

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, Sep 1, 2014

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/09/01/temperature-adjustments-in-greenland/#more-10060>

So I ask, who can we trust to give us the true record in Greenland, the experts at DMI, or [NASA] GISS?

Past temperature in Greenland adjusted to fit new theory

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/04/past-temperature-in-greenland-adjusted-to-fit-new-theory/>

Link to press release: Past temperature in Greenland adjusted

By Gertie Skaarup, Niels Bohr Institute, Sep 4, 2014

http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2014-09/uoc--pti090414.php

The oxygen temperature curve said that the climate in central Greenland was colder around 12,000 years ago than around 15,000 years ago, despite the fact that two key climate drivers – carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and solar radiation – would suggest the opposite. With our new, more direct reconstruction, we have been able to show that the climate in central Greenland was actually warmer around 12,000 years ago compared to 15,000 years ago. So the temperatures actually follow the solar radiation and the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

[SEPP Comment: Adjusting temperature estimates to fit the hypothesis: CO2 is a key driver of temperatures.]

Changing Weather

Brutal Winter? Almanac Could Be Wrong, Scientists Say

By Elizabeth Palermo, Live Science, Aug 29, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.msn.com/science-technology/brutal-winter-almanac-could-be-wrong-scientists-say>

[SEPP Comment: WeatherBELL Analytics is predicting a cold, snowy winter in the Midwest, East, and the Southeast.]

Storm activity at historic lows: ‘First time for almost 70 years September globe is storm free’

By Staff Writer, ICECAP, Sep 1, 2014

[http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/storm activity at historic lows first time for almost 70 years september gl/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/political-climate/storm%20activity%20at%20historic%20lows%20first%20time%20for%20almost%2070%20years%20september%20gl/)

[SEPP Comment: An isolated event? But so was Sunday.]

Recent paper finds extreme weather & flooding became less frequent/extreme in Southwest England

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/02/recent-paper-finds-extreme-weather-flooding-became-less-frequentextreme-in-southwest-england/>

Former National Hurricane Center Director Tells Florida Governor Fighting Global Warming Won’t Protect Florida from Extreme Weather

Press Release by Staff Writers, Cornwall Alliance, Aug 14, 2014 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/2014/08/14/former-national-hurricane-center-director-tells-florida-governor-fighting-global-warming-wont-protect-florida-from-extreme-weather/>

Changing Seas

3 Questions with Carl Wunsch on the Ocean’s changing temperature

By Genevieve Wanuch, Oceans at MIT, Aug 27, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://oceans.mit.edu/featured-stories/3-questions-carl-wunsch-oceans-changing-temperature>

[SEPP Comment: Problems with the assumption in the article: “Because the ocean has an enormous ability to absorb heat from the atmosphere, it’s only logical that the ocean has warmed, and will continue to warm, as increasing amounts of greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere.” Twenty years of temperature data, not comprehensive, is not sufficient to indicate CO2 is the cause.]

Claim: Antarctic sea-level rising faster than global rate, but a ‘pause’ and other studies suggest ice melt isn’t the only factor

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 1, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/01/claim-antarctic-sea-level-rising-faster-than-global-rate-but-a-pause-and-other-studies-suggest-ice-melt-isnt-the-only-factor/>

Rapid sea-level rise along the Antarctic margins in response to increased glacial discharge

By Rye, et al. Nature Geoscience, Aug 31, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/ngeo2230.html>

[SEPP Comment: Use a questionable model to calculate what may be happening rather than take direct measurements.]

Evidence for long-term memory in sea level

By Dangendorf, et al. Geophysical Research Letters, Aug 5, 2014

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2014GL060538/abstract>

[SEPP Comment: Cyclical, natural variation may dominate any human influence.]

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

1960's satellite imagery of polar ice discovers “enormous holes” in the sea ice

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 4, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/04/1960s-satellite-imagery-of-polar-ice-discovers-enormous-holes-in-the-sea-ice/>

Link to press release: Nimbus data rescue

By Staff Writers, CIRES, Aug 29, 2014

<http://cires.colorado.edu/news/press/2014/nimbus.html>

2014: The Year Arctic Meltdown Stories Completely Vanished From Our Media!

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, Sep 1, 2014

<http://notrickszone.com/2014/09/01/2014-the-year-arctic-meltdown-stories-completely-vanished-from-our-media/>

‘The Arctic sea ice spiral of death seems to have reversed’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Aug 30, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/30/the-arctic-sea-ice-spiral-of-death-seems-to-have-reversed/>

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

14 Percent of Americans Are Food Insecure: What that Really Means

By Rachel Sheffield, Daily Signal, Sep 4, 2014

http://dailysignal.com/2014/09/04/14-percent-americans-food-insecure-really-means/?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=morningbell&mk_t_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRonvavJZKXonjHpfsX66O0pUKOylMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjI4DTcNjI%2BSLDwEYgJlv6SgFQrLBMa1ozrgOWxU%3D

[SEPP Comment: Another government agency rigging a survey to promote a policy from which the agency benefits.]

Un-Science or Non-Science?

New paper claims 99.999% certainty global warming over past 25 years is man-made

By Staff Writer, The Hockey Schtick, Sep 3, 2014

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2014/09/new-paper-claims-99999-certainty-global.html>

Link to paper: A probabilistic analysis of human influence on recent record global mean temperature changes

By Philip Kokica, Steven Crimpc, & Mark Howdend, Climate Risk Management, No Date

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212096314000163>

[SEPP Comment: Apparently the statisticians are ignorant of climate history.]

We are 99.99999% sure that broken models produce stupid climate statistics

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Sep 5, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/09/we-are-99-99999-sure-that-broken-models-produce-stupid-climate-statistics/>

[SEPP Comment: See link immediately above.]

Study Links Polar Vortex Chills to Melting Sea Ice

By Seth Borenstein, AP, Sep 2, 2014

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/study-links-polar-vortex-chills-melting-sea-ice>

Link to paper: Weakening of the stratospheric polar vortex by Arctic sea-ice loss

By Baek-Min Kim, et al. Nature Communications, Sep 2, 2014

<http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2014/140902/ncomms5646/full/ncomms5646.html>

Sierra Nevada freshwater runoff could drop 26 percent by 2100, tree growth due to improved climate blamed

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 1, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/01/sierra-nevada-freshwater-runoff-could-drop-26-percent-by-2100-tree-growth-due-to-improved-climate-blamed/>

The authors found that greater vegetation density at higher elevations in the Kings basin with the 4.1 degrees Celsius warming projected by climate models for 2100

Are You Ready for a 35-Year Drought?

By Kristine Wong, Takepart.com, Aug 29, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.yahoo.com/ready-35-drought-163747377.html>

Link to paper: Assessing the risk of persistent drought using climate model simulations and paleoclimate data

By Ault, et al. AMS, Journal of Climate, Sep 1, 2014

<http://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/abs/10.1175/JCLI-D-12-00282.1>

Claim: Lowering coal-fired power plant emissions may have saved 1,700 lives in 1 year

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/03/claim-lowering-coal-fired-power-plant-emissions-may-have-saved-1700-lives-in-1-year/>

[SEPP Comment: Has the health-impact model been verified and validated?]

Lowering Standards

Brian Cox's incompetence

By Luboš Motl, Reference Frame, Sep 4, 2014

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2014/09/brian-coxs-incompetence.html>

Thankfully, I live in the Czech Republic where we are "allowed" to say that the existing climate models are absolutely worthless for the prediction of the future climate.

Their number of adjustable (and often adjusted with an intentional bias) components is so high and, in fact, so much higher than the number of checks that were used to adjust them that there is also absolutely no theoretical reason to think that their predictions will be correlated with the reality.

[SEPP Comment: Questioning the BBC's go-to scientist on his understanding of probability, models, and other issues.]

Brian Cox is wrong – it is vital that knowledge is controversial, even about climate change

By Brendan O'Neill, Telegraph, UK, Sep 4, 2014

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/brendanoneill2/100285081/brian-cox-is-wrong-it-is-vital-that-knowledge-is-controversial-even-about-climate-change/>

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

Carbon stored in soils more vulnerable to climate change than expected

By Staff Writers, Exeter, UK (SPX), Sep 05, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Carbon_stored_in_the_worlds_soils_more_vulnerable_to_climate_change_than_expected_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The headline makes no sense. The article fails to recognize CO2 is plant food.]

Existing power plants will spew 300 billion more tons of carbon dioxide during use

By Staff Writers, Irvine CA (SPX), Sep 03, 2014

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Existing_power_plants_will_spew_300_billion_more_tons_of_carbon_dioxide_during_use_999.html

[SEPP Comment: The term "spew" carbon dioxide puts this article in the propaganda class.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Baseless Alarmism: Global Warming's Impact on Gulf of Maine Driving Away Lobsters and Fish

By Bob Tisdale, WUWT, Sep 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/03/baseless-alarmism-global-warmings-impact-on-gulf-of-maine-driving-away-lobsters-and-fish/>

Climate Change Scientists Warn: We're Almost Too Late

By Rubecca Leber, New Republic, Aug 27, 2014

<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/119236/un-draft-climate-report-issues-warning-world>

Global warming impacts 'severe, widespread, and irreversible', UN warns

Urgent action needed to tackle man-made climate change, leaked report warns

By Emily Gosden, Telegraph, UK, Aug 27, 2014

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/climatechange/11058901/Global-warming-impacts-severe-widespread-and-irreversible-UN-warns.html?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=50c3857ef5-Carbon_Brief_Weekly_18_7_137_18_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-50c3857ef5-215218249

U.N. says low-carbon economy a booming economy

By Daniel J. Graeber, Geneva, Switzerland (UPI), Aug 28, 2014

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/UN_says_low-carbon_economy_a_booming_economy_999.html

Communicating Better to the Public – Go Personal.

Climate sceptics should be 'crushed and buried': Sir Paul Nurse attacks politicians who 'distort' facts on global warming

By Ben Spencer, Daily Mail, UK, Sep 4, 2014

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2743255/Climate-sceptics-crushed-buried-Sir-Paul-Nurse-attacks-politicians-distort-facts-global-warming.html>

Crusher Nurse fails to squeeze

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Sep 4, 2014

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2014/9/4/crusher-nurse-fails-to-squeeze.html>

We're Doomed ... Kittens and Puppies Too

By Tony Thomas, Quadrant, Sep 2, 2014

<http://quadrant.org.au/opinion/qed/2014/09/doomed-kittens-puppies/>

Climate Crazyness of the Week: Naomi Oreskes says climate change will kill your pets

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 3, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/03/climate-crazyness-of-the-week-naomi-oreskes-says-climate-change-will-kill-your-pets/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children

UN/WMO Propaganda Stunt: climate fantasy forecasts of hell on Earth from the future

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/02/unwmo-propaganda-stunt-climate-fantasy-forecasts-of-hell-on-earth-from-the-future/>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

Rich nations have moral duty to help island nations as climate change shifts weather patterns, says World Bank envoy

By Peter Hannam, Sydney Morning Herald, Sep 1, 2014 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.smh.com.au/environment/climate-change/rich-nations-have-moral-duty-to-help-island-nations-as-climate-change-shifts-weather-patterns-says-world-bank-envoy-20140831-10al2l.html>

[SEPP Comment: How did these islands survive 400 feet of sea level rise over 18,000 years?]

Questioning European Green

Europe's Green Economies: Not Models For U.S.

Editorial, IBD, Sep 3, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/090314-715919-america-shouldnt-follow-spain-germany-energy-plans.htm>

Is Merkel's green zeal turning brown?

By Madeline Chambers, Reuters, Sep 9, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.euronews.com/newswires/2672688-is-merkels-green-zeal-turning-brown/>

[SEPP Comment: As in brown coal?]

Who is Donald Tusk and what does he think about climate?

By Simon Evans, The Carbon Brief, Sep 2, 2014

http://www.carbonbrief.org/blog/2014/09/who-is-donald-tusk-and-what-does-he-think-about-climate/?utm_source=Weekly+Carbon+Briefing&utm_campaign=50c3857ef5-Carbon_Brief_Weekly_18_7_137_18_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_3ff5ea836a-50c3857ef5-215218249

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Giant wind farm could deal the Chesapeake Bay a heavy blow

Maryland's O'Malley ignores environmental and economic costs

By Bonner Cohen, Washington Times, Sep 2, 2014

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/sep/2/cohen-giant-wind-farm-could-deal-the-chesapeake-ba/#ixzz3CFa7og7h>

Maryland's Democratic governor, Martin O'Malley, has bestowed his blessings on the project, saying the massive array of whirling wind turbines will provide a safeguard "against rising sea levels caused by climate change."

Funding Issues

Opinions of Climate Change: Related to Dependency on Government Money?

By Patrick J. Michaels and Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger, CATO, Sep 3, 2014

<http://www.cato.org/blog/opinions-climate-change-related-dependency-government-money>

The Political Games Continue

GOP launches probe of 'improper influence' on EPA climate rule

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Sep 2, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/216419-gop-launches-probe-of-green-groups-improper-influence-on-epa>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Reid promises vote on green tax credits

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Sep 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/216654-reid-plans-vote-for-renewable-energy-tax-credits>

Constraint payments

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Sep 2, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/9/2/constraint-payments.html>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

A Proposal for Replacing the EPA

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Sep 2, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/09/02/a-proposal-for-replacing-the-epa/>

Emails Suggest Enviro Groups Influence The EPA's Agenda

By Michael Bastasch, Daily Caller, Sep 3, 2014

<http://dailycaller.com/2014/09/03/emails-suggest-enviro-groups-influence-the-epas-agenda/>

EPA struggles to account for cross-state emissions reductions in power plant rule

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Sep 4, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/epa-struggles-to-account-for-cross-state-emissions-reductions-in-power-plant-rule/article/2552809?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20-%202009/04/14&utm_medium=email

EPA moves toward regulating jet fumes

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Sep 4, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/216665-epa-moves-toward-regulating-aircraft-emissions>

EPA's Staff Recommends Lower Ozone Standard, But it Doesn't Matter, Because EPA Has No Say

By William Yeatman, Global Warming.org, Sep 3, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/09/03/epas-staff-recommends-lower-ozone-standard-but-it-doesnt-matter-because-epa-has-no-say-in-the-matter/>

[SEPP Comment: The EPA has ways to neutralize court decisions.]

Energy Issues – Non-US

What should drive energy policy?

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, Sep 5, 2014

<http://scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/what-should-drive-energy-policy>

2.8 bn risk ill health from home air pollution: research

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), Sept 03, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/2point8_bn_risk_ill_health_from_home_air_pollution_research_999.html

China's Sinopec to push on with \$10 bln coal-to-gas plan

By Chen Aizhu, Reuters, Sep 4, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/09/04/sinopec-coal-gas-idINL3N0QZ37J20140904>

Demand response

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, Sep 2, 2014

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2014/9/2/demand-response.html>

The Energy and Climate Change Committee are currently considering demand response, which is an interesting subject for those who quite like the idea of having energy when required rather than when permitted by the political classes.

EDF nuclear plants closed until winter amid blackout fears

French energy giant warns of delay in restarting nuclear reactors that were shut for safety checks

By Emily Gosden, and Andrew Critchlow, Telegraph, UK, Sep 4, 2014

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/energy/11074469/EDF-nuclear-plants-closed-until-winter-amid-blackout-fears.html>

Lawrence Solomon: How global warming policies have led to global insecurity

By Lawrence Solomon, Financial Post, Sep 4, 2014 [H/t GWPF]

<http://business.financialpost.com/2014/09/04/lawrence-solomon-how-global-warming-policies-have-led-to-global-insecurity/>

[SEPP Comment: Question if the West could have become self-sufficient in fossil fuels, let alone an exporter. However, North America could become largely energy independent if politics have not interfered.]

Ozone pollution in India kills enough crops to feed 94 million in poverty

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Sep 05, 2014

http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Ozone_pollution_in_India_kills_enough_crops_to_feed_94_million_in_poverty_999.html

The Government Is Controlling Private Property to Save Frog Species Not Seen in 50 Years

By Scott Blakeman, The Daily Signal, Aug 29, 2014

[http://dailysignal.com/2014/08/29/government-controlling-private-property-save-frog-species-seen-50-](http://dailysignal.com/2014/08/29/government-controlling-private-property-save-frog-species-seen-50-years/?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=morningbell&mkt)

[years/?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=morningbell&mkt](http://dailysignal.com/2014/08/29/government-controlling-private-property-save-frog-species-seen-50-years/?utm_source=heritagefoundation&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=morningbell&mkt)

tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRonva7NZKXonjHpfsX66O0pUKOylMI%2F0ER3fOvrPUfGjI4DTMdmI%2BSDLwEYGJlv6SgFQrLBMa1ozrgOWxU%3D

Energy Issues -- US

Economic Failure of Climate Change Movement

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, Sep 5, 2014

<https://dddusmma.wordpress.com/2014/09/05/economic-failure-of-climate-change-movement/>

Washington's Control of Energy

EPA chief to investors: We need more gas pipelines

By Zack Colman, Washington Examiner, Sep 3, 2014

http://washingtonexaminer.com/epa-chief-to-investors-we-need-more-gas-pipelines/article/2552739?utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today&utm_source=Washington%20Examiner:%20Politics%20Today%20-%2009/03/14&utm_medium=email

[SEPP Comment: Will the EPA approve them when pipelines cross streams, etc?]

EPA chief pushes economic case of capturing methane

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Sep 2, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/216398-epa-chief-presses-industry-on-economic-case-of-capturing-methane>

Separation of Powers Alert: Obama Seeks Climate 'Treaty' without Senate Ratification

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Aug 28, 2014

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2014/08/28/separation-of-powers-alert-obama-seeks-climate-treaty-without-senate-ratification/>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Report: Water shortages could limit shale development across globe

By Laura Barron-Lopez, The Hill, Sep 9, 2014

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/216363-report-water-shortages-could-limit-shale-development-across-globe>

Link to report: Global Shale Gas Development: Water Availability & Business Risks

By Paul Reig, et al. World Resources Institute, No Date

<http://www.wri.org/publication/global-shale-gas-development-water-availability-business-risks>

Dearth of oil finds threatens long-term supplies, price

By Balazs Korany and Joachim Dagenborg, Reuters, Aug 27, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/27/us-norway-oil-conference-exploration-idUSKBN0GR26L20140827>

Explorers are finding so little oil, many are retreating from high-risk frontier areas to safer bets like North American shale ...

[SEPP Comment: Companies are making bigger profits with greater certainty with on-land drilling of shale!]

Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences

Judge rules BP was grossly negligent in oil spill

By Collin Eaton, Fuel Fix, Sep 4, 2014

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/09/04/judge-rules-bp-was-grossly-negligent-in-oil-spill/>

Changing microbial dynamics in the wake of the Macondo blowout

By Staff Writers, Reston VA (SPX), Sep 04, 2014

http://www.terradaaily.com/reports/Changing_microbial_dynamics_in_the_wake_of_the_Macondo_blowout_999.html

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Big Wind's Last Gasp

By Lisa Linowes, Wind Action, Sep 3, 2014

<http://www.windaction.org/posts/41140-big-wind-s-last-gasp#.VAcxtvldV-4>

Link to report: 2013 Wind Report

By Staff Writers, Department of Energy, No date

<http://energy.gov/2013-wind-report>

2013 Wind Technologies Market Report

<http://energy.gov/eere/wind/downloads/2013-wind-technologies-market-report>

[SEPP Comment: DOE is engaged in outright promotion of an inferior form of electricity generation.]

Renewable Energy in perspective: Solar and Wind power

Data for the USA, Germany and the UK since the year 2000.

By Ed Hoskins, WUWT, Aug 30, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/30/renewable-energy-in-perspective-solar-and-wind-power/>

Wind energy cuts the electricity bill

By Staff Writers, Leioa, Spain (SPX), Sep 05, 2014

http://www.winddaily.com/reports/Wind_energy_cuts_the_electricity_bill_999.html

Link to paper: Is green energy expensive? Empirical evidence from the Spanish electricity market

By Aitor Ciarretaa, Maria Paz Espinosaa, and Cristina Pizarro-Irizarra, Energy Policy, Jun 2014

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421514001141>

Bryce: Yes, solar is booming, but

By Robert Bryce, Newsday, Sep 2, 2014

<http://www.newsday.com/opinion/oped/yes-solar-is-booming-but-robert-bryce-1.9207529>

Pricey VA wind turbines around U.S. remain idle

By Mark Sommerauser, SCTimes Sep 2, 2014 [H/t Wind Action]

<http://www.sctimes.com/story/news/local/2014/08/30/pricey-va-wind-turbines-around-us-remain-idle/14883333/>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Booming electric car sales under fire in Norway

By Staff Writers, Oslo (AFP), Aug 31, 2014

http://www.spacemart.com/reports/Booming_electric_car_sales_under_fire_in_Norway_999.html

Electrified car sales stall as buyers back away from hybrids

By Charles Fleming, LA Times, Sep 4, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.latimes.com/business/autos/la-fi-hy-electric-vehicle-sales-20140903-story.html>

Tesla chooses Nevada for battery factory: Sources

By Staff Writers, CNBC, Sep 3, 2014

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/101937267>

[SEPP Comment: With Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid at point, how much will this cost the American taxpayer?]

Carbon Schemes

EPA Approves Nation's First Underground Injection Permits for Carbon Sequestration

By Sonal Patel, Power News, Sep 3, 2014

http://www.powermag.com/epa-approves-nations-first-underground-injection-permits-for-carbon-sequestration/?hq_e=el&hq_m=2941080&hq_l=18&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: A technology the EPA and Department of Energy claimed was commercially available.]

Oh Mann!

When Science is Settled - by Government

By Mark Steyn, His Blog, Sep 1, 2014 [H/t Climate Etc.]

<http://www.steynonline.com/6547/when-science-is-settled-by-government>

Environmental Industry

Congress Probes EPA's Cozy Ties With Green Group

Editorial, IBD, Sep 3, 2014 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/090314-715917-tough-epa-rules-may-have-been-written-by-radical-greens.htm?p=full>

Other Scientific News

Federal funding for basic research at universities and colleges essentially unchanged in FY 2012

Five U.S. departments and agencies provided most of the federal funding for basic research

By Staff Writers, NSF Press Release, Sep 4, 2014

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=132580&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Viruses take down massive algal blooms, with big implications for climate

By Staff Writers, Rehovet, Israel (SPX), Aug 25, 2014 [H/t Catherine French]

http://www.terraily.com/reports/Viruses_take_down_massive_algal_blooms_with_big_implications_for_climate_999.html

Putin Approves Developing Super-Heavy Rockets With Up to 150-Ton Cargo Capacity

By Staff Writers, Moscow (RIA Novosti), Sep 03, 2014

http://www.space-travel.com/reports/Putin_Approves_Developing_Super_Heavy_Rockets_With_Up_to_150_Ton_Cargo_Capacity_999.html

[SEPP Comment: 300,000 pound capacity. The Saturn V had a Low Earth Orbit payload of 260,000 lbs. (118,000 kg) and a Trans-lunar injection payload of 100,000 lbs. (45,000 kg.)]

Other News that May Be of Interest

The key to drilling [water] wells with staying power in the developing world

By Staff Writers, Federal Way WA (SPX), Sep 03, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/The_key_to_drilling_wells_with_staying_power_in_the_developing_world_999.html

Reducing water scarcity possible by 2050

By Staff Writers, Montreal, Canada (SPX), Sep 01, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Reducing_water_scarcity_possible_by_2050_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Scarcity is a matter of perception, with more efficient use in agriculture, often requiring energy use, scarcity is reduced.]

Leading scientists call for a stop to non-essential use of fluorochemicals

By Staff Writers, Kongens Lyngby, Denmark (SPX) Sep 01, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Leading_scientists_call_for_a_stop_to_non_essential_use_of_fluorochemicals_999.html

Giant garbage patches help redefine ocean boundaries

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), Sep 04, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Giant_garbage_patches_help_redefine_ocean_boundaries_999.html

Underwater grass comeback bodes well for Chesapeake Bay

By Staff Writers, Cambridge MD (SPX), Sep 03, 2014

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Underwater_grass_comeback_bodes_well_for_Chesapeake_Bay_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Cleaning up sewerage does wonders.]

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Finally, a way to get energy from Wind Turbines. Burn them, make cement!

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, Sep 2, 2014

<http://joannenova.com.au/2014/09/finally-a-way-to-get-energy-from-wind-turbines-burn-them-make-cement/#more-38116>

Global warming is about to turn Sweden's highest mountain into its second highest

By Michael Silverberg, Quartz, Aug 30, 2014 [H/t Clyde Spencer]

<http://news.msn.com/science-technology/global-warming-is-about-to-turn-swedens-highest-mountain-into-its-second-highest>

Link to paper: recent air and ground temperature increases at Tarfala Research Station

By Ulf Jonsell, Regine Hock & Martial Duguay, Polar research

<file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/19807-96714-1-PB.pdf>

[SEPP Comment: Study covers air-surface temperatures from 1965 to 2011]

Yes, but what about the ‘carbon emissions’ of PlayStation® climatology computers?

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 2, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/02/yes-but-what-about-the-carbon-emissions-of-playstation-climatology-computers/>

Great moments in climate prediction: ‘World will warm faster than predicted in next five years, study warns’

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Sep 1, 2014

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/01/great-moments-in-climate-prediction-world-will-warm-faster-than-predicted-in-next-five-years-study-warns/>

[SEPP Comment: A headline from July 27, 2009]

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ARTICLES:

1. The Climate Change Agenda Needs to Adapt to Reality

Limiting carbon emissions won't work. Better to begin adjusting to a warmer world.

By Edward Lazear, WSJ, Sep 2, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/edward-p-lazear-the-climate-change-agenda-needs-to-adapt-to-reality-1409700618>

The Obama administration is instituting a variety of far-reaching policies to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change. Are any of these capable of making a difference? Simple arithmetic suggests not. Given this reality, we would be wise to consider strategies that complement and may be more effective than mitigation—namely, adaptation.

According to the Paris-based International Energy Agency, in 2012 the world emitted a little over 31 gigatons of carbon dioxide. China was the No. 1 emitter, accounting for more than one-fourth of the carbon produced. The U.S. was second, emitting about one-sixth.

China and India, among other developing countries, argue that they should be allowed to increase carbon emissions. They're still developing and require higher rates of economic growth. Moreover, they aren't responsible for previous emissions, and on a per capita basis U.S. emissions are much higher.

These arguments have merit but must be measured against the reality of carbon growth. Consider China: Its carbon emissions increased by an average 8.6% a year between 2002 and 2012. Were China to continue at this pace for 27 years until it reaches today's U.S. GDP per capita, it would emit 99 gigatons of carbon in 2041 alone, or three times the world's current emissions.

This scenario is too pessimistic. As countries develop, they become more efficient in energy use. But even if China tapered its emissions growth from 8.6% to zero over the same 27 years, it would still emit as much carbon in 2041 as the entire world does today. And that's not including emissions growth from India, Africa and South America.

Is there any hope of limiting carbon emissions to 30-50 gigatons in 2030, as many climatologists have called for, with substantial reductions thereafter? Some countries, notably Denmark and Sweden, have significantly reduced emissions. Can the U.S. do the same?

Feel-good actions won't make a dent. For example, it is fashionable to favor locally grown produce in part to reduce the carbon from transport. But transport from producer to retailer is a trivial part—less than 5%—of energy used in the life cycle of produce. Almost all of the emitted carbon is associated with production, which means that growing a tomato bound for Chicago in an Illinois winter hothouse rather than outdoors in Florida is not a carbon-saving strategy.

How about using public transportation, driving carbon-friendly vehicles, living closer to work, or biking instead of driving? Suppose that the U.S. completely eliminated carbon emissions from transportation over the next four years. The IEA data show that world emissions would still rise because the reduction from the U.S. would not cover the increase in carbon emitted by the rest of

the world. Without world-wide changes, there is limited gain, even from dramatic action by the world's second-largest emitter.

The economics also work against a major transformation in the technology of producing power, either mobile or stationary. Coal is cheap. Natural gas is becoming even cheaper, but its carbon emissions, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, are still half those of coal and three-quarters those of gasoline per unit of energy produced. Although a switch to natural gas for many power uses would help, and accounts for recent drops in U.S. emissions, it cannot change the carbon arithmetic enough to prevent the world from exceeding "safe" levels.

Unless an economical low-carbon source of power generation becomes available, it is unrealistic to expect that countries, especially developing ones, will accede to any demand to produce power in a higher-cost manner merely to emit less carbon.

Very high carbon taxes or severely restrictive cap-and-trade policies might provide substantial motivation to conserve. These could reduce carbon-intensive consumption and motivate a switch to lower carbon power sources like nuclear. But these actions are undesirable because of their adverse effects on the economy. Australia instituted a \$22 per ton carbon-dioxide tax in 2012. It repealed the highly unpopular measure this July, mainly because of its economic costs and perceived ineffectiveness. Research and development are worthwhile. But they can be wasteful and ineffective—recall Solyndra—and if R&D is to be government sponsored, all developed countries should participate in funding.

Given these limitations on mitigating carbon emissions, it is important to study how to adapt to climate change. There are myriad possibilities for adaptation, including the obvious, like building dikes in low-lying areas, and planting heat-tolerant crops and trees in cities. Some adaptation will occur naturally. For example, economic incentives will induce people who are setting up new households, businesses and farms to move to areas that are less severely harmed by warming temperatures.

Organizations like the U.N.-sponsored Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have pushed adaptation as a complementary strategy to mitigation. Still, adaptation has received little attention by the Obama administration and is hardly mentioned in public discussion. Proponents of strong anti-carbon measures seem to believe that even considering an alternative to mitigation will weaken the public's willingness to bear the costs of mitigation.

Carbon math makes clear that without major effort and a good bit of luck, we are unlikely to control the growth of emissions enough to meet the standards that many climate scientists suggest are necessary. It is time to end the delusions and start thinking realistically about what can and will be done.

Mr. Lazear, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers (2006-09) and head of the White House committee on the economics of climate change (2007-08), is a professor at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business and a Hoover Institution fellow.

2. Whatever Happened to Global Warming?

Now come climate scientists' implausible explanations for why the 'hiatus' has passed the 15-year mark.

By Matt Ridley, WSJ, Sep 4, 2014

<http://online.wsj.com/articles/matt-ridley-whatever-happened-to-global-warming-1409872855>

Link to Article by Bob Carter: There IS a problem with global warming... it stopped in 1998
By Bob Carter, Telegraph, UK, Apr 9, 2006

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/3624242/There-IS-a-problem-with-global-warming...-it-stopped-in-1998.html>

On Sept. 23 the United Nations will host a party for world leaders in New York to pledge urgent action against climate change. Yet leaders from China, India and Germany have already announced that they won't attend the summit and others are likely to follow, leaving President Obama looking a bit lonely. Could it be that they no longer regard it as an urgent threat that some time later in this century the air may get a bit warmer?

In effect, this is all that's left of the global-warming emergency the U.N. declared in its first report on the subject in 1990. The U.N. no longer claims that there will be dangerous or rapid climate change in the next two decades. Last September, between the second and final draft of its fifth assessment report, the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change quietly downgraded the warming it expected in the 30 years following 1995, to about 0.5 degrees Celsius from 0.7 (or, in Fahrenheit, to about 0.9 degrees, from 1.3).

Even that is likely to be too high. The climate-research establishment has finally admitted openly what skeptic scientists have been saying for nearly a decade: Global warming has stopped since shortly before this century began.

First the climate-research establishment denied that a pause existed, noting that if there was a pause, it would invalidate their theories. Now they say there is a pause (or "hiatus"), but that it doesn't after all invalidate their theories.

Alas, their explanations have made their predicament worse by implying that man-made climate change is so slow and tentative that it can be easily overwhelmed by natural variation in temperature—a possibility that they had previously all but ruled out.

When the climate scientist and geologist Bob Carter of James Cook University in Australia wrote an article in 2006 saying that there had been no global warming since 1998 according to the most widely used measure of average global air temperatures, there was an outcry. A year later, when David Whitehouse of the Global Warming Policy Foundation in London made the same point, the environmentalist and journalist Mark Lynas said in the *New Statesman* that Mr. Whitehouse was "wrong, completely wrong," and was "deliberately, or otherwise, misleading the public."

We know now that it was Mr. Lynas who was wrong. Two years before Mr. Whitehouse's article, climate scientists were already admitting in emails among themselves that there had been no warming since the late 1990s. "The scientific community would come down on me in no uncertain terms if I said the world had cooled from 1998," wrote Phil Jones of the University of East Anglia in Britain in 2005. He went on: "Okay it has but it is only seven years of data and it isn't statistically significant."

If the pause lasted 15 years, they conceded, then it would be so significant that it would invalidate the climate-change models upon which policy was being built. A report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) written in 2008 made this clear: "The simulations rule out (at the 95% level) zero trends for intervals of 15 yr or more."

Well, the pause has now lasted for 16, 19 or 26 years—depending on whether you choose the surface temperature record or one of two satellite records of the lower atmosphere. That's according to a new statistical calculation by Ross McKittrick, a professor of economics at the University of Guelph in Canada.

It has been roughly two decades since there was a trend in temperature significantly different from zero. The burst of warming that preceded the millennium lasted about 20 years and was preceded by 30 years of slight cooling after 1940.

This has taken me by surprise. I was among those who thought the pause was a blip. As a "lukewarmer," I've long thought that man-made carbon-dioxide emissions will raise global temperatures, but that this effect will not be amplified much by feedbacks from extra water vapor and clouds, so the world will probably be only a bit more than one degree Celsius warmer in 2100 than today. By contrast, the assumption built into the average climate model is that water-vapor feedback will treble the effect of carbon dioxide.

But now I worry that I am exaggerating, rather than underplaying, the likely warming.

Most science journalists, who are strongly biased in favor of reporting alarming predictions, rather than neutral facts, chose to ignore the pause until very recently, when there were explanations available for it. Nearly 40 different excuses for the pause have been advanced, including Chinese economic growth that supposedly pushed cooling sulfate particles into the air, the removal of ozone-eating chemicals, an excess of volcanic emissions, and a slowdown in magnetic activity in the sun.

The favorite explanation earlier this year was that strong trade winds in the Pacific Ocean had been taking warmth from the air and sequestering it in the ocean. This was based on a few sketchy observations, suggesting a very tiny change in water temperature—a few hundredths of a degree—at depths of up to 200 meters.

Last month two scientists wrote in *Science* that they had instead found the explanation in natural fluctuations in currents in the Atlantic Ocean. For the last 30 years of the 20th century, Xianyao Chen and Ka-Kit Tung suggested, these currents had been boosting the warming by bringing heat to the surface, then for the past 15 years the currents had been counteracting it by taking heat down deep.

The warming in the last three decades of the 20th century, to quote the news release that accompanied their paper, "was roughly half due to global warming and half to the natural Atlantic Ocean cycle." In other words, even the modest warming in the 1980s and 1990s—which never achieved the 0.3 degrees Celsius per decade necessary to satisfy the feedback-enhanced models that predict about three degrees of warming by the end of the century—had been exaggerated by natural causes. The man-made warming of the past 20 years has been so feeble that a shifting current in one ocean was enough to wipe it out altogether.

Putting the icing on the cake of good news, Xianyao Chen and Ka-Kit Tung think the Atlantic Ocean may continue to prevent any warming for the next two decades. So in their quest to explain the pause, scientists have made the future sound even less alarming than before. Let's hope that the United Nations admits as much on day one of its coming jamboree and asks the delegates to

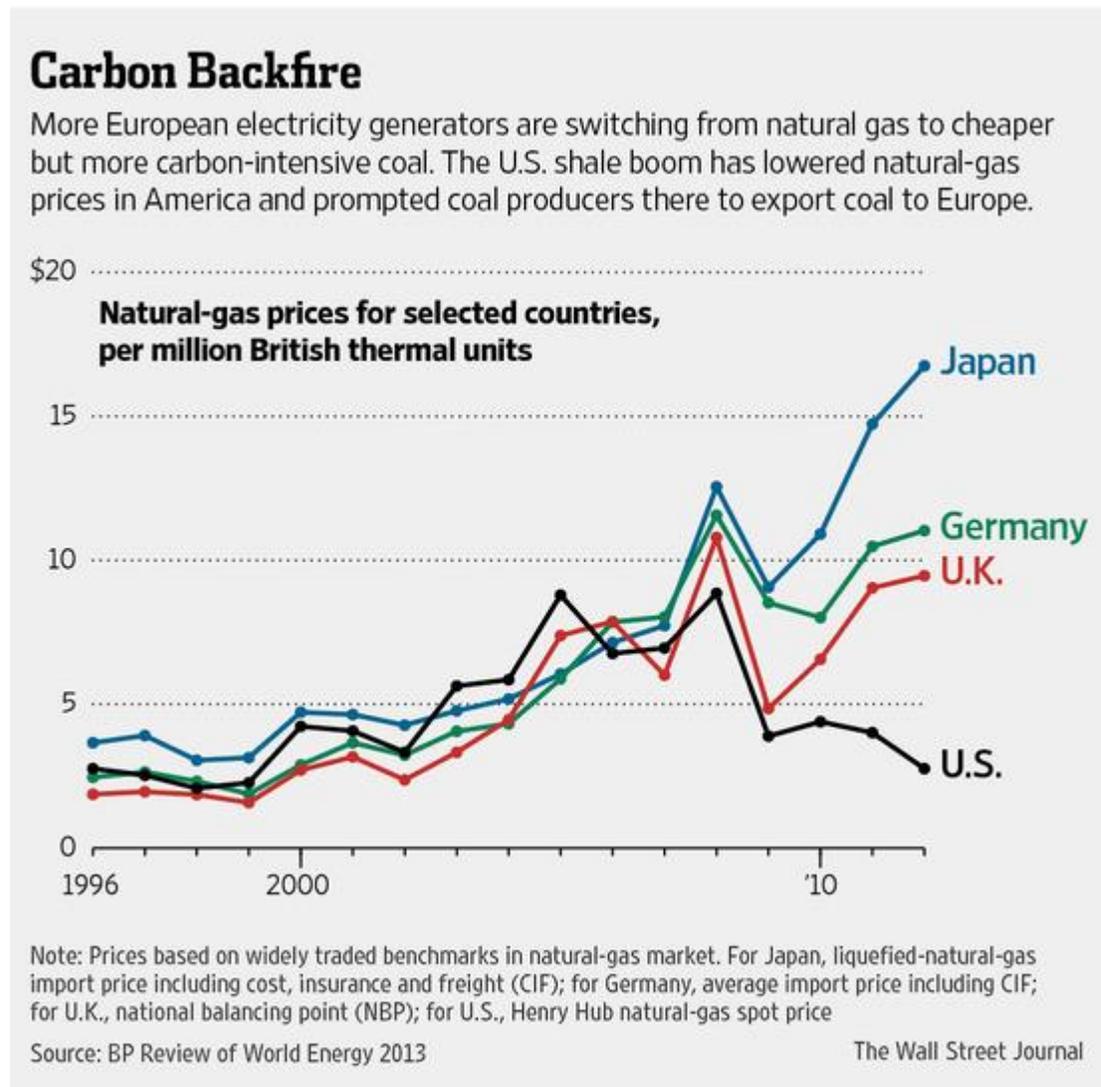
pack up, go home and concentrate on more pressing global problems like war, terror, disease, poverty, habitat loss and the 1.3 billion people with no electricity.

Mr. Ridley is the author of "The Rational Optimist" (HarperCollins, 2010) and a member of the British House of Lords.

3. Coal Renaissance Risks Tarnishing the EU's Green-Energy Credentials

By Vanessa Mock, WSJ, Sep 3, 2014

<http://blogs.wsj.com/brussels/2014/09/03/coal-renaissance-risks-tarnishing-the-eus-green-energy-credentials/>



The European Union prides itself as the being the world's green crusader. It is fighting climate change with a set of ambitious targets to reduce future carbon-dioxide emissions and boost the use of renewable energy, such as solar and wind, by setting an example to the rest of the world.

But a revival of coal as an energy source across Europe is leaving a dark spot on the EU's green credentials, according to a new report by several environmental pressure groups. Coal is the most

polluting of all fossil fuels in terms of CO2 emissions. EU countries are under pressure to phase out coal as part of EU-wide goals to cut emissions and boost the development of renewable energy sources.

At the center of Europe's coal renaissance is the region around the German-Polish border, already home to five of Europe's most polluting coal plants, says the report, which was compiled by CAN Europe, WWF, the European Environmental Bureau, the Health and Environment Alliance and Climate Alliance Germany. Swedish power firm Vattenfall GmbH is now planning to expand the number of open-cast mines in the Lausitz area to exploit its deposits of lignite, a particularly polluting type of coal.

Vattenfall says the Lausitz mines, with their vast deposits, are there to take up the slack when renewable energy sources fail to meet Germany's needs. "Without flexible and reliable brown coal, we wouldn't be able to provide stable electricity supplies at stable prices," the company says on its website.

What is striking is that the expansion of coal mining is happening in Germany at a time when Europe's largest economy is forging ahead with ambitious and controversial plans to promote renewable energy. According to the report, Germany — along with the U.K. — had the highest number of coal plants with especially high CO2 emissions in the EU in 2013.

The study, which ranks the top 30 most-polluting power plants based on their absolute CO2 emissions in 2013, with Germany and the U.K. each having nine of these lignite or hard-coal plants. Germany uses more coal to generate electricity than any other EU country, says the study.

"It's the availability and low price of coal that's driving the growth in coal in Germany," says Darek Urbaniak of WWF. "There's a risk that coal is here to stay."

There are several reasons why environmental pressure groups worry that the coal revival could undermine the EU's long-term targets of cutting CO2 emissions. EU countries are expected to back proposals to cut CO2 emissions by 40% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels at a summit next month.

Recent plans by the Obama administration in the U.S. to curb emissions from power plants could result in more exports of cheap U.S. coal to Europe. Coal is likely to remain a far cheaper alternative to oil and gas in the coming years, particularly in light of the current unrest in places like Iraq.

Another development that worries environmental campaigners is the recent appointment of Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk to become the next president of the European Council. In that position, Mr. Tusk will be responsible for forging compromise among the EU's 28 national leaders on key issues, including energy. Mr. Tusk, campaigners point out, has called for countries to develop their indigenous fossil fuels more aggressively to help reduce their dependency on Russian energy imports as part of broader plans to create a European energy union.

Another key issue is the cost of energy. Deriving energy from coal is still cheaper than renewable making it an attractive energy source. Large, energy-intensive companies in Germany and around Europe have been warning the EU that high energy prices are making them less competitive and will drive them away from Europe. Powerful business groups in Europe say that "carbon leakage"

— when companies with high emissions move to places where they bear a lower financial burden
— could undermine Europe's economic recovery.

4. BP's Decision to Drill 100 More Feet Set Disaster in Motion, Judge Rules

Move Was 'Dangerous' and 'Motivated by Profit,' Ruling Finds

By Russell Gold, WSJ, Sep 4, 2014

http://online.wsj.com/articles/bps-decision-to-drill-100-more-feet-set-disaster-in-motion-judge-rules-1409874104?tesla=y&mod=WSJ_business_IndustryNews_DLW&mg=reno64-wsj

Struggling with a dangerously unstable oil well in April 2010, BP chose to drill an additional 100 feet into a fragile rock formation thousands of feet beneath the Gulf of Mexico.

That decision set in motion a series of failures that led to the deadly Deepwater Horizon catastrophe and the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history, a federal judge ruled Thursday.

"BP's decision to drill the final 100 feet was the initial link in a chain that concluded with the blowout, explosion and oil spill," Judge Carl Barbier wrote. The decision "was dangerous," he added, and "motivated by profit."

More than four years after the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig lost control of a deep-water well in the Gulf of Mexico, there have been several government investigations and lawsuits probing what happened. Judge Barbier's ruling may be the most thorough and detailed reconstruction to date and includes some new conclusions.

The judge lays the majority of the blame on BP. The London-based company, in a statement, said it would appeal the ruling. "We're still reviewing the decision, but nothing we've seen changes our view that we were not grossly negligent," said a BP spokesman.

In his 153-page ruling, Judge Barbier starts his account of the fatal events 11 days before the drilling rig exploded, as BP approached its target depth. It was using heavy drilling liquid to keep oil and gas from flowing up the well—despite the fact that the weight was threatening to fracture the rock formation.

Despite this problem, a BP geologist said the company kept pushing deeper, "drilling like a bat out of hell," according to the ruling. It cites an expert witness for the U.S. government who called this decision was "one of the most dangerous things" he had seen in 20 years of experience.

One result of drilling these final 100 feet was that considerable debris was left at the bottom of the well.

Several days later, this debris would wreak havoc with BP's attempts to complete the well by clogging a critical valve, according to the ruling. While trying to clear the valve, drillers probably created a hole in the pipe at the bottom of the well.

BP officials were concerned about this, but ordered Halliburton HAL -1.52% to pump cement into the well, the ruling says. Evidence indicates the cement flowed out of the hole, instead, which ultimately allowed volatile natural gas to flow up the well and ignite.

BP chose to skip a critical cement test. Judge Barbier ruled that this decision was "primarily driven by a desire to save time and money, rather than ensuring that the well was secure."

Hours before the explosion, BP and its contractors ran a final test on the well to make sure it was secure. Called a "negative pressure test," it was designed to see if the well had been constructed properly and safely. The test was run twice and results were, at best, inconclusive.

Workers on the rig tried to come up with explanations for the test readings. Five days after the blowout, a top BP official on the rig sent an email explaining something called the "bladder effect" and how it could explain the reading. A BP vice president responded with an email that consisted of more than 500 question marks.

At 8:52 p.m., less than an hour before the blowout occurred, a top BP official on the rig had a phone conversation with an engineer in Houston assigned to the well and discussed the test results, according to the ruling. This conversation was omitted from an investigative report, the judge contended, "to avoid casting further blame on BP."

The official on the rig later said he thought the tests results looked "squirrely." The Houston official said he thought Halliburton's cement was on the "ragged edge." Neither took steps to stop operations. Neither did rig workers employed by Transocean Ltd.

Judge Barbier concluded that BP had the opportunity to avert the catastrophe if its employees had taken steps to shut down the well immediately after the phone call ended at 9:02.

By 9:40, it was clear the well's barriers had failed and oil and natural gas were coming up toward the rig. Several steps were taken, unsuccessfully, to prevent a full-scale blowout. At 9:49, the first explosion occurred. Eleven workers aboard the rig died.

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