

WHO IS REALLY MAKING UP THE FACTS?

By Joseph D'Aleo, August 17, 2009

In a Time/CNN story by Michael Grunwald "Steven Chu, A Political Scientist" on Chu's mission to China attempting to convince them to cooperate on emissions reductions in the December Copenhagen UN conference to discuss the next step after Kyoto (the Chinese are laughing all the way to the bank because they know our pain would be their gain).

Grunwald noted *"When I asked Chu about the earth-is-cooling argument, he rolled his eyes and whipped out a chart showing that the 10 hottest years on record have all been in the past 12 years and that 1998 was the hottest. He mocked the skeptics who focus on that post-1998 blip while ignoring a century-long trend of rising temperatures: "See? It's gone down! The earth must be cooling!" But then he got serious, almost plaintive: "You know, it's totally irresponsible. You're not supposed to make up the facts.""*

I agree with the very last sentence. NOAA, NASA GISS and Hadley though are guilty of exactly that. They have created or enhanced man-made global warming by careless and possibly fraudulent methods. They started by dropping 80% of the world's stations from their calculations, most rural, by not ensuring the instruments are not [improperly sited](#) (90% of the approximately 1000 surveyed and photographed by Anthony Watts volunteers do not meet the government's own published standards), by not adjusting properly for the urbanization warming that has taken place as the world's population rose for 1.6 to 6.7 billion people since 1900 (in the case of the US data, actually removing a very good urban adjustment), by employing and using instruments not really meant for precision temperature measurements or with warm biases, and most recently by eliminating ocean data sources like satellite or not using promising new sources like the Argo buoys because they are showing a cold 'bias' or cooling when the goal is to show warming in agreement with the models and their forecasts.

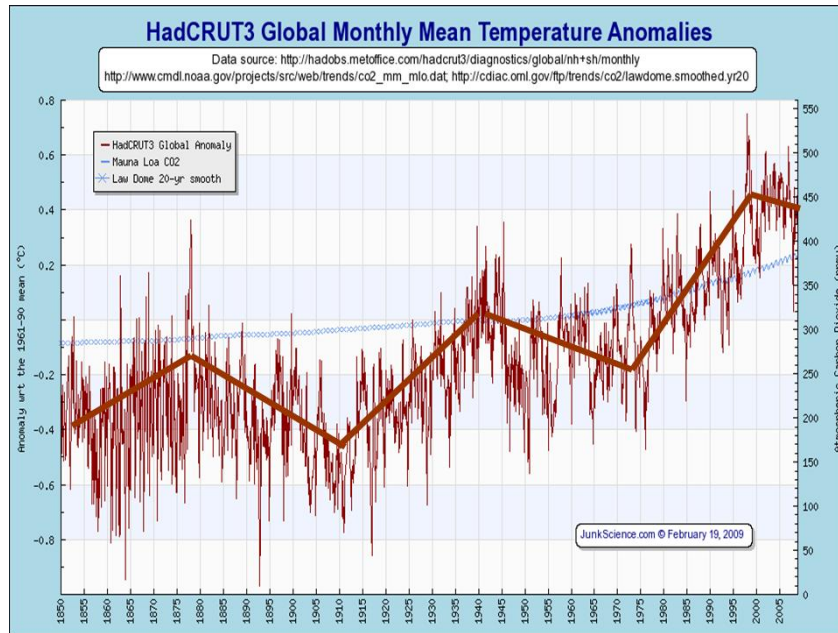
With the data they perform then a homogenization adjustment that blends the good with the bad (a little like the toxic assets in the mortgage crises). Though this may improve some of the bad data, it degrades the good data. This is a little like mixing pure spring water with sludge, the sludge is a little less disgusting, but the result is not potable.

Even the prior CCSP found that most of the warming is with the minimum temperatures in higher latitude cities and in winter, all classic characteristics of the urban heat island.

Dozens of peer review papers have been published and new ones appear monthly showing that the local factors like urbanization are responsible for an exaggeration of the warming longer term by 20 to 50% or even more.

LAST CENTURY OF "WARMING"

The last century of temperatures from the UK Hadley Center shows the upward trend used by the IPCC. I have added the 60 year cycle that is evident in the data set. We have just begun a leg down right about on schedule.



We have posted other stories by [Andrew Orlowski](#) in the UK Register, [Roger Pielke Jr.](#), [Jennifer Marohasy](#), [Timothy Ball](#), and Steve McIntyre ([here](#) and [here](#) among many posts) recounted some of the adventures attempting unsuccessfully to date to get access to the raw data and adjustments from Phil Jones at Hadley using official channels. It includes some astounding claims by Hadley that some of the original data was lost because they did not have storage capacity. Only the value-added (processed/adjusted) data remained for some areas.

In their own words:

“Since the 1980s, we have merged the data we have received into existing series or begun new ones, so it is impossible to say if all stations within a particular country or if all of an individual record should be freely available. Data storage availability in the 1980s meant that we were not able to keep the multiple sources for some sites, only the station series after adjustment for homogeneity issues. We, therefore, do not hold the original raw data but only the value-added (i.e. quality controlled and homogenized) data.”

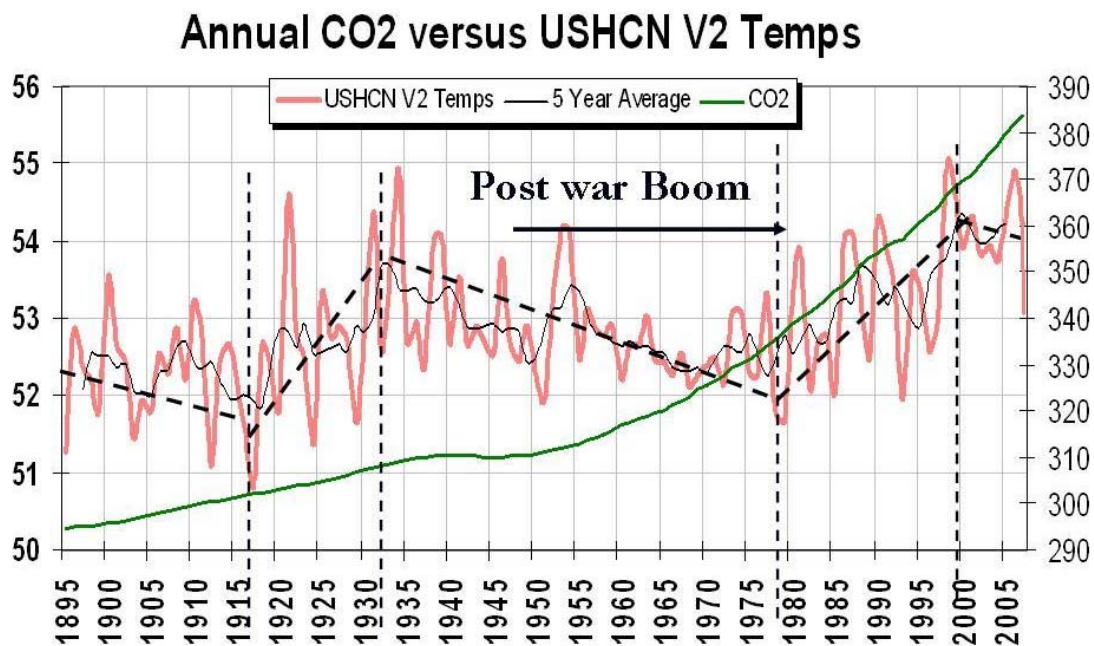
Their center is responsible for accumulating, archiving and processing data. I could fit all the data in the world and documents all the changes on my laptop. They don't have the capacity at Hadley? And in 2005, after Steve's first request:

“Even if WMO agrees, I will still not pass on the data. We have 25 or so years invested in the work. Why should I make the data available to you, when your aim is to try and find something wrong with it.” Phil Jones, Climatic Research Unit, 21 February 2005

We won't get into that any further here.

With more stability of the United States with respect to the rural data, you see a much smaller upward trend longer term and again warming confined to relatively short 20-30 year intervals even as CO2 rose. The rate of warming from the 1910s to 1930s was actually greater than that from 1979 to 1998.

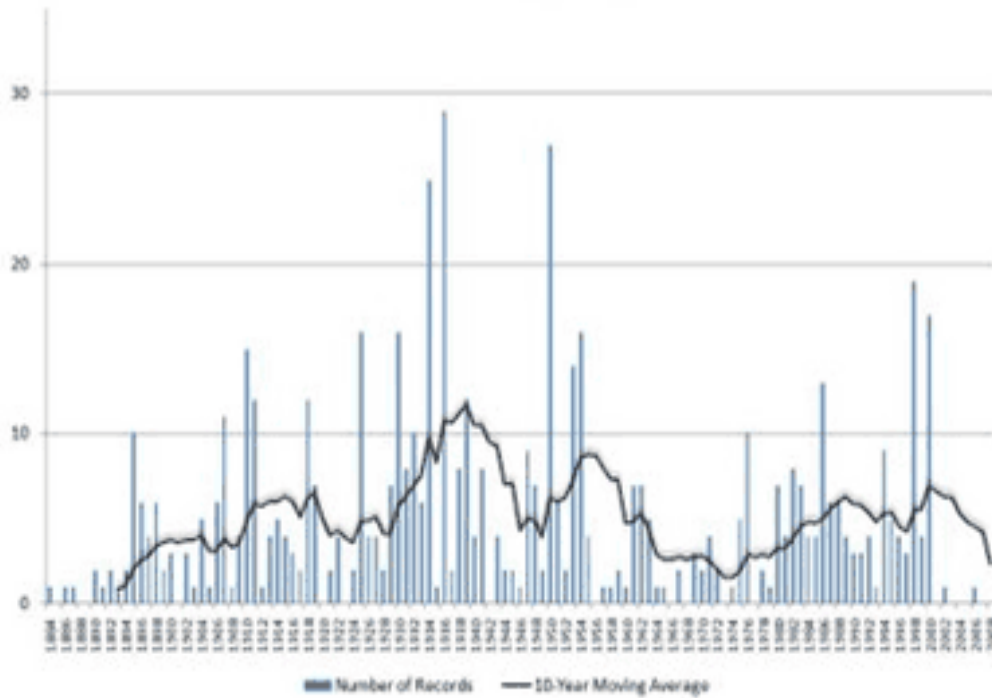
When you correct for the issues discussed above, the recent decades fall down in comparison with the 1930s to 1950s when most of the heat records were set. You reduce the 10 of 10 to maybe 2 to 5 in ten warmest years. The data sets all show a 60 year cycle and one would expect years near the peaks would tend to rank among warmest and the minimums rank among the coldest.



1930S THE WARMEST DECADE?

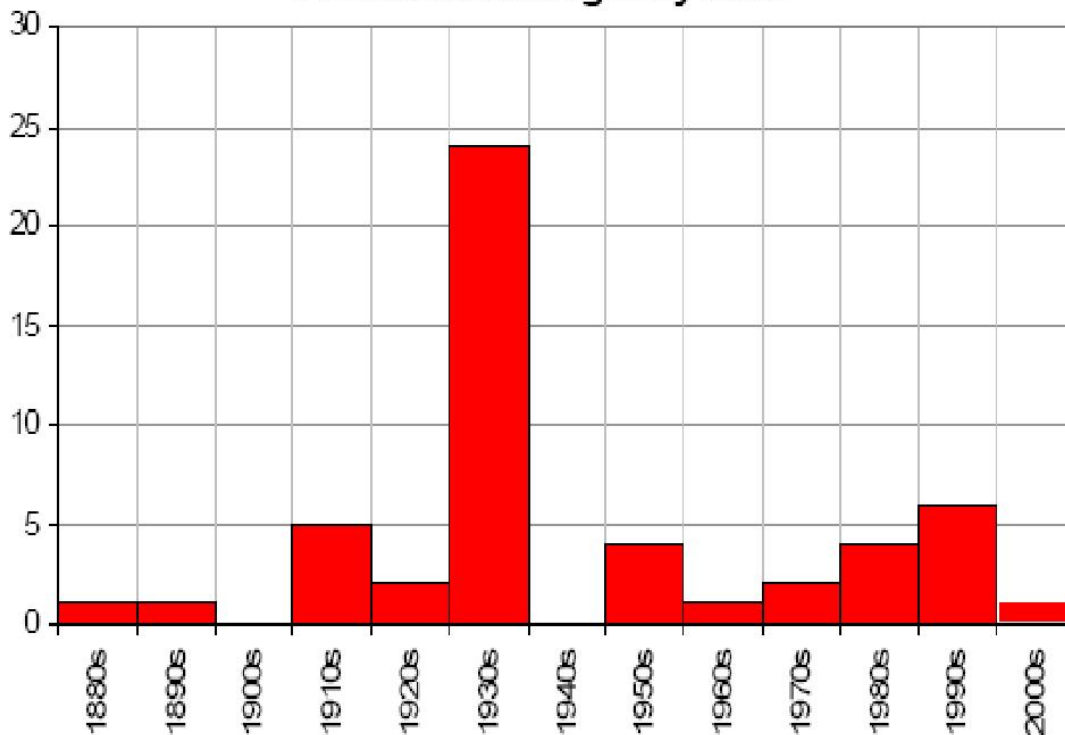
Looking at the record highs one gets the clear impression we are dealing with cyclical changes and that the warmth in the 1930s to 1950s exceeded that of the recent decades.

Total 50-State Record High Temperatures



This decade almost ended, has fewer heat records than any decade in a century. The all time state record highs show the dominance of the 1930s (24 of the 50 records).

All-time Record Highs By State



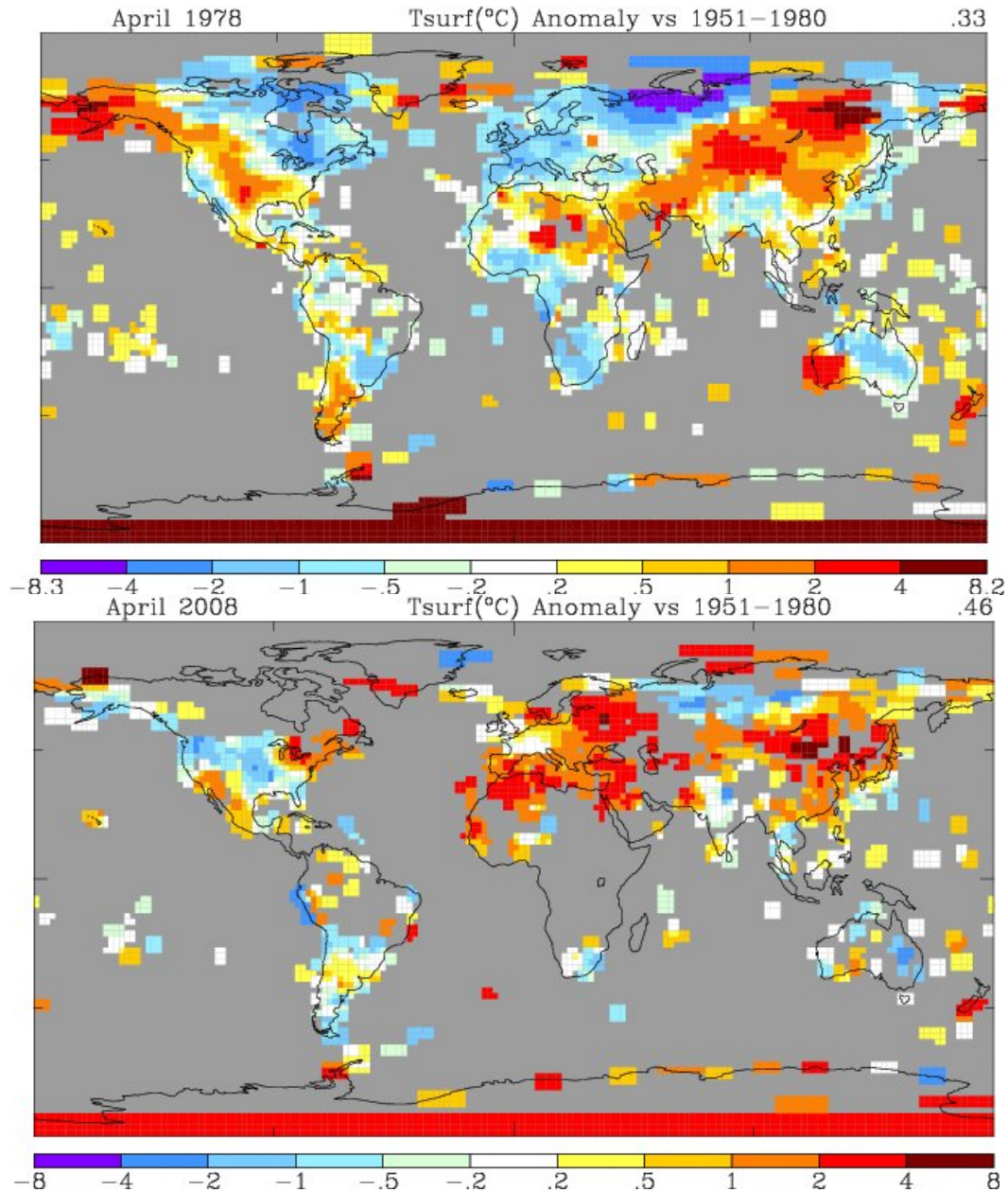
Continental global heat records are all prior to 1974.

<i>Continent</i>	<i>All-time High</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Date</i>
Africa	136	El Azizia, Libya	September 13, 1922
North America	134	Death Valley, CA	July 10, 1913
Asia	129	Tirat Tsvi, Israel	June 22, 1942
Australia	128	Cloncurry, Queensland	January 16, 1889
Europe	122	Seville, Spain	August 4, 1881
South America	120	Rivadavia, Argentina	December 11, 1905
Oceania	108	Tuguegarao, Philippines	April 29, 1912
Antarctica	59	Vanda Station, Scott Coast	January 5, 1974

Fig. 9 World Wide Record High Temperatures

GLOBAL STATION DROPOUT

You can see the coverage difference between the stations on this GISS analysis of the NOAA gathered stations from [1978](#) versus that in [2008](#).



You can see the stations grow then suddenly disappear in this animation from John W. Goetz [here](#). See in [this John Goetz post](#) 1079 stations worldwide contributed to the GISS analysis, 134 of them being located in the 50 US states. Many, many hundreds of stations that have historically been included in the record and still collect data today continue to be ignored by NOAA and GISS in global temperature calculations (in 1970s the number of stations totaled well over 6000).

Data is available in the large holes in places like Canada and Brazil and Africa, but NOAA appears not to be accessing it. The last year has been very cold in Canada.

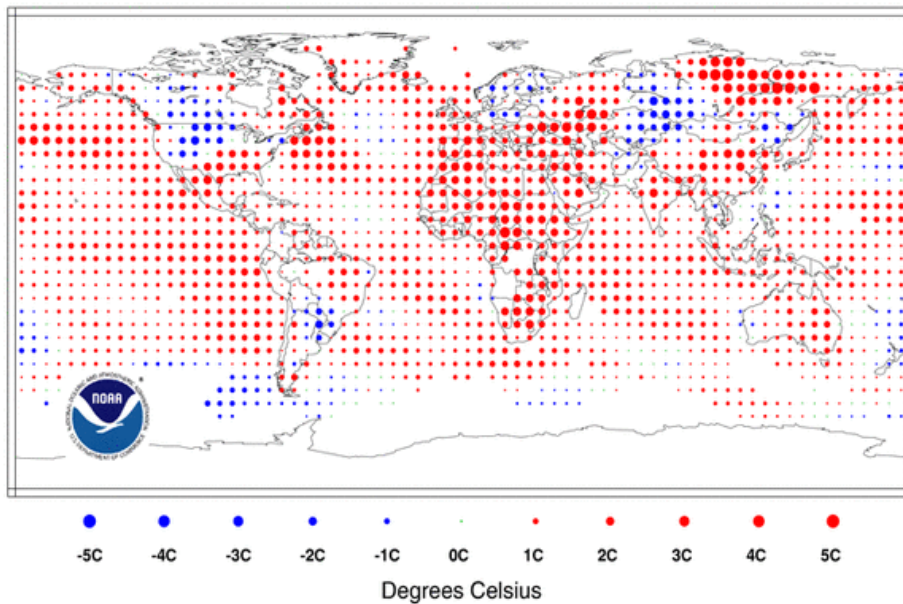
FIXING OR IGNORING THE COOLING OCEAN PROBLEM

Also they in the last year [made changes to the ocean temperature data base](#) removing the satellite data that they claimed was giving a cold bias to the data. The oceans now are shown to be warm just about everywhere and in June was the warmest of the record. See NOAA's map below. Note most of the world's oceans were warmer than normal (for the oceans it was the warmest June on record).

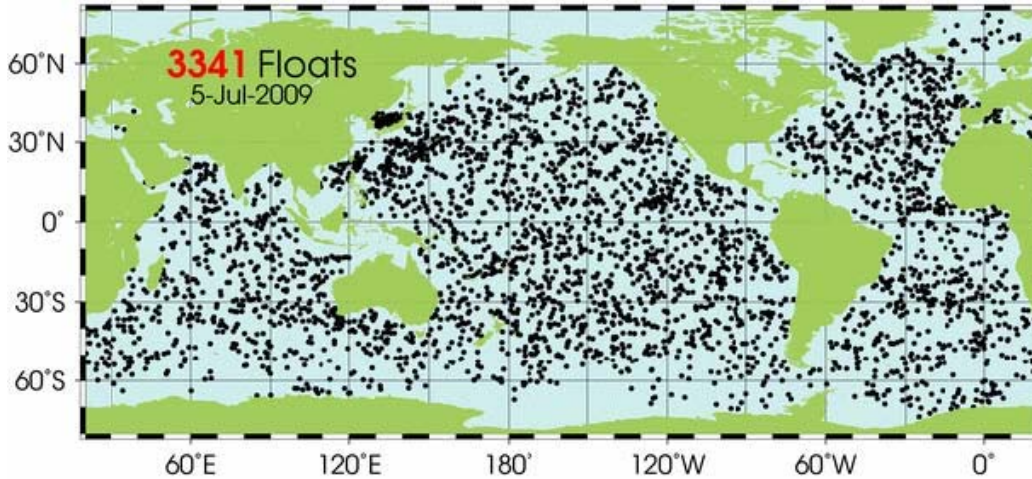
Temperature Anomalies June 2009

(with respect to a 1961-1990 base period)

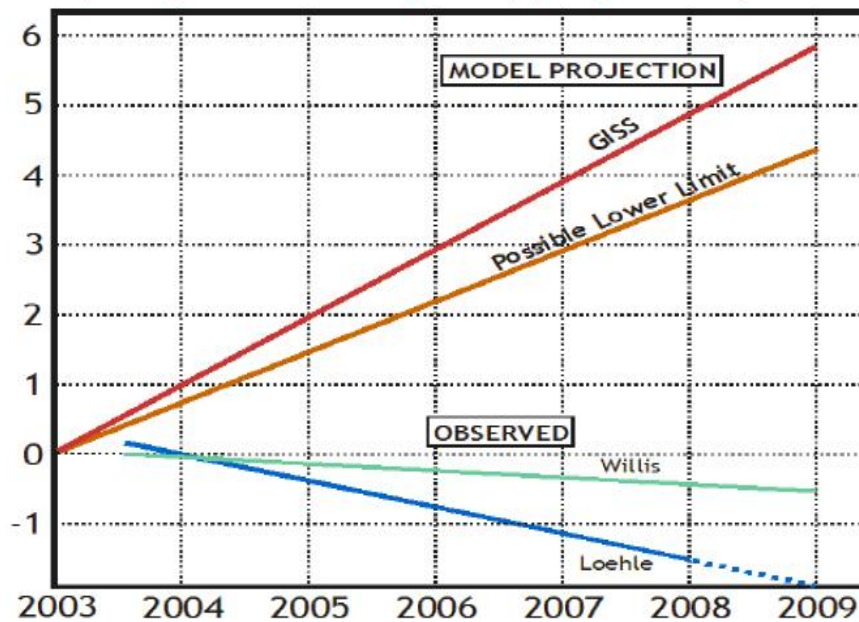
National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



This is true even though the 3342 NOAA ARGO floats worldwide are showing cooling.



Five years' global ocean cooling: reality yet again disobeys models



Plotted data from the ARGO buoys (graph courtesy of SPPI) by NOAA's Willis and Loehle (2009). There appears to be no efforts to use this data real-time in monthly assessments.

So Secretary Chu, as a science advisor who claims to care about being responsible, may I suggest you do an investigation of this data debacle. I assure you that those of us who have worked with the data for many years care about it more than you could ever imagine. I have a few names you can start with.