

LANSGING COMMUNITY NEWS

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"Not quite paradise, but a nice place to live."

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Village To Redraft Zoning Change To Regulate Outdoor Salt Storage

By Matthew Shulman

Lansing officials are taking a proposed amendment to the village's zoning law back to the drawing board following public input at the Board of Trustees' Feb. 17 meeting.

The zoning law seeks to eliminate avoidable salt runoff into area streams by regulating outdoor salt storage. Currently, several malls appear to stockpile salt in parking lots or behind buildings.

"Salt is not an idle issue," said Mayor Donald Hartill. "If you look at Bolton Point water it's at 20 percent of the potable limit - much of it from runoff."

At Pyramid Mall, salt has been stored in the parking lot for 20 years. Salt is mixed in a 60:40 ratio with sand. This year, Pyra-

mid has used 120 tons of salt, said General Manager Jim Tull. A severe winter might require as much as 200 tons. "To give you an idea of volume," said Tull, "a 100-ton load takes up about five parking spaces."

As originally proposed, the ordinance would have required construction of an enclosure to protect stored salt from wind-driven rain and be large enough to permit "easy movement of vehicles for loading and unloading." According to Tull, this would necessitate construction of a 2 1/2-story salt containment dome.

Another section of the regulation would have required completion of the containment

(Continued on page 8)

Milliken Station - A Powerful Presence In Lansing

From a distance, the plume venting from the New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG) Milliken Station power generating plant's 375-foot high stack looks like a cumulus weather vane - shifting direction with the wind until it dissipates in the sky.

Though strangers occasionally mistake the plume for smoke coming from a fire and residents know that it's "just" Milliken's atmospheric signature, most folks in Tompkins County haven't the foggiest notion that the lakeshore facility is the most advanced coal-burning plant in the Northeast United States that's fully equipped with state-of-the-art pollution abatement equipment that exceeds all federal emissions standards.

Milliken Station's two generating units first came on line in 1955 and 1957. Designed in the post war era, Milliken was intended to generate 270 megawatts (MW) of power hourly at full load and intended to stay on line for 40 to 50 years. Operating with electro-pneumatic control systems, Milliken was one of the 20 most efficient coal-burning power generation stations in the country.

With time, technologies were developed to meet emerging environmental concerns. Chief among these was the realization that Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x) smokestack emissions from coal-fired plants were a major contributor to acid rain. Though Milliken's boilers received thorough annual maintenance and its generators were completely rebuilt every 5-7 years, the plant's inherent design didn't address the industry's heightened environmental awareness.

By the turn of this decade, NYSEG was faced with the choice of letting Milliken finish out its final productive years under the original design or totally refurbishing the plant with current technology to meet present and anticipated pollution abatement standards.



COMPUTER HORSE SHOE - Shift Supervisor Ron Marshall and Unit Two Control Operator Ron Baker monitor the Flue Gas Desulfurization unit that "scrubs" 98 percent of the sulfur dioxide (SO₂) from stack emissions. Not only does this reduce acid rain, but the snared SO₂ is transformed from a noxious gas into gypsum which is sold for use in sheetrock.

NYSEG chose the modernization route to reduce plant emissions to better than today's strict standards and to extend the plant's life by another 35 to 40 years.

This last item is of more than passing interest locally because Milliken Station also produces \$1 out of every \$6 in property taxes in the Town of Lansing. While there may be discussions on the fair depreciation of the plant's capital valuation, there's not an iota of doubt that Lansing's future tax base was affected by the decision to refurbish Milliken.

NYSEG successfully competed with 27 other companies and Milliken was the only plant in the Northeastern US to receive a

Cong. Houghton Hosts 40 At Community Center Meeting

Lansing was Republican Congressman Amory "Amo" Houghton's only Tompkins County stop last Tuesday, Feb. 18 as he toured the eastern part of New York's 31st District to report his activities and to listen to local concerns about the issues facing our nation.

"The President's budget may add up arithmetically, but with all the cuts to come in the last two years the impact will be too great to be absorbed," said Houghton. He believes that federal belt-tightening is necessary now - even though it will cause some pain - or the baby-boom generation will be left without any Medicare.

Houghton acknowledged the presence of other high profile issues, such as campaign finance reform, term limits, gun control and the highly charged "partial birth" abortion issue, but said that his priority will be to put the country's financial house in order. The Congressman said he'd be guided by the question, "Am I doing right for the next generation?"

Houghton also expressed his concern at the increasing level of partisanship in Washington, saying that it's increasingly difficult to come to needed compromises when hostility exists. Houghton has gotten private support from the Pew Charitable Trust for a 3-day conference in Harrisburg, Pa. begin-

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FIELDING QUESTIONS - Rep. Houghton had a lively, cordial exchange with his constituents about the federal budget, campaign finance, term limits, US troops in UN uniforms and other issues of local concern.

ning Mar. 8 to foster courtesy and improve members' working relationships in the House of Representatives. "We've got to stop this partisanship," said Houghton "and get on to the business of government. Nearly half the nation's Congressmen and women are expected to participate.

United Nations Support

Rep. Houghton responded to several questions about U.S. troops serving in U.N. uniforms under foreign command. U.S. soldiers have served in U.N. uniform, said Houghton, but have always been under U.S. command.

Houghton went on to declare his support for the U.N., calling it the only organization that can provide an international forum. America's future prosperity is inextricably linked to overseas trade, said Houghton. "Ninety-five percent of America's customers are outside of the US," he pointed out. "We can't draw back and say we won't get involved with the U.N. or the World Trade Organization or provide foreign assistance.

Houghton urged immediate payment of the US commitment to the U.N. budget. "We haven't paid our bills," said the Congressman. "We must pay our fair debts."

Domestic Issues

Lansing's David Hardie expressed concern over reports that the disparity between America's wealthiest and poorest is increasing and asked Houghton if this troubled him. Houghton, who served as chairman and chief executive officer of Corning Glass, acknowledged that the increase in middle management's wealth has only been 25 percent as much as top management. "The reason is stock options," he said. Houghton said he's working on legislation that would require companies that offer stock option benefits to allocate half the stock options to "non-highly-paid employees."

Groton's Carl Ferris expressed his outrage that after having worked and paid into social security for a lifetime, the government is cutting benefits. He asked Houghton why wealthy people don't pay social security on all their earnings instead of just burdening the 'little guy.' Houghton replied that social security was never designed to guarantee that what workers paid in would be paid back to them and that claims to the contrary and terms like "payroll contributions" were misleading. Nonetheless, Houghton did generally agree with Ferris' view on the tax. "It's probably a good idea to have social security taxes on people's total income," he said.

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