

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SHADOW OF THE DAM

Q. What are the proposed 2009 changes?

A. Utilizing more detailed contour data that Oconto County acquired in 2005, the shadow boundaries have been updated to show a more accurate map for the Wheeler, Chute & Reservoir Dams. Utilizing the previously adopted cross section data, the shadow boundaries have been remapped using the best available contour data to show a more accurate boundary. The maps aide in determining shadow boundaries but a detailed survey of the property based on the cross section data is the most accurate determination. The Leigh Lake and Bluegill hydraulic study and maps are being proposed for adoption. This adoption will create flood plain requirements below the dams, therefore complying with DNR regulations.

Q. What is the shadow of the dam?

A. The area below the Wheeler, Chute and Reservoir, Leigh, Bluegill Dams that would be affected if the dam hydraulically fails. The line that distinguishes an area of being in or out of the shadow of the dam is determined by elevation. Oconto County has a list of cross section elevations that are ultimately used to determine where the shadow boundaries are located. Map boundaries are only utilized as a quick reference.

Q. When and why was the Shadow of the Dam implemented?

A. In 1992, in order to receive Federal and State assistance to repair Wheeler, Chute and Reservoir Dams and make them compliant with current regulations, it was required by the State for Oconto County to adopt the more restrictive flood plain profile known as the Shadow of the Dam. These flood plain profiles were revised and adopted in 2001 to show a dam nonexistent profile. Recently analysis were completed for Leigh Lake and Bluegill Lake dams in order to comply with DNR requirements as part of the dam, these more restrictive flood plain profiles also known as the Shadow of the Dam are being proposed for adoption.

Q. How is the Shadow of the Dam determined?

A. Elevations of the property need to be obtained by a registered land surveyor and are compared against cross sections elevations as adopted and maintained by Oconto County.

Q. Will the 2009 proposed changes affect my property?

A. No, if you are located in the Wheeler, Chute, or Reservoir Shadows. In these areas the reference maps are being updated. These updates will more accurately show if properties are in or out of the shadow. As noted above a detailed survey prevails over a mapped boundary. You may be affected if you are located in the Leigh or Bluegill shadows. In these areas both the hydraulic analysis and reference maps are being adopted; creating a flood plain boundary and regulations that were not previously adopted.

Q. Will the changes in the Shadow of the Dam affect my property taxes?

A. Taxing is done by the local municipalities, property owners should contact the assessor for their town in order to see if taxes are affected.

Q. Will I be able to fill, build or re-build if I am determined to be in the Shadow of the Dam?

A. No, if property is in the shadow of the dam, it is still considered to be floodway, and is subject to current floodplain regulations.