
From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 19, 2025 11:05 AM
To: John Christy
Cc: Roy Spencer; Judith Curry; Ross McKittrick; Steven Koonin; Josh Loucks
Subject: Review of CWG Report

Team,

I have now sent the CWG report to a total of eight reviewers internal to the DOE enterprise (five people from the national labs and three from the Office of Science). I've asked for a quick review to conclude by the end of the day on Monday.

Two things as we move forward:

- 1) We should plan to hash out reviewers' comments on Tuesday. My suggestion is to have a virtual meeting (or more than one) focused on responding to comments and either implementing the suggested change or explaining why we chose not to implement the change. Is most of the team available for that?
- 2) As promised, you all have the ultimate pen on the report. No changes to the process there. However, let's think strategically about how we want to construct the "peer review report." For example, I've just reviewed the set of comments from the first lab reviewer, and it's my hunch that most comments will be rejected. If that's the case, we should treat our response to comments as an opening salvo in the long debate ahead.

If you're wondering why we would document and potentially publish the private back-and-forth between this author group and DOE peer reviewers, it's partly a CYA exercise from the Office of Science but I also suspect the peer review comments and your responses will be the subject of a future FOIA request. As with the CWG report itself, I think the peer review report should be as respectful as possible (even though I know some comments will make your blood boil—for example, our first reviewer is a fan of RCP8.5) and should help readers better understand the debate.

Finally, I'm sending this email to warn you that all the reviewer materials will be coming from my DOE account. If you don't see anything from me in the next hour or so, please check your spam filters. Also please keep in mind that my DOE emails (and your replies) will be easily discoverable by outside parties.

Best,
Travis

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 8, 2025 9:05 AM
To: Roy Spencer
Cc: John Christy; Judith Curry; Steve Koonin; Ross McKittrick; Josh Loucks; seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov
Subject: Re: How to respond to critics of our science....

I was trying to find a citation for this, and it looks like Pielke Jr. had a Substack article and X thread about it:
<https://open.substack.com/pub/rogerpielkejr/p/original-sin>

On Sun, Jun 8, 2025 at 8:27 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Via Pielke Jr., nice that we have a blanket response already written to anyone who doesn't like our interpretation of the science (from NCA5 comments):



From: Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]
Sent: 6/4/2025 3:06:34 PM
To: 'John Christy' [climateeman60@gmail.com]; 'Roy Spencer' [roywspencer@hotmail.com]
CC: 'Travis Fisher' [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; cohen.seth1994@gmail.com; 'Ross McKitrick' [ross.mckitrick@gmail.com]; 'Judith Curry' [curry.judith@gmail.com]; 'Josh Loucks' [loucksj14@gmail.com]
Subject: RE: Scoping
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.jpg

Thanks, John.

All – I am compiling all contributions into a first draft with light editing and coordination between the various sections. I hope to be able to distribute that by Saturday morning to give you a chance to look through it before a Saturday afternoon video session.

From: John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 10:36 AM
To: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; cohen.seth1994@gmail.com; Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Scoping

All

Here are some words on extremes in heat in the NCA5. I did not address the PacNW heat wave directly.

I'm leaving model fit-for-purpose to Steve and Judy and model vs. obs to Ross and Roy. Since NCA5 did not really address it - they just assumed models were terrific, not sure what can be done. NCA3 addressed it, but the lead author of that section owned a company that made money by selling model output ... conflict of interest?

John C.

On Wed, Jun 4, 2025 at 8:08 AM John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com> wrote:

All

Here is one contribution regarding claims of increases in heavy precipitation events. I shortened it and tried to take out the snarkiness in this version.

John C.

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 7:57 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Reminds me of Extraordinary Popular Delusions and Madness of Crowds

Sent from my Verizon Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Date: 6/3/25 6:51 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: 'Roy Spencer' <roywspencer@hotmail.com>, cohen.seth1994@gmail.com, 'Ross McKittrick' <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>, 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>, 'John Christy' <climateman60@gmail.com>, 'Josh Loucks' <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Scoping

I think we need to pick the optimal targets. Yes, the headline statements carry a lot of weight.

For this one, we could use the IPCC statements to refute the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme events, and the mortality data to refute the “increasing morbidity and mortality”, but some of the rest of it is too soft for a firm refutation; e.g., “harming the physical, mental, spiritual, and community health ...”

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 6:51 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; cohen.seth1994@gmail.com; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Scoping

Sounds good!

I can already tell this is going to be a whopper of an assignment (but fun, in a dark and twisted way).

Here's Key Message 15.1:

Climate Change Is Harming Human Health

It is an established fact that climate change is harming physical, mental, spiritual, and community health and well-being through the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme events, increasing cases of infectious and vector-borne diseases, and declines in food and water quality and security. Climate-related hazards will continue to grow, increasing morbidity and mortality across all regions of the US (very likely, very high confidence).

Would it make sense to focus some attention on these key messages, especially given that they're on the summary pages on the website and appear verbatim within the report itself?

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A couple of additional comments:

? As you writeup your two examples, include, if appropriate, an account of whether NASEM approved or criticized the point and what was the NCA5 team's response to the criticism

? I attach a very rough outline of the report so you can see how I think it might all come together. Please suggest improvements; this will evolve as text gets written

? Travis, Josh- In a few hours, I'll send you suggestions for a "library" we should establish

SEK

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Subject: Re: Scoping

Adding Seth.

Here's the whole hog: https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA5_2023_FullReport.pdf

As we discussed at the end of the call, each scientist will identify two glaring errors or omissions in the report and send a written synopsis/insert to the group on Friday, if not before. Large discrepancies between the underlying report and the summary pages are also fair game.

We'll reconvene on Saturday to discuss how to spend next week. Josh and I will be the administrative wizards for this second assignment. Steve is the spiritual leader. Judy may take a deep dive into the idea of NCA 5's fitness for purpose. We forgot to give Roy a tough assignment after he left (my fault... maybe his list of errors should be like 3 or 4 things?). Ross deserves a(n American) medal for his stewardship of the May report. As usual, John is already halfway done with his assignment.

Thanks again for contributing so much to this important work!

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 2:10 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

"a billion here, a billion there..."

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 12:22 PM

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Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Scoping

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I can't blame anyone if you find a deep sense of irony (or affirmation?) in my inability to model the future of our work assignments just 14 days in advance. Some might say it's a non-linear and chaotic system.

Ross, this is a public data point for the USGCRP budget (warning, you may get very depressed seeing how much it is just for one FY): <https://www.globalchange.gov/budget>

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 12:06 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I agree Steve, there's no way to discuss the summaries without discussing the underlying reports. In focusing on the Summaries I'm trying to avoid taking on a mandate to critique the entire NCA5 since it's too big and would have too many defenders. But we should give ourselves the scope to do both.

And, at the end of the day, whoever is asking us for the report should have some say in what we do, so maybe in our meeting Travis can let us know what the higher-ups are really looking for.

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Subject: Re: Scoping

The recommendations part will definitely be the most interesting

However, I think focusing on the summaries of the NCA5 is misguided; if we find the summaries aren't useful, then people could infer that you just need to read the full report

I suggest focusing on fundamental deficiencies of their approach for purposes of informing policy making

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- expand and secure support for basic climate monitoring including the MSU series, Argo floats, radiosondes etc.
- expand discussion of potential benefits of climate change including reduced cold-weather mortality and enhanced CO2 fertilization

- red team review of problems with the global surface thermometer network, including lack of spatial coverage and formal assessment of whether the bias adjustments actually remove known UHI biases
- cull the GCM herd and retire those models that have intractable problems of warming bias
- Invest in substantial efforts to digitize hand-written records of temperature and precip across the US. Basically, hire a team of 100 researchers to see if they can do in 5 years what John does in a month.
- Create a public-facing data dissemination site that provides access to complete records of climate-relevant metrics including extreme weather, in every case showing the entire data set not merely the last 20 years
- Reduce or eliminate regional climate projections on the basis that models are incapable of doing it and the information provided is useless. Focus instead on providing information geared to optimizing adaptation and resilience

Etc.

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 4:10 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
yes that is exactly what palmer is up to, but it works for us

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 1:06 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
Neat!

Roy, part of the context for the Palmer/Stevens statements is that they were campaigning for a bigger computer facility (maybe they still are – some big EU climate computer center analogous to CERN for particle physics). Saying (politely) that the current models aren't any good helps in the justification.

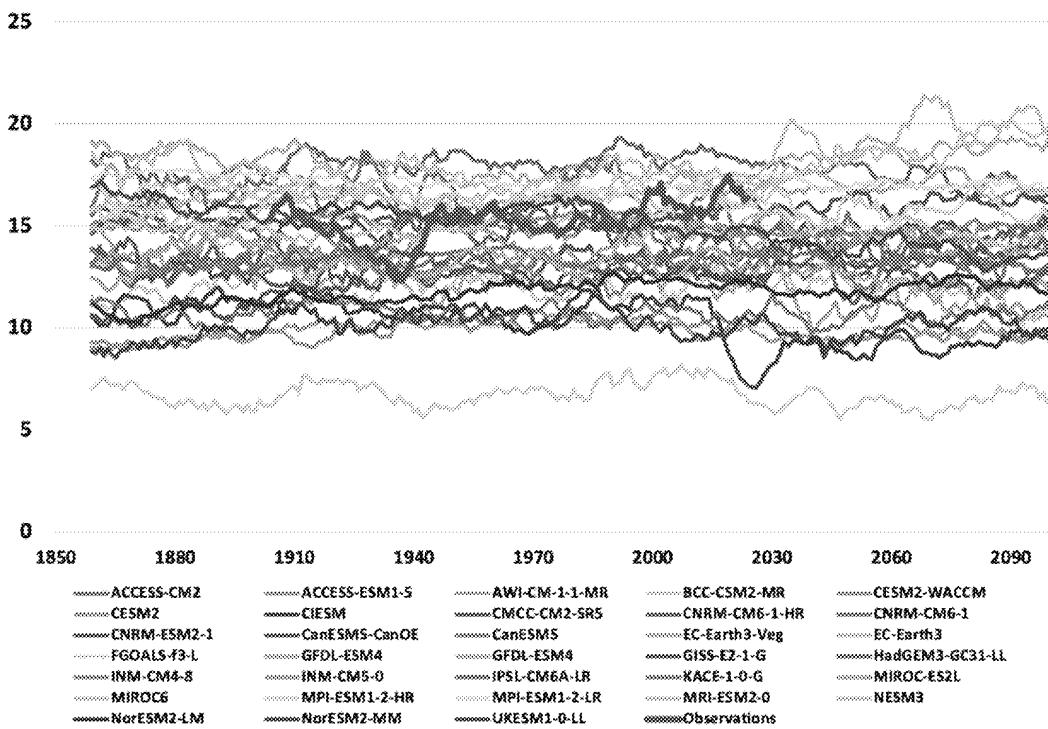
From: John Christy <climate man60@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 3:59 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Scoping

All

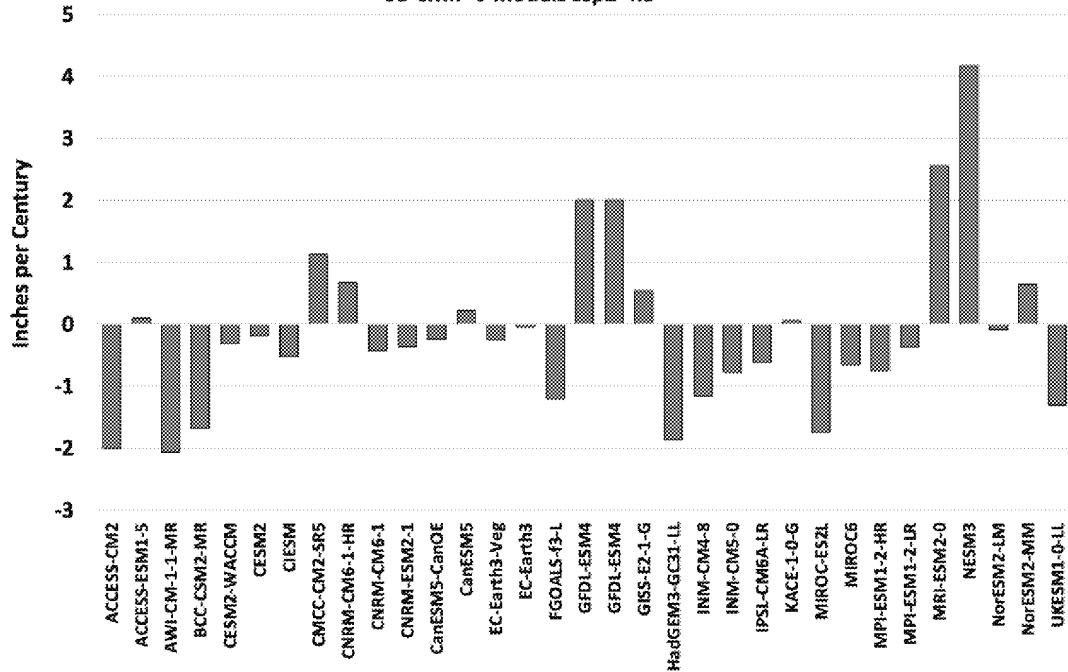
I was able to grab the CMIP6 model output. To give an example of regional climate models' purpose-fitting capability, we now have a good set of continuous precip stations in the upper Midwest with which to compare. In terms of the extreme events, I think we'll find no significant regional observational trends, but Ross will test that statement. In terms of forecasted bulk growing season rainfall, this will be a fair test for climate models since they don't have to contend with (and thus make excuses for) significant issues of irregular topography and coastlines. I got a kick out of the trend for the 21st century in the growing season rainfall. The model average is -0.13 inches PER CENTURY, or less than 1 percent. The only policy here would be one we've long recommended - adapt to high interannual (natural) variability if you want to thrive. A point here too is that the NCA5 never looked at the details in a scientific way ... they just waved their hands.

John C.

10-yr Trailing Mean of May-Aug Precipitation Upper Midwest



Predicted Change for 21st Century Upper MidWest May-Aug Precipitation 33 CMIP-6 models ssp2-4.5

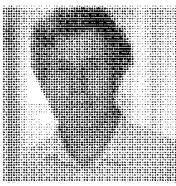


On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 2:40 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
Here are the three quotes from Palmer and Stevens that I often invoke (the third one was not in a public forum).

Even climate modelers don't believe their own (regional) results



... for many key applications that require regional climate model output or for assessing large-scale changes from smallscale processes, we believe that the **current generation of models is not fit for purpose.**
- T. Palmer and B. Stevens, PNAS (2019)



Our understanding makes a compelling case for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. What remains unclear is what happens when it warms. In fact, it is difficult, and in many places impossible, to scientifically advise societal efforts to adapt in the face of unavoidable warming. Our knowledge gaps are frightful because they make it impossible to assess the extent to which a given degree of warming poses existential threats.
– Bjorn Stevens, UCLA Yanai Lecture, 5/5/22



It is an unfortunate fact of the matter that most policy and decision makers view the science of climate change as done and dusted and hence the research we fluid-earthers are involved in is perceived to be largely irrelevant to the important question of how to tackle the climate emergency. On top of this, if we are let out of our ivory towers to express the fact that our understanding of climate change - especially at the regional scale - is rather poor (how can a country adapt if it doesn't even know the sign of precipitation change with any confidence - as IPCC figures show), the same policy and decision makers start to feel uncomfortable. They'd rather we didn't say such things in public - they claim it undermines the public's faith in the need to take action. ~ T. Palmer, NAS group email 4/15/23

18

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 3:34 PM
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <ljoucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Scoping

If we end up saying that models are not fit for purpose (policy-wise), are we not making a judgement about policy already? If policy is based upon Precautionary Principle hogwash, then it can be argued models ARE fit for purpose.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Date: 6/2/25 12:35 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>

Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>, Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>, Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Scoping

I think we can reframe #3 and #4 to address more general issues at the science-policy interface I'll try to find time today to write something

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 10:29 AM John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Ross

I can contribute to #1 and #2, but wouldn't be much help with #3 and #4.

John C.

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 10:47 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I think the preamble and questions 1 and 2 are right on point.

But I've a problem with questions 3 and 4 as they're out of our lane. We are not experts in USG organization, roles, responsibilities, authorities. We see the beast only from the periphery.

A better question replacing 3 and 4 would be to ask for recommendations as to how the NCA process could be improved.

SEK

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 11:14 AM

To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>

Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Scoping

Looks good to me... not sure the last (4th) question is necessary. Supposedly, the USGCRP was formed to coordinate global change research across agencies... Pielke Jr (whose PhD thesis was on its formation and purpose) claims that putting USGCRP control in the WH makes the whole process unavoidably political, which was probably the intent. Not sure how that factors in here...

-Roy

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 9:56 AM

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<steven.koonin@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Scoping

this is good

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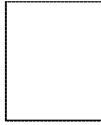
I have drafted a 1-page charge letter for the Secretary, setting out what I think are entirely defensible questions for a cabinet official to ask, and which would be feasible for us to answer on a short time scale. Comments welcome.

--



Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications
Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com |
+1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

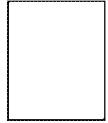
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100%

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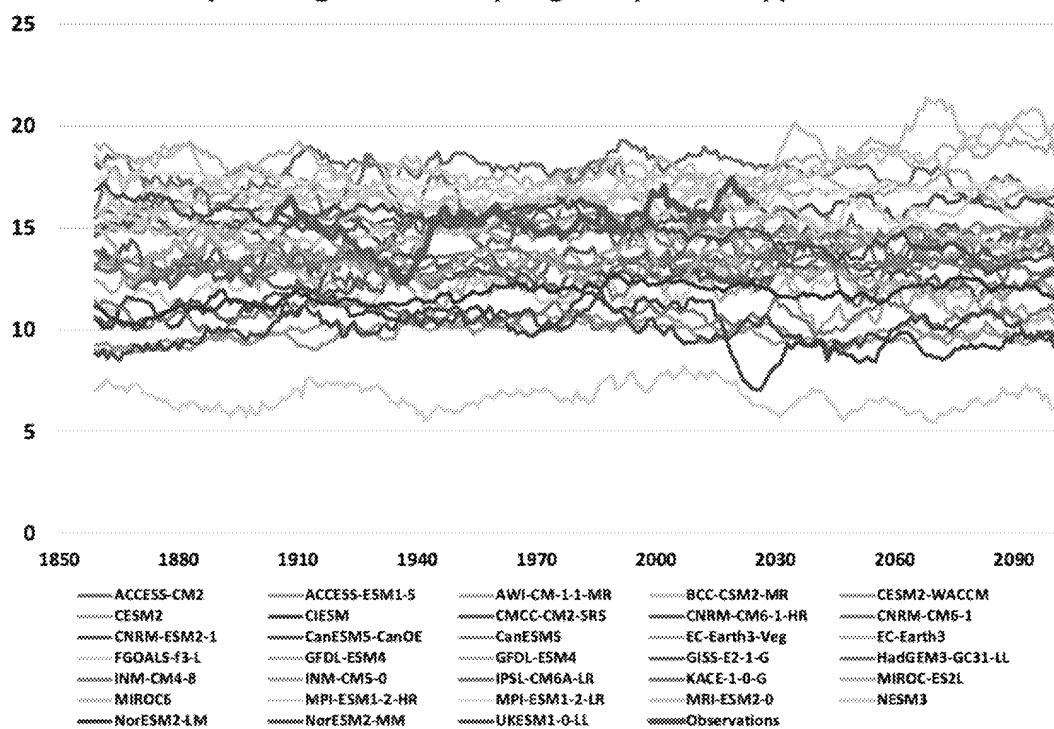
From: John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 3:59 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Scoping

All

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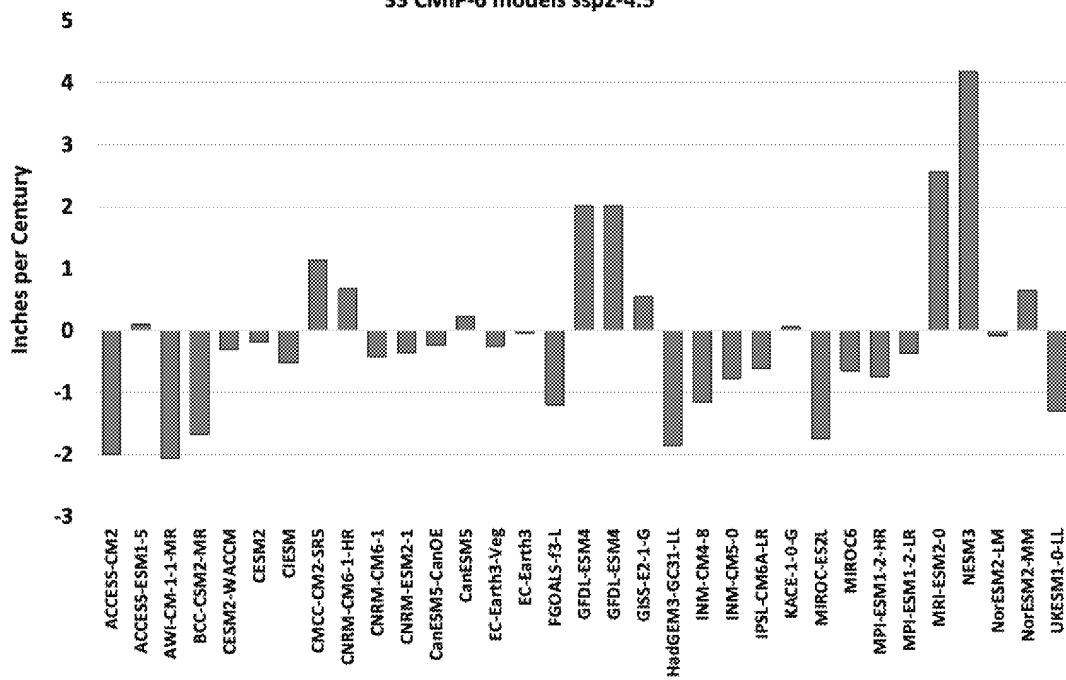
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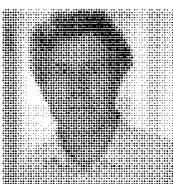
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— T. Palmer and B. Stevens, PNAS (2018)



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Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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Date: 6/2/25 12:35 PM (GMT-06:00)

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John C.

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A better question replacing 3 and 4 would be to ask for recommendations as to how the NCA process could be improved.

SEK

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Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 11:14 AM

To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>

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-Roy

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 9:56 AM

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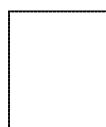
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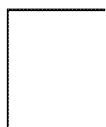
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Sent: 6/2/2025 8:10:34 PM
To: Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]
CC: John Christy [climateman60@gmail.com]; Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]; Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; Josh Loucks [loucksj14@gmail.com]
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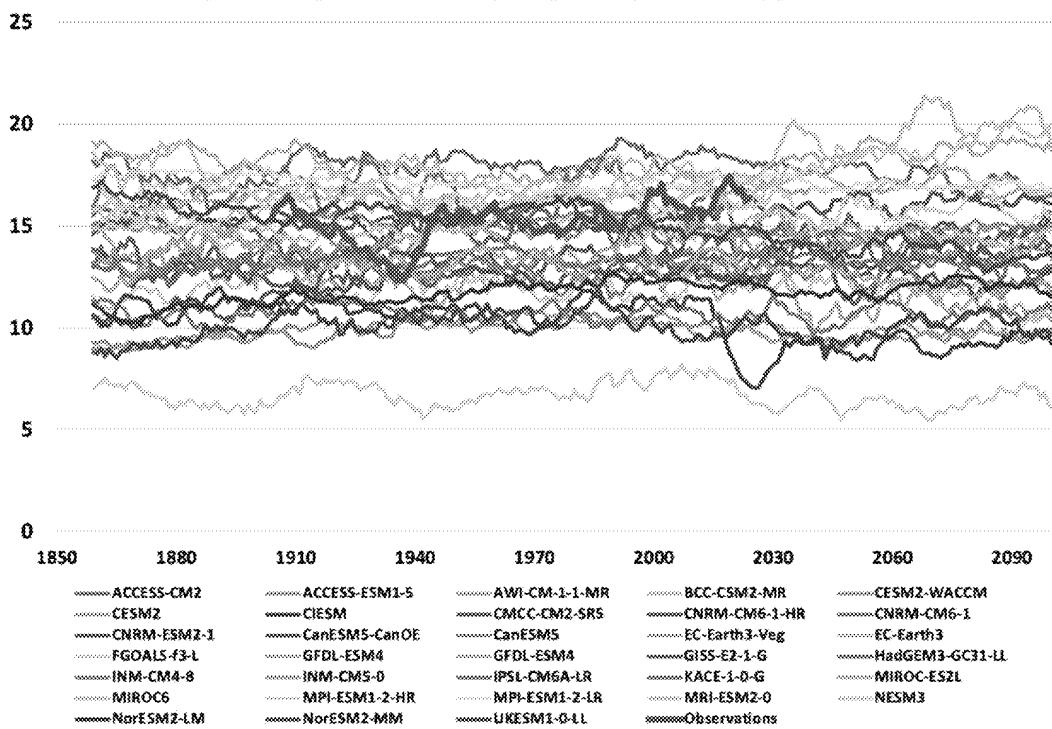
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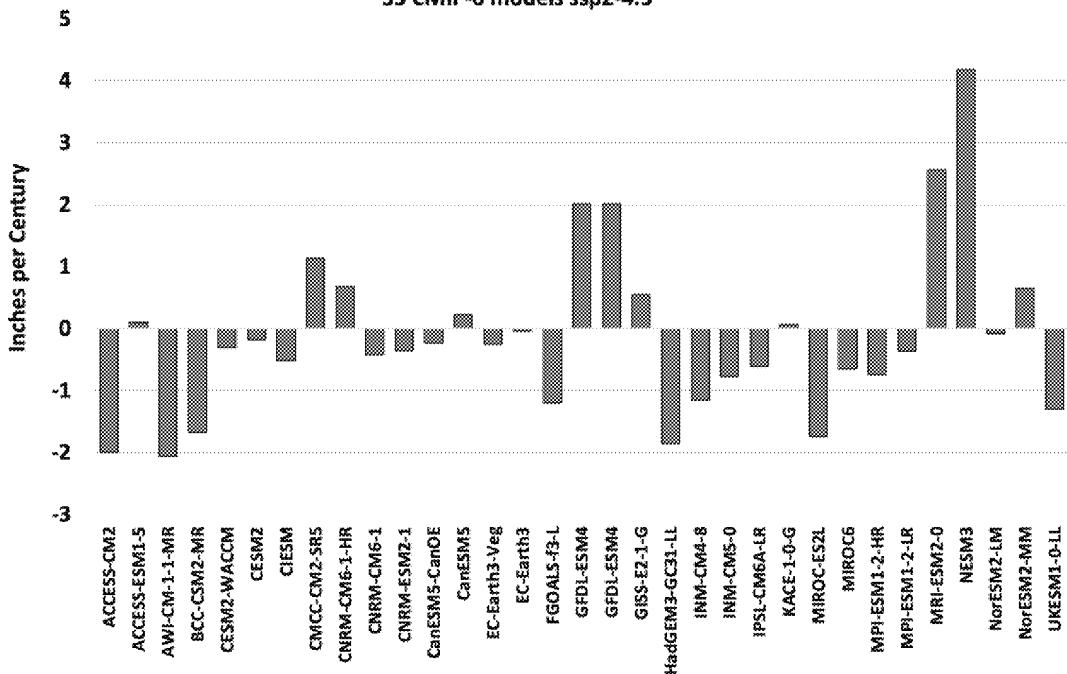
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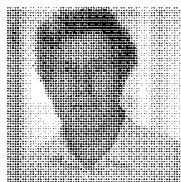
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- Bjorn Stevens, UCLA Yanai Lecture, 5/5/22

It is an unfortunate fact of the matter that most policy and decision makers view the science of climate change as done and dusted and hence the research we fluid-earthers are involved in is perceived to be largely irrelevant to the important question of how to tackle the climate emergency. On top of this, if we are let out of our ivory towers to express the fact that **our understanding of climate change - especially at the regional scale - is rather poor (how can a country adapt if it doesn't even know the sign of precipitation change with any confidence - as IPCC figures show)**, the same policy and decision makers start to feel uncomfortable. They'd rather we didn't say such things in public - they claim it undermines the public's faith in the need to take action. - T. Palmer, NAS group email 4/15/23

33

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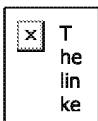
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From: John Christy [climate man60@gmail.com]
Sent: 7/18/2025 10:33:07 PM
To: Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]
CC: Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]; Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]; Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; Josh Loucks [loucksj14@gmail.com]; Seth Cohen [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]
Subject: Re: NCA5 progress
Attachments: image001.jpg

That was done about a week ago.

John C.

On Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 1:39 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
Did anyone notice NCA5 appears to have been scrubbed from agency websites? It's still on WayBack Machine. -Roy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: John Christy <climate man60@gmail.com>
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To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>, Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>, Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>, Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: NCA5 progress

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Attached are my edits in green highlight. I added a recommendation for NCA6 and attached here is a short writeup that motivates the recommendation.

John C.

On Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 11:26 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
I suspect FEMA isn't one of USGCRP agencies. Also probably not USACE. IMO, NCA should be targeted at those orgs

On Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 8:31 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
That's excellent. I'd be interested in someone at FEMA providing feedback on our NCA report.

On Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 9:50 AM John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com> wrote:
A couple of my folks did a quick write up of the TX floods.

<https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/dashboard/stories/tx-flood>

John C.

On Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 9:22 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
Thoughts on turning section 8.4 into a separate chapter, e.g.

8. Regional example: Texas 2025 floods
9. Conclusions and recommendations for NCA6

On Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 3:28 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
I've added several edits to Judy's version (attached).

-Roy

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:29 AM
To: 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>; 'Ross McKittrick' <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: 'John Christy' <climateaman60@gmail.com>; 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; 'Roy W. Spencer' <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; 'Josh Loucks' <loucksj14@gmail.com>; 'Seth Cohen' <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: NCA5 progress

And my further edits attached.

Do keep me at least cc'd over the next few days – I'll respond as I'm able.

SEK

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 7:05 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: NCA5 progress

Here is my revised version. One proposed change of substance, relates to TX floods.

In section 8.3, i proposed modifying one of the bullets:

- The range of climatic and weather conditions, including extremes, that have occurred in the past and can reasonably be expected to occur in U.S. regions over the near future. An example of a salient acute failure is

the NCA5 chapter (region that includes Texas) that fails to mention the historical occurrence and future risk of flash floods in the Texas Hill Country. ROSS MAYBE MENTION WHAT NCA5 SAID ABOUT TX FLOODS in REGIONAL CHAPTER, THEN INCLUDE LINK TO YOUR MINI ANALYSIS

An alternative approach would be to add a new chapter on Failure to document the risk of extreme events based on the historical data base, something like that. Simpler just to mention it in Section 8.3

On Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 3:33 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

If Steve's away until Tuesday a Friday July 18 deadline won't be feasible, so let's work towards a Friday July 25 deadline.

I propose this week we go in the following order to prevent us working on overlapping drafts

Judy goes through the draft tonight

Steve has another look tomorrow.

Then Roy, then John, then me.

On Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 3:47 PM John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com> wrote:

I like Judy's idea. It's one way to avoid going through the preparation and experience of something like a colonoscopy twice in one month.

John C.

On Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 2:12 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Here is a way around the NCA4 issue, propose adding the following text to end of section 8.3

NCA4 provided a better assessment than NCA5 in terms of a more thorough consideration climate science, use of data back to 1901, and less of an advocacy tone. However, NCA4 shared the following endemic problems with NCA5

- Overconfidence in conclusions
- Inadequate treatment of natural variability
- Inadequate Traceable Accounts and communication of uncertainty
- Over reliance on extreme scenarios

On Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 12:02 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Just a heads up that I will be on the West Coast with very limited connectivity from tomorrow (Wednesday) evening through Monday evening (West Coast times). Back on the East Coast early Tuesday morning.

SEK

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
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Hi all,

If we need to move quickly to publish the NCA critique as a DOE product, what would be a reasonable date for us to consider it final from the authors' point of view (subject to internal review for errors but not subject to political meddling)? I have to build a publication schedule, and I'd like to work backward from a date that's comfortable for you all.

I ask because the political powers that be are interested in having a published version to cite. Sooner is better, of course, but I don't want to jam you up. They certainly want it to be published before we could conceivably have a new head of the USGCRP, so it will have to be a DOE report.

Finally, if you're considering critiquing the entire NCA apparatus and previous reports, I think that would be helpful. The political response to an NCA5 critique so far has been (I'm paraphrasing), "Even if we show that NCA5 is not a solid basis for policymaking, what about NCA4 and prior reports?"

As always, please feel free to call me or convene a meeting if you want to discuss anything. I'll also try to keep everyone posted as the CWG report moves through the necessary hoops.

Best,
Travis

On Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 11:41 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I've marked up Judy's "desnarked" version (attached). Mostly typos and wording, but a few issues of substance. And still on the fence about whether and how to include the NCA4 story on temperature extremes.

SEK

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 13, 2025 3:12 PM

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Subject: Re: NCA5 progress

see attached for a shorter, desmarked version of NCA5 for you to consider. I didn't do track changes, its clean text

On Sun, Jul 13, 2025 at 10:55 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Steve- this is the most recent version I have. There is also a Supplement on precip trends.

On Sat, Jul 12, 2025 at 6:18 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Ross- Can you send around the most recent version of the NCA5 review. I can't seem to identify it in the emails and would like to go through it again in the next few days.

SEK

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John and I only appear in Section 4.1 as part of challenging the reproducibility of the NCA5 Key Message regarding precipitation. 2 of our 3 citations in the reference list are data archives which are there for transparency purposes.

On Fri, Jul 11, 2025 at 2:53 PM John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Judy

I must be missing something. Our papers directly address the issues espoused by NCA5. We offer all the data and methods. Why should our work be suppressed?

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 11, 2025, at 1:16 PM, judith curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

We need to think about our audience who we want to reach and influence. We don't want this to be another salvo in the climate wars. But to rise above it and be hyper objective.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 11, 2025, at 10:07 AM, John Christy <climate man60@gmail.com> wrote:

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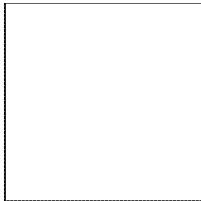
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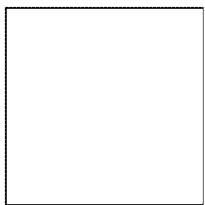
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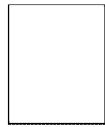
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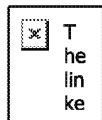
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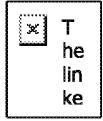
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From: John Christy [climateman60@gmail.com]
Sent: 7/18/2025 2:50:26 PM
To: Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]
CC: Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]; Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]; Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; Josh Loucks [loucksj14@gmail.com]; Seth Cohen [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]
Subject: Re: NCA5 progress
Attachments: image001.jpg

A couple of my folks did a quick write up of the TX floods.

<https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/dashboard/stories/tx-flood>

John C.

On Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 9:22 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
Thoughts on turning section 8.4 into a separate chapter, e.g.

8. Regional example: Texas 2025 floods
9. Conclusions and recommendations for NCA6

On Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 3:28 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
I've added several edits to Judy's version (attached).

-Roy

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 16, 2025 5:29 AM
To: 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>; 'Ross McKittrick' <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: 'John Christy' <climateman60@gmail.com>; 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; 'Roy W. Spencer' <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; 'Josh Loucks' <loucksj14@gmail.com>; 'Seth Cohen' <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: NCA5 progress

And my further edits attached.

Do keep me at least cc'd over the next few days – I'll respond as I'm able.

SEK

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 7:05 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: NCA5 progress

Here is my revised version. One proposed change of substance, relates to TX floods.

In section 8.3, i proposed modifying one of the bullets:

- The range of climatic and weather conditions, including extremes, that have occurred in the past and can reasonably be expected to occur in U.S. regions over the near future. An example of a salient acute failure is the NCA5 chapter (region that includes Texas) that fails to mention the historical occurrence and future risk of flash floods in the Texas Hill Country ~~ROSS MAYBE MENTION WHAT NCA5 SAID ABOUT TX FLOODS in REGIONAL CHAPTER, THEN INCLUDE LINK TO YOUR MINI ANALYSIS~~

An alternative approach would be to add a new chapter on Failure to document the risk of extreme events based on the historical data base, something like that. Simpler just to mention it in Section 8.3

On Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 3:33 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

If Steve's away until Tuesday a Friday July 18 deadline won't be feasible, so let's work towards a Friday July 25 deadline.

I propose this week we go in the following order to prevent us working on overlapping drafts

Judy goes through the draft tonight

Steve has another look tomorrow.

Then Roy, then John, then me.

On Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 3:47 PM John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com> wrote:

I like Judy's idea. It's one way to avoid going through the preparation and experience of something like a colonoscopy twice in one month.

John C.

On Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 2:12 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Here is a way around the NCA4 issue, propose adding the following text to end of section 8.3

NCA4 provided a better assessment than NCA5 in terms of a more thorough consideration climate science, use of data back to 1901, and less of an advocacy tone. However, NCA4 shared the following endemic problems with NCA5

- Overconfidence in conclusions
- Inadequate treatment of natural variability
- Inadequate Traceable Accounts and communication of uncertainty
- Over reliance on extreme scenarios

On Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 12:02 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Just a heads up that I will be on the West Coast with very limited connectivity from tomorrow (Wednesday) evening through Monday evening (West Coast times). Back on the East Coast early Tuesday morning.

SEK

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 1:47 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: NCA5 progress

Hi all,

If we need to move quickly to publish the NCA critique as a DOE product, what would be a reasonable date for us to consider it final from the authors' point of view (subject to internal review for errors but not subject to political meddling)? I have to build a publication schedule, and I'd like to work backward from a date that's comfortable for you all.

I ask because the political powers that be are interested in having a published version to cite. Sooner is better, of course, but I don't want to jam you up. They certainly want it to be published before we could conceivably have a new head of the USGCRP, so it will have to be a DOE report.

Finally, if you're considering critiquing the entire NCA apparatus and previous reports, I think that would be helpful. The political response to an NCA5 critique so far has been (I'm paraphrasing), "Even if we show that NCA5 is not a solid basis for policymaking, what about NCA4 and prior reports?"

As always, please feel free to call me or convene a meeting if you want to discuss anything. I'll also try to keep everyone posted as the CWG report moves through the necessary hoops.

Best,

Travis

On Tue, Jul 15, 2025 at 11:41 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I've marked up Judy's "desnarked" version (attached). Mostly typos and wording, but a few issues of substance. And still on the fence about whether and how to include the NCA4 story on temperature extremes.

SEK

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, July 13, 2025 3:12 PM

To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>

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Sent from my iPhone

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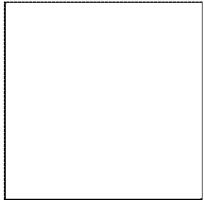
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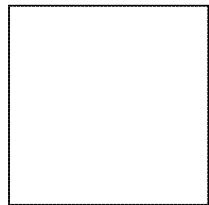
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From: John Christy <climatean60@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 13, 2025 8:36 PM
To: Judith Curry
Cc: Ross McKittrick; Steve Koonin; Roy W. Spencer; Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: NCA5 progress

Judy

I like this tighter version of NCA5 a lot. However, one key point - it leaves the reader thinking NCA4 was praiseworthy regarding heat events when in fact it clearly promoted falsehoods in its Executive Summary (as described in early section 1.4). I think we need to expose NCA4's egregious use of data to remind the reader that the content/review problem has a lot of inertia. As mentioned earlier, it could be a simple one line in the section 4.2 perhaps bottom of your page 12 or somewhere on page 13, "However, while describing heat extremes well in one portion of the report, NCA4's Executive Summary was deceptive in documenting these extremes as described in the supplementary material xxxxx".

I'm well aware of this NCA4 figure ES.5 because Nancy Pelosi almost shoved it in my face at a House hearing and then did the usual politician-closer "I yield back my time Mr. Chairman" and shut off my ability to respond leaving everyone with the idea record highs were increasing. It was also used in the Montana case for example. Meehl's work is still being cited here and there in the literature. So, there are a number of reasons for documenting the deception of NCA4's ES.5 in the official record somewhere since it has seen wide exposure, and putting it in a review of NCA would be appropriate in my humble opinion.

Link to new precipitation analysis used in NCA5 Review (expanded from CWG)

https://www.nsstc.uah.edu/data/ushcn_jrc/SI.Precip_trends_reproducing.pdf

Travis:

Is there a way to put extra documents/datasets on a DoE website for public access? Sending folks to my uah.edu directory looks a little bush-league.

John C.

John Christy
Director, Earth System Science Center
Professor, Atmos and Earth Science
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
climatean60@gmail.com

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 To help protect resources on the Internet, Microsoft Office prevents automatic download of files from the Internet.
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<NCA5Review Curry.docx>

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 10:21 PM
To: Judith Curry
Cc: Steven Koonin; Ross McKittrick; Roy Spencer; Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Regarding NCA6:

We could go back to the original congressional language and inform the Administration what type of document is actually required and give them an outline. I think NCA6 should be short.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 29, 2025, at 5:07 PM, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Your thoughts on our group making a pre-emptive unofficial recommendation on what should be in the next NCA and how the process should proceed? or is there some infrastructure on this that is already underway (i'm out of the loop). Some pre-emptive common sense might be useful

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 8:20 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I had a first-hand exposure to the NASEM process when I chaired their Divisional Committee for Engineering and Physical Sciences (DEPSCOM) for six years. We oversaw the commissioning, execution, and publication of (I'd guess) more than 100 reports during that time. They were all quite well done, but none of them concerned climate science.

NASEM on climate was an entirely different matter. I got stonewalled when I tried to complain about it to the management. And friends who were on climate-related studies have some horror stories to tell.

I'd hope that if we do a critique of NCA5, we'll also comment on the NASEM role. They really dropped the ball.

SEK

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Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Without even reading the NASEM report I assume it's useless. The problem is they draw experts from govt agencies and universities. That crowd knows that the NCA serves a partisan purpose so they'll pull their punches to prevent giving fodder to the enemies of the movement.

The data show universities are about 95/5 dems/gop and not only that, but among the dems the party identification is "strong" versus mostly "weak" or "leans" among gop. So draw a random sample from academia (ensuring a "wide range" of views blah blah blah) and you end up with left and further left. Up until recently we had to go along with the illusion that expert panels can be relied upon to provide balanced scientific advice but the obvious bias of the IPCC and NCA, among others (CDC, WHO etc) have killed that expectation. They let themselves be colonized by the left and now they've lost any claim on public trust.

RPJr posted this data from a recent UChicago survey

<image001.png>

Almost 50% of republicans (and 30% of independents) now view ivy league universities not just as useless but as their enemies. The antagonism is fully deserved. The NASEM needs to commission a report explaining why the universities became such one-sided intolerant monocultures and what can be done to fix it, and until they tackle that issue they too deserve the DOGE treatment.

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 10:09 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I've downloaded the report (<https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/>) There's very little of the foundational science in its 1834 pages(!) that's amenable to serious scientific critique.

I also attach the NASEM review of the NCA5 draft, as well as the authors' responses to that review.

And here's a link to the "gold standard" EO: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/restoring-gold-standard-science/> . A reminder that its criteria are:

- (i) reproducible;
- (ii) transparent;
- (iii) communicative of error and uncertainty;
- (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary;
- (v) skeptical of its findings and assumptions;
- (vi) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses;
- (vii) subject to unbiased peer review;
- (viii) accepting of negative results as positive outcomes; and
- (ix) without conflicts of interest.

SEK

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

This mirrors the word usage from the briefing we received from the head of NCA5.

John C.

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I guess people used to the NCA genre are going to find our report totally off-topic.

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 7:01 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

I did keyword counts in NCA5, and got the following results:

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RCP8.5/SSP5-8.5: 105 (53%)

RCP6.0/SSP3-7.0: 8 (4%)

RCP4.5/SSP2-4.5: 66 (33%)

RCP2.6/SSP1-2.6: 19 (10%)

Social/Societal keywords

Indigenous/Tribes/Tribal: 1,679

Culture/Culturally: 854

Equity/Equitable: 572

Sustainable: 295

Inequality/Unequal: 201

Racism/Racial: 153

Low-Income: 105

Injustice: 94

Communities of Color: 67

Minorities: 37

--



Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry_judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]
Sent: 5/29/2025 2:52:50 PM
To: Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]
CC: John Christy [climateman60@gmail.com]; Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; Josh Loucks [loucksj14@gmail.com]
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RPJr posted this data from a recent UChicago survey

[Ivy League Universities like Harvard and Yale]
...On a scale of 1 to 5 – where 1 means you think the institution is your enemy and 5 means you think the institution is your friend – where on this scale would you place yourself?

CPOST/NORC 5/01 to 5/05/25	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep
1 - Enemy	11.1%	2.4%	12.2%	20.5%
2	17.2%	8.9%	18.1%	26.2%
3	45.1%	48.5%	50.3%	41.1%
4	14.5%	22.2%	10.4%	7.7%
5 - Friend	10.5%	18.6%	8.0%	3.4%
DON'T KNOW	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%
SKIPPED ON WEB	1.3%	1.0%	2.8%	0.7%
N=	2131	1012	322	794

Almost 50% of republicans (and 30% of independents) now view ivy league universities not just as useless but as their enemies. The antagonism is fully deserved. The NASEM needs to commission a report explaining why the universities became such one-sided intolerant monocultures and what can be done to fix it, and until they tackle that issue they too deserve the DOGE treatment.

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- (vi) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses;
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- (viii) accepting of negative results as positive outcomes; and
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Sustainable: 295

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Low-Income: 105

Injustice: 94

Communities of Color: 67

Minorities: 37

From: Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]
Sent: 6/20/2025 10:15:46 PM
To: Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]
CC: Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]; Ross McKitrick [ross.mckitrick@gmail.com]; John Christy [climateman60@gmail.com]; Josh Loucks [loucksj14@gmail.com]; Cohen, Seth [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]
Subject: summary chapter and recommendations
Attachments: summary:conclusions (2).docx

I've quickly put together a summary chapter, and also added recommendations. In short the climate assessment system is really broken, a RFK Jr style purge is needed, IMO. I look forward to your feedback

On Fri, Jun 20, 2025 at 1:48 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

We have been asked by the suits to include in the tasking letter a reference to the forthcoming NCA6 process (to be more forward-looking).

Please let me know if you have any suggested edits to the attached markup. Also, if you want to hear the backstory, please feel free to call me at 202-302-9953.

I don't think this edit to the tasking letter will require changes to the report, but I do think it's fair game to include positive suggestions in the report like "NCA6 authors could avoid these errors by ____." Up to you all.

On Fri, Jun 20, 2025 at 3:23 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Anthropogenic... Or Natural?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Date: 6/20/25 2:18 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>, 'Ross McKitrick' <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>, 'John Christy' <climateman60@gmail.com>, "Roy W. Spencer" <roywspencer@hotmail.com>, 'Josh Loucks' <loucksj14@gmail.com>, "Cohen, Seth" <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: June 20 docs

On the title, something like "Conflation of anthropogenic and natural changes" might be better.

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer

<roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <ljoucksj14@gmail.com>;

Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>

Subject: Re: June 20 docs

I'm working on summary/conclusions section

But i'm thinking we need to add a chapter to the main text:

Inadequate discrimination between natural and human-induced causes of trends and variability (long title but you get the idea)

Among other things, this would include the little para that was formerly a footnote that is now homeless, and also much of the NASEM text.

All this is too much to introduce in the summary chapter.

On Fri, Jun 20, 2025 at 9:28 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Today's draft with post-meeting tidying.

Also, draft charge letter.

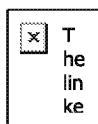
-Ross

--


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From: Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]
Sent: 6/6/2025 10:06:08 PM
To: Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; Josh Loucks [jloucksj14@gmail.com]; John Christy [climateaman60@gmail.com]; Roy W. Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]
Subject: 4 thematic headings
Attachments: [RM].NCA5.Comments_June6.docx; NCA5 report outline[RM].June6.docx

Since John caught up to me and now has 3 examples, I've put a 4th forward in the attached. My criticisms are under 4 headings:

1. Pervasive advocacy language and promotional tone
2. Uncritical definition of scientific “advances”
3. Overstating what underlying sources show
4. Sweeping generalizations regarding complex matters

For #4 I go into some detail on the precip record that John has assembled. I consider this especially fair game since it elaborates on a point I emphasized in my review comments to them (referencing our paper), which they obviously ignored. There are + trends in average and extreme precipitation if you start the sample in 1950. But start it prior to 1890 or in 1980 and the trends largely go away. And they are regionally very heterogeneous. Glib attribution claims founder on the regional and temporal heterogeneity.

I've also attached a proposed edit to the report outline. Although we want to tread carefully in passing judgment I think it is important to emphasize that the NCA5 needs to be held to a very high standard because everyone involved knows the stakes of the policy decisions that will rest on it. Honest mistakes are one thing, but pervasive bias and frivolous handling of complex topics is simply unacceptable. I hadn't looked at it since it came out and I come away from ch's 1-3 feeling like they are insulting the intelligence of readers, and the presentation is so careless and tendentious we are justified in saying you can't trust its conclusions.

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 9:27 AM
To: Ross McKitrick
Cc: Steven Koonin; John Christy; Roy Spencer; Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: Meeting tomorrow

I will join the call as soon as I can

Here are the main topics that I have input on:

Summary

Chapter 2 The word count list

Chapter 4 Use of the word 'ad hoc' (ambiguous; replace by "short data record")

Section 4.1 The need for Appendix 3

Chapter 7 I suggest deleting chapter; move any good examples into the previous sections

Chapter 8 Should this be summary? or conclusions? Recommendations?

On Thu, Jun 19, 2025 at 9:57 AM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I made it for 10:15 ET. Judy will be late joining.

On Thu, Jun 19, 2025 at 12:28 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I can accommodate a zoom at any time tomorrow (Friday). Will be on the East Coast.

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 12:21 PM
To: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Cc: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting tomorrow

Ross

I may miss this one. WiFi questionable (very slow with freeze-frame issues on board). Whatever time is selected I'll make an attempt.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 19, 2025, at 8:15 AM, Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Fine with me.

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 11:11 AM
To: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting tomorrow

I have to leave at 3 PM so a morning time is better. how about 10 AM ET?

On Thu, Jun 19, 2025 at 12:10 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

I too prefer after 2 pm ET.

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 19, 2025 11:07 AM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: Meeting tomorrow

ok, but i need to drop off between 9:30 and 10:30 Pacific time. Best for me is after 2 pm ET. (note i am fine with earlier time)

On Thu, Jun 19, 2025 at 9:04 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I can't recall what time we were supposed to meet. I propose 11 AM ET (8 AM on the west coast). Is that ok?

--

Judith Curry, President
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curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
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From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 2:27 PM
To: Steven Koonin; John Christy
Cc: Ross McKitrick; Judith Curry; Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen; Andrea Woods
Subject: Re: Nice note from John Deutch

I predict that this will be the way they continue to make the debate adjudicated by the mainstream media, because what's the only way we lose. This is why Steve's idea that we don't allow the media to play that role is a good one.
-Roy

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 11:23 AM
To: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>; Andrea Woods <andrea.woods@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: Nice note from John Deutch

Whether or not they formally submit their report is, if you'll excuse me, a formality.

If the document is credible and substantial, we should respond, I'd say.

Steven E. Koonin

On Jul 31, 2025, at 10:20, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Steve

So ... if they don't submit their report, we could do it on their behalf?

John C.

On Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 11:14 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
This is good. We want that kind of dialogue.

Assuming they're credible, I think our response depends on timing.

If it comes out close to a month from now, we could fold it in with the portal comments. But if it's within the next week or two, better to get started on it early. That work would likely be what's required for the portal comments anyway.

Steven E. Koonin

On Jul 31, 2025, at 09:59, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

All

I'm seeing reports that a group of upset scientists are going to write their own rebuttal to our report. I suspect this will be outside of the public comment effort and designed to torpedo what we do in our responses. Do we simply say their report should have been submitted for formal consideration?

John C.

On Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 10:10 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Much appreciated.

On Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 10:11 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

From: John M Deutch <jmd@mit.edu>
Date: July 31, 2025 at 06:29:06 MDT
To: Steven Koonin <koonin@stanford.edu>
Subject: Critical Review

Steve,

I am reading your critical review of GHGs and find it very well done and informative. I anticipate the report near universal criticism, but not from me. I am reading the report carefully and I am in general agreement.

I congratulate you and your collaborators for this much needed assessment.

John

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Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 12:11 PM
To: John Christy
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Subject: Re: Nice note from John Deutch

They're going to do what they're going to do, and they all have TDS and hence won't trust the 'system'

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From: Fisher, Travis [travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov]
Sent: 8/1/2025 5:35:34 PM
To: Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; Ross McKitrick [ross.mckitrick@gmail.com]
CC: Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; Park, Charles [charles.park@hq.doe.gov]; John Christy [climateaman60@gmail.com]; Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@googlemail.com]; Loucks, Joshua [Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov]; Cohen, Seth [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]; Barrios, Audrey [audrey.barrios@hq.doe.gov]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DOE reviews
Attachments: image001.png; image002.jpg

Hi all,

Let's see who can join a quick MS Teams meeting at 3pm ET today. The main agenda item is to ensure continuity once I go back to Cato, which happens later today. I'll still be reachable on my personal email and phone, but I'll lose access to DOE equipment, email, etc.

I'd also like to hear everyone's thoughts on 1) possibly expanding the CWG to include scientists of your and the Secretary's choosing, and 2) the best way to engage expert peer reviewers outside of the DOE enterprise (can't include national lab employees this time).

Looking forward to touching base with everyone!

Best,
Travis

Microsoft Teams Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 290 077 410 479 1

Passcode: B63Po7tt

Dial in by phone

+1 443-457-0649,,530567526# United States, Brooklyn Park

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: 530 567 526#

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

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Cc: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Park, Charles <charles.park@hq.doe.gov>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@googlemail.com>; Loucks, Joshua <Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] DOE reviews

got it i'll start working on it. THANKS

On Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 2:57 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Judy, here is a zipped folder with the review comment digest files. #1 has multicolored comments so will take a bit of editing to compile into single responses. #2 there are 2 files I think mine [RM] has the later aggregation but check both. #3-#8 have responses in green that we talked through in our marathon session. Will need some tidying.

I think it would be great to get these tidied and released.

On Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 5:24 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks. I think Ross' version in msword is easier to work with, including the color coded comments.

On Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 2:18 PM Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

I'm attaching the version of the internal review comments that was compiled by the Office of Science. Note that I haven't checked to see if they numbered the reviewers the same way we did.

Even though we haven't had our introductory call yet, I'm also including Charles Park. Let me know if you're available tomorrow afternoon for a call to introduce Charles.

And I just saw Steve's email—yes, we should compile the anonymous reviews and your responses, and we should strongly consider releasing that document (and I believe we would have to if anyone requests it).

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 5:06 PM
To: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Cc: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@googlemail.com>; Loucks, Joshua <Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>; Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DOE reviews

Ross, if you can send me the latest version of the 8 DOE review responses, i can clean those up, verify changes were made, and send around for approval. Would be good to get those out of the way before the public comments

On Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 12:27 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Ironic that no one cared when MY work was mischaracterized by the 97-Percenters' as being part of the 3%, even though by their criteria I was part of the 97% consensus.

I complained, but all they said was, "well, we put you in the 3 percent category".

The bias is rampant.

-Roy

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 11:27 AM
To: Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@googlemail.com>; Josh Loucks <jloucksj14@gmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>; Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Carbon Brief factcheck - your study has been cited in new US DoE 'critical review'

John and I got this from Tim Vogelsang at MSU. Carbon Brief is contacting everyone whose work was cited trying to gather up claims of misrepresentation. As Tim notes, there is no option on the form for saying your work was correctly characterized.

From: Vogelsang, Timothy <tjv@msu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 12:19 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <rmckitri@uoguelph.ca>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Carbon Brief factcheck - your study has been cited in new US DoE 'critical review'

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If you look at the pdf I was sent with the instructions, there is no option to report that someone's research has been correctly characterized. That's not a very scientific factchecking exercise, is it!

Tim

From: Ross McKittrick <rmckitri@uoguelph.ca>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 12:15 PM
To: Vogelsang, Timothy <tjv@msu.edu>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Carbon Brief factcheck - your study has been cited in new US DoE 'critical review'

I've heard of Carbon Brief but only read snippets of their articles cited elsewhere. They seem to be heavily into promoting renewables.

It's interesting to watch the machine swing into gear. There is a public comment docket opening up and I expect there will be quite the avalanche of materials submitted, which we will need to prepare responses to, all of which will form part of the public record. If the comments are substantive we'll readily make revisions. We responded to a lot of comments from the internal DoE staff during the pre-publication review stage. But some of the most hostile comments didn't provide any data or citations in support so we couldn't do anything with them.

Ross

Dr. Ross McKittrick
Professor of Economics
Department of Economics and Finance
rossmckittrick.com



University of Guelph | Guelph ON Canada N1G 3P9

From: Vogelsang, Timothy <tjv@msu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <rmckitri@uoguelph.ca>; John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>
Subject: FW: Carbon Brief factcheck - your study has been cited in new US DoE 'critical review'

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the University of Guelph. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt, forward suspicious emails to IThelp@uoguelph.ca.

Ross and John,

I just got this email. Maybe you know about this group. I'm sure this is just the tip of the iceberg of pushback coming.

Tim

From: Leo Hickman <leo.hickman@carbonbrief.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 11:49 AM
To: Leo Hickman <leo.hickman@carbonbrief.org>
Subject: Carbon Brief factcheck - your study has been cited in new US DoE 'critical review'

Hello,

I'm contacting you because we have noticed that at least one of your studies has been cited in a new report published this week by the US Dept of Energy titled, "A Critical Review of Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the U.S. Climate."

A number of scientists cited in the report have already publicly highlighted that their findings have been falsely or misleadingly characterised. It seems that the report is intended to be used as scientific justification

by the Trump administration in its efforts to revoke the US Environmental Protection Agency's "endangerment finding" on greenhouse gases.

Carbon Brief is now seeking your help to assess whether your own study, or indeed your area(s) of expertise more widely, have been mischaracterised in the report. This is part of a wider 'crowdsourced' fact-checking effort we are now convening to draw on inputs from experts in their respective fields.

I have attached a PDF with some instructions on how you can participate with your own insights and reflections, should you wish. (The instructions include ways to do this anonymously and securely, if that is your preference.)

Additionally, if you know of a colleague or co-author who might wish to participate, please feel free to forward this email to them.

Our deadline for submissions is Monday 11 August 2025 - 0900 GMT.

Many thanks in advance.

Best wishes, Leo

--

Leo Hickman

Editor, [Carbon Brief](#)

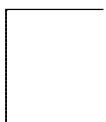
Phone: + 44 (0) 7731 403979

Social: [Twitter](#); [BlueSky](#); [LinkedIn](#)

Web: www.carbonbrief.org

Need a digest of the latest climate change-related headlines sent to your inbox? You can sign up to Carbon Brief's free daily, weekly, Cropped and China Briefing newsletters [here](#).

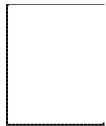
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Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications
Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com |
+1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

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Use caution if this message contains attachments, links or requests for information.

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--



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+1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Roy Spencer <roy.spencer@nsstc.uah.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 6:39 AM
To: 'Steven Koonin'; climateman60@gmail.com; ross.mckitrick@gmail.com; 'Judith Curry'
Subject: RE: keeping it to ourselves

Steve:

I had not noticed my work email address was in some of these.

Our previous correspondence used my Hotmail address... I never use gmail:

roywspencer@hotmail.com

-Roy

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 4, 2025 10:53 AM
To: climateman60@gmail.com; roy.spencer@nsstc.uah.edu; ross.mckitrick@gmail.com; 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Subject: keeping it to ourselves
Importance: High

We should be mindful that our email communications that go to DOE addresses are subject to FOIA. While I don't think we've been saying anything untoward in our recent group exchanges, one never knows how they might be twisted by those of nefarious intent.

I'd therefore urge that we keep our future email communications restricted to the authors (except, of course, for matters that directly involve the DOE – like the recent AI query from the New Yorker).

Steve Koonin

PS Roy- is there are gmail address we can use for you, rather than the UAH address (which may itself be subject to FOIA)?

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 4:52 PM
To: Ross McKittrick
Cc: Steven Koonin; Judith Curry; Roy W. Spencer; Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: JUne 11 draft

Ross

I think it means - Make a map. Do significance testing on each grid (gaussian no doubt). Mask out the ones that are insignificant. Give the remaining grids a really bright, angry color to frighten the readers.

John C.

On Thu, Jun 12, 2025 at 3:14 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I agree that a separate chapter on the NASEM review would be an excellent addition.

John - I've no idea what "masking by T test means"

On Thu, Jun 12, 2025 at 3:17 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

All

I may be able to join you for a bit tomorrow at 0700 CT before we head to the airport.

I just reread the NASEM review of NCA5 Ch2 "Climate Trends". This was almost as stomach-churning as reading the NCA5 itself - a very soft review and just weird.

For example, on assessing Key Message 2.3 "The Future is in Our Hands" here is NASEM's comment.

"This key message title is not scientific and seems to ignore equity and justice concerns on the very question of who has the power in the United States to shape climate and energy policy."

Huh? Of course we could ask why such a Key Message is in something called "Climate Trends" in the first place. And, why does the discussion of this "Key Message" take up half of the chapter text?

Ross

Tucked inside a rambling paragraph was this from the NASEM review of Ch 2 which rather vaguely requests significance indicators.

"In addition, showing how temperature and precipitation changes (in degrees and by percent from the average) compared to the natural variabilities (e.g., masking by T test) would be helpful."

This seems to be a request for some kind of significance testing (masking by T test, whatever that means), but the figures on changes and percentages didn't have any significance that I could see (Figs 2.4, 2.7, 2.8). They actually spend more time on future trends from models than on the historical trends (Figs. 2.9 - 2.14) in this chapter.

Judy

Did you see this NASEM comment at the end of Chapter 2 review which seems to dissect the SLR portion about which you wrote? :

It is unclear how the reported amounts of averaged SLR along the continental United States (CONUS) coasts were obtained on page 2-24 lines 32-34. Assuming the source is Sweet et al. (2022), the values reported here are not provided explicitly in that reference. One could look at Table 2.4 in Sweet et al. (2022) and see that 2°C warming most closely corresponds to the Intermediate Low Scenario (50%), while the Low and Intermediate scenarios correspond to the tails of the probability distribution (98% and 2%, respectively). Chapter authors could then look at Table 2.3 in Sweet et al. (2022) and find a Low to Intermediate range for CONUS average sea level of 0.6-1.2 m (2-4 ft) in 2100 and 0.8-2.2 m (2.5-7 ft) in 2150. Both ranges differ from the ranges given in the draft NCA5 report. For page 2-24, lines 36-37, the Committee assumes this statement is based on the Intermediate scenario, but the Intermediate scenario is just as likely from a probability standpoint as the Low scenario for 2°C warming. So, if it is very unlikely that CONUS SLR will exceed 4 feet in 2100 for 2°C warming, then it is also very unlikely it will be as low as 2 feet, which is reported as the lower bound of what appears to be a likely range two sentences prior. This section needs work to be internally consistent with the draft NCA5 report likelihood ranges, as well as Sweet et al. (2022) on which it is based.

John C.

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Thanks, Ross.

I won't be able to get to this until Friday, but it looks like we'll have the weekend to progress the text.

Steve

PS In case you all missed it, EPA/Zeldin today announced a relaxation of power plant emission rules:

https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/epa-air-pollution-standards-repeal-1f85bf91?st=HnJKTD&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 11:01 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; John Christy

<climateman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: JUne 11 draft

I went through both and did my best to merge them in the attached. Steve some of your comments pertained to text removed in the draft after Judy's comments; also the extreme scenarios text in the attached is as revised by Judy with a bit of your new wording subbed in. Also you had requested some clarifications in a few places so I have added those in. If there were sections where you made changes without track changes on I might not have caught them so check this version. Also this version has the latest re-ordering of sections.

On Wed, Jun 11, 2025 at 8:40 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Oh, we're doing double work.

The attached is my latest integrated version, incorporating almost all of the changes Ross sent out yesterday, and my going through all of the sections.

We somehow need to reconcile these two.

SEK

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 6:48 PM

To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@googlemail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>

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From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 12, 2025 3:43 PM
To: John Christy
Cc: Steven Koonin; Ross McKittrick; Roy W. Spencer; Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: JUne 11 draft

Looks like there is much to mine in the NASEM review! probably worth a separate chapter

On Thu, Jun 12, 2025 at 12:17 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:
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To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: JUNE 11 draft

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Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 6:48 PM
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@googlemail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
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Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 6:30 PM
To: Ross McKitrick
Cc: Judith Curry; Roy Spencer; Steven Koonin; John Christy; Josh Loucks; Cohen, Seth
Subject: Re: June 20 docs

I think there's room to criticize the mandate or show how it's not feasible, even as you give advice on how best to satisfy it as currently written.

Just know that the probability of changing the statute any time soon is very low, even though it's a great idea. Then again, I'm a Cato guy, and I ask for low-probability reforms all the time. #repealtheJonesAct

On Fri, Jun 20, 2025 at 6:17 PM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I like the idea of suggesting a revised mandate. I think the fact that the current one is so vague and off-point is one reason each team just does whatever they want.

On Fri, Jun 20, 2025 at 5:51 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Travis, we considered recommendations for NCA6 to be part of a follow on report. But since we do have several weeks yet, perhaps we could tackle this to some extent (but many are on travel in coming weeks).

One issue is that there is a fundamental flaw with the NCA mandate, and that is with regards to making projections 25 and 100 years into the future - climate models are not fit for this purpose. Another issue is that the term "global change" is ambiguous and is no longer in use for that reason. Personally I would recommend that the entire mandate be reconsidered. Failing that, we could make some specific recommendations in context of the existing mandate

On Fri, Jun 20, 2025 at 1:48 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

We have been asked by the suits to include in the tasking letter a reference to the forthcoming NCA6 process (to be more forward-looking).

Please let me know if you have any suggested edits to the attached markup. Also, if you want to hear the backstory, please feel free to call me at 202-302-9953.

I don't think this edit to the tasking letter will require changes to the report, but I do think it's fair game to include positive suggestions in the report like "NCA6 authors could avoid these errors by ____." Up to you all.

On Fri, Jun 20, 2025 at 3:23 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Anthropogenic... Or Natural?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Date: 6/20/25 2:18 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>, 'Ross McKittrick' <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>, 'John Christy' <climateman60@gmail.com>, "Roy W. Spencer" <roywspencer@hotmail.com>, 'Josh Loucks' <loucksj14@gmail.com>, "Cohen, Seth" <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: June 20 docs

On the title, something like “Conflation of anthropogenic and natural changes” might be better.

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: June 20 docs

I'm working on summary/conclusions section

But i'm thinking we need to add a chapter to the main text:

Inadequate discrimination between natural and human-induced causes of trends and variability (long title but you get the idea)

Among other things, this would include the little para that was formerly a footnote that is now homeless, and also much of the NASEM text.

All this is too much to introduce in the summary chapter.

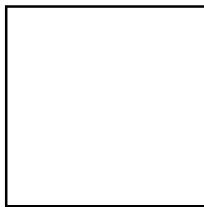
On Fri, Jun 20, 2025 at 9:28 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

| Today's draft with post-meeting tidying.

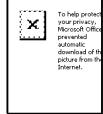
Also, draft charge letter.

-Ross

--



Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
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<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 12:05 PM
To: Roy Spencer
Cc: Ross McKittrick; Cohen, Seth; Judith Curry; Steven Koonin; John Christy; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: CO2 Coalition requests Trump admin. review of NCA5...

The briefing was just me, Audrey Barrios, and Roger Pielke Jr. after the students left. Closed door, etc. The Secretary wanted to be there but was called away for a security briefing in a SCIF.

As we approach the action date (TBD), the DOE team will develop a public affairs rollout plan. If/when you want to shift your attention to outreach, we would love your input on that. I imagine you all have extensive networks of the types of people we'd want to call on for support.

What would be a good time to meet next week to discuss next steps on the NCA5 critique? I may also have an update on the ongoing rulemaking process, but as of today I don't have any news.

I'll propose midday Wednesday (July 2), noon ET to 1pm or 1:30.

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:59 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
I don't understand why Will allows his work with vanWijngaarden to be misrepresented; after all of their line-by-line calculations they still got a 2XCO2 radiative forcing in line with what the climate models radiative codes get.

Also misrepresented is the logarithmic nature of increasing CO2 on radiative forcing... its a red herring, because the models already include that effect.

Will **believes** warming will be weak (as does Dick), but that's a feedback issue, not forcing (which their paper demonstrated).

So, while it was nice for someone to redo the line-by-line calculations (which have been done before), I've been annoyed by skeptics' fawning over it.

-Roy

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:48 AM
To: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: CO2 Coalition requests Trump admin. review of NCA5...

I hope the students weren't included in the briefing.

The CO2C / PPT letter is pretty thin on content and the long report raises a few pertinent issues but we already deal with them, and many more besides. The Happer/vanWijngaarden work on CO2 absorption is well done, IMO, I just wish they hadn't given up so soon on trying to get it published in a journal.

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 10:05 AM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:
I agree with Seth. We can loop people in when the time is right, and we should be selective about our inner circle. To me, it comes down to what the Secretary wants and what's most helpful to the mission.

Along those lines, Roger Pielke Jr visited DOE HQ with some students yesterday, and the Secretary wanted to loop him in, so Audrey and I sketched out the state of play. Don't be alarmed if he asks you about the project—he heard about it from us and is sworn to secrecy within this group.

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 9:42 AM Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov> wrote:
Privileged & Confidential:

Please ignore this. I cannot stress enough the importance of our silence and restraint pending completion of this process.

Best regards,

SMC

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:35:57 AM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: CO2 Coalition requests Trump admin. review of NCA5...

Travis/Seth et al., should someone tell them? Or just ignore?

From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 8:21 AM
To: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: CO2 Coalition requests Trump admin. review of NCA5...

Here's the letter

<https://justthenews.com/sites/default/files/2025-06/PPT-CO2-NCA-5-Request-for-Correction.pdf>

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 9:11 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

...FYI, I just got this from the director of the Co2 Coalition, Gregory Wrightstone:

CO2 Coalition Request to Reveiw NCA5

CO2 Coalition and Protect the Public's Trust (PPT) are calling on the Trump administration to fix what they call "flaws" in the influential National Climate Assessment (NCA). These flaws, according to the groups, include a reliance on unrealistic emission projections, contradictions, and false information on heat waves, hurricanes and wildfires.

The letter also argues that the NCA fabricated, falsified and omitted contradictory data in order to support a net-zero emissions agenda.

The letter includes a report by Dr. William Happer, professor emeritus in the Department of Physics at Princeton University, and Dr. Richard Lindzen, professor emeritus of atmospheric science at MIT. The report outlines a number of similar issues with the NCA in its reporting on sea level rise, the relationship between carbon dioxide emissions and recent warming, and hurricanes. <https://justthenews.com/politics-policy/energy/researchers-say-national-climate-assessment-full-flaws-ask-trump-reassess>

Read the full report here:

- <2025 06 25 PPT-CO2-NCA-5-Request-for-Correction.pdf>
3379128 bytes

This message does not originate from a known Department of Energy email system.
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From: Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:42 AM
To: Roy Spencer; Ross McKitrick
Cc: Judith Curry; Steven Koonin; John Christy; Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: CO2 Coalition requests Trump admin. review of NCA5...

Privileged & Confidential:

Please ignore this. I cannot stress enough the importance of our silence and restraint pending completion of this process.

Best regards,

SMC

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 9:35:57 AM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: CO2 Coalition requests Trump admin. review of NCA5...

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Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 2025 8:21 AM
To: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: CO2 Coalition requests Trump admin. review of NCA5...

Here's the letter

<https://justthenews.com/sites/default/files/2025-06/PPT-CO2-NCA-5-Request-for-Correction.pdf>

On Wed, Jun 25, 2025 at 9:11 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

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The letter also argues that the NCA fabricated, falsified and omitted contradictory data in order to support a net-zero emissions agenda.

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<https://justthenews.com/politics-policy/energy/researchers-say-national-climate-assessment-full-flaws-ask-trump-reassess>

Read the full report here:

- 2025 06 25 PPT-CO2-NCA-5-Request-for-Correction.pdf
3379128 bytes

This message does not originate from a known Department of Energy email system.
Use caution if this message contains attachments, links or requests for information.

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 9:24 AM
To: Cohen, Seth
Cc: Steven Koonin; Ross McKittrick; John Christy; Roy Spencer; Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] write a policy piece?

After thinking about this overnite, here is my take:

Secy Wright selected us for our independence and scientific integrity (and apolitical). Post publication, the CWG team and each of us individually needs to come across as independent, transparent and authentic. The last thing we want to come across as being subsumed by the administration into puppets.

To my mind, this means that each of us individually (or in some subset group if we choose) should be free to publish academic journal articles on issues raised by our assessment. I think Steve was referring to the obviously broken interface between climate science and policy that has produced this deeply flawed NCA5 report with the apparent concurrence of the USGCRP, 14 govt agencies, and the NASEM. How did this come about, and what can we do about it? SK and I have both written extensively on these topics in our respective books.

With regards to post publication fallout, I intend to follow my normal MO of writing a blog post that reflects on my motive for getting involved with this, the process itself, my reflections on significant outcomes from this. This is what I do, part of my personal independence and authenticity as a scientist. I have also found my blog posts in the past to be very useful as a device to deflect journalists away from bugging me, i just refer them to the blog post. And SK's op-ed seems entirely reasonable to me. Of course, as a committee we will address substantive scientific comments/criticism. But journalists will be interested in the larger context of what this is and how it came about and its implications. I get that there is a press office that wants to handle this, but each of us is already in contact with many journalists who will undoubtedly contact us directly. And we don't want to come across as puppets for the admin, we should speak with our own authentic voices.

In the absence of any of us having signed anything (with possible exception of SK?) or having received any \$\$ for this, I would say that we are free agents here in terms of what we say about all this. Personally, I avoid any kind climate/energy policy advocacy and politics and will be scrupulous about that here, and will avoid any comments about DOE personnel or individual CWG team members

Obviously a topic that needs more discussion as we approach publication date

On Sun, Jun 22, 2025 at 10:50 AM Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

Privileged & Confidential

I would strongly advise that we let the scientific community ask those questions and then provide answers, not the other way around. Affirmatively rebutting concerns will, optically, suggest that we see something worth addressing (the lady doth protest too much). When we can let the work speak for itself, we're in a much better position.

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2025 1:17 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>;
Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] write a policy piece?

All of these questions are going to be asked anyway.

I think we're better off proactively providing answers rather than letting reporters make up answers. But perhaps it should be DOE speaking rather than we?

Steven E. Koonin

On Jun 22, 2025, at 13:05, Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I was going to write what Seth just wrote. We should refrain from public comment. The more we say the greater the chance something can be misconstrued or taken out of context. Our reports speak for themselves.

If the occasion arises where some kind of statement or context is needed we'll draft it carefully and keep it minimal, like a SCOTUS ruling. The less said the better.

On Sun, Jun 22, 2025 at 12:56 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Steve

Look what I found on my laptop here in Juneau - my public comments on the NCA5 zero order draft and 3rd order draft. There are some familiar themes here that were obviously ignored. Ross probably has his comments handy too. These can be kept in the back pocket if ammo is needed.

John C.

John Christy

Director, Earth System Science Center

Professor, Atmos and Earth Science

Alabama State Climatologist

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

climateman60@gmail.com

On Jun 22, 2025, at 11:47 AM, Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

Privileged & Confidential

I worry that taking a step towards publicity will center this team in the policy debate, rather than the science. Further, I fear that publishing an article about your work on a government committee will raise questions about how the report came to fruition, tainting your efforts to remain apolitical.

As drafted, your dual reports deliver clean, fatal blows to NCA5. I see no additional benefit from a policy piece, only controversy.

Best regards,

SMC

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2025 12:08 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: write a policy piece?

Interesting idea

We should also think about op-eds, blog posts for circa Jul 13

On Sun, Jun 22, 2025 at 8:29 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Should we collectively author a policy piece to be submitted to, say, Science mag's Policy Forum.

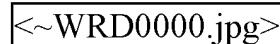
<https://www.science.org/action/doSearch?AllField=policy+forum>

It could be titled something like "Reflections on the National Climate Assessment"

Would they dare publish it? Since our critique will have the status of an official USG document, that might help.

If not Science, then perhaps we could try Issues in Science and Technology?

Steve Koonin

 <~WRD0000.jpg>

Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

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Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 25, 2025 1:31 PM
To: Ross McKitrick
Cc: Ison, Jeremy T.; Judith Curry; Roy W. Spencer; Steven Koonin
Subject: Re: Public comments compilation

Agree - it's laborious to check each comment when they are not organized in any sensible way.

Has anyone heard of the call today? I'm headed off to class soon and will be out of touch until 5p ET. I haven't heard the call has been postponed.

John C.

On Mon, Aug 25, 2025 at 11:17 AM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I spent a few hours unsuccessfully trying to get Grok and Copilot to generate R scripts to download the published comments into a spreadsheet. As near as I can figure the website renders them in Java and the R packages I can use can't seem to read them.

Is it possible on the DoE side to dump the comments into a spreadsheet that shows the name of the commenter and the comment itself on each row? I can work with the from there.

This will make dealing with them much easier and help with the preparation of the response record.

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 11:26 AM
To: Ross McKitrick
Cc: Steven Koonin; John Christy; Josh Loucks; seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov; Judith Curry; Roy Spencer
Subject: Re: Meeting

I suggest a quick meeting at 9 am ET on Friday. If we know for sure there's no news to share, we can cancel it (but I have a hunch there will be news).

Sorry to misread your availability, Ross. My fault.

On Wed, Jun 11, 2025 at 11:18 AM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I can do Friday early morning. But unless there's news from the higher-ups that needs immediate response I also think we could wait until next week.

On Wed, Jun 11, 2025 at 11:12 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Could we do Friday 0800 EDT? Early for me and Judy, but not a problem (at least for me).

From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 11:05 AM
To: John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting

We'll be en route to Chicago after 11:30am on Friday so I won't be able to make the call. Do we have a set of topics to be covered? If there are important updates perhaps Travis can update me separately next week.

Ross

On Tue, Jun 10, 2025 at 9:51 AM John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Tavis

I'll be in the Atlanta airport 12:20p to 1:50p ET and perhaps able to connect. If I'm the kink, most of my work in terms of building datasets is done at this point, so no real loss with my absence. I have a few more word-choice-questions to ask later today.

John C.

On Mon, Jun 9, 2025 at 9:41 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Ok, it looks like we'll lose someone at just about any time this week.

John, if we meet at noon ET on Friday, will you be able to join?

What works best for you, Judy?

On Mon, Jun 9, 2025 at 4:03 PM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm free this week except:

Wednesday 11:15 to 1 PM EDT

Thursday 8:30 to 10:00 AM

Friday 11:30 onwards

On Mon, Jun 9, 2025 at 3:52 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Can't do Tuesday at 2 pm. But free any other time that day except 1330-1430.

Wednesday is good except 1200-1300 and 1500-1630.

Thursday doesn't work at all (at LLNL)

Friday I can make work anytime, but 1300-1500 wouldn't be optimal.

[All times above are EDT]

SEK

From: Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 2:49 PM
To: seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>
Subject: Meeting

Hi Everyone,

I wanted to put together another meeting/chat to help organize and keep everyone on the same page.

I know we discussed Tuesday on the call previously, but Wednesday could also work.

Would Tuesday at 2:00 pm EST work for everyone?

Please let me know if another time is better for everyone.

Thanks! - Josh

From: John Christy <climatean60@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 1, 2025 2:52 PM
To: Roy Spencer
Cc: Ross McKitrick; Steven Koonin; Judith Curry; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen; Travis Fisher
Subject: Re: NCA5 Review TX Floods

All

Cliff Mass has forwarded to me several emails from incensed colleagues at UW who claim we don't know how the radiation budget works, the IPCC was misrepresented etc. I told Cliff to tell those folks to write out their complaints and send them via the portal.

As to records ... funny how they change when you have more data. I recall a reporter who wrote a story about Huntsville weather after I had added 50 years of data - saying, "Huntsvilles records just got hotter, colder wetter and drier"

See you in a minute.

John C.

On Fri, Aug 1, 2025 at 1:41 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
Judy just finished a very nice podcast with Heartland. I learned a couple of things.
-Roy

From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 1, 2025 1:22 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climatean60@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>; Travis Fisher <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: NCA5 Review TX Floods

Along the same lines I learned yesterday of the attached study by two Env Canada climate scientists. The extreme event attribution studies of the 2021 Pacific NW heat wave used post-1950 data to estimate the extreme event probabilities. These authors extended the temperature record back to 1940 and found a similar heat wave hit BC, AB and Sk in 1941.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

On Fri, Aug 1, 2025 at 2:09 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Oops, hit send too fast-

There was great interest/surprise in the record. So suggest we include these in a box in the final CWG or NCA5 report.

Steven Koonin

> On Aug 1, 2025, at 13:08, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

>
> I have shown the July 1900 observer's report and Roy's graph of the heaviest 2-day events in two separate presentations this week

> Steven Koonin

>

>> On Jul 28, 2025, at 12:29, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

>>

>>

>> Ross et al.

>>

>> I'm putting the finishing touches on a dataset of 21 stations in Flash Flood Alley (TX) starting in 1893. Data are difficult to find and some forms have never been keyed into computer-readable files, including daily data from the Cotton Region Stations. I'm working on Kerrville today (just down river from Mystic Camp) for data prior to the regular station reports that began in 1902. I ran across this for July 1900 (attached) in which a rain total of 11.60" fell on the 15th and the observer remarked about it.

>>

>> Note he says the river rose 33 ft. Recall the river rose 25ft at Kerrville in the recent July 4th flood. There is already ample evidence that bad floods happen here, but this is an example of data not keyed-in our NOAA official files that can provide better evidence to determine the likelihood of extreme events.

>>

>> In any case, we can use the results of our (i.e. Ross's) analyses of these 21 stations in our review of NCA5 to give an example of what an NCA should be doing to understand and prepare for natural variability vs. climate change (and how pathetic the information was in NCA5.)

>>

>> John C.

>>

>> p.s. Recall that two months later in Sept 1900, the worst hurricane death toll in US history occurred in Galveston. It was a bad year for Central TX.

>> <414780_190007_Kerrville.pdf>

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 2:45 PM
To: Ross McKitrick
Cc: Travis Fisher; Steven Koonin; Roy Spencer; John Christy; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: New York Times inquiry

don't underestimate the paranoia of climate alarmists :)

On Tue, Jul 8, 2025 at 11:41 AM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I don't think anything is breaking, CNN is just regurgitating the NYT. MSNBC will be next but without any new details the story will fizzle. So I suggest not giving any info.

They clearly don't know what's happening although the guesses are reasonable. I prefer to let them speculate and collect crazy quotes from the usual corners and then release our work on our own timetable.

On Tue, Jul 8, 2025 at 2:31 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:
Fully agree!

I need to set up a notice and comment structure for the CWG report. We may also have to wait until the EPA releases its rule (as early as July 21), although I'd rather move first. That type of decision is well above my pay grade.

I'll keep you all posted.

On Tue, Jul 8, 2025 at 2:29 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
To be clear, I think the urgency is in CWG25.

The NCA5 critique could wait awhile.

Steven E. Koonin

On Jul 8, 2025, at 14:23, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

I agree. I'm moving as fast as I can on that front.

The idea of the report is going to scare people much more than the report itself.

On Tue, Jul 8, 2025 at 2:21 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

since this is breaking, IMO it would be a good idea to release the reports sooner rather than later

On Tue, Jul 8, 2025 at 9:59 AM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:
My recommendation is to not respond.

Please let me know if there's a message you want me to relay to the DOE's press office though.

On Tue, Jul 8, 2025 at 12:54 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
Now it's CNN.
<Screenshot_20250708_115244_Outlook.jpg>

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Date: 7/8/25 9:58 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: 'Roy Spencer' <roywspencer@hotmail.com>, 'Ross McKitrick' <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>, 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>, 'John Christy' <climateman60@gmail.com>, 'Josh Loucks' <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: New York Times inquiry

Yes, it is pretty thin.

https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/08/climate/trump-climate-energy-department.html?unlocked_article_code=1.U08.s3tt.h9KNDakKbbHI&smid=url-share

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 8, 2025 10:54 AM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: New York Times inquiry

Gonna be a pretty thin story, then.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mekitrick@gmail.com>

Date: 7/8/25 8:28 AM (GMT-06:00)

To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>

Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>, Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>, Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: New York Times inquiry

Me too. And she doesn't have a copy of the report.

On Tue, Jul 8, 2025 at 9:03 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

looks like I'm off the hook :)

On Mon, Jul 7, 2025 at 7:32 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Maxine making one last try. I will not respond.

Steven Koonin

Begin forwarded message:

From: Maxine Joselow <maxine.joselow@nytimes.com>

Date: July 7, 2025 at 22:19:55 EDT

To: steven.koonin@gmail.com

Subject: Re: New York Times inquiry

Hi Steve,

Just trying you one last time before the story runs. I'm planning to report that you are listed as a special government employee in the DOE internal email system, along with John Christy and Roy Spencer. If there's any comment you'd like to provide, please let me know. Thank you.

Best,

Maxine

On Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 10:09 AM Maxine Joselow <maxine.joselow@nytimes.com> wrote:

Hi again, Steve,

I'm just following up on this inquiry. I'm planning to report that you're helping to lead a team of Energy Department employees who have been tasked with crafting a technical support document that justifies the repeal of the endangerment finding. Further, you are listed as a "special government employee" in the DOE internal email system.

Do you have any comment on this information? Please let me know at your earliest convenience -- I can be reached via email or via cell at 202-948-1924 -- and thanks again for considering this request.

Thanks,

Maxine

On Tue, Jul 1, 2025 at 5:11 PM Maxine Joselow <maxine.joselow@nytimes.com> wrote:

Hi Steve,

I hope this email finds you well. This is Maxine Joselow, a climate reporter for the New York Times. We previously spoke when I was at the Washington Post. I'm working on a story about the Environmental Protection Agency's forthcoming proposal to repeal the endangerment finding for greenhouse gases. Would you have time to speak with me about this sometime on Wednesday (tomorrow)? And if so, could you remind me of your phone number? Please let me know when you get the chance, and thank you for considering this request.

Best,

Maxine

--

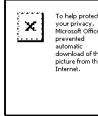
Maxine Joselow
Climate Reporter
The New York Times
Cell: 202-948-1924
Signal: MaxineJ.55

--

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--
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Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
<~WRD0003.jpg> curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

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Judith Curry, President
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<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

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Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 10:04 AM
To: Steven Koonin
Cc: Judith Curry; John Christy; Roy W. Spencer; Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: Meeting edition

From the nature paper:

Subjective attribution of extreme weather was positively associated with policy support for five widely discussed climate policies. However, exposure to most types of extreme weather event did not predict policy support. Overall, these results suggest that subjective attribution could facilitate climate policy support.

Translation: People haven't yet been bamboozled into thinking carbon taxes will prevent bad weather but with enough propaganda maybe we can change that.

On Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 3:28 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
Subjective attribution = fairy tale

Steven E. Koonin

On Jul 2, 2025, at 15:17, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

new paper says the quiet part out loud

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-025-02372-4>

On Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 10:37 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
It's name plate capacity.

Typical capacity factors (actual generation vs name plate) are about 20% for solar and 33% for onshore wind, compared to 92% for nuclear and 50% for gas turbines.

Steven Koonin

On Jul 2, 2025, at 13:16, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

All

In this paragraph quoted from NCA5

"Recent growth in the capacities of wind, solar, and battery storage technologies is supported by rapidly falling costs of zero- and low-carbon energy technologies, which can support even deeper emissions reductions. For example, wind and solar energy costs dropped 70% and 90%, respectively, over the last decade, while 80% of new generation capacity in 2020 came from renewable sources."

does "new generation capacity" mean name-plate capacity or actual generation of power compared with all new generation of power in 2020?

John C.

On Tue, Jul 1, 2025 at 10:55 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I've taken Steve's version and done a bit of tidying to make it easier for us to go through in our Thursday meeting.

- minor edits have been accepted to remove the strikethrough wording
- Where text is currently disputed it is bracketed ~~=====~~ before and after.
- A few minor edits of my own in green text.

Ross



Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]
Sent: 7/3/2025 1:30:12 PM
To: Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]
CC: John Christy [climateman60@gmail.com]; Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]; Roy W. Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; Josh Loucks [jloucksj14@gmail.com]; Seth Cohen [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]
Subject: Re: Meeting edition

Now you guys are venturing into my area of expertise. I can help with this!

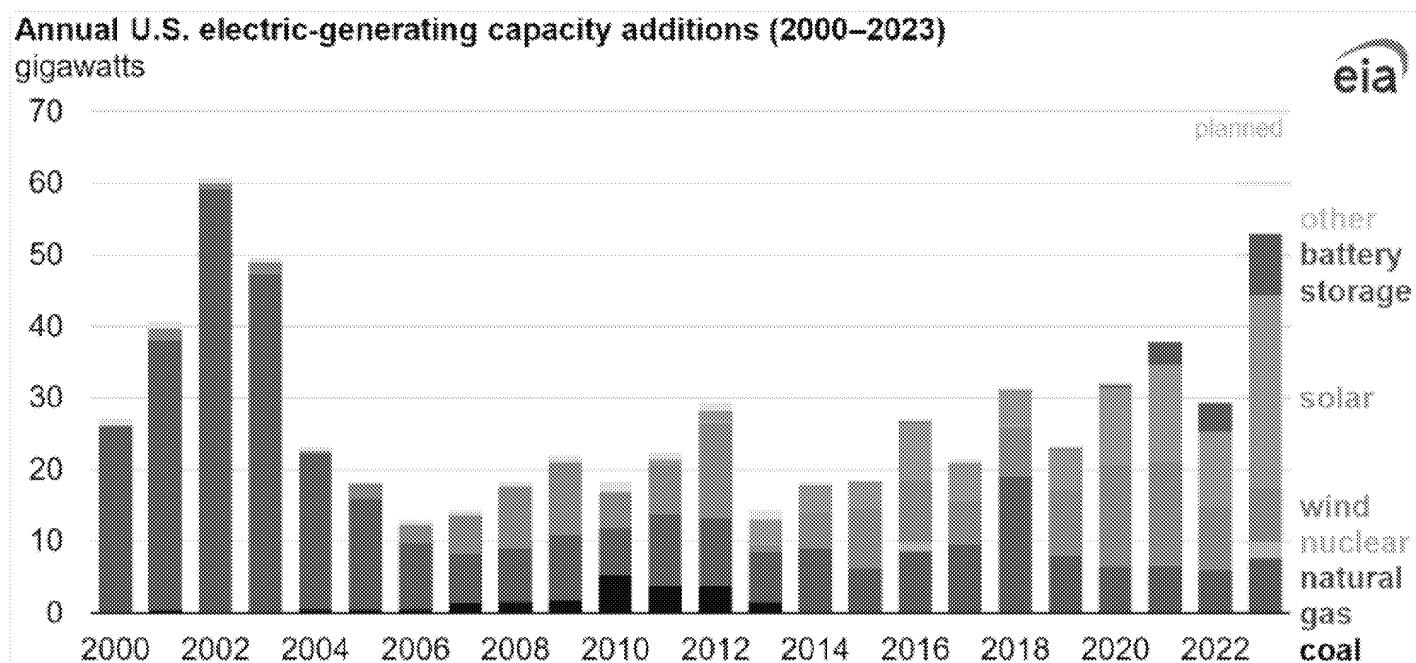
Add it to the list of things to be discussed this afternoon.

On Thu, Jul 3, 2025 at 9:20 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

EIA is your friend here; see <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data.php> .

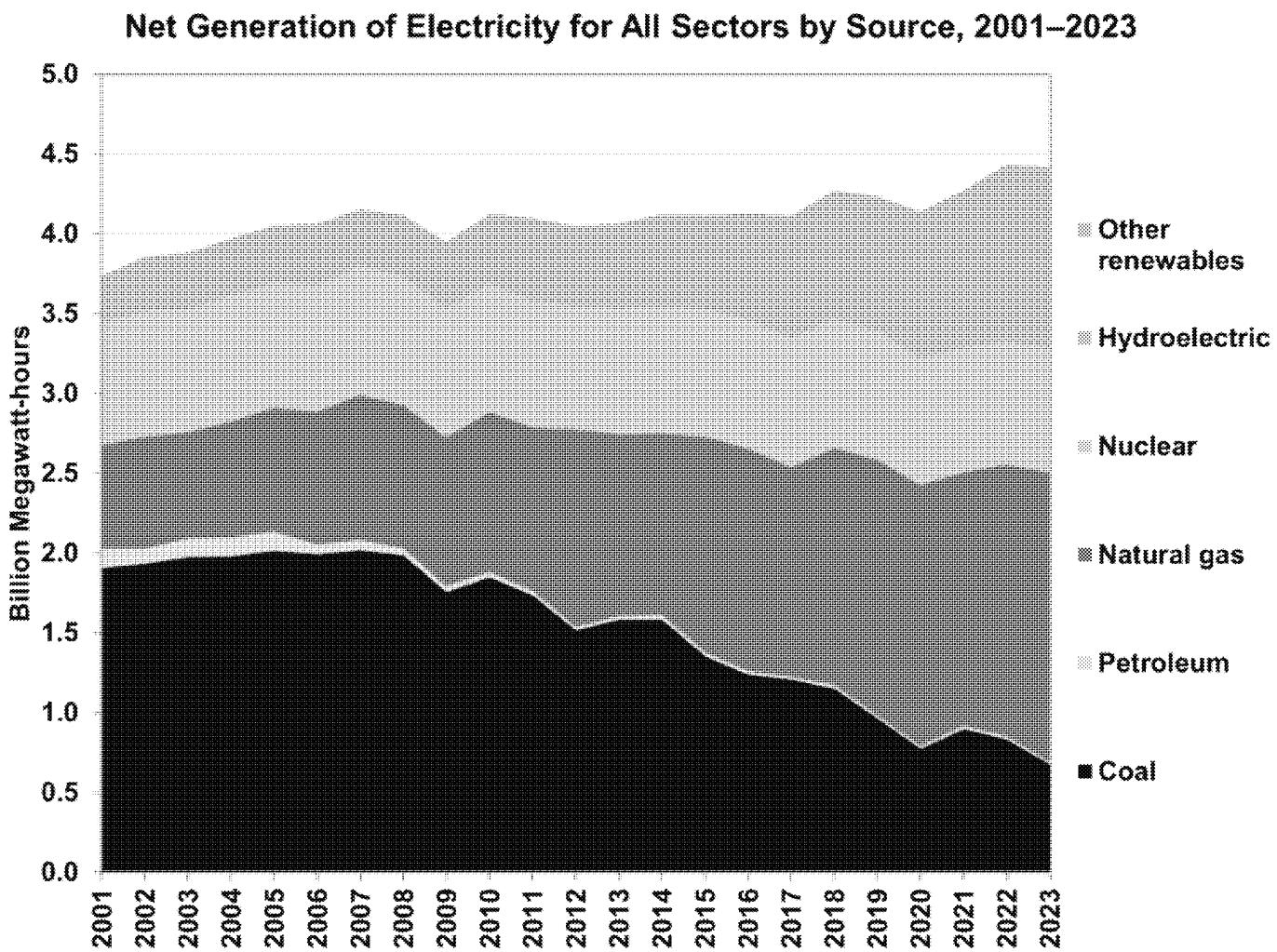
Some specific charts:

Capacity additions by source:



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory, January 2023

And generation by source:



From: John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 8:29 AM

To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>

Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>

Subject: Re: Meeting edition

Steve

Is there any way to calculate the actual contribution of new wind and solar to the total new generation that was used? So, if renewables accounted for 80% of new “capacity” did they really only contribute about say 30% of the actual increase in demand?

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 2, 2025, at 2:28 PM, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

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Steven E. Koonin

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John C.

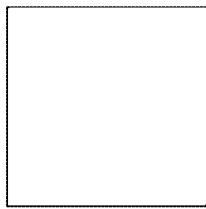
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- Where text is currently disputed it is bracketed ~~====~~ before and after.
- A few minor edits of my own in green text.

Ross

--



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Reno, NV USA
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<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 4:00 PM
To: Steven Koonin
Cc: Roy W. Spencer; John Christy; Ross McKittrick
Subject: trigger words

I spotted this from an early email from Roy on the NCA5, a word search

Social/Societal keywords

Indigenous/Tribes/Tribal: 1,679

Culture/Culturally: 854

Equity/Equitable: 572

Sustainable: 295

Inequality/Unequal: 201

Racism/Racial: 153

Low-Income: 105

Injustice: 94

Communities of Color: 67

Minorities: 37

These are DEI buzzwords and seem to indicate discussions outside of the NCA remit. A bit of a political hot potato, but I throw this out there for your consideration

I'm thinking something along these lines might be suitable re the chapter one overview "non scientific tone" Thoughts?

--



Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:06 AM
To: Roy W. Spencer; Judith Curry; John Christy; Steven Koonin
Subject: Today

We'll meet at 11 to go through Ch 12. Should only take 15 mins.

I've noted the changes made in various chapters since yesterday and we will review those quickly.

Then we can discuss the report title and what we call ourselves. I haven't had any guidance from Travis on legal implications associated with our group name but he's meeting with the department GC tomorrow so he'll bring it up.

DoE Team Doc Review

Wednesday, May 21 · 11:00am – 1:30pm

Time zone: America/Toronto

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/zen-dnbt-mpj>

Remaining matters:

The intro/preface

Author bios

Travis asked yesterday to check if our preference is still to publish the report prior to and separate from any EPA action, let's discuss.

Timing: CW leaves the DoE at 2 PM tomorrow and wants to have a draft to read on his flight to California. Travis and Josh have been assembling the chapters we completed into a report template. There will be time for tweaks and corrections up to about noon on Thursday.

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 5:55 PM
To: Travis Fisher
Cc: Roy Spencer; Judith Curry; Steven Koonin; Ross McKitrick
Subject: Re: May 8 meeting

Travis

I should be there.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 7, 2025, at 10:49 AM, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi all,

Sorry to give you a moving target, but the latest word is that the Secretary's schedule isn't clear until 4 p.m. ET tomorrow. We should have 30 minutes with him (4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET), and I'll work to set up an MS Teams video conference or a phone line you all can call into.

Best,
Travis

On Wed, May 7, 2025 at 12:39 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
For your entertainment and viewing pleasure, here's my blog response, which links to this morning's Politico article.

-Roy

<https://www.drroyspencer.com/2025/05/politicos-hit-piece-on-me-and-energy-secretary-wright/>

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 7, 2025 10:37 AM
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Glossary

I'd be happy to take on the next version of the glossary. You don't need a PhD to do that, and I'm happy to take anything like that off your hands!

On Wed, May 7, 2025 at 10:31 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

thx for doing this. There are alot of acronyms used in the various chapters that should be included also

On Wed, May 7, 2025 at 3:45 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
Attached is my first cut at a glossary, 64 terms so far based upon my reading of the chapters.

I've omitted obvious things like EPA, CO2, NOAA, NASA...

I'm sure I missed a few terms, and feel free to make edits.

Of course, this could all wait until everything else is completed.

-Roy

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 9:02 PM
To: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Ch 8 Extreme weather

I was expecting to read/comment/edit Chapter 8 tomorrow (Wednesday), so I'll use this version. Roy, if you beat me to a summary, that's fine, else I'll take it on.

John, do decouple for at least a few days. I've made the mistake of not doing so on a few vacations, with great regrets afterward.

Steven Koonin

On May 6, 2025, at 21:53, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

All

Here is a cleaned up version of chapter 8 which you will likely not see until 7 May, so that is the date.

My preference is for someone to read the thing and write the summary (8.4) based upon what a fresh set of eyes would conclude. Steve? Roy?

Ross. The panel charts of the individual station precipitation take up a lot of real estate and I think the value per acre is low. Since you calculated 3 statistics for each station, could you craft a bar chart or something to show that result? You would then have 9 charts, one for each of the 3 statistics and one each of the three regions. The nine charts may be panelized and fit on one plot. I know for us it's important for people to see the actual data (which is why I had those colored bar charts - now monochromatic), but it may be overkill for this document.

As to one of the statistics, I believe 3-day totals will be more meaningful and accurate than 1-day totals. I could send you a file of the heaviest 3-day total for each station and each year and you can do the analysis from there.

I especially like the way you parsed the Sidebar and I hope smart people will finally understand that when dealing with climate, our sample is pathetically small from which to draw hard conclusions.

I also enjoyed the added words on LTP. In fact do you have a few sentences that expand that a little to talk about the erratic nature of precipitation (spatial and temporal) in fancy statistical terms which means finding statistical significance in such a variable is a tough job?

I redid the number-of-event bar charts - all one color now.

I reran the Heatwave results to use 6-day periods as did NCA5. NCA5 was slick though. By choosing 1961-90 their background climatology was cold relative to decades before and since, so that results outside of those 30 years would produce a lot of days that exceed the percentile threshold. Then in the urban heatwave website, they started in 1960, assuring a result that more temps would exceed the threshold in post-1990 years.

That's all I've got.

Aloha

John C.

John Christy
Director, Earth System Science Center
Professor, Atmos and Earth Science
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
climate man60@gmail.com

<8 Extreme weather.JRC.May07.docx>

On May 6, 2025, at 5:25 PM, John Christy
climate man60@gmail.com wrote:

Steve

As Ross notes, the precipitation section is simply an update of our 2019 paper. The daily temperature work from the supplemented USHCN records is in a paper under review (but I suspect will have difficulty being accepted). The data are from the official USHCN site with my supplements adding about 10

percent to cover the missing data. There are about 41 million temperatures here, so I added about 4 million. Thus the results are dominated by publically-available data for others to check. If I get the go-ahead for publication, I can put the complete datafiles on a server for anyone to use.

John C.

John Christy
Director, Earth System Science Center
Professor, Atmos and Earth Science
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
climate man60@gmail.com

On May 6, 2025, at 3:48 PM, Ross McKittrick
<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

The underlying analysis is all from John's and my Journal of Hydrology paper for which the code is already online. John updated and expanded the data sets and I ran them through the same code.

On Tue, May 6, 2025 at 4:41 PM Steven Koonin
<steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

A thought about the analysis of long-term CONUS data, which as John knows I like very much:

If some (most?) of this work is as-yet unpublished in a peer-reviewed journal, I'd think you've got to make the expanded and in-filled database (and analysis code?) publicly accessible so that the work can be checked. Are you prepared to do that (at least for the "final", if not the "draft")?

SEK

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:05 PM
To: John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@googlemail.com>
Subject: Re: Ch 8 Extreme weather

Here's another edition of Ch 8 on extremes taking Judy's and John's points into account. The IPCC/NCA review is ported to an Appendix. I added a paragraph about LTP to the intro. I've incorporated the NE data. The bulk of the chapter is John's US temperature and precip data analysis with some additional material on wildfires, drought and TCs. For the US temperature extremes I moved the range figure to come just after the hot/cold extremes count because I think they both make a coherent point namely that the US becoming less extreme because heat events are rising more slowly than cold events are warming. There will still need to be an overall chapter summary but I'm going to move on to other chapters now. I'll put this in the Dropbox.

On Tue, May 6, 2025 at 12:12 PM John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com> wrote:

All

We can fill in without much trouble the change, or lack thereof, of "high impact" weather events (mainly wind and flooding like hurricanes, tornadoes etc) in the CONUS Extreme chapter. The temp and precip metrics are important because they are just long enough to essentially tell us Mother Nature has a mind of her own.

1. I'll look at Ross's version of 8 soon, but my hope was that Ross would translate the statistical remarks into the correct language(eg are their more precise words that chaotic, episodic, stochastic, etc).

2. We have analyses of the CONUS with more complete datasets than the NCA used (recall NCA analyses depended essentially on a small group at NCEI using datasets that (a) were not very consistent in time, (b) could promote alarm and (c) already easy for them to get to. Our datasets have literally hundreds of thousands of manually keyed-in observations for temporal consistency. In other words, this lets people know we can address these issues from soup to nuts - we're not armchair climate scientists ... we can reproduce what they did, but make the analysis more comprehensive to address the questions.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 6, 2025, at 4:14 AM,
Ross McKittrick

<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
wrote:

Just read your attribution chapter. I hadn't picked up on the gap between IPCC Ch 11 vs Ch 12 language but i see your point that rather than promoting one set of attribution findings

we should explain that even within the same AR different authors assessed things differently. One option is to leave Ch 6 where it is but reverse the order of Ch 7 and 8 while retitling the latter as you suggest. That way, having established the extreme weather types for which there are no detectable trends it will more naturally follow that they won't be discussed in the attribution chapter.

On Tue, May 6, 2025 at 9:45 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Ok, but the summary table (12.12 from AR6) is inconsistent with conclusions in AR6 ch 11 (I point this out in section 6.4 of my attribution chapter).

In my mind, the main point is disagreement and ambiguity I would suggest chapter 8 going before chapter 6, retitling it as US Weather and Climate Extremes, and make it more of a data chapter, not an attribution chapter (I would put table 12.12 in the attribution chapter if you want to include the actual table)

On Tue, May 6, 2025 at 6:39 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I like John's material too which is why I included it and am working on the extended regional analyses. But on this topic people are heavily primed to believe that extreme weather of all kinds is getting worse due to climate change. The assertion shows up everywhere climate change is discussed including in academic papers. I think it is very valuable to show people that neither the IPCC nor the NCA support such this view. We should at least lead off with the summary table. The library of quotes can go to an appendix but I have found in my public speaking that they have considerable persuasive force for most people. We also need to address floods, droughts, hurricane landfalls, tornadoes etc. I don't see any reason to delete all that material.

On Tue, May 6, 2025 at
9:22 AM Judith Curry
<curry.judith@gmail.com>
wrote:

I actually liked John's chapter. I would have retitled it "US temperature and rainfall extremes"

I think this is more relevant than a complete rehash of everything the last 3 IPCC reports have stated for every conceivable severe weather event.

John's version meshes very well with my version of

chapter 6. Read especially section 6.4 of my chapter. I note a discrepancy between chapters 11 and 12 in terms of detecting and attributing extreme events. This is the main point in my opinion, there is ambiguity in all this. Lets focus on pointing out the problems/challenges, and topics that are particularly relevant for the US

On Mon, May 5, 2025 at 7:47 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I have wrangled the extreme weather chapter into something I hope flows better and is more readable. I adopted Judy's editorial changes and then the new changes I made are in red. I added some new Figures showing results on PC and SE data and will add the NE chart when I get the data. I also made some labeling suggestions including for the 3 rainfall charts that are hard to understand. Section summaries and an overall summary are still needed.

Ross

--
Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

<~WRD0765.jpg>

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curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: John Christy <climatean60@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 23, 2025 2:02 PM
To: Ross McKitrick
Cc: Steven Koonin; Judith Curry; Travis Fisher; Roy Spencer; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: Summary chapter

Ross

That's an interesting blind spot - not checking past NCA forecasts.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 23, 2025, at 9:53 AM, Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

John - here are my NCA5 review comments. I also went back and found my NCA4 comments, and the 1st comment reminds me that since the law requires NCA to provide projections each subsequent NCA ought to go back and see how previous projections bore out. I showed the NCA4 team that predictions from NCA1 were way off. I'm going to suggest we add something about that topic to our review.

On Mon, Jun 23, 2025 at 1:31 PM John Christy <climatean60@gmail.com> wrote:

Steve

This point refers to more submissions than just mine. I have some back at the office, including one by Ross. I'll take a look at those Friday to see how "credible" they are.

I mention this because overall, the NASEM review was pathetic, but other reviewers pointed out glaring weaknesses of 3OD. The NASEM review was a gift to NCA5, not a critical analysis by experts. At some point, perhaps DoE might want to make an observation (completely separate from our efforts here through channels they know) that the NASEM review team was light on climate science expertise - as was the authorship of the NCA5.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 23, 2025, at 2:33 AM, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

John- Does your point refer only to your comments or have you done a sampling of NASEM's and others comments?

SEK

From: John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2025 8:34 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Steve Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>;
Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer
<roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen
<seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: Summary chapter

Judy

Attached is the NASEM review.

Steve/Ross (not sure who is holding the Master)

After reading my public comments to the NCA5 3rd order draft, would it not be correct to say on page 3,

- The NCA5 authors failed to adopt some improvements recommended by NASEM and failed to address many credible public comments.

John C.

John Christy

Director, Earth System Science Center

Professor, Atmos and Earth Science

Alabama State Climatologist

The University of Alabama in Huntsville

climate man60@gmail.com

<OfflineComments_NCA53OD_PublicReview.xls>
<McKittrick-NCA4 Comments.docx>

From: John Christy <climatean60@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2025 7:18 PM
To: Judith Curry
Cc: Ross McKittrick; Steven Koonin; Travis Fisher; Roy Spencer; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: Summary chapter

Steve sent it out a few weeks ago, but I can't find it on my phone. Ch 2 is not long.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 22, 2025, at 3:03 PM, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi John I'll take a look. I've lost the plot, where do i find the NASEM review?

On Sun, Jun 22, 2025 at 3:57 PM John Christy <climatean60@gmail.com> wrote:
Judy

If you have the stomach for it you might want to read the NASEM review of Ch 2 where they do bring up natural variability a few times in their otherwise congratulatory "review".

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 22, 2025, at 1:58 PM, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I think this is now pretty good. But I think a clear message needs to be given that more than just a band aid is needed

I will try to do the natural variability chapter tomorrow

On Sun, Jun 22, 2025 at 12:10 PM Ross McKittrick
<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Here are my edits to the conclusion chapter, ~~highlighted in cyan to stand out~~. There were a few places where I thought we need to state the conclusions a bit more clearly. I've added a query about the term 'hazard'. I haven't looked at Ch 7 yet but will try to add to it tomorrow.

On Sun, Jun 22, 2025 at 12:33 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>

wrote:

Steve

I'm trying to handle this from my phone, so a little rough. Your red-letter question about NCA's incorporation of alternative views is no problem. I have a few of the public comment submissions that were ignored, including separate submissions by Ross and myself. When I'm back in the office, I can find those. I'm wondering if we can find any information on NCA5's response to our submissions?

It may be enlightening to add the phrase after your point about ignoring comments (I can't remember your exact words), "including public comment submissions by two CWG25 authors"

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 22, 2025, at 6:42 AM, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I've now built on Judy's summary chapter 8, rationalizing it with Section 1.3. Note particularly the recommendations for NCA6.

Also made a start on Chapter 7.

Both are included in the integrated draft attached, which you are urged to read/comment/edit.

SEK

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2025 10:32 AM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>;

Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>

Subject: Summary chapter

Draft of summary chapter is attached, with short recommendations section (cleaned up from yesterday's version). I look forward to your feedback

Below is the recommendations section that I came up with, I'm sure this will be controversial but it will at least trigger the group thinking about the issue:

Recommendations

In view of the substantial problems with NCA5 in failing to comply with the USGCRP mandate and the tenets of Gold Standard Science, along with the endemic bias in the climate community towards alarmism and policy advocacy on the issue of climate change, we do not see a clear path forward for the NCA6 at this time.

The USGCRP mandate to the NCA should be revisited. The current mandate is vague and off point, and it is not entirely surprising that successive NCA teams have interpreted the mandate differently. With regards to specific wording in the mandate, the term "global change" is ambiguous and outdated; it is no longer used in most climate-related documents. It is becoming increasingly clear that climate models are not fit-for-purpose for making regional projections 25 and 100 years in advance.

There are three fundamental issues to be addressed in the near term to support the USGCRP and federal policy making:

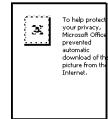
- Review of climate science (we suggest that the CWG25 Report meets this objective)
- Comprehensive risk assessment of extreme weather and climate events

- Evaluation of USGCRP portfolio of funded projects and recommendations for the future.

SOMETHING ABOUT ENERGY POLICY???

Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
<~WRD2957.jpg> curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

<01.NCA5.Review.June20[JC][SEK].docx>



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<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]
Sent: 5/21/2025 7:24:18 PM
To: Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]; Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]; John Christy [climateman60@gmail.com]
CC: loucksj14@gmail.com
Subject: Re: revised SLR figure
Attachments: Report Draft May 21.docx

Hi Everyone,

Josh here, sending an updated version of the document. This should have the newest drop box versions of each chapter in it, as well as the forward, glossary, etc.

Travis and I are available to chat whenever is convenient. Let's plan for 4 pm EST if that works for everyone.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns with this version of the report.

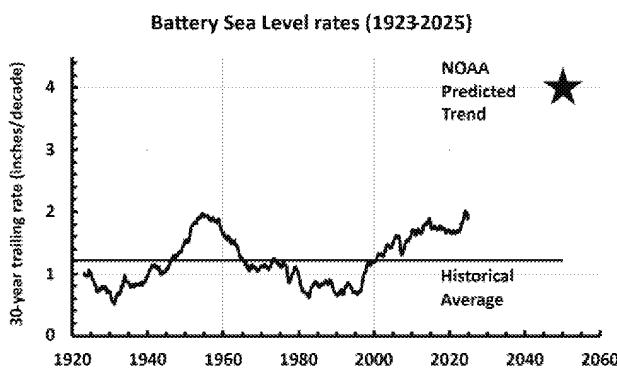
Thanks - Josh

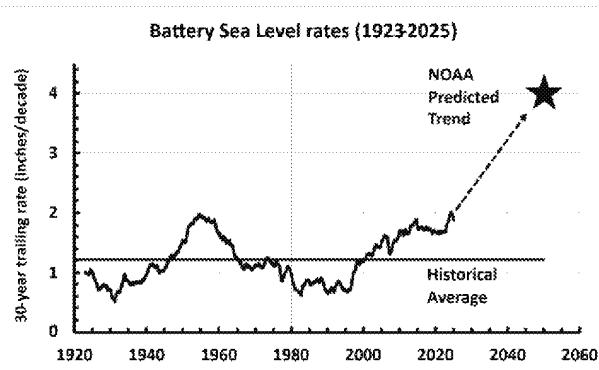
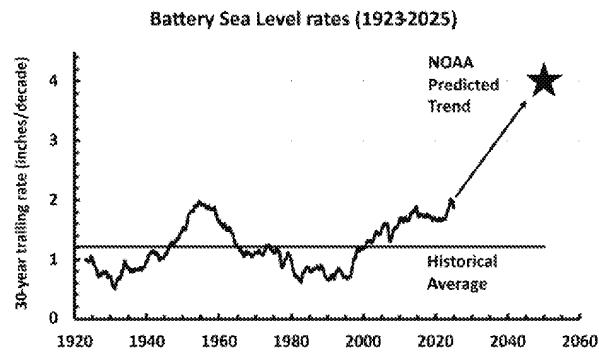
On Wed, May 21, 2025 at 11:12 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

I LIKE THE FIRSTONE.

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:42 AM
To: 'Ross McKittrick' <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>; 'Roy W. Spencer' <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; 'John Christy' <climateman60@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: revised SLR figure

More alternatives for the SLR figure

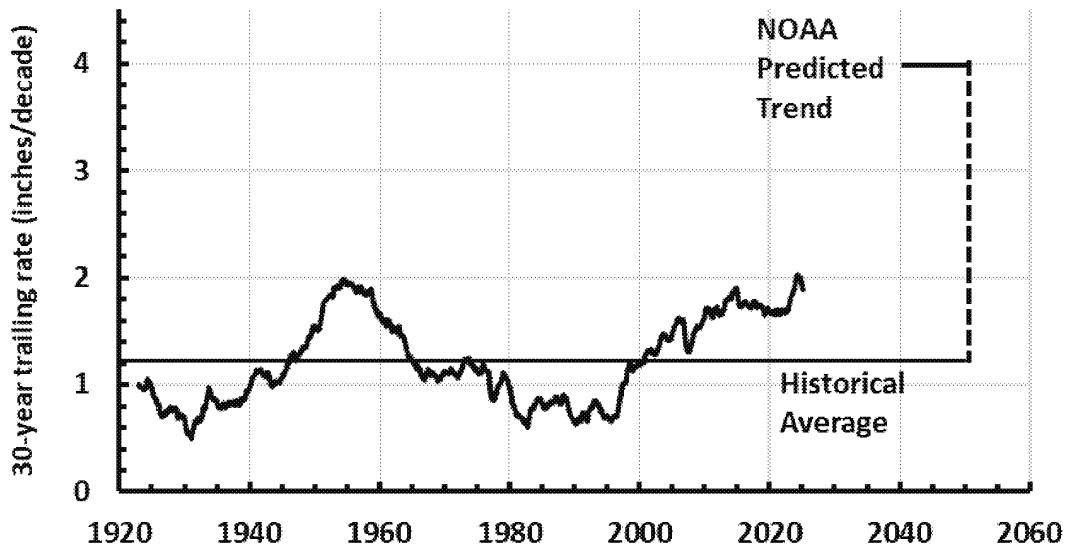




From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 8:13 PM
To: 'Ross McKittrick' <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>; 'Roy W. Spencer' <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; 'John Christy' <climateman60@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: revised SLR figure

How's this?

Battery Sea Level rates (1923-2025)



From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 8:02 PM
To: 'Ross McKittrick' <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>; 'Roy W. Spencer' <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; 'John Christy' <climateaman60@gmail.com>
Subject: revised SLR figure

Here, the text, citation, figure caption, and figure.

SEK

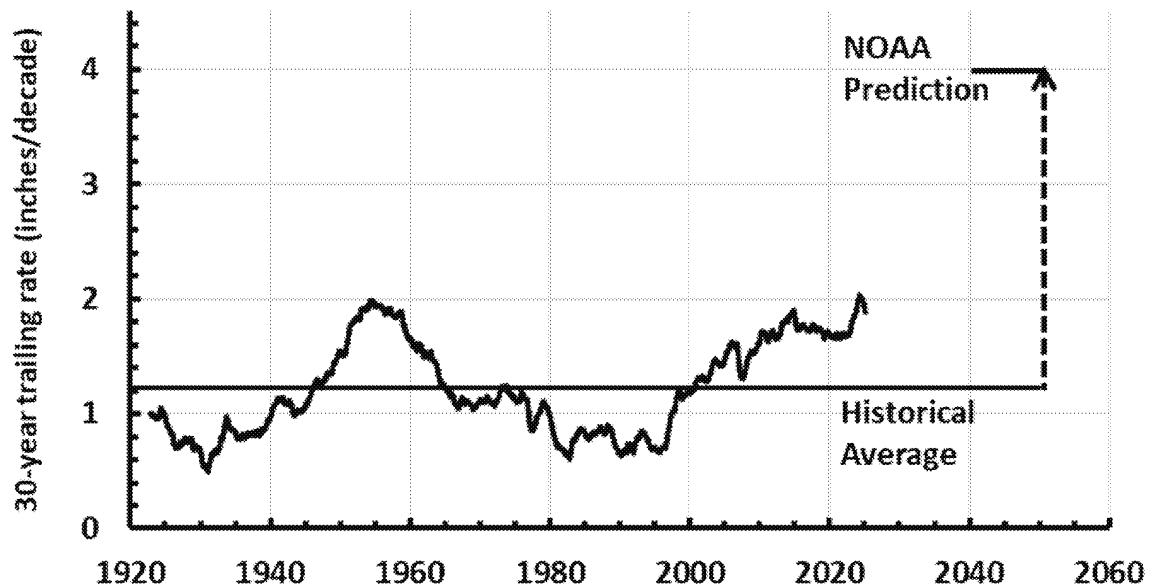
Text:

In February 2022, NOAA issued its projections of sea level rise for various sites along the US coast (Sweet, 2022). They claim that by 2050, the sea will have risen one foot at The Battery in Manhattan. A one foot rise in thirty years is a rate of 4 inch/decade, twice the current rate and more than three times the average rate over the past century. In that historical context, NOAA's projection is remarkable—as shown in Figure 7.6, it would require a dramatic acceleration beyond anything observed in the early 20th century. But even more noteworthy is that they say this rise is “locked in”—it will happen no matter what future emissions are. We should know in a decade or so whether that prediction has legs.

Citation: <https://www.usgs.gov/publications/global-and-regional-sea-level-rise-scenarios-united-states>

Figure 7.6 Rate of sea level rise at the Battery in Manhattan. Shown is the historical thirty-year trailing trend, together with the allegedly “locked in” NOAA predicted trend for 2050. Historical data: NOAA Tides and Current.

Battery Sea Level rates (1923-2025)



From: Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]
Sent: 4/19/2025 3:44:25 PM
To: Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]
CC: Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; John Christy [climateaman60@gmail.com]; Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]
Subject: Section 2.1
Attachments: Dangerous DOE 2.docx

See attached text for 2.1. I've changed the content for this section, to socioeconomic context for trend in "dangerous", and this includes brief description of how improved weather forecasting is saving lives and \$\$.
I think this is more relevant than a description of advances in forecasting extreme weather, let me know what think. If you are ok with this i will add to drop box

On Sat, Apr 19, 2025 at 7:28 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I also have some text on mortality impacts. Also I can add a bit to the vector-borne topic from my work on malaria a few years ago.
Sections 4.2 and 4.3 could easily be combined and build from what John already wrote.
Ross

On Sat, Apr 19, 2025 at 8:28 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
I can do 9 am (6 am PDT) for a call,

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 7:57 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I'm thinking that a conference call or zoom meeting would be helpful so we can get caught up on the work done up to now and also the administrative side of things. Everything seems to be moving at a rapid pace.
Could we schedule it for Monday morning at 9 ET?
Ross

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 10:03 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:
Thanks so much, Judy!

Great questions. I don't think anyone has taken on the "air pollutant" issue. Please feel free to tackle it if you like!

Regarding the regulation in question, I've been told this summary of the science will be published as a technical support document relevant to a new proposed rule on tailpipe emissions standards for motor vehicles. I don't know whether that means all motor vehicles or just light- and medium-duty vehicles. It might be helpful to differentiate GHG emissions from the different classes to give the EPA flexibility in that regard.

The previous administration combined the rules for GHGs and criteria pollutants into a "multi-pollutant" rule, and I don't have any information on how this administration will package the different emissions standards. The exact charge for you all is to provide an update on the science relevant to the EPA's endangerment determination with respect to GHGs. As I understand the assignment, the scope is only GHGs, not criteria pollutants.

Keep the questions coming! I can run them up the chain if I don't know the answers, and I am happy to relay any questions you all have to the relevant folks at DOE or other agencies.

For your awareness, I was asked to share the table of contents with the EPA team this evening, which I did (the April 18 version), with the understanding that it is a one-way street (me informing them of your work so they know what's coming, not them sending feedback or micro-managing it). As I assured Steve in the early stages of this work, scientific integrity is paramount, and I will do everything in my power to preserve every word of the document as you all write it. In fact, the EPA team asked that the document be DOE-branded, meaning our true audience is the Secretary of Energy, and he emphasized to me that he wants nothing but science. In other words, the only compromise you have to make in how this is written is among yourselves, not between you all and policymakers, lawyers, or economists.

Thanks again for lending your expertise to this effort, all of you.

Best,
Travis

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 8:46 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I have a lot of material already written that should be relevant. I have a draft of the sea level rise section completed, am sending this to my assistant to format, will upload monday.

Roy, let me know if there are sections you can't complete, i may have some text that is already written

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 3:06 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I'm happy to report that I just talked with Judy, and she accepted the mission (in case you're wondering, the vetting issue was a mishap). This is great news because the Secretary wanted all of you to be able to contribute.

Let's make sure to include Judy in all of our correspondence from now on. The documents should be available here: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/wahx6lpwzu33m5vyrri8x/ANTU1qAQJ-zXCFzP_gsJcOs?rlkey=11z3qj9v46el5f4ywwxq7p8c&e=1&dl=0. Please let us know if you don't have access.

Best,
Travis

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 4:59 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks John. The quote from Mauritzen and Roeckner is a great addition.

I find the figure hard to follow, whereas the quote makes the point very clearly, in their own words.

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 4:55 PM John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com> wrote:

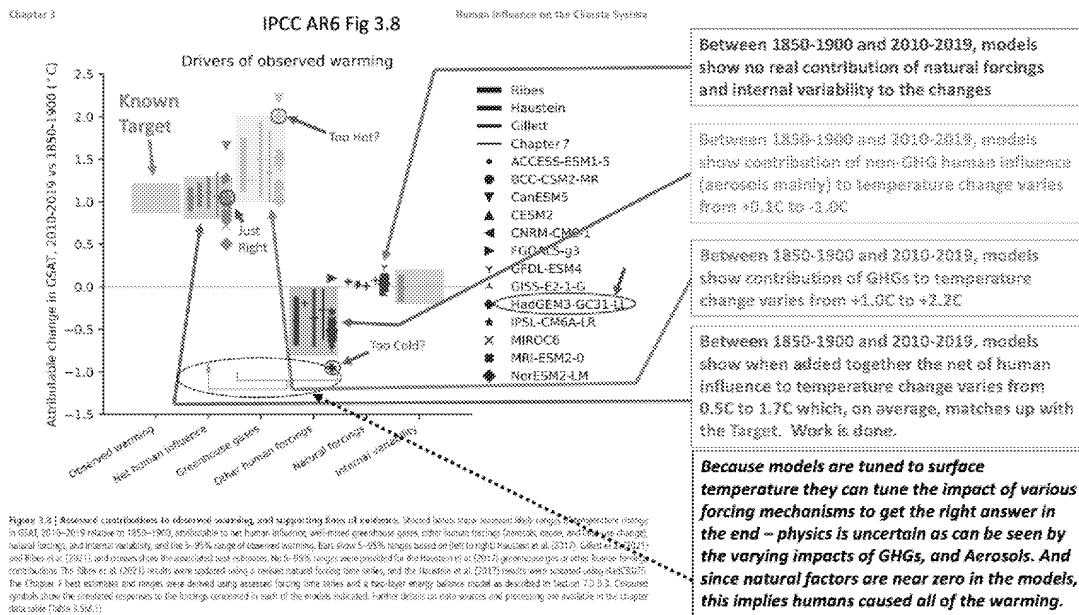
Ross

I've never been successful with dropbox and my record is still intact.

Attached is 1.6.2 to which I added a paragraph.

Also attached is a chart I annotated from AR6. I think this story demonstrates modelers are just playing with tuning parameters. Is there some way to use this information here (not necessarily in this format)?

John C.



On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 3:32 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I've uploaded a new version of Section 2.2 to your folder. It includes the earlier material quoting all the relevant IPCC and NCA17 stuff and adds some external source information I found. Still needs a brief summary. Others may have more to add.

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 3:05 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Ross:

Let me look early in the morning to see which ones I feel like I can knock out the fastest. Our "guidance" has been to start from "scratch", while relying on preexisting materials where it helps. I think I know why we've been told this, but it's not my place to say.

- Roy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>

Date: 4/18/25 10:49 AM (GMT-06:00)

To: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>

Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: I'll need help: 10 sections to go

Sorry Roy, I didn't mean to swamp you, I figured those were sections you already had in the can from previous work. Looking through my own folders I have some material I forgot I had written which I

can repurpose. Can you send a list of the sections you are able to do, and the ones you would like to hand off for the time being?

Also to Travis' point we should look to having Judy help some of the sections. Travis, she can be reached via curry.judith@gmail.com

Ross

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 7:40 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

All:

I don't see how I'm going to do the 10 more sections assigned to me (1.6.1 onward) in the time remaining. Feel free to jump in.

-Roy

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, April 18, 2025 6:34 AM

To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>

Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>

Subject: Section 1.4.3 attached

Ross:

I think we should combine sections 1.4.3 and 1.4.4 (attached) which I now call "The carbon cycle, emissions scenarios, and global greening".

I found that all of these need to be discussed together. Feel free to reword the section title.

-Roy

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 6:17 AM

To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>

Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>

Subject: Section 1.4.2 Can climate models reproduce the recent past?

Attached. This is the minimum I think needs to be in this section. Of course, more could be added, but I think we need to stick to our strongest arguments, given the limited time available.

-Roy

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 7:16 AM

To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>

Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>

Subject: Some Spencer inputs

I took it upon myself to write a preamble in **Section 1.3 Drivers of climate change** (attached), which seemed necessary to introduce some basic concepts.

Also attached are my initial submissions for **1.3.2** and **1.3.3**.

NO references added yet.

One of the things I believe we need to watch out for is *neglecting to come to conclusions along the way...* There is a tendency to get mired in the technical details without getting around to saying what each section might mean in eventual policy decisions related to the Endangerment Finding. In my experience, it is not possible to dumb-down this stuff too much. I suggest some sort of "Summary Boxes" with 1-2 simplified statements highlighting a main conclusion of each section that would have policy relevance.

-Roy

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 1:37 PM
To: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; roywspencer@hotmail.com <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Kickoff

Hi Travis

We developed the outline a bit further and assigned sections out yesterday. We'll keep you cc'd going forward.

Here is a Dropbox link that contains the current outline (also attached) which indicates who is working on each section

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/wahx6lpwzu33m5vyrr18x/ANTU1qAQJ-zXCFzP_gsJcOs?rlkey=l1z3qj9v46e1t5f4ywwxq7p8c&dl=0

The link should give you all editing privileges.

I put folders in there for each of us. If the use of that Dropbox (which is on my own account) is acceptable for this project then we can share our work using it. Otherwise once we have an official Dropbox created we can transfer the material over to it.

Do you think it would be helpful to have a section specifically addressing the question of whether CO2 is a pollutant like CO, NOx, SOx, PM, etc.? If you want to add topics or suggest changes please do, the earlier the better as we begin filling out the contents.

Cheers,

Ross

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 2:12 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

This is an excellent start! Can we move forward by iterating with this document for now? Please feel free to add whatever material you like, and I can collate if there are any simultaneous changes. I will leave the substance to you all because I view my role as a facilitator rather than a contributor, but please let me know how I can be most helpful.

Steve is correct that this document should be clear and understandable for non-experts. My understanding is that it should also be sufficiently technical and comprehensive to inform policymakers on all relevant aspects of the science.

One area I can help with might be targeting your work for the very brief window we have open at the moment. I am including a few lines verbatim below from key documents to highlight the areas of inquiry that are most relevant to the policymaking process. Of course, you all should make your own judgments about what to include versus what to leave out.

Here is a key section of the Clean Air Act, 202(a)(1): "The Administrator shall by regulation prescribe (and from time to time revise) in accordance with the provisions of this section, standards applicable to the emission of any air pollutant from any class or classes of new motor vehicles or new motor vehicle engines, which in his judgment cause, or contribute to, air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. Such standards shall be applicable to such vehicles and engines for their useful life (as determined under subsection (d), relating to useful life of vehicles for purposes of certification), whether such vehicles and engines are designed as complete systems or incorporate devices to prevent or control such pollution."

Section 202 can be found [here](#).

Here is another key section of the Clean Air Act, section 302(g): "The term 'air pollutant' means any air pollution agent or combination of such agents, including any physical, chemical, biological, radioactive (including source material, special nuclear material, and byproduct material) substance or matter which is emitted into or otherwise enters the ambient air. Such term includes any precursors to the formation of any air pollutant, to the extent the Administrator has identified such precursor or precursors for the particular purpose for which the term 'air pollutant' is used."

A threshold question raised in Justice Scalia's dissent in *Mass v. EPA* (which can be found [here](#)) is whether CO2 falls under the definition of an "air pollutant" under the Clean Air Act. The majority in *Mass v. EPA* found that *any* compound emitted into the ambient air fits the definition of "air pollutant," leading to a colorful footnote in the Scalia dissent ("It follows that everything airborne, from Frisbees to flatulence, qualifies as an 'air pollutant.' This reading of the statute defies common sense."). A scientific interpretation of this definition could be very helpful.

The next section in the statute is 302(h), which defines effects on welfare: "All language referring to effects on welfare includes, but is not limited to, effects on soils, water, crops, vegetation, manmade materials, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, and climate, damage to and deterioration of property, and hazards to transportation, as well as effects on economic values and on personal comfort and well-being, whether caused by transformation, conversion, or combination with other air pollutants." Positive impacts, including fertilization effects and beneficial warming, seem to be within scope here.

Section 302 can be found [here](#).

As you all develop the draft, I encourage you to include as many citations to published materials as possible (links would work fine as placeholders). I have found this works better under a tight timeline than going back and looking for sources later. Please also feel free to task me with any research help you might need.

Best,
Travis

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 8:10 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I assume we're writing for non-experts. If so, some educating beyond the root questions is in order (it always helps if people feel smarter after reading).

So I've taken Ross' material, added some broader context, and cast it into the forcing/response/impact syllogism that most non-experts seem to get. The result is attached.

I think we can deal with the differences relative to 2009 in an appendix.

SEK

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 6:34 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; steven.koonin@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: Kickoff

Excellent list Ross. Wildfires are a significant topic to be addressed.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 11, 2025, at 4:05 PM, Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

The attached represents my summary of the most questions needing to be answered, which I think this group is capable of answering in the next couple of weeks. Probably lots of material already in hand.

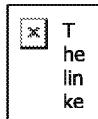
On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 4:24 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Gentlemen,

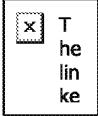
I can't thank you enough for taking this on under such a tight timeline. Let's use this thread to exchange information, links, etc., and as we move forward, I'll see about a document-sharing platform and a shared document to work on simultaneously.

Best,
Travis

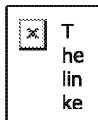
<DE.memo.outline.Apr.11.[RM].docx>



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From: Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]
Sent: 7/21/2025 11:12:21 PM
To: Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]
CC: John Christy [climateman60@gmail.com]; Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; Travis Fisher [travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov]; roywspencer@hotmail.com; Seth Cohen [seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov]; Joshua Loucks [Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov]
Subject: Re: Review #6
Attachments: Review #1 Digest[JAC][JRC][RM].docx; Review #3 Digest[RM].docx; Review #2 Digest[RM].docx; Review #5 Digest.docx; Review #4 Digest[RM].docx; Review #6 Digest.docx

We've received 6 sets of comments so far. I copy them from an excel file into a landscape-formatted Word doc referred to as Digest form. We're adding responses using color-coding: Judy red, John blue, me green, Roy purple. So far there are rather few changes needed to the CWG report. I've attached all 6 some with responses.

The top priority is settling on revisions to the report, which we will discuss at a meeting tomorrow to begin at 10AM ET ([link coming](#)). Creating the review/response report will happen afterwards.

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 6:08 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
Just got back on line. Can somebody (Travis) summarize state of play?

Steven E. Koonin

On Jul 21, 2025, at 15:41, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

There are a few comments I can address in Review #6 tonight. The others are outside of my brain at this point.

John C.

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 5:20 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
With columns fixed so the text doesn't spill off the page

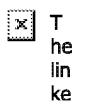
On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 5:14 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
Same

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 5:10 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
wow this is the most interesting of the reviews

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 3:06 PM Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov> wrote:
Another round of comments from a lab reviewer just came in!

--

Judith Curry, President
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Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>



From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 6:40 PM
To: Travis Fisher; Roy W. Spencer; John Christy; Steven Koonin; Judith Curry
Subject: Link and Folder for May 19 meeting

Hello everyone:
We meet tomorrow (May 19) 10:30 ET.

I have created a new folder called May 18 meeting drafts. I took the chapters Steve circulated which contain the cumulative comments and made a few changes:

- renumbered chapters and sections/figures as needed where subsequent mergers had happened
- moved summaries to the start of chapters
- added the tipping points material
- resolved a few queries where the material was available

I'm going to try to draft a bit of text before tomorrow's meeting on UHI for Ch 3. We don't discuss it but it deserves a mention.

Just when you have the albedo section done send it to me and indicate which chapter it should go into.

Here is the meeting info:

DoE group drafting

Monday, May 19 · 10:30am – 4:00pm

Time zone: America/Toronto

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/aux-jgsa-eoq>

If that link doesn't work use this one: <https://calendar.app.google/BLniCJu4uXALyMHX7>

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 22, 2025 6:28 AM
To: Ross McKittrick; John Christy
Cc: Fisher, Travis; Steve Koonin; Judith Curry; Cohen, Seth; Loucks, Joshua
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Review #6

I've already stated my preference that stratospheric cooling is not really relevant to the climate change issues we are interested in, and it should be deleted from the report.

I suspect the IPCC only included it because stratospheric cooling from increasing CO2 gives the appearance that the models are working correctly, which is likely true in the stratosphere where the physics is much simpler. But a model can get stratospheric cooling right and be totally wrong on tropospheric warming due to uncertainties in a wide variety of feedbacks.

-Roy

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 9:14 PM
To: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; Steve Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; roywspencer@hotmail.com <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>; Loucks, Joshua <Joshua.Loucks@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Review #6

Still need some guidance from John and Roy on this comment from REviewer #1 re. stratospheric cooling vs warming

[25] have shown that including the stratosphere as defined from 25 to 50km there is high confidence that the cooling signal caused by CO2 increase is detectable and beyond the noise levels of the natural and inter annual variability in the lowest part of the stratosphere. We should put this debate to rest.

[25] B.D. Santer, S. Po-Chedley, L. Zhao, C. Zou, Q. Fu, S. Solomon, D.W.J. Thompson, C. Mears, & K.E. Taylor, Exceptional stratospheric contribution to human fingerprints on atmospheric temperature, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. 120 (20) e2300758120, <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2300758120> (2023).

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 8:49 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Travis could you or Josh find the broken [climate.gov](#) references and get usable links from the Wayback machine?

e.g.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20250222170658/https://www.globalchange.gov/indicators/heat-waves>

just go to [archive.org](#) and put in the defunct link. you'll see a calendar of snapshots, pick one and it should show you an archived page

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 8:21 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Here are my comments on Review #6. I really don't see a need to alter the CWG text based on these responses except

Caption Fig. 5.7. "Modeled versus observed warming, tropical troposphere. Source: updated from Christy and McNider (2017) with CMIP-6 models and data through 2024. Red line: model average. Green and blue lines: observational series (reanalysis)."

Don't know what to do about the now broken link. <https://www.globalchange.gov/indicators/heat-waves> (USGCRP 2023)

John C.

John Christy
Director, Earth System Science Center
Professor, Atmos and Earth Science
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
climateman60@gmail.com

On Jul 21, 2025, at 6:57 PM, Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

As usual, Ross did better than I could (and did it faster!).

We may have an additional day or two of breathing room, so if you were hoping for another night of sleep before putting a final ribbon on the DOE CWG report, I think that's doable.

My recommendation is to use the comments to strengthen the CWG report where you see fit (while keeping edits minimal), ideally with a new final version emerging at the end of the day tomorrow. If you all want to read that final (final) version with fresh eyes on Wednesday morning, I can then pass it back to the DOE publication wizards on Wednesday PM to get it ready for release on Thursday or Friday.

Going forward (post-publication), I will stick around through July 31 to help produce what we're calling the "peer review report," which is the collection of anonymous comments and whatever the CWG team wants to put in a response column. I plan to advise DOE to hold that report internally until/unless it's requested by outside stakeholders. That said, if it's your preference to publish it straight away, I think we can do that.

I will also be working on press materials and the like (talking points, press release, outreach to relevant groups, etc.), so please let me know if you want to be involved in any of that.

Going another step forward, DOE will simultaneously keep a public comment period open for likely 45 days AND solicit expert peer review from other agencies or even private groups. I'm open to ideas on how to navigate that, but it may be past my tenure.

The NCA5 critique could follow the same process as the CWG report if we want to turn it into a DOE report. The initial plan to publish it at GCRP didn't work out, but perhaps we can be creative and publish it in some other way that could be useful to OSTP, DOE, or the GCRP.

I'll leave DOE on July 31 and return to Cato on August 4. You all should think about who you might like to see in key roles, such as head of the GCRP. DOE may also want to hire someone to replace me in my role as liaison to this group and the broader interagency effort, but I haven't yet heard a firm answer on that. At the very least, I can plug you all in with someone who will help you sort through the public comments. Seth and Josh can fill in and provide continuity as well.

It's been the honor of a lifetime to get to know you all and watch this work unfold. Thank you for stepping up!

Best,
Travis

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 7:12 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>; roywspencer@hotmail.com; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>; Loucks, Joshua <joshua.loucks@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Review #6

We've received 6 sets of comments so far. I copy them from an excel file into a landscape-formatted Word doc referred to as Digest form. We're adding responses using color-coding: Judy red, John blue, me green, Roy purple. So far there are rather few changes needed to the CWG report. I've attached all 6 some with responses.

The top priority is settling on revisions to the report, which we will discuss at a meeting tomorrow to begin at 10AM ET (link coming). Creating the review/response report will happen afterwards.

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 6:08 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
Just got back on line. Can somebody (Travis) summarize state of play?

Steven E. Koonin

On Jul 21, 2025, at 15:41, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

There are a few comments I can address in Review #6 tonight. The others are outside of my brain at this point.

John C.

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 5:20 PM Ross McKitrick
<ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

With columns fixed so the text doesn't spill off the page

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 5:14 PM Ross McKitrick
<ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Same

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 5:10 PM Judith Curry
<curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

wow this is the most interesting of the reviews

On Mon, Jul 21, 2025 at 3:06 PM Fisher, Travis
<travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov> wrote:

| Another round of comments from a lab reviewer just came in!

--

Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
<image001.jpg> curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

This message does not originate from a known Department of Energy email system.
Use caution if this message contains attachments, links or requests for information.

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 6:35 PM
To: Ross McKittrick
Cc: Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks; Roy W. Spencer; Judith Curry; Steven Koonin
Subject: Re: 4 thematic headings

Ross

This is how I felt when being lectured to by the head author of NCA5. You've raised something to consider, that in our professional opinions we find the NCA5 scientifically unprofessional in terms of failing to adhere to the congressional charge and using a tremendous amount of tax-payer funds to wander off into obvious advocacy for squishy social/policy issues.

Steve:

Ross's section four can replace my section on precipitation changes - but you may need the map.

John C.

On Fri, Jun 6, 2025 at 5:06 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Since John caught up to me and now has 3 examples, I've put a 4th forward in the attached. My criticisms are under 4 headings:

1. Pervasive advocacy language and promotional tone
2. Uncritical definition of scientific “advances”
3. Overstating what underlying sources show
4. Sweeping generalizations regarding complex matters

For #4 I go into some detail on the precip record that John has assembled. I consider this especially fair game since it elaborates on a point I emphasized in my review comments to them (referencing our paper), which they obviously ignored. There are + trends in average and extreme precipitation if you start the sample in 1950. But start it prior to 1890 or in 1980 and the trends largely go away. And they are regionally very heterogeneous. Glib attribution claims founder on the regional and temporal heterogeneity.

I've also attached a proposed edit to the report outline. Although we want to tread carefully in passing judgment I think it is important to emphasize that the NCA5 needs to be held to a very high standard because everyone involved knows the stakes of the policy decisions that will rest on it. Honest mistakes are one thing, but pervasive bias and frivolous handling of complex topics is simply unacceptable. I hadn't looked at it since it came out and I come away from ch's 1-3 feeling like they are insulting the intelligence of readers, and the presentation is so careless and tendentious we are justified in saying you can't trust its conclusions.

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 9, 2025 3:35 PM
To: Roy Spencer
Cc: Ross McKittrick; John Christy; Steve Koonin; Travis Fisher
Subject: Re: 5 Climate Sensitivity

My main objection to the previous text and figure is including old papers. I'm ok with citing several (in addition to Lewis) published since AR6 (2020+), with good data and/or methods

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 12:23 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

If there are 15 studies, they are not created equally.

Estimating ECS from observational datasets has a significant signal-to-noise problem. So, we used the last 50 years when forcing, OHC and Tsfc response are the greatest compared to noise.

Again I will say, if we treat all studies the same, we lose the war because the other side will always have more publications than us.

If you haven't perused our paper, I recommend you do. Then decide on whether it's just one of 15.

-Roy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Date: 5/9/25 2:10 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>, Steve Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: 5 Climate Sensitivity

Yours is one of the 15 papers mentioned in passing that yield 1-2C ECS. A page of text got crunched down to a sentence there. Perhaps that's one of the topics that can be enlarged upon if we do a larger report version later.

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 3:01 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
OHC, not UHC.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Date: 5/9/25 2:00 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>, Steve Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: 5 Climate Sensitivity

FYI, in case you all aren't aware, John and I published a 1D ECS modeling study in 2023 that focused on the period for which we have the best data (no one knows what UHC was back in the 1800s, let alone radiative forcing). We get EffCS numbers generally less than 2.

<https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s00704-023-04634-7.pdf>

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Date: 5/9/25 12:55 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>, Steve Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, "Roy W. Spencer" <roywspencer@hotmail.com>, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: 5 Climate Sensitivity

My read on the exchange is that SF24 didn't lay a glove on Lewis but they're sure annoyed with him. In general their tone discussing the literature is very moderate and balanced except when they turn to his paper whereupon they get pretty huffy. But they really don't rebut his analysis whereas Lewis rebuts their comments. I don't think we can make an authoritative assessment of the exchange though.

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 1:45 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Ross:

"Sherwood et al. and Lewis further defend their respective positions: Sherwood and Foster (2024) and Lewis (2025)."

I read Ch 5 and came away wanting to know if we had a statement to make on this battle between Sherwood and Lewis.

John C.

John Christy
Director, Earth System Science Center
Professor, Atmos and Earth Science
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
climateman60@gmail.com

On May 9, 2025, at 11:59 AM, Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I added some additional information on declining heat-related mortality trends and the role of adaptation for future projections to the Ch on heat-related mortality. see attached

<12.heat_cold mortality.May9[RM].docx>



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curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 4:30 PM
To: Steven Koonin
Cc: John Christy; Travis Fisher; Roy Spencer; Ross McKitrick; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: an early take on NCA5 Chapter 1

I still think it is a tough case to make that 5 scientists decide an assessment report authored by 500 scientists and reviewed by NASEM is scientifically inadequate, no matter how much cherry picking we identify. If we make the case that the NCA5 process has been politicized, then I think we have a more credible as a critique

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 9:08 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I drafted the attached cover letter and outline before I saw Judy's draft. There are some obvious ways to fuse them.

I worry about getting too far out of our lane and also getting too political. Stick with the science and judge NCA5 as a scientific document informing policy – that's really all we should do.

SEK

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 10:33 AM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: an early take on NCA5 Chapter 1

See attached (note, this is pretty much all i can do for next 24 hours, need to be in hurricane report mode). Let me know what you think

On Sun, Jun 1, 2025 at 3:21 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

So how would you frame and support that more general argument?

Steven E. Koonin

On Jun 1, 2025, at 17:46, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

My current thinking on this is to make an argument that the NCA5 is not fit for the purpose of informing policy making: "assisting the nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change."

I think this is the bigger issue than actual "errors" in the report -- the whole thing is based on flawed assumptions, and they're looking at the wrong things. We could find 200 errors in the report and that still wouldn't kill it.

On Sat, May 31, 2025 at 1:53 PM judith curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm working on some introductory big picture text for our review for your consideration. Will have draft on Monday

Sent from my iPhone

On May 31, 2025, at 7:54 AM, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

A read-through of NCA5 Chapter 1 shows some endemic issues we should flag (some of these already mentioned). Plenty of examples of each in the text.

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- no mention of benefits of climate change or how they net against disbenefits?

...

SEK

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From: Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]
Sent: 6/3/2025 2:37:30 AM
To: Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]
CC: Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]; Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; John Christy [climateaman60@gmail.com]; Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; Josh Loucks [loucksj14@gmail.com]
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I'm happy to adjust as needed, but 3pm ET tomorrow works for me.

Regarding the what and the why of the task, we can discuss more details on the call, but my understanding is that we should critically review NCA 5 (at whatever level of detail is feasible in a period of a couple of weeks) through the lens of the statute, the executive order, and the DOE report.

As of right now, we should write this document as a response to a request from OSTP, along the lines of the scoping memo Ross shared. There is a chance OSTP might want to claim authorship, but my hunch is that whatever you all produce next will be another group report with each of your names on it.

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On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 9:51 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
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**"If I were wrong, one would be enough",
Albert Einstein upon hearing of the book
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<~WRD0002.jpg>

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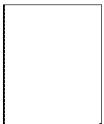
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From: John Christy <climatean60@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 11:24 AM
To: Ross McKitrick
Cc: Travis Fisher; Steven Koonin; Judith Curry; Roy Spencer; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: an early take on NCA5 Chapter 1
Attachments: NCA5_daily_precip_v01.docx

All

Though we haven't settled on a battle plan for this second report, I was under the impression we would describe in general why NCA5 is junk-science (though that might disparage the term junk) and then provide examples from the report. With that in mind, this is what I had drafted for the extreme precipitation events - about which NCA5 made (and is making) a big deal.

John C.

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 9:56 AM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I'm happy to have Seth join us. If you send me his email I can add an invitation.

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 10:09 AM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:
Hi all,

I'm relaying information from a call I had last night with Audrey Barrios (senior advisor to the Secretary) and a call I had this morning with Lynne Parker (Principal Deputy Director at OSTP). Regarding authorship, this document should be written by you all (or a subset, if needed), and OSTP feels strongly that it should be published by the new Executive Director (Interim, if needed) of the USGCRP. I realize we don't know which specific person that will be yet, but that's how we should approach this work. I can share more details on the call this afternoon.

I also want to share the good news that we now have the assistance of a sharp attorney from DOE's Office of General Counsel. His name is Seth Cohen, and he comes highly recommended (litigation experience, clerkships at two different circuit courts, etc.). He can help us connect the dots between the GCRA statute, the executive order, the DOE report, and recommendations for moving forward (improving NCA 6 or whatever we're calling the next iteration). Would you all be comfortable having Seth join the call this afternoon, or should we hold off on introducing him to the team?

Best,
Travis

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Steven E. Koonin

On Jun 2, 2025, at 16:30, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I still think it is a tough case to make that 5 scientists decide an assessment report authored by 500 scientists and reviewed by NASEM is scientifically inadequate, no matter how much cherry picking we identify. If we make the case that the NCA5 process has been politicized, then I think we have a more credible as a critique

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 9:08 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I drafted the attached cover letter and outline before I saw Judy's draft. There are some obvious ways to fuse them.

I worry about getting too far out of our lane and also getting too political. Stick with the science and judge NCA5 as a scientific document informing policy – that's really all we should do.

SEK

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 10:33 AM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: an early take on NCA5 Chapter 1

See attached (note, this is pretty much all i can do for next 24 hours, need to be in hurricane report mode). Let me know what you think

On Sun, Jun 1, 2025 at 3:21 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

So how would you frame and support that more general argument?

Steven E. Koonin

On Jun 1, 2025, at 17:46, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

My current thinking on this is to make an argument that the NCA5 is not fit for the purpose of informing policy making: "assisting the nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change."

I think this is the bigger issue than actual "errors" in the report -- the whole thing is based on flawed assumptions, and they're looking at the wrong things. We could find 200 errors in the report and that still wouldn't kill it.

On Sat, May 31, 2025 at 1:53 PM judith curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm working on some introductory big picture text for our review for your consideration. Will have draft on Monday

Sent from my iPhone

On May 31, 2025, at 7:54 AM, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

A read-through of NCA5 Chapter 1 shows some endemic issues we should flag (some of these already mentioned). Plenty of examples of each in the text.

- confusion of climate change vs changing climate (i.e., attribution of all climate changes to anthropogenic forcing)
- confusion of weather vs climate (the plural of anecdote is not evidence)
- no mention of uncertainties or significance in trends cited
- taking model results at face value (have they pruned the ensemble used?)
- no setting of scale for big numbers (e.g., dollars of climate damage relative to GDP)

- truncation of data records (ignoring the inconveniently warm 1930s)
- use of extreme, implausible scenarios (even though AR6 had already declared SSP8.5 and 7 implausible)
- no mention of benefits of climate change or how they net against disbenefits?

...

SEK

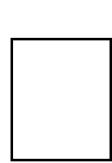
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<~WRD0002.jpg> Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
http://www.cfanclimate.net

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<~WRD0002.jpg> Judith Curry, President
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<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]
Sent: 4/25/2025 8:43:55 PM
To: John Christy [climateman60@gmail.com]
CC: Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]; Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; Steve Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]
Subject: Re: Apr 20 update
Attachments: climate sensitivity JC text.docx

I'm out of the loop on the climate sensitivity chapter, but i have a lot of material on this which may be useful (attached)

On Fri, Apr 25, 2025 at 9:16 AM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Ross

I believe you put together section 4 Climate. Sensitivity? I think we should take advantage of the IPCC AR6 Fig 3.8 (sent earlier) and insert it somewhere in this section. I think that HadGM is really a hoot as it had the strongest aerosol cooling and almost the hottest GHG warming, but, magically, ended up "just right". Anyway, something like this.

The uncertainty in modeled responses to specified aerosol and GHG forcings is indicated in Fig. 3.8 IPCC AR6 in which the historical temperature response from 1850-1900 to 2010-2019 is generated. The models' temperature responses to aerosol forcing varies from -1.0 to +0.1 °C (a range of 100% from the mean) and to GHG forcing of +1.0 to +2.2 °C (a range of 37% from the mean) as each model attempts to reach the pre-assigned target represented as the sum of the responses which is +1.0 °C. This wide range of responses to specified forcing given by the AR6 models (only 13 were used in Fig. 3.8) indicates physical processes within the models are based on very different formulations (parameterizations) which are thus of questionable physical meaning.

John C.

On Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 5:11 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:
Thanks Travis. I did not know things could move that quickly in the government.

John C.

John Christy
Director, Earth System Science Center
Professor, Atmos and Earth Science
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
climateman60@gmail.com

On Apr 24, 2025, at 5:04 PM, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Great news!

The Secretary just told me our new deadline is May 28th. I feel pretty strongly that this is a firm and final deadline, but it also feels like the best case scenario because we have renewed buy-in that EPA will wait for this work and include it in its rulemaking.

Please let me know how I can support your work. I've been intentionally hands-off so far, but I want you to feel free to assign research, drafting, or editing duties to me as needed.

Ross suggested we increase our coordination with EPA, particularly the legal team drafting the rulemaking. If you want to be included in those conversations, please let me know. But I'm also happy to handle the legal and policy issues if you'd rather not be involved in that nexus. The goal would be to make sure policymakers get your input on all the scientific questions they feel are relevant.

As you all get onboarded in various ways, please connect with me (ideally by phone) if you have any questions or if something about the offer or paperwork doesn't seem quite right. I'll work with the folks at DOE to make sure everything turns out the way you want.

Finally, the Secretary wanted me to send his thanks and appreciation for taking on this work. Thank you!

Best,
Travis

On Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 3:05 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi all,

I've been waiting to chime in because I was hoping for more certainty by now, but the only thing I have to add is that Ross has won his fight with the White House about joining via contract (even though Ross is an evil foreigner from a strange place where people are conspicuously nice). It took a call from the Secretary, but we prevailed. (Ross, you'll be hearing more very soon.)

I can also confirm all the other information that was shared so far by Ross and John. The Secretary wants a thorough report that you all are proud of. If the EPA declines to use it, or demands an April 30 deadline, so be it, but the Secretary will move forward with the full report in any case.

The remaining variable (for me, anyway) is what to offer EPA if they demand a document before you all are comfortable putting your names on it. My preference is to supply them with something, even if it's in rough shape and unfit for attribution. Please think about what you all might want to do in that case because I think it's still a strong possibility. The main argument against supplying something in that case is that it would essentially be an early draft of the report Secretary Wright wants, so think about ways to differentiate the documents, etc.

Thanks again for your hard work under an impossible deadline. I'll update you all as soon as we get a new (interim/rushed) deadline from EPA. It's my understanding that the Secretary initially asked for May 15, but it's possible he will ask for even more time after hearing directly from Ross about how helpful it would be to get another full month (or more). Wright and Zeldin are traveling together today, so we should have an answer soon.

Best,
Travis

On Thu, Apr 24, 2025 at 1:12 PM John Christy <climate man60@gmail.com> wrote:

All

My plane was late, so I just missed the meeting with Ross, Travis and the Secretary, but did meet with Ross and Travis for over an hour immediately afterward.

Ross's summary below is what I gathered from our meeting. My sense was that the difficulties being encountered are related to a lack of communication between EPA and DoE, and even the White House, aided by the general sand-in-the-gears that some career federal employees are supplying. As Ross indicates we may have two phases - a generic, "un-authored" document fairly soon and a compete "authored" document later. The purpose of these documents is still murky as the challenge to the EF may or may not use them, but the Secretary absolutely wants the products. I mentioned again that an authored document would be a real commitment because we would have to deal with answering criticism as well as dealing with personal attacks for months.

As Ross said, we should be hearing more very soon.

John C.

John Christy
Director, Earth System Science Center
Professor, Atmos and Earth Science
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
climate man60@gmail.com

On Apr 23, 2025, at 7:49 AM, Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks Steve and Roy. I have a few wording suggestions but am off to a meeting so I'll write later. Travis and I had a meeting with Secretary Wright yesterday. I'll let Travis provide a more complete summary but my takeaway was:

- Chris was unaware of the problems we had encountered until we briefed him
- The current deadline and lack of direction conflicts with his vision of the project
- He is going to try to get more time for us; and there might be an option which gives us a lot more time
- He wants us to have the time and support to produce a substantive document with our names on it. He understands why if we are held to an Apr 30 deadline we would not be able to do that.
- More to come as he digs into the situation.

On Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 6:59 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

All:

I've made some edits to Steve's document (attached).

The first (rather large) edit has to do with the implication that climate change is only due to changes in the radiative energy balance of the Earth, which I (and Dick Lindzen) disagree with. How to handle this, though, is not

that obvious to me. I realize we are addressing human influences on climate, but I don't think we should accept such an anthropocentric view of climate change at the outset... This comes up later, too, in the discussion of global radiative forcing since the 1700s... We have no clue what kinds of other energy imbalances (either at the surface or at top-of-atmosphere) might have been occurring due to Nature since the 1700s.

Again, I'm open to suggestions. Maybe such issues are not necessary to mention if even the putative human forcings lead to non-damaging impacts (?)

-Roy

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 11:05 PM
To: 'Ross McKittrick' <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; 'John Christy' <climateman60@gmail.com>; 'Roy W. Spencer' <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Apr 20 update

Attached is my take on an integrated Part 1 (together with a modest introduction). I've incorporated relevant material from others.

1. See if you like the narrative arc, which to me feels pretty natural. Note that the subsections turned out to have somewhat different titles
2. Most problematic for me is the technical level. Trying to avoid too much "Climate 101", but some of the material, particularly in Parts 2 and 3 will get pretty technical
3. I'm feeling like it lacks punch. "So what" is missing
4. Obviously, the mechanics need work. Formatting, citations, better figures, ...
5. If you all aren't too dissatisfied with this, I'd propose doing a similar job on Part 2 in the next few days.

SEK

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 20, 2025 8:09 PM
To: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Subject: Apr 20 update

I've created a new dropbox folder called April 20 version which contains the revised outline, the associated chapters and the reference list for all my sections. I took the documents done prior to this point and renumbered the files and sections accordingly.

The new outline is (bold denotes draft posted)

Part I: Human influence on the climate

- 1 Components of anthropogenic radiative forcing and their history to date
- 2 The carbon cycle and future emission scenarios
- 3 Aerosols and the uncertainties associated with them

Part II: Climate response to anthropogenic influence

4 Measuring climate sensitivity to CO₂ doubling

5 Models versus observations in recent past

6 Uncertainties in analysis of attribution

7 Evidence on trends and attributable changes in extreme weather

8 Sea level rise

Part III: Impacts on ecosystems and society

9 Managing risks of extreme weather

10 Mortality risk from extreme heat and cold

11 Climate change and US agriculture

12 Climate change and global greening

13 Climate change and economic growth

14 Estimates of the Social Cost of Carbon

15 US vehicle-based CO₂ emissions and the global climate

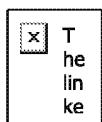
Steve: can you draft 1 & 3?

Judy: hoping you can do 8, 10 and 14 (I have info on 14 as well.)

John I think you have something on 15.

Cheers,
Ross

--
Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications
Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com |
+1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>



From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 5:17 PM
To: Roy Spencer
Cc: Judith Curry; Ross McKittrick; Steven Koonin; John Christy
Subject: Re: Ch 7 attribution

Apologies for the late start -- it's par for the course around here, unfortunately.

As we discussed, I'll coordinate with the Office of Public Affairs (the Sec. Wright team) and the other agencies involved. I'll also work with the Secretary on a draft of his cover letter.

Based on the call, it sounds like the Secretary wants a joint introduction or cover letter from the five of you. I'll defer to you all on whether/how you want to proceed with that, but please let me know if you want any help.

There are two other items I wanted to follow up on:

- 1) My former RA from Cato (Josh Loucks) will join the DOE team this coming Monday, and I'll ask for his help in formatting and finalizing the documents. Would you all flag for me when you think a given chapter is ready to be formatted?
- 2) There is a data visualization wizard on the political team here who can help with any charts or graphs that you want to rework. Please start thinking about which parts of the report you all want to remake or polish instead of borrowing images from other publications. I could go either way on the question of using images or rebuilding graphs -- I just want you to know we've identified someone on the team here who can help with that type of work if we decide to do it.

My only new thought on external review is that we could send specific chapters to specific reviewers without informing them about the entirety of the project. I'll leave it up to you all to identify the right reviewers and engage them as necessary. That could make the work more doable from the reviewer's point of view and perhaps less likely to leak.

Finally, it sounds like the Secretary supports labeling this version "interim" (or similar) and retaining this same team for a final version, in which you all would address any substantive comments directed at the interim report.

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 4:09 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
Or we could enjoy this low fidelity classical music

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Date: 5/8/25 3:07 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>, Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Ch 7 attribution

if travis could initiate the meeting, we could chat while waiting for the secy

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 1:05 PM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:
on hold....

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 3:48 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:
Yes, this meeting will be audio-only. I think future meetings will be video conferences.

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 3:42 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
Is this meeting voice only?

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Date: 5/8/25 2:19 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>, "Roy W. Spencer" <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Ch 7 attribution

I hesitate to interrupt all the great work going on, but I wanted to pass along the call-in number and code for the meeting at 4 p.m. ET (in about 40 minutes).

To join the line, dial 833-630-2129 and enter the guest code: 2403918#

I look forward to the discussion!

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 3:03 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
RM and I are working on new version of Ch 6 Climate Sensitivity, stay tuned

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 11:53 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Will do. I also have to finish going through Chapter 6.

SEK

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 2:27 PM
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@googlemail.com>
Subject: Ch 7 attribution

Here is a new draft of the attribution chapter. Judy and I did some editing offline for some of the more obscure areas so this version combines our inputs.

I'll post in the Dropbox. Steve maybe you could go through it next.

Ross



Judith Curry, President
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Judith Curry, President
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curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 11, 2025 6:20 PM
To: Roy Spencer
Cc: Travis Fisher; Ross McKitrick; Steven Koonin; John Christy
Subject: Re: Ch 8 Extreme weather

Roy is correct. There is a total dearth of analysis on this topic, I am working with insurance companies to try to address this issue. But the summary statement from the AR6 saying "no signal" supports us not doing very much with this issue in this report (other than to mention the media hype against no evidence). Tornadoes are the only topic where there is any kind of analysis to draw from.

On Sun, May 11, 2025 at 12:59 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Regarding tornadoes, strong to intense tornadoes in the US are down 50%, probably due to fewer Canadian cold air outbreaks over the western US in spring. Not sure whether anyone has added that yet. Severe thunderstorms require wind shear which is a function of cold and warm air masses, which is a mid-latitude issue. Instead, physicists and maths folks think it's thermodynamic buoyant energy that's important but if that was true the tropics would be full of severe thunderstorms.

-Roy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Date: 5/11/25 12:23 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>, "Roy W. Spencer" <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Ch 8 Extreme weather

Will do. Apologies for the rambling email... I was trying to write with a kid on my lap. Just know I'm here to help!

On Sun, May 11, 2025 at 11:53 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Travis, your comments on readability, gaps and red flag statements would be VERY helpful. The chapters all have a complete draft, but some are still in flux

On Sun, May 11, 2025 at 8:15 AM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

As the non-expert member of the team, one of my contributions could be to provide input from the point of view of a reader who doesn't live and breathe these materials on a daily basis. With that in mind, I have a few observations that might help:

1) That said, I see no problem with adding more material. If the team is torn between the short version and the long version of any chapter, my preference is to leave more material and leave it to the reader whether to

dig in or skim. We don't exactly have a word or page limit on this. Also, the point about cherry-picking starting points for the data is very compelling to me. It reminds me of the first time I saw the chart of air pollution data with reference to EPA's formation. Of course the trend is sharply down for criteria pollutants after 1970, but it was on a similar trend *before* 1970 as well. Those types of data-based expositions can be very powerful in refuting common misunderstandings.

2) Some of the issues you all know incredibly well could use more elaboration for the uninitiated reader, especially when you agree fully with the consensus, IPCC, or NCA view. As one example, I was looking for more info on convective events in the extreme weather chapter. I know they are covered briefly, but my reaction as the non-expert was surprise at how little focus the consensus view gives them (and how lightly that fact was discussed in your chapter). I think we should emphasize the areas where, at least according to a typical reading of the news and popular narratives, climate change is blamed for things that aren't even on an upward trend. Thunderstorms and hailstorms are certainly part of that narrative. I'm less familiar with tornadoes entering the narrative, but it was news to me that there is essentially zero correlation with temperatures, and that type of information could be news to the typical reader as well. In other words, you could emphasize the areas where you all agree with IPCC/NCA/etc, which in turn would help anchor this report to the consensus view. That borders on a political or public affairs consideration, I know, so please feel free to ignore it completely.

3) I can see why the Secretary chose this team. You all are world-class experts. It's been a privilege to watch this report come together, and I'll do everything in my power to make it something you all can be proud of. If you want me to add comment bubbles to flag areas where the non-expert might trip up, I'd be happy to do that. Or if there's anything else I can do aside from the next glossary and the cover letter from the Secretary (and coordination with EPA), please let me know.

4) I took too long to hit send on this email, and I see a new one from Judy. +1 to Judy's point about leaving evaluations and judgments out of the body of the report. I may also try to flag areas where I see opinions or the inevitable pejorative. Personally, I had no idea how slick some of the NCA findings were in terms of narrowly defining the state of the climate to generate the appearance of a crisis, and I have become a new level of cynical after seeing it more clearly, thanks to you all. I'm excited to see the much-needed conversations this report will generate.

Best,
Travis

On Sun, May 11, 2025 at 11:06 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Well the point of JC and RS analyses later in the chapter demonstrate the importance of looking back prior to 1950. And i think we should stick to conclusion statements in the SPM and Chapter summaries, rather than the text of the report that cites primary references (that looks like cherry picking). And AR6 is the main doc driving policy arguments; i don't think EPA lawyers are going to go back to AR5

On Sun, May 11, 2025 at 7:38 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

My concerns are that these excerpts leave out too much valuable material and that they lead with the AR6 cherry-picked 1950s as the starting point for trends. Both with respect to heatwaves and precip the only way to detect increases is to compare back to the 50s. If they include the 1930s or further back the heatwave picture falls apart, and as we show further in the chapter the precip picture falls apart either starting in the 70s or the 1800s. This selection puts us in a weak position where we will appear to be arguing against IPCC assessments using our own data, even though the more complete survey shows that our data aligns with what the assessments have been saying all along.

One reason to include material from the past assessment reports is that people have been hearing a narrative about extreme weather for 20+ years. A brief survey won't suffice to overcome the cognitive dissonance we're up against in this chapter. The comprehensive survey of IPCC and NCA material is the only way to overcome it. If we only show the AR6 they might think that's somehow new whereas prior reports said something else. I want to show convincingly that the message today is about the same as it's always been.

For those of us who know what the IPCC says and has said in the past it might seem tedious to quote it at such length. But I've presented to enough undergrad classes and public audiences to know that people don't find these quotes boring, they find them incredible. If it's a question of chapter order I don't mind if there's a brief preface then the whole collection goes into the chapter appendix, but I see no benefit to omitting the material and considerable gain from including it. And I still think the best option is to lead with it.

What say others?

On Sat, May 10, 2025 at 5:55 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

See attached for my smash down of section 8.2 (13 down to 2 pages). I included on detection statements (no attribution or projections); focused on AR6 and included some statements from NCA17 and SREX that provided additional detail. I focused on summary statements from the SPM and chapter summaries (without citations of individual papers)

Let me know what you think, and whether you prefer it up front or at the end (maybe an appendix)

On Sat, May 10, 2025 at 11:52 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I like John's suggestion.

Steven E. Koonin

On May 10, 2025, at 14:36, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Judy

Would this work. Put the IPCC/NCA quotes in bold up front with a little introductory remark then add "full statements in context in appendix"?

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2025, at 5:49 AM, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm working on CH 8 Extreme Weather front end today, more soon

On Sat, May 10, 2025 at 8:37 AM Steven Koonin

<steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Yes! In the exec summary and the chapter preface we must repeat something like “Contrary to popular perception...”

Steven E. Koonin

On May 10, 2025, at 11:19, Ross McKittrick

<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

This just appeared in the Daily Mail

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-14686539/climate-change-affect-YOU-heatwaves-floods.html>

The extreme weather alarmism angle has been non-stop for years. People are saturated with the message that climate change = extreme weather and all scientists say it's bad and getting worse due to GHGs. It will take a lot of hammering on the theme to convince people how much they've been misled. So I don't mind if the first 15 pages of this chapter consists of mind-numbing repetition of the message that scientists don't say this and have never said it. At this point I want to hold the readers' faces in it until their limbs stop twitching and then they'll be receptive to the rest of the material.

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 3:09 PM Judith Curry

<curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I agree we should have something up front, but not pages. Will propose something more specific

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 12:06 PM Ross McKittrick

<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

My read of the discussion on May 8 was that Steve made a strong pitch to move the survey back up front and you and Roy concurred. I'll let you guys debate it.

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 3:01 PM Judith Curry

<curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

actually no, i thought we left this as an appendix or something (i don't think it is necessary tho). We need some sort of a summary on what the IPCC found

I have this para in the attribution chapter

The IPCC AR6 provides an ambiguous assessment of the role of global warming in the historical record of extreme weather and climate events. Chapter 11 of WG1 states (Seneviratne et al., 2021):

“Evidence of observed changes in extremes and their attribution to human influence (including greenhouse gas and aerosol emissions and land-use changes) has strengthened since AR5, in particular for extreme precipitation, droughts, tropical cyclones and compound extremes (including dry/hot events and fire weather). Some recent hot extreme events would have been extremely unlikely to occur without human influence on the climate system.”

By contrast, Chapter 12 of WG1 (Table 12.12) paints a different picture – presumably, the expert judgment of different groups of authors for the two chapters came to different conclusions (Ranasinghe, 2021):

- High confidence in an increase in extreme heat events in tropical regions where observations allow trend estimation and in most regions in the mid-latitudes, medium confidence elsewhere
- Medium confidence in a decrease in extreme cold events in Australia, Africa and most of northern South America where observations allow trend estimation
- No evidence of emergence in the historical period of a change in river floods, heavy precipitation, drought, fire weather, severe wind storms, and tropical cyclones

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 11:55 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I thought you said (May 8) you liked the suggestion to move them all back to the front.

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 2:52 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
I don't like having pages of IPCC/NCA citations (IMO the key issue is a lot of uncertainty and

disagreement, and the inconsistency between chapters 11 and 12 of AR6). If we do include a shortened version of this, i would focus only on AR6, either global or US region.

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 11:45 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

In the attached Extreme Weather chapter draft I moved the IPCC/NCA excerpts back into the main body per the discussion here and renumbered all the sections and figures mutatis mutandis.

The AI summary is not bad but does need some work. Admittedly it's a lot of stuff to summarize, although the recurring theme is that trends aren't detectable and attribution to GHGs is currently not possible, in general.

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 1:45 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

This way forward is fine with me.

-Roy

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 12:43 PM
To: John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Ch 8 Extreme weather

I think starting with IPCC up front is very useful to provide a reference point, and discussing problems with NCA motivates the unpublished data analysis

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 10:36 AM John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Ultimately the order will likely not matter. We are somewhat conflicted. On one hand we show the Assessments are consistent with our conclusions about extreme weather, but on the other hand we find them (especially NCAs) deceptive in presenting the information that skews their results to lean toward alarmism. This is true of other chapters as well.

At the least we should mention this nuance perhaps up front.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 8, 2025, at 6:23 AM, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I also agree with this organization, was thinking the same thing

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 8:52 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Attached are my comments/edits on Chapter 8.

I'd like to make a strong pitch to reorder the text so that the survey of previous assessments comes first, then followed by the new work from John and Ross. There are several reasons for this that I can elaborate, but the most important is that the official assessments already make the case and, no offense guys, carry far more authority in the non-expert world.

SEK

PS Note for interest and amusement the AI-generated summary section.

From: Ross McKittrick
<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 1:05 PM
To: John Christy
<climateeman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry
<curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer

<roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher
<travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin
<steven.koonin@googlemail.com>
Subject: Re: Ch 8 Extreme weather

Here's another edition of Ch 8 on extremes taking Judy's and John's points into account. The IPCC/NCA review is ported to an Appendix. I added a paragraph about LTP to the intro. I've incorporated the NE data. The bulk of the chapter is John's US temperature and precip data analysis with some additional material on wildfires, drought and TCs. For the US temperature extremes I moved the range figure to come just after the hot/cold extremes count because I think they both make a coherent point namely that the US becoming less extreme because heat events are rising more slowly than cold events are warming. There will still need to be an overall chapter summary but I'm going to move on to other chapters now. I'll put this in the Dropbox.

On Tue, May 6, 2025 at 12:12 PM
John Christy
<climatean60@gmail.com>
wrote:

All

We can fill in without much trouble the change, or lack thereof, of "high impact" weather events (mainly wind and flooding

like hurricanes, tornadoes etc) in the CONUS Extreme chapter. The temp and precip metrics are important because they are just long enough to essentially tell us Mother Nature has a mind of her own.

1. I'll look at Ross's version of 8 soon, but my hope was that Ross would translate the statistical remarks into the correct language(eg are their more precise words that chaotic, episodic, stochastic, etc).

2. We have analyses of the CONUS with more complete datasets than the NCA used (recall NCA analyses depended essentially on a small group at NCEI using datasets that (a) were not very consistent in time, (b) could promote alarm and (c) already easy for them to get to. Our datasets have literally hundreds of thousands of manually keyed-in observations for temporal consistency. In other words, this lets people know we can address these issues from soup to nuts - we're not armchair climate scientists ... we can reproduce what they did, but make the analysis more comprehensive to address the questions.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 6, 2025, at
4:14 AM, Ross
McKittrick

<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Just read your attribution chapter. I hadn't picked up on the gap between IPCC Ch 11 vs Ch 12 language but i see your point that rather than promoting one set of attribution findings we should explain that even within the same AR different authors assessed things differently. One option is to leave Ch 6 where it is but reverse the order of Ch 7 and 8 while retitling the latter as you suggest. That way, having established the extreme weather types for which there are no detectable trends it will more naturally follow that they won't be discussed in the attribution chapter.

On Tue, May 6,
2025 at 9:45 AM
Judith Curry
<curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Ok, but the
summary table
(12.12 from AR6)
is inconsistent
with conclusions
in AR6 ch 11 (I
point this out in
section 6.4 of my
attribution
chapter).

In my mind, the
main point is
disagreement and
ambiguity I
would suggest
chapter 8 going
before chapter 6,
retitling it as US
Weather and
Climate
Extremes, and
make it more of a
data chapter, not
an attribution
chapter (I would
put table 12.12 in
the attribution
chapter if you
want to include
the actual table)

On Tue, May 6,
2025 at 6:39 AM
Ross McKittrick
<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
wrote:

I like John's material too which is why I included it and am working on the extended regional analyses. But on this topic people are heavily primed to believe that extreme weather of all kinds is getting worse due to climate change. The assertion shows up everywhere climate change is discussed including in academic papers. I think it is very valuable to show people that neither the IPCC nor the NCA support such a view. We should at least lead off with the summary table. The library of quotes can go to an appendix but I have found in my public speaking that they have considerable persuasive force for most people. We also need to address floods, droughts, hurricane landfalls, tornadoes etc. I don't see any

reason to delete
all that material.

On Tue, May 6,
2025 at 9:22 AM
Judith Curry
<curry.judith@mail.com>

wrote:

I actually liked
John's
chapter. I
would have
retitled it "US
temperature and
rainfall
extremes"

I think this is
more relevant
than a complete
rehash of
everything the
last 3 IPCC
reports have
stated for every
conceivable
severe weather
event.

John's version
meshes very
well with my
version of
chapter 6. Read
especially
section 6.4 of
my chapter. I
note a
discrepancy
between
chapters 11 and
12 in terms of
detecting and
attributing
extreme

events. This is the main point in my opinion, there is ambiguity in all this. Lets focus on pointing out the problems/challenges, and topics that are particularly relevant for the US

On Mon, May 5, 2025 at 7:47 PM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I have wrangled the extreme weather chapter into something I hope flows better and is more readable. I adopted Judy's editorial changes and then the new changes I made are in red. I added some new Figures showing results on PC and SE data and will add the

NE chart when I get the data. I also made some labeling suggestions including for the 3 rainfall charts that are hard to

understand.
Section
summaries and
an overall
summary are
still needed.

Ross

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CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Net
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

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<http://www.cfanclimate.net>



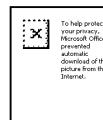
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<http://www.cfanclimate.net>



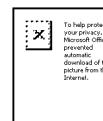
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<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 3:27 PM
To: Ross McKittrick; Judith Curry; John Christy; Steven Koonin; Josh Loucks; Cohen, Seth; Fisher, Travis
Subject: Re: Fw: Carbon Brief factcheck - your study has been cited in new US DoE 'critical review'

Ironic that no one cared when MY work was mischaracterized by the 97-Percenters' as being part of the 3%, even though by their criteria I was part of the 97% consensus.

I complained, but all they said was, "well, we put you in the 3 percent category".

The bias is rampant.

-Roy

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 11:27 AM
To: Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@googlemail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Cohen, Seth <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>; Fisher, Travis <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Carbon Brief factcheck - your study has been cited in new US DoE 'critical review'

John and I got this from Tim Vogelsang at MSU. Carbon Brief is contacting everyone whose work was cited trying to gather up claims of misrepresentation. As Tim notes, there is no option on the form for saying your work was correctly characterized.

From: Vogelsang, Timothy <tjv@msu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 12:19 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <rmckitri@uoguelph.ca>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Carbon Brief factcheck - your study has been cited in new US DoE 'critical review'

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the University of Guelph. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt, forward suspicious emails to IThelp@uoguelph.ca.

If you look at the pdf I was sent with the instructions, there is no option to report that someone's research has been correctly characterized. That's not a very scientific factchecking exercise, is it!

Tim

From: Ross McKittrick <rmckitri@uoguelph.ca>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 12:15 PM
To: Vogelsang, Timothy <tjv@msu.edu>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Carbon Brief factcheck - your study has been cited in new US DoE 'critical review'

I've heard of Carbon Brief but only read snippets of their articles cited elsewhere. They seem to be heavily into promoting renewables.

It's interesting to watch the machine swing into gear. There is a public comment docket opening up and I expect there will be quite the avalanche of material submitted, which we will need to prepare responses to, all of which will form part of the public record. If the comments are substantive we'll readily make revisions. We responded to a lot of comments from the internal DoE staff during the pre-publication review stage. But some of the most hostile comments didn't provide any data or citations in support so we couldn't do anything with them.

Ross

Dr. Ross McKittrick
Professor of Economics
Department of Economics and Finance
rossmckittrick.com



University of Guelph | Guelph ON Canada N1G 3P9

From: Vogelsang, Timothy <tjv@msu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <rmckitri@uoguelph.ca>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Subject: FW: Carbon Brief factcheck - your study has been cited in new US DoE 'critical review'

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the University of Guelph. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If in doubt, forward suspicious emails to IHelp@uoguelph.ca.

Ross and John,

I just got this email. Maybe you know about this group. I'm sure this is just the tip of the iceberg of pushback coming.

Tim

From: Leo Hickman <leo.hickman@carbonbrief.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 11:49 AM
To: Leo Hickman <leo.hickman@carbonbrief.org>
Subject: Carbon Brief factcheck - your study has been cited in new US DoE 'critical review'

Hello,

I'm contacting you because we have noticed that at least one of your studies has been cited in a new report published this week by the US Dept of Energy titled, "A Critical Review of Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the U.S. Climate."

A number of scientists cited in the report have already publicly highlighted that their findings have been falsely or misleadingly characterised. It seems that the report is intended to be used as scientific justification by the Trump administration in its efforts to revoke the US Environmental Protection Agency's "endangerment finding" on greenhouse gases.

Carbon Brief is now seeking your help to assess whether your own study, or indeed your area(s) of expertise more widely, have been mischaracterised in the report. This is part of a wider 'crowdsourced' fact-checking effort we are now convening to draw on inputs from experts in their respective fields.

I have attached a PDF with some instructions on how you can participate with your own insights and reflections, should you wish. (The instructions include ways to do this anonymously and securely, if that is your preference.)

Additionally, if you know of a colleague or co-author who might wish to participate, please feel free to forward this email to them.

Our deadline for submissions is Monday 11 August 2025 - 0900 GMT.

Many thanks in advance.

Best wishes, Leo

--

Leo Hickman

Editor, Carbon Brief

Phone: + 44 (0) 7731 403979

Social: [Twitter](#); [BlueSky](#); [LinkedIn](#)

Web: www.carbonbrief.org

Need a digest of the latest climate change-related headlines sent to your inbox? You can sign up to Carbon Brief's free daily, weekly, Cropped and China Briefing newsletters [here](#).

From: John Christy [climateman60@gmail.com]
Sent: 7/30/2025 4:01:26 PM
To: Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]
CC: Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]; Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]
Subject: Re: meanwhile on X

The Secretary wants an organized, thoughtful discussion on climate change. I don't see how we can respond to the many claims (and ad hominem) made through the mouthpieces of the environmental pressure groups. We have a chance to advance his wishes through the public comment period. If we've made a mistake, we'll acknowledge it and fix it - that's the story that should carry the day at this point.

John C.

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 10:15 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
And please send to me.

Steven E. Koonin

On Jul 30, 2025, at 09:11, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

sure pls send

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 7:53 AM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:
Separate question: do you all want me to relay articles that mention the DOE report?

Example:

<https://www.eenews.net/articles/epa-attacks-climate-science-here-are-the-facts/>

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 10:26 AM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:
This sounds like it might need to be two different calls. I plan to set one up for 3pm today and another one tomorrow or Friday for anyone we missed.

The invitation will come from my DOE account a bit later today.

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 9:55 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I can be available at 4:30 I think.

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 4:34 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
3-5 pm ET is fine with me.
-Roy

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 10:29 PM
To: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Ross McKittrick

<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: meanwhile on X

I'm available 3-5p ET

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 29, 2025, at 10:18 PM, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

I followed Ross on X and will be popping popcorn for the next few months!

As I transition out of my DOE role, I want to introduce you all to Charles Park, DOE's deputy GC for energy policy (and a nice guy), who I understand will be part of the liaison team between you all and DOE for the external peer review and final draft.

Do you all have any availability between 2pm and 5pm ET tomorrow? I'd like to do a quick video meeting to help everyone get acquainted.

PS - it looked to me like the Secretary had fun talking about this project today. Also, fun fact: when I sent him the updated draft for review, his response was "no need to review—I trust the authors." You all are a special team, and you deserve a medal. Even the Canadian.

On Tue, Jul 29, 2025 at 11:06 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
Embarrassing behavior by scientists.

If we're really so wrong, they should be able to conjure up many specific criticisms. Yet none are forthcoming.

Steven E. Koonin

On Jul 29, 2025, at 21:01, John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Hausfather did the same on CNN.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 29, 2025, at 9:50 PM, Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Maybe it's a good sign that Mann and Dessler seem to be about the only scientists out of "thousands" that are willing to trash us.

-Roy

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 6:48 PM

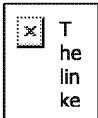
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; John Christy <climate man60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>

Subject: meanwhile on X

To no one's surprise Michael Mann and Andrew Dessler have dismissed the report based on the author names. Fortunately one of the Ruthless podcast hosts hasn't been blocked from Mann's feed and pointed out the problem with relying on Mann

<image.png>

--
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Network
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curry.judith@cfanclimate.com |
+1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>



From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 3, 2025 10:04 AM
To: Steven Koonin
Cc: Judith Curry; John Christy; Roy W. Spencer; Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen
Subject: Re: Meeting edition

From the nature paper:

Subjective attribution of extreme weather was positively associated with policy support for five widely discussed climate policies. However, exposure to most types of extreme weather event did not predict policy support. Overall, these results suggest that subjective attribution could facilitate climate policy support.

Translation: People haven't yet been bamboozled into thinking carbon taxes will prevent bad weather but with enough propaganda maybe we can change that.

On Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 3:28 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
Subjective attribution = fairy tale

Steven E. Koonin

On Jul 2, 2025, at 15:17, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

new paper says the quiet part out loud

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-025-02372-4>

On Wed, Jul 2, 2025 at 10:37 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
It's name plate capacity.

Typical capacity factors (actual generation vs name plate) are about 20% for solar and 33% for onshore wind, compared to 92% for nuclear and 50% for gas turbines.

Steven Koonin

On Jul 2, 2025, at 13:16, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

All

In this paragraph quoted from NCA5

"Recent growth in the capacities of wind, solar, and battery storage technologies is supported by rapidly falling costs of zero- and low-carbon energy technologies, which can support even deeper emissions reductions. For example, wind and solar energy costs dropped 70% and 90%, respectively, over the last decade, while 80% of new generation capacity in 2020 came from renewable sources."

does "new generation capacity" mean name-plate capacity or actual generation of power compared with all new generation of power in 2020?

John C.

On Tue, Jul 1, 2025 at 10:55 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I've taken Steve's version and done a bit of tidying to make it easier for us to go through in our Thursday meeting.

- minor edits have been accepted to remove the strikethrough wording
- Where text is currently disputed it is bracketed ~~=====~~ before and after.
- A few minor edits of my own in green text.

Ross



Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2025 5:15 PM
To: Judith Curry; John Christy
Cc: Steven Koonin; Ross McKittrick; Josh Loucks; Seth Cohen; Travis Fisher
Subject: RE: my new blog post on the history of TX Hill Country floods...

I thought Tol was on "our side". Was i mistaken?
-Roy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Date: 7/30/25 9:22 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>, Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>, Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>, Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>, Travis Fisher <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: my new blog post on the history of TX Hill Country floods...

not clear, i assume the CWG report

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 7:11 AM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:
Judy

Was Richard referring to your post or to the CGW?

John C.

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 9:04 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
yes, nice blog post

Note: on my blog Richard Tol commented briefly

"not your best work"

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 6:56 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
Nicely done on the blog post, Roy.

What a contrast- we argue with data; they criticize by calling names.

Steven E. Koonin

On Jul 30, 2025, at 07:07, Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

...and I mention our report and Michael Mann, Andy Dessler, and Zeke Hausfather toward the end.

<https://www.drroyspencer.com/2025/07/133-years-of-texas-hill-country-heavy-rainfall-data-show-no-trends/>

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 1:50 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Seth Cohen <seth.cohen@hq.doe.gov>; Travis Fisher <travis.fisher@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: Re: NCA5 Review TX Floods

All

Just finished Kerrville TX data entry. Below are the heaviest 2-day events for 1893-2024. These are the 22 heaviest events (nominal 1 in 6yr occurrence - I used 6 years because it divides into 132 years evenly.). Only one of the events occurred in the 21st century - and just barely. The date represents the second of the two days. The July 4-5 2025 event produced 4.14 inches in Kerrville (which is not the source region for the floods, but representative none the less).

John C.

<Kerrville_TX_2dy.png>

On Mon, Jul 28, 2025 at 1:17 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Steve

There is a bit of confusion as to which/where the 1900 gage was. We can find all of that information depending on how much we dive into this in the review of NCA5 - the 25ft was a quote from an NPR news story simply saying "near Kerrville", but later in the story they did indicate at least a 30ft rise before the gage broke. The Kerrville site USGS 08166200 shows a rise from 1.82ft to 34.29ft or 32.47ft, almost identical to the 1900 event from the observer's notes (not sure of their precision). The Kerrville site USGS 08166140 (above Bear Creek) went from 3.05ft to 34.40ft or 31.35ft. We can likely dredge up the old values from historical records, but clearly, quick rises of 30+ feet are in the historical record. The gage closest to Mystic Camp (08165500, Hunt TX used in NPR story) broke at 5:10am as it went from 7.75ft to 37.52ft.

John C.

On Mon, Jul 28, 2025 at 12:53 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
This is great!

But didn't the river hit 34 feet during the recent
flood: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/graphics/2025/07/06/texas-cities-flooded-july-4-rain/84484814007/>

And the recent rainfall total was 10-12 inches over 3 days, whereas the 1900 total was 11.6
inches over 1 day.

Steven Koonin

On Jul 28, 2025, at 13:29, John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Ross et al.

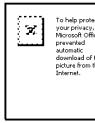
I'm putting the finishing touches on a dataset of 21 stations in Flash Flood Alley (TX) starting in 1893. Data are difficult to find and some forms have never been keyed into computer-readable files, including daily data from the Cotton Region Stations. I'm working on Kerrville today (just down river from Mystic Camp) for data prior to the regular station reports that began in 1902. I ran across this for July 1900 (attached) in which a rain total of 11.60" fell on the 15th and the observer remarked about it.

Note he says the river rose 33 ft. Recall the river rose 25ft at Kerrville in the recent July 4th flood. There is already ample evidence that bad floods happen here, but this is an example of data not keyed-in our NOAA official files that can provide better evidence to determine the likelihood of extreme events.

In any case, we can use the results of our (i.e. Ross's) analyses of these 21 stations in our review of NCA5 to give an example of what an NCA should be doing to understand and prepare for natural variability vs. climate change (and how pathetic the information was in NCA5.)

John C.

p.s. Recall that two months later in Sept 1900, the worst hurricane death toll in US history occurred in Galveston. It was a bad year for Central TX.
<414780_190007_Kerrville.pdf>



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From: Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]
Sent: 6/4/2025 5:59:37 PM
To: Josh Loucks [loucksj14@gmail.com]
CC: Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]; Judith Curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; cohen.seth1994@gmail.com; Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]; John Christy [climate man60@gmail.com]
Subject: Re: NCA5 preface material

An interesting piece from Roger Pielke Jr, as usual:

<https://open.substack.com/pub/rogerpielkejr/p/what-is-a-worst-case-climate-scenario>

On Wed, Jun 4, 2025 at 1:35 PM Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi everyone,

I created a Google Drive with all the relevant documents that have been sent (hopefully I included everything, but please add documents if I missed anything).

I have pasted the link below, but it should also appear in your drive under the "shared with me" tab.

If anyone has suggestions or changes that would make y'all's workflow easier, please let me know!

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Re8Iz10qMZMbFMN7cZK6uAJjHHJcQ7PM?usp=sharing>

Thanks - Josh

On Wed, Jun 4, 2025 at 11:40 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Yes, good to know.

I've also taken material from the prior page (xx, "About This Report") into the accumulating draft.

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 11:17 AM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; cohen.seth1994@gmail.com; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; John Christy <climate man60@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: NCA5 preface material

There is important info before ch 1, in the pages with roman numerals. Notably, on p xxi they remark that for the physical science chapters they focus on advances since NCA4.

On Wed, Jun 4, 2025 at 7:43 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

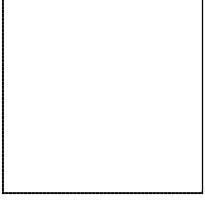
Thanks, Judy. It will fit well into the preamble sections

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cohen.seth1994@gmail.com; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; John Christy
<climateeman60@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: text for intro

Attached is some text for the intro (not obvious where this would fit in Steve's outline)

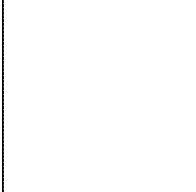
NCA5's Interpretation of its Mission

:



Judith Curry, President
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--



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Josh

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Sent: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 1:35 PM
To: Steven Koonin
Cc: Judith Curry; Travis Fisher; Roy Spencer; cohen.seth1994@gmail.com; Ross McKittrick; John Christy
Subject: Re: NCA5 preface material

Hi everyone,

I created a Google Drive with all the relevant documents that have been sent (hopefully I included everything, but please add documents if I missed anything).

I have pasted the link below, but it should also appear in your drive under the "shared with me" tab.

If anyone has suggestions or changes that would make y'all's workflow easier, please let me know!

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Thanks - Josh

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NCA5's Interpretation of its Mission

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--
Josh

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 11:15 AM
To: Steven Koonin; 'John Christy'; 'Ross McKitrick'
Cc: 'Travis Fisher'; 'Judith Curry'; 'Josh Loucks'
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

I read some of the NAS review of NCA5 this morning... absolutely glowing praise. It applauded the inclusion of DEI and minorities-to-be-hardest-hit language.

It also says there are over 500 authors of NCA5, which includes racial balance as a criterion for inclusion.

I re-read the 1990 Act creating the USGCRP, and it only mentions an NRC review of the multi-agency research PLAN, not the NCAs. So, I assume the NAS review was just to add gravitas to the 500+ authors?

-Roy

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 9:09 AM
To: 'John Christy' <climateman60@gmail.com>; 'Ross McKitrick' <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: 'Roy Spencer' <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>; 'Josh Loucks' <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

I've downloaded the report (<https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/>) There's very little of the foundational science in its 1834 pages(!) that's amenable to serious scientific critique.

I also attach the NASEM review of the NCA5 draft, as well as the authors' responses to that review.

And here's a link to the "gold standard" EO: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/restoring-gold-standard-science/>. A reminder that its criteria are:

- (i) reproducible;
- (ii) transparent;
- (iii) communicative of error and uncertainty;
- (iv) collaborative and interdisciplinary;
- (v) skeptical of its findings and assumptions;
- (vi) structured for falsifiability of hypotheses;
- (vii) subject to unbiased peer review;
- (viii) accepting of negative results as positive outcomes; and
- (ix) without conflicts of interest.

SEK

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 9:58 AM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin

<steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

This mirrors the word usage from the briefing we received from the head of NCA5.

John C.

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 8:56 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I guess people used to the NCA genre are going to find our report totally off-topic.

On Thu, May 29, 2025 at 7:01 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

I did keyword counts in NCA5, and got the following results:

Mentions of RCP/SSP Scenarios (other than definitions):

RCP8.5/SSP5-8.5: 105 (53%)

RCP6.0/SSP3-7.0: 8 (4%)

RCP4.5/SSP2-4.5: 66 (33%)

RCP2.6/SSP1-2.6: 19 (10%)

Social/Societal keywords

Indigenous/Tribes/Tribal: 1,679

Culture/Culturally: 854

Equity/Equitable: 572

Sustainable: 295

Inequality/Unequal: 201

Racism/Racial: 153

Low-Income: 105

Injustice: 94

Communities of Color: 67

Minorities: 37

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2025 10:53 AM
To: Steven Koonin
Cc: John Christy; Roy Spencer; Travis Fisher; Judith Curry; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: NCA5: Scientific assessment or social engineering?

Without even reading the NASEM report I assume it's useless. The problem is they draw experts from govt agencies and universities. That crowd knows that the NCA serves a partisan purpose so they'll pull their punches to prevent giving fodder to the enemies of the movement.

The data show universities are about 95/5 dems/gop and not only that, but among the dems the party identification is "strong" versus mostly "weak" or "leans" among gop. So draw a random sample from academia (ensuring a "wide range" of views blah blah blah) and you end up with left and further left. Up until recently we had to go along with the illusion that expert panels can be relied upon to provide balanced scientific advice but the obvious bias of the IPCC and NCA, among others (CDC, WHO etc) have killed that expectation. They let themselves be colonized by the left and now they've lost any claim on public trust.

RPJr posted this data from a recent UChicago survey

[Ivy League Universities like Harvard and Yale]
...On a scale of 1 to 5 – where 1 means you think the institution is your enemy and 5 means you think the institution is your friend – where on this scale would you place yourself?

OPINION	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep
1 - Enemy	11.1%	2.4%	12.2%	20.5%
2	17.2%	8.9%	18.1%	28.2%
3	48.1%	48.8%	38.3%	41.1%
4	14.5%	22.2%	19.4%	7.7%
5 - Friend	10.5%	18.6%	6.0%	3.4%
DON'T KNOW	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%
SKIPPED ON WEB	1.3%	1.0%	2.0%	0.7%
N ^a	2137	1812	322	784

Almost 50% of republicans (and 30% of independents) now view ivy league universities not just as useless but as their enemies. The antagonism is fully deserved. The NASEM needs to commission a report explaining why the universities became such one-sided intolerant monocultures and what can be done to fix it, and until they tackle that issue they too deserve the DOGE treatment.

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Injustice: 94

Communities of Color: 67

Minorities: 37

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 19, 2025 11:54 AM
To: Judith Curry; Ross McKitrick; Roy Spencer
Cc: John Christy; Steven Koonin
Subject: Re: Our authorship vs. that of the EPA's 2009 EF TSD

Roy, Ross, and Judy, it sounds like we should have a conference call as soon as possible to discuss the important issues you have raised. Please let me know your availability. I will start the bidding at 1 p.m. ET today.

John and Steve, you should feel free to join if you like, although I understand Steve is traveling in a distant time zone.

On Sat, Apr 19, 2025 at 11:14 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

The issues that Ross raises are important, and I think that the deadline needs to be pushed back for a variety of reasons.

Apart from the issues raised by Ross in terms of a lack of formal designation of responsibility and statement of task (an official letter or something) and arrangement for compensation (I understand why this one would take awhile), I don't want my name associated with a document that hasn't been carefully vetted and agreed upon by all of the authors.

I will continue to work on this over the next two weeks, but I agree that the status of any document we produce should be regarded as draft work product and not distributed outside of the DOE leadership, until these issues are resolved

On Sat, Apr 19, 2025 at 7:23 AM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Travis, At this point I do not authorize you to share any work product I have contributed with any other group inside or outside the US government. At this point I am sharing notes with some colleagues on some topics of mutual interest in my private capacity as a non-US citizen. I am not a DoE employee or contractor and this is not a DoE work product.

I realize that people on your end have a use in mind for this material although so far no one has done us the courtesy of offering a clear explanation of exactly what we are being asked to do. I can't be expected to attach any more importance to contributing to the project than you guys attach to me being involved in it. So far, other than the original phone call recruiting me no one on your end has indicated you perceive any tangible value to having me involved. Providing a TSD to support a reassessment of the EF is very demanding and puts authors on the hook for a long time into the future to deal with what will be a lot of criticism. The apparent deadline for our contribution is rapidly approaching. Unless we have reached in writing an arrangement that provides suitable compensation for my time (and in my case any necessary work visas) I will have to withdraw all the material I've circulated and leave the project to others.

Cheers,
Ross

On Sat, Apr 19, 2025 at 7:12 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

All:

I spent a considerable amount of time last year reading/annotating/categorizing the December 7, 2009 Technical Support Document (TSD) for the CO2 Endangerment Finding. It is heavily referenced and undoubtedly involved years of work by a marching army of experts (guided, no doubt, by lawyers).

That document claimed to have 31 EPA authors, and 12 government expert reviewers. Attached is a spreadsheet with the backgrounds of each of those authors/reviewers.

Based upon their credentials, I would argue only one (Gavin Schmidt, an expert reviewer) had expertise directly relevant to the writing of the most important scientific claims in the document.

Arguably, *none of the EPA authors had the required expertise*. Many were new graduates in fields like geography. They then got promoted to management positions within the EPA.

It is for this reason that I now believe that most of the 2009 TSD was ghost-written, probably by more-expert volunteers and contractors to the two companies supporting the document preparation: Eastern Research Group, and Stratus Consulting.

This was no doubt a multi-million-dollar effort. Probably over \$10 Million.

About all I can hope is that what we write will provide sufficient "reasonable scientific doubt" regarding the science claims in the 2009 TSD, based upon almost 2 decades of new science, to call into question the original reasoning for the EPA Administrator's decision that CO2 presents a threat to human health and welfare.

It sounds like the lawyers involved believe they can win this fight without the science (lawyers and judges hate dealing with science).

But if the science argument is decided upon by a vote, or by the number of published citations, we lose the science argument.

-Roy

From: Travis Fisher
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2025 9:03 PM
To: Judith Curry
Cc: Ross McKittrick; John Christy; Roy Spencer; Steven Koonin
Subject: Re: I'll need help: 10 sections to go

Thanks so much, Judy!

Great questions. I don't think anyone has taken on the "air pollutant" issue. Please feel free to tackle it if you like!

Regarding the regulation in question, I've been told this summary of the science will be published as a technical support document relevant to a new proposed rule on tailpipe emissions standards for motor vehicles. I don't know whether that means all motor vehicles or just light- and medium-duty vehicles. It might be helpful to differentiate GHG emissions from the different classes to give the EPA flexibility in that regard.

The previous administration combined the rules for GHGs and criteria pollutants into a "multi-pollutant" rule, and I don't have any information on how this administration will package the different emissions standards. The exact charge for you all is to provide an update on the science relevant to the EPA's endangerment determination with respect to GHGs. As I understand the assignment, the scope is only GHGs, not criteria pollutants.

Keep the questions coming! I can run them up the chain if I don't know the answers, and I am happy to relay any questions you all have to the relevant folks at DOE or other agencies.

For your awareness, I was asked to share the table of contents with the EPA team this evening, which I did (the April 18 version), with the understanding that it is a one-way street (me informing them of your work so they know what's coming, not them sending feedback or micro-managing it). As I assured Steve in the early stages of this work, scientific integrity is paramount, and I will do everything in my power to preserve every word of the document as you all write it. In fact, the EPA team asked that the document be DOE-branded, meaning our true audience is the Secretary of Energy, and he emphasized to me that he wants nothing but science. In other words, the only compromise you have to make in how this is written is among yourselves, not between you all and policymakers, lawyers, or economists.

Thanks again for lending your expertise to this effort, all of you.

Best,
Travis

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 8:46 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I have a lot of material already written that should be relevant. I have a draft of the sea level rise section completed, am sending this to my assistant to format, will upload monday.

Roy, let me know if there are sections you can't complete, i may have some text that is already written

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 3:06 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I'm happy to report that I just talked with Judy, and she accepted the mission (in case you're wondering, the vetting issue was a mishap). This is great news because the Secretary wanted all of you to be able to contribute.

Let's make sure to include Judy in all of our correspondence from now on. The documents should be available here: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/wahx6lpwzu33m5vyrr18x/ANTU1qAQJ-zXCFzP_gsJcOs?rlkey=1z3qj9v46e1t5f4ywwxq7p8c&e=1&dl=0. Please let us know if you don't have access.

Best,
Travis

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 4:59 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks John. The quote from Mauritzen and Roeckner is a great addition.

I find the figure hard to follow, whereas the quote makes the point very clearly, in their own words.

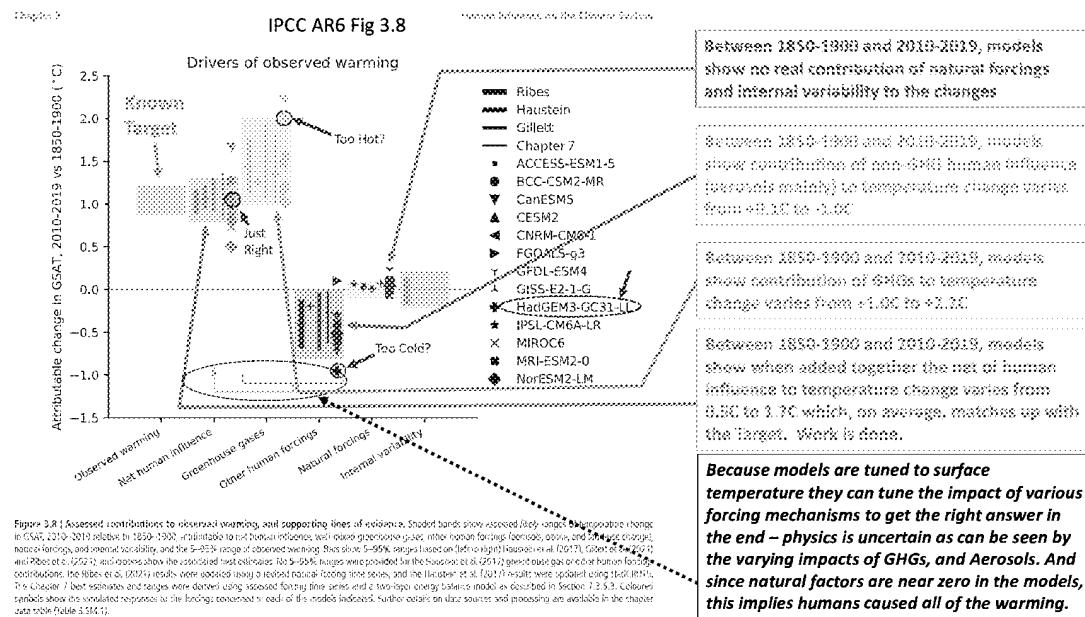
On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 4:55 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:
Ross

I've never been successful with dropbox and my record is still intact.

Attached is 1.6.2 to which I added a paragraph.

Also attached is a chart I annotated from AR6. I think this story demonstrates modelers are just playing with tuning parameters. Is there some way to use this information here (not necessarily in this format)?

John C.



On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 3:32 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I've uploaded a new version of Section 2.2 to your folder. It includes the earlier material quoting all the relevant IPCC and NCA17 stuff and adds some external source information I found. Still needs a brief summary. Others may have more to add.

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 3:05 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Ross.

Let me look early in the morning to see which ones I feel like I can knock out the fastest. Our "guidance" has been to start from "scratch", while relying on preexisting materials where it helps. I think I know why we've been told this, but it's not my place to say.

- Roy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Date: 4/18/25 10:49 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: I'll need help: 10 sections to go

Sorry Roy, I didn't mean to swamp you, I figured those were sections you already had in the can from previous work. Looking through my own folders I have some material I forgot I had written which I can repurpose. Can you send a list of the sections you are able to do, and the ones you would like to hand off for the time being?

Also to Travis' point we should look to having Judy help some of the sections. Travis, she can be reached via curry.judith@gmail.com

Ross

On Fri, Apr 18, 2025 at 7:40 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

All:

I don't see how I'm going to do the 10 more sections assigned to me (1.6.1 onward) in the time remaining. Feel free to jump in.

-Roy

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2025 6:34 AM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>
Subject: Section 1.4.3 attached

Ross:

I think we should combine sections 1.4.3 and 1.4.4 (attached) which I now call "The carbon cycle, emissions scenarios, and global greening".

I found that all of these need to be discussed together. Feel free to reword the section title.

-Roy

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 6:17 AM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>
Subject: Section 1.4.2 Can climate models reproduce the recent past?

Attached. This is the minimum I think needs to be in this section. Of course, more could be added, but I think we need to stick to our strongest arguments, given the limited time available.

-Roy

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 7:16 AM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>
Subject: Some Spencer inputs

I took it upon myself to write a preamble in **Section 1.3 Drivers of climate change** (attached), which seemed necessary to introduce some basic concepts.

Also attached are my initial submissions for **1.3.2** and **1.3.3**.

NO references added yet.

One of the things I believe we need to watch out for is *neglecting to come to conclusions along the way...* There is a tendency to get mired in the technical details without getting around to saying what each section might mean in eventual policy decisions related to the Endangerment Finding. In my experience, it is not possible to dumb-down this stuff too much. I suggest some sort of "Summary Boxes" with 1-2 simplified statements highlighting a main conclusion of each section that would have policy relevance.

-Roy

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 1:37 PM
To: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>; roywspencer@hotmail.com <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Kickoff

Hi Travis

We developed the outline a bit further and assigned sections out yesterday. We'll keep you cc'd going forward.

Here is a Dropbox link that contains the current outline (also attached) which indicates who is working on each section

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/wahx6lpwzu33m5vyrr18x/ANTU1qAQJ-zXCFzP_gsJcOs?rlkey=l1z3qj9v46e1t5f4ywwxq7p8c&dl=0
The link should give you all editing privileges.

I put folders in there for each of us. If the use of that Dropbox (which is on my own account) is acceptable for this project then we can share our work using it. Otherwise once we have an official Dropbox created we can transfer the material over to it.

Do you think it would be helpful to have a section specifically addressing the question of whether CO2 is a pollutant like CO, NOx, SOx, PM, etc.? If you want to add topics or suggest changes please do, the earlier the better as we begin filling out the contents.

Cheers,

Ross

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 2:12 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:
This is an excellent start! Can we move forward by iterating with this document for now? Please feel free to add whatever material you like, and I can collate if there are any simultaneous changes. I will leave the substance to you all because I view my role as a facilitator rather than a contributor, but please let me know how I can be most helpful.

Steve is correct that this document should be clear and understandable for non-experts. My understanding is that it should also be sufficiently technical and comprehensive to inform policymakers on all relevant aspects of the science.

One area I can help with might be targeting your work for the very brief window we have open at the moment. I am including a few lines verbatim below from key documents to highlight the areas of inquiry that are most relevant to the policymaking process. Of course, you all should make your own judgments about what to include versus what to leave out.

Here is a key section of the Clean Air Act, 202(a)(1): "The Administrator shall by regulation prescribe (and from time to time revise) in accordance with the provisions of this section, standards applicable to the emission of any air pollutant from any class or classes of new motor vehicles or new motor vehicle engines, which in his judgment cause, or contribute to, air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. Such standards shall be applicable to such vehicles and engines for their useful life (as determined under subsection (d), relating to useful life of vehicles for purposes of certification), whether such vehicles and engines are designed as complete systems or incorporate devices to prevent or control such pollution."

Section 202 can be found [here](#).

Here is another key section of the Clean Air Act, section 302(g): "The term 'air pollutant' means any air pollution agent or combination of such agents, including any physical, chemical, biological, radioactive (including source material, special nuclear material, and byproduct material) substance or matter which is emitted into or otherwise enters the ambient air. Such term includes any precursors to the formation of any air pollutant, to the extent the Administrator has identified such precursor or precursors for the particular purpose for which the term 'air pollutant' is used."

A threshold question raised in Justice Scalia's dissent in *Mass v. EPA* (which can be found [here](#)) is whether CO2 falls under the definition of an "air pollutant" under the Clean Air Act. The majority in *Mass v. EPA* found that *any* compound emitted into the ambient air fits the definition of "air pollutant," leading to a colorful footnote in the Scalia dissent ("It follows that everything airborne, from Frisbees to flatulence, qualifies as an 'air pollutant.' This reading of the statute defies common sense."). A scientific interpretation of this definition could be very helpful.

The next section in the statute is 302(h), which defines effects on welfare: "All language referring to effects on welfare includes, but is not limited to, effects on soils, water, crops, vegetation, manmade materials, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, and climate, damage to and deterioration of property, and hazards to transportation, as well as effects on economic values and on personal comfort and well-being, whether caused by transformation, conversion, or combination with other air pollutants." Positive impacts, including fertilization effects and beneficial warming, seem to be within scope here.

Section 302 can be found [here](#).

As you all develop the draft, I encourage you to include as many citations to published materials as possible (links would work fine as placeholders). I have found this works better under a tight timeline than going back and looking for sources later. Please also feel free to task me with any research help you might need.

Best,
Travis

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 8:10 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
I assume we're writing for non-experts. If so, some educating beyond the root questions is in order (it always helps if people feel smarter after reading).

So I've taken Ross' material, added some broader context, and cast it into the forcing/response/impact syllogism that most non-experts seem to get. The result is attached.

I think we can deal with the differences relative to 2009 in an appendix.

SEK

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 6:34 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; steven.koonin@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: Kickoff

Excellent list Ross. Wildfires are a significant topic to be addressed.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 11, 2025, at 4:05 PM, Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

The attached represents my summary of the most questions needing to be answered, which I think this group is capable of answering in the next couple of weeks. Probably lots of material already in hand.

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 4:24 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Gentlemen,

I can't thank you enough for taking this on under such a tight timeline. Let's use this thread to exchange information, links, etc., and as we move forward, I'll see about a document-sharing platform and a shared document to work on simultaneously.

Best,
Travis

Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

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Judith Curry, President
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Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 3:16 PM
To: Travis Fisher
Cc: Ross McKittrick; John Christy; Steven Koonin; Roy Spencer
Subject: Re: problem with chapter 4

I'm on travel, so I will do my best to make whatever time is agreed to for a call.

Here is the issue with the NCA. The previous efforts have been pathetic and highly politicized. I am personally loathe to consider associating myself with a team of people whom I don't know or trust, and wouldn't consider lending my name to a report unless I was in agreement (almost) 100% with everything that is stated. That said, I am willing to help in any way that I wouldn't feel compromised (oversight, reviewing, etc). As a postscript, I have never been contacted previously (or recently) to participate in the NCA

On Fri, May 23, 2025 at 11:28 AM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:
We will make sure these are in the final version. Any omissions were simply by mistake.

I've intentionally left everyone out of my daily back and forth with politicals, but it has consumed most of my time lately.

Apologies for dropping the ball here.

On Fri, May 23, 2025 at 2:16 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

See the attached version of chapter 4 that we discussed on Wed. The changes in red did not make it into the final version, we agreed on these changes in the phone call and they should be added to the text,

There are also some changes to ch 9 on attribution that were discussed on wed, that didn't make it into the final version (I'm not too concerned about these)

My bigger concern is that if the two chapters that I focused on were not the latest versions, are there others?

--


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From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 1:07 PM
To: Judith Curry
Cc: Steven Koonin; Travis Fisher; John Christy; Roy Spencer
Subject: Re: Process question?

Unless there's some regulatory advantage to having a structured review I am not sure what the point would be of asking either NASEM or the HSC to run a review process. Neither group will endorse it and the usual suspects will say the usual things. The HSC especially will be predetermined. If our report is used as part of a comment&review process under the procedures act then we would be obliged to respond to the avalanche of comments that come in, and if it is attacked in litigation we will again have to respond to that. But I don't see the need to go asking for additional vetting. NASEM in particular will at best be non-committal but they might put out a strongly-worded attack, and then what do we do?

On Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 12:52 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

On the issue of review, attempting to get a review in late May seems rather pointless, especially if it is an informal pal review. I would rather use the last week of May to keep improving the document

I agree that subjecting this to a rigorous review AFTER we have a well-crafted final document (later in the summer) is very important. NASEM would be ok (but i suspect that would be biased towards the IPCC and "consensus"), or we could ask the House Science Committee to recommend reviewers (half from the dems, half from the Rs), with DOE selecting a balanced group from that list

On Tue, Apr 29, 2025 at 8:39 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I'd think one of our goals should be as broad a science engagement with the alleged Consensus.

To that end, I'd hope we can engage the NASEM review body (NRC) to review the draft when it's released to the public. That in addition to a broad solicitation of public comments.

That would

- 1) demonstrate we're willing to consider other views
- 2) allow us to respond to coherent criticisms in a coherent and public way
- 3) add credibility to the final for having been through the process.

Steven E. Koonin



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<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 3:38 PM
To: Judith Curry
Cc: Roy Spencer; John Christy; Steven Koonin; Travis Fisher; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: Report draft

I prefer an early release too, signalling that it is separate from the EPA process.
As a non-US citizen i am probably not eligible to run the NCA process. Drat.

On Fri, May 23, 2025 at 3:18 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
I am in total agreement that I prefer an earlier DOE sponsored release. Otherwise the document risks looking politicized.

On Fri, May 23, 2025 at 12:15 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
I agree with John that if this was released early as a DoE report, it might carry more scientific weight if the EPA relies upon it later.
-Roy

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 1:48 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Report draft

Travis

School is over, so I'm free Tues-Friday. Monday afternoon is also possible.

I like the idea of the Secretary releasing the report first, describing it as a project he commissioned - if you can make that happen. This separates us somewhat from the political/legal framework.

The NCA has been corrupted as we know. The State Climatologists were given a briefing from Crimmins, the Lead Author of the USGCRP committee (M.S. in oceanography and public policy), at the outset of the NCA5 process. Her message was that the science was settled and that an overview would be dealt with in the first couple of chapters, but the main points were to be social concerns, policy concerns, native American concerns, minority concerns, gender concerns, etc. It was painful to be lectured in this way, especially as she assumed we all agreed with her comments. I wrote a long email to her after the presentation pointing out some obvious issues that were not settled - never got a response. I was approached about heading up NCA 6 earlier this week, but declined because that is a cat-herding job, but was happy to help with the scientific analysis aspects. The Lead person needs to have Ross's or Steve's patience and skills. I don't have the patience needed.

I've been thinking about a one or two syllable identifier for the report. I thought of DoECR, pronounced "dohker" for Department of Energy Climate Report. So, "What does the DoECR say?" kind of thing. Shorter would be "C-R", climate-report, but that would be confused with Continuing Resolution.

John C.

On Fri, May 23, 2025 at 1:25 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks, Travis.

I'm free all-day Tuesday the 27th except for 1300-1400 EDT.

Monday afternoon would also be possible, but I wouldn't be enthusiastic about it (and we'd need to have S1's comments back by then).

SEK

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2025 1:50 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Report draft

Hi Ross,

I'm happy to say the handoff to the Secretary went as planned. I think we should set up a meeting on Tuesday to go through the Secretary's comments and questions, assuming he has some. If it turns out he has a lot of comments and questions, I might recommend multiple meetings or another marathon session. I haven't heard anything yet.

If you all agree we should have another round or two of conferences, what time works best for everyone? I could do Tuesday morning, Tuesday afternoon, and just about any time on Monday (but want to be mindful

of the Memorial Day holiday). We could also wait and see how substantive the comments are before making any plans to meet.

Regarding the references and more recent changes, Josh and I could certainly use some help, at least with making sure we have all the right material in the right place. Josh and I can handle the formatting. The attached file is the Word version of the report that we converted to PDF and sent to the Secretary, so I think we should pick up the editing from there.

If anyone is interested in the broader legal and policy efforts at play (outside of DOE), I'd be happy to give you all a briefing on where things stand. The short version is that I've defended your editorial control, and the *powers that be* have accepted that you all have full editorial control. One piece that we may have to compromise on is timing--it's my sense that publishing well ahead of any EPA rulemaking will be an uphill battle (but one that I'm willing to fight).

Finally, start thinking about whether you want to be involved in the next NCA. If I had to bet on it, I'd say each of you will be asked to help, if not join, the USGCRP and contribute to NCA 6.

Best,

Travis

On Fri, May 23, 2025 at 12:51 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Travis and Josh

Just wondering how the reference wrangling is going. I haven't worked on the draft since sending it out yesterday morning (11:30 AM edition). There will be some text additions and revisions from the team, so I need to know if there is a more updated version to look at.

Ross

To help protect
your privacy, Microsoft Office
prevented automatic download
of the picture from the
Internet.

Judith Curry, President
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Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfancimate.net>

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 4:36 PM
To: Roy Spencer; cohen.seth1994@gmail.com
Cc: Ross McKitrick; Steven Koonin; Judith Curry; John Christy; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: Scoping

Adding Seth.

Here's the whole hog: https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA5_2023_FullReport.pdf

As we discussed at the end of the call, each scientist will identify two glaring errors or omissions in the report and send a written synopsis/insert to the group on Friday, if not before. Large discrepancies between the underlying report and the summary pages are also fair game.

We'll reconvene on Saturday to discuss how to spend next week. Josh and I will be the administrative wizards for this second assignment. Steve is the spiritual leader. Judy may take a deep dive into the idea of NCA 5's fitness for purpose. We forgot to give Roy a tough assignment after he left (my fault... maybe his list of errors should be like 3 or 4 things?). Ross deserves a(n American) medal for his stewardship of the May report. As usual, John is already halfway done with his assignment.

Thanks again for contributing so much to this important work!

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 2:10 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
"a billion here, a billion there..."

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 12:22 PM
To: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Scoping

I'll put all my cards on the table, but I urge you to keep your expectations low because the assignment remains a moving target.

I can't blame anyone if you find a deep sense of irony (or affirmation?) in my inability to model the future of our work assignments just 14 days in advance. Some might say it's a non-linear and chaotic system.

Ross, this is a public data point for the USGCRP budget (warning, you may get very depressed seeing how much it is just for one FY): <https://www.globalchange.gov/budget>

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 12:06 PM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I agree Steve, there's no way to discuss the summaries without discussing the underlying reports. In focusing on the Summaries I'm trying to avoid taking on a mandate to critique the entire NCA5 since it's too big and would have too many defenders. But we should give ourselves the scope to do both.

And, at the end of the day, whoever is asking us for the report should have some say in what we do, so maybe in our meeting Travis can let us know what the higher-ups are really looking for.

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 11:41 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

The two alternatives Judy mentions (fundamental deficiencies vs specific criticisms of the summaries) aren't mutually exclusive – covering both would make the report more powerful. And any criticism of the summaries will necessarily refer to the coverage of those topics in the report itself.

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 11:23 AM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Scoping

The recommendations part will definitely be the most interesting

However, I think focusing on the summaries of the NCA5 is misguided; if we find the summaries aren't useful, then people could infer that you just need to read the full report

I suggest focusing on fundamental deficiencies of their approach for purposes of informing policy making

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 8:15 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Here's a slight revision of the charge letter. #3 and #4 are replaced by a new #3 that simply asks for recommendations. From what we've discussed previously and my own inclinations I would list things like the following:

- expand and secure support for basic climate monitoring including the MSU series, Argo floats, radiosondes etc.
- expand discussion of potential benefits of climate change including reduced cold-weather mortality and enhanced CO2 fertilization
- red team review of problems with the global surface thermometer network, including lack of spatial coverage and formal assessment of whether the bias adjustments actually remove known UHI biases
- cull the GCM herd and retire those models that have intractable problems of warming bias

- Invest in substantial efforts to digitize hand-written records of temperature and precip across the US. Basically, hire a team of 100 researchers to see if they can do in 5 years what John does in a month.
- Create a public-facing data dissemination site that provides access to complete records of climate-relevant metrics including extreme weather, in every case showing the entire data set not merely the last 20 years
- Reduce or eliminate regional climate projections on the basis that models are incapable of doing it and the information provided is useless. Focus instead on providing information geared to optimizing adaptation and resilience

Etc.

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 4:10 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

yes that is exactly what palmer is up to, but it works for us

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 1:06 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Neat!

Roy, part of the context for the Palmer/Stevens statements is that they were campaigning for a bigger computer facility (maybe they still are – some big EU climate computer center analogous to CERN for particle physics). Saying (politely) that the current models aren't any good helps in the justification.

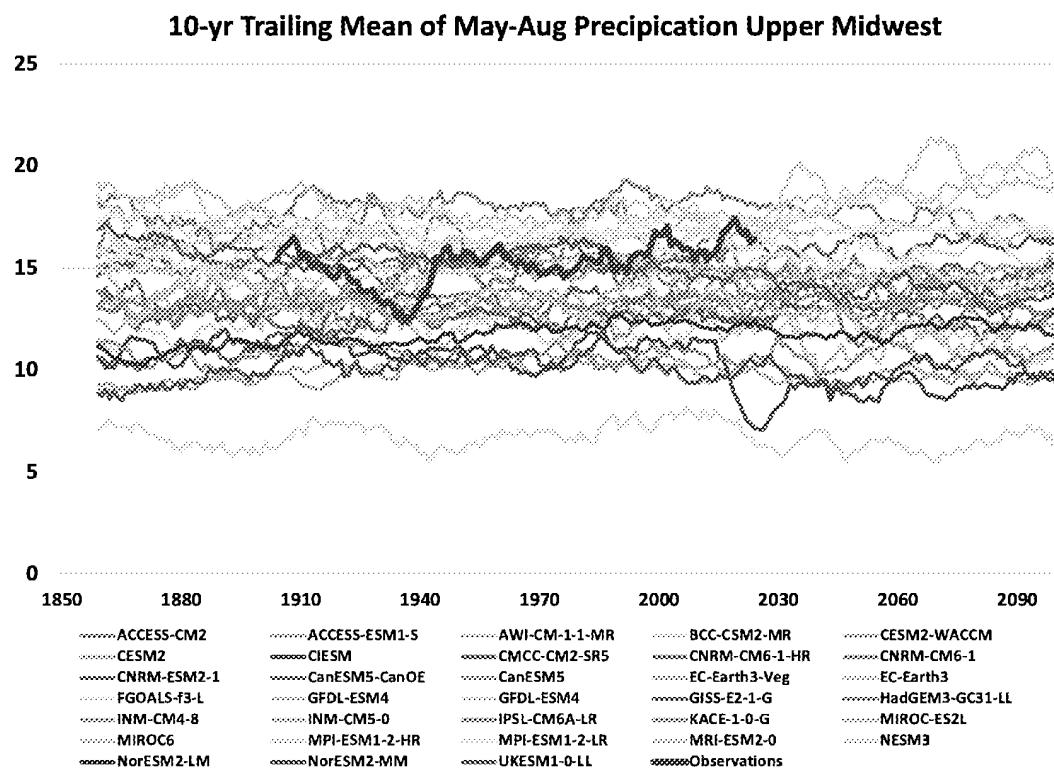
From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 3:59 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <jloucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Scoping

All

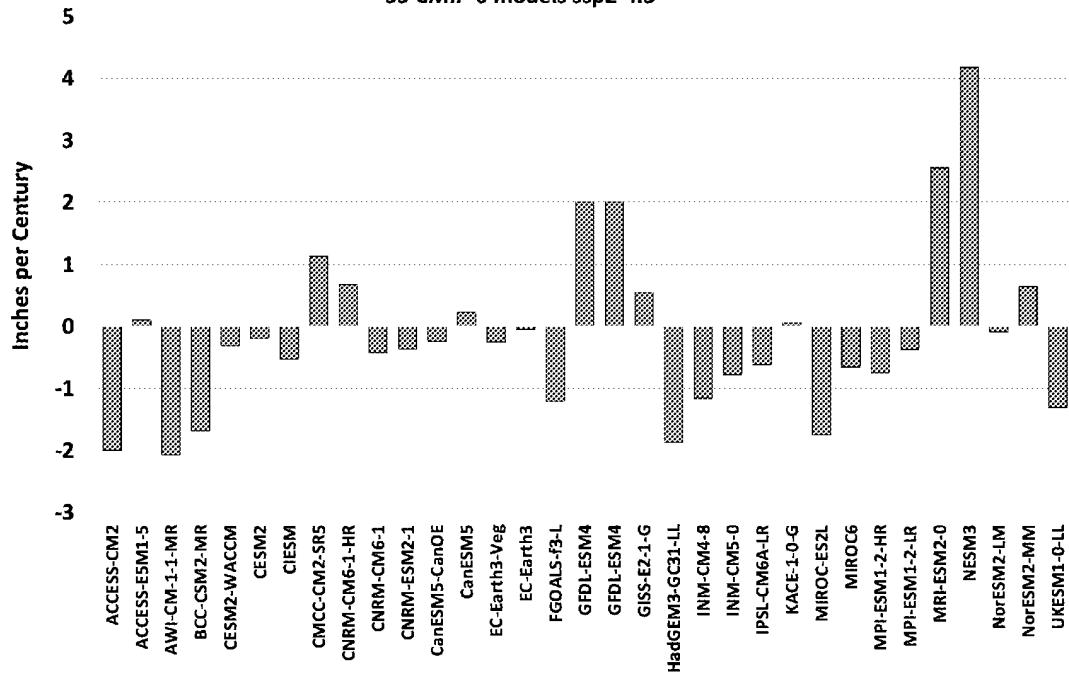
I was able to grab the CMIP6 model output. To give an example of regional climate models' purpose-fitting capability, we now have a good set of continuous precip stations in the upper Midwest with which

to compare. In terms of the extreme events, I think we'll find no significant regional observational trends, but Ross will test that statement. In terms of forecasted bulk growing season rainfall, this will be a fair test for climate models since they don't have to contend with (and thus make excuses for) significant issues of irregular topography and coastlines. I got a kick out of the trend for the 21st century in the growing season rainfall. The model average is -0.13 inches PER CENTURY, or less than 1 percent. The only policy here would be one we've long recommended - adapt to high interannual (natural) variability if you want to thrive. A point here too is that the NCA5 never looked at the details in a scientific way ... they just waved their hands.

John C.



Predicted Change for 21st Century Upper MidWest May-Aug Precipitaiton
33 CMIP-6 models ssp2-4.5



On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 2:40 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Here are the three quotes from Palmer and Stevens that I often invoke (the third one was not in a public forum).

Even climate modelers don't believe their own (regional) results

... for many key applications that require regional climate model output or for assessing large-scale changes from smallscale processes, we believe that the current generation of models is not fit for purpose.
- T. Palmer and B. Stevens, PNAS (2019)



Our understanding makes a compelling case for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. What remains unclear is what happens when it warms. In fact, it is difficult, and in many places impossible, to scientifically advise societal efforts to adapt in the face of unavoidable warming. Our knowledge gaps are frightful because they make it impossible to assess the extent to which a given degree of warming poses existential threats.

– Bjorn Stevens, UCLA Yerkes Lecture, 5/5/22



It is an unfortunate fact of the matter that most policy and decision makers view the science of climate change as done and dusted and hence the research we fluid-earthers are involved in is perceived to be largely irrelevant to the important question of how to tackle the climate emergency. On top of this, if we are let out of our ivory towers to express the fact that our understanding of climate change - especially at the regional scale - is rather poor (how can a country adapt if it doesn't even know the sign of precipitation change with any confidence - as IPCC figures show), the same policy and decision makers start to feel uncomfortable. They'd rather we didn't say such things in public - they claim it undermines the public's faith in the need to take action. – T. Palmer, NAS group email 4/15/23

18

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>

Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 3:34 PM

To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>

Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: Scoping

If we end up saying that models are not fit for purpose (policy-wise), are we not making a judgement about policy already? If policy is based upon Precautionary Principle hogwash, then it can be argued models ARE fit for purpose.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>

Date: 6/2/25 12:35 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>

Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>, Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>, Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Scoping

I think we can reframe #3 and #4 to address more general issues at the science-policy interface I'll try to find time today to write something

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 10:29 AM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Ross

I can contribute to #1 and #2, but wouldn't be much help with #3 and #4.

John C.

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 10:47 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I think the preamble and questions 1 and 2 are right on point.

But I've a problem with questions 3 and 4 as they're out of our lane. We are not experts in USG organization, roles, responsibilities, authorities. We see the beast only from the periphery.

A better question replacing 3 and 4 would be to ask for recommendations as to how the NCA process could be improved.

SEK

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 11:14 AM
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Scoping

Looks good to me... not sure the last (4th) question is necessary. Supposedly, the USGCRP was formed to coordinate global change research across agencies... Pielke Jr (whose PhD thesis was on its formation and purpose) claims that putting USGCRP control in the WH makes the whole process unavoidably political, which was probably the intent. Not sure how that factors in here...

-Roy

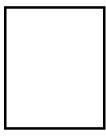
From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 9:56 AM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Scoping

this is good

On Mon, Jun 2, 2025 at 7:32 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I have drafted a 1-page charge letter for the Secretary, setting out what I think are entirely defensible questions for a cabinet official to ask, and which would be feasible for us to answer on a short time scale. Comments welcome.

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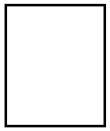
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<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]
Sent: 5/19/2025 11:05:45 PM
To: Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]
CC: Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]; judith curry [curry.judith@gmail.com]; John Christy [climateaman60@gmail.com]
Subject: Re: update
Attachments: 0.Template.May18.docx

Travis,

Here's my suggestion for the template. Titles, group name, etc are placeholders until finalized.

The headings are linked up so if you insert a new one it will automatically renumber chapters and subsections.

Also the table of contents can be updated by right-clicking and selecting Update field.

Cheers,

Ross

On Mon, May 19, 2025 at 6:18 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

It was a very good, very productive meeting. I'll send the template this evening.

Ross

On Mon, May 19, 2025 at 5:19 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

I think it was AWESOME. We should do it EVERY DAY.

But seriously, folks, I'm honored to be part of this group.

-Roy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Date: 5/19/25 4:14 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>, judith curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>, John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>, Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: update

How was the marathon review?

Ross, would you share the report template you want to use? Josh and I will start adding near-final material as soon as we get the green light from this group.

On Mon, May 19, 2025 at 9:58 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Thanks Steve. I renumbered the chapter sections etc. to Ch 5 and put it in the folder for today's meeting. Also since you asked for the tropical amplification material to be shrunk to a single figure (which I'd been meaning to do anyway but hadn't got to it yet) I went ahead and made the change.

See you all shortly.

On Mon, May 19, 2025 at 9:29 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
I have uploaded my comments/edits on Chapter 6 to the "Final Comments" Dropbox folder (also attached).

Looking forward to our marathon zoom session starting in about an hour.

SEK

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 4:54 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; judith curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; John Christy <climate man60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: update

I agree with Ross that the central point made in Chapter 1 (that CO2 is not directly harmful to humans at ambient concentrations) is a big one. That said, the last paragraph of Chapter 1 functions a bit like an introduction, so maybe we could parse these out and keep a stand-alone chapter on the main point while moving the last P of Chapter 1 to the introduction? It reads:

The growing amount of CO2 in the atmosphere directly influences the earth system by promoting plant growth (global greening), thereby enhancing agricultural yields, and also by neutralizing ocean alkalinity. But the primary concern about CO2 is its role as a greenhouse gas (GHG), that alters the earth's energy balance. How the climate will respond to that influence is a complex question that will occupy much of this report.

Chapter 2 then discusses the "direct impacts" of CO2 on the environment, namely global greening and reduced ocean alkalinity. To the untrained reader (people like me), it might seem like you all are distinguishing between temperature and non-temperature impacts (or energy and non-energy impacts), and that you deem temperature impacts to be distinct from "direct" impacts. I note this for two reasons: 1) if that wasn't the intent, perhaps you could add some clarity in the introduction, and 2) if that was the intent, you could explain why you're saving the warming/RF for later discussion. (Most people expect to see the big-ticket item up front.)

If temperature change / RF is a direct impact, I'd recommend saying something like "we note three broad categories of direct impacts from increased CO2 concentrations: global greening, reduced alkalinity of the oceans, and increased radiative forcing. We touch on the first two briefly in Chapter 2 before discussing anthropogenic radiative forcing in Chapter 3. Then we take a deeper look at the climate's response to increased CO2 concentrations in Chapters 4 through X [Part 2]." [You could also set up Part 3 in the introduction and explain how you see the different parts of the report as covering different themes.]

On Sun, May 18, 2025 at 4:32 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

On the preface: First, technically it's not a foreword, which is front matter written by a non-author (in this case, the Secretary). A "preface" is something written by the authors (us). Both of them are distinct from the Introduction (guess we all know what that is).

I'd like our foreword to be a more personal statement, incorporating some of the material now in the section called "Intro". I'll come back with a draft of that tomorrow. But I'd note now that I'd like it welcome community response, both to simulate an open dialog and to model behavior missing from IPCC/NCA/...

Meanwhile, I think the material now in Chap 1 would work very well as the ending of the Introduction.

SEK

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 4:22 PM
To: judith curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: update

I like chapter 1 on its own even though it's very brief. I don't think the material fits anywhere else and it makes an important point.

On Sun, May 18, 2025 at 4:12 PM judith curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I think we should lose chapter 1 and incorporate in preface

Sent from my iPhone

On May 18, 2025, at 12:44 PM, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I've now been through almost all the May15 chapters in the 01.Report Draft folder.

My comments/edits on each are in the files in the "Final Comments" Dropbox folder.

Many of my suggested edits are aimed at clarifying and tightening language, but some are substantial.

I've done little in those chapters I've reviewed before, but there's a lot in others where I've not yet had a chance to weigh in.

A major missing yet is the Model v Observations chapter, which I'll get to before we start tomorrow.

Also will weigh in on the new albedo and emissions text and offer something about the Preface

SEK

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 3:48 PM
To: Steve Koonin
Cc: Travis Fisher; Ross McKittrick; Judith Curry; Roy W. Spencer
Subject: Re: Virtual meeting with the Secretary

Travis

2p ET is 8a Honolulu time ... so I should be good with that time.

Buddy Menton would be a great reviewer.

Another is Matthew Wielicki - has Earth Science skills (PhD geology), lots of climate knowledge and will be honest if he sees flaws in our reasoning.

I'm assuming this first review is to help us avoid missing important studies as well as to cross the I's and dot the T's. I would think that in the "Author's Prefix" Steve would say something like "Hey, give us a break ... we had only 7 weeks from our first meeting on 11 April. We may have missed something ... we'll fix it later".

John C.

John Christy
Director, Earth System Science Center
Professor, Atmos and Earth Science
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
climateman60@gmail.com

On May 6, 2025, at 1:57 PM, Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

The virtual meeting times work for me.

On potential reviewers, I'm OK with the list. But as someone else noted, it's a bit of an echo chamber. in my own work I've found it valuable to have some knowledgeable non-experts weigh in. Here are a few people who are literate, careful readers, and who I'm quite sure would keep a confidence:

- Mark Mills and/or Scott Tinker
- Francis (Buddy) Menton

SEK

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 12:52 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Subject: Virtual meeting with the Secretary

Hi all,

You seem to be cooking with gas, as they say, so I'll keep this update short.

First, I'm hoping to squeeze us all in for a virtual meeting or phone call with the Secretary this Thursday afternoon. The time would likely be 2 pm to 2:30 pm ET, but we should keep some flexibility on the earlier end (try to keep your calendars clear from 1:15 pm to 2:30 pm ET). Feel free to come with questions for the Secretary, and if there's anything I can try to answer beforehand, please let me know.

Second, if we put together a rapid review team, who would you all feel comfortable including? Below my signature, I have a list of the names I've heard so far. My suggestion would be to either keep this group small or only solicit their input once the first draft is published--we have to weigh the benefit of external review against the risk of a leak. We have some flexibility in whether or how we do any review, so let me know if you have any strong preferences.

Best,
Travis

Possible review team

Roger Pielke Jr.
Cliff Mass
Will Happer
Richard Lindzen
Nick Lewis (UK)
Ryan Maue
Kevin Dayaratna

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 10:27 AM
To: Ross McKittrick
Cc: Roy Spencer; John Christy; Judith Curry; Steve Koonin
Subject: Re: Why are our conclusions so different from those in 2009?

This would be a very helpful addition (especially if you use a diplomatic tone--I like Ross's tone here).

For today's meeting, please consider me "on call" if anything comes up that you'd like me to be present for. Otherwise, I'll wait to see the results and try to format quickly behind you all.

If there are chapters that you all feel are close enough to final to be formatted and included in a single document, please let me know, and I can do that while you continue to discuss other chapters.

On Mon, May 19, 2025 at 10:09 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
Perhaps as part of the introduction a paragraph along these lines:

In this report we have taken prior assessments by groups like the IPCC and NCA as starting points, and in many cases our conclusions are either the same as theirs or where they offer a range of plausible conclusions we fall within that range. In some places, however, we differ from the IPCC or NCA. In those cases we have gone into some detail to explain the basis of our disagreement. Occasionally we find prior assessments have paid insufficient attention to contrary evidence, and in other cases new research has emerged since earlier assessments that challenges earlier conclusions. In one case, the topic of CO2 fertilization and global greening, we find the IPCC and the NCA have been almost completely silent so we cannot compare our findings to theirs.

I'd like to make it as non-combative as possible and to emphasize for readers that in fact we are positioned well within the mainstream. Some of our critics will be the ones out on the margins.

On Mon, May 19, 2025 at 6:50 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
(As a reminder... I will join the meeting this morning as soon as I can).

Virtually none of the critics of our report (journalists, environmental groups, politicians, et al.) will actually read the report. So, they will resort to *ad hominem* attacks and any other non-scientific arguments to discredit what we've produced.

So, I think it might be useful to have a section, maybe just before the introduction, which would be a short list of talking points/sound bites (which we would refer to when we are interviewed) which summarize why our conclusions are so different from those supporting the 2009 Endangerment Finding. (Sorry if something like this is already in the works).

For example (in no particular order):

1. Many of the findings of the 2007 IPCC report relied upon in 2009 were misrepresented

- 2.The 2007 IPCC report neglected to include opposing scientific opinions
- 3.There have been many new scientific findings in the last two decades.
- 4.The future CO2 emissions scenario most relied upon in 2007 is now known to be wildly unrealistic.
- 5.The rate of global warming has been less than what climate models produce
- 6.The benefits of increasing CO2 in the atmosphere, as well as of moderating temperatures, have been ignored.

Pithy sound bites will be necessary to build support. There will not be time in interviews (or space in news articles) to go into details.

-Roy

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 10:39 PM
To: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Steve Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: urbanization bias

This would be a good place to make that point. Can you add a few sentences and a reference? Just put them in an email and I can paste it in. As I recall Dick McNider has a good paper on this.

Ross

On Sun, May 18, 2025 at 9:54 PM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Ross

Nice summary of how the IPCC ignored evidence. Is this the place to discuss the asymmetric impact of UHI and other aspects?, i.e. TMin much greater than TMax for physical reasons published as early as Oke 1973? Or is this a focussed description of the type of misdirection for which the IPCC is famous?

John C.

John Christy
Director, Earth System Science Center
Professor, Atmos and Earth Science
Alabama State Climatologist
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
climateman60@gmail.com

On May 18, 2025, at 7:59 PM, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I like it

On Sun, May 18, 2025 at 5:33 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I added the following material to Ch 3, which we can discuss tomorrow - let me know what you think.

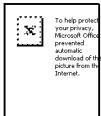
3.1.3 Urbanization

Historical temperature data over land has been collected mainly where people live. This raises the problem of how to filter out non-climatic warming signals due to Urban Heat Islands (UHI) and other changes to the land surface. If they are not removed the data may over-attribute observed warming to greenhouse gases. The IPCC acknowledges that raw temperature data are contaminated with UHI effects but claims to have data cleaning procedures that remove them. It is an open question whether those procedures suffice for the purpose.

The AR6 downplayed the issue by saying (WGI p. 235) that no recent evidence had emerged to alter the AR5 finding that urbanization causes an upward bias of no more than 10% in the global land surface warming trend. The AR5 (WGI p. 189) also cited the 10% upper bound without citing a source. The AR4 (WGI p. 244) cited Jones et al. (1990) and Peterson et al. (1999) as the basis of the claim. Peterson et al. had failed to find any difference in trends between rural and urban samples, although their definition of rural included local populations up to 10,000 persons and the relative influence of urbanization begins well below that (Spencer et al 2025). Jones et al. compared rural/urban warming in three regions: Eastern Australia, Eastern China and Western Soviet Union. Their definition of “rural” included towns of up to 10,000 in the former Soviet Union and up to 100,000 in China. They found relatively warming biases greater than 10% in these areas but conjectured that the urbanization effect averaged over the areas they did not examine would bring the global land bias to under 10% of the observed warming trend.

Prior to the IPCC AR4 several papers appeared in print arguing that the warming effect of UHIs added a relatively large (30-50%) component to observed warming and was not simulated by climate models (de Laat and Maurellis 2006, McKittrick and Michaels 2007). These findings were based on correlations between locations of maximum warming over land with locations of maximum socioeconomic development. The AR4 asserted (p. 244) that these correlations were an artefact of natural atmospheric circulations and were in fact statistically insignificant, and on that basis set the findings aside. The claim attracted controversy because it was presented with no supporting evidence. McKittrick (2010) and McKittrick and Nierenberg (2010) showed that taking into account various conjectured alternative explanations for the correlations did not affect their significance. The AR5 (p. 189) conceded that the AR4 had provided “no explicit evidence” for its assessment and further acknowledged, based on these papers, that there was “significant evidence for such contamination of the record” i.e. a warming bias in the land record. However as noted, elsewhere in the report they carried forward the AR4 claim that it was less than 10% of observed warming and they expressed no caution against using the land record for climate measurement on the assumption that it is not contaminated with UHI bias.

Recently Soon et al. (2023) estimated an urbanization bias in the Northern Hemisphere land record over 1850-2018 sufficient to increase the trend in the blended record from 0.55°C to 0.89°C per century. Thus while there is clearly warming in the land record, there is also evidence that it is biased upward by patterns of urbanization and that these biases are not removed by the data processing algorithms used to produce climate data sets. Spencer et al. (2025) propose a new method for measuring UHI biases at local levels using new historical population archives, which may provide a way of further testing for and quantifying the urbanization biases in climate data.



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Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications Network
Reno, NV USA
curry.judith@cfanclimate.com | +1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 8:17 AM
To: Ross McKitrick; Travis Fisher
Cc: Steven Koonin; John Christy
Subject: Some Spencer inputs
Attachments: 1.3 Drivers of climate change [RS].docx; 1.3.2 Naturally externally forced changes [RS].docx; 1.3.3 Anthropogenically forced changes [RS].docx

I took it upon myself to write a preamble in **Section 1.3 Drivers of climate change** (attached), which seemed necessary to introduce some basic concepts.

Also attached are my initial submissions for **1.3.2** and **1.3.3**.

NO references added yet.

One of the things I believe we need to watch out for is *neglecting to come to conclusions along the way...* There is a tendency to get mired in the technical details without getting around to saying what each section might mean in eventual policy decisions related to the Endangerment Finding. In my experience, it is not possible to dumb-down this stuff too much. I suggest some sort of "Summary Boxes" with 1-2 simplified statements highlighting a main conclusion of each section that would have policy relevance.

-Roy

From: Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 1:37 PM
To: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>; roywspencer@hotmail.com <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Kickoff

Hi Travis

We developed the outline a bit further and assigned sections out yesterday. We'll keep you cc'd going forward.

Here is a Dropbox link that contains the current outline (also attached) which indicates who is working on each section

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/wahx6lpwzu33m5vyrrri8x/ANTU1qAQJ-zXCFzP_gsJcOs?rlkey=l1z3qj9v46e1t5f4ywvxq7p8c&dl=0

The link should give you all editing privileges.

I put folders in there for each of us. If the use of that Dropbox (which is on my own account) is acceptable for this project then we can share our work using it. Otherwise once we have an official Dropbox created we can transfer the material over to it.

Do you think it would be helpful to have a section specifically addressing the question of whether CO2 is a pollutant like CO, NOx, SOx, PM, etc.? If you want to add topics or suggest changes please do, the earlier the better as we begin filling out the contents.

Cheers,
Ross

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 2:12 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

This is an excellent start! Can we move forward by iterating with this document for now? Please feel free to add whatever material you like, and I can collate if there are any simultaneous changes. I will leave the substance to you all because I view my role as a facilitator rather than a contributor, but please let me know how I can be most helpful.

Steve is correct that this document should be clear and understandable for non-experts. My understanding is that it should also be sufficiently technical and comprehensive to inform policymakers on all relevant aspects of the science.

One area I can help with might be targeting your work for the very brief window we have open at the moment. I am including a few lines verbatim below from key documents to highlight the areas of inquiry that are most relevant to the policymaking process. Of course, you all should make your own judgments about what to include versus what to leave out.

Here is a key section of the Clean Air Act, 202(a)(1): "The Administrator shall by regulation prescribe (and from time to time revise) in accordance with the provisions of this section, standards applicable to the emission of any air pollutant from any class or classes of new motor vehicles or new motor vehicle engines, which in his judgment cause, or contribute to, air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. Such standards shall be applicable to such vehicles and engines for their useful life (as determined under subsection (d), relating to useful life of vehicles for purposes of certification), whether such vehicles and engines are designed as complete systems or incorporate devices to prevent or control such pollution."

Section 202 can be found [here](#).

Here is another key section of the Clean Air Act, section 302(g): "The term 'air pollutant' means any air pollution agent or combination of such agents, including any physical, chemical, biological, radioactive (including source material, special nuclear material, and byproduct material) substance or matter which is emitted into or otherwise enters the ambient air. Such term includes any precursors to the formation of any air pollutant, to the extent the Administrator has identified such precursor or precursors for the particular purpose for which the term 'air pollutant' is used."

A threshold question raised in Justice Scalia's dissent in *Mass v. EPA* (which can be found [here](#)) is whether CO2 falls under the definition of an "air pollutant" under the Clean Air Act. The majority in *Mass v. EPA* found that *any* compound emitted into the ambient air fits the definition of "air pollutant," leading to a colorful footnote in the Scalia dissent ("It follows that everything airborne, from Frisbees to flatulence, qualifies as an 'air pollutant.' This reading of the statute defies common sense."). A scientific interpretation of this definition could be very helpful.

The next section in the statute is 302(h), which defines effects on welfare: "All language referring to effects on welfare includes, but is not limited to, effects on soils, water, crops, vegetation, manmade materials, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, and climate, damage to and deterioration of property, and hazards to transportation, as well as effects on economic values and on personal comfort and well-being, whether caused by transformation, conversion, or combination with other air pollutants." Positive impacts, including fertilization effects and beneficial warming, seem to be within scope here.

Section 302 can be found [here](#).

As you all develop the draft, I encourage you to include as many citations to published materials as possible (links would work fine as placeholders). I have found this works better under a tight timeline than going back and looking for sources later. Please also feel free to task me with any research help you might need.

Best,
Travis

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 8:10 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
I assume we're writing for non-experts. If so, some educating beyond the root questions is in order (it always helps if people feel smarter after reading).

So I've taken Ross' material, added some broader context, and cast it into the forcing/response/impact syllogism that most non-experts seem to get. The result is attached.

I think we can deal with the differences relative to 2009 in an appendix.

SEK

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 11, 2025 6:34 PM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; steven.koonin@gmail.com; roywspencer@hotmail.com
Subject: Re: Kickoff

Excellent list Ross. Wildfires are a significant topic to be addressed.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 11, 2025, at 4:05 PM, Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

The attached represents my summary of the most questions needing to be answered, which I think this group is capable of answering in the next couple of weeks. Probably lots of material already in hand.

On Fri, Apr 11, 2025 at 4:24 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Gentlemen,

I can't thank you enough for taking this on under such a tight timeline. Let's use this thread to exchange information, links, etc., and as we move forward, I'll see about a document-sharing platform and a shared document to work on simultaneously.

Best,
Travis

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 9:52 AM
To: Roy Spencer
Cc: Travis Fisher; Steven Koonin; John Christy
Subject: Re: Section 1.4.2 Can climate models reproduce the recent past?

OK this is weird it keeps reattaching Roy's version not my revised version. I put my version in the Dropbox folder.

On Thu, Apr 17, 2025 at 9:49 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
Sorry wrong attachment

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Sent: Wednesday, April 16, 2025 7:16 AM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Subject: Some Spencer inputs

I took it upon myself to write a preamble in **Section 1.3 Drivers of climate change** (attached), which seemed necessary to introduce some basic concepts.

Also attached are my initial submissions for **1.3.2** and **1.3.3**.

NO references added yet.

One of the things I believe we need to watch out for is *neglecting to come to conclusions along the way...* There is a tendency to get mired in the technical details without getting around to saying what each section might mean in eventual policy decisions related to the Endangerment Finding. In my experience, it is not possible to dumb-down this stuff too much. I suggest some sort of "Summary Boxes" with 1-2 simplified statements highlighting a main conclusion of each section that would have policy relevance.

-Roy

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Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>;

roywspencer@hotmail.com <roywspencer@hotmail.com>

Subject: Re: Kickoff

Hi Travis

We developed the outline a bit further and assigned sections out yesterday. We'll keep you cc'd going forward.

Here is a Dropbox link that contains the current outline (also attached) which indicates who is working on each section

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/wahx6lpwzu33m5vyrri8x/ANTU1qAQJ-zXCFzP_gsJcOs?rlkey=l1z3qj9v46e1t5f4ywwxq7p8c&dl=0

The link should give you all editing privileges.

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Do you think it would be helpful to have a section specifically addressing the question of whether CO2 is a pollutant like CO, NOx, SOx, PM, etc.? If you want to add topics or suggest changes please do, the earlier the better as we begin filling out the contents.

Cheers,

Ross

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 2:12 PM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

This is an excellent start! Can we move forward by iterating with this document for now? Please feel free to add whatever material you like, and I can collate if there are any simultaneous changes. I will leave the substance to you all because I view my role as a facilitator rather than a contributor, but please let me know how I can be most helpful.

Steve is correct that this document should be clear and understandable for non-experts. My understanding is that it should also be sufficiently technical and comprehensive to inform policymakers on all relevant aspects of the science.

One area I can help with might be targeting your work for the very brief window we have open at the moment. I am including a few lines verbatim below from key documents to highlight the areas of inquiry that are most relevant to the policymaking process. Of course, you all should make your own judgments about what to include versus what to leave out.

Here is a key section of the Clean Air Act, 202(a)(1): "The Administrator shall by regulation prescribe (and from time to time revise) in accordance with the provisions of this section, standards applicable to the emission of any air pollutant from any class or classes of new motor vehicles or new motor vehicle engines, which in his judgment cause, or contribute to, air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare. Such standards shall be applicable to such vehicles and engines for their useful life (as determined under subsection (d), relating to useful life of vehicles for purposes of certification), whether such vehicles and engines are designed as complete systems or incorporate devices to prevent or control such pollution."

Section 202 can be found [here](#).

Here is another key section of the Clean Air Act, section 302(g): "The term 'air pollutant' means any air pollution agent or combination of such agents, including any physical, chemical, biological, radioactive (including source material, special nuclear material, and byproduct material) substance or matter which is emitted into or otherwise enters the ambient air. Such term includes any precursors to the formation of any air pollutant, to the extent the Administrator has identified such precursor or precursors for the particular purpose for which the term 'air pollutant' is used."

A threshold question raised in Justice Scalia's dissent in *Mass v. EPA* (which can be found [here](#)) is whether CO₂ falls under the definition of an "air pollutant" under the Clean Air Act. The majority in *Mass v. EPA* found that *any* compound emitted into the ambient air fits the definition of "air pollutant," leading to a colorful footnote in the Scalia dissent ("It follows that everything airborne, from Frisbees to flatulence, qualifies as an 'air pollutant.' This reading of the statute defies common sense."). A scientific interpretation of this definition could be very helpful.

The next section in the statute is 302(h), which defines effects on welfare: "All language referring to effects on welfare includes, but is not limited to, effects on soils, water, crops, vegetation, manmade materials, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, and climate, damage to and deterioration of property, and hazards to transportation, as well as effects on economic values and on personal comfort and well-being, whether caused by transformation, conversion, or combination with other air pollutants." Positive impacts, including fertilization effects and beneficial warming, seem to be within scope here.

Section 302 can be found [here](#).

As you all develop the draft, I encourage you to include as many citations to published materials as possible (links would work fine as placeholders). I have found this works better under a tight timeline than going back and looking for sources later. Please also feel free to task me with any research help you might need.

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I assume we're writing for non-experts. If so, some educating beyond the root questions is in order (it always helps if people feel smarter after reading).

So I've taken Ross' material, added some broader context, and cast it into the forcing/response/impact syllogism that most non-experts seem to get. The result is attached.

I think we can deal with the differences relative to 2009 in an appendix.

SEK

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Travis

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 17, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Roy Spencer
Cc: Travis Fisher; Steven Koonin; John Christy
Subject: Re: Section 1.4.2 Can climate models reproduce the recent past?
Attachments: 1.4.2 Can climate models reproduce the recent past [RS][RM].docx

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Travis

<DE.memo.outline.Apr.11.[RM].docx>

From: Ross McKittrick [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]
Sent: 5/15/2025 4:24:40 PM
To: Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]
CC: Judith Curry [curry.judith@cfanclimate.com]; Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]; John Christy [climateman60@gmail.com]; Travis Fisher [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]
Subject: Re: Table 12.12
Attachments: 9 Attribution.May15.[RM2].docx

OK the whole table's back in, plus the explanatory text.

On Thu, May 15, 2025 at 12:00 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
I had adapted the chart to severe weather, so it makes sense to use the original if the context requires it.

One thing I did add was color coding to help the reader's interpretation, but that's not necessary.

-Roy

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@cfanclimate.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 10:47 AM
To: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Table 12.12

The rationale for calling this subsection impact drivers is that we can include all of the topics in table 12.12 (not just extreme events)

On Thu, May 15, 2025 at 8:35 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I put this version in the 01.Report folder. I've taken the IPCC Table 12.12 material and put it into the attribution chapter, which is now section 9.4, then adjusted the wording of the following section.
Let me know if this is ok.
Ross

On Thu, May 15, 2025 at 9:41 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I think a potential difficulty there is having a chapter focused on weaknesses and uncertainties in attribution methodology, then taking a list of IPCC attribution results and presenting them at face value. It might seem opportunistic. However we could say something along the lines of: the general bias we are concerned about is the use of methods that downplay natural causes and overstate anthropogenic ones, but even still the IPCC draws a blank on anthropogenic influence on most impact drivers.
I'll take a stab at this and you all can tell me how it looks.

On Thu, May 15, 2025 at 8:26 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@cfanclimate.com> wrote:
Here is an idea. I suggest moving IPCC Table 12.12 to the attribution chapter (the actual table from the AR6), with a new section on attribution of impact drivers (we can discuss the whole table); that way we avoid the mismatch of the table being in a chapter of detection of extreme events. So the new outline for attribution chapter would be:

- 9.1 Introduction
- 9.2 Attribution methods
- 9.3 Attribution of global warming
- 9.4 Attribution of impact drivers
- 9.5 Extreme event attribution
- 9.6 Summary

Let me know if you like this idea

On Wed, May 14, 2025 at 4:18 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

That works. Thanks.

SEK

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 7:17 PM

To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>

Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@cfanclimate.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: New folder: 01.Report Draft

This should get you in

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/wahx6lpwzu33m5vyrr18x/ANTU1qAQJ-zXCFzP_gsJcOs?rlkey=11z3qj9v46e1t5f4ywwxq7p8c&dl=0

This is for the parent folder. Let me know if it doesn't work.

On Wed, May 14, 2025 at 6:41 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Can you please send a link to the new folder?

Thanks.

Steven E. Koonin

> On May 14, 2025, at 15:27, Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

> Following our meeting today I created a new folder containing clean copies (all past tracked changes accepted) of all chapters.

> There are some marginal queries and in-line comments remaining to be resolved, missing Figure captions in a couple of places etc. If you are able to supply the missing info go ahead and do so. We will soon need to sign off on final text versions so please read through them.

> I propose that these should be the versions we talk through next week.

>

> Question: should there be a single list of references at the very end or should each chapter have its own

reference list? Initially I thought the former but now I lean towards the latter.

>

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 10, 2025 2:37 PM
To: Judith Curry
Cc: Steven Koonin; Ross McKittrick; Roy W. Spencer; Travis Fisher
Subject: Re: Ch 8 Extreme weather

Judy

Would this work. Put the IPCC/NCA quotes in bold up front with a little introductory remark then add “full statements in context in appendix”?

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 10, 2025, at 5:49 AM, Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm working on CH 8 Extreme Weather front end today, more soon

On Sat, May 10, 2025 at 8:37 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Yes! In the exec summary and the chapter preface we must repeat something like “Contrary to popular perception...”

Steven E. Koonin

On May 10, 2025, at 11:19, Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

This just appeared in the Daily Mail

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-14686539/climate-change-affect-YOU-heatwaves-floods.html>

The extreme weather alarmism angle has been non-stop for years. People are saturated with the message that climate change = extreme weather and all scientists say it's bad and getting worse due to GHGs. It will take a lot of hammering on the theme to convince people how much they've been misled. So I don't mind if the first 15 pages of this chapter consists of mind-numbing repetition of the message that scientists don't say this and have never said it. At this point I want to hold the readers' faces in it until their limbs stop twitching and then they'll be receptive to the rest of the material.

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 3:09 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
I agree we should have something up front, but not pages. Will propose
something more specific

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 12:06 PM Ross McKittrick
<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

My read of the discussion on May 8 was that Steve made a strong pitch to
move the survey back up front and you and Roy concurred. I'll let you guys
debate it.

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 3:01 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
wrote:
actually no, i thought we left this as an appendix or something (i don't think it
is necessary tho). We need some sort of a summary on what the IPCC found

I have this para in the attribution chapter

The IPCC AR6 provides an ambiguous assessment of the role of
global warming in the historical record of extreme weather and
climate events. Chapter 11 of WG1 states (Seneviratne et al., 2021):

“Evidence of observed changes in extremes and their attribution
to human influence (including greenhouse gas and aerosol
emissions and land-use changes) has strengthened since AR5, in
particular for extreme precipitation, droughts, tropical cyclones
and compound extremes (including dry/hot events and fire
weather). Some recent hot extreme events would have been
extremely unlikely to occur without human influence on the
climate system.”

By contrast, Chapter 12 of WG1 (Table 12.12) paints a different picture
– presumably, the expert judgment of different groups of authors for
the two chapters came to different conclusions (Ranasinghe, 2021):

- High confidence in an increase in extreme heat events in tropical
regions where observations allow trend estimation and in most regions
in the mid-latitudes, medium confidence elsewhere
- Medium confidence in a decrease in extreme cold events in
Australia, Africa and most of northern South America where
observations allow trend estimation
- No evidence of emergence in the historical period of a change in
river floods, heavy precipitation, drought, fire weather, severe wind
storms, and tropical cyclones

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 11:55 AM Ross McKittrick
<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I thought you said (May 8) you liked the suggestion to move them all back to the front.

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 2:52 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I don't like having pages of IPCC/NCA citations (IMO the key issue is a lot of uncertainty and disagreement, and the inconsistency between chapters 11 and 12 of AR6). If we do include a shortened version of this, i would focus only on AR6, either global or US region.

On Fri, May 9, 2025 at 11:45 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

In the attached Extreme Weather chapter draft I moved the IPCC/NCA excerpts back into the main body per the discussion here and renumbered all the sections and figures mutatis mutandis.

The AI summary is not bad but does need some work. Admittedly it's a lot of stuff to summarize, although the recurring theme is that trends aren't detectable and attribution to GHGs is currently not possible, in general.

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 1:45 PM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

This way forward is fine with me.

-Roy

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Subject: Re: Ch 8 Extreme weather

I think starting with IPCC up front is very useful to provide a reference point, and discussing problems with NCA motivates the unpublished data analysis

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 10:36 AM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Ultimately the order will likely not matter. We are somewhat conflicted. On one hand we show the Assessments are consistent with our conclusions about extreme weather, but on the other hand we find them (especially NCAs) deceptive in presenting the information that skews their results to lean toward alarmism. This is true of other chapters as well.

At the least we should mention this nuance perhaps up front.

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 8, 2025, at 6:23 AM, Judith Curry
<curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I also agree with this organization, was thinking the same thing

On Thu, May 8, 2025 at 8:52 AM Steven Koonin
<steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Attached are my comments/edits on Chapter 8.

I'd like to make a strong pitch to reorder the text so that the survey of previous assessments comes first, then followed by the new work from John and Ross. There are several reasons for this that I can elaborate, but the most important is that the official assessments already make the case and, no offense guys, carry far more authority in the non-expert world.

SEK

PS Note for interest and amusement the AI-generated summary section.

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
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To: John Christy <climateaman60@gmail.com>
Cc: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@googlemail.com>
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Here's another edition of Ch 8 on extremes taking Judy's and John's points into account. The IPCC/NCA review is ported to an Appendix. I added a paragraph about LTP to the intro. I've incorporated the NE data. The bulk of the chapter is John's US temperature and precip data analysis with some additional material on wildfires, drought and

TCs. For the US temperature extremes I moved the range figure to come just after the hot/cold extremes count because I think they both make a coherent point namely that the US becoming less extreme because heat events are rising more slowly than cold events are warming. There will still need to be an overall chapter summary but I'm going to move on to other chapters now. I'll put this in the Dropbox.

On Tue, May 6, 2025 at 12:12 PM John Christy
<climateaman60@gmail.com> wrote:

All

We can fill in without much trouble the change, or lack thereof, of “high impact” weather events (mainly wind and flooding like hurricanes, tornadoes etc) in the CONUS Extreme chapter. The temp and precip metrics are important because they are just long enough to essentially tell us Mother Nature has a mind of her own.

1. I'll look at Ross's version of 8 soon, but my hope was that Ross would translate the statistical remarks into the correct language(eg are their more precise words that chaotic, episodic, stochastic, etc).
2. We have analyses of the CONUS with more complete datasets than the NCA used (recall NCA analyses depended essentially on a small group at NCEI using datasets that (a) were not very consistent in time, (b) could promote alarm and (c) already easy for them to get to. Our datasets have literally hundreds of thousands of manually keyed-in observations for temporal consistency. In other words, this lets people know we can address these issues from soup to nuts - we're not armchair climate scientists ... we can reproduce what they did, but make the analysis more comprehensive to address the questions.

John C.

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On May 6, 2025, at 4:14 AM, Ross
McKittrick

<ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Just read your attribution chapter. I hadn't picked up on the gap between IPCC Ch 11 vs Ch 12 language but i see your point that rather than promoting one set of attribution findings we should explain that even within the same AR different authors assessed things differently. One option is to leave Ch 6 where it is but reverse the order of Ch 7 and 8 while retitling the latter as you suggest. That way, having established the extreme weather types for which there are no detectable trends it will more naturally follow that they won't be discussed in the attribution chapter.

On Tue, May 6, 2025 at 9:45 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Ok, but the summary table (12.12 from AR6) is inconsistent with conclusions in AR6 ch 11 (I point this out in section 6.4 of my attribution chapter).

In my mind, the main point is disagreement and ambiguity I would suggest chapter 8 going before chapter 6, retitling it as US Weather and Climate Extremes, and make it more of a data chapter, not an attribution chapter (I would put table 12.12 in the attribution chapter if you want to include the actual table)

On Tue, May 6, 2025 at 6:39 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I like John's material too which is why I included it and am working on the extended regional analyses. But on this topic people are heavily primed to believe that extreme weather of all kinds is getting worse due to climate change. The assertion shows up everywhere climate change is discussed including in academic papers. I think it is very valuable to show people that neither the IPCC nor the NCA support such this view. We should at least lead off with the summary table. The library of quotes can go to an appendix but I have found in my public speaking that they have considerable persuasive force for most people. We also need to address floods, droughts, hurricane landfalls, tornadoes etc. I don't see any reason to delete all that material.

On Tue, May 6, 2025 at 9:22 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I actually liked John's chapter. I would have retitled it "US temperature and rainfall extremes"

I think this is more relevant than a complete rehash of everything the last

3 IPCC reports have stated for every conceivable severe weather event.

John's version meshes very well with my version of chapter 6. Read especially section 6.4 of my chapter. I note a discrepancy between chapters 11 and 12 in terms of detecting and attributing extreme events. This is the main point in my opinion, there is ambiguity in all this. Lets focus on pointing out the problems/challenges, and topics that are particularly relevant for the US

On Mon, May 5, 2025 at 7:47 PM
Ross McKittrick
ross.mckittrick@gmail.com wrote:

I have wrangled the extreme weather chapter into something I hope flows better and is more readable. I adopted Judy's editorial changes and then the new changes I made are in red. I added some new Figures showing results on PC and SE data and will add the NE chart when I get the data. I also made some labeling suggestions including for the 3 rainfall charts that are hard to understand. Section summaries and an overall summary are still needed.

Ross

--

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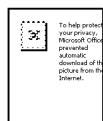
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From: Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]
Sent: 6/3/2025 5:30:18 PM
To: 'John Christy' [climateeman60@gmail.com]; 'Ross McKittrick' [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]
CC: 'Travis Fisher' [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]; 'Judith Curry' [curry.judith@gmail.com]; 'Roy Spencer' [roywspencer@hotmail.com]; 'Josh Loucks' [loucksj14@gmail.com]
Subject: RE: an early take on NCA5 Chapter 1
Attachments: image001.jpg

This is great. This kind of analysis should be included in what we write, showing the failure of the NASEM review compounding the failure of the authors (collusion?) to follow generally accepted norms.

SEK

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Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 1:09 PM
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Steve

I went through the NASEM comments. The only statements relative to Fig. 2.8 (which was 2.7 in the reviewed version) were that the Pacific Islands weren't included and the labels/caption were too technical - not a single comment critical of or even curious about the science (that I could find). The discussion did not touch on the issues I raised. In fact, the reviewers seemed to encourage more dramatic statements. Then on pg 56 of the Review, they speak as if the model output is real, stating, "the Committee suggests that slight wording changes such as "northern and eastern states will see more precipitation and southern states will see less" would make these statements more accurate and effective." It sounds like they want to insist that the model projections of precipitation are very useful. I don't see a statement that says, "Given the unknown evolution of the climate system due to natural variations alone, combined with the disparity among the models regarding long-term changes in precipitation, we really can't say much about the future, except that new extremes for several places and metrics will occur that will exceed those experienced in the past 130 years."

John C.

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 11:17 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

Turns out I had 3rd Order Drafts of the NCA5 ch's 0,1-4 and 9; and even submitted comments on them (I'd forgotten). I never looked up how they replied to my comments.

On Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 12:08 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

If we're going to criticize the peer review process (and I think we should), we've got to look at what the NASEM review said (or didn't say) about specific points and how USGCRP responded (or not) to them.

To do that, we need the report of the NASEM review and the USGCRP response (both of which I've sent around previously but also attached again here). But to match page and line references, **it would also be very helpful to have the draft NCA5 that NASEM reviewed**. That's no longer available on the web (or at least I couldn't find it), but perhaps one of you has a copy?

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I also want to share the good news that we now have the assistance of a sharp attorney from DOE's Office of General Counsel. His name is Seth Cohen, and he comes highly recommended (litigation experience, clerkships at two different circuit courts, etc.). He can help us connect the dots between the GCRA statute, the executive order, the DOE report, and recommendations for moving forward (improving NCA 6 or whatever we're calling the next iteration). Would you all be comfortable having Seth join the call this afternoon, or should we hold off on introducing him to the team?

Best,

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I'm happy to adjust as needed, but 3pm ET tomorrow works for me.

Regarding the what and the why of the task, we can discuss more details on the call, but my understanding is that we should critically review NCA 5 (at whatever level of detail is feasible in a period of a couple of weeks) through the lens of the statute, the executive order, and the DOE report.

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...

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<~WRD0002.jpg>

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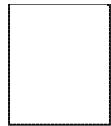
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Subject: RE: an early take on NCA5 Chapter 1
Attachments: image001.jpg; NASEM Review of NCA5.pdf; NCA5_Author-Responses-to-NASEM.pdf

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To: 'Ross McKitrick'; 'Roy Spencer'
Cc: 'Judith Curry'; 'John Christy'; 'Travis Fisher'
Subject: RE: CMIP6 inter-model variations in surface temperature (not anomalies)
Attachments: image001.png

I'm good for a call anytime tomorrow except 1-2 pm ET.

I'll send my edits on the May23 version by the end of the day today.

I think what's going on in Roy's interesting graph:

As we discuss somewhere in the report, there's a degeneracy between aerosol and GHG sensitivity, with some models having high values for both and others low for both (this to fit the historical record). As one gets out past 2050, GHG forcing grows much larger than aerosol, so that the degeneracy is broken and the ensemble segregates.

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I can host a Google meet since I have the system figured out. I'm assuming I'll get final edits from everyone today and we'll be doing a walk-through of the report.

Regarding CW's comments I'll look at the disparate cold-heat mortality numbers to find out why EPA and Gasparini differ so much.

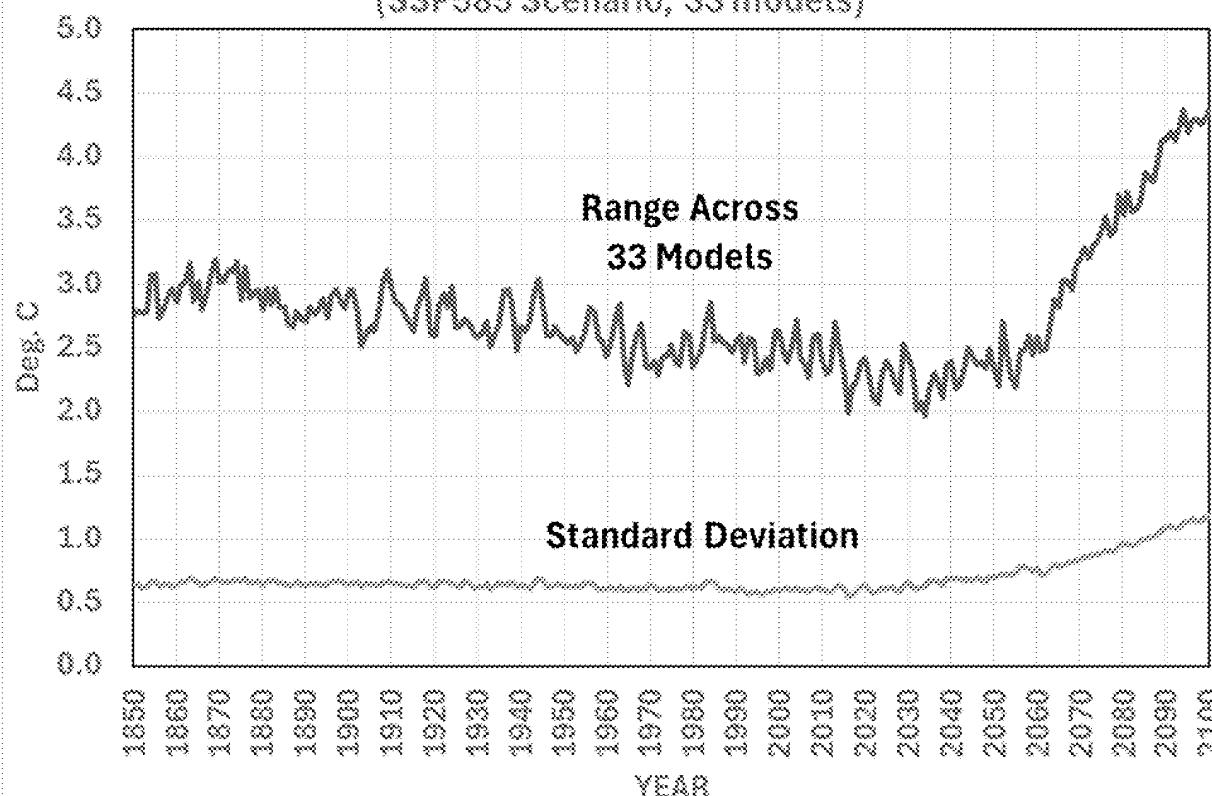
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I wonder what changes at 2060? Other than the laws of physics.

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This addresses what I believe was my comment in one of the chapters about there being a wide range in the global average absolute temperature among models. If the models are based upon "physics", how do they come up with such a wide range of surface temperatures?

CMIP6 Inter-Model Variations in
Global Average Tas
(SSP585 Scenario, 33 models)



From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2025 10:27 AM
To: Ross McKitrick
Cc: Roy Spencer; John Christy; Steven Koonin; Judith Curry
Subject: Re: meanwhile on X

This sounds like it might need to be two different calls. I plan to set one up for 3pm today and another one tomorrow or Friday for anyone we missed.

The invitation will come from my DOE account a bit later today.

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 9:55 AM Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com> wrote:
I can be available at 4:30 I think.

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 4:34 AM Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:
3-5 pm ET is fine with me.
-Roy

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 10:29 PM
To: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Ross McKitrick <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: meanwhile on X

I'm available 3-5p ET

John C.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 29, 2025, at 10:18 PM, Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

I followed Ross on X and will be popping popcorn for the next few months!

As I transition out of my DOE role, I want to introduce you all to Charles Park, DOE's deputy GC for energy policy (and a nice guy), who I understand will be part of the liaison team between you all and DOE for the external peer review and final draft.

Do you all have any availability between 2pm and 5pm ET tomorrow? I'd like to do a quick video meeting to help everyone get acquainted.

PS - it looked to me like the Secretary had fun talking about this project today. Also, fun fact: when I sent him the updated draft for review, his response was "no need to review—I trust the authors." You all are a special team, and you deserve a medal. Even the Canadian.

On Tue, Jul 29, 2025 at 11:06 PM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
Embarrassing behavior by scientists.

If we're really so wrong, they should be able to conjure up many specific criticisms. Yet none are forthcoming.

Steven E. Koonin

On Jul 29, 2025, at 21:01, John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:
Hausfather did the same on CNN.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 29, 2025, at 9:50 PM, Roy Spencer
<roywspencer@hotmail.com> wrote:

Maybe it's a good sign that Mann and Dessler seem to be about the only scientists out of "thousands" that are willing to trash us.
-Roy

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 6:48 PM
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>; Roy W. Spencer
<roywspencer@hotmail.com>; John Christy
<climateman60@gmail.com>; Steven Koonin
<steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher
<travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Subject: meanwhile on X

To no one's surprise Michael Mann and Andrew Dessler have dismissed the report based on the author names. Fortunately one of the Ruthless podcast hosts hasn't been blocked from Mann's feed and pointed out the problem with relying on Mann
<image.png>

From: Roy Spencer [roywspencer@hotmail.com]
Sent: 7/10/2025 5:35:57 PM
To: Steven Koonin [steven.koonin@gmail.com]; 'Judith Curry' [curry.judith@gmail.com]
CC: 'John Christy' [climateman60@gmail.com]; 'Ross McKittrick' [ross.mckittrick@gmail.com]; 'Josh Loucks' [loucksj14@gmail.com]; 'Travis Fisher' [travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com]
Subject: CNN

Oh No! What comes next? ("Scientists" are worried... good thing I'm not a scientist)...

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/08/climate/doe-climate-contrarians-trump>

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 12:27 PM
To: 'Judith Curry' <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: 'John Christy' <climateman60@gmail.com>; 'Ross McKittrick' <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; 'Roy Spencer' <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; 'Josh Loucks' <loucksj14@gmail.com>; 'Travis Fisher' <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: MS Copilot detailed critique

Yes, I'm also amazed at how good it is. Perhaps AI really will eliminate most current white-collar jobs!

SEK

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 1:25 PM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: MS Copilot detailed critique

This is amazing, far better than what we would get from "real" scientists

I'm going through Ross' latest version to look for "Skeptic talk" and red flag words

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 10:10 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
Had to split the CWG25 report into 5 sections. Here are the concatenated responses, separated by red lines:
Here's a detailed critique focused on **scientific accuracy** and **potential bias**, based on what I've seen so far:

 **Scientific Accuracy: Mixed Signals**
 **Global Greening & CO₂ Fertilization**

- **Accurate observations:** The report correctly notes satellite-confirmed global greening, with increased Leaf Area Index (LAI) and enhanced plant growth due to rising CO₂.
- **Selective emphasis:** It heavily leans on CO₂ as beneficial, citing fertilization benefits while **minimizing caveats**—such as nutrient limitations, heat stress, and species-specific responses that constrain agricultural benefits.
- **Outdated or narrow sourcing:** Some of the cited studies, while valid, don't reflect **broader scientific consensus**. For example, while FACE experiments show CO₂ boosts productivity, they also warn of **diminished gains under warming, drought, and soil depletion**.

 **Ocean "Acidification"**

- **Terminology critique has merit:** The report accurately points out that “acidification” is a misnomer—the oceans remain alkaline.
- **Biological impacts downplayed:** It asserts that organisms evolved under lower pH, but omits recent research showing **rapid shifts in pH and carbonate chemistry** can harm larval development, calcifiers, and reef resilience.
- **Publication bias claim:** The document references well-known concerns about bias toward dramatic findings. That’s valid—but it misses the nuance: **many reproducible studies do show physiological stress** in marine organisms, even under moderate pH change.

Potential Bias: Framing & Rhetorical Strategy

Strengths

- **Independent tone:** The authors claim editorial freedom, which lends credibility.
- **Acknowledgement of complexity:** The report does mention uncertainties, including model oversensitivity and limitations of attribution science.

Sources of Bias

- **Language framing:** Words like “exaggerated,” “one-sided,” “alarmist,” and “science fiction” appear frequently. This rhetorical tone may compromise the objectivity typically expected in a scientific review.
- **Selective citation:** Heavy use of contrarian sources (e.g., Christy, Spencer, McKittrick) without balancing perspectives from mainstream climate literature (e.g., IPCC Working Groups, NOAA, NASA) suggests bias.
- **Motivated skepticism:** The narrative implies that benefits of CO₂ (e.g., plant growth, energy use) outweigh potential harm, which reflects a **value-laden interpretation** rather than a neutral scientific synthesis.

Summary

This section offers **legitimate critiques** of some dominant narratives, but the scientific review is **imbalanced**:

- Evidence is often cherry-picked to support a CO₂-positive view.
- Legitimate concerns about uncertainty and model bias are mixed with selective omission of broader literature.
- The rhetorical tone leans toward climate contrarianism rather than impartial synthesis.

Scientific Accuracy: Solid Points + Selective Framing

Equilibrium Climate Sensitivity (ECS)

- **Accurate baseline:** The document correctly notes that direct CO₂ forcing yields ~1°C warming, and additional warming comes from feedbacks like water vapor, albedo, and clouds.
- **Model tuning concerns:** Valid criticisms are raised about GCM tuning, especially regarding cloud feedbacks. Quoting modelers who explicitly tuned ECS to match observed warming is compelling.
- **Cloud feedback uncertainty:** The discussion of cloud parameterization difficulties is largely accurate and aligned with published literature (e.g. Zelinka et al., 2020).

Data-Driven vs. Model-Derived ECS

- **Balanced coverage of paleoclimate:** It notes the wide uncertainties in paleoclimate ECS estimates—fair and scientifically supported.
- **Misleading certainty on low ECS:** While Lewis (2025) is appropriately cited as questioning high ECS estimates, the report heavily favors his interpretation, implying **more certainty than mainstream science allows**. Recent synthesis papers (e.g., Sherwood et al., 2020; Hausfather, 2020) still favor ECS values in the 2.6–3.9°C range.
- **Pattern effect critique:** Seager et al.’s finding that Pacific gradients may be strengthening is intriguing but not broadly accepted. The document suggests it invalidates model projections—this goes beyond what the evidence supports.

Transient Climate Response (TCR)

- **Fair representation:** Comparison between Lewis and IPCC values shows tighter consensus on TCR than ECS, with both landing between 1.2–2.4°C. This part is more neutrally presented.

⌚ Potential Bias: Skeptic-Leaning Framing

📋 Rhetorical Techniques

- **Loaded phrasing:** Terms like “not fit for purpose,” “tuning for target ECS,” and “model failure” are used liberally. While these phrases reflect genuine debate, their repetition gives a tone of **advocacy** more than impartial analysis.

- **Source imbalance:** Heavy emphasis on papers by Christy, McKittrick, Lewis, and Spencer—valid critiques, but **underrepresents mainstream modeling community responses**, such as those in IPCC technical annexes.

📊 Model vs Observation Mismatch

- **Highlighted issues:** Mismatches in tropospheric warming, stratospheric cooling, and snow cover are well-documented and deserve scrutiny.

- **Interpretive bias:** The report implies these mismatches invalidate model projections or anthropogenic attribution. But many of these discrepancies are acknowledged in IPCC reports with medium confidence levels, and **don't nullify the broader warming trend**.

⌚ Vertical Temperature Profiles

- **Strong visual critique:** Figures show warming biases in CMIP6 models relative to radiosonde and satellite data—visually compelling.

- **Interpretive overreach:** The conclusion that observed profiles are “consistent with no GHG forcing” is **unsupported** by broader fingerprinting literature (e.g., Santer et al., 2008).

❖ Summary of the Section

Aspect	Strengths	Limitations/Concerns
ECS Discussion	Strong on cloud feedback and model tuning critiques	Overstates certainty of low ECS; cherry-picks supportive sources
Data vs Model Comparison	Fair TCR coverage; Paleoclimate uncertainty noted	Pattern effect critique presented as settled science
Model Mismatch Evidence	Detailed and compelling visuals; well-cited contrarian work	Limited engagement with IPCC counterpoints or rebuttals
Tone and Rhetoric	Engaging and readable for a skeptical audience	Leans toward climate contrarian narrative over balanced synthesis

Excellent, Steve—this section takes us through a nuanced tour of **extreme weather trends**, and it's rich with statistical depth. Here's a critique focused squarely on **scientific accuracy** and **potential bias**, organized by topic for clarity:

⌚ Scientific Accuracy: Statistically Rigorous, Selectively Interpreted

⌚ General Framing of Extremes

- **Accurate distinction** between detection and attribution, with good explanations of short data record limitations and long-term persistence (LTP).

- **Valid caution** on short-term statistical inference: The use of paleoclimate data and historic Nile flow is a strong point for contextualizing variability.

⌚ Hurricanes

- **Correct on satellite-era confidence** and AMO-driven variability. Charts support lack of long-term trends in total hurricanes.

- **Selective emphasis:** Downplays emerging consensus on increased major hurricane *intensity* driven by SSTs and thermodynamic conditions, which IPCC acknowledges with *medium confidence*. Mentions Maue's dataset prominently, but **omits broader literature** on storm surge or rainfall increases.

⌚ Temperature Extremes

- **Data analysis appears methodologically sound**, especially long-term USHCN station metrics.

- **Correct that 1930s heatwaves were exceptional**, and that nighttime warming (Tmin) has likely UHI influence. This reflects mainstream debate.

- **Skews interpretation:** The narrative implies a “milder” climate based on reduced extremes. That’s contentious. IPCC and NCA emphasize increased heatwave *risk, not just frequency*, especially in vulnerable regions.

Precipitation Extremes

- **Valid critique** of short-term trend identification, with good treatment of clustering and autocorrelation in extreme rainfall.
- **Cherry-picked references** (e.g., McKittrick & Christy studies) are robust, but **contrary literature** suggesting regional increases (e.g., Kunkel et al.) is omitted.
- **Conclusion that trends vanish when starting earlier** is methodologically reasonable but glosses over physical mechanisms linking warming to increased atmospheric moisture and rain intensity.

Wildfires

- **Well-documented** historical decline from paleo benchmarks; recognizes role of forest management and fire suppression.
- **Downplays recent severity:** While burn acreage has not increased linearly, NIFC and NASA have documented longer seasons and higher fire intensity, especially in western U.S.

Other Extremes (Tornadoes, Floods, Droughts)

- **Correctly reflects IPCC’s low confidence** in observed trends.
- **Droughts:** Right that CONUS-wide dryness hasn’t worsened—but omits growing consensus on **agricultural drought stress** under warming conditions, soil moisture decline, and evapotranspiration effects.

Potential Bias: Moderate-to-Strong Skeptical Framing

Feature



Language Tone



Citation Pattern



Selective Trend Analysis



Emphasis Strategy

Bias Indicators

Repeated use of skeptical phrases (“naïve to assume,” “misleading metric”)

Strong reliance on contrarian researchers; mainstream climate scientists undercited

Uses longer timespans or alternate baselines to undercut positive trend signals

Highlights variability and uncertainty to argue against attribution

Summary

This chapter presents **technically sound data handling**, especially in its treatment of statistical uncertainties and autocorrelated extremes. However, it leans toward **minimizing human influence** on extreme weather by emphasizing natural variability and critiquing conventional metrics. That’s not inherently invalid—but the presentation sometimes slides from **scientific critique into rhetorical positioning**, especially by omitting competing interpretations and framing past extremes as a nullifying baseline.

Steve, this is a heavy-hitting section—covering **sea level rise and attribution science**, and it’s packed with technical nuance. Here’s my detailed critique, broken down by theme for readability and rigor:

Sea Level Rise: Strong Data, Biased Framing

Observational Accuracy

- **Global trend well-stated:** 8 inches of global rise since 1900 aligns with established satellite and tide gauge records.
- **Regional differentiation is robust:** The report correctly distinguishes between *absolute* sea level rise and *relative* rise due to subsidence—essential for sites like Galveston, Grand Isle, and NYC.
- **Use of vertical land motion (VLM) data** is technically strong and mirrors best practices in geodesy (Wöppelmann & Marcos, 2016).

Downplaying Acceleration

- Asserts that “no obvious acceleration” exists post-1993—this conflicts with satellite altimetry showing increased rates since then (see Nerem et al., 2018).

- **Misinterpretation of NOAA projections:** Suggests future rise is implausible because recent data hasn't matched model forecasts. But these projections account for *nonlinear glacier and ice sheet loss*, which may manifest later this century.
- **Heavy critique of IPCC scenarios:** Focuses on SSP5-8.5 as unrealistic—which is fair—but skips middle-range pathways like SSP2-4.5 that still yield substantial rise.

↳ Attribution of Warming: Technically Sophisticated, Methodologically Skeptical

↳ Attribution Methods

- The summary of **fingerprinting, time series, and process-based approaches** is solid and consistent with IPCC technical chapters.
- Highlights statistical limits and expert judgment—important caveats that the IPCC often emphasizes but mainstream summaries gloss over.

☒ Critique of Optimal Fingerprinting

- Leans heavily on McKittrick's critique, citing bias in regression methods (Total Least Squares). This is part of a **legitimate academic debate**, but the report implies it **invalidates** attribution studies entirely, which goes beyond what McKittrick himself claims.
- **Missing balance:** Doesn't explore alternative attribution methods that reinforce anthropogenic fingerprints (e.g., Hausfather & Peters, 2020; Santer et al., 2019).

☒ Role of Natural Variability: Thorough, but Overstated

☒ Solar Forcing

- Presents nuanced review of Total Solar Irradiance (TSI), noting conflicting composites and possible indirect effects—strong science communication here.
- **Selective emphasis on uncertainty:** Quotes high-end studies suggesting up to 70% of warming from solar variability (Scafetta et al.), but downplays the robust attribution literature showing limited solar impact post-1970s.

☒ Ocean Oscillations

- Captures legitimate concerns about phasing of multidecadal modes (PDO, AMO) in CMIP6.
- **Overstates masking effect:** Suggests ensemble averaging erases natural variability contributions, ignoring that these are explicitly addressed in uncertainty ranges.
- **Implied causality** between the 1976 PDO shift and modern warming trends is speculative and not broadly supported by recent literature (e.g., Kaufman et al., 2020).

☁ Declining Albedo & Cloud Cover: Emerging, Not Settled Science

- Notes a sharp 1.7 W/m^2 radiative impact from recent albedo decline, which rivals CO_2 forcing. That's a bold claim—but the satellite record and cloud variability studies do indicate substantial recent change.
- **Plausible hypotheses:** ENSO cycles, changes in shipping aerosols, and the Hunga-Tonga eruption are reasonably proposed drivers.
- **Pushes speculative feedbacks:** Asserts a new positive cloud feedback starting in 2015, but this lacks mechanistic grounding and long-term data.

☒ Summary Table

Theme	Strengths	Concerns
Sea Level Rise Data	Technically rigorous; strong separation of RSLR and ASLR	Downplays acceleration; selectively interprets NOAA forecasts
Attribution Methods	Clear method descriptions; valid critiques of fingerprinting	Overstates model bias; omits balanced counterviews
Natural Variability	Deep review of solar/ocean signals	Overemphasizes uncertainty; hints at deterministic phasing
Cloud/Albedo Effects	Novel explanation for recent warming surge	Speculative feedback interpretation; short data window

Steve, this section demonstrates real analytical heft, but the **bias emerges through omission and slanting rather than data distortion**. It's more of a critique manifesto than a balanced review—but that makes it rich ground for public discourse.

Thanks, Steve—this final section wraps up the report with **policy implications, energy strategy, and scientific process critique**, and it's loaded with ideological framing. Let's break it down with the same clarity and rigor:

Scientific Accuracy: Mixed Quality with Heavy Editorialization

Energy Strategy & Climate Action

- **Correct economic observation:** Notes the disproportionate cost burden of decarbonization on developing nations, echoing concerns raised in international energy analyses.
- **Valid technical constraints:** Points out intermittency issues with wind/solar and rare earth supply for batteries—these are real engineering challenges and reasonably described.
- **Oversimplifies alternatives:** Frames nuclear, natural gas, and coal as straightforward solutions without adequately addressing lifecycle emissions, waste disposal, or geopolitical constraints.

CO₂ Reduction Effectiveness

- **Technically correct** that U.S. emissions reductions alone won't halt global warming—climate is a global system.
- **Spins limitation into futility:** Uses this to argue against domestic mitigation, ignoring multiplier effects, tech spillover, and diplomatic leverage of leadership.

Scientific Process Critique: Flawed but Thought-Provoking

Peer Review and Funding

- **Valid critique of gatekeeping:** Concerns over funding bias and editorial control are echoed in discussions about reproducibility and publication incentives.
- **Overstates malfeasance:** Asserts that dissenting scientists are “suppressed” or “blacklisted,” which lacks supporting evidence and veers into conspiracy territory.

Consensus Framing

- **Challenges the “97%” claim:** Points out methodological limitations in consensus surveys—some fair critique here.
- **Misrepresents dissent:** Suggests that the mere existence of contrarian papers invalidates consensus, ignoring scientific weight of evidence and replication.

Potential Bias: Strong Ideological Framing

Feature



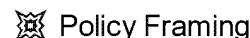
Tone



Source Pattern



Argument Strategy



Policy Framing

Indicators of Bias

Emotive language (“groupthink,” “virtue signaling,” “green dogma”)

Heavily reliant on politically-aligned think tanks and contrarian experts

Appeals to economic hardship and energy realism to dismiss science-led mitigation

Portrays climate action as a moral panic and economic self-harm

Summary

This concluding section shifts from scientific critique to **ideological rhetoric**, using energy economics and institutional skepticism to challenge mainstream climate policy. While there are **valid points on technology limitations and scientific incentives**, these are **wrapped in a narrative of distrust**—painting climate action as misguided zealotry rather than pragmatic response.

Judith Curry, President
CFAN - Climate Forecast Applications
Network
Reno, NV USA
curry_judith@cfanclimate.com |
+1.404.803.2012
<http://www.cfanclimate.net>

From: John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 11:40 AM
To: Judith Curry
Cc: Ross McKittrick; Travis Fisher; Steven Koonin; Roy Spencer; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: a follow-on thought

There will be a lot of comments on the report. Could these comments be filtered down to a few, given to the Secretary and he let him direct us to address concerns that he sees are important to his role?

John C.

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 10:22 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Ok, convinced again by Ross. The secy asked us to write a report, and here it is. We have opened up a website for public comments.

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 7:49 AM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I don't like the idea of releasing the report and at the same time saying we've asked for it to be reviewed. Apart from looking like we're not confident in our work, it creates a terrible strategic vulnerability. All it would take is for one proposed reviewer to refuse and then tell the press he wasn't willing to lend his name to the process, and then the story would be all about the supposedly dodgy process, not the report contents. This has been the playbook to discredit everything coming out of Benny Peiser's group in the UK. And I remember when a US think tank (Cato? can't remember) asked a bunch of outside experts to write some commentaries on the GW topic and offered to pay them, thinking this was a way to gain some credibility, and instead the experts went to the press and suddenly the story was about skeptics supposedly trying to pay off scientists.

It is a sad reality that the current situation is way too politicized and polarized for us to get an objective review from anyone with name recognition. Not only is climate change a hopelessly fraught topic, but this project is connected to the Trump admin making it radioactive inside academia. While I can think of economists capable of writing intelligent reviews (like Bob Mendelsohn, Matt Kahn and Richard Tol) I am not convinced any of them would want to in the present environment.

I would rather the report be released as-is, which is the form in which the Secretary requested it. People will complain that it's not "peer-reviewed" aka approved by the gatekeepers but we can't solve that problem in the next 2 weeks. We all know who will love it and who will hate it and for everyone else we can only hope they read it with an open mind. A reformed NCA6 process would be the venue to try and reform the larger conversation around climate change, if such be possible.

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 10:27 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Here is a proposal. Secy Wright (or whoever) invites ~10 leading scientists to review this (see attached draft letter), issue the invites before the report is published and the fact that such individuals (not named) have been invited can be mentioned in the press release

These should be 90% consensus leaning, but independent thinkers (we can probably sneak in RP Jr)
Here is a list to consider:

Bill Collins (LLNL)

Isaac Held (Princeton, NAS)

Clara Deser (NCAR, NAS)

Graeme Stephens (NASA JPL, NAE)

Elizabeth Barnes (CSU, NASEM BASC; note she is also good with statistics)

Kerry Emanuel (MIT, NAS)

Dan Shrag (Harvard, NAS?)

Richard Newell (economist)

Pielke Jr

(statistician)

(carbon cycle person)

I suggest 100% US scientists (Canadians are fine!) Note I am close personal friends with tim palmer, his agenda is 100% needing monstrous supercomputers for very high res climate models, he also thinks ECS is >5C because the UKMO weather model when used in climate mode has ECS>5C performs better in terms of predicting rainfall; my arguments explaining why these parameterizations work for weather but not climate have fallen on deaf ears.

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 7:09 AM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Ok I'm convinced NASEM is hopeless, which is really unfortunate.

I'm open to ideas on how best to comply with the new directives. See the OSTP memo here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/OSTP-Guidance-for-GSS-June-2025.pdf>

One sticking point is that DOE will not have its own guidelines in place until September, and we need to be ready to publish the CWG report by July 21.

My current thinking is to set up a round of expert review concurrent with the public comment period and signal at each step that we intend to comply with the EO, etc.

The main task in choosing experts is to ensure we aren't cherry-picking. This is where we might get into a red/blue team exercise, although it's probably best to include lots of "purple" too (to abuse the red-blue analogy). You know what I mean—apolitical experts, etc.

Regarding process and personnel, we're losing Seth for a few weeks to the NRC, and I need to get myself back to Cato soon (as soon as we publish the CWG report). Josh, Seth, and you all will be the glue to hold this process together as you respond to comments. We also need to get Steve in place at USGCRP.

In good news, DOE's undersecretaries are being sworn in and can begin work now. I plan to loop in a new advisor in the office of the undersecretary for science to help with this effort—he starts this coming Monday.

I'm excited for the report to hit daylight. In the event we have to publish on short notice, would someone please reply here with the version of the report we want to release? Keep in mind the EPA rulemaking references the findings of the CWG report by page number, so we should take care not to change those from the May version.

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 9:32 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm convinced by Ross' argument. NASEM is hopeless re climate change (McNutt is a menace). I suggest DOE put together a blue ribbon list of reviewers (either a committee, or preferably individual reviews).

On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 8:50 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I understand the temptation to have a group like NASEM undertake a review because the payoff, if they do a fair job of it, is additional credibility for the report. But we have to be realistic. NASEM has never dealt with climate change in anything like a fair or objective manner and they are not going to now. John and I watched up close when they made a total hash of the hockey stick inquiry. They rewrote the terms of reference to shield Mann, buried all the evidence confirming Steve's and my critique and then in the press conference allowed Gerald North to misrepresent the findings and claim vindication for Mann. Every time since then that they've looked at related topics they've deferred to the narrative, including in their review of NCA5.

When our report is released the narrative engineers will politicize it as the Trump report and look to the academic community to try to discredit it. If NASEM is asked to review it, while we can dream up a list of reasonable people to write the review, Marcia McNutt will be in charge. She will think of the headline she wants to see in the NYT and work backwards to the required report and the required team of writers. The press release might have lots of complimentary things to say but will include a killer quote like "While the report makes some valid points, including that climate science must continue to improve the models used to study climate dynamics, it is unfortunately biased and incomplete, and fails to provide a comprehensive summary of the current evidence regarding the seriousness of the climate crisis." Or something along those lines. Once they get to set the narrative and the headlines all the objections in the world from us will count for naught.

I reiterate my suggestion that the report be published by the DoE and then submitted by Sec Wright as a comment on the EF filing by the EPA.

On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 12:26 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

Graeme Stephens is another good one (not economist, radiation and general climate), he is NAE

On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 8:59 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I know Andrew Gelman at Columbia is a statistician who's been critical of statistical methods in climate:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Gelman

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 11:39 AM

To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>

Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; John Christy

<climateeman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: a follow-on thought

I'd want at least one statistician or econometrician.

On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 10:04 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

other NAS members:

Kerry Emanuel

Isaac Held

On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 6:52 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Another possible “peer” group would be some subset of the authors of NCA5 Chapters 1-3 and/or the (former) USGCRP or NCA5 leadership.

SEK

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 9:31 AM

To: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>

Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <loucksj14@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: a follow-on thought

I agree, NASEM would be the appropriate group. The challenge would be to get NASEM to appoint a serious group of scientists, not like the group they appointed to review NCA5. Ideally the recommendations would come from BASC, not the CRC

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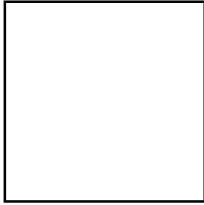
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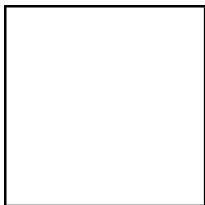
A review shouldn't take very long (after all, CWG was written in about 2 months). And shouldn't be very expensive (a committee of 5 volunteers, $\frac{1}{2}$ a staff member, 15% overhead ●)

Once NASEM produced a review, might even have a $\frac{1}{2}$ - or 1-day workshop/conference to sort out differences.

SEK

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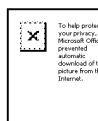
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From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Travis Fisher
Cc: John Christy; Judith Curry; Steven Koonin; Roy Spencer; Josh Loucks
Subject: Re: a follow-on thought
Attachments: image001.jpg

At present it could be described as a memorandum to the Secretary. We aren't claiming any status as an official peer reviewed government report although I guess we'll have interagency review comments before long.

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 9:19 AM Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com> wrote:

Yes I think we can make all the corrections we like, just as long as we don't change the location of contents on the pages.

We can style the report as preliminary or draft, however you like. I'm happy to reinforce that framing in the press release documents or FAQs as needed, etc.

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 10:15 AM John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com> wrote:

Ross probably remembers more of the Hockey Stick panel than I do. I was added at the last minute as a token "skeptic", but had little influence. I remember asking Mike what were the level of significance values for his independent test and he just said, "That's a silly question". Ross is correct that the NAS declined funding from Congress so they could rewrite the charge to suit themselves and to soft-peddle Mann's errors. At best NASEM would be a gamble.

Do we know to what extent our report will be presented as a "Preliminary Report" awaiting publically-solicited reviews to aid us in making a "Final Report"? In other words, how encouraged will people feel to write a review? Soliciting individual reviews from highly qualified people would be quite helpful I believe. I suspect many public reviews will be in the form of accusations of bias, but if the review has no metricized, testable claim, we should be able to dismiss it as such.

Will the Preliminary Report be released with the "errata" corrections included?

John C.

On Thu, Jul 10, 2025 at 8:32 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

I'm convinced by Ross' argument. NASEM is hopeless re climate change (McNutt is a menace). I suggest DOE put together a blue ribbon list of reviewers (either a committee, or preferably individual reviews).

On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 8:50 PM Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com> wrote:

I understand the temptation to have a group like NASEM undertake a review because the payoff, if they do a fair job of it, is additional credibility for the report. But we have to be realistic. NASEM has never dealt with climate change in anything like a fair or objective manner and they are not going to now. John and I watched up close when they made a total hash of the hockey stick inquiry. They rewrote the terms of reference to shield Mann, buried all the evidence confirming Steve's and my critique and then in the press

conference allowed Gerald North to misrepresent the findings and claim vindication for Mann. Every time since then that they've looked at related topics they've deferred to the narrative, including in their review of NCA5.

When our report is released the narrative engineers will politicize it as the Trump report and look to the academic community to try to discredit it. If NASEM is asked to review it, while we can dream up a list of reasonable people to write the review, Marcia McNutt will be in charge. She will think of the headline she wants to see in the NYT and work backwards to the required report and the required team of writers. The press release might have lots of complimentary things to say but will include a killer quote like "While the report makes some valid points, including that climate science must continue to improve the models used to study climate dynamics, it is unfortunately biased and incomplete, and fails to provide a comprehensive summary of the current evidence regarding the seriousness of the climate crisis." Or something along those lines. Once they get to set the narrative and the headlines all the objections in the world from us will count for naught.

I reiterate my suggestion that the report be published by the DoE and then submitted by Sec Wright as a comment on the EF filing by the EPA.

On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 12:26 PM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:
Graeme Stephens is another good one (not economist, radiation and general climate), he is NAE

On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 8:59 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

I know Andrew Gelman at Columbia is a statistician who's been critical of statistical methods in climate:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Gelman

From: Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 11:39 AM
To: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateman60@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <ljoucksj14@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: a follow-on thought

I'd want at least one statistician or econometrician.

On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 10:04 AM Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com> wrote:

other NAS members:

Kerry Emanuel

Isaac Held

On Wed, Jul 9, 2025 at 6:52 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:

Another possible “peer” group would be some subset of the authors of NCA5 Chapters 1-3 and/or the (former) USGCRP or NCA5 leadership.

SEK

From: Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 9, 2025 9:31 AM
To: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Cc: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>; John Christy <climateeman60@gmail.com>; Ross McKittrick <ross.mckittrick@gmail.com>; Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; Josh Loucks <ljoucksj14@gmail.com>
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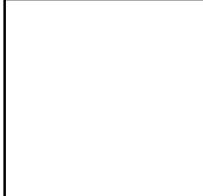
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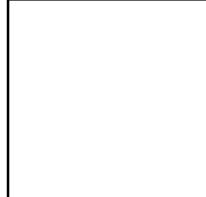
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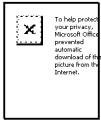
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From: Roy Spencer <roywspencer@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 11:01 AM
To: Travis Fisher; Steven Koonin
Cc: climateman60@gmail.com; ross.mckitrick@gmail.com; Judith Curry
Subject: Re: a defense of CWG25 in the Italian press

If necessary, I can.

-Roy

From: Travis Fisher <travis.scott.fisher@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 9:36 AM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Cc: roywspencer@hotmail.com <roywspencer@hotmail.com>; climateman60@gmail.com <climateman60@gmail.com>; ross.mckitrick@gmail.com <ross.mckitrick@gmail.com>; Judith Curry <curry.judith@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: a defense of CWG25 in the Italian press

This is so cool!

I'm hearing from Audrey Barrios that the Secretary wants to schedule us all for a call at 12:15 p.m. ET today. Is everyone able to make that happen? Sorry for the short notice, and I don't have a clue what the call is about.

Ross, could you set this up as a Google meeting?

On Tue, Aug 5, 2025 at 8:44 AM Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com> wrote:
I also attach MS Copilot's translation to English.

I've not read the NYT "rebuttal", but the points seem awfully weak (and absent any science).

And most amusing is that the png shows Zeke's supplementary figure is now even more famous.

SEK

From: Franco Battaglia <francesco.prof.battaglia@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 1:57 AM
To: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@googlemail.com>; Steven E Koonin <steven.koonin@nyu.edu>; koonin@stanford.edu
Subject: NYT

Hi, Steve.

A few days ago the NYT wrote an article that intended to be a rebuttal of the DOE report.
Today I wrote a rebuttal of the NYT article.

It is in Italian, but AI may easily translate it into English.

Best,
franco

From: Steven Koonin <steven.koonin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 22, 2025 4:25 PM
To: 'Judith Curry'; 'John Christy'
Cc: 'Ross McKittrick'; 'Roy Spencer'
Subject: our zoom just now

That zoom was a bit of a bust. No meaningful information conveyed to us, just "Wait until Monday's meeting."

I'm concerned we're going to hear "full stop" from the lawyers. That would not be good.

SEK