

The Greatest Scientific Fraud Of All Time Part XVIII

January 29, 2018/ Francis Menton

<http://manhattancontrarian.com/blog?tag=Greatest+Scientific+Fraud>

Regular readers here will recognize that the "Greatest Scientific Fraud Of All Time" is the world temperature data tampering fraud, by which the guardians of the world surface thermometer temperature records seek to convince you that dangerous global warming is occurring by making downward "adjustments" to earlier year temperatures and hoping you won't notice. To read Parts I to XVII of the series, go to [this link](#), where you will find the prior 17 posts arranged in reverse chronological order.

The last post in the series was August 14, 2017. There's a reason for the hiatus from then until now. It's because after a big El Niño and high temperatures in 2016, the El Niño dissipated, and temperatures came down somewhat in 2017. With temperatures failing to hit anything that could be plausibly characterized as records, NASA and NOAA took a break from their monthly breathless press releases proclaiming the current month or quarter or whatever to be the "hottest ever." However, the year ended on December 31, and at that point they had to say *something*. Here's the NOAA Global Climate Report -- Annual 2017. I would describe it as rather energetically spinning:

The monthly global land and ocean temperatures at the start of 2017 were extremely warm, with the first four months each ranking as the second warmest for their respective months, behind the record year 2016. Of particular note, the global land and ocean temperature for the month of March 2017 was 1.03°C (1.9°F) above the 20th century average—this marked the first time the monthly temperature departure from average surpasses 1.0°C (1.8°F) in the absence of an El Niño episode in the tropical Pacific Ocean.

And even that energetic spin is rank amateurism compared to what we find at Bloomberg news in a January 18 article titled "Earth's Relentless Warming Sets a Brutal New Record in 2017." "Relentless warming" and a "brutal new record"? Wait a minute, I thought the temperature went *down* from 2016? And indeed it did. Read on, and you will learn that, despite the

headline, what they mean by a "brutal new record" is a record "in the absence of El Niño":

2017 [was] the third-hottest on record. The only years to exceed it—2015 and 2016—occurred amid a powerful El Niño weather pattern that ripped heat from the Pacific Ocean into the atmosphere. In the absence of El Niño, the swelter of 2017 was unprecedented.

Do you think, as I do, that when these people tell you something like "there was an absence of an El Niño in 2017," that you would be wise to check? Here is the NOAA page that records monthly what is called the "MEI": Multivariate ENSO Index. "ENSO" is the "El Niño Southern Oscillation." This is the most comprehensive measure of whether there is or is not an El Niño at a given point in time. Zero is neutral, and the index varies between about +3 (very strong El Niño) and -3 (very strong La Niña). The peak of the MEI in the very strong El Niño year of 2016 was +2.227 in January. In 2017, the MEI started out very slightly negative at -.055 in January through -.08 in March, and then suddenly had a powerful spike to +1.455 in May and +1.049 in June. Only after September did it turn modestly negative at -.449, reaching -.576 in December. Sure looks like 2017 was at least a modest El Niño year, although not as strong as 2016; an El Niño, but no record temperatures.

Now let's look at the latest news on the subject of downward adjustment of early-year temperatures. Remember that the (highly accurate) satellite temperature records only extend back to 1979. When NOAA and NASA talk about "hottest year ever" they are referring not to these highly accurate records, but rather to records from a network of surface thermometers, extending back into the 1880s or so. But those are the records that they have been "adjusting" to make the past cooler, and thus make the recent temperatures appear to be warmer.

Neither NOAA nor NASA has even provided sufficient information to enable outsiders to replicate what they are doing in "adjusting" the earlier temperatures downward. However, they have from time to time offered purported explanations. One of those explanations is that at certain stations

they have changed the "time of observation," and therefore the earlier temperatures at these stations need to be adjusted so that they are comparable with more recent observations made at a different time of the day. It sounds plausible on its face -- but can they give us actual examples where the specific adjustment they have made can be justified?

One of the diligent independent investigators who has called NOAA out on many previous occasions is Paul Homewood of the website [Not a Lot of People Know That](#). Homewood has once again caught NOAA red-handed in a completely unjustifiable temperature adjustment, this time from Ithaca, New York -- home of Cornell University. What's more, the Ithaca records from 1949 to date specifically state that they are made at 8:00 AM. Thus, no possibility that the adjustments could be justified by change of time of observation.

Here is Homewood's January 26 post titled "TOBS [Time of Observation] at Ithaca." The annual average temperature for the year 1949 was 49.5 deg F. Here's a screenshot of the raw data captured by Homewood:

Table 1

AVERAGE TEMPERATURES AND DEPARTURES FROM 1949

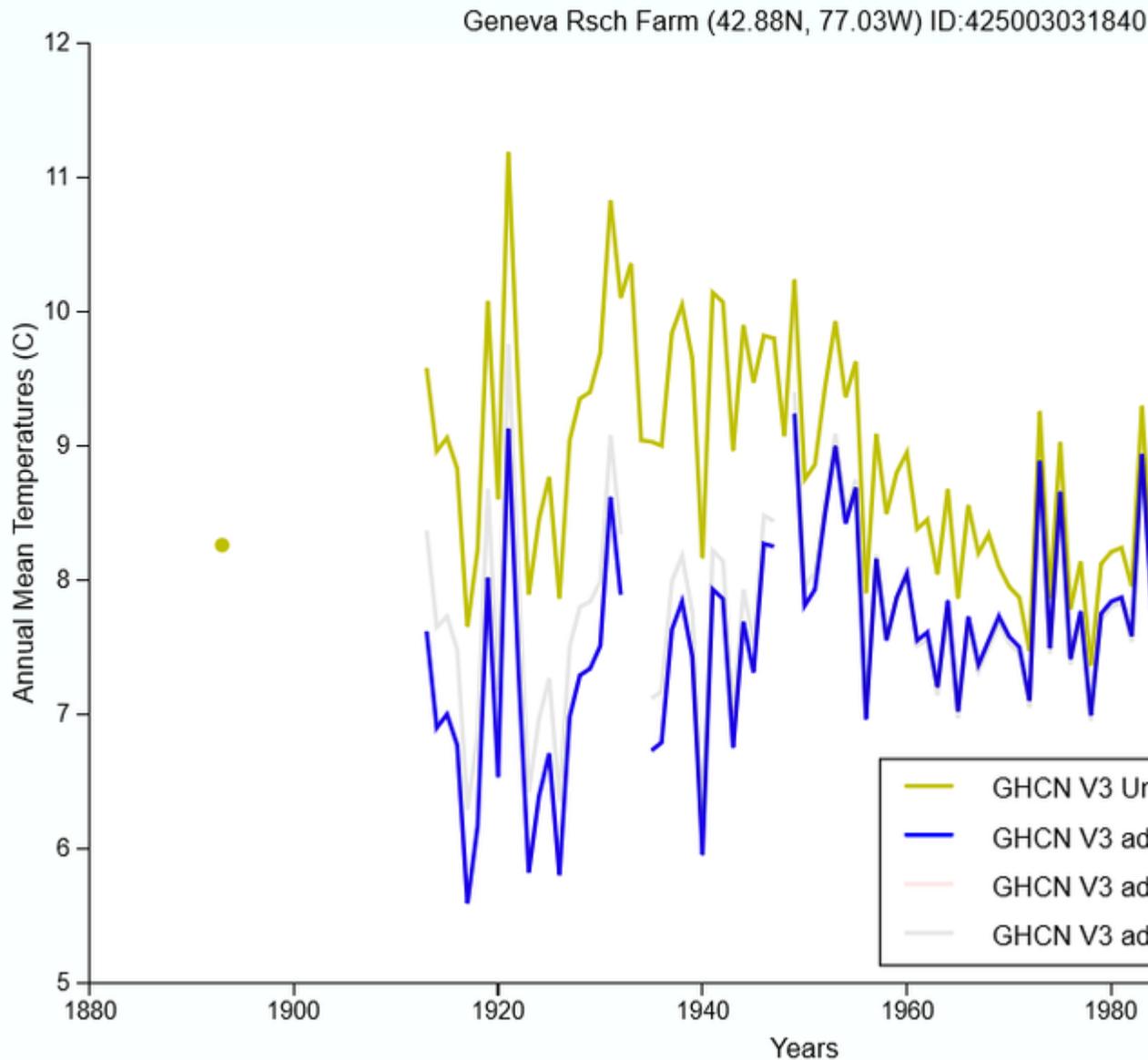
Station	January		February		March		April		May		June		July		August		September		October		
	Temp.	Departure	Temp.	Departure	Temp.	Departure	Temp.	Departure	Temp.	Departure	Temp.	Departure	Temp.	Departure	Temp.	Departure	Temp.	Departure	Temp.	Departure	
ADDISON	28.8	4.1	33.3	8.6	35.0M	1.0	44.0	-1.6	55.4	-1.7	68.6	2.8	72.6	2.4	69.5	1.5	56.6M	-5.5	53.7	3.0	
ALBANY WB AIRPORT	28.9	8.8	29.3	7.9	35.6	5.8	48.5	4.1	57.9	.2	72.1	5.4	75.3	4.4	71.6	2.6	58.7	-2.5	54.9	3.0	
ALBANY WB CITY	31.3	8.2	31.8	7.7	37.5M	4.8	50.7	3.9	60.1	.8	73.3	5.3	77.2	4.6	73.6	2.8	60.5	-2.6	55.7	3.0	
ALBION	30.7	7.6	31.6	7.5	34.7	1.2	46.6	1.4	59.2	3.0	72.7	6.3	73.4	2.0	72.9	1.5	60.6	-3.4	57.4	3.0	
ALCOVE DAM	29.2M	-	29.8M	-	35.6	-	48.0	-	58.6M	-	68.2	-	75.9	-	75.2M	-	63.6M	-	-	-	3.0
ALEXANDRIA BAY	25.3	7.1	26.5	5.9	31.3	.7	45.5	2.2	57.2	1.2	71.1	5.7	73.5	2.6	72.6	2.9	60.0	-1.3	55.2	4.0	
ALFRED	29.7	6.9	30.4	8.0	32.8	1.9	43.4	.6	56.4	2.1	67.6	4.5	71.2	4.0	67.3	2.1	55.5M	-3.8	53.8	5.0	
ALLEGANY STATE PARK	31.0	6.0	31.7	7.0	34.3	1.3	43.6	.2	57.0	2.4	68.3	5.4	71.9	5.5	66.7	1.6	56.1	-3.1	53.9M	5.0	
ANGELICA	30.3	6.8	31.4M	8.7	33.6	2.1	44.3	.8	54.9	.2	68.3	4.5	74.8	7.0	69.3M	3.8	57.2M	-2.4	-	5.0	
AUBURN	29.9	5.1	30.2	5.9	33.5	.8	44.5	.0	56.4	.1	71.1	5.2	74.9	3.6	72.5	3.1	59.8	-2.5	56.0	5.0	
AVON	31.3	6.7	32.2	8.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0
BABYLON	35.7	-	36.5	-	39.2	-	49.5	-	57.6	-	69.2	-	70.5	-	72.0	-	62.4	-	58.3	-	3.0
BAINBRIDGE	29.5	6.1	27.6	2.7	33.8	.2	44.6	.7	56.1	-1.8	69.6	3.4	73.7	3.4	69.2	.3	56.7	-4.9	52.8	2.0	
BATAVIA	29.9	5.2	30.3	7.6	32.5	.7	45.1	2.0	57.1	1.3	70.8	4.8	72.0	1.6	69.7	1.1	56.9	-4.1	54.7	4.0	
BEAR MOUNTAIN	31.0	-	32.1	-	36.9	-	48.4	-	58.7M	-	70.3	-	73.7	-	71.6	-	59.7	-	56.1	-	3.0
BEDFORD HILLS	35.5	7.3	36.7	9.5	40.8M	2.8	52.4	3.5	60.8	.2	72.5M	3.3	77.5	3.1	73.5	2.6	62.6	-1.9	59.2	3.0	
BINGHAMTON W B AIRPORT	31.5	-	30.7	-	35.7	-	45.6	-	57.0	-	69.7	-	74.0	-	70.1	-	57.3	-	54.3	-	3.0
BINGHAMTON W B CITY	32.4	8.3	32.6	8.6	37.0	4.4	47.2	1.9	58.8	1.4	71.7	6.1	76.0	6.0	71.6	3.6	59.0	-2.3	55.6	5.0	
BOONVILLE 3 SE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0
BRIDGEHAMPTON	37.3	6.0	36.6	6.9	38.3	1.1	48.5	2.8	58.2	.1	67.2	2.8	74.7	4.1	72.3	2.5	63.0	-1.1	58.6	4.0	
BUFFALO W B AIRPORT	31.3	7.4	31.8	8.1	33.7	2.4	45.5	1.7	57.7	1.8	72.2	7.3	74.3	4.3	71.7	3.3	58.9	-2.7	57.2	6.0	
CAIRO	32.9	7.0	32.8	6.4	-	-	47.4	3.9	59.9	.5	72.4	3.9	78.0	5.0	73.8	3.0	61.2	-2.3	56.8	4.0	
CALICOON	-	-	-	-	-	-	47.4	-	57.8	-	68.6	-	73.3	-	69.6	-	58.6	-	55.2	-	3.0
CANANDAIGUA	31.1	7.6	32.3	10.7	35.9M	2.3	45.6	.3	57.3M	1.4	72.6	7.1	74.8	4.9	72.4	4.6	60.8	-1.5	57.3	2.0	
CANTON WB CITY	23.2	6.6	23.7	7.9	29.0	1.2	44.5	2.6	56.1	1.9	70.1	6.8	71.3	2.7	70.3	3.8	57.7	-1.1	53.3	2.0	
CARMKEL	32.4	7.9	32.1	8.7	37.8	3.1	49.2M	2.7	58.2	.2	69.4	2.4	75.8	4.3	72.3	2.8	60.7M	-2.3	57.6M	6.0	
CAZENOVIA	-	-	27.9	6.8	32.7	3.6	43.7	1.2	55.0	1.6	67.9	5.0	69.9	2.7	67.0	1.8	56.4	-1.2	53.0M	7.0	
CHASM FALLS	22.5	5.8	23.4	7.7	27.9	1.1	41.6	1.8	53.6	.6	67.9	5.5	70.4	3.4	68.0	3.5	56.8	-4.1	53.2	7.0	
CHAZY	24.4	8.0	24.6	8.1	31.0	2.2	45.4	2.7	55.3	.0	70.1	5.6	73.8	4.1	71.6	4.1	59.2M	-5.5	52.9M	4.0	
CHERRY PLAIN	26.3M	-	27.9M	-	29.2M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0
COGLESKILL	29.0	-	29.6	-	34.3M	-	45.9	-	56.7	-	69.7	-	73.4	-	70.1	-	57.9	-	53.9M	-	3.0
COPPERTOWN	27.6	6.9	26.9	6.3	32.1	3.0	43.1	1.4	54.5	.0	67.9	4.4	71.7	3.8	68.4	3.0	55.9	-2.6	52.9	5.0	
CORTLAND	27.6	4.3	27.1	4.4	33.3	1.8	43.8	.3	56.6M	1.4	70.0	6.0	73.6	5.0	69.1	2.6	57.0	-2.7	54.4	3.0	
DANNEMORA	23.0	6.4	24.7	8.1	30.0	2.8	43.5	3.4	55.6	1.9	69.7	6.7	73.1	6.1	70.2M	4.3	57.4	-1.2	56.5M	5.0	
DANVILLE	32.1	4.0	33.5	3.5	37.5	2.2	46.9	.1	60.1	1.7	75.1	6.7	77.7	5.3	73.5	2.9	60.3	-4.1	57.9	5.0	
DANSVILLE AIRPORT	32.1	-	32.9	-	35.5	-	46.0	-	58.3	-	72.6	-	74.9	-	71.0	-	58.4	-	56.1	-	3.0
DELHI	28.9	5.3	30.5	7.1	34.3	2.0	43.8	.7	54.8	-1.1	67.7	3.9	70.6	2.9	67.6	1.3	55.6	-4.4	52.4	3.0	
DESBY	32.5	-	32.7	-	34.9	-	44.4	-	57.4	-	71.3	-	73.7	-	71.2	-	60.5	-	56.4	-	3.0
DOBBS FERRY	36.5	-	37.9	-	42.1	-	52.6	-	61.5	-	72.6	-	77.9	-	74.7	-	64.0	-	60.1	-	3.0
DUNKIRK AIRPORT	32.9	-	33.0	-	34.6	-	44.2	-	57.1	-	71.9	-	73.7	-	71.2	-	59.9	-	56.8	-	3.0
ELIZABETHTOWN	24.6	-	24.3	-	32.0M	-	44.4M	-	55.4	-	69.1	-	72.1	-	70.7M	-	57.6	-	52.3	-	3.0
ELLENVILLE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0
ELMA	30.8	-	31.1	-	32.5	-	43.9	-	55.8	-	69.4	-	72.1	-	69.1	-	57.2	-	54.6	-	3.0
ELMIRA	33.8	7.9	35.0	9.0	39.5	4.9	49.0	2.5	60.6	2.2	72.3	4.9	76.3	4.3	72.3	3.0	60.7	-2.0	57.6M	6.0	
ELMIRA HORSEHEADS	30.7	-	30.2	-	35.4	-	45.2	-	57.3	-	71.0	-	75.1	-	70.9	-	57.6	-	54.3	-	3.0
FARMINGDALE	36.4	5.8	35.9	5.4	39.0	.1	49.7	2.3	58.7	.5	69.1	2.0	75.1	3.0	71.3	.6	62.8	-2.3	58.1	3.0	
FONDA	27.2	-	27.0	-	33.7M	-	45.5	-	55.8	-	69.7	-	74.0	-	70.9	-	57.6	-	54.3	-	3.0
FORT SCHUYLER	38.2	-	37.5M	-	40.9	-	51.8M	-	61.8M	-	72.4	-	78.6M	-	76.2M	-	66.4M	-	62.6M	-	3.0
FRANKLINVILLE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.0
FREDONIA	33.6	6.2	34.4	7.8	35.9	1.2	45.3	.1	60.4	3.7	74.0	7.7	75.5	4.3	72.6	3.0	61.6	-1.2	58.2	6.0	
GENEVA	31.7	6.9	30.3	5.7	35.5	2.3	46.5	1.5	57.8	.8	72.5	5.1	74.3	1.9	72.5	3.1	59.7M	-3.1	55.7M	4.0	
GLENSHAM	32.9	6.7	33.3	6.5	39.1	2.0	50.4	2.1	60.3	-4	72.1	2.8	76.9	2.9	73.9	1.9	62.2M	-2.0	57.3	4.0	
GLENS FALLS FIRE STA	-	-	30.8M	10.3	39.2M	7.0	52.0M	6.4	60.1M	2.3	72.8M	6.6	76.9	7.7	74.4	5.9	61.4M	-1.5	57.5M	5.0	
GLENS FALLS AIRPORT	26.5	-	25.3	-	33.5	-	47.0	-	56.5	-	70.9	-	74.0	-	70.6	-	57.5	-	53.2	-	3.0
GLOVERSVILLE	27.7	8.3	28.2	8.7	34.2	4.2	46.7	4.3	56.9	1.0	70.4	5.7	73.9	4.7	70.9	4.1	57.8	-1.8	54.4	3.0	
GOVERNEUR	24.1	9.9	25.0M	7.5	29.6	-1.0	44.6	1.8	56.4	.9	70.3	5.6	69.7	-	70.3	2.2	57.9M	-1.2	52.3M	4.0	
GOWANDA	32.7	-	33.7	-	35.8M	-	45.5	-	58.9	-	71.9	-	74.1	-	70.4	-	59.3	-	56.0	-	3.0
GREENFIELD CENTER	25.8	5.5	25.8	5.3	33.3	2.1	46.7	2.1	57.1	.6	70.2	5.2	73.8	4.1	70.0	2.6	57.9	-2.9	54.0	4.0	
HAMILTON	28.7	7.3	30.0	7.5	34.0	3.5	45.4	.8	56.7	1.1	69.6	6.0	72.6	4.7	69.1	2.4	57.5	-1.0	54.4	3.0	
HEMLOCK	31.0	6.6	31.2	8.0	34.1	1.4	45.3	1.5	58.4	2.2	72.1	6.1	74.4	3.5	71.7	3.0	59.9	-2.3	55.9	3.0	
HEMPSTEAD	37.9	-	36.7	-	41.0	-	52.1	-	59.9	-	71.7	-	78.0	-	73.7	-	63.0	-	59.4	-	3.0
HILTON	31.1	-	31.6M	-	35.5	-	45.9														

But what about the data for this area that make their way into the surface temperature records that support those "hottest year ever" claims that NOAA and NASA regularly release? Those data have of course been subject to large "adjustments." [Here is a link to NOAA's "Climate at a Glance" information](#), with surface temperature data going from the late 1800s to 2017. They don't break these data down to an individual small town like Ithaca, but you can get the small region in which Ithaca is included, namely "New York State, CD10, Central Lakes," that is, the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York. And the answer is, for that small region, the 1949 annual average temperature was 48.6 deg F, and for 2016 it was 48.7 deg F. Instead of going *down* by 1.5 deg F, the temperature went *up* by 0.1 deg F! How could that possibly have happened?

Perhaps you might think, this must just be a quirk of the Ithaca station, and the other stations in the small region must have had temperature increases that outweighed the Ithaca decline when the region average was calculated. Homewood has the answer for that as well. His post includes temperature graphs for other main stations in the region -- Auburn, Geneva, and Hemlock -- including "unadjusted" and "adjusted" GHCN data in each case. All of these stations show massive downward adjustments of the temperatures in the earlier years, generally in the range of about 1 deg C (which would be 1.8 deg F), or even more. For example, here is the graph for Geneva:

GISS Surface Temperature Analysis

Station Data: Geneva Rsch Farm (42.88N, 77.03W)



By the way, 1 deg C, or 1.8 deg F, is approximately the entire amount of the claimed warming of the past century that is regularly trotted out to support the narrative that "the earth is warming." Go through the prior seventeen posts in this series, and you will find dozens of other examples of downward adjustments of earlier year temperatures in approximately the same magnitude. No one who has looked into this can find any significant examples of adjustments going in the other direction.

There is more on region CD10 at another recent (January 25) post by Homewood, titled "New York's Temperature Record Massively Altered By NOAA." This post contains extensive data for all the stations in that region, both unadjusted and adjusted. Homewood decides to compare January temperatures in two particular years, 1943 and 2014. Key quote:

On average the mean temperatures in Jan 2014 were 2.7F less than in 1943. Yet, according to NOAA, the difference was only 0.9F. Somehow, NOAA has adjusted past temperatures down, relatively, by 1.8F.

No one get any kind of satisfactory explanation out of NOAA or NASA as to what is going on. In Part II of this series back in July 2014, I reported on comparable early-year downward temperature adjustments discovered in the state of Texas by Homewood, in Kansas by Anthony Watts of the Watts Up With That website, and in Maine by Joseph D'Aleo of the ICECAP website. Those reports led Politifact to put some questions in writing to NOAA. They received a response, the gist of which was "our algorithm is working as designed" -- without any information as to how or why the specific adjustments were made, nor any access to code or methods to enable the adjustments to be replicated.

At this point it is becoming an embarrassment to the Trump administration that they have not gotten anyone in place at NOAA or NASA who has started to get to the bottom of this.

8 Comments

Energy And The Environment, Scientific Fraud, Greatest Scientific Fraud

27 Likes

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The Greatest Scientific Fraud Of All Time -- Part XVII

August 14, 2017/ Francis Menton

Just keep your eyes open for more and more examples of tampering with and manipulation of the world temperature record to enhance the "global warming" narrative, and it seems that you will have no problem coming up with an endless supply. One of the best recent examples comes from Australia.

Australia is blessed with a small band of sharp-eyed skeptics who have made a mission out of trying to keep their crooked government bureaucrats honest. Two of the leading lights are Jennifer Marohasy and Joanne Nova. As Marohasy states in a recent post, "I suffer . . . from a propensity to always check things." So back in early July, Marohasy was checking on some very cold readings recorded in the mountains of Australia -- readings colder than -10 deg C, which is the same as 14 deg F. (Remember that July is winter in Australia,) And she stumbled on the fact that, somewhere along the line, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology had put in place some supposed "quality control" technology in their weather stations that would automatically reject valid low temperature readings as spurious. As reported by Marohasy on July 5:

[W]hen the weather station at Goulburn recorded -10.4 on Sunday morning – the Bureau’s ‘quality control system’, ‘designed to filter out spurious low or high values’ reset this value to -10.0. To be clear, the actual measured value of -10.4 was ‘automatically adjusted’ so that it recorded as -10.0 in the key CDO dataset.

Huh? By the way, if 0.4 deg C does not sound like a lot to you, remember that our temperature overlords regularly declare with the loudest possible megaphone that new world temperature records have been set by amounts well less than 0.1 deg C.

When pressed by Marohasy, the BoM acknowledged that it had installed an automated system that rejected temperatures at that location as spurious whenever they went below -10 deg C, even though temperatures below that level had previously been recorded at that location on multiple occasions. Here is the text of an email received by Marohasy from the BoM:

The correct minimum temperature for Goulburn on 2 July, 2017 is -10.4 recorded at 6.30am at Goulburn Airport AWS... The Bureau’s quality control system, designed to filter out spurious low or high values was set at -10 minimum for Goulburn which is why the record automatically adjusted.

Do you think that they would then promptly fix things? Wrong. A couple of weeks later, on July 16, Marohasy caught another example of the same thing

at a station called Thredbo. Again, a reading of -10.4 deg C (of which Marohasy took a screen shot that you can see at the link) had been caused to disappear within a couple of days, this time replaced with a new supposed minimum reading for July 2017 of -9.6 deg C.

Joanne Nova -- who has partnered with Marohasy and others to form a BoM "audit team" -- asked a series of pertinent questions in a July 5 post:

[T]his opens a whole can of worms in so many ways — what are these “limits”, do they apply equally to the high side records, who set them, how long has this being going on, and where are they published? Are the limits on the high temperatures set this close to previously recorded temperatures? How many times have raw records been automatically truncated?

Now almost a month has passed, and there are no answers coming out of the BoM. Oh, except for one thing. In a press release on August 1, the BoM reported July 2017 to be the "warmest" on record in several respects:

- *Record warmth in northern Australia, dry in much of the south*
- *Warmest July maximum temperatures on record nationally, and for Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia*

I guess it's easy to make each month successively the "warmest" if you get to eliminate all the coldest recorded temperatures from the average. As usual, their press release contains no mention whatsoever of the controversy over elimination of the coldest temperatures, let alone any explanation of justification for what they are doing. These people have no shame at all.

To read the sixteen prior posts in this series, go to [this link](#).

23 Comments

Scientific Fraud, Greatest Scientific Fraud, Energy And The Environment

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The Greatest Scientific Fraud Of All Time -- Part XVI

July 19, 2017/ Francis Menton

Fifteen posts into this series -- and I certainly hope that you have read all of them -- perhaps there are still a few of you out there who continue to believe that this whole global average surface temperature (GAST), "hottest year ever," "record warming" thing can't really be completely fraudulent. I mean, these claims are put out by government bureaucrats, highly paid "experts" in their designated field of temperature measurement. It's really complicated stuff to figure out a "global average surface temperature" from hundreds of scattered thermometers, some of which get moved, get read at different times of the day, have cities grow up around them, whatever. Somebody's got to make the appropriate adjustments. Surely, they are trying their best to get the most accurate answer they can with a challenging task. Could it really be that they are systematically lying to the people of America and the world?

The designated field for my own career was civil litigation, and in that field lawyers regularly call upon ordinary members of the public (aka jurors) to draw the inference of whether fraud has occurred. Lawyers claiming that a defendant has committed fraud normally proceed by presenting to the jury a few glaring facts about what the defendant has done. "Here is what he said"; and "here is the truth." The defendant then gets the chance to explain. The jurors apply their ordinary judgment and experience to the facts presented.

So, consider yourself a member of my jury. The defendants (NASA and NOAA) have been accused of arbitrarily adjusting the temperatures of the past downward in order to make fraudulent claims of "hottest year ever" for the recent years. You decide! I'll give you a couple of data points that have come to my attention just today.

James Freeman is the guy who has taken over the Wall Street Journal's "Best of the Web" column since James Taranto moved on to another gig at the paper earlier this year. [Here is his column for yesterday](#). (You probably can't get the whole thing without subscribing, but I'll give you his critical links.) Freeman first quotes the [New York Times, March 29, 1988](#), which in turn quotes James Hansen, then head of the part of NASA that does the GAST calculations:

One of the scientists, Dr. James E. Hansen of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Institute for Space Studies in Manhattan, said he used the 30-year period 1950-1980, when the average global temperature was 59 degrees Fahrenheit, as a base to determine temperature variations.

So 59 deg F was the "average global temperature" for the 30-year period 1950-1980. Could that have been a typo? Here is the Times again, June 24, 1988:

Dr. Hansen, who records temperatures from readings at monitoring stations around the world, had previously reported that four of the hottest years on record occurred in the 1980's. Compared with a 30-year base period from 1950 to 1980, when the global temperature averaged 59 degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature was one-third of a degree higher last year.

OK, definitely not a typo. Freeman also has multiple other quotes from the Times, citing both NASA and "a British group" (presumably Hadley CRU) for the same 59 deg F global average mean for the period 1950-80. So let's then compare that figure to the official NOAA January 18, 2017 "record" global warming press release: "2016 marks three consecutive years of record warmth for the globe":

2016 began with a bang. For eight consecutive months, January to August, the globe experienced record warm heat. With this as a catalyst, the 2016 globally averaged surface temperature ended as the highest since record keeping began in 1880. . . .

And kindly tell us, what was the global average temperature that constituted this important "record warm heat"?

The average temperature across global land and ocean surfaces in 2016 was 58.69 degrees F

OK, over to you to decide. Was the claimed "record warm heat" real, or was it an artifact of downward adjustments of earlier temperatures? If you think it might help (it won't), here is a link to NASA's lengthy bafflegab explanation of its adjustments. It's way too long to copy into this post, and

provides literally no useful information as to what they are doing, or why they think it's OK.

Do you still think it might be possible that they are playing straight with you? My friend Joe D'Aleo (he's one of the co-authors of the paper that was the subject of Part XV of this series) sent me this morning a write-up he had done about the temperature adjustments at one of the most prominent sites in the country, the one at Belvedere Castle in Central Park in Manhattan. There are lots of charts and graphs at the link for your edification. The temperature measuring site has been at the very same location near the exact middle of the park since 1920. That location is about 0.2 mi from the West edge of the park, and 0.3 mi from the East edge, so relatively speaking it is highly immune to local land use changes that affect many other stations. Yes, the City has grown some in that century, but the periphery of the park was already rather built up in 1920, and in any event the closest Central Park West park boundary is almost a quarter-mile away at the closest point.

This paper is another real eye-opener. You should read the whole thing (it's only 7 pages long). The Central Park site is one for which the National Weather Service (part of NOAA) makes completely original, raw data available. D'Aleo does a comparison between that completely raw data and adjusted data for the same site from NOAA's so-called "HCN Version 1" set, for two months each year (July and January) going for the century from 1909 to 2008. Essentially all of the temperatures for Central Park in the HCN Version 1 set are adjusted down, and dramatically so; but the adjustments are not uniform. From approximately 1950 to 1999, the downward adjustments for both months are approximately a flat 6 deg F -- an astoundingly huge amount, especially given that the recently declared "record" temperature for 2016 beat the previous "record" by all of 0.07 deg C (which would be 0.126 deg F). Then, when 1999 comes, the downward adjustments start to decrease rapidly each year, until by 2008 the downward adjustment is only about 2 deg F. Result: whereas the raw data have no material upward or downward trend of any kind over the whole century under examination, the adjusted data show a dramatic upward slope in

temperatures post-2000, *all* of which is in the adjustments rather than the raw data. D'Aleo:

[T]he adjustment [for July] was a significant one (a cooling exceeding 6 degrees from the mid 1950s to the mid 1990s.) Then inexplicably the adjustment diminished to less than 2 degrees. The result is [that] a trendless curve for the past 50 years became one with an accelerated warming in the past 20 years. It is not clear what changes in the metropolitan area occurred in the last 20 years to warrant a major adjustment to the adjustment. The park has remained the same and there has not been a population decline but a spurt in the city's population [since 1990].

Since NOAA and NASA will not provide a remotely satisfactory explanation of what they are doing with the adjustments, various independent researchers have tried to reverse-engineer the results to figure out what assumptions are implied. One such effort was made by Steve McIntyre of the climateaudit.org website, and D'Aleo discusses that effort at the link. McIntyre gathered from correspondence with NOAA that their algorithm was making an "urbanization" adjustment based on the growing population of the urbanized area surrounding the particular site. Based on the adjusted temperatures reported at Central Park and the known population of New York City in the first half of the twentieth century, McIntyre then extrapolated to calculate the implied population of New York City for the recent years of the adjusted record. He came up with an implied population of about 17 million for 1975-95, then suddenly plunging to barely 1 million in 2005. Well, I guess that's not how they do it! Any other guesses out there?

By the way, in case you have the idea that you might be able to dig into this and figure out what they are doing, I would point out that by the time you have completed any analysis they will undoubtedly have adjusted their data yet again and will declare your work inapplicable because that's "not how we do it any more." As the Wall Street Journal's Holman Jenkins noted in November 2015:

By the count of researcher Marcia Wyatt in a widely circulated presentation, the U.S. government's published temperature data for the years 1880 to 2010 has been tinkered with 16 times in the past three years.

I'm just wondering if you *still* think there's anything honest about this.

11 Comments

Energy And The Environment, Scientific Fraud, Greatest Scientific Fraud

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The Greatest Scientific Fraud Of All Time -- Part XV

July 08, 2017/ Francis Menton

It's been several months since I've added a post to this series, since [this one](#) back on February 22. There's good reason for that. With the breakup of last year's big El Niño, global temperatures declined significantly. The latest global temperature anomaly from the [UAH satellite temperature series](#) is +0.21 deg C for June 2017 -- down a remarkable 0.65 deg C from the February 2016 global anomaly of +0.86 deg C. The Northern Hemisphere anomaly dropped even more, by 0.86 deg C, from +1.19 deg C to only +0.32 deg C. Those declines represent well more than half of the entire warming that had been present in the satellite record at the peak of the El Niño, and bring recent temperatures below those recorded during many months in the 1980s and 90s. It's no wonder that the breathless press releases from NASA and NOAA trumpeting "hottest [April, May, June, etc.] ever!" have at least temporarily ceased.

But the lack of "record warming" announcements coming out of the government has not stopped independent researchers from further examining the surface temperature records from NASA and NOAA (and also from a British group called Hadley CRU that gets its starting data from the same source) to try to quantify and understand the "adjustments" that continue to be made. Readers of my series know that NASA, NOAA and Hadley CRU report global temperatures derived from a different source from the satellites, namely a network of land- and ocean-based surface weather stations known as the Global Historical Climate Network, or GHCN. These so-called "surface temperatures" are inherently in need of some ongoing

adjustments, to account for things like station moves and nearby urbanization. But somehow the adjustment process has gotten into the hands of some committed global warming zealots, and next thing you know each round of adjustments seems progressively to make the past cooler and the present warmer, thus always enhancing the apparent warming. Oh, plus the adjusters refuse to release details of the bases and methodology for the adjustments. After a few decades of this, reasonable people come to have serious and well-justified doubts about whether the reported warming trends can be trusted.

The latest effort at analyzing the adjustments comes from a team of independent researchers led by James Wallace, and including Joseph D'Aleo and Craig Idso. Their new Research Report can be found at [this link](#), titled "On the Validity of NOAA, NASA and Hadley CRU Global Average Surface Temperature [GAST] Data & The Validity of EPA's CO2 Endangerment Finding." The new Research Report has seven highly qualified peer reviewers identified in the paper itself. From the Abstract:

In this research report, the most important surface data adjustment issues are identified and past changes in the previously reported historical data are quantified. It was found that each new version of GAST has nearly always exhibited a steeper warming linear trend over its entire history. And, it was nearly always accomplished by systematically removing the previously existing cyclical temperature pattern. This was true for all three entities providing GAST data measurement, NOAA, NASA and Hadley CRU.

As others have previously noticed, the periodic revisions to GAST data from all three entities have brought with them a systematic cooling of the past and warming of the recent and the present, to a degree that hugely strains credulity. But the new Wallace, et al., paper takes another step, and examines the equally systematic removal from the surface temperature record of a cyclical pattern widely reflected in raw temperature data from multiple regions. As the paper notes, if you look at much raw (unadjusted) data, a cyclical pattern is immediately obvious: temperatures gradually increase from the beginning of records in the late nineteenth century through about 1940; then temperatures decrease through about the 1970s; then the

increase resumes through about 2000; and finally temperatures level off through the present. This cycle results in a temperature peak around 1940, sometimes referred to as the "blip." The "blip" has long been recognized to be a problem for the hypothesis that human greenhouse gas emissions are the principal control knob for global temperatures, because human emissions had barely begun before 1940 -- when temperatures were increasing -- and then human emissions began to increase sharply from the 1950s to the 1970s -- when temperatures were declining. Doesn't that significantly undermine the hypothesis? The successive rounds of adjustments to the surface temperature records have systematically removed this "blip," making for a temperature record seemingly supporting the hypothesis. Could this possibly be honest? From the Wallace, et al., paper:

As has been clearly shown in Section IV above, the consequences of the changes made to previously reported historical versions of GAST data have been to virtually eliminate the previously existing cyclical nature of their previously reported trend cycle patterns. The notion that there was a 1930 and 40s warm period followed by a mid-1970 cool period now gets lost in the noise so to speak.

As just one example from the paper, a comparison of the GAST data from NASA from May 2017 versus May 2008 shows that, in between the issuance of those two versions of the data, nearly all annual mean temperatures from approximately 1920 to 1940 have been *reduced* by between 0.05 deg C and 0.20 deg C, while nearly all annual mean temperatures from approximately 1980 to 2000 have been *increased* by between 0.05 deg C and 0.20 deg C. The obvious effects have been substantially to remove the 1940s "blip" and to strongly enhance the warming trend. Other data revisions at different points in time have made additional changes to the same effect. The basis and methodology for these adjustments have never been explained.

Have these adjustments been part of an intentional program to alter data to fit the desired hypothesis -- in other words, classic scientific fraud? The 2009 Climategate emails give additional evidence. For example, one of the best known of those emails is the September 27, 2009 message from Tom Wigley of NCAR to Phil Jones, head of Hadley CRU. In that email, Wigley proposes an intentional effort to reduce the ocean part of the surface record by 0.15 deg

C, not to make the record a better representation of reality, but rather to make the evidence fit the narrative. Excerpts:

So, if we could reduce the [1940s] ocean blip by, say, 0.15 degC, then this would be significant for the global mean -- but we'd still have to explain the land blip. I've chosen 0.15 here deliberately. This still leaves an ocean blip, and i think one needs to have some form of ocean blip to explain the land blip (via either some common forcing, or ocean forcing land, or vice versa, or all of these). . . . My 0.15 adjustment leaves things consistent with this, so you can see where I am coming from. Removing ENSO does not affect this. It would be good to remove at least part of the 1940s blip, but we are still left with "why the blip".

From the conclusion of the Wallace, et al., paper:

While the notion that some "adjustments" to historical data might need to be made is not challenged, logically it would be expected that such historical temperature data adjustments would sometimes raise these temperatures, and sometimes lower them. This situation would mean that the impact of such adjustments on the temperature trend line slope is uncertain. However, each new version of GAST has nearly always exhibited a steeper warming linear trend over its entire history. That was accomplished by systematically removing the previously existing cyclical temperature pattern. This was true for all three entities providing GAST data measurement, NOAA, NASA and Hadley CRU. . . .

The conclusive findings of this research are that the three GAST data sets are not a valid representation of reality. In fact, the magnitude of their historical data adjustments, that removed their cyclical temperature patterns, are totally inconsistent with published and credible U.S. and other temperature data. Thus, it is impossible to conclude from the three published GAST data sets that recent years have been the warmest ever – despite current claims of record setting warming.

The adjustments to the GAST record have been part of a coordinated effort to influence public policy by supporting restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions. In the United States, the EPA's finding that CO₂ constitutes a "danger" to human health and welfare rests on what EPA calls its three "lines of evidence," one of which is the supposedly "record warming" as shown in

the GAST data. Oh, it now seems that the "record warming" is not present in the raw data, but is nothing more than an artifact of adjustments made by government bureaucrats. The final conclusion of the Wallace, et al., paper:

[S]ince GAST data set validity is a necessary condition for EPA's GHG/CO2 Endangerment Finding, it too is invalidated by these research findings.

On July 6 my co-counsel and I submitted a Supplemental Petition to EPA, citing this new paper, seeking to have EPA reopen and reconsider the Endangerment Finding. We have called upon EPA to hold hearings on the record and under oath, at which hearings the people who have made the "adjustments" to create supposedly record warming should be called upon to set forth their detailed methods. It is high time that the people who have made these adjustments justify their handiwork to the American people.

UPDATE, July 9, 2017: It occurs to me that readers may be interested in this tidbit of information: That September 27, 2009 email from Wigley to Jones has a cc -- to a guy named Ben Santer. Do you recognize the name? He is another "scientist" on the government/taxpayer dime, and another serious global warming zealot, who works at the Livermore Lab in California. You may have seen his op ed in the Washington Post on June 21, 2017, title "Attention Scott Pruitt: Red teams and blue teams are no way to conduct climate science." Excerpt:

[C]alls for special teams of investigators are not about honest scientific debate. They are dangerous attempts to elevate the status of minority opinions, and to undercut the legitimacy, objectivity and transparency of existing climate science.

What are you afraid of, Ben? Time to get this guy under oath!

And here's yet another bit of similar news. You may recall that several years ago (real) Canadian climate scientist Tim Ball wrote of (fake) Penn State climate scientist Michael "Hockey Stick" Mann that "he belongs in the state pen, not Penn. State." Mann sued Ball for libel in a court in Vancouver, Canada. Ball demanded to get in discovery the underlying data and computer code that support Mann's "hockey stick" temperature

reconstruction. Back in February, the Canadian court ordered Mann to produce that information. According to Principia Scientific, Mann has now defaulted on that obligation and has gone into contempt of court. According to PS:

[U]nder Canada's unique 'Truth Defense', Mann is now proven to have wilfully hidden his data, so the court may rule he hid it because it is fake.

That may turn out to be an overprediction of how bad this will prove for Mann. Still, it is very remarkable that Mann would think he could be a plaintiff in a libel case and not have to produce the data and code that support his statements. Another guy to get under oath!

For all articles in this series on government temperature data tampering fraud, go to [this link](#).

105 Comments

Greatest Scientific Fraud, Scientific Fraud, Energy And The Environment

41 Likes

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The Greatest Scientific Fraud Of All Time -- Part XIV

February 22, 2017/ Francis Menton

The Daily Caller reported over the weekend that Congress is about to pass a bill zeroing out the budget of NASA's "Earth Sciences" division for global warming research:

Republicans plan to end the more than \$2 billion NASA spends on its Earth Science Mission Directorate. "By rebalancing, I'd like for more funds to go into space exploration; we're not going to zero out earth sciences," Texas Republican Rep. Lamar Smith, who chairs the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, told E&E News.

Well, this couldn't come soon enough. These NASA bureaucrats are the people who, under leader Gavin Schmidt, engineer just enough "adjustments" to world temperature records each year to make it possible to claim that this year has just set a new "record" for high temperatures. Always, the "adjustments" seem to make the past cooler and

the present warmer. For lots of detail on this subject, see parts I through XIII of this series, available at [this link](#).

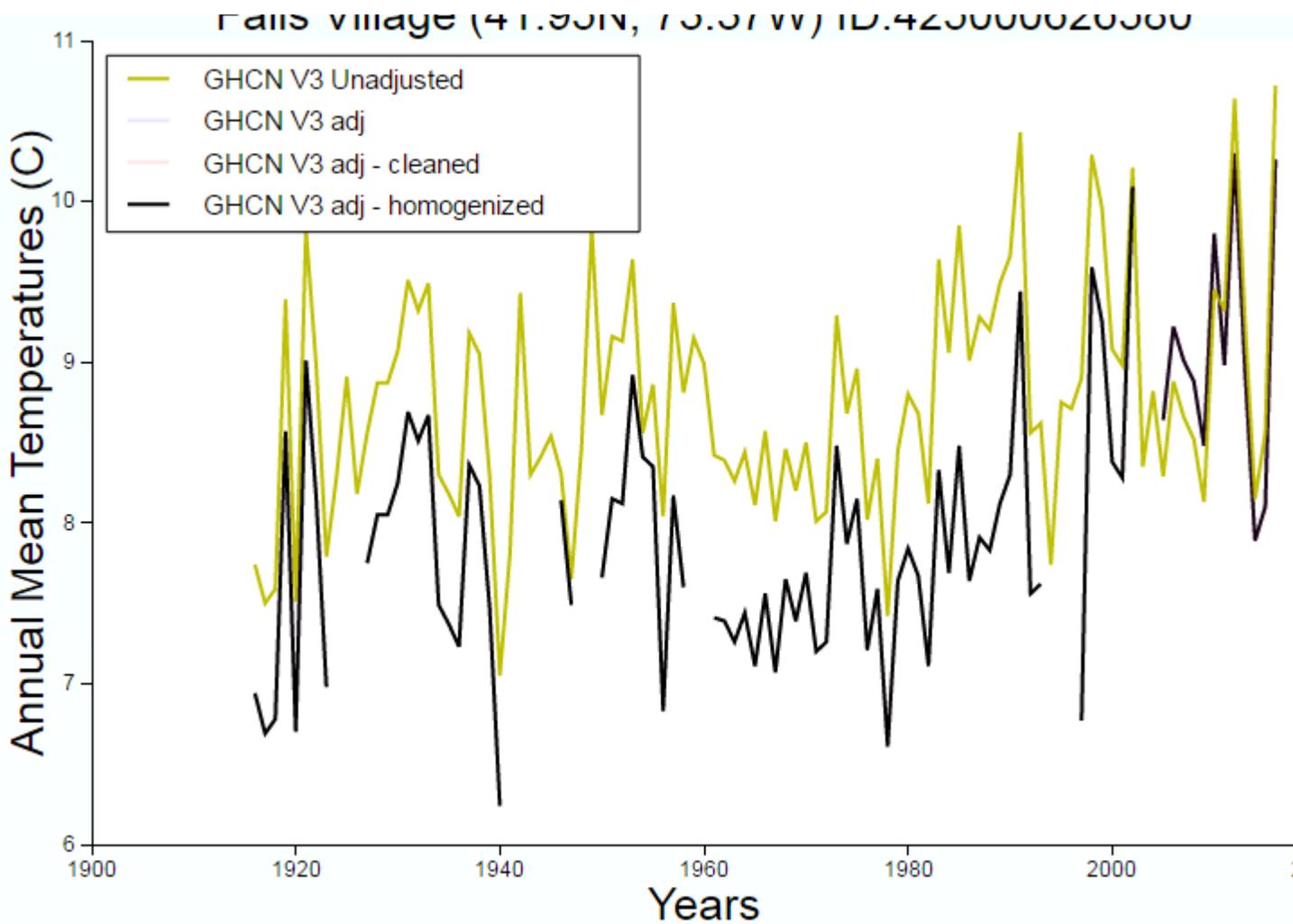
I come back to this topic today because a guy named John Mauer has a post today at [Watts Up With That](#) about NASA adjustments to temperatures at a weather station near and dear to myself, namely the one at Falls Village (Town of Canaan), Connecticut. I own a house in the adjacent town of Salisbury, about 3 miles from this weather station; and I pass it regularly. Mauer has collected the details of recent adjustments made by NASA to the temperatures at Falls Village, as well as NASA's stated rationale for the adjustments. It couldn't be more preposterous.

Here's Mauer's picture of the aerial view of the siting of the weather station. It's next to the Falls Village power station, and right down by the Housatonic River, which is visible in the view. The river forms the border between Canaan and Salisbury, so the small piece of land visible in the picture on the other side of the Housatonic is actually in the Town of Salisbury.

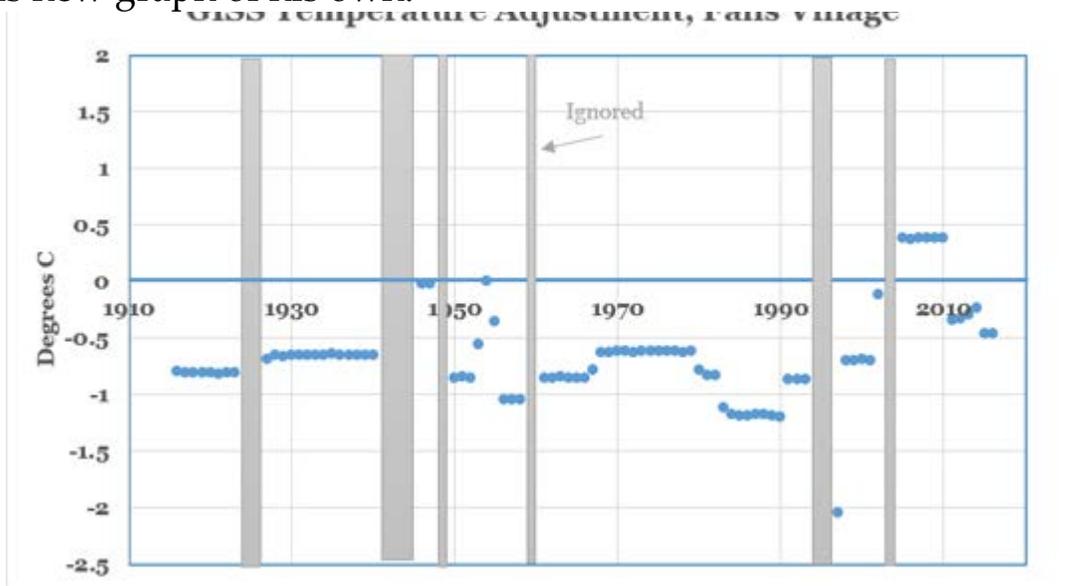


The temperature record for this station goes back 101 years, to 1916. You might think that the power station might affect the record some, but it was actually built in 1914. Also, it's not very big (11 MW), and is a hydro plant associated with the waterfall on the river that's just out of view.

Mauer points out that NASA chose to make some substantial adjustments to the historical temperature record at this station in 2015, conveniently timed to be shortly before the big Paris climate conference at the end of that year. You won't be surprised that the adjustments are completely typical for NASA adjustments at all weather stations: the past has gotten substantially cooler when compared to the raw data, while the recent years to the present have either stayed the same or gotten a little warmer. NASA itself actually provides a graph demonstrating the changes, and Mauer has copied that graph in his post:



Mauer has then backed the adjustments out of this graph and compiled them into this new graph of his own:



Suddenly what might have seemed like some sophisticated scientific work when you looked at NASA's graph is revealed as not so sophisticated at all. From 1916 to 1924, they have just lowered all annual average

temperatures by a flat 0.8 deg C. Then, after a gap of a few years in the adjusted series (unexplained), they lower all temperatures from 1927 to 1939 by a flat 0.6 deg C. In the 70s they seem to have gone for a negative 0.6 deg C adjustment, while for the 80s they went for negative 1.2 deg C. But suddenly in the 2000s, the adjustment became + 0.4 deg C.

OK guys, can you kindly explain. This time I will quote from the NASA website:

GHCN-adj-homogenized is the adjusted, cleaned data with the GISTEMP removal of an urban-only trend.

"Removal of an urban-only trend"? Really? In Falls Village, Connecticut? I can't even start to figure out what this means.

First of all, Falls Village is about the opposite of "urban." It is approximately 100 miles from New York City. The latest Census estimate of the population of the Town of Canaan is 1195 people in 33 square miles. (Adjacent Town of Salisbury has 3665 people in 60 square miles.) In my only quibble with Mauer, he says that the Town of Canaan is "mostly farmland." Actually not - it is about 80% forest, and of the unforested part, much is lawns or fields that are not farmed. There are very few farms left. This part of Connecticut has been reverting to forest for a good century and a half. See my famous *Defunct Agriculture Tour* of the area here. The population of the Town of Canaan actually peaked in 1850 at 2627, and hasn't remotely recovered.

But even if the Town of Canaan were an "urban" area, or even semi- or partially-urban, how could it make sense to adjust temperatures from 50 and 100 years ago *down* by half a degree or more? If Canaan had become an urban "heat island," wouldn't that mean that you should adjust *recent* temperatures down (to account for distortions coming from buildings or pavement or whatever), while leaving the past the same? Well, that's not the way it works at NASA. I think that the game plan is to bury this stuff in lots of details and hope that nobody has the time or inclination to get into the weeds and ask any difficult questions.

Again, they can't fire these guys fast enough. But I'll still believe it when I see it. Meanwhile, they could use about 100 new people to go in and audit what's been going on for the last 20 years.