

# **ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING**

## **NEWSLETTER**

### **22 JUN. 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:

**At the request of Rick Youder, ASME Member, I attach the Canons 1 & 8 of the ASME Code of Ethics to each of the EED newsletters,**

*1. Engineers shall hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public in the performance of their professional duties.*

*8. Engineers shall consider environmental impact and sustainable development in the performance of their professional duties.*

*a. Engineers shall concern themselves with the impact of their plans and designs on the environment. When the impact is a clear threat to health or safety of the public, then the guidelines for this Canon revert to those of Canon 1.*

*b. Engineers shall consider development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. When the impact of the trade-off between economic, ecological, and social issues forms a clear threat to health or safety of the public, then the guidelines for this Canon revert to those of Canon 1.*

*c. "Sustainable development" is the challenge of meeting human needs for natural resources, industrial products, energy, food, transportation, shelter, and effective waste management while conserving and protecting environmental quality and the natural resource base essential for future development.*

**Rick Youder is, I believe suggesting the Newsletter content does not satisfy the ASME Canons quoted above. I disagree!**

**Canon 1, above is satisfied since reduction in CO2 will result in reduced vegetation growth, because CO2 is a form of fertilizer for vegetation. Increased population with time will find insufficient food, which will result in the early death of particularly the poor, who will not be able to afford the increased price food stuffs. Also, reduced vegetation in the form of building materials (trees) means citizens will no have materials for building**

shelters. Retaining CO2 in the atmosphere will result in maintaining safe, healthy population and provide welfare to the public.

Canon 8 is satisfied because of food and shelter provided by maintaining or preferably increasing the CO2 in the atmosphere, thus providing adequate food, shelter and more opportunity to live a secure life with food and warmth. (Plant growers increase as CO2 concentrations increase, thus healthier plants and vegetation and food.

“a” Is satisfied because reduced CO2 will exacerbate safety and health problems by reduced food supplies, shelter, and heating ( lack of oil, gas, coal, reduces CO2 emissions which will result in less fire wood, because of reduced vegetation and reduced hydrocarbon fuel production.

“b” Is satisfied because removing CO2 will adversely affect future generations, food, shelter and heating ,because of cost or lack of availability without low cost carbon based fuel. Further, we know the atmospheric temperature has remained almost constant for 18 years and the CO2 concentration has continued to increase. If CO2 is the driving force for atmospheric temperature increase, as the alarmist suggest, the atmospheric temperature should have increase with the increase of CO2. Instead atmospheric temperature has remained almost constant.

“c” Is satisfied by retaining CO2 in the atmosphere, which will sustain adequate food , shelter and fuel.

In my opinion the ASME Newsletter has provide the most honest and current technical information available and in compliance with the ASME Cannons.

In addition to the above, new findings strongly suggest the observed increase in atmospheric temperature before the current “Pause” was due to the reduction in SO2 emissions. See Item E below for a full discussion.GHH

**THE DIVISION LEADERSHIP DESIRES A BROADER SCOPE OF ARTICLES IN THE NEWSLETTER. I HAVE DECIDED TO DIVIDE THE NEWSLETTER INTO ALARMISTS AND DENIERS SECTIONS. THAT SEPARATION IS REFLECTED IN THIS EDITION. I LOOK TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE REDUCTION IN CO2 IS DESIRABLE TO SUPPLY TECHNICAL ARTICLE REGARDING THE MERITS SUPPORTING THAT ACTION. I WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPLY SKEPTICS ARTICLES.**

# **ENVIRONMENT A: MORE CURIOSITIES ABOUT NOAA'S NEW "PAUSE BUSTING" SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE DATASET**

**BOB TISDALE / 2 HOURS AGO JUNE 6, 2015**

More Curiosities about NOAA's New "Pause Busting" Sea Surface Temperature Dataset

[Bob Tisdale / 2 hours ago June 6, 2015](#)

The Night Marine Air Temperature dataset HadNMAT2 from the UKMO is used for bias adjustments of the new NOAA ERSST.v4 "pause-buster" sea surface temperature data over nearly its full term, from 1875 to 2010. But the UKMO HadNMAT2 data are not available online so that the public can easily verify the NOAA ERSST.v4 results. That's small fish compared to an even bigger problem for NOAA. A preliminary investigation of the UKMO dataset suggests that the HadNMAT2 data do not support NOAA's claims of no slowdown in global surface warming. In other words, the HadNMAT2 data have a much lower warming rate than the new NOAA "pause buster" ERSST.v4 data since 1998.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the post [NOAA/NCDC's new 'pause-buster' paper: a laughable attempt to create warming by adjusting past data](#), we discussed the new paper about NOAA's latest revisions to their global surface temperature dataset. That paper was Karl et al (2015) [Possible artifacts of data biases in the recent global surface warming hiatus](#). The changes to the sea surface temperature component of the new NOAA/NCEI global land+ocean surface temperature dataset were the biggest contributors to claims that the new data show no hiatus or slowdown in global warming since 1998. NOAA's new extended reconstructed sea surface temperature dataset is called [ERSST.v4](#). Those adjustments and the fact that the oceans cover about 70% of Earth's surface made the new sea surface temperature data the governing factor in NOAA's new claims that there was no slowdown in surface warming.

One of the oddities of the new NOAA sea surface temperature dataset shown in our earlier post was that the warming rate of the sea surface temperature portion of NOAA's new data was an outlier since 1998...that it had a much higher warming rate than all other sea surface temperature datasets during the recent slowdown in global surface warming. In other words, there were no other sea surface temperature datasets that supported the high warming trend of the new NOAA data. See Figures 6 through 9 from [the earlier post about Karl et al](#).

What I did not compare to NOAA's new sea surface temperature dataset in that post was the temperature dataset that served as the reference for bias adjustments over the full term of the data, and that reference dataset was the [HadNMAT2 Night Marine Air Temperature data](#) from the UK Met Office. My preliminary investigation reveals that the reference HadNMAT2 data also do not support the excessive warming rate since 1998 of NOAA's new sea surface temperature data. And that's a bad sign...a really bad sign.

## **BACKGROUND**

The two papers that present NOAA's new [Extended Reconstructed Sea Surface Temperature dataset ERSST.v4](#) are (both are paywalled):

- Huang et al. (2014) [Extended Reconstructed Sea Surface Temperature version 4 \(ERSST.v4\), Part I. Upgrades and Intercomparisons](#), and
- Liu et al. (2014) [Extended Reconstructed Sea Surface Temperature version 4 \(ERSST.v4\): Part II. Parametric and Structural Uncertainty Estimations](#).

We discussed the new NOAA ERSST.v4 data in a few posts last year, including [Has NOAA Once Again Tried to Adjust Data to Match Climate Models?](#)

Like their earlier ERSST.v3b dataset, the new ERSST.v4 were bias adjusted by a marine air temperature dataset. But NOAA added a new feature this time through. For the bias adjustments in the earlier ERSST.v3b dataset, NOAA used a night marine air temperature dataset that was part of the ICOADS Release 2.4 (R2.4) to adjust the sea surface temperature for the period of 1875 to 1941. On the other hand, two of the features of the new NOAA ERSST.v4 data was that (1) NOAA used a newer and improved night marine air temperature dataset HadNMAT2 from the UKMO and (2) NOAA extended its use through to 2010. In other words, the HadNMAT2 data were used for bias adjustments for nearly the full term of the new ERSST.v4 data from NOAA. See my Table 1, which is Table 1 from Huang et al. (2014). I've highlighted the relevant portion.

As they write in Huang et al. (2014) (my boldface):

*Firstly, ERSST.v3b does not provide SST bias adjustment after 1941 whereas subsequent analyses (e.g. Thompson et al. 2008) have highlighted potential post-1941 data issues and some newer datasets have addressed these issues (Kennedy et al. 2011; Hirahara et al. 2014). The latest release of Hadley NMAT version 2 (HadNMAT2) from 1856 to 2010 (Kent et al. 2013) provided better quality controlled NMAT, which includes adjustments for increased ship deck height, removal of artifacts, and increased spatial coverage due to added records. These NMAT data are better suited to identifying SST biases in ERSST, and therefore the bias adjustments in ERSST version 4 (ERSST.v4) have been estimated throughout the period of record instead of exclusively to account for pre-1941 biases as in v3b.*

Oddly, by using the HadNMAT2 data for bias adjustment, NOAA did not address the post-1941 problem presented in their referenced [Thompson et al. \(2008\)](#), which was the discontinuity in 1945. NOAA seems to have exaggerated that problem in their new ERSST.v4 data. See the earlier post [here](#), under the heading of YOU MAY BE WONDERING...

Considering that the HadNMAT2 data played a key role in the creation of the ERSST.v4 data, it would be logical to compare the new NOAA ERSST.v4 data to the UKMO HadNMAT2 data to see how well those two datasets agree...especially during the global surface warming slowdown period from 1998 to present, which was one of the highlighted periods in Karl et al. (2015) that served as the bases for the odd claims made in that paper.

### **PROBLEM ONE**

The HadNMAT2 data are not yet available to the public online, even though the paper that supports it was published in February 2013. And that paper is Kent et al. (2013) [Global analysis of night marine air temperature and its uncertainty since 1880: The HadNMAT2 data set](#). I emailed the UKMO to determine if the HadNMAT2 data were available somewhere online, and I was advised that they were still trying to decide on the format in which to publish it, the length of time for the decision being unusual for them.

It's been 2 years. I suspect the UKMO has hesitated in publishing the HadNMAT2 data, because they contradict their HADSST3 data during the period from the early-1940s to the mid-1970s. Recall that in HADSST3 the UKMO eliminated the Thompson et al (2008) "discontinuity" around 1945 and made numerous other adjustments during the 1950s, 60s and 70s. Those changes produced a slight cooling trend from the mid-1940s to the mid-1970s. The HadNMAT2 data have not received those corrections.

The fact that the HadNMAT2 data are not available online, of course, presents problems for the three NOAA papers relating to the ERSST.v4 data: Huang et al. (2015), Liu et al. (2015) and Karl et al. (2015). The results of those papers cannot be verified by the public, because one of the key reference datasets for those three papers has not been published. I wonder if the editors of those publications know that sad fact. I suspect they might be informed in the not-too-distant future.

**Table 1 from Huang et al. (2014)**

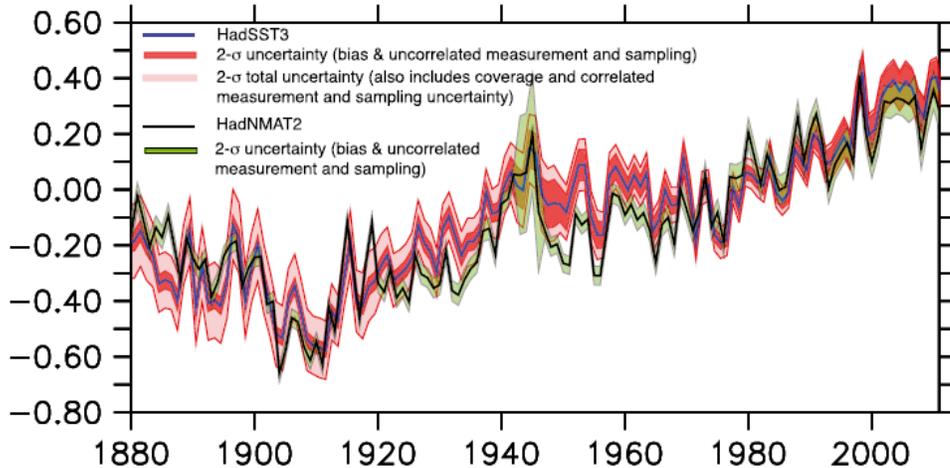
Table 1. Major methodological innovations between the current ERSST.v4 and its precursor ERSST.v3b.

<b>Methodological aspect</b>	<b>ERSST.v4 choice</b>	<b>ERSST.v3b choice</b>
SST data	ICOADS R2.5 (1875-2007) NCEP GTS (2008-present)	ICOADS R2.4 (1875-2004) NCEP GTS (2008-present)
Ice data	HadISST (1870-2010) NCEP (2011-present)	UKMO (1870-1980) GFSC (1981-2004) NCEP (2004-present)
130 EOTs	OISST.v2 1982-2011	OISST.v2 1982-2005
EOT criterion	Crit=0.1	Crit=0.2
EOT weighting	$\frac{N}{N + \varepsilon^2} \cos \phi$	$\cos \phi$
SST STD for QC	OISST.v2 (1982-2011)	COADS (1950-1979)
SSTA calculation	At in situ locations	At regular grid boxes
Low frequency anomaly gap filling	Nearby anomaly filling	Zero-anomaly filling
NMAT in bias adjustment	HadNMAT2 (1875-2010) (Adjustments before 1886 are set to be the values of 1886)	R2.4 (1875-1941)
Bias adjustment smoothing	Lowess filter Coefficient f=0.1	Linear
Ship-buoy SST adjustment	0.12°C is added to buoy SST	Not applied

## PROBLEM TWO

The global UKMO HadNMAT2 data are presented in Figure 18 of Kent et al. (2013), alongside their HADSST3 data. See my Figure 1. The global HadNMAT2 data are shown as the black curve. The data in the graph run from 1880 to 2010 (with what appears to be a slight downturn in 2011 from an incomplete year of data).

**Figure 18 from Kent et al. (2013)**



**Figure 18.** Global annual average timeseries of HadNMAT2 and HadSST3 median anomalies (°C, relative to 1961–1990) and their estimated uncertainties, 1880–2010.

**Bob Tisdale**

Figure 1

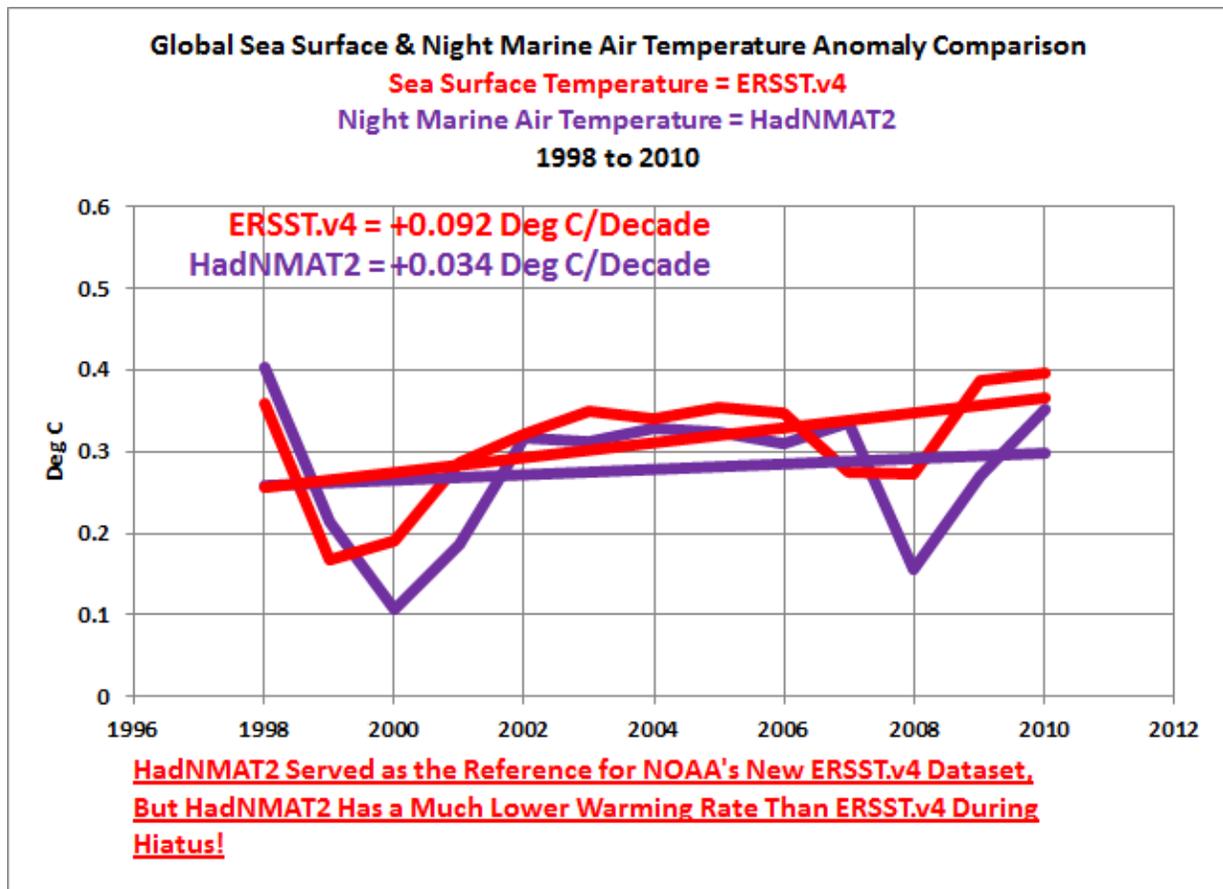
(A larger version of the graph is [here](#).)

While there is software available that will extract data from graphs, I prefer to use the x-y coordinates of MS Paint to replicate the data. My results for the HadNMAT2 data for the period of 1998 to 2010 are shown in Figure 2, compared to the global ERSST.v4 data used by Karl et al. (2015) for their claims of “no hiatus”.

Of course, Karl et al. presented their trends for the period of 1998 to 2012 and from 2000 to 2014. But I know of no source of the HadNMAT2 data for the years of 2011 to 2014. So this is preliminary comparison.

These preliminary results strongly suggest that even the (HadNMAT2) data used as the reference for bias adjustments in the new NOAA sea surface temperature dataset (ERSST.v4) do not support that ERSST.v4 data...or the claims in Karl et al (2015) of no slowdown in global surface warming.

Not too curiously, as far as I can tell, NOAA failed to present those differences in their papers. While NOAA may now try to justify those differences in the short-term warming rates of ERSST.v4 and HadNMAT2, they look very awkward, and any excuses NOAA gives now will simply be viewed as that...excuses.



**Bob Tisdale**

Figure 2  
**CLOSING**

As noted earlier, the preliminary investigation that shows the HadNMAT2 data do not support the claims of no hiatus is a bad sign for the results of Karl et al. (2015), a very bad sign. I suspect that the editors of the journals that published the three ERSST.v4-based papers (Huang et al. (2015), Liu et al. (2015) and Karl et al. (2015)) will soon be informed of this problem as well.

When the HadNMAT2 data are finally published online by the UKMO, that reference data for the NOAA ERSST.v4 data will very likely put NOAA and the publishers of the Huang et al. (2015), Liu et al. (2015) and Karl et al. (2015) papers in very awkward positions. Time will tell.  
<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/06/06/more-curiosities-about-noaas-new-pause-busting-sea-surface-temperature-dataset/>

## **B. CLIMATE SCIENTISTS CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT PAPER THAT ERASES 'PAUSE' IN WARMING**

By [Maxim Lott](#)

Published June 10, 2015

Until last week, government data on climate change indicated that the Earth has warmed over the last century, but that the warming slowed dramatically and even stopped at points over the last 17 years.

But a [paper](#) released May 28 by researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has readjusted the data in a way that makes the reduction in warming disappear, indicating a steady increase in temperature instead. But the study's readjusted data conflict with many other climate measurements, including data taken by satellites, and some climate scientists aren't buying the new claim.

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But a [paper](#) released May 28 by researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has readjusted the data in a way that makes the reduction in warming disappear, indicating a steady increase in temperature instead. But the study's readjusted data conflict with many other climate measurements, including data taken by satellites, and some climate scientists aren't buying the new claim.

“While I'm sure this latest analysis from NOAA will be regarded as politically useful for the Obama administration, I don't regard it as a particularly useful contribution to our scientific understanding of what is going on,” Judith Curry, a climate science professor at Georgia Tech, wrote in a [response](#) to the study.

And in an interview, Curry told FoxNews.com that the adjusted data doesn't match other independent measures of temperature.

“The new NOAA dataset disagrees with a UK dataset, which is generally regarded as the gold standard for global sea surface temperature datasets,” she said. “The new dataset also disagrees with ARGO buoys and satellite analyses.”

The NOAA paper, produced by a team of researchers led by Tom Karl, director of the agency's National Climatic Data Center, found most of its new warming trend by adjusting past measurements of sea temperatures.

Global ocean temperatures are estimated both by thousands of commercial ships, which record the temperature of the water entering their engines, and by thousands of buoys – floatation devices that sit in the water for years.

The buoys tend to get cooler temperature readings than the ships, likely because ships' engines warm the water. Meanwhile, in recent years, buoys have become increasingly common. The result, Karl says, is that even if the world's oceans are warming, the unadjusted data may show it not to be warming because more and more buoys are being used instead of ships. So Karl's team adjusted the buoy data to make them line up with the ship data. They also double-checked their work by making sure that the readjusted buoy readings matched ships' recordings of nighttime air temperatures.

The paper came out last week, and there has not been time for skeptical scientists to independently check the adjustments, but some are questioning it because of how much the adjusted data vary from other independent measurements.

First, it disagrees with the readings of more than 3,000 “ARGO buoys,” which are specifically designed to float around the ocean and measure temperature. Some scientists view their data as the most reliable.

The ARGO buoy data [do not](#) show much warming in surface temperature since they were introduced in 2003. But Karl's team left them out of their analysis, saying that they have multiple issues, including lack of measurements near the Arctic.

In an email, Karl told FoxNews.com that the ARGO buoy readings may be added to his data “if

scientific methods can be found to line up these two types of temperatures together ... (of course after correcting the systematic offsets) ... This is part of the cumulative and progressive scientific process.”

Karl’s study also clashes with satellite measurements. Since 1979, NOAA satellites have estimated the temperature of Earth’s atmosphere. They show almost no warming in recent years and closely match the surface data before Karl’s adjustments.

The satellite data is compiled by two separate sets of researchers, whose results match each other closely. One team that compiles [the data](#) includes Climate Professors John Christy and Roy Spencer at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, both of whom question Karl’s adjusted data. “The study is one more example that you can get any answer you want when the thermometer data errors are larger than the global warming signal you are looking for,” Spencer told FoxNews.com.

“We believe the satellite measurements since 1979 provide a more robust measure of global temperatures, and both satellite research groups see virtually the same pause in global temperatures for the last 18 years,” he said.

Karl said satellite data also have issues, including “orbital decay, diurnal sampling, instrument calibration target temperatures and more.”

Spencer said he agreed that those are issues, but they are less problematic than using data from thousands of ships and buoys. He added that there are a couple of satellites monitoring temperature at any given time, and that they are used to check each other.

Skeptics say there are yet more measurements, including those coming from balloon data, that line up with existing data more than with Karl’s newly adjusted data. They also note that even with Karl’s adjustments, the warming trend he finds over the last 17 years is [below](#) what U.N. models had predicted.

Some climate scientists applaud Karl’s adjustments and say they debunk the idea that the Earth has stopped warming.

“[This] points out just how small and fragile a notion that was,” Peter Frumhoff, director of science & policy at the Union of Concerned Scientists, told FoxNews.com

Asked about the contradiction with satellite data, he said he trusted the new paper.

“I trust the process of legitimate scientific peer review that this paper has undergone, as well as the care that its authors bring to their respected work,” he said, adding that, “the faux debate over a so-called ‘hiatus’ has been an unfortunate diversion from meaningful dialogue about how best to address the broadly recognized serious problem of climate change.”

But skeptics say Karl’s adjusted data is the outlier that conflicts with everything else. “Color me ‘unconvinced’,” Curry wrote.

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2015/06/10/climate-scientists-criticize-government-paper-that-erases-pause-in-warming/>

## **C. NOAA STUDY TAKES WORLD ‘BY STORM’: NO GLOBAL WARMING PAUSE!**

[Guest Blogger](#) / [21 mins ago June 6, 2015](#)



By

[E. Calvin Beisner, Ph.D.](#)

That's how most of the media are treating a new study, anyway. Even the *Wall Street Journal* ran a news piece titled "[Study Finds No Pause in Global Warming.](#)"

The source? "[Possible artifacts of data bias in the recent global surface warming hiatus,](#)" published this week in *Science*, by long-time global warming alarmist Tom Karl et al.

Abstract:

*Much study has been devoted to the possible causes of an apparent decrease in the upward trend of global surface temperatures since 1998, a phenomenon that has been dubbed the global warming "hiatus." Here we present an updated global surface temperature analysis that reveals that global trends are higher than reported by the IPCC, especially in recent decades, and that the central estimate for the rate of warming during the first 15 years of the 21st century is at least as great as the last half of the 20th century. These results do not support the notion of a "slowdown" in the increase of global surface temperature.*

Proper first impression response (though I confess it didn't dawn on me first thing): "These results do not support ..." does not entail that no other results do. I could study the colors of cats' eyes in my neighborhood and conclude, "These results do not support the notion of a 'slowdown' in the increase of global surface temperature."

That conclusion would be true. But it would also be irrelevant to the question whether "the pause" is real.

Imagine for a moment that you're investigating the question, "Is there an elephant in the house?" It's a 9-room house. Each of eight investigators finds an elephant in a different one of eight rooms. Eight rooms, eight elephants. But one investigator finds no elephant in the bathroom. Would you conclude from his finding, "No elephant in the house"?

So the crucial, first question we should ask is, "Do other results support the notion of a 'slowdown' in the increase of global surface temperature"? And the answer, we shall find, is, "Yes."

But I'll go there in a moment. First a quick list of early critiques of Karl et al.'s article. Within a day or two of its appearance, the following critical articles had already appeared:

- The most technical so far (not surprising granted the author, my friend) Ross McKittrick's "[A first look at 'Possible artifacts of data bias in the recent global surface warming hiatus' by Karl et al. \*Science\* 4 June 2015.](#) Ross begins (perhaps having thought of the point I just made about "These results do not support ...") by listing eight datasets that

do “support the notion of a ‘slowdown’ in the increase of global surface temperature” (HadCRUT [land surface and ocean], HadSST [ocean surface only], NCDC [land surface and ocean], GISS [land surface and ocean], RSS satellite [lower troposphere], UAH satellite [lower troposphere], and, together in the final graph, Ocean heat content 0-2000 meter [Argo floats] and NOAA SST estimates) and provides nice graphs of all seven. Then he points out all kinds of statistical and data-quality problems in the article and concludes:

*Are the new K15 adjustments correct? Obviously it is not for me to say – this is something that needs to be debated by specialists in the field. But I make the following observations:*

*\* All the underlying data (NMAT, ship, buoy, etc) have inherent problems and many teams have struggled with how to work with them over the years*

*\* The HadNMAT2 data are sparse and incomplete. K15 take the position that forcing the ship data to line up with this dataset makes them more reliable. This is not a position other teams have adopted, including the group that developed the HadNMAT2 data itself.*

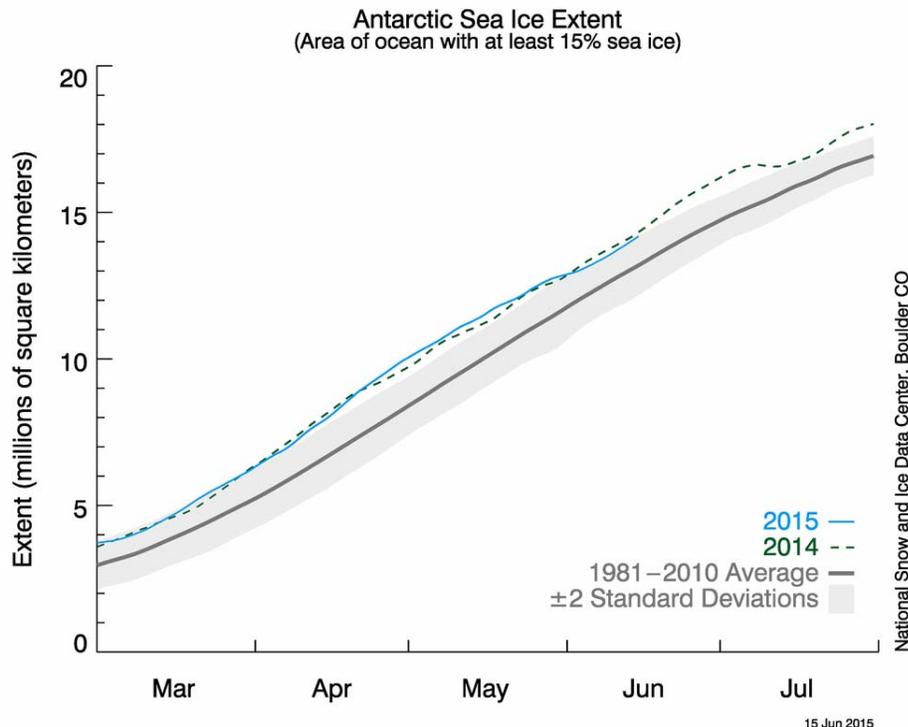
*\* It is very odd that a cooling adjustment to SST records in 1998-2000 should have such a big effect on the global trend, namely wiping out a hiatus that is seen in so many other data sets, especially since other teams have not found reason to make such an adjustment.*

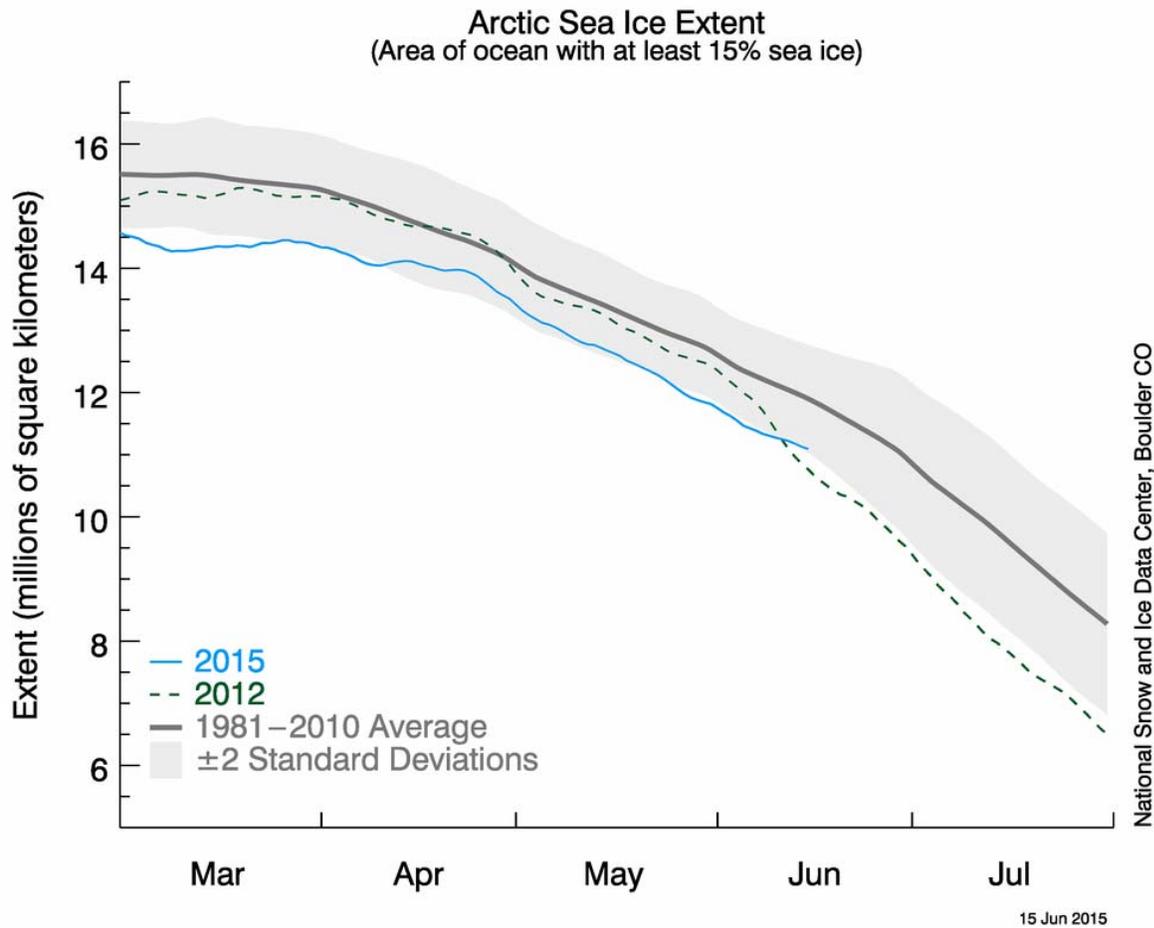
*\* The outlier results in the K15 data might mean everyone else is missing something, or it might simply mean that the new K15 adjustments are invalid.*

*It will be interesting to watch the specialists in the field sort this question out in the coming months.*

## **D. ANTARCTIC AND ARCTIC SEA ICE UPDATE**

Here is the recent update on the Antarctic and Arctic ice.





## **E. The Week That Was: 2015-06-13 (June 13, 2015)**

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

**ICCC-10:** Due to The Heartland Institute’s Tenth International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC-10), June 11 and 12, this week’s TWTW will be brief. The conference was co-sponsored by, among others, SEPP and the Virginia Scientists and Engineers for Energy and Environment (VA-SEEE), Next week’s TWTW will include material that was overlooked this week due to time constraints. The conference was sold out about one week in advance. Videos of the keynote speeches and the panel sessions are available at: <http://climateconference.heartland.org/>.

It is our understanding that high resolution videos will be available shortly.

**Political:** The political high points of ICC-10 were presentations by Senator James Inhofe (R-Oklahoma) and Representative Lamar Smith (R-21<sup>st</sup> District of Texas). Senator Inhofe is chairman of the influential Environment and Public Works Committee and a Senior Member of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee.

Rep. Smith is Chairman of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, which has jurisdiction over programs of NASA, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Science Foundation, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The committee oversees agency budgets of \$39 billion,

where the primary focus is on research and development. He also serves on the Judiciary Committee and the Homeland Security Committee.

In their talks, both Senator Inhofe and Representative Smith focused on the steps they are taking to constrain the efforts by the Administration, particularly through the EPA, to expand executive powers over the American economy through the use of misleading or false scientific claims. Many consider this expansion of powers is beyond the authority granted to the executive branch by Congress and unconstitutional. The speakers outlined systematic strategies to stop the questionable political ambitions of the Administration. In the coming months and next year, we shall see how effectively these strategies will be. See the links under Challenging the Orthodoxy –ICCC-10.

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**Alice in Climateland:** A high point in the conference for SEPP came during Thursday’s dinner when SEPP Chairman S. Fred Singer introduced Professor Will Happer, the recipient of the Frederick Seitz Memorial Award. Seitz, past Chairman of SEPP, was a distinguished solid-state physicist and long-term president of the US National Academy of Sciences, greatly expanded the role and influence of that group. Seitz questioned the ever expanding assertions of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), often made without physical evidence, that humanity, particularly emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), was primarily responsible for 20<sup>th</sup> century temperature increases. Seitz challenged the processes used by the IPCC, calling the Second Assessment Report [1996] of the IPCC the worst abuse of the peer-review process he has observed in 60 years of science.

Physicist William Happer, the Cyrus Fogg Brackett professor of physics (emeritus) at Princeton University, was the co- recipient of the award. Among his other accomplishments, Happer pioneered the development of adaptive optics and invented the sodium guide star to eliminate astronomical imaging blurring due to atmospheric turbulence.

Professor Happer gave a very clever acceptance speech framing the climate change controversies with the Lewis Carroll’s (Charles Dodgson) play on logic and adult fairy tale “*Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*.” Happer titled his talk as Alice in Climateland. Sections included “Down the Rabbit Hole”, changing size with models serving the function of mushrooms, the queen’s croquet, and the trial with Alice’s evidence –“off with her head” seems to be an all too familiar statement among those who dislike skeptics who point out the lack of physical evidence to support the contention that human CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are causing dangerous global warming. See the links under Challenging the Orthodoxy –ICCC-10.

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**General Comment:** The 2013 and the 2014 reports of the independent Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) are slowly gaining popularity. This is particularly true for the report on the Biological Impacts, which is more readily understood by the general public than the report on the Physical Science. To recognize the benefits of carbon dioxide is revolutionary, after decades of demonization of CO<sub>2</sub> by government entities and government supported entities. Use of the Biological Impacts can be a method of introducing the Physical Science by pointing out what else does government-sponsored research ignore. Often overlooked, the report on Biological Impacts has a section of over 80 pages on Human Health effects of increased atmospheric carbon dioxide. Major findings include: warmer temperatures are beneficial to humanity colder temperatures are not (even if CO<sub>2</sub> has little influence on temperatures), malaria will not expand as a result of increased temperatures, claims of increased vector borne diseases with temperature are unfounded, and increased CO<sub>2</sub> can

increase the medicinal substances found in plants. These findings are contrary to the findings of the US Global Change Research Program. See the links under Challenging the Orthodoxy – NIPCC

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**Strange things:** SEPP prepared comments to the draft report, *The Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in the United States: A Scientific Assessment* by USGCRP's Interagency Group on Climate Change and Human Health, which is part of the sustained National Climate Assessment and as called for under the President's Climate Action Plan.

SEPP's comments were a compilation of what has appeared in TWTW and other documents. They included the failure of the models to predict the current temperature trends, no rise; John Christy's graphs; failure to advance science of understanding of climate sensitivity since the Charney Report (1979); and failure in logic. Specific examples included extreme weather & health effects; infectious diseases including vector borne diseases; food safety and nutrition. References included the 2013 and 2014 NIPCC Reports.

As stated in TWTW, the USGCRP website stated the comment period closed midnight Eastern Time, on June 8, and continued to do so on the morning of June 8. In preparing to submit the comments about 5:10 pm, SEPP discovered the comment period was moved up to 5pm. The system would no longer permit comments. Draw your own conclusions.

According to the USGCRP comment website, the draft report was submitted to the National Academy of Sciences for rigorous peer review. We shall see how rigorously today's NAS reviews this deeply flawed report, including the importance of public health measures in controlling infectious diseases, the NIPCC reports, and other serious omissions in the USGCRP report. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy.

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**The Battle of the Gs?** In preparing for the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate UNFCCC in Paris, starting at the end of November, two sets of conferences were held, with two different sets of parties. One group, the G-7, is comprised of finance ministers and central bank governors of seven major advanced economies: Canada, the US, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom.

The second group, the G-77 + founded in June 15, 1964, lists 134 member states, including India, China, Brazil, South Africa –most developing countries. Russia is not listed in either group. It is becoming increasingly evident that the goals of these two groups are not merging into a coherent whole for a major, universal agreement in Paris. And then, there is that pesky US Constitution, which many advocates wish to ignore, which requires that a treaty involving the US, to be enforceable, must have the approval of 2/3 of the Senate –a task that is becoming increasingly unlikely for this Administration. See links under On to Paris!, and Problems in the Orthodoxy.

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**Number of the Week:** 71%. According to reports 5 of the 7 G-7 countries (71%) burned 16% more coal in 2013 than in 2009 and are planning to further increase construction of coal-fired power stations. The countries are Britain, Germany, Italy, Japan and France. Only the US and Canada reduced coal consumption since the Copenhagen climate summit in 2009. Could insisting that other countries do as the G-7 says, not as it does, be a new form of neo-colonialism? See links under Problems in the Orthodoxy.

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<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2015/TWTW%206-13-15.pdf>

## SKEPTICS SECTION

### A. THE EPA'S 'CLEAN POWER' MESS

The plan will ensure that energy plants operate like cars in stop-and-go traffic, cutting efficiency  
*“So unfortunately, inside of Washington we’ve still got some climate deniers who shout loud, but they’re wasting everybody’s time on a settled debate,” Obama said, doubling down on remarks made during his State of the Union Address this year by adding that, “Climate change is a fact.”*

By Benjamin Zycher

June 7, 2015 6:21 p.m. ET

‘Flexibility’ is the advertised hallmark of the Environmental Protection Agency’s proposed Clean Power Plan, which by 2030 would reduce carbon-dioxide emissions from U.S. power plants by 30% from 2005 levels. The central feature of the plan is a forced shift away from inexpensive coal-fired power. Not to worry, says EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy: “With EPA’s flexible proposal, states choose the ways we cut carbon pollution, so we can still have affordable, reliable power to grow our economy.”

Under the plan, the EPA will set a carbon-dioxide-emissions target for every state, and give each state roughly a year to develop and implement a “state plan” to meet it. Of course, the EPA must approve the plan before it can go into effect. How is that flexible? The EPA allows states to choose any combination of four “building blocks” to reach its target—reducing coal, increasing natural-gas, more renewables and nuclear energy, and enhancing energy-efficiency standards. So if the Clean Power Plan is so flexible, why has the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, in a May 15 [letter](#) to the EPA, voiced its concerns over the “flexibility” and potential impact on the “reliability” of America’s electricity grid once it is implemented? Signed by FERC Chairman Norman Bay and all four commissioners, the letter recommends a “Reliability Safety Valve,” which is defined as “a process through which the affected entities can petition the EPA for temporary waivers or adjustments to the emissions requirements or compliance timelines in an approved state plan to preserve Bulk-Power System Reliability.”

FERC and those in the industry it regulates seem to realize what the EPA does not: that the agency’s “building blocks” are mutually inconsistent. The recommended 6% efficiency improvement for coal plants is prohibitive in cost because their individual operating characteristics—the types of coal they use, operating pressures, emissions equipment, etc.—are predetermined in their designs and extremely difficult to change. Few if any owners of coal plants will be willing to make that huge investment. Moreover, the recommended increase in the capacity utilization of natural gas combined cycle (NGCC) turbines to 70% from roughly 45% today means reduced output and a smaller market share for coal.

The coal-efficiency path is made even more difficult by the EPA’s recently implemented Mercury and Air Toxic Standards. Compliance with this new rule requires the installation of costly scrubbers and other equipment that reduce operating efficiency.

The increase in the utilization of natural-gas plants also conflicts with the increase in wind and solar power. Because renewables are unreliable, they must be backed up by coal- and gas-fired plants, which must be cycled up and down depending on whether the wind is blowing or the sun is shining. This cycling reduces efficiency for the backup coal and gas plants in much the same way as stop-and-go driving cuts automotive fuel efficiency, and this will make it more difficult for gas plants to achieve higher capacity utilization.

The “energy efficiency” path means a reduction in demand for both coal- and gas-fired power, again inconsistent with investment in improved coal efficiency, and with the envisioned increase in the utilization of gas plants.

No one knows how this demand reduction will affect power consumption at peak periods relative to off-peak ones. This will exacerbate the uncertainties regarding investment in new power plants, which will again increase costs and create significant risks to the reliability of the grid. The operators of electricity systems have always used the cheapest power first and then more-expensive power as demand increases through a given day. How will costs and reliability change when they are forced to adopt a convoluted system combining operating cost and greenhouse gas considerations? No one knows.

Put aside that neither the Clean Power Plan nor the administration’s larger climate policy would have a measurable effect on temperatures. The reality is that the plan is so inflexible and costly that states heavily dependent on coal power will suffer an artificial competitive disadvantage, and will be forced to join regional cap-and-trade emissions trading systems. Since those states disproportionately are red ones—Mississippi, North Dakota and Texas, for example—the dominant effect will be payments for emissions credits from red states to blue ones.

There are good reasons to doubt that the EPA understands how a modern power system works. Such are the fruits of regulatory zealotry and the haste driven by the prospect that the next administration might place a greater emphasis on economic growth.

*Mr. Zycher is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.*

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-epas-clean-power-mess-1433715694>

## **B. HUGE DIVERGENCE BETWEEN LATEST UAH & HADCRUT4 TEMPERATURE DATASETS**

Guest Post by Werner Brozek, Edited by Just The Facts: Some of you may have wondered why the title and the above plot are comparing different data sets. The reasons are that GISS and HadCRUT4.3 are very similar. As well, UAH6.0 is now very similar to RSS. However WFT does not have the latest UAH...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/06/09/huge-divergence-between-latest-uah-and-hadcrut4-revisions-now-includes-april-data/>

## **C. THE DAILY ALBEDO CYCLE**

Guest Post by Willis Eschenbach

I discussed the role of tropical albedo in regulating the temperature in two previous posts entitled **Albedic Meanderings and An Inherently Stable System**. This post builds on that foundation. I said in the latter post that I would discuss the diurnal changes in tropical cloud albedo. For this I use...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/06/08/the-daily-albedo-cycle/>

## **D. SOME WISDOM IN THE ARTICLE PUTTING EARTH'S CLIMATE SYSTEM INTO HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

Some wisdom from the article

" We ought to be intelligent enough to acknowledge that we don't know what we don't know. Science is *never* settled. We should keep in mind Seneca's admonition. "**Nature does not reveal**

**all her secrets at once. We imagine we are initiated in her mysteries: we are, as yet, but hanging around her outer courts.”**

"There has never been a time when the need for understanding the limits and nature of scientific knowledge is so compelling, or the ramifications of ignorance so consequential. Those who ignore history are apt to repeat its mistakes. "

Don Shaw

### **Guest essay by Dr. David Deming**

The world stands on the verge of committing itself to limits on the emission of carbon dioxide that would drastically reduce the use of fossil fuels. If this fateful decision is made, the economies of developed nations will be strangled. Human prosperity will be reduced. Our ability to solve pressing problems, both human and environmental, will be severely limited. We have been told that these shackles must be imposed to forestall a hypothetical global warming projected to occur sometime in the distant future. But to date the only unambiguous evidence for planetary warming is a modest rise in temperature (less than one degree Celsius) that falls well within the range of natural variation.

The validity of warming predictions depends upon the questionable reliability of computer models of the climate system. But Earth's climate system is complex and poorly understood. And the integrity of the computer models cannot be demonstrated or even tested. To anyone with an awareness of the nature and limitations of scientific knowledge, it must appear that the human race is repeating a foolish mistake from the past. We have been down this road before, most notably in the latter half of the nineteenth century when it appeared that mathematics and physics had conclusively answered the question of the Earth's age. At that time, a science that had been definitely "settled" fell apart in the space of a few years. The mathematical models that appeared to be so certain proved to be completely, even ridiculously wrong.

The age of the Earth is one of the great questions that have puzzled people for thousands of years. In *Meteorologica*, Aristotle (384-322 BC) asserted that the world was eternal. But with the advent of Christianity and Islam, scholars began to assume that humanity was coeval with the Creation of the world. It followed that the age of the Earth could be estimated from a careful examination of sacred writings.

The first person to make a quantitative estimate of the Earth's age was the Islamic scientist al-Biruni (c. 973-1050). al-Biruni based his chronology on the Hindu, Jewish, and Christian religious scriptures. He divided the history of the world into eras, and concluded that it had been less than ten thousand years since the Creation.

Working in the tradition begun by al-Biruni, Bishop James Ussher (1581-1686) estimated the age of the Earth by meticulously studying the Bible and other historical documents. In *The Annals of the World Deduced from the Origin of Time*, Ussher pinpointed the date of Creation as the "night proceeding the 23rd of October, 4004 BC." Ussher's scholarship was impressive, and his dates were accepted as the standard chronology. Bible editors began to place Ussher's dates in the margins of their texts.

Isaac Newton (1642-1727), the greatest scientist of the age, was also a Biblical fundamentalist who believed in a young Earth. Newton explained to his nephew, John Conduitt, that the Earth could not be old because all human technology was of recent invention. Like Ussher, Newton wrote his own universal history, *Chronology of Ancient Kingdoms Amended*, which was published posthumously in 1728.

The procedures for establishing a scientific estimate of the age of the Earth were laid out in the seventeenth century by the Danish anatomist, Nicolaus Steno (1638-1686). Steno was the first person to state unequivocally that the history of the Earth was not to be found in human chronicles, but in the Earth itself. Steno's principles of geologic investigation became the basis for establishing the relative age of rock sequences and the foundation of historical geology.

Armed with Steno's principles, eighteenth century naturalists began to seriously consider the implications of the rock record. It became apparent to them that an immense amount of time was required to deposit the rock layers that covered the Earth's surface.

One of the first to recognize the scope of geologic time was the Scottish philosopher James Hutton (1726-1797). In the year 1788, Hutton was accompanied on a field trip by his friend, the mathematician, John Playfair (1748-1819). They traveled up the coastline of Scotland to Siccar Point, and Hutton described the history implied by the sequence of rocks exposed there. After listening to Hutton's exposition, Playfair later wrote "the mind seemed to grow giddy by looking so far into the abyss of time."

By the time Charles Darwin (1809-1882) published *Origin of Species* in 1859, geologists were of the opinion that the Earth was practically, although not literally, of infinite age. With infinite time at his disposal, Darwin was able to invoke the slow mechanism of natural selection as an explanation for the organic evolution evidenced in the fossil record.

To demonstrate the vast extent of geologic time, Darwin offered the erosion of the Weald, a seaside cliff in England, as an offhand example. Darwin assumed an erosion rate of an inch a century, and then extrapolated that some 300 million years were apparently necessary to explain the total amount of erosion that had occurred.

But Darwin's estimated erosion rate of one inch per century was little more than speculation. The number was unconstrained by any measurement or scientific observation. Nineteenth-century geologists lacked any quantitative method for establishing dates. The rocks of the Earth's crust might represent the passage of ten million years. But just as easily, the amount of time could have been a hundred, a thousand, or ten thousand million years.

Darwin and his geological colleagues were soon taken to the woodshed by the greatest physicist of the nineteenth century, William Thomson (1824-1907). Better known as Lord Kelvin, Thomson was a man of prodigious gifts who possessed enormous intellectual stature. He published his first scientific paper at age sixteen, and had been appointed a chaired professor at the University of Glasgow at the precocious age of twenty-two.

In 1861, Lord Kelvin began to seriously address the question of dating the Earth. He was aware that the Earth radiated internal heat. This process could not have been going on forever. By maintaining that the Earth was infinitely old, the geologists in effect were postulating that energy was not conserved. This violated the First Law of Thermodynamics, and Kelvin was aroused to do battle.

In the nineteenth century, the only known source for the internal heat of the Earth was the original mechanical heat of accretion. Reasoning that the Earth had been molten at the time of its formation, but cooling ever since, Kelvin was able to construct an elegant mathematical model that constrained the age of the Earth on the basis of its measured geothermal gradient. Much the same method is used today by coroners who estimate the time of death by taking the temperature of a cadaver.

In 1862, Kelvin published his analysis in a paper titled *On the Secular Cooling of the Earth*. He arrived at a best estimate for the age of the Earth of 100 million years. Kelvin's

estimate was no idle speculation. It was based on a precise mathematical model constrained by laboratory measurements and the laws of thermodynamics.

Kelvin attacked Darwin directly. He raised the question: were the laboratory measurements and mathematical calculations in error, or was it more likely “that a stormy sea, with possibly channel tides of extreme violence, should encroach on a chalk cliff 1,000 times more rapidly than Mr. Darwin’s estimate of one inch per century?”

Darwin was devastated. He wrote to his mentor, Charles Lyell, “for heaven’s sake take care of your fingers; to burn them severely, as I have done, is very unpleasant.” Geologists were left sputtering. They had no effective rebuttal to Kelvin’s calculations. Within a few years, the geological establishment began to line up with Lord Kelvin. Among the influential converts was Archibald Geikie, President of both the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Geological Society of London.

Researchers began to look for evidence that would confirm Kelvin’s calculations. In 1865, Geologist Samuel Haughton had estimated the age of the Earth as 2300 million years, a number reasonably close to the modern value of 4500 million years. But under the influence of Kelvin’s authority, in 1878 Haughton drastically shortened his earlier calculation to 153 million years.

A lone voice of dissent was raised by the biologist, Thomas Huxley (1825-1895). Huxley pointed out that there was a fundamental weakness in Kelvin’s mathematical model. “Mathematics may be compared to a mill of exquisite workmanship, which grinds you stuff of any degree of fineness; but, nevertheless, what you get out depends on what you put in.” Put in more modern terms, Huxley’s observation amounted to “garbage in, garbage out.”

But as the end of the nineteenth century approached, the scientific community was beginning to regard Kelvin’s estimate of 100 million years as a near certainty. Writing in the *American Journal of Science* in 1893, geologist Warren Upham characterized Kelvin’s estimate of the age of the Earth as the most “important conclusion in the natural sciences...[that] has been reached during this century.”

The science was definitely settled in 1899 by the Irish physicist, John Joly (1857-1933). Joly hit upon a robust method for calculating the age of the Earth that was entirely different from Kelvin’s. Joly’s calculation was childishly simple, yet apparently foolproof. He estimated the age of the Earth by dividing the total salt content of the oceans by the rate at which salt was being carried to the sea by the rivers. He found that it would take 80 to 90 million years for the ocean’s salt to accumulate.

In consideration of the uncertainties involved, Joly’s age estimate was essentially identical to Thomson’s. With different methods yielding the same result, it seemed evident that the result was conclusive: the Earth was 100 million years old. It seemed that to deny this reality, was to deny not only the authority of the scientific establishment but the very laws of nature themselves.

The ingenious calculations of Kelvin and Joly were soon to be overturned by an improbable empiricism. In the thirteenth century, modern science began when philosophers came to the realization that logic alone could never uncover the secrets of the cosmos, no matter how seductive its appeal. Contemplation of the mysterious properties of the magnet convinced Roger Bacon and his contemporaries that nature contained occult or hidden forces that could never be discerned or anticipated rationally, only discovered experimentally.

In 1896, Henri Becquerel accidentally discovered radioactivity when he found that photographic plates were exposed when placed next to certain minerals. By 1904, it became

apparent that there were radioactive minerals inside the Earth releasing heat. Lord Kelvin's assumption of no internal heat sources was wrong. At the beginning of the twentieth century, it was not even clear if the Earth was cooling or heating. Thomson's calculations were precise, but he had no way of knowing about radioactivity.

Radioactivity also provided a rigorous way to calculate the age of the Earth. The accepted modern estimate for the age of the Earth is 4500 million years. The nineteenth-century estimate of 100 million years that seemed so certain was wrong, not just by 20 or 30 percent, but by a factor of 45. In retrospect, the reason that Thomson's estimates had been independently confirmed is that geologists looked for data that would support Thomson's physics. The consensus that had emerged was the product of a human psychological process, not objective science. The nature of science is such that people who look for confirming evidence will always find it.

Compared to modern climate models, William Thomson's models were simple, and contained only a few assumptions. In contrast, global warming models are hideously complex, and contain numerous hidden assumptions, many of which are highly uncertain. The most significant of these is whether water vapor will exert a negative or positive feedback on the warming induced by carbon dioxide. All the major climate models assume the feedback will be positive, exaggerating any possible warming. But recent research indicates the feedback may be negative. We don't know.

There is also much we do not understand about why Earth's climate changes. It is possible that cosmic rays, modulated by the Sun's magnetic field, cool Earth by inducing the formation of clouds. We don't know why Ice Ages end so spectacularly and suddenly. Once they begin, Ice Ages should continue indefinitely, as cooling is reinforced by a number of positive feedbacks.

We ought to be intelligent enough to acknowledge that we don't know what we don't know. Science is *never* settled. We should keep in mind Seneca's admonition. "**Nature does not reveal all her secrets at once. We imagine we are initiated in her mysteries: we are, as yet, but hanging around her outer courts.**"

There has never been a time when the need for understanding the limits and nature of scientific knowledge is so compelling, or the ramifications of ignorance so consequential. Those who ignore history are apt to repeat its mistakes.

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*David Deming ([ddeming@ou.edu](mailto:ddeming@ou.edu)) is a geophysicist and professor of arts and sciences at the University of Oklahoma. He is the author of a history of science in three volumes, [Science and Technology in World History](#).*

## **E. \$ 150 BILLION PER YEAR NEEDED TO SAVE THE WORLD FROM CLIMATE CHANGE**

"It took about \$150bn in today's money to put a man on the moon in the 1960s, and now it is said we need to come up with the same amount to save the world from climate change.

That is the message from Sir David King, Foreign Office climate envoy, and six other prominent British scientists, businessmen and civil servants behind a climate plan modeled on the US Apollo space programme."

<http://www.thegwpc.com/scientists-need-150-billion-per-year-to-save-the-world-from-climate-change-scientists-warn/>

## **F. WHERE DOES THE US GET IT'S ELECTRICITY FROM?**

Interesting to note how pathetic wind and solar have provided energy despite the subsidies, mandates, and the promises from governments.

Why do they keep making promises that cannot be realized?

<http://static.politico.com/dims4/default/de83c97/2147483647/resize/658x%3E/quality/90/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fstatic.politico.com%2Ff0%2F6b%2F461178914c9e8a82f7e751326732%2Fnewupdated-energy-chart.jpg>

## **G. IMPROVING CLIMATE CHANGE COMMUNICATION: MOVING BEYOND SCIENTIFIC CERTAINTY**

Posted on [June 8, 2015](#) | [178 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

A new report from [The University of Nottingham](#) looks at whether climate scientists threaten their own scientific credibility when trying to make their research accessible to members of the public.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/06/08/improving-climate-change-communication-moving-beyond-scientific-certainty/#more-19023>

<http://www.rationaloptimist.com/blog/the-probable-net-benefits-of-climate-change-till-2080.aspx>

## **H. THE NET BENEFITS OF CLIMATE CHANGE TILL 2080**

PUBLISHED ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2013, UPDATED WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2013

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW THAT WARMING IS DOING MORE GOOD THAN HARM MY SPECTATOR [COVER STORY](#) ON THE NET BENEFITS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**I WILL POST REBUTTALS TO THE ARTICLES THAT CRITICISED THIS PIECE BELOW**

## **ALARMIST SECTION**

**RICK YOUNDER - DO THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES SATISFY THE CANONS LISTED ABOVE AND IF THEY DO, WHAT ARE THE REASONS? GHH**

### **A. CLAIM: GREENHOUSE GAS-CAUSED WARMING FELT IN JUST MONTHS**

**Caldeira**

It seems in the desperation to erase “the pause” in time for Paris, Ken Caldeira has jumped the shark with this claim. Basically he’s claiming that the heat from fossil fuel combustion is a factor, not just the posited slowing of infrared from Earth’s surface to the top of the atmosphere by increased CO2 concentration....

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/06/02/claim-greenhouse-gas-caused-warming-felt-in-just-months/>

## **B. THE 'UNCERTAINTY MONSTER' BITES BACK AT IPCC SCIENTISTS**

WUWT readers may recall this paper from Dr. Judith Curry where the “uncertainty monster” was given life. The uncertainty monster has bitten back. It seems that the IPCC botched more than just AR5 in 2013, they also botched their own press conference on the Summary for Policy Makers in Stockholm by not paying attention to...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/06/08/the-uncertainty-monster-bites-ipcc-scientists-back/>

## **C. ALTERNATIVE ENERGY**

Subsidy for the environmentally-devastating Drax biomass power plant will soon reach about £0.5 billion a year: Drax is increasing GHG emissions and electricity bills

## **D. COURT GIVES OBAMA A CLIMATE CHANGE WIN**

By CORAL DAVENPORT JUNE 9, 2015

**WASHINGTON** — A federal court on Tuesday dismissed a lawsuit by the nation’s largest coal companies and 14 coal-producing states that sought to block one of President Obama’s signature [climate change](#) policies.

The lawsuit, Murray Energy v. [E.P.A.](#), challenged the [Environmental Protection Agency](#)’s proposed rule to reduce planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. If enacted, the rule could shutter hundreds of such plants, freeze construction of future plants and slow demand for coal production in the United States.

The lawsuit was the first in a wave of expected legal challenges to the E.P.A. [climate change](#) rules. Legal experts say they expect some of those challenges to make it to the Supreme Court. Among the lawyers arguing on behalf of the coal companies was Laurence H. Tribe, a renowned Harvard scholar of constitutional law and Mr. Obama’s former law school mentor.

The E.P.A. put forth the [power plants proposal](#) last June, and after taking public comments and revising the plan, the agency is scheduled to reveal it in final form in August. The judges in the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit rejected the challenge, saying it was unprecedented for a court to review a rule that had been introduced only in the form of a draft.

All three circuit court judges agreed that the challenge was premature.

“Petitioners are champing at the bit to challenge E.P.A.’s anticipated rule restricting carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants,” Judge Brett Kavanaugh [wrote in the opinion](#).

“But E.P.A. has not yet issued a final rule. It has issued only a proposed rule. Petitioners nonetheless ask the court to jump into the fray now. They want us to do something that they candidly acknowledge we have never done before: review the legality of a proposed rule.”

He concluded, “We deny the petitions for review and the petition for a writ of prohibition because the complained-of agency action is not final.”

Liz Purchia, a spokeswoman for the agency, wrote in a statement, “E.P.A. is pleased that the court has denied the challenges to our proposed [Clean Power Plan](#) and confirmed our assessment that they are premature.”

Environmentalists also cheered the decision. “The first legal challenge to the Clean Power Plan failed today, and others the polluters will trot out should fail as well,” said David Doniger, the head of the climate and clean air program for the Natural Resources Defense Council, an advocacy group.

But litigants are already preparing to file a new suit once the rule is put into effect.

“We are obviously disappointed with the court’s ruling today, but we still think we have a compelling case that the rule is unlawful,” said Patrick Morrissey, the attorney general of West Virginia, who led oral arguments against the rule. “As the court recognized, the rule will be final very soon, and we look forward to continuing to press the issue. We will continue to take every available step to protect our citizens and the State of West Virginia from this unlawful power grab by Washington bureaucrats.”

## **E. PLEASE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER AND THANK YOU ONCE MORE FOR YOUR DILIGENCE IN EFFORT IN PRODUCING IT.**

Last Friday I listened to a program with panelists from NACAA, NARUC, and NASEO, about how states can comply with Clean Power Plan – short description of the program here <http://www.eesi.org/briefings/view/060515cpp> (turns out it was second in a series). Long story short, the NACAA *Menu of Options* document is 400+ pages of very good material to use for state planning for how to deal with the Clean Power Plan. This is certainly a great time to be an engineer - there won't be any lack of work! <http://www.4cleanair.org/news/details/nacaa-releases-clean-power-plan-implementation-tool> and [http://www.4cleanair.org/NACAA\\_Menu\\_of\\_Options](http://www.4cleanair.org/NACAA_Menu_of_Options)

**Renewables fastest growing form of energy in 2014: BP -**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/06/10/us-bp-energy-stats-idUSKBN00Q1QK20150610>

**In Stunning Reversal, ‘Big Oil’ Asks for Carbon Price -**

<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/oil-companies-carbon-price-19054>

**This Big Texas City Will Soon Be Powered Entirely By Wind And Sun -**

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/06/11/3666649/georgetown-texas-one-hundred-percent-renewable/>

**G7 leaders agree to phase out fossil fuel use by end of century -**

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/08/g7-leaders-agree-phase-out-fossil-fuel-use-end-of-century>

## **How Would a Low-Carbon Economy Work? -**

[http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-would-a-low-carbon-economy-work/?WT.mc\\_id=SA\\_ENGYUSUS\\_20150604](http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-would-a-low-carbon-economy-work/?WT.mc_id=SA_ENGYUSUS_20150604)

**For you, George: Sorry, “skeptics”:** Global warming may not be so great for plant life after all - <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/06/10/sorry-skeptics-global-warming-may-not-be-so-great-for-plant-life-after-all/>

Rick Youder

### **Editor’s Note:**

The Washington Post offer a citations for their conclusion global warming is occurring, but those citations rely on computer program results, which not been validated. See Roy Spencer’s graph of atmospheric temperature in last week’s Newsletter. GHH

## **F. POPE CALLS GLOBAL WARMING A THREAT AND URGES ACTION**

### **DRAFT OF ENCYCLICAL CALLS REDUCING CARBON EMISSIONS AN ‘URGENT’ MATTER**

By Francis X. Rocca

Updated June 15, 2015 7:05 p.m. ET

ROME—Pope Francis calls global warming a major threat to life on the planet, says it is due mainly to human activity, and describes the need to reduce the use of fossil fuels as an urgent matter, in a published draft of a much-awaited upcoming letter on the environment.

The draft copy of “Laudato Si’ ” (“Be praised”), his encyclical on the environment, has been eagerly awaited by business, policy makers and environmental groups. It was published online on Monday by the Italian magazine L’Espresso, three days ahead of its scheduled publication date.

The Vatican said the posted text wasn’t the final document, which would remain under embargo until Thursday, but it didn’t say whether there were material differences between the draft and the final document.

An encyclical is widely considered one of the highest forms of papal writing, intended to explain and elaborate Catholic teaching.

“Laudato Si’ ” is addressed not only to Catholics but to “every person who lives on this planet,” the pope wrote. In it, the pontiff related ecological concerns to his signature theme of economic justice, especially the gap in wealth between the global north and south.

In the draft, the pope wades into the debate over climate change, writing of a “very consistent scientific consensus that we are in the presence of an alarming warming of the climactic system.”

He writes that there is an “urgent and compelling” need for policies that reduce carbon emissions, among other ways, by “replacing fossil fuels and developing sources of renewable energy.” While acknowledging that natural causes, including volcanic activity, play a role in

climate change, the pope writes that “numerous scientific studies indicate that the greater part of global warming in recent decades is due to the great concentration of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrogen oxide and others) emitted above all due to human activity.”

The encyclical has acquired outsized importance in recent months, given the moral suasion and the popularity of Argentina-born Pope Francis, the first pontiff from the developing world and one who has been particularly vocal in his advocacy of the poor and criticism of big business. Moreover, the encyclical comes at a time when governments, investors, industry executives and environmentalists are debating policy measures to address climate change.

The pope’s letter brings a new dimension to the wrangling over the issue. In 2013, a landmark United Nations report concluded that there was a 95% level of certainty that humans are responsible for most global warming and reiterated that a long-term planetary warming trend was expected to continue. The report said that air and oceans are getting warmer, ice and snow are less plentiful, and sea levels are rising. The U.N. report is believed to broadly reflect the views of most climate scientists.

Some other researchers, though, have remained skeptical about global warming and they remain unconvinced that human activity is the dominant cause.

Paul C. Knappenberger, a climate scientist with Cato Institute, a Libertarian think tank, said the pope “goes too far in the perception that the changing of the climate leads to bad outcomes and necessarily needs some sort of immediate reaction.”

Crucially, the pontiff’s words are expected to bolster the case of scientists and politicians who are seeking a global pact aimed at reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and potentially avoiding significant additional warming of the earth’s atmosphere and oceans.

The pope “is going to be reaching people that haven’t thought about this,” said Mindy Lubber, president of Ceres, a Boston-based nonprofit group that works with more than 100 companies with investments totaling \$13 trillion to address climate risks to their business.

In December, nearly 200 countries are expected to meet in Paris and sign the new climate change agreement. Earlier this year, Pope Francis—who expressed disappointment at the failure of past international efforts to reach agreement on the issue—said that he aimed to publish the encyclical in time to affect the Paris meeting.

Sen. Edward Markey (D.-Mass.), one of Washington’s most vocal proponents of aggressive action on climate change, said the Pope’s encyclical “comes at a critical time as the world’s nations prepare to convene for international climate negotiations in Paris in December.”

The pope’s encyclical also comes as oil companies are turning increasingly vocal on climate change amid rising scrutiny from investors and governments. Many are looking to influence the debate by proposing remedies, including the imposition of a carbon tax, which might have a lesser impact on their business than more wide-ranging changes being sought by some.

Many of the industries’ largest players are advocating a shift away from coal to cleaner-burning gas—which they are producing in ever larger volumes—as a means to mitigate climate change while continuing to meet rising energy demand in the coming decades.

Earlier this year, Exxon Mobil Corp. sent a senior lobbyist to Rome in an attempt to brief the Vatican on its outlook for energy markets.

The American Petroleum Institute, a national trade organization that represents the U.S. oil and gas industry, including Exxon, said it was working to review the leaked document.

In laying out his thesis, the pope returned to his frequent criticisms of business, the problems of income inequality and the plight of poor countries.

The pope wrote that powerful economic and political interests seek to “mask the problems or hide the symptoms, seeking only to reduce the negative impacts of climate change.” But he warned that global warming could worsen “if we continue with the current models of production and consumption.”

Pope Francis also highlighted other environmental problems, including the depletion of clean water due to overconsumption and the loss of biodiversity.

“Water poverty” is especially acute in Africa and other poor regions, where poor water quality foments disease and shortages lead to rising food prices, the pope wrote.

Pope Francis emphasized the unequal social effects of environmental problems, which he said “strike in a special way the weakest on the planet.” Unequal access to natural resources has led to an “ecological deficit” between the northern and southern hemispheres, with the former exploiting the latter to the enrichment of its industrial economy, he wrote.

The 191-page document includes extensive sections on Catholic theology of creation, as well as critiques of economic globalization and consumer culture, which the pope argues have led to environmental degradation.

In terms of practical solutions, the Pope recognizes that poorer countries, which are typically dependent on fossil fuels, must put a priority on the “eradication of misery and the social development of their inhabitants.” In their transition to less polluting energy sources, such countries must count on the assistance of already developed countries, through subsidies and technology transfers, he writes.

The pope rejected population control as a solution to such inequities. “To blame demographic growth and not the extreme and selective consumption of some is a way of not facing the problem,” he wrote.

Part of the solution lies in adopting “another style of life,” featuring more environmentally conscious behavior, such as reducing use of paper, plastic and water; separating trash; car-sharing and turning off unnecessary lights, the pope wrote.

“One must not think that these efforts won’t change the world,” he wrote.

—Tammy Audi and Gautam Naik contributed to this article.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/papal-draft-faults-most-global-warming-on-human-activity-1434389790>

## **NO OTHER ALARMIST CONTRIBUTION**

Regards

George

**NOTE: There will be no Newsletters June 29. I will be traveling. GHH**