

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

NEWSLETTER

25 AUG. 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 editor 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 : TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL FILES OBJECTION TO WATERS OF THE U.S. RULE

On August 11, 2014, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott filed a "formal objection" to the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers' proposed rule that would define the scope of "waters of the United States" protected under the Clean Water Act.

While generally objecting to the broad sweep of the proposed rule and asserting a broad expansion of federal jurisdiction and negative effects on private property, the AG's comments also focus on dry ditches and stock tanks on private property. The AG further points both to the States' traditional and primary power over land and water use and the limits of federal power under the Commerce Clause and expressly states that if the rule is not withdrawn "the State of Texas will have no choice but to challenge the rule in federal court"

Based on recent public remarks by the EPA Administrator and her General Counsel, it is apparent that EPA will modify the rule before it is finally adopted. However, a retreat to a definition that encompasses only interstate watercourses seems very unlikely.

Env140825 and 140825-1

Roger Zygmunt

B. NINTH CIRCUIT HOLDS THAT APPLICANT MUST MEET RULES IN EFFECT AT TIME OF PERMIT ISSUANCE

On August 12, 2014, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Sierra Club v. EPA* vacated the EPA's decision to grant a prevention of significant deterioration permit for the Avenal Energy Project, holding that "the Clean Air Act unambiguously requires Avenal Power to demonstrate that the Avenal Energy Project complies with the regulations in effect at the time the permit is issued" and that EPA cannot "grandfather," *i.e.* exempt, Avenal Power's application from the revised regulations.

Avenal Power submitted an application for a PSD permit for a proposed natural gas-fired facility in 2008. In 2010, during the permitting process, the EPA adopted more stringent NAAQS for

NO₂ and SO₂ emissions and revised the BACT requirements for CO₂. Despite initially requiring Avenal Power to demonstrate its compliance with the revised NAAQS, the EPA granted Avenal Power's permit in May 2011, stating that it could enforce the regulations in effect at the time the permit application was received. For background, *see* TIP 2011-155, 2011-69, 2011-27, and 2011-14.

In an opinion authored by Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen, the court rejected EPA's argument and remanded the permit to the EPA for further consideration, stating:

We cannot discern any ambiguity or conflict between the Clean Air Act's enforcement requirements, and the statutory decision making deadline. And the statute does not permit EPA to waive current NAAQS and BACT requirements whenever it finds it convenient to do so. The foregoing conclusion ends the inquiry. . . . Congress has spoken, and at least without applicable grandfathering provisions in the relevant regulations, EPA must enforce the regulations in effect at the time each Permit is issued, as the Clean Air Act clearly requires.

The court acknowledged that the EPA has exercised grandfathering authority "from time to time to exempt certain projects from newly implemented NAAQS and BACT regulations," but that this traditional grandfathering applied only to a limited set of applications, was explicitly built into the new regulations, and was implemented through formal notice and comment rulemaking procedures. The court characterized the EPA's actions with regard to Avenal's PSD permit as an "ad hoc waiver" not authorized by the Clean Air Act.

Env140825-2

Roger Zygmunt

C. API URGES EPA TO EXPEDITE 2014 RFS REQUIREMENTS

HOUSTON, Aug. 13

08/13/2014

[By OJG editors](#)

The [American Petroleum Institute](#) once again has called on the US [Environmental Protection Agency](#) to transcend its pattern of missing self-pronounced deadlines and to finalize requirements under the federal 2014 Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) as soon as possible ([OGJ Online, June 18, 2014](#)).

"EPA still hasn't finalized the RFS requirements for this year, leaving companies to guess how much ethanol they must blend into gasoline," said Patrick Kelly, senior policy advisor at API. API's call on the federal agency came as the industry group marked the 1-year anniversary on Aug. 6 of EPA's finalization of 2013 RFS requirements, which were delayed by more than 8 months.

While EPA missed its deadline for finalizing 2012 RFS requirements by only a month, its extended delay in meeting the deadline for issuing the 2013 final rule will be exceeded even further this year, with 2014 RFS final standards presently on track to be as late as 9 months or more, according to API.

"This is the longest, most unreasonable delay in a history of long, unreasonable delays when it comes to implementing the RFS under this administration," Kelly said, emphasizing that the agency has not released RFS requirements on time since 2011.

The delay, API argues, could harm consumers by driving up compliance costs for refiners and making it harder for them to produce fuels to meet US demand.

Earlier in the month, a source at EPA told OIG that the agency was still working on the 2014 RFS final standards in an attempt “to get them right” to achieve the goal of putting the RFS program “on a manageable path that supports continued, achievable, realistic growth in renewable fuels” ([OIG Online, Aug. 1, 2014](#)).

Given that federal law, however, requires EPA to finalize 2015 RFS volume requirements by the end of November, API contends the agency should be proposing those 2015 requirements instead of making the industry continue to wait for this year’s final standards.

“We urge the EPA to finalize the 2014 [RFS] rule now and start the process of finalizing the 2015 rule to meet the Nov. 30 deadline, as required by law,” Kelly said.

<http://www.oig.com/articles/2014/08/api-urges-epa-to-expedite-2014-rfs-requirements.html>

D. BOEM SEEKS COMMENT ON OFFSHORE BONDING REGULATIONS UPDATE

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management released a notice last week encouraging public comments and information on updating the decades-old bonding requirements for decommissioning offshore facilities and equipment. Acting Director Walter Cruickshank said the current rules do not correspond to “the realities of aging offshore infrastructure, hazard risks and increasing costs of decommissioning.” Comments will be accepted until midnight Oct. 20.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2014/08/15/show-them-the-money-feds-to-boost-offshore-bond-requirements/?shared=email&msg=fail>

E. TEXAS COURT DISMISSES NEGLIGENCE AND NUISANCE SUIT AGAINST EAGLE FORD OPERATORS

On August 14, 2014, a state district judge in south Texas dismissed a landowner’s negligence and nuisance suit against Marathon Oil Corporation and Plains Exploration and Production. *See Cerny v. Marathon et al.* (No. 13-05-00118-CVK, Karnes County). Plaintiffs are land and mineral owners who claimed that they suffered ill health effects and could not enjoy their home because of “noxious” air emissions from exploration and production operations. Plaintiffs sought in excess of \$1.0 million in damages for personal injuries and property damage.

In traditional and no-evidence summary judgment motions, Marathon and Plains argued that the Plaintiffs had no medical or epidemiological evidence linking emissions from oil and gas operations to alleged health effects, and that the landowners failed to account for pre-existing medical conditions that predate nearby oil and gas operations. Defendants also offered evidence that the “fixer upper” house bought by Plaintiffs had pre-existing structural issues that had not been caused by oil and gas activities and that the plaintiffs presented no proof of causation for such property damage. Marathon argued further that it could not be liable for abnormal and out of place activities because its lease with Plaintiffs specifically allowed for the operations in Karnes County, one of the largest oil and gas producing regions in the U.S.

The dismissal stands in contrast to the recent \$2.9 million judgment in the Parr case in Dallas County

Roger Zygmunt

2. TRANSPORTATION: A. REP. HARTZLER CALLS ON SENATE TO VOTE ON KEYSTONE XL BILL

Rep. Vicky Hartzler, R-Mo., on Monday urged Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., to get the Senate to vote on legislation that would advance the Keystone XL pipeline and other bills meant to create jobs and boost U.S. energy security. "It is time for the 'Do Nothing Senate' to stop its obstructionism and allow this country to get back on the road to prosperity," she said. <http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/house/214866-gop-rep-do-nothing-senate-should-vote-on-keystone>

B. NEB. COURT MAY NOT ISSUE RULING ON KEYSTONE XL CASE UNTIL 2015, LAWYERS AND GROUPS SAY

The Nebraska Supreme Court is unlikely to issue a ruling on the proposed Keystone XL pipeline route in the state until next year, as the decision could remain pending during the November midterm elections, some lawyers and groups say. The court is expected to hear oral arguments Sept. 5 in Lincoln.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/08/11/us-usa-keystone-hearing-idUSKBN0GB24820140811>

COMMENTS:

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2014-08-16 (AUG. 16 2014)

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

Discovering History? A paper by Zhengyu Liuet al. of the University of Wisconsin-Madison raises an important question. As cited in past TWTW's, observations show that there has been a general cooling since the Holocene Climate Optimum, about 8,000 to 5,000 years ago. [The paper states about 10,000 to 6,000 years ago.] There have been other warm periods in the past 10,000 years. In his presentation at the July International Conference on Climate Change, Geologist Don Easterbrook asserted that until the Little Ice Age began about 1300 AD, the climate had been 2.5 to 5.5 ° F warmer than today for about 8,500 years.

Using three climate models, Liu and his colleagues ran multiple simulations, which showed global warming over the past 10,000 years. In comments in the University press release Liu states" "Data from observation says global cooling. The physical model says it has to be warming."He asks which is right the physical observations or the models?

Published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), the difference between model results and observations are presented as a conundrum, a difficult problem which has no clear answer, a riddle. Further, the PNAS contained the following editorial comments.

*Significance: Marine and terrestrial proxy records suggest global cooling during the Late Holocene, following the peak warming of the Holocene Thermal Maximum (~10 to 6 ka) **until the rapid warming induced by increasing anthropogenic greenhouse gases.** However, the physical mechanism responsible for this global cooling has remained elusive. Here, we show that climate models simulate a robust global annual mean warming in the Holocene, mainly in response to rising CO₂ and the retreat of ice sheets. This model-data inconsistency demands a critical reexamination of both proxy data and models.*[Boldface added.]

In short, the PNAS release downplays the significance of the inconsistency between the models and observations and assumes that the recent warming was caused by greenhouse gases, chiefly carbon dioxide. This assumption is the critical issue –the influence of greenhouse gases (particularly carbon dioxide (CO₂)) on the earth's temperatures. Note that the increase in CO₂ during the Holocene was not significant, until the latter part of the 20th century.

To SEPP, there is no conundrum. Models are not necessarily representations of the physical world. If the model has not been verified and validated, there is no reason to accept that the model is an accurate representation on the physical world. No climate model has been verified and validated. In general, the climate models erroneously forecast a strong warming trend for over a decade where there has been no warming trend. This failure clearly indicates that the climate models overstate the influence of CO2 on the earth's temperatures. The climate establishment is

engaged in a mind-set that is incorrect. See links under Models v. Observations and <http://climateconferences.heartland.org/don-easterbrook-iccc9-panel-19/>

Discovering Past Discoveries: In 1939, Carl-Gustaf Arvid Rossby identified Rossby waves in the atmosphere. Variations in the waves have long been associated with hot spells and cold spells. The general pattern of wind flow is called the circumpolar vortex. As explained by H.H. Lamb in *Climate, History, and the Modern World*, copyrighted in 1982 and 1995, the circumpolar vortex is the “single great circumpolar flow of winds circuiting from west to east around the Earth over each hemisphere, mainly over the middle latitudes.” ... it “is the main flow of the atmosphere, carrying most of the momentum. The flow is never strictly circular around the pole, but exhibits more or less prominent wave-like meanders, the so-called ridges and troughs in the pattern.” These meanders are called Rossby waves and are associated with the jetstream. As Tim Ball has explained on his web site numerous times, if the Rossby waves are in a strong, U-shaped, north-south direction, (called longitudinal or Meridional), high and low pressure systems tend to remain fixed over a region of the earth for an extended period. Such stationary pressure systems intensify whatever is characteristic for the system for that region and time of year such as droughts, floods, hot spells, and cold spells, etc.

In a paper published in PNAS, members of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) claim they have strong statistical evidence that since the year 2000 the north-south Rossby waves have been “almost twice as frequent as before”, resulting in far more extreme weather events in the Northern Hemisphere. They attribute this increase to the melting of the Arctic sea ice. PIK has blamed the summer melting Arctic sea ice on human-caused global warming from CO2 emissions.

As usual, the word “before” in the phrase “almost twice as frequent as before” remains undefined. Since variations in Rossby waves have been known for decades, one must question the very short period covered by the paper.

On her blog, Jo Nova presents a chart of the annual values of the U.S. Heat Wave Index from 1895 to 2013. Since 2000, the index is not higher than the mid-1950s, and early and late 1980s. The extremely high heat index for the 1930s debunks any claimed relationship between CO2 emissions and heat waves in the US. Of course, one cannot generalize for the remainder of the Northern Hemisphere, but there is more than sufficient reason to doubt the rigor of the paper. See links under Un-Science or Non-Science? Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague? and <http://drtimball.com/2012/current-global-weather-patterns-normal-despite-government-and-media-distortions/>

CO2 Influence: Writing in *Watts Up With That*, Ed Hoskins gives a solid presentation, with good graphs, on the logarithmic relationship between CO2 concentrations and its greenhouse effect. One must be aware that, in general, the experimental research was done with dry air, which does not include the dominant greenhouse gas, water vapor. High humidity of a particular

region will reduce the influence of CO2 for that region. The vexing problems are feedbacks. The alarmists, and their models, predict net positive feedbacks. The main assertion is that a warming from CO2 will be amplified by an increase in water vapor. The skeptics assert that the net feedbacks are negative –increase in cloud cover. The feedback issue makes it difficult to determine the temperature effect of a doubling of CO2. With the current trend of no significant warming or cooling as CO2 emissions are increasing, nature seems to be supporting the skeptics. See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Disappearing in the Deep? On his web site, Roy Spencer gives a plausible explanation of how the deep ocean can warm, without an observable surface warming. This explanation is useful. But, it does not explain how a CO2 warming, which occurs in the atmosphere, can disappear into the deep oceans without being observed in the atmosphere. See link under Seeking a Common Ground.

EPA Health Issues: In March, eleven members of Congress who are health care professionals challenged the EPA for its claimed health benefits from its proposed rules on carbon dioxide emissions. Their letter has three major assertions. 1. Unilateral carbon rules will not create domestic health benefits; 2, extraordinary energy costs will diminish public health; and 3, threats to electric reliability will diminish public health. The members call for the EPA to level with the American public on public health and carbon regulations. The letter will be useful for SEPP preparing its comments on EPA incorrectly using public health as a justification for controlling energy sources and uses. See links under EPA and other Regulators on the March.

EPA Numbers: The General Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report questioning EPA's calculation of costs and benefits from seven major rules on air, water, and other environmental issues that were made final between 2009 and 2011. The process is known as Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) and the GAO suggests that the EPA did not follow Office of Management and Budget guidance for the RIA. In the view of critics, the process EPA uses is not transparent, but opaque. See links under EPA and other Regulators on the March.

EPA Ozone Rules: EPA is considering tightening its rules on ozone, which were adopted in 2008. It is now considering reducing the standards from 75 parts per billion to 60 parts per billion. The old rules are not yet fully implemented, and much of the technology needed to achieve the new standards has not been identified. The EPA asserted that the new rules will have a compliance cost of \$90 billion in 2020. A study commissioned by the National Association of Manufacturers put it closer to \$270 billion.

One can quibble about the numbers, but the direction of the regulations is clear –EPA gaining control over economic growth. Under these rules, most major increases in economic activity, other than in very rural areas will require approval by the EPA. See Article #4.

EIA Study? The Energy Information Agency (EIA) issued a report that showed little change in coal-generation of electricity through 2040. Natural gas-generation was forecast to grow the most in all sections of the country, renewable-generation to grow appreciably in the west, and nuclear-generation to be flat in all sections. The report explained that hydroelectric generation is dominant in the Pacific Northwest, (which generates power for California). According to the report, other forms of renewables will grow as well.

The report did not explain why the writers expect coal-generation will not fall in face of EPA proposed regulations that require closing of coal-fired plants and other regulations that prevent the construction of new coal-fired plants. However, the referenced source is the Annual Energy Outlook released in May 7, 2014 –before the release of new EPA CO2 regulations. See links under Energy Issues –US and <http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aeo/>

Oh’ Mann: Mr. Mann’s litigation against Mr. Steyn et al. is hitting rocks –a friend in court brief in favor of Mr. Steyn was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union and major US media organizations such as Association of American Publishers, Bloomberg, USA Today, Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times. Apparently, these organizations are becoming aware that Mr. Mann brought up major anti-freedom of speech issues in his litigation. Mr. Mann will probably find the going a bit tougher this time than the patronizing investigations by Penn State and government entities that he questionably claims exonerated him. See links under Oh’ Mann.

Wind Power: Wind power is unreliable, but that is no reason for politicians and governments not to spend money trying to deploy it. One of the latest fads is harnessing high altitude winds. The US National Science Foundation and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency are financing the mapping of high altitude winds in the hopes of harnessing them. The concept of using lighter than air devices, such as balloons, to float wind turbines in the air has been thoroughly shown to be absurd by British engineer John Brignell. Since Defense Threat Reduction Agency is involved, could it be a top-secret antiaircraft program? See link under Below the Bottom Line and <http://www.numberwatch.co.uk/cables.htm>

Number of the Week: 15 times. According to an op-ed written by the president of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, in 2012, when implementing the Mercury and Air Toxics Standards(MATS) the EPA claimed that only 4 gigawatts of capacity of coal-fired plants would be lost. Now, two years later, “U.S. is already facing the loss of 60 gigawatts of power over the next three years, the result of older coal plants' being forced to shut down because they cannot comply with the EPA's” standards. The estimate of the loss of electrical generation capacity from this rule alone has grown 15 times in two years. Many of the plants slated to be closed were needed in the extreme cold spell last winter.

The GAO report discussed above does not include this gross underestimate of costs. And some EPA officials wonder why they cannot build trust with many on Capitol Hill? See Article # 3.

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<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2014/TWTW%208-16-14.pdf>

B. CANBERRA’S COSTLY CARBON FOLLIES OUTDO EVEN THE DANES

Posted on [August 11, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Story submitted by Mike Jonas

writes Angus Taylor, MP for Hume, New South Wales, Australia.

How refreshing it is to read something written by a politician that shows that they “get it”! Some of the article follows, but first an explanation: Canberra – also known as the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) – was specially created in the early 20th century to be the capital of Australia, and that is its only reason for existence. The federal government of Australia is housed in Canberra. But Canberra itself is run by the local ACT Legislative Assembly aka the ACT

Government. When Angus Taylor refers to “Canberra” or “the ACT” in this article, he is referring to the left-wing-controlled ACT Legislative Assembly, not to Australia’s federal parliament.

Angus Taylor is a member of the Liberal Party, which is the right-of-centre party of Prime Minister Tony Abbott. Angus Taylor entered federal parliament in the 2013 election, representing the electorate of Hume which stretches from the edge of Canberra to the edge of Sydney and is roughly the area of Maryland but with a fraction of the population. Expect to hear much more of Angus Taylor in years to come.

Angus Taylor opens with:

AUSTRALIANS are learning the hard way that moral vanity comes at a high price. After many years of climate policy chaos, we know that most people want some action on climate change but they don’t want to waste money on expensive, inefficient schemes.

He then goes on to criticise the ACT’s “*plan to mandate that a dizzying 90 per cent of the ACT’s electricity supply will come from large-scale renewables by 2020*” and quotes Bjorn Lomborg to draw a parallel with “*the folly of Copenhagen’s plans to be the world’s first CO2-neutral city*“. There’s lots of downright common sense in the article, such as “*As old-style industry protection has fallen out of favour, rent-seekers are hungrily eyeing green industry subsidies.*“, “*today’s huge investment costs are hidden in tomorrow’s electricity bills*” and “*when the wind blows, ACT-sponsored wind farms will send their electricity into the NSW grid, yet the ACT will demand a reliable and constant supply in return*“.

[The article](#) in *The Australian* is paywalled, but is reproduced [here](#).

The only thing that Angus Taylor gets seriously wrong is in his last paragraph “*We need efficient, careful and well-timed emission-reduction policies.*“. What a pity that he thus spoiled an otherwise excellent article. Maybe when most people don’t “*want some action on climate change*“, this part of the narrative might change.

<http://stopthesethings.com/2014/08/05/angus-taylor-community-backlash-brewing-over-act-wind-farm-plan/>

C. BILL NYE @THE SCIENCEGUY AND AL GORE, ‘NOT EVEN WRONG’ ON CO2 ‘CLIMATE 101’ EXPERIMENT ACCORDING TO PAPER PUBLISHED IN AIP JOURNAL

Posted on [August 10, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From the department of “I told you so and I have an experiment that precedes this to prove it” comes a paper that proves Bill Nye’s faked ‘greenhouse effect’ experiment is also based on the wrong ‘basic physics’. Remember when I ripped Bill and Al a new one, exposing not only their [video fakery](#), but the fact that experiment [fails and could never work](#)? Well, somebody wrote a paper on it and took these two clowns to task.

The Hockey Schtick [writes](#):

Oh dear, [the incompetent & faked attempt by Bill Nye to demonstrate the greenhouse effect for Al Gore’s Climate “Reality” Project](#) has also been shown by a peer-reviewed paper to be based upon the wrong “basic physics” as well. According to the authors, Nye’s experiment and other similar classroom demonstrations allegedly of the greenhouse effect:

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/10/bill-nye-thescienceguy-and-al-gore-not-even-wrong-on-co2-climate-101-experiment-accoding-to-paper-published-in-aip-journal/#more-114339>

D. EARTH'S RESPONSE TO INCREASING CO2: AN EXAMPLE OF HORMESIS?

August 11th, 2014

One of the dubious assumptions undergirding the environmental movement is that the Earth was in an optimum state of health before humans arrived on the scene and screwed everything up. But this is a religious assumption...which I don't have a problem with, until it is foisted on the masses as "science".

The idea that everything humans do to the environment is bad is an emotional one, not scientific, especially when the "pollution" we are talking about (CO₂) is necessary for life on Earth.

There is a concept in toxicology called "hormesis", around since at least the late 1800s, which states that for many chemicals the biological response is actually positive at low doses, before it becomes negative at high doses. I spent some time last week with Ed Calabrese, who has published extensively on the hormesis concept (here is a [review paper](#) by him, which includes a discussion of how the hormesis concept got unfairly grouped in with the homeopathy movement).

For a very simple example, there is a wide variety of minerals necessary for human health in low doses, but which are toxic at high doses. Food and water are also necessary in low doses...but will kill you in high doses.

More generally, there is also evidence that even for chemicals which are *not* necessary in the human body, low doses can actually make a person healthier because some level of environmental stress on the body makes the body more resilient. For example, some non-zero level of bacteria and virus exposure helps keep us healthier. I'm told there has been some research that suggests that inhaling low levels of radon is beneficial..or at least benign. Physical exercise tears apart human tissue...but helps build more muscle as a response to the demands placed on the body.

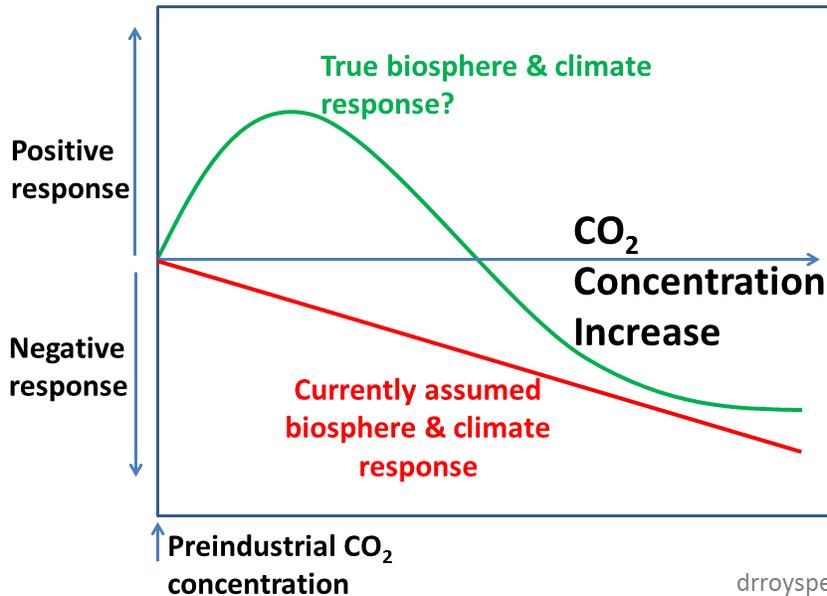
The hormesis concept is anathema to regulatory organizations such as the EPA, which want to regulate "pollution" to infinitesimally small values, no matter how many people those regulations might kill in the process. The supposed justification is linear dose-response curves which basically assume that there is no beneficial level of a "pollutant", and even that the smallest level of exposure will cause harm.

Needless to say, the possibility that low doses of many pollutants might actually be *beneficial* to human health would be a real paradigm changer in the regulatory community.

This is the basis of statistical epidemiological studies which claim thousands of deaths each year from exposure to benign things like Justin Bieber's music.

For those who like graphs, the following cartoon shows what I'm suggesting in qualitative functional form for carbon dioxide:

Possible Hormesis Response of the Earth to Increasing Carbon Dioxide



An Earth scientist who has not already sold his soul to the government regulation bureaucracy might legitimately ask, “I wonder if some level of enrichment of atmospheric CO₂ is actually a *good* thing for life on Earth?”, as suggested by the green curve in the above graph.

The straight red line (linear dose response) is, in contrast, what is usually assumed...that any increase beyond that believed to exist before humans arrived is necessarily bad for Mother Earth. But atmospheric carbon dioxide is necessary for life on Earth, and has risen from a pre-industrial concentration of only 3 parts per 10,000, to (still only) 4 parts per 10,000 today. The result has been global greening and a moderation of global temperatures (at least partly due to more CO₂, in my opinion). Theoretically expected negative impacts on severe weather and marine life have, so far, failed to reach any believable level of cause-and-effect, beyond normal natural variability. (And if you are tempted to cite statistics of a record number of whatever events, I will ask whether humans are also responsible for the recent “grand maximum” [record high sunspot activity out of the last 3,000 years](#)? Was that Bieber’s fault, too? Or maybe [Manbearpig](#)’s fault?). I’ve had plant physiologists tell me it’s almost as if nature has been sucking as hard as it can on atmospheric CO₂, and has depleted it to the point where only the hardest life forms can exist. But as we add more CO₂ to the atmosphere, nature quickly gobbles up 50% of the extra, leading to a more luxurious and robust biosphere.

So, it is reasonable from an unbiased scientific perspective to examine the possibility that more CO₂ is actually good for life on Earth...not just the biosphere, but atmospheric effects as well. After all, we’re not talking about X-rays here...we’re talking about the elixir of life, CO₂.

Is there a level beyond which more carbon dioxide would be bad? Probably...but I don’t think we know what that level would be. And, just to be on the safe side, if there was a way to stop producing CO₂ without killing millions (if not billions) of people in the process, I might be in favor of that.

But that’s simply not possible with today’s energy technologies. Renewable energy sources cannot contribute to more than 15-20% of total energy demand in the coming decades, so we are stuck with fossil fuels for the time being.

I really don't care where our energy comes from, as long as it is abundant and affordable for the world's poor. In the meantime, we need to stop thinking in simple linear dose-response terms which is contrary to so much real world experience and exists mainly to make jobs for regulators and companies that are made rich through subsidies rather than through free choice by the public. <http://www.drroyspencer.com/>

E. GLOBAL WARMING: THE INCOMPETENT POLITICIAN'S EXCUSE?

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

If you believe warmist claims, then this abandoned house in Delray, Detroit, was likely overwhelmed by global warming, just like the sewer, causing occupants to flee as "climate refugees".

Detroit blaming global warming instead of poor infrastructure maintenance.

Story submitted by Eric Worrall

The US City of Detroit is currently in the midst of a crisis – a massive rainstorm has overwhelmed the city's sewer system, causing extensive flooding.

However, Craig Covey, spokesman for Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash, has blamed global warming for the floods.

According to Covey;

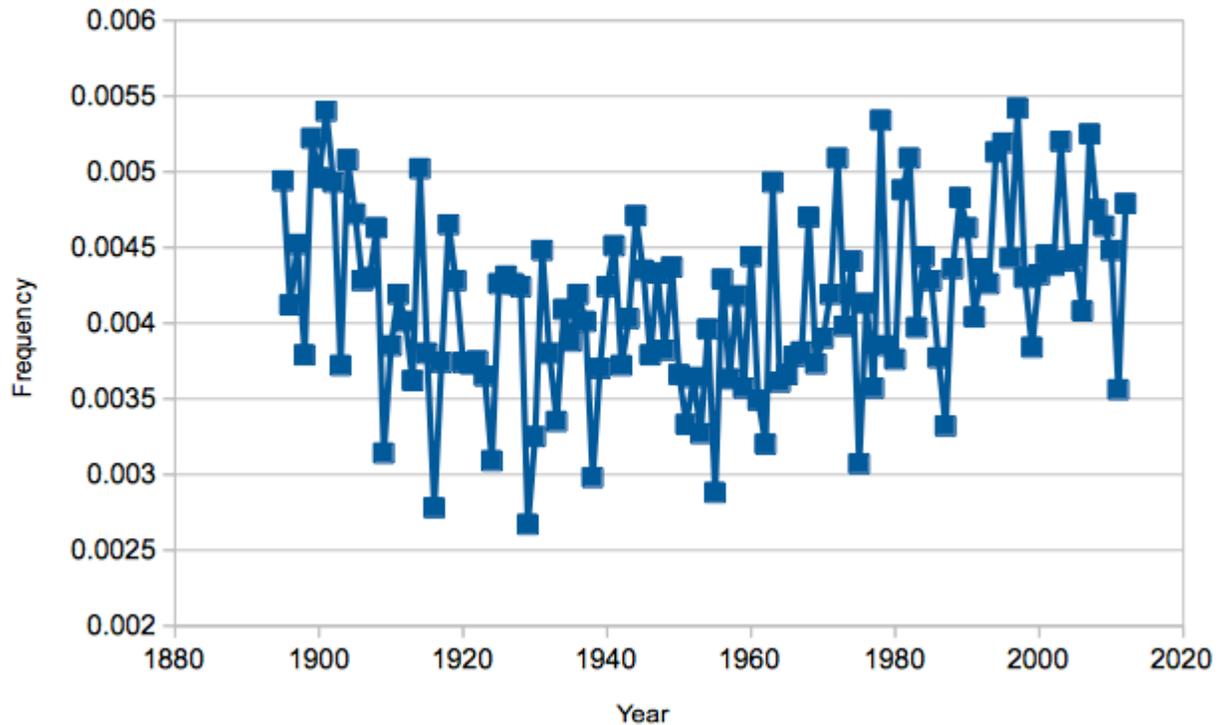
"The system worked exactly like it was supposed to, but we're seeing these rain events that used to be unusual but just aren't anymore," Covey said. "This is going to become more normal and we need to understand that '100-year storm' is an outdated term."

Covey blamed climate change, and said federal and local governments need to make major investments in infrastructure because "this is exactly what Southeast Michigan's weather is going to be like in the future."

If the people of Detroit accept the explanation that global warming is to blame for the disaster, then nobody will be looking to blame the politicians who are responsible for maintaining the city's waste water system.

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The actual rainfall data from the USHCN doesn't support the claim:

US Frequency Of Days With 2" Rainfall Events At All HCN Stations



Graph by Tony Heller from original NOAA data.

I wonder how well Detroit is keeping up with keeping the storm sewer system clear of debris?

With so much of the city in [urban decay](#), extra debris in the sewers is almost a given.

Even the [EPA says](#) regular cleaning is needed for storm water sewer systems to overflow:

Clogged drains and storm drain inlets can cause the drains to overflow...

One thing in the news recently about Detroit is the [inability of many residents to pay their water bill](#). News media seems to have missed the connection in their own headlines.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/13/global-warming-the-incompetent-politicians-excuse/#more-114432>

F. CLAIM: SEA-LEVEL SPIKES CAN HARM BEACHES WORSE THAN HURRICANE

Posted on [August 12, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

From AGU blogs:

By Alexandra Branscombe

WASHINGTON, DC – Unforeseen, short-term increases in sea level caused by strong winds, pressure changes and fluctuating ocean currents can cause more damage to beaches on the East Coast over the course of a year than a powerful hurricane making landfall, according to a new study. The new research suggests that these sea-level anomalies could be more of a threat to coastal homes and businesses than previously thought, and could become higher and more frequent as a result of climate change.

The new study found that unexpected increases in water level of a few centimeters (inches) to a half a meter (almost two feet) above the predicted high tide correlated with the loss of more than half a meter (almost two feet) of beach height on a North Carolina barrier island during 2009 and 2010. This was similar to the amount of erosion in 2010 to 2011 when Hurricane Irene – a category one hurricane with a storm surge of two meters (almost seven feet) high – swept away about a third of a meter (just over a foot) of sediment from the same beaches, according to a [new study](#) published last week in *Geophysical Research Letters*, a journal of the American Geophysical Union.

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You can read the rest [here](#). Basically this looks like a lame attempt to make king tides look like they are enhanced significantly by sea level, and make sea level an elevated issue so they can argue with North Carolina to re-enact the sea level laws [they gutted this in 2012](#). And it is a *single island*. It reminds me of the wailing over this [sand bar that disappeared](#). <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/12/claim-sea-level-spikes-can-harm-beaches-worse-than-hurricane/#more-114428>

G. RECENT HAWAIIAN TROPICAL CYCLONES – SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE ANOMALIES OF THE STORM TRACKS

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



It never fails. Hurricanes and tropical cyclones always bring out the manmade global warming alarmists, with their claims of unusually warm sea surface temperatures along the storm tracks. Of course those fictionally warmed sea surface temperatures were caused by rising CO₂ emissions. We expected and saw that nonsense when Sandy struck the east coast of the U.S. mainland back in 2012. Not unexpectedly, data contradicted the claims. See the posts [here](#) and [here](#).

The same unwarranted alarmist claims magically appeared when the two tropical cyclones (Iselle and Julio) threatened Hawaii last week. Iselle's storm track is shown on the map to the right. (Please click on it to enlarge.) I've highlighted the coordinates I've used for Iselle's storm track...before it reached Hawaii. Julio's track was similar but ran a little north of Iselle's. So, were the sea surface temperatures along Iselle and Julio's storm tracks unusually warm, and have the sea surface temperatures there warmed during the satellite era?

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/13/recent-hawaiian-tropical-cyclones-sea-surface-temperature-anomalies-of-the-storm-tracks/#more-114449>

H. SNOW HAS THINNED ON ARCTIC SEA ICE

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

From the [University of Washington](#)

From research stations drifting on ice floes to high-tech aircraft radar, scientists have been tracking the depth of snow that accumulates on Arctic sea ice for almost a century. Now that people are more concerned than ever about what is happening at the poles, research led by the University of Washington and NASA confirms that snow has thinned significantly in the Arctic, particularly on sea ice in western waters near Alaska.

A new study, accepted for publication in the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*, a publication of the American Geophysical Union, combines data collected by ice buoys and NASA aircraft with historic data from ice floes staffed by Soviet scientists from the late 1950s through the early 1990s to track changes over decades.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/13/snow-has-thinned-on-arctic-sea-ice/#more-114444>

I. THE 2014/15 EL NIÑO – PART 15 – AUGUST 2014 UPDATE – AN EL NIÑO MULLIGAN?

Posted on [August 12, 2014](#) by [Bob Tisdale](#)

Yes, I'm using the term Mulligan as in a replayed golf shot. Ocean-atmosphere processes have consumed most of the warm water in the eastern equatorial Pacific from the downwelling (warm) Kelvin wave that had crossed the Pacific earlier this year. But we recently discussed and illustrated how a pool of subsurface warm water had broken off that Kelvin wave, returned west, and has now fed back into the western equatorial Pacific—priming the equatorial Pacific once again. (See [Part 14 – Warm Water Recirculated?](#)) With that recent “restocking” of warm water in the western equatorial Pacific, it looks like Mother Nature might be giving El Niño a second chance to develop this year.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/12/the-201415-el-nino-part-15-august-2014-update-an-el-nino-mulligan/#more-114418>

J. WOODY PLANT ENCROACHMENT ON THE USA'S SOUTHWESTERN DESERT (12 AUG 2014)

Reference

Brunelle, A., Minckley, T.A., Delgado, J. and Blissett, S. 2014. A long-term perspective on woody plant encroachment in the desert southwest, New Mexico, USA. *Journal of Vegetation Science* 25: 829-838.

In the words of Brunelle *et al.* (2014), the "historic encroachment of woody plants into grassland or savanna ecosystems is observed worldwide," as they cite Archer *et al.* (2001), Morgan *et al.* (2007), Van Auken (2009), Bowman *et al.* (2010) and Bond and Midgley (2012) in this regard. Further, they state "woody plant encroachment into grassland ecosystems of the US desert southwest has been discussed in the literature since as early as the 1930s," while noting that "numerous hypotheses have been proposed to explain Madrean [pine-oak] woodland expansion across the semi-arid grasslands." In their own effort to determine the driving force behind this phenomenon, Brunelle *et al.* used fossil pollen and charcoal data obtained from wetland sediments of the Cloverdale Cienega near the upper elevation transition of grassland to woodlands in southwestern New Mexico, in order to develop "a long-term record of variations in vegetation composition and fire activity," which they compared with published data on drought, the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO), carbon dioxide concentrations and known dates of

grazing impacts to evaluate various hypotheses regarding the timing and causes of woody plant encroachment in desert grasslands."

In describing their findings, the four researchers report (1) they were "able to reject any suggestion that changes in the natural system have caused the encroachment of Madrean woodlands into the grassland communities," (2) "the expansion of Madrean woodlands into the desert grasslands is unprecedented compared to the previous 5500 years," (3) "it does not appear that climate, as represented by ENSO and PDSI [Palmer Drought Severity Index] records, is related to the exponential increases in woody taxa and charcoal production in these systems," but (4) "the contemporaneous increase in woody taxa and CO₂ concentration suggests that the increase in abundance of woody plants at ~1750 CE may be attributable to increased levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere associated with the onset of the Industrial Revolution." Such findings provide ever more evidence for earlier thoughts on the subject put forth by Idso and Quinn (1983), Idso (1992) and Polley *et al.* (1997), who described how the historical increase in the air's CO₂ content has been fostering a great *greening* of previously *not-so-green* portions of the Earth.

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- Van Auken, O.W. 2009. Causes and consequences of woody plant encroachment into western North American grasslands. *Journal of Environmental Management* 90: 2931-2942.

K. CMIP5 CLIMATE MODEL BIASES (12 AUG 2014)

Reference

Wang, C., Zhang, L., Lee, S.-K., Wu, L. and Mechoso, C.R. 2014. A global perspective on CMIP5 climate model biases. *Nature Climate Change* 4: 201-205.

In a study published in *Nature Climate Change*, Wang *et al.* (2014) report the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report "largely depends on simulations, predictions and projections by climate models," but they note that most of the models upon which they rely "have deficiencies and

biases that raise large uncertainties in their products." And, therefore, they say that over the past several *decades*, "a tremendous effort has been made to improve model performance in the simulation of special regions and aspects of the climate system." So what is the current status of the most up-to-date CMIP5 models in this regard?

After analyzing the situation, Wang *et al.* forthrightly acknowledge that sea surface temperatures or SSTs "simulated by CMIP5 models generally show too low values in the Northern Hemisphere and too high values in the Southern Hemisphere," and they say that these "annual-mean SST error magnitudes can be several degrees Celsius." In addition, they note that "misrepresentation of local processes and/or ocean-atmosphere interactions has caused some of the biases," giving as examples the *facts* that in the models there is (1) "excessive heat flux into the ocean under insufficient coverage by stratocumulus clouds (Mechoso *et al.*, 2007; Huang *et al.*, 2007)," as well as (2) "insufficient cooling by ocean transients from the upwelling regions along the eastern coasts (Colas *et al.*, 2012)." Continuing, the five researchers write that "the cold SST bias in the equatorial and tropical southwestern Pacific has been associated with [1] an excessive westward extension of the cold tongue from the eastern equatorial Pacific in association with [2] difficulties in the representation of surface winds and ocean mixing processes (Mechoso *et al.*, 2007; Davey *et al.*, 2002)." And they say that according to the study Hwang and Frierson (2013), "cloud errors over the Southern Ocean may be responsible for the generation of a spurious intertropical convergence zone south of the Equator in most CMIP5 models."

As for their own work, Wang *et al.* linked SST biases for different regions to simulations of the *Atlantic meridional overturning circulation* (AMOC), finding that (1) "improving climate models cannot be reduced to improved representation of regional processes," that (2) "much is to be done for a better understanding of the global teleconnections that ultimately affect climate model performance," and that (3) "an improvement of the simulated AMOC in climate models is needed for better climate predictions and projections."

In closing, however, Wang *et al.* warn that even if the AMOC *strength* is correctly simulated, if it is too *shallow*, "the associated northward heat transport could be too weak," which possibility, in their words, *is readily supported* by a well-known deficiency in level coordinate models that suggests that "North Atlantic Deep Water is too shallow," as indicated by the work of Yeager and Danabasoglu (2012). Clearly, therefore, the world's climate modelers still have a long and winding road to travel, in order to get to the point where *they*, or anyone else, can place any real confidence in their "simulations, predictions and projections."

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Yeager, S. and Danabasoglu, G. 2012. Sensitivity of Atlantic meridional overturning circulation variability to parameterized Nordic Sea overflows in CCSM4. *Journal of Climate* **25**: 2077-2103.

L. THE CLIMATE ENVELOPE CONCEPT IS NOT APPLICABLE TO THE REAL WORLD (13 AUG 2014)

Reference

Wieters, E.A., Medrano, A. and Quiroga, G. 2013. Spatial variation in photosynthetic recovery of intertidal turf algae from acute UVB and temperature stress associated with low tides along the central coast of Chile. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* **449: 340-348.**

Writing as background for their study, Wieters *et al.* (2013) state that "ecological consequences of punctuated, extreme climate events depend largely upon species' physiological capacity to tolerate and recover from such stressful events," but they note "physiological responses of intertidal organisms to repetitive exposure to severe conditions using natural patterns are rarely explored, and we know little about how physiological sensitivity within a species varies over local scales or among natural populations, making it difficult to extrapolate results to the naturally variable environmental conditions encountered in the field." To explore this dilemma, Wieters *et al.* simulated "realistic scenarios of the exposure of the turf-forming alga (*Gelidium chilense*) to atmospheric stressors (UVB and temperature) associated with natural mild or harsh weather conditions that occur when summertime midday low tides coincide with unusually calm seas and particularly warm, sunny days along the central Chilean coast."

Results of the study revealed (1) "sudden, short-term exposure to artificial UVB radiation during daytime low tides represents a strong stress factor for *Gelidium* turf algae as measured by the changes in maximal photosynthetic quantum yield," (2) "repetitive exposure over a period of five days, as it occurs naturally during spring-summer days, can critically compromise the ability of the fronds to recover once the stressor is removed," but in contrast (3) "while increased aerial temperature had important effects on the photosynthetic system, this source of stress had no lasting effects on the fronds' capacity to recover, nor did it modify the UVB effects on photosynthesis," and (4) "the ability of turf to recover from UVB-induced damage to the photosynthetic apparatus differed between tidal heights and among populations from different sites along the central coast."

Wieters *et al.* conclude their paper by stating their study "adds to growing empirical evidence that physiological traits that determine a species' sensitivity to environmental stress vary in a complex manner across its distributional range (e.g. Gilman *et al.*, 2006; O'Neill *et al.*, 2008; Sorte *et al.*, 2011)." And they say that the data they collected suggest that "traits that buffer turf ability to recover rapidly from acute stress events vary over meso-scales of 10s-100s of kilometers along the coast, challenging the relevance of predictive methods that view

physiological traits as fixed within a species (e.g. species distribution models, 'climate envelope')."

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Sorte, C.J.B., Johns, S.J. and Miller, L.P. 2011. Geographic variation in temperature tolerance as an indicator of potential population responses to climate change. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology* **400**: 209-217.

M. NEWSBYTES – MOST AMERICANS DON'T BELIEVE CLIMATE 'CONSENSUS', NEW SURVEY

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

From the GWPF and Dr. Benny Peiser

Despite the scientific consensus that global warming is occurring and caused by human activity, a new survey conducted for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette demonstrates that many Americans remain uncertain about the impact of climate change and the need for government action to address it. Only 41 percent of Americans believe that 'most scientists agree that climate change is happening now caused mainly by human activities.' –James P. O'Toole, [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 10 August 2014](#)

A year ago, U.S. President Barack Obama sought to mobilize the nation behind a grand plan: fight climate change by slashing carbon pollution at home, while prodding other countries to follow. A key part of that strategy was for the United States to stop using public money to finance the construction of most coal-fired power plants abroad, seen as one of the main causes of rising pollution from heat-trapping gases. But a year later, momentum has stalled on the Obama administration's plan for a global "domino effect" that would choke off financing for coal projects from public lending institutions around the world. –Anna Yukhananov and Valerie Volcovici, [Reuters, 12 August 2014](#)

In the fall of 2013, Environmental Protection Agency head Gina McCarthy testified before Congress defending the Obama administration's climate change policies – policies that have defined its second term by political calculation, rather than diplomatic or legislative achievements. But despite all the rhetoric on the issue, few nations are embracing the White House's approach, and an increasing number are doing just the opposite. Without the global participation the administration agrees is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reductions will be inconsequential. Around the world, nation after nation has declined to follow the Obama administration's lead, and those who adopted similar measures have seen devastating economic results. –Andrew Powlenny, [The Daily Caller, 11 August 2014](#)

The dispute in California over cap and trade may just be the harbinger of a wider conflict within the party nationally. Progressives shrug at the loss of these regions and the associated white working-class voters who, as the liberal website Daily Kos contended earlier this year, are just a

bunch of racists, anyway. But, at least here in California, much of the working class is made up of minorities, who are increasingly the economic victims of the enlightened ones. Essentially, you have on one side overwhelmingly white, often very-affluent greens, allied with powerful Democratic politicians, arrayed to obstruct the refinery. On the other side, you have minorities, many of them union members, whose livelihoods and high-paying jobs depend on the refinery. Many of today's progressives not only are determined to protect their privileges, but seek to limit the opportunities for pretty much everyone else. --Joel Kotkin, [New Geography, 4 August 2014](#)

China is finding it harder than it expected to unlock a shale gas boom like the one in North America, calling into question its lofty goals to use natural gas to help clean up its air and control the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. Citing complicated geology and high production costs, the Chinese government has cut its ambitious 2020 target for shale gas development roughly in half. --Mike Orcutt, [MIT Technology Review, 12 August 2014](#)

Green policies imposed by Brussels are endangering 1.5m UK jobs by saddling manufacturers with high energy costs, an influential group of business leaders has warned. A report published on Wednesday by Business for Britain (BfB), a Eurosceptic lobby group, says that EU policies are to blame for up to 9 per cent of costs on energy bills for industrial companies and warns this could rise to 16 per cent by 2030. Manufacturers are now considering moving their operations to countries where energy is cheaper, risking "devastating" job losses in the UK, it warns. --Emily Gosden, [The Daily Telegraph, 13 August 2014](#)

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/13/newsbytes-most-americans-dont-believe-climate-consensus-new-survey/#more-114454>

N. MAURICE NEWMAN, AUSSIE PM ABBOTT'S MOST SENIOR ADVISOR, ON THE DANGERS OF GLOBAL COOLING

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

Story submitted by Eric Worrall

"WHAT if David Archibald's book [The Twilight of Abundance: Why Life in the 21st Century Will Be Nasty, Brutish, and Short](#) turns out to be right? What if the past 50 years of peace, cheap energy, abundant food, global economic growth and population explosion have been due to a temporary climate phenomenon?"

This is the first paragraph of Maurice Newman's latest attack on the world's infatuation with global warming.

Maurice Newman is the Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott's most senior economic advisor – one of the first acts of the newly elected Abbott government was to appoint Maurice Newman to the chair of the government Business Advisory Council.

According to the article written by Newman;

"If the world does indeed move into a cooling period, its citizens are ill-prepared. After the 2008 financial crisis, most economies are still struggling to recover. Cheap electricity in a colder climate will be critical, yet distorted price signals caused by renewable energy policies are driving out reliable baseload generators. Attracting fresh investment will be difficult, expensive and slow.

Only time will tell, but it is fanciful to believe that it will be business as usual in a colder global climate. “

<http://m.theaustralian.com.au/opinion/were-illprepared-if-the-iceman-cometh/story-e6frg6zo-1227023489894>

If Newman is right, governments have been preparing for the wrong crisis, squandering resources which could have been used to prepare us for the coming cold. At the depths of the Little Ice Age, grain production in Northern latitudes, regions which are currently regarded as the breadbaskets of the Western World, was severely curtailed, due to shorter growing seasons and greater weather instability. And there is always the risk that a little ice age could become something worse – if the historical record is any guide, we are nearing the end of the current interglacial.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Ice_Age

Don Shaw

O. CLIMATE POLLING RESULTS LEAD TO WEIRD PRESS COVERAGE

August 13th, 2014

A recent polling of Americans on their attitudes about how much scientists know (or claim to know) about global warming, as well as what should be done about it, has led to very different treatments in the press, specifically in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, which commissioned the poll. The [PG’s editorial take](#) on the poll is that it shows that most Americans aren’t really that committed to the issue one way or the other. It suggests that the new poll questions were phrased in an unbiased manner (not assuming, for example, that global warming was a problem that needed to be dealt with), unlike previous polls claiming wide support for government action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

But the Post-Gazette also ran an op-ed by the pollster himself, who made it clear that Republicans are blind to established “facts” and only resist action on climate change because conservatives don’t like big government. The title of that op-ed made his views pretty clear: “[Not a mystery why Republicans are blind \(to\) facts on climate change](#)”.

The [poll report](#) itself is much less partisan in its comments — despite being authored by the same pollster!

The bipolar treatment by the newspaper makes the whole issue even more confusing for the reader.

But it is an interesting observation (which is widely recognized) that conservatives tend to disbelieve the supposed “scientific consensus” on global warming, and liberals tend to embrace it. The claims of ideological bias on the part of conservatives can cut both ways, of course. I can claim that liberals only believe the science because they are in favor of big government. So there. The point I keep trying to emphasize is that *not all science is created equal*. Putting a man on the moon was immensely easier than understanding what factors cause the climate system to change, and especially *by how much*. We know the average energy flows reasonably well; but climate *change* involves less than 1% changes in energy flows, and we don’t understand the system *that* well.

When climate models can’t even *hindcast* global temperature changes in the last 30-40 years — where the answer is already known — how can we rely on them for *forecasts*?

It isn’t rocket science...it’s actually much more difficult than tha

Sherman next admitted that “yes, the stations showed a slight end-to-end drop over the time they’ve run.” That was nice to see. But he then argued the very brief temperature uptick in 2011-2012 means the long-term temperature trend may end up oscillating while remaining rather flat rather than being one of long-term cooling. OK, that may or may not turn out to be the case, but where did I claim that Sherman’s admitted 10-year cooling portends a longer-term cooling trend? Which part of “Of course, 10 years is hardly enough to establish a long-term trend” was Sherman incapable of understanding? Moreover, even if a long-term oscillating temperature stagnation does indeed occur, that would also support my larger argument that the temperature data contradict claims of accelerating warming.

Sherman next claimed “Over the period show[n], six years saw temperatures above normal; only three years saw lower than normal temperatures.” Well, that may be true, but Sherman conveniently forgot to mention that most of those above-average temperatures occurred at the very beginning of the 10-year period. When a time series shows warmer temperatures at the beginning of a time period and cooler temperatures at the end of the time period, this hardly disproves the notion that temperatures were warm early in the time period.

After launching several additional character assaults, Sherman concluded by claiming, “I had first asked Heartland last week for someone to interview. Although a representative said that a person would be made available, the organization has yet to provide a name or contact information for a discussion. If and when I hear more, I’ll update this post.”

I laughed out loud when I read this final mischaracterization and disparagement. Sherman sent an email to generic Heartland Institute staff on a Friday afternoon. I guess that qualifies as “last week” in the most generous sense of the term. A more precise and less misleading way of putting it would have been, “I sent an email Friday afternoon to generic Heartland Institute staff but nobody called me back over the weekend.”

Also, Sherman claimed he sought “a name or contact information for a discussion.” Considering I wrote the article in question and he was attacking me and my article by name, I am surprised he could not identify the most appropriate “name or contact information” for a discussion. My email address is all over the Internet. Sherman could have easily contacted me directly if he desired an open and honest conversation rather than an excuse to assert the Heartland Institute was dodging him.

The long and short of it is – as Sherman admitted – U.S. temperatures have indeed declined over the past decade. The verdict still stands. All the constructed straw men in the world won’t change that, nor will Sherman’s desperate insults and character attacks. To his credit, however, Sherman finally and parasitically found his 15 minutes of fame. Nice effort, Erik.

Roy Spencer

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

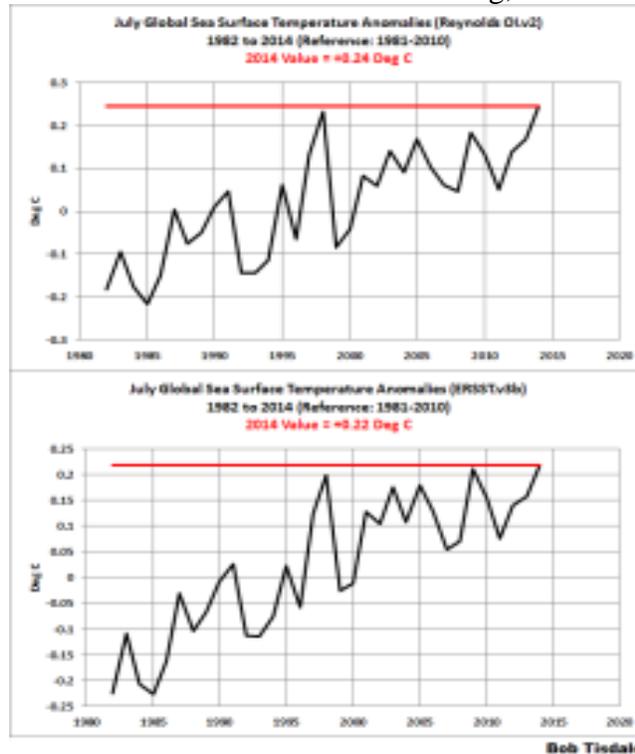
P. ON THE RECENT RECORD-HIGH GLOBAL SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURES – THE WHEREAS AND WHYS

Posted on [August 16, 2014](#) by [Bob Tisdale](#)

NOAA’s [State of the Climate Report for June 2014](#) included the bullet point under global highlights (my boldface):

*For the ocean, the June global sea surface temperature was 0.64°C (1.15°F) above the 20th century average of 16.4°C (61.5°F), the **highest for June on record and the highest departure from average for any month.***

Yikes, it sounds as though it's a manmade global warming problem. But we know that's not true because climate models doubled the warming rate of global sea surface temperatures for the past 3+ decades. So even record highs are much better than the temperatures anticipated by the latest and greatest climate models. As an advanced warning, NOAA will be making a similar statement



for July 2014.

See the graphs above. (Click for full size.) The red horizontal lines are the July 2014 values. NOAA bases their discussions on the ERSST.v3b-based data (bottom graph). The satellite-enhanced Reynolds OI.v2 dataset (top graph) serves as a reference. Yup, it's true. July 2014 global sea surface temperatures are the warmest on record, too.

In this post, we'll present which ocean basin is showing the elevated sea surface temperature anomalies, and where they're showing it, and provide what will likely be eventually reported as the reasons for those warm temperatures: strong trade winds and persistent high sea level pressures over eastern Siberia and Alaska.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/16/on-the-recent-record-high-global-sea-surface-temperatures-the-wheres-and-whys/#more-114514>

Q. A CLIMATE OF DESPAIR – CLIMATEGATE HAD MORE EFFECTS THAN WE REALIZED AT FIRST

Posted on [August 10, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Guest essay by Ed Hoskins

Using data published by the IPCC on the diminishing effect of increasing CO2 concentrations and the latest proportional information on global Man-made CO2 emissions, these notes examine the potential for further warming by CO2 emissions up to 1000ppm^v and the probable consequences of decarbonisation policies being pursued by Western governments.

The temperature increasing capacity of atmospheric CO2 is real enough, but its influence is known and widely accepted to diminish as its concentration increases. It has a logarithmic

relationship to concentration. Global Warming advocates and Climate Change sceptics both agree on this.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/15/a-climate-of-despair-climategate-had-more-effect-than-we-realize/#more-114494>

R. IRONY ALERT – WIND TURBINE INVOLVED IN PETROLEUM SPILL AT SEA

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



Walney Wind Farm under construction in 2011

Hazard to navigation?

Danish ‘Safety Ship’ OMS Pollux, leaking oil after colliding with Morecambe Bay wind turbine

A SHIP is leaking diesel after crashing into a wind turbine off the coast of Morecambe Bay. Liverpool Coastguard has been in attendance since just after 9am this morning co-ordinating the recovery of the stricken vessel which collided with part of a turbine at Walney Wind Farm.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/15/irony-alert-wind-turbine-involved-in-petroleum-spill-at-sea/#more-114490>

S. WHY ‘DENIERS’ ARE ALWAYS WRONG – MODELS CAN’T BE FALSIFIED

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

Story submitted by Eric Worrall

How do we prove climate alarmists are wrong? Let us count the ways

If the temperature goes up, this is just what the models predicted – watch out because ...

...soon it will get a lot worse. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Runaway_climate_change

If the temperature goes down, the deep ocean is swallowing the heat – even though the heat can’t be measured, we know it must be there, because that is what the climate models tell us. Global warming prevails! <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/pacific-ocean-and-climate-change-pause/>

If the global temperature crashes, its because global warming induced melting of arctic ice shut down the ocean currents. http://science1.nasa.gov/science-news/science-at-nasa/2004/05mar_arctic/

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/15/why-deniers-are-always-wrong-models-cant-be-falsified/#more-114484>

T. CLAIM: NEW ANALYSIS LINKS TREE HEIGHT TO CLIMATE

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

From the [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#), where they apparently have not heard of [Liebig's Law of the Minimum](#) since they say resources and hydraulic limitation “might” play a role. MADISON, Wis. — What limits the height of trees? Is it the fraction of their photosynthetic energy they devote to productive new leaves? Or is it their ability to hoist water hundreds of feet into the air, supplying the green, solar-powered sugar factories in those leaves? <http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/14/claim-new-analysis-links-tree-height-to-climate/#more-114480>

U. CLIMATE POLLING RESULTS LEAD TO WEIRD PRESS COVERAGE

August 13th, 2014

A recent polling of Americans on their attitudes about how much scientists know (or claim to know) about global warming, as well as what should be done about it, has led to very different treatments in the press, specifically in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, which commissioned the poll. The [PG's editorial take](#) on the poll is that it shows that most Americans aren't really that committed to the issue one way or the other. It suggests that the new poll questions were phrased in an unbiased manner (not assuming, for example, that global warming was a problem that needed to be dealt with), unlike previous polls claiming wide support for government action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

But the Post-Gazette also ran an op-ed by the pollster himself, who made it clear that Republicans are blind to established “facts” and only resist action on climate change because conservatives don't like big government. The title of that op-ed made his views pretty clear: “[Not a mystery why Republicans are blind \(to\) facts on climate change](#)”.

The [poll report](#) itself is much less partisan in its comments — despite being authored by the same pollster!

The bipolar treatment by the newspaper makes the whole issue even more confusing for the reader.

But it is an interesting observation (which is widely recognized) that conservatives tend to disbelieve the supposed “scientific consensus” on global warming, and liberals tend to embrace it. The claims of ideological bias on the part of conservatives can cut both ways, of course. I can claim that liberals only believe the science because they are in favor of big government. So there. The point I keep trying to emphasize is that *not all science is created equal*. Putting a man on the moon was immensely easier than understanding what factors cause the climate system to change, and especially *by how much*. We know the average energy flows reasonably well; but climate *change* involves less than 1% changes in energy flows, and we don't understand the system *that* well.

When climate models can't even *hindcast* global temperature changes in the last 30-40 years — where the answer is already known — how can we rely on them for *forecasts*?

It isn't rocket science...it's actually much more difficult than that.

Roy Spencer

V. NUMBER OF THE WEEK: 15 TIMES

THIS WEEK: *By Ken Haapala, Executive Vice President, Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)*

Discovering History? A paper by Zhengyu Liu et al. of the University of Wisconsin-Madison raises an important question. As cited in past TWTW's, observations show that there has been a general cooling since the Holocene Climate Optimum, about 8,000 to 5,000 years ago. [The paper states about 10,000 to 6,000 years ago.] There have been other warm periods in the past 10,000 years. In his presentation at the July International Conference on Climate Change, Geologist Don Easterbrook asserted that until the Little Ice Age began about 1300 AD, the climate had been 2.5 to 5.5 ° F warmer than today for about 8,500 years.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/17/weekly-climate-and-energy-news-roundup-146/#more-114566>

W. JUDGE THROWS OUT TEXAS FAMILY'S FRACKING POLLUTION CASE

Dismissal is in contrast to a case in which a jury awarded \$2.9 million to a family who also claimed to be sickened by fracking's emissions.

[By David Hasemyer, InsideClimate News](#)

Aug 15, 2014

Attorney Tomas Ramirez speaks at his office in Devine, Texas. Mr. Ramirez represents the Cerny family, whose case over fracking's air emissions was dismissed on August 14, 2014. He told InsideClimate News the judge's acceptance of the oil companies' argument is a mistaken interpretation of the case and of the law. Credit: Lance Rosenfield/Prime

A Texas judge has dismissed a million dollar lawsuit filed by a Karnes County, Texas, family who say their lives have been ruined by noxious emissions from oil and gas facilities near their home.

District Judge Stella Saxon apparently accepted the argument made by [Marathon Oil Corp.](#) and Plains Exploration & Production (PXP) that Mike and Myra Cerny didn't have enough medical and scientific evidence to prove to a jury that they have been sickened by oil field emissions.

Judge Throws Out Texas Family's Fracking Pollution Case

Dismissal is in contrast to a case in which a jury awarded \$2.9 million to a family who also claimed to be sickened by fracking's emissions.

[By David Hasemyer, InsideClimate News](#)

Aug 15, 2014

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20140815/judge-throws-out-texas-familys-fracking-pollution-case>

X. EMERGING SOLAR PLANTS SCORCH BIRDS IN MID-AIR

IVANPAH DRY LAKE, Calif. – Workers at a state-of-the-art solar plant in the Mojave Desert have a name for birds that fly through the plant's concentrated sun rays — "streamers," for the smoke plume that comes from birds that ignite in midair.

Federal wildlife investigators who visited the BrightSource Energy plant last year and watched as birds burned and fell, reporting an average of one "streamer" every two minutes, are urging California officials to halt the operator's application to build a still-bigger version.

The investigators want the halt until the full extent of the deaths can be assessed. Estimates per year now range from a low of about a thousand by BrightSource to 28,000 by an expert for the Center for Biological Diversity environmental group

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2014/08/18/california-weighing-bird-deaths-from-concentrated-solar-plants-as-it-considers/>

Y. HOW THE MEDIA MIS-REPRESENTS EVERYDAY SCIENCE

Posted on [August 18, 2014](#) by [Anthony Watts](#)

Joel O'Bryan writes in WUWT Tips and Notes

The LA Times has the following lead story on its webpage:

“Climate change reflected in altered Missouri River flow, report says”

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-missouri-river-20140817-story.html>

Quoting from the LA Times, “Climate shifts may be causing the disparate changes in the Missouri River Basin, the USGS report says. The scientists noted that higher stream flow in the Dakotas had occurred even as water use increased. In addition, they said, lower stream flow in some areas could be related in part to groundwater pumping.”

Parker Norton, PhD Candidate, was the lead author of the report. His USGS dissertation report is quite large (32MB) but downloadable as a PDF at:

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2014/5053/>

Parker Norton makes the following statement in the report:

“This study did not examine forcing factors that may explain the observed streamflow trends, such as climate change, climate variability, land- and water-use changes, or groundwater pumping; however, possible causes are described in the context of the need for further research.” (Page 9, under Introduction, Purpose and Scope)

I find nowhere in Parker Norton’s report any mention of the term “climate shift” as claimed by the LA Times reporter.

The only instance of the term Climate Change is the above noted on in his intro. He does use the term “climate” a total of 8 times in the body of his report (not counting the references). A review of each of the context of that “climate” term usage finds no attribution of the water shed affects to Climate change and certainly not human-induced climate change.

Conclusion: The LA Times reporter confabulated a false narrative of climate change impact from a scientific report in which no such claim was made.

Climate Change media bias clearly at work on the public opinion. I give the LA Times reporter MAYA SRIKRISHNAN Four Pinocchios on this article — Pants on Fire.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/18/how-the-media-mis-represents-everyday-science/#more-114581>

Regards
George