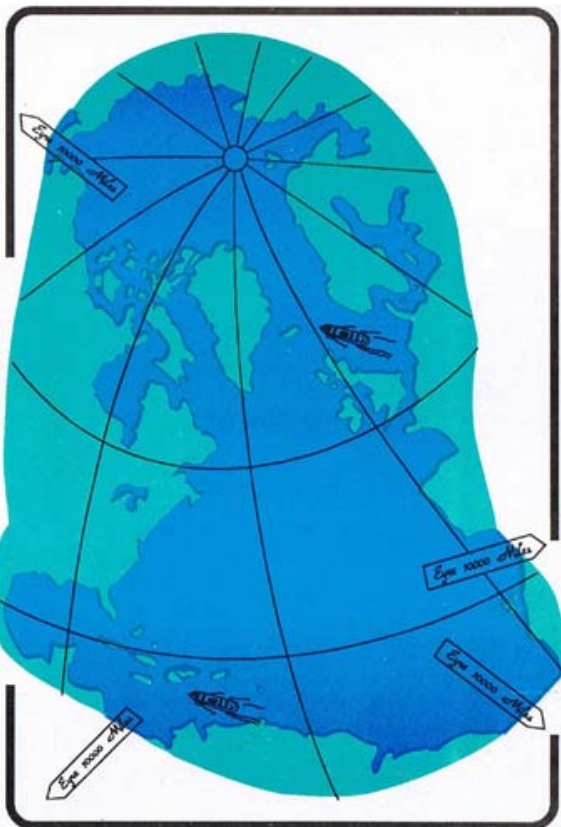


Letter from Skaggerak by William Shepherd¹

Twenty years ago I wrote an essay entitled *Green Houses or Blue Moon Waves* in which I discussed the work of the marine scientist Otto Pettersson. My sole source was a book first published in 1950 entitled *The Sea Around Us* by Rachel Carson.



My manuscript remains unpublished and Otto Pettersson's work remains unknown, buried...along with the object of his research...at the bottom of the Skaggerak. In 2005 I did a Google search which confirmed his obscurity and prompted me to write away to *Oslo University* for more information about the gentleman and his work. Repeating the search a year later Google came back with 415 references to this great scientist. My comments were right up there on the top page in fifth position.

The background to this tale is that while browsing in the *Ashford County Library* in 1989 I chanced across a Rachel Carson book published in 1968 by *MacGibbon & Kee* entitled *The Sea*. The book was a 3-in-1 reprint of *The Sea Around Us*, *Under the Sea-Wind* written in 1941 and *The Edge of the Sea* published in 1955.

Under the Sea-Wind was not a success. It enjoyed excellent reviews but few readers. But then ten years later in 1951 came *The Sea Around Us* and instant success. Between one spring tide and the next Rachel Carson was world-famous and being showered with honours. The book remained high on the best-seller lists for eighty-six weeks and was translated into thirty languages.

There were two interesting side-effects. Firstly *Under the Sea-Wind* was reprinted in America and published for the first time in Britain. But for the triumph of *The Sea Around Us* this remarkable book would have

remained gathering dust in the basements of a few American public libraries. Secondly her success brought Rachel Carson the financial independence essential for the research and writing of *Silent Spring*...and about this book the introduction to *The Sea* had this to say:

'There can be few literate people who have not heard of Rachel Carson. Her last book *Silent Spring* sounded a tocsin round the world prompting governments in many countries to restrict the use of pesticides. It has been given to few women, other than the mistresses of emperors and kings, so to influence governments. It has been given to no other woman to do so through the medium of a book.'

Green Houses or Blue Moonwaves was included in a collection of essays entitled *Let the People Sing*...a policy paper for the sixth *Fourth World Assembly* in San Antonio, Texas in the summer of 1990. Events have shown its predictions to be accurate. The introduction to the *Let the People Sing Collection* had this to say about the *Moonwaves* essay:

'This essay was included as the prologue to an unpublished privately circulated manuscript that gathered together the various strands of evidence that suggested the absence of a reliable case either for or against global warming and so-called *greenhouse effects*.'

The Megamachine may have shot itself in the foot latching onto the greenhouse effect with such obvious delight as the foundation for its next nuclear power offensive.

There are two schools of thought among climatologists and in general the more knowledgeable the scientists, the more likely they are to fall into the school which maintains that the greenhouse gases are just as likely to cool the planet as heat it, and that the effect of man's production of carbon dioxide is but a tiny part of the quantities on either side of the planet's carbon dioxide balance sheet.

¹ This article was first published in weblog twenty three on Monday 23rd January 2006 as [Blue Moonwaves](http://climate.blog.co.uk/2006/05/09/otto_pettersson~786814/) by williamshepherd at http://climate.blog.co.uk/2006/05/09/otto_pettersson~786814/.

Careful scrutiny of greenhouse effect mathematical models shows them to be sensitive to assumptions (low cloud cover for instance) and, like many models of the type used, to present as their justification the array of numbers, posing as model predictions, that were used to 'calibrate' the model in the first place. Used outside the area of phoney correlation their predictions fail to correlate with the real data.

Furthermore the effects attributed to greenhouses gases such as carbon dioxide are based on just one of a number of possible hypotheses explaining observed data. Other hypotheses, such as dust and particle concentrations, when modelled produce similar effects.

But the weakness of the scientific case becomes even greater when more plausible hypotheses are explored. Into this category of hypothesis comes Otto Pettersson's work on the deep ocean waves, the changes in the sun's activity, and broader astronomical hypotheses related to shifting planetary alignments working through the behaviour of complex oscillatory systems in the planet's ocean basins.

This is not New Age mysticism but hard science based on the laws of mechanics, the principles of wave motions and the dynamic characteristics of living systems.

However the insistence of the ancients on the close relationship between astronomy, astrology and the behaviour of life on this planet is receiving serious scientific attention now that it is known that living organisms have super-sensitivities far more powerful than our current scientific instruments and that 'semi-conductor' effects, whereby small changes are greatly amplified, are the norm rather than the exception in living matter.

This is one side of the coin, but there is another side. Psychologically the Megamachine, in its never-ceasing quest for total control abhors the diversity of nature and the movement inherent in its rhythms and its randomness.

So in constructing its communication and transportation systems it seeks always for fixed land-based links. The crinkly edges of islands will be flattened; the wandering shoreline will be straightened by a wall, tunnels will be constructed to eliminate the need to work with the rhythms of the natural world, which the tides and the currents, the winds and the waves represent.

In providing the essential infrastructure for a human population, similar deep psychology will be at work, quite apart from the more obvious tendency for capitalism to work by creating scarcity and then metering the bottlenecks. Water will therefore be collected in large dams and distributed by pipes. This tames nature.

Roof collection of water or rain-determined river flows are inherently unacceptable. Solar collectors, energy conservation and other forms of direct use of the energy showered upon the planet every day are in a like manner psychologically unacceptable because of their randomness and their obedience to cosmic and planetary law.

The need for absolute control is the mind-set of the megamachine and its operatives. Unless energy, food, water and the like are delivered predictably and regularly in accordance with a fixed schedule and a known timetable, the pulse at the heart of the machine, the usury payments, cannot be maintained.

The first rule of battle is to know your enemy and seek to meet him where he is weakest. The weakness of the megamachine is in the rhythms and randoms of the oceans and the cosmos. Constructing hypotheses and promoting projects which work with these diversified and irregular forces will not only throw the megamachine on the defensive, but will also make it easy to predict its response, because the only trick it knows is to centralise diversity and regulate the flow of irregularity.

In Great Britain the ideological demands to privatise the electricity and the water utilities provide opportunities for power to move out of the hands of the national parliament. The megamachine will seek to hijack the power and control the production and supply. The newly created private companies in the electricity and the water and sewage businesses will be loaded up with debt and take a transnational stance.

Grids will be linked, nuclear generated power will flow from France through the Channel Tunnel cables, water will be sold in bottles, high-grade uranium will be cornered in the commodity markets or fast breeder reactors put back onto a viable usury footing by direct taxation, a global electricity grid will be privately constructed and personal electricity generation made illegal. And so it will go on.

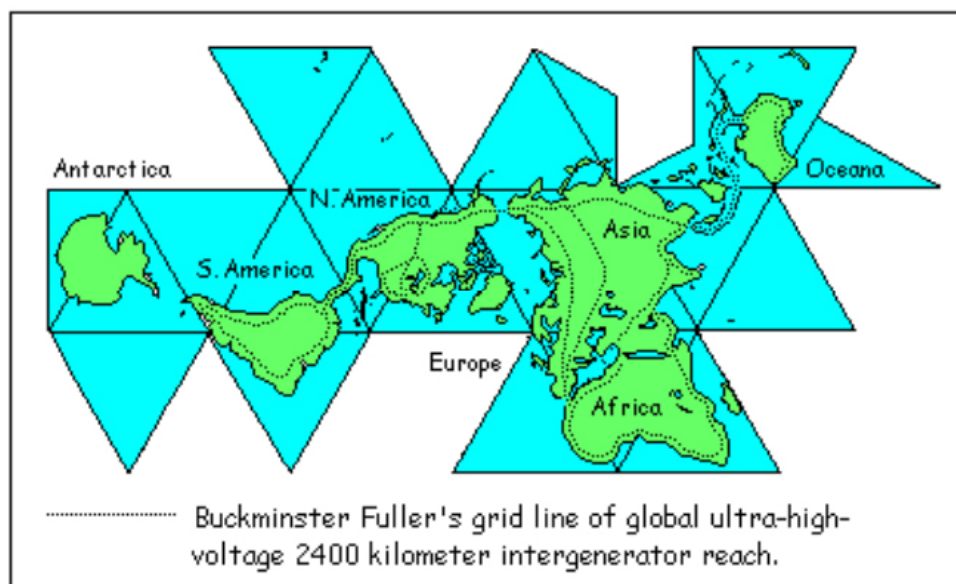
But it does not need to be like this. The technical feasibility of linking the day and night side of the planet, the possibilities of an energy currency providing the sun-rich Third World countries with a valuable export commodity (piped sun), the elimination of the hardships of floods and droughts need no megamachine, no usury, no privatisation, no monopolising, no metering and regulating.

Most of all they need no mining, no nuclear reactors...apart from the one working for our benefit ninety three million miles away...no megaprojects and no microcomputers.

Money can be issued to people and be used by them to provide for their local water and electricity needs. Locally they would not allow energy once captured to be thrown away. They will use their solid waste and their sewage. Nor would they heat their water up to several hundred degrees when their end use needs were seldom above twenty or

thirty degrees. And they certainly would not make electricity when they needed rooms heated and could distribute hot water directly to do the job as they do in the city regions of Sweden.

And how much money is needed? The people's wealth locked up among the building societies as savings and the pension funds² of the miners or the seamen unions would be quite adequate were they to be removed from the gambling tables in the megamachine's casinos. Pricing policies could be turned on their heads. It would make more sense. Small users pay seven times as much per gallon as large users, instead of the other way about.



The purpose of the North Atlantic grid could be to provide emergency back-up electricity, to be an insurance policy promising, like an EEC farm subsidy, to purchase any electricity in surplus in local villages and towns so as to meet the needs of those with a temporary shortfall.

It would not be necessary for the grid supply to put small scale generation out of business by predatory pricing. There is nothing that says that an energy tax should not be used directly to transfer money to the poorest families in the North Atlantic region. With imagination there is little that is not possible.

Privatisation can be used to build non-nuclear confederations of small local producers and local users bypassing the megamachine's millions of monies. Good laws can put their heavy mobs behind bars or string them up from the lamp-posts. Green investors can get together and float companies to purchase nuclear reactors to close them down and dismantle them before they do any more damage.

The bankers would breathe great sighs of relief once they came to terms with the new reality. Insurance companies could get back into the business of insurance. We see too readily the dangers of a crisis and fail to see the opportunities.

The greenhouse effect might turn out to be a godsend. *The New Left* should find themselves in broad agreement on energy, economics and environment. And on these issues they can carry a majority of the people with them. It is too good an opportunity to miss.

A strategy to discredit the greenhouse effect offers the chance to catch the megamachine on the defensive with all its millions of monies committed. The *Moonwave Effect* and other alternative hypotheses can push home the advantage catching the megamachine where it is at its most vulnerable...on its sea-side and not its land-side.

Finally setting up truly public companies from personal savings and pension investments, either alongside the megamachine's financial pack of cards or by deprivatising the issuance of money and credit and returning to a tax-spend regime instead of a spend-borrow-tax squared regime, and instructing them to do specific jobs and then close themselves down.

Here we have the makings of a programme which *Greens*, *Socialists* and *Christians*...be they *Catholics* or *Christian Democrats*...can agree. How insipid is the megamachine with its 1992 bleatings compared to the richness of such a programme for the peoples of the North Atlantic seaboard. The best means of defence is attack. The tide has turned out in the estuary. Your sails have been hoisted for a while now. The wind is getting up. Let's sing our songs. Our time is fat approaching. Let's do what must be done.

² See *The Unseen Revolution: How Pension Fund Socialism came to America* by Peter F. Drucker (1976, Harper and Row, New York, ISBN 0-06-011097-X).