

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY DIVISION
NEWSLETTER
7 DEC. 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. WASHINGTON STATE JUDGE: CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION TO ACT ON GLOBAL WARMING

Guest essay by Eric Worrall A Washington State Judge has found in favor of petitioners demanding action on Climate Change. According to The Blaze; In what environmentalists are calling a "groundbreaking" ruling, a Washington state judge has ruled that state lawmakers have a "constitutional obligation" to the youth of the state to take action on...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/20/washington-state-judge-constitutional-obligation-to-act-on-global-warming/>

2. EXPOSING THE WELL FUNDED & MANUFACTURED CAMPAIGN OF BLAME ON THE 'EXXON KNEW CLIMATE CHANGE WOULD BE DANGEROUS' FIASCO

New Disclosures Help Pull Back Curtain on Who's Funding Manufactured Climate Investigation by Steve Everley energyindepth.org , Dallas, Tex. A letter reportedly being circulated among a handful of Democrats this week in the U.S. House of Representatives, calling for an investigation into energy companies' opinions on climate change, references news reports that the letter's authors...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/20/exposing-the-well-funded-manufactured-campaign-of-blame-on-the-exxon-knew-climate-change-would-be-dangerous-fiasco/>

3. TERRORISM AND A COLD WINTER REFUGEE CRISIS

A brutal cold spell could kill refugees. Paris COP21 delegates need to discuss this climate issue.

Guest essay by Paul Driessen and Joe D'Aleo

Even after the latest Paris massacres – and previous radical Islamist atrocities in the USA, France, Britain, Canada, Spain, India, Iraq, Syria, Nigeria and elsewhere – politicians absurdly say hypothetical manmade...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/20/terrorism-and-a-cold-winter-refugee-crisis/>

4. WATCH THE UK SUPREME COURT WRIGGLE, THEN HELP IT COME CLEAN

Britain's highest court apologizes for breaking the law but dodges questions about its widely-broadcast September 2015 climate-change propaganda event urging national and international courts to "scotch" the "claims" of skeptical climate scientists and researchers. Guest essay by Christopher Monckton of Brenchley A month ago I sent a Freedom of Information request to the Supreme Court...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/19/watch-the-uk-supreme-court-wriggle-then-help-it-come-clean/>

5. IS NOAA ABOUT TO CRACK? 'PAUSEBUSTER' STUDY UNDER INTENSE SCRUTINY

Guest essay by Eric Worrall

According to House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Tex.), who is leading a Congressional investigation into the infamous Karl et al 2015 "Pausebuster" study, NOAA whistleblowers have come forward, with information which cast doubt on the scientific integrity of NOAA's global temperature reconstructions. According to the Washington Post; Smith told...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/19/is-noaa-about-to-crack/>

6. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE DATASETS PREVENT US FROM KNOWING WHICH EL NIÑO WAS STRONGEST ACCORDING NINO3.4 REGION TEMPERATURE DATA

Guest Post by Bob Tisdale

In the November 17, 2015 post here (WattsUpWithThat cross post here), we discussed the recent alarmist claims by the mainstream media and members of the climate science community about the strength of the current El Niño, showing how and why the 1997/98 El Niño was actually stronger than the one...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/21/the-differences-between-sea-surface-temperature-datasets-prevent-us-from-knowing-which-el-nino-was-strongest-according-nino3-4-region-temperature-data/>

7. DOE RELEASES REPORT ON CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES IN THE US MARKET

Ahead of the International Energy Agency's Ministerial in Paris, which serves as a lead-up to the COP21 UN Climate Negotiations, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has released a new report titled "2015 Revolution Now," which details the state of several clean energy technologies in the U.S. that provide technology solutions to climate challenges.

The report, which was announced by Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz during a discussion at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, builds upon past Revolution Now reports that showed a dramatic increase in deployment and a decrease in cost of four transformational technologies: wind turbines, solar technologies, electric vehicles (EVs) and light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

The 2015 update shows that cost reductions are continuing to drive the adoption of clean energy technologies. The report covers the rapid growth of photovoltaic (PV) solar modules for both large, utility-scale PV plants, and smaller, rooftop, distributed PV systems that have achieved significant deployment nationwide. DOE continues to invest in research and development for these technologies in

addition to reducing market barriers in order to make these clean energy technologies even more cost-effective and widely available across the United States.

Between 2008 and 2014, land-based wind accounted for 31 percent of all new generation capacity installed in the U.S., in part due to early investments from DOE that helped drive the technology innovation that has enabled this growth. As of 2014, there were more than 65,000 megawatts of utility-scale wind power deployed across 39 states — enough to generate electricity for more than 16 million homes — with another 13,600 megawatts under construction in 2015.

By 2014, more than 8 gigawatts of distributed solar PV were installed, which is enough to power roughly 1 million American homes. Utility-scale solar PV grew by 68 percent in 2014 to 9.7 gigawatts total— more than 99 percent of which has been installed since 2008.

The DOE report is linked to the PPEC at: <http://ppec.asme.org/key-issues/energy/>
ASME

8. REPUBLICANS, FEARING CONGRESSIONAL END-RUN, WARN OBAMA AHEAD OF CLIMATE TALKS

Published November 27, 2015, [FoxNews.com](http://www.foxnews.com)

Capitol Hill Republicans are aiming to take the air out of President Obama's push for a global climate deal at next week's international summit in Paris, warning they will block vital funding if he tries to circumvent Congress.

Obama and other world leaders are charging ahead with the two-week U.N. conference starting Monday, under heightened security in the wake of the Paris terror attacks. At a press conference alongside French President Francois Hollande, Obama cast the climate summit as a global statement of solidarity.

"What a powerful rebuke to the terrorists it will be when the world stands as one and shows that we will not be deterred from building a better future for our children," Obama said earlier this week. But at home, the country and the Congress remain deeply divided over the president's plans for cutting emissions — and lawmakers are worried he will etch an international pact without seeking Senate approval.

Looking for leverage, critics of the president's climate agenda have zeroed in on the president's goal of directing \$3 billion — including \$500 million in the near-term — for the U.N. Green Climate Fund, which would help developing nations deal with climate change.

Ahead of the president's trip, dozens of lawmakers warned the president: No vote, no money.

"Without Senate approval, there will be no money — period," Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., said at a hearing last week, stressing that any agreement with legally binding requirements must come before the Senate for a vote.

He and Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, sent a letter to Obama signed by more than three-dozen senators likewise urging the president to have his special envoy relay to developing nations' representatives that Congress "will not be forthcoming" with the Green Climate Fund money absent a Senate vote.

In addition, Inhofe joined Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Republican Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri in introducing a resolution calling for the Senate to have a say in any climate agreement. Republicans generally argue that any deal with legally binding elements should be handled like a treaty, and subject to Senate ratification. The Obama administration, though, has given varying statements on how it views any potential pact.

Secretary of State John Kerry rattled European officials when he was quoted earlier this month in the [Financial Times](http://www.ft.com) saying any agreement was "definitely not going to be a treaty." French President

Hollande bristled at the notion that a deal would not be legally binding and [was quoted saying](#) if that's the case, "there won't be an agreement."

But the State Department clarified that the U.S. wants binding and non-binding components. An official [told Politico](#): "The FT interview with Secretary Kerry may have been read to suggest that the U.S. supports a completely non-binding approach. That is not the case and that is not Secretary Kerry's position. Our position has not changed: the U.S. is pressing for an agreement that contains provisions both legally binding and non-legally binding."

House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith, R-Texas, said at a recent hearing that the president doesn't want to come to Congress with a Paris agreement because "he knows the Senate will not ratify it."

Smith also warned a centerpiece of the U.S. commitment that Obama will bring to the table in Paris – the Clean Power Plan, regulations on power plant emissions – "represents massive costs without significant benefits." As lawmakers threaten to block U.S. support for the U.N. climate fund, [The Wall Street Journal reports](#) that the House next week also plans to vote on measures to repeal those EPA rules for power plants, on the heels of the Senate doing the same.

It's doubtful Republicans could overcome a presidential veto, but the vote is a reminder of the resistance facing those regulations, which are the subject of a massive federal court case brought by mostly Republican-led states.

The administration suggests it has high hopes for the summit.

Obama struck a climate deal with China before the Paris talks and plans to meet one-on-one with Chinese President Xi Jinping – as well as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi – in Paris next week. Ahead of the summit, Christiana Figueres, executive secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, told [FoxNews.com a historic deal will be reached](#).

"We're going to have a Paris agreement," she said.

"Everyone has actually realized that there is more risk in not addressing climate change and there is more opportunity in addressing it," she said.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/11/27/republicans-fearing-congressional-end-run-warn-obama-ahead-climate-talks.html?intcmp=hpbt1>

COMMENTS

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

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

Quote of the Week: "This conference was worse than a Rorschach test: There's a meaningless inkblot, and the others ask you what you think you see, but when you tell them, they start arguing with you!" — Richard Feynman, Surely You're Joking, Mr. Feynman!

Conference: The Bonn Climate Change Conference, October 19 to 23, 2015, apparently ended. This was billed as the last conference before 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. One is not sure if the Bonn Conference is over, because these conferences seem to be endless, similar to the conference Richard Feynman describes (see quote above). However, a 51 page Draft Agreement, "Version of 23 October 2015@23:30hrs" was release. It is a much revised version of the shorter draft agreement with which the conference started.

The countless press releases and articles conference can be summed as follows: The delegates from the developed West (mainly Western Europe and the US) are saying that in order to "save the world" we have to stop the use of fossil fuels, even though they are needed for economic development. The delegates from the developing world, identified as the G-77 + China, are saying if you want us to stop

development show us the money, namely the \$100 Billion per year the West promised in Copenhagen in 2009.

Few dare mention it, but there seems to be an issue of trust involved. Why should the G-77+ China trust the West, who promises to punish their own citizens by crippling their own economies? The G-77 + China see the benefits of the enormous economic growth occurring in China and south Asia from the use of fossil fuels. Also, they see that renewables, which the West promotes as replacements, namely solar and wind, are not working as promoted. There are substantial reasons for a lack of trust, which does not bode well for a binding agreement on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, namely carbon dioxide (CO₂), at the COP 21 in Paris. See Article # 1, links under Problems in the Orthodoxy, On to Paris, and <http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/application/pdf/ws1and2@2330.pdf>

“Real” Electricity: Ironically, during the Bonn Conference, the Scientific American, certainly more conformist than skeptical to the view of human-caused catastrophic global warming, contained an article that reiterated a year-old incident with some villagers in India, when Greenpeace proposed to install solar panels to generate electricity. As the article states:

“One year ago, environmentalists hailed this tiny village [Dharnai] as the future of clean energy in rural India. Today, it is powered by coal.

“When the former chief minister of Bihar state visited to inaugurate the grid, villagers lined up to protest, chanting, ‘We want real electricity, not fake electricity!’

“By ‘real,’ they meant power from the central grid, generated mostly using coal. By ‘fake,’ they meant solar.

“If you don’t find bottled water to drink, you have to settle for water from the hand pump,’ he [a community engineer] said. ‘Similarly, when we did not have real electricity, we had to make do with solar power.’”

The incident is illustrative, and applies to those who promote solar and wind. Why trust an organization that promotes an unreliable, untrustworthy form of electricity generation when reliable, trustworthy ones are available? See links under Return of King Coal.

Untrustworthy Wind Power: In April 2013, The Scientific Alliance published an analysis on UK wind power covering January 2011 to December 2012 by Derek Partington. Mr. Partington has a degree in physics, was, formerly, a Chartered Engineer, and a member of the Institute of Physics and the Institute of Measurement and Control. He has been undertaking research into wind turbines for over 6 years and recently published an update to his earlier work with data covering 2013 and 2014. The data covers all wind turbines in the UK that are metered by the National Grid.

The UK has experienced a significant increase in onshore and offshore wind turbine capacity from 2012 to 2014 with 5,894 MW monitored in January 2013 to 8,403 MW monitored in January 2015, or a growth of about 43%. The general question is: Do more wind turbines improve reliability – trustworthiness in this form of electricity generation. The general answer is NO!

More specifically, Mr Partington asks and answers four questions:

No.1. “Do more wind turbines improve average output? No. 2. Do more wind turbines reduce the periods of low or very low output? No. 3. Do more wind turbines reduce intermittency? No. 4. Do more wind turbines make it possible to close any conventional, fossil-fuel power stations by making up for additional demand on the grid on peak times? **No.**”

Mr. Partington concludes: “Based on the results of this and my previous analysis I cannot see why any policy for the continued increase in the number of wind turbines connected to the Grid can be justified.”

This is yet another example that adding additional units of an unreliable, untrustworthy form of electricity generation does not make the system reliable or trustworthy. See links under Questioning European Green.

EPA’s Endangerment Finding: The state of Minnesota is holding administrative hearings on the social costs of carbon, which many Washington entities are busily calculating, while ignoring the tremendous benefits of carbon dioxide for plants and the environment. Without green plants would die, so would most life on the planet. The concept of a social cost of carbon (dioxide) depends on the findings of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). In turn, the EPA’s 2009 claim that greenhouse gas emissions, mainly carbon dioxide, endanger human health and welfare (Endangerment Finding, EF).

In his testimony and exhibits, MIT Professor Emeritus Richard Lindzen neatly summarized some of the flaws of the IPCC findings, and with it the flaws in the EPA’s EF. Main points include:

1. The models used by the IPCC to predict (project) future temperatures are flawed. 2. Thus, the models used to predict (project) future economic damages are flawed. 3. There is no indication the Earth’s climate is “changing” other than what is natural. 4. The IPCC’s estimate of the sensitivity to a doubling of CO2 is done incorrectly. 5. Recent studies indicate, at most, a mild warming with a doubling of CO2. Lindzen provides additional detail to support these judgments, to include past warm periods, such as the one from about 1895 to 1946, which the IPCC ignores. Also, he states that there is no firm relationship between human CO2 emissions and atmospheric CO2 concentrations. [An undetermined part of the increase in atmospheric CO2 may come out gassing of CO2 by the oceans from a natural warming of the oceans, as occurred during past interglacial periods.]

Unfortunately, this entire process is necessary to place into court records that the science is far from settled and human emissions of CO2 are not destroying the planet. For more details on testimony by Lindzen, William Happer, and Roy Spencer see links under Seeking a Common Ground.

Pink Flamingos? The financial concept of a Black Swan was popularized by Nassim Nicholas Taleb, who used it to explain investment strategies that depend on highly improbable events occurring. Each day, the financial investment [speculation] on an improbable event may be tiny, but if and when the event occurs, the return [rewards] can be huge. As Judith Curry presents on Climate Etc.:

“According to Taleb, a Black Swan event has three characteristics: 1. It is a surprise to governments, experts and outside observers. 2. The event has a major impact. 3. After the first instance of the event, it is rationalized by hindsight (which also is why a Black Swan event never happens the same way twice).” As usual, the concept was picked up by others who change it.

“For a while there was an effort on the part of government agencies and experts in various fields to use the Black Swan Theory as a basis for anticipating surprises. Just come up with a list of impossible scenarios and try and work backwards to find evidence to support one versus another. Of course, Taleb never suggests any such thing. He argued that it is not possible to predict Black Swans and hence the proper strategy is to increase the resilience to negative events and create a reserve capacity to exploit positive ones.”

A military strategist, Frank Hoffman, added another concept – the Pink Flamingo. The Pink Flamingo can be roughly described as leaders so obtuse in their political thinking that they ignore the obvious. In his testimony (above) about the IPCC, Richard Lindzen highlights a few of the Pink Flamingos that Western leaders ignore. The road to Paris is lined with Pink Flamingos.

Apparently, they are seen by the G-77 + China, but not by the western delegates to the COP-21. See links under Questioning the Orthodoxy.

New Documentary: On October 21 a new documentary premiered: Where the Grass is Greener: Biblical Stewardship vs. Climate Alarmism, by the Cornwall Alliance. Many of those appearing in the film are scientists expressing skepticism over the science presented by the IPCC. Unrehearsed, a number of those scientists recited effective quotes from Richard Feynman, Participants included three members of the SEPP board of directors, featuring Chairman S. Fred Singer. Near the end of the film, SEPP board member Tom Sheahen expressed well that there is no conflict between science and religion, and there is skepticism about the claim that humans are causing dire global warming. Apparently, the film is not yet available but some of the interviews are. See link under Expanding the Orthodoxy – The Pope – Loyal Opposition

BP Oil Market Analysis: BP is noted for its excellent analyses of the oil market to include projections. In a time of market uncertainty, when analysis's are giving wildly conflicting estimates of the future of the oil market, Spencer Dale, the BP group chief economist, offers a refreshingly direct analysis at the UK Society of Business Economists Annual Conference.

Among the major points are: Oil is a flexible resource, dependent on price and technology, including new discoveries. "The key point here is that the nature of fracking is far more akin to a standardized, repeated, manufacturing-like process, rather than the one-off, large scale engineering projects that characterize many conventional oil projects." [Do the strong productivity gains in fracking apply outside the US?]

Demand and supply curves are steep (inelastic) – shale with low fixed costs, high variable costs, the opposite of advantages to large integrated companies with high fixed costs, followed by low variable cost [shale operators require external financing]. Quantitative easing may have helped oil companies to get the needed financing [but many are funded by limited partnerships or similar structures.] The steep demand and supply curves (inelastic) tend to become elastic (less steep) with time.]

According to Dale, the US will be self-sufficient in energy by the early 2020s and in oil by the early 2030s. By contrast China and India will be more dependent on oil, resulting in East to West flow of funds issues. Does OPEC stabilize the market? The assumption was never correct, except in temporary shocks. OPEC countries have had major supply disruptions – civil war. OPEC cannot stabilize in response to structural shocks. OPEC will now try to maintain market share.

Shale will be a persistent source of oil production

A new framework for analysis is required: 1) Oil is not likely to be exhausted. 2) Shale is more responsive to price, than conventional oil; 3) Oil will flow from west to east [Asia]; 4) OPEC will remain a central force, but not the market dominating force many believe it is. See links under Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Number of the Week: 14, then 24, now 26? Before the Federal Courts would grant standing to parties that wish to sue Federal Government, mainly the EPA, for the Administration's power plan, called the "Clean Power Plan," the plan had to be published in the Federal Register. The Administration delayed publishing it. Friday, October 23, was the first day litigation could be filed, at the US Circuit of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Early estimates were that 14 states would file in a joint action. Almost immediately, the joint action was filed with 24 states. By Friday afternoon, two other states filed similar, but separate actions, bringing the total to 26 out of 50 states objecting to the Administration's plan to control CO2 emissions.

Given this, it will be interesting, and sad, to see how the Administration will try to explain to the G-77 + China, in Paris, how the nation supports its plan to control CO2 emissions and how the US will provide a major share of the \$100 billion demanded by the G-77 + China, without Senate approval of a treaty. See links under The Administration's Plan – Push-Back

<http://www.sepp.org/twtwfiles/2015/TWTW%2010-24-15.pdf>

B. THE HIDDEN FACTOR THAT COULD UNDERMINE U.S. PLANS TO CUT CARBON EMISSIONS

We tend to have a greatly oversimplified view of the planet’s carbon problem — and therefore, of what we have to do to solve it.

The general notion is that it’s all about fossil fuels, and so if we stop driving so much and using so much coal, we solve climate change. But there are other major players involved in putting carbon in the atmosphere and removing it, and a recent piece of research shows how one of them — forests — could make it harder for the United States to reach its [express goal](#) of reducing emissions by 26 to 28 percent below their 2005 levels by the year 2025. That’s the same pledge the country’s negotiators will take to Paris later this month for a much anticipated global climate meeting.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/11/16/the-hidden-factor-that-could-complicate-u-s-plans-to-cut-carbon-emissions/>

Judith Curry

C. IN CONVERSATION: ROGER HARRABIN AND RICHARD TOL

As part of a new three-part documentary series on climate change for BBC Radio 4, Roger Harrabin, the BBC’s environment analyst, interviewed Richard Tol, a [professor of economics](#) at the University of Sussex who has been a convening lead author with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

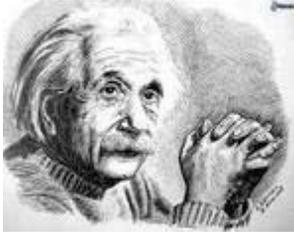
Tol is [interviewed](#) for the first episode of the [Changing Climate](#) series (which airs tonight (16 Nov. 2015) at 8pm and on [BBC World Service](#) on Wednesday), in which Harrabin looks at the science behind climate change and “meets the lukewarmers”. The term “lukewarmer” is often used to describe those who believe in human-caused climate change, but don’t think the planet will warm as much as models suggest or that the impacts will be as bad as predicted. Tol is an advisor to the [Global Warming Policy Foundation](#), a climate skeptic lobby group in the UK.

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/in-conversation-roger-harrabin-and-richard-tol>

D.



About the Newsletter



This newsletter is issued monthly and covers information contained in the websites www.go-nuclear.org and www.efn-usa.org. The objective of the monthly newsletter is to make essential information about nuclear science and technology available to you that is only intermittently available on a variety of websites or not available to the public at all. It is intended to help you better understand the importance of plentiful, reliable, clean, safe energy for humanity and the environment and how nuclear science and technology impacts the modern world.

One of our special emphases concerns nuclear medicine and nuclear science through radioisotopes. You will learn about the importance of low-dose and low-dose-rate radiation. We hope these websites will become regular sources for learning that are easy and enjoyable to use.

About the Recipients of the Newsletter

This Newsletter is sent to people who have an interest in understanding how energy from plentiful, reliable, safe sources is important to modern living in the first world and how it can help people in less developed economies improve their lives. It is also sent to people who appreciate or want to learn more about how related sciences to these energy sources are important in many other ways for a healthy, happy and enjoyable life. Recipients are located in 113 countries around the world.



Send us questions or suggestions using the Contact Us Box on the bottom of each page of the websites. See contact box [here](#) for Go Nuclear or [here](#) for Environmentalists for Nuclear Energy - USA. We will respond with help about how to use the website, how to use it for teaching, and explain how you can contribute content.

We want to have participation and make it fun for students and parents. Please send a message in your language. We will use a computer translator to try to translate it and respond in English and your language as best we can.

Go Nuclear Website - www.Go-Nuclear.org



This website has documents and videos about **ENERGY TODAY, ENERGY TOMORROW, RADIOISOTOPES, RADIATION**. There is a special section for **VIDEOS**. The documents are written by scientists, engineers, medical professionals and students.

The site is easily navigated by clicking on any pictures or titles. Clicking on these will land you on the document's page where the document is located beneath the large picture. Simply click on the image of the document below the picture to have it displayed full screen. Also note that you have controls to magnify the document at the bottom of the screen.

Everything is organized by the author's or subject's location:

- Africa and Middle East
- Americas
- Asia, Australia, New Zealand
- Europe and Russia

We show that the whole world is interested in nuclear energy, nuclear medicine, etc.

There are over 300 contributing authors and 450 articles, presentations and videos. To find a list of authors, use the search box with keyword "authors". Find the author you are looking for. Then search on the author's name.

[Click Here](#) to go to the Go Nuclear website..

Environmentalists for Nuclear Energy - USA Website - www.EFN-USA.org

This website has documents, presentations and videos about **NUCLEAR, PEOPLE, ENVIRONMENT, EFN**. There is a special section for VIDEOS we have made. The documents are written by professionals in many fields and students.



The site is easily navigated by clicking on any pictures or titles. Clicking on these will land you on the document's page where the document is located beneath the large picture. Simply click on the image of the document below the picture to have it displayed full screen. Also note that you have controls to magnify the document at the bottom of the screen.

[Click here](#) for examples of people from around the world who have/are making outstanding contributions for a better world.

An exciting thing about this website is that we will examine the topics PEOPLE and ENVIRONMENT to see how nuclear energy, nuclear medicine, nuclear science are important for the future of the world. More on this in future newsletters.

[Click Here](#) to go to the EFN-USA website.

Country Specific Focus

This issue of the monthly newsletter focuses on South Africa.



[Click here](#) for documents by authors from South Africa on the Environmentalists for Nuclear Energy - USA website.

[Click here](#) for documents by authors from South Africa on the Go Nuclear website.

[Click here](#) for documents about the organization, Nuclear Africa.

[Click here](#) for documents and videos about radioisotopes produced at the SAFARI reactor and supplied to many countries around the world.

Students, Young Professionals, and Parents

Students, young professionals and parents are very important for global public learning about all topics we discuss. A student is a person of any age who is learning about and advocates for nuclear energy, nuclear medicine, people and the environment. They are key to many meetings that will be held around the world. The documents and videos they contribute are key to engaging many of the same kinds of visitors in the future.



Here are documents by some students:

- 1) [Mary Claire Birdsong](#) - USA
- 2) [Ramon Cruz](#) - USA
- 3) [Mohammed Fadous](#) - Jordan
- 4) [Kenneth Kienlen](#) - USA
- 5) [Lucjan Pypno](#) - UK
- 6) [Dale Reaves](#) - USA
- 7) [Peyton Williams](#) - USA

Everyone of these students is tops among their contemporaries. We are very grateful to the efforts they made to contribute to Go Nuclear and Environmentalists for Nuclear Energy - USA.

Watch for contributions by more students in upcoming newsletters.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and look forward to many more.

Thank you.

John A. Shanahan (email: john.shanahan@go-nuclear.org)

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E. UPDATE ON EL NIÑO: GAIA DISAPPOINTS THE CLIMATE ACTIVISTS

Guest essay by Larry Kummer, from the Fabius Maximus website Summary:

Climate alarmists have run wild with predictions about the “monster” “Godzilla” El Niño, a last throw of the dice before the COP-21 climate conference in Paris. Here is an example by Brad Plummer, with a little debunking. Gaia will have the last word about...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/22/update-on-el-nino-gaia-disappoints-the-climate-activists/>

F. CLAIM: FRANCE TERROR ATTACKS IMPROVED CHANCES OF A CLIMATE DEAL

Guest essay by Eric Worrall

Environmental activists have suggested the brutal terror attack in Paris has improved the chances of getting a climate deal at the COP 21 meeting. ... Craig Bennett, chief executive of Friends of the Earth in the UK, hoped that countries would be more willing to come to a deal, but...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/23/claim-france-terror-attacks-improved-chances-of-a-climate-deal/>

G. ARE STRINGENT VEHICLE EMISSIONS STANDARDS DRIVING A SURGE IN COAL?

Guest essay by Eric Worrall

The pressure to conform to tightening vehicle emissions standards and fuel efficiency specifications is intense. Everyone knows about the recent Volkswagen Emissions Scandal, in which Volkswagen rigged the test to produce better results. As part of the push for better fuel efficiency, which feeds through into a better emission profile,...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/22/are-stringent-vehicle-emissions-standards-driving-a-surge-in-coal/>

H. KEEPING UP THE HEAT ON THE UK SUPREME COURT

By Christopher Monckton of Brenchley On September 17, 2015, the UK Supreme Court held a climate-change propaganda event in its no. 1 and no. 2 courtrooms, in which only one side of the debate was permitted. Lord Carnwath, chairman of the event and a justice of the court, said: “President Obama has said we are...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/21/keeping-up-the-heat-on-the-uk-supreme-court/>

I. JOHN KERRY CHANNELS PAUL EHRLICH WITH DOOMSDAY PREDICTIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Guest essay by Eric Worrall

US Secretary of State John Kerry has just cranked up the rhetoric on Climate Change, by mixing statements about National Security threats and Climate Politics. According to The Washington Post; in a speech delivered at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, home to the world’s largest naval base and already experiencing...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/21/did-john-kerry-just-threaten-climate-opponents-with-state-security/>

J. THE REALITY GAP IN THE PUSH TO CLOSE THE GLOBAL WARMING ‘EMISSIONS GAP’ IN PARIS

Year by year, the great transition away from the world’s risky carbon-based path to progress is said to be just around the corner. This year’s Emissions Gap report from the United Nations Environment Program, aiming to energize Paris climate talks next month, was released today with this headline:

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/11/06/the-reality-gap-in-the-push-to-close-the-global-warming-emissions-gap-in-paris/>

Judith Curry

K. RUSSIAN POWER ASSETS ATTACKED – HOW LONG WILL THE TRANS-SIBERIAN PIPELINE LAST?

Guest essay by Eric Worrall

Power pylons supplying regions of the Crimean have been blown up, causing significant economic disruption to disputed territory currently occupied by Russian backed Ukrainian rebels. According to Reuters; Crimea was left without electricity supplies from Ukraine on Sunday after pylons carrying power lines to the Russia-annexed peninsula were blown up...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/23/russian-power-assets-attacked-how-long-will-the-trans-siberian-pipeline-last/>

L. HOW NOT TO MEASURE TEMPERATURE, BRITISH FACEPALM EDITION

I had to share this “laugh out loud” moment from Bishop Hill and the photo of this weather station. Andrew Montford writes:

“Settled science”. Much amusement is to be had from a posting at a blog called Sudden Oak Life. The author has recorded images of the Radcliffe surface temperature station in Oxford, part...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/23/how-not-to-measure-temperature-british-facepalm-edition/>

M. CHAOS & CLIMATE – PART 2: CHAOS = STABILITY

Guest Essay by Kip Hansen ...

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.” – IPCC TAR Chap 14, Exec Summary Introduction: The IPCC has long recognized that the Earth’s climate system is a...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/23/chaos-climate-part-2-chaos-stability/>

N. WHAT TO MAKE OF UK’S #COAL PHASE-OUT ANNOUNCEMENT?

by Judith Curry

<http://www.carbonbrief.org/in-depth-uk-pledges-coal-phase-out-by-2025-but-uncertainty-remains>

O. ENVIRONMENTALISM VERSUS SCIENCE

Posted on [November 24, 2015](#) | [43 comments](#)

Words of wisdom from Hobart, Tasmania.

Judith Curry

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/11/24/environmentalism-versus-science/#more-20497>

P. A BUOY-ONLY SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURE RECORD

Posted on [November 22, 2015](#) | [338 comments](#)

by Zeke Hausfather and Kevin Cowtan

A buoy-only sea surface temperature record supports NOAA's adjustments.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/11/22/a-buoy-only-sea-surface-temperature-record/#more-20470>

Q. INCREASED CARBON DIOXIDE ENHANCES PLANKTON GROWTH, OPPOSITE OF WHAT WAS EXPECTED

Science study reports that coccolithophores' abundance has increased by an order of magnitude since 1960s, significantly changing ocean garden From the BIGELOW LABORATORY FOR OCEAN SCIENCES Coccolithophores—tiny calcifying plants that are part of the foundation of the marine food web—have been increasing in relative abundance in the North Atlantic over the last 45 years, as...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/27/increased-carbon-dioxide-enhances-plankton-growth-opposite-of-what-was-expected/>

R. SIMILARITIES TO JIM JONES AND THE CULT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Guest opinion by Arkady Bukh, Esq

The apocalypse of an alleged climate change shares many of Jones' cult-like qualities. Jim Jones, the People's Temple leader, led over 900 persons to commit suicide 32 years ago. Jones was charismatic and knowledgeable of both Scriptures and human behavior. After the mass murder/suicide and the murder of U.S. Congressman,...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/27/similarities-to-jim-jones-and-the-cult-of-climate-change/>

S. PETITION CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE USGS POLAR BEAR RESEARCH METHODS

More Research Finds Polar Bears' Condition Unaffected by Reduced Summer Sea Ice. Guest essay by Jim Steele Director emeritus Sierra Nevada Field Campus, San Francisco State University and author of Landscapes & Cycles: An Environmentalist's Journey to Climate Skepticism Reasons to Petition Congress to Investigate USGS' Dubious Polar Bear Claims Sign Petition Here: Although the...

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2015/11/26/petition-congress-to-investigate-usgs-polar-bear-research-methods/>

T. 'FACT' CHECKING THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Posted on [November 27, 2015](#) | [15 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

So, which of the U.S. Presidential candidates are 'flunking' climate science?

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/11/27/fact-checking-the-u-s-presidential-candidates/#more-20495>

U. CLIMATE HERETIC. PART II

Posted on [November 26, 2015](#) | [277 comments](#)

by Judith Curry

David Rose has published an interview with me in the Spectator.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/11/26/climate-heretic-part-ii/#more-20515>

V. THE RISE AND FALL OF CENTRAL ENGLAND TEMPERATURE

Posted on [November 25, 2015](#) | [115 comments](#)

by Tony Brown

Over the last 15 years interesting things have been happening at CET—the world’s longest instrumental record, dating to 1660.

<http://judithcurry.com/2015/11/25/the-rise-and-fall-of-central-england-temperature/#more-20500>

W. YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE CLIMATE DEBATE

At the Paris conference, expect an agreement that is sufficiently vague and noncommittal for all countries to claim victory.

By

Matt Ridley And Benny Peiser, Nov. 27, 2015 3:41 p.m. ET

In February President Obama said, a little carelessly, that climate change is a greater threat than terrorism. Next week he will be in Paris, a city terrorized yet again by mass murderers, for a summit with other world leaders on climate change, not terrorism. What precisely makes these world leaders so convinced that climate change is a more urgent and massive threat than the incessant rampages of Islamist violence?

It cannot be what is happening to world temperatures, because they have gone up only very slowly, less than half as fast as the scientific consensus predicted in 1990 when the global-warming scare began in earnest. Even with this year’s El Niño-boosted warmth threatening to break records, the world is barely half a degree Celsius (0.9 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than it was about 35 years ago. Also, it is increasingly clear that the planet was significantly warmer than today several times during the past 10,000 years.

Nor can it be the consequences of this recent slight temperature increase that worries world leaders. On a global scale, as scientists keep confirming, there has been no increase in frequency or intensity of storms, floods or droughts, while deaths attributed to such natural disasters have never been fewer, thanks to modern technology and infrastructure. Arctic sea ice has recently melted more in summer than it used to in the 1980s, but Antarctic sea ice has increased, and Antarctica is gaining land-based ice, according to a new [study](#) by NASA scientists published in the Journal of Glaciology. Sea level continues its centuries-long slow rise—about a foot a century—with no sign of recent acceleration.

Perhaps it is the predictions that worry the world leaders. Here, we are often told by journalists that the science is “settled” and there is no debate. But scientists disagree: They say there is great uncertainty, and they reflected this uncertainty in their fifth and latest assessment for the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It projects that temperatures are likely to be anything from 1.5 to 4.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 to 8.1 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer by the latter part of the century—that is, anything from mildly beneficial to significantly harmful.

As for the impact of that future warming, a new [study](#) by a leading climate economist, Richard Tol of the University of Sussex, concludes that warming may well bring gains, because carbon dioxide causes crops and wild ecosystems to grow greener and more drought-resistant. In the long run, the negatives may outweigh these benefits, says Mr. Tol, but “the impact of climate change does not significantly deviate from zero until 3.5°C warming.”

Mr. Tol's study summarizes the effect we are to expect during this century: "The welfare change caused by climate change is equivalent to the welfare change caused by an income change of a few percent. That is, a century of climate change is about as good/bad for welfare as a year of economic growth. Statements that climate change is the biggest problem of humankind are unfounded: We can readily think of bigger problems." No justification for prioritizing climate change over terrorism there. The latest science on the "sensitivity" of the world's temperature to a doubling of carbon-dioxide levels (from 0.03% of the air to 0.06%) is also reassuring. Several recent peer-reviewed studies of climate sensitivity based on actual observations, including one published in 2013 in [Nature Geoscience](#) with 14 mainstream IPCC authors, conclude that this key measure is much lower—about 30%-50% lower—than the climate models are generally assuming.

A key [study](#) published in the Journal of Climate this year by Bjorn Stevens of the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology in Hamburg, Germany, found that the cooling impact of sulfate emissions has held back global warming less than thought till now, again implying less sensitivity. So the high end of the IPCC range is looking even more implausible in theory and practice. When politicians intone that, despite the slow warming so far, "two degrees" of warming is inevitable and imminent, remember they are using high estimates of climate sensitivity.

Yes, but if there is even a tiny chance of catastrophe, should the world not strain every sinew to head it off? Better to decarbonize the world economy and find it was unnecessary than to continue using fossil fuels and regret it. If decarbonization were easy, then sure, this would make sense. But the experience of the last three decades is that there is no energy technology remotely ready to take over from fossil fuels on the scale needed and at a price the public is willing to pay.

Solar power is cheaper than it was, but even if solar panels were free, the land, infrastructure, maintenance and backup power (for nighttime and cloudy days) would still make it more expensive than gas-fired electricity. Solar provides about 0.5% of the energy generated world-wide. Wind has expanded hugely, but at massive cost, yet still supplies a little more than 1% of all energy generated globally. Nuclear is in slow retreat, and its cost stubbornly refuses to fall. Technological breakthroughs in the production of gas and oil from shale have outpaced the development of low-carbon energy and made it even less competitive.

Meanwhile, there are a billion people with no grid electricity whose lives could be radically improved—and whose ability to cope with the effects of weather and climate change could be greatly enhanced—with the access to the concentrated power of coal, gas or oil that the rich world enjoys. Aid for such projects has already been constrained by Western institutions in the interest of not putting the climate at risk. So climate policy is hurting the poor.

To put it bluntly, climate change and its likely impact are proving slower and less harmful than we feared, while decarbonization of the economy is proving more painful and costly than we hoped. The mood in Paris will be one of furious pessimism among the well-funded NGOs that will attend the summit in large numbers: Decarbonization, on which they have set their hearts, is not happening, and they dare not mention the reassuring news from science lest it threaten their budgets.

Casting around for somebody to blame, they have fastened on foot-dragging fossil-fuel companies and those who make skeptical observations, however well-founded, about the likelihood of dangerous climate change. Scientific skeptics are now routinely censored, or threatened with prosecution. One recent [survey](#) by Rasmussen Reports shows that 27% of Democrats in the U.S. are in favor of prosecuting climate skeptics. This is the mentality of religious fanaticism, not scientific debate.

So what will emerge from Paris, when thousands of government officials gather from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11 to agree on a new U.N. climate deal to replace the Kyoto Protocol, which expires in 2020? Expect an agreement that is sufficiently vague and noncommittal for all countries to sign and claim victory. Such an agreement will also have to camouflage deep and unbridgeable divisions while ensuring that all countries are liberated from legally binding targets a la Kyoto.

The political climate is conducive to such an ineffectual agreement. Concerns about the economy, terrorism and international security have been overshadowing the climate agenda for years. The fact that global warming has slowed significantly over the past two decades has reduced public concern and political pressure in most countries. It has also given governments valuable time to kick painful decisions down the road.

The next 10-15 years will show whether the global-warming slowdown continues or whether a strong warming trend terminates the current pause for good. The Paris summit is likely to agree to a review process that reassesses global temperatures and carbon-dioxide emissions every five years. If the climate is less sensitive to carbon-dioxide emissions than climate models assume, the new accord should allow for the possibility of carbon-dioxide pledges to be relaxed in line with empirical observations and better scientific understanding.

Concerned about the loss of industrial competitiveness, the Obama administration is demanding an international transparency-and-review mechanism that can verify whether voluntary pledges are met by all countries. Developing countries, however, oppose any outside body reviewing their energy and industrial activities and carbon-dioxide emissions on the grounds that such efforts would violate their sovereignty.

They are also resisting attempts by the U.S. and the European Union to end the legal distinction (the so-called firewall) between developing and developed nations. China, India and the “Like-Minded Developing Countries” group are countering Western pressure by demanding a legally binding compensation package of \$100 billion a year of dedicated climate funds, as promised by President Obama at the U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen in 2009.

However, developing nations are only too aware that the \$100 billion per annum funding pledge is never going to materialize, not least because the U.S. Congress would never agree to such an astronomical wealth transfer. This failure to deliver is inevitable, but it will give developing nations the perfect excuse not to comply with their own national pledges.

Both India and China continue to build new coal-fired power stations. China’s coal consumption is growing at 2.6% a year, India’s at 5%, which is why coal was the fastest-growing fossil fuel last year. China has pledged to reduce energy and carbon intensity, but that is another way of saying it will increase energy efficiency—it doesn’t mean reducing use.

For the EU, on the other hand, a voluntary climate agreement would finally allow member states to abandon unilateral decarbonization policies that have seriously undermined Europe’s competitiveness. The EU has offered to cut carbon-dioxide emissions by 40% below the 1990 level by 2030. However, this pledge is conditional on all nations represented at the Paris summit adopting legally binding carbon-emissions targets similar to and as a carry-over of the Kyoto Protocol.

According to the EU’s key [demand](#), the Paris Protocol must deliver “legally binding mitigation commitments that put the world on track toward achieving the below 2°C objective. . . . Mitigation commitments under the Protocol should be equally legally binding on all Parties.” The chances of such an agreement are close to zero. If there are no legally binding carbon targets agreed to in Paris, the EU will be unlikely to make its own conditional pledges legally binding.

Any climate agreement should be flexible enough so that voluntary pledges can be adjusted over the next couple of decades depending on what global temperatures do. The best we can hope for is a toothless agreement that will satisfy most governments yet allow them to pay lip-service to action. In all likelihood, that’s exactly what we can expect to get in Paris.

Mr. Ridley is a columnist for the Times (U.K.) and a member of the House of Lords; he has an interest in coal mining on his family’s land. Mr. Peiser is the director of the Global Warming Policy Forum

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/your-complete-guide-to-the-climate-debate-1448656890>

Regards,

George