THE WEEKLY CLOSER

U.S. SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MAJORITY PRESS OFFICE

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2006 VOLUME 2, NUMBER 9

THE WEEK IN REVIEW…

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT…

DID YOU KNOW?

EPW RESOURCES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK…

"… When the public comes to understand that there is no "consensus" among climate scientists about the relative importance of the various causes of global climate change, the government will be in a far better position to develop plans that reflect reality and so benefit both the environment and the economy."

"Open Kyoto to Debate"
An open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper:
The National Post's Financial Post
April 6, 2006

IN THE NEWS…

INHOFE AND DOMENICI TO INTRODUCE ADMINISTRATION'S YUCCA MOUNTAIN BILL TODAY

Sen. James Inhofe and Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.), chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, yesterday introduced as legislation the Yucca Mountain language sent to the two chairmen by the Department of Energy yesterday. The chairmen are introducing the bill at the request of the Administration.

Chairman Inhofe's statement:

"Opening a permanent repository is critical to expanding the use of nuclear power in this country, and I am pleased to introduce this legislation at the request of the Administration with my friend, Pete Domenici."

Chairman Domenici's statement:

"I'm pleased to receive the Administration's proposed language and introduce it today with my colleague, Jim Inhofe. I plan to hold a hearing on this issue in my committee in the near future."

The bill would withdraw permanently from public use the land at and surrounding the Yucca Mountain repository site in Nevada, facilitate Congress' ability to provide adequate funding for the Yucca Mountain Project and eliminate the current statutory 70,000 metric ton cap on waste storage at the

mountain.

The bill includes funding reform to correct a budget problem that has hampered full funding for Yucca in recent years and eliminates artificial restrictions on the capacity of the repository. The permanent land withdrawal is necessary to meet the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's licensing requirement for Yucca.

EPW Committee Hosts Nanotechnology Round Table

Chairman Inhofe and Sen. James M. Jeffords (I-Vt.), the Committee's ranking member, opened a round table discussion this morning focused on learning more about the benefits and impacts of nanotechnology to the environment, infrastructure, health, and safety.

Statement from Chairman Inhofe:

"I am certain that the efforts here today will greatly increase the Committee's awareness of this technology and help us better understand how our responsibilities to protect the environment and human health can be adequately addressed while encouraging and promoting further progress in its development and use."

Statement from Ranking Member Jeffords:

"What we need to do now is gather basic data so we can properly evaluate the health and safety implications of this new technology. Eventually, we will be able to assess the effectiveness of our existing laws and whether the public has adequate assurances that their health is being protected."

Opening Statement From Chairman Inhofe: Nominations Hearing

Good Morning. The purpose of today's hearing is to consider the President's nominees for three vital positions within the Administration, including the head of the Federal Highway Administration and two Assistant Administrator positions at EPA. It is my hope that we can move all of these nominees quickly. I want to extend a welcome to all of you and the members of your families who are here today. I also want to thank all of you for your willingness to serve our nation. Anyone who has been through this before understands all too well that it is no small task of a nominee or a nominee's family to go through the confirmation process that you are facing.

On the first panel, we have retired General Richard Capka, who has been nominated to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Adminstration. Rick Capka is a very good choice to head the FHWA. He is a career engineer,

beginning at the Army Corps of Engineers after graduating from West Point. After 29 years of military service for our country, he retired as a Brigadier General. He then went over to the Massachusetts Toll Authority before being tapped to serve this country again as the Deputy Administrator of FHWA under Mary Peters–who did an excellent job as Administrator. Mary stepped down just prior to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. General Capka and FHWA have received wide acclaim for their response to these disasters.

On our second panel we will have James Gulliford and William Wehrum - both of whom have been nominated to fill critical Assistant Administrator positions at EPA.

Mr. Gulliford has been nominated to head the EPA Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. Since 2001, Mr. Gulliford has been based in Kansas City as EPA's Regional Administrator for Region 7. As Regional Administrator, Mr. Gulliford is the chief for all technical and administrative operations of the EPA in Region 7 - which is comprised of Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. Region 7 has a staff of over 550 and an annual budget of approximately $500 million. Prior to joining EPA, Mr. Gulliford was the Director for Iowa's Department of Soil Conservation.

Mr. Wehrum has been nominated to head the EPA Office of Air and Radiation. Mr. Wehrum is the current Acting Assistant Administrator to this office. Prior to him assuming the Acting role, he served the EPA as both Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator and Counsel to the Assistant Administrator in the Office of Air and Radiation. This Committee has seen much of Mr. Wehrum lately as a witness representing EPA three times in the past six months. He has answered numerous questions before the Committee and over 70 follow-up questions from the Committee's minority members alone. I believe that of all the nominees that we have had during this Administration, Mr. Wehrum is the most familiar to the Committee.

Once again, thank you all for being here today.

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT…

THE NATIONAL POST'S FINANCIAL POST (CANADA)

OPEN KYOTO TO DEBATE

SIXTY SCIENTISTS CALL ON HARPER TO REVISIT THE SCIENCE OF GLOBAL WARMING

Thursday, April 06, 2006

An open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper:

Dear Prime Minister:

As accredited experts in climate and related scientific disciplines, we are writing to propose that balanced, comprehensive public-consultation sessions be held so as to examine the scientific foundation of the federal government's climate-change plans. This would be entirely consistent with your recent commitment to conduct a review of the Kyoto Protocol. …

Observational evidence does not support today's computer climate models, so there is little reason to trust model predictions of the future. Yet this is precisely what the United Nations did in creating and promoting Kyoto and still does in the alarmist forecasts on which Canada's climate policies are based. …

While the confident pronouncements of scientifically unqualified environmental groups may provide for sensational headlines, they are no basis for mature policy formulation. The study of global climate change is, as you have said, an "emerging science," one that is perhaps the most complex ever tackled. It may be many years yet before we properly understand the Earth's climate system. Nevertheless, significant advances have been made since the protocol was created, many of which are taking us away from a concern about increasing greenhouse gases. If, back in the mid-1990s, we knew what we know today about climate, Kyoto would almost certainly not exist, because we would have concluded it was not necessary.

… When the public comes to understand that there is no "consensus" among climate scientists about the relative importance of the various causes of global climate change, the government will be in a far better position to develop plans that reflect reality and so benefit both the environment and the economy.

"Climate change is real" is a meaningless phrase used repeatedly by activists to convince the public that a climate catastrophe is looming and humanity is the cause. Neither of these fears is justified. Global climate changes all the time due to natural causes and the human impact still remains impossible to distinguish from this natural "noise." The new Canadian government's commitment to reducing air, land and water pollution is commendable, but allocating funds to "stopping climate change" would be irrational. We need to continue intensive research into the real causes of climate change and help our most vulnerable citizens adapt to whatever nature throws at us next.

… It was only 30 years ago that many of today's global-warming alarmists were telling us that the world was in the midst of a global-cooling catastrophe. But the science continued to evolve, and still does, even though so many choose to ignore it when it does not fit with predetermined political agendas.

We hope that you will examine our proposal carefully and we stand willing and able to furnish you with more information on this crucially important topic.

CC: The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of the Environment, and the Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources

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Sincerely,

Dr. Ian D. Clark, professor, isotope hydrogeology and paleoclimatology, Dept. of Earth Sciences, University of Ottawa

Dr. Tad Murty, former senior research scientist, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, former director of Australia's National Tidal Facility and professor of earth sciences, Flinders University, Adelaide; currently adjunct professor, Departments of Civil Engineering and Earth Sciences, University of Ottawa

Dr. R. Timothy Patterson, professor, Dept. of Earth Sciences (paleoclimatology), Carleton University, Ottawa

Dr. Fred Michel, director, Institute of Environmental Science and associate professor, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Carleton University, Ottawa

Dr. Madhav Khandekar, former research scientist, Environment Canada. Member of editorial board of Climate Research and Natural Hazards

Dr. Paul Copper, FRSC, professor emeritus, Dept. of Earth Sciences, Laurentian University, Sudbury, Ont.

Dr. Ross McKitrick, associate professor, Dept. of Economics, University of Guelph, Ont.

Dr. Tim Ball, former professor of climatology, University of Winnipeg; environmental consultant

Dr. Andreas Prokocon, adjunct professor of earth sciences, University of Ottawa; consultant in statistics and geology

Mr. David Nowell, M.Sc. (Meteorology), fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, Canadian member and past chairman of the NATO Meteorological Group, Ottawa

Dr. Christopher Essex, professor of applied mathematics and associate director of the Program in Theoretical Physics, University of Western Ontario, London, Ont.

Dr. Gordon E. Swaters, professor of applied mathematics, Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, and member, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Research Group, University of Alberta

Dr. L. Graham Smith, associate professor, Dept. of Geography, University of Western Ontario, London, Ont.

Dr. G. Cornelis van Kooten, professor and Canada Research Chair in environmental studies and climate change, Dept. of Economics, University of Victoria

Dr. Petr Chylek, adjunct professor, Dept. of Physics and Atmospheric Science, Dalhousie University, Halifax

Dr./Cdr. M. R. Morgan, FRMS, climate consultant, former meteorology advisor to the World Meteorological Organization. Previously research scientist in climatology at University of Exeter, U.K.

Dr. Keith D. Hage, climate consultant and professor emeritus of Meteorology, University of Alberta

Dr. David E. Wojick, P.Eng., energy consultant, Star Tannery, Va., and Sioux Lookout, Ont.

Rob Scagel, M.Sc., forest microclimate specialist, principal consultant, Pacific Phytometric Consultants, Surrey, B.C.

Dr. Douglas Leahey, meteorologist and air-quality consultant, Calgary

Paavo Siitam, M.Sc., agronomist, chemist, Cobourg, Ont.

Dr. Chris de Freitas, climate scientist, associate professor, The University of Auckland, N.Z.

Dr. Richard S. Lindzen, Alfred P. Sloan professor of meteorology, Dept. of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dr. Freeman J. Dyson, emeritus professor of physics, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, N.J.

Mr. George Taylor, Dept. of Meteorology, Oregon State University; Oregon State climatologist; past president, American Association of State Climatologists

Dr. Ian Plimer, professor of geology, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide; emeritus professor of earth sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia

Dr. R.M. Carter, professor, Marine Geophysical Laboratory, James Cook University, Townsville, Australia

Mr. William Kininmonth, Australasian Climate Research, former Head National Climate Centre, Australian Bureau of Meteorology; former Australian delegate to World Meteorological Organization Commission for Climatology, Scientific and Technical Review

Dr. Hendrik Tennekes, former director of research, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute

Dr. Gerrit J. van der Lingen, geologist/paleoclimatologist, Climate Change Consultant, Geoscience Research and Investigations, New Zealand

Dr. Patrick J. Michaels, professor of environmental sciences, University of Virginia

Dr. Nils-Axel Morner, emeritus professor of paleogeophysics & geodynamics, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

Dr. Gary D. Sharp, Center for Climate / Ocean Resources Study, Salinas, Calif.

Dr. Roy W. Spencer, principal research scientist, Earth System Science Center, The University of Alabama, Huntsville

Dr. Al Pekarek, associate professor of geology, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Dept., St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minn.

Dr. Marcel Leroux, professor emeritus of climatology, University of Lyon, France; former director of Laboratory of Climatology, Risks and Environment, CNRS

Dr. Paul Reiter, professor, Institut Pasteur, Unit of Insects and Infectious Diseases, Paris, France. Expert reviewer, IPCC Working group II, chapter 8 (human health)

Dr. Zbigniew Jaworowski, physicist and chairman, Scientific Council of Central Laboratory for Radiological Protection, Warsaw, Poland

Dr. Sonja Boehmer-Christiansen, reader, Dept. of Geography, University of Hull, U.K.; editor, Energy & Environment

Dr. Hans H.J. Labohm, former advisor to the executive board, Clingendael Institute (The Netherlands Institute of International Relations) and an economist who has focused on climate change

Dr. Lee C. Gerhard, senior scientist emeritus, University of Kansas, past director and state geologist, Kansas Geological Survey

Dr. Asmunn Moene, past head of the Forecasting Centre, Meteorological Institute, Norway

Dr. August H. Auer, past professor of atmospheric science, University of Wyoming; previously chief meteorologist, Meteorological Service (MetService) of New Zealand

Dr. Vincent Gray, expert reviewer for the IPCC and author of The Greenhouse Delusion: A Critique of 'Climate Change 2001,' Wellington, N.Z.

Dr. Howard Hayden, emeritus professor of physics, University of Connecticut

Dr Benny Peiser, professor of social anthropology, Faculty of Science, Liverpool John Moores University, U.K.

Dr. Jack Barrett, chemist and spectroscopist, formerly with Imperial College London, U.K.

Dr. William J.R. Alexander, professor emeritus, Dept. of Civil and Biosystems Engineering, University of Pretoria, South Africa. Member, United Nations Scientific and Technical Committee on Natural Disasters, 1994-2000

Dr. S. Fred Singer, professor emeritus of environmental sciences, University of Virginia; former director, U.S. Weather Satellite Service

Dr. Harry N.A. Priem, emeritus professor of planetary geology and isotope geophysics, Utrecht University; former director of the Netherlands Institute for Isotope Geosciences; past president of the Royal Netherlands Geological & Mining Society

Dr. Robert H. Essenhigh, E.G. Bailey professor of energy conversion, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, The Ohio State University

Dr. Sallie Baliunas, astrophysicist and climate researcher, Boston, Mass.

Douglas Hoyt, senior scientist at Raytheon (retired) and co-author of the book The Role of the Sun in Climate Change; previously with NCAR, NOAA, and the World Radiation Center, Davos, Switzerland

Dipl.-Ing. Peter Dietze, independent energy advisor and scientific climate and carbon modeller, official IPCC reviewer, Bavaria, Germany

Dr. Boris Winterhalter, senior marine researcher (retired), Geological Survey of Finland, former professor in marine geology, University of Helsinki, Finland

Dr. Wibjorn Karlen, emeritus professor, Dept. of Physical Geography and Quaternary Geology, Stockholm University, Sweden

Dr. Hugh W. Ellsaesser, physicist/meteorologist, previously with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Calif.; atmospheric consultant.

Dr. Art Robinson, founder, Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine, Cave Junction, Ore.

Dr. Arthur Rorsch, emeritus professor of molecular genetics, Leiden University, The Netherlands; past board member, Netherlands organization for applied research (TNO) in environmental, food and public health

Dr. Alister McFarquhar, Downing College, Cambridge, U.K.; international economist

Dr. Richard S. Courtney, climate and atmospheric science consultant, IPCC expert reviewer, U.K.

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DID YOU KNOW?

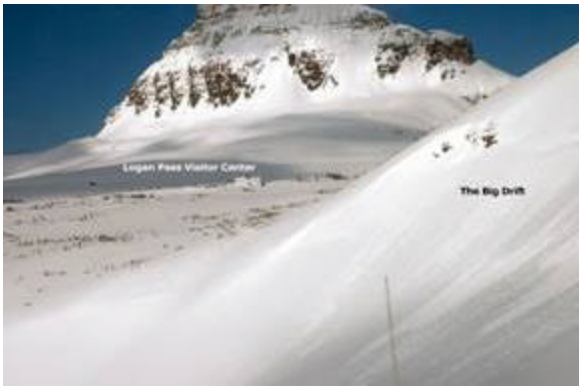
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK: "[T]HE MOST MOUNTAIN SNOW SINCE 2002."

The March 26th episode of ABC's This Week featured Montana Democrat Governor Brian Schweitzer lamenting the loss of the glaciers in Glacier National Park and attributing the decline to carbon dioxide emissions.

Governor Brian Schweitzer (D-Mont.): "If we were here in August, what you would see can just a patch of ice right along this ridge and that would be Jackson Glacier. And all the rest of the snow would be gone. But if you look at some photography that we have from 50 or 70 years ago, you'll see that this glacier covered this entire area." … "Well, at the rate that we are increasing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, I suspect that if we stopped adding more carbon dioxide even right now, the acceleration that we have over the last hundred years probably cannot be stopped to save the glaciers here in Glacier National Park."

FACT: Glacier National Park has experienced the most intense snowfall in four years, according to Park officials. Park Superintendent Mick Holm says "As we begin the massive undertaking of plowing all park roads, it is important for the public to recognize that conditions we currently face are very different than those in recent years. We have the most mountain snow since 2002."

The photography from two weeks ago:



Logan Pass March 23, 2006

Logan Pass Visitor Center March 23, 2006

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Bill Holbrook, Communications Director
Matt Dempsey, Press Secretary