

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

NEWSLETTER

2 FEB. 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:

DIFICULTY WITH THE ASME LINK

Hi,

Looks like the link is cutting off. It should be:

https://community.asme.org/environmental_engineering_division/b/weblog/default.aspx

This should bring you to a page to download the PDF.

Hope that helps.

Chrissy

-----Original Message-----

From: George Holliday [<mailto:ghh@att.net>]

Sent: Friday, January 16, 2015 7:56 AM

To: 'Herbert Braden'

Cc: Christina Johns

Subject: RE: Newsletter, 19 JAN.. 2015

Herb:

I had no difficulty in bring up the articles. I find you need to wait for the article to appear. The system is slow. I suggest you contact Christina Johns at the NY Office. She always is of help to me.

Regards

George

-----Original Message-----

From: Herbert Braden [<mailto:hhbraden@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 10:17 AM
To: George Holliday
Subject: Re: Newsletter, 19 JAN.. 2015

This URL works to open the report. My problem is opening the URL for individual articles.

Thank you.

Herb Braden

On Thu, Jan 15, 2015 at 6:15 AM, George Holliday <ghh@att.net> wrote:

> The EED Health, Safety and Environment Newsletter and attachments are
> available at

>

> https://community.asme.org/environmental_engineering_division/b/weblog/default.aspx

>

>

> If the above URL does not work, Copy and paste URL onto Internet
> initial page.

> Regards

> George

>

> This email was sent to you as a member of ASME Technical Divisions. If you wish not to receive any emails from your division, please send a blank email to [leave-asme td04232nd-1173287854H@list.asme.org](mailto:leave-asme_td04232nd-1173287854H@list.asme.org).

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ENVIRONMENT: A. SENATE VOTES 98-1 THAT CLIMATE CHANGE 'IS NOT A HOAX'

United States senators are now on the record on the question of whether climate change is "a hoax." But a majority of the Senate, including 15 Republicans, are also on record stating that human activity contributes to climate change.

The Senate on Wednesday passed a measure stating that "climate change is real and is not a hoax" by a margin of 98-1.

The Senate also voted down two amendments to the bill approving the Keystone XL pipeline stating that human activity contributes to climate change. (Each amendment needed 60 votes to pass.)

The first amendment, which failed 59-40, was introduced by Sen John Hoeven (R-ND), and states: "Climate change is real; and human activity contributes to climate change." It also agrees with the State Department study which "suggest that significant impacts to most resources are not expected along the proposed Project route" for the Keystone pipeline.

The second amendment, which failed 50-49, went one step further and stated "climate change is real (and) human activity significantly contributes to climate change." The inclusion of "significantly," as well as the exclusion of the language reaffirming that the Keystone XL pipeline will not have a significant impact on the proposed route resulted in only five Republicans supporting it, instead of the 15 that supported the Hoeven amendment.

The "hoax" language, attached to a bill to authorize the Keystone XL pipeline, was a resolution introduced by Democrat Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island.

The amendment was expected to fail, but Republicans parsed the words of the amendment, arguing they could vote for it but at the same time believe that climate change was not man-made.

The lone no vote was from Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi.

The amendment was designed in part as a jab at GOP Sen. James Inhofe of Oklahoma, who has questioned the science of climate change.

Inhofe voted for the measure, arguing that the true "hoax" is that climate change is the result of human activity.

"Climate is changing, and climate has always changed, and always will, there's archeological evidence of that, there's biblical evidence of that, there's historic evidence of that, it will always change," he said on the Senate floor. "The hoax is that there are some people that are so arrogant to think that they are so powerful that they can change climate. Man can't change climate."

Democrats, newly in the minority in the upper chamber, are split on whether the Keystone XL pipeline should be built, but they are using the ongoing debate in the Senate to push votes on largely symbolic amendments to the bill.

- Frank Thorp and Carrie Dann, NBC News

First published January 21st 2015, 1:54 pm

B. IMECE CALL FOR PAPERS: CCS

Carbon capture and storage (CCS) is one of the technologies expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Efficient, economic, and environmentally friendly solutions are always being sought.

This symposium brings together the work of prominent researchers in the field with the emphasis on both CCS fundamentals and applications. Main areas of interest are 1) engineering challenges of CCS, and 2) progress made in recent years in terms of novel materials, processes and applications. Papers, extended abstracts and technical presentation are solicited in areas including but not limited to:

- CCS system - general (control, behavior, response, interaction with power generation and transmission systems, etc.)
- Gas capture (separation) from large point sources (power generation, natural gas processing, heavy industries, hydrogen production, etc.)
- Gas compression/dehydration
- CO₂ transport and transport system maintenance
- Beneficial reuse of CO₂ (e.g. enhanced oil recovery (EOR), urea application, food industry, beverage carbonation, carbonate/bicarbonate, biomass processing)
- Materials developed for CO₂ capture, separation, purification, transport, storage, and applications

Interested authors should submit a (maximum) 400-word abstract via the web tool at the Congress 2015 website. <http://www.asmeconferences.org/Congress2015/>
Final papers will be available on CD-ROM at the meeting.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 2, 2015

See Conference website for detailed Publication Schedule
<http://www.asmeconferences.org/IMECE2015/>

C. ENERGY DEPARTMENT PROJECT CAPTURES AND STORES ONE MILLION METRIC TONS OF CARBON

The Department of Energy recently announced that its Illinois Basin-Decatur Project successfully captured and stored one million metric tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and injected it into a deep saline formation. The project is part of the development phase of the Department's Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships initiative, which is helping develop and deploy carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies across the country, and continuing the United States on a path towards a low carbon future.

The carbon dioxide is captured from the Archer Daniels Midland Company ethanol-production facility in Decatur, Illinois, and is compressed before traveling across a mile-long pipeline and injected approximately 7,000 feet below the surface into the Mount Simon Sandstone formation. Since beginning in November 2011, the injection test performed better than expected, sustaining pressure increases well below regulatory limits. Over the course of 100 years, the injected CO₂ is projected to remain hundreds of feet below a 300-foot thick shale formation that will act as a seal and inhibit upward migration of the CO₂.

The Midwest Geological Sequestration Consortium, led by the Illinois State Geological Survey, is evaluating CCS options for the 60,000-square-mile Illinois Basin, which underlies most of Illinois, southwestern Indiana, and western Kentucky.

EDITORS NOTE: I believe this project suffers from two flaws.

First, ethanol is produced from corn, which raises the cost of meat and other food items, resulting in low income families to not be able to buy enough food.

Second, reducing CO₂ in the atmosphere reduces agricultural production, since CO₂ is necessary for plant growth. So, as the population increases, less food is available. GHH

D. KEYSTONE PIPELINE BILL STALLS IN SENATE, PROLONGING DEBATE

Republicans Can't Amass 60 Votes Needed to End Debate

By

Siobhan Hughes and Amy Harder

The Wall Street Journal

Jan. 26, 2015 7:12 p.m. ET

WASHINGTON—The Senate on Monday rejected a procedural motion to [advance legislation to approve](#) the Keystone XL pipeline, prolonging the chamber's debate over the project.

Amid a partisan fight over congressional procedure and absences due to weather and other conflicts, Senate Republican leaders couldn't amass the 60 votes needed to end debate on the bill and move toward a final vote on approving the pipeline. The procedural vote was 53-39.

While enough Senate Democrats support the pipeline to clear the 60-vote hurdle, several of them are fuming over a decision last week by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.) to vote against taking up Democratic amendments and to prevent Democrats from delivering one-minute floor speeches on their amendments.

Their effort to defeat the motion was helped by absences among some members who probably would have voted for it.

The Senate is now expected to continue working on the bill this week, with more amendment votes, and a final passage vote isn't expected until early next week at the earliest. The legislation has 60 co-sponsors, including six Democrats, so once both parties agree on how to move forward on the procedure, it is expected to pass and eventually reach President Barack Obama's desk.

The Senate bill is nearly identical to one [passed by the House earlier this month](#).

Keystone XL, a TransCanada Corp. project, would move as many as 830,000 barrels of oil a day from Canada's oil sands to Steele City, Neb., where it would connect with existing pipelines to Gulf Coast refineries. TransCanada first submitted its permit application in 2008 to the State Department, which oversees cross-border pipelines. The pipeline has become a proxy for a much broader debate over the economy and Mr. Obama's efforts to address climate change.

The White House, citing a continuing review process by the State Department over the pipeline, has said [Mr. Obama would veto the Senate bill](#). Neither the House nor the Senate is expected to have enough votes to override such a veto.

The Democratic anger erupted last week over the amendment process. Mr. McConnell had already allowed votes on several Democratic amendments, including votes on climate change that were politically uncomfortable for Republicans.

But Democrats wanted more time to offer additional amendments, and their leaders were successful in rallying even some Keystone supporters to vote against the procedural motion as a protest against Mr. McConnell, saying he wasn't fulfilling his promise to open up the Senate floor to a debate over a broad range of amendments.

Republicans say Democrats had plenty of opportunity to offer their amendments and had taken advantage of it last week with votes on amendments covering a number of energy-related topics. "This is really disappointing," Mr. McConnell said, saying that Democratic complaints were misleading and that the Senate had already had more amendment votes on one bill than the Senate had all of last year.

Sen. [Barbara Boxer](#) (D., Calif.), who opposes the pipeline, said five Democrats who had asked to speak for one minute "were told sit down; we're gagging you."

“This has been anything but an open amendment process,” she said on the Senate floor Monday shortly before voting no.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/keystone-pipeline-bill-stalls-in-senate-prolonging-debate-1422317530>

E. Obama Administration to Propose New Offshore Areas for Oil and Gas Drilling Leases Off Atlantic Coast Expected; Drilling in Parts of Beaufort, Chukchi Seas Off Alaska Seen Blocked

By Amy Harder

The Wall Street Journal

Updated Jan. 26, 2015 7:51 p.m. ET

WASHINGTON—The [Obama](#) administration is planning to propose opening up new areas of the nation’s federally owned waters to oil and natural gas drilling, including areas along the Atlantic Coast, according to people familiar with the plan.

The Interior Department is set to propose as soon as Tuesday its plan that will outline what leases the federal government will offer from 2017 to 2022, a step the government is required by law to take every five years.

The plan is expected to come under increased scrutiny as low oil prices are testing the profit margins of energy companies and President Barack Obama is pursuing an aggressive climate-change agenda.

Jessica Kershaw, an Interior Department spokeswoman, declined to comment Monday evening on the proposal.

The plan is expected to include leases off states in the mid- and south-Atlantic coasts, including Virginia and both South and North Carolina, whose governors support offshore drilling. It isn’t expected to include offshore Florida, whose policy makers have generally opposed such a move. The plan is also expected to block parts of the Beaufort and Chukchi seas off the coast of Alaska for future oil and gas development, according to Robert Dillon, a spokesman for Sen [Lisa Murkowski](#) (R., Alaska).

On Sunday, Mr. [Obama](#) announced in a video message that the Interior Department was designating as wilderness more than 12 million acres of Alaska’s more than 19-million acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including 1.5 million acres of coastal plains thought to have rich oil and gas resources.

That move drew cheers from environmental groups, who are expected to criticize Interior Department’s proposal to offer lease sales on the Atlantic Coast, which has no current drilling activity.

“The best way to fight climate change is to leave these resources in the ground,” said Sierra Weaver, a lawyer at the Southern Environmental Law Center, which opposes offshore drilling, on Monday. “And the Atlantic Coast has incredible potential for offshore wind.”

The government’s plan, which must go through a public comment period before becoming final, represents a sort of middle ground between what the oil and natural-gas industry wanted and what environmentalists have called for. The final plan could be narrower than its proposal, though not more expansive.

In its last five-year plan initially issued in March 2010, the administration proposed opening up at least one area off Virginia's coast to drilling. In the wake of the BP oil spill that wore on for most of that summer, the administration reversed course and canceled that lease sale.

The American Petroleum Institute, a Washington-based trade group, had lobbied for the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, which is under a congressional drilling ban until 2022, to be included as well in case Congress repeals the ban before then. The plan isn't expected to include this, but additional sales in the Western and Central parts of the Gulf are expected.

"We want this to be the first step of a dialogue in terms of making sure we're not taking anything off the table," said Erik Milito, director of upstream and industry operations at API, criticizing the department's expected move to not include the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/obama-to-propose-opening-more-federally-owned-waters-to-drilling-1422319009>

F. WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE REPEALS RENEWABLE POWER MANDATES

On January 22, the West Virginia House passed by a vote of 95–4 a bill that would repeal the state's Alternative and Renewable Energy Portfolio. Heartland Senior Fellow James M. Taylor said West Virginia policymakers recognized renewable power mandates drive up electricity costs, kill jobs, punish the economy, and inflict substantial unintentional harm on the environment. Heartland Policy Analyst Taylor Smith noted, "Since West Virginia already produces more cheap energy than it consumes, it never made sense why alternative energy had to be force-fed into the market."

<http://heartland.org/press-releases/2015/01/22/heartland-institute-experts-react-west-virginia-legislatures-repeal-renewa>

ECONOMIC SAFETY. A. TREASURY'S LEW LISTS OIL, GAS PRODUCERS AS PRIME TAX-REFORM TARGET

WASHINGTON, DC, Jan. 21

01/21/2015

[By Nick Snow](#)

OGJ Washington Editor

US Sec. of the Treasury Jack Lew signaled the Obama administration's fresh intention to seek repeal of federal tax provisions US oil and gas producers consider essential to their businesses as part of its comprehensive business tax-reform plan.

President Barack Obama wants to reform business taxes to help fuel economic growth; encourage businesses to create good, high-paying US jobs; and expand opportunities so the nation's economic gains build a strong middle class, Lew said in a Jan. 21 address at the Brookings Institution.

"Over time, our tax code has become increasingly loaded down with special interest loopholes, deductions, and assorted tax subsidies," Lew said. "Some were good ideas whose time has now passed; others were special-interest giveaways from the beginning. The end result is a system rife with industry-specific tax breaks and widely disparate effective tax rates from one sector to the next, often providing incentives that do not reflect what our economy needs today."

He said, “For instance, oil and gas producers are rewarded with a number of special-interest tax breaks that unfairly reduce the taxes of oil companies far below what other industries, like retail and manufacturing, pay on their earnings.”

An American Petroleum Institute official immediately challenged the secretary’s characterization.

“[He] needs to get his facts straight,” API Tax and Accounting Policy Director Stephen Comstock said. “America’s oil and gas companies pay considerably more in taxes than the average manufacturing company. And we use the same kind of cost-recovery deductions that are available to every other industry to reinvest money back into the economy.”

Helped create jobs

Comstock said the ability to recover costs through ordinary tax deductions has let the US oil and gas industry create millions of middle-class jobs and make America the world’s leading energy producer.

“History has shown that the people most hurt by higher taxes that increase the cost of energy production are lower-income and middle-class Americans,” Comstock said.

For years in its annual federal budget proposal, the White House has proposed repealing provisions such as intangible drilling cost deductions, the percentage depletion allowance, and the passive loss exclusion which producers consider important business costs but critics in the administration and Congress regard as tax breaks.

“Keep in mind loopholes, credits, and subsidies are forms of tax expenditures,” Lew said. “They are spending that is done through the tax code, and because they represent lost tax revenue, we all help foot the bill for these expenditures.”

He conceded that provisions such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, expensing for small businesses, and the Research and Experimentation Tax Credit are worthwhile and should be preserved.

“But these tax incentives cost money and need to be paid for to maintain adequate revenue levels,” Lew said. “And we cannot apply a double standard, as some have proposed, where we permanently extend business provisions without paying for them.”

<http://www.ogj.com/articles/2015/01/tresury-s-lew-lists-oil-gas-producers-as-prime-tax-reform-target.html>

Roger Zygmunt

COMMENTS:

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2015-01-24 (JAN. 24, 2015)

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

A New Byrd-Hagel Resolution? As discussed in an article by Fred Singer, in 1997 the U.S. Senate passed by unanimous vote the Byrd-Hagel resolution against a climate protocol being considered by UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and by the Clinton-Gore Administration. The protocol in doubt became the unsuccessful Kyoto Protocol which extended the life of the UNFCCC and committed the parties to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂). Although signed technically signed by the US government, the Clinton-Gore administration did not submit the Kyoto Protocol to the Senate for ratification, as required by the Constitution to be binding on the US, in light of the opposition expressed in the Byrd-Hagel resolution.

In order to advance a vote for the Keystone XL pipeline in the Senate, the new Senate leadership considered amendments to the pipeline bill. [The prior leadership, under Harry Reid, generally

refused to consider amendments to legislation.] On January 21, the Senate voted 98-1 that “climate change is real and is not a hoax” in an amendment offered by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I) and strongly promoted by Senator Bernie Sanders (D-Vermont). To the surprise of many, Senator James Inhofe (R-Okla.), and new chairman of Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, supported the measure, even though many classify him as the Senate’s leading skeptic of human-caused global warming/climate change.

James Taranto who writes “Best of the Web” for the *Wall Street Journal* was one of the few who understood what was happening. Taranto wrote:

But don’t worry. Inhofe, chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, hasn’t suddenly gone warmist. We noted last week that Vermont’s Sen. Bernie Sanders was planning on introducing an amendment calling on his colleagues to express loyalty to “the entire worldwide scientific community,” which purportedly adheres to the doctrine known as climate change.

“There is archeological evidence of that, there’s Biblical evidence of the climate changing,” Politico quotes Inhofe as saying. He might have added that there’s paleontological evidence—after all, the climate was changing long before Homo sapiens came along.

Actually, he might have gone further still. Climate change in this sense has no need of evidence. The proposition “Climates change,” like the proposition “2 plus 2 equal 4,” is not an empirical hypothesis but a tautology. It is true by definition. Climate is change. There is no climate change on the moon, but only because there is no atmosphere and hence no climate. Climate change is like chemicals: Without it, life itself would be impossible.

The Senate adjourned without a final vote on the pipeline itself (Senate bill S.1), and it is scheduled to resume on Monday afternoon, January 26, which is forecasted to be a rainy and snowy day in Washington.

Fred Singer sees an opening in this game playing. A bi-partisan Resolution might be sponsored by Sen. Roy Blunt, (R-MO) and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), similar to the 1997 Byrd-Hagel Resolution and it may garner sufficient support to pass. Such a resolution will blunt President Obama’s ambition for an agreement at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties in Paris in December 2015; probably the President’s last opportunity to make global warming/climate change his signature issue, even though public support is fading. Senator Manchin’s state is suffering from reduced coal production caused by the Administration’s campaign against coal-fired power plants. See Articles # 1 and # 2 and links under The Political Games Continue.

Cherry Picking Temperatures: The quote-of-the-week comes from Richard Somerville, a climate scientist and professor emeritus at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. As such, he signed a petition opposing the Keystone XL pipeline. According to his web site, Somerville was a Coordinating Lead Author in Working Group I, Physical Science, for the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report (AR-4) of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He is not a global warming skeptic. The Summary for Policymakers of AR-4 expressed great certainty in the science and the global climate models and it formed a basis for EPA’s finding that emissions of greenhouse gases, particularly CO₂, endanger public health.

As expressed in the January 10 and 17 TWTWs, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) issued a joint press release on 2014 temperatures, declaring it the warmest recorded. Both agencies ignore measurements from satellites, the most comprehensive set of global temperature ever compiled, which do not support the claim that 2014 was the warmest year on record.

Using the definition above, both NOAA and NASA are engaged in cherry picking, a hallmark of poor science or pseudo-science. These agencies are misleading the public.

As criticism of the press release by NOAA and NASA intensified, Gavin Schmidt of NASA-GISS (Goddard Institute of Space Studies) presented a table by NASA stating there was a 38% probability that 2014 was the warmest year recorded. Apparently, both NOAA and NASA calculated such probabilities prior to the press release but did not disclose them.

Given that the bump in temperatures is less than the range of error in the instrumentation, the calculation of the probabilities no more solid than the prior claims. Certainly, they could not be based on any numerical distribution from observations. The entire episode raises questions as to the credibility of these government agencies. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy, Questioning the Orthodoxy, <http://richardsomerville.com/>,

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CHRG-112hhrg66704/html/CHRG-112hhrg66704.htm>

, and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherry_picking_%28fallacy%29

State of the Union: To complicate the effort to mislead the public with grand announcements of global temperatures by using inferior, “cherry-picked” data, President Obama cited the temperature announcements of NOAA and NASA in his State of the Union Address, using it to solicit support from the public for his program to combat climate change by restricting carbon dioxide emissions—no matter if the causes are not known. Usually, the leaders of governments departments take pride when their entities are singled out by the President in such a public forum as examples of excellent work. There have been no reports of reactions by the heads of NOAA and NASA for the praise President Obama gave their agencies.

As all too typical, the President also singled out the improvements in US oil and natural gas production. These increases are a boon to the economy. But they have occurred on lands not controlled by Federal entities, with production from federally controlled lands and waters declining. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy, Questioning the Orthodoxy, Seeking a Common Ground, and Energy Issues –US.

A Bit of Humor: After examining the paucity of data that went into the NOAA and NASA claim of the warmest year on record, Tim Ball examines ice core data from Greenland (GRIP). He observes that “the record is at least 10,000 years old” with the Climatic Optimum about 2.5°C warmer than present, about 4,000 to 7,000 years ago. From this, he concludes that 2014 is one of the coldest years in the 10,000 year record, and groups it with about 3% of the years over the past 10,000 that were as cold.

The analysis brings out an important point. How many of the politicians and Senators who are so anxious to stop global warming/climate change by controlling CO2 emissions have any idea of the history of climate of their State? Senator Sanders from Vermont, the Green Mountain State, seems to be blissfully unaware that for much of the past 2.5 million years the state was a barren, frozen wasteland, occasionally changed by brief warm periods. As late as 20,000 years ago, it was covered by thousands of feet of ice. Senator Whitehouse appears to be similarly ignorant of climate history. Rhode Island was covered with ice and its famed rugged coast line was quite flat, with the continental shelf stretching many miles beyond the current shore-line. Sea levels were about 400 feet lower than today and “teeth of mastodons and mammoths have been recovered by fishermen from at least 40 sites on the continental shelf as deep as 120 meters.” See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy and

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1245&context=usgsstaffpub>

Personal Attacks: With Nature refusing to obey the projections from climate models, exposing weakness of the climate science as stated by the IPCC; there seems to be an increase in personal attacks to attempt to discredit scientists who do not accept that CO2 emissions are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming. A common tactic is accusing scientists of receiving funding from improper sources, whatever they are. Those using this tactic frequently ignore the issue, what is the quality of the product? Is “cherry picking” any better or worse if the funding sources are tobacco companies or governments? Both can mislead the public on important issues such as public health.

It may be time to review the work by Russell Cook, exposing a few experts in personal vilification and the issues in which they were involved. It is sad to think that many practitioners of this practice are highly regarded in some professional circles, indicating that those in these circles have difficulty distinguishing between an accusation and evidence supporting the accusation.

Fred Singer Notes: Russell Cook has done a careful 'forensic' investigation of the false accusations against so-called climate skeptics. His latest opus is published as a Policy Brief by the Heartland Institute at <http://heartland.org/policy-documents/merchants-smear> Cook traces the whole sad story --from retired journalist Ross Gelbspan (who claims to have a Pulitzer Prize) all the way to Prof Naomi Oreskes (who styles herself as a 'science historian'). As true believers in anthropogenic [human-caused] global warming (AGW), they rely on a manufactured scientific consensus --that does not exist. They desperately try to link skeptics to the tobacco industry --in order to attack the scientific credibility of the vast and growing number of those who doubt AGW.

The Merchants of Smear were dealt a serious blow by the Oregon Petition, signed by more than 31,000 scientists and engineers --one-third of them with advanced degrees. But the final blow has come from Mother Nature: no warming for the past 18 years --and counting --in complete contradiction to every climate model.

However, like all 'true believers' who claim "The End is Near" they double down and simply shift the date of the apocalypse into the future.

Fred Singer, Chairman, SEPP 1/24/2015

See links under Communicating Better to the Public –Go Personal and Article # 5.

Peak Oil? No! Peak Bio! In the 1970s *The Limits of Growth*, attempted to use state-of-the-art computer models to establish that production of oil and many other essential materials are reaching their peak. This coincided with the idea that humanity cannot sustain itself. It failed. As can be seen by the US production of oil and the oil market, the assumptions did not bear out. Now we are being exposed to a new peak –artificially contrived planet boundaries. The fear of carbon dioxide caused global warming is losing its effect. So another fear must take its place. See links under Communicating Better to the Public –Make things up.

Another Week, Another Conference: The World Economic Forum is having a conference in Davos Switzerland. This gives an opportunity for those who wish to expand control of people to present their latest schemes. One such scheme, endorsed by former Vice President Gore, is redesigning cities so they do not need cars. The proposal estimates that this solution to global warming will cost only “\$90 trillion (£59 trillion) over the next few years to redesign all the cities —as in all the cities on earth —so people live in more densely packed neighborhoods and

don't need cars.” The proposal is presented under the self-proclaimed “The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate”, indicating that economy does not mean frugality.

It is amusing to note that those who count these things estimated that attendees included those arriving in some 1700 private aircraft (Zurich airport). If one is to ban automobiles, there is no reason that they cannot travel in style.

Number of the Week: \$100 Billion (USD). Thus far, the big surprise from the World Economic Forum in Davos is that a private consulting firm working for the Forum estimated that countries in Europe wasted (squandered) about \$100 Billion on renewable energy projects that were of the wrong type or in the wrong place. Solar power in cloudy and northern (low sun angle) Germany is but one example. The tax payers and ratepayers who subsidize such poor decisions will never see that money again.

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<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2015/TWTW%201-24-15.pdf>

B. CORNELL UNIVERSITY’S GREENLAND ICE MELT HYPE

From Cornell University and the Department of Inflated Headlines come this misleading claim that really should be anything new, and certainly not “groundbreaking” as they claim in this press released. After all, the tops of glaciers have been melting in the summer and making runoff meltwater which finds its way to the bottom of glaciers...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/21/cornell-universitys-greenland-ice-melt-hype/>

C. PENN STATE RESEARCHERS MISS OBVIOUS VISUAL CLUES ON “GLACIER MELT” – BLACK CARBON AND SUBLIMATION

From Penn State, note there’s no meltwater in this PSU provided photo, but there is evidence of black carbon (which increases solar radiation uptake) and sublimation (which due to a lack of precipitation, causes evaporation of ice directly into the air). Greenland Ice: The warmer it gets the faster it melts Melting of glacial ice...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/21/penn-state-researchers-miss-obvious-visual-clues-on-glacier-melt-black-carbon-and-sublimation/>

D. 2014: AMONG THE 3 PERCENT COLDEST YEARS IN 10,000 YEARS?

Guest Opinion: Dr. Tim Ball

We were told in October, before 2014 was over, that it was heading toward being the warmest year on record (Figure 1). The visual link of Polar Bears underscored the message. In fact, 2014 was among the coldest 3 percent of years of the last 10,000, but that doesn’t suit...

https://ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/syr/en/spms2.html

E. METHANE DECEPTIONS

Deception, agenda and folly drive latest Obama EPA anti-hydrocarbon rules. Are farmers next?

Guest essay by Paul Driessen

First they came for the coal mining and power plant industry, and most people did not speak out because they didn't rely on coal, accepted Environmental Protection Agency justifications at face value, or thought EPA's war...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/27/methane-deceptions/>

F. IPCC CLIMATE SCIENCE AS A GESTALT THEORY PROBLEM

Guest opinion: Dr. Tim Ball

The proverb that "they can't see the forest for the trees" means, they are so consumed with detail, they don't understand the larger situation. This is true of society in general and climatology in particular. One book that at least addresses part of the problem as it relates to climate,...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/26/ipcc-climate-science-as-a-gestalt-theory-problem/>

G. TRACKING THE BLIZZARD OF 2015

National Weather Service forecasters have been tracking a low pressure area that moved from the Midwest into the Atlantic Ocean today, and is expected to become a strong nor'easter that will bring blizzard conditions to the northeastern U.S. The path of the system was captured in a NASA movie of NOAA's GOES-East satellite imagery. An

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/26/tracking-the-blizzard-of-2015/>

H. OUTED BY FOIA – EPA STRATEGY MEMO REVEALS DEEP FLAWS IN THE INTEGRITY OF THE AGENCY, AND LACK OF INTEGRITY OF THE PRESS

Attorney Chris Horner writes in with this bombshell which shows how "evangelism" has replaced factual analysis at the EPA, which is helped along by a compliant mass media. See the attached document obtained via FOIA. His take on it includes: * Obtained from the ongoing "Richard Windsor" FOIA, precisely as FOIA intended this allows the...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/26/outed-by-foia-epa-strategy-memo-reveals-deep-flaws-in-the-integrity-of-the-agency-and-lack-of-integrity-of-the-press/>

I. MONDAY MIRTHINESS – POLAR MELTING TEST

WUWT reader Warren Smith writes in with this quiz: TEST YOURSELF: What is your knowledge of how fast the polar ice caps are melting? 1) According to data from the National Snow and Ice Data Center, as of the end of December 2014, the extent of Arctic sea ice coverage, when compared to the year-end averages...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/26/monday-mirthiness-polar-melting-test/>

J. CLAIM: CALIFORNIA'S POLICIES CAN SIGNIFICANTLY CUT GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS THROUGH 2030

New Berkeley Lab model finds state will meet 2020 reduction goals From DOE/Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory A new model of the impact of California's existing and proposed

policies on its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals suggests that the state is on track to meet 2020 goals, and could achieve greater emission reductions by 2030, but...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/26/claim-californias-policies-can-significantly-cut-greenhouse-gas-emissions-through-2030/>

K. HOW THE CLIMATE SYSTEM WORKS (FOR DUMMIES)

Friday, January 23rd, 2015

No, I'm not talking about how the climate system has helped dummies make money off it. I'm taking the occasion of continued pestering by our Aussie friend Doug Cotton, and questions I still get about his views, to go over the basics.

The atmosphere is complex enough that, from time-to-time, I try to explain the average operation of the climate system in as simple terms as I can muster. It's actually quite difficult to simplify it.

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

Roy Spencer

L. COMET LOVEJOY TIME LAPSE VIDEO

January 22nd, 2015

Despite moderate light pollution here in Huntsville, Alabama, I was able to capture 1.9 hours of camera frames to make this time lapse video of Comet Lovejoy last evening. Some thin cirrus clouds and various satellites also pass by. The faint tail extends to the left of the nucleus, and if you watch closely you can see the comet traveling relative to the stars immediately surrounding it:

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

Roy Spencer

M. SENATOR BLUNT: PRESIDENT OBAMA'S CHINA DEAL ISN'T FAIR FOR U.S. FAMILIES, WORKERS

Jan 22 2015

WASHINGTON D.C. – Today, a majority of the U.S. Senate voted in favor of an amendment expressing a Sense of the Senate that President Barack Obama's greenhouse gas agreement with China has no force and effect in the United States. The amendment was introduced this week by U.S. Senator Roy Blunt (Mo.) and co-sponsored by U.S. Senators Jim Inhofe (Okla.) Shelley Moore Capito (W.V.). To read the amendment, [click here](#).

<http://www.blunt.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/mobile/news?ID=6b2b27a1-334f-4f72-83da-c5fe2fbc75a1>

N. SCIENCE BY DEMOCRACY DOESN'T WORK

IPCC's van Ypersele under fire for trying to stifle the scientific debate on climate change

<https://medium.com/starts-with-a-bang/science-by-democracy-doesnt-work-ea74d160daa4>

O. CLAIM: MELTING GLACIERS HAVE BIG CARBON IMPACT**

From Florida State University: TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — As the Earth warms and glaciers all over the world begin to melt, researchers and public policy experts have focused largely on how

all of that extra water will contribute to sea level rise. But another impact lurking in that inevitable scenario is carbon. More specifically, what happens...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/01/19/claim-melting-glaciers-have-big-carbon-impact/>

P. TO THE GOP AND THE POPE: FORCING HIGHER ENERGY PRICES ON THE POOR IS IMMORAL**

Tuesday, January 20th, 2015

I'm seeing a flurry of news articles lately casting conservatives as closet believers in human-caused climate change who are struggling to formulate a global warming policy that is smart, but without looking like Liberals in the process.

Also, Pope Francis, after being advised by a committee of the most left-leaning global warming "experts" one could find, has decided to write an [encyclical on global warming and the environment](#) to be released later this year.

This all resonates with under-informed voters who think we already have the infrastructure to sustainably collect and distribute methane emissions from unicorn herds, and who believe [solar freakin' roadways](#) are a good idea.

Roy Spencer

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

Q. SNOWCOPALYPSE – NOT

Posted on [January 27, 2015](#) | [93 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

Some reflections on the east coast U.S. snowstorm: the forecasts, their communication and the response.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/01/27/snowpocalypse-not/#more-17695>

Regards

George