

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER

26 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. EPA ISSUES DRAFT HUMAN HEALTH AMBIENT WATER QUALITY CRITERIA

On May 13, 2014, the Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) issued a draft of its updated national recommended water quality criteria for the protection of human health. The Clean Water Act (“CWA”) requires EPA to issue updated ambient water quality criteria that reflect the latest scientific knowledge. These recommended criteria are not rules but, rather, reflect the concentrations at which EPA does not expect adverse effects to human health. States may choose to adopt these criteria, modify the criteria in response to site-specific conditions, or seek EPA approval to adopt other scientifically-based water quality standards.

EPA’s 2014 draft human health ambient water quality criteria proposes changes to ninety-four chemicals. Although most recommended levels decreased (*i.e.*, became more stringent), some recommended levels increased to reflect new scientific information and EPA policies. The draft water quality criteria also include updated EPA exposure assumptions such as increased average body weight, water consumption, and fish intake as well as updated bioaccumulation and toxicity factors.

When EPA’s human health ambient water quality criteria are finalized, TCEQ will likely incorporate these criteria into its TEXTOX model to evaluate Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“TPDES”) permitting thresholds. The attached table compares existing human health ambient water quality criteria with EPA’s proposed revised criteria and will help demonstrate how EPA’s revised criteria, if adopted by TCEQ, may impact particular constituents in TPDES permits.

EPA will accept written comment on the draft human health ambient water quality criteria until July 14, 2014

Env140526

Roger Zygmunt

B. EAB DENIES REVIEW OF EPA REGION 6'S ELIMINATION OF CCS IN GHG PSD PERMIT

On May 14, 2014, the EPA's Environmental Appeals Board ("EAB") issued an order denying Sierra Club's petition for review of a Prevention of Significant Deterioration ("PSD") permit for greenhouse gas ("GHG") emissions for a new natural gas-fired ethylene production facility. Sierra Club alleged that Region 6 had improperly eliminated carbon capture and sequestration ("CCS") as an add-on control technology in the best available control technology ("BACT") analysis for the facility. The EAB concluded that Region 6 did not clearly err or abuse its discretion by eliminating CCS in step 4 of the BACT analysis based on consideration of the total costs of CCS (rather than control costs per ton of CO₂ removed), by relying on CCS cost estimates that do not meet the stringent requirements of EPA's Cost Control Manual, or by evaluating CCS for higher- and lower-quality CO₂ streams on a combined rather than stream by stream basis.

The EAB's order is attached as **Env140526-1**
Roger Zygmunt

C. EPA ISSUES FINAL NOTICE TO EXXONMOBIL BAYTOWN TO CONSTRUCT

Part of Multibillion-Dollar Expansion Project and Creates 10,000 jobs

DALLAS – (May 16, 2014) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently issued a final notice of decision for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) for greenhouse gas (GHG) construction permit for the ExxonMobil Olefins Plant in Baytown, Texas. The company proposes to construct a new ethylene production unit consisting of eight ethylene cracking furnaces and recovery equipment to produce polymer-grade ethylene.

“We are working to control greenhouse gas emissions and promote clean energy in the new projects coming to communities across Texas,” said EPA Regional Administrator Ron Curry. “These projects show that economic development and environmental protection can go hand-in-hand.”

On Nov. 25, 2013, EPA issued a final permit to the facility. The permit was appealed to EPA's Environmental Appeals Board, which denied review of the petition on May 14, 2014. On May 14, EPA finalized the permit allowing ExxonMobil to begin construction of the project. The project is part of a multibillion-dollar expansion project in Baytown. It's estimated to create 10,000 construction jobs and 350 permanent jobs.

“ExxonMobil's petrochemical expansion, enabled by growing supplies of shale energy, will create thousands of new jobs and boost the Houston area economy and tax revenues by nearly a billion dollars a year. This export-oriented project is a powerful example of how shale energy can revitalize the U.S. economy in an environmentally responsible manner,” said Stephen D. Pryor, president, ExxonMobil Chemical Company.

In June 2010, EPA finalized national GHG regulations, which specify that beginning on January 2, 2011, projects that increase GHG emissions substantially will require an air permit. EPA believes states are best equipped to run GHG air permitting programs. Texas is working with EPA to replace a federal implementation plan with its own state program, which will eliminate the need for businesses to seek air permits from EPA. This action will increase efficiency and allow for industry to continue to grow in Texas.

EPA has finalized 37 GHG permits in Texas, proposed an additional 10 permits, and currently has over 21 additional GHG permit applications under review and permit development in Texas. For all of the latest information on GHG permits in Texas please visit:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r6/Apermit.nsf/AirP>

2. HEALTH A COLI EHEC - USA (04): (MICHIGAN), RESTAURANT GROUND BEEF, O157

A ProMED-mail post

<<http://www.promedmail.org>>

ProMED-mail is a program of the

International Society for Infectious Diseases <<http://www.isid.org>>

Date: Wed 14 May 2014

Source: Grand Rapids Press [edited]

<http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2014/05/e_coli_alert_kent_county_resid.html>

State health officials are investigating after 5 people, including a Kent County resident, were infected with E. coli O157, a potentially deadly strain of bacteria. Undercooked hamburgers, eaten at several different restaurants, are likely the source of the foodborne illnesses, according to a preliminary investigation by the Michigan Department of Community Health. Laboratory results suggest the illnesses are linked to a common source.

The Kent County resident who became ill was hospitalized but is now recovering, said Lisa LaPlante, Kent County Health Department spokeswoman. There have been no deaths linked to the cluster of illnesses. The 5 people who became sick were 20 to 41 years old, state health officials said.

"E. coli O157 illnesses can be very serious or life-threatening, especially for young children, older adults, and people who are immunocompromised," said Dr. Matthew Davis, chief medical executive at the MDCH. "Whether you cook at home or order in a restaurant, ground meats, including ground beef, should always be cooked thoroughly to the proper temperature."

Health departments in Livingston, Oakland, Ottawa, and Washtenaw counties are helping with the investigation.

Most people recover in 5 to 7 days. But those who are vulnerable are at risk of developing hemolytic uremic syndrome, a life-threatening illness. None of those infected in the recent cluster of illnesses have developed that complication.

[Byline: Sue Thoms]

Communicated by:

ProMED-mail

<promed@promedmail.org>

[Uncooked ground beef, in the form of hamburgers, was the vehicle in the original outbreak of E. coli O157 described in the USA more than 30 years ago. That the sources of the ground beef were restaurants and the strains were genetically related strongly suggests that there is much more of the tainted product out there. Readers should remember that even if the meat is adequately cooked, contamination can still occur if subsequently contaminated in the kitchen. Alternatively, since hamburgers are usually served with lettuce and tomato, the condiments for the hamburger could be a vehicle. - Mod.LL

A HealthMap/ProMED-mail map can be accessed at:

<<http://healthmap.org/promed/p/225>>.]

<http://ww4.isid.org/promedmail/subscribe.php>

B. MERS-COV - EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (63): USA, WHO

USA, 1 new infection, asymptomatic contact - Illinois

Date: Sat 17 May 2014

Source: CDC Press Release [edited]

Health140526

3. SAFETY A NOTHING OF INTEREST

4. TRANSPORTATION A. STOPPING KEYSTONE ENSURES MORE RAILROAD TANK-CAR SPILLS

Pipelines in the U.S. carry 25 times more oil than tank cars do, yet derailments are by far the biggest threat.

By Terry L. Anderson

May 13, 2014 6:43 p.m. ET

The Keystone XL Pipeline got another nail in its coffin Monday, in the form of a Senate energy vote that excluded the pipeline issue. But Keystone was already near death thanks to the Obama's administration's recent decision to ignore the evidence of a definitive government study—and instead keep listening to environmentalists' dubious claims. The upshot will be more political fires in Washington caused by train derailments in the absence of a pipeline to transport oil more safely.

After the derailment in downtown Lynchburg, Va., on April 30, approximately 30,000 gallons of Bakken crude oil burned or spilled into the James River. On May 9, a derailment north of Denver spilled another 6,500 gallons of oil, which was contained in a ditch before reaching the South Platte River. Fortunately, unlike in the 2013 derailment in Quebec where a 1.3 million-gallon spill killed 47 people and incinerated 30 buildings, no one was injured in Lynchburg or Colorado.

These and other tank-car derailments are prompting local, state and federal officials to consider various regulations to reduce the threats of such accidents, including lower train speed limits and safer tank cars. Unfortunately, few policy makers are doing sensible risk assessment.

Clearly, we are going to continue moving crude oil and petroleum products from where they are extracted to where they are needed. When considering whether to approve the Keystone XL, therefore, the question has to be: Which is safer, pipeline or rail tank cars?

President Obama's own State Department answered the comparison question plainly in February. According to the report, pipelines larger than 12 inches in diameter in 2013 spilled more than 910,000 gallons of crude oil and petroleum products—compared with 1.15 million gallons for tank cars, the worst in decades. Comparing total oil spilled makes it appear, at first glance, that pipeline and rail safety records are similar. That's only until you factor in that pipelines carry nearly 25 times more crude oil and petroleum products.

The State Department report estimates that the Keystone XL carrying 830,000 barrels a day would likely result in 0.46 accidents annually, spilling 518 barrels a year. Under the most optimistic rail-transport scenario for a similar amount of oil, 383 annual spills would occur, spilling 1,335 barrels a year.

The report is even harsher on railroads when it comes to human injuries and fatalities. It estimates that tank cars will generate "an estimated 49 additional injuries and six additional fatalities" every year, compared with one additional injury and no fatalities annually for the pipeline.

Consider the safety record of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, which includes the huge 48-inch-diameter mainline pipe carrying crude from Prudhoe Bay, 11 pumping stations, several hundred miles of feeder pipelines and the Valdez Marine Terminal. The largest oil spill in the system occurred in 1978 when an unknown person blasted a one-inch hole into a pipeline. It leaked 16,000 barrels and had no disastrous effects.

The debate over the Keystone XL vs. railcar transport can be likened to the safety of offshore vs. onshore oil production. By putting nearly 60% of potentially oil-rich onshore lands off limits, we have forced exploration and production offshore. Oil production onshore is safer than offshore just as pipelines are safer than tank cars. While the Deep Water Horizon oil spill well gushed nearly five million barrels into the Gulf of Mexico over an 87-day period beginning on April 20, 2010, a blowout in western Pennsylvania in June (while Deep Water Horizon was spilling) was capped in 16 hours and spilled only a few thousand gallons.

Similarly, pipeline spills are more easily controlled and cleaned up than are tank-car derailments. With so many railroads running along waterways and wetlands, 17-mile-long oil slicks, like the one from the Lynchburg derailment, will be more common. In contrast, the State Department reports that the Keystone XL would drill under rivers to avoid "direct disturbance to the river bed, fish, aquatic animals and plants, and river banks." Moreover, between 1992 and 2011, 40% of the liquids spilled from pipelines was recovered.

Putting the debate over the Keystone XL in this context shows the absurdity of killing the pipeline project. But the Obama administration appears determined to accept environmental arguments that the pipeline could leak (even though the likelihood is less than with rail) and that with the extraction and use of oil from Alberta, Canada's oil sands will increase global warming. On the latter point, the State Department report again is clear that net carbon emissions won't be much different with or without the Keystone XL—because the Canadian tar sands will likely be developed regardless of how the oil is transported and because trains emit more carbon dioxide than pipelines.

Whether the president and other politicians or environmentalists like it or not, oil and gas will be moved from remote areas in the north to refineries in the south, east, and west or to overseas terminals. Opponents may take smug satisfaction in raising the cost of energy and discouraging consumption, but their actions are hypocritical when it comes to saving the environment.

WSJ 14 May 2014

COMMENTS:

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2014-05-17 (MAY, 17 2014)

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

EPA: The ICECAP web site posted tough letter from New York attorney Francis Menton to EPA Administrator Regina McCarthy dated May 9, 2014. This letter discusses the basis for the proposed new source performance standards (NSPS) for carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions that power plants must meet to receive permits for operation. As proposed, the standards will eliminate the construction of any new coal-fired power plants. Both the EPA and the Department of Energy (DOE) have evaded the issue by claiming coal-fired power plants can use carbon

capture and storage (CCS), which has not been proven to be commercially viable. On May 10, TWTW linked to announcement that the Swedish government-owned power company, Vattenfall, a major European generator of electricity has abandoned its extensive research on CCS, which it had been pursuing for more than 10 years. Vattenfall abandoned a large pilot plant in 2011.

In his May 9 letter, Menton attached a February 20 letter to the Office of Management and Budget on the deficiencies of the science being used to calculate the social costs of carbon (SCC). Menton's comments on the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) as stated in the Summary for Policymakers (SPM) are of particular note.

In its discussion of the critical metric, equilibrium climate sensitivity, which is the response of the earth's climate system to increased atmospheric CO₂ and other greenhouse gases over multi-century time frame, the IPCC estimates the likely range for a doubling of CO₂ is between 1.5°C to 4.5°C, which is the same as estimated 35 years ago in the Charney report to the US National Research Council. Menton brings up a footnote in the SPM in the discussion of climate sensitivity. ***16 No best estimate for equilibrium climate sensitivity can now be given because of a lack of agreement on values across assessed lines of evidence and studies.*** Footnote 16, on now page 16 of SPM for AR5.

Menton's discussion is particularly important for the current policies being considered to counter global warming/climate change.

This footnote 16 literally means that as recently as late last year, given the scientific information available, the IPCC did not deem it possible to develop a credible "best estimate for equilibrium climate sensitivity." This statement is extremely relevant in that this climate sensitivity parameter is obviously the most important parameter to the entire SCC analysis. Mathematically speaking, what does not being able to provide a Best Estimate for the equilibrium climate sensitivity imply? First, it means that IPCC is clear that it has not been able to develop a credible subjective probability density function for the equilibrium climate sensitivity parameter. Second, it means that the IPCC admits that it does not have a credible mean, mode or median value of the equilibrium climate sensitivity parameter. In the mathematics of Decision Theory, this situation is called Complete Ignorance Uncertainty. [Boldface added]

The term "Complete Ignorance Uncertainty" does not apply to the entire AR5, which includes a great deal of excellent work. However, the SPM, written by politicians and some scientists, is a political document expressing great certainty in the general work and the conclusions. That certainty is scientifically unjustified. Policies being instituted under the uncertain science expressed in the SPM, and subsequent documents such as the US National Climate Assessment by the US Global Change Research Program, are not scientifically justified. Also not justified are the US climate expenditures of \$22.5 Billion in fiscal year 2013, as reported by the White House, particularly the some \$19 Billion going to government agencies and industries for programs claimed to prevent global warming/climate change. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/report/WG1AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf and http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/legislative_reports/fcce-report-to-congress.pdf

NCA: Last week's TWTW contained a number of comments and links to comments on the third US National Climate Assessment (NCA) by the US Global Change Research Program. The report claims that climate change is occurring and impacting all states of the United States. **This is true, no longer is much of the northern part of what is the US covered by thousands of feet of ice as it was during prior ice ages.**

The NCA performs an all-too-frequent trick in Separating Human and Natural Influences on Climate (page 8: Overview and Report Findings). The report compares runs of the climate models with natural and human factors against observations with runs of climate models that include only natural factors against observations. Of course, the combined natural and human factors outperform the natural factors only because the modelers combine both natural and human factors in creating the models. The fallacious assumption in this procedure is that the models properly incorporate all natural factors. They do not. The failure of the models to forecast the pause in temperature rise, both on the earth's surface and in its atmosphere, and the fact that the models are greatly overestimating atmospheric temperature trends demonstrate that the models do not properly incorporate natural factors. The NCA report ignores these failures. According to the White House report to Congress linked above, the US Global Change Research Program is spending about \$2.5 Billion per year. The NCA is its principal justification for existence. Would it be unreasonable to expect that such an expensive and important report contain no gross errors in logic? See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, particularly page 6 of John Christy's testimony to Congress, Challenging the Orthodoxy –NCA, and Defending the Orthodoxy.

Military Threat: A group of retired, senior military officers have formed the CNA Military Advisory Board and issued a report titled "National Security and the Accelerating Risks of Climate Change." The report presents little that is new and is largely based on the findings in the NCA and the AR5 Summary for Policymakers. As such, the report suffers from the same difficulties in science and in logic. The article in the New York Times describing the report identified that the Board is "a leading government-funded military research organization." The report claims that global warming/climate change is threat multiplier and repeats the dire litany of impending disasters all-too-familiar in government-funded reports on global warming/climate change: Conflicts over food and water, rising sea levels, vulnerable coastal regions, catastrophic weather events, etc. It claims climate change is a "catalyst for conflict." Apparently, the authors are unaware that through-out history cold periods brought on starvation, war, and pestilence.

Of course, the report emphasized expanding wind and solar power and biofuels. It did not discuss how biofuels are increasing world food prices, leading to instability. It ignored the shale oil and gas revolution and its importance of reducing US dependence on imported fuels, no thanks to the Administration. Further, it ignored how the Keystone pipeline, being blocked by the Administration, would bring oil from stable Canada, further reducing US dependence on imports from unstable regions.

The report did have a bit of unintentional humor. In the climate science section, David Titley (Rear Adm. USN Ret) wrote: "I tell people, this is cutting-edge 19th century science that we're now refining," He cited the work of Joseph Fourier, John Tyndall and Svante Arrhenius but did not bother to mention the Arrhenius thought that warming would be a good thing. See links under Expanding the Orthodoxy.

Sea Level Rise: As SEPP Chairman Fred Singer wrote in an article last July, the melting of the West Antarctic ice sheet is a factor in sea level rise. He estimated that under the current conditions the unstable ice sheet will be gone in about 7,000 years. New research indicates it may be sooner.

Unfortunately, the term “collapse” was used by the National Science Foundation, and repeated in the general press, evoking fear of human-caused global warming, which has nothing to do with it. In the time-frame used by geologists, the term “collapse” is appropriate. In the time-frame used by ordinary people, it is inappropriate and may lead to cynicism in the public.

New estimates, based on computer models created from 18 years of observations, are in the range of from 2 to 8 centuries to millennia. See Article # 1 and links under Changing Cryosphere –Land / Sea Ice.

Go Personal: The May 10, 2014 TWTW had several links announcing that noted Swedish meteorologist and modeler Lennart Bengtsson was joining Board of the Global Warming Policy Foundation, a UK-based organization, which includes many global warming skeptics. It was hoped such an action would help open-up dialogue between skeptics and the climate establishment –government funded entities that participate in the IPCC and similar reports. This week, Bengtsson announced his resignation citing the level of personal verbal attacks reached the point that he feared for his safety and his ability to continue his research. Sadly, Bengtsson’s resignation reflects the intolerance to free and open inquiry by many in the orthodoxy.

On another note, Bengtsson stated that a paper he, and others wrote, on the significant disparity between models and observations was rejected by *Environmental Research Letters*, which is published by the Institute of Physics (IOP) in the UK. An article in *The Times* states that one reviewer wrote: “**Actually it is harmful as it opens the door for oversimplified claims of ‘errors’ and worse from the climate sceptics media side.**” *The Times* article prompted the IOP to issue a strange press release that the paper did not contribute to advance science and it contained errors. According to the sarcastic analysis by Steve McIntyre, the apparent error is that models should reflect observations, which is as science demands.

There are few papers published in journals that directly address the disparity between observations and models. For climate science to advance this disparity must be addressed and, if necessary the models changed. Such a change may require a significant lowering of the estimates of the sensitivity of the climate system to increasing CO₂, jeopardizing the government funding of the entire apparatus.

On a side note, on May 15, 2013, *Environmental Research Letters* saw fit to publish the article by John Cook falsely claiming a **consensus** of human-caused global warming in the scientific literature.

On another note, Andrew Montford of Bishop Hill listed the members of the editorial board of the *Environmental Research Letters*. The editors include Peter Gleick who discredited himself by pretending to be a member of the Board of Directors of The Heartland Institute, obtaining sensitive financial information under false pretenses, and publishing it. See links under Climategate Continued, Suppressing Scientific Inquiry, and Communicating Better to the Public –Go Personal –The Bengtsson Affair.

Artificial Constraints: Articles discussing natural climate variation, including temperature reports by US government agencies such as NOAA and NASA-GISS, frequently introduce

artificial constraints on the data. Data records that go back only 30 or 40 years do not capture the natural variation of the Pacific Decadal Oscillation or the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation. Drought reports that do not go back to the 1930s are misleading as well. See Christy's testimony under Challenging the Orthodoxy and Changing Cryosphere.]

Energy and Prosperity: Ross McKittrick and Elmira Aliakbari examined the relationship between energy use and prosperity. In developing countries, such as China, it is clear that increasing energy use creates prosperity. However, in developed countries many politicians are claiming that energy use can be limited without damaging prosperity. Such limits can be introduced by unreliable forms of electricity generation, such as solar or wind or deliberately making electricity more expensive without clear health benefits, such as limiting CO2 emissions. The authors examined conditions in Canada and state:

Our examination of Canadian data leads us to conclude that energy use in Canada is not a mere by-product of prosperity, but a limiting factor in growth: real per-capita income is constrained by policies that restrict energy availability and/or increase energy costs, and growth in energy abundance leads to growth in GDP per capita. Thus, policies favouring the abundant availability of energy are important for sustaining strong economic growth, and policies that deliberately limit energy availability will likely have negative macroeconomic consequences.

See link under Energy Issues –Non-US, though the conclusions likely apply for the US as well.

Number of the Week: 49%. On May 14, the US Energy Information Administration released a report on world-wide energy consumption and production for 2012:

Consumption: China: 49% of the world's coal production. US: 11%.

Production: China: 46%. US: 12%

Measured in tons, China consumed 4.67 times the amount of coal as the US. For some reason, the above mentioned threat analysis failed to discuss such disparities. See links under Return of King Coal.

<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2014/TWTW%205-17-14.pdf>

B. SHAMELESS CLIMATE MCCARTHYISM ON FULL DISPLAY – SCIENTIST FORCED TO RESIGN

Posted on [May 14, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Climate McCarthyism: "Are you now or have you ever been a climate skeptic?"

Hans von Storch reports on an email that I also received today, but held waiting on a statement from The GWPF. Since von Storch has already published the email, breaking my self-imposed embargo, I'll add the GWPF statement when it becomes available.

(GWPF statement Added below) Update: statement from Steve McIntyre added below.

von Storch writes:

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/14/shameless-climate-mccarthyism-on-full-display-scientist-forced-to-resign/#more-109214>

C. HURRICANE DEVELOPMENT REGION SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES AS WE START THE 2014 SEASON

Posted on [May 13, 2014](#) by [Bob Tisdale](#)

IMPORTANT OPENING NOTE

Even if the sea surface temperature anomalies were to remain depressed throughout the 2014 hurricane season (highly unlikely), the actual sea surface temperatures (absolute) from June to November will rise to values capable of spawning hurricanes...a result of the normal seasonal change in surface temperatures. And while El Niño conditions in the Pacific tend to suppress hurricane development by effectively chopping the tops off the developing hurricanes (the result of wind shear in the tropical North Atlantic caused by the El Niño), hurricanes can still form and will likely do so this season.

INTRODUCTION

There are many factors that contribute to hurricane development; one is seasonally elevated sea surface temperature in the tropical North Atlantic.

The hurricane season is approaching fast. With an El Niño developing, it's likely the predictions for 2014 will be below normal for the season. Of course, the hurricane season will bring alarmist claims of strengthening storms brought on by higher-than-normal sea surface temperatures—the result of manmade global warming—even though, as Roger Pielke, Jr. reminds us, we're in [the longest drought of Category 3, 4 and 5 storms on record](#).

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/13/hurricane-development-region-sea-surface-temperature-anomalies-as-we-start-the-2014-season/#more-109086>

D. GOVERNOR 'MOONBEAM' BECLOWNS HIMSELF OVER SEA LEVEL RISE AT LAX AIRPORT

Posted on [May 13, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Proof positive politicians can't do simple math.

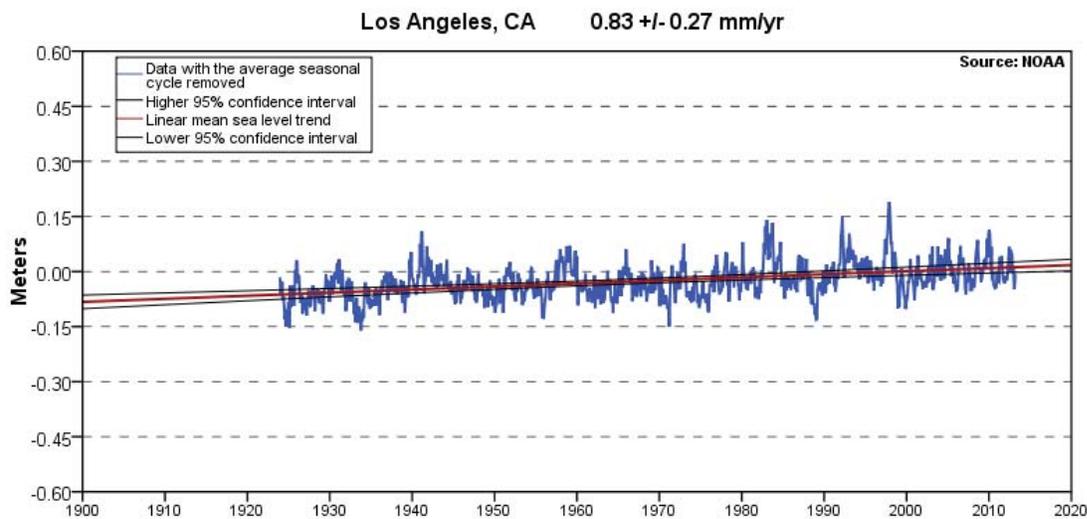
From the LA Times today (14 May 2014)

Brown's remarks came a day after the release of two studies finding that a slow-motion and irreversible collapse of a massive cluster of glaciers in Antarctica has begun and could cause sea levels to rise worldwide by four feet within 200 years.

"If that happens, the Los Angeles airport's going to be underwater," Brown told reporters at a presentation of his revised state budget proposal in Los Angeles. "So is the San Francisco airport."

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/local/political/la-me-pc-brown-sea-level-airports-20140513-story.html>

Ok let's do the math, first a look at the sea level rate from the Los Angeles tide gauge operated by NOAA:



<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/13/governor-moonbeam-beclowns-himself-over-sea-level-rise-at-lax/#more-109176>

E. UK TIMES HEADLINE TOMORROW: SCIENTISTS IN COVER-UP OF ‘DAMAGING’ CLIMATE VIEW – FULL ARTICLE

Posted on [May 15, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Uh oh, another “climategate” like moment is upon us as the law of unintended consequences kicks in. As Dr. Roger Pielke put it:

Appears that Bengtsson can play hardball too.

Plus there is an editorial by Dr. Matt Ridley saying “*This bullying of climate sceptics must end*”.

Here is the front page of The Times for Friday May 16th, a link to the article follows



Max 23C min 1C

Friday May 16 2014 | thetimes.co.uk | No 71156

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Bricks & Mortar
Making the most of a gorgeous garden

Scientists in cover-up of 'damaging' climate view

Clash over claims of slower global warming

Ben Webster Environment Editor

Research which heaped doubt on the rate of global warming was deliberately suppressed by scientists because it was "less than helpful" to their cause, The Times has learnt.

In an echo of the infamous "Climategate" scandal at the University of East Anglia, one of the world's top academic journals rejected the work of five experts after a reviewer privately denounced it as "harmful".

Liamni Bengtsson, a research fellow at the University of Reading and one of the authors of the study, said he suspected that intolerance of dissenting views on climate science was

more work be carried out "to reduce the underlying uncertainty".

The five contributing scientists, from America and Sweden, submitted the paper to *Environmental Research Letters*, one of the most highly regarded journals, at the end of last year but were told in February that it had been rejected.

A scientist asked by the journal to assess the paper under the peer review process wrote that he strongly advised against publishing it because it was "less than helpful".

The unnamed scientist concluded: "Actually it is harmful as it opens the door for oversimplified claims of 'error' and worse from the climate sceptics media side."

Professor Bengtsson resigned from the advisory board of Lord Lawson of Blaby's climate sceptic think-tank this week after being subjected to what he described as McCarthy-style pressure from fellow academics.

Lord Lawson, the former Conservative chancellor, said that the pressure exerted by other climate scientists had been appalling and the comparison with McCarthyism was "fully warranted".

The claims are a stark reminder of events at the University of East Anglia in 2009. Scientists there were accused of manipulating data and suppressing critics of global warming predictions in the run-up to the crucial Copenhagen climate change conference.

They were later cleared, though the IPCC was found to have misrepresented their research by failing to reflect uncertainties over sea temperature data.

Professor Bengtsson, the former **Continued on page 4, col 4**



Driving force: Prince Philip took the reins of a four horse carriage at the Royal Windsor Horse Show yesterday. The Duke of Edinburgh, who is 93 next month and underwent exploratory abdominal surgery last June, appeared in good health. **Page 7**

Bullying of climate sceptics must end

Matt Ridley, page 22

preventing his paper from being published. "The problem we now have in the climate community is that some scientists are mixing up their scientific role with that of a climate activist," he added.

Professor Bengtsson's paper challenged the finding of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that the global average temperature would rise by up to 4.5C if greenhouse gases in the atmosphere were allowed to double.

It suggested that the climate might be much less sensitive to greenhouse gases than had been claimed by the IPCC in its report last September, and recommended that

Ukip official gave jobs to illegal migrants

Billy Kimber

Ukip's small business spokesman has been accused of hypocrisy after his restaurant employed seven illegal immigrants last year.

Ukip have regularly attacked the government's immigration policy for allowing "bumps" numbers of foreign workers to come to the UK and failing to put "the British people first".

However, Zeak Tea Bar and Grill in Manchester, which Amjad Bashir, 61, set up with his two sons, Tayyib and Masdar, was raided by immigration officers on June 1, 2013.

Three days later, Mr Bashir resigned

as a director of the company which owns the restaurant and a sister branch in Bradford. He remains a major shareholder and has continued to take a role in the running of the restaurant.

Mr Bashir, who has also been described by Nigel Farage as Ukip's immigration spokesman, is highly likely to be elected as an MEP in next week's European poll. He shared the stage with Mr Farage in Sheffield last month as the party launched a poster campaign depicting an unemployed British worker "that hard by unlimited foreign labour".

A Home Office spokeswoman confirmed that seven people were arrested

"for a variety of immigration offences" and a civil penalty notice was served after the raid.

Those arrested were primarily waiters and bar staff and several were Pakistani and Indian nationals, according to one of the illegal workers.

The civil penalty notice served on the business carries a maximum fine of £70,000, although it is unclear what sum was levied and whether it has been paid. One of Mr Bashir's sons, Tayyib, said that they were appealing against the notice and had not yet paid a fine.

He said the restaurant conducts immigration checks on all employees **Continued on page 2, col 5**

IN THE NEWS

Traffic slows to crawl

Motorists are enduring a longer commute, with average rush-hour traffic speeds having slowed to 15.9mph in London since the end of the recession. **News, page 4**

Gove on governors

Michael Gove described school governors as touchy-feely sherry drinkers at an event to encourage more people to volunteer for the role. **News, page 7**

Cancer 'revolution'

Scientists have found evidence backing a controversial theory about the growth of cancer tumours, saying that it could revolutionise treatments for the disease. **News, page 12**

Fury at Erdogan aide

A video of the Turkish prime minister's aide kicking a protester near the mine where at least 400 men are feared dead has provoked a wave of fury. **World, pages 34-35**

Dixons Carphone hit

The City gave the merger of Dixons and Carphone Warehouse the thumbs down, wiping almost £350 million off the value of the newly formed retailer. **Business, page 43**



Here is the full article:

Scientists in cover-up of 'damaging' climate view

Research which heaped doubt on the rate of global warming was deliberately suppressed by scientists because it was "less than helpful" to their cause, it was claimed last night.

In an echo of the infamous “Climategate” scandal at the University of East Anglia, one of the world’s top academic journals rejected the work of five experts after a reviewer privately denounced it as “harmful”.

Full article at: <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/science/article4091344.ece>

Ridley’s essay:

This bullying of climate-science sceptics must end

When did demonising your opponents become so acceptable?

Lennart Bengtsson is about as distinguished as climate scientists get. His decision two weeks ago to join the academic advisory board (on which I also sit, unremunerated) of Nigel Lawson’s Global Warming Policy Foundation was greeted with fury by many fellow climate scientists. Now in a McCarthyite move — his analogy — they have bullied him into resigning by refusing to collaborate with him unless he leaves.

Full article: <http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/thunderer/article4091200.ece>

Summary here

<http://www.thegwfp.org/scientists-in-cover-up-of-damaging-climate-view/>

Don Shaw

F. SANITY CHECKING THE NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT REPORT AGAINST REAL DATA REVEALS MAJOR DISCREPANCIES

Posted on [May 13, 2014](#) by [Don J. Easterbrook](#)

Guest essay by **Dr. Don J. Easterbrook, Dept. of Geology, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA**

How well do claims and assertions in the just-released 800+-page report by the National Climate Assessment (NCA) stack up against unequivocal, real-time data? Let’s apply the scientific method, as outlined by Feynman, to the NCA report. We’ll first state each assertion made in the NCA report, then test it against real-time observation and data. The report begins with dire predictions based on computer models, so let’s start with that. Here is their assertion, based on the graph below.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/13/checking-the-nca-report-against-real-data-reveals-major-discrepancies/>

G. THE LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP OF CO₂ & PLANT PROTEIN CONCENTRATION

(Last week the Newsletter contained an article regarding loose of nutrient with increased CO₂. Here is an explanation.)

Nitrogen assimilation is inhibited by elevated CO₂ in field-grown wheat. So states the title of a paper by Bloom *et al.* (2014) that was published in *Nature Climate Change*, and which is providing delicious fodder for those who continually castigate the nefarious *air pollutant* that each of us adds to the atmosphere with every breath we exhale.

The bulk of the paper is devoted to describing a number of complexities of the multi-faceted relationship that exists between the nitrogen/protein concentrations of wheat leaves and grain, which narrative provides numerous opportunities for rather esoteric discussions of the subject.

But the ultimate result is what grows in the field and is harvested. And it doesn't take a Ph.D. biochemist to appreciate what was found in the fields that provided the data for this paper. In the words of Bloom *et al.*, "in the low-N treatment at Maricopa [Arizona], elevated CO₂ increased grain yields by 9% (Pinter *et al.*, 1997), but decreased grain protein concentrations by 11% (Kimball *et al.*, 2001), and so grain protein yields decreased by about 2%." Continuing, they say that "in the high-N treatment, elevated CO₂ increased grain yields about 16% (Pinter *et al.*, 1997), but had an insignificant effect on grain protein concentrations (Kimball *et al.*, 2001), and so grain protein yields increased about 16%," all of which suggests that a little N fertilization helps a whole lot, and that it can readily overcome whatever problem wheat plants might have in extracting nitrogen from N-deficient soils.

Last of all, Bloom *et al.* conclude by noting "breeding crops for enhanced root NO₃⁻ and NH₄⁺ assimilation has the potential to compensate for lower shoot NO₃⁻ assimilation rates and likely losses in food quality as atmospheric CO₂ rises," which they describe as an approach that "is yet untapped."

Reference

Bloom, A.J., Burger, M., Kimball, B.A. and Pinter Jr., P.J. 2014. Nitrate assimilation is inhibited by elevated CO₂ in field-grown wheat. *Nature Climate Change* 10.1038/NCLIMATE2183

Additional References

Kimball, B.A., Morris, C.F., Pinter Jr., P.J., Wall, G.W., Hunsaker, D.J., Adamsen, F.J., LaMorte, R.L., Leavitt, S.W., Thompson, T.L., Matthias, A.D. and Brooks, T.J. 2001. Elevated CO₂, drought and soil nitrogen effects on wheat grain quality. *New Phytologist* 150: 295-303.

Pinter Jr., P.J., Kimball, B.A., Wall, G.W., LaMorte, R.L., Adamsen, F. and Hunsaker, D.J. 1997. *Effects of Elevated CO₂ and Soil Nitrogen Fertilizer on Final Grain Yields of Spring Wheat*. Annual Research Report: U.S. Water Conservation Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, pp. 71-74.

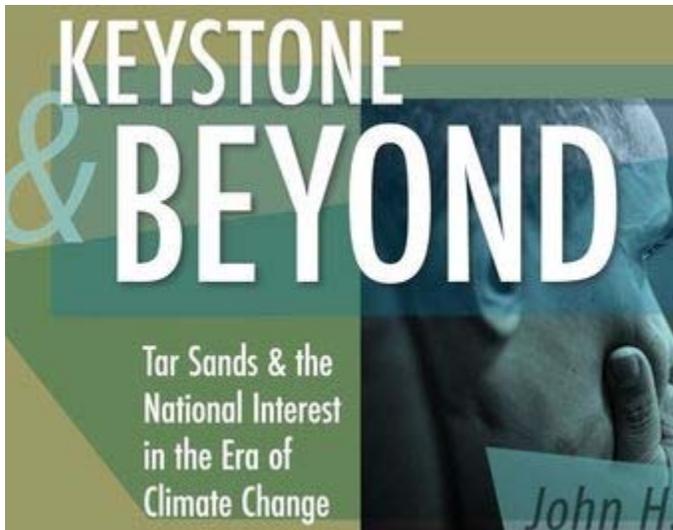
<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2014/may/14may2014a1.html>

H. KEYSTONE XL: BUSH'S NO-BRAINER, OBAMA'S DILEMMA

New book published by ICN traces pipeline's origins to earliest days of Bush-Cheney era, and shows how KXL has become a test for Obama's climate legacy.

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

May 8, 2014



Book cover credit: Catherine

Mann/InsideClimate News

✔ 109Share ✔ 1 ✔

Editor's note: Today InsideClimate News is publishing a new e-book, [**Keystone and Beyond: Tar Sands and the National Interest in the Era of Climate Change**](#).

It is [available for one week as a free download here](#).

A year in the making, the book was written by John H. Cushman, Jr. who worked in the Washington bureau of the New York Times for 27 years before joining the ICN staff.

"Keystone and Beyond" provides the most definitive account yet of the Keystone XL pipeline saga. It also upends the national debate over the pipeline by tracing its origins to policy decisions made by President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney in the first months of their administration, and to expectations about energy supply and demand that have turned out to be wrong. The result of an exhaustive re-examination of the historical record, the book is enhanced with infographics, photos, audio and video.

Below is an excerpt of the first pages of the book, [which is available for FREE on our free ICN app](#). "Keystone and Beyond" [can also be read in any web browser](#).

[Click here to get the book now](#).

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20140508/keystone-xl-bushs-no-brainer-obamas-dilemma>

and <http://insideclimatenews.org/>

David Sassoon

I. TAX CREDIT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFRONTS CONGRESSIONAL HEADWINDS

Credit: Jennifer A. Dlouhy, Energy Reporter | Houston Chronicle | May 14, 2014 | via fuelfix.com ~~

WASHINGTON — Wind energy supporters are hoping to blow past opponents in the Senate, as the chamber considers broad legislation to renew dozens of expired tax breaks — including one credited with making turbines spin in Texas.

Although the Senate began debating the broad “tax extenders” measure Wednesday, its path out of the chamber is far from clear, complicated by some Republicans’ hopes to make changes, such as doing away with an existing medical device tax or dropping the renewable energy production credit altogether.

<https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2014/05/15/tax-credit-for-renewable-energy-confronts-congressional-headwinds/>

J. HEARTLAND INSTITUTE CLIMATE EXPERTS RESPOND TO OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S CLIMATE ASSESSMENT REPORT

May 06, 2014

[James M. Taylor, J.D.](#)

The Obama administration today released its third National Climate Assessment (NCA) predicting a series of calamities and urging action on the president's climate agenda.

It stands in contrast to the conclusions of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change, which released its latest scientific reports in September and March. A third report in the Climate Change Reconsidered series is due this summer to coincide with the Ninth International Conference on Climate Change from July 7–9 in Las Vegas.

The following statements from climate policy experts at [The Heartland Institute](#) – a free-market think tank – may be used for attribution. For more comments, refer to the contact information below. To book a Heartland guest on your program, please contact Director of Communications Jim Lakely at jlakely@heartland.org and 312/377-4000 or (cell) 312/731-9364.

“This laughably misleading report is the predictable result when hard-core environmental activists are chosen to write up a climate assessment for, and subject to the approval and revisions of, the Obama administration. It is like the punch line to a bad joke: ‘How many environmental activists does it take to put together an alarmist global warming report?’

“Leading authors of this report include staffers for activist groups like the Union of Concerned Scientists, Planet Forward, The Nature Conservancy, and Second Nature. Few objective climate experts will take this report seriously. Even those scientists who are not overtly affiliated with environmental activist groups were almost uniformly on the record as global warming alarmists before being chosen to write this report. The only real surprise in the report is it didn't take the opportunity to trumpet the Union of Concerned Scientists' call for U.S. unilateral nuclear disarmament.

“It would take a whole squadron of environmental activists years to come up with the whoppers told in this report. The report falsely asserts that global warming is causing more extreme weather events, more droughts, more record high temperatures, more wildfires, warmer winters, etc., when each and every one of these false assertions is contradicted by objective, verifiable evidence. It reads like a press release from The Nature Conservancy and the Union of Concerned Scientists – probably because it essentially is a press release from The Nature Conservancy and the Union of Concerned Scientists.”

[James M. Taylor](#)

Senior Fellow for Environmental Policy

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<http://heartland.org/press-releases/2014/05/06/heartland-institute-climate-experts-respond-obama-administrations-climate->

K. THE BULLYING OF BENGTSSON AND THE COMING CLIMATE DISRUPTION HYPOCALYPSE

May 16th, 2014

Lennart Bengtsson [being bullied by colleagues](#) is only the latest example of bad behavior by climate scientists who have made a deal with the devil. They have exchanged their scientific souls for research grants, prestige, and easy access to scientific journals to publish their papers. I predict history will not treat them kindly, and the reputation of all climate scientists will be tarnished in the process. As it is, the public who pays our salaries are already laughing at us. Some of us (Christy, Lindzen, myself and others) have put up with many years of unfair treatment by a handful of activist gate-keeping colleagues who stopped our papers from being published or proposals from being funded, sometimes for the weakest of reasons.

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

Roy Spencer

L. INSIDE THE SAUSAGE FACTORY

Scientists versus diplomats at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

May 10th 2014 | [From the print edition](#) Economist

“The less people know about how laws and sausages are made, the better they sleep at night.”

That comment, attributed to Bismarck, could equally apply to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The IPCC’s reports, published every six or seven years, are immense undertakings. Each depends on the unpaid work of hundreds of scientists and runs to thousands of pages. But most of the controversy is generated at the last minute, when the authors (scientists and academics) meet government officials to produce a summary of 30 or so pages. Consider the recent report, published in Berlin on April 13th, on efforts to rein in greenhouse-gas emissions. The process was described by one participant as “exceptionally frustrating” and by another “one of the most extraordinary experiences of my academic life”. It works as follows. The authors write a draft summary. Each sentence of the draft is projected onto a big screen in a giant hall. Officials then propose changes to the text; authors decide whether the changes are justified according to the full thousand-page report. Eventually a consensus is supposed to be reached, the sentence is approved or rejected, the chairman bangs a gavel and moves on to the next sentence. In the final day of discussions in Berlin, the delegates turned to a set of figures showing emissions by countries classified by income group (rich, middle-income, etc). A group of countries, led by Saudi Arabia, said the figures should be deleted. European countries objected. The authors suggested taking the figures out of the summary but putting in a reference instead to the underlying report where the figures remain (officials may not alter the main report). The Saudis said no. The Netherlands suggested adding a footnote saying: “The Netherlands objects to the deletion of the following figures [then a list of them].” No dice. Eventually, in the early hours of the morning, Saudi Arabia got its way.

Since the report’s publication, more unseemly wrangles have come to light. Robert Stavins, a professor at Harvard University and a lead author on the chapter in the main report dealing with international co-operation, wrote to the report’s chairman “to express my disappointment and frustration”. As he pointed out, most of the delegates to the IPCC are in the middle of negotiating a treaty, intended to be signed in Paris in 2015, limiting greenhouse-gas emissions. As Dr Stavins says, “any text that was considered inconsistent with their interests and positions in multilateral negotiations was treated as unacceptable.” It was not necessary that they should all find

something objectionable. The requirement of unanimity meant one country was enough. Three-quarters of his original draft was rejected and what remains is a list of disconnected facts, not a guide to the state of knowledge.

Another professor, John Broome of Oxford University, had a little more luck with a discussion about the ethics of climate change. “Late one evening,” he writes, “the delegates formed a huddle in the corner, trying to agree text between themselves...Eventually, we [authors] were presented with a few sentences that, we were told, the developed countries would reject, and an alternative few sentences that, we were told, the developing countries would reject. We were also told that, if we simply left out the text, the developing countries would delete the whole paragraph and the previous one which would in turn cause the developed countries to delete the whole section...We counter-threatened...Eventually some brief paragraphs [survived], badly mauled and their content much diminished but not entirely empty.” He describes himself as “angry at the deletions and astonished by the process”. You can read his account [here](#).

Not everyone is so damning. Chris Field of Stanford University, who was chairman of an IPCC report on the impact of climate change that appeared just before the one in Berlin, says the process improved his findings. Dr Stavins concedes that official approval gives the IPCC political credibility. Still, as he says, having a report reviewed by officials who are themselves interested parties “created an irreconcilable conflict of interest”. The details, arguments and numbers remain in the full report. But the summary aimed at policymakers is not necessarily a good guide to them.

[From the print edition: Science and technology](#)

Nan Earle

M. , “THE VALUE OF THE EXISTING COAL FLEET” Introduction

The existing fleet of coal-fired power plants underpins economic prosperity in the U.S. Coal-based generation has dominated U.S. electricity supply for nearly a century. In 2013, coal again led U.S. generation, at 39%. Low cost coal keeps U.S. electricity prices below those of other free market nations. For example, in 2013 the average price of residential and industrial electricity in the U.S. was one-half to one-third the price of electricity in Germany, Denmark, Italy, Spain, the UK and France (see Table B.1). These price differentials translate into more disposable income for U.S. consumers, and a competitive edge for U.S. industry in global markets. If the existing coal fleet were replaced with the next cheapest alternative generating source, natural gas combined cycle power plants, a conservative estimate of the impact on the U.S. economy would be a 1.5% drop in GDP and a loss of 2 million jobs per year. Characteristics of the existing U.S. coal fleet, and its benefits to society (including employment benefits, economic benefits, and benefits to energy security and grid reliability), are discussed in Section B of this report.

The “Polar Vortex” weather events of January and February 2014 demonstrated the contribution of the existing coal fleet, including those units currently scheduled for retirement over the next 2 to 3 years, to the reliability of the U.S. electricity grid. AEP reported that it deployed 89% of its coal units scheduled for closure, and Southern Company reported use of 75% of its coal units scheduled for closure. Use of these units enabled utilities to meet customer demand during a period when already limited natural gas resources were diverted from electricity production to meeting residential heating needs. Nationwide, over 90% of the increase in power generation in January and February 2014 (versus January and February 2013) came from the existing coal fleet.

The U.S. benefits from having a diverse portfolio of electricity sources. However, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects very little new coal capacity will be built in the U.S. through 2040.¹ EIA projects that coal's share of total generation will decline from 39% in 2013 to an average of 37% for 2014-2040,² assuming current environmental regulations.ⁱ Therefore, maintaining coal's role in this diversified portfolio will likely rest on industry's ability to continue safe and economical operation of the existing fleet, while making the changes necessary to ensure continued environmental compliance.

Here is the link to an excellent report released yesterday (15 May 2014) by the National Coal Council on the topic of, "The Value of the Existing Coal Fleet" This is a very well researched report with many facts. The executive Summary is partially copied below. I think it will be interesting and useful for ASME members.

<http://www.nationalcoalcoal.org/NEWS/NCCValueExistingCoalFleet.pdf>

Dick Storm

N. A STORY OF TWO HOMES

House #1

A 20 room mansion (not including 8 bathrooms) heated by natural gas. Add on a pool (and a pool house) and a separate guest house, all heated by gas. In one month this residence consumes more energy than the average American household does in a year. The average bill for electricity and natural gas runs over \$2400 per month. In natural gas alone, this property consumes more than 20 times the national average for an American home. This house is not situated in a Northern or Midwestern 'snow belt' area. It's in the South.

House #2

Designed by an architecture professor at a leading national university. This house incorporates every 'green' feature current home construction can provide. The house is 4,000 square feet (4 bedrooms) and is nestled on a high prairie in the American southwest. A central closet in the house holds geothermal heat-pumps drawing groundwater through pipes sunk 300 feet into the ground.

The water (usually 67 degrees F) heats the house in the winter and cools it in the summer. The system uses no fossil fuels such as oil or natural gas and it consumes one-quarter electricity required for a conventional heating/cooling system. Rainwater from the roof is collected and funneled into a 25,000 gallon underground cistern. Wastewater from showers, sinks and toilets goes into underground purifying tanks and then into the cistern. The collected water then irrigates the land surrounding the house. Surrounding flowers and shrubs native to the area enable the property to blend into the surrounding rural landscape.

~~~~~  
**HOUSE #1 is outside of Nashville , Tennessee ; it is the abode of the 'environmentalist' and Democrat Al Gore. Do as I say, not as I do!**

**HOUSE #2 is on a ranch near Crawford , Texas ;  
it is the residence of the former President of the United States , George W. Bush.**  
Unonomous contributor

O.



## Week in Review

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### [Fracking's Air Pollution Drives Couple From Their Home of 23 Years](#)

KARNES COUNTY, Texas—After 23 years living on the South Texas prairie, Lynn and Shelby Buehring are looking for a new home, far from the fumes, traffic and noise of the Eagle Ford Shale boom.

[Read more.](#)

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### [Texas Judge Gives No Restitution to Citgo's Victims in Pollution Case With Wide Implications](#)

A foreign oil company convicted of polluting a Texas community's air with dangerous chemicals has gotten off easy in a criminal case that could undercut the prosecution of environmental crimes in the United States. The case revolves around Venezuelan-owned Citgo Petroleum's decade-long violation of the federal Clean Air Act at its refinery in Corpus Christi.

[Read more.](#)

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### [EPA Asked to Regulate Fracking's Toxic Air Emissions](#)

Seeking to close what a lawyer called "serious gaps" in regulation, 64 environmental and community groups on Tuesday petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to clamp down on toxic air emissions from oil and gas operations.

[Read more.](#)

[http://us2.campaign-  
archive1.com/?u=7c733794100bcc7e083a163f0&id=f10f2eb357&e=18eb1e3629](http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=7c733794100bcc7e083a163f0&id=f10f2eb357&e=18eb1e3629)

David Sassoon

## P. HOUSTON CHRONICLE EDITORIAL, 18 MAY 2014

### **PREPARING FOR WORST**

**Debating the validity of climate change is a waste of time. Debating what to do is not.**

The recent report on climate change from the U.N.-chartered Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a sober reminder that what we as individuals happen to “believe” about global warming — unless we happen to be climate scientists — has absolutely no bearing on whether the phenomenon is a vast hoax perpetrated by 99 percent of the scientific community or a looming crisis that, as the report underscores, will affect everybody on this planet.

The remainder of the Editorial can be found at **Env140526-2**

## **Q. REBUTTAL TO EDITORIAL ABOVE**

I write regarding the Houston Chronicle editorial entitled “Preparing for Worst” appearing at page B15 of the Houston Chronicle on 18 May 2014. I find the editorial interest reading, but devoid of facts and data. You include in the editorial reference to the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). The fact the Panel is sponsored by Governments suggests immediately a lack of objectivity and technical honesty. I refer the reader to the article “Inside the Sausage Factory”, found at page 79 May 10, 2014 edition of the Economist, which discusses the process used by IPCC during editing the “greenhouse gas” portion of IPCC Summary for Policy Makers on April 13th 2014.

**Env140526-3**

## **R. STUDIES: WEAKER SOLAR ACTIVITY MEANS COLDER, AND COLDER ALSO MEANS DRIER**

Posted on [May 14, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

**Guest essay by David Archibald**

There were two papers published in 2013 that, when considered together, paint a bleak picture of North American climate and agriculture for the rest of the century and beyond. Firstly from the abstract of “Multidecadal to multi-century scale collapses of Northern Hemisphere monsoons over the past millennium”<sup>1</sup> by [Asmerom et al.](#):

*“Late Holocene climate in western North America was punctuated by periods of extended aridity called megadroughts.” And “Several megadroughts are evident, including a multicentury one, AD 1350–1650, herein referred to as Super Drought, which corresponds to the coldest period of the Little Ice Age. Synchronicity between southwestern North American, Chinese, and West African monsoon precipitation suggests the megadroughts were hemispheric in scale. Northern Hemisphere monsoon strength over the last millennium is positively correlated with Northern Hemisphere temperature and North Atlantic SST.” And “the megadroughts, including the Super Drought, coincide with solar insolation minima, suggesting that solar forcing of sea surface and atmospheric temperatures may generate variations in the strength of Northern Hemisphere monsoons.”*

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/05/14/studies-weaker-solar-activity-means-colder-and-colder-also-means-drier/#more-109205>

Regards,  
George