DATE:    July 23, 2010
         10:45 p.m.

TO:      Governor Jim Doyle

FROM:    Mike Hinman
         WEM Administrator

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT #7 ON SEVERE WEATHER

OVERVIEW – Latest damage reports as of 10:45 p.m.:

Milwaukee County – County Executive Scott Walker issued a Declaration of a Major Disaster for Milwaukee County on Friday, July 23. The declaration cites Thursday’s severe thunderstorms and torrential rains in excess of 5.7 inches as causing estimated private sector damages in excess of $18 million, and estimated public sector damage of more than $10 million.

City of Milwaukee – Mayor Tom Barrett issued a Proclamation of Local Emergency for the city of Milwaukee on Friday, July 23. The proclamation cites severe damage to private and public property from Thursday’s rains and flooding.

The State Office Building at 819 N. 6th Street in Milwaukee is expected to reopen on Monday. The state Department of Administration has instructed Milwaukee state office employees to plan to return to work Monday.

Weather – According to the National Weather Service, more heavy rains are expected Friday evening as thunderstorms become more numerous into the early morning hours Saturday. These storms are expected to produce up to 3 inches of rain, adding to standing water which remains from Thursday’s heavy rains.

The heavy rainfall over the next 24 hours will only worsen the flash flood threat. A flash flood watch remains in effect for all of south central and southeast Wisconsin through mid-morning Saturday. Many rivers and streams will exceed or are expected to exceed flood stage in the next 24 hours.

The National Weather Service has confirmed four tornadoes in Wisconsin Thursday. The strongest, with winds between 115 and 120 mph, occurred around 7:02 p.m. in the Big Bend area of Waukesha County. A second tornado, with winds around 90 mph, occurred in the Whitewater area of Walworth County. Jefferson County experienced two tornadoes, with winds between 65 and 70 mph, in Fort Atkinson and Cold Spring.
FEMA - A representative from FEMA is expected to arrive at the EOC in Madison on Saturday to monitor the situation.

Mitchell Airport - Mitchell Airport has reopened, but is seeing delays with arrivals and departures. The airport recommends that customers affected by the delays contact their airlines for the latest information. The airport’s website indicates that most delays will be cleared up by Saturday.

WE Energies – One hundred seventy power outages were reported as of 8:30 p.m., meaning approximately 1,100 customers remained without power. Sixty hazards, such as downed power lines or trees in contact with power lines, were also reported. A WE Energies spokesperson said that, with favorable weather conditions, power could be restored to Milwaukee’s north side by 4 a.m. Saturday and by 8 a.m. for customers in Fort Atkinson, Delafield and Waukesha.

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

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