

Opinion

LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

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We're in an interglacial age called the Holocene. The previous interglacial was the Eemian, 125,000 years ago, during which it was 10F warmer than at present; Hippopotamus lived in the Rhine and Thames Rivers, yet CO₂ was less than 300 parts per million.

Closer to home, we have Jornada Range 10 miles north, an open-air cooperative effort among NMSU, US Department of Agriculture, and NOAA, which operates the Jornada data collection platform, part of the US Climate Reference Network, USCRN.

Numerous NOAA collection sites are corrupted by poor exposure and urban heat island effects; in fact, only 10% of NOAA sites meet NOAA's own measurement standards!

To solve these difficulties the federal government funded the development and fielding of USCRN, 114 sites in CONUS, more in Hawaii and Alaska, so the US would have an "unimpeachable" source of temperatures and other climate data. USCRN data collection started only in 2007. One feature of surface temperature measurement is triple-redundant aspirated thermistors, measured in representative areas far from urbanization.

So, while CO₂ is rising, examination of the Jornada USCRN data shows that surface temperatures here have fallen 2C or about 3F from 2007-2016.

These facts and observations put into serious doubt the notion that CO₂ controls atmospheric temperature. In fact, William Henry, author of Henry's Law, which students learn, or should learn, in high school chemistry, teaches the opposite of the "climate science commandment."

Temperature of ocean water controls atmospheric CO₂ concentration, not the other way around.

It's the law, Henry's Law.

Robert W Endlich

Las Cruces

CO₂ controlled by ocean temperatures

The May 6 Sun-News-USA Today article, "Carbon Dioxide at highest level in atmosphere in 800,000 years," said, "Carbon Dioxide—the gas scientists say is most responsible for global warming—reached its highest level in recorded history last month, at 410 parts per million."