

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

NEWSLETTER

22 SEPT. 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 EPA SHOULD REVISE PLAN TO CUT METHANE EMISSIONS FROM OIL, GAS, SEN. INHOFE SAYS

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., on Wednesday questioned the approaches used by the Environmental Protection Agency to write white papers in proposing rules for curbing methane emissions from oil and natural gas production. Inhofe said the agency uses "outdated" information to justify the rules. "I urge the EPA to gather more information, revise the White Papers, and allow an official, robust comment period prior to engaging in any policymaking discussion that could impact the oil and natural gas industry," he wrote in a letter to Administrator Gina McCarthy.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/floor-action/senate/216707-inhofe-blasts-epa-plan-to-regulate-methane-emissions>

B. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN ASME CALL-FOR-SUBMITTALS: INNOVATIVE WATER TREATMENT AND CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES

ASME has recently chartered a Water Efficiency Guidelines (WEG) Committee to develop guidance documents to promote the efficient use of water in power and other industrial facilities. One of the WEG subcommittees under this charter is designated to develop guidelines for best practices, performance assessments and evaluation and reporting criteria for innovative water conservation, reuse and recovery technologies. In that regard, [this ASME Subcommittee on Innovative Water Conservation, Reuse and Recovery Technologies is soliciting industry input for development of a list of innovative water treatment and conservation technologies.](#) This input will be in the form of a brief (no more than two pages) narrative describing the innovative equipment and/or innovative use of existing equipment (i.e. fully operational) that should be considered by users of the ASME's guidance document. The proposed innovative technology

paper may include diagrams, photos, drawings, catalog information, or any and all information required to support the qualification of the innovative technology, system or process for the stated objectives of water conservation, reuse and recovery in industrial and power plants.

The Committee does not intend to publish or evaluate these technology submittals in this guidance document. This Subcommittee currently plans to list the names of qualified contributors in an attachment as acknowledgement of their important contribution to the development of this document. By submitting your brief, each contributor is provided the unique opportunity to ensure their innovative technology is acknowledged in this guidance document and not overlooked for inclusion in subsequent related ASME Standards.

Please submit your narrative, along with contact information, by September 25, 2014 to: Fredric J. Constantino, Project Engineer, ASME, 212.591.8684, constantinof@asme.org"

Arnold Feldman

C. THE EPA'S PHONY 'ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE' CAPER

The agency's real agenda: empire, control, and inverted justice for poor and minority families. Guest essay by Paul Driessen When it comes to energy, climate change, justice and transparency, the Obama Administration and its Environmental Protection Agency want it every possible way. Their only consistency is their double standards and their determination to slash hydrocarbon...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/08/the-epas-phony-environmental-justice-caper/>

D. INDUSTRY GROUPS LAWSUITS CHALLENGING COOLING WATER INTAKE RULE FILED IN 5TH AND 7TH CIRCUITS

On September 5, 2014, the American Petroleum Institute (API) filed a petition for review of the Existing Facility Cooling Water Intake Rule in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals and on September 8th, the Utility Water Act Group (UWAG) and Entergy filed suit in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals (where appeals to Texas based challenges are typically heard). While the petitions are the bare bones filings, API's prior comments focused on the cost of compliance and UWAG has recently focused on circularity in the rule because EPA requires new units to demonstrate the effectiveness of impingement reduction technologies in their applications for CWA permits – *i.e.* prior to operating the technology – among other details. Concerns about the Fish and Wildlife Service role under the rule have also been expressed publically by various industry representatives.

These new challenges by industry groups follow closely on the heels of suits by environmental groups filed in the First, Second, and Ninth Circuit Courts of Appeals (*see* TIP 2014-150). As previously noted, the challenges will eventually be consolidated into one lawsuit. It is not yet known which court will ultimately hear the consolidated challenge.

Roger Zygmunt

E. EPA PROPOSAL ON AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES FOR SSM ACTIVITIES

On September 5, 2014, EPA issued a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking to revise EPA policy and issue a call for state implementation plan revisions ("SIP call") to eliminate affirmative defenses for startup, shutdown, and malfunction ("SSM") activities. In part, EPA is

proposing a SIP call to remove the affirmative defenses for upsets and unplanned maintenance, startup, and shutdown activities from the Texas SIP. If the proposal is finalized, Texas and the other affected states will have 18 months to submit SIP revisions to eliminate the affirmative defenses at issue.

The proposal is described as a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking because it supplements EPA's February 2013 proposed SIP call for 36 states relating to SSM rules (described in TIP 2013-35 and TIP 2013-39). In the 2013 proposal, EPA proposed to issue SIP calls for states that had affirmative defenses for excess emissions during startup and shutdown activities, on the basis that those activities should be addressed through the permitting process. However, EPA at the time proposed to retain affirmative defenses for malfunctions, and thus made no SIP call with respect to Texas.

Since the February 2013 proposal, a federal court ruled in the context of the Portland Cement MACT regulations that EPA could not establish affirmative defenses to penalties established by statute. *Natural Resources Defense Council v. EPA*, 749 F.3d 1055 (D.C. Cir. 2014). EPA is now proposing to subject to the SIP call the SIP-approved TCEQ rule establishing an affirmative defense for unplanned startups, shutdowns, and maintenance activities. EPA's posture has thus changed since the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld EPA's approval of the TCEQ rule despite concerns similar to those articulated in the September 5 proposal (see TIP 2012-115). The comment deadline is November 6, 2014. A copy of EPA's proposal and fact sheet are attached.

Roger Zygmunt
Env140915-1&2

F. ASME WEBINAR: POWER PLANT EFFICIENCY – SAVING FUEL

In a step intended to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed improving the fuel efficiency (heat rate) of coal-fired power plants by 6 percent. The EPA is still taking comments on this proposed rule, so it's important to understand whether this plant efficiency objective is an impossible standard or maybe too easy a goal. To learn more about this issue as well as its potential impact, join industry experts in power plant design and operations for a live 90-minute webinar as part of the ongoing ASME Energy Forum series.

This webinar is focused solely on technology solutions to power plant efficiency improvement. Accordingly, this webinar will not be discussing regulatory policy.

Arnold Feldman

file:///C:/Users/test/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.Outlook/CLWKZR2U/140909_EnergyForum-PowerPlantEff.html

2. TRANSPORTATION A. COAST GUARD RULE AIMED AT REDUCING VESSEL COLLISIONS IMMINENT - EMERGING ISSUES - :COAST GUARD RULE AIMED AT REDUCING VESSEL COLLISIONS IMMINENT**

A U.S. Coast Guard Final Rule that will expand applicability of requirements for vessels to be equipped with Automatic Identification System (AIS) technology is anticipated within the next 90 days. AIS technology uses transponders and electronic chart displays to alert pilots to neighboring ships, which helps to mitigate the risk of collision and its resulting safety and environmental effects. Collision risk has increased with growing ship traffic in U.S. inland waterways, including vessels carrying record exports of petroleum and petroleum products.

Current regulations require AIS for certain large vessels and in specified Vessel Traffic Service areas. The new rule would expand AIS applicability to all U.S. navigable waters, as well as expand AIS applicability to commercial vessels 65 feet or more in length and certain other types of commercial vessels. The Coast Guard has estimated the total initial year cost to U.S. vessel owners and operators to comply with the AIS portion of the rulemaking would be \$69 million, which includes capital costs, installation, and training costs. To further facilitate ship tracking, the rule would also expand the applicability of Notice of Arrival and Departure requirements when a vessel is departing for a foreign port or place.

A Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for this regulation was published in 2008 and several public meetings took place in 2009. *See* 73 Fed. Reg. 76295 (Dec. 16, 2008). The Final Rule is currently undergoing review by the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), which is the final review prior to publication and generally takes less than 90 days.
Roger Zygmunt

COMMENTS:

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2014-08-30 (AUG. 30 2014)**

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

A Hint of Desperation? The synthesis report of UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) has been leaked to friendly media organizations such as Bloomberg and the New York Times. The IPCC schedule has the discussion of the report and approval during a meeting in Copenhagen from October 24 to October 31, 2014. (During the Copenhagen meeting, on October 26, the future work of the IPCC will be discussed.) The schedule has the presentation and distribution of the synthesis report from December 3 to December 14. One question about the timing of the leak quickly arises: is the IPCC trying to influence the US election on November 4?

Based on comments from journalists who are friendly with the IPCC, the synthesis report is more strident than past reports. Seth Borenstein of the Associated Press wrote:

Global warming is here, human-caused and probably already dangerous —and it's increasingly likely that the heating trend could be irreversible, a draft of a new international science report says.

There is little in the report that wasn't in the other more-detailed versions, but the language is more stark and the report attempts to connect the different scientific disciplines studying problems caused by the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and gas.

"Continued emission of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and long-lasting changes in all components of the climate system, increasing the likelihood of severe, pervasive and irreversible impacts for people and ecosystems," the report says.

According to the publicly available atmospheric temperature data compiled by the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), there has been no warming trend for over a decade. Surface data show no warming for about 17 years.

We now have more than 30 explanations for the failure of the earth to warm. Many explanations have come from members of the Climate Establishment that have benefited from the IPCC and the enormous expenditure of funds from countries such as the United States. Many of these explanations suggest causes of natural climate change that the IPCC failed to consider in its AR5 Summary for Policymakers.

Yet, in addressing the trend of no warming, Andy Revkin wrote: *“What’s firmly established is that the climate is warming, that the buildup of human-generated heat-trapping greenhouse gases is contributing substantially to the warming ...”*

Alarmists are announcing greater certainty in the work, without bothering to ask the central question. How can we know it was CO2 in the recent past, if it isn’t CO2 now? The only answer seems to be appeal to authority, in this case the IPCC. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy and http://www.ipcc.ch/scripts/_calendar_template.php?wg=8

IPCC Illogic I –Circular Reasoning: When studying algebra many learned that when presented with an equation such as $A+B=10$, it is impossible to determine the value of A without knowing the value of B. Similarly, it is impossible to determine the value of B without knowing the value of A. In the AR5 Summary for Policymakers, the IPCC tries to get around this simple logic problem by using models to solve for the values of A & B simultaneously. [Assume A is human influences on climate and B is natural influences on climate and that the calculated values are 7 and 3, respectively.] This creates another problem. The models have not been verified and validated, how does one know that the calculated values are correct?

At this point the IPCC engages in circular reasoning. If A, equal to 7, is removed from the equation, an absurd result occurs, namely $3 = 10$. However, a similar absurd result occurs regardless of the values of A and B, as long as the sum of A and B equals 10. The value of A or B must be determined empirically.

Andrew Montford points out another major issue with these presentations. The variations in temperature data have been obfuscated (smoothed) by using decadal averages. As statistician Matt Briggs insists, smoothing time series data can dramatically fool the researcher into being more certain about the final results than warranted by the data. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

IPCC IllogicII: The current trend of no global warming has prompted Richard Betts of the UK Met Office to discount the value of climate models for public policy by claiming they are useful for short-term regional projections but not for long-term global projections. Betts is one of the lead authors of IPCC AR5, working group 2, which “assesses the vulnerability of socio-economic and natural systems to climate change, negative and positive consequences of climate change.” Andrew Montford in Bishop Hill, and Bob Tisdale in WUWT, demolish the argument by Betts. It is the fear of long-term global warming, based on projections from the faulty models, that drives funding of the Climate Establishment. See links Models v. Observations and http://www.ipcc.ch/working_groups/working_groups.shtml

IPCC IllogicIII: An article by Alex Morales in *Bloomberg* on the leaked synthesis report stated:

The pace of temperature increases slowed to about 0.05 of a degree per decade from 1998 through 2012 from 0.12 degrees per decade for the longer period spanning from 1951 to 2012. The IPCC said 111 out of 114 climate models predicted a greater warming trend than was observed from 1998 to 2012. And for the period from 1984 to 1998, most models showed less warming than was finally recorded, they said.

Over longer periods, the climate models seem to be more accurate. From 1951 to 2012, “simulated surface warming trends are consistent with the observed trend,” the IPCC researchers said. If models cannot make short-term forecasts, there is no logical reason to assume they will be successful at making long-term forecasts. As pointed out by Bob Tisdale, the models show increasing warming trends later in the 21st century than in the early part of the century. (These trends are 0.23 Deg C/Decade 2000 to 2033, 0.27 Deg C/Decade 2034 to 2066, 0.31 Deg C/Decade, 2067 to 2100.) See links under Defending the Orthodoxy and Model Issues.

Is the Trend of No Global Warming Caused by humans? Examination of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) graph of Monthly Global Lower Troposphere Anomaly from December 1978 through July 2014 can prompt such a question. After discounting the strong El Niño year of 1998, there is little warming until about 2002-2003, when a jump (step) in temperatures occurred. There is no clear trend thereafter, particularly if one discounts the El Niño year of 2010. The late 20th century warming appears in the surface record, which is subject to many human influences other than carbon dioxide.

Fred Singer, and others, have suggested that the surface records exaggerate late 20th century warming, whatever the reason. If so, then the current period of no warming may be an adjustment to this record. See <http://nsstc.uah.edu/climate/2014/july2014/graph072014.png>

Avoiding Congress on Climate: Section 2.2 of the Constitution of the United States contains the following: “He [the President] shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur...” There is nothing stopping President Obama from submitting the Kyoto Protocol to Congress for approval as a Treaty except his realization it would be an embarrassing failure.

According to reports President Obama has given up on extending the Kyoto Protocol or seeking a Treaty. The Administration is trying to devise a binding agreement for the US without the approval of Congress. Many of those who question the quality of the science used by the EPA to declare that greenhouse gas emissions, mainly carbon dioxide, endanger public health and welfare were disappointed that the Federal Courts turned a blind eye to the poor quality of the science. Will the courts turn a blind eye to this apparent effort to ignore Congress and the Constitution? See links under Problems in the Orthodoxy.

EROI: In the August 23 TWTW, unreliable solar and wind power to produce electricity, which cannot be stored on a commercial scale, were identified as luxury goods. They are expensive goods that are not needed in a modern society. This week Andrew Montford is blunter. These renewables cannot sustain civilization. Montford links to a study by John Morgan, posted on the Energy Collective, covering the Energy Return On Invested (EROI) for various types of energy technologies. According to studies, modern civilizations such as Germany and the US require an EROI of about 7. Needless to say, wind and PV solar do not make the grade. Although one can quibble about the numbers, the report is sobering and should be considered when one is faced with promises blowing in the wind. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Capital Intensive –Green Jobs: The International Energy Agency, proponents of renewable energy, has published a new report of the mid-term future of renewable energy to 2020.

Newspapers covering the publication reported largely what they thought was promising news for renewables. However, the report was not so optimistic, unless governments keep policies of mandating and subsidizing renewables. An interesting paragraph in the press release:

The annual report highlights the potential energy security implications of energy use for heat, which accounts for more than half of world final energy consumption and is dominated by fossil fuels. But the contribution of renewables to meet heating and cooling needs remains underdeveloped, with more limited policy frameworks compared with the electricity and transport sectors. Although modern renewable energy sources are expected to grow by almost 25% to 2020, their share in energy use for heat[ing] rises to only 9%, [of the total] up from 8% in 2013.

The electricity from solar and wind is not there when needed the most.

The report did recognize that, generally, renewables are capital intensive, thus provide few permanent “green jobs.” So much for the green jobs myths promoted by politicians. See links under Energy Issues Non-US

Electricity Efficiency: Bureaucrats at the US Department of Energy and European Union are busily determining the desired energy consumption of ordinary appliances used by households. Unfortunately, less energy consumption for the bureaucrats means less efficiency in the appliance for the user. More human work! Drying clothes outside in the sun consumes less electricity than in a clothes dryer –even if it is winter and below freezing. John Brignell has succinct comments on this effort.

The effort by the Department of Energy was funded, in part, by \$16.8 Billion in the so-called 2009 stimulus bill. And the politicians do not know why the stimulus failed? See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, EPA and other Regulators on the March, and Washington’s Control of Energy

Missing Emails: US Internal Revenue Service Commissioner John Koskinen told Congress he had “moved heaven and earth” in his effort to recover emails by Lois Lerner detailing her efforts to deny special tax status to organizations that appeared to be political opponents to the Administration. The tax status was customarily granted to political supporters of the Administration. It appears that moving heaven and earth was not necessary. The US government has a comprehensive back-up system.

Recovery of missing emails may give some EPA officials discomfort. Efforts to uncover emails from EPA officials with members of green organizations have been thwarted. Perhaps they may reveal questionable relationships. Only time will tell. See links under Litigation Issues

Streams & Water bodies: The EPA is contemplating expanding its powers under the Clean Water Act. Opponents claim the EPA will be using the Act to seize effective control of vast amounts of private land. EPA denies this, but who would have thought that after Congress failed to pass cap-and-trade, the EPA would embark on controlling carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants? Given this regulatory overreach of the EPA, there is no reason to believe that the EPA does not have designs on controlling private lands

The Republican Chairman of the House Science Committee released one such map. Among the portions that stand out is that the dry Southwest is virtually covered with intermittent and ephemeral (short-lived) streams. See links under EPA and other Regulators on the March.

Iceberg Ride: Professional adventurer and motivational speaker Alex Bellini has announce that to draw attention to global warming (and himself) he will live on an iceberg off the coast of Greenland. TWTW is not impressed. He no doubt will have appropriate food and equipment, much of it made from petroleum products.

If Mr. Bellini desired to impress, he could try to replicate Captain Tyson's marvelous drift. Abandoned on a small ice flow with few provisions and limited equipment, starting October 16, 1872 Tyson's party drifted about 1800 miles from Northwest Greenland through the Davis Strait to off the coast of Labrador where they were picked up on April 30, 1873. There were 18 survivors including 5 children. They had no proper lamp, let alone 20th century equipment. They survived on game the Inuit hunters caught—eating flesh and fat, often without cooking. Yet, without fresh fruits or vegetables, let alone modern vitamin pills, the party made it without noticeable scurvy, the most common killer of sailors during the voyages of discovery. That would be a real adventure. See link under Below the Bottom Line.

Number of the Week: 67%: EPA Air Quality Trends, 1980 to 2012, show that combined amount of six pollutants in the air has declined by 67% from 1980 to 2012; 72% from 1970. The pollutants are carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter (10) and sulfur dioxide. Several issues become obvious. One, any studies to justify new regulations using data that are older than say, 10 years, are obsolete. And, two, asthma cases have increased as the air has become cleaner. EPA has no justification to claim that new regulations will reduce asthma cases. Yet, EPA administrator Gina McCarthy claimed that *"In just the first year these standards go into effect, we'll avoid up to 100,000 asthma attacks and 2,100 heart attacks —and those numbers go up from there."* See links under EPA and Other Regulators on the March and <http://dailycaller.com/2014/08/27/epa-chief-co2-regulations-are-about-justice-for-communities-of-color/#ixzz3C03Uxu24>
<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2014/TWTW%208-30-14.pdf>

B. MATT RIDLEY IN THE WSJ: WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GLOBAL WARMING?

[Anthony Watts](#) / [1 day ago](#)

Now come climate scientists' implausible explanations for why the 'hiatus' has passed the 15-year mark. By MATT RIDLEY

JOURNAL

On Sept. 23 the United Nations will host a party for world leaders in New York to pledge urgent action against climate change. Yet leaders from China, India and Germany have already announced that they won't attend the summit and others are likely to follow, leaving President Obama looking a bit lonely. Could it be that they no longer regard it as an urgent threat that some time later in this century the air may get a bit warmer?

In effect, this is all that's left of the global-warming emergency the U.N. declared in its first report on the subject in 1990. The U.N. no longer claims that there will be dangerous or rapid climate change in the next two decades. Last September, between the second and final draft of its fifth assessment report, the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change quietly [downgraded](#) the warming it expected in the 30 years following 1995, to about 0.5 degrees Celsius from 0.7 (or, in Fahrenheit, to about 0.9 degrees, from 1.3).

Even that is likely to be too high. The climate-research establishment has finally admitted openly what skeptic scientists have been saying for nearly a decade: Global warming has stopped since shortly before this century began.

First the climate-research establishment denied that a pause existed, noting that if there was a pause, it would invalidate their theories. Now they say there is a pause (or "hiatus"), but that it doesn't after all invalidate their theories.

Alas, their explanations have made their predicament worse by implying that man-made climate change is so slow and tentative that it can be easily overwhelmed by natural variation in temperature—a possibility that they had previously all but ruled out.

When the climate scientist and geologist Bob Carter of James Cook University in Australia wrote an [article](#) in 2006 saying that there had been no global warming since 1998 according to the most widely used measure of average global air temperatures, there was an outcry. A year later, when David Whitehouse of the Global Warming Policy Foundation in London made the same [point](#), the environmentalist and journalist Mark Lynas [said](#) in the New Statesman that Mr. Whitehouse was "wrong, completely wrong," and was "deliberately, or otherwise, misleading the public." We know now that it was Mr. Lynas who was wrong. Two years before Mr. Whitehouse's article, climate scientists were already admitting in [emails](#) among themselves that there had been no warming since the late 1990s. "The scientific community would come down on me in no uncertain terms if I said the world had cooled from 1998," wrote Phil Jones of the University of East Anglia in Britain in 2005. He went on: "Okay it has but it is only seven years of data and it isn't statistically significant."

If the pause lasted 15 years, they conceded, then it would be so significant that it would invalidate the climate-change models upon which policy was being built. A [report](#) from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) written in 2008 made this clear: "The simulations rule out (at the 95% level) zero trends for intervals of 15 yr or more."

Well, the pause has now lasted for 16, 19 or 26 years—depending on whether you choose the surface temperature record or one of two satellite records of the lower atmosphere. That’s according to a new statistical [calculation](#) by Ross McKittrick, a professor of economics at the University of Guelph in Canada.

It has been roughly two decades since there was a trend in temperature significantly different from zero. The burst of warming that preceded the millennium lasted about 20 years and was preceded by 30 years of slight cooling after 1940.

This has taken me by surprise. I was among those who thought the pause was a blip. As a “lukewarmer,” I’ve long thought that man-made carbon-dioxide emissions will raise global temperatures, but that this effect will not be amplified much by feedbacks from extra water vapor and clouds, so the world will probably be only a bit more than one degree Celsius warmer in 2100 than today. By contrast, the assumption built into the average climate model is that water-vapor feedback will treble the effect of carbon dioxide.

But now I worry that I am exaggerating, rather than underplaying, the likely warming.

Full story [here](#).

Don Shaw

C. PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE EDITORIAL CALLS THE IPCC ‘CLIMATE-CLUCKING CHICKEN LITTLES’

[Anthony Watts](#) / [10 hours ago](#) [September 5, 2014](#)

Slowly, sanity is returning as witnessed by this pragmatic editorial on Sept 2nd:



The world’s loudest climate-clucking Chicken Littles foresee grain harvests diminishing, Greenland’s ice sheet melting, sea levels rising and extreme weather increasing. And there’s less time than ever to head off disaster by submitting to IPCC orthodoxy.

But even the loudest clucking can’t drown out contrary facts. U.S. temperatures haven’t risen in a decade. Global temperatures have been flat for 17 years. Prior warming was within natural variability. The IPCC’s main greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide, isn’t a pollutant. And humanity’s

climate impact is negligible, so top-down “solutions” are pointless and economically harmful, as shown by Australia repealing its carbon tax in favor of voluntary clean-energy incentives.

Read more: <http://triblive.com/opinion/editorials/6687117-74/climate-ipcc-clucking#ixzz3CVUkgOb7>

D. OOPS! OBAMA ADMINISTRATION DIETARY RECOMMENDATIONS MAY BE TIED TO INCREASED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

From the University of Michigan, everything you eat is bad for GHG’s apparently, so only eat what the government says. Oh, wait. ANN ARBOR—If Americans altered their menus to conform to federal dietary recommendations, emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases tied to agricultural production could increase significantly, according to a new study by University of Michigan...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/05/oops-obama-administration-dietary-recommendations-may-be-tied-to-increased-greenhouse-gas-emissions/>

E. GOOD NEWS FROM A NEW REPORT: EFFECTIVE CLIMATE AGREEMENT NOT LIKELY

From the Research Council of Norway According to a group of Norwegian researchers, the prospects for achieving an effective international climate treaty are poor. The measures that are politically feasible are ineffective and the measures that would be effective are politically infeasible. In the project “The nature, design and feasibility of robust climate agreements,” researchers...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/05/good-news-from-a-new-report-effective-climate-agreement-not-likely/>

F. GLOBAL TEMPERATURE UPDATE – NO GLOBAL WARMING FOR 17 YEARS 11 MONTHS

... or 19 years, according to a key statistical paper. By Christopher Monckton of Brenchley | The Great Pause has now persisted for 17 years 11 months. Indeed, to three decimal places on a per-decade basis, there has been no global warming for 18 full years. Professor Ross McKittrick, however, has upped the ante with...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/04/global-temperature-update-no-global-warming-for-17-years-11-months/>

G. PAST TEMPERATURE IN GREENLAND ADJUSTED TO FIT NEW THEORY

From the University of Copenhagen – Niels Bohr Institute (BTW, the phrase “Past temperature in Greenland adjusted” in the headline is their choice of words, not mine.) One of the common perceptions about the climate is that the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, solar radiation and temperature follow each other – the more...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/04/past-temperature-in-greenland-adjusted-to-fit-new-theory/>

H. ANALYSIS: SOLAR & WIND POWER COSTS ARE HUGE COMPARED TO NATURAL GAS FIRED GENERATION

Ed Hoskins has done an analysis of cost ratios, and no matter what your viewpoint of economics might be, the numbers here don't lie. Without being propped up by subsidies, solar and wind aren't even in the race as their competitiveness leaves them at the starting line while cheap natural gas (aided by fracking) runs...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/06/analysis-solar-wind-power-costs-are-huge-compared-to-natural-gas-fired-generation/>

I. Fracking's Wastewater, Poorly Understood, Is Analyzed for First Time

A [new study](#) in the journal *Environmental Science: Processes and Impacts* offers one of the most comprehensive analyses yet of what's in a type of waste called produced water, a poorly understood and controversial byproduct of fracking.**

J. PHOENIX FLOODING – NOT DUE TO ‘CLIMATE CHANGE’, EXTREME RAINFALL EVENTS ARE NOT ON THE INCREASE

Ah the alarmists are out in full force today over a rainstorm. The Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix reported 2.96 inches of rain before 8:30 a.m. local time, beating the old record of 2.91 inches on Sept. 4, 1939. Parts of Interstate 10 were flooded, with the morning rush hour just beginning. Schools closed for...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/08/phoenix-flooding-not-due-to-climate-change-extreme-rainfall-events-are-not-on-the-increase/>

K. NEW PAPER: FRAUD, BIAS & PUBLIC RELATIONS – THE 97% ‘CONSENSUS’ AND ITS CRITICS

[Anthony Watts](#) / [23 hours ago](#) [September 8, 2014](#)

Claims of 97% consensus on global warming depend on research described as fraudulent and biased

London, 8 September: A new briefing note published today by the Global Warming Policy Foundation examines claims made by a great many commentators across the world, including President Obama and Ed Davey, of an overwhelming consensus on climate change. These depend on research that has been subject to public and entirely unrebutted allegations that it is fraudulent.

Although the authors of the research claim to have shown that most climate change papers accept that mankind is responsible for the majority of recent warming, in fact the underlying study shows no such thing.

One senior climatologist described the paper as ‘poorly conceived, poorly designed and poorly executed’. Another researcher called it ‘completely invalid and untrustworthy’, adding that there was evidence of scientific fraud.

Andrew Montford, the author of the paper, said: “It has now been shown beyond doubt that the claims of a 97% consensus on climate change are at best misleading, perhaps grossly so, and possibly deliberately so. It’s high time policymakers stopped citing this appalling study.”

Full paper (pdf) – [Fraud, Bias And Public Relations: The 97% ‘Consensus’ And Its Critics](#)

L. QUOTE OF THE WEEK – REALITY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER**

One of the biggest issues facing climate science today is the divergence of reality (observations) from the model output. The draft image from IPCC AR5 (seen below) clearly illustrates this as does the analysis done by Dr. Roy Spencer. WUWT regular Tom Trevor wrote this short paragraph in comments, and it seemed prescient to me,...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/08/28/quote-of-the-week-reality-is-in-the-eye-of-the-beholder/>

M. HIGH INCREASES FOR ATMOSPHERIC CO2 IN 2013 – BUT THERE’S STILL NO WARMING

While CO2 has increased to “record” levels, the pause in global temperature continues. Via AP: Figures released Tuesday by a United Nations advisory body reveal that 2013 saw new recorded highs for both carbon dioxide and methane, as well as the largest year-over-year rise in carbon dioxide since 1984, reflecting continuing worldwide emissions from human...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2014/09/09/study-shows-record-high-increases-for-atmospheric-co2-in-2013-but-theres-still-no-warming/>

The increased atmospheric CO2 concentration without atmospheric temperature increase conclusively proves global warming is not caused by CO2 atmospheric concentration. GHH

N. U.N. SAYS CARBON DIOXIDE POLLUTION HIT RECORD

By John Heilprin ASSOCIATED PRESS

GENEVA — Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere reached a record high in 2013 as increasing levels of man-made pollution transform the planet, the U.N. weather agency said Tuesday.

The heat-trapping gas blamed for the largest share of global warming rose to global concentrations of 396 parts per million last year, the biggest change in three decades, the World Meteorological Organization said in an annual report.

That’s an increase of 2.9 ppm from the previous year and is 42 percent higher than before the Industrial Age, when levels were about 280 parts per million.

Based on the current rate, the world’s carbon dioxide pollution level is expected to cross the 400 ppm threshold by 2016, said WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud. That is way beyond the 350 ppm that some scientists and environmental groups promote as a safe level and which was last seen in 1987.

Developing economies

CO2 emissions are growing mainly in China and other large developing countries as their economies expand. So far developed and developing countries have failed to reach a binding pact that would curb emissions globally. The goal of U.N. climate talks is to deliver such an agreement next year.

Concentrations of CO2 build up over time because it stays in the atmosphere for decades. So even if emissions stopped today, it would take many years before concentrations dropped significantly.

Top climate scientists are now becoming increasingly skeptical that countries across the globe will meet the voluntary goals they set at the 2009 Copenhagen climate summit of limiting global warming to about 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit above preindustrial levels.

‘Time is not on our side’

In a draft report last month, the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said it is looking more likely that the world will shoot past that point and by mid-century temperatures will increase by about another 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit compared to temperatures from 1986 to 2005. And by the end of the century that scenario will bring temperatures about 6.7 degrees warmer, it said.

“We know without any doubt that our climate is changing and our weather is becoming more extreme due to human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels,” Jarraud said. “Time is not on our side, for sure.”

To address the challenge, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has invited heads of state and other leaders to a Sept. 23 climate change summit in New York on the sidelines of the annual U.N. General Assembly.

The WMO report Tuesday said the rate of ocean acidification, which comes from added carbon absorbed by oceans, “appears unprecedented at least over the last 300 million years.”

Between 1990 and 2013, carbon dioxide and other gas emissions caused a 34 percent increase in the warming effect on the climate, the report said.

The warming effect, or “radiative forcing,” measures the net difference between the sunlight that the Earth absorbs and the energy it radiates back into space. More absorption leads to higher temperatures.

Note the article is devoid of any comparison of CO2 concentrations and current physically measured atmospheric temperature. Also, the article does not say the current temperature has risen due to increased CO2. See Item M above. GHH

Houston Chronicle 10 Sept 2014, page A4.

Regards
George