The Economy-Wrecking EPA

New rules on CO_2 emissions are ruining our economy and damaging the lives of every man, woman and child in America. By Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D.

The United States currently produces nearly 70 percent of its electricity from coal and natural gas. Both emit millions of tons of CO_2. Because of near-religious belief that this is causing global warming, relentless environmental pseudoscience has convinced President Obama that this perceived warming will destroy the earth. Obama has therefore committed the United States to drastically reduce CO_2 emissions by converting to green alternative energy. Since alternative energy currently only produces four percent of our electricity, increasing our dependence to 20 percent and eventually to 80 percent would cause, as the president has admitted, "energy prices to necessarily skyrocket."

Economy-wrecking cap-and-trade legislation has been introduced in Congress over the years to force the United States to go green. Americans rejected all these efforts (See "Cap and Trade Looms Large," *RANGE*, Fall 2009.), but President Obama ignored them and put in place his backup plan: have the EPA create regulations that would cut an equal amount of CO_2 emissions.

The EPA got its authority to impose these new rules from the U.S. Supreme Court. In Massachusetts v. EPA in 2007, the Court based its entire ruling on the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) claim that man is causing global warming. The Court said in a 5-4 decision that CO_2 threatens the world through global warming; therefore, CO_2 is covered by the Clean Air Act's capacious definition of an "air pollutant."

Since then, the "Climategate" email scandal in 2009, which showed that key data in the IPCC's 2007 report were manipulated, and a series of revelations that the IPCC's 2007 report was fraught with errors have discredited the U.N. group as a source. (See "Lies and Damned Lies," *RANGE*, Spring 2010.) This is despite a huge government effort to whitewash the revelations. Following the release of the first batch of emails, two investigations glossed over the hard evidence of data manipulation and other malfeasances and merely slapped the hands of the scientists for essentially being overzealous.

The accusations of a whitewash by the two studies were ultimately condemned in Britain by the Commons Science Select Committee in Parliament as ineffective and too secretive. A committee spokesperson also said the emails' review "did not fully investi-

Wind Electrical Generation

Solar Electrical Generation

Coal Electrical Generation

Natural Gas Electrical Generation

Wind and solar electrical energy (top two photos) are being forced into use by tens of billions of dollars in subsidies. This kind of green energy is very expensive, unreliable, and suffers from a host of technical problems. Coal and natural gas (bottom two photos) are cheap, abundant and highly dependable. Does it make sense to impose draconian regulations to force us to use green energy? *See "The Green Energy Fraud" on page 31.*

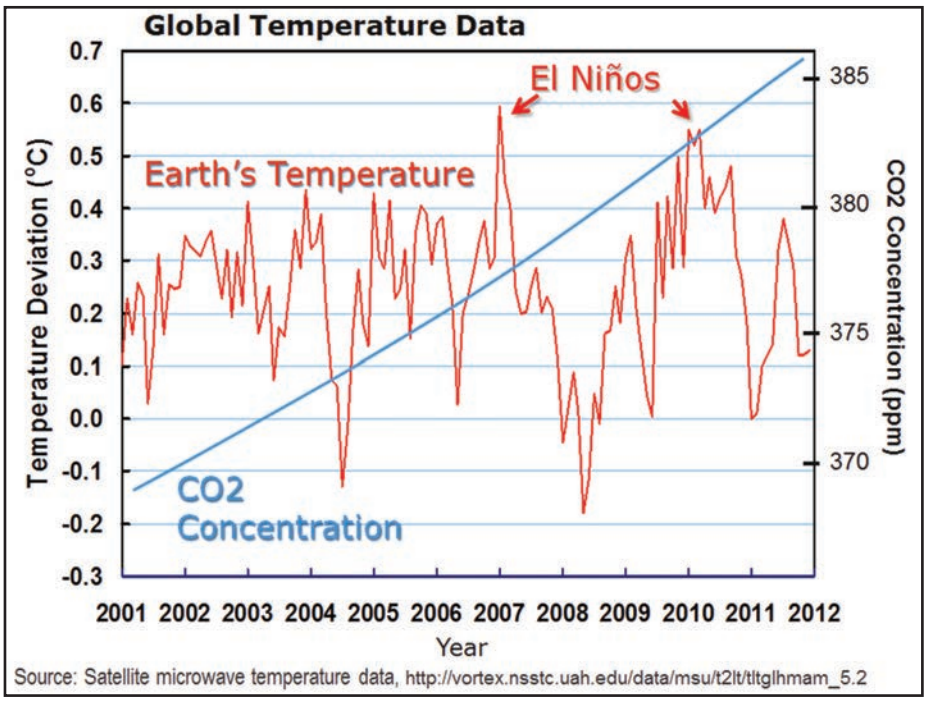
gate the serious allegation" relating to the deletion of emails and instead relied on a verbal reassurance that the messages still exist. This in spite of other emails advising recipients to delete certain damning emails.

Additionally, one of the investigations was led by Lord Oxburgh, who had a "conflict of interest" due to his deep links to green businesses and the green movement itself. At the same time the Emails Review Panel included a scientist who used to be the leader of the scientists under investigation. He had even actively circulated a petition to exonerate them.

Five thousand more emails were released in November 2011. This correspondence is being called Climategate 2, and shows not only how various data sets were manipulated to show warming, but also how investigations into fraud were rigged from the start. One of the Climategate 2 emails stated, "The trick may be to decide on the main message and use that to guide what's included and what is left out." This small group of scientists controlled what was included in the IPCC reports, and explains why contrary peer-reviewed science was not included. In another email, Phil Jones, the present leader of the group, even admitted that "the basic problem is that all of the models are wrong."

Timothy Carter of the Finnish Environmental Institute wrote in 2000, "It seems that a few people have a very strong say, and no matter how much talking goes on beforehand, the big decisions are made at the eleventh hour by a select core group." Decisions at the highest levels of what specific figures and conclusions were to appear in the short "summary for policy makers"—usually the only part of the IPCC's multivolume reports that the media and politicians read—required changing what appeared in individual chapters, a case of the conclusions driving the findings in the detailed chapters instead of the other way around.

In spite of an avalanche of contrary evidence, the EPA did no research to show that CO_2 was truly a pollutant, as is required by law. Instead, it based its CO_2 endangerment ruling solely on the corrupted "findings" of the IPCC. In March 2009, Alan Carlin, a midlevel EPA employee since 1967, wrote a critical 98-page report backed by peer-reviewed science. It included, "We believe our concerns and reservations are sufficiently important to warrant a serious review of the science by the EPA." Carlin's supervisor—an Obama appointee—quashed the report and



warned him in an email: "I don't want you to spend any additional EPA time on climate change. No papers, no research, etc." The EPA would condone no dissent to its contrived mantra of man-caused global warming.

The EPA's ruling is so bad that its own inspector general (IG) released a highly critical report on Sept. 26, 2011, stating that the EPA's findings "were not made available to the public as would be required for reviews of highly influential scientific assessments." The report also showed that the EPA "did not fully meet the independence requirements for reviews of highly influential scientific assessments because one of the panelists was an EPA employee."

This astonishing admission by the IPCC may be the result of research in 2011 that shows that the man-made warming theory is dead wrong. It is based on incorrect assumptions.

The IG's report was based on procedural, not scientific, matters, but the cat is out of the bag now and appears to be forcing the IPCC to back off its 2007 man-is-destroying-the-earth proclamations. In its upcoming 2012 report, the IPCC states in the draft executive summary: "Projected changes in climate extremes under different emissions scenarios generally do not strongly diverge in the coming two to three decades, *but these* [man-made] *signals are relatively small compared to natural climate variability over this time frame.* Even the sign of projected changes in some climate extremes over this time frame is uncertain." (Italics added)

This astonishing admission by the IPCC may be the result of research in 2011 that shows that the man-made warming theory is dead wrong. It is based on incorrect assumptions. Dr. Roy Spencer, former head of NASA's Advanced Microwave Scanning Radiometer unit and now principal research scientist at the University of Alabama at Huntsville, has clearly shown that the *theory* of man-made global warming is incorrect.

Most people do not know that within the man-caused warming theory, CO_2 by itself does not cause most of the warming. Instead, CO_2 causes just enough warming in the tropical zone around the equator to cause more thunderstorms, which puts more water vapor into the higher elevations. When the thunderstorms decay, thin, high-elevation cirrus clouds are left behind. It is the increased water vapor and cirrus clouds that trap the heat and cause the warming, not CO_2. Although this is generally unknown by the lay public, it is the foundation upon which the man-caused theory is built. There is no disagreement about this within the scientific community.

Spencer says the theory's required increase in cirrus clouds is just not happening. In fact, he found that "the satellite obser-

vations suggest there is much more heat energy lost to space during and after warming than the climate models show." Therefore, the man-caused theory of global warming cannot be correct. So far the challenges to Spencer's research by alarmist scientists have not shown that he is wrong.

Additionally, NOAA and NASA have had to admit that the sun is going into hibernation, similar to the Maunder Minimum in the 1800s when earth's temperatures were much cooler than today. That means we may be heading into 25 to 30 years of significant cooling. This is supported by the past 11 years of highly variable temperatures, which do not show any warming of the earth. In summary, the man-caused theory of warming is in tatters, and the IPCC seems to be indirectly acknowledging it. Nonetheless, the IPCC and all others who dogmatically cling to the hope that mankind is causing global warming refuse to admit it.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The EPA has ignored compelling contradictory evidence and is moving full steam ahead to implement draconian regulations. By doing so, the fact that plants must have CO_2 to survive and grow is being ignored. Science has shown that more CO_2 means more plant growth. More plant growth translates into more human food production. Plants then give off the oxygen all animals need to live. Not only is CO_2 essential for life on earth, there is actually too little of it!

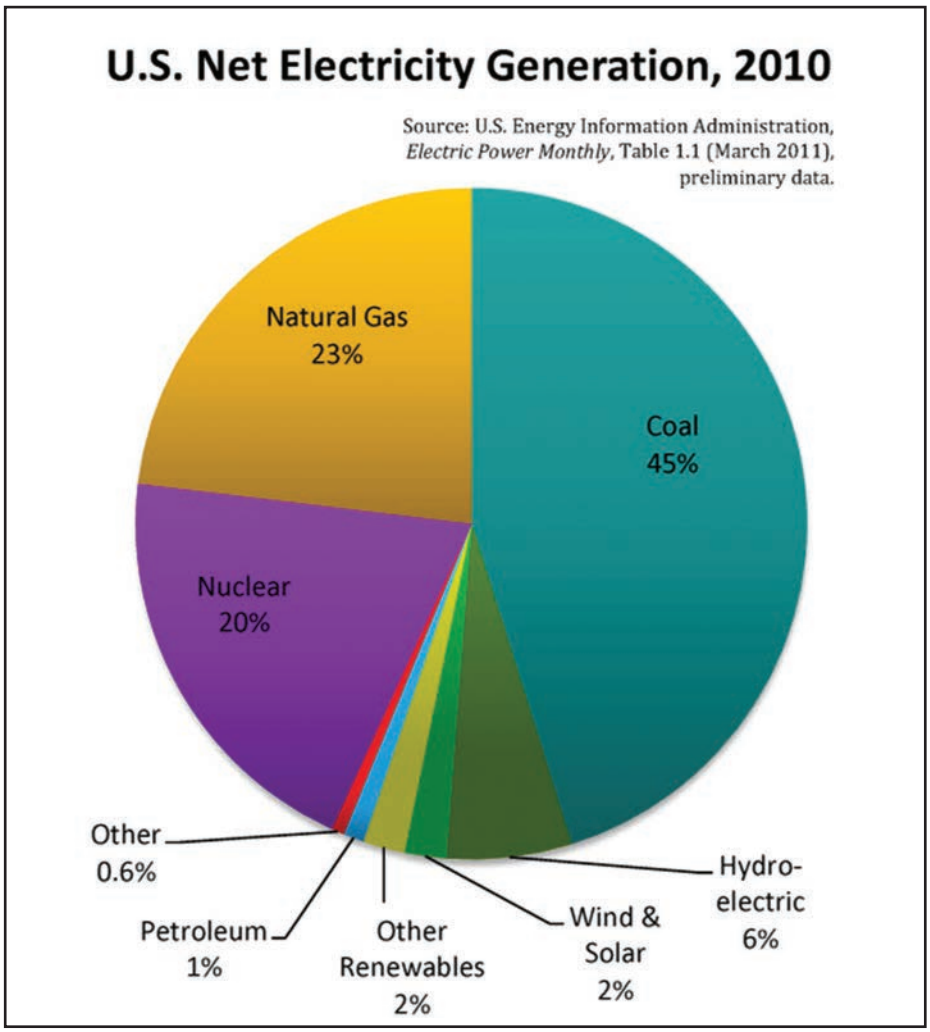
So zealous is the EPA in ignoring real science that it had to bend the Clean Air Act to the breaking point to implement its new regulations. The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to regulate any facility emitting more than 250 tons of pollutant a year—in this case CO_2. According to the Competitive Enterprise Institute, this would include "literally millions of small entities—big box stores, apartment and office buildings, hospitals, schools, large houses of worship, Dunkin' Donuts." It would also require an army of 230,000 full-time EPA employees, producing 1.4-billion work hours to administer, cost billions of dollars, and wipe out millions of private-enterprise jobs, year after year.

The EPA knew that fielding an army of more than a quarter-million EPA storm troopers to stop Dunkin' Donuts from baking pastries would never fly.

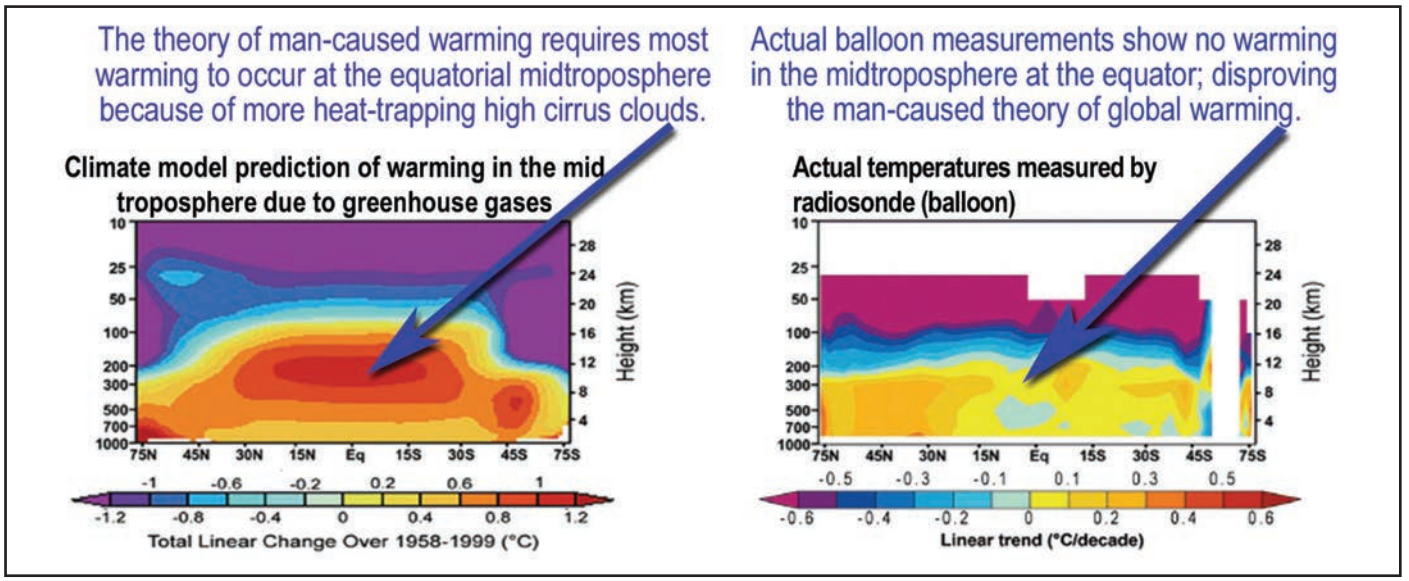
The EPA knew that fielding an army of more than a quarter-million EPA storm troopers to stop Dunkin' Donuts from baking pastries would never fly. So it simply, unilaterally and arbitrarily rewrote the Clean Air Act to revise the emission minimum for CO_2 from 240 tons to 25,000 tons. That's 100 times more than the law required. Never fear, though. The regulation will be incrementally increased to include more and more businesses and people as environmentalists file premeditated lawsuits in the future.

The EPA's new minimum of 25,000 tons per year primarily targets coal- and natural-gas fired electrical generating facilities and refineries. During Obama's 2008 campaign for president, these two primary targets are what he claimed he wanted to make so expensive that his green-energy program would look cost competitive. However, this comes with severe consequences. Along with other new EPA regulations, many coal-fired generating facilities will just close their doors. Analysts predict the United States as a whole will lose 17,000 to 60,000 megawatts per year by 2017. Seventeen thousand megawatts is about equal to all the electrical capacity in Wisconsin in 2011, while 60,000 megawatts will supply about 60 million homes.

That's not all. According to a major report by Paul Driessen, senior policy advisor at the Committee For A More Constructive Tomorrow and author of "Eco-Imperialism: Green Power Black Death": "Consumers in many states will pay 20 percent more for electricity by 2014 or shortly thereafter. In Illinois, electricity rates are expected to skyrocket 40 to 60 percent. For businesses, these price hikes will be major disincentives to hiring new workers. Struggling families will have even less for basic necessities.... Even the International Brotherhood of Electrical



During Obama's 2008 campaign for president, his two primary targets of coal- and natural-gas fired electrical generating facilities were what he claimed he wanted to make so expensive that his green-energy program would look cost competitive.



Workers says within a few years EPA's new rules will cost up to 50,000 jobs in the utility, coal mining and railroad industries alone—and 200,000 jobs overall."

Apparently Obama doesn't care much about jobs and affordable living for the poor. He is forcing us to use green energy at any cost to American citizens, rich or poor. (See "Green Energy Fraud" below.) The EPA claims the benefits of its new regulations will exceed costs by tens of billions of dollars while improving the health of millions of Americans. To paraphrase Driessen, only environmental and community-organizer ideologues can believe in the tortured logic used to justify such hogwash.

Our economy is wholly dependent on cheap energy. While testifying before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Ohio Coal Association's president, Mike Carey, warned: "The current administration is using EPA and other agencies to stop the use of affordable energy at every turn. Their actions are leaving investment dollars on the sidelines due to uncertainty. They have ground the permit process to a halt. New regulations on power plants are making it costly and impractical to burn coal to provide electricity. It's [an] all-out effort to stop the ability to access coal, and where they can't do that with a straight face, they will look to eliminate all of our customers. Apparently EPA believes they can control the laws of both supply and demand, all to the detriment of our economy."

Carey's warning is serious. Obama and the progressives in Congress are on a very dangerous path to economic ruin based on an unscientific, fear-driven belief that man is causing global warming. Additionally, the EPA is granting itself sweeping new powers without any congressional legislation to stop all human activity that "might" have an adverse environmental impact in the future. Along with thousands of pages of other rules, ostensibly to make us more "sustainable," the EPA is morphing into a high priesthood for an emerging new environmental religion that is based on nothing more than pseudo-science created to justify its fear that mother earth is being destroyed by capitalism and the free market system. ■

Dr. Coffman is president of Environmental Perspectives Incorporated (epi-us.com) and CEO of Sovereignty International (sovereignty.net) in Bangor, Maine. He has had over 30 years of university teaching, research and consulting experience in forestry and environmental sciences. He produced the acclaimed DVD "Global Warming or Global Governance" (warmingdvd.com) and "Global Warming, Emerging Science" (emergingscience.us). His newest book, "Rescuing a Broken America" (rescuingamericabook.com), is receiving wide acclaim. He can be reached at 207-945-9878 or mcoffman@epi-us.com. To find his features in RANGE, go to www.rangemagazine.com and click on back issues.

The Green Energy Fraud

Americans be damned. By Michael S. Coffman, Ph.D.

Just like his hugely expensive health-care fiasco, President Obama is committed to force us into using hugely expensive green energy. Although national reserves of oil, natural gas and coal are abundant, the president has done all he can to shut down every plan to develop these sources of cheap energy. (See "Obama's All-Out War," *RANGE*, Summer 2011.)

The Obama administration even defied a court order demanding that the Department of Interior grant deepwater drilling permits for oil. Meanwhile, by the end of 2011, Cuba had brought in a Chinese deepwater drilling rig and started drilling some 60 to 70 miles from Florida—right next to the area where Obama had forbidden drilling by U.S. companies. Likewise, the EPA is refusing to grant new permits for coal mines and has revoked some existing permits. Once again, the federal court ruled against the efforts of the administration, claiming the EPA exceeded its authority under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

One of Obama's most recent actions was to deny the permit to build the XL oil pipeline from Canada to Texas. This pipeline would have delivered 1.2 million barrels of oil a day—the amount of oil the United States currently gets from Saudi Arabia. This has led energy-sector executives to suspect that the administration "is at war with American energy." Fortunately, Congress is forcing Obama to reconsider and make a final decision by Feb. 21, 2012.

While Obama gives lip service to reducing the dependence of the United States on foreign energy and creating jobs, he is actually making America more dependent on foreign energy, reducing national security, and

ILLUSTRATION © JOHN BARDWELL

killing hundreds of thousands of jobs in the process. What's more bizarre is that mainstream media are strangely quiet about that while promoting Obama's jobs' program that even some Senate Democrats voted down.

After spending tens of billions of dollars on subsidies to wind and solar farms, the nation's dependence on green energy has barely budged from about 1.5 percent 10 years ago to two percent today. Worse, in his new book, "Throw Them All Out," Peter Schweizer details how 80 percent of the Department of Energy's (DOE) funds for clean energy have gone to Obama backers. He writes: "In the…government-backed loan program [alone], for example, $16.4 billion of the $20.5 billion in loans granted as of Sept. 15 [2011] went to companies either run by or primarily owned by Obama financial backers—individuals who were bundlers, members of Obama's National Finance Committee, or large donors to the Democratic Party."

This cronyism and raw corruption calls into question whether Obama is pushing green energy because he believes in it, or to pay off his supporters with taxpayers' money. Solyndra Inc. was Obama's poster child for his "clean energy initiative," after being turned down for a government loan by the Bush administration because it was too risky. The dirty details of the Solyndra scandal and more than half a billion tax dollars trickled out over months, in spite of the administration's herculean effort to bury the information. For instance, Steve Spinner, a DOE employee monitoring the Solyndra loan guarantee, happened to be one of Obama's top fund-raisers.

There are a host of technical reasons why green energy won't work for a long time in the future, yet the Obama administration is spending billions to force us to use it.

Another major Obama fund-raiser, George Kaiser, has deep ties to Solyndra. His George Kaiser Family Foundation's investment arm, Argonaut Ventures, owned a huge piece of Solyndra and received direct political support from the White House and money from the federal government. Argonaut's president, Steve Mitchell, also served on Solyndra's board of directors.

Worse, as it became clear Solyndra would fail, the DOE allowed private creditors, including many big donors to the Democrats, to get paid first when Solyndra's assets were sold. That's in violation of the law. The investors got some of their money back, but U.S. taxpayers got none. Then, as layoffs became inevitable, the Energy Department asked Solyndra to delay the announcement until after the 2010 election. It's easy to guess why.

The Solyndra scandal shows why the government shouldn't be in the business of picking winners and losers. Wind and solar power are economic nightmares, and just don't work. Wind energy only works about 25 percent of the time when the wind blows. Solar power is even less effective because it doesn't work when the sun's not out. There are a host of technical reasons why green energy won't work for a long time in the future, yet the Obama administration is spending billions to force us to use it.

Europe realizes green energy is bankrupting them. In mid-2011, Great Britain estimated that 25 percent of its population already suffered from energy poverty due to a 71 percent increase in energy costs. British companies are threatening to move to other countries where energy costs are less; some have already left.

An in-depth study in Spain found that for every green energy job created, 2.2 are lost in the rest of the economy. This is because the enormous subsidies required for green energy sucks jobs out of the private sector. Research in Italy found that an incredible 6.9 jobs were lost in the industrial sector and 4.8 jobs across the entire economy when the Italian government provided enormous subsidies to build wind and solar farms. As nation after nation in Europe realizes the astronomic cost of alternative energy, they are shutting off the green subsidies.

Obama's clean energy plan is a dismal failure that has cost Americans tens of billions of dollars and opened the door to what appears to be rampant corruption. Unfortunately, Obama, his administrators, and the progressives in Congress continue to force-feed us their failed policy. It's time to say goodbye to any elected official who blindly accepts Obama's failed ideology and clean-energy policies. ■