

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

NEWSLETTER

19 JAN. 2015

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:

ENVIRONMENT: A. GOP SENATOR URGES EPA TO PULL EXISTING POWER PLANT REGULATIONS

By [Tim Devaney](#) - 01/06/15 12:25 PM EST

Senate Republicans are wasting no time going after the Environmental Protection Agency on the first day of the new GOP-controlled Congress.

Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) [wrote](#) to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy on Tuesday, demanding she withdraw a controversial regulation targeting emissions at existing power plants.

Republicans consider the proposed emission limits the most controversial part of the Obama administration's so-called "war on coal."

The rule would raise energy costs for consumers and hurt the economy, Thune said.

<http://thehill.com/regulation/228602-senate-republican-urges-epa-to-withdraw-existing-power-plant-regs>

Roger Zygmunt

B. NEBRASKA RULING UPHOLDS KEYSTONE XL ROUTE

WASHINGTON — A [split decision](#) by the Nebraska Supreme Court on Friday upholds the route Keystone XL would take through the state and boosts pressure on President Barack Obama to decide the fate of the proposed pipeline.

Because the Nebraska court fractured over whether critics of a law allowing swift approval of a new route through the state had legal standing to challenge it, the panel did not reach a substantive decision on the facts of the case. That left a lower court ruling and the challenged law in place.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2015/01/09/nebraska-ruling-upholds-keystone-xl-route/>

Don Shaw

C. LOW GAS PRICES NOT AN ARGUMENT FOR A CARBON TAX

Almost before consumers began to reap the benefits of lower gasoline prices after a decade of pain at the pump, climate humbugs and their political lackeys started hinting now would be a good time for carbon or gasoline taxes.

My response: There is never a good time for bad public policy!

Astute political observer Marlo Lewis of the Competitive Enterprise Institute explains the benefits of lower fuel prices and why carbon taxes are both unnecessary and harmful to people and the economy.

Fuel prices are down largely because of the fracking revolution. Prices are currently below \$50.00 per barrel for the first time in six years, with gasoline selling for less than \$2.20 a gallon, one-third below its price in January 2014. As to the benefits, Lewis reports:

AAA: Americans saved \$14 billion on gasoline in 2014 compared to 2013, with many drivers saving \$15–\$30 every time they fill up, compared to a year ago.

Bloomberg: “Plunging fuel prices will free up as much as \$60 billion over the next year that the consumer can spend on a fall jacket, a movie ticket or just more groceries.” That was in October, when gas prices were still north of \$3.00/gal.

WSJ: Falling gas prices will give consumers the equivalent of a \$75 billion tax cut. The tax cut is progressive because low-income households pay a larger share of earnings on energy.

“Households earning less than \$50,000 annually spent around 21% of their after-tax income on energy in 2012, up from 12% in 2001, according to analysts at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.”

NPR: If current gas prices continue, the typical household will have an extra \$1,500 to save or spend in 2015. Already, “The average American is seeing a much bigger boost from falling gas prices than from pay raises. Cheap energy could finally put the U.S. economic recovery over the top.”

Good news? Not for climate alarmists. Low gasoline prices are the goose that laid the golden egg for the economy, so naturally climate alarmists and their fellow travelers want to kill it.

In *The Washington Post*, Harvard economist Lawrence Summers argued, “Oil’s swoon creates the opening for a carbon tax.” What!!!!??

Lewis points out companies mining, drilling, processing, refining, delivering, and using carbon-based energy already pay lots of taxes: “ExxonMobil, for example, paid \$31 billion in corporate income taxes in 2012 and more than \$1 trillion in total taxes during 1999–2011, paying \$3 in taxes for every \$1 in profits.” Those companies also pay tens of billions of dollars in backdoor taxes via their compliance with various regulations specific to energy exploration, production, and distribution.

The majority of these taxes and regulatory costs are passed on to consumers. Federal and state gasoline taxes alone account for 49.28¢ per gallon on average, equivalent to nearly \$50 per ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Taxes are a drag on the economy in two ways. First, by raising the cost of production, they reduce the capital available for productive activities – in general, as the cost of an activity rises, businesses (and people) do less of it. Second, these taxes leave less disposable income in consumers’ pockets – and when they spend less, the economy declines.

Even worse, low-income people and those on fixed incomes suffer most from energy price hikes, like those that would result from carbon taxes. They spend a greater share of their incomes on fuel, foods, and medicines – essentials made possible and accessible by energy – than do the relatively well-off. It’s almost funny – not in a “ha, ha” way – how regularly progressives propose policies that hurt the poor the most. With the way energy poverty is robbing the future of the poorest people in the world, we should be encouraging more oil and gas use, not less.

There is no good case for a carbon tax and Lewis sums up why:

- American energy is not undertaxed or under-regulated.
- Carbon taxes are regressive and would be piled on top of existing taxes and regulations rather than replace them.
- Even a very aggressive carbon tax imposing trillion-dollar costs on the economy would have no discernible climate impact.
- Consumers are finally getting a break from high gasoline prices. Having endured years of energy-price windfall losses, they should now be allowed to enjoy windfall gains.

I couldn't have said it better myself.

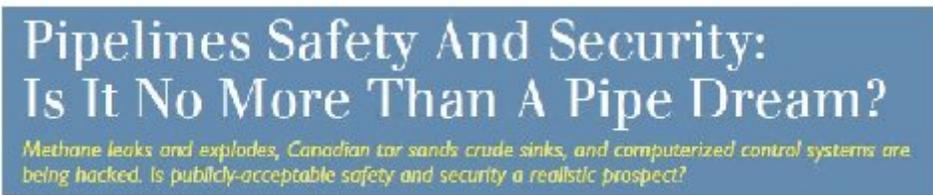
<http://www.globalwarming.org/2015/01/06/oils-swoon-is-not-an-argument-for-carbon-taxes/>

D. OBAMA PUSHES NEW METHANE LIMITS FOR GAS DRILLING, INDUSTRY SAYS 'ENERGY RENAISSANCE' AT RISK

The Obama administration pushed new regulations Wednesday aimed at cutting methane emissions from the natural gas sector, calling the proposed rules a needed step to address global warming as industry groups warned the move would threaten "America's energy renaissance." Relying once again on the Clean Air Act, the rules -- the first of their kind -- join a host of others that President Obama has ordered in an effort to slow global warming despite opposition in Congress that has only hardened since the midterm elections,

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/01/14/white-house-reportedly-plans-new-regulations-aimed-at-curbing-methane-emissions/?intcmp=latestnews>

SAFETY: A:



By Trudy E. Bell (Copyright 2014 Trudy E. Bell)

It suggests that many of the methane "leaks" occur in the Local Distribution Systems (i.e., beyond the City Gate where the transmission companies transfer custody). I personally don't think many leaks occur in the transmission phase, and also not many in upstream operations. Gas is vented occasionally, of course, from conventional stock tanks and sometimes when a well is "blown down" in initially unloading after, say, a frac job until the flow stabilizes enough to be put through the separators.

The author says that with pipelines carrying dilbit (e.g., Keystone PL), when a spill occurs the diluent evaporates quickly -- making an explosion hazard but also leaving behind heavy gunk. This may make a mess on the ground or sink to the bottom of rivers, but as J_Frank mentioned on this listserv some months ago, it's unlikely to penetrate deeply enough to contaminate fresh water aquifers.

Finally there's mention of SCADA systems being hacked into by terrorists (or I suppose, even industrial sabotage?). My son-in-law works for a small dotcom that has installed some anti-virus software on SCADA systems -- initially electricity generating and transmission systems.

<http://seekingalpha.com/article/2788275-a-giant-gas-well-confirms-deep-utica-potential?ifp=0>

Irving Smith

B. DUPONT WORKERS HAD BEEN EXPOSED TO POTENTIALLY LETHAL CHEMICAL FOR YEARS, RECORDS SHOW

Plant released unsafe levels of gas for years, records show

By [Lise Olsen](#)

January 12, 2015 Updated: January 12, 2015 10:24pm

DuPont reported regular malfunctions with a multimillion-dollar exhaust and ventilation system inside its La Porte pesticide plant that exposed workers to potentially dangerous fumes for years before a catastrophic release killed four there on Nov. 15, public records obtained by the Houston Chronicle reveal.

The rate of methyl mercaptan released on the day of the accident - 23,000 pounds in a single morning - was far above anything DuPont predicted for routine maintenance activities.

But it appears that no one ever alerted officials with the Occupational Health and Safety Administration about smaller but still significant levels of the toxic gas that DuPont reported releasing during troubleshooting activities for the last six years, according to reports filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Those amounts indicate workers involved in maintenance at the pesticide plant since 2008 could have been exposed to levels of methyl mercaptan far above those that OSHA has deemed unsafe, based on information about the plant, procedures and DuPont's own disclosures.

Sam Mannan, director of Texas A&M University's Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center, said a regular exchange of information about toxic releases could have saved lives.

"These maintenance emissions that you're pointing to ... if we looked at them earlier, we might have been able to find the problem and fix the problem before four had to die," he said.

TCEQ has cited DuPont for dozens of emissions violations at the La Porte plant, records show.

Terry Clawson, a spokesman for TCEQ, said if agency officials identify "a potential concern that is beyond our jurisdiction, we contact the appropriate local, state or federal agency, such as OSHA."

But there's no record that TCEQ or anyone else filed a complaint that prompted an OSHA inspection. Prior to the deaths, OSHA had not inspected DuPont's plant since 2007, records show. Both agencies are investigating the deaths, along with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Chemical Safety Board.

DuPont refused comment on its workers' potential exposure to methyl mercaptan during maintenance activities prior to the deaths.

"Considering individual issues in isolation or speculating can lead to inaccurate conclusions," DuPont spokesman Aaron Woods said. "DuPont is committed to maintaining the integrity of ongoing investigations. To that end, it is premature for us to comment or provide additional information outside of these processes."

Three bodies were found on the third floor of the Lannate unit in La Porte, an area where DuPont employees were regularly assigned to physically open up pipes to clear gelatinous or liquid clogs to keep the insecticide manufacturing process and its pollution-cleaning systems functioning properly.

Maintenance work was ongoing the day of the accident, and liquid-clearing activities were typically done inside the building without supplied air or respirators, according to written testimony U.S. Chemical Safety Board Chairman Rafael Moure-Eraso submitted to a congressional committee last month.

U.S. Rep. Gene Green, whose district includes much of the Houston Ship Channel and has received briefings on the ongoing investigations, told the Chronicle that it appears to him that the company's line-clearing procedures likely violated OSHA's process safety management standard. Federal work safety standards include developing protocols to protect workers during maintenance procedures involving hazardous chemicals.

Even at extremely low and non-harmful levels, methyl mercaptan stinks, and workers may have gotten used to that smell, often compared to rotten cabbage.

Potentially lethal

Methyl mercaptan can kill humans at levels over 1,000 parts per million, medical experts have found, though studies are based on research involving mostly rats and mice. DuPont performed one of the most recent animal studies, an EPA-funded scientific report published in 2013 shows. At far lower levels, the toxic can cause eye irritation and unconsciousness. There have been isolated reports of organ damage, comas and deaths of workers in industrial accidents involving methyl mercaptan, which is used in paper-making, pesticides, jet fuel and some West Texas oil gas wells.

But the La Porte culture did not emphasize those potential dangers, according to Gilbert Tisnado, a former DuPont employee who lost two sons in the accident. Killed were Gilbert and Robert Tisnado, Wade Baker and Crystle Wise.

Laurence Pearlman, another process safety expert and consultant who is a partner in Oliver Wyman in Chicago, told the Chronicle that, in general, company officials sometimes fail to adequately prepare for such a large release because they see it as the equivalent of a 100-year flood, something unlikely to occur in their lifetimes.

"If you think it can happen, you tend to be more rigorous," he said.

Lannate, a pesticide, is made inside a towering, ill-lit building at the La Porte plant, where reactors and tanks are enclosed and toxic waste gases are supposed to be routed to an incinerator and scrubber on the roof to protect the environment.

But repeatedly, the pipes and vents inside the unit have gotten clogged over the years with unwanted liquids. During line-clearing activities, DuPont's plant managers have reported that as much as 3 pounds of methyl mercaptan leaks out in an hour, according to documents filed with state environmental regulators in 2009 and 2010.

At that rate, in an hour, as much as 600 ppm of that toxic gas could have filled a room where workers generally cleared clogs - if the room was poorly ventilated, given the enclosed design of the antiquated plant and the estimated size of the third-floor rooms where maintenance often occurred.

OSHA guidelines say workers should not be exposed to an average of more than 10 ppm of that toxic during a workday.

The National Institutes of Occupational Safety and Health recommends workers be exposed to no more than .5 ppm.

The actual level of exposure to workers during DuPont's maintenance activities, however, would vary depending on the location of the clog, the size of the room and how quickly the gases released were vented to the atmosphere, said Peter Dooley, one of two industrial hygienists who reviewed the estimates and the related documents at the Chronicle's request.

Public records do not indicate how maintenance emissions were monitored.

Workers had complained for months that the ventilation fans atop the Lannate unit where the employees died were out-of -service, according to preliminary information the CSB has released to Congress.

Chronic problems

DuPont's own maintenance emission reports, filed with the TCEQ, reveal chronic problems that should have prompted additional monitoring, protection and training for workers long before the accident occurred, Dooley and Mannan both said.

Mannan, the Texas A&M expert, said that DuPont should have, at the least, required more monitoring and respirators to protect workers given the toxic releases associated with maintenance activities but also should have considered engineering solutions to eliminate risks. DuPont's records show clogs persisted even after the company reported to the TCEQ that it spent \$18 million on upgrades to the unit, a project that, according to public records, included new ducts, pipes and a scrubber in 2010-2011.

Dooley, a safety and health project consultant for the National Council on Safety and Health, said it appears DuPont's actions fell short.

"Every indication points to that the right protections were not in place and that the facility wasn't prepared to deal with possible exposures from maintenance operations," he said.

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/DuPont-workers-had-been-exposed-to-potentially-6010262.php#/0>

ASME: A. NEW ASME PERFORMANCE TEST CODES (PTC'S) COMMITTEES

ASME has started 2 new PTC committees for:

- **Concentrated Solar Panels (PTC 52)**
- **Energy Storage Systems (PTC 53)**

1. PTC 52 will provide procedures, methods, and definitions for the performance testing of the solar- to-thermal conversion systems, i.e., Solar Fields, and thermal energy storage systems associated with Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) plants. It is intended that accurate instrumentation and measurement techniques shall be used to determine the following performance results: Thermal Power Output of Solar Field; Thermal Energy Production of Solar Field; Solar Energy Conversion Efficiency; Heat Transfer Fluid (HTF) System Parameters; and Auxiliary Load. This Code will also provide procedures for the calculation of the performance results.

2. PTC 53 will provide uniform test methods and procedures for the determination of the performance of energy storage systems used in electric power applications. The Code will provide a quantifiable method to compare performance across technology platforms. This Code will provide explicit methodologies for the determination of the following performance results:

Energy Performance; Energy Storage Loss; Ramp Rate; Roundtrip Energy Efficiency; Energy Release Response Time; and Stored Energy Capacity.

The Code committees are looking for knowledgeable people (both inside and outside ASME) to participate on each Committee. If you are interested or have questions please feel free to contact Fred Constantino at:

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COMMENTS:

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2015-01-10 (JAN. 10, 2015)

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

Fooling Nature? Before the UN Climate Conference in Peru in December, several US government agencies, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies (NASA-GISS), guessed at the average global temperatures for 2014, stating 2014 will be the hottest year on record. They guessed wrong. As discussed in last week's TWTW, atmospheric temperature measurements by satellites, confirmed by weather balloons, are the only comprehensive global temperature measurements existing. One of the two atmospheric temperature reporting entities, Remote Sensing Systems, reported that 2014 was not the hottest year ever (since 1978, when satellite measurements began), only the sixth warmest. This week, the other reporting entity, the Earth System Science Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, reported that 2014 was the third warmest since 1979, barely edging out several other years such as 2002, 2005, and 2013. Contrary to forecasts by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), particularly the highly influential Fourth Assessment Report (AR-4) in 2007, it has been over a decade since there has been any statistically significant increase in global temperatures (some assert over 18 years for surface temperatures), even though according to NOAA, carbon dioxide CO₂ concentrations have increased 8.4% since 1999, from 368.04 parts per million (ppm) to 398.78 ppm (December numbers). Very simply, adding CO₂ to the atmosphere is not causing temperature change as previously claimed. Further, the plateau in temperatures shows that global climate models cannot be used for reliable prediction.

Yet, it is predictions from global climate models that has created the fear of global warming and prompted energy policies in various countries that can only be called unnecessary, ill-conceived, and economically destructive. These policies include Germany's *Energiewende*, policies under the UK's Climate Change Act of 2008, and the US Administration's Clean Power Plan. Some of those defending the IPCC and its models, blame the failures of pronounced warming on the failure of an El Niño to materialize. However, there was/is an El Niño but it was not as intense as some thought it would be. If temperatures, as projected by the models, depend on El

Niño's, which are natural events that apparently cannot be predicted by the models, then there is something further wrong with the models.

The next big UN climate conference is scheduled in December of 2015. This will probably be the last opportunity for the Administration to make a big international impact on the global warming/climate change issue. It will be interesting to see how far certain government agencies will go in guessing future temperatures and other climate variables. A Congress controlled by Republicans who are generally hostile to climate control schemes, may cause some agencies to re-think their approach. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, Defending the Orthodoxy, Measurement Issues, and <http://www.esrl.noaa.gov/gmd/ccgg/trends/weekly.html>

Intense Storms: In the US, one of the major publically discussed components of global warming/climate change is the intensification of storms –hurricanes (in the Atlantic region), cyclones (in the Pacific region), tornadoes, etc. A warming caused by increased CO2 should impact most on Polar Regions, thus decreasing the temperature gradient between the cold Polar Regions and the hot Tropics. The net effect should be a reduction in mid-latitude storm intensity, not an increase. Yet, the general press and global warming promoters continue to stress storm events as examples of global warming/climate change.

Weather Bell Analytics LLC has produced a graph of 4 decades of accumulated tropical cyclone energy (ACE) (24 month running sums) ending in December 31, 2014, both for the Northern Hemisphere and for the globe. Since 2008, storm energy for the Northern Hemisphere and globally has been low, far below peak periods such as 1993-95 and 1997-98. The fear that increased CO2 will cause more intense storms appears misplaced.

According to reports, in an interview with *Die Zeit* German climate modeler Hans von Storch stresses there has been no intensification in storm activity. All activity is within the range of natural variability. Von Storch is a Professor at the Meteorological Institute of the University of Hamburg and Director of the Institute for Coastal Research at the Helmholtz Research Centre in Geesthacht, Germany. He states it is implausible that future storms will increase in intensity “Our climate models do not lead us to expect it.”

According to the translator: “In summary, von Storch sees 1) no data supporting a trend of stronger, more frequent North Sea storms, 2) models do not show an increasing trend, 3) recent storms have been within the range of natural variability, and 4) the [Global Warming] pause has been substantial enough that it has shifted more focus onto natural factors.” See links under Problems in the Orthodoxy and second figure:

<http://models.weatherbell.com/tropical.php#!prettyPhoto>

Clean Power Plan Is Unconstitutional? As reported in TWTW last week, a liberal, legal icon, Harvard law professor Laurence Tribe, stated his view that the Administration's clean power plan was unconstitutional. Already, there were rumors that some career bureaucrats in the EPA were concerned that the EPA was going too far in the Administration's war on coal. Now, the EPA has delayed the application of the plan to consolidate regulations on all categories of coal-fired power plants. See Articles # 1 and # 2, and links under EPA and other Regulators on the March.

John Brignell: The author of the web site “Number Watch” requested TWTW inform his readers that he is still alive. Due to software issues, his web site has been down. Further, his wife needed medical attention. We hope his wife is better, and John continues with his web site and its piercing wit. Brignell interrupted his career in measurement in science and engineering to write two books addressing the abuse of measurement in research and in establishing government policies: *Sorry, wrong number!* (2000) and *The epidemiologists: Have they got scares for you!* (2004). Of particular concern is the confusion in believing that weak statistical relationships establish causation. Establishing causation is very difficult. The health breakthrough of establishing that inhaling hot tobacco smoke from cigarettes caused lung cancer, with no known causal mechanism, depended on statistics. However, the work was rigorous, as Brignell details. Many opposed the idea, including Wilhelm Hueper, the director of the US National Cancer Institute, who thought the primary cause was pesticides. Brignell’s books are a refreshing alternative to muddled statistical thinking. See link under Health, Energy, and Climate.

Confusion in Causation: As if to confirm the need for Brignell’s books, statistician Matt Briggs brings our attention to a *New York Times* op-ed by Naomi Oreskes, the newly minted Harvard professor of the history of science. The op-ed can be charitably called confused or lacking rigor. Oreskes confuses a weak statistical relationship with causation and proposes weakening the statistical relationship even further. Of the comments reviewed, those by attorney Nathan Schachtman were most direct:

Oreskes wants her readers to believe that those who are resisting her conclusions about climate change are hiding behind an unreasonably high burden of proof, which follows from the conventional standard of significance in significance probability. In presenting her argument, Oreskes consistently misrepresents the meaning of statistical significance and confidence intervals to be about the overall burden of proof for a scientific claim:

Oreskes offers no proof for the unsubstantiated accusations in her book *Merchants of Doubt* (with Erik Conway), thus any normal standards of proof may be too onerous for her.

Schachtman concludes: *I will leave substance of the climate change issue to others, but Oreskes’ methodological misidentification of the 95% coefficient of confidence with burden of proof is wrong. Regardless of motive, the error obscures the real debate, which is about data quality. More disturbing is that Oreskes’ error confuses significance and posterior probabilities, and distorts the meaning of burden of proof. To be sure, the article by Oreskes is labeled opinion, and Oreskes is entitled to her opinions about climate change and whatever. To the extent that her opinions, however, are based upon obvious factual errors about statistical methodology, they are entitled to no weight at all.*

See links under Defending the Orthodoxy and Lowering Standards.

Return of Medieval Scholasticism: German physicist Horst-Joachim Lüdecke offers penetrating analysis of current climate science, as exemplified by the IPCC and its adherents, with its dependence on global climate models. He equates the IPCC science with medieval Western European Scholasticism, which was dominant before Galileo, and Galileo’s emphasis on measurement and testing hypotheses with experiments and observations. If the hypotheses fail, they are to be modified or discarded. Richard Feynman clearly explained this approach in lectures, available on the internet. All too often those engaged in hypothesis testing are accused

of “cherry-picking”, indicating the accuser confuses hypothesis testing with hypothesis advocacy. See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Windfall Benefits Tax? In the 1970s the price of oil increased dramatically, resulting in high profits for oil producing firms, as US price controls were relaxed. Many politicians and government promoters insisted on taxing these increased profits, calling them windfalls. A new tax called the Windfall Profits Tax was implemented.

In recent months there has been a dramatic drop in the price of oil, resulting in benefits to consumers in the form of lower costs. Now, some politicians and government promoters are claiming this is a perfect time for a new tax on oil, calling it a carbon tax. Due to the timing, it also could be called a Windfall Benefits Tax. See links under Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes.

War on Affordable Fossil Fuels: Many commentators have called the Administration’s regulations of coal-fired power plants and the coal industry as a war on coal. Now, the Administration is proposing to expand regulations on methane and the transportation of crude oil, which would increase costs to the consumer. Could the Administration’s actions be called a war on affordable fossil fuels? See Article # 4.

Climategate: Steve McIntyre has doggedly pursued the issues surrounding Mr. Mann and his hockey-stick, featured in the IPCC Third Assessment Reports (2001). McIntyre has also followed the litigation that Mr. Mann initiated. On his web site, McIntyre brings up the important issue of what constitutes data falsification.

That the last 50 years or so of the Briffa reconstruction in the IPCC 2001 diagram under Mann’s lead authorship were deleted is a matter of fact: Gavin Schmidt and Richard Muller would agree on that. To date, no investigation (to my knowledge and I’ve examined all their reports closely) has considered whether this omission of data was falsification under academic codes of conduct. Deciding whether this truncation was data manipulation, data torture, falsification or academic misconduct seems to me a matter of judgment, rather than an objectively verifiable fact (as [attorney] Williams argued.)

In presenting his investigation of another paper, McIntyre observes that when dealing with high latitude proxy data (usually from the Northern Hemisphere) to estimate temperatures, one should consider the data to be summer data rather than annual data, at least on a millennial scale. Nearly all biological processes that create the proxy data are responsive to summer heat, rather than annual temperatures. In dealing with data from a lake in Iceland, McIntyre observes that the Little Ice Age is more pronounced than the Medieval Warm Period and may be part of a general cooling trend for the last 8000 years. See links under Climategate Continued and Oh’ Mann.

Number of the Week: 79,066.The number of pages of US regulations and legal notices, proposed or implemented, issued by Federal agencies in 2014as recorded in the Federal Register. “These include Presidential proclamations and Executive Orders, Federal agency documents having generalapplicability and legal effect, documents required to be published by act of Congress, and other Federal agency documents of public interest.” From the Federal Register, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-31/pdf/FR-2014-12-31.pdf>

B. TWO NEW PAPERS SUGGEST SOLAR ACTIVITY IS A ‘CLIMATE PACEMAKER’

Here are some highlights of these two new papers published in Physics Letters A by David H. Douglass & Robert S. Knox: Central Pacific region temperature dataset SST3.4 from 1990 to 2014 is studied. SST3.4 contains a sustained signal at 1.0 cycle/yr implying solar forcing. SST3.4 also contains a signal (<1 cycle/yr) showing...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/09/two-new-papers-suggest-solar-activity-is-a-climate-pacemaker/>

C. BEN SANTER TRIES TO EXPLAIN 'THE PAUSE' IN GLOBAL WARMING

Add it to the list of over 50 excuses for the pause from climate science now on record...this time its small volcanoes. Small volcanic eruptions partly explain 'warming hiatus' From DOE/Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory: The "warming hiatus" that has occurred over the last 15 years has been partly caused by small volcanic eruptions. Scientists have...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/09/ben-santer-tries-to-explain-the-pause-in-global-warming/>

D. ANTHROPOGENIC WARMING IN THE CET RECORD?

Guest essay by Neil Catto The CET record started in 1659 close to the minimum of the little ice age. As such, it is with no surprise that last year (2014) was the warmest on record. It would appear to be a natural recovery. The monthly mean temperature of 8.87 Deg C in 1659 has...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/08/anthropogenic-warming-in-the-cet-record/>

E. 'FEARS OF MAN-MADE GLOBAL WARMING EXAGGERATED'

MUMBAI: Two of three scientists at a session on climate change and society at the Indian Science Congress on Tuesday felt fears of man-made global warming were greatly exaggerated. Their presence at the conference was particularly significant in light of the current 'development-versus-envir- onment' debates.

"While I agree that glaciers are melting because of global warming, if this is because of man, then what was the reason for the melting of the glaciers in the Gondwana period long ..

Read more at:

http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/45786412.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Bill Holliday

F HOW MANY OF WORLD'S POOR WILL CLIMATE ALARMISTS LET DIE?

By [H. STERLING BURNETT](#)

Posted 01/05/2015 06:12 PM ET

'How many people do you want to kill or let die?' That's how I'm going to respond from now on to anyone who argues we should end or sharply restrict fossil fuel use to prevent global warming. Arguing the science has no effect on global warming alarmists. They are immune to facts and stick to models and fallacious arguments from biased, unscientific authorities.

Climate models say temperatures should climb right along with the rise in CO2 emissions, yet emissions rose from the 1940s through the 1970s, when scientists were warning of a coming ice age. And for the past two decades, CO2 emissions have continued to rise while temperatures have been in a holding pattern for the past 18 years.

Models say we should see more intense hurricanes, yet for nearly a decade the U.S. has experienced below-average hurricanes making landfall, and they have been no more powerful than previously experienced.

Sea-level rise has slowed, polar bear numbers have increased, the Antarctic ice sheet has set new records for expansion month after month and even the Arctic is back to average ice levels for the decade.

None of these trends is consistent with models' predictions, yet alarmists ignore the facts because controlling human lives is their underlying goal, and their failed models are the only thing that enables them to claim disaster is in the offing if humans don't change their ways.

Arguing economics is equally ineffective. Multiple analyses show the best economic response to the challenges posed by global warming is to use fossil fuels to grow peoples' wealth globally and adapt to climate changes as they come — basically doing what humans have done throughout history.

In "The Moral Case for Fossil Fuels," author Alex Epstein makes a key point:

"Climate is no longer a major cause of deaths, thanks in large part to fossil fuels. ... The popular climate discussion ... looks at man as a destructive force for climate livability, one who makes the climate dangerous because we use fossil fuels. In fact, the truth is the exact opposite; we don't take a safe climate and make it dangerous; we take a dangerous climate and make it safe." Humans have long fought a war with climate, and where we've won it has been through the use of technology, most recently including the use of fossil fuels.

Although there are many distinctions between developed economies and developing ones, a critical difference is the widespread availability and use of fossil fuels to improve living conditions.

<http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials-perspective/010515-733224-restricting-fossil-fuel-prematurely-kill-poor.htm>

G. CLIMATE CHANGE'S HISTORY INSTRUCTIVE PAST FROM GEORGE WILL

George Will provides this excellent historical summary of how, since the 1300's the climate has significantly changed through both very cold and warmer periods than we see today. The perspective makes one wonder why there is so many catastrophic (CAGW) predictions today given the range of past major temperature change events. Are they aware of this history? Surely we are in a much better position to handle cold than our ancestors who suffered and died without the Fossil fuels we enjoy today. It's tough to understand that man could handle a future, possible cold period seen in the past without fossil fuels.

From the article in the Washington Post:

"We know, because they often say so, that those who think catastrophic global warming is probable and perhaps imminent are exemplary empiricists. They say those who disagree with them are "climate change deniers" disrespectful of science.

"Actually, however, something about which everyone can agree is that *of course* the climate is changing — it always is. And if climate Cassandras are as conscientious as they claim to be about weighing evidence, how do they accommodate historical evidence of enormously

consequential episodes of climate change not produced by human activity? Before wagering vast wealth and curtailments of liberty on correcting the climate, two recent books should be considered."

Read the entire article at the URL below. It provides a perspective on past climate change that few individuals are aware of including past negative conditions (especially during extreme cold periods) and other more friendly periods for humanity, especially during the medieval warm period:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/george-will-climate-changes-instructive-past/2015/01/07/2ae70ee6-95d2-11e4-aabd-d0b93ff613d5_story.html

Don Shaw

H. VOLCANOES ONCE AGAIN, AGAIN

Guest Post by Willis Eschenbach Anthony recently highlighted a couple of new papers claiming to explain the current plateau in global warming. This time, it's volcanoes, but the claim this time is that it's not the big volcanoes. It's the small volcanoes. The studies both seem to follow what I call "Willis's Rule of Author..."

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/09/volcanoes-once-again-again/>

I. MY INTERVIEW WITH MRS. GREEN

Posted on [January 10, 2015](#) | [2 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

This is definitely among the most interesting interviews that I've done.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/01/10/my-interview-with-mrs-green/#more-17560>

J. DECEMBER 2014 SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE (SST) ANOMALY UPDATE

Posted on [January 7, 2015](#) by [Bob Tisdale](#)

INITIAL NOTES

Note 1: The NOAA NOMADS servers are still off line. NOAA replied to my email inquiry and advised that the NOMADS website will be down for an extended time period and there were no estimates for when they would be returned to service.

Note 2: Because the NOMADS servers are off line, I've downloaded the Reynolds OI.v2 data from the [KNMI Climate Explorer](#), using the **base years of 1981-2010**. The updated base years help to reduce the seasonal components in the ocean-basin subsets—they don't eliminate those seasonal components, but they reduce them.

Note 3: We discussed the reasons for the elevated sea surface temperatures in the post [On The Recent Record-High Global Sea Surface Temperatures – The Wheres and Whys](#).

Note 4: I've moved the model-data comparison to the end of the post.

<https://bobtisdale.wordpress.com/2015/01/07/december-2014-sea-surface-temperature-sst-anomaly-update/#more-8551>

K. MISKOLCZI DISCUSSION THREAD

Posted on [January 8, 2015](#) | [467 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

Ferenc Miskolczi has published a new paper on the greenhouse effect that is generating substantial discussion

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/01/08/miskolczi-discussion-thread/#more-17544>

L. GEORGIA POLITICIANS COOL TO GLOBAL WARMING

Posted on [January 2, 2015](#) | [803 Comments](#)

by [Judith Curry](#)

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution asked a dozen of the state's top elected officials and the director of the agency tasked with the state's environment whether they believe the globe is warming, and whether they think pollution caused by human activity is a cause.

The title of the article in the Atlanta Journal Constitution is [Ga. politicians cool to global warming](#), written by Ariel Hart. Read the whole article; Ariel Hart did a very good job. Excerpts <http://judithcurry.com/2015/01/02/georgia-politicians-cool-to-global-warming/>

M. ANOTHER BIAS IN TEMPERATURE MEASUREMENTS DISCOVERED

From the “temperature bias only goes one way department” and the University of Montana: Mountain system artificially inflates temperature increases at higher elevations MISSOULA – In a recent study, University of Montana and Montana Climate Office researcher Jared Oyler found that while the western U.S. has warmed, recently observed warming in the mountains of the western...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/12/another-bias-in-temperature-measurements-discovered/>

Don Shaw

N. ANTICIPATION

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale The CO2 obsessed are patiently awaiting the GISS and NCDC global surface temperature data for December 2014 and for the calendar year. GISS normally publishes their monthly updates on or around the 15th of the month, while NCDC publishes theirs about the same time. The UKMO updates their HADCRUT4 land+sea...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/13/anticipation/>

O. CLAIM: SOCIAL COST OF CLIMATE CHANGE TOO LOW, STANFORD SCIENTISTS SAY

The ‘social cost’ of carbon dioxide emissions may not be \$37, as previously estimated by a recent US government study, but \$220 as Estimated by Sanford School of Engineering students. If you believe the Model is correct, the economic damage caused by a ton of CO2 emissions- often referred to as the “social cost of carbon-could actually be six times higher than the value that...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/13/claim-social-cost-of-climate-change-too-low-stanford-scientists-say/>

P. COLD KILLS: SUMMER NO SWEAT FOR AUSSIES BUT WINTER FREEZE FATAL

Australians are more likely to die during unseasonably cold winters than hotter than average summers, QUT research has found. From the Queensland University of Technology Across the country severe winters that are colder and drier than normal are a far bigger risk to health than sweltering summers that are hotter than average. QUT Associate Professor...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/13/cold-kills-summer-no-sweat-for-aussies-but-winter-freeze-fatal/>

Q. AL GORE, WRONG AGAIN – POLAR ICE CONTINUES TO THRIVE

Guest essay by Rolf E. Westgard

In his 2007 Noble Prize acceptance speech, former Vice President Al Gore warned that the “Arctic ice could be gone in as little as seven years.” Last week, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution reported: “The North and South Poles are not melting.” In that report, oceanographer Ted Maksym noted...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/13/al-gore-wrong-again-polar-ice-continues-to-thrive/>

R. WHAT WOULD CHARLES KEELING THINK? SCIENCE IN SPITE OF POLITICS

Posted on [January 13, 2015](#) | [125 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

Perhaps my experience in studying the Earth, initially with few restrictions and later with increasingly sophisticated interaction with government sponsors and various planning committees, will provide a perspective on this great transition from science being primarily an intellectual pastime of private persons to its present status as a major contributor to the quality of human life and the prosperity of nations. – Charles Keeling

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/01/13/what-would-charles-keeling-think-science-in-spite-of-politics/#more-17216>

Regards
George