DATE: Friday, 6/13/08
5:00 PM

TO: Governor Jim Doyle
Wisconsin Congressional Delegation
State Legislators

FROM: Johnnie Smith, Administrator

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT ON STORMS #33

OVERVIEW — As storms eased out of southern Wisconsin early Friday morning, rising flood waters forced numerous road closings, including interstates. Local and state agencies continue in the response mode to flooding situations across southern Wisconsin. Governor Doyle went on an aerial assessment of flood-affected areas this morning with WI National Guard Adjutant General Donald Dunbar and then held a news conference at the State Emergency Operations Center.

Road Closures/Road Conditions

Interstate Highways: DOT has announced the following changes affecting the Interstate highways. Travelers are urged to follow official detours and not find their own routes due to many locations where roads are affected by flooding. There are reports of traffic back-ups in many locations due to the normal volume of weekend travelers now having to drive on these detoured routes.

New information:

- I-90/94 eastbound is now OPEN between WIS 82 and US 12 at Lake Delton. Eastbound I-90/94 traffic will be diverted to US 12 to go toward Madison.
- I-94 westbound from Milwaukee is now being closed at WIS 83 at Delafield. The NEW DETOUR is south on WIS 83 to I-43 to I-39/90 at Beloit. The previous detour has been changed because of flooding concerns on County B.
- I-39/90/94 northbound/westbound traffic at Madison wanting to go north and west on I-90/94 are being asked to use US 12/18 west (Beltline) in Madison to US 12.
- I-39/90/94 northbound/westbound traffic at Madison wanting to go north and east, are being asked to use US 151 north.
- NOTE: These changes will cause heavier traffic volumes both ways on the Beltline (US 12/18) in Madison.
The following interstates remain closed:

- I-39 both directions between the I-90/94/39 split and WIS 82
- I-90/94 westbound from US 151 to US 12 by Lake Delton

Motorists traveling between the Twin Cities and Chicago should use I-94 to WIS 29 to I-43 to I-94. Motorists wanting to travel to the Northwoods from Chicago should use I-94 to I-43 to WIS 29 to I-39.

Motorists are strongly advised to NOT travel in the south central part of Wisconsin due to many flooded state and local highways.

WisDOT, WI National Guard and WI State Patrol are coordinating on sandbagging and pumping operations in the I-39/Cascade Mountain Road area.

State Highways

- Marquette County has closed Hwy 22 at the Montello River Dam (Krakow Park Crossing) due to water levels. This is the road on the south side of Montello coming north into town.
- WIS 12 south of Baraboo is now OPEN.

Lafayette County: Lafayette County officials report that ALL roads over the Pecatonica River in Lafayette County are closed.

Commercial motor vehicles: Because of flooded roadways throughout large areas of southern Wisconsin, DOT is temporarily suspending all commercial motor vehicle oversize and overweight operation south of WIS 29 except for vehicles moving to provide relief supplies, assist in flood abatement, or respond for emergency services. This suspension is in effect immediately and will continue until Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at 12:01 a.m.

The Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation web site (http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/travel/incident-alerts.htm) has up-to-date maps and information on road closures for Interstate and major state highways; or call 1-800-ROADWIS (762-3947).

DAM CONDITIONS:

The Dept. of Natural Resources is currently monitoring dams in southern Wisconsin. Only 4 dams have failed so far, however many others have been damaged. There are 385 large dams in the counties affected by this week’s severe weather and many other smaller dams.

- Assessment crews are out in the field today visiting dams that were under the most stress yesterday and looking at dams in the areas hardest hit from yesterday’s storms.
- The rest of the boards from the Nemahbin Roller Mill dam near Delafield were pulled this morning and the dam is now fully open.
- The Kingston Dam and the Lower Green Lake (Town of Brooklyn) dams in Green Lake County were sandbagged and watched last night. Both dams made it through the night without failing and are continuing to be monitored.
Information for private water well owners

The Department of Health and Family Services and the Department of Natural Resources recommend that people do not drink water from wells that were submerged or affected by flood waters. After flood waters subside and the well has been flushed and shock treated, fee-exempt well testing is available to confirm that the water is bacteriologically safe. Private well owners should contact their local public health department for test kits.

The DNR has also received questions from well owners whose wells have water flowing out of the vents or beneath the well cap. DNR officials say the cause of flowing wells is the increased precipitation going back to last August, and in particular this past week. A flowing well is not an indicator that the water has become contaminated, but only indicates that the water pressure underground has increased. In most cases, the flow should stop within a few weeks after the heavy rainfall stops, but in the meantime, it is important that the water be directed away from the well. If a well continues to flow after a few months, then well owners should contact a licensed well driller or pump installer and have an overflow device installed on the well, he said.

Dept. of Natural Resources:
DNR has educational information for citizens affected by flooding on their web site at http://dnr.wi.gov/emergency/current_flood.html

Severe weather last evening forced the closing of three state parks and two state trails. The parks closed currently are Devil’s Lake State Park in Sauk County, Rocky Arbor State Park in Juneau and Sauk counties, and Wildcat Mountain State Park in Vernon County. The Department of Natural Resources has also closed two state trails: the Elroy-Sparta State Trail and the 400 State Trail between Elroy and Reedsburg. Other trails in the southern part of the state are open but due to wet conditions visitors are encouraged to use caution. The Department of Natural Resources will post updated condition reports on its Web site: www.wiparks.net.

DNR wardens are assisting with flood issues in Iowa, Sauk, Rock and Fond du Lac counties.

Dept. of Health and Family Services:
The WI Division of Public Health is holding daily conference calls with local health departments and other state agencies to discuss flooding issues. Some of the key topics discussed and presented on during the calls have included: Daily Update from DPH Staff at State EOC; Resources Available to LPHDs; Educational and Media Outreach Resources; Drinking Water and Private Well Water Issues; Flood water and Safety Issues; Flooding & Vector-Borne Disease; Information Resources for Flooded Campgrounds; Tetanus and Hepatitis A Vaccines; Data collection issues and methods; 211 Call Center Updates; DPH staff available to answer questions on flooding; Input and feedback from LPHDs.

Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection:
Field staff continue to assess flood impacts on food (retail, manufacturing, processing) and ag (feed/grain) facilities and are assisting operators return to business as quickly as possible. In anticipation of finding animal carcasses as flood waters recede, a listing of facilities that can process those carcasses has been made available to counties.

WI National Guard:
A National Guard engineering assessment team is in Richland County today. National Guard personnel are repairing the access road at the Hidden Valley Dam in Vernon County and approximately 30 personnel are working with State Patrol on traffic control for interstate closures.
National Guard delivered 5,000 sandbags and a 1,500 gallon-per-hour pump to assist with flood relief on I-39 near Portage. Approximately 12 personnel are in Avoca assisting local authorities with traffic control.

**State Patrol:**
The non-flood related chemical incident in Brokaw (Marathon County) has been resolved and traffic is not restricted.

State Patrol is deploying traffic control strike teams to Gays Mills for the next 2 days.

There are 4 State Patrol units in Fond du Lac County assisting with responding to calls and crashes outside the city of Fond du Lac and also handling traffic control points within the city of Fond du Lac.

**Dept. of Corrections:**
DOC has deployed 40 strike teams (233 inmates) today for sandbagging and debris removal in Steuben, Soldiers Grove, Lone Rock, Avoca, Gays Mills, Wyocena, Jefferson, Montello, Baraboo, Columbus, Waupun, Pardeeville, Jefferson, Monona, Brooklyn, Montello, Berlin and Racine.

**Federal Emergency Management Agency:**
FEMA, SBA (Small Business Administration) and the State of Wisconsin have begun damage assessments today for the private sector in Sauk, Columbia, Milwaukee, Vernon and Crawford Counties. The teams should finish on Friday.

**Red Cross:**
Shelters are open in: Avoca (Community Center), This Shelter has relocated to Muscoda; Reedsburg (Pine View Elementary); Soldiers Grove (North Crawford); Columbus (Zion Luther School); LaFarge (High School); Milwaukee (Tommy Thompson Center); Ft Atkinson (St Joseph Catholic Church); Caledonia(Racine); Fond du Lac; Waupun; Montello.

A shelter will be opened in Janesville and a team is in Lancaster. Standby shelters are being readied at: Viroqua (High School), Ontario (Library), Kendall (Community Center).

Monitoring of events for possible shelter needs in: Pewaukee, Portage, and Washington County.

Greater Milwaukee Chapter has a reception Center open at the Chapter office at 2660 W Wisconsin.

Emergency response vehicles are positioned in Reedsburg and Gays Mills with clean up kits, water and comfort kits.

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