

● INVASION WARNING

War of little green men

There could be another good reason for humans to control pollution other than just saving the planet - it could help avoid an alien invasion.

So says an American science report, which claims climate change on Earth could be seen as a threat to the intergalactic ecosystem and provoke extraterrestrials into deciding to destroy us.

A team of researchers has produced a range of scenarios in which aliens could attack, with one revolving around climate change on Earth causing such interplanetary displeasure they would want to take action.

It is contained in the joint study *Would Contact with Extraterrestrials Benefit or Harm Humanity? A Scenario Analysis*, produced by Penn

State University and the NASA Planetary Science Division.

It divides projected close encounters into "neutral", those that cause mankind "unintentional harm" and, more worryingly, those in which aliens do us "intentional harm".

"ETI could attack and kill us, enslave us, or potentially even eat us. ETI could attack us out of selfishness or out of a more altru-

istic desire to protect the galaxy from us. We might be a threat to the galaxy just as we are a threat to our home planet," it warns.

One scenario is the stuff of the Hollywood blockbuster, a "standard fight-to-win conflict: a war of the worlds".

But another speculates that aliens may worry that we might inflict the damage done to Earth on other planets and "seek to

pre-emptively destroy our civilisation in order to protect other civilisations from us".

It says we are entering the period when the changes in our atmosphere could be detected on other planets.

"While it is difficult to estimate the likelihood of this scenario, it should at a minimum give us pause as we evaluate our expansive tendencies," it warns.

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