LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SUBMITTED TITLE - "GOOD NEWS: OUR CARBON EMISSIONS ARE CLIMATICALLY BENIGN"

TRAIL TIMES, JUNE 11, 2020

CO2 levels rising during COVID-19 lockdown, good news

Society is being overwhelmed with bad news; including the threat of a climate-change emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic, and now the riots in the streets of USA cities together with the threat of police defunding.

However, the fact that atmospheric carbon dioxide (aka "CO2", "carbon") levels continue to rise during the COVID-19 lockdown is very good news. The lockdown has confirmed that our emissions are immaterial in determining the CO2 content of the atmosphere. Consequently, a CO2-induced climate emergency is impossible!

Nevertheless, some who lack a knowledge of basic phase-equilibrium principles will mistakenly claim that this evidence suggests we must be more aggressive in curtailing our carbon emissions. They are unaware that natural ocean outgassing is the primary source of atmospheric CO2, which is essential in sustaining all life on Earth.

Furthermore, it can be shown that CO2-emitting fuels are responsible for roughly 0.1 parts per million (ppm) per year. The consumption of all the known reserves of hydrocarbon fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas) would result in a negligible CO2 increase of 100 ppm over a thousand years (e.g. 400 to 500 ppm).

In normal times without the "pandemic" of climate-change groupthink, the debate would be over. The idea that we must curtail our CO2 emissions to avoid a climate emergency would be dismissed as nonsense, even by those who still mistakenly believe that CO2 is a major climate-control variable.

Regardless of the facts, the prophets of doom are not about to give up

their anti-CO2 campaign. Even though they admit that atmospheric CO2 is still increasing, they refuse to recognize the role played by our CO2 emissions.

These emissions not only green the planet, they also increase the partial pressure of atmospheric CO2. This increase causes a redistribution of CO2 to restore, within a few weeks, the original distribution of CO2 between the two phases (atmosphere and oceans).

The current distribution is about 50/1; that is, there is 50 times more CO2 in the oceans than in the atmosphere. Unfortunately, the ongoing redistribution of CO2 will preserve a CO2-starved atmosphere, even after the consumption of all known reserves of coal, oil, and natural gas.

Clearly, there is no need to destroy our economy by abandoning the use of hydrocarbon fuels. However, we must not abandon energy conservation and efficiency measures, nor abandon the pursuit of alternative sources of energy.

Thorpe Watson, PhD

Warfield