

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY DIVISION
NEWSLETTER
9 NOV. 2015

If you need older URLs contact George at ghh@att.net.

Please Note: “This newsletter contains articles that offer differing points of view regarding climate change, energy and other environmental issues. Any opinions expressed in this publication are the responses of the editor alone and do not represent the positions of the Environmental and Energy Engineering Division or the ASME.”

George Holliday

A. ENVIRONMENT 1. BUSINESS, STATES OPEN LEGAL FIRE ON EPA’S CLEAN POWER PLAN RULE

By [George Russell](#), Published October 26, 2015 [FoxNews.com](#)

The legal barrage to halt the Environmental Protection Agency’s radical Clean Power Plan has begun. A broad coalition of U.S. industry and business, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and an armada of other business and industry organizations, has asked the D.C. District of the federal Court of Appeals to prevent any further action on the Plan until the court can decide its overall legal status.

The coalition filed a motion at their first opportunity on Friday to stay EPA’s long-awaited final rule governing the plan, immediately after the agency published the rule in the *Federal Register*—the official birth notice of the long-gestating plan to drastically remake the entire U.S. electrical system, and among other things create a nationwide trading system for carbon emissions that was blocked by the Senate in 2009.

The business coalition argues that a huge, unprecedented and illegal expansion of EPA authority over the country’s entire electrical power system will cause “irreparable harm” unless complicated planning process ordained by the rule is halted while that legal battle over the entire program is fought, a process likely to last through most of 2016, if not longer.

In support of their argument they provided testimony not only from business groups but also trade unions and even school boards to buttress their concerns about the disastrous potential effects of failing to halt the process while the legal battles continue.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE BUSINESS GROUP MOTION TO THE COURT](#)

At least 26 state Attorneys General associations and as-yet uncounted numbers of individual companies separately asked the appeals court for a stay of the rule on roughly similar grounds.

As a motion by 24 states to the appeals court puts it, an “unprecedented, unlawful attempt by an environmental regulator to reorganize the nation’s energy grid” is intended to force the States and other bodies to make “immediate” and irreversible decisions to plan compliance with EPA’s rule before courts have ruled whether the plan is legal or not.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE STATE MOTION TO THE COURT](#)

“Every American industry is affected by the rule,” declared Karen Harbert, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber’s Institute for 21st Century Energy, at a call-in press conference today to explain the action.

The opponents argue that in broad legal terms, EPA's plan depends on the selective misinterpretation of some 300 words in the Clean Air Act that have never previously been used to regulate carbon emissions in such sweeping fashion.

The interpretation of little-known section 111 (d) of the Clean Air Act extends far beyond the setting of standards for individual sources—which the opponents argue is the sole basis of the law—to push states and regions into enforcing the cuts on a much more sweeping basis.

Under the rule, U.S. states have until September 2016 to create plans that implement customized levels of carbon emission reductions established by EPA, or seek a 2-year extension if that proves impossible. EPA decides if they get the extension, but adds that those granted the reprieve must provide an update of their plans in 2017.

Full compliance with the emissions reductions goes into effect in 2022—two years later than EPA originally declared it would-- and they are supposed to produce 32 per cent reductions in emissions from existing power plants by 2030.

States that do not come up with plans that EPA deems satisfactory, or choose not to follow the new rules, will get EPA-designed plans instead—none of which have so far been seen.

Those deadlines, both states and business groups argue, are largely intended to force states to choose in advance to shut down at a minimum roughly 11,000 megawatts of U.S. coal-fired power states by 2016, force mammoth reliance on new and unproven sources of renewable energy, and likely undercut the stability of the entire national U.S. electricity supply—and even then force suppliers to use a cap-and-trade system of emissions reduction certificates to stave off some of the drastic changes.

As one piece of evidence, the business petitioners point out that the final version of EPA's rule sets emission levels for existing U.S. power plants that are about 7 per cent lower, for existing coal-fired plants, and 22 per cent lower, for existing natural gas-fired plants—that for brand-new facilities of either type.

Indeed, the business groups argue that under the published rule, "a new coal or gas plant with state-of-the-art controls could not achieve the emission rate [it] demands."

"This disparity makes clear that the 'existing source' ceilings cannot be achieved by existing sources themselves," but business groups argue, but essentially are pushing energy providers into deep reliance on renewables and a cap-and-trade regime that was turned down in the U.S. Congress in 2009, something that EPA Administrator McCarthy has denied.

"Bottom line: the EPA has dramatically overstepped its authority," said Karen Harned, executive director of the National Federation of Independent Business' Small Business Legal Center, which joined the 300,000-member Chamber in opposing the rule.

In response to questions, Linda Kelly, senior vice-president of the National Association of Manufacturers, charged that it was "pretty clear" that the timing of EPA's publication of the final rule was "related" to the Obama Administration's desire to show leadership at the upcoming, United Nations-sponsored climate change summit in Paris, where world leaders intend to adopt a nation-by-nation approach to setting global carbon emission standards.

Said Kelly: "The Clean Air Act was not designed as a tool for climate negotiations."

For its part, EPA has argued, in the words of EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, that its new rule "has strong scientific and legal foundations, provides states with broad flexibilities to design and implement plans, and is clearly within EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act."

The agency has also declared that it "provided unprecedented outreach before and after the proposed Plan was issued," and considered 4.3 million comments in response to the proposal.

McCarthy has pointed to the two-year extension in the planning process for the huge energy makeover as proof of EPA's flexibility and the reasonableness of the planning process.

"States and utilities told us they needed more time, and we listened," she declared on an in-house blog.

The business groups rejoinder is that while their comments were filed, they weren't taken into account. Evidently, a majority of U.S. states—at least 26 out of 49 affected—to a significant extent agree. Whether the opponents get the breathing space they say they need is itself going to take time to discover. Even an expedited appeals court hearing of the arguments for a stay of EPA's timetable of execution could spill over into early 2016.

The business opponents to EPA's plan would not second-guess the appeals court by saying whether they would go to the U.S. Supreme Court if their plea for a stay fails.

Speaking for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, however, Institute for 21st Century Energy CEO Harbert declared that her group "preserves all legal options through the entirety of the process."

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/10/26/business-states-open-legal-fire-on-epas-clean-power-plan-rule/?intcmp=hplnws>

2. "DID WE REALLY SAVE THE OZONE LAYER?"

Guest essay by Steve Goreham

Another year has passed and that stubborn Ozone Hole over Antarctica refuses to go away. Data from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) shows that the Ozone Hole for the fall maximum season grew 22 percent from 2014 to 2015. World consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances has been reduced...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/26/did-we-really-save-the-ozone-layer/>

3. WHAT IF THE 'GODZILLA' EL NIÑO IS A DUD?

By Larry Kummer at the Fabius Maximus website. Summary: After months of hype about this "Godzilla" El Niño, the peak approaches. The major climate models warn that it might be just another strong cycle, as NOAA & the WMO have predicted — not the precedent-breaking event predicted in the news headlines. As a thought experiment,...

Clark stressed that shale gas and the midstream sector have significantly contributed to lower gas prices and will play a major role in supporting the future of renewable energy"

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/26/what-if-the-godzilla-el-nino-is-a-dud/>

4. WHO WILL WATCH THE WATCHMEN? A REPLY TO LORD CARNWATH AND PHILIPPE SANDS QC ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE LAW

Guest essay by Christopher Monckton of Brenchley.

The Denning Lecture in the Church of St Dunstan, "the Cathedral of the Weald", Cranbrook, Kent 23 October 2015 LORD DENNING, now merry in heaven, is celebrated for many qualities, not least his readiness to take on the legal establishment in what he rightly saw as the overriding interest...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/26/who-will-watch-the-watchmen-a-reply-to-lord-carnwath-and-philippe-sands-qc-on-climate-change-and-the-law/>

5. SEN. SHELDON WHITEHOUSE REACTS TO 'TORQUEMADA' ESSAY

David Rothbard writes:

It looks like CFACT senior policy advisor Paul Driessen touched a nerve in a recent column when he compared U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse to "Torquemada" for wanting to use the RICO Act to silence

climate skeptics. Torquemada, of course, spearheaded the infamous Spanish Inquisition of the 15th Century – a comparison Driessen...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/26/sen-sheldon-whitehouse-reacts-to-torquemada-essay/>

6. THE UK STEEL INDUSTRY IS IN DISARRAY AFTER SSI CLOSED ITS REDCAR STEELWORKS, CAPARO INDUSTRIES WENT INTO PART ADMINISTRATION AND TATA STEEL ANNOUNCED 1,200 JOB LOSSES

http://www.carbonbrief.org/factcheck-the-steel-crisis-and-uk-electricity-prices/?utm_content=buffer108a2&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Judith Cuury

7. CONGRESSIONAL SKEPTIC ON GLOBAL WARMING DEMANDS RECORDS FROM U.S. CLIMATE SCIENTISTS

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/10/23/congressional-skeptic-on-global-warming-demands-records-from-u-s-climate-scientists/>

Judith Curry

8. NOVEMBER 2015 CALL FOR TECHNICAL ARTICLES - ASME WASHINGTON, DC

Hello,

Thank you for your support and contribution to last month's newsletter. If you were unable to submit an article in time for the October newsletter, please consider providing a technical article for the November newsletter:

The Board of Directors for this Section agrees 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.

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9. ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION SESSION AT POWER CONFERENCE JUNE 26-30, 2016

The Environmental Engineering Division (EED) will be holding a panel discussion at the ASME Power Conference next June 26-30, 2016 in Charlotte, NC. The panel session is slated to discuss timely environmental engineering topics of greatest relevance to the power industry. The panelists will be chosen early next year. In order for the Session to be as pertinent to our members as possible we are asking for your input including possible topics, panelists, and questions (especially those that will stimulate a dialogue and discussion). Among the topics now under consideration are emissions/waste reduction in CCS units, permitting (multi media) in CCS units at power plants, and new NPDES discharge requirements, etc.

Please send your topics and questions to Arnie Feldman, EED Chair, at jjdsenv@att.net.

To update the email address where you received this message, please edit your ASME.org account information, or contact ASME Customer Care at CustomerCare@asme.org

Email From: ASME, 2 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016
<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/10/29/rep-calls-on-noaa-to-come-clean-about-climate-study-info/?intcmp=hpbt4>

10. 'COME CLEAN': REP BATTLES AGENCY OVER SUBPOENA FOR CLIMATE STUDY RECORDS

By [Adam Shaw](#), Published October 29, 2015, [FoxNews.com](#)

The Republican head of the House science committee is fighting to obtain documents from the Obama administration on a controversial global warming study, as the agency that produced it locks down internal records despite a subpoena.

The report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) claims to refute prior studies showing the rate of global warming had flattened in recent decades.

Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, a global warming skeptic who questioned the data, issued a subpoena on Oct. 13 for the agency to "compel production of documents and communications relating to adjustments of historical temperature data."

11. KARL ET AL. DO NOT KNOW THAT WE HAVE TWO HIATUSES, NOT ONE

Guest essay by Arno Arrak

Abstract

Karl et al. present data they claim denies the existence of the warming pause or hiatus that has existed for 18 years. It is characterized by the observation that while atmospheric carbon dioxide keeps increasing there is no parallel increase of warming as demanded by the greenhouse theory of...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/29/karl-et-al-do-not-know-that-we-have-two-hiatuses-not-one/>

COMMENTS

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2015-10-31(OCT. 31, 2015)

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

Model Logic: Some readers of TWTW have commented that their colleagues dismiss the objections raised by TWTW, and others, to the global climate models, and their results. They say: "The basic physics is straight-forward and the logic in the models is solid." As Galileo demonstrated in his famous experiment of using two balls of significantly different weight to test gravity, this is only part of the issue. The key part of the issue is what do empirically verifiable experiments demonstrate? Contrary to the prevailing logic of the time, both balls hit the ground together.

Similarly, a model may be developed with great rigor and detail, but if it cannot predict well, there is something wrong with the model. **Richard Feynman summed the problem neatly: "It doesn't matter how beautiful your theory is, it doesn't matter how smart you are. If it doesn't agree with experiment, it's wrong."**

In general, global climate models are failing to predict short-run changes in temperatures, particularly in the atmosphere where we have the most comprehensive observations. The models predict a significantly greater warming trend than observed. If the models cannot predict short-term temperatures, there is no logical reason to assume they can predict long-term temperatures. Since the fifth assessment report (AR-5, 2013) by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), we have seen many explanations attempting to explain what is called the "missing heat." The important question remains: is the "missing heat" an artifact of the models, and not missing in nature?

Members of the Apollo group had to correctly model the lunar landing, using primitive computers and similar tools. Some members of the Apollo missions have studied the global warming/climate change issue and suggested that IPCC approached the issue incorrectly.

Climate has been changing naturally for hundreds of millions of years, without human influence. The correct issue is: what is the human influence on natural climate change? The Apollo veterans on the Right Climate Stuff Team have stated that public policy should be based on validated climate model(s), and no model has been validated.

To correctly model the human influence on global warming/climate change, one must correctly model the natural causes of climate change. The IPCC has failed to do so. See links under Challenging the Orthodox and Model Issues.

Hiatus - the Pause: Writing for the Global Warming Policy Forum, David Whitehouse gives an excellent overview of the status of the warming hiatus - the pause in warming for over a decade that was not predicted in the global climate models. Depending on how one analyzes the data, the pause can extend to 18 years or more. SEPP examines atmospheric data, without any trend lines, and considers the pause to start in the early part of the 21st century. As discussed below, Tom Karl, head of the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), now called the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI),

which remains under the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), tried to adjust this pause out of existence, with limited success, except in the popular press.

In his article, Whitehead links to six recent, readable papers, of which five recognize the hiatus and seek to explain it. Of particular note is a paper by Gerald Meehl of the US National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), who thinks that the pause may be due to the natural variability in the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), which was first reported as an influence on salmon populations less than 20 years ago. The PDO influences surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, north of 20 degrees N. Trends have been reconstructed to before the year 1000 and it is thought that several shifts in the 20th century resulted in significant shifts in global temperature trends.

In its Summary for Policymakers in AR-5, the IPCC did not account for shifts in the PDO, even though trends of warming than cooling last 30 years or more, a customary cut-off time for differentiating between climate changes and weather changes. There are numerous explanations for changes in the PDO that yet need to be resolved before any reliance can be placed on a particular cause.

According to Whitehouse: *"The hiatus is one of the most important topics in climate science. The data shows us something very interesting is happening and many scientists, looking at many aspects of the environment, are producing amazing research in pursuit of an explanation. It will not be explained or dismissed by this or that paper, and the latest one championed in the media is unlikely to last long.*

"The hiatus is not only telling us something about the importance of natural climatic variations but also about the polarization of science exemplified by questions like whose side are you on."

See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Pink Flamingo: The October 24 TWTW discussed the concept of Pink Flamingos, which was brought up by Judith Curry on Climate Etc. Applied to climate science, pink flamingos can be considered as bright issues and deficiencies that Western national leaders are ignoring in their efforts to control carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Curry mentions past warm trends, such as the one early in the 20th century, which is ignored by the IPCC and the government entities which support it, including the US Global Change Research Program.

Another pink flamingo would be the misleading effort in the Third Assessment Report (AR-3, 2001) to use Mr. Mann's hockey-stick to suppress the Medieval Warm Period:

"New analyses of proxy data for the Northern Hemisphere indicate that the increase in temperature in the 20th century is likely to have been the largest of any century during the past 1,000 years. It is also likely that, in the Northern Hemisphere, the 1990s was the warmest decade and 1998 the warmest year (Figure 1b) [Mann's hockey-stick]. Because less data are available, less is known about annual averages prior to 1,000 years before present and for conditions prevailing in most of the Southern Hemisphere prior to 1861."

Other pink flamingos can include the government's promotion of unreliable, untrustworthy wind and solar power for electricity over reliable fossil fuels. Some of these pink flamingos apply to the EPA's finding that greenhouse gas emissions, primarily carbon dioxide, endanger public health and welfare (Endangerment Finding). For the next several weeks, TWTW will highlight additional pink flamingos as the national delegates prepare for the 21st Conference of Parties (COP-21) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) scheduled between November 30 and December 11 in Paris. See links under Questioning the Orthodoxy and

<http://www.grida.no/publications/ot...>

Corn Harvests: At a forum given by the CATO Institute, "Preparing for Paris: What to Expect from the U.N.'s 2015 Climate Change Conference," Roy Spencer brought up another pink flamingo that is often overlooked - the enormous increase in yields of corn in the US and globally. Spencer presents the world wheat, soybean and corn yields, with trends, from 1960 to 2011. If there is any negative trend due to

climate change (doubtful) it has been overwhelmed by technology, better farming practices, and enhanced CO₂.

Spencer also presents the U.S. Corn Belt Temperatures (June/July/August) from 1900 to 2013 from the USHCN (US Historical Climatology Network) data. The 1930s was by far the hottest decade. But the average from 42 CMIP5 models shows a non-existent warming trend, which by 2020 exceeds the 1930s. Do US government entities which prepare the models estimating the social cost of carbon even look at the data on US harvests?

On another note, a new study suggests that high food prices in Syria and elsewhere are more a result of diversion of food to conversion to biofuels, ethanol, and speculation than drought and poor harvests. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy - Pink Flamingos, Agriculture Issues & Fear of Famine, and <http://www.cato.org/events/preparin...>

COP 21: It is becoming evident that the big conference in Paris, COP-21, will not be about science but about economics and money, who pays whom and how much? The Indian press has been refreshingly frank. If the West expects to suppress the economic development in India, it has to pay. Promises are not enough.

Though it is not blatant, there appears to be significant skepticism in India over IPCC science. Skepticism is understandable after Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, the then-head of the IPCC, made insulting remarks regarding a study produced by some of the most noted experts in the world on the Himalayan glaciers refuting a claim in IPCC's AR-4 that the Himalayan glaciers will melt by 2035.

Reuters, the news organization, carried an article stating that President Putin of Russia does not believe the IPCC's version that global warming is caused by human emissions of CO₂. The articles were picked up by the New York Times, implying that Mr. Putin is controlling the press. The article does mention that Putin's skepticism dates back to early 2000s when a number of scientists concluded that the human role in global warming/climate change is very limited. This view seems to be re-enforced by some Russian solar scientists who have expressed the possibility of a global cooling coming from declining activity of the sun. A significant cooling could be devastating to Russia. See links under On to Paris and Problems in the Orthodoxy.

Defense of Karl: As mention above, Thomas Karl, director of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) of NOAA and his team made adjustments to the historical temperature records. Representative Lamar Smith, who leads the House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, asked NOAA for the data used in the study and for any internal communications related to it. Mr. Karl refused to respond to a congressional subpoena for documents relating the recent adjustments to historic temperature records. According to an article in Nature, the adjustment corrected biases in the agency's record and the revised record showed temperatures rising consistently. Other independent analysts disagree, and point out that NOAA has a history of raising warming trends by lowering earlier temperatures in the record. There seems to be no publicly visible control over the adjustments and their frequency.

The Nature article quotes a representative of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a political advocacy group based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who claims the investigation confounds government science with politics. This is a characteristic of the advocacy group in its opposition to fossil fuels and nuclear and its claims that solar, wind, and geothermal are substitutes. Unlike fossil fuels and nuclear, which generate reliable electricity; solar and wind are very erratic and unreliable in the generation of electricity and geothermal is very limited in the US.

The article states that a NOAA spokeswoman stated that the peer review of the paper should be sufficient. This is amusing coming from Nature. Mr. Mann's influential hockey-stick paper was peer-reviewed when published in Nature, yet it has been dropped even from IPCC reports, without a

retraction.

Congress can argue that it needs to investigate under the Data Quality Act. The example of Mr. Mann illustrates that peer-review is a poor substitute. See links under Defending the Orthodoxy and Measurement Issues.

Ocean Acidification: A BBC report hit a new low: _"Sir Mark Walport warns that the acidity of the oceans has increased by about 25% since the industrial revolution, mainly thanks to manmade emissions." The oceans are alkaline, except in rare locations, and they remain alkaline (pH above 7). A pH of 7 is neutral; anything above is alkaline and anything below is acid. An alkaline solution can be considered to have a negative acidity. One increases the acidity, by reducing the alkalinity (the negative acidity). See link under Acidic Waters.

Number of the Week: 47%. Writing in Power For USA, Donn Dears links to a report by the US National Academy of Science estimating that the natural occurring seepages result in about 47% of all petroleum hydrocarbons annually entering the world's oceans, for the period 1990 to 1999. Naturally occurring seepages are about 15 times larger than spills from oil exploration and production. Naturally occurring microbes consume these seepages.

The BP Macondo fire and spill created significant temporary overload in the Gulf of Mexico, which experiences about 70,000 tonnes, 513,000 barrels per year. The spill resulted in an estimated 4.9 million barrels. Yet, the existing microbes quickly responded and feasted.

<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2015/TWTW%2010-31-15.pdf>

B DISSENT IN THE CLIMATE RANKS OVER KARL'S "PAUSE BUSTER" TEMPERATURE DATA TWEAKING

WUWT readers may recall that on June 4th, 2015, WUWT published a scathing criticism of the paper by Karl et al ("Possible artifacts of data biases in the recent global surface warming hiatus") that purported to erase the pause in the surface temperature record by applying some highly questionable and apparently desperate adjustments to SST...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/27/dissent-in-the-climate-ranks-over-karls-pause-buster-temperature-data-tweaking/>

C. US OPPOSITION TO CLIMATE FINANCE STALLS UN CLIMATE TALKS

<http://www.climatechangedispatch.com/us-opposition-to-climate-finance-stalls-un-climate-talks.html>

Judith Curry

D. "CARBON DIOXIDE: THE GOOD AND THE BAD, THE RIGHT AND THE WRONG"

<https://granthaminstitute.wordpress.com/2015/10/19/carbon-dioxide-the-good-and-the-bad-the-right-and-the-wrong/>

Judith Curry

D. SEPTEMBER 2015 GLOBAL SURFACE (LAND+OCEAN) AND LOWER TROPOSPHERE TEMPERATURE ANOMALY & MODEL-DATA DIFFERENCE UPDATE
POSTED ON [OCTOBER 14, 2015](#)

<https://bobtisdale.wordpress.com/2015/10/14/september-2015-global-surface-landocean-and-lower-troposphere-temperature-anomaly-model-data-difference-update/#more-9772>

Nob Tisdale

E. KNOCKING DOWN FLORIDA POWER & LIGHT OBSTRUCTION – COURT CLEARS HURDLE FOR SOLAR POWER TO FLOURISH

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/10/22/3715134/sunshine-state-solar-court-DECISION/>

Judith Curry

F. DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SEN. BERNIE SANDERS (I-VT) WANTS EXXONMOBIL INVESTIGATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

In [a letter](#) to Attorney General Loretta Lynch on Tuesday, Sanders charged the oil giant of engaging in a cover-up to intentionally mislead the public about the reality of human-caused climate change, and by extension the risks of its carbon-intensive product.

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/10/20/3714390/bernie-sanders-investigate-exxon-climate-denial/>

G. QUOTE OF THE WEEK: ‘CLIMATE HAWK’ SAYS [IT’S] ‘INSANE TO TRY TO PREDICT WHAT’S GOING TO HAPPEN IN 2100’

WUWT readers may remember ultra climate activist David Roberts, a self described “climate hawk” who wrote regularly for Grist, and became so burned out he had to take a year off from the “climate wars” to recharge. It seems that hiatus may have done him some good. In case you’ve never heard of it, the web...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/28/quote-of-the-week-climate-hawk-says-its-insane-to-try-to-predict-whats-going-to-happen-in-2100/>

H. NCDC/NCEI’S KARL AND PETERSON REFUSE CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENA ON FLAWED ‘PAUSEBUSTER’ PAPER

Wow, just wow. I told Dr. Tom Peterson in an email this summer that their highly questionable paper that adjusted SST’s of the past to erase the “pause” was going to become “their Waterloo”, and Peterson’s response was to give the email to wackadoodle climate blogger Miriam O’Brien (aka Sou Bundanga) so she could tout...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/28/ncdcnceis-karl-and-peterson-refuse-congressional-subpoena-on-flawed-pausebuster-paper/>

I WEDNESDAY WIT – CHEERS, GAVIN!

Josh writes: Here's an odd thing. Replying to Tweeter 'Hot Topic', who was highlighting this article in the Guardian, Gavin Schmidt said that there are "More than 10x number of English vineyards now than in medieval times." with a link to a 2006 Real Climate article. Gavin implies that this comparison trumps the argument about English vineyards being proof...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/28/wednesday-wit-cheers-gavin/>

J. TRENDS IN EXTREME RAINFALL EVENTS

Guest essay by Philip Lloyd There are constant claims that extreme events are becoming more frequent, but when you really dig down, you cannot see any trends even in long-term data. Of course, the scaremongers claim that it hasn't happened yet, but their models predict it is going to happen any day real soon now,...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/28/trends-in-extreme-rainfall-events/>

K. A PECULIAR KIND OF SCIENCE

Posted on [October 20, 2015](#) | [484 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

This brief summary of the history of scientific understanding of the impacts of climate change is a peculiar history, as histories of science go. – Spencer Weart

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/10/20/a-peculiar-kind-of-science/#more-20276>

L. PINK FLAMINGOS VERSUS BLACK SWANS

Posted on [October 19, 2015](#) | [249 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

American strategists would benefit from a longer-range view of history to better inform force design. Thinking historically about the future means dealing openly with those things we want to avoid or are in denial about. – Frank Hoffman

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/10/19/pink-flamingos-versus-black-swans/#more-20211>

M. STATES' REACTIONS TO EPA GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS STANDARDS

Melanie Condon and Jocelyn Durkay 10/23/2015

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- [Jocelyn Durkay](#)

Final Rule for Future and Existing Power Plants

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/states-reactions-to-proposed-epa-greenhouse-gas-emissions-standards635333237.aspx>

N. OBAMA DOUBLES DOWN ON CLIMATE RULE

The Obama administration on Sunday unveiled a tougher climate change rule for power plants, demanding that generators cut their carbon dioxide output 32 percent in the first-ever limits on the pollutant.

The historic regulation from the Environmental Protection Agency is the main pillar of President Obama's climate agenda. It is the biggest piece of his drive to [create a legacy](#) and go down in history as the first United States president to take comprehensive action against climate change by cutting emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

Obama will hold an event Monday afternoon at the White House to announce the regulation, the White House said.

The EPA is asking states to formulate plans to reach specific carbon reduction goals assigned to them by 2030, from a 2005 starting point, adding up to a 32 percent reduction nationwide. If the states do not submit plans — as multiple conservative states have threatened — the EPA will write and impose its own strategies upon them.

"In doing this, the president will take the single biggest step that any president has made to curb the carbon pollution that is fueling climate change," top Obama adviser Brian Deese told reporters Sunday.

"We already limit smog and soot pollution, as well as toxics like mercury, from our power plants. But before this rule, there were no limits on carbon," said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. "With this plan, carbon pollution from our power sector in 2030 will be 32 percent below 2005 levels."

The administration referred to fighting climate change as a "moral obligation" to the world's children and called the rule "flexible and achievable."

The administration estimates that the climate benefits, in addition to benefits from reducing other pollutants from power plants, would result in a net \$46 billion benefit to the nation by 2030, along with thousands of avoided premature deaths and asthma attacks.

Compared with the carbon limits the EPA proposed last year, the final rule is 9 percent more stringent than the 30 percent cut originally envisioned.

It delays the first round of carbon goals to 2022 from 2020, a move the White House said would result in far more renewable energy such as wind and solar and less natural gas replacing coal, which is currently the dominant fuel for electricity.

But the formula for determining states' individual carbon goals will eliminate the expectation that states implement energy efficiency measures to cut emissions. States will still be allowed to use efficiency to meet the goals, however.

And despite the added stringency, the rule is predicted to avoid little more than 0.01 degrees Celsius in global warming, since the United States's emissions are only a small part of the world's.

The new plan also includes incentives for states to comply early, with matching grants for reductions before the deadlines.

Nonetheless, the Obama administration sees regulations on the most carbon-intensive sector in the country as an essential step toward a strong United Nations agreement to stop climate change, which world leaders plan to sign in December in Paris.

Sunday's announcement included two other related regulations: one with hard limits on the carbon emissions of newly-built power plants and a proposed framework for how the EPA will write implementation plans for states that do not comply.

The rules are expected to draw immediate scorn from congressional Republicans, conservative states, the fossil fuel industry and others.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has made it a priority to fight the EPA's main climate rule and has tried to do so with limited success through legislation, appropriations and publicly urging all of the nation's governors to ignore it.

He sees it as an imperative to save coal, on which Kentucky's economy is dependent.

"I can assure you, I will not stand idly by while this administration tries to wipe out the lifeblood of our state's economy," McConnell [wrote recently](#) in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

Multiple states' attorneys general have pledged to file lawsuits against the rules, including those in West Virginia, Oklahoma and Texas.

Various industry groups representing different sectors have also mentioned lawsuits as a possible way to fight the regulations.

Administration officials predicted strong criticisms of what has already become Obama's most controversial environmental rule. But the critics are wrong, they said.

"Some special interest critics will tell you that it can't be done. They'll say we have to focus on the economy at the expense of the environment. They'll tell you EPA's plan will turn the lights off and send utility bills through the roof," said McCarthy.

"But they are wrong," she concluded, citing the EPA's acid rain program in the 1990s as an example of a rule that kept electricity prices stable while improving the environment and health.

"Over the next few days, we'll hear the same tired plays from the same special interest playbook," McCarthy said. "But the American people know better."

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/250043-obama-doubles-down-on-climate-rule>

Roger Zvgmunt

O. US OPPOSITION TO CLIMATE FINANCE STALLS UN CLIMATE TALKS

<http://www.climatechangedispatch.com/us-opposition-to-climate-finance-stalls-un-climate-talks.html>

Judith Curry

P. EED SESSION AT POWER CONFERENCE JUNE 26-30, 2016

The Environmental Engineering Division (EED) will be holding a panel discussion at the ASME Power Conference next June 26-30, 2016 in Charlotte, NC. The panel session is slated to discuss timely environmental engineering topics of greatest relevance to the power industry. The panelists will be chosen early next year. In order for the Session to be as pertinent to our members as possible we are asking for your input including possible topics, panelists, and questions (especially those that will stimulate a dialogue and discussion). Among the topics now under consideration are emissions/waste reduction in CCS units, permitting (multi media) in CCS units at power plants, and new NPDES discharge requirements, etc.

Please send your topics and questions to Arnie Feldman, EED Chair, at jjdsenv@att.net.

Q. SHALE GAS METHANE LEAKAGE 'SERIOUSLY OVERESTIMATED': UK THINK TANK

London (Platts)--26 Oct 2015 925 am EDT/1325 GMT

Previous estimates of methane leakage in shale gas production have been "seriously over-estimated," according to a report released Monday by British free-market policy think tank the Centre for Policy

Studies.

Methane, the main component of natural gas, has a high greenhouse potential, and opponents argue that even if one or two percent of the gas leaks, the advantage of natural gas over coal would be negated, it said.

"This estimate is incorrect; over a 100-year time span, an implausible 12% of the produced natural gas used today would have to leak in order to negate an advantage over coal," the report said.

"The best current estimates for the average leakage across the whole supply chain are below 3%; even at 3% leakage natural gas would produce less than half the warming of coal averaged over the 100 years following emission," it said.

<http://www.platts.com/latest-news/natural-gas/london/shale-gas-methane-leakage-seriously-overestimated-26254502>

R. DOE ISSUES PRESS RELEASE: THE HALLOWEEN PUMPKIN CLIMATE MENACE (NO, REALLY)

From the "methane is scarier when it comes from Jack-o-lanterns" department.

Guest essay by Eric Worrall

The US Department of Energy has issued a (serious) press release which suggests that Halloween pumpkins contribute significantly to global warming. To commemorate National Energy Action Month, we're featuring some scarily effective ways to save energy at home. As...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/29/doe-halloween-pumpkin-climate-menace/>

S. OZONE HOLE WORSE THAN IN RECENT YEARS – DUE TO COLDER THAN NORMAL STRATOSPHERE IN ANTARCTICA

A couple of days ago we ran a piece at WUWT: Did We Really Save the Ozone Layer? In light of this press release, the question is worth pondering again. From the NASA/GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER Annual Antarctic ozone hole larger and formed later in 2015 The 2015 Antarctic ozone hole area was larger and formed later...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/10/29/ozone-hole-worse-than-in-recent-years-due-to-colder-than-normal-stratosphere-in-antarctica/>

T. HOUSE AND SENATE MANEUVER TO OPPOSE EPA CLEAN POWER PLAN RULES

Earlier this week, the U.S. House of Representatives introduced resolutions under the Congressional Review Act to disapprove of two final rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for new and existing power plants. The resolutions stand no chance of becoming law, but lay out Republicans' argument that the Obama administration is pursuing a regulatory cap and trade scheme that will drive up electricity prices, cost jobs, threaten grid reliability, and make our country less competitive globally.

For additional information on the House resolutions, please visit:

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/fact-sheet/111bd-congressional-review-act-resolutions>

In the other chamber, U.S. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), along with 47 Senate co-sponsors, have similarly introduced a resolution disapproving of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed Clean Power Plan regulations for existing power sources. The

Senate resolution can be found at: <http://www.capito.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/10.27.2015%20Capito%20CRA%20Resolution.pdf>

Also in the House on October 22nd, the House Energy and Power Subcommittee continued its examination of the two final rules and a third proposed rule to regulate carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from new and existing fossil fuel-fired power plants. The hearing was entitled, "EPA's CO2 Regulations for New and Existing Power Plants: Legal Perspectives."

House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI) has said the President's climate change agenda amounts to "a massive economy-wide energy tax." The Republican from Michigan drew a comparison between Democrats' past failed attempts to pass a cap- and-trade bill to reduce emissions, and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently finalized Clean Power Plan.

According to Upton, a cap-and-trade system would place a hard limit on emissions, and force power plants and other emitters to buy emission credits if they need to exceed those caps.

Detailed information on the House hearing is available at:

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/hearing/epa%E2%80%99s-co2-regulations-new-and-existing-power-plants-legal-perspectives>

More information on the Clean Power Plan is available at <http://ppec.asme.org/key-issues/energy/>

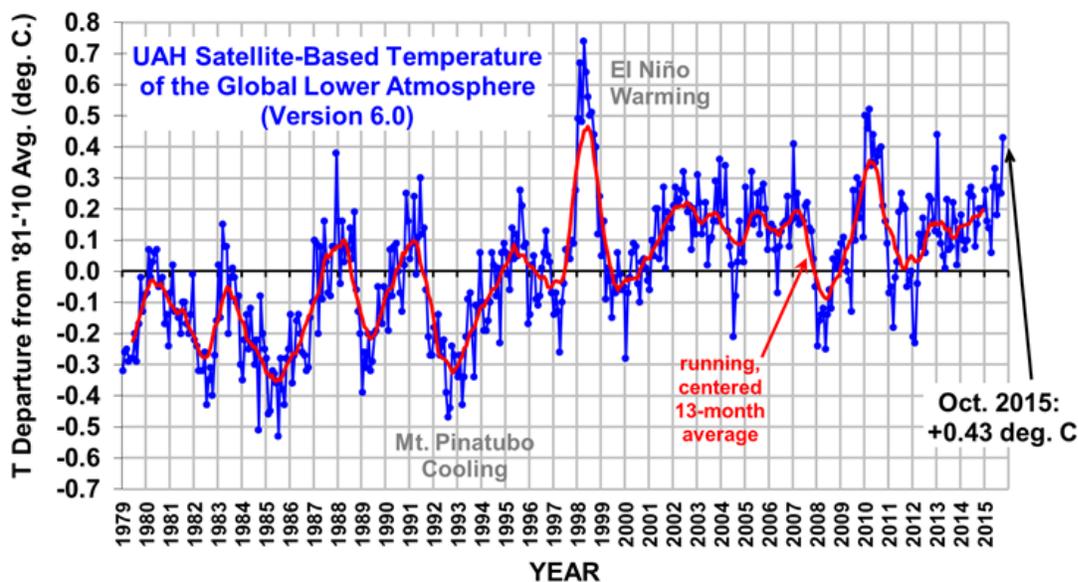
U. IVANPAH SOLAR PLANT MAJOR ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FIASCO.

Besides a huge waste of taxpayer funds, "Emissions from Ivanpah are greater than those from a conventional plant that does not kill birds and turtles."

<http://www.allenwest.com/2015/11/bad-news-for-liberals-giant-solar-plant-has-humongous-problem/>

Don Shaw

V. LATEST GLOBAL AVERAGE TROPOSPHERIC TEMPERATURES



Roy Spencer
Regards
George