

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

31 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. SPIN CYCLE: EPA DEFLATES CLIMATE IMPACTS, INFLATES SIGNIFICANCE

By PAUL C. "CHIP" KNAPPENBERGER and PATRICK J. MICHAELS

Well, well, well. The EPA has finally gone and done it. They have actually calculated the climate change impacts projected to result of one of their climate change regulations—in this case, the proposed rules for the... *reduced by 0.0026 to 0.0065 °C, and sea-level rise is projected to be reduced by approximately 0.023 to 0.057 cm.*

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/08/20/spin-cycle-epa-deflates-climate-impacts-inflates-significance/>

2. GLOBAL WARMING - MAKES YOU THINK?

Ian Rutherford Plimer is an Australian geologist, professor emeritus of earth sciences at the University of Melbourne, professor of mining geology at the University of Adelaide, and the director of multiple mineral exploration and mining companies. He has published 130 scientific papers, six books and edited the Encyclopaedia of Geology.

Born

12 February 1946 (age 69)

Residence

Australia <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia>>

Nationality

Australian

Where Does the Carbon Dioxide Really Come From? Professor Ian Plimer could not have said it better! If you've read his book you will agree that this is a good summary.

PLIMER: "Okay, here's the bombshell. The recent volcanic eruption in Iceland.

Since its first spewing of volcanic ash has, in just FOUR DAYS, NEGATED EVERY SINGLE EFFORT the Governments have made in the past five years to control CO2 emissions on our planet - all of you.

Of course, you know about this evil carbon dioxide that we are trying to suppress - it's that vital chemical compound that every plant requires to live and grow and to synthesize into oxygen for us humans and all animal life. I know....it's very disheartening to realize that all of the carbon emission savings you have accomplished while suffering the inconvenience and expense of driving Prius hybrids, buying fabric grocery bags, sitting up till midnight to finish your kids "The Green Revolution" science project, throwing out all of your non-green cleaning supplies, using only two squares of toilet paper, putting a brick in your toilet tank reservoir, selling your SUV and speedboat, vacationing at home instead

of abroad, nearly getting hit every day on your bicycle, replacing all of your 50 cent light bulbs with \$10.00 light bulbs.....well, all of those things you have done have all gone down the tubes in just four days.

The volcanic ash emitted into the Earth's atmosphere in just four days - yes, FOUR DAYS by that volcano in Iceland has totally erased every single effort you have made to reduce the evil beast, carbon. And there are around 200 active volcanoes on the planet spewing out this crud at any one time - EVERY DAY. I don't really want to rain on your parade too much, but I should mention that when the volcano Mt Pinatubo erupted in the Philippines in 1991, it spewed out more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than the entire human race had emitted in all its years on earth.

Yes, folks, Mt Pinatubo was active for over One year - think about it.

Of course, I shouldn't spoil this 'touchy-feely tree-hugging' moment and mention the effect of solar and cosmic activity and the well-recognized 800-year global heating and cooling cycle, which keeps happening despite our completely insignificant efforts to affect climate change. And I do wish I had a silver lining to this volcanic ash cloud, but the fact of the matter is that the bush fire season across the western USA and Australia this year alone will negate your efforts to reduce carbon in our world for the next two to three years. And it happens every year.

The Australian Government doesn't mention Global Warming anymore - just Climate Change.

It's because the planet has COOLED by 0.7C degrees in the past century.

It won't stop any volcanoes from erupting, that's for sure.

But, hey, relax.....give the world a hug and have a nice day!"

Mark S Fitzpatrick

3. COUNTRIES SLOW TO PLEDGE EMISSIONS CUTS AHEAD OF PARIS CLIMATE TALKS

Delays raise concerns over developing economies' commitment to accord planned for later this year

By

William Mauldin

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William Mauldin

The Wall Street Journal

[CANCEL](#)

- [Biography](#)
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- [William Mauldin](#)
- [Google+](#)

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Aug. 23, 2015 3:10 p.m. ET

Less than a third of governments seeking a global climate agreement have submitted plans for reducing emissions, raising concerns over developing countries' commitment to a deal months before talks are meant to culminate in Paris.

As part of the latest international effort to stave off warming, nearly 200 countries agreed to present their own plans for curbing greenhouse-gas emissions to the United Nations body overseeing the talks. The national plans are meant to be folded into a broader accord aimed at putting the world on track to cap global average temperatures at no more than 2 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels—a goal that U.N. officials now concede is unlikely in this year's agreement.

While the European Union, China, the U.S. and other big carbon emitters have submitted their reduction targets, many major economies haven't—including Brazil, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia and India, the fourth-biggest source of carbon dioxide emissions.

The EU's climate czar said late last week that the silence from much of the world is threatening the global deal, which officials hope to wrap up in Paris in December. "The window of opportunity...is closing fast," said Miguel Arias Cañete, the EU's energy and climate commissioner.



Smoke rises from kilns outside New Delhi. India is one of the countries still to submit its emissions targets. *Photo: Altaf Qadri/Associated Press*

By

William Mauldin

The Wall Street Journal

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Previous climate accords—including the 1997 Kyoto Protocol—have put the responsibility for reducing emissions largely on advanced economies, which have burned large amounts of fossil fuels for years, as opposed to developing countries, which rely on increased energy consumption to fuel industrial growth and lift citizens out of poverty.

But China and other fast-growing economies no longer fit neatly into those two categories. For the Paris agreement, all the countries agreed to develop individualized plans for curbing emissions after 2020, with the threat of international pressure if their commitments don't compare favorably to others.

The U.N.-brokered plan encouraged countries to submit their proposals, known as "intended nationally determined contributions," or INDCs, by the end of March. A few did so, and others followed suit over the next few months. Submitted proposals now include countries responsible for an estimated three-fifths of global greenhouse emissions, but more than two-thirds of the countries haven't offered plans. "They all agreed a long time ago to announce them earlier so we could have this review period afterward to see if they are enough collectively," said Kyle Ash, senior legislative director at Greenpeace in Washington. "Lots of countries need pressure."

In Indonesia, a fast-growing economy that is a top coal producer and leading source of carbon emissions, officials are still working on the government's proposal and expect to submit one before Oct. 1, the deadline for inclusion in the U.N. body's report measuring the impact of the Paris agreement, said Nur Masripatin, climate chief at the Environment and Forestry Ministry. The government wants to "think carefully about promises" for the future after already committing to curbing emission through 2020 and halting the clearing of forests, she said.

Brazil on Thursday reaffirmed many of the goals of the Paris climate accord during a meeting of its president, [Dilma Rousseff](#), with Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#) of Germany, which has been a leader in green energy. "Both countries emphasize that highest ambition of all countries is needed, both in the short term and in the long term," Brazil and Germany said in a joint statement.

A spokesman for the Brazilian government said it also also plans to submit its emissions plan by Oct. 1. Other countries will likely come forward with plans in September, in time for the U.N. General Assembly in New York, where the climate talks are expected to attract increased attention, according to people following the talks. India, whose population and rapid growth make it the most closely watched country yet to submit a climate plan, is holding domestic consultations on the issue and is likely to publish its submission next month.

Many countries are likely delaying because of domestic political concerns or to minimize the amount of global peer pressure they will face to cut emissions more deeply, environmental groups say. Poorer countries say they don't want to commit to expensive shifts in energy policy until wealthier nations flesh

out plans to finance green-energy transitions and climate-change preparedness to the tune of \$100 billion a year.

“In other countries there’s not a domestic constituency calling out for climate and action, and therefore you don’t see a lot of action in that part of the world,” Jennifer Morgan, director of climate and energy at the World Resources Institute, an environmental think tank in Washington.

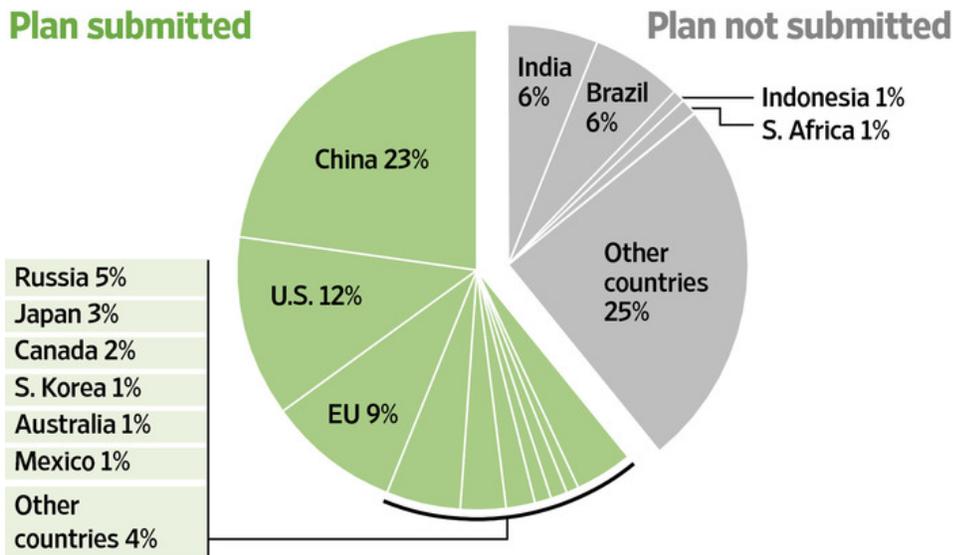
The U.S. has worked with smaller countries in putting together climate proposals. “We have been actively engaging to encourage countries to come forward as soon as possible,” a U.S. official said. “Our strong hope is that we come into October with all the major economies.”

President [Barack Obama](#) has made the issue a priority in recent bilateral meetings, including with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Ms. Rousseff of Brazil, and China’s President [Xi Jinping](#), who announced Beijing’s climate target with Mr. Obama in November.

Republicans lawmakers say the Obama administration doesn’t have the authority to conclude an international climate deal without congressional consent. “Other countries are catching on, which is reflected by the fact that such a small amount of countries have submitted intended nationally determined contributions with only a few months to go,” said Sen. Jim Inhofe (R., Ok.), who leads the Senate’s environmental committee.

Carbon Crunch

Countries responsible for about three-fifths of global greenhouse-gas emissions have submitted plans to curb them after 2020, but others haven’t. A list of countries and their percentage of global emissions in 2012:



Source: Natural Resources Defense Council

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

4. NEW EVIDENCE REGARDING TROPICAL WATER VAPOR FEEDBACK, LINDZEN’S IRIS EFFECT, AND THE MISSING HOTSPOT

Monday, August 17th, 2015

As part of a DOE grant we are testing climate models against satellite observations, particularly regarding the missing “hotspot” in the tropics, that is, the expected region of enhanced warming in the tropical mid- and upper troposphere as the surface warms. Since 1979 (the satellite period of record), it

appears that warming in those upper layers has been almost non-existent, despite some surface warming and increases in low-level humidity.

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

5. MY THANKS, APOLOGIES, AND REPLY TO DR. NIR SHAVIV

Guest Post by Willis Eschenbach Dr. Nir Shaviv has kindly replied in the comments to my previous post. There, he says: Nir Shaviv August 15, 2015 at 2:51 pm There is very little truth about any of the points raised by Eschenbach in this article. In particular, his analysis excludes the fact that the ocean...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/08/17/my-thanks-apologies-and-reply-to-dr-nir-shaviv/>

6. CLAIM: SOME COASTAL DWELLERS OF US AT HIGH HEALTH RISK FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

From THE EARTH INSTITUTE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY and the “we need a task force and more money” department comes this ridiculous pandering claim. Gotta love the caveat “Although future trends are difficult to project, climate change may also...”. Yep all this from a small change in temperature less than what one would experience by...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/08/17/claim-some-coastal-dwellers-of-us-at-high-health-risk-from-climate-change/>

Editor’s Note: The above report provides no data regarding health risks or direction of temperature movement to be caused by Climate Change, if it happens. The last 18 years show no substantial climate change; surely some change will occur in the future: it has changed in the past by increasing or decreasing the ambient temperature. Which direction will the climate trend? Preparing for the wrong direction, without data appears fool hardy. See the next discussion regarding our many methods of measuring ambient and Sea temperature.GHH

7. GLOBAL TEMPERATURE UPDATE JULY 2015 GLOBAL SURFACE (LAND+OCEAN) AND LOWER TROPOSPHERE TEMPERATURE ANOMALY & MODEL-DATA DIFFERENCE UPDATE

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale

This post provides an update of the values for the three primary suppliers of global land+ocean surface temperature reconstructions—GISS through July 2015 and HADCRUT4 and NCEI (formerly NCDC) through June 2015—and of the two suppliers of satellite-based lower troposphere temperature composites (RSS and UAH) through July 2015. It also includes...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/08/17/july-2015-global-surface-landocean-and-lower-troposphere-temperature-anomaly-model-data-difference-update/>

B. HEALTH: 1..PLAGUE - USA (09): (GEORGIA) ex CALIFORNIA

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: Wed 19 Aug 2015

Source: WXIA-TV [edited]

<<http://www.11alive.com/story/news/health/2015/08/19/georgia-officials-investigate-case-plague-georgia/31979427/>>

Health officials are investigating what they are calling the 1st recorded case of human plague in Georgia. An unidentified Georgia resident was infected while hiking in California. The California Department of Public Health said that the "presumptive positive case" occurred when the tourist visited in early August 2015.

The Georgia Public Health Laboratory confirmed later Wednesday, 19 Aug 2015, that the patient did test positive for bubonic plague. The CDC is also conducting tests to confirm the diagnosis. The person was hospitalized in Georgia and released Tuesday night, 18 Aug 2015.

Doctors caution travelers to western states, where plague is naturally occurring, to prevent flea bites and get immediate medical care if they start to feel symptoms.

"Antimicrobials are effective in treating plague, but without prompt treatment, the disease can cause serious illness or death," Patrick O'Neal, M.D., director of health protection for the Georgia Department of Public Health, said in a press release.

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Communicated by:

ProMED-mail from HealthMap Alerts

<promed@promedmail.org>

[This is the same case initially reported as acquired in California (Plague - USA (08): (CA) 20150819.3589079), but this report confirms that the diagnosis was made in Georgia. As noted, *Yersinia pestis* is not found in the eastern or Midwestern parts of the USA and if it is diagnosed, the patient either traveled from an endemic area or is the victim of either an intentional or accidental release of the organism.

- Mods.LL/MPP

A HealthMap/ProMED-mail map can be accessed at:

<<http://healthmap.org/promed/p/204>>.]

COMMENTS

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2015-08-22(AUG. 22, 2015)

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

Administration's Power Plan: Independent analysts continue to provide details of the Obama Administration's politically named "Clean Power Plan" (CPP). These studies make clear that the only forms of new electrical power generation the administration considers "clean" are solar and wind. Electric power generation using fossil fuels are condemned by the administration. Hydroelectric generation is out of favor, as explained by ex-EPA official Alan Carlin. There are no plans for federally supported new dam construction in the US. In fact, the thrust has been to tear down existing dams in the name of the environment.

Nuclear energy, which produces no carbon dioxide (CO2) is not an option. The administration mothballed the nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain and has not offered solutions for an

alternative. Indeed, in 2009 the EPA published in the Federal Register a rule limiting radiation doses from Yucca Mountain for up to 1,000,000 years after it closes, demonstrating the absurd durations the administration considers its edicts are enforceable. Biomass burning on a large scale would require clearing the forests, as was done in the eastern US in the 18th and 19th centuries, which would be politically unacceptable.

This leaves only solar and wind as the major sources of electrical power generation. Both are unreliable, erratic, and expensive. The Administration's concept would be more appropriately termed the **unreliable power plan**.

Even with its plans to prevent new, reliable electrical-power generation, a report by the Institute for 21st Century Energy of U.S. Chamber of Commerce finds the plan falls far short of the goals set by Mr. Obama.

*"Even with these fairly generous estimates, these measures, which include some programs that haven't even been announced yet, would fall about 800 MMTCO₂ [Million Metric Tons of CO₂], or **45%, short of the president's goal**. How does administration intend to plug the remaining gap? It hasn't said. When asked by the Financial Times about the holes in the administration's INDC [Intended Nationally Determined Contribution pledged for the UN-Conference of Parties (COP 21) in Paris in December], White House official Rick Duke chose to deny existence of a problem and instead change the subject: 'Our numbers are quite clear. Its other countries where we see more opportunities to clarify what the plans are.'" Boldface added.*

We need other countries to define what our plans are? What will the administration do to fill the 45% shortfall is anyone's guess? The report indicates that major industries should be on the alert.

"Still, seeing as the entire industrial sector emitted a little over 800 MMTCO₂ in 2013, even very steep cuts by industry won't deliver nearly what's needed", according to the US Chamber.

Terry Jarrett, a former commissioner of the Missouri Public Service Commission, observed: *"And if you're skeptical of the threat posed by man-made CO₂ in an ever-changing climate, then you'll likely balk at the stunning price tag for this new set of rules, which the U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates at an annual cost of \$51 billion in lost GDP and 224,000 jobs lost."*

One can quibble about the numbers, but the direction is clear, the Administration is willing to damage an already weak economy (real growth rate of about 2% during the Administration), in order to fight global warming/climate change – an enemy so ill-defined that the Administration has failed to grasp the natural causes of climate change. See links under The Administration's Plan –Independent Analysis, and The Administration's Plan –Push-Back.

Needed Research: On his web site, Roy Spencer, co-founder of the method of measuring atmospheric temperatures by satellites, the only comprehensive, virtually global measurements existing, reported that: "As part of a DOE grant we are testing climate models against satellite observations, particularly regarding the missing 'hotspot' in the tropics, that is, the expected region of enhanced warming in the tropical mid-and upper troposphere as the surface warms. Since 1979 (the satellite period of record), it appears that warming in those upper layers has been almost non-existent, despite some surface warming and increases in low-level humidity."

It is unclear if "we" refers to the entire group that reports global temperatures, based at the University of Alabama in Huntsville or not.

The research is much needed. In its Second Assessment Report, (AR2 -1996), the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) erroneously asserted the "hot-spot" was the distinct human fingerprint, which it is not. In 2007, Douglass, Christy, Pearson and Singer found the "hot spot" exists in the models, but not in observations. No one has been able to produce data establishing the "hot-spot." The issue is more fully discussed at: <http://multi-science.metapress.com/content/k7v3v4173346317x/>.

Yet, it is a critical part of the EPA's 2009 finding that human greenhouse gas emissions, particularly CO₂, endanger human health and welfare. Without EPA's finding, the Administration has no legal or scientific basis for severely restricting CO₂ emissions as prescribed in its CPP. See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Balancing the Load: One of the topics avoided by the promoters of wind and solar, including government officials, is the need for balancing the load on the electrical grid. That is, roughly equating consumption with generation. Too much electricity generated at one time will blow transformers, capacitors, and other devices designed to give the system stability. The system will fail and it may require some time before it can be repaired. Too little electricity generated at one time results in brown-outs, black-outs and other forms of failure. The load must be balanced constantly, and utility companies do so by engaging electricity providers, daily, on an as needed basis. The electricity provided is often far more expensive than electricity provided consistently. Conversely, excess electricity must be dumped at low prices.

The only major form of electricity storage in general use is pumped-hydro storage. This usually involves pumping water uphill from one reservoir at one elevation to another reservoir at higher elevation, (several hundred feet higher). From the second reservoir, the water can be drawn down through hydroelectric turbines to create power when needed. In general, the system loses about 20 to 30% of available power and requires large reservoirs. The largest such facility is in Bath County, Virginia. Unfortunately, EPA clean water regulations are making the new construction of such facilities very difficult, even where geologically feasible.

On her web site, Jo Nova has graphs showing the erratic nature Australian Wind Energy Production in July and first half of August. Similar patterns are found elsewhere such as West Denmark:

<http://www.emd.dk/el/> and the Pacific Northwest (Bonneville Power Authority)

<http://transmission.bpa.gov/Business/Operations/Wind/baltwg.aspx>.

Zero values are not unusual. From August 17 to August 23, 2015, wind power generation at Bonneville varied from zero to over 4,000 MW, most of the time near the bottom.

No amount of government edicts or regulations will stabilize the wind. In the US, the Administration's and EPA's power plan suppresses stable, reliable forms of electricity generation in favor of erratic and unreliable solar and wind; yet, other regulations by the EPA and Administration suppress the ability to stabilize erratic electrical power so generated. See links under Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind

Capacity Factors: Another topic that promoters of solar and wind seldom discuss is capacity factors, which is a measure of reliability. Nameplate capacity is often used by promoters who will offer statements of maximum capacity, such as the facility will provide enough electricity to power 500,000 homes. But nameplate capacity is not particularly meaningful, if the facility will power 500,000 home only 5 minutes a day. Preston Cooper of the Manhattan Institute discusses capacity factors of various energy sources in the U.S. By far, in 2013, the greatest average capacity factor was 90.9% for existing nuclear, meaning that the nuclear plants remain on line, generating electricity over 90% of the time. Of course, nuclear is being suppressed by the Administration.

The greatest capacity factor for renewables is geothermal at 67.2%. Certainly, geothermal works well in Iceland, but few urban areas are built where geological plates are separating. There are few locations for geothermal in the US.

Biomass burning at 67.1% has a higher capacity factor than coal (steam turbine) at 58.9%, or natural gas (combined cycle) at 50.3%. Unfortunately, these statistics can be misleading. Biomass is used largely at paper-making and wood pulp locations where the waste is burned at the location for electricity. Other than the paper and wood industries, Biomass means little. Since coal is used more for base-load, it has

an indicated higher capacity than natural gas, which is often used for more inefficient shoulder and peak-load.

When used alone, the capacity factors of erratic sources of electricity such as solar and wind are misleading because the power is not always available when needed. See links under Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind.

The Hiatus Again? *Science* Magazine published an article by Kevin Trenberth of National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), a well-known member of the climate establishment that helps generate the IPCC reports. Reading past the puffery, the article uses global mean surface temperatures to assert a staircase for rising temperatures since 1920. First a rise from 1920 to 1940, then a stable period (hiatus) to 1975, then a rise to 1998, then another inflection point reflecting a lower rate of rise from 1998 to present (all dates are approximate). Trenberth asserts that other than “human-induced climate change” the greatest driver of the temperature variation is the El Niño–Southern Oscillation in the Pacific Ocean. “The year 1998 was the warmest on record in the 20th century because of the 1997–1998 El Niño, the biggest such event on record.”

There are several issues with this analysis. One, a more traditional analysis would have the initial warming from about 1910 to 1940, followed by a modest cooling to 1975, followed an increase to 2003 (the 1997-98 El Niño year is ignored), followed by the current hiatus. The rate of the first warming is about the same as the rate of the second warming. This goes to the central point, what is the cause of the first warming? CO2 emissions were very low. A secondary point: is the cause of the second warming period is different than the cause of the first warming period? The IPCC claims the second warming was caused by human greenhouse gas emissions, but offers no compelling evidence.

Another significant issue is the great inconsistency (since 1979) between global mean surface temperatures, with frequent adjustments, and the far more comprehensive satellite data, independently supported by measurements from weather balloons. Would *Science* Magazine published a similar study by Roy Spencer and John Christy using their data? All this undermines EPA’s claimed evidence that greenhouse gas emissions, particularly CO2, endanger public health and welfare. For the paper and other criticisms, see links under Defending the Orthodoxy.

Oil Glut? Watching those who predicted that oil prices will never fall back away from their predictions is more fun than watching those who predicated unprecedented and dangerous global warming back away from their predictions. With the first group, their predictions did not become part of US national policy. With the second group, their predictions are becoming an economically damaging part of US national policy.

Now, with the first group, instead of the world running out of oil, some analysts are forecasting an oil glut with the price dropping to \$30 per barrel. The governments of petro-states, whose existence depends on high oil prices, should be worried.

With second group, western governments are insisting their policies are correct, the danger of human-caused global warming/climate change are established, regardless of the lack of evidence. The citizens of these countries, whose well-being depends on a rational, properly functioning government, should be worried. See Articles # 1 & # 2 and links under Energy Issues –Non-US

Merchants Again? Jo Nova and Luboš Motl reported that the film, “Merchants of Doubt”, failed at the box office’ but. It is now being considered for schools. In his youth, Motl lived under Communism and identifies the film as propaganda. In the US, Edward Bernays, “the father of modern advertising” “pioneered the scientific technique of shaping and manipulating public opinion, which he called ‘engineering of consent.’” During World War I, Bernays was an integral part of the US Committee on

Public Information, which sold the war to the US public as necessary “to make the world safe for democracy.”

The opening chapter of his 1928 book, *Propaganda*, Bernays titles as “Organizing Chaos” with the opening paragraph stating:

“The conscious and intelligent manipulation of the organized habits and opinions of the masses is an important element in democratic society. Those who manipulate this unseen mechanism of society constitute an invisible government which is the true ruling power of our country.”

Based on their book *Merchants of Doubt* by Oreskes and Conway and the recent film, one can ask: who are the masses that need to be manipulated? Could it be those who believe the book and the film? See links under Communicating Better to the Public –Use Propaganda and Communicating Better to the Public –Use Propaganda on Children

Number of the Week: 119%.The 2014 Annual Report by Energinet.dk, the government-owned company that transmits electrical power in Denmark, estimates that by 2020 it will have the capacity to import 8,000 MW of electricity, when needed. The expected maximum electricity consumption will be about 6,700 MW. Thus, the country has the ability to import 119% of expected maximum electricity consumption even if there is zero production from the 6,900 MW wind turbine and solar cell capacity and zero production from the 5,700 MW central and local power station capacity. How many countries have such generous neighbors such as Sweden and Norway that allow sharing, largely with pumped-hydro storage? Of course, the capacity is not free. No wonder Denmark has the highest consumer electricity costs in the EU! See link under Alternative, Green (“Clean”) Solar and Wind

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<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2015/TWTW%208-22-15.pdf>

B GLACIERS AND THE DISTRACTION OF THE WEST ANTARCTIC ICE SHEET (WAIS)

Guest opinion: Dr. Tim Ball

Glaciers are in the news again. An article by James Hansen about Antarctica and another published by Geophysical Research Letters about Greenland raise the specter of sea level rise. They are purely speculative and don’t bear investigation, but that doesn’t matter because the headline is the objective. The wider purpose...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/08/02/glaciers-and-the-distraction-of-the-west-antarctic-ice-sheet-wais/>

C. HOW GOOD IS THE NASA GISS GLOBAL TEMPERATURE DATASET?

Guest essay by Rud Istvan

It is generally accepted that there are two major land temperature record issues: microsite problems, and urban heat island (UHI) effects. Both introduce warming biases. The SurfaceStations.org project manually inspected and rated 1007 of 1221 USHCN stations (82.5%) using the 2002 Climate Reference Network (CRN) classification scheme (handbook section 2.2.1)...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/08/03/how-good-is-the-nasa-giss-global-temperature-dataset/>

D. OBAMA ANNOUNCES POWER PLANT REGULATIONS, GOP LAWMAKERS VOW FIGHT

President Obama on Monday announced new regulations on power-plant carbon emissions that will have a dramatic impact on how Americans make, store and use energy.

The president, speaking at the White House, touted the plan as a necessary step to combat global warming, even as the coal industry gears up to challenge the controversial regulations in court and Republicans prepare to fight them in Congress.

ADVERTISEMENT

"There is such a thing as being too late when it comes to climate change," Obama said.

The plan calls for a 32 percent emissions cut by 2030, as compared with 2005 levels. The goals are even steeper than previously expected.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/08/03/obama-announces-power-plant-regulations/?intcmp=hpbt3>

E. 15 YEARS OF CERES VERSUS SURFACE TEMPERATURE: CLIMATE SENSITIVITY = 1.3 DEG. C

July 20th, 2015

The NASA CERES project has updated their [EBAF-TOA Edition 2.8 radiative flux dataset](#) through March of 2015, which now extends the global CERES record to just over 15 years (since March 2000, starting with NASA's Terra satellite). This allows us to get an update of how the radiative budget of the Earth responds to surface temperature variations, which is what determines climate sensitivity and thus how much warming (and associated climate change) we can expect from a given amount of radiative forcing (assuming the forcing-feedback paradigm is sufficiently valid for the climate system).

For those who are familiar with my work, I have a strong (and published) opinion on estimating feedback from observed variations in global radiative flux and surface temperature. Dick Lindzen and his co-authors have published on the same issue, and agree with me:

Specifically,

Time-varying radiative forcing in the climate system (e.g. due to increasing CO₂, volcanic eruptions, and natural cloud variations) corrupt the determination of radiative feedback.

This is the "cause-versus-effect" issue I have been harping on for years, and discussed extensively in my book, *The Great Global Warming Blunder*. It is almost trivially simple to demonstrate (e.g. [published here](#), despite the resignation of that journal's editor [[forced by Kevin Trenberth?](#)] for allowing such a sacrilegious thing to be published).

It is also the reason why the diagnosis of feedbacks from the CMIP5 climate models is done using one of two methods that are outside the normal running of those models: either (1) running with an [instantaneous and constant large radiative forcing \(4XCO₂\)](#)....so that the resulting radiative changes are then almost all feedback in response to a substantial temperature change being caused by the (constant) radiative forcing; or (2) running a model with a fixed and elevated surface temperature to measure how much the radiative budget of the modeled climate system changes (less optimum because it's not radiative forcing like global warming, and the resulting model changes are not allowed to alter the surface temperature).

If you try to do it with any climate model in its normal operating mode (which has time-varying radiative forcing), you will almost always get an underestimate of the real feedback operating in the model (and thus an over-estimate of climate sensitivity). We showed this in our [Remote Sensing paper](#). *So why would anyone expect anything different using data from the real climate system, as (for example) Andy Dessler has done for cloud feedbacks?*

(It is possible *IF* you know the time history of the radiative forcing imposed upon the model, and subtract it out from the model radiative fluxes. That information was not archived for CMIP3, and I don't know whether it is archived for the CMIP5 model runs).

But what we have in the real climate system is some unknown mixture of radiative forcing(s) and feedback — with the non-feedback radiative variations de-correlating the relationship between radiative feedback and temperature. Thus, diagnosing feedback by comparing observed radiative flux variations to observed surface temperature variations is error-prone...and usually in the direction of high climate sensitivity. (This is because “radiative forcing noise” in the data pushes the regression slope toward zero, which would erroneously indicate a borderline unstable climate system.)

What is necessary is to have non-radiative forced variations in global-average surface temperature sufficiently large that they partly overcome the noise in the data. The largest single source of this non-radiative forcing is El Nino/La Nina, which correspond to a global-average weakening/strengthening of the overturning of the ocean.

It turns out that beating down noise (both measurement and geophysical) can be accomplished somewhat with time-averaging, so 3-monthly to annual averages can be used....whatever leads to the highest correlations.

Also, a time lag of 1 to 4 months is usually necessary because most of the net radiative feedback comes from the atmospheric response to a surface temperature change, which takes time to develop. Again, the optimum time lag is that which provides the highest correlation, and seems to be the longest (up to 4 months) with El Nino and La Nina events.

Anyway, here is the result for 15 years of annual CERES net radiative flux variations and HadCRUT4 surface temperature variations, with the radiative flux lagged 4 months after temperature:

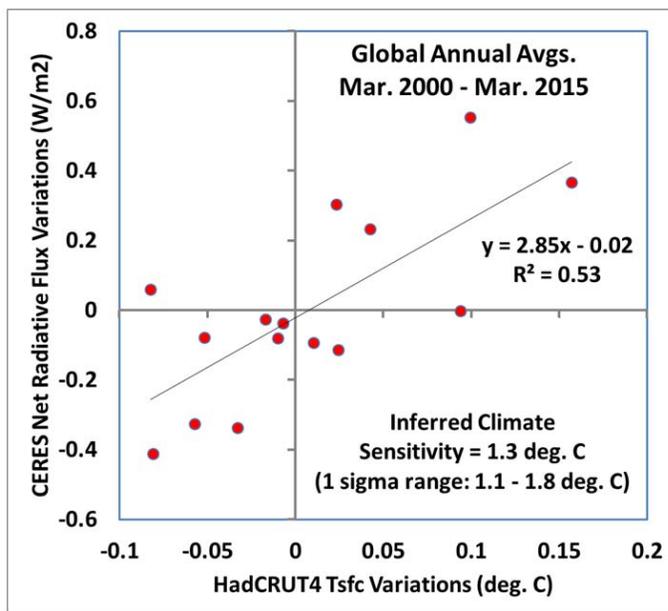


Fig. 1. Global, annual area averages of CERES-measured Net radiative flux variations against surface temperature variations from HadCRUT4, with a 4 month time lag to maximize correlation (flux after temperature).

Coincidentally, the 1.3 deg. C best estimate for the climate sensitivity from this graph is the same as we got with [our 1D forcing-feedback-mixing climate model](#), and as [I recently got with a simplified model](#) that stores energy in the deep ocean at the observed rate (0.2 W/m² average since the 1950s).

Again, the remaining radiative forcing in the 15 years of data causes decorrelation and (almost always) an underestimate of the feedback parameter (and overestimate of climate sensitivity). So, the real

sensitivity might be well below 1.3 deg. C, as Lindzen believes. The inherent problem in diagnosing feedbacks from observational data is one which I am absolutely sure exists — and it is one which is largely ignored. Most of the “experts” who are part of the scientific consensus aren’t even aware of it, which shows how a small obscure issue can change our perception of how sensitive the climate system is.

This is also just one example of why hundreds (or even thousands) of “experts” agreeing on something as complex as climate change really doesn’t mean anything. It’s just group think in an echo chamber riding on a bandwagon.

Now, one can legitimately argue that the relationship in the above graph is still noisy, and so remains uncertain. But this is the most important piece of information we have to observationally determine how the real climate system responds radiatively to surface temperature changes, which then determines how big a problem global warming might be.

It’s clear that the climate models can be programmed to get just about any climate sensitivity one wants...currently covering a range of about a factor of 3! So, at some point we need to listen to what Mother Nature is telling us. And the above graph tells us that the climate system appears to be more stable than the experts believe.

Roy Spencer

F. ANOTHER EXCUSE FOR THE PAUSE, TRENBERTH SAYS ‘INTERNAL CLIMATE VARIABILITY MASKS CLIMATE-WARMING TRENDS’

[Anthony Watts](#) / [16 hours ago](#)

"From the AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE and the “*if warming can’t overcome Nature, is it really there at all?*” department.

Amid climate change debates revolving around limited increases in recent global mean surface temperature (GMST) rates, Kevin Trenberth argues that natural climate fluxes – larger than commonly appreciated – can overwhelm background warming, making plateaued rates, or hiatuses, deceiving in significance. After many years of monitoring, it’s clear that the GMST can vary from year to year, even decade to decade; these differences, Trenberth argues, are largely a result of internal natural variability. For example, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), a phenomenon where the Pacific Ocean goes through periods of warming and cooling, can have a very strong impact on the climate by altering ocean currents, convection, and overturning. The PDO results in more sequestration of heat in the deep ocean during the negative phase of the PDO; therefore GMST tends to stagnate during this negative PDO phase, but increases during the positive phase. Indeed, observations and models show that the PDO is a key player in the two recent hiatus periods. Some other examples of causes behind natural variation include El Niño, volcanic activity, and decreased water vapor in the stratosphere. These natural variations are strong enough to mask steady background warming at any point in time, Trenberth argues. As researchers develop and test climate change models, it’s important to expect these variations and plan for them."

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Article #7: “Has there been a hiatus?,” by K.E. Trenberth at National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO.

This typical climate lame-o press release (where getting the PR is more important than the paper itself) gives an incomplete citation. No Journal. No DOI, No URL. I’ve looked all over trying to find the citation in the press release and have come up empty. If anyone knows where it is, please leave a comment
Don Shaw

G. ENERGY DEPARTMENT REPORTS HIGHLIGHT TRENDS OF GROWING U.S. WIND ENERGY INDUSTRY (ASME)

According to two recent reports, the U.S. wind energy industry continued growing at an impressive rate in 2014.

The *2014 Wind Technologies Market Report* released by the Energy Department and its Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, found that wind power capacity in the United States grew at a rate of eight percent in 2014 and now stands at nearly 66 gigawatts (GW), which ranks second in the world and meets 4.9 percent of end-use electricity demand in an average year. The United States was the global leader in total wind energy production in 2014. The report also finds that wind energy prices are at an all-time low and are competitive with wholesale power prices and traditional power sources across many areas of the United States.

The report may be reviewed at <http://ppec.asme.org/key-issues/energy/> under "Issue Reports".

In total, U.S. turbines in distributed applications reached a cumulative installed capacity of more than 906 megawatts (MW)—enough to power more than 168,000 average American homes—according to the 2014 Distributed Wind Market Report, also released recently by the Energy Department and its Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. This capacity comes from roughly 74,000 turbines installed across all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Compared with traditional, centralized power plants, distributed wind energy installations supply power directly to the local grid near homes, farms, businesses, and communities. Turbines used in these applications can range in size from a few hundred watts to multi-megawatts, and can help power remote, off-grid homes and farms, as well as local schools and manufacturing facilities.

The *2014 Distributed Wind Market Report* is available at <http://ppec.asme.org/key-issues/energy/> under "Issue Reports".

Editor's Note: The above report and the referenced reports only provide installed capacity. Installed capacity is much higher than operating capacity. Wind turbines provide only a small fraction of the the installed capacity. Lets be honest and report the operating capacity. GHH

ASME

H. CLIMATE CHANGE MUSEUM

Anyone who under estimates the resources behind the climate change propaganda machine and thinks that true science will win the day is naive, and they will be surprised when severe carbon restrictions are in place and electricity prices soar as promised by our President.

This article is an example of the anti science crowd who are planning a victory over honest science.

Ignore the plan at your own peril. Remember that restricting electricity is the first step, transportation fuels are also on the agenda next.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/08/15/new-yorks-new-climate-change-museum/>

"Remember back in the boring old days, when science museums contained meticulously researched information about the distant past, such as the age of the dinosaurs, interesting mineral exhibits, or educational demonstrations of scientific principles?"

" All that is about to change, with the planned construction of New York's new climate change museum – a museum dedicated to fantasy theories about things which might happen, if we accept the predictions of climate models, which have yet to demonstrate [any predictive skill whatsoever](#). "

According to Grist;

For many, climate change is not yet personal, but Miranda Massie is trying to change that. Massie is the executive director of the forthcoming Climate Museum in New York City, a project that seeks to make the impacts of and solutions to a changing climate intimate and tangible. The museum was chartered by the New York Board of Regents on July 20, which brings the project one step closer to the fabled red ribbon.

*It's a venture steeped with ambition — a word that has seen a lot of play in the climate space recently. In the run-up to the negotiations in Paris this December, the United Nations has framed countries' carbon-cutting commitments in terms of their levels of ambition; diplomats and policymakers have termed the apparent lack of political will necessary for a 2C world the "ambition gap." **In climate policy, ambition is everything.***

...

"museum, which Massie aims to launch in an interim space of 10,000 to 20,000 square feet within the next two years, will be the first of its kind in the United States. (Hong Kong is home to the small Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change.) Backing her up is a heavy-hitting team of advisors and trustees, including environmental, legal, and communications leaders from the likes of Columbia University, New York's Environmental Justice Alliance, NYU's Tisch, NRDC, the London Science Museum, the National Audubon Society, and Harvard's Kennedy School. Danish-Icelandic installation artist Olafur Eliasson lent early visionary sketches for the museum. While most plans are preliminary, one of Massie's hopes is for an initial pop-up installation on Governors Island next summer.

[Read more: http://grist.org/climate-energy/move-over-moma-new-yorks-new-climate-change-museum-is-about-to-be-the-hottest-place-in-town/](http://grist.org/climate-energy/move-over-moma-new-yorks-new-climate-change-museum-is-about-to-be-the-hottest-place-in-town/)

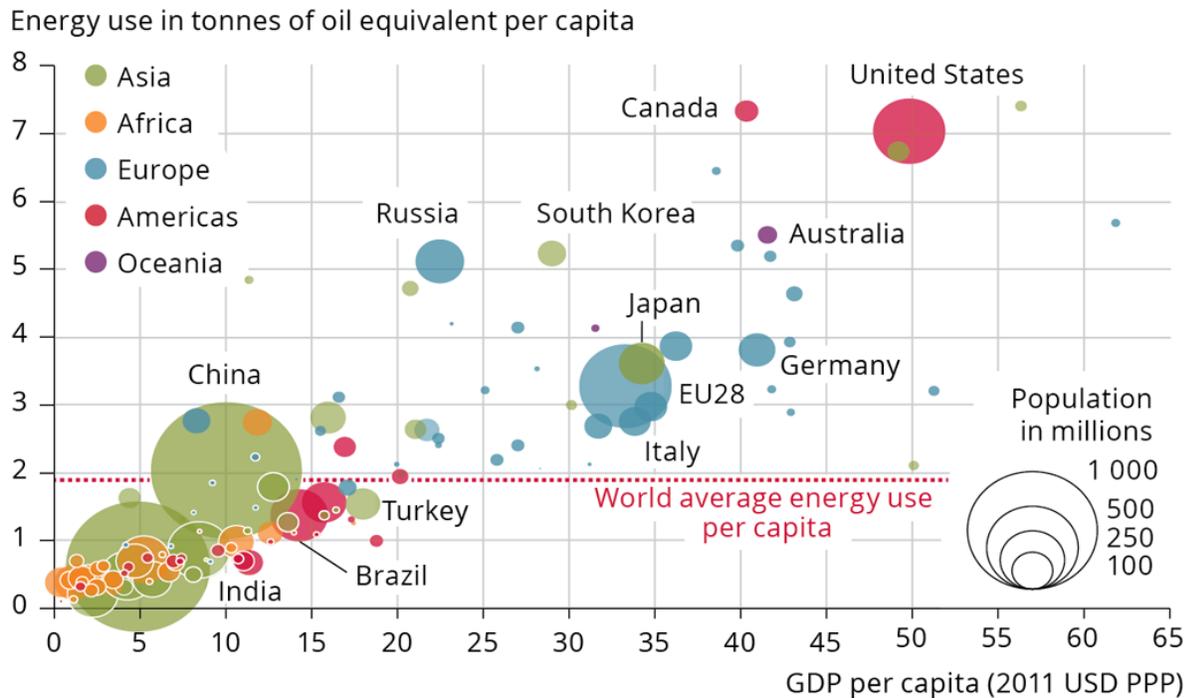
What a wonderful outing for the kids – all the excitement of a trip to the big city, then a few hours wandering around the climate museum, filling their impressionable little brains with messages of despair, destroying all their hopes and dreams"

Don Shaw

I. ISLAMIC LEADERS CALL FOR PHASING OUT FOSSIL FUELS

A world with many people who cannot think for themselves, leaders who cannot distinguish BS from facts, power mad religious offshoots such as ISIS, al Qaida & Boko Haram, greenies such as Greenpeace, socialists such as Obama, pot smokers, debt ridden cities, states, countries & students and dummies who drive and text.

This graph or a reasonable facsimile thereto should be taught in public schools instead of AGW:



J Frank

First the Pope, and now this . . .

http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/08/18/3692568/muslim-leaders-climate-change-statement/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=cptop3

What's the world coming to?

Irv Smith

J. INDUSTRY FUNDING: WITCH HUNTS

Posted on [August 18, 2015](#) | [347 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

There is a remarkable and disturbing story playing out in the biotechnology academic community over industry funding related to genetically modified food.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/08/18/industry-funding-witch-hunts/#more-19659>

K. INDUSTRY FUNDING AND BIAS

Posted on [August 16, 2015](#) | [203 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

The issue of funding-induced bias in climate research has been addressed by these previous posts:

- [Conflicts of interest in climate science](#)
- [Is federal funding biasing climate research?](#)

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/08/16/industry-funding-and-bias/#more-19639>

L. EPA AWARE OF 'BLOWOUT' RISK AT MINE THAT COULD RELEASE TAINTED WASTEWATER

Published August 22, 2015

FoxNews.com

Aug. 12, 2015: Water flows through a series of retention ponds built to contain and filter out heavy metals and chemicals from the Gold King mine chemical accident, in the spillway about 1/4 mile downstream from the mine, outside Silverton, Colo. (AP)

Managers at the Environmental Protection Agency were aware of the possible risk for a catastrophic "blowout" at an abandoned mine that could release "large volumes" of wastewater laced with toxic metals, according to internal documents released late Friday.

EPA released the documents following weeks of prodding from news organizations like The Associated Press. EPA and contract workers accidentally unleashed 3 million gallons of contaminated wastewater on Aug. 5 as they inspected the idled Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado.

Among the documents is a June 2014 work order for a planned cleanup that noted that the old mine had not been accessible since 1995, when the entrance partially collapsed. The plan appears to have been produced by Environmental Restoration, a private contractor working for EPA.

"This condition has likely caused impounding of water behind the collapse," the report says. "In addition, other collapses within the workings may have occurred creating additional water impounding conditions. Conditions may exist that could result in a blowout of the blockages and cause a release of large volumes of contaminated mine waters and sediment from inside the mine, which contain concentrated heavy metals."

A May 2015 action plan for the mine also notes the potential for a blowout. There are at least three current investigations into exactly how EPA triggered the environmental disaster, which tainted rivers in Colorado, New Mexico and Utah with lead, arsenic and other contaminants. Water tests have shown the contamination levels have since fallen back to pre-spill levels. However, experts warn the heavy metals have likely sunk and mixed with bottom sediments that could someday stirred back up.

Officials in the affected states and elsewhere have slammed the agency's initial response. Among the unanswered questions is why it took the EPA nearly a day to inform local officials in downstream communities that rely on the rivers for drinking water.

Much of the text in the documents released Friday was redacted by EPA officials, according to The Associated Press. Among the items blacked out is the line in a 2013 safety plan for the Gold King job that specifies whether workers were required to have phones that could work at the remote site, which is more than 11,000 feet up a mountain.

On its website, contractor Environmental Restoration posted a brief statement last week confirming its employees were present at the mine when the spill occurred. The company declined to provide more detail, saying that to do so would violate "contractual confidentiality obligations."

The EPA has not yet provided a copy of its contact with the firm. On the March 2015 cost estimate for the work released Friday, the agency blacked out all the dollar figures.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2015/08/22/epa-aware-blowout-risk-at-mine-that-could-release-tainted-wastewater/?intcmp=hpbt2>

Regards,
George