

From: Bowman, Liz
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To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Dravis, Samantha <dravis.samantha@epa.gov>
Subject: For Review: Red Team Release

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT CALLS FOR RED TEAM EXERCISE ON CLIMATE SCIENCE SPECIAL REPORT

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt called for a Red Team exercise to critique the Fourth National Climate Assessment, a report mandated by Congress every four years.

“This report presents an opportunity to evaluate the science around climate change with an open, public ‘Red Team/Blue Team’ exercise,” **said Administrator Scott Pruitt.** “The subject of climate science is of great importance to the nation and the world; decisions costing trillions of taxpayer dollars’ rest upon projections of future climates. It is essential that certainties and uncertainties in the science are accurately presented to the public and to decision makers. A robust, transparent public peer review evaluation of climate change is something everyone should support. Now is a perfect opportunity for the formation of a ‘Red Team’ exercise.”

Administrator Pruitt has been leading the effort to develop a credentialed “Red Team,” which will write a detailed criticism of the Fourth National Climate Assessment from the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), which was released on Friday, November 2, 2017 by the USGCRP agencies, including EPA. The report, inaugurated under the previous administration, has been reviewed by conventional processes as in final draft form. EPA is standing up a Red Team peer review of the report. The “Blue Team” represents the authors of the report, and supporting scientists.

[QUOTE FROM KOONIN]

[QUOTE FROM WILLIAM HAPPER]

On Friday, Steven Koonin, a theoretical physicist who served as undersecretary for science under President Barack Obama published an opinion editorial in *The Wall Street Journal* saying that this report “reinforces alarm with incomplete information and highlights the need for more-rigorous review of climate assessments.”

The concept of a “Red Team/Blue Team” process for climate science sparked debate – and broad support – following the April 20, 2017 opinion editorial published in the Wall Street Journal by Steven Koonin, a theoretical physicist who served as undersecretary for science under President Obama. In his editorial, Mr. Koonin called a “Red Team/Blue Team” process for climate science “one of the most important and contentious issues of our age,” concluding:

The outcome of a Red/Blue exercise for climate science is not preordained, which makes such a process all the more valuable. It could reveal the current consensus as weaker than claimed. Alternatively, the consensus could emerge strengthened if Red Team criticisms were countered effectively. But, whatever the outcome, we scientists would have better fulfilled our responsibilities to society, and climate policy discussions would be better informed. For those reasons, all who march to advocate policy making based upon transparent apolitical science should support a climate science Red Team exercise.

EPA will announce further details of the scientists and process involved in the Red Team exercise in coming weeks.

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Liz Bowman

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Office: 202-564-3293