

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

5 OCT. 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. GLOBAL TEMPERATURE REPORT: AUGUST 2015

[Anthony Watts / 4 days ago](#)

In the tropics, warmest August in the satellite temperature record

Global climate trend since Nov. 16, 1978: +0.11 C per decade

August temperatures (preliminary)

Global composite temp.: +0.28 C (about 0.50 degrees Fahrenheit) above 30-year average for August.

Northern Hemisphere: +0.25 C (about 0.45 degrees Fahrenheit) above 30-year average for August.

Southern Hemisphere: +0.31 C (about 0.56 degrees Fahrenheit) above 30-year average for August.

Tropics: +0.52 C (about 0.94 degrees Fahrenheit) above 30-year average for August.

July temperatures (revised):

Global Composite: +0.18 C above 30-year average

Northern Hemisphere: +0.33 C above 30-year average

Southern Hemisphere: +0.03 C below 30-year average

Tropics: +0.48 C above 30-year average

(All temperature anomalies are based on a 30-year average (1981-2010) for the month reported.)

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/11/global-temperature-report-august-2015/>

2. LONG-TERM CLIMATE VARIABILITY IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE LINKED TO SOLAR VARIATIONS

From the Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel (GEOMAR)

New perspectives for long-term climate predictions?

This image shows a time series of solar activity (bottom) and the North Atlantic Oscillation in two model simulations, without (blue) and with (yellow) solar forcing. Credit, GEOMAR. Are climate predictions over periods of several years reliable if weather...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/15/long-term-climate-variability-in-the-northern-hemisphere-linked-to-solar-variations/>

3. UK MET: GLOBAL WARMING PAUSE MAY CONTINUE

Guest essay by Eric Worrall h/t

The Register – the UK MET Office has published a report which suggests the pause in global temperatures might continue for many years to come. Or the pause might not continue. They're not

really sure. According to The UK MET (talking about the Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation); Despite these signals...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/15/uk-met-global-warming-pause-may-continue/>

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

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

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/14/august-2015-global-surface-landocean-and-lower-troposphere-temperature-anomaly-model-data-difference-update/>

5. ANTARCTIC REFRIGERATOR EFFECT, CLIMATE SENSITIVITY & DÉFORMATION PROFESSIONNELLE: LESSONS FROM PAST CLIMATE CHANGE – PART 2

Guest essay by Jim Steele

Reference link: Déformation professionnelle

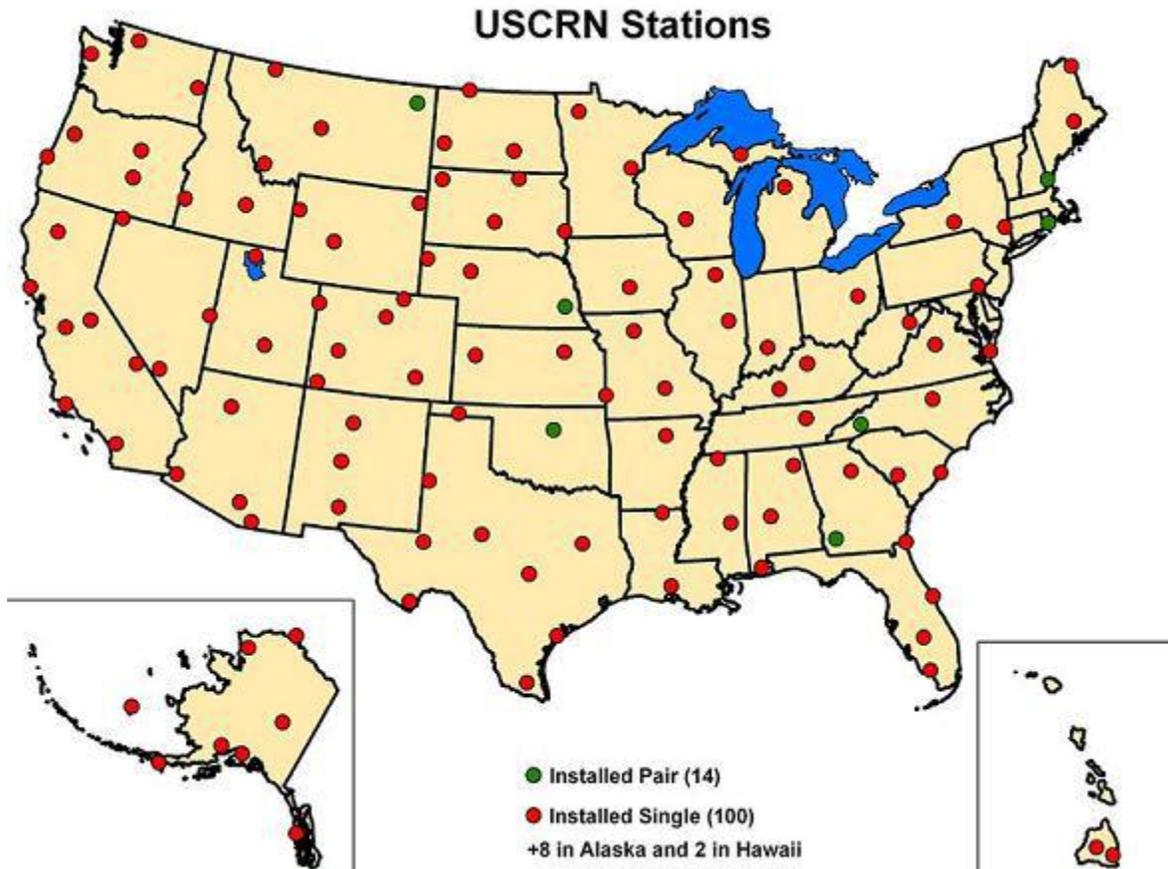
Director emeritus Sierra Nevada Field Campus, San Francisco State University and author of *Landscapes & Cycles: An Environmentalist's Journey to Climate Skepticism* For the past 55 million years the global surface temperature has declined by more than 10°C from a “hot house” condition into an “ice house”...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/16/antarctic-refrigerator-effect-climate-sensitivity-dformation-professionnelle-lessons-from-past-climate-change-part-2/>

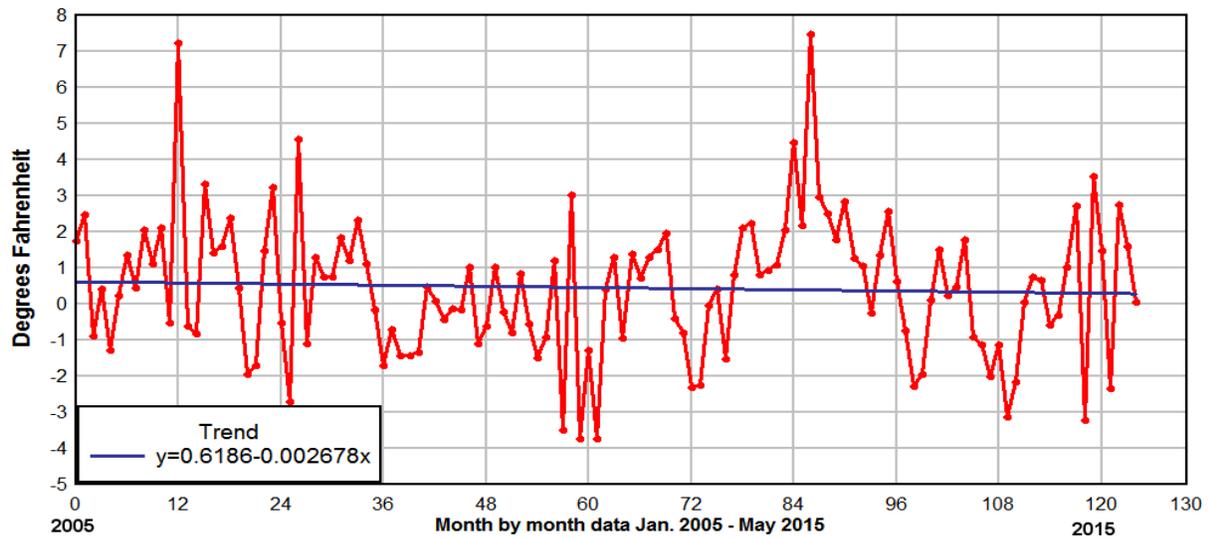
6. NOAA USCRN PRISTINE STATIONS PLOT SHOWS NO WARMING IN 10 YEARS SINCE INCEPTION

You don't hear much about this pristine assembly of recording stations that were set up by NOAA to provide high quality temperature data, I don't know why, but here are the data from well placed stations around the US that show no warming in 10 years.

The U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) consists of 114 stations developed, deployed, managed, and maintained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the continental United States for the express purpose of detecting the national signal of climate change. The vision of the USCRN program is to maintain a sustainable high-quality climate observation network that 50 years from now can with the highest degree of confidence answer the question: How has the climate of the nation changed over the past 50 years? These stations were designed with climate science in mind. Three independent measurements of temperature and precipitation are made at each station, insuring continuity of record and maintenance of well-calibrated and highly accurate observations. The stations are placed in pristine environments expected to be free of development for many decades. Stations are monitored and maintained to high standards, and are calibrated on an annual basis.



Contiguous U.S. Average Temperature Anomaly (degrees F) 2005-2015
 Source: NOAA U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN)



<https://wattsupwiththat.files.wordpress.com/2015/06/uscrn-trend-plot-from-ncdc-data.png>

Don Shaw

7, ATTACHED PAPER - GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE: A CALL FOR REASON

There has been much discussion within ASME, EED and the engineering societies regarding the content of this EED Newsletter specifically on Climate Change/Global Warming. To further that discussion, attached to this edition of the EED Newsletter is a short paper from A. Alan Moghissi, former EED Chair, entitled “Global Climate Change: A Call for Reason.” The Environmental Engineering Division Executive Committee wants to enhance and broaden that and other discussions – we want the Newsletter to be fair and balanced on all subjects especially Climate Change representing the best technical and economic points of view of engineers (hopefully ME’s). To that end, we solicit additional papers on controversial issues, representing both sides. The only caveat is that the papers be based on sound science and engineering. Please feel free to send in comments on the attached paper and/or additional papers for publication.

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Chair, EED
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Global Climate Change: A Call for Reason

By A. Alan Moghissi

This brief story is written as a consequence of comments by EED members and others on the content of the EED Newsletter in regards to Global Climate Change (GCC). As background, as the Editor of *Environment International* I published the first peer-reviewed comprehensive publication on GCC in 1979 dedicated to Willard Libby a Nobel Prize winner and Hans Süss both pioneers of GCC. I also published an entire issue of *Technology* in 2000 dedicated to the memory of Dixy Lee Ray dealing with GCC. I had the honor to Chair an ASME panel on *Energy and the Environment* that was adopted by the American Association of Engineering Societies. I am not a climatologist but have an appreciation of the scientific and engineering issues of GCC. There are several groups that address GCC issues. The key groups are as follows: **Believers:** This group correctly claims that during the last 100 years or so the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ has increased. Using mathematical models this group **claims** that the average global temperature has increased caused by the “greenhouse effect” and the increase in the concentration of CO₂. This group predicts adverse consequences of global temperature increases ranging from minor to catastrophic. This group is led by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the current US government agencies. It also includes a large number of researchers notably those funded by the government, many other individuals and groups as well as environmental advocacy organizations. This group relies upon experience in growing vegetables in greenhouses where the presence of CO₂ causes improvements of plant growth.

Deniers and Skeptics: This group claims that solar emissions determine the global temperature and denies that emission of CO₂ has (**significantly, GHH**) impacted global climate change. Supporters of this group include many highly distinguished scientists and a number of organizations. This group also includes those who express great reservation about the claims of the believers on the scientific validity of their claims.

Voice of Reason: The core of the arguments of this group is the need to consider issues as described in Best Available Science (BAS) and Metrics for Evaluation of Scientific Claims

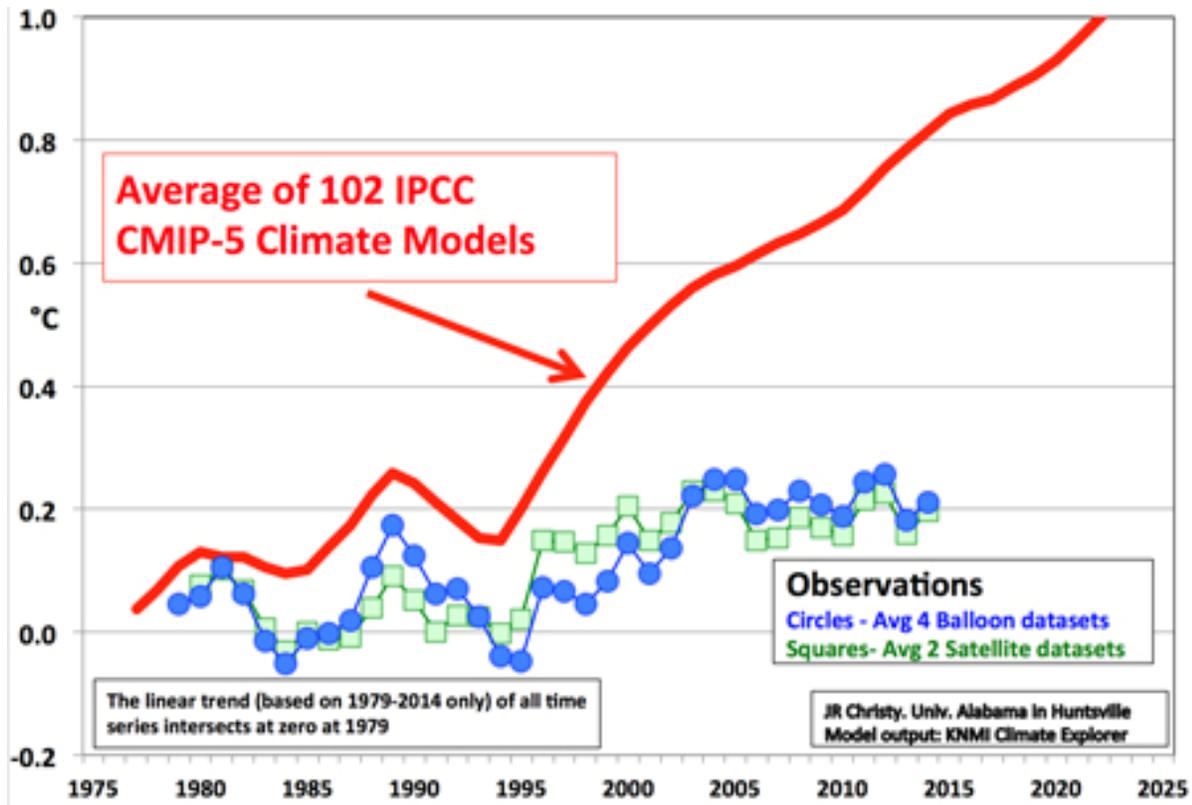
(MESC) derived from BAS. Please visit www.nars.org/bas for the details of BAS/MESC. The GCC process as used by Believers and to a lesser extent by Deniers relies overwhelmingly on mathematical models. These models inherently include assumptions, judgments, inclusion of default data, and related uncertainties. Let us use two examples to demonstrate the point:

1. The key to GCC is the establishment between the average atmospheric CO₂ concentration during and the average global temperature. **(The 18 year hiatus of little or no atmospheric temperature rise during a constantly increasing rise in CO₂ demonstrates the assumption of increasing atmospheric temperature with increasing CO₂ concentration is false. GHH)** The process currently used in GCC assessment assumes that the CO₂ is uniformly distributed throughout the globe. There is overwhelming evidence that this is not the case. There is a similar problem in addressing the average temperature. The first step in determining the average global temperature requires that each weather station must measure the temperature for 24 hours and provide an average including the measurements errors. The next step requires that the average temperature between two neighboring stations is linear. Given the model uncertainties, the NOAA corrects routinely the results of the relevant models.
2. A similar problem exists with the role of water, the ratio of vapor to droplets and their respective roles. Again here the used models assume that despite of the lack of the uniform distribution of water, the “average” value determines the outcome. An equally important issue is how to determine the “average” value. Note that the uncertainties are significantly more than the above examples demonstrate.

It is inherent in regulatory science, including regulatory engineering, that decisions often must be based on insufficient technical knowledge. Given such a situation society should make decisions that does not adversely impact the economic development. For example, the US contributes about 15% to the global CO₂ emissions. Given the fact that the electricity generation using fossil fuels contributes less than 40% of the total US emissions and the US regulatory decision to reduce the CO₂ emission from coal power plants will have minimal (2-3 %) impact globally (but a much higher impact on the U.S. economy. GHH). Is the anticipated reduction by the US power industry to the global CO₂ emissions worth the economic consequences of the regulations? Furthermore, those who assume that China, India, Brazil, Russia, and many others will follow the US decisions, rely upon processes that favorably compare with that of IPCC without a hard commitment by other counties. The voice of reason would require significant increases in nuclear power as well economically feasible renewable energy systems. (Agreed. GHH) In addition, it is necessary to enhance the development of technologies that use fossil fuels but collect, store, and convert their emissions to useful materials. Let me conclude with a statement that I have used in my class at Georgetown University:

“If you want to prove anything give me a mathematical model, a powerful computer, and some money and I will provide you with a model that does it.”

Editor’s Note: The use of climate models, using verifiable real data, should be encouraged. The model results must be verified by comparing the computer output with physical atmospheric temperature measurements. Only real data must be used. The use of false data to correct errors generated within the model is not acceptable. Citations to the verification papers must support use of model output. The following graph demonstrates the currently used models calculate executively and consistently high atmospheric temperatures. GHH



8. APPROXIMATELY 92% (OR 99%) OF USHCN SURFACE TEMPERATURE DATA CONSISTS OF ESTIMATED VALUES

An analysis of the U.S. Historical Climatological Network (USHCN) shows that only about 8%-1% (depending on the stage of processing) of the data survives in the climate record as unaltered/estimated data. Guest essay by John Goetz A previous post showed that the adjustment models applied to the GHCN data produce estimated values for approximately 66% of...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/27/approximately-92-or-99-of-ushcn-surface-temperature-data-consists-of-estimated-values/>

COMMENTS

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2015-09-26(SEPT. 26, 2015)

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

Changing Science: Several developments related to climate science occurred this week that can have some influence on policy as governments are rushing towards an “agreement” to be reached at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to be held in Paris from November 30 to December 11. No doubt, these developments will be ignored by some governments, the government-supported Climate Establishment, which adheres to the findings of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) while ignoring its deficiencies, and by the well-funded Green lobby, which depends on an image of “saving the world.” One development is a book-length independent review of the IPCC’s work by Alan Longhurst, a biological oceanographer with over 50 years’ experience. The second development is grouping of essays

by mathematician and electrical engineer David Evans posing a serious critique of the models depended upon by the IPCC and the Climate Establishment.

Longhurst Review: Encouraged by Judith Curry, Alan Longhurst reviewed the work of the IPCC from 2012 to 2015 and reached the following conclusions.

- 1) Global surface-air temperature records do not provide a reliable estimate of the influence of increased CO₂ due to land use change (urbanization, etc.) and effects of industrial particulates.
- 2) Users cannot judge the consequences of adjustments to surface-air data sets.
- 3) Sea surface temperatures are not a substitute for surface-air temperatures over oceans –due to changes attributable to ocean vertical motions, upwelling, etc.
- 4) Description of the global heat budget is inadequate.
- 5) Evidence for an intensification of extreme weather events and, in particular, tropical cyclones is very weak and is largely due increasing reliability and coverage of weather monitoring.
- 6) “Global climate in the present configuration of the continents falls naturally into a limited number of patterns that are forced externally and patterned by internal dynamics” – influenced by the North Atlantic Oscillation and the Southern Oscillation that describes the strength of trade winds.
- 7) “The recent melting of arctic ice cover over larger areas than 20 years ago in summer is not a unique event, but is a recurrence of past episodes and is the result of cyclically--variable transport of heat in warm North Atlantic water into the Arctic basin through the Norwegian Sea...”
- 8) Sea level is rising, but the causes --especially at regional scale --are more complex than suggested by the IPCC and involves many processes other than expansion due to warming.
- 9) “The consequences of acidification of seawater is one of the most enigmatic questions, it seems now that (i) marine organisms are more resilient to changing pH than was originally feared, because of the genetic diversity of their populations and (ii) the history of pH of seawater during geological time suggests that resilience through selection of genomes has emerged when appropriate in the past.”
- 10) “Unfortunately, the essential debate on these issues will not take place, at least not openly and without prejudice, because so many voices are today saying --nay, shouting --‘enough, the science is settled, it is time for remediation’. In fact, many have been saying this for almost 20 years, even as fewer voices have been heard in the opposite sense. As discussed in Chapter 1, the science of climate change --like many other complex fields in the earth sciences --does not function so that at some point in time one can say ‘now, the science is settled’: there are always uncertainties and alternative explanations for observations.”

Nothing reviewed of Longhurst’s work appears inconsistent with the findings of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC): Climate Change Reconsidered II. The NIPCC reports include extensive reviews of scientific papers citing the benefits of increased atmospheric CO₂, including benefits to marine life.

Longhurst does not address atmospheric temperatures measured by satellites, independently supported by weather balloon measurements. These are beyond ordinary human influences that affect surface-air measurements taken a few feet off the ground. SEPP considers atmospheric measurements which engulf virtually the entire globe to be the only ones from which average global temperatures can be calculated.

The recent modifications made by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to the sea surface temperature records intensify the issues, not reduce them. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy –NIPCC and Challenging the Orthodoxy.

David Evans: The analysis of IPCC climate models by model expert David Evans is appearing in a series of posts by Jo Nova, his wife, on her web site. Jo Nova is a very articulate writer on science issues, particularly on climate issues. The posts under the title “New Science” will likely continue for some time. Already, the criticisms are addressing significant flaws in the climate models, which make the model suitable for long-term projections and for policy decisions. The second paragraph in the opening is refreshing:

“Government science is stuck in a rut, strangled –trying to capture the creative genius of discovery and force it through a bureaucratic formula, like it can work to a deadline or be judged by the number of papers, or pages, or citations, or by b-grade officials. Blogs are new, but this form of independent scientific research, done for the thrill of discovery, outside institutions and funded by philanthropists, is the way science was mainly done before WWII.”

Evans then discusses the core of the basic physics model that a doubling of CO₂ will cause a warming of 1.2° C, as estimated in the Charney Report of 1979. [The IPCC has amplified the range of the warming proposed in the Charney Report, but has not improved on it.] He will take us on a tour of the feedbacks and the details of the models, asserting that the structure of the model is wrong –it is connected the wrong way.

The journey is beginning, and promises to be interesting. Since some posts are more technical than what customarily appears herein, TWTW will link to the posts, largely without comment. We will enjoy the journey and see if Evans accomplishes what he asserts: *“Basically it is going to come down to one connection. The basic physics is correct, but the climate scientists misapplied it. After fixing the plumbing, it all flows beautifully.*

“This argument potentially breaks the intellectual logjam. The empirical reality was measured correctly after all.”

See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy and “Climate Fears and Finance”

The Pope’s Visit: The writings of the Pope and his talks reflect antiquated thinking about economic systems more in line with 19th century thinking brought in sharper contrast during the period between WWI and WWII. He criticized what he calls capitalism, a term not commonly used until the mid-to-late 1800s. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels strongly criticized the “capitalistic system” in *Das Kapital*(1867). However, western economic systems can be better termed as based on private enterprise, or free market systems. In the latter, the meaning of free is from undue government control. These terms better fit the market economies of the west than capitalism.

The critical economic issue is who controls the means of production and the decisions of what to produce. Is it a central authority or the multitude of decisions by many people? As seen in many countries, such as the Soviet Union and Argentina during the reign of Peron, central decision making, often favoring a few, can be economically repressive to the many. Conversely, in market economies, if private companies make poor decisions on what to produce, they fail leading to bankruptcy or take-

over. Unfortunately, in his economic pronouncements, the Pope fails to make such important distinctions.

Western market economies have addressed environmental deterioration and greatly improved environmental conditions without centralized decision-making. The claim that human carbon dioxide emissions will cause unprecedented and dangerous global warming is not supported by atmospheric temperature measurements, which are the finest, only comprehensive measurements of global temperatures existing. Simply, there is no compelling environmental or human reason to institute centralized economic powers, which have repeatedly failed in the past.

Murkiness of thinking was characteristic in his remarks to Congress. He requested Congress not impede immigration from Latin America. He may realize that people are immigrating largely for economic reasons, to find a better life. These antiquated remarks are forgivable for the Pope, but not for his economic advisors.

The Pope insists that governments must interfere with free-market system to address climate change, which, however, is based on inadequate science.

The cost of such interference is enormous. It is the free market system in the US that allowed the expansion of oil production from shale –all occurring on private or state-owned lands, not federally controlled lands and waters. This production is breaking the grip of government-controlled petroleum companies in OPEC. The resulting decline in oil prices is a boon to humans in general. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy, Expanding the Orthodoxy –The Pope, and Expanding the Orthodoxy –The Pope –Loyal Opposition

A Stern Review: Michael Kelly has a review of the new book by Nicholas Stern: *Why Are We Waiting? The Logic, Urgency, and Promise of Tackling Climate Change*. Lord Stern is the author of an influential report on the costs of climate change. The report depends on statistical manipulation of estimates of future costs using discount rates that are fitting for economies that are undergoing prolonged economic recession or depression.

Mr. Kelly’s review shows a poetic flair: ***“Those building the biblical Tower of Babel, intending to reach heaven, did not know where heaven was and hence when the project would be finished, or at what cost. Those setting out to solve the climate change problem now are in the same position. If we were to spend 10 or even 100trillion dollars mitigating carbon dioxide emissions, what would happen to the climate? If we can’t evaluate whether reversing climate change would be value for money, why should we bother, when we can clearly identify many and better investments for such huge resources? The forthcoming Paris meeting on climate change will be setting out to build a modern Tower of Babel.”***

See link under A Stern Review

US Energy Plan: Ernest Moniz and John Holdren announced a review of the current state of energy technology. After the now usual rhetoric that global climate change, caused by carbon dioxide from energy use, is one of the most significant threats to the well-being of people now alive as well as to that of future generations, the statement claims that the released second Quadrennial Technology Review(QTR) **“identifies game-changing clean and efficient energy technologies.”** The report promotes the current construction of four nuclear reactors, wind power and solar power.

Reliable electricity is critical for modern civilization. The administration’s top scientists fail to mention the greatest failure in Mr. Obama’s power plan –**the inability to store electricity on an affordable, commercial scale.** The only proven method is pumped storage; but, the administration’s intensified water regulations make it doubtful if any new such facilities can be built. But the plan contains a promise: **“Energy storage: Fundamental research on efficient, durable storage could enable transformational change across multiple sectors, including transportation, and the electricity system.”**[Boldface added].

The statement also claims: “The QTR provides a blueprint for the Energy Department’s energy-technology development and for enabling the science that will make future technology Breakthroughs possible.” Some hoped for breakthroughs may never materialize. Great technological advances in one area do not necessarily mean great advances in another area. The statement claims that: “Since the last QTR was published in 2011, the number of large-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration projects has doubled globally.” **SEPP was unable to identify one commercially viable project that is not connected to using carbon dioxide to produce additional quantities of oil or natural gas from wells. The British CCS project is in trouble as private companies power have pulled out due to reversals on subsidies making the project too risky to proceed.** The US plan promises energy savings. Many such promises have been based on making labor saving appliances more energy efficient; but, less efficient for humans, or more expensive. See links under The Administration’s Plan and Questioning European Green

RICO 20: As expected, there is push-back against the 20 people who signed a letter addressed to the US President and the Attorney General demanding racketeering (RICO) investigations of those who disagree with their views about climate change. The critiques reflect the saying: “Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.”

The letter does not advance science, but largely ignores it –namely the inability of global warming proponents to advance climate science significantly beyond the Charney Report of 1979. One of the critiques brought up that some of RICO 20 signers are from the government-funded Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason University. The actions of the RICO 20 are similar to the actions during World War I by the U.S. Committee on Public Information, actions which participant Edward Bernays later called propaganda. Is the Center for Climate Change Communication a reincarnation of the WW I committee? See links under Suppressing Scientific Inquiry –The Witch Hunt – Push-Back.

Blood Moon: For parts of the world, September 27, 2015, will be marked by the eclipse of the harvest moon, the largest apparent full moon, creating what is called a “blood moon.” September 27 is Fred Singer’s 91st birthday. Is the heavenly event a celebration of Mr. Singer’s birthday? Ever-skeptical Fred Singer would say no. See link under Other News that May Be of Interest.

Number of the Week: 7 years. Washington’s time frame for review of Keystone, now 7 years, is taking on biblical proportions –the concept of indefinite plentitude. It took less time to build the transcontinental railroad, 1,907 miles, from Council Bluffs, Iowa, to the San Francisco Bay, connecting the eastern railroad system to the Pacific coast. The railroad was built largely by hand and explosives, and supplied by newly laid rail. Today, the bureaucrats in Washington are using high speed computers to generate mounds of meaningless paper. Washington is involved because the pipeline will cross the international border. This is how Washington treats the largest trading partner of the US and the country with which it has its longest border. Should the President of China trust Washington? See links under Washington’s Control of Energy.

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<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2015/TWTW%209-26-15.pdf>

B U.S., CHINA BUILD ON PLAN TO CUT CO2 EMISSIONS

Negotiators meet to set groundwork for summit between Barack Obama and Xi Jinping

By William Mauldin and Colleen McCain Nelson

Updated Sept. 15, 2015 3:35 p.m. ET

Next week, President [Barack Obama](#) and Chinese President [Xi Jinping](#) will add to [earlier pledges to cut greenhouse-gas emissions](#) with specific guidance on what the two countries will do at home to keep climate change at bay, officials said.

The United States and China announced Tuesday that cities, states and provinces in both countries would commit to taking parallel steps to address climate change.

The participating Chinese cities and provinces, which represent about 25% of total urban emissions in that country, will offer plans to have their emissions peak sooner than the national target of 2030.

Beijing and Guangzhou, two of China's largest cities, will aim for their peak emissions to come as early as 2020.

Climate officials and leaders from both countries are meeting in Los Angeles this week to lay out the steps the regions will take and to set the groundwork for next week's summit between the two presidents

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-china-build-on-climate-accord-1442342194>

C. FEDS, OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY AT ODDS OVER WELL SAFETY COSTS

Note the big difference between the estimated government costs versus industry with proposed Administration regulations.

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2015/09/gulf_well_control_rules_cost.html

"It is going to cost oil and gas companies a pretty penny to comply with new federal rules aimed at preventing the type of well blowout and explosion that led to the 2010 BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Getting regulators and industry to agree on a projected price tag, however, is not so easy. U.S. Rep. Garret Graves, R-Baton Rouge, underscored the disparity Tuesday morning (Sept. 15) during a House Natural Resources Committee hearing in New Orleans. The hearing focused on the Obama administration's proposed well control rules, which outline guidelines for design, maintenance and repair of key equipment and introduce a schedule for safety inspections. The rules were made public in April.

The Interior Department predicts the rules will add about \$880 million in industry costs over the next decade. A July study by the American Petroleum Institute pegged the cost at a crippling \$32 billion over the same period.

Graves, a vocal advocate for the oil and gas industry, said the disparity shows regulators are out of touch with industry. The consequences could be devastating for the economy and jobs, especially in south Louisiana, he said."

Don Shaw

D. REMINDER, US NAVY SHIP SURFACES AT NORTH POLE IN LATE 50'S FILED UNDER:

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2009/04/26/ice-at-the-north-pole-in-1958-not-so-thick/>

Ice at the North Pole in 1958 and 1959 – not so thick

[Anthony Watts](#) / [April 26, 2009](#)

"What would NSIDC and our media make of a photo like this if released by the NAVY today? Would we see headlines like "NORTH POLE NOW OPEN WATER"? Or maybe "Global warming melts North Pole"? Perhaps we would. sensationalism is all the rage these days. If it melts it makes headlines.



Skate (SSN-578), surfaced at the North Pole, 17 March 1959. Image from NAVSOURCE
Some additional captures from the newsreel below show that the ice was pretty thin then, thin enough to assign deckhands to chip it off after surfacing. The newsreel is interesting, here is the transcript."
More at website
Don Shaw

E. JERRY BROWN SENT LETTER TO ‘CLIMATE SCIENCE DENIER’ BEN CARSON...PRETTY MUCH PROVING THE DR.’S POINT

By [Mike Miller](#) (3 days ago)

Ben Carson said in San Francisco earlier this week that there is “no overwhelming science” proving “global warming” is caused by humans.

That’s all it took for [California Gov. Jerry Brown](#) to fire off a response:

“I hope you’ve enjoyed your visit to the Golden State. It’s come to my attention that while you were here you said the following regarding climate science.”

Carson had said, [in part](#):

“I know there are a lot of people who say ‘overwhelming science,’ but then when you ask them to show the overwhelming science, they never can show it. There is no overwhelming science that the things that are going on are man-caused and not naturally caused.”

Brown sent Carson a flash drive containing the ‘United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’ report, saying:

“This report was assessed more than 30,000 papers and was written by more than 800 scientists, representing 80 countries around the world, who definitely concluded that: ... ‘Human influence on the climate system is clear and growing, with impacts observed across all continents and oceans.’”

“These aren’t just words. The consequences are real,” Brown said.

Ben Carson said:

There is no need for name-calling in debates about so-called "science." Just "show your work," like any good elementary school student can produce on demand. Last time we checked, the citizens of America are in charge of the country, not belligerent autocrats and their bureaucratic underlings.



[Gov. Brown Press Ofc @GovPressOffice](#)

[@JerryBrownGov](#) to climate science denier [@RealBenCarson](#): "Climate change is much bigger than partisan politics."

[5:08 PM - 10 Sep 2015](#)

Brown added:

"Please use your considerable intelligence to review this material. Climate change is much bigger than partisan politics."

Instead of providing data and quantifying man's alleged effect on climate change, along with calculating the cost-benefit analysis of any sensible U.S. actions that can be undertaken to address the perceived

problem, Brown hurled epithets and [appealed to the authority](#) of the I.P.C.C. – the same organization whose climate models have [failed to predict](#) the [widely-admitted](#) “global warming” hiatus [95% of the time](#).

F. MEAN ARCTIC TEMPERATURE ABOVE 80 DEGREES N COMPARED WITH 1958 TO 2002 AVERAGE (GREEN LINE)

Note that the summer Arctic temperatures are very close to the historic average and the melt season is essentially over for 2015 without an ice free Arctic.

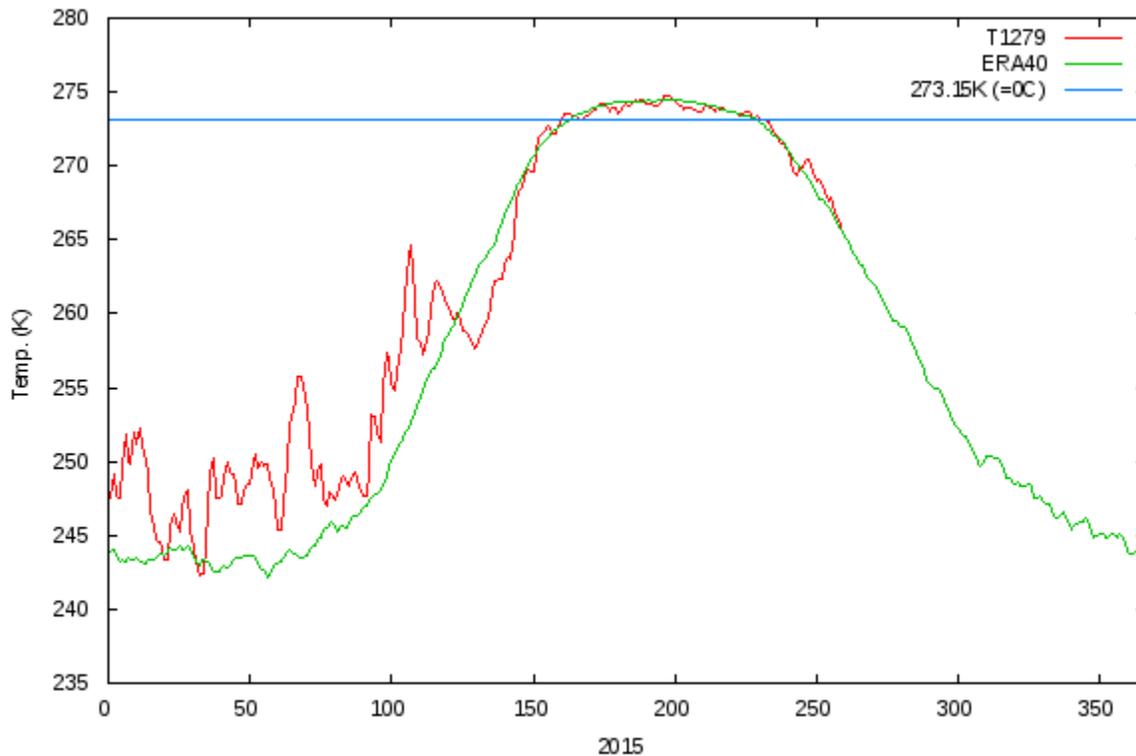
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Arctic Temperature:

<http://ocean.dmi.dk/arctic/meant80n.uk.php>

Mean Temperature above 80°N Sept. 13, 2015

The ERA40 reanalysis data, have been applied to calculation of daily climate values that are plotted along with the daily analysis values in all plots. The data used to determine climate values is the full ERA40 data set, from 1958 to 2002.



Wed Sep 16 19:00:22 UTC 2015

Don Shaw

G. WASHINGTON OFFERS \$100 MILLION GRANTS FOR E 15 AND E 85 FUELS THAT CONSUMERS DON'T WANT

<http://www.platts.com/latest-news/agriculture/washington/usda-offers-grants-to-fueling-stations-to-install-21110075>

"US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on Thursday announced \$100 million in funding to 21 states for grants to add E15 and E85 pumps to fuel stations.

In all, 4,880 new pumps will be added through the funding, doubling the number of stations that offer higher ethanol blends, primarily E15, nationwide.

The funding comes as the oil industry has complained that not enough consumer demand exists for the higher blends, while retail stations have been reluctant to install fueling infrastructure due to costs and fears of liability from consumer misfueling.

The ethanol industry, which has been pushing the Obama administration to raise the biofuels blending mandate in the Renewable Fuel Standard, has accused the oil industry of blocking access to higher ethanol blends to preserve petroleum's market share in transportation fuels.

Most transportation fuel sold in the US is E10, or a 10% blend of ethanol with gasoline.

The administration is reviewing the public comments it has received on its proposed 2014, 2015 and 2016 RFS rules, with a November 30 deadline to finalize them.

The 2016 RFS proposal calls for 17.40 billion gallons of biofuels, which is below the 22.25 billion gallons required by the Clean Air Act, but above what the oil industry has projected, will be the 10% blend wall. The blend wall refers to the situation in which rising ethanol blending mandates exceed 10% of the US transportation fuel supply, as many automobiles are not warranted to take fuel with greater than 10% ethanol content.

The oil industry has warned that breaching the blend wall will cause gasoline prices to spike, which the ethanol industry has dismissed as fear-mongering.

The funding Vilsack announced Thursday consists of competitive grants, matched by states, that will be used to pay a portion of the costs for installing E15 and E85 fuel pumps and related infrastructure, as well as marketing, education, data collection, program evaluation and administrative costs, the Department of Agriculture said.

"This partnership will expand markets for farmers, support rural economic growth and the jobs that come with it, and ultimately give consumers more choices at the pump," the USDA said in a statement." Don Shaw

H. CLIMATE ALARMISTS DEMAND OBAMA USE THE RICO ACT TO SILENCE CRITICS

Guest essay by Eric Worrall h/t JoNova and James Delingpole – A group of climate scientists, including Professor Kevin Trenberth, have demanded President Obama abuse the RICO act, to silence criticism of their theories. The letter; Dear President Obama, Attorney General Lynch, and OSTP Director Holdren, as you know, an overwhelming majority of climate scientists...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/19/climate-alarmists-demand-obama-use-the-rico-act-to-silence-critics/>

I. THE URBAN HEAT ISLAND (UHI) IS MAPPED IN MAJOR U.S. CITIES

UGA study ranks US cities based on the urban heat island effect on temperatures From the UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA Highlights Urban heat island (UHI) intensities were estimated for the fifty most populous cities in the USA using PRISM climate data. The urban morphologies of the cities were quantified using spatial metrics and the NLCD 2006...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/18/the-urban-heat-island-uhi-is-mapped-in-major-u-s-cities/>

J. CLAIM: GLOBAL WARMING WILL UNLEASH DEADLY SWARMS OF GIANT ARCTIC MOSQUITOES

Guest essay by Eric Worrall

The Royal Society has published a study which claims that global warming will unleash deadly swarms of giant arctic mosquitoes. According to the Royal Society; Abstract Climate change is altering environmental temperature, a factor that influences ectothermic organisms by controlling rates of physiological processes. Demographic effects of warming, however, are...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/18/claim-global-warming-will-unleash-deadly-swarms-of-giant-arctic-mosquitoes>

K. HOW RELIABLE ARE THE CLIMATE MODELS?

Guest essay by Mike Jonas There are dozens of climate models. They have been run many times. The great majority of model runs, from the high-profile UK Met Office's Barbecue Summer to Roy Spencer's Epic Fail analysis of the tropical troposphere, have produced global temperature forecasts that later turned out to be too high. Why?...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/17/how-reliable-are-the-climate-models/>

Editor's Note: This an excellent article regarding the inaccuracies built into climate computer models. GHH

L. SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF SEA ICE THICKNESS DISTRIBUTION USING MOLECULAR CONCEPTS

From YALE UNIVERSITY New Haven, Conn. – Yale University scientists have answered a 40-year-old question about Arctic ice thickness by treating the ice floes of the frozen seas like colliding molecules in a fluid or gas. Although today's highly precise satellites do a fine job of measuring the area of sea ice, measuring the volume...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/17/solving-the-problem-of-sea-ice-thickness-distribution-using-molecular-concepts/>

M. THE DUBIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE OF 100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

9/18/2015

There is a petition going around in Canada called "The Leap" sponsored by David Suzuki, Naomi Klein and others that is packed with excellent progressive sentiments and is oriented towards influencing the political climate in advance of our upcoming election.

It makes a series of 15 demands, some of which are easy for any self-regarding progressive to subscribe to, such as the need to better respect treaties with Aboriginal tribes. But some of the other demands—especially those concerning energy supply and infrastructure—are pretty incoherent.

The manifesto calls for Canada to initiate a shift to 100% renewable energy based on so-called research that holds such a shift is possible within two decades. The research is by a cult academic at Stanford University named Mark Jacobson who comes up with utterly impractical plans to power regions with renewable energy. His plan to power the [New York state](#) includes unproven, overrated, and inappropriate technologies such as offshore wind a mile deep along the entire coast of Long Island, and concentrated solar power, which needs tremendous levels of insolation to work and as such has ever only been built in deserts.

In most of the real world, the attempt to shift to high concentrations of renewable energies is failing.

Germany has been going all out on a renewable energy system for 15 years, and they have only managed to reduce the amount of coal they burn by about a fifth, primarily by [burning garbage and trees](#), which they [are importing in vast quantities from around the world](#). Globally, the only regions successfully approaching high percentages of renewable energy are those that were there all along because they happen to be blessed with [access to lots of hydro power](#), which not all of Canada is. But the truly deep incoherence in #TheLeap is not the aim for a 100% renewable approach to energy, however dubious that is. Rather, the incoherent idea is that by shifting to renewable energy we can put an end to the burden exerted upon the earth of extraction.

I'm sympathetic to the writers of #TheLeap for being unfavorable to developments "[nobody](#) wants in their backyards." But in other regards than fuel—in regards to the materials that goes into building the generation supply—[renewable energies are the most extractive form of energies](#). Building a system on solar and wind requires vast amounts of redundant generation to gather wind power in one region when it isn't blowing in another, transmission lines between them, as well as backup, which is virtually always fossil fuel. If instead you try to store renewable energy in batteries for when the wind isn't blowing or the sun isn't shining, you [would probably need more Lithium than there is in the earth](#). All of that metal needs to be mined and processed somewhere—be it China, or Malaysia—and the impacts on those places in terms of radioactive and other types of toxic contamination are [not pretty](#).

By contrast, a better balanced energy system that moved beyond fossil fuels by combining renewable sources with nuclear power [would be easier and cheaper to develop and would require a far smaller materials and land footprint](#). As is well known, nuclear, like renewable energy, produces electricity without greenhouse gases. Most experts, [including the IPCC](#), know that combining nuclear into low-carbon energy system is essential for making those systems cost-effective and adequate for expanding economies and populations.

Nuclear energy is not considered "renewable," because it requires fuel, but the amount of power in that fuel is on a different order of magnitude than in fossil fuel and [less than a millionth of it](#) is required to do the same amount of work. For that reason, the material demands of nuclear power are [exceptionally low](#). [Two Canadian mines](#) now produce enough uranium to power 40% of Canada's electricity demand.

As importantly, our [well-regulated uranium mines](#) and [deep geological waste repository projects](#) can carefully protect the earth and its inhabitants from the impacts of our energy use.

[The small environmental footprint of nuclear power has led 75 scientists concerned about conservation, biodiversity, and climate change recently called for a reevaluation](#) of nuclear power's environmental credentials. By contrast, a 100% renewable energy system in Canada might look clean on paper, but that's because much of the mess would be elsewhere.

<http://www.suzannewaldman.net/blog/on-the-social-justice-of-100-renewable-energy>

N. E&E LEGAL ON THE CAPTURE OF EPA

The [Energy & Environmental Legal Institute](#) is a D.C.-based advocacy group dedicated to "free market environmentalism through strategic litigation."

Recently, E&E has been examining environmental policy by searching public records and filing FOIA requests with state and federal agencies, and then tenaciously litigating over the resulting efforts at obfuscation. The strategy requires patience, given government's endless capacity for stalling and mendacity, but it is producing results, and E&E has issued a series of reports (listed at the end of this post).

The tale told is appalling. The demarcation between the EPA and the major environmental groups is blurred to the point of non-existence. The revolving door spins like a top, and the meetings, memoranda, and plotting are continuous, with NGO staff acting as *de facto* agency staff, and *vice versa*.

The capture is not limited to the ideological environmentalists. Big Green is a [Bootleggers and Baptists](#) coalition of ideological and economic interests, including hybrids of ideologues who also make money from the capture – Bootlegging Baptists.

The documents also show that EPA is not the only government player to be captured; the campaign to bulldoze through EPA's Clean Power Plan, funded by crony capitalists, includes the White House and state officials.

The reports were met with huffy denials that the environmental groups had received any special access or had anything special to do with EPA's proposals, then, from the mainstream press, with silence. Nothing to see here; move along; old news.

Perhaps the news is old, because the fact of the incest – though not its extent or blatancy – is known by everyone in Washington, but the revelations are still exceedingly important.

Our political language lacks a good label for the resulting system. Whatever one calls it – “crony socialism”; “corporatism”; “rule by decree”; “bastard caudillismo”; “Special Interest State” – it is far from the American ideal of the Rule of Law, and it makes particular mockery of the concept of [Administrative Law](#) as a body of doctrine that prevents agencies from running amok.

Page 1 / 4 [Continue](#)

O. CLIMATE INSANITY ON STEROIDS!

Economies collapsing,

Middle East imploding – and Obama & Pals obsess over ... the climate!

Guest essay by Paul Driessen

The Middle East is imploding. Islamic State butchers are annihilating Christian and other communities.

Putin is sending arms to Assad. Under the Obama-Iran nuclear deal, the mullahs will get \$100+ billion to expand their proxy...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/21/climate-insanity-on-steroids/>

P. SEPTEMBER 2015 ENSO UPDATE – SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURES CONTINUE TO RISE IN THE CENTRAL EQUATORIAL PACIFIC

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale

This post provides an update of many of the ENSO-related variables we presented as part of last year's 2014-15 El Niño Series. The reference years for comparison graphs in this post are 1997 and 2014, which are the development years of the strongest recent El Niño and the last El...

<https://bobtisdale.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/02-nino-indices-evolution.png>

Q. NEW BOOK: DOUBT AND CERTAINTY IN CLIMATE SCIENCE

Posted on [September 20, 2015](#) | [152 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

Doubt and Certainty in Climate Science is an important new book that everyone should read. And its free.

It is a privilege to make available to you the book *Doubt and Certainty in Climate Science*, by Alan Longhurst [link [Longhurst final](#) to download the book].

The book is 239 pages long, with 606 footnotes/references. The book is well written, technical but without equations – it is easily accessible to anyone with a technical education or who follows the technical climate blogs.

In this post I provide a brief overview of the book, biosketch of Alan Longhurst, some additional backstory on the book, and my own comments on the book.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/09/20/new-book-doubt-and-certainty-in-climate-science/#more-19946>

R. DOUBT AND CERTAINTY IN CLIMATE SCIENCE

A new book by ALAN LONGHURST

Doubt and Certainty in Climate Science is an important new book that everyone should read. And its free.

It is a privilege to make available to you the book *Doubt and Certainty in Climate Science*, by Alan Longhurst [link [Longhurst clean](#) to download the book].

Judith Curry

<https://curryja.files.wordpress.com/2015/09/longhurst-clean.pdf>

S. THIS IS A REALLY GOOD ESSAY:

Global warming and climate change: Separating truth from fiction

Judith Curry

<http://asiancorrespondent.com/135346/global-warming-and-climate-change-separating-truth-from-fiction/>

T. CLIMATE SCIENTISTS CAN RESTART THE CLIMATE CHANGE DEBATE & WIN: TEST THE MODELS!

By Larry Kummer, from the Fabius Maximus website Summary;

Public policy about climate change has become politicized and gridlocked after 26 years of large-scale advocacy. We cannot even prepare for a repeat of past extreme weather. We can whine and bicker about who to blame. Or we can find ways to restart the debate. Here...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/24/climate-scientists-can-restart-the-climate-change-debate-win-test-the-models/>

U. APPROXIMATELY 66% OF GLOBAL SURFACE TEMPERATURE DATA CONSISTS OF ESTIMATED VALUES

Summary of GHCN Adjustment-Model Effects on Temperature Data Guest essay by John Goetz As the debate over whether or not this year will be the hottest year ever burns on, it is worth revisiting a large part of the data used to make this determination: GHCN v3. The charts in this post use the dataset...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/24/summary-of-ghcn-adjustment-model-effects-on-temperature-data/>

V. 1000 NEW HIGH TECH COAL POWER PLANTS THROUGHOUT ASIA FINANCED BY JAPAN.

Note this is happening while the Administration is imposing strict CO₂ emission restrictions on the US populace without Congressional approval while killing jobs and the economy.

Even Low CO₂ emissions from natural gas electricity generation are being phased out. How can US industry compete with proposed high electricity costs?

Sounds like unilateral economic suicide.

Don Shaw

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/13/japan-building-coal-plants-is-climate-finance/#comment-2027214>

Guest essay by Eric Worrall

The Minerals Council of Australia has pushed back at coal divestment campaigns; by pointing out that Japan has joined the Asian infrastructure rush, by offering “climate finance” loans to aid the construction of up to 1000 new high tech coal power plants throughout Asia.

According to The Australian;

More than 1000 “high-efficiency” coal-fired electricity generation plants are planned or under construction in key Asian nations, according to new research that provides a fillip for Australia’s thermal coal exporters hit by the fossil fuel divestment push.

The research, produced by the UK’s IEA Clean Coal Centre and obtained by The Australian, is significant as the hi-tech plants typically emit 20 to 25 per cent less carbon dioxide than existing power stations. Commissioned by the Minerals Council of Australia, it finds that an extra 1066 “high-efficiency, low-emission” coal plants are planned or under construction in 10 Asian nations to provide 672 gigawatts of capacity — more than 24 times that of Australia’s coal-fired fleet.

...

*Despite a wave of bans on coal by multilateral lenders, **Japan has designated loans for coal plants in India, Indonesia and Bangladesh as climate finance.***

Read more: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/mining-energy/hi-tech-coal-plants-good-news-for-locals-amid-global-warming-debate/story-e6frg9df-1227525360556>

Earlier this year, WUWT revealed how Asian countries, frustrated at the Obama’s attempt to push climate orthodoxy on global banking institutions, were [turning to China](#) to finance their energy infrastructure.

Now that Japan has joined the Asian coal power rush, I think it is fair to say President Obama has completely lost control of the global energy development narrative. All he has succeeded in doing is to lock American interests out of a gigantic business opportunity. Obama has given America’s economic rivals a free pass to make money, while far too many of his fellow Americans worry about where their next pay cheque is coming from.

Regards,
George