

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

23 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. HIATUS CONTROVERSY: SHOW ME THE DATA

Posted on [November 6, 2015](#) | [324 comments](#)

by Curry

The scientific and political controversies surrounding the hiatus have continued to heat up. Let's take a look at ALL the global temperature data sets.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/11/06/hiatus-controversy-show-me-the-data/#more-20358>

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/11/05/jc-op-ed-the-politics-surrounding-global-temperature-data/#more-20343>

Judith Curry

2. LUKEWARMING

Posted on [November 5, 2015](#) | [166 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

Two new books on lukewarming have recently been published.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/11/05/lukewarming/#more-20353>

3. STEVE KOONIN: THE TOUGH REALITIES OF THE PARIS CLIMATE TALKS

Posted on [November 4, 2015](#) | [254 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

And, overarching all this, the tension between emissions reductions and development is complicated by uncertainties in how the climate will change under human and natural influences and how those changes will impact natural and human systems. – Steve Koonin

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/11/04/steve-koonin-the-tough-realities-of-the-paris-climate-talks/#more-20340>

4. INFORMED CONSENT FOR CLIMATE POLICY

POSTED ON [NOVEMBER 3, 2015](#) | [55 COMMENTS](#), BY [LUCAS BERGKAMP](#)

A hypothetical medical case involving uncertain diagnosis, prognosis, and therapy to explain the wickedness of climate change.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/11/03/informed-consent-for-climate-policy/#more-20337>

Judith Curry

5. DOCUMENT SUGGESTS THAT A CLIMATE ACTIVIST SHADOW ORGANIZATION WAS BEHIND THE #RICO20 ALLEGATIONS

This is in the news today via “Climate NEXUS”, which is a Madison Ave. PR firm: New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced that he is launching a legal probe into Exxon’s climate denial. The inquiry will look into both consumer and investor protection laws, covering the oil giant’s activity dating back to the 1970s...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/06/document-shows-that-a-climate-activist-shadow-organization-was-behind-the-rico20-allegations/>

6. LEADING QUESTIONS ON THE PARIS CLIMATE TREATY

We should lead from behind – instead of with brains in our behinds – on this new Treaty of Paris Guest essay by Paul Driessen What an unpalatable irony. The 1783 Treaty of Paris ended the Revolutionary War and created the United States. The 2015 Treaty of Paris could end what’s left of our democratic...

7. WELL BAM, THERE IT IS: EXXON MOBIL INVESTIGATED BY NY ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 6th, 2015

I suppose this was inevitable, and Exxon Mobil probably expected it as well.

According to the Justin Gillis NYT [story](#), the New York attorney general’s “investigation focuses on whether statements the company made to investors about climate risks as recently as this year were consistent with the company’s own long-running scientific research.”

The thing that astounds me about this is, as far as I know, Exxon Mobil “scientific research” would not have uncovered anything that was not already widely *hypothesized* (not “known”) by the scientific community, Al Gore, Greenpeace, school teachers, Hollywood actors, your 8 yr old son, *et al.*

How one compares a tobacco company cover-up of evidence that smoking kills millions of people, to human-caused climate change, which cannot be demonstrated to have occurred let alone cause even one death (or even inconvenience) is beyond me.

But then, we live in a brave new world, don’t we?

That this was coming can be seen from the popular meme that conflates “climate change” with “human caused climate change”. For example, a few months ago *The Guardian* had a headline which crowed, “[Exxon knew of climate change in 1981](#)”.

What a stupid headline. Of course “climate change” exists. Medieval farmers enjoyed the fruits of it. Vikings in Greenland cursed it.

We knew about climate change long before Al Gore earned his “D” in Natural Science and decided to become an expert on the subject.

Natural climate change has caused (or at least contributed to) millions of deaths over the centuries. But our use of fossil fuels has enabled a level of prosperity which has made us much

more resilient to climate change and weather disasters, maybe akin to the prosperity enjoyed in medieval times when warmer conditions prevailed.

Where are the studies to investigate the possibility that modest warming has actually prevented severe weather? Major tornadoes and hurricanes in the U.S. have certainly seen a downturn in recent years. Maybe Exxon Mobil should be charging extra for this ‘positive externality’?

What about all the prevented cold weather, which still kills many more people than hot weather? Instead, every bad thing that happens in weather is now blamed on carbon dioxide emissions. Too hot. Too cold. Not enough snow. Too much snow. It’s all our fault.

Medieval witchcraft. Time to burn some CEOs at the stake.

Even though sea level was slowly rising long before CO2 could be blamed, we now blame it on your SUV. In order to even begin to blame it even partially on CO2, the rise should be accelerating, which it (arguably) hasn’t.

Investigating Exxon Mobil for some sort of undisclosed knowledge of “climate change” is like investigating the agricultural industry for undisclosed knowledge that too much food can make people fat...except that there isn’t even any human fingerprint of global warming, like there is a stomach-print of overeating.

Or, maybe a better analogy is an investigation into the Mexican or Italian food industry for their secret knowledge that their spicy food causes peptic ulcers...except that theory was finally debunked, despite a 99% consensus in the medical community.

It’s easy to go after corporate giants, since they have so much money. Too bad people don’t realize the reason these corporations are so rich is they provide us with a standard of living we want more than other things we could have spent that money on. Econ 101.

And *natural* climate change is Climatology 101.

Or, at least it used to be.

Roy Spencer

8. ARE AUSSIE POLITICIANS PLOTTING TO DEGRADE DEMOCRATIC CHOICE ON CARBON PRICING?

Guest essay by Eric Worrall It didn’t take long for Australia’s new Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to tear up his promise to keep Abbott’s climate policies. Now Turnbull appears to have taken the next step. Australians voted overwhelmingly against carbon pricing in the last Federal Election, but for some strange reason carbon pricing now seems...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/07/are-aussie-politicians-plot-to-degrade-democratic-choice-on-carbon-pricing/>

9. WOULD YOU GIVE UP YOUR CAR, TO STOP A FEW HEATWAVES?

Guest essay by Eric Worrall A NOAA study has been published, which claims to attribute various extreme weather events to anthropogenic climate change. According to the NOAA press release; “For the past four years, this report has shown that human activities are influencing specific extreme weather and climate events around the world,” said Thomas R....

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/07/would-you-give-up-your-car-to-stop-a-few-heatwaves/>

10. CHINA IS BUILDING NUCLEAR REACTORS QUICKLY AND CHEAPLY—ABOUT 5 YEARS PER REACTOR AND \$2000 TO \$2500 PER KILOWATT

<http://instituteforenergyresearch.org/analysis/china-building-nuclear-plants-u-s-quietly-closes-them/>

11. RICO-TEERING: HOW CLIMATE ACTIVISTS EXECUTED THEIR PLAN TO BLAME OIL COMPANIES (EXXON) FOR WARMING.

<https://nigguraths.wordpress.com/2015/11/02/rico-teering/>

COMMENTS

A. THE WEEK THAT WAS: 2015-10-24(OCT. 24, 2015)**

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

Un-Validated Models: The November 7 TWTW emphasized the findings of The Right Climate Stuff research team. The projections of un-validated climate models should not be used for establishing government policy. This is particularly true when long-range policy, enshrined by international agreements, is based on long-range projections by un-validated climate models. As Roy Spencer has calculated, of the 90 CMIP5 Climate Models tested, over 95% overestimate global average temperature trends from 1979 to 2013 – 97.8% overestimate lower troposphere warming as calculated by UAH (University of Alabama, Huntsville) and 95.6% overestimate surface warming based on HadCRUT4 (Hadley Center – Climatic Research Unit Temperature calculations). One can speculate that the overestimates motivated Tom Karl of NOAA to modify the existing surface-records, thereby eliminating the pause or hiatus in warming. It appears that NOAA is not able to manipulate satellite and weather balloon records as readily.

The CMIP5 models are considered state-of-the-art by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its Fifth Assessment Report (AR-5, 2013). In the politically negotiated Summary for Policymakers the IPCC declared that most of the recent global warming/climate change is caused by humans. The projections from the models and the IPCC's questionable finding provide the justification for an international agreement to drastically reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP-21) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), scheduled between November 30 and December 11. If there is little or no warming, why have an international agreement to reduce CO2 emissions that will be economically destructive?

The November 7 TWTW produced responses from a few engineers stating how they validate models upon which their professional lives depend. These responses will be summarized in an upcoming TWTW. Reader Jim Ring reminded TWTW of Chapter 14 (Advancing Our Understanding), Section 14.2.2. of the Scientific Section of Third IPCC Assessment Report, (2001) titled "Predictability in a Chaotic System", which opens with:

"The climate system is particularly challenging since it is known that components in the system are inherently chaotic; there are feedbacks that could potentially switch sign, and there are central processes that affect the system in a complicated, non-linear manner. These complex, chaotic, non-linear dynamics are an inherent aspect of the climate system."

And section 14.2.2.2 concludes with

"In sum, a strategy must recognize what is possible. In climate research and modeling, we should recognize that we are dealing with a coupled non-linear chaotic system, and therefore that the long-term prediction of future climate states is not possible. The most we can expect to achieve is the

prediction of the probability distribution of the system's future possible states by the generation of ensembles of model solutions. This reduces climate change to the discernment of significant differences in the statistics of such ensembles. The generation of such model ensembles will require the dedication of greatly increased computer resources and the application of new methods of model diagnosis. Addressing adequately the statistical nature of climate is computationally intensive, but such statistical information is essential.”

“The ensemble of model solutions” appears to be the mean, but calling the products “solutions” is a misnomer. If the mean of the ensemble is considered a solution, the solution is greatly overestimated. Further, there has been little or no published effort to mathematically establish a probability distribution of the projections. The assignment of probabilities in the Summary for Policymakers is nothing more than speculation. In short, some national leaders are willing to commit their nations to an agreement based on sophisticated speculation. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

On to Paris: The Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (CFACT), the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), and The Heartland Institute are combining to have a program at COP-21 on December 7. SEPP Chairman Fred Singer will be giving a brief talk on real, not computer simulated, climate change threats – the high probability of a future ice age. Singer will suggest that expert economists confirm that a modestly warmer climate benefits both health and human prosperity. A colder climate generally spells more sickness and poses danger to agricultural yields -- with consequent famines and mass starvation. These calamities can be overcome – through adequate and timely preparation for energy supplies, water, and crop lands. Appropriate links will be in a future TWTW.

Benefits of Fossil Fuels: As those promoting COP-21’s rush to limit the use of fossil fuels, TWTW was reminded of a short paper by Indur Goklany: Humanity Unbound: How Fossil Fuels Saved Humanity from Nature and Nature from Humanity. The 2012 paper summarizes some of his findings in the more comprehensive book: The Improving State of the World: Why We’re Living Longer, Healthier, More Comfortable Lives on a Cleaner Planet (2007). In the paper, Goklany presents several graphs the shape of which can be called true hockey-sticks, but not including temperature increases. One graph charts global progress from 1 A.D. to 2009 A.D., showing the enormous growth in world population, gross domestic product per capita, life expectancy, and CO2 emissions over the period, particularly in the 20th century.

Correlation is not causation; however, the use of fossil fuels has contributed enormously to the wealth and well-being of the developed world. Those who seek to limit the use of fossil fuels based on speculative climate models need to address which of the other variables they wish to limit – population, life expectancy, wealth? Perhaps such graphs explain why so many in developing countries are objecting to CO2 limits being imposed by developed, Western nations. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

G20 Subsidies: The Group of Twenty (G20) is meeting in Istanbul, Turkey, on November 15, and 16. According to the web site, the G20 “is the premier forum for its members’ international economic cooperation and decision-making. Its membership comprises 19 countries plus the European Union. Each G20 president invites several guest countries each year.”

“The G20 started in 1999 as a meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in the aftermath of the Asian financial crisis. In 2008, the first G20 Leaders’ Summit was held, and the group played a key role in responding to the global financial crisis. Its decisive and coordinated actions boosted consumer and business confidence and supported the first stages of economic recovery. G20 leaders have met nine times since 2008... The G20 introduced **trillions of dollars in fiscal stimulus packages worldwide**...Over the past six years, the G20 has framed the world’s efforts to restore growth and build the resilience of financial institutions and national economies. It led the world out of an economic crisis

and through the initial stages of the recovery. With the world now free from immediate economic crisis, the G20 can increasingly shift its attention to driving practical actions that will lead to sustained global growth.” [Boldface added.]

“The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union... In 2015 Turkey welcomes Spain as a permanent invitee; Malaysia as the 2015 Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Zimbabwe, as 2015 Chair of the African Union; Senegal representing New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD); Azerbaijan; and Singapore.”

No doubt, with that amount of money, the G20 becomes a target for those groups that desire financial subsidies. Just in time, a group in the UK, called the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), produced a study claiming enormous subsidies by the G20 to oil, gas, and coal production.

We have seen imaginative accounting by groups demanding subsidies, such as wind power groups in the US. For example, one such group claimed that world-wide subsidies to fossil fuels show that wind power should be subsidized in the US. If gasoline costs 5 cents a gallon in Venezuela or 50 cents a gallon in Saudi Arabia, there is no logical reason why the US tax payer should subsidize wind power in the US. But the claim is made none-the-less. The choice of one country to subsidize a certain group of consumers should not obligate other countries to subsidize other groups.

In its report, ODI took such imaginative accounting to new levels. It included the production costs incurred by government-owned companies into the general accounting, termed as subsidies. If it costs a state-owned oil company \$100 million to explore and develop an oil field, then this is classified as a subsidy to fossil fuels. Perhaps, next we will see any profits from such a venture classified as return on subsidy rather than return on investment. In an era when governments term real subsidies as investments, this is not surprising. See links under Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up and <https://g20.org/about-g20/>

MIT and Climate Action: The President of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has issued a plan for action on global warming/climate change. The Executive Summary repeats the 2°C chant: “Overwhelming evidence shows that the Earth is warmer than it was in the pre-industrial age and that most present-day climate change is associated with human activity—the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG). Primary energy use worldwide is projected to increase 60% by 2050. This will drive further warming, which could lead to unplanned migrations, competition for food and water, and societal conflict. A warming of about 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels marks a threshold after which the resulting damage to societies and natural systems becomes increasingly grave. Protecting against this risk is known as “the 2°C challenge.” To avoid the 2°C threshold in the long term, human-driven emissions must decrease greatly by 2050 and must eventually reach zero. The world needs an aggressive but pragmatic transition plan to achieve a zero-carbon global energy system.”

But in the plan there is a ray of hope:

“We believe that divestment—a dramatic public disengagement—is incompatible with the strategy of engagement with industry to solve problems that is at the heart of today’s plan. Combating climate change will require intense collaboration across the research community, industry and government. Divestment would interfere with our ability to collaborate and to convene opposing groups to drive progress, at what may be a historic tipping point. For readers interested solely in our decision on divestment, you will find a fuller explanation in Section IV, on page 15.”

The plan cites the famed 1979 report by Jules Charney on the possible increase in temperatures from a doubling of CO₂, but fails to note that after over 35 years of study and billions of dollars spent on climate science, the estimate has not changed significantly. See links under Expanding the Orthodoxy.

Divestment: A movement demanding institutions to eliminate investments in fossil fuels is a fad among colleges and universities. It appears to be well-financed. The group called the National Association of Scholars published a report questioning the purpose of this entire movement and its effects. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Questioning Assumptions: Last week, TWTW featured a report by the Right Climate Stuff research team which included an upper-bound analysis. The analysis indicated that even if nothing is done to limit fossil fuel use, little significant warming will occur during the next 50 years. This is based on the assumption that a doubling of CO2 will result in a warming of 1.2°C, with no feedbacks. Members of SEPP have reviewed a paper by Kyoji Kimoto of Japan, which questions the basic 1.2°C with no feedbacks. According to the paper, slight changes in what is called the “fixed lapse rate”, may undermine the 1.2°C increase with a doubling of CO2 and the entire climate sensitivity issue as presented by the IPCC and its followers.

Unfortunately, the paper is in need of judicious editing and is difficult to follow. We mention it in TWTW because the long-established assumption is more of a hypothesis in need of rigorous testing than a fact that has been well-established. See links under Challenging the Orthodoxy.

Number of the Week: II, 2, 2 – From the Constitution of the United States: Article II, Section 2, paragraph 2. (Executive) “He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur;...” [note – this is more specific than “by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate which applies with appointment of ambassadors, ministers and consuls, judges of the supreme court, etc.

Some of those involved in COP-21 are suggesting that any agreement reached will be binding onto the United States without consent of two-thirds of the Senate. If this becomes the game the Administration plays, perhaps long-term employment of lawyers specialized in Constitutional Law may be the Administration’s lasting legacy.

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<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2015/TWTW%2011-14-15.pdf>

B. INSIDE THE CLIMATE COMPUTER MODELS

Guest essay by Mike Jonas

In this article, I take a look inside the workings of the climate computer models (“the models”), and explain how they are structured and how useful they are for prediction of future climate. This article follows on from a previous article (here) which looked at the models from the outside....

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/08/inside-the-climate-computer-models/>

C. IS CLIMATE SCIENCE SETTLED? (NOW INCLUDES SEPTEMBER DATA)

Guest Post by Werner Brozek, Professor Robert Brown from Duke University and Just The Facts Image Credit: Josh In order for climate science to be settled, there are many requirements. I will list four for now, although I am sure you can think of many more. Then I will expand on those. 1. We must...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/06/is-climate-science-settled-now-includes-september-data/>

D. PLOTTING TO DEGRADE DEMOCRATIC CHOICE ON CARBON PRICING?

Guest essay by Eric Worrall

It didn't take long for Australia's new Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to tear up his promise to keep Abbott's climate policies. Now Turnbull appears to have taken the next step. Australians voted overwhelmingly against carbon pricing in the last Federal Election, but for some strange reason carbon pricing now seems...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/07/are-aussie-politicians-plot-to-degrade-democratic-choice-on-carbon-pricing/>

E. BACK TO BASICS PART 1 – WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale This is the first part of a two-part series of posts that present chapters from my recently published ebook On Global Warming and the Illusion of Control – Part 1. The introductory post for the book is here (WattsUpWithThat cross post is here), and the book in pdf format is...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/09/back-to-basics-part-1-what-is-global-warming/>

F. EPA EXPANDS ON-ROAD EMISSIONS TESTING TO ALL DIESEL MODELS

By Danny Hakim and Jad Mouawad, NEW YORK TIMES

November 8, 2015

Concerned that cheating on vehicle emissions could be prevalent across the automobile industry, regulators in the United States and Canada are significantly expanding their on-the-road emissions tests to cover all makes and models of diesel cars.

The tests, which come in the wake of Volkswagen's admission that it installed software on more than 11 million cars to evade emissions standards, are being conducted randomly and in real-world conditions, rather than in traditional laboratory settings, to increase the odds of catching cheaters.

"We are very anxious to find out if there are any other programs out there," said Christopher Grundler, director of the office of transportation and air quality at the Environmental Protection Agency.

10,000 vehicles

The first tests on brands manufactured by Volkswagen, completed last week, found the cheating software on about 10,000 VW, Audi and Porsche models not previously disclosed by the German manufacturer. Volkswagen disputes the EPA's claim, saying the software was not intended to thwart emissions testing.

More Information

Whistleblower pushed Volkswagen to admit broader cheating

FRANKFURT, Germany - Volkswagen's recent disclosure that it reported false fuel economy and carbon dioxide readings to European regulators was prompted by an internal whistleblower, the company said Sunday.

Volkswagen's admission that it had underreported carbon dioxide emissions on 800,000 diesel- and gasoline-powered cars in Europe. That disclosure added to the automaker's credibility problems, which began in September when it admitted that it had installed software on millions of its diesel cars in recent years to enable them to cheat on air-pollution tests.

In trying to determine who was responsible for the diesel cheating scandal, Volkswagen's investigators have reportedly been hampered by an ingrained fear of delivering bad news to superiors. But in the case of the new disclosure, some employees have evidently been willing to come forward under the company's new management.

Volkswagen on Sunday broadly confirmed a report in Bild am Sonntag, a German newspaper, that an engineer at the company had volunteered information about how employees had manipulated tests for

carbon dioxide emissions and fuel economy. Tires, for example, were filled with more air than normal, the newspaper reported.

The diesel cheating scandal involves the company's manipulation of pollution control systems on 11 million cars that enabled them to pass emissions control tests in laboratory settings but allowed the cars on the road to emit up to 40 times the allowable limits of nitrogen oxides, a pollutant that can damage lungs.

The more recently disclosed problem involves understating the amount of carbon dioxide in cars sold in Europe. Although U.S. regulators do not measure cars' carbon dioxide emissions, European officials do.

New York Times

Since then, no other automobile company has been found to have installed so-called defeat software, although it will take several weeks for all makes and models to be tested.

Grundler declined to describe the tests, except to say they will focus on 2015 and 2016 model year diesel cars. They will also be performed on all new cars that manufacturers seek to certify, he said.

The move by the EPA is a significant expansion of its testing regimen, which previously did road testing for pollutants mainly on large trucks. It also makes road-test spot checks of older cars to ensure that their pollution-control mechanisms are still effective. Tests are also being performed alongside regulators in Canada and California.

But Volkswagen's scandal has highlighted deficiencies in the existing lab tests both in North America and in Europe.

"Regulators must think more like the cheaters," said Luke Tonachel, an auto-emissions specialist at the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"EPA is starting to use new tests that can't be readily gamed by manufacturers."

Europe has been planning its own real-world testing for several years, although those tests will not start until 2017.

The new and more unpredictable testing represents a sea change from the traditional, highly controlled lab setting where vehicles are put on a treadmill, wired up with sensors and run through a standardized and familiar routine.

"Manufacturers have asked us what the test conditions would be, and we've told them that they don't have a need to know," Grundler said. "It will be random."

Future of diesels dim

The road-testing regimen could dim the future for diesels, which have higher pollution emissions, making electric and hybrid vehicles more attractive in terms of their environmental impact.

U.S. regulators believe that road testing is relatively crude and cannot match the precision of lab results at detecting nitrogen oxide and other fine particles and pollutants.

Rather, the aim of their road tests is to help validate lab findings by catching cars whose road performance reveals higher emission readings.

The European plan, under development since 2011, still faces what could be a contentious fight in the European Parliament, amid criticism that policymakers have watered down earlier proposals.

Automakers say they need to be allowed to exceed Europe's existing nitrogen oxide standards significantly in the new road tests, which are performed under less predictable conditions than lab tests.

Environmental groups disagree and were angered last week after a review panel appeared to side with automakers.

G. CRIMINAL BELIEFS? NY'S PROBE OF EXXON TARGETS BIG OIL OVER GLOBAL WARMING STANCE

By [Maxim Lott](#), Published November 09, 2015

A government probe of ExxonMobil, which authorities say is aimed at finding out if the energy giant misled the public about the threat of global warming, is really an attempt to scare companies into silence, according to critics.

The investigation by New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman was [reported last week](#), with sources telling the New York Post his office has subpoenaed internal company documents. Supporters who believe global warming threatens mankind applauded the move and predicted that company memos will show ExxonMobil knew the threat their product posed to the planet, yet hid the facts from their shareholders.

"It seems likely that the subpoena will unearth documents that will shed additional light on the disparity between what ExxonMobil and other companies knew about climate change, versus what they told the public and their shareholders," Ken Kimmell, president of the Union of Concerned Scientists, told FoxNews.com. He added that he hopes it will also push the federal government and other states to launch their own investigations.

"The investigation is insane."

- Alex Epstein of the Center for Industrial Progress

Schneiderman, who has not confirmed the probe, is reportedly using powers under the state Martin Act, which gives him broad discretion to investigate firms doing business in New York. Exxon confirmed the investigation, but denied any wrongdoing.

"We have received a subpoena for production of documents relating to climate change from the Attorney General of New York and are assessing our response," said company spokesman Scott Silvestri. Alan Robock, a meteorologist who signed a petition by 20 scientists in September calling for a federal investigation, explained his reasoning to FoxNews.com.

"Exxon, which funded climate change research decades ago and understood the science, chose instead to fund a disinformation campaign to confuse the public... so as to continue to sell their products and make money," Robock said, pointing to [apparently-leaked Exxon documents](#) which show that, at times, Exxon employed scientists who did worry about man-made warming, but that later on some of their scientists said the models had too much uncertainty to be relied on.

Known for taking on banks with heavy-handed tactics that earned him the title "the man the banks fear most," Schneiderman seems to be taking a page from the 1990's litigation against Big Tobacco. In those cases, attorneys general from more than 40 states banded together to sue cigarette makers, saying their product caused health problems that cost taxpayers billions, and that internal memos showed the companies knew of the addictive nature of smoking.

Schneiderman is known for using tough tactics against Wall Street.

Critics of Schneiderman's probe say the litigation model could be similar, but the threat to the public is vastly different.

"The investigation is insane," Alex Epstein, of the Center for Industrial Progress, told FoxNews.com. "The idea that we have a country such as the United States of America, and people are condemning companies for funding alternative ideas about climate change -- is exactly backward."

Epstein added that Exxon's real fault lay in the fact that it had scientists who once believed global warming would be a big problem, when in fact almost all climate models [have overestimated](#) the amount of warming as temperatures have hardly increased over the past 17 years.

The energy giant is suspected of hiding memos that show it knew the dangers of global warming. (AP)

"In fact, what existed was there was speculation about catastrophic global warming, and certain people at Exxon were aware of this theory -- which turned out to be bogus," Epstein said. "Nobody has any reason to feel guilty, least of all the people pressing open research and trying to discover the truth."

Although dire predictions of global warming made a decade or more ago have not come to pass, and some computer models show any increase in world temperatures is negligible or even "paused," scientists such as Robock say the threat of carbon dioxide emissions is as grave as ever.

"[In recent years, it] has been partially countered by a series of small volcanic eruptions, a small reduction in sunlight, and an enhanced uptake of energy by the ocean," he said, adding that the long-term threat remains.

While scientists may continue to disagree, ExxonMobil officials said the company has never hidden research from shareholders or the public.

"We unequivocally reject allegations that ExxonMobil suppressed climate change research," Exxon spokesman Richard Keil said in a statement emailed to FoxNews.com, also noting that Exxon has a 40-year track record of doing climate research with government agencies and has disclosed climate change risks to shareholders.

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2015/11/09/criminal-beliefs-nys-probe-exxon-targets-big-oil-over-global-warming-stance.html?intcmp=hplnws>

H. WARS OVER EPA RENEWABLE FUEL STANDARD HEAT UP

By [George Russell](#), Published November 09, 2015, [FoxNews.com](#)

The battle over the Environmental Protection Agency's contentious Renewable Fuel Standard is about to get incandescent.

After more than a year of uncertainty, the EPA is preparing to finalize new targets -- they are supposed to be revealed annually -- for the controversial standard, or RFS, by the end of this month. EPA is so far behind, in fact, that some of the quotas it is about to deliver are for 2014 and 2015 -- years that are long gone and nearly so.

Adding further to the strange situation, the quotas for future years, especially for rare so-called cellulosic bio-fuels made from specialty grass, or crop refuse, are likely to continue to be, as the agency puts it, sharply "higher than what the market would produce and use in the absence of such market-driving standards."

Even so, those amounts are going to be lower than current law otherwise mandates, meaning that, as it has in the past, EPA will set standards that no one can meet, then waive them in favor of targets that EPA only guesses can be met, and "that would not be expected to occur in the absence of those volume requirements."

The quotas for corn-based bio-fuel, however, could well remain flat, or even slightly less: a proposed version of the new standards, which could still vary in the final version, set the amount for 2015 at 14 billion gallons.

As EPA ruminates, a growing chorus of business and environmental critics, as well as neutral scientists, are charging that the decade-old bio-fuel quota system, still mostly centered on corn-based ethanol, is distorting food markets, polluting national waters, and throwing off more greenhouse gases than the gasoline they currently replace. The new targets, they argue, will only make things worse.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/11/09/wars-over-epa-renewable-fuel-standard-heat-up/?intcmp=hplnws>

I. SEA ICE UPDATE

Thought it would be interesting to look at the *current* total and Arctic sea ice.

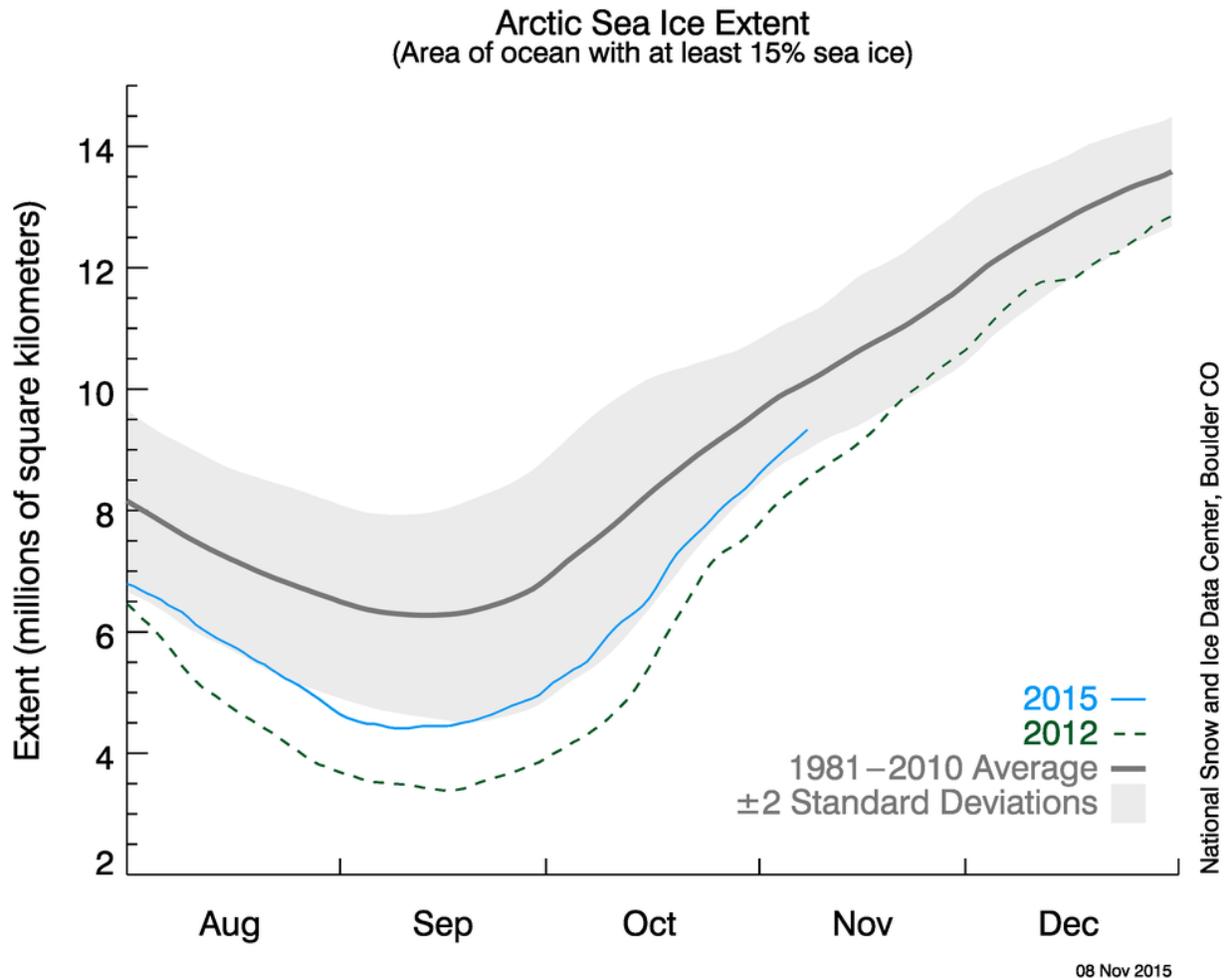
Note that the Alarmist CAGW claims of an open Arctic by now have not materialized and that the Arctic sea ice extent is within 2% of the 1981 to 2010 average.

Also the total sea ice including Arctic and Antarctic is currently on the average line for the period between 1979 to 2014.

Put this in context with the latest NOAA study that shows the ice mass on Antarctica land is also accumulating, not declining debunking previous claims.

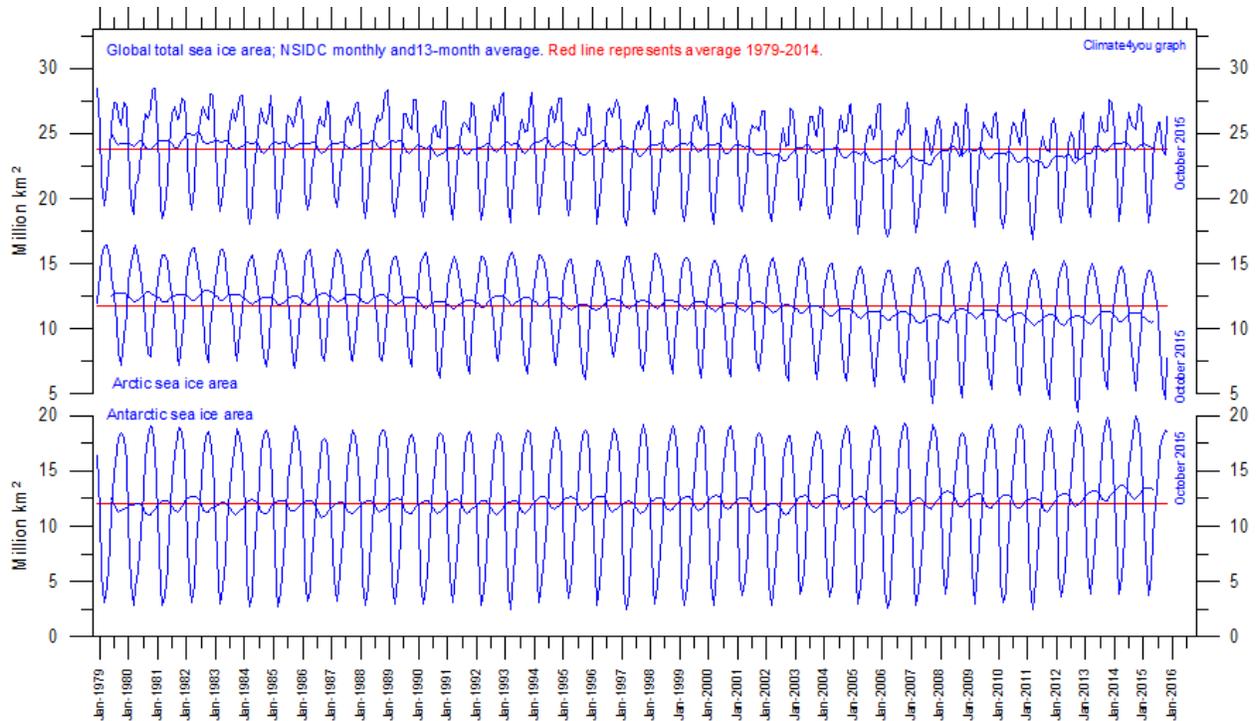
Do you see anything alarming?

Don Shaw



Josh writes: With COP21 coming up there is an alternative conference being organized. The Paris Climate Challenge In 2009 we laid down the Copenhagen Climate Challenge, when we asked UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to answer 10 questions about climate. We're back to ask the same and more questions, and challenge the climate 'consensus' in Paris at COP 21 with alternative climate...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/04/alternative-paris/>

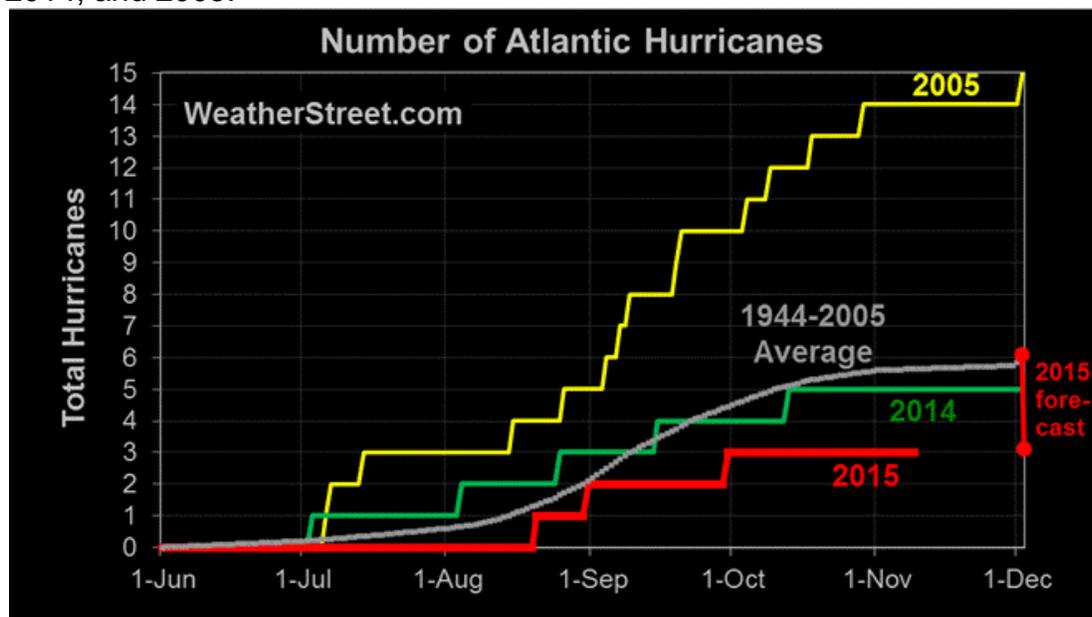


J. ATLANTIC HURRICANES DOWN 80% FROM 10 YEARS AGO

November 9th, 2015

As the 2015 Atlantic hurricane season nears its end, and as we enter the 11th year without a major hurricane (Cat3+) strike in the U.S., let's look at how 2015 has shaped up.

Here are the cumulative number of North Atlantic hurricanes by calendar date for 2015, 2014, and 2005:



Those who are old enough to remember might recall that after the devastating 2005 season (remember Katrina?), this was going to be the “new normal” for Atlantic hurricane activity due to global warming. There were 15 hurricanes that year. The next year (2006) the bottom dropped out. The National Hurricane Center expected system after system to strengthen, and it almost never happened.

To update an old saying, “global warming is what you expect; weather is what you get.” This year we have had only three hurricanes so far. Tropical Storm Kate just formed this morning near the Bahamas, but it is not expected to reach hurricane strength and should remain offshore of the U.S. mainland.

Has there been any long term trend in Atlantic tropical cyclone activity? If so, it has been slightly downward. Here is Ryan Maue’s plot of the “Power Dissipation Index” since 1950, akin to his tropical “[Accumulated Cyclone Energy](#)” (ACE) index for the Atlantic, which monitors the total 3-D wind energy contained in tropical cyclones. It shows that the current lull in activity matches the lull back in the late 1970s and early 1980s:

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

K. NYT INDICATES MORE INVESTIGATION/PROSECUTION OF OIL COMPANIES.

Note some of the claims date back to 3-4 decades ago when the MSM was talking about global cooling. <http://www.populartechnology.net/2013/02/the-1970s-global-cooling-alarmism.html>

Please note that the mandatory picture of the former Exxon refinery at Bayway showing steam billowing out two stacks from a scrubber system in a deceptive effort to mislead the reader that it is pollution rather than a clean up device. This speaks clearly about the accuracy of the entire article from the NY Times

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/07/science/more-oil-companies-could-join-exxon-mobil-as-focus-of-climate-investigations.html?WT.mc_id=SmartBriefs-Newsletter&WT.mc_ev=click&r=0

"HOUSTON — The opening of [an investigation of Exxon Mobil](#) by the New York attorney general’s office into the company’s record on [climate change](#) may well spur legal inquiries into other [oil](#) companies, according to legal and climate experts, although successful prosecutions are far from assured."

"Many [oil](#) companies have funded lobbying efforts and research on [climate change](#), so prosecutors would most likely be able to search through vast amounts of material. The industry has also resisted pressure for years from environmental groups to warn investors of the risks that stricter limits on carbon emissions could have on their businesses, although that appears to be changing."

"[Exxon Mobil](#) is not alone," said Stephen Zamora, a professor at the University of Houston Law Center. "This is not likely to be an isolated matter."

[Continue reading the main story](#)

"Energy experts said prosecutors may decide to investigate companies that chose to fund or join organizations that questioned climate science or policies designed to address the problem, such as the Global Climate Coalition and the American Legislative Exchange Council, to see if discrepancies exist between the companies’ public and private statements"

Don Shaw

L. BOLIVIA CLIMATE PROPOSAL: ABOLISH CAPITALISM, GIVE US YOUR \$\$\$

It does fit in with the UN Agenda for climate change.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/09/bolivia-climate-proposal-we-want-to-abolish-capitalism-so-give-us-all-your-stuff/>

Bolivia, a country whose [basket case centrally planned economy](#) should be an example to us all, has boldly proposed that we solve the Climate crisis by giving them all our stuff.

According to Bolivia;

The structural cause that has triggered the climate crisis is the failed capitalist system. The capitalist system promotes consumerism, warmongering and commercialism, causing the destruction of Mother Earth and humanity. The capitalist system is a system of death. Hence, capitalism is leading humanity towards a horizon of destruction that sentences nature and life itself to death. In this regard, for a lasting solution to the climate crisis we must destroy capitalism.

The capitalist system seeks profit without limits, strengthens the divorce between human beings and nature; establishing a logic of domination of men against nature and among human beings, transforming water, earth, the environment, the human genome, ancestral cultures, biodiversity, justice and ethics into goods. In this regard, the economic system of capitalism privatizes the common good, commodifies life, exploits human beings, plunders natural resources and destroys the material and spiritual wealth of the people.

...

As a result of implementing the Bolivian index proposal, non- Annex I countries [e.g. Bolivia] would have a total of 89% of the [future emissions] budget and Annex I countries [like America] only 11%. Also, to perform monitoring and sanction non-compliance with international commitments involves establishing an International Climate Justice Tribunal.

...

Extreme poverty in Bolivia reached 17.3% of the population in 2015, and this will be eradicated by 2025. However, this is not possible if there are no actions to fully develop the national economy and reduce the impacts of change climate. Thus, Bolivia has prioritized a linkage of mitigation and adaptation actions in complementarities with the holistic development in the areas of water, energy, forests and agriculture as part of its 2025 Patriotic Agenda, and national development plans.

...

Structural solutions to the climate crisis

1. Adoption of a new model of civilization in the world without consumerism, war-mongering, and mercantilism, a world without capitalism; build and consolidate a world order of Living Well that defends and promotes the integral rights of our peoples, undertaking the path of harmony with nature and respect for life.
2. Construction of a climate system based on responsibility to Mother Earth, the culture of life and the full realization of humanity in their holistic development, humanizing the economy, surpassing the simplistic approach to decarbonization of the economy.
3. Protection of the Rights of Mother Earth in an articulated and complementary manner to the rights of peoples to their development.
4. Defense of universal common goods such as the seas and oceans, water, atmospheric space, as well as the technological monopoly, promoting people's access to the common heritage.
5. **Elimination of patents on technologies and recognition of the human right to science and technology of life.**
6. Effective implementation by governments of the human right to water.
7. Establishment of the International Court of Justice Climate and Mother Earth to enable countries to fulfill their international commitments to climate change in a context of respect for the rights of peoples and of Mother Earth.

8. Allocate the resources of the military machinery of the imperial powers and the war-mongers to finance the activities of the peoples against climate change.

9. Eradication of commodification of nature and carbon markets promoting business climate millionaires, which do not solve the problem of the climate crisis.

10. Decolonize natural resources environmental colonial biased views that see the peoples of the South as forest rangers of Northern countries and communities as enemies of nature.

...

[Read more: http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Bolivia/1/INDC-Bolivia-english.pdf](http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Bolivia/1/INDC-Bolivia-english.pdf)

Bolivia has a [vast abundance of valuable natural resources](#) – their poverty is a political failure, not a lack of opportunity.

Perhaps if the Bolivian government were to prioritize straightforward economic development and consumerism, and enthusiastically embrace profit making, rather than whining about all the stuff other people own, and talking up their national love of nature, they might actually help the 17.3% of their people who are currently suffering extreme poverty, instead of having to keep stringing them along with implausible national poverty eradication plans plans.

Don Shaw

M. 350.ORG’S FOSSIL FUEL “DIVESTMENT” EXPOSED AS POINTLESS POLITICAL PUPPETRY BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS

From the National Association of Scholars When Colleges Divest, Who Wins? NEW YORK, November 10, 2015 | The National Association of Scholars (NAS) released today the first comprehensive account of the campaign to get colleges to sell off their investments in coal, oil, and natural gas companies. Inside Divestment: The Illiberal Movement to Turn a...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/10/350-orgs-fossil-fuel-divestment-exposed-as-pointless-political-puppetry-by-national-association-of-scholars/>

N. LOMBORG: PARIS CLIMATE PACT WILL REDUCE TEMPERATURE INCREASE BY THE END OF THE CENTURY BY A WHOPPING 0.05°C

Current climate policy promises will do little to stabilize the climate and their impact will be undetectable for many decades. Paris COP21 commitments will reduce temperatures by just 0.05°C in 2100 Bjorn Lomborg wrote to tell me yesterday about a new paper he has published in the Global Policy journal, titled: Impact of Current Climate Proposals. It...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/10/lomborg-paris-climate-pact-will-reduce-temperature-increase-by-the-end-of-the-century-by-a-whopping-0-05c/>

O. ANALYSIS OF ACTUAL U.S. DATA DISAGREES WITH ANTHONY WATTS’ PRIMARY CONCLUSION.

My guest blogger today is one of the best meteorologists around, Dr. Jeff Masters, former Hurricane Hunter and now Director of Meteorology for the Weather Underground. There’s so much damn stuff to blog on, I didn’t get around to the [amazing new study](#) that, as DotEarth’s Andy Revkin put it, “[throws cold water on the allegation that bad weather stations have amplified America’s warming trend](#)” —

allegations made by former TV weatherman Anthony Watts who runs the [anti-science website WattsUpWithThat](#).

We knew that the “good or best” weather stations provide data that matches the overall U.S. temperature record (see [Must-read NOAA paper — Q: “Is there any question that surface temperatures in the United States have been rising rapidly during the last 50 years?” A: “None at all.”](#)). But as Revkin explains, “In essence, the paper, [On the Reliability of the U.S. Surface Temperature Record](#) (pdf), concludes that the instrument issues, as long acknowledged, are real, but the poor stations tend to have a slight cool bias, not a warm one.” Like Revkin, I first saw this on [Masters’ Wunderblog](#), and he gave me permission to excerpt it at length here.

Former TV weatherman Anthony Watts, who runs the popular global warming contrarian website, [“Watts Up With That”](#), was convinced that many of the U.S. network of surface weather stations had serious flaws in their siting that was causing an artificial warm bias in the observed increase in U.S. temperatures of 1.1°F over the past century. To address this concern, Watts established the website [surfacestations.org](#) in 2007, which enlisted an army of volunteers to travel the U.S. to obtain photographic evidence of poor siting of weather stations. The goal was to document cases where “microclimate” influence was important, and could be contaminating temperature measurements. (Note that this is a separate issue from the [Urban Heat Island](#), the phenomenon where a metropolitan area in general is warmer than surrounding). Watts’ volunteers—650 strong—documented the siting of 865 of the 1,218 stations used in the National Climatic Data Center’s U.S. Historical Climatology Network (USHCN) for tracking climate change. As reported in Watt’s [2009 publication put out by the Heartland Institute](#), the volunteers “found stations located next to the exhaust fans of air conditioning units, surrounded by asphalt parking lots and roads, on blistering-hot rooftops, and near sidewalks and buildings that absorb and radiate heat.” Watts surmised that these poorly-sited stations were responsible for much of the increase in U.S. temperatures over the past century, due to “a bias trend that likely results from the thermometers being closer to buildings, asphalt, etc.” Watts concluded, “the U.S. temperature record is unreliable. And since the U.S. record is thought to be the best in the world, it follows that the global database is likely similarly compromised and unreliable”.

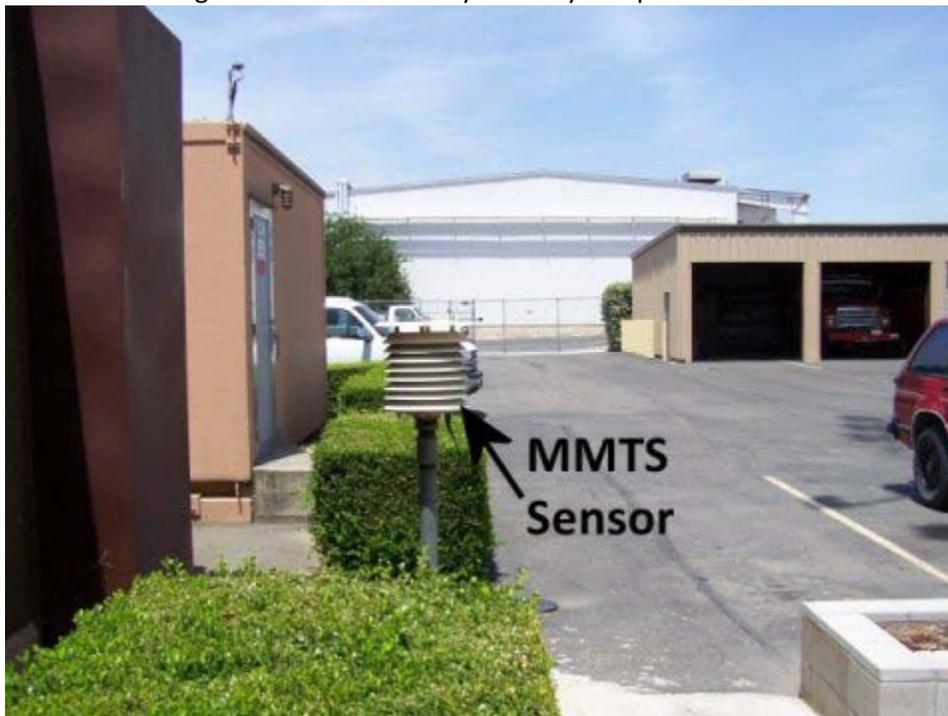


FIGURE 1. A poorly sited temperature sensor in Marysville, California, used for the USHCN. The sensor is situation right next to an asphalt parking lot, instead in the middle of a grassy field, as it is supposed to be. The sensor is also adjacent to several several air conditioners that blow their exhaust into the air nearby. Image credit: surfacestation.org.

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA DISAGREES WITH WATTS' CONCLUSION

While Watts' publication by the Heartland Institute is a valuable source of information on siting problems of the U.S. network of weather stations, the publication did not undergo peer-review—the process whereby three anonymous scientists who are experts in the field review a manuscript submitted for publication, and offer criticisms on the scientific validity of the results, resulting in revisions to the original paper or outright rejection. The Heartland Institute is an advocacy organization that accepts money from corporate benefactors such as the tobacco industry and fossil fuel industry, and publishes non-peer reviewed science that inevitably supports the interests of the groups paying for the studies. Watts did not actually analyze the data to see if taking out the poorly sited surface stations would have a significant impact on the observed 1.1°F increase in U.S. temperatures over the past century. His study would never have been publishable in a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

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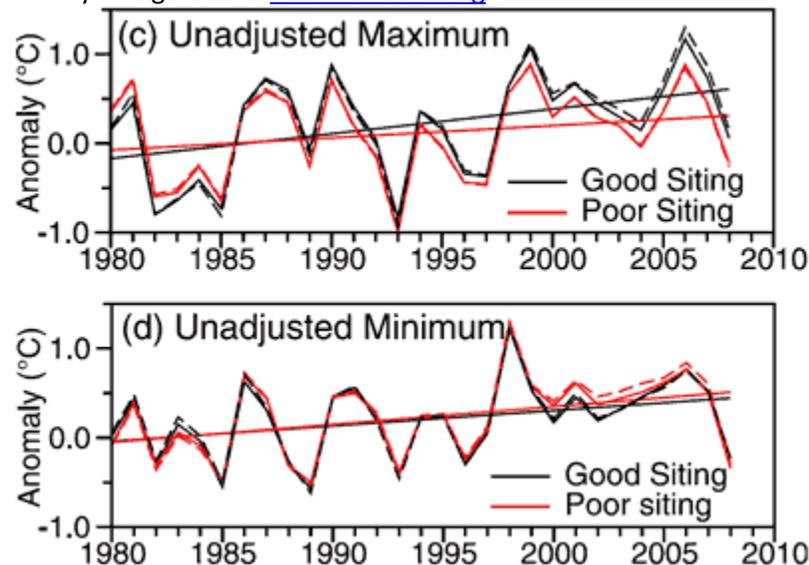


FIGURE 2. Annual average maximum and minimum unadjusted temperature change calculated using (c) maximum and (d) minimum temperatures from good and poor exposure sites (Menne 2010). Poor sites showed a cooler maximum temperature compared to good sites. For minimum temperature, the poor sites were slightly warmer. The net effect was a cool bias in poorly sited stations. The dashed lines are for stations ranked by NOAA, while the solid lines are for the stations ranked by surfacestation.org. Fortunately, a proper analysis of the impact of these poorly-sited surface stations on the U.S. historical temperature record has now been done by Dr. Matthew Menne and co-authors at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). In a talk at last week's 90th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society, Dr. Menne reported the results of their new paper just accepted for publication

in the Journal of Geophysical Research titled, [On the reliability of the U.S. Surface Temperature Record](#). Dr. Menne's study split the U.S. surface stations into two categories: good (rating 1 or 2) and bad (ratings 3, 4 or 5). They performed the analysis using both the rating provided by surfacestations.org, and from an independent rating provided by NOAA personnel. In general, the NOAA-provided ratings coincided with the ratings given by surfacestations.org. Of the NOAA-rated stations, only 71 stations fell into the "good" siting category, while 454 fell into the "bad" category. According to the authors, though, "the sites with good exposure, though small in number, are reasonably well distributed across the country and, as shown by Vose and Menne [2004], are of sufficient density to obtain a robust estimate of the CONUS average". Dr. Menne's study computed the average daily minimum and maximum temperatures from the good sites and poor sites. The results were surprising. While the poor sites had a slightly warmer average minimum temperature than the good sites (by 0.03°C), the average maximum temperature measured at the poor sites was significantly **cooler** (by 0.14°C) than the good sites. As a result, overall average temperatures measured at the poor sites were **cooler** than the good sites. This is the opposite of the conclusion reached by Anthony Watts in his 2009 Heartland Institute publication.

Why did the poorly sited stations measure cooler temperatures?

The reason why the poorly-sited stations measured cooler temperatures lies in the predominant types of thermometers used at the two types of sites. An electronic Maximum/Minimum Temperature System (MMTS) is used at 75% of the poor sites. These MMTS sensors are attached by cable to an indoor readout device, and are consequently limited by cable length as to how far they can be sited from the building housing the indoor readout device. As a result, they are often located close to heated buildings, paved surfaces, air conditioner exhausts, etc. It turns out that these MMTS thermometers have a flaw that causes them to measure minimum temperatures that are slightly too warm, and maximum temperatures that are considerably too cool, leading to an overall cool bias in measured average temperatures. In contrast, only 30% of the "good" sites used the MMTS sensors. The "good" sites predominantly used Liquid in Glass (LiG) thermometers housed in wooden shelters that were more easily located further from the buildings where the observers worked. Since the poorly-sited stations were dominantly equipped with MMTS thermometers, they tended to measure temperatures that were too cool, despite their poor siting.

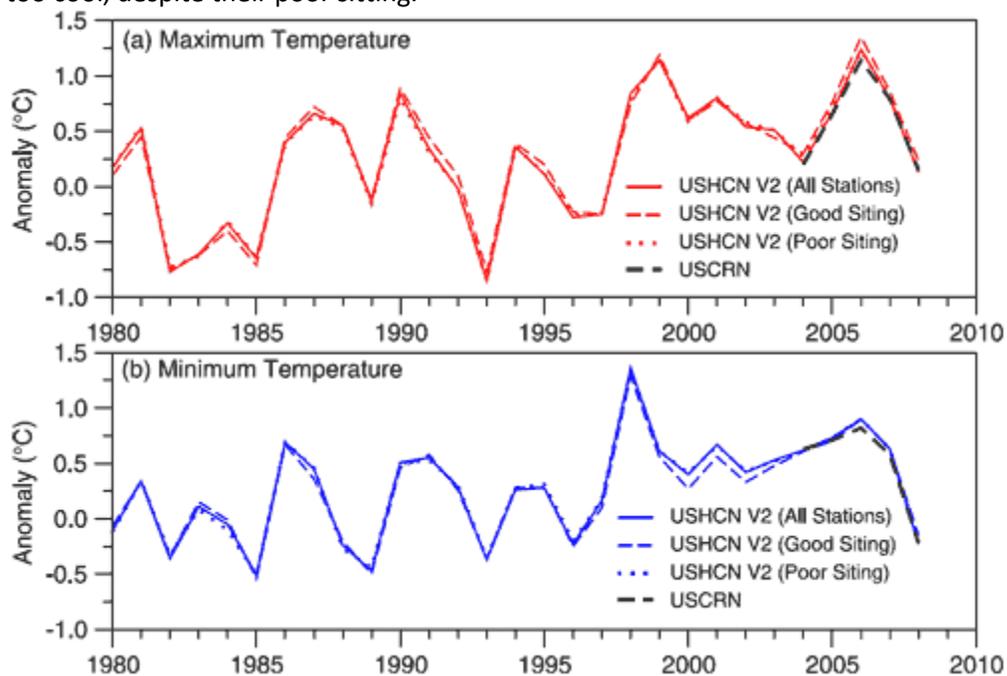


FIGURE 3. Comparison of U.S. average annual (a) maximum and (b) minimum temperatures calculated using USHCN version 2 temperatures. Temperatures were adjusted to correct for changes in instrumentation, station relocations, and changes in the time of observation, making the trend from good sites show close agreement with poor sites. Good and poor site ratings are based on surfacestations.org. For comparison, the data between 2004 – 2008 taken by the new high-quality U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN, black dashed line) is shown, and displays excellent agreement for that time period. Image credit: [Menne 2010](#).

INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION OF RECENT USHCN ANNUAL TEMPERATURES

Clearly, the siting of many of the surface stations used to track climate change in the U.S. is not good. To address this issue, in 2004 NOAA created the [U.S. Climate Reference Network](#), a collection of 114 stations in the continental United States for the express purpose of detecting the national signal of climate change. The stations were sited and instrumented with climate studies in mind, and can provide an extremely high-quality independent check on the old USHCN network. Each of 114 stations at 107 locations (some stations were installed as nearby pairs) is equipped with very accurate instruments in a triplicate configuration so that each measurement can be checked for internal consistency. As shown in Figure 3, the USCRN air temperature departures for 2004 – 2008 are extremely well aligned with those derived from the USHCN version 2 temperature data. For these five years, the difference between the mean annual temperatures measured by the old USHCN compared to the new USCRN was just 0.03°C, with a mathematical correlation coefficient (r-squared) of 0.997. Menne *et al.* concluded, “This finding provides independent verification that the USHCN version 2 data are consistent with research-quality measurements taken at pristine locations and do not contain spurious trends during the recent past even if sampled exclusively at poorly sited stations. While admittedly this period of coincident observations between the networks is rather brief, the value of the USCRN as a benchmark for reducing the uncertainty of historic observations from the USHCN and other networks will only increase with time”. The authors finally concluded, “we find no evidence that the CONUS temperature trends are inflated due to poor siting”.

Crediting Anthony Watts

The surfacestations.org effort coordinated by Anthony Watts has made a valuable contribution to science, helping us better understand the nature of the errors in the U.S. historical temperature data set. In his talk last week at the AMS conference, and in the credits of his paper, Dr. Menne had some genuinely grateful comments on the efforts of Anthony Watts and the volunteers of surfacestations.org. However, as of this writing, Watts has made no mention on surfacestations.org or on wattsupwiththat.com of Dr. Menne’s study.

P. PROPOSED PARIS AGREEMENT IMPACT IS LESS THAN 0.05 C

For this very small benefit, many want to destroy the economy and change your lifestyle (not for the better)

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/17/lomborg-pushes-back-against-joe-romms-over-the-top-screed-about-the-true-vale-of-cop21/>

Lomborg pushes back against Joe Romm’s over the top screed about the lack of impact of #COP21

[Guest Blogger](#) / [5 hours ago](#)

Guest essay by Bjørn Lomborg

"My research paper, “[Impact of Current Climate Proposals](#)” published in *Global Policy* (and discussed [on WUWT](#)), is the first peer-reviewed analysis of the impact of 2016-2030 global and national commitments made ahead of this December’s Paris climate summit.

Using the peer-reviewed climate model [MAGICC](#), I estimate the marginal impact of carbon reduction promises called INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) from the EU, USA, China and the rest of the world, along with the likely global policy output. My major finding is that the total effect is very small: less than 0.05°C difference by the end of the century.

Summary:

- **Romm ignores similar MIT finding;**
- **Relies on Climate Interactive research with made-up reductions that depend almost entirely on a highly exaggerated baseline unsupported by mainstream analysis;**
- **Attacks Lomborg paper for disregarding Chinese ‘peaking’ promise while relying on research that doesn’t include it either;**
- **Climate Interactive results for China depend on an exaggerated baseline – remove this assumption and the results are similar to the Lomborg paper;**
- **Inclusion of Chinese ‘peaking’ promise is inconsistent with a robust analysis of Paris 2016-2030 promises;**
- **Even if Chinese ‘peaking’ promise were included, results would not change significantly.**

I also explore what would happen if every nation were to extend its Paris promises every year for another 70 years after 2030. This is an optimistic scenario and not something promised by most nations. USA, for example, [states that](#) “the US target is for a single year: 2025.” But even with such optimistic assumptions, my analysis shows that the temperature reduction by 2100 is still insignificant at just 0.17°C.

Don Shaw

Regards,
George