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Bill Gates plans to control hurricanes

July 16, 4:17 PM - [New Orleans Top News Examiner](#) - Matt Roberts



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Microsoft founder, Bill Gates, has turned his attention and deep pockets to controlling hurricanes with a new invention.

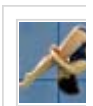
Gates along with a team of co-inventors including climate scientist, Ken Caldeira of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, have submitted five U.S. Patent applications for a proposed device to slow hurricanes down by pumping cold, deep-ocean water in its path from barges.

If issued, the patents offer 18 years of legal rights to the idea for Gates and his co-inventors.

The patents describe a system that would place as many as 200 turbine engine barges in a path of a raging hurricane, and designed to then pump chilled water from its depth to the ocean's surface negating the hurricane's source of strength. The Vessels could be towed, dropped by planes or submerged in the ocean until needed.



Satellite image of Hurricane Katrina in 2005



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The deadly intensification of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 drew its strength from the warm waters of the gulf before making landfall. Katrina caused \$81.2 billion in devastation, and left 1,836 confirmed dead in its wake.

The second patent application pertains to the cost of building and maintaining this fleet of hurricane slayers. It suggests selling insurance to residents in coast line areas who are most at risk of hurricane devastation

In the average year, six hurricanes develop in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean or Gulf of Mexico in a season that officially extends from June 1 to Nov. 30. Over the past century, the annual cost of hurricanes to the U.S. has averaged about \$10 billion, according to a 2008 Natural Hazards Review study.

The application information was released last Friday by The U.S. patent and Trademark office listed Bill Gates as one of the inventors. The applications were submitted by Searete LLC, a subsidiary of Intellectual Ventures of Bellevue, Wash., created by former Microsoft executives.

Don't expect these hurricane busters to be implemented any time soon, according to Paul "Pablos" Holman "the system would be feasible only if other responses to more active hurricane seasons or more intense hurricanes caused by global warming do not work.

"This type of technology is not something humankind would try as a 'Plan A' or 'Plan B, ' " he wrote.

"These inventions are a 'Plan C' where humans decide that we have exhausted all of our behavior changing or alternative energy options and need to rely on mitigation technologies.

"If our planet is in this severe situation, then our belief is that we should not be starting from scratch at investigating mitigation options."

For more info: [Intellectual Ventures](#)

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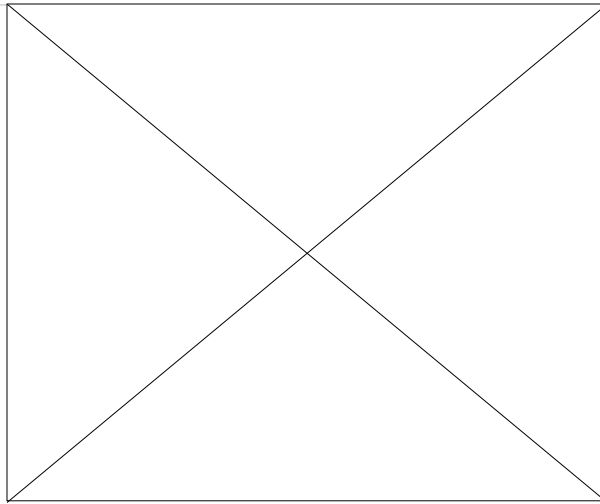


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