

The Job of the Bureaucratic Scientist¹

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2015 0309

Okay - So here's what I know - and a little opinion for spice.

Governor Scott did in fact issue directives asking staff to speak from a sound scientific basis rather than supposition. Oddly, I also found a very similar memorandum dated March 9 2009 giving approximately the same direction to federal staff. It is signed by President Obama (see link below). I also learned that the instruction from Gov Scott was actually issued in 2011.

So - let's tease this apart.

In the years between the rejection of the Kyoto Protocol under the Clinton Administration and the election of President Obama and Governor Scott, science took a beating. Especially the science surrounding the theory of man-induced global warming. Both men issued directives to staff to be more scientifically accurate in their statements. The directives were probably issued in part in an attempt to restore the public trust in science. Personally, when asked about global warming in the most commonly put form of the question - "Do you believe in global warming?" I have answered: "I am a scientist. I don't believe in anything." The fact is that the data do not support man-induced climate change beyond very localized effects around major cities. New York city for example has undergone quite dramatic local weather change, but that is not 'climate.' The extent of the ripples are unknown - and that's the problem. They are unknown.

Enter the bureaucratic influence - upper level staff add detail pursuant to their own 'belief' system and specify which words can and cannot be used. Global warming is banned.

More importantly, we must now ask why this is a newsworthy item now? It is 2015 and these directives were issued years ago. The answer is that it is 2015 and politics are

¹ Some of these same thoughts are presented in the Environmental Professional Article, "Putting Schizophrenia to Work for You." - Pub 2011.

starting play their hand. The article cites several disgruntled ex-employees who are probably positioning someone for a run for Governor in 2016.

For the record, state and federal agents are not now and never have been hired to “save the planet.” These men and women have been hired to enact the laws of congress (state or federal) and to uphold the policies and directives of the governor or president. They can and should have a scientific opinion, but it is not their job to enforce their opinion. If they understood that, they might have sought out other employment in the first place.

REF:

[Http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Memorandum-for-the-Heads-of-Executive-Departments-and-Agencies-3-9-09/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Memorandum-for-the-Heads-of-Executive-Departments-and-Agencies-3-9-09/))