

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

24 AUG. 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 unidentified EED Review Committee alone, which represents the positions of the Environmental and Energy Division (EED) and ASME.

This week's edition includes a discussion of a portion of the EED Executive meeting:

A. ENVIRONMENT 1. ENERGY DEPARTMENT CITES BOOM IN WIND ENERGY

WASHINGTON - The Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, released last week, requires the U.S. to use a lot more renewable energy by the year 2030 - and a lot less coal. And right on time, two new reports published Monday by the Department of Energy find that one key renewable sector - wind - is booming, a development that can only help matters when it comes to reducing carbon emissions. The reports being released - including the 2014 Wind Technologies Market Report, published by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory - suggest that wind is being installed at a rapid rate, that its costs are plummeting, that its technologies are advancing, and that it is creating a growing number of jobs to boot.

Wind energy in the U.S. is now at 66 gigawatts of installed capacity, according to the report - providing roughly 5 percent of total U.S. electricity demand. That is enough electricity to power 17.5 million homes (a gigawatt is a billion watts). And, says Jose Zayas, who heads the wind and water power technologies office at the Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 13 more gigawatts are now "in the construction phase" and set to come online by 2016.

Business

For reference, in 2012, the U.S. had 1063 gigawatts of total installed electricity capacity, according to the Energy Information Administration.

"It really dispels some of the past myths that you cannot have significant amounts of wind energy in the system - a variable source in the system - without really affecting the overall efficiency," Zayas says.

In the meantime, wind now provides 73,000 jobs, the new report finds. And most striking, it found that the wholesale cost of wind energy - bought under a "power purchasing agreement," or PPA, in which a utility or company buys power from a wind farm under a long term contract - is now just 2.35 cents per kilowatt-hour. That's the lowest it has ever been.

"At 2.35 cents per kilowatt hour, wind is cheaper than the average price of wholesale electricity in many parts of the country," says Ryan Wiser of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, a lead author of the new report.

Granted, it's important to note that costs would not be so low without the wind production tax credit, which covers projects that began by the close of 2014.

This may help explain why of late, companies ranging from Google to Yahoo to Microsoft have been entering into purchase agreements with wind farms to help power their energy hungry data centers. Even as costs decline, a key technology trend is helping further advance the sector. Simply put, wind turbines are getting taller, as well as bigger overall.

So-called "hub heights" - the level of the turbine's central rotor hub above the ground - have increased to an average of 82.7 meters for new turbine installations, which is nearly 50 percent higher than in 1998-1999. Meanwhile, the diameter of wind rotors has increased dramatically too - newly installed turbines averaged a rotor diameter of 99.4 meters in 2014, an over 100 percent increase in size since 1998-1999.

Both of these trends increase the amount of electricity that can be generated from a given wind turbine, since there is more energy to be captured higher in the air (due to higher wind speeds), and since bigger rotors can also generate "more power at lower wind speeds," as Energy explains.

"We want the largest rotor possible on the machine, and eventually, we want to go to higher elevation," says the Energy Department's Jose Zayas. Ultimately, wind turbines with hub heights as high as 140 meters could open up the possibility of wind energy in across the 50 United States, DOE has previously reported.

It's all part of a bigger picture in which since 2007, a third of new electricity generating capacity in the U.S. has been from wind. The Department of Energy has envisioned the possibility of getting fully 20 percent of the U.S.'s electricity from wind by 2030.

A second Energy Department report being released Monday, by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, focuses on the distributed wind energy market - which, the report says, has now nearly reached a single gigawatt of installed capacity.

Distributed wind, like distributed solar, refers to wind energy - typically just one or two turbines - installed by private individuals or companies to allow them to generate a portion of the electricity they need onsite, rather than having to buy it from a utility company. Anheuser-Busch, for instance, has now installed two wind turbines at its Northern California Fairfield brewery.

Editor's Note: Remember Output Capacity is actually only 25% of the installed capacity for Wind Turbines. This means the U.S. has only 1,25% of needed generating capacity supplied by wind turbines. GHH

2. EUROPEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY PERFORMANCE FOR FALLS FAR SHORT OF CLAIMS

Guest essay by Ed Hoskins Summary:

By 2014 European Union countries had invested approximately €1 trillion, €1,000,000,000,000 in large scale Renewable Energy installations. This has provided a nameplate electrical generating capacity of about 216 Gigawatts, nominally about ~22% of the total European generation needs of about 1000 Gigawatts. The actual measured output by 2014 from data supplied by the...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/07/31/european-renewable-energy-performance-for-2014-fall-far-short-of-claims/>

3. THE UNSETTLING, ANTI-SCIENCE CERTITUDE ON GLOBAL WARMING

Climate-change 'deniers' are accused of heresy by true believers. That doesn't sound like science to me.

By

John Steele Gordon

July 30, 2015 8:03 p.m. ET

Are there any phrases in today's political lexicon more obnoxious than "the science is settled" and "climate-change deniers"?

The first is an oxymoron. By definition, science is never settled. It is always subject to change in the light of new evidence. The second phrase is nothing but an ad hominem attack, meant to evoke "Holocaust

deniers,” those people who maintain that the Nazi Holocaust is a fiction, ignoring the overwhelming, incontestable evidence that it is a historical fact. [Hillary Clinton](#)’s speech about climate change on Monday in Des Moines, Iowa, included an attack on “deniers.”

The phrases are in no way applicable to the science of Earth’s climate. The climate is an enormously complex system, with a very large number of inputs and outputs, many of which we don’t fully understand—and some we may well not even know about yet. To note this, and to observe that there is much contradictory evidence for assertions of a coming global-warming catastrophe, isn’t to “deny” anything; it is to state a fact. In other words, the science is unsettled—to say that we have it all wrapped up is itself a form of denial. The essence of scientific inquiry is the assumption that there is always more to learn.

Science takes time, and climatology is only about 170 years old. Consider something as simple as the question of whether the sun revolves around the Earth or vice versa.

The Greek philosopher Aristarchus suggested a heliocentric model of the solar system as early as the third century B.C. But it was Ptolemy’s geocentric model from the second century A.D. that predominated. It took until the mid-19th century to solve the puzzle definitively.

Assuming that “the science is settled” can only impede science. For example, there has never been so settled a branch of science as Newtonian physics. But in the 1840s, as telescopes improved, it was noticed that Mercury’s orbit stubbornly failed to behave as Newtonian equations said that it should. It seems not to have occurred to anyone to question Newton, so the only explanation was that Mercury must be being perturbed by a planet still closer to the sun. The French mathematician Urbain Le Verrier had triumphed in 1846 when he had predicted, within one degree, the location of a planet (later named Neptune) that was perturbing Uranus’s orbit.

He set out to calculate the orbit of the planet that he was sure was responsible for Mercury’s orbital eccentricity. He named it Vulcan, after the Roman god of fire. Once Le Verrier had done the math, hundreds of astronomers, both amateur and professional, searched for the illusive planet for the next few decades. But telescopic observation near the immensely bright sun is both difficult and dangerous. More than one astronomer injured his eyesight in the search.

Several possible sightings were reported, but whether they were illusions, comets, or asteroids is unknown, as none could be tracked over time. After Le Verrier’s death in 1877 the hunt for Vulcan slacked off though it never ceased entirely.

Only in 1915 was the reason no one could find Vulcan explained: It wasn’t there. Newton had written in the “Principia” that he assumed space to be everywhere and always the same. But a man named Albert Einstein that year, in his theory of general relativity, demonstrated that it wasn’t always the same, for space itself is distorted by hugely massive objects such as the sun.

When Mercury’s orbit was calculated using Einstein’s equations rather than Newton’s, the planet turned out to be exactly where Einstein said it would be, one of the early proofs of general relativity.

Climate science today is a veritable cornucopia of unanswered questions. Why did the warming trend between 1978 and 1998 cease, although computer climate models predict steady warming? How sensitive is the climate to increased carbon-dioxide levels? What feedback mechanisms are there that would increase or decrease that sensitivity? Why did episodes of high carbon-dioxide levels in the atmosphere earlier in Earth’s history have temperature levels both above and below the average? With so many questions still unanswered, why are many climate scientists, politicians—and the left generally—so anxious to lock down the science of climatology and engage in protracted name-calling? Well, one powerful explanation for the politicians is obvious: self-interest.

If anthropogenic climate change is a reality, then that would be a huge problem only government could deal with. It would be a heaven-sent opportunity for the left to vastly increase government control over the economy and the personal lives of citizens.

Moreover, the release of thousands of emails from the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Unit in 2009 showed climate scientists concerned with the lack of recent warming and how to "hide the decline." The communications showed that whatever the emailers were engaged in, it was not the disinterested pursuit of science.

Another batch of 5,000 emails written by top climate scientists came out in 2011, discussing, among other public-relations matters, how to deal with skeptical editors and how to suppress unfavorable data. It is a measure of the intellectual corruption of the mainstream media that this wasn't the scandal of the century. But then again I forget, "the science is settled."

Mr. Gordon is the author of the forthcoming "Washington's Monument and the Fascinating History of the Obelisk," out early next year from Bloomsbury.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-unsettling-anti-science-certitude-on-global-warming-1438300982>

HEALTH: 1..HEPATITIS C - USA (04): (TENNESSEE) **INJECTION DRUG USE**

A ProMED-mail post

<<http://www.promedmail.org>>

ProMED-mail is a program of the

International Society for Infectious Diseases <<http://www.isid.org>>

Date: Mon 27 Jul 2015

Source: WATE [edited]

<<http://wate.com/2015/07/27/tennessee-dept-of-health-issues-public-health-advisory-on-hepatitis-c-epidemic/>>

The Tennessee Department of Health is issuing a public health advisory urging residents to increase their awareness about hepatitis C, a potentially life-threatening disease spread by direct contact with blood from an infected person.

The Knox County Health Department says it's important to know all the risk factors. Within the last year there's been an increase of testing for the virus at the health department. Director Dr. Martha Buchanan says her staff will be looking at that data and determining what can be done. "The best protection you have is knowledge and knowing what behaviors and what things put you at risk," said Buchanan.

The rate of acute hepatitis C cases in Tennessee has more than tripled in the last 7 years, and the steadily increasing number of cases may only represent "the tip of the iceberg" of the state's hepatitis C epidemic, according to TDH Commissioner John Dreyzehner, MD, MPH.

"Anyone who has injected drugs and shared needles needs to be tested.

Anyone who lives in a household that knows they have hepatitis C and maybe shared toothbrushes or razors needs to be tested," added Dr.

Buchanan.

"In addition to reported cases of acute hepatitis C it is estimated that more than 100 000 Tennesseans may be living with chronic hepatitis C and not know it," Dreyzehner said. "Many people have hepatitis C for years, not realizing it, while the viral infection slowly destroys their livers."

There is no vaccine to prevent hepatitis C, so efforts to avoid exposure to infected blood are most important in preventing the spread of the disease. Most of the increase in transmission of hepatitis C in Tennessee is due to the sharing of contaminated needles and syringes among intravenous drug users who are abusing both legal and illegal pain medicines.

Once infected with hepatitis C, some people may recover fully, but most, 70 to 85 percent, will develop long-term infection. Early symptoms of hepatitis C infection can include fatigue, abdominal pain, itching and dark urine. Many people, however, are not aware they have the disease until the virus has already caused liver cancer or liver damage.

Knowing these risk factors and what to look out for is important because there's no vaccine available to prevent it from spreading, just treatments. "Knowing what to do to protect your family members and knowing what to keep yourself healthy is really what we want to get out there right now," said Dr. Buchanan.

It's also suggested that if you were born between 1945 through 1965 to get tested once for hepatitis C, just in case.

The treatment for hepatitis C is currently expensive and a person can later become re-infected. A recent CDC report shows hepatitis C is the most common blood-borne infection in the USA, with approximately 3 million people living with the infection. That report, available online and includes information about a 364 percent increase in hepatitis C in four Appalachian states, including Tennessee, between 2006 and 2012.

[Byline: Laura Halm]

COMMENTS

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2015-08-15(AUG. 15, 2015)

BY KEN HAAPALA, PRESIDENT, SCIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY PROJECT (SEPP)

Social Benefits of Carbon: Craig Idso of CO2 Science has a post on the Cato web site describing the great benefits of enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO2). Together with his father Sherwood and brother Keith, the Idsos have built a large repository of studies evaluating the effects of enhanced carbon dioxide, both on land and in waters (oceans). Sherwood and Craig were lead authors of the extensive report, with multiple scientific references, by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC): *Climate Change Reconsidered II: Biological Impacts (2014)*.

In the current post, Craig draws on this extensive, empirical database to assert:

☒ ***"At a fundamental level, carbon dioxide is the basis of nearly all life on Earth, as it is the primary raw material or "food" that is utilized by plants to produce the organic matter out of which they construct their tissues.***

☒ ***Typically, a doubling of the air's CO2 content above present-day concentrations raises the productivity of most herbaceous plants by about one-third; this positive response occurs in plants that utilize all three of the major biochemical pathways of photosynthesis."***

Apparently, many in Washington and elsewhere, particularly those in the Administration, remain ignorant of the critical role CO2 has in life on the planet and the enormous benefits that enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide is providing to plant life, to the environment, and to humanity. One is tempted to ask: are those who declare that carbon is a pollutant of a different, carbon-free life form? In the post, after citing a small portion of the extensive work, both in the laboratory and in the field, of the benefits of enhanced atmospheric carbon dioxide, Craig asks: *"Why on God's getting-greener earth would the United Nations simultaneously work to reduce the anthropogenic CO2 emissions that are demonstrably raising standard of living for so many of the world's poor?"*

See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy –NIPCC and Challenging the Orthodoxy.

The Clean Power Plan(CPP): The Administration’s plan to reduce CO2 emissions from electrical power plants by 32% by 2030 is receiving increased scrutiny from those who perform analyses based on models to forecast the temperature effects of increased CO2. Please note, that the results of any such models, which have not been validated, are speculative, at best. However, these results go to the justifications that the Administration uses to defend its plans. The calculations show that the Administration’s plan will have an effect on global temperatures that is miniscule, not measurable. Yet, it is becoming clear that the Administration’s CCP will extend its control of all fossil fuel use, not just coal-fired power plants. This will come at great costs to consumers, raising electricity bills by about three-fold. Making the ignorance and arrogance of the Administration all the more absurd are the repeated claims that the plan will save the consumers money –as if major urban black-outs can be labeled as money saving opportunities. See links under The Administration’s New Plan and The Administration’s New Plan –Independent Analysis.

Underestimating Costs: The Institute for Energy Analysis (IEA) produced a study that estimates the cost of replacing existing power plants with solar-or wind-generated electrical power. Many prior studies used government estimates of new power plants to compare different types of electricity generation, such as comparing nuclear power with combined-cycle natural-gas plants. Such studies failed to take into account the useful life of the existing plants, with much of the capital costs substantially reduced over time and use. ***“Our study shows that on average, electricity from new wind resources is nearly four times more expensive than from existing nuclear and nearly three times more expensive than from existing coal. These are dramatic increases in the cost of generating electricity. This means that the premature closures of existing plants will unavoidably increase electricity rates for American families.”***[Boldface in original]

Whether or not the exclusion of reduced costs of existing plants are intentional, these lower costs must be considered when estimating costs of electrical power when government forces power plants to shut-down, as called for in the Administration’s CCP. Though not discussed in the study, equally important are the inclusion of the costs of maintaining existing, reliable power plants or, if new capacity is added, the cost of constructing reliable power plants to serve as necessary back-up, if major sources of electricity are to come from unreliable solar and wind.

As discussed in the July 18 and July 25 TWTW’s, the 2014 annual report of the state-owned electricity and natural gas distribution company in Denmark states that, by 2020, the electricity capacity of power plants, including wind and solar, and import capacity will be about 3 times expected maximum consumption. As discussed in the August 8 TWTW, the need for reliable back-up for unreliable solar and wind is a major reason why Denmark and Germany have the highest electricity costs to consumers in Europe and that the relation between non-hydro renewables and consumer costs of electricity is strong and positive –the greater the percentage of renewables in the mix, the higher the costs to households. [Note that special exemptions and tax breaks are common to industries in Germany.]

Yet, the Administration remains ignorant and arrogant in the pursuit of its plan to force closure of coal-fired power plants and require new solar and wind generation, regardless of costs to the consumers. The lack of critical thinking is reminiscent of the Johnson administration’s repeated commitments of ground troops into Vietnam, without a well thought-out strategic plan. See Article # 2, links under The Administration’s New Plan –Push-Back, and Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind.

Validation of Climate Models: Writing in *Watts Up With That?*, Tim Ball reviews a book by Vincent Gray, *“The Global Warming Scam and the Climate Change Super Scam.”* Gray is an expert reviewer of all five major reports of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), submitting thousands of comments. [A student of H.H. Lamb, Tim Ball uncovered the extensive records of the Hudson Bay Company, which covers over 200 years of an area extending from the Great Plains of the northern US

into Canada to the north of the tree-line surrounding the Hudson Bay in northern Canada. These records describe significant changes in weather and climate during the period. They are largely ignored by the IPCC and members of the Climate Establishment.]

In his review, Ball has a number of excellent quotes from Gray including:

There are huge uncertainties in the model outputs which are recognized and unmeasured. They are so large that adjustment of model parameters can give model results which fit almost any climate, including one with no warming, and one that cools.

No model has ever successfully predicted any future climate sequence. Despite this, future “projections” for as far ahead as several hundred years have been presented by the IPCC as plausible future trends, based on largely distorted “storylines”, combined with untested models.

The IPCC have provided a wealth of scientific information on the climate, but have not established a case that increases in carbon dioxide are causing any harmful effects.

One of the most serious limitations of the global climate models is the failure to validate one:

“No computer model has ever been validated. An early draft of Climate Change 95 had a Chapter titled “Climate Models –Validation” as a response to my comment that no model has ever been validated. They changed the title to “Climate Model –Evaluation” and changed the word “validation” in the text to “evaluation” no less than describing what might need to be done in order to validate a model.

“Without a successful validation procedure, no model should be considered to be capable of providing a plausible prediction of future behaviour of the climate.”

Ball briefly discusses some of the difficulties of validating a climate model, and points out that some of the problems are stated in the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), and have not been resolved after 25 years of IPCC reports. Yet, Western governments are on a push to reach an agreement of carbon dioxide emissions, even though the leaders, who ignore critical elements of the reports, and their scientists, have failed to complete the basic science. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Solar Activity: A recent study on counting sun spots was highly played up, with claims that recent solar trends are not a major contributor to changes in earth’s climate. In a communication, Donald Rapp, who has written extensively on climate change, states that there was little new or significant in the study. *“Yes, there has been a discrepancy between alternative methods of counting sunspots, partly due to how to deal with “groups” of clumped sunspots. Nevertheless, the differences between the two were not huge. Somewhat of a bagatelle (trifle). If this paper resolved the differences between the two, that is a nice, but minor.”*

The book exploring solar influences, *The Neglected Sun*, considered six different solar cycles, each measured by their influence on Earth, not by counting sunspots. These influences include isotopes of Beryllium (Be10), Carbon (C14) found in ice cores, measurement of Alaska sea sediments, North Atlantic measurements of sediments from ice bergs, peat in China, stalagmites, etc. The authors of articles claiming that the revised counting implies the lack of solar influence commit the logical fallacy of a hasty generalization, at best. See links under Commentary: Is the Sun Rising?

Eagle Takes? The US District Court for the Northern District of California ruled that the Department of the Interior violated federal laws when it created a final regulation in 2009 allowing wind energy and some other companies to obtain 30-year permits to kill protected Bald and Golden Eagles without prosecution by the federal government. Among other issues, the Fish and Wildlife Service violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The violation of NEPA was cited by US District Court in Louisiana for ruling against a barrier system that was designed to protect New Orleans from flooding by Hurricanes such as Katrina. Expect a long fight against the ruling by the wind industry and its promoters in Washington. See link under Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

Number of the Week: 926,900 tonnes. A report from China asserts the State Oceanic Administration said China has built a total of 112 seawater desalination plants by the end of 2014, producing 926,900 tonnes of fresh water per day. "In north China, desalted water is mainly used for water-intensive industries including electricity and steel in Tianjin, Hebei and Shandong, while in south China, desalted water is mainly for civilian needs covering the provinces of Zhejiang, Fujian and Hainan. "Of the finished desalination plants, 63.35 percent are for industrial purposes, and the rest are for household water use..."

TWTW has not confirmed the claim using independent sources. Assuming 113 tons to 1 acre-foot, and 1 tonne equals 2,240 lbs, not 2,000 lbs, this amount converts to 91,870 acre-feet of fresh water per day or 113,275 megaliters per day. See link under Other News That May Be of Interest.

<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2015/TWTW%208-15-15.pdf>

B CALIFORNIA 'RAIN DEBT' EQUAL TO AVERAGE FULL YEAR OF PRECIPITATION

From NASA/GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER A new NASA study has concluded California accumulated a debt of about 20 inches of precipitation between 2012 and 2015 — the average amount expected to fall in the state in a single year. The deficit was driven primarily by a lack of air currents moving inland from the Pacific...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/07/30/california-rain-debt-equal-to-average-full-year-of-precipitation/>

C. MAKING BETTER SOLAR PANELS BY MIMICKING BUTTERFLY POSTURE

From the UNIVERSITY OF EXETER Butterflies heat up the field of solar research The humble butterfly could hold the key to unlocking new techniques to make solar energy cheaper and more efficient, pioneering new research has shown. A team of experts from the University of Exeter has examined new techniques for generating photovoltaic (PV) energy...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/07/31/making-better-solar-panels-by-mimicking-butterfly-posture/>

D. BACK TO SQUARE ONE: UNLAWFUL COLLUSION WITH GREEN PRESSURE GROUPS SHOULD DOOM U.S. EPA'S GREENHOUSE GAS REGULATION

Washington, D.C. — Today, the Energy & Environment Legal Institute (E&E Legal), a 501 (c) (3) watchdog group, released an investigatory report, Back to Square One: Unlawful Collusion with Green Pressure Groups Should Doom U.S. EPA's Greenhouse Gas Regulation and an appendix of source documents. The report, which is based on e-mails and other documents...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/07/30/back-to-square-one-unlawful-collusion-with-green-pressure-groups-should-doom-u-s-epas-greenhouse-gas-regulation/>

<https://wattsupwiththat.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/ee-legal-ghg-collusion-report.pdf>

E. NEW STUDY NARROWS THE GAP BETWEEN CLIMATE MODELS AND REALITY

From the University of York: A new study led by a University of York scientist addresses an important question in climate science: how accurate are climate model projections? Climate models are used to estimate future global warming, and their accuracy can be checked against the actual global warming observed so far. Most comparisons suggest that...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/07/30/new-study-narrows-the-gap-between-climate-models-and-reality/>

F. MICROGRIDS AND “CLEAN” ENERGY

Posted on [July 28, 2015](#) | [135 comments](#)

by Planning Engineer and Rud Istvan

Microgrids and “clean” energy are intertwined in the minds of many. There is a common belief that microgrids will facilitate “clean” energy and that “clean” energy will better support microgrids.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/07/28/microgrids-and-clean-energy/#more-19482>

Judith Curry

G. WHY THIS PROVES SHORT CO2 LIFETIME:

<http://hockeyschtick.blogspot.com/2013/09/biochemistry-professor-explains-WHY.HTML>

Judith Curry

H. NO LONGER ANY DEBATE OVER CLIMATE CHANGE

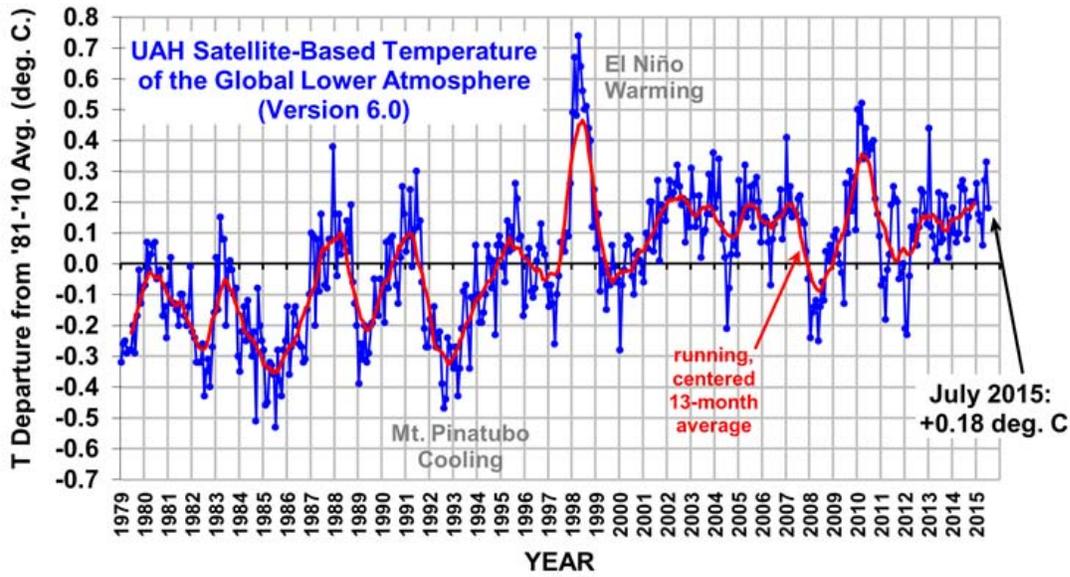
Clean Power Plan is important step toward making life better for vulnerable populations

By Susan E. Pacheco

On Monday, the White House released the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan intended to cut carbon pollution from the power sector by approximately 30 percent from 2005 levels and reduce air pollutants by more than 25 percent by the year 2030. **Editor’s Note: This statement is supported only non validated computer models, GHH. The opposition to this plan has centered on its economic impact.**

In the meantime, the elephant in the room remains ignored: Carbon pollution and climate change are already affecting the health of millions of children, pregnant women, older adults and vulnerable populations in our nation. **Editor’s Note: I can find no literature to support this claim. Humans breath in CO2. CO₂ is present in the atmosphere at 0.040% (Aerias 2005; CCOHS 2005). In terms of worker safety, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has set a permissible exposure limit (PEL) for CO₂ of 5,000 parts per million (ppm) over an 8-hour work day, which is equivalent to 0.5% by volume of air. GHH**

Like many people debating climate change and its effects, I believe that science should be left to the scientists. The scientific community has demonstrated beyond doubt that climate change is a relentless process resulting from human use of fossil fuels and the production of carbon pollution. **Editor’s Note: The global atmospheric temperature has remained essentially unchanged for the last 18 years**



GHH

We are already experiencing the devastating effects of carbon pollution in our nation and our state. Rising temperatures (?), air pollution (?), intense heat waves (?), extreme weather events (?), drought and heavy rains are already affecting the way Texans and Americans live. **Editor's Note:**

Not true. GHH

I join this discussion as a pediatrician. Carbon pollution has serious consequences for our health and the public health of our country. **Editor's Note: Not proven. Breathing air will contain CO₂, even if all industry is shut down. GHH**

As we continue to argue about how the proposed regulations will affect the economy of our country, I can't ignore the fact that extreme heat, increased ozone production **Editor's Note: The author has offer no data to support extreme heat, certainly no support CO₂ becomes Ozone.** and air pollution will take a greater toll in children and older adults, the more than 80 million Americans with cardiovascular disease, the 25 million Americans with asthma, outdoor workers, the homeless and the more than 40 million people in our country who live in poverty and may face more challenges adapting to these changes. **Editor's Note: More pollution may cause health problems, but CO₂ will not cause health problems. GHH**

As a pediatrician, the thought of tens of millions of children who begin their exposure to air pollution in the presumed sanctity of their mother's womb is a sobering and alarming reality.

Medical science should be left to the medical scientists. When it comes to the negative effects of carbon pollution on human health, we must trust the experts in this field. It is hard to argue that the concerns on climate change and health expressed by organizations like the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Heart Association or the American Lung Association stem from an economic agenda.

We have the moral obligation of re-framing our economic conversations about the Clean Power Plan, overcoming our economic or political divides and including the faces of our children, our elders and all vulnerable populations that as leaders of this nation we are committed to protect.

Although the proposed changes may seem challenging to our economy, they are not insurmountable and they address a set of issues that cannot be measured by money alone: The health of our children and of our nation.

We must implement the measures of EPA's Clean Power Plan soon. Even if we stop all carbon pollution emissions from power plants today, our environment will continue to change for many decades and the future of our children and citizens will be compromised. **Editor's Note: If all CO2 is eliminated our food supply will decrease and the population will starve.** GHH If we act today, we will be able to decrease the damage to our environment, preserve our country's health and leave a healthier planet for our future generations.

I know beyond doubt that I will not see the full realm of the climate crisis. Maybe my children will see the tip of the iceberg. I know that their children and grandchildren will live in a very different world.

As the opposition campaign ramps up in Congress, in the courts and in the states, I invite us — political leaders, scientists, health care professionals, economists and all who care about the future of our state — to set aside our inconsequential differences, come to the table and engage in a constructive, multidisciplinary conversation for the common good.

Texas must support EPA's Clean Power Plan. These challenges require the creativity of a common goal. We can work together to protect our state and provide a working model for strong leadership in our country.

Some may call me naïve, but we are in Texas where, as hotelier Conrad Hilton observed, we “dream big dreams and think big thoughts.”

Pacheco is a Houston pediatrician.

I. RENEWABLE ENERGY IS A MYTH

This is an interesting presentation explaining why renewables are a myth.

Lots of detailed info documenting the claim that is never mentioned in the MSM such as the fact that *"The production of just six solar panels requires at least one tonne of coal to bake the silicon at high temperature"* What is green about that?

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/comment-renewables-drain-our-resources-1-3659067>

Don Shaw

J. AN ANALYSIS OF BEST DATA FOR THE QUESTION: IS EARTH WARMING OR COOLING?

Guest essay by Clyde Spencer The answer to the question is, “Yes!” Those who believe that Earth is going to Hell in a hand basket, because of anthropogenic carbon dioxide, go to extraordinary lengths to convince the public that uninterrupted warming is occurring at an unprecedented rate. One commonly reads something to the effect that...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/08/11/an-analysis-of-best-data-for-the-question-is-earth-warming-or-cooling/>

K. EPA ADMINISTRATOR STUMBLES BADLY BEFORE CONGRESS

Listen here to the EPA administrator admit before Congress, under oath, that it is not important that the President's CO2 reduction program will only impact global warming 0.01 degree C (theoretically). She gives some abstract benefits of the program.

<https://youtu.be/hkkeLpbz0-Y>

Watch this video to note the EPA Administrator's lack of factual information on droughts, number of Hurricanes, etc. She claims there have been more Hurricanes while the Senator points out the lack of Atlantic landfalls for circa 9 years. Also she knows nothing about the fact that the computer model

predictions used by her Administration have been grossly over predicting global warming in the midst of an 18+ year period of no warming.

<https://youtu.be/24DP1uG-MEM>

Don Shaw

Regards,
George