

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

12 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. CARBON, WIND AND FIRE

Sept. 16, 2015 7:14 p.m. ET

Thousands of buildings and some 300,000 acres—10 times as much land as the city of San Francisco—have gone up in flames this week as three massive wildfires blazed across northern California. Tens of thousands of people have abandoned their homes, and Jerry Brown thinks he's found the villain: fossil fuels.

At a press conference on Monday, the Governor warned that the wildfires are a result and portent of cataclysmic climate change. "This is the future, from now on. It's going to get worse, just by the nature of how the climate's changing," Mr. Brown inveighed. "What we see in Europe now with mass migrations, that will happen in California . . . Central America and Mexico, as they warm, people are going to get on the move."

Europe's refugee crisis has been driven by turmoil in the Arab world and Western disengagement. In any case, Mr. Brown should be more worried about mass *emigration* driven by California's anti-business climate.

Opinion Journal Video

Freelance Writer Andy Rieber on bureaucratic mismanagement of public lands, and the devastating consequences. Photo credit:

One irony is that wildfires diminish the impact of California's anti-carbon policies. In 2007 environmental scientists at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and the University of Colorado at Boulder found that "a severe fire season lasting only one or two months can release as much carbon as the annual emissions from the entire transportation or energy sector of an individual state." NCAR's Christine Wiedinmyer estimated that southern California fires that burned for one week produced as much carbon dioxide as a quarter of the state's monthly fossil-fuel emissions.

According to a study this year led by the National Park Service and University of California, Berkeley, annual carbon releases from burning California wildland and forests—among the densest in the world—accounted for as much as 5% to 7% of statewide carbon emissions between 2001 and 2010.

This year's fast-burning fires are fueled by the historic drought and fanned by strong winds. But as with so many other crises in California, government policies bear much of the blame. To wit, federal policy of suppressing fires in national parks and on other protected lands for forest preservation.

"A century of fire suppression has contributed to a potentially unsustainable buildup of vegetation," explains UC Berkeley forest ecologist John Battles. "This buildup provides abundant fuel for fires that contribute to carbon emissions." University of Colorado researcher Jason Neff likewise notes that fire

suppression policies have “had the unintended benefit of sequestering more carbon in our forests and reducing the impact of human combustion of fossil fuels.”

One lesson here is that politically motivated policies intended to protect the environment often backfire—on the environment.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/carbon-wind-and-fire-1442445243>

2. DOUBLING UP THE SEA LEVEL SCARE FOR PARIS USING THE OLD ‘ONE-TWO PUNCH’ LINE

From the THE EARTH INSTITUTE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY One-two punch of rising seas, bigger storms may greatly magnify US East coast floods

New study quantifies synergy of 2 climate hazards

Many studies predict that future sea-level rise along the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf coasts will increase flooding. Others suggest that the human-caused warming driving this...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/21/doubling-up-the-sea-level-scare-for-paris-using-the-old-one-two-punch-line/>

3. HILARIOUS CLAIM: “WE KNOW WHEN GLOBAL (COUGH, COUGH) WARMING FIRST APPEARED IN THE TEMPERATURE RECORD, ER, MODELS”

From the UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES (via Eurekalert) and the “Where’s Waldo?” department comes this hilarious claim. Why hilarious? Because the headline says “global warming”, yet the research says that warming appeared in different decades in different parts of the world. So much for the “global” part. But, it gets better, the money quote says the...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/22/hilarious-claim-we-know-when-global-cough-cough-warming-first-appeared-in-the-temperature-record-er-models/>

4. GREEN’ CARS MELTDOWN AS VW EMISSIONS SCANDAL ROCKS CAR INDUSTRY

Via The GWPF: The European car industry was shaken on Monday as Volkswagen’s share price fell almost 20 per cent over its admission that it cheated on US emissions tests, triggering calls for a broader inquiry into the sector. More than €13bn was wiped off VW’s market capitalisation, spurring a wider fall in carmakers’ shares,...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/22/green-cars-meltdown-as-vw-emissions-scandal-rocks-car-industry/>

5.. 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

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jvdelong/2015/09/18/ee-legal-on-the-capture-of-epa/>

6. GOOD OVERVIEW OF LATEST RESEARCH ON WHAT PALEOCLIMATE RESEARCH TELLS US ABOUT DROUGHTS & FLOODS IN THE WESTERN US.

http://www.independentnews.com/news/the-west-s-climate-history-suggests-an-ominous-future/article_1cf43edc-5ce0-11e5-8653-b7e42257c942.html

7. CALL FOR TECHNICAL ARTICLES - ASME WASHINGTON, DC

The Board of Directors for the ASME Washington DC Section agree that summarizing and linking to a technical article within the body of the monthly newsletter will benefit our members. The intent is to provide a means to disseminate the latest information to those who may benefit from learning about a particular topic. That being said, I would like to welcome you to be a part of this technical outreach. Feel free to submit articles with an Executive Summary or abstract to be used in future monthly newsletters as well. All ASME divisions are welcome to participate given the variety of members in the Washington, DC area.

Technical articles with an Executive Summary or abstract must contain proper citations and provide credit to all authors. Relevant photos or graphics are also encouraged. There is no length restriction for the full article, however, please keep in mind that only the Executive Summary or abstract will actually be posted in the monthly newsletter. Therefore, we would like to request that you provide a link to the full length article that may be distributed to the reader should they wish to continue reading beyond the Executive Summary or abstract (1-2 pages in length with graphics). We also require that the technical article to be no older than 6 months. The 6 months date requirement is intended to showcase the very latest scientific and technological advancements, as it relates to current events.

Again, the intent of the article is to be thought provoking and provide a deeper technical perspective by dispersing current and relevant information to members in this area. By no means do we intend to use this as a solicitation to members or to promote political agendas. The Board of Directors for this Section reserves the right to accept or reject submitted articles. If you are interested in participating, please email me your technical piece as soon as possible. This will be an ongoing outreach with an opportunity for your articles to be posted in each monthly newsletter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for being active members of ASME.

Bethany Springer
Bechtel National, Inc
Mechanical Engineer
240-422-4815

8. ANNOUNCING ASME POWER & ENERGY 2016 - CALL FOR PAPERS! FROM [ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION?](#)

Eduardo J. Barrientos, PhD, George Holliday, PhD

[Eduardo J. Barrientos, PhD](#)

September 29, 2015 05:34 AM

ASME 2016 POWER & ENERGY CONFERENCE BRINGS TOGETHER ALL OF ASME'S WORLD CLASS CONFERENCES ON POWER GENERATION AND ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY. Fossil and nuclear power generation, solar, wind, fuel cell applications and much more will be discussed in each of the concurrent conferences within this larger event. Demonstrate your involvement in this critical industry!

COMMENTS

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2015-10-03 (OCT. 03, 2015)

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

More IPCC Challenges: The US administration is attempting to establish 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. Meanwhile, more challenges to the findings of the UN Intergovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) continue to emerge. Many of the challenges do not question the basic science or logic found in the climate models, but do question the use to which they are put. This questioning especially applies to the 95% certainty expressed in the Summary for Policymakers of IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (AR-5). In a recent paper, distinguished physicist Wallace Manheimer expressed it well: **"This paper reviews a great deal of worldwide data, some of which confirms, some of which disputes the global warming hypothesis. While increasing CO2 in the atmosphere is a concern, it is hardly a planetary emergency."** Perhaps these sentences summarize the views of the global warming skeptics: carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions are not causing a planetary emergency, only the politically motivated advocates and politicians are. This political motivation extends to the IPCC and its work based on the assumption it can predict (project), with great certainty, global warming from human causes without thoroughly understanding the natural influences on climate.

To illustrate his view, Manheimer uses two examples of community madness from US history: the Salem witchcraft trials and the prosecution of preschool teachers for sex abuse of their students in the 1980s and 90s. The former is well known and lasted a year. Many try to suppress the latter. The prosecutions were based on work and testimony by social workers and psychologists who insisted they could interpret actions and words by 6 to 7 year old children to have them recall sexual abuse claimed to have occurred when the children were 3 or 4. Eventually, all the convictions were overturned, with one man serving 18 years based on absurd accusations. Unlike the 17th century governor of Massachusetts who later apologized for the witch trials, none of the governors of the states involved in the late 20th century false trials apologized.

After explaining these examples, Manheimer embarks on a brief review of the evidence behind the

claim that human emissions of CO2 are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming, and finds it lacking. He lists the reasons why. Including: **"Fourth, if the measurement is just barely on the edge of a detectable effect; some measurements show a slight effect, others do not, or show the opposite effect, as in the climate change case, and there is certainly strong grounds for skepticism, at least as regards the current status of the effect. Fifth, computer simulation is a very powerful technique (I have spend [sic] a good part of my career developing and using computer models of complex physical systems), but it is hardly infallible. They [The models] should be regarded with at least some skepticism, no matter how many of them point to a particular effect."**

See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy

Société de Calcul Mathématique: Several French mathematicians under the Société de Calcul Mathématique SA wrote a 195 page white paper on global warming and the political ramifications of the actions of its proponents. The title of the paper is well put: **"The battle against global warming: an absurd, costly and pointless crusade."** Writing from the perspective of French, European, and world policy, the paper finds an enormous impact on the economy with every activity affected. It also states: ***"The impact on the entire field of scientific research is particularly clear and especially pernicious. No project can be launched, on any subject whatsoever, unless it makes direct reference to global warming. You want to look at the geology of the Garonne Basin? It is, after all, an entirely normal and socially useful subject in every respect. Well, your research will be funded, approved and published only if it mentions the potential for geological storage of CO2. It is appalling."***

"The crusade has invaded every area of activity and everyone's thinking: the battle against CO2 has become a national priority. How have we reached this point, in a country that claims to be rational? At the root lie the declarations made by the IPCC [IPCC], which have been repeated over the years and taken up by the European Commission and the Member States. France, which likes to see itself as the good boy of Europe', adds an extra layer of virtue to every crusade. When others introduce reductions, we will on principle introduce bigger reductions, without ever questioning their appropriateness: a crusade is virtuous by its very nature. And you can never be too virtuous."

"But mathematicians do not believe in crusades; they look at facts, figures, observations and arguments."

The paper assesses the facts, explaining why the authors consider the crusade is absurd, costly, and pointless. Under the scientific section, it discusses the natural variability of the climate, humans influence on the climate (tiny while the natural influence is huge), that humans do not have the technology to change the climate (or make it stable), and that the consequences of global warming are that the world will adjust as it always has. The paper criticizes the IPCC [which it abbreviates as the IPCC] and states: **"The IPCC's conclusions go against observed facts; the figures used are deliberately chosen to support its conclusions (with no regard for the most basic scientific honesty), and the natural variability of phenomena is passed over without comment."**

The paper presents a detailed overview of the surface temperature measuring stations, with Europe covered for more than 150 years and the US for more than 110 years. From a historical perspective land mass is not well covered and, except for Europe, the US, and eastern China, the bulk of the land mass is not well covered today. Surface sea coverage is spotty, at best, distributed in a few areas in the world, mostly in the Northern Hemisphere. The paper also discusses the manipulation of the surface record by NOAA, but not the one in 2015. It suggests that one cannot use the surface data to define or calculate an average temperature.

The paper challenges the widely accepted measurements of CO2 from Mauna Loa, and states there is a poor distribution of sensors, with nearly all located in Europe or the US. Also it states:

Among other criticisms, the paper points out weaknesses in satellite estimates of temperatures, independently supported by weather balloon measurements. SEPP maintains these are the finest

available, though not perfect.

Under the heading "Be Careful!" the paper briefly discusses models:

"Conclusions based on any kind of model should be disregarded. As the SCM specializes in building mathematical models, we should also be recognized as competent to criticize them. Models are useful when attempting to review our knowledge, but they should not be used as an aid to decision-making until they have been validated. Now, validating a climate model requires thousands of years."

[**Boldface added.**]

Perhaps that is the intention of those who control the IPCC. See link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

David Evans: Jo Nova's web site continues to present criticisms of the IPCC models by mathematician and electrical engineer David Evans. As stated last week, TWTW will refrain from detailed comments until the entire presentation is complete. That said, the heavy use of partial differentiation of two or more independent variables appears serious. Traditionally, such measures require all other variables remain constant.

Water vapor is the most important greenhouse gas. As easily demonstrated by the South Asian monsoon, it varies by region, season, and year. Assuming water vapor is constant can lead to major complications. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

UN Sustainable Summit: The September 25 to 27 UN Sustainable Summit ended with the attendees approving 17 goals, down from 169 initially proposed. Simply because the number of goals were reduced, that does not mean all are achievable. For example: Goal # 13 is **"Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts."** Exactly how the UN proposes to combat climate change that has been occurring for hundreds of millions of years, thousands of times longer than humanity is not clear.

The details of the goal include some highly questionable assertions. **"From 1880 to 2012, average global temperature increased by 0.85°C."** As pointed out by the Société de Calcul Mathématique, we do not have the ability to calculate average global surface temperatures today, much less in 1880.

The statement also includes: **"Oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished and sea level has risen. From 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19 cm as oceans expanded due to warming and ice melted. The Arctic's sea ice extent has shrunk in every successive decade since 1979, with 1.07 million km² of ice loss every decade."** Why stop at 1901? Since 18,000 years ago oceans have risen by 120 meters (400 feet). Other than a past trend, claims of future temperature rise and sea level rise are speculation from un-validated climate models.

"Goal 15: Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss." "Due to drought and desertification each year 12 million hectares are lost (23 hectares per minute), where 20 million tons of grain could have been grown."

The concept that, in general, the earth is greening, as demonstrated by satellite photographs, has not reached the UN. Also, the massive increase in world-wide yields from modern agriculture has eluded the UN, including a 54% increase in yields of cereals (not including rice) from 1986-89 to 2013-15.

Some of the UN goals stated are reasonable and commendable, but a number of the goals demonstrate the lack of critical thinking and general ignorance of these international leaders.

See Expanding the Orthodoxy, TWTW - Sep 5, 2015, <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment...> and <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelo...>

Ozone: The US EPA has intensified its ozone regulations without significant scientific justification of how the new regulations may improve public health. The new regulations may be among the most costly undertaken. A number of links identify the costs, but few address a major issue with ground level ozone - increasingly, it is caused by nature.

Even the EPA web site recognizes that Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), which cause ozone, are created, in part, by nature. Other than PM 10 (Particulate Matter, which fell by 17%), VOCs fell the least amount of EPA category pollutants, by only 18% from 2000 to 2013. The EPA realizes that weather conditions influence ozone. "**Ozone is more readily formed on warm, sunny days when the air is stagnant.**"

This weather influence is particularly true for VOCs such as isoprene, which is largely produced by trees. Plants produce significant amounts of VOCs on warm sunny days, particularly humid days. Environmental groups tend to blame that the haze of Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, part of the Appalachian Mountain system, on automobiles, but fail to mention the tremendous increase in density and number of trees in the mountains since the 1930s, partially from a decline in need for pasture and biofuels. The early settlers named it the Blue Ridge for a reason, not for its crystal-clear air. Similarly, environmental groups are quick to blame haze in the Grand Canyon on the coal-fired

Four Corners Generating Station or Navajo Generating Station. The former requires that emissions go in the opposite direction to the prevailing winds. The latter requires that emissions go to the north and east, rather than the prevailing winds to the east.

Few groups, including the EPA, bring up that the North Rim of the Grand Canyon is dominated by the heavy woodlands of the Kaibab National Forest, with a "warm summer, humid, continental climate." A combination that results in naturally caused haze.

See Article # 2 and links under EPA and other Regulators on the March, <https://web.archive.org/web/2015091...> and <https://web.archive.org/web/2015090...>

Additions and Corrections: The August 29th TWTW pointed out that the extreme heat of Venus is not so much due to "run-away greenhouse" but due to the atmospheric pressure at the surface being more than 90 times that of earth. The discussion omitted Mars. Comparing the atmospheric pressure of Mars, Venus, and Earth shows that pressure is not so much due to the composition of the atmospheres, but thickness. Both Venus and Mars have high concentration of CO2 (about 95%); but, the thickness of the atmosphere varies.

Number of the Week: \$7 Billion USD. After the expenditure of about \$7 Billion, Royal Dutch Shell announced it would halt exploration in the US Chukchi Sea (Arctic), because it failed to find adequate quantities of oil and natural gas. The \$7 Billion expenditure includes about \$2.1 Billion to the US government for leases. According to reports, US Geological Survey has estimated that US Arctic water hold about 26 billion barrels of recoverable oil. Exxon-Mobil, BP and other producers have discovered about 10 billion barrels.

No doubt, the drop in the price of oil, thanks to hydraulic fracking of dense shale, was an important factor in Shell's decision. Also, the harsh conditions, the failure of the Arctic to warm as many predicted, contributed. But the harsh conditions of US permitting may have been significant. After BP, Keystone, and the Administration's failure to establish reasonable regulations for hydraulic fracturing on federally controlled lands and waters; what oil company would trust Washington? See Washington's Control of Energy.

<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2015/TWTW%2010-3-15.pdf>

B FOUR MORE PAPERS DEMONSTRATING SOLAR-CLIMATE RELATIONSHIP

<https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=&sl=de&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kaltesonne.de%2Fsonne-macht-klima-neues-aus-europa%2F>

C. WHO FUNDS THE TRILLION DOLLAR PLAN OF THE U.N.'S NEW GLOBAL GOALS?

I suspect the Administration has agreed to fund this with your taxes.

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/funds-trillion-dollar-plan-u-n-global-goals-214614946--sector.html>

"UNITED NATIONS (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - As world leaders brandish a hard-fought new set of global goals designed to improve lives in all countries, the question of who foots the trillion-dollar bill remained open on Saturday as financial pledges started rolling in.

The United Nation's 193 member countries on Friday adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a roadmap to end poverty and hunger, fight inequality and conquer climate change over the next 15 years, or 800 weeks.

The goals tackling issues in both rich and poor countries replace an earlier U.N. action plan, the Millennium Development Goals, which focused mainly on poverty in developing nations.

While aid funds and debt relief were key for the millennium goals, there is wide recognition of the need for other sources for the estimated \$3 trillion a year needed to enact the SDGs.

The World Bank, with other development banks, coined the phrase "Billions to Trillions" to illustrate the challenge.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Secretary-General Angel Gurría said private sector participation was critical while governments need to strengthen tax and regulatory systems to encourage investment."

"Meanwhile the world's richest nations again committed to a target of earmarking 0.7 percent of gross national income for overseas development assistance - although few meet that level in practice - which now stands at about \$135 billion a year."

More bad news at the above URL

Don Shaw

D. "ASIA'S COAL POWER CLIMATE JOKE

Guest essay by Eric Worrall Mother Jones is celebrating that China has just committed \$3.1 billion to help poor countries fight climate change. Mother Jones cautiously states they don't know what China means by this statement. My guess is they know very well what China probably means – but they don't want to detract from...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/25/asias-coal-power-climate-joke/>

E. MORE FACTS AGAINST THE MANN – 'LATE 20TH CENTURY WARMING HAS NOT BEEN UNIQUE WITHIN...THE PAST 750 YEARS'

Earlier this week, in Facts against the Mann, we noted how some ice core data cast doubt on Michael E. Mann's recent claim that: "overall warmth of the globe and northern hemisphere today is substantially greater than during Medieval time" This was made in the context of an invective filled rebuttal in the Nevada City,...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/25/more-facts-against-the-mann-late-20th-century-warming-has-not-been-unique-within-the-past-750-years/>

F. HUMAN ERROR IN THE SURFACE TEMPERATURE RECORD

Guest essay by John Goetz As noted in an earlier post, the monthly raw averages for USHCN data are calculated with up to nine days are missing from the daily records. Those monthly averages are usually not discarded by the USHCN quality control and adjustment models, although the final values are almost always estimated as...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/28/human-error-in-the-surface-temperature-record/>

G. CANADA WILL AGGRESSIVELY PUSH MERITS OF KEYSTONE PIPELINE -PM

OTTAWA, SEPT 28 | BY [DAVID LJUNGGREN](#)

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said on Monday he would keep aggressively pushing the merits of [TransCanada](#) Corp's Keystone XL pipeline, which U.S. President Barack Obama appears likely to veto soon.

Harper has pressed Washington to approve the pipeline, variously describing the project as a "no brainer", saying he would not "take no for an answer" and expressing the conviction the project will eventually get the green light.

"We will continue to make the case and make the case aggressively," he told a televised election debate. Harper's Conservatives face a tough fight on Oct. 19 against the Liberals and New Democrats, both center-left parties.

Obama is under pressure from greens and other activists to block the pipeline, which would take oil from Alberta's tar sands to U.S. refineries.

The White House last week noted Obama has previously expressed skepticism about claims from Keystone XL supporters that the pipeline would create jobs and have a long-term economic impact. New Democrat leader Thomas Mulcair said Harper had taken the wrong approach by lecturing Obama and mocked his comments about not taking no for an answer.

"Well guess what? The answer was no and you weren't able to do anything about it," he said, adding that Harper had been "pouring vinegar by the gallon on the Americans and it's not a surprise they were saying no to you".

Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, who has long avoided a firm position on the pipeline, last week said she opposed it. (Reporting by David Ljunggren; Editing by [Ken Wills](#))

<HTTP://WWW.REUTERS.COM/ARTICLE/2015/09/29/USA-KEYSTONE-CANADA-IDUSL1N11Z01E20150929>

H. GULF STATE OFFSHORE DRILLING REVENUE SHARE THREATENED BY NEW SENATE BILL

A new bill proposed by Senate Democrats would end the revenue sharing provided to Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas from offshore oil and natural gas production beginning in 2017. The legislation would repeal the 2006 law that provides the four states with revenue sharing while emphasizing clean energy technology. If the legislation were to pass, 12.5% of the money usually distributed to the four states would go to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, while the rest would go toward reducing the federal deficit. [The Times-Picayune \(New Orleans\)](#) (9/28)

I. CHINA'S FIBS COMPLICATE CLIMATE NEGOTIATIONS

A new analysis of Chinese government data by the U.S. Energy Information Administration found over the past decade, China has burned 14 percent more coal than it acknowledges, and its domestic coal

production was 7 percent higher between 2000 and 2013 than previously reported. The new analysis means China consumed hundreds of millions more metric tons of coal than previously understood. The upward revision illustrates how difficult it is to get an accurate account of China's carbon dioxide emissions. In the past, EIA noted national totals frequently don't match the sum of provincial totals. <http://blogs.wsj.com/chinarealtime/2015/09/17/chinas-coal-consumption-14-higher-than-previously-thought/>

J. A NEW LOW IN SCIENCE: CRIMINALIZING CLIMATE CHANGE SKEPTICS

By [Judith Curry](#)

A demand by Senator Whitehouse and 20 climate scientists for legal persecution of people whose research on science and policy they disagree with represents a new low in the politicization of science. <http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2015/09/28/new-low-in-science-criminalizing-climate-change-skeptics.html>

L. CLIMATE ACTIVISTS WANT US PROSECUTED UNDER RICO

Losing the climate science battle, climate activists want government to silence skeptics Guest essay by Paul Driessen They haven't employed the thumb screws, rack or auto-da-fe that churches and states once used to interrogate, silence and eliminate heretics and witches. However, global warming alarmists are well practiced in the modern equivalents, to protect their \$1.5-trillion...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/29/climate-activists-want-us-prosecuted-under-rico/>

Editor's Note: This is a must read discussion. GHH

M. TIRED OF THE CLAIMS OF "WARMEST EVER" MONTH AND YEAR? THEY WILL LIKELY CONTINUE NEXT YEAR

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale Last year, we discussed in a number of posts how the claims of record high global surface temperatures were due primarily to the unusual, naturally occurring warming event in the eastern extratropical North Pacific...known as "The Blob". See the list of posts about The Blob and its impacts at the...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/28/tired-of-the-claims-of-warmest-ever-month-and-year-they-will-likely-continue-next-year/>

N. ARCTIC SEA ICE STILL TOO THICK FOR REGULAR SHIPPING ROUTE THROUGH NORTHWEST PASSAGE

From YORK UNIVERSITY and the "paging Dr. Peter Wadhams" department...

TORONTO, September 29, 2015 – Despite climate change, sea ice in the (NWP) remains too thick and treacherous for it to be a regular commercial Arctic shipping route for many decades, according to new research out of York University. Prior to this research, there was little...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/29/arctic-sea-ice-still-too-thick-for-regular-shipping-route-through-northwest-passage/>

O. THE NEED TO REVISIT THE CLIMATEGATE REVELATIONS TO COUNTER MAINSTREAM MEDIA FAILURE AND THE PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE PLANS

Guest opinion: Dr. Tim Ball

It is time to revisit the emails leaked from the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) at East Anglia. The first 1000 emails were released in November 2009 just prior to the Climate Conference of the Parties (COP) 15 scheduled for Copenhagen. They effectively stopped political plans for a replacement of the...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/28/the-need-to-revisit-the-climategate-revelations-to-counter-mainstream-media-failure-and-the-paris-climate-conference-plans/>

Editor's Note: This is a very revealing discussion. It is worth the time to read. GHH

P. 'WILD CARD' IN CLIMATE MODELS FOUND, 'AND THAT'S A NO NO'

Jo Nova has a post today about an investigation of climate modeling mathematics by her husband David Evans. Evans believes he has uncovered a significant and perhaps major flaw in the mathematics at the core of the climate models. She writes: The climate models, it turns out, have 95% certainty but are based on partial derivatives of dependent...

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...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/28/wild-card-in-climate-models-found-and-thats-a-no-no/>

Q. FOR CLIMATE ALARMISM, THE POOR PAY THE PRICE

[MICHAEL KELLY](#), October 2015

Too late for renewables: By 2050 half the world's population will be living in megacities like Tokyo, powered mainly by fossil fuels (photo: Morio CC BY-SA 3.0)

During a period as a scientific adviser in Whitehall, I quickly learned the elements of sound advice given to politicians — a process that is quite distinct from lobbying. A well-briefed minister knows about the general area in which a decision is sought, and is given four scenarios before any recommendation. Those scenarios are the upsides and the downsides both of doing nothing and of doing something. Those who give only the upside of doing something and the downside of doing nothing are in fact lobbying.

This flaw is well exemplified by Nicholas Stern in his latest book *Why Are We Waiting? The Logic, Urgency, and Promise of Tackling Climate Change* (MIT Press, 376pp, £19.95), which is based on lectures given in 2012 at the London School of Economics. In his introduction he makes it clear that he has consulted many scientists, businessmen, philosophers and economists, but in his book I find not a single infrastructure project engineer asked about the engineering reality of any of his propositions, nor a historian of technology about the elementary fact that technological breakthroughs are not pre-programmable. Lord Stern's description of the climate science is an uncritical acceptance of the worst case put by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), one from which many in the climate science community are now distancing themselves. There is no other complex, multi-component, closely coupled, highly non-linear and chaotic system for which we make any forward predictions, let alone those of 35 years ahead, and the poor record to date is no surprise. The absence of the promised temperature rises over nearly 20 years now is blunting the credibility of their longer-term predictions in the eyes of the public, as many polls show. The response to all this is not more science — it is

engineering and technological reality, as well as economics and ethics.

Indeed, it is worse than that. Those of us who doubt this catastrophic scenario are not sceptics of climate change, as history and geology give the clearest evidence that the climate has changed continuously. But Stern accuses us of being selective in examining the data, when he is guilty of just the same. For example, the IPCC report on extreme weather, on which he relies, chooses to start its data baseline in 1960, conveniently overlooking the wealth of empirical data showing that extremes of almost all forms of weather were much worse in the first half of the 20th century than the second, before the onset of man-made climate change.

Nor does Stern look at the data that is in on the physics of renewable energy sources, which shows that they will never be more than a bit player (of the order of 10-20 per cent) in providing the world's energy. David MacKay, author of *Sustainable Energy — Without the Hot Air* (UIT, 2008), makes this abundantly clear for the UK; where the data is in for Germany and Spain, a dispassionate analysis undermines much of Stern's tendency to see renewables through rose-tinted glasses. There is no counter-example to the fact that government subsidies for the premature roll-out of these new technologies have been a disaster. In the past, hard times have resulted in a roll-back of these subsidies, as in Spain, Portugal and Greece. Spain, for example, is indebted by €100 billion because of energy subsidy commitments, a sum three times greater than the €36 billion bail-out of its banks a few years ago. Now the UK, Germany and others are rolling subsidies back, because they threaten social cohesion, (through the rising cost of energy for the poor) and industrial stability. The Green Deal and other subsidies for which Stern pleads are already being dismantled. Technology historians will show that energy and other major infrastructure projects develop on a 40-year timescale. Even if there was a technical breakthrough today to tame nuclear fusion — and we have been seeking one for 60 years now — it would be 2050 before 10 per cent of the world's energy supply came from that source.

[123next >](#)

[View Full Article](#)

Judith Curry

R. EPA LAUNCHES 'ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM' CRUSADE

We get this new EPA Regulation from the lady who as it turns out is responsible for the most significant river and lake pollution in history.

"Regulation: If you're a manufacturer seeking federal permits for a new plant or a city developing transit projects, look out. You may be accused of "environmental racism."

If you weren't aware "environmental" and "racism" could go together, you're not alone. But then, this White House sees a racist conspiracy in just about everything, including global warming.

So it has tasked the EPA with conjuring up sweeping industry guidelines to protect minority communities (or as agency insiders call them, "environmental justice communities") against what it sees as racist polluters.

Behind the scenes, EPA bureaucrats are finalizing the new guidelines, known collectively as "Draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda Framework" (EJ stands for environmental justice) to be integrated into all agency programs, including rule-writing, permitting and enforcement."

"Overseeing implementation is a Cabinet-wide task force — "Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice" — that includes top-level representatives from 17 agencies, including transportation and justice.

Racially balancing pollution, ZIP code by ZIP code, is a hot topic of the group's meetings. Enforcement will be led by a web of environmental justice and civil rights offices comprising a vast and lasting EJ bureaucracy.

One of EPA's draft goals is "to implement environmental justice in enforcement (and) consider environmental justice in all our cases, including consideration of impacts on communities in developing injunctive relief." For EPA chief Gina McCarthy, EJ is a "core" priority.

"Manufacturers applying for government permits and funding will be forced to weigh the "disparate impacts" of industrial projects on minorities. Those deemed to pose "disproportionate harm" could be derailed. The policy threatens the siting of highways, rail lines, power plants, refineries, pipelines, incinerators, landfills, waste sites and vehicle maintenance depots.

McCarthy worries that refineries bordering poor and minority neighborhoods contribute to high rates of asthma among black children. Blacks "bear the brunt of pollution," she asserts.

Already EPA forces oil refineries to measure concentrations of benzene along their boundaries and tighten emission controls, costing the industry potentially billions in new compliance expenses.

At the same time, the EJ task force will use Title VI of the Civil Rights Act as a legal hammer against cities.

Already it has used the civil rights tool to block two Florida cities from moving a trolley maintenance facility to "a historically black neighborhood" and to force a Dayton, Ohio, suburb to install three public bus stops near a shopping mall, because denial would have caused "disproportionate harm to African-Americans."

How can anyone be sure of such liability? Ever helpful, the EPA is mapping minority communities and their proximity to allegedly hazardous sites. Civil-rights activists already are using the tool to target cities and manufacturers for discrimination lawsuits.

Square in their sights is Port Arthur, Texas, the Gulf Coast municipality slated to be the terminus of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. Activists complain the added petrochemical supply will increase "toxic emissions" from refineries that "disproportionately fall" on minority residents of West Port Arthur.

With this EJ database, climate-change fanatics will have endless ammo to curb carbon emissions.

McCarthy assures the Congressional Black Caucus that fighting climate change is a matter of environmental justice: "The last thing we want to do is have climate change be an added burden on those communities that are already bearing the biggest burden of pollution."

This latest social engineering crusade will have the familiar unintended consequences. Re-siting plants would not only spell huge costs for industry, but also consumers in the form of higher utility bills. It would also deny minorities much-needed jobs in urban areas.

President Obama has opened yet another costly battlefield in his ever-expanding race war."

Read More At Investor's Business Daily: <http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/081315-766508-epa-launches-costly-environmental-justice-crusadeenvironmental-racism-crusade.htm#ixzz3iurXgvnD>

Follow us: [@IBDinvestors on Twitter](#) | [InvestorsBusinessDaily on Facebook](#)

Don Shaw

S. FEDERAL JUDGE BLOCKS NEW OBAMA ADMINISTRATION RULES ON FRACKING

Published October 01, 2015

[Associated Press](#)

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – A judge on Wednesday blocked new nationwide regulations for oil and gas drilling on federal lands from taking effect while a lawsuit moves ahead, pointing to a law that prohibits the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from regulating hydraulic fracturing.

Just because the EPA lacks authority to regulate fracking doesn't mean the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has leeway to do so, U.S. District Judge Scott Skavdahl wrote. "In the absence of a statute conferring authority, an administrative agency has none," he wrote.

The preliminary injunction means the already postponed rules might not take effect for years, if at all. Skavdahl found the rules' opponents likely will prevail on the merits of their arguments.

The Bureau of Land Management announced the rules in March. Areas covered include fracking — the process of cracking open oil and gas-bearing rock with a mix of pressurized water, sand and chemicals — and pressure-testing well bores to make sure they won't leak.

Petroleum developers would be required to disclose to regulators the ingredients in the chemical products they use to improve the results of fracking.

Two petroleum industry groups, the Ute Tribe and four states — Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and North Dakota — seek to block the rules, saying they duplicate state regulations and would cost jobs.

Environmentalists siding with the government say they would protect water, land and wildlife.

The court order upholds Wyoming's position that Congress already has addressed fracking, Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead said. "Wyoming has sound and responsible rules for hydraulic fracturing - those rules have been in place for years," Mead said.

Skavdahl temporarily barred the rules hours before they were set to take effect in June, saying he wanted federal attorneys to submit more information about how the Bureau of Land Management developed them. The Western Energy Alliance and the Independent Petroleum Association of America welcomed the latest order in their favor.

"Vague notions of public concern are not a sufficient basis to impose centralized federal control. BLM provided no evidence that its rule is necessary or that state regulation is not already protecting the environment," alliance Vice President Kathleen Sgamma said in a release.

The Interior Department will continue to process drilling permits under existing regulations while it consults with the Justice Department on the court order, Interior spokeswoman Emily Beyer said.

Key to Skavdahl's order was the 2005 Energy Policy Act, which put regulation of fracking beyond the purview of the EPA. No other federal agency has undertaken fracking regulation since then. "It is hard to analytically conclude or infer that having expressly removed the regulatory authority from EPA, Congress intended to vest it in the BLM," Skavdahl wrote.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/10/01/federal-judge-blocks-new-obama-administration-rules-on-fracking/?intcmp=hplnws>

T. MINNESOTA HEARING ADDRESSES THE SOCIAL COST OF CARBON

September 30th, 2015

I testified before an administrative law judge (ALJ) in St. Paul, MN last week as part of a process that will determine what value the State of Minnesota decides to place on "carbon pollution", also called the social cost of carbon (SCC).

This was the first expert testimony I have provided other than the several times I have testified in Congress. Congressional testimony is much more free-wheeling...more like a show for entertainment value and political posturing.

The Minnesota hearing was more like what you have seen on TV, with objections being made, sustained, and overruled. There were even accusations of "badgering the witness".

It was interesting, to say the least.

There were economists who testified on both sides as to whether the economic models used were appropriate, whether they made valid assumptions, etc. I only saw two witnesses testify on that issue, one from each side.

It was clear that the lawyers from both sides were more comfortable cross-examining witnesses on economic issues than on the science behind the IPCC's estimates of future warming, which (of course) are one of the primary inputs to any SCC model calculation. The greater the human-caused climate change, presumably the greater the damage caused by it (although one can also claim there are benefits, since cold weather kills more people on average than hot weather).

The judge had another judge present to help her out, one with an economics background and who could advise the ALJ on some of the more technical issues. The ALJ seemed most focused on procedural issues (as she should be, I suppose), making decisions regarding whether certain pieces of evidence would be admitted, etc. She seemed fair in the way she handled objections from both sides.

Scientists providing 5-minute opening statements along with me were Dick Lindzen and Will Happer. Lindzen mainly addressed climate sensitivity, Happer argued that CO2 emissions were actually a benefit, and I emphasized that the IPCC models used for the SCC calculations were demonstrably biased in their global warming projections.

As I recall, Happer received a minor question on cross-examination, while Lindzen was pressed on one of his claims regarding climate sensitivity, which he was forced to clarify. All five lawyers declined to ask me any questions on cross examination.

All of us provided written testimony well in advance of the hearing, which was responded to with rebuttal testimony from Andy Dessler and John Abraham. We also provided written rebuttal testimony in response to Dessler's and Abraham's original written testimony. Another round of surrebuttal testimony then ensued. I believe that Dessler and Abraham provided opening statements this week, but I haven't heard how that went.

Minnesota state law apparently requires there to be a social cost of carbon assigned to energy production in the state. I suppose that, theoretically, the assigned value could be zero. The question for the judge to address now is whether to replace the current value(s) [which are claimed by environmentalists to be too low] with the federal value, which is much higher, or whether it should be recalculated from scratch. Some good background on this can be found in a news story [here](#) from a year ago.

No matter which way the judge rules, I hear the ruling will likely be appealed. Then, no matter what the final ruling is, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission can probably just do what they want to do, anyway. I believe that the Commission simply asked the judge to help them with the process. I will admit that legal issues sometimes confuse me, so people are free to correct me on any of this I got wrong. I suspect we are going to see more state-level challenges to the "social cost of carbon", which is basically addressing the unintended "negative externality" consequences of our use of carbon-based fuels. My opinion is that there has been no demonstrated damage caused by adding 1 carbon dioxide molecule to 10,000 molecules of air over the last 100 years. Even the IPCC admits the evidence for increased severe weather is shaky, at best. Whether sea level rise is greater than it was before CO2 emissions could contribute is also debatable.

We do, however, have evidence that increased CO2 boosts crop production and has led to global greening, a positive externality. So, I have to wonder whether the social cost of carbon is actually negative.

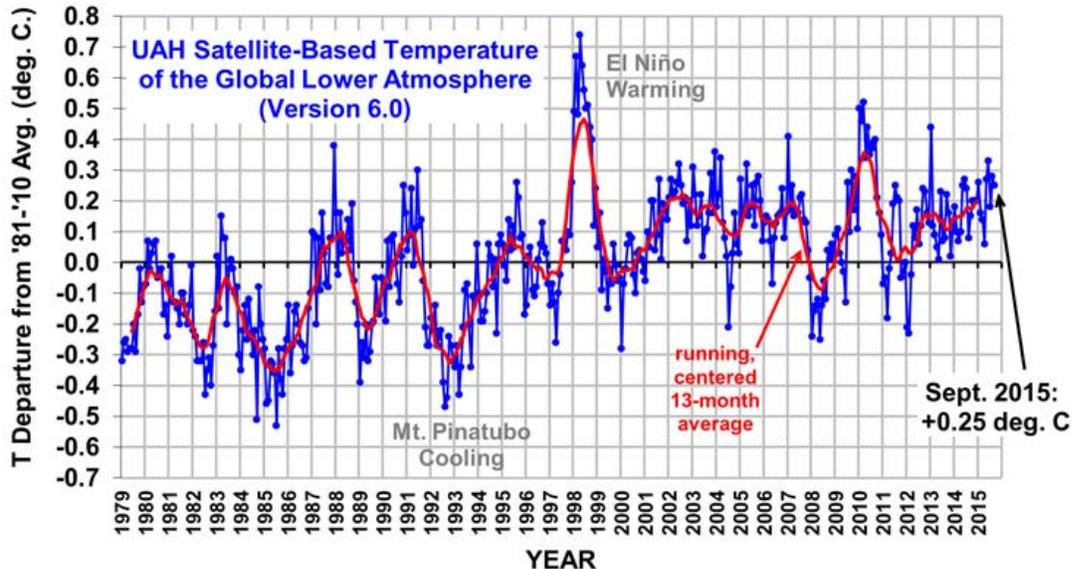
My suspicion is that we are in for years of debate and legal challenges on this issue. It seems like the social cost of carbon is an unusual case for the environmentalists to make, when the supposed damages caused by CO2 emissions are not really demonstrable, and future damages are largely theoretical.
Roy Spencer

U. IS THERE EVIDENCE OF FRANTIC RESEARCHERS "ADJUSTING" UNSUITABLE DATA? (NOW INCLUDES JULY DATA)

Guest Post by Professor Robert Brown from Duke University and Werner Brozek, Edited by Just The Facts: The above graphic shows RSS having a slope of zero from both January 1997 and March 2000. As well, GISS shows a positive slope of 0.012/year from both January 1997 and March 2000. This should put to rest...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/01/is-there-evidence-of-frantic-researchers-adjusting-unsuitable-data-now-includes-july-data/>

V. LATEST GLOBAL TEMPS – THE PAUSE CONTINUES!



Latest Global Average Tropospheric Temperatures

Since 1979, NOAA satellites have been carrying instruments which measure the natural microwave thermal emissions from oxygen in the atmosphere. The intensity of the signals these microwave radiometers measure at different microwave frequencies is directly proportional to the temperature of different, deep layers of the atmosphere. Every month, John Christy and I update global temperature datasets that represent the piecing together of the temperature data from a total of fourteen instruments flying on different satellites over the years. A discussion of the latest version (6.0) of the dataset is located [here](#).

The graph above represents the latest update; updates are usually made within the first week of every month. Contrary to some reports, the satellite measurements are not calibrated in any way with the global surface-based thermometer records of temperature. They instead use their own on-board precision redundant platinum resistance thermometers (PRTs) calibrated to a laboratory reference standard before launch.

W. AUSSIE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY: “RENEWABLES WON’T GET US ACROSS THE LINE”

Guest essay by Eric Worrall The nuclear industry has announced plans to lobby the Australian government, to advocate nuclear power as an affordable, practical alternative to renewables. According to The Guardian; The Australian Nuclear Association (ANA) will accompany Danny Roderick, chief executive of the leading US nuclear technology firm Westinghouse, to talk to government ministers...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/09/29/aussie-nuclear-industry-renewables-wont-get-us-across-the-line/>

Regards,
George