

Climate Change as a Social Problem

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Chesapeake Bay – Not Yet Saved



- ▶ Bay cleanup would involve sewage treatment, runoff control

BUT FIRST

- ▶ Need water quality standards
- ▶ Need plans from each jurisdiction
- ▶ Need coordination
- ▶ Need models
- ▶ Need lots of money

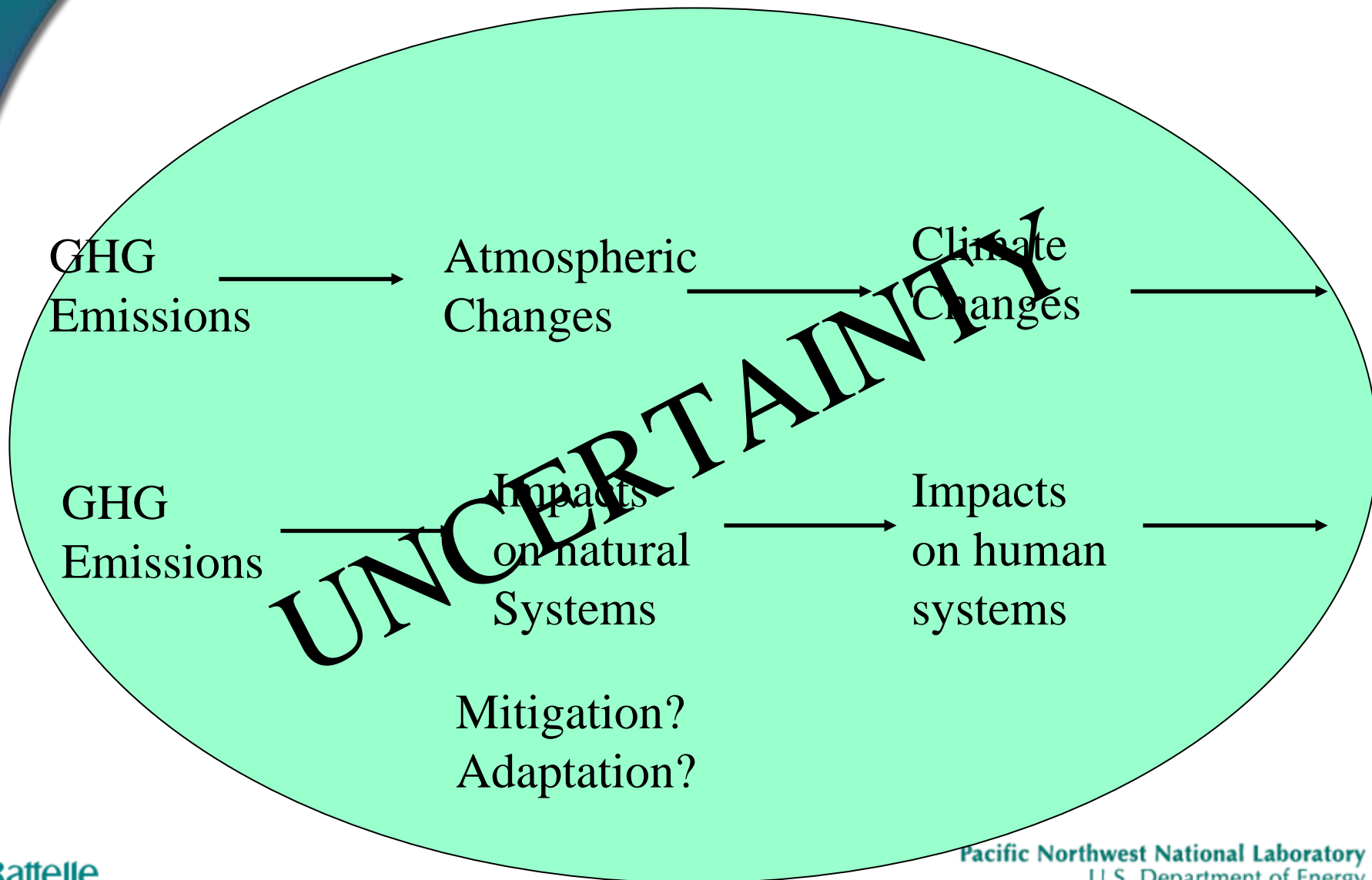
The Physical Science Framing

GHG Emissions → Atmospheric Changes → Climate Changes →

GHG Emissions → Impacts on natural Systems → Impacts on human systems →

Mitigation?
Adaptation?

The Physical Science Framing



Human Change

- ▶ Climate is an important dimension.
- ▶ How do people live their lives in specific places?
- ▶ What are the human resource needs and how well are those needs being met?
- ▶ Why and how are decisions made that bear on resources?

Some Implications of a Focus on Human Change

- ▶ Interactions with other political, environmental, cultural issues become important.
- ▶ General development becomes important.
- ▶ Things get messy – but things ARE messy.

Big Issue: Processes of Human Change

- ▶ Industrial Revolution shows that big changes can happen quickly.
- ▶ Why and how do industries change?
- ▶ Why and how do people adopt new lifestyles?

Clearly, the present is not the future.

“Driving Forces” Are Inadequate

- ▶ Arrows point in the wrong direction – should go from development stories to resulting population, affluence, technology.
- ▶ Arrows point in straight lines, when circular change is ubiquitous.
- ▶ Arrows point one way, when co-development characterizes human change.

Keep the climate dimension in
human change research.