

The Week That Was: 2020-07-18 (July 18, 2020)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

Quote of the Week: *“If a law does not work even in one place where it ought to, it is just wrong.”* – Richard Feynman

Number of the Week: 23 and 36 States

THIS WEEK:

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

July Summary Part II: Last week, TWTW presented a summary of Richard Lindzen’s new paper “An oversimplified picture of the climate behavior based on a single process can lead to distorted conclusions.” The paper contained nothing new, but provided an excellent basis for understanding what we know with reasonable certainty, what we suspect, and what we know is incorrect about climate change, the greenhouse effect, temperature trends, climate modeling, ocean chemistry, and sea level rise. Among the key parts in the paper are:

- 1) The climate system is never in equilibrium.
- 2) The core of the system consists of two turbulent fluids interacting with each other and unevenly heated by the sun, which results in transport of heat from the equator towards the poles (meridional) creating ocean cycles that may take 1,000 years to complete.
- 3) The two most important substances in the greenhouse effect are water vapor and clouds, which are not fully understood and are not stable.
- 4) A vital component of the atmosphere is water in its liquid, solid, and vapor phases and the changes in phases have immense dynamic consequences; and
- 5) Doubling carbon dioxide, (CO₂), creates a 2% disturbance to the normal flow of energy into the system and out of the system, which is similar to the disturbance created by changes in clouds and other natural features.

This week’s TWTW will briefly discuss the greenhouse effect. Next week’s TWTW will focus on the inability of US global climate models to describe temperature trends in the atmosphere, where the greenhouse effect occurs and will suggest some reasons why.

In a short, easy to understand video presentation, William van Wijngaarden of the Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Canada, explains why the “It’s simple physics” slogan used by too many politicians is wrong. Those using the slogan are avoiding explaining what they claim to understand but do not. This presentation was described in the June 22, 2019 TWTW, part of which bears repeating:

Perhaps a major problem is that the Greenhouse Effect is not well understood and that it is not easy to understand. As Professor William van Wijngaarden stated: The "Simple Physics" Slogan is exactly that – a slogan. A possible excuse for failure to model the greenhouse effect is that it’s too

*hard. The **theoretical molecular physics is not sufficiently well understood to create elegant equations** describing the tens of thousands of molecular transitions that are involved with infrared radiation (photons) moving from the surface to space. Further, the atmosphere changes significantly with latitude and with altitude. In the troposphere (roughly from the surface to 18km (59,000 feet) at the equator and from the surface to 8km (26,000 feet) at the poles, convection plays a major role in heat transfer and phase change of water (evaporation at the surface absorbing heat and condensation in the upper troposphere releasing heat) plays an important role. Of course, no one understands the role of clouds which, at lower altitudes, may have a cooling effect while the higher cirrus clouds at altitudes above 20,000 feet (6,000 meters) may have a warming effect. (As discussed in last week's TWTW.) [Boldface added]*

*Adding to the complications is the **optical depth or optical thickness of the atmosphere** (transparency) as altitude changes. The depth is measured in terms of a **natural logarithm and, in this instance, relates to distance a photon of a particular frequency can travel before it is absorbed by an appropriate molecule** (one that absorbs and re-emits photons of that frequency). [Boldface added.]*

Unlike other natural greenhouse gases, water vapor is not well distributed in the atmosphere. That may be why the IPCC and others exclude it from their models, only to add some effect later in the calculations. However, water vapor is the most important greenhouse gas, and it can significantly reduce the optical depth when it is present and change the influence of other greenhouse gases on outgoing infrared radiation. (Dry air exists only in laboratories.) One can say that above the tropopause, where water vapor freezes out, the atmosphere becomes optically thin. This is where, on a per molecule basis, the influence of CO₂ becomes more important.

Since that video, van Wijngaarden and Princeton Professor emeritus William Happer (identified as W & H below) wrote a white paper more fully describing the radiative forcing of the atmosphere and the roles of methane and carbon dioxide in the climate system. Radiative forcing, also called climate forcing, is the difference between energy which reaches the earth, primarily from the sun, and the energy radiated back to space. Greenhouse gases slow the energy radiated back to space as well as absorb some of the energy hitting the atmosphere. This can be contrasted with a transparent atmosphere, an idealized atmosphere with no interaction with electromagnetic radiation.

It is important to realize that as a greenhouse gas concentration increases, the total greenhouse effect increases, but the influence of the last amounts added decreases. This is similar to what economists call diminishing returns. Van Wijngaarden terms the relationship as the "Logarithmic Relation Between CO₂ and Temperature.." If the atmospheric CO₂ goes from 200 parts per million (ppm) to 400 ppm, temperatures will increase by X. But the next doubling requires going from 400 to 800 ppm to increase the temperatures by the same X.

In their abstract, W & H state:

"Radiative forcing is the difference in the net upward thermal radiation from the Earth through a transparent atmosphere and radiation through an otherwise identical atmosphere with greenhouse gases. Radiative forcing, normally specified in units of $W m^{-2}$, depends on latitude, longitude, and altitude, but it is often quoted for a representative temperate latitude, and for the altitude of the tropopause, or for the top of the atmosphere. For current concentrations of greenhouse gases, the radiative forcing at the tropopause, per added CH₄ molecule, is about 30

times larger than the forcing per added carbon-dioxide (CO₂) molecule. This is due to the heavy saturation of the absorption band of the abundant greenhouse gas, CO₂.”

Using observations, W & H calculate the influences on outgoing radiation of changing quantities of methane and CO₂ in the atmosphere. Based on their calculations, W & H develop two important figures, Figure # 4 (p. 11) and Figure # 5 (p. 12), which describe the increase in forcing if 1) methane is doubled (Fig 4), 2) if CO₂ is doubled and 3) if all CO₂ is removed (Fig 5).

Their calculations show that a doubling of methane today has little influence on outgoing radiation, thus temperatures. As they state:

“The reason that the per-molecule forcing of methane is some 30 times larger than that of carbon dioxide for current concentrations is saturation of the absorption bands [the range of wavelengths or frequencies a particular molecule can absorb and emit photons (packets of energy)].

‘Saturation’ means that adding more molecules causes very little change in Earth’s thermal radiation to space. The current density of CO₂ molecules is some 200 times greater than that of CH₄ molecules, so the absorption bands of CO₂ are much more saturated than those of CH₄.’

Not emphasized is that the very narrow range in which CH₄ can absorb and emit photons is already saturated by water vapor (H₂O), the dominant greenhouse gas.

In another paper, yet unpublished, W & H show that the calculated top-of-the atmosphere spectral intensities, intensities of the outgoing radiation at different wavelengths, are in excellent agreement with satellite measurements at various latitudes. This agreement indicates that their calculations agree with observations.

Further, Figure # 5 shows that a doubling of CO₂ will have some influence on increasing temperatures, reducing loss of heat to space, but the elimination of CO₂ would have a dramatic impact on cooling the earth by a major increase in the loss of heat to space. Though not stated in the paper, without CO₂, not only would green plants not exist, the planet would be more hostile to life. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Loaded Questions: In May 2019, The Guardian newspaper issued new guidelines to use stronger language about climate change:

“Instead of ‘climate change’ the preferred terms are ‘climate emergency, crisis, or breakdown’ and ‘global heating’ is favoured over ‘global warming’, although the original terms are not banned.

“‘We want to ensure that we are being scientifically precise, while also communicating clearly with readers on this very important issue,’ said the editor-in-chief, Katharine Viner. ‘The phrase ‘climate change’, for example, sounds rather passive and gentle when what scientists are talking about is a catastrophe for humanity.’”

Apparently trying to keep abreast of The Guardian in emotional language, the BBC sent Willie Soon, a well-known skeptic of claims of dangerous global warming from carbon dioxide, a letter with loaded (trick) questions which cannot be answered with a simple no or yes, for example, “Have you stopped beating your spouse?”

Soon, who is a director of SEPP, sent the questionnaire and his responses to Watts Up With That, which posted it. The questions include:

- 1) *“You received millions of dollars for your research through 2000 up to 2015 from fossil fuel interests including Southern Company, American Petroleum Institute, Exxon Mobil Foundation. Is that the case? Would you like to respond?”*
- 2) *Kert Davies of the Climate Investigations Centre says your research was used to slow down progress on climate change. Would you like to respond?*
- 3) *Our guests outline that this played into a broader campaign to misrepresent the data on climate change, leading to many people doubting legitimate climate change science. Would you like to respond to this?*
- 4) *You have been characterised as downplaying the impact of human activities on climate change. Is that a fair portrayal of your work?”*

Soon’s response to the questionnaire was polite, direct, and informative. His response to question # 4 was:

“No, definitely not. My climate change research considers all of the plausible mechanisms for climate change that are discussed in the scientific literature. I’m not sure of what definition you have in mind, but to me ‘downplaying’ means making something appear less important than it really is. If that’s the same definition you are using, then that is the exact opposite of my research. My research involves trying to find out exactly how important each of the many proposed climate change mechanisms are in current, past, and future climate change.

“It is true that many scientists (in particular, several of the main computer modelling groups) have ‘downplayed’ (to use your word) the role of solar variability and other forms in recent and historic climate change. So, by not downplaying these important factors, my work often leads to more nuanced, and in my opinion, more accurate and reliable, conclusions.

“Indeed, several of my recent publications have argued that the current global and regional temperature datasets have substantially underestimated the role of a specific local form of human-caused climate change, i.e., the urban heat island phenomenon. The Urban Heat Island is a well-recognized form of local climate change that has nothing to do with greenhouse gas emissions but is definitely a result of human activities. This is an underappreciated problem because even though urban areas only comprise 1-2% of the planet, many of the weather stations used in current global temperature datasets and most of the ones with the longest records are urbanized. This appears to have led to a sampling bias: the trends of the sampled data are unrepresentative of the global trends.”

How much of Soon’s response the BBC will actually disseminate to the public remains to be seen. The incident indicates how low once distinguished news entities have sunk. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda

What Type of Oyster? El Niños were observed by the Moche of modern Peru who gave human sacrifices to stop heavy rains. They also result in a huge drop in volume of cold-water anchovies now caught off the coast. The fisheries of the US Pacific Coast are also affected by changes in the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO). As stated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife:

“In non-El Niño years, upwelling of deep, cold ocean water brings up nutrients that lie near the bottom. Fish living in the upper waters feed on plankton that are dependent on these nutrients. Kelp forests also depend on cool, nutrient-rich water for survival and growth. An El Niño reduces the upwelling of cold water off the coast of the Americas. When this happens, fish either die or migrate into areas where they'll find more to eat. With the fish gone, sea birds that depend on them may die or go elsewhere. Kelp forests are often destroyed by storms and ocean swells.”

Unfortunately, too many news reports have attributed the results of a strong upwelling of deep, cold ocean water bringing up nutrients that lie near the bottom to “ocean acidification” from increased CO₂ because the deep, cold water carried to the surface has a slightly lower pH, remaining alkaline. On his web site Landscapes and Cycles, Jim Steele demolishes these shallow reports discussing three mistakes made as well as the incompetence embodied in the slogan “ocean acidification.”

“For example, for nearly a decade the media has hyped the 2006-2008 die-off of larval oysters in hatcheries along Washington and Oregon. They called it a crisis caused by rising atmospheric CO₂ and the only solution was to stop burning fossil fuels. But it was an understanding of natural pH changes that provided the correct solutions. Subsurface waters at a few hundred meters depth naturally contain greater concentrations CO₂ and nutrients and a lower pH than surface waters. Changes in the winds and currents periodically bring those waters to the surface in a process called upwelling. Upwelling promotes a burst of life but also lowers the surface water pH. Not fully aware of all the CO₂ dynamics, the hatcheries had made 3 mistakes.

“First, they failed to recognize not all oyster species are well adapted to the low pH of upwelled water. The larvae of native Olympia oysters naturally survive intense upwelling events along the Washington coast because that species “broods” its larvae. The larvae initiate their shells protected inside their parents’ shells where pH is more controlled. However, the Olympia oysters were over-harvested into near extinction in the 1800’s.

“So, fishermen imported the Japanese oyster, which is now the mainstay of the Washington and Oregon fisheries. Japanese oysters did not evolve within an intense upwelling environment similar to Washington’s coast. Each Japanese oyster simply releases over 50 million eggs into the water expecting their larvae to survive any mild changes in pH during initial shell formation. Hatcheries didn’t realize the Japanese oyster’s larvae had a 6-hour window during which the larvae’s initial shell development and survival was vulnerable to low pH.

“Second, because cooler waters inhibit premature spawning, hatcheries pumped cool water from the estuary in the early morning. As measured in coral reefs, photosynthesis raises pH during the day, but nighttime respiration drops pH significantly. By pumping early morning water into their tanks, they imported estuary water at its lowest daily pH. Finally, they failed to recognize natural upwelling events transport deeper waters with naturally low pH into the estuary, further lowering the pH of water pumped into their tanks.

“Now, hatcheries simply pump water from the estuary later in the day after photosynthesis has raised pH. Scientists also developed a metering device that detects intrusions of low pH waters, so hatcheries avoid pumping water during upwelling events. As for most shellfish, once the shell is initiated, a protective layer prevents any shell corrosion from low pH conditions. Problem easily solved and crisis averted!

*‘The simplistic idea that burning fossil fuels is causing the surface ocean to become more acidic is based on the fact that when CO₂ interacts with water a series of chemical changes results in the production of more hydrogen ions which lowers pH. Unfortunately, all catastrophic analyses stop there. But living organisms then reverse those reactions. **Whether CO₂ enters the surface waters via the atmosphere or from upwelling, it is quickly utilized by photosynthesizing plankton which counteracts any ‘acidification’.** A percentage of the organic matter created in the sunlit waters sinks or is actively transported to depths, further counteracting any surface ‘acidification’. Some organic matter sinks so rapidly, CO₂ is trapped at depths for hundreds and thousands of years. The dynamics that carry carbon to ocean depths largely explains why the oceans hold 50 times more CO₂ than the atmosphere. [Boldface added]*

*“To maintain marine food webs, it is essential that upwelling bring sunken nutrients back into the sunlight to enable photosynthesis. Upwelling also brings stored CO₂ and low pH water to the surface. **Wherever upwelling recycles nutrients and lowers surface pH, the greatest abundance and diversity of marine life is generated.**” [Boldface added.] See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.*

Vote for Aprils Fools Award: The voting for the SEPP’s April Fools Award will be continued until July 31. Due to changes in schedules, there are no conferences held before then to announce the results. So, get your votes in now.

Number of the Week: 23 and 36 States. Paul Homewood lists the states and dates in which the highest temperature occurred in that state. As he writes: “According to NOAA’s own data, of the 50 U.S. state all-time record high temperatures, 23 were set during the 1930s, while 36 occurred prior to 1960.” See link under Measurement Issues – Surface.

NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Censorship

Environmental Facts vs. Environmental “Fact-Checkers”

Facebook’s science censors label climate skepticism “false”

By Caleb Rossiter, Real Clear Energy, July 15, 2020

https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2020/07/15/environmental_facts_vs_environmental_fact-checkers_499142.html

NYT Editor Bari Weiss Resignation Letter: “The New McCarthyism”

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, July 15, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/15/nyt-editor-bari-weiss-resignation-letter-the-new-mccarthyism/>

Challenging the Orthodoxy -- NIPCC

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Physical Science

Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), 2013

<https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-II/CCR-II-Full.pdf>

Summary: https://www.heartland.org/_template-assets/documents/CCR/CCR-II/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Biological Impacts

Idso, Idso, Carter, and Singer, Lead Authors/Editors, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), 2014

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/climate-change-reconsidered-ii-biological-impacts/>

Summary: <https://www.heartland.org/media-library/pdfs/CCR-IIb/Summary-for-Policymakers.pdf>

Climate Change Reconsidered II: Fossil Fuels

By Multiple Authors, Bezdek, Idso, Legates, and Singer eds., Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change, April 2019

<http://store.heartland.org/shop/ccr-ii-fossil-fuels/>

Download with no charge:

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Climate-Change-Reconsidered-II-Fossil-Fuels-FULL-Volume-with-covers.pdf>

Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming

The NIPCC Report on the Scientific Consensus

By Craig D. Idso, Robert M. Carter, and S. Fred Singer, Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), Nov 23, 2015

<http://climatechangereconsidered.org/>

Download with no charge:

<https://www.heartland.org/policy-documents/why-scientists-disagree-about-global-warming>

Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate

S. Fred Singer, Editor, NIPCC, 2008

http://www.sepp.org/publications/nipcc_final.pdf

Global Sea-Level Rise: An Evaluation of the Data

By Craig D. Idso, David Legates, and S. Fred Singer, Heartland Policy Brief, May 20, 2019

<https://www.heartland.org/template-assets/documents/publications/SeaLevelRiseCCRII.pdf>

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Methane and Climate

By W. A. van Wijngaarden and W. Happer, CO2 Coalition, 2020

http://co2coalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/MethaneClimate_WijnGaardenHapper.pdf

The "Simple Physics" Slogan

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, Comments by William van Wijngaarden, Department of Physics and Astronomy, York University, Canada, April 16, 2019

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/video/> -- Video

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/videos/the-simple-physics-slogan/> -- Text

BBC Asks Dr. Willie Soon to Respond to Climate Conspiracy Claims

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, July 13, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/13/bbc-asks-dr-willie-soon-to-respond-to-climate-conspiracy-claims/>

Pervasive Warming Bias in CMIP6 Tropospheric Layers

By R. McKittrick and J. Christy, forthcoming: Earth and Space Science

<https://www.rossmckitrick.com/uploads/4/8/0/8/4808045/cmip6-ess-acceptedversion.pdf>

“5 Years To Climate Breakdown”: How To Generate Computer Model Scores

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, July 10, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/5-years-to-climate-breakdown-or-how-to-hype-computer-models/>

Unlikely Ocean Acidification and Oyster Shells

By Jim Steele, Landscapes and Cycles, July 14, 2020

<http://landscapesandcycles.net/unlikely-ocean-acidification.html>

“Wherever upwelling recycles nutrients and lowers surface pH, the greatest abundance and diversity of marine life is generated.”

Climate Predictions "Worse Than We Thought"

By Patrick J. Michaels, Real Clear Energy, July 14, 2020

https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2020/07/14/climate_predictions_worse_than_we_thought_499025.html

Defending the Orthodoxy

Pandemic shows climate has never been treated as crisis, say scientists

Letter also signed by Greta Thunberg urges EU leaders to act immediately on global heating

By Matthew Taylor, The Guardian, July 16, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jul/16/pandemic-shows-climate-has-never-been-treated-as-crisis-say-scientists>

[SEPP Comment: Expressions of teenage anxiety motivate those claiming to have mature judgement?]

Urgency of climate change demands all hands on deck to transform the energy system

By Lynn Loo, The Daily Princetonian, July 2, 2020

<https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2020/07/urgency-of-climate-change-demands-all-hands-on-deck-to-transform-the-energy-system-response>

“The challenge is enormous. A full 80 percent of the world’s energy consumption still comes from carbon-emitting fossil fuels. That’s energy now being used to transport food to cities and people to jobs; energy for warming our homes, lighting our classrooms, paving our sidewalks and running our hospitals — almost everything we humans eat, wear, use, need, and enjoy.”

Questioning the Orthodoxy

Help! A Short History of Climate Alarmism

By Staff, GWPF, July 15, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/a-short-history-of-climate-alarmism/>

Preparing a list, send in your favorites.

Faulty Forecasts and False Climate Narrative Hold Nations Hostage

By Vijay Jayaraj, WUWT, July 15, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/15/faulty-forecasts-and-false-climate-narrative-hold-nations-hostage/>

“It is quite astonishing how the unelected politicians at the UN can convince and persuade global leaders to adopt climate policies that are based on unscientific conclusions from faulty models.”

Message to the President of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences

By David Wojick, WUWT, July 14, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/14/message-to-the-president-of-the-u-s-national-academy-of-sciences/>

Cancel Culture Dominates Climate Research, Cancelling the Scientific Method

By H. Sterling Burnett, The Epoch Times, July 14, 2020

https://www.theepochtimes.com/cancel-culture-dominates-climate-research-cancelling-the-scientific-method_3424575.html

Cancel culture discussion thread

By Judith Curry, Climate Etc. July 14, 2020

<https://judithcurry.com/2020/07/14/cancel-culture-discussion-thread/#more-26430>

Change in US Administrations

Final Rule on National Environmental Policy Act an Important Step to Get America Back to Work

By Ben Lieberman, CEI, July 15, 2020

<https://cei.org/blog/final-rule-national-environmental-policy-act-important-step-get-america-back-work>

NEPA Rule: Implications for Climate Policy

By Marlo Lewis, Jr., CEI, July 17, 2020

<https://cei.org/blog/nepa-rule-implications-climate-policy>

Trump rewrite of longstanding environmental law pushes climate change aside

By Rebecca Beitsch, The Hill, July 17, 2020

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/507756-trump-rewrite-of-longstanding-environmental-law-pushes-climate>

Trump finalizes rollback of bedrock environmental law NEPA

By Rebecca Beitsch, The Hill, July 15, 2020

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/507536-trump-finalizes-rollback-of-bedrock-environmental-law-nepa>

Problems in the Orthodoxy

East European Nations Reject New Climate Targets

News Release, GWPF, July 15, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/east-european-nations-reject-new-climate-targets/>

“On Monday, Poland, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic and Hungary wrote to the European Commission, announcing that they will not support a new CO2 target until they have seen the Commission’s economic impact assessment.”

Seeking a Common Ground

AI model to forecast complicated large-scale tropical instability waves in Pacific Ocean

News Release, Chinese Academy of Sciences, July 15, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kapshire]

<https://phys.org/news/2020-07-ai-complicated-large-scale-tropical-instability.html>

Link to paper Purely satellite data–driven deep learning forecast of complicated tropical instability waves

By Gang Zheng, et al. Science Advances, July 15, 2020

<https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/6/29/eaba1482>

The abstract begins: “Forecasting fields of oceanic phenomena has long been dependent on physical equation–based numerical models. The challenge is that many natural processes need to be considered for understanding complicated phenomena. In contrast, rules of the processes are already embedded in the time-series observation itself. Thus, inspired by largely available satellite remote sensing data and the advance of deep learning technology, we developed a purely satellite data–driven deep learning model for forecasting the sea surface temperature evolution associated with a typical phenomenon: a tropical instability wave.”

Thou Shall Not Preach, But Research

By Thea Dorn, Die Zeit, Via GWPF, July 13, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/thou-shall-not-preach-do-research-instead/>

Science, Policy, and Evidence

Coronavirus: Five Reasons Public Health Experts Have Lost Credibility

By Alex Berezow and Josh Bloom, ACSH, July 16, 2020

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2020/07/16/coronavirus-five-reasons-public-health-experts-have-lost-credibility-14915>

“Incompetence, waffling, moving the goalposts, disregarding unintended consequences, and being political have hurt Americans' confidence in their public health institutions.”

The COVID-19 Panic Shows Us Why Science Needs Skeptics

By Tyler Durden, Zero Hedge, July 15, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://www.zerohedge.com/political/covid-19-panic-shows-us-why-science-needs-skeptics>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by CO2 Science

CO2 Enrichment Alleviates the Disease Severity of a Rice Pathogen

da Rosa Dorneles, K., Martins, A.C., Fernando, J.A., do Amarante, L., de Avila, L.A., Deuner, S. and Dallagnol, L.J. 2020. Increased atmospheric CO2 concentration causes modification of physiological, biochemical and histological characteristics that affects rice-*Bipolaris oryzae* interaction. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* DOI: 10.1007/s10658-020-01972-4. July 17, 2020

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V23/jul/a8.php>

Analyzing Observed vs CMIP5 Model Simulations of Global Temperature

Chylek, P., Folland, C., Klett, J.D. and Dubey, M.K. 2020. CMIP5 climate models overestimate cooling by volcanic aerosols. *Geophysical Research Letters* 47, e2020GL087047. July 15, 2020

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V23/jul/a7.php>

Pharmaceutical Value of Fenugreek Seeds is Enhanced Under Elevated CO2

Hozzein, W.N., Saleh, A.M., Habeeb, T.H., Wadaan, M.A.M. and AbdElgawad, H. 2020. CO2 treatment improves the hypocholesterolemic and antioxidant properties of fenugreek seeds. *Food Chemistry* 308: 125661. July 13, 2020

<http://www.co2science.org/articles/V23/jul/a6.php>

Models v. Observations

New Study Shows CO2 Changes Lag Decadal-Scale Warming By ~1000 Years In The Northern Hemisphere

By Kenneth Richard, No Tricks Zone, July 16, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/07/16/new-study-shows-co2-changes-lag-decadal-scale-warming-by-1000-years-in-the-northern-hemisphere/>

Link to one paper: Coupled atmosphere-ice-ocean dynamics in Dansgaard-Oeschger events

By Camille Li and Andreas Born, Quaternary science Reviews, January 2019

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277379118305705>

Link to second paper: Millennial-scale atmospheric CO₂ variations during the Marine Isotope Stage 6 period (190–135 kyr BP)

By Jinhwa Shin, et al. EGU Climate of the Past, Dec 13, 2019

<https://cp.copernicus.org/preprints/cp-2019-142/cp-2019-142.pdf>

Climate Models: No Warming For 30 Years – Possibly

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, July 14, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/climate-models-no-warming-for-30-years-possibly/>

Link to paper: Quantifying the role of internal variability in the temperature we expect to observe in the coming decades

By Nicola Maher, Flavio Lehner and Jochem Marotzke, Environmental Research Letters, May 12, 2020

<https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/ab7d02/meta>

Climate Models Unable To Show Link Between Arctic Warming And Harsh Mid-Latitude Winters

By Die kalte Sonne, (German text translated by P. Gosselin), No Tricks Zone, July 14, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/07/14/climate-models-unable-to-show-link-between-arctic-warming-and-harsh-mid-latitude-winters/>

Link to paper: Divergent consensus on Arctic amplification influence on midlatitude severe winter weather

By J. Cohen, et al., Nature Climate Change, Dec 23, 2019

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-019-0662-y>

Model Issues

Decadal Climate Prediction? Might As Well Throw A Dice!

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 12, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/07/12/decadal-climate-prediction-might-as-well-throw-a-dice/#more-45542>

“The WMO has collated global temperature projections from twelve different organisations, covering this year and the next five years. They were produced in 2019.”

“It is totally clear that there is very little agreement between any of them, other than a warm Arctic.

“An unkind person might call them a waste of space!”

Placing deadly faith in 'the models'

John Stossel talks to author about missteps of media and politicians on COVID

By John Stossel, World News Daily, July 14, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

https://www.wnd.com/2020/07/placing-deadly-faith-models/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-brief&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=brief

Measurement Issues -- Surface

Highest U.S. Temperatures on Record by State

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 13, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/07/13/highest-u-s-temperatures-on-record-by-state/>

“This raw data speaks for itself — the United States was hotter in the past.”

NASA’s Fudge Factory: Goddard Institute For Space Studies Fudges The Data Again!

By Kirye and Pierre Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, July 17, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/07/17/nasas-fudge-factory-goddard-institute-for-space-studies-fudges-the-data-again/>

Models, birds everywhere

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 15, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/15/models-birds-everywhere/>

“So next time someone tells you what the temperature will be in, say, Britain or Nuuk in the year 2100 to a decimal place, tell them it’s for the birds.”

The danger of looking things up

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 15, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/15/the-danger-of-looking-things-up/>

Changing Weather

UK Flooding and Rainfall

By Staff, GWPF, July 14, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/uk-flooding-and-rainfall/>

Link to pdf: UK Flooding and Rainfall

By Paul Homewood and Harry Wilkinson, GWPF, July 14, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/content/uploads/2020/07/UKflooding.pdf>

Siberia on fire – every summer

By Pasi Autio, WUWT, July 14, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/14/siberia-on-fire-every-summer/>

1919 or 2019? Back to Ottawa

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 15, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/15/1919-or-2019-back-to-ottawa/>

“Another curiosity is that so many places across Canada rushed to declare a Climate Emergency in 2019 without bothering to check if the weather was different in any important respect from what it had been 100 years earlier.”

Why does the Northwest get crazy dry at the end of July?

By Cliff Mass Weather Blog, July 16, 2020

<https://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2020/07/why-does-northwest-get-crazy-dry-at-end.html>

Changing Climate

Surprise: North Atlantic Region Has Cooled By Almost 1°C Over Past 120 Years

By Die kalte Sonne, (German text translated by P. Gosselin), No Tricks Zone, July 15, 2020

<https://notrickszone.com/2020/07/15/surprise-north-atlantic-region-has-cooled-by-almost-1c-over-past-120-years/>

“The researchers disagree with the model by Stefan Rahmstorf from Potsdam, who suggested a weakening of the Gulf Stream as the cause of the ‘cold blob’.”

Changing Seas

Behind the dead-water phenomenon

By Staff Writers, Paris, France (SPX), Jul 13, 2020

https://www.terraviva.com/reports/Behind_the_dead_water_phenomenon_999.html

Link to paper: The dual nature of the dead-water phenomenology: Nansen versus Ekman wave-making drags

By Johan Fourdrinoy, et al. PNAS, July 8, 2020

<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/07/06/1922584117>

More Than a Fluke Driving Whales’ Resurgence

By David Mason-Jones, Quadrant, July 14, 2020

<https://quadrant.org.au/opinion/doomed-planet/2020/07/more-than-a-fluke-driving-whales-resurgence/>

“Preliminary figures for this year’s single-day count at Tacking Point, just south of Port Macquarie, show that some 433 whales passed by on their way to the Great Barrier Reef. This compares with the appalling figure of just 19 whales for the full daylight hours of the first count way back in 1999. It is also a sizeable lift from the census of just two years earlier, when 332 whales were counted.”

Changing Cryosphere – Land / Sea Ice

Polar bear survival contradictions: sea ice decline vs. documented harm

By Susan Crockford, Polar Bear Science, July 15, 2020

<https://polarbearscience.com/2020/07/15/polar-bear-survival-contradictions-sea-ice-decline-vs-documented-harm/>

New warnings over rapid melting at Antarctica’s ‘doomsday glacier’

By Rob Waugh, Yahoo News, UK, July 13, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/antarctic-doomsday-glacier-161305996.html>

“Even now, ice draining from Thwaites Glacier into the Amundsen Sea accounts for about 4% of global sea-level rise – but scientists fear it could collapse.”

Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine

Vigorous Monsoon Rains Lead To 25% Rise In Planting Of Summer-Sown Rice In India

Buoyed by the plentiful rains, rice farmers are likely to harvest a record crop and step up overseas sales from the world's biggest exporter of the grain.

By Staff, NDTV, July 11, 2020 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.ndtv.com/business/monsoon-rainfall-update-news-after-vigorous-monsoon-rains-crop-planting-gathers-pace-in-india-2261142>

“Farmers start planting rice, corn, cotton, soybeans, sugarcane and peanuts among other crops from June 1, when monsoon rains reach India. Nearly half of the country's farmland lacks irrigation and planting usually lasts through July.”

Un-Science or Non-Science?

Farmers' climate change conundrum: Low yields or revenue instability

Choice to use more drought-tolerant crop varieties comes at a cost

The research team quantified the impact of climate change on productivity in the Yakima River Basin.

By Staff, Research News, NSF, July 15, 2020

https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300892&WT.mc_id=USNSF_1

Link to questionable paper: Water rights shape crop yield and revenue volatility tradeoffs for adaptation in snow dependent systems

By Keyvan Malenk, et al. Nature Communications, July 10, 2020

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-17219-z>

[SEPP Comment: A collection of untested assumptions.]

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Yellow (Green) Journalism?

A Busy Hurricane Season? Maybe, But It Won't Be Due To Global Warming

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 12, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/07/12/a-busy-hurricane-season-maybe-but-it-wont-be-due-to-global-warming/>

“Today’s fake news from the BBC:”

Claim: Climate Change is Helping Herbivorous Crabs To Wreck Salt Marshes

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, July 14, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/14/claim-climate-change-enabled-burrowing-crabs-to-wreck-salt-marshes/>

[SEPP Comment: Challenging yellow journalism.]

Climate change: Siberian heatwave ‘clear evidence’ of warming-BBC

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 17, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/07/17/climate-change-siberian-heatwave-clear-evidence-of-warming-bbc/#more-45586>

Satellite images show Europe facing droughts

By Staff Writers, Warsaw, Poland (SPX), Jul 13, 2020

https://www.terraviva.com/reports/Satellite_images_show_Europe_facing_droughts_999.html

“The UK has observed the driest May in the last 124 years. Fires resulting from droughts digest forests, meadows and fields. Many rivers have a record low water level.”

[SEPP Comment: See link above, “UK Flooding and Rainfall” under Changing Weather]

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

Heat stress: The climate is putting European forests under sustained pressure

News Release, University of Basel, July 16, 2020

https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-07/uob-hst071620.php

Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

Bloomberg : 100 Degree Weather In Phoenix Is Climate Change

By Tony Heller, His Blog, July 14, 2020

<https://realclimatescience.com/2020/07/bloomberg-100-degree-weather-in-phoenix-is-climate-change/>

No, June 2020 Was Not the Hottest June on Record

By Anthony Watts, Climate Realism, July 10, 2020

<https://climaterealism.com/2020/07/no-june-2020-was-not-the-hottest-june-on-record/>

The Great Oyster Crash

Ocean acidification hits the Pacific shellfish industry.

By Eric Scigliano, Natural Resources Defense Council, Aug 26, 2015

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/great-oyster-crash>

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda

Texas will soon face driest conditions of last 1,000 years

State will have hotter and drier conditions for decades to come

News Release, NSF, July 14, 2020

https://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300888&WT.mc_id=USNSF_1

Link to: Drought in Texas, 2000-2020

By Staff, from US Drought Monitor, Accessed July 8, 2020 [H/t Gordon Fulks]

<https://www.drought.gov/drought/states/texas>

“Added Betsy von Holle, a program director in NSF's Division of Environmental Biology, ‘By predicting future environmental conditions as well as societal water needs, this team of researchers is communicating that we need to prepare for drier and hotter conditions in Texas.’”
[SEPP Comment: More propaganda from the National Science Foundation. The poor quality of the study was brought up in last week's TWTW which included data contradicting it.]

Why the Guardian is changing the language it uses about the environment

From now, house style guide recommends terms such as ‘climate crisis’ and ‘global heating’

By Damian Carrington, The Guardian, May 17, 2019

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/may/17/why-the-guardian-is-changing-the-language-it-uses-about-the-environment>

Communicating Better to the Public – Use Propaganda on Children

1619 Project Assault on American History Targets K-12 Education

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, July 15, 2020

<https://www.newsmax.com/larrybell/newyorktimes-curriculum/2020/07/15/id/977290/>

Curriculum based on New York Times' wildly wrong ‘1619 Project’ would be educational malpractice

Editorial, New York Post, March 7, 2020

<https://nypost.com/2020/03/07/curriculum-based-on-new-york-times-wildly-wrong-1619-project-would-be-educational-malpractice/>

Communicating Better to the Public – Protest

Surprise: Mass BLM protest linked to coronavirus cluster

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, July 15, 2020

<http://joannenova.com.au/2020/07/surprise-mass-blm-protest-did-spread-coronavirus/>

Expanding the Orthodoxy

The Climate Crisis and Covid-19 — A Major Threat to the Pandemic Response

By Renee N. Salas, M.D., et al. The New England Journal of Medicine, July 15, 2020

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2022011?query=TOC>

“The intensity, frequency, and duration of climate-related extreme events — including hurricanes, wildfires, floods, heat waves, and droughts — are increasing, and these events often overlap temporally and geographically,1 jeopardizing SARS-CoV-2 infection control.”

[SEPP Comment: Do the authors from noted medical schools know anything about changing climate or the greenhouse effect?]

Questioning European Green

The impact of commercial fisheries on seabird populations in the North Sea

By Paul Homewood, Not a Lot of People Know That, July 14, 2020

<https://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2020/07/14/the-impact-of-commercial-fisheries-on-seabird-populations-in-the-north-sea/>

“Climate change has long been blamed for decline in seabird populations, despite abundant evidence that commercial fishing is devastating their feeding grounds.”

Net Zero: Every Urban Street And Front Drive Will Be Dug Up

Press Release, GWPF, July 16, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.org/net-zero-every-urban-street-and-front-drive-will-be-dug-up/>

Link to paper: The Hidden Cost of Net Zero: Rewiring the UK

By Mike Travers, GWPF, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.org/content/uploads/2020/07/Travers-Net-Zero-Distribution-Grid-Replacement.pdf>

Questioning Green Elsewhere

Prominent Eco-Activists Expose Alarmist Climate Dogma

By Larry Bell, Newsmax, July 13, 2020

<https://www.newsmax.com/larrybell/climate-activists-dogma/2020/07/13/id/976857/>

Shellenberger's Apostasies Episode 2: The Amazon is not the 'Lungs of the World'

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 15, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/15/shellenbergers-apostasies-episode-2-the-amazon-is-not-the-lungs-of-the-world/>

EDITORIAL: Green activist comes clean on climate disinformation

Editorial, Las Vegas Review-Journal, July 12, 2020

<https://www.reviewjournal.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-green-activist-comes-clean-on-climate-disinformation-2072795/>

Sea Turtles and Plastics – The Bigger Picture

Plastics saved sea turtles, when tortoiseshell luxury goods became mass market items.

By Donna Laframboise, Big Picture News, July 13, 2020

<https://nofrackingconsensus.com/2020/07/13/sea-turtles-and-plastics-the-bigger-picture/>

Green Jobs

Plastic people

By John Robson, Climate Discussion Nexus, July 15, 2020

<https://climatediscussionnexus.com/2020/07/15/plastic-people/>

“Their [New York Times] Climate Fwd. newsletter recently kicked off with “Greetings and welcome to Plastic Free July!””

See link immediately below.

Non-Green Jobs

Plastics Appreciation Month!

By Robert Bradley Jr. Master Resource, July 15, 2020

<https://www.masterresource.org/plastics-appreciation/july-plastics-month/>

“Bottom line: ‘Since 2010, companies have invested more than \$200 billion in 333 plastic and other chemical projects in the U.S.’”

Funding Issues

How Billionaires Tom Steyer and Michael Bloomberg Corrupted Climate Science

By Roger Pielke, Forbes, Jan 2, 2020

<https://web.archive.org/web/20200314144752/https://www.forbes.com/sites/rogerpielke/2020/01/02/how-billionaires-tom-steyer-and-michael-bloomberg-corrupted-climate-science/#7904105a74b8>

Brussels embroiled in bogus accounting scandal after dubious EU climate change investments

BRUSSELS has been dragged into a bogus accounting scandal after it was claimed climate change spending had been overblown by at least €25 billion.

By Joe Barnes, Express, July 15, 2020 [H/t GWPF]

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1309965/EU-news-European-Court-of-Auditors-European-Commission-climate-change-spending-budget>

“Without a robust methodology, the estimated climate spending may not be reliable.”

EU budget plan falls far short on climate goals, researchers say

By Staff, EURACTIV, July 14, 2020

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/climate-environment/news/eu-budget-plan-falls-far-short-on-climate-goals-researchers-say/>

“The EU Commission has proposed a €1.85 trillion package, which it says will drive a recovery in Europe’s virus-hit economies based on “green” industries and technologies that help to reduce emissions of the greenhouse gases fueling climate change.”

The Political Games Continue

Biden’s \$2 Trillion Climate Plan to Prioritize ‘Environmental & Climate Justice’

Biden promises 'clean energy future' will bring 'equitable economic opportunity'

By Alan McDonnell, Epoch Times, July 14, 2020

https://www.theepochtimes.com/bidens-2-trillion-climate-plan-to-prioritize-environmental-climate-justice_3424258.html?ref=brief_BreakingNews&_sta=vhg.sustsskxjlf%7CTJY&_stm_medium=email&_stm_source=smartech

WSJ: Bonfire Of The Left

Editorial, WSJ, Via GWPF, July 9, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/wsj-bonfire-of-the-left/>

Litigation Issues

How Politics Influences The Naming Of Species

By Alex Berezow, ACSH, July 8, 2020

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2020/07/08/how-politics-influences-naming-species-14897>

Link to paper: Principles for creating a single authoritative list of the world’s species

By Stephen T. Garnett, et al. Plos Biology, July 7, 2020

<https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3000736>

[SEPP Comment: Right from the start, the greens have been milking vague laws. The supporters of these laws knew this and insisted the courts can decide.]

Court strikes down Trump administration's methane rollback

By Rachel Frazin, The Hill, July 16, 2020

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/507647-court-strikes-down-trump-administrations-methane-rollback>

[SEPP Comment: Accompanied by a photo of a chimney and a darkening sky? Methane, colorless, odorless gas?]

Federal Court Allows Dakota Access Pipeline To Keep Pumping Oil, Dealing Blow To Environmental Activist

By Chris White, Daily Caller, July 15, 2020 [H/t WUWT]

<https://dailycaller.com/2020/07/15/dakota-access-pipeline-donald-trump-keystone/>

EPA ordered to reconsider New York efforts to tame downwind pollution

By Rebecca Beitsch, The Hill, July 14, 2020

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/507301-epa-forced-to-reconsider-new-york-efforts-to-tame-downwind>

“New York and other states said the EPA had not done enough to restrict smog from downwind states, jeopardizing upwind states’ air quality.”

[SEPP Comment: How do downwind states create pollution upwind?]

Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes

World's largest study shows carbon pricing reduces emissions

By James Giggacher, Australian National University, Via Phys.org, July 14, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://phys.org/news/2020-07-world-largest-carbon-pricing-emissions.html>

Link to paper: Carbon Pricing Efficacy: Cross-Country Evidence

By Rohan Best, Paul J. Burke & Frank Jotzo, Environmental and Resource Economics, June 19, 2020

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10640-020-00436-x>

[SEPP Comment: Quick, tell the economists higher prices reduce consumption!]

Energy Issues – Non-US

Vox: “Many technologies needed to solve the climate crisis are nowhere near ready”

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, July 14, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/14/vox-many-technologies-needed-to-solve-the-climate-crisis-are-nowhere-near-ready/>

Link to: Clean Energy Innovation Part of Energy Technology Perspectives

By Staff, IEA, July 2020

<https://www.iea.org/reports/clean-energy-innovation>

Vijay Jayaraj: India Crafts Fossil Pathway to Secure its Future

By Vijay Jayaraj, GWPF, July 13, 2020

<https://www.thegwpf.com/vijay-jayaraj-india-crafts-fossil-pathway-to-secure-its-future/>

Energy Issues – Australia

Solar panel owners asked to pay “to sell back to the grid”

By Jo Nova, Her Blog, July 17, 2020

<http://joannenova.com.au/2020/07/solar-panel-owners-asked-to-pay-to-sell-back-to-the-grid/#more-72119>

“Finally, there is some attempt to fix the Soviet-level planning disaster. People are just starting to notice that the poor are paying for the networks to supply the rich.”

UNSW Climate Activists Urge Businesses to Spend Billions Building Services they Already Have

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, July 13, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/13/unsw-climate-activists-urge-businesses-to-spend-billions-building-something-they-already-have/>

Energy Issues -- US

Don't ignore Coal

By Donn Dears, Power For USA, July 14, 2020

<https://ddears.com/2020/07/14/dont-ignore-coal/>

American energy independence at risk with Dakota Access pipeline ruling

By James "Spider" Marks, The Washington Times, July 14, 2020

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/jul/14/american-energy-independence-at-risk-with-dakota-a/>

Time to Make Net Metering a Net Positive

By Jakob Puckett, Real Clear Energy, July 09, 2020

https://www.realclearenergy.org/articles/2020/07/09/time_to_make_net_metering_a_net_positive_498585.html

Nuclear Energy and Fears

UK government support for modular reactor deployment

By Staff, WNN, July 13, 2020

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/UK-government-support-for-modular-reactor-deployme>

Focus fusion is the hottest idea in nuclear energy

By Jonathan Tennenbaum, Asia Times, July 13, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://asiatimes.com/2020/07/focus-fusion-is-the-hottest-idea-in-nuclear-energy/>

[SEPP Comment: After 60 years of hottest ideas!]

New Ontario Power Record: 895 days of Reliable, Uninterrupted 24x7 Zero Carbon Nuclear Power

By Eric Worrall, WUWT, July 15, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/15/new-ontario-power-record-895-days-reliable-uninterrupted-24x7-zero-carbon-power/>

Link to article: Candu unit sets North American operating record

By Staff, WNN, July 10, 2020

<https://world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Candu-unit-sets-North-American-operating-record>

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

Court upholds regulation boosting electric grid storage

By Rachel Frazin, The Hill, July 10, 2020

<https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/506780-court-upholds-regulation-boosting-electric-grid-storage>

Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Vehicles

Electric Vehicles: Old Market Competitor

By Robert Bradley Jr., Master Resource, July 14, 2020

<https://www.masterresource.org/electric-vehicles/evs-old-technology/>

[SEPP Comment: A historic look at the electric vehicle vs. internal combustion engine controversy.]

Health, Energy, and Climate

'Drug Czar' Says Overdose Deaths Were Already Rising Before Pandemic And Now Are Spiking. The Ultimate Blame Belongs To Prohibition.

By Jeffrey Singer, ACSH, July 7, 2020

<https://www.acsh.org/news/2020/07/07/drug-czar-says-overdose-deaths-were-already-rising-pandemic-and-now-are-spiking-ultimate-blame-14882>

“While it remains popular to attribute the opioid-related overdose crisis to doctors prescribing pain relievers to patients, the evidence shows there is no correlation between prescription volume and non-medical opioid use or opioid use disorder.”

Environmental Industry

Scientists urge caution, further assessment of ecological impacts above deep sea mining

By Staff Writers, Honolulu HI (SPX), Jul 13, 2020

https://www.terraily.com/reports/Scientists_urge_caution_further_assessment_of_ecological_impacts_above_deep_sea_mining_999.html

Link to paper: Opinion: Midwater ecosystems must be considered when evaluating environmental risks of deep-sea mining

By Jeffrey C. Drazen, et al. PNAS, July 8, 2020

<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2020/07/07/2011914117>

[SEPP Comment: Still fighting a 45-year-old CIA cover story on the Glomar Explorer.]

Other Scientific News

Stanford Researchers Design a More Efficient, Affordable Desalination Process

A new device capable of turning desalination waste into commercially valuable chemicals could make the process cheaper and more environmentally friendly

By Michelle Horton, TPO Mag, July 13, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

https://www.tpomag.com/online_exclusives/2020/07/stanford-researchers-design-a-more-efficient-affordable-desalination-process

Link to paper: Validation and Mechanism of a Low-Cost Graphite Carbon Electrode for Electrochemical Brine Valorization

By Linchao Mu, et al. ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering, May 13, 2020

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/full/10.1021/acssuschemeng.0c01485>

NASA's Perseverance rover will scour Mars for signs of life

By Ivan Couronne

Washington (AFP) July 14, 2020

https://www.marsdaily.com/reports/NASAs_Perseverance_rover_will_scour_Mars_for_signs_of_life_999.html

Other News that May Be of Interest

Documentary film: When the Plague Arrives. A historical perspective

By Joshua Philipp, The Epoch Times, July 12, 2020

https://www.theepochtimes.com/documentary-film-when-the-plague-arrives-a-historical-perspective_3421991.html?utm_source=CCPVirusNewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2020-07-15

BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Coalition backs 'cloud-brightening' trial on Great Barrier Reef to tackle global heating

Greens deride \$4.7m funding for technologies that may shade corals and make clouds more reflective as 'Band-Aid solutions'

By Graham Readfearn, The Guardian, July 14, 2020 [H/t Bernie Kepshire]

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jul/15/coalition-backs-cloud-brightening-trial-on-great-barrier-reef-to-tackle-global-heating>

Reducing Cows' Methane Emissions

By Charles Rotter, WUWT, July 14, 2020

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2020/07/14/reducing-cows-methane-emissions/>

ARTICLES

The Ideological Corruption of Science

In American laboratories and universities, the spirit of Trofim Lysenko has suddenly been woke.

By Lawrence Krauss, WSJ, July 12, 2020

https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-ideological-corruption-of-science-11594572501?mod=hp_opin_pos_1

TWTW Summary: The theoretical physicist writes:

"In the 1980s, when I was a young professor of physics and astronomy at Yale, deconstructionism was in vogue in the English Department. We in the science departments would scoff at the lack of objective intellectual standards in the humanities, epitomized by a movement that argued against the existence of objective truth itself, arguing that all such claims to knowledge were tainted by ideological biases due to race, sex or economic dominance.

"It could never happen in the hard sciences, except perhaps under dictatorships, such as the Nazi condemnation of 'Jewish' science, or the Stalinist campaign against genetics led by Trofim Lysenko, in which literally thousands of mainstream geneticists were dismissed in the effort to suppress any opposition to the prevailing political view of the state.

"Or so we thought. In recent years, and especially since the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, academic science leaders have adopted wholesale the language of dominance and oppression previously restricted to 'cultural studies' journals to guide their disciplines, to censor dissenting views, to remove faculty from leadership positions if their research is claimed by opponents to support systemic oppression.

“In June, the American Physical Society (APS), which represents 55,000 physicists world-wide, endorsed a ‘strike for black lives’ to ‘shut down STEM’ in academia. It closed its office—not to protest police violence or racism, but to ‘commit to eradicating systemic racism and discrimination, especially in academia, and science,’ stating that ‘physics is not an exception’ to the suffocating effects of racism in American life.

“While racism in our society is real, no data were given to support this claim of systemic racism in science, and I have argued elsewhere that there are strong reasons to think that this claim is spurious. The APS wasn’t alone. National laboratories and university science departments joined the one-day strike. The pre-eminent science journal Nature, which disseminates what it views as the most important science stories in a daily newsletter, featured an article titled ‘Ten simple rules for building an anti-racist lab.’

After giving examples at Michigan State and Princeton, the author continues:

“When scientific and academic leaders give official imprimatur to unverified claims, or issue blanket condemnations of peer-reviewed research or whole fields that may be unpopular, it has ripple effects throughout the field. It can shut down discussion and result in self-censorship.

“Shortly after Mr. Hsu resigned, the authors of the psychology study asked the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science to retract their paper—not because of flaws in their statistical analysis, but because of what they called the ‘misuse’ of their article by journalists who argued that it countered the prevailing view that police forces are racist. They later amended the retraction request to claim, conveniently, that it ‘had nothing to do with political considerations, ‘mob’ pressure, threats to the authors, or distaste for the political views of people citing the work approvingly.’ As a cosmologist, I can say that if we retracted all the papers in cosmology that we felt were misrepresented by journalists, there would hardly be any papers left.

“Actual censorship is also occurring. A distinguished chemist in Canada argued in favor of merit-based science and against hiring practices that aim at equality of outcome if they result ‘in discrimination against the most meritorious candidates.’ For that he was censured by his university provost, his published review article on research and education in organic synthesis was removed from the journal website, and two editors involved in accepting it were suspended.

“An Italian scientist at the international laboratory CERN, home to the Large Hadron Collider, had his scheduled seminar on statistical imbalances between the sexes in physics canceled and his position at the laboratory revoked because he suggested that apparent inequities might not be directly due to sexism. A group of linguistics students initiated a public petition asking that the psychologist Steven Pinker be stripped of his position as a Linguistics Society of America Fellow for such offenses as tweeting a New York Times article they disapproved of.

“As ideological encroachment corrupts scientific institutions, one might wonder why more scientists aren’t defending the hard sciences from this intrusion. The answer is that many academics are afraid, and for good reason. They are hesitant to disagree with scientific leadership groups, and they see what has happened to scientists who do. They see how researchers lose funding if they can’t justify how their research programs will explicitly combat claimed systemic racism or sexism, a requirement for scientific proposals now being applied by granting agencies.

“Whenever science has been corrupted by falling prey to ideology, scientific progress suffers. This was the case in Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union—and in the U.S. in the 19th century when racist views dominated biology, and during the McCarthy era, when prominent scientists like Robert Oppenheimer were ostracized for their political views. To stem the slide, scientific leaders, scientific societies and senior academic administrators must publicly stand up not only for free speech in science, but for quality, independent of political doctrine and divorced from the demands of political factions.”
