DATE: November 30, 2008
5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Jim Doyle

FROM: Johnnie Smith
Administrator

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT ON WINTER WEATHER #2

OVERVIEW – From the National Weather Service: There are 48 counties under a winter storm watch or winter weather advisory. From 5 p.m. to at least 9 p.m. the main snowfall area will stretch from the Port Washington/Milwaukee area southwest through Waukesha, Jefferson, Walworth and Rock County. Snowfall rates of 1/4 to 1/2 inch will continue with some 1/2 to 1 inch rates with the more intense and localized snow shower bands. Based on current weather maps, it appears that Racine and Kenosha Counties are filling in with more snow. Areas northwest of a line from Monroe to Madison to Sheboygan will have less snowfall through 9 p.m.

Late tonight from 10 p.m. to midnight, another band of moderate snowfall will develop from the Monroe area northwest through the Madison area to the Fond du Lac and Sheboygan areas. The north winds will strengthen to 15 to 20 mph with gusts to around 30 mph during this time across most of southern Wisconsin. During the early morning hours (midnight to 6 a.m. on December 1, the main snowfall will shift to the Sheboygan to Milwaukee to Kenosha area (lakeshore counties). Also, north to northwest winds in the lakeshore area from midnight to 6 a.m. will result in a fair amount of blowing and drifting. Overnight temperatures will eventually drop into the upper 20s to 30 degrees and this drop will likely cause the freezing of the wet snow on road surfaces. We had a snow report of 3.5 inches in the Palmyra area.

CURRENT ROAD CONDITIONS – The Wisconsin State Patrol and Wisconsin Department of Transportation report slippery stretches on I-94 from Tomah to Hudson. In Rock County on I-39/90 near mile marker 175 eastbound (near the state line) there are traffic slow-downs due to weather, snow plows and travel volume in these areas. Slow downs in both directions on I-90 from mile marker 89 to 92 (4 mile back-up) in the Wisconsin Dells area are reported due to volume. I-90 eastbound from mile post 147 to 120 (Columbia to Dane County) has speeds from 25 MPH to stop and go but seems to be dissipating. Jefferson County reporting I-94 now has scattered slippery spots and ramps are snow covered and slippery. Several run-offs have been reported in Brown County but nothing to significantly affect traffic following the Packer game.

Travelers are advised to monitor travel and traffic conditions through 1-800-ROAD-WIS (1-800-762-3947) or www.dot.wisconsin.gov. Be alert to changing weather and travel conditions. Be prepared with a full tank of gas, a charged cell phone, extra blankets, food, water, a small shovel, road maps and patience.
AIR TRAVEL – There have been some minor delays reported at General Mitchell Airport in Milwaukee and the Dane County Regional Airport. Contact your airline to remain up to date on landings and departures.

Wisconsin National Guard – The Wisconsin Natural Guard has increased their staffing at their Joint Operations Center to monitor the storm development.

For further information, contact Wisconsin Emergency Management at 608-242-3232.