



Climate Change- Déjà Vu

Print news media have warned of four separate climate changes in slightly more than 100 years - global cooling, warming, cooling again and, at present, warming. Some current warming stories combine the concepts and claim the next Ice Age will be triggered by rising temperatures.¹ So, if you are looking for something to blame for whatever concerns you might have about the weather, blame it on global warming.

Many publications now claiming the world is on the brink of a global warming disaster said the same about an impending Ice Age - just 30 years ago. Several major ones, including *The New York Times*, *Time* magazine and *Newsweek*, have reported on three or even four different climate shifts since 1895.¹

Here are headlines from *The New York Times*:

September 18, 1924 - "MacMillan Reports Signs of New Ice Age"

March 27, 1933 - "American in Longest Warm Spell Since 1776; Temperature Line Records a 25-Year Rise"

May 21, 1975 - "Scientists Ponder Why World's Climate is Changing; A Major Cooling Widely Considered to Be Inevitable"

December 27, 2005 - "Past Hot Times Hold Few Reasons to Relax About New Warming"

Anderson and Gainor report, "It was about five years before the turn of the century and major media were warning of disastrous climate change. Page six of *The New York Times* was headlined with the serious concerns of "geologists." Only the president at the time wasn't Bill Clinton; it was Grover Cleveland. And the *Times* wasn't warning about global warming - it was telling readers the looming dangers of a new Ice Age.¹ As the *Times* put it on

Feb. 24, 1895, "Geologists think the World May Be Frozen Up Again."

These concerns lasted well into the late 1920s. But when the earth's surface warmed less than half a degree, newspapers and magazines responded with stories about the new threat. Once again, the *Times* was out in front, cautioning that the earth was steadily growing warmer. "Arctic Findings in Particular Support Theory of Rising Global Temperatures," announced *The New York Times* during the middle of winter, on February 15, 1959. "Glaciers were melting in Alaska and the 'ice in the Arctic ocean is about half as thick as it was in the late nineteenth century.'"¹

After a while, that second phase of climate cautions began to fade. Just three decades ago, in 1975, *The New York Times* reported, "A Major Cooling Widely Considered to Be Inevitable." In the 1970s, journalists took the threat of another Ice Age seriously. *Fortune* magazine actually won a "Science Writing Award" from the American Institute of Physics for its own analysis of the danger. "As for the present cooling trend a number of leading climatologists have concluded that it is very bad indeed," *Fortune* announced in February 1974.¹

Harper's pitched in with this prediction by Betty Friedan: "Certain signs, some of them visible to the layman as well as the scientist, indicate that we have been watching an Ice Age approach for some time without realizing what we are seeing. ... Scientists predict that it will cause great snows which the world has not seen since the last Ice Age thousands of years ago."²

Cooling really scared folks. In 1975, it went from "one of the most important problems" to a first place tie for "death and misery." "The threat of a new Ice Age must now stand alongside nuclear war as a likely source of wholesale death and



misery for mankind," said Nigel Colder, a former editor of *New Scientist*.¹ Sounds like to gloom and doom we now hear about global warming, and speaking about global warming, another flip-flop occurred and the cooling was replaced by the current era of reporting on the dangers of global warming. Just six years after the "scary" oncoming Ice Age, on August 22, 1981, the *Times* quoted seven government atmospheric scientists who predicted global warming of "an almost unprecedented magnitude."¹

To show how researchers have changed sides on weather issues, Jonathan Margolis says this about one prominent scientist, "A passionate supporter of the Ice Age theory in the 1970s was Stephen Schneider, who went on to become Department Director and Head of Advanced Study Project at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Today, as Professor in the Biological Sciences Department at Stanford University and an environmental advisor to Al Gore, Schneider is one of the world's leading global warming proponents. The only way to show you have a mind may, as Mark Twain said, be to change it sometimes. But Professor Schneider's conversion on the road to global warming seems a little alarming. So converted was he that as early as 1992, he was telling the *Boston Globe*, 'It is journalistically irresponsible

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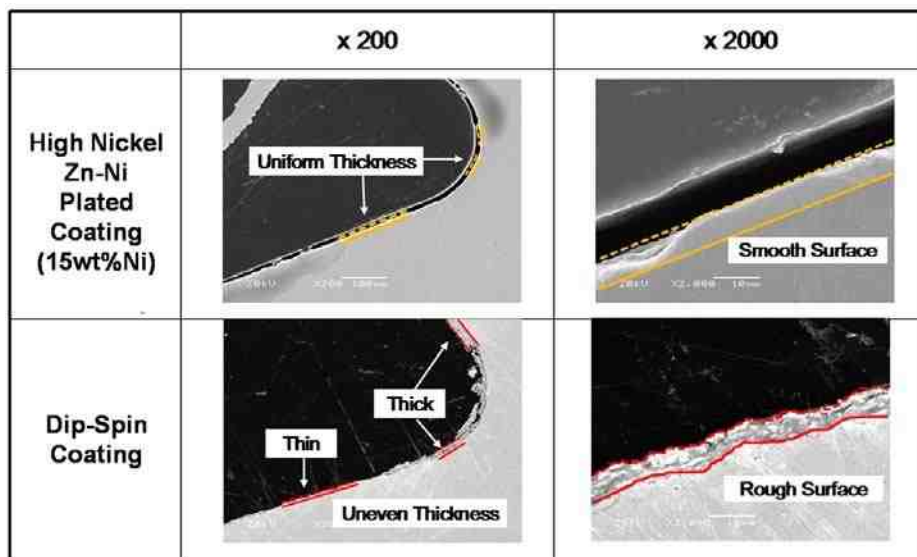


Figure 11—Comparison of zinc-nickel and dip-spin cross-sections (bolt thread section).

Conclusion

There is a long track record of performance for both alkaline zinc-nickel alloy plating and dip-spin coating technology. Alkaline zinc-nickel coatings involve an electroplating process and therefore provide a smooth, more uniform finish when compared to dip-spin coatings. High alloy alkaline zinc-nickel coatings maintain stable performance even after aging and can use conventional plating equipment. The above attributes, combined with zinc-nickel being a truly sacrificial coating, make it an ideal choice for peak performance fastener plating.

About the author



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Fact or Fiction?

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to present both sides [of the global warming theory] as though it were a question of balance.”³

Some final thoughts:

So there you have it. Media alarmism, like climate itself, runs in cycles.⁴

Catastrophic manmade global warming:
1981-present

Catastrophic manmade global cooling:
1954-1976

Catastrophic global warming:
1929-1969

Catastrophic global cooling:
1895-1932

In spite of all the media reported consensus on global warming, here are some words from Jonathan Margolis that are worth thinking about: “Any statistician trying to extrapolate a million-year trend from a hundred years’ numbers would be castigated for working too limited a sample. Furthermore, the hundred or so years of temperature records on which we

are forced to base the heating hypothesis are admitted, even by global warming proponents, to be patchy in reliability. Some of the latest satellite tracking of atmospheric and surface temperatures, additionally, fails to show any clear warming trend. The very contention that a relatively puny species, a troop of glorified apes which could still fit shoulder to shoulder on to a scrap of land the size of the Isle of Wright, off southern England, has damaged, and without particularly trying to, something as vast as an entire planet will strike many as an especially audacious example of the arrogance of the present. The twin idea that we can rescue the planet does not seem much less conceited.”⁵

So where are we today? In the midst of all the hype about global warming, have you heard about the glitch that’s been encountered? After nine years of non-warming, the planet actually began to cool in 2007 and 2008 for the first time in 30 years. The net warming from 1940 to 1998 had been a minuscule 0.2°C. The UK’s Hadley Center says the earth’s temperature has now dropped back down to about the levels of 100 years ago. “There has been no net global warming within living memory,”

says Dennis Avery.⁶ Add to this the fact that, so far, 2009 doesn’t look like another barn-burner for the warming advocates.

Guess What? Perhaps the next scare will be an impending Ice Age. Are you surprised? **P&SF**

References

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4. Christopher C. Horner, *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Global Warming and Environmentalism*, Regnery Publishing, Washington, DC, 2007.
5. Jonathan Margolis, *A Brief History of Tomorrow*, Bloomsbury, New York, NY, 2000; p. 83.
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