

Petsonk, A, 2003: Letter to Reporters and Congressional Staff re: Global Warming: McIntyre & McKitrick "study" in Energy & Environment; USA Today Oct. 29, 2003 op-ed by Nick Schulz of TechCentralStation, 29 October.

DRAFT:

To: Reporters, Congressional Staff

From: Annie Petsonk, Environmental Defense

Date: October 29, 2003

Re: Global Warming: McIntyre & McKitrick "study" in Energy & Environment; USA Today Oct. 29, 2003 op-ed by Nick Schulz of TechCentralStation

This article and opinion piece assert that the famous "hockey stick" diagram of recent rapid global warming (see attached) is incorrect. ***Both the USA Today op-ed by Schulz and the Energy and Environment (UK) article by McIntyre and McKitrick are false, misleading and biased. Neither contradicts the wealth of evidence that late 20th century Northern Hemisphere warmth is unprecedented in at least the past six centuries (and likely much longer).***

- **The Falsehood:** The USA Today op-ed by Schulz contains the accusation that Dr. Michael Mann, lead author of the scientifically peer-reviewed articles on 20th century warming, "never made his data available online nor did many of the earlier researchers whose data Mann relied upon for his research. That by itself raises questions about the U.N. climate-change panel's scientific process."
- **The Fact:** The extensive datasets of the historical temperature record of the planet for the past six hundred years used by Dr. Mann and numerous other paleoclimatologists are all publicly available online at <ftp://holocene.evsc.virginia.edu/pub/MBH98/>. They have been publicly available at this website for nearly two years.
- **The Misleading Statement:** McIntyre & McKitrick say that they re-examined the Mann et al data and find the conclusions about warming to be inaccurate.
- **The Fact:** McIntyre and McKitrick – neither of whom is a scientist – did not re-examine Mann's data. They analyzed a jumbled spreadsheet version of the actual data used by Mann that combined several columns of figures into one. This rendered the data set useless during the earlier centuries, precisely when the authors claim to find unusual warming. They applied flawed methodologies to reach a result wildly at odds with the overwhelming weight of peer-reviewed science. Technically competent paleoclimatologists might have realized their errors – but neither author is a scientist, nor was the article peer-reviewed by any of the world's leading climatologists. McKitrick is a long-time climate skeptic, and McIntyre's principal qualification, according to his bio, is his thirty years working in the mining industry.
- **The Unrevealed Biases:** **Sonja Boehmer-Christiansen**, the editor of "Energy and Environment", has co-authored numerous pieces with fossil fuel industry-financed and/or industry-affiliated climate skeptics. By her own assertion, Ms. Boehmer-Christiansen follows a political agenda, rather than scientific standards of peer review.¹ Says Boehmer-Christiansen, who condemns the climate treaty as "unnecessary, unfair and self-interested," "I'm following my political agenda -- a bit, anyway... isn't that the right of the editor?"
- **TechCentralStation is financed in part by Exxon-Mobil Corporation.**

¹ R. Monastersky, Chronicle of Higher Education, "Storm Brews Over Global Warming" (Sept. 5, 2003).

For more information on how to get the real story from the world's leading paleoclimatologists, contact Annie Petsonk at Environmental Defense at 202-365-3237.