I would like to see the following addressed in the DEIS:

1) Impact of three meters (ten feet) of sea level rise on each alternative. Yes, this seems like a lot. But, the attached article from Insurance Journal shows that this is the level that NOAA has advised insurance companies, at the Risk Management Society annual meeting, to anticipate over the next 40 years. Yes, other sea level rise assumptions should also be considered. But it would be irresponsible to cut this analysis off at a level below that reported by NOAA to the insurance industry.

2) Impact on the New Zealand Mud Snail of each alternative.

3) Impacts on flooding during high-runoff / high-tide events.

4) Cost and effectiveness of raising the berm around the lake and raising the dam over time in response to sea level rise to accurately reflect the cost of preserving the "lake" option.

5) Cost of modification of the rail line to maintain service as sea level rise is effective.

6) Accurately assess the cost of upland disposal of dredge spoils (initially and over time) if those spoils are contaminated and require transport and safe disposal.

Thank you for considering these comments in the scoping process.

--
Jim Lazar

"It seems that the ecologically necessary is politically unfeasible, but the politically feasible is ecologically irrelevant."
- Prof. Bill Rees, UBC
RIMS 2016: Sea Level Rise Will Be Worse and Come Sooner

By Don Jergler | April 12, 2016
Think sea level rise will be moderate and something we can all plan for? Think again.

Sea levels could rise by much more than originally anticipated, and much faster, according to new data being collected by scientists studying the melting West Antarctic ice sheet – a massive sheet the size of Mexico.

That revelation was made by an official with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on Tuesday at the annual RIMS conference for risk management and insurance professionals in San Diego, Calif.

Margaret Davidson, NOAA's senior advisor for coastal inundation and resilience science and services, and Michael Angelina, executive director of the Academy of Risk Management and Insurance, offered their take on climate change data in a conference session titled ...
“Environmental Intelligence: Quantifying the Risks of Climate Change.”

Davidson said recent data that has been collected but has yet to be made official indicates sea levels could rise by roughly 3 meters or 9 feet by 2050-2060, far higher and quicker than current projections. Until now most projections have warned of seal level rise of up to 4 feet by 2100.

These new findings will likely be released in the latest sets of reports on climate change due out in the next few years.

“The latest field data out of West Antarctic is kind of an OMG thing,” she said.

Davidson’s purpose was to talk about how NOAA is sharing information with the insurance community and the public, and to explain how data on climate change is being collected.

She explained that reports like those from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the National Climate Assessment, which come out roughly every five years, are going on old data.

By the time the scientists compiling those reports get the data it’s roughly two years old, because it took those gathering the data that long to collect it. It takes authors of the reports a few years to compile them.

“By the time we get out the report, it’s actually synthesizing data from about a decade ago,” she said.

Angelina’s focus was also on the data. He spoke about the ongoing development of the Actuaries Climate Index and the Actuaries Climate Risk Index.

The goals of the projects are to create climate change indices that reflect an actuarial perspective, to create an index that measures changes in climate extremes, use indices to inform the insurance industry and the public, and promote the actuarial profession by contributing statistically to the climate change debate.

So far their findings show the climate is definitely changing – though neither Davidson nor Angelina addressed the cause of this change, which they said was not the purpose of their talk.

Angelina said a new way of looking at weather is required when dealing with climate change, and that just looking at averages isn’t enough to give an accurate picture of climate change and the risk it presents.

The projects he’s involved with have instead looked at weather extremes.

“By looking at extremes I can actually acknowledge that I have a problem,” he said.

He used the notorious Bell Curve grading system to illustrate his point.

The goal of the curve is to achieve a 70 percent average among students. But if a teacher got
to that 70 percent figure by having half the students failing poorly and half doing excellently, there’s a problem: half of the students aren’t getting it.

Looking at extreme temperature indices from more than 40 years ago and now, “things are different,” he said.

So too are days of excessive rain, and excessive dry days, wind power and the sea level index.

“They’re all up,” he said.

He added: “We’re in a different climate. The climate has changed.”

Related:

• RIMS 2016: Wearable Tech, Automated Vehicles Dominate Insurance Horizon
• RIMS 2016: Employee Vs. Contractor Debate to Become Even Hotter

Get Insurance Journal Every Day

your email

Invest in YOU!

SUBSCRIBE TO INSURANCE JOURNAL

Incoming

Email This Print Newsletters

Facebook Recommend 3.5K 
Tweet 
Share 134

Like 3.5K people like this.

Categories: National News

Topics: Actuarial data, Climate Change, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, Research and Trends, RIMS 2016, Risk Management, sea level rise

Have a hot lead? Email us at newsdesk@insurancejournal.com

QUOTE OF NOTE

Over the past several years, Farmers has been moving toward a one brand strategy to more strongly support the Farmers brand.
RIMS 2016: Sea Level Rise Will Be Worse and Come Sooner


More News Features

- Lemonade’s Peer-to-Peer Insurance Model Aims for ‘Delightful’ Customer Experience
- 10 Things to Know About Flood Insurance
- New MGA Verve to Target Liability Market for Insurance Agents, Insurers in U.S.
- Cyber Expert Says Agents Earn C- on Understanding of Cyber Insurance
- Tesla CEO Says Media Doing Disservice in Criticizing Self-Driving Cars
- People Moves: MEMIC, JLT Specialty USA, Erie
- I.I.I. White Paper Reveals the Reasons for Increased Frequency, Severity in Auto Claims
- Fraud News Around the Nation

Invest in YOU!

SUBSCRIBE TO INSURANCE JOURNAL

Insurance News

- News by Region
- News by Topic
- Yesterday
- Site Search

Features

- Insurance Markets Directory
- Forums
- A.M. Best Company Ratings
- Industry Events
- Agencies Wanted / For Sale
- Buyers Guide
- Newswire
- Ad Showcase
- Insurance Jobs

Connect with us

- Email Newsletters
- Magazine Subscriptions
- For Your Website
- RSS Feeds
- Twitter
- Facebook
- LinkedIn

Insurance Journal

- Submit News
- Advertise
- Subscribe
- Reprints
- Link to Us
- Contact Us

Wells Media Group Network

- Insurance Journal Online
- MyNewMarkets.com
- Claims Journal
- Insurance Journal TV
- Academy of Insurance
- Carrier Management

© 2016 by Wells Media Group, Inc. Privacy Policy | Terms & Conditions | Site Map