

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER

5 MAY 2014

This week's edition includes:

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 DALLAS COUNTY JURY AWARDS \$2.9 MILLION IN DAMAGES FOR OIL AND GAS NUISANCE SUIT

On April 22, 2014, a six-person split jury in Dallas County awarded \$2.9 million in damages to a family living near the Barnett Shale based on allegations that a company's development of nearby oil and gas wells intentionally created a private nuisance that substantially interfered with the family's property. The damages award included \$2 million for past physical pain and suffering for three family members, \$250,000 for future physical pain and suffering, \$250,000 for past mental anguish, and \$275,000 for property damage for lost market value. The county judge will still have opportunities to rule on post-verdict motions before entering a judgment.

The suit was brought against various oil and gas operators in 2011. Reports indicate that the suit was based on illness from benzene and other contaminants allegedly resulting from drilling operations.

Roger Zygmunt

2. HEALTH A AVIAN INFLUENZA (55): USA (CA) POULTRY, LPAI, H5

Date: Wed 23 Apr 2014

Source: Bloomberg News [edited]

<<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-04-23/bird-flu-found-on-california-quail-farm-spurs-export-bans.html>>

The disease known as bird flu [avian influenza] has been found on a quail farm in California, prompting countries including Russia to ban poultry shipments from the state.

Low pathogenic avian influenza was detected in a quail flock at a farm in Stanislaus County, California, on 18 Apr 2014, said Steve Lyle, spokesman for the state's Department of Food &

Agriculture. The case was confirmed by the federal agriculture agency, and the farm has been quarantined, he said.

Env140505

3. SAFETY A COMPANY CLOSES GAS PROCESSING PLANT IN WYO. FOLLOWING EXPLOSION

Williams Companies shut down its natural gas processing plant in Opal, Wyo., following an explosion on Wednesday. The blast resulted in a fire, but officials said no injuries were reported in relation to the incident.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/24/us-usa-blast-wyoming-idUSBREA3M28Y20140424>

B. AGENCIES MULL IMPLEMENTING "NEAR MISS" REPORTING SYSTEM FOR DRILLERS

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the Center for Offshore Safety and the Environmental Protection Agency are seeking to implement a reporting system that would allow companies to voluntarily provide information on "near miss" oil spill incidents. "The purpose of all this is all aimed at what can we learn, and determine what some of the best practices are," said COS Executive Director Charlie Williams.

http://www.al.com/business/index.ssf/2014/04/oil_and_gas_regulators_look_to.html

C. ADOPT "SYSTEMS THINKING" TO ENHANCE OPERATIONAL SAFETY

Companies should adopt "systems thinking" to improve operational safety and prevent similar accidents from happening, write Nancy Leveson of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Sidney Dekker of Griffith University. Most investigations put the bulk of the blame on human error as the root cause of an accident, but a better way of thinking is to analyze "the behavior of a system's components" that led to the incident. "By simply blaming operators for accidents and not looking at the role played by the encompassing system in why those mistakes occurred, we cannot make significant progress in process safety and will continue playing a never-ending game of whack-a-mole," they write.

<http://www.chemicalprocessing.com/articles/2014/get-to-the-root-of-accidents/>

4. TRANSPORTATION A. CANADIAN OFFICIAL AIRS DISAPPOINTMENT ON KEYSTONE XL DELAY

Canadian Finance Minister Joe Oliver is disappointed by the White House's recent move to extend the deadline of the Keystone XL review process. Oliver said the move will hurt the American and Canadian economies and will stall the creation of thousands of potential jobs related to the pipeline.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/joe-oliver-says-keystone-delay-will-hurt-economy-in-u-s-canada-1.2618118>

B. MONIZ POINTS OUT POOR ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEW ENGLAND

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz highlighted the lack of energy infrastructure in New England during a speech on Monday before energy officials and executives in Connecticut. "Out there, in much of the country, the talk is about the energy revolution, the abundance of energy that we have ... But yet if we come here, it's not a discussion of abundance. It's a discussion of, in particular, infrastructure constraints," Moniz said.

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2014/04/21/energy-chief-new-england-energy-issues-vexing/gmSuo9EjLWdaUeYtg5PAMI/story.html>

C. WHITE HOUSE: DECISION TO EXTEND KEYSTONE REVIEW PROCESS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH POLITICS

The State Department's decision to extend the review process of the Keystone XL pipeline was not politically motivated, White House press secretary Jay Carney said Monday. "The issue here has to do with a court decision in Nebraska and its impact on the ability for the State [Department] process to continue for agencies to be able to comment," Carney said.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/203983-white-house-says-politics-not-a-factor-in-keystone-delay>

COMMENTS:

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2014-04-26 (APRIL, 26 2014)

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

Blunders: The Quote of the Week is from Freeman Dyson's review of the book, *Brilliant Blunders: From Darwin to Einstein—Colossal Mistakes by Great Scientists That Changed Our Understanding of Life and the Universe* by Mario Livio. Dyson writes: *Science consists of facts and theories. Facts and theories are born in different ways and are judged by different standards. Facts are supposed to be true or false. They are discovered by observers or experimenters. A scientist who claims to have discovered a fact that turns out to be wrong is judged harshly. One wrong fact is enough to ruin a career.*

Theories have an entirely different status. They are free creations of the human mind, intended to describe our understanding of nature. Since our understanding is incomplete, theories are provisional. Theories are tools of understanding, and a tool does not need to be precisely true in order to be useful. Theories are supposed to be more-or-less true, with plenty of room for disagreement. A scientist who invents a theory that turns out to be wrong is judged leniently. Mistakes are tolerated, so long as the culprit is willing to correct them when nature proves them wrong.

The critical issue is correcting the blunders to advance knowledge. In his book, **The Great Global Warming Blunder**, Roy Spencer details his view that the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the scientists and organizations that support it, blundered by confusing cause with effect in establishing climate feedbacks from the slight amount of warming that increased atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂) may cause.

Some may disagree with Spencer's views. But, as presented by Nir Shaviv and discussed numerous times in TWTW (e.g. April 12, 2014) the Climate Establishment has not advanced the knowledge of the impact on earth's temperatures from a doubling of CO₂ in 35 years. Since the 1979 Charney et al. report to the US National Research Council of the National Academy of

Sciences through 5 IPCC Assessment Reports, the estimate remains 1.5°C to 4.5°C, (3 to 8°F), except for bump in the lower bound in 2007, since withdrawn, The failure to advance knowledge is not from the lack of funding. According to reports to Congress from Federal government entities, since 1993 the US, alone, has spent over \$35 Billion on what the government entities classify as climate science. Herein is a problem. The Climate Establishment has become a bureaucracy that cannot admit it has greatly overestimated the impact of increasing CO2. To do so would undermine the justification for the funding of the bureaucracy. See links under Seeking a common ground and <http://www.sciencebits.com/AR5-FirstImpressions>

NIPCC: The latest report of the Nongovernmental Panel International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC), *Climate Change Reconsidered II: Biological Impacts*, continues to receive press coverage, to include comparisons between the reports from NIPCC and from the UN-IPCC. See links under *Challenging the Orthodoxy --NIPCC*

Climate Models: On the Global Warming Policy Foundation blog, David Whitehouse discusses the failure of the IPCC to discard models that clearly have no predictive value. The averages of the models used greatly overestimate the increase in temperatures from additional CO2. The continued use of these models illustrates a failure in IPCC methodology –procedures. Discarding models that greatly overestimate warming would result in a significant reduction in the upper bound of climate sensitivity estimates. Such action would render many climate issues, such as species extinction, moot. The huge amounts of money provided by climate alarm would shrink, endangering many climate researchers.

Climate modelers have evaded the issue by discussing the number of years of no significant warming that are necessary before the models are shown to be invalid. Their interpretation of the issue assumes that which must be proven, is true. It is classic example of the logical fallacy *petition principii*.

The right question is: what is the predictive power of the models? The answer is climate models have no predictive power. The models greatly overestimate the warming from increasing CO2. Why should the public accept IPCC reports when the IPCC relies on long-term projections from models that clearly fail in the short-term and have been failing for over a decade? The public would not trust an investment advisor with such a track record. Why should it trust the UN-IPCC or any organization with such a track record?

The insistence by the Climate Establishment that they are correct, without being able to scientifically demonstrate why they are correct, will undermine the public's trust in science. Betraying this trust is a great disservice to science. See links under *Challenging the Orthodoxy – NIPCC and Challenging the Orthodoxy*.

IPCC Challenges: Representatives of some developing countries are expressing anger at the full UN-IPCC mitigation report from Working Group III, which was released on April 15. The Summary for Policymakers was released on April 13. According to reports the anger stems from the full report classifying countries into three categories: low-level income, middle-level income and high-level income countries, rather than two categories developing countries and developed countries, which were previously used. Representatives of Bolivia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Iraq, Egypt, Venezuela, the Maldives, Bahamas, Syria, and Jordan are saying the income-based grouping of countries is not consistent with the longstanding practice of IPCC. If the effort to

control CO2 emissions is successful, these countries may be subject to CO2 emissions restriction.

“Therefore, the report is giving undue emphasis on emissions from developing countries and negating the huge contribution of developed countries in causing climate change”, according to Chandra Bhushan, deputy director general of the Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment. He stated the report is an attempt ***“to negate historical responsibility for causing climate change and, therefore, the Working Group III report has not taken into account adequately the emissions before 1970.”***

Another comment in an article discussing this issue states: ***The report was a dishonest attempt to divert attention from the current high level of emissions from rich countries, according to Shreekant Gupta, an associate professor in the department of economics at Delhi School of Economics and lead author of a chapter on risk and assessment of climate change policies. “IPCC is a pseudo-scientific body and its only purpose to include income-based classification is to bring attention to emerging economies like Brazil, China, India and South Africa, which are trying to lift their people out of energy poverty,” Gupta said. “It wrongly focuses on growth in emissions and not the absolute high levels of emissions or per capita emissions. SPM is totally silent on per capita emissions.”***

It appears that at least one lead author of the UN IPCC report agrees with the view expressed in TWTW that the IPCC is a politically-driven, pseudo-scientific organization. See links under Problems in the Orthodoxy.

Military-Industrial-Climate-Complex: One old joke about the Pentagon is that it is always preparing for the last war. According to reports, the Pentagon is preparing for a war on global warming/climate change. Since global warming has stopped, though it may pick-up again, and climate change has been occurring for hundreds of millions of years, it is not clear what the military strategy will be in fighting this war.

According to reports, retired Navy Rear Adm. David Titley co-wrote an op-ed for Fox News stating: ***The parallels between the political decisions regarding climate change we have made and the decisions that led Europe to World War One are striking –and sobering. The decisions made in 1914 reflected political policies pursued for short-term gains and benefits, coupled with institutional hubris, and a failure to imagine and understand the risks or to learn from recent history. In short, climate change could be the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of the 21st century.***

Apparently, Adm. Titley is so concerned with climate change he has not bothered to study climate history. If he had, he would find there is nothing unusual about recent global warming/climate change and modern hurricanes, tornados, floods, droughts, etc.

On another note, the Army announced the planned development of the largest solar array on a military installation to be on Fort Huachuca, Ariz. The location in southern Arizona makes some sense. Tucson Electric Power will fund, own, maintain and operate the project, and contract with the German firm, E. ON Climate and Renewables, for the design, engineering, procurement and construction. E.ON has found that its optimism about the success of solar and wind in Germany was excessive, now it is spreading its talents. At one point E.ON declared that, with 10% market penetration, wind power would not need backup. As electricity prices soar, the German government and public are realizing the error in believing such claims.

Fort Huachuca is home of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center and the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM)/9th Army Signal Command. The announcement

stated the facility is expected to provide 25% of the Fort's electricity. What will the Intelligence Center and Signal Command be doing at night? What are subsidies to Tucson Electric Power? The reports did not say.

This is being done in the name of national energy security. Apparently, news of the shale oil and gas revolution has not reached the halls of the Pentagon, even though it is discussed in such staid publications as *Foreign Affairs*. See links under Expanding the Orthodoxy.

Political Comment: Generally, TWTW avoids political comments such as sources of campaign financing. However, certain politicians, such as Senators Boxer and Whitehouse, have belittled the religious beliefs of climate realists such as John Christy and Roy Spencer in feeble attempts to discredit their scientific testimony. These senators, and others, have embraced the promised campaign contributions of \$100 Million by Tom Steyer, an ardent opponent of expansion of the Keystone pipeline.

John Hinderaker of Power Line has explored the sources of Steyer's wealth. Steyer founded and headed, until recently, Farallon Capital Management LLC and its subsidiaries. Farallon is private company with limited public records. According to Hinderaker, Farallon was a major financier of the expansion of coal mines and coal-fired power plants in Australia and Asia. Certain politicians may rail against CO2 emissions but do not object to benefiting from profits derived from them. See links under Questioning Green Elsewhere.

Number of the Week: 156,500 to 205,300. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics employment in the oil and gas extraction industry grew from a January recession low of 156,500 in January 2010 to 205,300 in January 2014. This growth of 31% in four years, 48,800 jobs, does not include the growth of tens of thousands of jobs that are occurring in other industries that are benefiting from the expansion of oil and gas. This growth is occurring in areas not controlled by Washington. No wonder the environmental industry bitterly opposes modern techniques for extracting oil and gas. See links under Non-Green Jobs and

http://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CES1021100001?data_tool=XGtable

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<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2014/TWTW%204-26-14.pdf>

B. ALARMISTS ARE JUST NOW DISCOVERING 'DYNAMIC ATOLLS'

Posted on [April 23, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Satellite picture of the Atafu atoll in Tokelau in the Pacific Ocean. Image: Wikipedia

From the "we told so so" department, WUWT Reader Paul Carter says in Tips and Notes:

A new study shows that Pacific Islands are resilient to sea level changes.

"Dynamic atolls give hope that Pacific Islands can defy sea rise"

A study by Paul Kench, Professor, School of Environment at University of Auckland.

"It is widely predicted that low-lying coral reef islands will drown as a result of sea-level rise, leaving their populations as environmental refugees. But new evidence now suggests that these small islands..."

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/23/alarmists-are-just-now-discovering-dynamic-atolls/#more-107958>

C. MARCH 2014 GLOBAL SURFACE (LAND+OCEAN) TEMPERATURE ANOMALY UPDATE

Posted on [April 23, 2014](#) by [Bob Tisdale](#)

INITIAL QUESTION

Once upon a time, the NCDC published its monthly global land+ocean surface temperature anomaly data around the 15th of the month. They have recently relaxed the dates of their monthly global state of the climate updates. The NCDC are now showing on the webpage [here](#) (<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/monitoring-references/dyk/monthly-releases>) that they will be publishing their monthly global updates around the 22nd of each month. Because GISS is still updating their data around the 15th of the month, it seems like old news when I wait a week for the NCDC data before publishing these updates.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/23/march-2014-global-surface-landocean-temperature-anomaly-update/#more-107935>

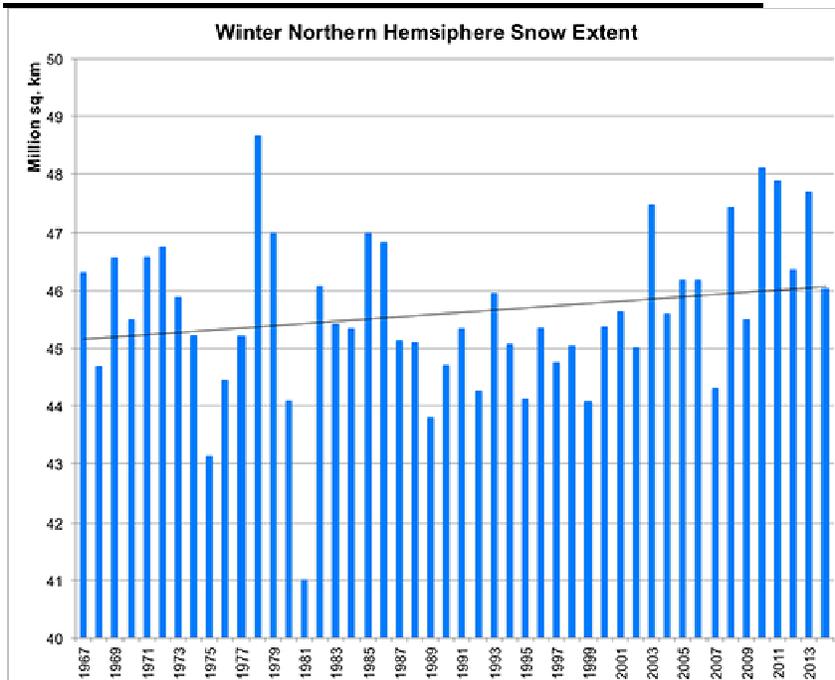
D. NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE THE SLOWEST START TO TORNADO SEASON IN A CENTURY, BUT TORNADO DAMAGE LOSSES ARE IN DECLINE

Posted on [April 24, 2014](#)

So much for the “Years of Living Dangerously“ Dr. Roger Pielke, Jr writes in the WSJ: So far in 2014, the United States has experienced fewer tornadoes than in any year since record-keeping began in 1953, or even before.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/24/not-only-do-we-have-the-slowest-start-to-tornado-season-in-a-century-but-tornado-damage-losses-are-in-decline/>

E. THE NEW GLOBAL WARMING WAR, THE SNOW EXTENT HAS BEEN INCREASING SINCE 1967:



J. Frank

F. EVALUATING CFSV2 SEASONAL HINDCASTS FOR THE PERIOD 1983-2010 (22 APR 2014)

Reference

Silva, G.A.M., Dutra, L.M.M., da Rocha, R.P., Ambrizzi, T. and Leiva, E. 2014. Preliminary analysis on the global features of the NCEP CFSv2 seasonal hindcasts. *Advances in Meteorology* 2014: 10.1155/2014/695067. Twelve major bias are outlined between the model run and observations, signaling the model is still not ready for primetime.

In the words of Silva *et al.* (2014), "Ocean-Atmosphere Global Climate Models (OAGCMs) have become indispensable tools for the climate sciences" and "many efforts have been made to improve [them] in recent years," the Climate Forecast System version 2 (CFSv2) model being "one example of such progress." which they then go on to describe and evaluate in considerable detail. Specifically, the authors state "the present study examined the area-average skill over the continents, the interannual variability, the global-mean state, and the main patterns of variability over the Equatorial Pacific and extratropics in both hemispheres produced by the CFSv2 model," which was done by comparing the model's hindcasts for Dec-Jan-Feb (DJF) and Jun-Jul-Aug (JJA) seasons of the 1983-2010 period with both "observations and reanalyses."

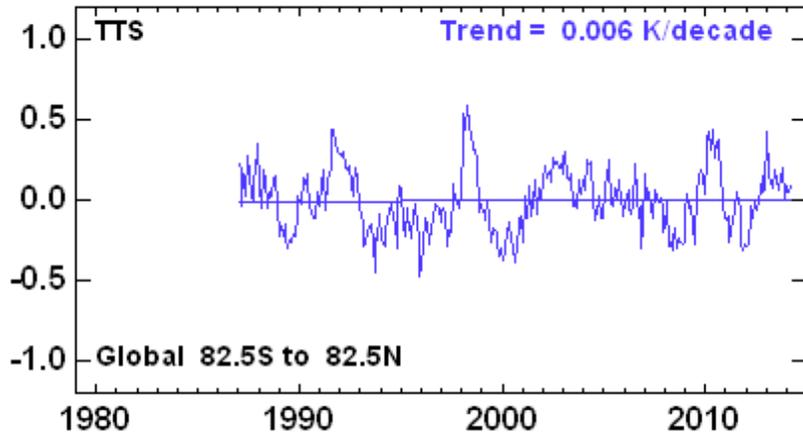
Based on their analysis the five Brazilian scientists report (1) "at the 0-month lead time ... large biases occur over the oceans," (2) "improvements in CFSv2 were not enough to eliminate the double-ITCZ [Intertropical Convergence Zone] bias during DJF," (3) there is a "warm SST [sea surface temperature] bias over eastern oceans during DJF and JJA," (4) for JJA there is an "SST cold bias over the central-equatorial Pacific," (5) "during DJF CFSv2 presents a cold bias in the troposphere, mainly over the central-eastern North Pacific," (6) there is a "strengthening of the subtropical jet that leads to precipitation overestimations by the persistence of low pressures over subtropical and mid-latitude regions," (7) "CFSv2 shows large precipitation biases over the eastern South Africa and Oceania," (8) there is a "wind-stress bias in the tropics," (9) "errors in the simulated Aleutian low seem to degrade the simulated NAM [Northern Annular Mode]," (10) "the wave pattern associated with the SAM [Southern Annular Mode] is not well reproduced by CFSv2," (11) there are "biases in the upper-level zonal wind over the tropics and mid-latitudes of the Southern Hemisphere," and (12) "the major spatial features related to the shape and orientation of SAM are not properly captured by CFSv2."

Silva *et al.*'s "overall evaluations" thus lead them to conclude "further investigations are still needed," and they say these studies "should be carried out to help in understanding further details the reasons for the CFSv2 deficiencies."

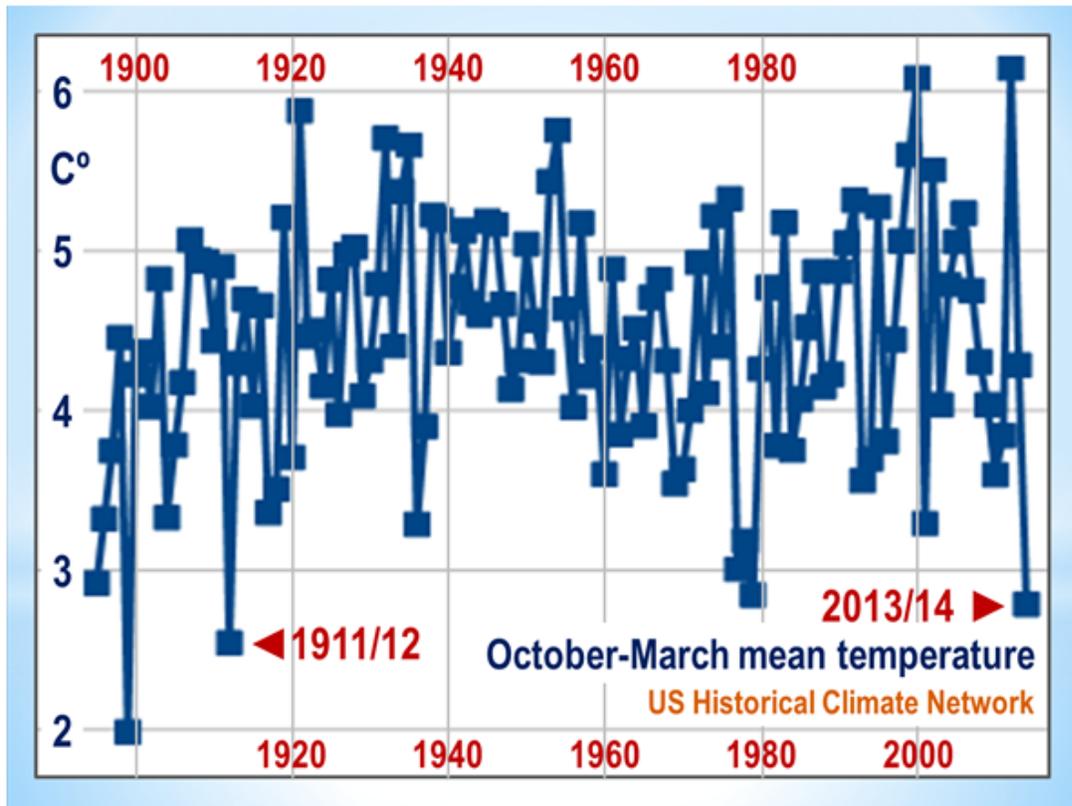
G. DECLARING WAR ON COAL AND POWER PLANTS BURNING COAL

Word out of Washington DC is that the remainder of Obama's term he is going to declare war on coal and power plants burning coal, plus is going to declare war on carbon dioxide in general, in the name of saving the world from global warming. The surface and near surface has not warmed in 17 years and 7 months and the mid Troposphere has not warmed but 0.006 degree C per decade since satellite measurements have been possible (1987) at that altitude (15,000 feet near the poles). Here is the RSS mid Troposphere temperature anomaly chart. Not much basis for

starting a war against global warming, sure looks like natural variations to me. Maybe the .0006C/decade could be caused by carbon dioxide, smile. Recall there are no urban heating islands in the Troposphere.



I suppose Obama thinks that this carbon dioxide war will take peoples minds off of his blunders and mindless deficit spending. He is going to have to make more than one speech every 1.5 days to convince the public that global warming is an enemy requiring war time spending levels. Especially after the coldest winter in the US since 1912, see chart below:

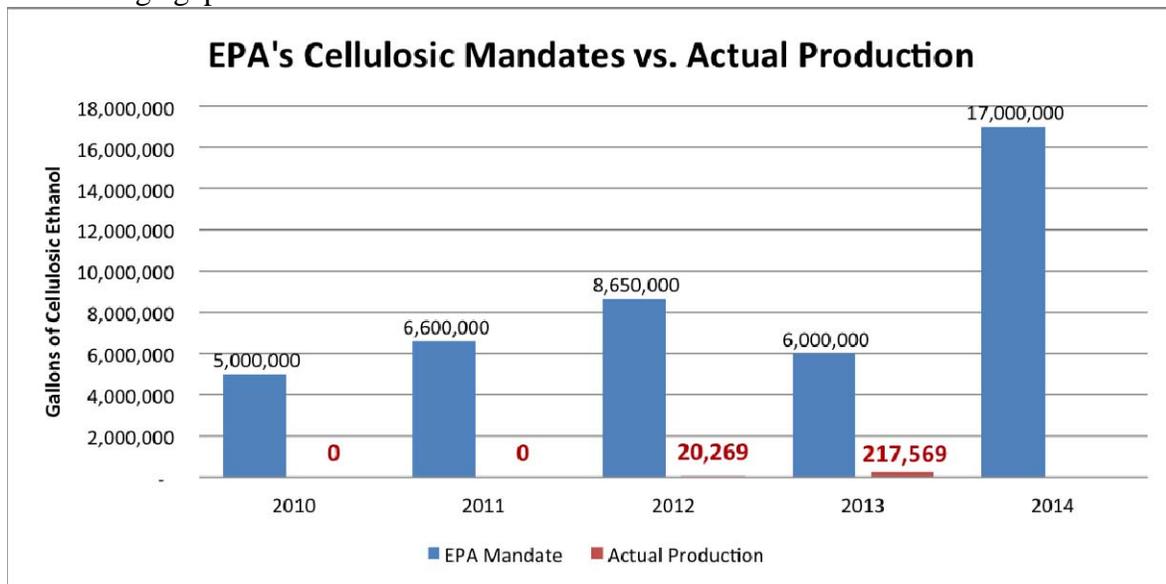


He will have to learn to make speeches in Mandarin, Shanghainese, Hindustani and Bengali if he is going to make much of a dent in carbon dioxide content in the air. Perhaps if he went to Mumbai he might find a better use for the money. Or Detroit for that matter. However, I don't want him spending my money for any of it. I prefer my federal tax money be spent on highways, water source dams/diversions, a strong military, research & development into breeder reactors and medical research into arthritis and cancer.

J Frank

H. CELLULOSIC ETHANOL MANDATE NOT ACHIEVABLE

For 2013 the ethanol mandate was for 6 million gallon while actual production was about 217,000 gallons and the original mandate is 17 million gallons for 2014. Check out the graph below to visually see how far the mandate is from reality. The fuel blenders have had to go to court the force the EPA to act to avoid fines since this shortage problem is dumped on them. See the huge gap below:



Don Shaw

I. EPA AND ETHANOL MANDATE DELAYS:

Judge Thomas Griffith called EPA's delays "egregious."

April 7th, 2014 update on EPA dragging their feet.

"(Reuters) - Federal judges on Monday pressed the Obama administration to explain delays that have plagued its implementation of the U.S. biofuel mandate, as the government attempted to fend off an oil industry challenge to renewable fuel use targets.

In a case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Washington D.C., the American Petroleum Institute and the American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers argued the 2013 biofuel use targets should be thrown out because the administration acted "arbitrarily and capriciously" when it issued the targets nearly nine months after its legislative deadline.

The Environmental Protection Agency, which administers the biofuel mandate, "exacerbated the negative effects of its tardiness" by basing the targets on a new estimate of total transportation use that increased compliance burdens for refiners, the industry groups said.

Judge Thomas Griffith called EPA's delays "egregious."

"At some point, don't these deadlines mean something?" Judge Griffith asked at the hearing. The ruling on the 2013 targets could have broad implications for the biofuel mandate going forward. The EPA's final 2014 quotas are due out in June, about seven months behind schedule. The Renewable Fuel Standard requires increasing amounts of biofuels to be blended into U.S. gasoline and diesel supplies each year through 2022 and was designed at a time fuel demand was also expected to rise."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/07/usa-court-ethanol-idUSL2N0MZ0V120140407>

Don Shaw

J. CLIMATOLOGIST JUDITH CURRY LEVELS BOTH BARRELS AGAINST ALARMIST CLIMATE SCIENCE

Posted on [April 22, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Guest essay by Larry Hamlin

Alarmist claims: inference from incomplete, inadequate and ambiguous observations

Climate scientist Dr. Judith Curry has recently posted a number of sharply worded essays providing stinging critical rebukes of assertions of climate harm by alarmists derived from biased and highly selective reading of the UN IPCC AR5 reports.

In an April 21 posting she says the following regarding the so called 'facts' cited by climate alarmists to try to make a case for man made climate harm:

"With regards to climate science, the biggest concern that I have is the insistence on 'the facts.' This came up during my recent 'debate' with Kevin Trenberth. I argued that there are very few facts in all this, and that most of what passes for facts in the public debate on climate change is: inference from incomplete, inadequate and ambiguous observations; climate models that have been demonstrated not to be useful for most of the applications that they are used for; and theories and hypotheses that are competing with alternative theories and hypotheses.

I particularly like Dyson's clarification on facts vs theories:

Facts and theories are born in different ways and are judged by different standards. Facts are supposed to be true or false. They are discovered by observers or experimenters. A scientist who claims to have discovered a fact that turns out to be wrong is judged harshly.

Theories have an entirely different status. Since our understanding is incomplete, theories are provisional. Theories are tools of understanding, and a tool does not need to be precisely true in order to be useful. A scientist who invents a theory that turns out to be wrong is judged leniently. Mistakes are tolerated, so long as the culprit is willing to correct them when nature proves them wrong.

The loose use of 'the facts' in the public discussion of climate change (scientists, the media, politicians) is enormously misleading, damaging to science, and misleading to policy deliberations.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/22/climatologist-judith-curry-levels-both-barrels-against-alarmist-climate-science/>

Don Shaw

K. NEW PAPER FINDS SOLAR UV-B OUTPUT IS CORRELATED TO GLOBAL MEAN TEMPERATURE

Posted on [April 22, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Map of correlations suggest it may be affecting biomass and planetary albedo.

From [the Hockey Schtick](#):

A paper published today in [Methods in Ecology and Evolution](#) describes a new satellite dataset of solar UV-B radiation for use in ecological studies. According to the authors, “UV-B surfaces were correlated with global mean temperature and annual mean radiation data, but exhibited variable spatial associations across the globe.” The finding is notable, since climate scientists dismiss the role of the Sun in climate change by only looking at the tiny 0.1% variations in total solar irradiance [TSI] over solar cycles, ignoring the [large variations in solar UV of up to 100% over solar cycles](#), and which according to this paper, correlates to global mean temperature.

Thus, the role of the Sun and [solar amplification mechanisms](#) on climate is only at the earliest stages of understanding

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/22/new-paper-finds-solar-uv-b-output-is-correlated-to-global-mean-temperature/>

Don Shaw

L. NASA DATA SHOW THE “POLAR VORTEX” COLD WEATHER EVENTS THIS PAST WINTER ALSO HAPPENED IN THE WINTERS OF 1935–36 AND 1976–77.

The findings destroy alarmist claims that human-induced global warming caused the exceptionally cold North American winter this year.

The frigid winter of 1976–77 occurred at the end of a 30-year global cooling period and the frigid winter of 1935–36 occurred while human greenhouse gas emissions were relatively minimal. During both prior winters, polar vortex patterns were very similar to the polar vortex pattern this past winter.

In its 2007 Third Assessment Report, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change claimed there will be “warmer winters and fewer cold spells, because of climate change.” Nevertheless, prominent global warming alarmists responded to the exceptionally cold winter of 2013–14 by claiming global warming causes colder winters.

<http://notalotofpeopleknowthat.wordpress.com/2014/04/17/polar-vortex-in-1936/>

M. CROPS BECOMING MORE NUTRITIOUS WITH RISING CO₂, STUDIES SHOW

The nutritious content of agricultural crops is improving as a result of rising atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, peer-reviewed studies show. A paper published by CO₂ Science and the Science and Public Policy Institute summarizes more than 40 studies documenting the beneficial impact of rising atmospheric carbon dioxide levels on the nutritious quality of agricultural crops.

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/health_promoting_c02.pdf

N. GORE, FELLOW ALARMISTS ESCALATE VENOMOUS ATTACKS AGAINST SKEPTICS

Global warming alarmists escalated their venomous attacks against global warming skeptics this week. Al Gore told an audience at the University of Hawaii that presenting evidence counter to HIS global warming claims is “immoral, unethical, and despicable.” Meanwhile, the leftist

Internet magazine Grist published a lengthy article comparing global warming to slavery. “There is no international climate change movement comparable to abolitionism,” Grist lamented.

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2014/04/15/21808-al-gore-on-climate-change-we-are-going-to-win-this-thing/> and

http://grist.org/climate-energy/is-climate-change-the-new-slavery/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=tweet&utm_campaign=socialflow

O. EPA MOVES TOWARD POSSIBLE METHANE EMISSION RULES

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a series of technical white papers Tuesday about sources of methane emissions, asking the public to comment on the research to inform EPA’s efforts to reduce emissions of methane, which is the main component of natural gas.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/203565-epa-seeks-input-on-methane-research>
<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/203565-epa-seeks-input-on-methane-research>

P. THE NEXT KEYSTONE? NATURAL GAS PROJECT DRAWS ENVIRONMENTALIST IRE

A liquefied natural gas facility in southern Maryland is generating intense criticism from environmental groups, in a fight that echoes the protracted battle over the proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

Energy company Dominion Resources is hoping to invest up to \$3.8 billion to upgrade the Cove Point LNG facility as an export terminal.

If successful, it could become the East Coast’s chief LNG export facility, sending billions of cubic feet of natural gas to Japan, India, and elsewhere.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/04/23/next-keystone-natural-gas-project-draws-environmentalist-ire/>

Q. SKEPTICAL ARGUMENTS THAT DON’T HOLD WATER

April 25th, 2014

There are some very good arguments for being skeptical of global warming predictions. But the proliferation of bad arguments is becoming almost dizzying.

I understand and appreciate that many of the things we think we know in science end up being wrong. I get that. But some of the alternative explanations I’m seeing border on the ludicrous.

So, here’s my Top 10 list of stupid skeptic arguments. I’m sure there are more, and maybe I missed a couple important ones. Oh well.

My obvious goal here is not to change minds that are already made up, which is impossible (by definition), but to reach 1,000+ (mostly nasty) comments in response to this post. So, help me out here!

Roy Spencer

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/>

R. CALIFORNIA EYES CAP-AND-TRADE FUNDS FOR TRAIN

Five months after a judge in Sacramento halted state financing for California's bullet train dead in its tracks, Democrats are eyeing a plan that would fund the high-speed-rail line with proceeds from the state's cap-and-trade program on carbon emissions.

As envisioned, California's \$68 billion bullet-train system, the nation's first, would take passengers from Los Angeles to San Francisco at speeds of more than 200 miles an hour. The project, though, has been beset by planning delays, fluctuating cost estimates and court challenges that have threatened to kill or delay it indefinitely.

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S. WHAT THE LATEST KEYSTONE XL DELAY REALLY MEANS

The passage of time may shift the debate to two substantive issues: the pipeline's effect on America's oil supply and on international climate talks.

[By John H. Cushman Jr., InsideClimate News](#)

Apr 21, 2014

Activists protest against the Keystone XL in Washington, D.C., in 2011. A lot has changed during the years since Keystone XL builder TransCanada filed the application for the project in 2008, including a growing public protest that has made rubber-stamping projects like this one a thing of the past. In the months and years ahead, more changes are likely to arise.

By [delaying a final decision](#) on the Keystone XL pipeline until Nebraska devises a legally valid route across the state, the Obama administration may have pushed the question off for months—most likely until after the November mid-term elections. That lets the president ride out the hotly contested campaign for control of Congress without having to decide whether the controversial pipeline is in the national interest.

<http://insideclimatenews.org/content/what-latest-keystone-xl-delay-really-means> and

<http://insideclimatenews.createsend1.com/t/ViewEmail/t/6112EEDF11DA36E6/27996A161E61B94EC5EC08CADFFC107B>

David Sassoon

U. GERMANY'S CO2 AND ENERGY POLICY – ABOUT TO FALTER?

Posted on [April 27, 2014](#) by [Guest Blogger](#)

Guest essay by Fred F. Mueller

On April 16th, 2014, a few quite remarkable statements were delivered during a discussion event at the premises of SMA Solar Technology AG, a leading German producer of photovoltaic panels and systems:

“The truth is that the Energy U-Turn (“Energiewende”, the German scheme aimed at pushing the “renewable” share of electricity production to 80 % by 2050) is about to fail”

“The truth is that under all aspects, we have underestimated the complexity of the “Energiewende”

“The noble aspiration of a decentralized energy supply, of self-sufficiency! This is of course utter madness”

“Anyway, most other countries in Europe think we are crazy”

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/04/27/germanys-co2-and-energy-policy-about-to-falter/>

Regards George