

# ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER

17 FEB. 2014

If you need older URLs contact George at ghh@att.net.

Please Note: This newsletter contains articles that offer differing points of view regarding climate change, energy and other environmental issues. Any opinions expressed in this publication are the responses of the readers alone and do not represent the positions of the Environmental Engineering Division or the ASME.

**George Holliday**

*This week's edition includes:*

## **1) ENVIRONMENT – A. EPA FACES MULTIPLE PRESSURES IN DRAFTING POWER-PLANT REGULATIONS**

The Environmental Protection Agency is juggling pressure from outside groups, a tight timeline, legal uncertainty and the need to balance environmental and economic factors as it crafts emissions regulations for existing power plants, according to this analysis. "They could devise a legally cautious rule that has little environmental impact, or they could write an aggressive regulation that would slash emissions but be legally vulnerable," Coral Davenport writes. Meanwhile, industry groups and lobbyists are already gearing up for a fight. 79 FR 6899-6900 [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/05/us/epa-staff-struggling-to-create-rule-limiting-carbon-emissions.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/05/us/epa-staff-struggling-to-create-rule-limiting-carbon-emissions.html?_r=0)

## **B. INHOFE PLANS BILL TO LET STATES OPT OUT OF EPA POWER PLANT RULES**

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., plans to introduce a bill that would let states, rather than the Environmental Protection Agency, decide which old power plants to shut down. Inhofe noted that power plant shutdowns could lead to winter blackouts if extreme cold weather continues. <http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/197390-inhofe-warns-epa-regulations-could-cause-winter-blackouts>

**C.**



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The Executive Advisory Committee for ASME Energy Forum Live – Oil & Gas includes senior members from Shell Exploration & Production, Draper Laboratory/Cambridge Research and Technology LLC, Baker Hughes, Stewart & Stevenson, BP Exploration, and ASME.

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## **D. THE FUTURE OF NUCLEAR POWER**

**February 26, 2014 at 02:00 PM Eastern Standard Time**

Nuclear power has undergone a renaissance in recent years, with new innovations and designs making this energy source more attractive than ever. Join ASME.org for a discussion of some of the latest technologies and developments in this area.

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#) now for this free, live event!



Speaker: Professor Akira Tokuhira

*University of Idaho*

Akira Tokuhira is a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Idaho and Director of the Nuclear Engineering Program. He has a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from Purdue University, an M.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of Rochester, a B.S.E. in engineering-physics from Purdue University, and 10 years of international experience in advanced reactor R&D with the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) and Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA), as well as experience at Argonne National Laboratory and Battelle Columbus Laboratories. At PSI, he was part of the Simplified Boiling Water Reactor safety systems testing projects, and at JAEA, he contributed to the development of diagnostics for the Japanese sodium fast reactor.

Prof. Tokuhiro was previously on the mechanical and nuclear engineering faculty at Kansas State University and the University of Missouri-Rolla. He was also Director of the UMR Reactor and Senior Reactor Operator. His interests are wide and diverse: It all looks like data to him. He is finishing his committee appointment on the American Nuclear Society President's Committee on the Fukushima Accident. He most recently visited Fukushima Daiichi in April 2013.



**Speaker: David Walsh**  
*Editor, ASME.org*

David Walsh is the Editor-in-Chief of the ASME.org website. He has over 15 years of experience in technical and online publishing.

Registration is required to attend this event. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Arnold Feldman

## **E. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY** **PROPOSED RULES**

Request for Public Engagement in the Interagency Special Report on the Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States

79 FR 7417-7421

**SUMMARY:** As part of the President's Climate Action Plan and ongoing efforts within the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), the Interagency Crosscutting Group on Climate Change and Human Health (CCHHG) and a subset of the Interagency National Climate Assessment Working Group (INCA) have initiated an interagency Special Report on the impacts of observed and projected climate change on human health in the United States. This data-driven technical synthesis and assessment will be an interagency product of the USGCRP organized by the CCHHG. This request for public engagement presents opportunities to submit comments on the Draft Report Prospectus, scientific information to inform the assessment, and nominations for contributing authors, and announces a Public Forum to Inform the Interagency Special Report on the Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States.

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-02-07/pdf/2014-02304.pdf>

## **F. 'SECRET SCIENCE' MUST END, REPUBLICANS DECLARE**

Legislation introduced Thursday in the House would bar the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing new rules without first disclosing all of the scientific research that went into them.

The bill, backed by GOP members of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, is designed add constraints to an agency that Republicans have accused of running amok with its rule-making authority.

#### ADVERTISEMENT

“Public policy should come from public data, not based on the whims of far-left environmental groups,” said Rep. David Schweikert (R-Ariz.), who penned the bill.

“For far too long, the EPA has approved regulations that have placed a crippling financial burden on economic growth in this country with no public evidence to justify their actions,” he said in a written statement.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energy-environment/197701-gop-bill-would-outlaw-epas-secret-science>

## **G. ANNUAL EPA ENFORCEMENT RESULTS HIGHLIGHT FOCUS ON MAJOR ENVIRONMENTAL VIOLATIONS**

February 7, 2014

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today released its annual enforcement and compliance results demonstrating a focus on violations that have the most impact on public health.

“Our enforcement work over the past year reflects our focus on the biggest violators and the cases that make the most difference in protecting American communities from pollution,” said Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator for EPA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. “Big cases like the Deepwater Horizon disaster and Walmart’s illegal handling of pesticides and hazardous waste resulted in nationwide reforms and billions of dollars to help affected communities. We’ve reduced deadly air toxics from refineries and chemical plants and cleaned up toxic pollution in communities. We’re working with cities to cut discharges of raw sewage and contaminated stormwater to the nation’s waters. Driving compliance and deterring violations in these sectors is a critical way EPA protects the air, water and land on which Americans depend, and creates a level playing field for companies that do the right thing.”

Highlights from fiscal year 2013 include:

- EPA’s cases resulted in criminal sentences requiring violators to pay more than \$4.5 billion in combined fines, restitution and court-ordered environmental projects that benefit communities, and more than \$1.1 billion in civil penalties.
- Pursuing justice for Gulf Coast residents through the [Deepwater Horizon cases](#), resulting in over \$3.7 billion going back to benefit the Gulf States and communities impacted by the spill.
- Requiring [Walmart](#) to commit to cutting edge hazardous waste handling systems, as well as compliance and training programs that will protect employees and nearby residents. Walmart also paid more than \$80 million in fines and penalties for mishandling pesticides and hazardous waste.
- Ensuring that companies take responsibility and clean up the toxic pollution they create. In a landmark settlement, AVX Corporation committed to pay over \$366 million to clean up contamination in Massachusetts’s [New Bedford Harbor](#), the largest single-site cash settlement in Superfund history.
- Reducing dangerous air toxics released from industrial flares at refineries and chemical plants, requiring companies to implement technologies that control emissions. A recent Clean Air Act settlement with [Shell Deer Park in Texas](#) requires continuous monitoring of cancer-causing benzene and vehicle retrofits to reduce diesel emissions, put in place to benefit nearby overburdened communities. See another example of innovative pollution controls from [Countrymark Refining](#).
- Reducing emissions from coal fired power plants, requiring companies to cut pollution and conduct mitigation projects that promote energy efficiency and protect clean air for local communities. See examples from [Wisconsin Power and Light](#), [Dominion Energy](#) and [Louisiana Generating](#).
- Working with cities to cut discharges of raw sewage and contaminated stormwater to the nation’s waters through integrated planning, green infrastructure and other innovative approaches. This helps cities manage resources better, cut pollution and improve quality of life for local residents. Recent

settlements with [Seattle and King Co., WA](#) and [Wyandotte County, KS](#) require cities to initially provide relief to overburdened communities most impacted by sewage discharges. Other examples of innovative settlements include [San Antonio, TX](#) and [Jackson, MS](#).

## **2) HEALTH – A. BUSTING THE ASBESTOS RACKET**

**A federal judge finds evidence of deliberate legal deception.**

Feb. 7, 2014 6:32 p.m. ET

The worst public scandals are often those that travel in plain sight, and a prime example is the asbestos litigation racket. We've been writing about it for years, and now a judge in North Carolina has issued a remarkable opinion exposing just how rotten it is.

The case involves Garlock Sealing Technologies, a gasket maker forced into bankruptcy in 2010 by a flood of bogus claims. Plaintiffs lawyers were insisting that Garlock set aside \$1.3 billion for victims of the deadly asbestos-related disease, mesothelioma. Last month federal bankruptcy judge George Hodges instead accepted Garlock's liability estimate of \$125 million and roasted the plaintiffs bar for dishonesty.

**Health140217**

## **3) SAFETY – A. THE DUKES OF WORKPLACE HAZARD**

**UPDATED FEB. 10, 2014 12:10 A.M. ET**

Last month [came word](#) that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is rewriting the rules so its regulators can impose themselves over small family-owned farms. Now the workplace overseer has another brainstorm for raising costs on every industry in its purview. In March OSHA will begin holding hearings on rules unveiled in August for crystalline silica exposure in the workplace. Silica is one of the most common compounds on earth and is essential to industries from construction and manufacturing to oil-and-gas exploration and agriculture. You can find it in everything from glass to golf-course bunkers.

OSHA limits a worker's exposure to 100 micrograms per cubic meter of air of silica for general industry and 250 micrograms for construction companies, as overexposure to the powdered quartz can cause a lung condition called silicosis. Though cases of the disease have declined dramatically (and deaths by more than 90%) over the past 40 years, OSHA now plans to cut the permissible rate to 50 micrograms for all industries.

This and other new rules will require 534,000 businesses to overhaul their practices, as silica swirls through the air when sawing, grinding, drilling, crushing and performing other labor-intensive tasks. How much will compliance cost? OSHA puts the tab at \$637 million annually, which is optimistic at best. The American Foundry Society puts it closer to \$2 billion, and the American Chemistry Council's early estimate says the total economic damage will tally \$5.45 billion a year. The rules will cost the fracking oil and gas industry an estimated \$1,120 *per affected employee, according to a Bloomberg Government analysis.*

OSHA's proposal won't even reduce silicosis because it can't enforce the current exposure limit: Its own sampling shows that more than 30% of tested work sites struggle to adhere to the current standard, never mind the new one. OSHA should figure out how to bring industry practices in line with the current limit before moving the goal posts and calling it "progress."

Under the new limit, compliance is near-impossible. As the American Chemistry Council notes, "serious questions remain" about a laboratory's ability even to measure silica accurately at a concentration as low as the proposed new standard of 50 micrograms.

The new protocol also discourages companies from policing themselves. Since the 1970s, industry groups such as the National Industrial Sand Association have voluntarily offered employee health programs, including routine medical evaluations and periodic exposure assessments. Their reward for all but eliminating silicosis in their workplaces? Millions in new costs, courtesy of Washington.

OSHA first submitted the proposal to the White House's Office of Management and Budget on Valentine's Day 2011. OMB then violated its own 120-day review rule to delay the new rule for more than 2½ years—well past the 2012 election. We can see why the President would fear the political consequences of this job-killing regulation in his first term. Too bad he doesn't seem to fear the economic consequences in his second.

#### **4. TRANSPORTATION – A. KEYSTONE COP: PIPELINE PERMIT IS KERRYS CALL**

By Peter Nicholas

Feb. 7, 2014 10:54 p.m. ET

WASHINGTON—Secretary of State [John Kerry](#) had one of the most reliably pro-environment records in nearly three decades as a U.S. senator: He frequently has warned about fossil fuels in writings and speeches, and environmental activists describe him as a "champion" of legislation to curb the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming.

"If we put an end to the era of dirty fossil fuels, we can begin an era of sustainability...for our nation and our world," concludes a book written by Mr. Kerry and his wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry in 2007 (The couple met at an Earth Day rally in 1990).

Those principles are being sorely tested by Mr. Kerry's pending decision on whether to green-light the Keystone XL pipeline project, which has become a vivid symbol in the debate over oil's place in the American economy. The State Department is overseeing a permit review because the pipeline crosses Canadian border, and Mr. Kerry told senior staffers in a private meeting this week that he hasn't yet made up his mind.

[TransCanada](#) Corp. wants to send oil through a pipeline from Canadian oil sands to Gulf Coast refineries in the U.S. Environmentalists warn this could lead to oil spills and exacerbate global warming, while business interests contend it will create jobs and offer a safer alternative than transporting the oil by rail.

Mr. Kerry's record on environmental issues is drawing scrutiny from proponents and critics alike, adding another complication to one of the most divisive issues the [Obama](#) administration faces. Pro-Keystone forces question whether he can be a neutral referee. "There is wide berth not only for Secretary Kerry but ultimately the president to have it whichever way they want," said Karen Harbert, who heads the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's energy institute.

State Department officials, including one who was in the staff meeting this week, said Mr. Kerry is keeping an open mind. "Of course he has a big environmental record, but there's a process and you have to weigh all the components," another State Department official said.

Under rules governing the permit process, Mr. Kerry plays an important role. He makes the determination of whether Keystone should get the permit, though people involved in the process expect that in the end, President Barack Obama's views on the matter will carry the day.

Mr. Kerry has begun a broad analysis to determine whether the pipeline is in the nation's interests. So, tucked into his binder filled with memos on various foreign hot spots are reports on Keystone.

**Transportation140217**

## **B. U.S. KEYSTONE REPORT RELIED HEAVILY ON ALBERTA GOVT-FUNDED RESEARCH**

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**Exclusively on InsideClimate News, This Year's Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting** <<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-s/>>

**U.S. Keystone Report Relied Heavily on Alberta Govt-Funded Research**

<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-g/>>

**The analysis of greenhouse gas emissions presented by the State Department in its new environmental impact statement on the Keystone XL pipeline includes dozens of references to reports by Jacobs Consultancy, a group that is owned by a big tar sands developer and that was hired by the Alberta government—which strongly favors the project.**

**Read more** <<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-w/>> .

**Fracking's Thirst for Water: Investors Warned of the Hidden Financial Risks**

<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-yd/>>

**Some of the nation's driest, drought-plagued places have quickly become its busiest hot spots of drilling for shale gas and oil, especially in Texas, Colorado and California.**

**Read more** <<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-yh/>> .

**The Best Source of Daily News on the Emerging Clean Economy:**

<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-yk/>>

**How to Deconstruct the Difficult Math of Keystone XL's Carbon Footprint**

<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-yu/>>

**It is not easy to measure the carbon footprint of the tar sands crude that would move through the proposed Keystone XL pipeline to refineries in the United States.**

**Read more** <<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-yl/>> .

**Tar Sands Industry Has Greatly Underestimated Pollution Figures, Study Finds**

<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-yr/>>

**A significant new paper published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences finds that emissions of dangerous pollutants from the tar sands operations in Canada may be much higher than previously reported in official estimates collected and reported by the industry.**

**Read more** <<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-ys/>> .

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**Other Top Stories of the Week**

**Today's Climate**

**Obama Administration Launches Regional 'Climate Hubs' to Help Farmers, Communities**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-id/>>**

**European Parliament Votes for Stronger Climate Targets**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-jh/>>**

**Lawmakers Consider Setting Deadline for Obama's Keystone XL Decision**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-jk/>>**

**Exploding Oil Trains Push States to Create Response Plans**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-ju/>>**

**Aboriginals Flex Muscle in Canada, Blocking Oil and Gas Projects**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-tl/>>**

**EPA Struggling to Create Pollution Rule <<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-tr/>>**

**White House Taps Insider for Acting Enviro Council Head**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-ty/>>**

**World's Biggest 63 Cities Almost Doubled Climate Actions Since 2011, C40 Says**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-tj/>>**

**Federal Grand Jury Investigates West Virginia Chemical Spill**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-tt/>>**

**Breaking News**

**Green Groups Step Up Opposition to TransCanada's Other Big Pipeline Project**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-ti/>>**

**Duke Energy, EPA Work to Halt Coal Ash Spill in N. Carolina**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-td/>>**

**TransCanada Pipeline Rupture Report Kept Secret for 3 Years**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-th/>>**

**EPA Scrutiny Could Be Linchpin in Keystone XL Review Process**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-tk/>>**

**Billionaire Climate Activist Steyer Urges Review of 'Defective' Keystone Report**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-tu/>>**

**Clean Economy Wire**

**Reforming the Grid: Can the U.S. Keep Up With 21st Century Energy Demands?**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-il/>>**

**Germany's Utilities Struggle to Adapt to Renewable Revolution: Analysis**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-ir/>>**

**Feds Push Oregon Offshore Wind Project Forward**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-iv/>>**

**In Solar Energy Debate, Colorado Homeowners, Businesses Get Their Say**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-ij/>>**

**World's Largest Solar Thermal Plant Comes Online in California**

**<<http://insideclimatenews.cmail1.com/t/t-l-wulhyt-zdygukj-it/>>**

**Apple to Fuel Its iWatch With Solar Power: Report**

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**Richard Branson Hosts Renewable Energy Summit in Caribbean**

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**Global Electric Vehicle Production Forecast to Surge 67% in 2014**

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**16 Court Street #1210, Brooklyn, NY 11241**

**David Sassoon**

## **COMMENTS:**

### **A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2014-02-08 (FEBRUARY 8, 2014)**

**Un-Science or Non-Science?** Writing in Bishop Hill, Andrew Montford observes that once climatologists get a new generation of climate models into the open, as may occur with the Assessment Reports of UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the climatologists spend the next few year's writing papers on their analyses of the outputs of the models. They do not attempt to validate the models against actual observations, which those engaged in empirical research and model testing would do.

The publication of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) was accompanied by a new round of climate models –the CMIP5 climate models. CMIP stands for the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project, under the World Climate Research Programme. “The Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison (PCMDI) archives much of the CMIP data and provides other support for CMIP. PCMDI's CMIP effort is funded by the Regional and Global Climate Modeling (RGCM) Program of the Climate and Environmental Sciences Division of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science, Biological and Environmental Research (BER) program.” <http://cmip-pcmdi.llnl.gov/>

On his blog, Roy Spencer presents his updated analysis of 90 CMIP5 Climate Models. (See item I, below) Over 95% of these models over-estimate the observed warming, the surface warming as measured by HadCRUT4 and the atmospheric warming as measured by the University of Alabama in Huntsville. These models have overestimated global warming since 1983 are being used to justify many environmental and energy policies in the US. As Spencer reports, these models should not be used to force expensive and property-destroying energy policies down our throats.

In August 2013, the White House reported to Congress that Federal Climate Change Expenditures in FY 2013 amounted to \$22.6 billion. The Department of Energy's (DOE) share amounted to \$4.572 billion. By far, the largest single category was Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (\$1.8 billion). As the major funder of the PCMDI-CMIP effort, the DOE has the responsibility to the US taxpayer of insisting that the CMIP models be rigorously tested and validated (only one model can be valid). DOE has failed to do so, and it is clear that DOE has a financial incentive not to do so. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, Un-Science or Non-Science?, and [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/legislative\\_reports/fcce-report-to-congress.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/legislative_reports/fcce-report-to-congress.pdf)

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**Funding Failure:** Last week, TWTW reported that the Tropical Atmosphere Ocean array of buoys is failing for lack of maintenance. These buoys monitor the warming and cooling events in the equatorial Pacific, known respectively as El Niño and La Niña, which are important natural for climate change. About 50% of the NOAA-maintained buoys are not reporting. The budget for maintaining the buoys fell from about \$10-\$12 million to \$2-3 million. Somehow Washington can spend \$22.6 billion in 2013 on climate change but not maintain critical instruments on understanding weather and climate change. The amount for buoys is tiny compared to DOE spending on renewables.

TWTW Reader Timothy Wise reminded us of a GAO report last February, which stated that there is a significant timing gap between the end of scheduled life existing satellites, and replacement with new satellites. The US has two complementary sets of satellites, polar-orbiting ones, and geostationary ones. They are used by weather forecasters, climatologists, the military, etc. According to the GAO report, the timing gap between end of scheduled life and replacement with new satellites could span from 17 to 53 months or more, depending on how long the current satellite lasts and any delays in launching or operating the new one. As reported in past TWTWs, based on three separate, but somewhat overlapping government reports, the US has spent some \$165 billion on climate change since 1993, but the US cannot spend the money needed to maintain critical instrumentation. Another source for funds is the \$8 Billion in “Energy Payments in Lieu of Tax Provisions in the FY 2013 Federal Climate Change Expenditures”. A new report will not come out until early 2015. See link under Measurement Issues.

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**Plateau:** NOAA, and other entities that report annual temperatures, are becoming desperate on how to report a no trend in global warming. They mislead the public by stating that last year was the X --warmest on record rather than stating bluntly that there has been no surface warming trend for 16 or 17 years. It is somewhat similar to Fridjof Nansen’s small team crossing southern Greenland in 1888. After finally climbing the mountains in the southeast they came to a huge plateau. For days they crossed it, not knowing if they would come to a mountain range or a warm valley as some had speculated. Finally, they came to the mountains in the southwest that also ring the plateau. The crossing took 49 days, including the time spent climbing and descending the mountains. Are we on a similar plateau about temperatures?

Some scientists predict temperatures trends will rise, other predict they will fall. Regardless if the temperature trends rise, or fall, the failure of the models to predict the plateau is all too evident. The models are unsuitable for establishing government policies on climate and energy use. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy and Measurement Issues.

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**New Hot Spot:** The old hot spot cannot be found. The falsely claimed human fingerprint to global warming (actually whatever the cause) of a distinct warming trend centered about 10 km (33,000 feet) above the tropics does not appear on satellite or weather balloon measurements. An article in the *Wall Street Journal* brought up a warm area in the northeast Pacific off the coasts of Canada and Alaska. Bob Tisdale examined the hot spot and reported that the anomaly may be a great as 7 degrees F. But according to Tisdale, the ARGO buoys show no unusual warming (or cooling) event for the top 700 meters, “so the warming event appears to be surface related.” In a personal communication, Joe D’Aleo writes it has survived there for six months. Simply, the cause of this hot spot is not known at this time. See link under Changing Weather and Article #2.

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**Fraying Solidarity:** The problems with the 95% certainty of the climate science and surveys that 97% of scientists agree that [fill in the blank], are creating problems in the climate establishment. The general public is becoming increasingly skeptical. In his article “Science can’t settle what should be done about climate change,” Mike Hulme, Professor of Climate Change in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia (UEA) and of Climategate note, argues for a more politicized atmosphere for addressing global warming/climate change. TWTW suggests the science has long been political. It is set up in a manner that does not produce a scientific solution. There is no effort to attempt to validate the models, on which the entire climate establishment depends. It is clear the climate establishment cannot model natural climate change, which is a necessary step to successfully modeling the human influence. See links under Problems in the Orthodoxy

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**More Fraying Solidarity:** The long-delayed approval process for the northern leg of the Keystone Pipeline to bring oil from Canada to Nebraska, and then to the Gulf Coast, is producing discord in the environmental industry and in organizations that support them. Some leaders of the environmental industry are questioning if the fight against Keystone is an issue they should continue. Even the *Washington Post* has editorialized in favor of Keystone. The oil will move whether or not Washington approves it. The question is who will benefit the most.

The White House had the audacity to announce the decision will not be a political one. For over 5 years it has been little else but political. No doubt, the administration will delay the decision until it becomes clear it can no longer use an impending decision for political advantage, such as fund raising. See links under: Communicating Better to the Public –Make things up, Questioning Green Elsewhere, and Washington’s Control of Energy.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Drilling in Britain:** The opposition to smart drilling for natural gas in deep shale is now proposing to stop the drilling by bringing up property trespass –can a drill pass under their lands, no matter how deep underground, without the property owner's permission. Andrew Montford suggests a simple way of averting the issue. Repeal the Petroleum (Production) Act 1934, which nationalizes ownership of onshore oil and gas resources. He states that shale gas development will take place on a voluntary basis.

Writing in Master Resource, Robert Bradley makes a similar argument for private mineral rights in South America. One difficulty may be size of land holdings and acquiring rights of way. It remains to be seen if such actions are forthcoming. See links under Energy Issues –Non-US.

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**Number of the Week:** 0.60 miles per day. The Wall Street Journal reports that as of January 31, 2014, the application for the northern leg of the Keystone pipeline has been under approval review for 1960 days. The leg is 1179 miles long. This works out to 0.60 miles per day, or 0.025 miles per hour (mph).

According to the Guinness Book of Records, “in a speed test carried out in the Seychelles, a male giant tortoise could only cover 15 feet in 43.5 sec (0.23 mph) despite the enticement of a female.” So there you have it. A male, giant tortoise of the Seychelles can be enticed to move about 10 times faster than the Washington bureaucracy in considering the Keystone pipeline.

<http://hypertextbook.com/facts/1999/RachelShweky.shtml>

## **B. 4406 U.S. RECORD COLD TEMPERATURES IN JANUARY** **– 1073 SNOWFALL**

<http://www.climatedepot.com/2014/02/05/4406-u-s-record-cold-temperature-in-january-1073-snowfall-records/>

Don Shaw

### **C. EPA INSPECTOR GENERAL SUPPORTS DROPPING TEXAS FRACKING CASE**

The February issue of *Environment & Climate News* reports the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ruled EPA acted properly when it imposed and then later withdrew restrictions on fracking operations near two Texas water wells.

<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2014/01/13/epa-inspector-general-report-supports-agency-dropping-fracking-case>

### **D. OBAMA ADMINISTRATION PROPOSES 30-YEAR EAGLE KILL PERMITS**

The Obama administration announced a proposal to grant 30-year permits for wind turbine facilities to kill bald and golden eagles, causing an uproar among environmentalist groups.

<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2014/01/18/obama-administration-proposes-30-year-eagle-kill-permits>

### **E. ELECTRICITY PRICES IN THE FOUR STATES AT THE HEART OF THE RENEWABLE POWER DEBATE ARE RISING MUCH FASTER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE**

<http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/2014/01/28/north-carolina-renewable-power-mandate-pushing-electricity-prices>

### **F. ASME EED COMMITTEES**

EED is re-establishing and re-invigorating its Administrative and Technical Committees. These include:

- **Administrative**
  - **General Committee**
  - **Advisory Committee**
  - **Conference Committee**
  - **Honors and Awards Committee**
  - **Environmental Policy Committee**
- **Technical**
  - **Pollution Prevention**
  - **Environmental Remediation**
  - **Air Pollution Control**
  - **Water Pollution Control**
  - **Hazardous Waste**
  - **Radioactive and Mixed Waste**
  - **Environmental Communication**
  - **Regulations and Standards/Regulatory Engineering**
  - **Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS)**

- Environmental Liaison Committee

We are looking for individuals who want to participate in one or more of the Committee's. If you are interested or want more information please contact Arnie Feldman at [jjdsenv@att.net](mailto:jjdsenv@att.net) or Robert Powers at [powersr@asme.org](mailto:powersr@asme.org)  
Arnie Feldman

## **G. IEEE-USA POLICY - POSITION STATEMENT 2014 NATIONAL ENERGY**

I find it disturbing that this IEEE statement endorses the global warming alarmism - and promotes green R&D while ignoring the U.S. free marketplace that built the vigorous economy of the last 100 years with inexpensive energy. It smells like political correctness first and raises doubts about professional integrity of those who approved it. We must work to protect historical ASME professional integrity! Conrad Ladd, P.E.  
Env140217

## **H. CLEAN AIR ADVOCATES TAKE EXXON TO COURT**

Environmentalists are heading to federal court in Houston to force Exxon Mobil Corp. to reduce air pollution at the nation's largest petroleum and petrochemical complex — something they say the government hasn't done.

Frustrated with the regulatory response to Clean Air Act violations at the Baytown complex, Environment Texas and the Sierra Club will urge the court to intervene by ordering the Irving-based oil giant to comply with its permits and issuing stiff penalties.

Env140217-1

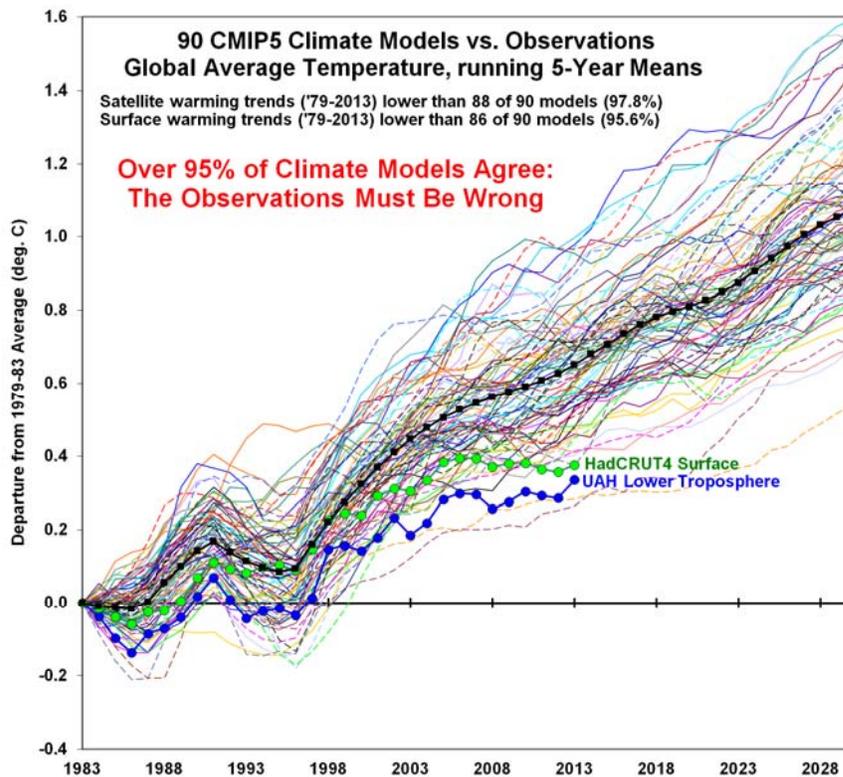
## **I. 95% OF CLIMATE MODELS AGREE: THE OBSERVATIONS MUST BE WRONG**

February 7th, 2014

I'm seeing a lot of wrangling over the recent (15+ year) pause in global average warming...when did it start, is it a full pause, shouldn't we be taking the longer view, etc.

These are all interesting exercises, but they miss the most important point: *the climate models that governments base policy decisions on have failed miserably.*

I've updated our comparison of 90 climate models versus observations for global average surface temperatures through 2013, and we still see that >95% of the models have over-forecast the warming trend since 1979, whether we use their own surface temperature dataset (HadCRUT4), or our satellite dataset of lower tropospheric temperatures (UAH):



Roy Spencer  
Env140217-2

## **J. MANN VERSUS STEYN**

Posted on [January 26, 2014](#) | [539 Comments](#)

<http://judithcurry.com/2014/01/26/mann-versus-steyn/>

## **K. Report from the Office of the Inspector General: Global Climate Change Program Data May Be Unreliable**

Posted on [February 7, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From the “*we’ve told you so time and again*” department comes this agreement with my assessment of the state of the climate programs as conducted by the US Government. Readers may recall this report from the GAO that was spurred by the work of the Surface stations project: [GAO report on the poor quality of the US climate monitoring network](#)

Now there’s another report, for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) that not only looks into the problems with reporting climate data from such programs, but also accountability (or lack of it) with climate program money.

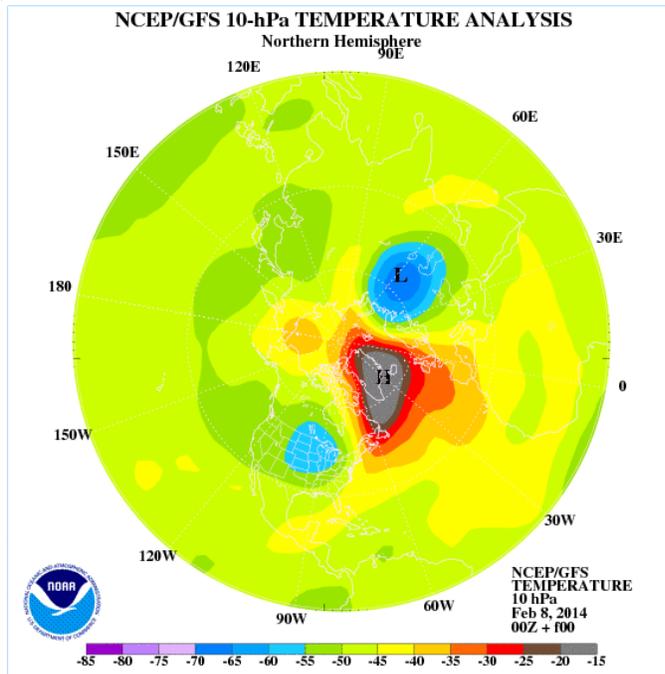
Here’s the damning quote:

Lack of oversight, non-compliance and a lax review process for the State Department’s global climate change programs have led the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to conclude that program data “cannot be consistently relied upon by decision-makers” and it cannot be ensured “that Federal funds were being **spent in an appropriate manner.**”

[http://blog.heritage.org/2014/02/07/inspector-general-global-climate-change-program-data-may-unreliable/?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=social](http://blog.heritage.org/2014/02/07/inspector-general-global-climate-change-program-data-may-unreliable/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social)

## **L. WHEN DOES A DISPLACED POLAR VORTEX BECOMES A SPLIT VORTEX?**

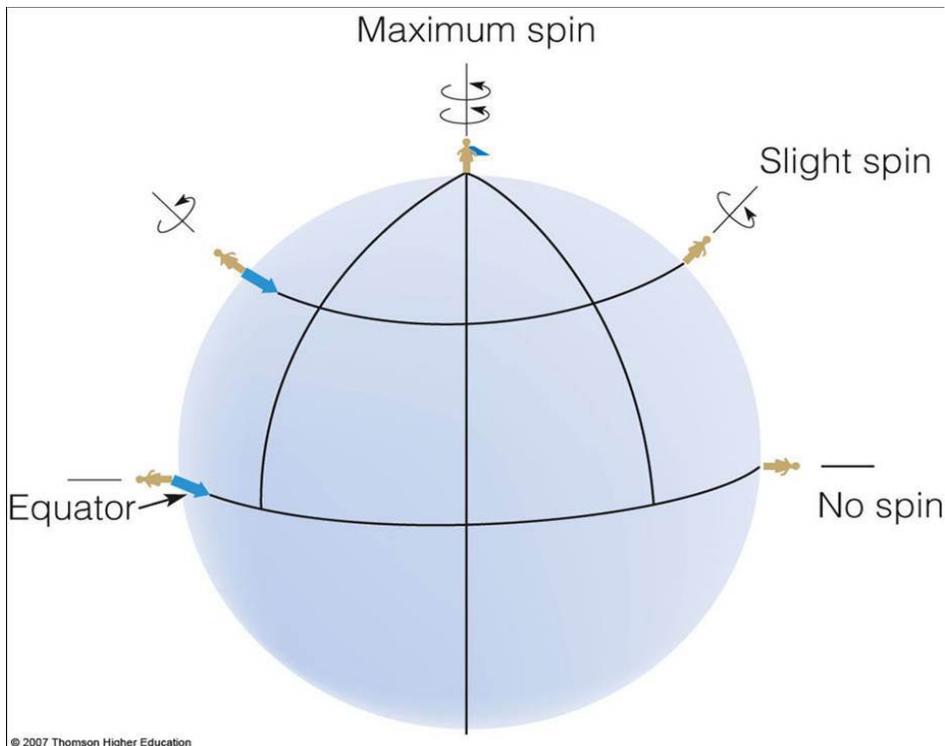
Posted on [February 8, 2014](#) by [justthefactswuwt](#)



NOAA – National Weather Service – Climate Prediction Center – Click the pic to view at source

By WUWT Regular “Just The Facts”

As discussed last week, the Northern Stratospheric Polar Vortex appears to have been [displaced in January](#) and now it appears to be splitting into two discrete lobes, i.e. see the image above with two areas of blue / cold air descending within the funnels/lobes of the Polar Vortex at 10 hPa/mb – 31 km – 102K feet. What follows is succinct summary of Polar Vorticity, followed by various current observations. If you aren’t familiar with Stratospheric Polar Vortexes, you can get acquainted [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). Planetary Vorticity is “generated by the rotating earth”, it “is zero at equator”, is at it’s “maximum at pole (one revolution per day)” and “is always positive (cyclonic [[counter-clockwise in the northern hemisphere](#)])”, [Lyndon State College Atmospheric Sciences](#) i.e.: [clockwise in the northern hemisphere](#)], [Lyndon State College Atmospheric Sciences](#) i.e.:



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Lyndon State College Atmospheric Sciences – Click the pic to view at source

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/08/when-does-a-displaced-polar-vortex-becomes-a-split-vortex/#more-102862>

## **M. REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL: GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM DATA MAY BE UNRELIABLE**

Posted on [February 7, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From the “*we’ve told you so time and again*” department comes this agreement with my assessment of the state of the climate programs as conducted by the US Government. Readers may recall this report from the GAO that was spurred by the work of the Surfacestations project:

[GAO report on the poor quality of the US climate monitoring network](#)

Now there’s another report, for the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) that not only looks into the problems with reporting climate data from such programs, but also accountability (or lack of it) with climate program money.

Here’s the damning quote:

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## **N. THE GREAT LAKES MAY HIT RECORD ICE COVER THIS YEAR**

Posted on [February 8, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

*Lake Superior sets a new record for winter ice cover, other lakes are icing up fast.*



Image: NASA Modis

Lake Superior is 92 percent frozen on the surface, breaking a 20-year-old record of 91 percent set on Feb. 5, 1994. Temperatures continue well below freezing. Have a look at this graph: <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/08/the-great-lakes-may-hit-record-ice-cover-this-year/#more-102841>

## **O. REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL: GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM DATA MAY BE UNRELIABLE**

Posted on [February 7, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

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<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/02/07/report-from-the-office-of-the-inspector-general-global-climate-change-program-data-may-be-unreliable/#more-102817>

## **P. THE POLAR VORTEX: CLIMATE ALARMISM BLOWS HOT AND COLD**

Giving cold fronts exotic-sounding names may be a way to sensationalize cold temperatures and implicitly claim they never happened before, but global warming alarmists talking about polar vortexes merely undermines their long-standing climate claims, writes Larry Bell at Forbes.com. One thing we know about cold air masses and unusual weather is they are actually quite usual.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2014/02/02/the-polar-vortex-climate-alarmism-blows-hot-and-cold/>

## **Q. THE SOCIAL COSTS OF CARBON? NO, THE SOCIAL BENEFITS OF CARBON**

This report analyzes the impacts and benefits of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and then compares these to estimates of the social cost of carbon (SCC) that have been published by the U.S. federal government. CO<sub>2</sub> is the basis of life on Earth, it facilitates plant growth, and enhances agricultural productivity. It is the primary raw material utilized by plants to produce the organic matter out of which they construct their tissues, which subsequently become the ultimate source of food.

[http://www.americaspower.org/sites/default/files/Social\\_Cost\\_of\\_Carbon.pdf](http://www.americaspower.org/sites/default/files/Social_Cost_of_Carbon.pdf)

**Ken Kok**

Regards  
George

**Note: There will be no Newsletter next week, since I will be on business travel.**