

Arctic melt won't flood the Great Lakes

But there are other climate shift dangers

By Anita Weier
The Capital Times

If you've been wondering whether rapidly melting ice in the Arctic will eventually flood Green Bay and Bayfield, stop worrying.

You see, the Great Lakes are higher than the Atlantic Ocean, about 600 feet higher at Lake Superior, said Michael Donahue, president and chief executive of the Great Lakes Commission. So the water flows downhill to the ocean, not uphill to the lakes.

It is possible that a higher Atlantic might affect the St. Lawrence River in terms of where fresh water becomes brackish and then becomes salt, he

said.

However, the much-publicized Arctic Climate Impact Assessment stressed that Arctic ice is melting rapidly because the climate is warming more rapidly, and this climate change will affect the Great Lakes profoundly in other ways.

"Global climate change generally indicates a significant rise in ocean levels, but could potentially result in precisely the opposite effect for the Great Lakes," Donahue said.

The Great Lakes Commission, a public agency whose members include the eight United States and two Canadian provinces that border the lakes, works to promote sound public policy decisions on issues affecting the Great Lakes.

"In general terms, researchers and the policy leaders in the Great Lakes

regions are increasingly concerned about the effects of climate change and climate variability on the Great Lakes water resources and how we use them," Donahue said.

"There has been a fair bit of research looking at global climate change and what its effects on the Great Lakes could be. Global warming has a subtle but pretty profound impact on precipitation patterns. With much less ice cover on the Great Lakes, they can evaporate year-round. Given that, as well as other anticipated changes in precipitation patterns, over time the Great Lakes could be permanently lowered by several feet."

Water availability and lake levels have a direct impact on environmental quality and economic productivity in the Great Lakes region, he said.

"Even slight reductions or increases in lake levels can have significant impact, both positive and negative. And we also know that there is a strong linkage between water quantity and water quality. The Arctic report is another reminder that any policy we consider concerning the long-term use and management of water resources has to accommodate issues of climate change. It is a huge mistake to ignore possible impacts of climate change, which can overwhelm other considerations."

John Magnuson, professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Limnology Department, said it is vital to remember that the climate is changing everywhere, not just in the Arctic.

"The major mode of action is the increase in greenhouse gases, so that

warming is occurring globally and in Wisconsin. The Great Lakes are affected by changes in temperature and precipitation," Magnuson said.

He agreed with Donahue that the level of the Great Lakes is not directly affected by sea level because they flow downhill through the St. Lawrence River.

"The Great Lakes have fluctuated a lot over the last 100 years. There is no long-term trend in water levels," Magnuson said. "They are high for 10 or 15 years and then low. We are in a low period now. And in the future, the climate scenarios are suggesting there would be a lower Great Lakes level."

"The main message about the Arctic is that it is warming about twice as fast as the rest of the world."

E-mail: aweier@madison.com

Power

Continued from Page 1C

process to begin again.

Flanagan said an incomplete application is a fatal flaw in the process of granting permits for power plants not only because the PSC needs all the necessary information before it, "but also to provide to the public an opportunity to examine the basis for the proposed construction."

Lawyers for Wisconsin Energy Corp. could not be reached for comment on the decision, but an appeal is considered likely.

Flanagan wrote that the commission has only two choices when faced with an incomplete application. It can either reject the application or approve it with modifications, the judge said. "The PSC chose a third course, however, and permitted the process to begin based upon an incomplete application. In doing so, the PSC acted in violation of the law," Flanagan said.

Prairie Point

Part of the CCAC-accredited Attic Angel Retirement Community

Life Lease Homes

PHASE TWO - Just Released for Reservation



Retire Nothing!

Unlike other independent living, Prairie Point combines the comforts of a spacious house, with access to Attic Angel's continuum of care. With room to garden, enjoy your pet, entertain or just relax, life is anything but retiring.

See our model home!
Tues & Wed, 9-11 a.m.
430 Samuel, Madison

Call Claire **662-8911** to learn more.

TCT LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Common Council of the City of Madison having before it for consideration a proposed ordinance relating to zoning and city planning. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held in the Council Chambers, Room 201, in the City-County Building on Monday December 6, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. before the Plan Commission, where opportunity will be afforded to all interested in being heard; and on Tuesday, January 4, 2005 at 6:45 p.m. before the regular meeting of the Common Council, at which time action on the ordinance will be considered.

1. Ordinance ID# 37075
Sponsor: By Petition
Ordinance creating Section 28.06(2)(a)3022 of the Madison General Ordinances rezoning property from C2 General Commercial District to PUD(GDP) Planned Unit Development (General Development Plan) District, and creating Section 28.06(2)(a)3023 of the Madison General Ordinances rezoning property from PUD(GDP) Planned Unit Development (General Development Plan) District to PUD(SIP) Planned Unit Development (Specific Implementation Plan) District, 6th Ald. Dist., 1025-1027 Williamson St.

2. Ordinance ID# 37076
Sponsor: By Petition
Ordinance creating Section 28.06(2)(a)3024 of the Madison General Ordinances rezoning property from R5 General Residence District to PUD(GDP) Planned Unit Development (General Development Plan) District, and creating Section 28.06(2)(a)3025 of the Madison General Ordinances rezoning property from PUD(GDP) Planned Unit Development (General Development Plan) District to PUD(SIP) Planned Unit Development (Specific Implementation Plan) District, 6th Ald. Dist., 1118 S. Hancock St.

3. Ordinance ID# 37079
Sponsor: By Petition
Ordinance creating Section 28.06(2)(a)3030 of the Madison General Ordinances rezoning property from PUD(SIP) Planned Unit Development (Specific Implementation Plan) District to Amended PUD(GDP) Planned Unit Development (General Development Plan) District, and creating Section 28.06(2)(a)3031 of the Madison General Ordinances rezoning property from Amended PUD(GDP) Planned Unit Development (General Development Plan) District to Amended PUD(SIP) Planned Unit Development (Specific Implementation Plan) District, 13th Ald. Dist., 707 S. Mills St.

4. Ordinance ID# 37080
Sponsor: By Petition
Ordinance creating Section 28.06(2)(a)3034 of the Madison General Ordinances rezoning property from Temp A Agriculture District to A Agriculture District, and creating Section 28.06(2)(a)3035 of the Madison General Ordinances rezoning property from Temp A Agriculture District to C Conservancy District, and creating Section 28.06(2)(a)3036 of the Madison General Ordinances rezoning property from Temp A Agriculture District to R2T Single-Family Residence District, and creating Section 28.06(2)(a)3037 of the Madison General Ordinances rezoning property from Temp A Agriculture District to R2Z Single-Family Residence District, and creating Section 28.06(2)(a)3039 of the Madison General Ordinances rezoning property from Temp A Agriculture District to PUD(GDP) Planned Unit Development (General Development Plan) District, 9th Ald. Dist., 9201 Mineral Point Road & 501 South Point Drive.

PUB. TCT: November 22 and 29, 2004

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF USH 12 BETWEEN LAKE DELTON AND SAUK CITY (IH 90/94 TO SKI HI ROAD) SAUK COUNTY, WISCONSIN

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS are notified of the availability of a Final Environmental Impact Statement of the proposed improvement of US Highway 12 which has been prepared and filed according to the State and National Environmental Policy Acts.

The proposed improvements are to provide an efficient and safe transportation system for the USH 12 corridor from IH 90/94 to Ski Hi Road that improves travel service, serves local traffic including business, industrial, agricultural, commercial, and residential development needs; increases regional accessibility; and

TCT LEGAL NOTICES

meets Corridors 2020 objectives. The preferred alternative would affect wetlands, woodlands, farmland, and residential and commercial land. The preferred alternative is divided into three stages. Stage 1 proposes individual spot improvements to the existing USH 12 alignment from IH 90/94 to Ski Hi Road and occurs from 1999 to 2004. Most of these improvements have already been constructed or are in the process of being constructed. Separate environmental documentation was prepared for these improvements. Stage 2 constructs an ultimate four-lane relocated freeway from IH 90/94 to the existing four-lane section of Highway 12 just north of Terrytown Road. Two lanes may be constructed initially, with the freeway built on right-of-way sufficient for expansion to four lanes when necessary. The relocated freeway is approximately a quarter to one-half mile west of the existing alignment. Access roads may be provided to maintain access to some properties. The interchange of USH 12 and IH 90/94 would also be modified. The Preferred Alternative also resurfaces the existing USH 12 roadway and seeks to jurisdictionally transfer the roadway from state to local control. Improvements prior to jurisdictional transfer may include shoulder work and safety improvements, such as traffic control, turn lanes, improved signing, and pavement markings. Stage 2 is planned for the years 2008-2009. Right-of-way for Stage 3 will also be acquired in Stage 2. Stage 3 constructs a four-lane freeway bypass around Baraboo from Old Highway 33 to Ski Hi Road. At this time, the two-lane relocated roadway north of Baraboo from IH 90/94 to Old Highway 33 would also be expanded to a four-lane divided freeway (if it had not already been expanded). Stage 3 is not scheduled for construction until the year 2015 or later.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement is available for inspection and copying at the following locations:

District #1 Office
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
2101 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 246-3800

Bureau of Equity and Environmental Services
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 451
Madison, WI 53707

City of Baraboo
135 4th Street
Baraboo, WI 53913

Village of West Baraboo
500 Cedar Street
West Baraboo, WI 53913

Sauk County Offices
505 Broadway
Baraboo, WI 53913

Baraboo Public Library
230 4th Avenue
Baraboo, WI 53913

Kilbourn Public Library
429 Broadway
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

City of Reedsburg
134 South Locust Street
Reedsburg, WI 53959

City of Wisconsin Dells
300 La Crosse Street
Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

Village of Lake Delton
50 Wisconsin Dells Pkwy
Lake Delton, WI 53940

Village of Merrimac
100 Cook Street
Merrimac, WI 53561

Sauk City Public Library
515 Water Street
Sauk City, WI 53583

Reedsburg Public Library
345 Vine Street
Reedsburg, WI 53959

LibRARY
7425 Hubbard Street
Middleton, WI 53562

Madison Public Library
201 West Mill Street
Madison, WI 53703

The Final Environmental Impact Statement may also be purchased (\$25 per copy) for individual review by writing Tory Kress at the following address:
Strand Associates, Inc.
910 West Wingra Drive
Madison, WI 53715
(608) 251-4843

To obtain further information about this project, contact the WisDOT District #1 Project Manager, Mr. John Steiner, P.E., at (608) 246-3862, or the Federal Highway Administration contact, Mr. Johnny Gerbitz at (608) 823-7500.

Note: The District Office is wheelchair accessible and the hearing impaired can contact the District at our TDD number (608) 261-8200 or through the Wisconsin Telecommunication Relay System, 1-800-947-3529.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICTS
DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICTS
Project I.D. 1674-00-00
PUB. TCT: November 29,
December 3, 6 and 10, 2004

The proposed plant would use high-sulfur coal as a fuel. Opponents of the project contended that would lead to increased air pollution in southeast Wisconsin. While Flanagan did not rule out the use of high-sulfur coal as the fuel of choice for the plant, he did say the PSC did not give sufficient consideration to other types of fuel, such as natural gas.

"The commission's determination that only high sulfur coal may be considered as a fuel source to provide baseload power is not supported by facts identified with sufficient clarity in the order," the judge said.

He also criticized the PSC for approving the power plant before the company had obtained the needed regulatory

permits from the DNR, among them a permit to draw 1.4 billion gallons of Lake Michigan water on a daily basis. Failure to obtain that permit could have added \$200 million to the project or stopped it dead in its tracks, the judge said.

Flanagan was also critical of the PSC for granting approval of the project even though it said in its order that it did not know what the cost or design of transmission lines would be.


"This determination to approve construction of the largest generating facility in state history without also determining the cost, design and location of the transmission facilities appears to be unprecedented and is, at best, puzzling," the judge wrote.

E-mail: mmiller@madison.com

JOIN US FOR ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES FROM THE CELTIC CHRISTIAN TRADITION

Candlelight Vesper Service
Tuesdays at 7:00pm Nov. 30 Dec. 7 and 14
A Winter Solstice Worship Service of the
Longest Night will be held at
7:00pm on Tuesday, December 21

First Congregational Church,
1609 University Avenue
Corner of Breese Terrace and University Avenue
608-233-9751 www.firstcongandison.org



VIOXX CONCERNS?

For Information Call
1-800-INJURED
1-800-242-1050

The Techmeier McCormick Group S.C.
Milwaukee
"Your Wisconsin Vioxx attorneys"
www.techmeier.com



FOUR SEASONS SUNROOMS

Independently Owned and Operated



HOLIDAY PARADE OF SUNROOMS

December 11th & 12th

- Tour 8 different rooms: sunrooms, porch enclosures, conservatories and patio rooms

• Register to win a 32" TV or weather station

• This is a free event - you must register to get maps and directions

To register call **608-838-0707** or register online at www.koolview.com

For location maps & directions visit us at:



4920 Triangle Street
McFarland
Fri. 9-6, Sat. 10-4

Finals

Continued from Page 1C

student from China wanted to compete in computer programming like he did back home. Van Melkebeek said he scraped together a competitive team that year.

In the ensuing years, interest grew, and this fall, 28 people tried out for 12 spots. UW-Madison now fields four teams of three apiece, with the Bunnies as their A-team, programming in C.

That's the computer language C, which they used to solve 10 problems in five hours to take first place in the regional competition over 186 other teams. Right behind them was the second UW-Madison team ("Team Q," as they are called). UW-Madison teams also took seventh and 12th place.

In the competition, once a team receives the problems, they must come up with algorithms, or step-by-step procedures for solving mathematical problems. Then they create programs that compute the answers. The faster they solve the problems, the better. But team members must be careful as they program, or they risk losing precious time debugging later.

Here's a sample problem: A person likes to pick his lottery numbers using a particular strategy. Each successive number is required to be twice the previous number. How many different ways can he pick using this strategy?

Another problem might include finding out how many different ways a person can break up a dollar, using arbitrary coin values such as 13 cents and 52 cents.

Solving a problem by hand takes too much time, said assistant coach Scott Diehl, a UW-Madison graduate student

who was on last year's world-finals team. "The number of combinations is huge," he said. "You need to come up with a smart solution."

But for each team of three, there is just one computer. That means that while one team member is building the program, the others are figuring things out in their heads, or writing the code by hand, Diehl said.

"You just send it off, you hope it's correct," he said.

But there are many ways that things can go wrong. The answer could be incorrect. Team members could exceed their time limits. Most annoying, Diehl said, is a "presentation error," where the judges say the answer is right but is presented in the wrong format.

"The program that you're not quite sure works that is submitted at the last minute, that's as close to a last-second field goal or three-point shot as it comes," Diehl said. That's happened twice in the last two years, as the UW team came in first after a successful "desperation" submission at the last moment, he said.

The reward for winning the regionals is a trip to Shanghai, China, to compete in the world finals, in which 75 teams vie for the top prize. Teams from Russia and China have won the finals in recent years, although teams from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Virginia Tech have done quite well.

So what do the Harmless Fluffy Bunnies plan to do in China? Perhaps see the Great Wall, or take in some acrobatic arts in Beijing?

Fraser is looking forward to checking out Chinese technology, particularly countdown times at pedestrian walks.

And what is Davidson's top plan?

"Do the contest, of course."

E-mail: anathans@madison.com

DONATE your CAR

800-407-2600
www.carshelpingpeople.org



SHOPPING FOR MR. TRADITIONAL



- ▲ H. Freeman & Son Clothing
- ▲ Year-Round Pure Wool Suits
- ▲ H. Oritsky Clothing
- ▲ Camel Hair Sport Coats
- ▲ Harris Tweed® Sport Coats
- ▲ Corbin Natural Shoulder Trousers
- ▲ Prime Poplin Golf Slacks
- ▲ Corduroy Casual Dress Slacks (including waist 35 & 37)
- ▲ Worsted Flannel Slacks
- ▲ Gitman Brothers Shirts
- ▲ Exact Sleeve Length Shirts
- ▲ 100% Cotton Wrinkle Free Shirts
- ▲ Kenneth Gordon Sport Shirts
- ▲ Warm Weather Attire
- ▲ Red Shirts and Sweaters
- ▲ St. Croix Knitwear
- ▲ Alpaca V-Neck Sweaters
- ▲ Shetland Wool Crewneck Sweaters
- ▲ Sleeveless Sweaters/Vests
- ▲ Tricots St. Raphael Knitwear
- ▲ Robert Talbott Neckwear
- ▲ Tall Ties, Striped Ties, Bow Ties
- ▲ Gift Certificates Available



Traditional Clothiers since 1974
Heritage Square ♦ Madison
Whitney Way at Odana Road
MON - FRI 10-5 ♦ SAT 10-3