ICE DAM OF DENIAL BREAKING UP

On March 9, 6a.m., Julie in Santa Fe talked about global warming and climate change. Those faux meteorologists at the Weather Channel, at last perceiving the way the wind was blowing, are acknowledging well-established climate and weather facts! --Dick

OMNI Newsletters
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Contents of Climate Change: Government, Media #1
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CONGRESS (GOP) BEGINS TO CHANGE in 2013
Democratic Senators to Stage All-Night Session of Climate Change Speeches
Suzanne Goldenberg, Guardian UK, Reader Supported News, March 10, 2014
Goldenberg reports: "More than two dozen Democratic senators will take to the Senate floor on Monday for an all-night session of speeches on climate change."
READ MORE.

The following link is the newly released ‘climate action report’ by the White House, which is the first biennial report of the U.S. on how to deal with the issues related to climate changes.
http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/219038.pdf
Regards, Song

SUMMARY and link to National Climate Assessment January 11, 2013
Jerry Landrum

National Climate Assesment Draft for Public Comment
U.S. Report Findings


1. Global climate is changing, and this is apparent across the U.S. in a wide range of observations. The
2. Some extreme weather and climate events have increased in recent decades, and there is new and stronger evidence that many of these increases are related to human activities.
3. Human-induced climate change is projected to continue and accelerate significantly if emissions of heat-trapping gases continue to increase.
4. Impacts related to climate change are already evident in many sectors and are expected to become increasingly challenging across the nation throughout this century and beyond.
5. Climate change threatens human health and well-being in many ways, including impacts from increased extreme weather events, wildfire, decreased air quality, diseases transmitted by insects, food, and water, and threats to mental health.
6. Infrastructure across the U.S. is being adversely affected by phenomena associated with climate change, including sea level rise, storm surge, heavy downpours, and extreme heat.
7. Reliability of water supplies is being reduced by climate change in a variety of ways that affect ecosystems and human populations. For example, the Great Plains, the Southeast, and the islands of the Caribbean and the Pacific, including the state of Hawai`i.
8. Adverse impacts to crops and livestock over the next 100 years are expected. Over the next 25 years, there will be increasing disruptions from extreme heat, drought, and heavy downpours. U.S. food security and farm incomes will also depend on how agricultural systems adapt to climate changes in other regions of the world.
9. Natural ecosystems are being directly affected by climate change, including changes in biodiversity and location of ecosystems. The ability of natural ecosystems to moderate the consequences of disturbances such as droughts, floods, and severe storms is being diminished.
10. Life in the oceans is changing as ocean waters become warmer and more acidic.
11. Planning for adaptation (to address and prepare for impacts) and mitigation (to reduce emissions)

US (GOP) FAILURE TO OPPOSE CLIMATE CHANGE
FROM TEXAS TO QATAR, US DOES NOTHING TO STOP CLIMATE CHANGE, AND CANADA FAILS TOO  by William Boardman,
NationofChange, December 8, 2012

In East Texas, members of the Tar Sands Blockade started their eleventh week of opposition to construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline with a new act of civil disobedience against the onrush of global warming, sealing themselves inside a mile-long segment of the pipeline itself.

In Doha, Qatar, other protestors at the U.N. World Climate Conference found themselves in just as dark and unyielding a metaphorical tunnel: the mindset of the globally powerful who appear unwilling to act to mitigate the human suffering they’re already perpetrating on millions of the less powerful people around the world.

In Texas and Qatar alike, the role of the United States government is to stand aside as if helpless, while covertly, and not so covertly, encouraging the forces driving the plant’s temperature to lethal levels. At the climate conference, the U.S. was sharply criticized for failing to take the lead on planet protection, especially in light of its standing as the world’s worst polluter. Among the top 20 developed countries, only one – Japan – spends more on fighting climate change than on subsidizing fossil fuels. The country most out of balance is the United States. The U.S. has pledged about $300,000 million – half of Japan’s amount – for mitigating climate change. The U.S. spends about four times as much -- $1.2 billion – subsidizing oil, coal, gas, and other fossil fuels.

Canada Was Once a Leader, Now It Has Shale Oil

Canada, home of the tar sands oil shale that scientists say may spell “game over” for the climate, also came in for condemnation in Doha. Celine Charveriat, director of advocacy and campaigns for Oxfam International, called Canada a major villain for blocking progress at the conference:

“Once again, rich industrialised nations are putting nothing on the table in terms of increased emissions cuts and financial support for poor nations.

Governments found trillions of dollars to bail out the financial sector. This is a far greater crisis....

Canada has become rich and prosperous from its huge fossil fuel industry. And here they are
offering absolutely nothing to pay for their pollution of the atmosphere....

What has gone wrong in Canada? They used to be a leader.

Most news sources are funded by corporations and investors. Their goal is to drive people to advertisers while pushing the corporate agenda. NationofChange is a 501(c)3 organization funded almost 100% from its readers—you! Our only accountability is to the public. Click here to make a generous donation.

Now they are one of the worst laggards, down at the bottom with the U.S.”

In June 2012, President Obama expedited permits for TransCanada to begin construction of the southern leg of Keystone XL pipeline through Texas, where Tar Sands Blockaders have been resisting since August. In January, the President had put the whole pipeline on hold to allow for timely review, after Congress tried to rush the decision, which is now expected in early 2013.

Canada recently announced that it would break its commitment to controlling global warming and would not try to meet its commitment to lower greenhouse gasses, as it promised when it was one of 191 countries signing the Kyoto Protocol of 1997. Canada ratified the protocol in 2002 and pulled out of it in 2011. The United States signed the protocol in 1998, but stated it had no intention of ratifying it or being bound by it.

A Canadian company, TransCanada, is building the Keystone pipeline, which, when completed, will run from the Alberta tar sands to Texas ports on the gulf, where most of the unusually toxic oil will be shipped abroad, largely to China. In November, Canada’s Natural Resources Minister predicted that President Obama would approve the Keystone XL pipeline “because it is clearly in the US national interest in terms of national security, jobs (and) economic growth.”

TransCanada Treats Blockaders with Dispatch

TransCanada’s approach to the Tar Sands Blockade has been uncompromising, relentless, and sometimes violent, although the company says it was not responsible for sheriff’s deputies using pepper gas, choke-holds, and other torture tactics on non-resisting activists.

In Tyler, Texas, on December 3, according to Ecowatch.org:

“The police threatened a variety of dangerous and violent responses including tear gas, canine units, cutting into the pipe or lifting it up to dump out the blockaders. Eventually, they were able to forcibly remove the blockaders and the barrels they were locked into.

Both blockaders, Glen Collins and Matt Almonte, were extracted and arrested. Isabel Indigo Brooks, who had been inside the pipe to provide support for Matt and Glen, was also arrested. All three have been charged with three misdemeanors: criminal trespassing, resisting arrest and illegal dumping of more than 500-1000 pounds.

We haven’t yet learned whether the police used mace or other means of pain compliance or if any of the blockaders were injured by the police.

Although the Smith County District Attorney has piled on the charges and bail on the three pipe-sitters was set at $65,000 each, the Smith County Sheriff’s Department felt called upon to announce that they had not used pepper spray.

Responding to the removal of the protestors sealed in their pipe, TransCanada responded with this statement by David Dodson: "It is unfortunate these protestors are trying to keep thousands of Americans from the jobs they depend on to provide for their families. This project is important, not only to thousands of workers, but also to Americans in general."

TransCanada Continues to Lie About Jobs
The TransCanada jobs claim has long since been shown to be false in many ways. The jobs will go mostly to non-Americans. The jobs will be mostly temporary. The jobs may number in the hundreds rather than thousands. And even a TransCanada vice president has admitted that the number of permanent jobs will number in the hundreds.

While most of the American media have given little or no coverage to the Doha climate conference, Amy Goodman and DemocracyNOW! Has been covering it from Doha all week. U.S. climate negotiator Jonathan Pershing refused to answer a question from Amy Goodman as to whether the position he was taking was consistent with what President Obama had said in his first speech after he was elected (that “he didn’t want his—he didn’t want our children to live in an America that isn’t (sic) threatened by the destructive power of a warming planet”). On December 4, Pershing described his country’s passive role this way:

“I think the United States’ role is very much one of engaging actively and constructively in the discussion. We are one of the significant contributors to the intellectual thinking in the process. We have been. We will continue to try to do that. It doesn’t mean that we will agree with everyone on everything. This is, after all, a negotiation. We’re looking to participate in an outcome that will lead to a reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions. We’re looking at an outcome that will be acceptable to all parties. We’re looking at an outcome that will be effective in the time frame that we’ve set for ourselves to move forward.” [emphasis added]

World Bank Reports: Situation Is Desperate

Weeks before Pershing made those comments, the World Bank released a report that warned that global warming was more advanced than anyone had thought and that the world was facing a “carbon tsunami” with devastating potential effects. As Amy Goodman reported:

“A shocking new report commissioned by the World Bank is warning temperatures could rise by 4 degrees Celsius (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century, causing devastating food shortages, rising sea levels, cyclones and drought — even if countries meet their current pledges to reduce emissions. If these promises are not met, the increase could happen even sooner. Meanwhile, scientists say it is still not too late to minimize the devastating impact of climate change. A separate report by the Climate Action Tracker says global warming could be kept below 2 degrees. “

The decision to approve construction of the Keystone pipeline coming from Canada into the United States technically belongs to the State Department, although there is little doubt that the President will make the final decision. By the time he decides, he may well have a new Secretary if State, and that Secretary of State could be the current ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice. As Secretary of State, Rice would be expected to advise the president on Keystone, unless she recuses herself for a conflict if interest, since she owns at least $1.2 million worth of stock in more than a dozen Canadian banks and oil companies, including TransCanada (over $300,000), Enbridge, and at least seven others.

SUBSIDIES TO FOSSIL FUELS

From New York Times: Cost of subsidizing fossil fuels is high, but cutting them is tough. The bankruptcy this summer of Solyndra — a solar company heavily subsidized by the U.S. government — unleashed a torrent of concern about the risks of wasting taxpayer money on renewable-energy
projects. But what are the effects of subsidies that continue to flow to fossil fuels?  

The Return of 'Drill, Baby, Drill'

*The New York Times* | Editorial

Intro: "With the country again facing $4-a-gallon gasoline, the time would seem ripe for a grown-up conversation on energy. What we are getting instead is a mindless rerun of the drill-baby-drill operatics of the 2008 campaign, when gas was also at $4 a gallon. Then, as now, opportunistic politicians insisted that vastly expanded oil drilling would bring relief at the pump and reduced dependence on foreign oil. Then, as now, these arguments were bogus."


Health Crisis in Aftermath of Gulf Spill, Feds and BP Turn a Blind Eye

Brad Jacobson, AlterNet

Intro: "Contrary to many national stories covering the one-year anniversary of the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, a health crisis in the region has developed among exposed workers and residents. And it's not so 'mysterious.'"


Senate Republicans Introduce Bill to Abolish the EPA

Brad Johnson, Think Progress

Intro: "Senate Republicans have introduced legislation to abolish the Environmental Protection Agency, established 40 years ago by President Richard Nixon to give Americans clean air and water. The bill, introduced by Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC), would merge the EPA, which enforces environmental laws, with the Department of Energy, which manages nuclear energy and energy research, into one department."

READ MORE  http://www.readersupportednews.org/off-site-news-section/81-81/5852-senate-republicans-introduce-bill-to-abolish-the-epa

BEGINNING OF CHANGE IN CONGRESS
Bicameral Congressional Task Force on Climate Change Formed Today
by Cara Horowitz, January 24, 2013

In the days that have followed the President's strong statement on climate change in his second inaugural, many have speculated about what role Congress will play, if any, in moving forward on this issue. (See Greenwire's story here, for example, covering the question and writing about signs from WH press secretary Jay Carney that the President "will pursue both legislative and executive authority actions to address climate change," perhaps with a legislative emphasis on "developing clean energy rather than on pricing carbon.") News this morning relevant to this question: A new bicameral congressional task force to address climate change is being launched, established today by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse of Rhode Island and Rep. Henry Waxman of California, both Dems. From the press release announcing the formation:

"Congress and the public need to understand that climate change impacts are turning out worse than expected and our window to act is closing," said Rep. Waxman. "This threat is not waiting until we are ready to deal with it. That is why I am pleased to join with Senator Whitehouse to work to educate our colleagues and all Americans about the magnitude of the problem and the urgency of the threat we are confronting."

"I’m honored to join Representative Waxman in this effort," said Senator Whitehouse. "Carbon pollution is wreaking havoc on our atmosphere and on our oceans, and it’s time to bring all hands on deck as we seek to meet that challenge. We intend this new group to bring the attention and energy to the issue necessary to get something done. I look forward to working with President Obama, Chairman Boxer in the Senate, and any of our other colleagues who wish to join us."

Sure it's a sign of how far expectations have fallen since Rep. Waxman's last major foray into climate change legislation, but nevertheless it's nice to
see the phrases "urgency," "carbon pollution," and "havoc" coming from Congress, along with any political acknowledgment of what scientists have been telling us -- that our "window to act is closing." So--let's take it, and push.


Climate Change Regulation: Where Are the U.S. and the World Heading?”

From: "Lowe, Mary" <mlowe@nwacc.edu>
Date: February 21, 2014 at 1:24:35 PM CST
To: "robertboblowe@gmail.com" <robertboblowe@gmail.com>
Subject: climate change

Columbia Law Professor to Speak on Climate Change

Michael Gerrard will speak in the Shewmaker Global Business Development Center, Peterson Auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. Gerrard is the Andrew Sabin Professor of Professional Practice and Director of the Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School in New York. The event is hosted by the NWACC Honors Program and the Service Learning Program. The subject of Gerrard’s talk is “Climate Change Regulation: Where Are the U.S. and the World Heading?”

Gerrard has written or edited eleven books, including Global Climate Change and U.S. Law, the leading work in its field (soon to go into its second edition) and the twelve-volume Environmental Law Practice Guide. His most recent books are The Law of Clean Energy: Efficiency and Renewables (2011), The Law of Adaptation to Climate Change: U.S. and International Aspects (2012) and Threatened Island Nations: Legal Implications of Rising Seas and a Changing Climate (2013). Since 1986, he has been an environmental law columnist for the New York Law Journal. For more information about this event, please contact April Brown at albrown@nwacc.edu.

Mary

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Paralegal Program Coordinator
ABA Approved Paralegal Program
CLIMATE CHANGE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER #1

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