

Bush global warming plan 'lacking,' scientists say

President Bush has earmarked \$103 million for global warming research, but critics say that the studies don't focus on the problem

By Seth Borenstein
Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration plans to spend at least two more years and another \$103 million studying what it calls the "uncertainty" of the science behind global warming instead of deciding how to fix it.

Scientists and environmentalists say the U.S. Climate Change Science Program, which will be released Thursday, focuses too much on scientific questions that already have been answered and not enough on action. Knight Ridder obtained parts

of the plan Wednesday

The science plan is the Bush administration's next move on the thorny issue of global warming. Soon after taking office, President Bush withdrew from a 1997 international treaty to reduce emissions of so-called "greenhouse gases" — which contribute to global warming — and reneged on a campaign promise to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from coal-fired power plants. The president said restricting emissions of such fossil fuels to slow global warming would cost too much, given how uncertain he believes the issue is.

Summaries of the report use the word "uncertainty" 15 times and the phrase "fossil fuels" only once.

But uncertainty is more in the eyes

of politicians than of scientists.

While scientists still quibble about how bad the problem will become, an overwhelming majority of climate scientists say global warming is man-made and is caused primarily by burning fossil fuels. A team of top international scientists predicts that world temperatures will increase somewhere between 2.5 to 10 degrees by the year 2100.

Spending so much time looking at the so-called uncertainty "is a little bit like somebody sending a letter to the fire department trying to find out their capabilities when there is already smoke coursing through the house," said Michael MacCracken, an atmospheric scientist. He was the federal government's top scientist in charge of studying the impact of global warming from 1993 to 2001.

The prestigious National Research Council, which does scientific and engineering studies for the federal government, said in February that an early version of the Bush strategy took good first steps, but "lacks most of the basic elements of a strategic plan" that would help lead to action. Officials at the council did commend the Bush administration for seeking scientific review.

Thursday's plan calls for more research in five key areas:

- Understanding today's climate and how the climate has changed in the past.
- Figuring out more precisely what causes global warming.
- Reducing the wide range of estimates on how hot the atmosphere will get.

Understanding how humans and the environment could adapt to global warming.

Deciding on "the limits" and risks of what can and can't be done about it.

Commerce Secretary Donald Evans, in a prepared statement, said: "The Bush administration has brought a total government spending on climate-change related programs to \$4.5 billion. The critical investment announced today will accelerate select high-priority research projects and climate observations that will help us fill critical knowledge gaps."

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U.S. soldiers kill Hussein sons; some Iraqis skeptical

The United States said soldiers killed Saddam Hussein's sons Odai and Qusai in a raid, but have not yet released photos of the pair's bodies

By E. A. Torriero
Chicago Tribune (KRT)

BAGHDAD, Iraq — For nearly 15 years, Tereza Koushaha waited to see the corpse of Odai Hussein.

"I always knew God would punish Odai," said Koushaha, 70, whose son Kamal Gegeo was beaten, shot and stabbed to death by a drunken Hussein in 1988. "But I

will not be happy until I see his body on television."

Iraqis were widely disappointed Wednesday that the U.S.-led coalition did not release photos of the corpses of Saddam Hussein's sons, Odai and Qusai, who were killed Tuesday in an American assault on a house in Mosul.

Among those who believe the brothers are dead, there also was anger that they were not captured alive to face trial. And while many cheered the sons' demise, Iraqis showed little pleasure at the heavy firepower displayed in the U.S. raid

in Mosul.

Already distrustful of U.S. long-term aims in Iraq, victims of the Hussein regime and its political opponents say it will take more than mere assurances by a U.S. general to convince them of the brothers' end.

"Are they really dead?" asked Raidhi Shineshel, a former star soccer player who suffered beatings and imprisonment when Odai's Iraqi national team did not play well. "Then show us the proof so we can see it with our own eyes."

Late Tuesday, U.S. commanders raised Iraqi expectations by promis-

ing full details of the raid that killed the Hussein brothers. Iraqi leaders often have informed U.S. officials of the public's need to see photographs of dead former regime members as proof that the Hussein machine is not returning.

Early Wednesday, U.S.-run Iraqi radio told people to be ready for an important announcement. But through the day, as Bush administration deliberated what to allow the Iraqi people to see, residents grew increasingly suspicious.

"We are not sure if they are Qusai and Odai's bodies or not. ... They

need to take a picture and show it," said Mohammed Fadhil, an Iraqi journalist, at a cafe for intellectuals.

The family of Kamal Gegeo, a Hussein family valet, was eager Wednesday morning to talk publicly about how Odai had killed him in 1988. Later in the day, relatives refused to do an extended interview because Iraqi news media had shown no photos of Odai's body and they feared his vengeance.

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