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All the Junk That's Fit to Debunk

Show us the bodies, EPAPosted on [July 21, 2011](#) | [12 Comments](#)

By Steve Milloy

July 20, 2011, [Washington Times](#)

The House will soon vote to (slightly) rein in the Obama Environmental Protection Agency. But this much-needed baby step by Congress will only happen if Republicans have the knowledge and muster the courage to withstand a final bare-knuckles assault by EPA's enviro allies.

The House Appropriations Committee passed last week the fiscal 2012 EPA budget that would cut the agency's budget by \$1.7 billion – 18 percent – and delay for one year several of its new and/or planned regulatory programs targeting coal-fired electric utilities. It's hardly landmark legislation but it's a start.

Troubled by the agency's high-cost-for-imaginary benefit programs covering emissions of greenhouse gases, mercury, sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxides, the committee's bill calls for a timeout on the EPA's rules pending a study of their impacts.

But the EPA and its allies aren't taking such reasonableness lying down. Leading their pushback is the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), which is making utility giant American Electric Power (AEP) the whipping boy example for Republicans and businesses that dare question – let alone rise against – EPA oppression.

The EDF is running a billboard and TV ad campaign accusing AEP and, by extension, anyone else that opposes EPA overregulation, of pushing a "dirty air bill" that will kill 17,000 people per year in the name of "polluter profits."

The TV ad for this theme features a young girl in a hospital bed supposedly having an asthma attack. She's wearing a nebulizer face mask and chest compression device that is rhythmically but disturbingly squeezing the child, giving the appearance that she is in severe respiratory distress, by implication from air pollution.

But like the EPA's 17,000-lives-saved statistical fabrication, the ad is a fake.

If you look closely at the girl, as opposed to what is being done to her, she is, in fact, calmly sitting up in bed and not in any respiratory distress whatsoever. The ad is a total put-on. Moreover, asthma attacks aren't treated with chest-compression devices, which are instead more typically used for cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The apparent reason the EDF used the chest compression device in the commercial was to fabricate pulsating drama for its false message that efforts to rein in the EPA threaten children's health.

Another EDF commercial features a sonogram of a fetus with beating heart and a voiceover that asserts, "The developing fetus and young children are thought to be disproportionately affected by mercury exposure. ..." The voiceover then asks, "How many lives will be damaged? How many lives is OK?" by AEP's effort to block EPA regulation.

But there is no evidence that ambient levels of mercury or mercury emissions from U.S. power plants have harmed anyone. In any event, nature is responsible for the vast majority of mercury emissions (70 percent), while U.S. power plants are responsible for less than 1 percent of global emissions.

So what can Republicans and industry do to defend themselves from these groundless and scurrilous attack ads?

To paraphrase cinematic sports agent Jerry McGuire, "Show me the bodies."

While that may sound harsh, given that the EPA is about to kill hundreds of thousands of jobs and cost our crippled economy countless billions of dollars, Republicans must demand some sort of proof that the alleged harms are indeed happening.

The EPA says air pollution kills tens of thousands of people annually. This is on a par with traffic accident fatalities. While we can identify traffic accident victims, air pollution victims are unknown, unidentified and as far as anyone can tell, figments of EPA's statistical imagination.

It ought not to be too much to ask the EPA to produce some tangible evidence that air pollution is causing actual harm to real people. The EPA should have to demonstrate that its ever-tightening air quality and emissions standards are producing actual benefits.

Consider that the EPA and its enviro-buddies are essentially accusing coal-fired utilities of killing and injuring hundreds of thousands of people annually. Have you ever wondered why there are no class-action lawsuits against utilities for billions of dollars in damages?

Apparently, even trial lawyers have no confidence that EPA science holds up to scrutiny.

In the past two weeks, EPA chief Lisa Jackson and the chairman of EPA's clean air advisory committee have both indicated that there is no limit to EPA's clean air regulatory authority. In the name of public health, for example, the EPA could regulate ground-level ozone to below naturally occurring levels without regard to cost.

That situation, as well as what the EPA is doing today, are not what Congress intended when it amended the Clean Air Act in 1970, 1977 and 1990. We can no longer afford the EPA's clean air charade. The EPA has no clothes – if only congressional Republicans would open their eyes and notice.

Steve Milloy publishes JunkScience.com and is the author of "[Green Hell: How Environmentalists Plan to Control Your Life and What You Can Do to Stop Them](#)" (Regnery, 2009).

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12 RESPONSES TO SHOW US THE BODIES, EPA

Kenneth Lynes | [July 21, 2011 at 10:09 am](#) | [Reply](#)

Why doesn't the EPA busy itself with finding a way to deal with the tons of mercury that is present in the compact flourescents they have mandated be used, but for which in most areas in this country there is no easy nor convenient way to dispose of the used bulbs? It is ridiculous to mandate those bulbs when there is no easy way to dispose of the burned out ones except for the way most people do it, but putting them illegally into their trash. I am sure that is the way most people end up doing it. Here in Minneapolis, it is not allowed to put the bulbs in the recycling as far as I know. At least they will take batteries from electronics etc, but not car batteries.



The Shrimper | [July 21, 2011 at 12:39 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

Steve, sadly, the Stupid Party seems to be suffering from a genetic problem. They seem genetically predisposed to timidity, cluelessness, and laziness and accel in the art of the circular firing squad (witness this debt-limit fiasco). Keep up the good work though..... someone has to point out the obvious; maybe if we repeat these truths, maybe eventually enough folks will get it.



Jus Wing It | [July 21, 2011 at 3:16 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

The EPA are terrorists & need to be dealt with as such...



Pingback: [Obama threatens veto of EPA budget cuts | JunkScience.com](#)

Stan | [July 21, 2011 at 11:45 pm](#) | [Reply](#)

The EPA should point to specific paper they use to make their claims and they should post the data sets publicly that are used in those papers.



Andrew | [July 22, 2011 at 2:17 am](#) | [Reply](#)

Was it the EDF that said that the increase in Malaria deaths in Africa due to the banning of DDT was a good thing for the planet. Though born a few years too late, such people belong in the defendants docket at Nurenburg along with Goering and the rest of the self proclaimed supermen.



Pingback: [the Harry » In the name of public health](#)

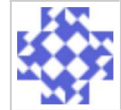
oeman50 | [July 23, 2011 at 10:08 am](#) | [Reply](#)

Excellent post, Steve. I have been saying the same thing to people who declare the recent tsunami of EPS regs is actually saving lives. Show me a death certificate that says it was caused by air pollution. The fact is the low hanging fruit of SO₂ and NO_x have been or will be mitigated. Now they go after trace elements like mercury. After that it will be selenium, although it has been shown that selenium actually ties up the mercury and renders it non-toxic!



Jonathan Spencer | [July 25, 2011 at 5:18 am](#) | [Reply](#)

Looks like you guys have another import from here in Britain: government sponsored enviropropaganda that makes the old Soviet Union propaganda machine apparatchiks look like mere babes-in-arms in comparison.



Remember the ad last year – effectively paid for by the UK taxpayer – graphically showing people being blown up if they didn't toe the party line on “man-made global warming”? Looks like the EPA have gone to the same rotten source to get their inspiration.

Slowly -very slowly – the wheel is turning here in the UK and we don't get as many of these ads now. Do yourself a big favour, USA. Stomp on these propagandists before they cause very real damage to your country.

bosnerdly | [July 26, 2011 at 1:25 am](#) | [Reply](#)

Nobody ever complains about air pollution acting as a fertility enhancement.



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