

Floodwalls Stuffed with Newspaper

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Sand boil at floodwall expansion joint, New Orleans

Saying the use of newspaper instead of rubber foam was only a "temporary solution" applied in three panel gaps, Maj. Timothy Kurgan, chief public affairs officer for the Corps' New Orleans district, acknowledged that it was "not the preferred technique."

"You had a lot of work being done to get things

up to snuff after Hurricane Katrina. I don't want people thinking there's just a bunch of newspaper inside this wall, and that's the only thing keeping water out," he told the Times-Picayune.

Kurgan also disputed the claim that a contractor had put in the newspaper filling, saying the work was done by Corps employees.

"It's an indictment against

the quality of work being done," said St. Bernard parish president Craig Tafaro.

"Would they let a contractor put Play-Doh in the place of mortar when they put bricks on their house? No, I don't think so."

McCain Differs With Bush on Climate Change

By ELISABETH BUMILLER and JOHN M. BRODER, The New York Times 5/13

PORTLAND, Ore. — Senator John McCain sought to distance himself from President Bush on Monday as he called for a mandatory limit on greenhouse gas emissions in the United States to combat climate change.

McCain called for more action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. McCain, in a speech at a wind power company, also pledged to work with the European Union to diplomatically engage China and India, two of the world's biggest polluters, if they refuse to participate in an international agreement to slow global warming.

In the prepared text of his speech, e-mailed to reporters on Sunday night and Monday morning, Mr. McCain went so far as to call for punitive tariffs against China and India if they evaded international standards on emissions, but he omitted the threat in his delivered remarks. Aides said he had decided to soften his language because he thought he could be misinterpreted as being opposed to free trade, a central tenet of his campaign and Republican orthodoxy.

But he took a shot at Mr. Bush.

"I will not shirk the mantle of leadership that the United States bears," Mr. McCain said pointedly. "I will not permit eight long years to pass without serious action on serious challenges."

In speeches on the campaign trail, Mr. McCain frequently highlights the threat of climate change, but he has a mixed record on the environment in the Senate. In recent years he has pushed legislation to curb emissions that contribute to climate change, but he has missed votes on toughening fuel economy standards and has opposed tax breaks meant to encourage alternative energy.

In his address on Monday, Mr. McCain, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, renewed his support for a "cap-and-trade" system in which power plants and other polluters could meet limits on heat-trapping gases like carbon dioxide by either reducing emissions on their own or buying credits from more efficient producers.

Mr. McCain's break with the Bush administration means that the three main presidential candidates have embraced swifter action to fight global warming.



Pool photo by Bruce Ely

Senator John McCain, second from left, toured the Vestas Wind Energy Training Facility in Portland, Ore., on Monday. Mr.

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The two Democrats seeking their party's presidential nomination, Senators [Barack Obama](#) of Illinois and [Hillary Rodham Clinton](#) of New York, criticized the McCain plan as too timid, because their plans would reduce emissions more quickly. Leaders of several environmental groups were also sharply critical and noted Mr. McCain's Senate votes against incentives for energy conservation and alternative energy sources like wind and [solar power](#).

Other environmental advocates offered qualified praise for Mr. McCain, of Arizona, who was among the first in Congress to introduce legislation to address the carbon emissions that scientists blame for the warming of the planet.

Mr. McCain said Monday that the problem demanded urgent national and international action.

"Instead of idly debating the precise extent of global warming, or the precise timeline of global warming, we need to deal with the central facts of rising temperatures, rising waters, and all the endless troubles that global warming will bring," he said at a Vestas wind turbine manufacturing plant in Oregon, where the environment is a central issue for voters. "We stand warned by serious and credible scientists across the world that time is short and the dangers are great."

The senator's remarks were a clear criticism of Mr. Bush, who in his first term questioned the scientific basis for global warming and who has remained opposed to mandatory caps on emissions, which he says would be bad for the American economy. The administration also rejected the international Kyoto protocol, which limits emissions of heat-trapping gases.

Mr. McCain's speech, a compilation and sharpening of many of his existing proposals, was most notable as a political document that sought to appeal to the independents he is wooing for November. It put him slightly to the right of center in the environmental debate.

Mr. McCain simultaneously released a television commercial in Oregon about his position on climate change and startled audience members at his speech by praising and sharing the stage with Gov. Theodore R. Kulongoski, Democrat of Oregon, who has endorsed Mrs. Clinton for president.

Mr. McCain is the only Republican presidential candidate this year to call for mandatory limits on heat-trapping gases, but his target for reducing emissions is lower than that of Senators Clinton and Obama, and even lower than that in a bill proposed by Senators [Joseph I. Lieberman](#), independent of Connecticut, and [John W. Warner](#), Republican of Virginia.

In his speech, Mr. McCain advocated cutting emissions 60 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050; Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama propose cutting them by 80 percent in the same time frame, while the Lieberman-Warner bills calls for a 70 percent reduction. Scientists say reductions of that magnitude are needed to slow and then reverse production of the gases, chiefly carbon dioxide, which are heating the atmosphere and causing long-term climate changes.

Mr. McCain said the United States must seek new, cleaner sources of energy to replace the burning of coal and oil, which produce the bulk of the gases that are blamed for the warming of the planet. "As we move toward all of these goals, and over time put the age of fossil fuels behind us," he said, "we must consider every alternative source of power, and that includes nuclear power."

Mr. McCain has long advocated nuclear power as a way to cut emissions, and frequently promotes it in his campaign appearances as an alternative energy source. His view is shared by many utility executives and many Republicans in Congress, but it puts him at odds with Mr. Obama and Mrs. Clinton, who have expressed skepticism about the cost and safety of nuclear power plants.

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Supports cap-and-trade but has not specified what share of the pollution permits he would auction. "Over time, an increasing fraction of permits for emissions could be supplied by auction," he said



The issue of free trade is a central tenet of McCain's campaign and Republican orthodoxy.

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There are no incentives for building new nuclear plants in the Lieberman-Warner legislation now before the Senate that his Democratic rivals have endorsed, and Mr. McCain suggested Friday that he would not support the measure unless it contained some nuclear power subsidies.

Mr. McCain's proposal in his prepared remarks to impose tariffs on industrializing countries like China and India is also made in the Lieberman-Warner bill and reflects concerns by both industry and labor in the United States and elsewhere in the industrialized world. It would mandate punitive duties on products from any country that did not participate in a global carbon-reduction system, to balance the lower cost of producing goods using dirty-energy sources.

In another contrast with Mr. Bush, Mr. McCain also sought to persuade voters that he had a personal concern and firsthand experience with climate change, which has emerged as a major issue in the 2008 presidential race.

"A few years ago I traveled to the area of Svalbard, Norway — it's a group of islands in the Arctic Ocean," Mr. McCain said. "I was shown the southernmost point where a glacier had reached 20 years earlier. From there, we went northward for miles, up the fjord to see where that same glacier ends today, because all the rest, all the rest, has melted."

Reaction to Mr. McCain proposals from environmental advocates was lukewarm. Several environmental groups said that his plan did not go far enough but that they were grateful to hear a Republican recognizing what they consider an urgent problem and offering a detailed plan to solve it. But Mr. McCain came under considerable criticism for repeatedly opposing federal programs to encourage energy conservation and alternative fuel sources.

Daniel J. Weiss, who heads the global warming program at the Center for American Progress, a Democratic policy shop in Washington, said Mr. McCain had often voted with Democrats on environmental bills but at other times had taken contrary positions.

Elisabeth Bumiller reported from Portland, Ore., and John M. Broder from Washington. Kitty Bennett contributed reporting from Washington.

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[Transcript: McCain's Speech on Climate Change \(May 12, 2008\)](#)

Doctors Feel Push....

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Dr. Roger Merrill, Perdue's chief medical officer, said the company had discovered that many workers who got less invasive treatment -- such as splinting, exercise and ibuprofen -- fared better than those who got surgery. "We had a better way to treat folks," he said.

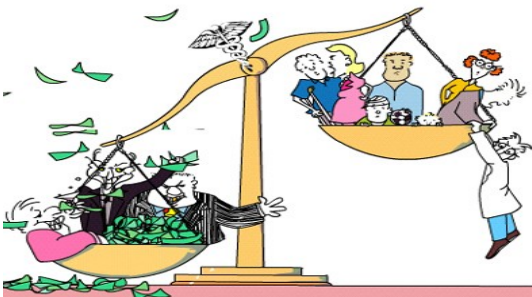
But Bloem wondered whether health concerns were the only factor. "In the end," he said, "the money

wins."

In their quest to keep injuries off logs, company officials without medical training sometimes provide inappropriate treatment, doctors at the New York conference said.

Dr. Peggy Geimer, corporate medical director for a chemical company in Connecticut, spoke of the "tremendous amount of pressure" on company staff to provide treatment beyond their level of expertise.

She recalled how one supervisor dealt with an injured worker who spilled an acidic chemical on his arm: He applied potash, which is sometimes used to clean up chemical spills -- unaware that it would only make the burn worse.



McLellan said he doesn't recall his group ever before taking such a strong stance on the issue. As one doctor at Monday's conference put it: "We need to treat the patient. Not the log."