

Global Warming To Blame? This Is All Wet!

The charge has been flying in British media, as well as from Prime Minister Gordon Brown and Environmental Secretary Hilary Benn, that global warming is to blame for the flooding disaster in Britain. This is all wet.

The most common Al Gore assertion is that, the rains are just part of the “extremes” now experienced in Earth’s weather patterns—including hurricanes, droughts, floods, and such—attributable to the baseless claim that the planet is heating up because of greenhouse gas emissions. That has been refuted, including by *EIR*, so often, it is only noted here in passing.

One specific charge made by the London *Independent* newspaper, is that a research paper published July 24 in the journal *Nature*, shows that there is a link between the British Summer flooding and man-caused climate change.

The cited *Nature* article shows no such thing. One of the authors, Nathan Gillett, of the University of East Anglia, told the London *Daily Mail* and the *Guardian* explicitly that the *Nature* article looked only at the average annual rain and snowfall over the last century, and does not make the case that the current flooding in the United Kingdom is being caused by man-made global warming.

Let us now look more closely at the article in *Nature*. Entitled “Detection of Human Influence on Twentieth Cen-

ture Precipitation Trends,” it was authored by Xuebin Zhang and Francis W. Zwiers of Environment Canada; Gabriele C. Hegerl of Duke University; F. Hugo Lambert of the University of California at Berkeley; Nathan P. Gillett of the University of East Anglia; Susan Solomon of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Earth Sciences Research Laboratory; Peter Stott of Hadley Center Meteorology Office, U.K.; and Toru Nozawa, of the National Institute for Environmental Studies Japan.

The article is based on the output of 14 different climate models, the same ones that were used in the preparation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report. The computer models were run with three different model inputs: One group of models was run with only natural causes (solar radiation, volcanos); another group of models was run with only greenhouse gases produced by human beings; and the last group of models was run with a combination of the other two.

Then the research team did what is known as “ensemble modelling.” In this, the models are run 50 or more times, and then the average of all of the model output is taken. After averaging the model results, the research team claims to have found the human fingerprint on global warming and the increase in precipitation trends over the last century, because its model output with greenhouse gases had a slightly larger percentage change.

The *Nature* article is a study in statistical voodoo, and with that kind of trickery the only fingerprint that could have been found was the fingerprint on the money used to fund the research. — **Greg Murphy**