

Objective Overview of Global Climate Change in 2015: A Geological Perspective

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EXTENDED ABSTRACT

The relative contribution of Man's activities, as opposed to Nature's activities, to observed recent rises in global temperatures, is unresolved. In addition to the oft-noted (and increasingly striking) inability of climate modeling to reproduce the documented recent past, two other major shortcomings of contemporary climate studies are that (1) they rest upon very short time spans, whereas climate change considered from a geological perspective encourages much less anxiety, and (2) they do not consider other pertinent disciplines, such as (A) recorded history, (B) geology, and (C) astrophysics and cosmology. The latter three disciplines argue against Catastrophic Anthropogenic Global Warming (CAGW). Reliable data on frequency and intensity of tornadoes, hurricanes, and droughts demonstrate no increase with rising temperatures, thus muting the reality of "extreme climate events" caused by rising atmospheric CO₂.

Although it is true that increasing atmospheric CO₂ does cause some atmospheric warming, growing evidence suggests that the effect is minor, and diminishes as CO₂ concentration continues to rise. Indeed, rising atmospheric CO₂ leads directly to increased agricultural productivity! It now seems probable that most observed 20th century global warming is the result of natural causes. If so, proposed voluntary economic initiatives by Western nations to limit CO₂ emissions will constitute a serious and unnecessary economic wound, self-inflicted at the worst possible time. Still unexplained is the fact that no measurable atmospheric warming has now occurred for at least 17 years, while atmospheric CO₂ concentration continues rising steadily. This casts doubt on the effectiveness of CO₂ in causing significant atmospheric warming ("climate sensitivity"). Sunspot cycles suggest that we are about to enter—indeed may have already begun—an extended period of global cooling, and recent research results from CERN (Geneva) support the view that most warming relates to variations in solar irradiation, as well as the still poorly understood influence of clouds as amplifying or diminishing agents.

Recent and continuing unsavory revelations ("Climate Gates I and II") have also cast doubt among the general public on the objectivity of the science underpinning CAGW, motivated by ideology and the search for research funding. Indeed, the greatest threat posed by the whole controversial CAGW campaign of the past 25 years may be the loss of public confidence in the integrity of Western science.

... (Note: The full version of this extended abstract, including complete text, illustrations, and references, will be made available at a later date on both the 2014 GCAGS convention website [www.gcags2014.com] and AAPG Search and Discovery website [www.searchanddiscovery.com]).