

FEMA - Disaster Activities FY'93

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Disaster Activities

Fiscal Year 1993



Federal Emergency Management Agency

February 1994

Task Force on Production Agriculture, Animal Health & Safety, and Wildlife

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

Midwest Recovery as of March 15, 1994

ASCS Disaster Payments to-date: \$1.27 billion.

Emergency Livestock Feed assistance: \$8.3 million

Emergency Conservation Program allocations to States: over \$48 million (from 2 appropriations)

Accomplishments: Crop Disaster Payments

The application period for the 1993 crop loss program closed March 11. As of March 10, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service has made disaster payments to over 383,000 producers on 366,000 farms in the Midwest. States estimate that these figures represent 80 percent of the applications filed.

ASCS county offices are continuing to process applications and make payments, based on the production evidence which farmers submitted after harvest. Producers may submit production evidence up through May 27.

A total of \$2.45 billion has been made available and payments in the flood states are projected to total \$1.7 billion by the end of fiscal year 1994. The payments are helping to relieve financial stress for those producers who were prevented from planting or who lost some or all of their crops because of excessive moisture and other adverse weather in 1993. The current amounts for the nine states are:

ASCS Disaster Assistance Payments in Flood Area as of March 15, 1994.

State	Number of Producers Paid	Number of Farms	Total Paid (millions)
Illinois	14,132	11,245	43.9
Iowa	92,225	89,964	303.5
Kansas	36,741	27,041	58.9
Minnesota	78,376	88,311	391.1
Missouri	39,591	32,330	113.0
Nebraska	25,437	18,853	67.2
North Dakota	23,758	23,304	85.6
South Dakota	47,821	43,468	133.6
Wisconsin	25,490	31,929	73.4
Area Total	383,571	366,445	1,270.2

For the nation, ASCS has paid 552,892 producers on 565,926 farms a total of \$1.93 billion in disaster payments. The producers in the nine flood states have received 65.7 percent of the total national disaster payments.

Potential Exposure This Spring

- There is no crop loss disaster program authorized for 1994.
- ASCS has not conducted a county level survey of the amount of cropland that will not be in condition to plant in 1994. USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, in conducting its annual spring survey of farmers' planting intentions, has added questions to this year's survey about flood-damaged land and whether it will be useable for cropping. The survey is conducted in the first two weeks of March and goes to about 70,000 farmers nationwide. There is some concern about whether the survey will yield enough response from Midwest flood area farmers to be statistically reliable. Otherwise, when the crop report on planting intentions is announced on March 31, we may have some baseline data on the amount of flood-affected cropland remaining out of production on into 1994. Cropland condition, in super-saturated soils, will remain a variable through each week of spring weather. If additional data is needed through this season, ASCS will be prepared to gather county-level information.

1994 Response

- **Refund of 1993 Advanced Deficiency Payments When a Disaster Is Involved**
There are several instances in which producers received advance deficiency payments which they will ultimately be unable to earn. For example, when producers were prevented from planting corn and decided not to participate in the feedgrain program in order to plant soybeans, advance deficiency payments must be refunded. However, under provisions of Public Law 103-75, producers substantially affected by natural disasters during crop year 1993 were not required to repay deficiency payments on the 1993 crops before January 1, 1994.

Based on national average market prices received by producers during the first five months (September - January) of the 1993/94 marketing year for corn and grain sorghum, the deficiency payment rates will be \$0.28 and \$0.25 per bushel respectively. These rates are lower than the advanced amount by 8 cents per bushel for corn and 10 cents per bushel for grain sorghum. As a result, corn and grain sorghum producers participating in the 1993 feed grain program will be required to refund the overpayments.

ASCS will not ask producers to refund these overpayments until October, 1994. The amount of the overpayment will be adjusted whenever the actual production on the farm is less than the projected production (commodity acreage times the program payment yield) due to an eligible disaster condition. On this quantity which by law is limited to not more than 40 percent of the expected production for the farm (35 percent if producer had federal crop insurance), producers can retain the advance payment amount.

Producers unable to repay by the due date can work out a suitable agreement on a repayment schedule with their respective county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) committee. County ASC committees have been given latitude in this regard.

- **Waiver of Eligibility and Cover Requirements--Conserving Use for Payment**
Soil compaction, sand and silt deposits, and erosion following the 1993 flooding will have a long-term impact on the production capability of some cropland into the 1994 crop year, and beyond.

To give producers flexibility to rehabilitate this cropland, a waiver was announced for the nine Midwest flood states on land eligibility and cover requirements for ACR and conserving use for payment (the 0/92 program): Cropland flooded or damaged in 1993 by excessive rainfall may be designated as ACR or conserving use for payment for 1994, if the land met the eligibility requirements for ACR or conserving use for payment for the 1993 crop year.

Producers can earn the minimum guaranteed payment rate, the projected deficiency payment, on this acreage under the 0/85/92 provisions. The projected deficiency payment rate for corn in 1994 is 20 cents per bushel, and for wheat, 85 cents per bushel, times the payment yield for the crop.

Accomplishments: Emergency Conservation Program

The Emergency Conservation Program provides cost-share funding to farmers to rehabilitate cropland damaged by the flooding. ECP cost-share funds can be used to remove debris, provide water for livestock, restore fences, grade and shape farmland, restore structures and implement water conservation measures.

Emergency appropriations for ECP rehabilitation have been provided in two supplemental appropriations, with separate lifespans. Funds under the supplemental appropriation in August (P.L. 103-75) must be obligated by June 30, 1994 -- i.e., the conservation practice must be approved by the ASC county committee. ECP funds provided in the second supplemental appropriation in February (P.L. 103-211) must be obligated by September 30, 1995.

Emergency Conservation Program Allocations

State	Estimated Cost-Share Needs (Requested by State Offices)	Funds Allocated PL 103-75	Funds Allocated PL 103-211
Illinois	\$ 6,315,400	\$ 3,688,140	\$ 201,500
Iowa	13,080,570	7,139,220	5,000,000
Kansas	10,212,000	5,992,200	0
Minnesota	1,599,100	870,960	250,000
Missouri	16,947,000	9,475,260	11,500,000
Nebraska	2,877,800	1,558,200	852,310
North Dakota	26,000	14,040	50,000
South Dakota	2,100,000	1,260,000	200,000
Wisconsin	3,300	1,980	0
Area Totals	\$ 53,161,370	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 18,053,810

Potential Exposure This Spring**Land Behind Broken Levees**

In some cases, land continues to be exposed to frequent damage due to levees that were breached by floodwater, but have not yet been repaired in accordance with Corps of Engineers' standards and specifications. In these cases, county ASC committees have been instructed to delay practice approval until levee restoration work is begun unless the producer assumes the following responsibility. For ECP work on the land unprotected by the broken levee, the producer must agree to restore the practice at his own expense or refund cost shares, if the land is later damaged during the practice lifespan.

Accomplishments: Wetlands Reserve Program

The 1994 Appropriations Act authorized funds for WRP in the amount of \$66.675 million for 20 States including the 1992 Pilot States. The pilot States included the flood States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Missouri. Appropriations language also authorized that the flood States of Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota be included for 1994.

States, inundated by the flood of 1993, were targeted because in many areas of these States, wetlands were created and the cost of restoring the cropland exceeds the benefit that would be obtained after restoration.

North Dakota did not become a participating WRP State because WRP regulations require permanent easements be granted as a condition of participation; North Dakota State law limits easements to a maximum of 30 years.

WRP signup was held in the 20 States on February 28 through March 11, 1994. Results of that signup are being compiled now and are not yet available. Informal conversations indicate a moderate to high interest in the Midwest Flood States, with the number of intentions (landowners interested in participating in the program) similar to offers during the pilot program. The Soil Conservation Service's Emergency Wetlands Reserve Program was available in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin which may cause a reduction in number of intentions submitted for the WRP.

ASCS will publicly release the sign-up information soon.

Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Midwest Recovery as of March 15, 1994

Federal Crop Insurance Indemnities to date: \$1.02 billion

Accomplishments: Indemnities Paid

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation direct service offices and private insurance companies reinsured by FCIC have paid claims on 380,299 loss units for causes associated with the Midwest flooding. Indemnities for these loss units totalled \$1,012,338,656.

The private insurance companies were responsible for adjusting, processing, and paying about 97% of the indemnities paid in the Midwest. FCIC monitored the reinsured business to ensure timely payments and to resolve complaints from producers. To the companies' credit, there were very few complaints, and most claims were paid within 30 days of the final adjustment. FCIC expects approximately \$10 million additional dollars will be paid out for outstanding 1993 crop year flood claims.

The following table has been updated weekly since July. Indemnities paid reflect amounts for all crops insured in these states with causes of loss associated with the flood.

State	% Partici- pation	Premium (millions)	Liability (millions)	Est. Acres Not Planted	Projected Indemnity (millions)	Indemnities Paid as of 3/9/93 (millions)
Illinois	44.4	\$ 43.0	\$ 1,002.5	<1%	\$ 9	\$ 25.2
Iowa	60.2	63.1	1,527.9	1.2 mil.	198	279.9
Kansas	76.4	38.9	521.9	<1%	39	40.3
Minnesota	52.4	59.0	1030.0	846K	159	352.8
Missouri	24.0	13.9	157.8	50K	30	27.6
Nebraska	56.1	41.3	792.3	<1%	23	48.9
North Dakota	93.4	63.7	777.7	165K	105.8	138.5
South Dakota	47.0	26.8	293.4	1.1 mil.	53	53.8
Wisconsin	11.3	12.8	184.6	39K	22.3	45.4
Area Totals	56.7% avg.	\$ 362.5	\$ 6288.3	3.4 mil.	\$ 639.1	\$ 1,012.3

Potential Exposure This Spring

- **Land Behind Levees**

A significant amount of cropland was adversely affected by breached levees and remains unprotected, focused primarily in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois. Enclosed is a map and discussion of the acres affected (following pages).

- **Acres Too Wet to Plant**

FCIC's Billings, Montana, regional service office has conducted a survey in North and South Dakota of acreage which is anticipated to be too wet to plant in spring 1994. Very preliminary results find that in North Dakota--out of 19.1 million insurable acres--838,650 acres are too wet for cropping. For South Dakota--out of 12.6 million insurable acres--985,893 acres are too wet. These are early results and county estimates are still being received.

1994 Response

- **1994 Prevented Planting Coverage**

The Midwest floods highlighted the problem of many producers not being covered by their crop insurance policies if they were not able to plant a crop due to events beyond their control. For the 1994 crop year, FCIC incorporated prevented planting coverage into the basic insurance policy for wheat, barley, oats, corn, cotton, ELS cotton, soybeans, grain sorghum, hybrid seed and rice.

- **Breached Levees and Crop Insurance**

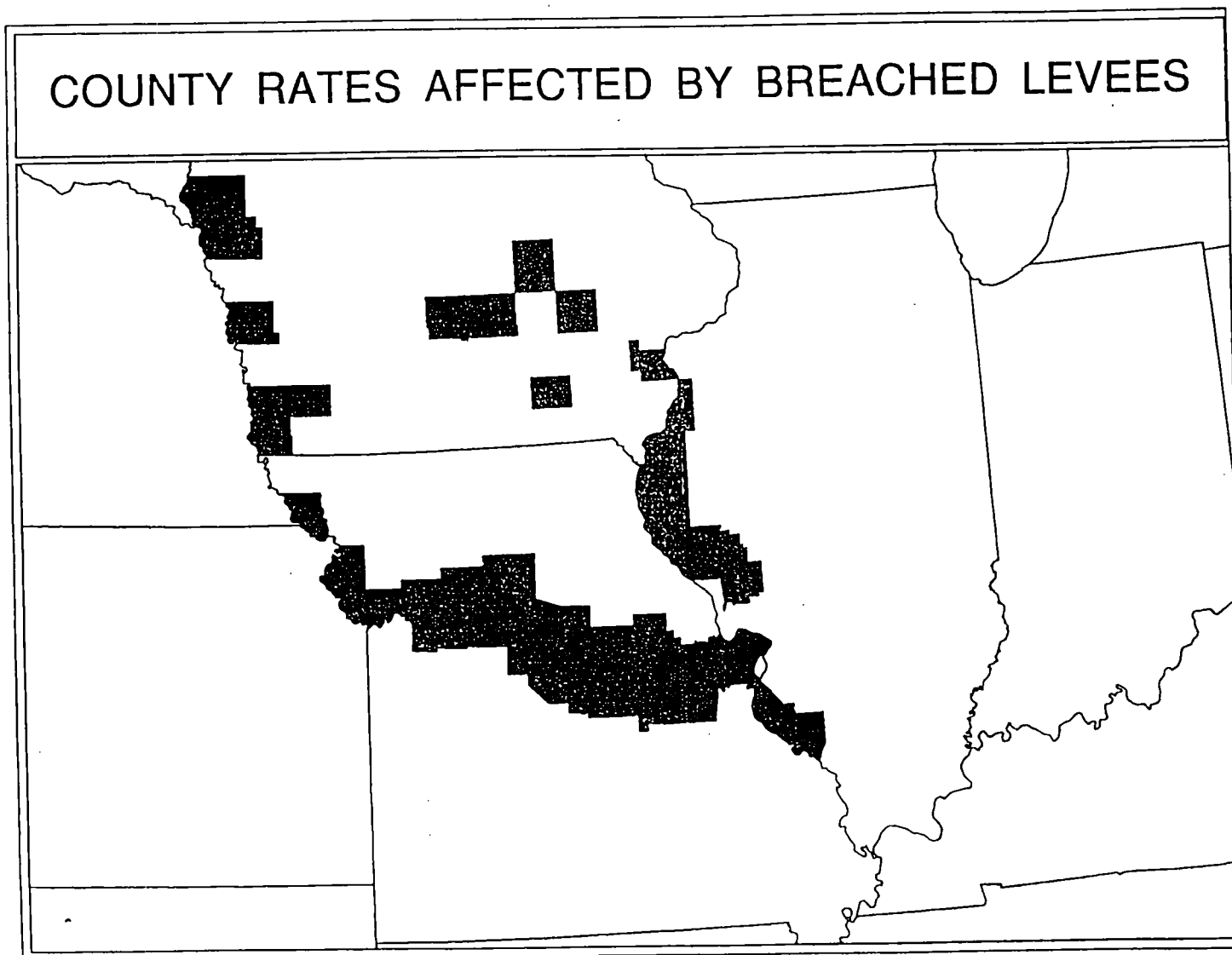
FCIC began assessing the effects of breached levees on the insurability of 1994 spring crops in August of 1993. On November 3, 1993, FCIC announced its first policy on land affected by breached levees. Nineteen crop programs in more than 150 counties in the nine state area were identified as affected by one or more failed levees. FCIC's Regional Service Offices subsequently conducted on-site reviews of these counties. On February 2, 1994, a revised breached levee policy was issued segregating the counties into groups requiring different actions based on the underwriting work accomplished by the Regional Service Offices and in recognition of repairs that had been made on some levees. Actions taken to address affected land included; supplementing existing actuarial maps with revised maps indicating areas of increased risk, removing the counties from the list based on repairs, requiring the special rates only if more than 20 acres were affected, and reclassifying some land as high risk with rates commensurate to the risk. The FCIC Manager and staff discussed these actions with flood state congressional delegations on February 17, 1994. On March 9, the FCIC Manager decided that prevented planting would not be available for land still under water from the 1993 flood, or land which will not be planted for 1994 due to remaining deposits of sand or other debris.

- **Crop Insurance Reform**

In response to the Midwest flood, President Clinton and Secretary Espy directed FCIC to restructure the crop insurance program to ensure that producers would be protected in the event of disaster, and would not be subjected to the uncertainty of *ad hoc* disaster legislation. On March 2, Secretary Espy transmitted a crop insurance reform proposal to the Congress which is intended to accomplish the goal set forth by the President. The proposal's major elements include:

- » Catastrophic crop insurance coverage available to producers of insurable crops for a nominal processing fee of \$50 per crop (\$100 maximum). Coverage will be provided when production drops below 50%, at a payment rate of 60% of the expected market price. The processing fee may be waived for limited resource producers.

- » Linkage to other USDA farm programs. Crop insurance will be required for producers who wish to participate in other USDA programs.
- » Delivery will be through USDA county offices for catastrophic protection. Catastrophic protection or higher levels of coverage will be available only through private companies reinsured by the USDA.
- » Premium rates will be restructured to reflect the entire subsidy associated with the coverage. To promote industry competition, rates may be reduced by companies that have reduced overhead.
- » A standing disaster program with coverage similar to the catastrophic protection will be available for crops not covered by crop insurance. Payments would be triggered by area-wide losses.
- » All insurable crop yields will be based on the actual production history concept. Other changes will be made consistent with the "Blueprint for Financial Soundness."
- » The new program will save approximately \$750 million over five years when compared to the cost of *ad hoc* legislation and crop insurance coverage.
- » The current authority for *ad hoc* crop loss disaster relief will be repealed.



CROPLAND ACRES AFFECTED - 404,000

MISSOURI Estimated 314,500 cropland acres subject to higher rates.

This appears to be a large area, please note this covers 520 miles of the Missouri river from St. Louis to above St. Joseph. Area affected by the high rates is approx. 1 - 3 miles wide throughout the entire distance.

34,865 producers received disaster payments for 1993. Number of producers affected by FCIC high risk areas would be far less.

Very few levees were repaired.

ILLINOIS Cropland added to high risk areas total 52,500 acres.

Assuming average farm size of 160 acres on this land, this would affect 328 producers.

IOWA Cropland acres added to high risk total 37,000

Expected number of producers affected - 170.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

The entire Mississippi River and affected tributaries were video taped from an airplane. Tape segments were matched with existing maps to determine extent of affected areas.

All county SCS offices were consulted to determine location of breaks, extent of flooding, and locations of possible sand/scouring problems. In addition to SCS, other resources utilized in this project were ASCS, FEMA and the Corps of Engineers.

Floodplain boundaries were physically inspected by automobile.

Additional field review was conducted in mid-January on specific areas to determine any improvements of drainage problems.

HAS THE WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM BEEN IMPLEMENTED?

MISSOURI In some cases pending approval for parcels of land is delaying levee repair. Acceptance as Wetland Reserve land may affect the alignment of the new levee. Some of the land with the deepest sand deposits may not be accepted

- ILLINOIS Participation in Wetland Reserve is nominal. Little, if any acreage on maps is expected to be enrolled in the program.
- IOWA Information we have received from SCS indicates that approximately 5,000 acres have been accepted under the Wetland Reserve Program and therefore will remain out of production. We have also been advised there are approximately an additional 14,000 acres pending the availability of additional funds.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO THE LAND? DO PRODUCERS ANTICIPATE PLANTING ANY OF THE ACREAGE NEXT SPRING?

- MISSOURI There are sand deposits up to 6 or more feet along the Missouri River. Areas with the deepest deposits may never be farmed again. It is possible to deep plow deposits up to 3 feet deep, but this is very expensive and has not been a widespread practice yet. Some sand deposits will probably be removed for fill for levees and deep holes. There also is an ASCS program for financial assistance for sand removal.

Land that has been eroded or scoured will probably be leveled out and farmed in 1994.

After having no crop in 1993, it is reasonable to expect they will plant as much as possible. The worst sand deposits probably won't be planted but some marginal areas of low productivity probably will be seeded. The ASCS CED of one county said some of the producers were going to farm the sand and hope they could restore productivity in a few years.

- ILLINOIS Unknown at this time. Some reports of producers trying to remove sand deposits in Monroe and Randolph Counties. Continued wet winter and ice accumulations have limited these activities.

- IOWA Farmers have been busy removing debris, leveling, and repairing drainage ditches and field tiles where they have been able to get into the fields.

Finally, it is the feeling of people we contacted that they will definitely plant wherever they are able to get onto the fields or the degree of damage has been too bad to get reasonable restoration accomplished.

LEVEE REPAIRS:

Land with deep sand deposits or scouring was placed in high rate areas due to broken levees. These areas may have to retain some amount of high risk rate after the levees are repaired if sufficient action has not been taken to restore productivity of the land.

Farmers Home Administration

Midwest Recovery as of March 15, 1994

Emergency Farm Loans and Rural Housing Assistance to date: over \$11 million.

Accomplishments: Emergency Loans and Rural Housing Assistance

Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) provides emergency loans to family farmers for physical and production losses.

Farmers Home Administration Midwest Disaster Assistance as of March 11, 1994

State	Rural Housing Assistance -- Loans and Grants	Farmer Program Emergency Disaster Loans	Total FmHA Disaster Assistance
	Amount	Loans	Amount
Illinois	\$289,780	26	\$ 1,717,790
Iowa	17,450	160	4,683,320
Kansas	81,940	4	81,530
Minnesota	51,600	47	1,926,440
Missouri	449,860	19	401,100
Nebraska	0	2	60,140
North Dakota	70,440	2	82,500
South Dakota	0	17	512,810
Wisconsin	5,000	21	660,050
Area Totals	\$ 966,070	298	\$ 10,125,680

- During his visits to the flood-stricken Midwest, the President recognized the need flood victims would have for farm credit. As a result, the Secretary met with agricultural lenders to coordinate the efforts of lenders and the Department to assist farmers in meeting these needs through loan guarantees available through FmHA, and other FmHA loan programs such as emergency and operating loans.
- The interest rate for the Emergency Loan program was reduced from 4.5 percent to 3.75 percent.

- Emergency Special Funds have been allocated by the USDA, to be made available to the Disaster States, to defray additional costs incurred by disaster States processing EM loans.
- **Administrative Improvements**
FmHA has initiated numerous administrative changes to assist applicants in the processing of their applications. These changes are as follows:
 - » FmHA County Offices will not be required to complete the automated Farm and Home Plan at the time the loan is processed. The County Office will, however, be required to complete a written plan at this time and input the plan into the automated system within 60 days after loan closing.
 - » The requirement for completing the Credit and Financial Analysis Worksheet has been waived for all EM loan applications.
 - » In States where the underwriting review process requires all loans to be reviewed prior to loan approval, the review process will be amended. The pre-approval review requirement will be eliminated and only post-approval review will be completed.
 - » If subsequent loan requests are received for the same disaster, the County Office is authorized to accept an abbreviated application, with only the following items completed: Name; Total cash income last year; Total cash expenses last year; Source and use of funds; and Date and signature.
- **Regulatory Changes**
In addition, FmHA has published proposed changes and is clearing final versions of those changes for current regulations to assist flood victims. These changes include the following:
 - » Modify collateral requirements for direct loans:
 - * Require a lien on property so the value of security is at least equal to the amount of the loan.
 - * Farm Ownership loans would not be secured with chattels unless no other real estate is available to provide security at least equal to the amount of the loan.
 - * A lien on all assets would still be required on loans which have restructured.
 - » Revise EM loan eligibility calculation and appraisal requirements:
 - * Disaster-related assistance/compensation will not be considered in the eligibility calculation. It would be considered when determining the EM loan entitlement.
 - * Eliminate the need to do two appraisals.
 - » Remove prohibition against charging interest for guaranteed loans:
 - * Would allow lenders to capitalize the outstanding interest portion of a loan and schedule payments based on the new principal amount.
 - * Eliminate requirement that principal payments be made at least equal to the amount of the depreciation of security.

Potential Exposure This Spring

If spring flooding occurs, there will be an added demand for EM loans in the "high risk" States such as Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois. Another occurrence of spring flooding could result in additional losses to farmers and the government.

1994 Response

Jump Teams

In efforts to speed up the Emergency Loan (EM) processing in states affected by heavy flooding and drought, FmHA has implemented thirteen "Jump Teams". These teams consist of 4-6 experienced FmHA employees from throughout the country who are on call to respond to a State's need for additional help with a backlog of applications. Processing activities include the processing of a increased number of EM loan applications as well as other direct loan applications and servicing actions.

Team members are equipped with the necessary hardware and software to process EM loans. This has allowed the day-to-day operations of the County Offices to be carried out with little, if any, adverse impact on other services provided to the farm customers. It has also allowed for easy mobility of team members, when conducting field visits, to expedite loan processing. A significant amount of man-hours is being saved, which is substantially reducing administrative burden in County Offices and allowing farmers to receive much-needed assistance expeditiously.

Jump Teams are prepared to begin processing applications within 72 hours of a State's request for assistance. The first group went out the week of February 14, 1994. A substantial number of additional requests are expected in the next few months.

Sites for the Jump Team activities are:

- Redwood Falls, Minnesota
- Manchester, Iowa
- Spencer, Iowa
- Austin/Manatowoc, Minnesota
- Appleton/Fon Du Lac/Stevens Point, Wisconsin
- Glencoe, Minnesota
- Rock Port, Missouri
- Ida Grove, Iowa
- Ames, Iowa

Funding Increase

Additional funds have also been made available by the USDA to assist the Disaster States in processing of EM loans

Cooperative Extension Service
Midwest Recovery as of March 15, 1994

Educational and Communication Assistance: \$2.9 million.

Accomplishments

Congress provided the Extension Service \$3.5 million in the 1993 Disaster Assistance Supplemental to provide assistance to those affected by the Midwest floods and other natural disasters. Of this amount, \$2.9 million was used in the nine Midwestern States to provide educational programs that assisted people in identifying sources and applying for emergency assistance and other forms of aid. Electronic communication networks were used to coordinate activities and share disaster-related information.

Reports from two-thirds of the affected states indicate that over 49,000 households were assisted in the following areas:

	<u>% of total assisted</u>
• Water/food/feed contamination and testing	34
• Farm/business financial assessment and planning	33
• Personal/family management and counseling	27
• Structural Damage Assessment and Planning	6

Over 10% of the funding was allocated to youth projects. Specific activities involved over 2800 youth providing care for children and the elderly, working on restoration of community facilities, and participating in related activities. More than 1250 communities were assisted with damage assessment and planning for replacement of community facilities and infrastructure. Among the many specific examples of how funds were used are:

- Disaster Assistance Centers in Missouri where Extension worked side-by-side with FEMA, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army to provide information on contamination of water, food and feed supplies.
- Hot line assistance, distribution of fact sheets and individual counseling through eight Flood Assistance Centers in Iowa.
- Hiring of temporary professionals in Kansas who provided intensive assistance to farmers, families and businesses on financial aid, family stress and issues involving children.
- Well decontamination demonstrations and distribution of fact sheets on a wide range of flood related topics in Illinois.
- Assistance to South Dakota producers in handling livestock wastes and testing runoff.
- Interactive video conferences on diseases in grains, and financial counseling and mediation in North Dakota.

Potential Exposure This Spring

As farmers finance this year's crop, the longer term financial impact of last year's flood disaster will be evident in farm business and family accounts. This may lead to greater emotional stress.

1994 Response

Satellite broadcasts, the media, publications and workshops were used to deliver the educational programs to the public last fall. Activities in the affected area were coordinated through regional training conferences. These resources are now widely available in the flood States.

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Midwest Recovery as of March 15, 1994

Accomplishments

- APHIS prepared and distributed emerging issues for Veterinary Services as related to public health, animal health and regulatory medicine due to the Midwest flood.
- APHIS prepared NEWS alerts to increase awareness of disease outbreaks (anthrax) in local areas.
- APHIS monitored the flood area through its active and passive animal health and agricultural production surveillance program and provided appropriate assistance.

1994 Response

APHIS is prepared to monitor all areas where spring flooding may occur through its surveillance program.

Midwest Flood Steering Committee
Agenda
March 18, 1994
Room 211, OEOB

Purpose/Agenda:

- Identify accomplishments to date in recovery effort
- Identify areas of potential "exposure" if spring flooding occurs
- Identify specific preparations for response to spring flooding (number of sand bags ready, temporary housing available, etc.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C.
20013

MAR 11 1994

SUBJECT: Monthly Report on the Status of the Levee Repair Program

TO: Katie McGinty, Director of the Office of
Environmental Policy, The White House
T. J. Glauthier, Associate Director of
Natural Resources, Energy and Science,
Office of Management and Budget

In accordance with your guidance of August 23, 1993, enclosed is the February 1994 Soil Conservation Service progress report on levee repair work in response to the 1993 Midwest flood.

PAUL W. JOHNSON
Chief

Enclosure



The Soil Conservation Service
is an agency of the
Department of Agriculture

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM

MIDWEST FLOOD RECOVERY WORK

March 1, 1994

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION PROGRAM
MIDWEST FLOOD RECOVERY WORK

INTRODUCTION:

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is being implemented in all nine States affected by the 1993 Midwest Flood. The majority of the work involves debris and sediment removal and erosion control. The amount of levee restoration work is considerably less. The Emergency Wetland Reserve Program (EWRP) offers SCS clients an alternative to levee restoration.

SUMMARY:

To date, SCS has directed all activities toward immediate threats to life, property, or critical community infrastructure. A total of 3,543 damage survey reports have been prepared. Of these, 2,210 have been determined eligible for EWP assistance. The majority of the eligible projects are for erosion control, 1,137. Eligible projects for debris removal total 744, and 329 are for levee repair. Under contract or completed are 336 projects for erosion control, 440 projects for debris removal, and 238 levee restoration projects for a total of 1,014 projects. See Appendixes A, B and D.

Priorities are being established to meet the most serious needs within available funds. As a result of Public Law 103-75, SCS received a supplemental appropriation for the Midwest flood recovery effort of \$60 million. To date, SCS has allocated \$56.6 million of the supplemental and \$19.1 million of regular EWP funds to the states.

INELIGIBLE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE:

To be eligible for assistance, projects must meet certain criteria. The criteria are:

- o Projects must be sponsored by a legal subdivision of State government or the State itself, local government, or a qualified Indian tribe or tribal organization.
- o Sponsors must agree to provide for the operation and maintenance of completed emergency measures.
- o Emergency measures must retard runoff to prevent flooding or prevent soil erosion, reduce threats to life, property, or community infrastructure, and must yield beneficial effects to more than one individual. In immediate situations, single beneficiaries are permitted.
- o Measures must be economically and environmentally defensible and technically sound.

- Work must conform to the rules and regulations for protection of wetlands and flood plain management.

Damage survey reports were completed on 3,543 requests for assistance and 1,333 requests were determined to be ineligible for EWP assistance.

LEVEE RESTORATION:

SCS guidance is to limit its involvement in levee restoration to upstream watersheds. For levees to be eligible for repair under the EWP program, the following conditions must be met:

- There is a potential for loss of life or property without the repair.
- The benefits associated with repairing the levee must exceed the costs of levee repair and other levee dependent costs that would occur only if the levee is rebuilt.
- The owner agrees to meet SCS eligibility requirements for engineering and maintenance. Minimum standards require the levee maintain a 5-year level of protection, the entire levee embankment is structurally sound, and the sponsor agrees to operate and maintain the levee.

Levee restoration projects are located in six of the nine flood states: Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota. The total number of damage survey reports for levees is 775. Of these, 329 have been determined eligible for assistance at a total estimated cost of \$13.7 million. Two hundred thirty-eight (238) projects for levee restoration are under contract or completed at a cost of \$5.6 million. Based on the \$5.6 million, the average cost per levee restoration is \$24,000. See Appendixes B and C.

EMERGENCY WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM:

Public Law 103-75, The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Relief From the Major, Widespread Flooding in the Midwest Act of 1993 authorized the use of funds for wetland restoration rather than repair under certain circumstances. The rules for the EWRP were published in the Federal Register on November 29, 1993. Under the EWRP, SCS may purchase wetland conservation easements from persons owning cropland that was damaged by the Midwest floods of 1993. The EWRP is available to landowners when the cost of cropland reclamation and/or levee repair exceeds the fair market value of the affected cropland. To ensure maximum benefits, SCS state conservationists, in consultation with others, use a ranking process to evaluate EWRP applications. Criteria used in the ranking process include protection and enhancement of habitat for migratory birds and wildlife, floodway expansion, proximity to other protected wetlands, level of wetland hydrologic conditions restored, wetland functions and values, likelihood of successful

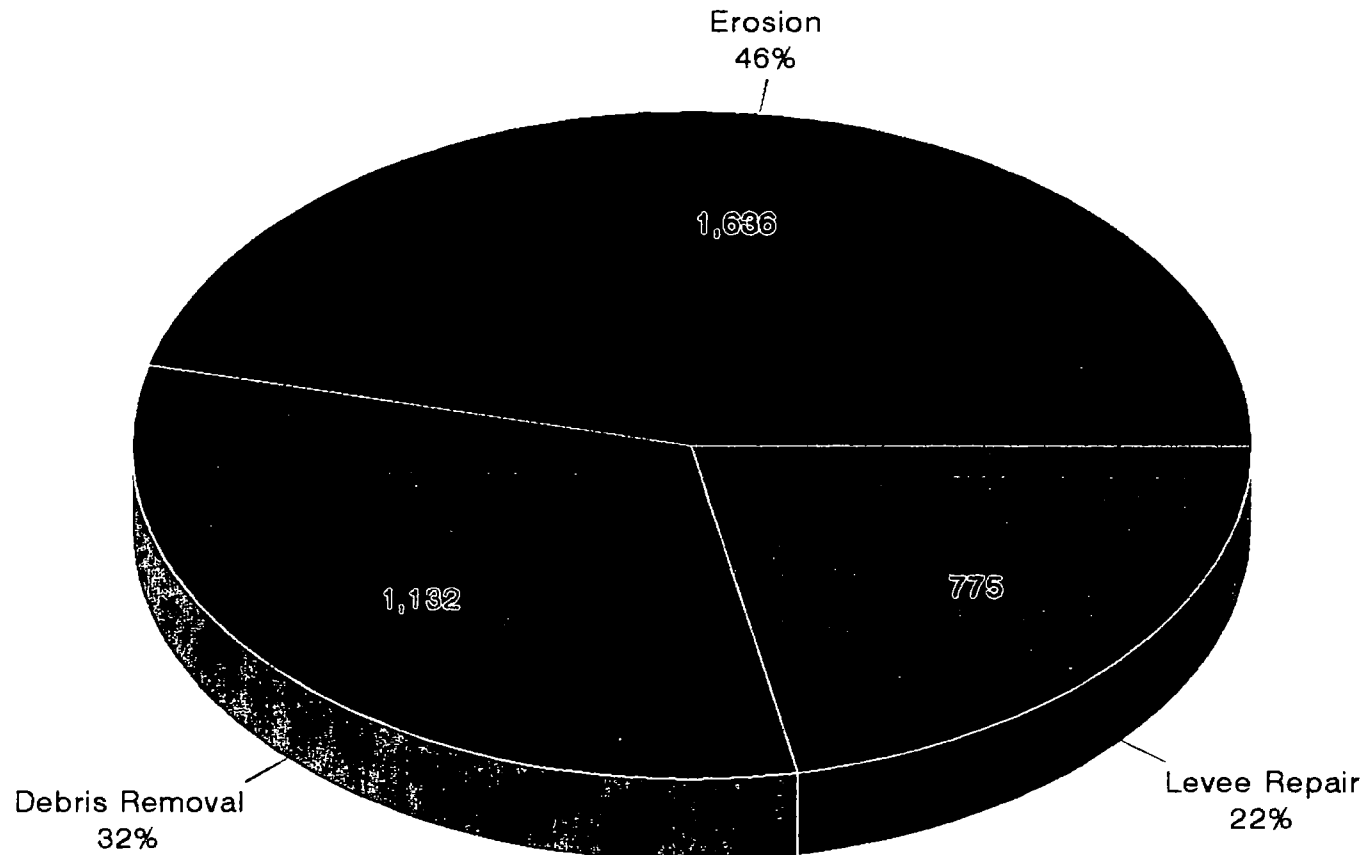
restoration of wetland values, cost of restoration and easement purchases, and other factors determined appropriate by SCS. Applications to convert 43,680 acres of cropland to wetland have been received in Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota. SCS has allocated \$15 million of the supplemental appropriation to these seven states for the purchase of easements and the costs of restoration of wetlands. In addition, SCS has allocated funds in the amount of \$4.6 million for technical assistance expenses for both wetland determinations under the Wetland Reserve Program and for technical assistance for EWRP wetland restoration. All available funds have been allocated and will only cover the easements and restoration costs for 25,400 of the 43,680 acres for which applications have been received.

STATUS OF APPROPRIATIONS:

SCS has allocated a total of \$75.7 million, \$56.6 million of the Public Law 103-75 supplemental appropriation and \$19.1 million of the regular EWP appropriation, to the nine States affected by the 1993 Midwest flood. A total estimated need of \$145 million for project installation will be required for eligible work.

On February 12, 1994, the President signed another supplemental appropriation bill, Public Law 103-211, for \$340.5 million for watershed and flood prevention operations to repair damages to waterways and watersheds resulting from the Midwest floods and California fires of 1993, other natural disasters, and other purposes. This supplemental appropriation bill also contains language which will permit the use of these funds in the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program. The funds have not yet been released to SCS for allocation.

Applications for Assistance

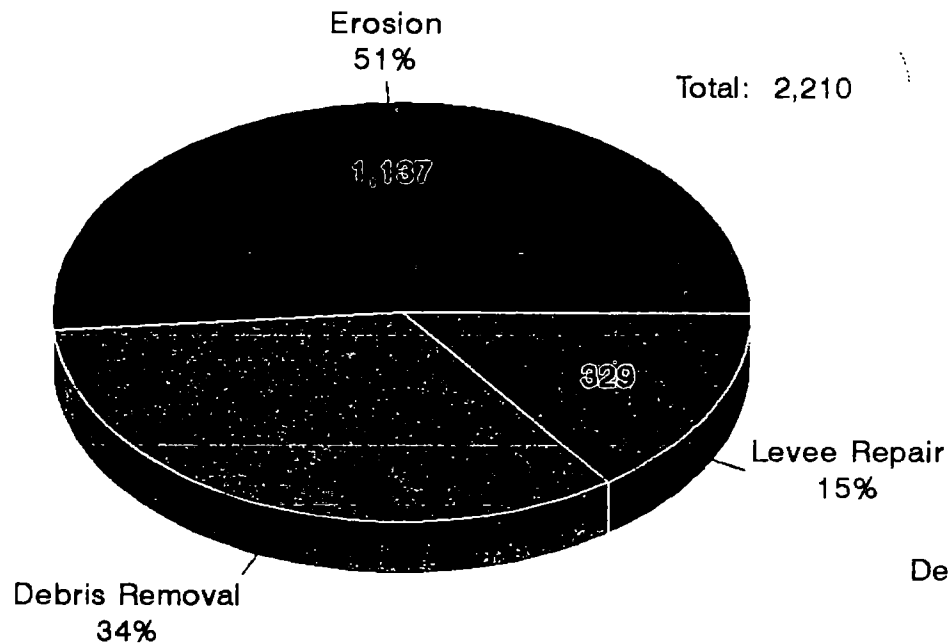


Total : 3,543

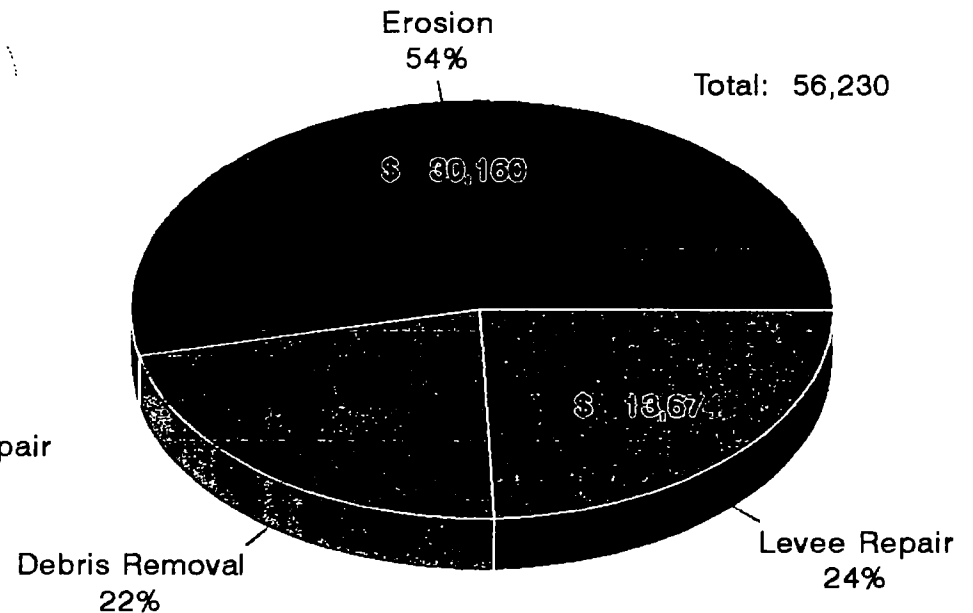
Appendix A

Appendix B

Numbers of Eligible Projects

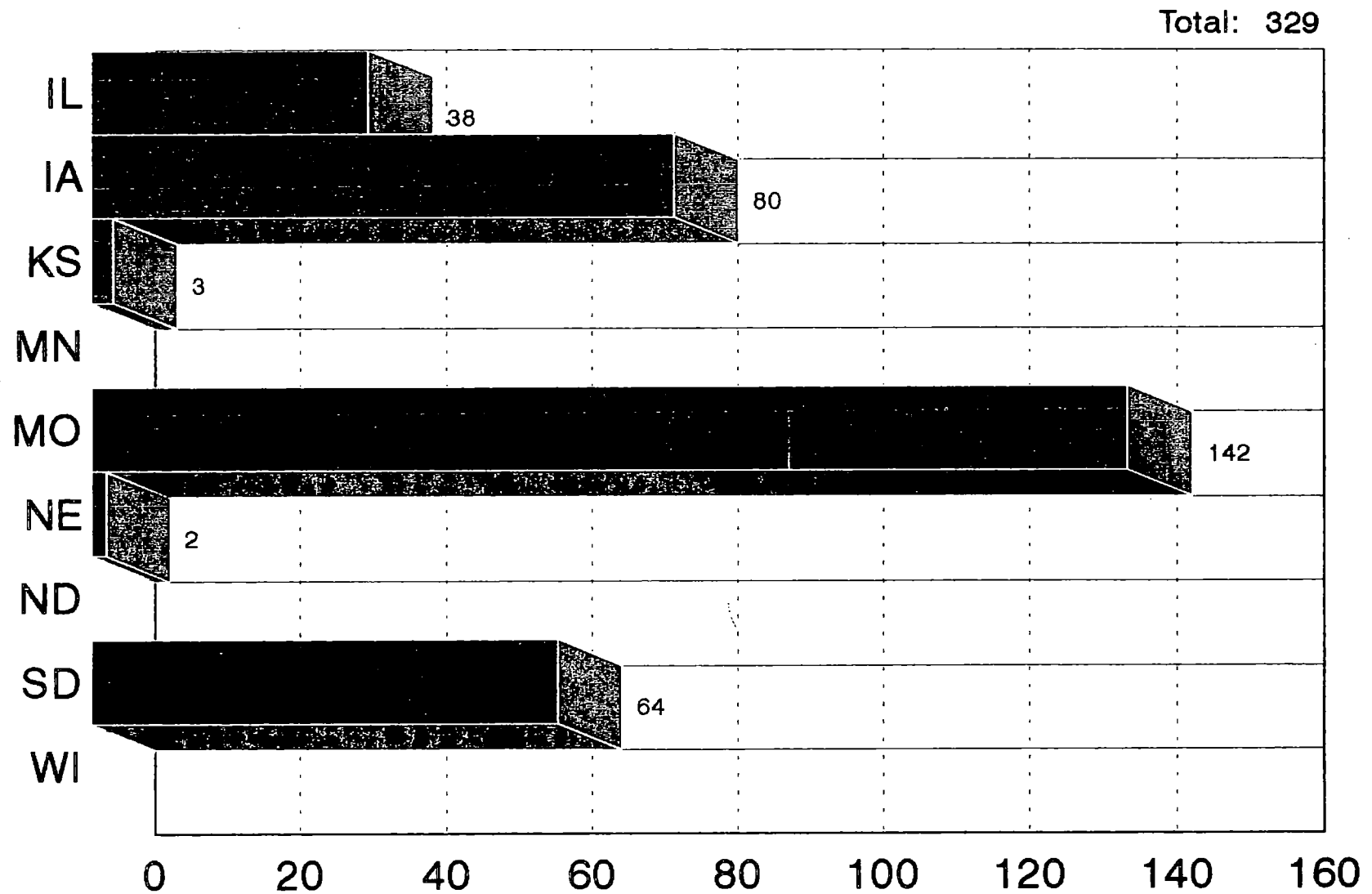


Dollars of Eligible Projects



(\$Thousands)

Eligible Levee Repair



APPENDIX D
3/1/94

USDA - SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Flood of 93 Recovery Response

	Illinois		Iowa		Kansas		Minnesota		Missouri		Nebraska		North Dakota		South Dakota		Wisconsin		Total	
	Number	(\$1000)	Number	(\$1000)	Number	(\$1000)	Number	(\$1000)	Number	(\$1000)	Number	(\$1000)	Number	(\$1000)	Number	(\$1000)	Number	(\$1000)	Number	(\$1000)
DSRs Received																				
Debris Removal	179		201		114		15		409		21		180		1		12		1132	
Erosion	261		725		549		13		18		23		30		6		11		1636	
Levee	91		139		66		0		396		4		0		79		0		775	
TOTAL	531		1065		729		28		823		48		210		86		23		3543	
Eligible SCS																				
Debris Removal	142	\$2,550	166	\$1,534	104	\$877	12	\$307	213	\$5,414	19	\$52	79	\$642	1	\$29	8	\$991	744	\$12,396
Erosion	186	\$5,138	413	\$17,474	493	\$5,819	2	\$32	4	\$143	17	\$940	10	\$231	2	\$93	10	\$290	1137	\$30,160
Levee	38	\$1,272	80	\$6,739	3	\$180	0	\$0	142	\$4,368	2	\$123	0	\$0	64	\$992	0	\$0	329	\$13,674
Tech. Asst.		\$400		\$1,565		\$750		\$200		\$2,220		\$150		\$250		\$260		\$196		\$5,991
TOTAL	366	\$9,360	659	\$27,312	600	\$7,626	14	\$539	359	\$12,145	38	\$1,265	89	\$1,123	67	\$1,374	18	\$1,477	2210	\$62,221
Contracted/Complete																				
Debris Removal	97	\$1,304	121	\$672	92	\$648	5	\$122	60	\$595	11	\$31	46	\$347	1	\$29	7	\$622	440	\$4,370
Erosion	178	\$4,733	74	\$4,306	66	\$1,197	1	\$2	3	\$88	4	\$438	3	\$37	1	\$8	6	\$123	336	\$10,932
Levee	32	\$1,234	45	\$1,968	0	\$0	0	\$0	102	\$1,685	1	\$3	0	\$0	58	\$710	0	\$0	238	\$5,600
Tech. Asst.		\$400		\$1,565		\$750		\$200		\$2,220		\$150		\$250		\$260		\$196		\$5,991
TOTAL	307	\$7,671	240	\$8,511	158	\$2,595	6	\$324	165	\$4,588	16	\$622	49	\$634	60	\$1,007	13	\$941	1014	\$26,893
Pending																				
Debris Removal	45	\$1,245	45	\$862	12	\$229	7	\$185	153	\$4,819	8	\$21	33	\$295	0	\$0	1	\$369	304	\$8,026
Erosion	8	\$404	339	\$13,168	427	\$4,622	1	\$30	1	\$55	13	\$502	7	\$194	1	\$85	4	\$167	801	\$19,228
Levee	6	\$38	35	\$4,771	3	\$180	0	\$0	40	\$2,683	1	\$120	0	\$0	6	\$282	0	\$0	91	\$8,074
TOTAL	59	\$1,689	419	\$18,801	442	\$5,031	8	\$215	194	\$7,557	22	\$643	40	\$489	7	\$367	5	\$536	1196	\$35,328
ENRP																				
AC	AC	(\$1000)	AC	(\$1000)	AC	(\$1000)	AC	(\$1000)	AC	(\$1000)	AC	(\$1000)	AC	(\$1000)	AC	(\$1000)	AC	(\$1000)	AC	(\$1000)
Appl. Rec	1702	\$2,210	13057	\$14,360	1664	\$1,650	646	\$870	21642	\$19,660	233	\$260	0	\$0	4736	\$2,500	0	\$0	43680	\$41,510
Acres Funded	1300	\$1,840	5600	\$5,240	1200	\$1,370	500	\$800	12300	\$7,275	200	\$360	0	\$225	4300	\$2,505	0	\$40	25400	\$19,655
Potential AC	402	\$370	7457	\$9,120	464	\$280	146	\$70	9342	\$12,385	33				436				18280	\$21,855

*Includes \$2.1 million of technical assistance funds for wetland determinations for Wetland Reserve Program and \$2.5 million for ENRP technical assistance.

Estimated Future Needs (\$1000)	\$0	\$43,700	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$1,350	\$350	\$0	\$0	\$47,400
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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

March 16, 1994

OFFICE OF
THE ADMINISTRATOR

Ms. Kathryn Way
Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
Old Executive Office Building
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Way:

This is to transmit information on behalf of the Environmental and Health Safety Committee related to the agenda for the March 18 meeting of the Steering Committee. Attachments include the following:

- Attachment A: Major Accomplishments of the Environmental and Health Safety Committee Midwest Flood Recovery Effort
- Attachment B: Major EPA Accomplishments in the Midwest Flood Recovery Effort
- Attachment C: Major Accomplishments of DHHS in the Midwest Flood Recovery Effort
- Attachment D: Potential Vulnerabilities on Environmental and Public Health Issues Related to Potential Spring Flooding
- Attachment E: Spring Flood Preparedness Activities of the Environmental and Health Safety Committee

The Environmental and Health Safety Committee convened most recently on March 16. A meeting summary will be provided to you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Lowrance
Associate Deputy Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank E. Young", written over the printed name.

Dr. Frank Young
Director, Office of Emergency Preparedness
Department of Health and Human Services



Printed on Recycled Paper

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH SAFETY COMMITTEE IN THE MIDWEST FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORT

- **Private Well Monitoring Proposal.** HHS-PHS and EPA are leading a joint Federal-State effort to characterize the private drinking water well contamination problem. A Groundwater and Potable Water Assessment and Sampling Plan, developed to determine an estimate of groundwater contamination in flood-affected states and to provide baseline information for future disasters, has been approved by affected states. The document outlines the goals of the survey and provides information about: the significance of resulting statistics; sampling collection by county and by state; standard methods for collection; and data analysis. This information will be confidential and will be transferred from the counties, to the states, and finally to the Centers for Disease Control for compilation. At least nine samples will be taken from each county of the affected area. Analyses will be performed for bacteria, nitrates, and atrazine. Sampling and analysis are planned for March through May 1994. Sampling will begin as soon as funding is secure.
- **Monitoring Database.** Monitoring data collected during the Midwest Floods were incorporated into an environmental monitoring database that continues to be available on the EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) Bulletin Board. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have not found significant changes in water chemistry since the 1993 floods. This database reflects integrated information from Federal and State monitoring efforts.
- **Water and Wastewater Facilities.** The EPA Office of Water (OW) prepared a report to characterize impacts to water and wastewater facilities in the Midwest. Disaster survey reports and funding eligibility were tracked during and after the emergency phase. A summary of the report including status of flood affected facilities, potential areas of exposure this spring, and specific preparedness activities related to water quality issues is attached.

Disease Surveillance, environmental health, injury control and prevention, and vector control have been implemented in each State through collaborative agreements with CDC.

The Health and Human Services Subcommittee was formed by DHHS to address the existing and potential threats associated with mental health problems domestic violence, and concerns for aged, children and low income families over the winter months. The subcommittee was comprised of the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

the Administration on Aging, and the Administration on Aid to Children and Families to evaluate how current programs and resources are being utilized and identify future needs. The subcommittee provided essential analysis and their recommendations for apportionment of the remaining \$10 million of Supplemental Budget funds.

**SUMMARY STATUS REPORT
WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITIES
DAMAGED IN THE FLOOD OF 1993
March 17, 1994**

Of the 425 Municipal Wastewater Facilities and 289 Municipal Water reported by the states as damaged by the flood, 389 Wastewater and 247 Water Facilities have received FEMA funding. The remaining 35 Wastewater and 32 Water Facilities are still under review to determine if they qualify for Federal assistance.

Currently the States report the all Wastewater Facilities have been returned to secondary treatment levels, although, some plants are not operating at full pre-flood capacity. In addition, several facilities have not been able to restart their advanced treatments unit processes due to construction delays or because of operational start-up problems. All wastewater facilities are expected to be fully operational by the fall of 1994. Most of the collection systems are operational, however, additional damage is expected to be discovered as the systems are cleaned and inspected. Repairs to several of the larger collection systems may not be completed until 1995.

Currently the states report that most of the public water system are operational, however, some wells have experienced bacterial recontamination. While no Boil Water Orders are currently in effect, several states are continuing to monitor a number of smaller water systems for bacteria contamination. The only major system still experiencing operating difficulty is the Kansas City, Kansas facility. This facility sustained considerable damage to its filtration system. It is not currently known when this facility will return to full capacity. For the most part the distribution systems are operational. However, some additional damage could occur due to high ground water freezing problems this winter.

While nearly all of the funding issues have been resolved, the following major concerns remain:

- The overall magnitude of the costs and the long term availability of funds needed to bring water and wastewater treatment facilities back to pre-flood conditions. Especially in the collection and distribution systems which may suffer additional damage this winter due to freezing and thawing in areas with much higher than normal ground water levels.
- The possibility of ground water aquifer contamination due to organic chemicals, pesticides and other pollutants being deposited with the sediment in the aquifer recharge areas. This type of pollution may not be detected at the wells for a long period of time.

- Some of the municipal water and wastewater facilities damaged in the flood of 1993 may sustain additional damage in the anticipated spring floods of 1994, because of continuing high ground water levels and because some levees and flood control structures have not been repaired.

In order to minimize potential damage to municipal water and wastewater facilities due to Spring flooding, a number of activities have been implemented. Key activities include the following.

- The Office of Water has developed better lines of communications with the Regional Water Management Divisions by establishing a regional contact to serve as the focal point for water and wastewater related issues.
- The Office of Water is working with the Public Health Service to develop procedures to better address contamination of private water wells, which are not regulated by the EPA.
- The Office of Water is working with FEMA to establish new procedures that will provide better coordination between damaged facilities identified by EPA and facilities identified in the Damage Survey Reports (DSR) that are eligible for FEMA assistance
- Regional offices have established better lines of communications by identifying key contacts within each state to expedite information dissemination on damaged water and wastewater facilities and other public health issues.
- Regional Water Management Divisions are providing a representative on Regional Incident Coordination Teams (RICT) to ensure water and wastewater related issues identified and resolved.
- States are developing Geographical Information Systems (GIS) that can identify facilities that may be subject to damage based on flood crest projections. These systems can also be used to quickly locate all facilities within flood areas so that damage survey teams can be dispatched more expediently.
- States are working with municipalities to identify municipal facilities with a high risk of damage due to Spring flooding. These high risk facilities are making necessary preparations to provide additional protection to minimize potential damage (i.e. stock piling sand and other materials, warehousing temporary pumps and electrical generators, and arranging delivery of heavy equipment).

Attachment B DHHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Overview

In the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Secretary has delegated the responsibility for the Emergency Support Function #8 (Health and Medical Services) to the Assistant Secretary for Health who in turn has designated the Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP) as the action agent for Health, Medical, and Human Services. From the initial response, when the Midwest Flood was declared a disaster by the President in June 1993, OEP has vigorously engaged all opportunities to assist Midwest Flood States. The Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and Civil Service personnel have provided critical leadership and technical support in all States.

In RESPONSE

- DHHS pro-actively sought interaction through its Regional Health Administrators, with all State Health and Human Services Officials. This coordinated effort facilitated defining flood related problems and created responsive actions.
- Over 3 million dollars of response missions were coordinated by OASH/OEP for the 9 flood impacted States.
- DHHS and Public Health Service Leadership Meetings were held in Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, and Nebraska during July. The meetings enabled State and Public Health Service Officials to meet and focus on their particular State issues, Federal response programs and other capabilities. These meetings generally established "level plains" for communicating and processing flood related issues and problems. Working relationships established during these meetings enhanced the participation and the results of the Federal/State Health, Medical, and Human Services Task Force created in St. Louis in August 3-4, 1993.
- Technical Assistance Teams were created to provide health assessments to the six States that accepted assistance offered. The Technical Assistance Teams along with State Health Officials reviewed health problems and determined the timing, magnitude of augmentation, and focus of Federal Health and Medical resources in Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wisconsin.

Attachment B
DHHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)

In RECOVERY

- DHHS sponsored a meeting of Federal and State representatives from environmental and health departments from the nine states in Kansas City, Missouri, in November 1993 to develop a comprehensive nine-state private well-water contamination survey. This program, conducted by the States and using State laboratories will use common methods to measure for bacterial contamination, nitrate contamination, and the pesticide Atrazine to determine flood-related baseline contamination levels of private wells that serve over one million people in the affected area. After final State concurrence, this project was submitted to FEMA on February 23, for funding consideration. The project will assist in developing state specific disease prevention and mitigation strategies as well as assist in the determination of pre-re-flood contamination levels.
- Following the St. Louis meeting in August, the Health, Medical and Human Services Task Force met again in Des Moines, IA, to address recovery issues on a nine-State global basis. OEP coordinated 7 combined Federal/State working groups: Primary Care, Mental Health, Environmental Health, Food Safety, Disease Control and Surveillance, Vector Control, and Public Communication and Information Management. With their detailed work, DHHS formulated a \$75 million Multi-State Supplemental Budget request of which \$65 million was approved for distribution.
- As of December 1993, over 98% of the \$65 million has been obligated for State program support and reapportioned by the DHHS Subcommittee on Health and Social Services. Subsequently, additional State requests have been received and evaluated by the DHHS Subcommittee on Health and Social Services. The Subcommittee recommendations were forwarded through departmental authorities to OMB as a request against the remaining \$10 million apportioned for the Flood recovery. This \$10 million request included additional support for elderly issues in Illinois and Iowa, an abandoned well project in Minnesota, domestic abuse issues in Missouri, crisis counseling programs in Nebraska, community services support in North Dakota, technical assistance, a well-water contamination survey for the nine States, and a contingency fund for future funding of currently unidentified problem areas. No decision on the distribution of these requests has been communicated to DHHS by OMB.
- Extensive interagency coordination through the Environment, Health and Safety Committee (EHS) among DHHS, DVA, FEMA, USEPA, USDA, and USGS has included scheduled monthly meetings and frequent supporting subcommittee meetings through the Winter '93 and Spring '94. Potential threats to health and

Attachment B
DHHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)

safety have been integrated with environmental concerns through the Environment, Health, and Safety Committee co-chaired by USEPA and DHHS. Particular attention has been directed toward water safety of private wells, domestic violence, and environmental health.

- A detailed DHHS program update has been submitted ["Midwest Flood Recovery Year-end Report to FEMA and the White House and Press Conference" dated December 21, 1993].

In FUTURE Planning

- In May 1994, in Kansas City, a Region-wide training course will be given on standardizing vector control program practices will be convened by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (PHS/CDC).

PHS Regional Emergency Preparedness activities have reported the following status by State:

ILLINOIS

- Final State Flood Plan, "almost complete."
- East St. Louis evacuation plans complete for nursing home evacuation for "about 1000" persons.
- Water Distribution Plan. The previous plan was found to have problems and the State of Illinois has worked to change it. The Plan is now revised and the water equipment is in storage ready to go (in Petersburg). Also sand bags stockpiled to protect the water treatment plan near Alton.
- EOC meeting was coordinated by Governors committee. Meetings were held weekly, now meetings are held monthly and will continue on a monthly basis until the problem appears to be passed.
- The computer system has been tested to link all public health units.
- Illinois is working with DOT and the Corps of Engineers, so that problems from 93 are not repeated.
- Entomology/Vector programs are being coordinated with local counties and with CDC.

Attachment B
DHHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)

- The EOC for Wisconsin will move to larger quarters. The move will occur on March 21, 1994.
- A discussion was held on "Flooding Potential". Wisconsin has advised all agencies that "as the snow cap reduces the problem reduces." Much of Wisconsin ground is at a 90% plus saturation level. Levees are not solid and most have not been rebuilt, so there is a potential of larger problems, if a large amount of rain falls.
- Prototype "Mission Tasking" orders are being prepared.
- Reservoirs in the State of Wisconsin have all been lowered to allow maximum rain addition.

Attachment B
DHHS ACCOMPLISHMENTS (continued)

- Environment and Water personnel are working with local counties and with CDC on the Well Grant.

MINNESOTA

- Meetings were held with State and local health units, and the Corps of Engineers to discuss 1994 Flood Preparations.
- Minnesota always has some flooding. The current report shows problems projected for Red River Valley, because of snow and ground saturation. This area is part of North Dakota and Canadian Flood area. This is the one key area where there is a "flood alert."
- Normal preparations and testing are going on in the State as always, but the State is not on a high alert, except as stated above.

MISSOURI

- On-site validation of primary health care and domestic violence issues was conducted by PHS representatives.
- PHS staff participated in a "Lessons-Learned and Planning for Future Floods" conference convened by the State Health Department in January 1994.

WISCONSIN

- On February 10, 1994, a meeting of personnel from State of Wisconsin Health and Emergency Planning agencies, and the US Public Health Service was held to discuss problems of anticipated flooding. A planning meeting was chaired by Commissioner of Health and USPHS Region V Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Issues of ESF #8 and State Emergency Preparedness were discussed. It appears that the Wisconsin emergency preparedness system is well prepared.
- On March 4, 1994, the Division of Emergency Government Meeting was held. The meeting was on Floods and Weather Related Disaster Planning. Discussion on activation of EOC for State and Volunteer Agencies was key issue.
- An alert list will be used by State response officials. All persons have been given a copy of the list of names for either 8 or 12 hour shift system.

MAJOR EPA ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE MIDWEST FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORT

- **Mission Assignment Activities.** During the emergency phase of the Midwest Floods, EPA was allocated \$7,759,000 for carrying out activities under mission assignments in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, and Missouri. Activities funded under mission assignments include:
 - Activation and deployment to disaster field offices to provide technical assistance to the Federal Coordinating Officer and other federal agencies with disaster relief missions in affected areas;
 - Surveillance of the affected areas to detect presence of oil or hazardous materials and assisting in storage and disposal of recovered wastes;
 - Staging, characterization, profiling, transportation, and disposal of orphan drums/containers potentially containing hazardous substances (**18,589 orphan drums were collected**);
 - Establishment of temporary staging areas for wastes and assisting in any collection/removal operations;
 - Household hazardous waste recovery and disposal (**78,374 pounds of waste were collected**);
 - Assessment of Superfund and RCRA sites (**59 Superfund sites and 73 RCRA sites were impacted**);
- **Supplemental Budget Activities.** EPA received \$33.9 million in supplemental appropriations to assist impacted states in the following areas:
 - Household hazardous waste, assessment damage to landfills, groundwater testing around hazardous waste facilities, storage for small generators, solid waste collection and disposal;
 - Leaking underground storage tank (UST and LUST) assessment, including site investigation, release assessment, cleanups, tank testing, and site and compliance oversight;
 - Water monitoring, ambient water quality analysis, public water supply, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance, wetlands grants, public water systems, and sediment assessment contracts;

-- Spill Prevention, Containment, and Countermeasures (SPCC) inspection and spill response;

-- Air quality monitoring; and

-- Pesticide collection, hotline for consumers, and program implementation.

- **Water Workgroup.** The Water Workgroup, an interagency workgroup of the Environmental Monitoring Task Force of the EHSC, is chaired by USGS and the EPA Office of Water. The workgroup has been instrumental in preparing guidance for projects funded by the Supplemental, preparing periodical updates of flood water quality monitoring information, developing interagency protocol for collecting water quality data during an emergency, and are currently preparing for the potential spring flooding.
- **Environmental Restoration** -- EPA actively supports environmental restoration activities through staff participation in the Interagency Floodplain Management Review Committee as well as the Scientific Assessment Strategy Team which were created to determine the major causes and consequences of the flood, evaluate existing floodplain management programs, and make recommendations for activities and policy/program changes that could improve restoration.

Attachment D POTENTIAL VULNERABILITIES

Although no rigorous systematic assessment of vulnerability has been conducted, the EHSC identified potentially critical issues that may expose the federal government to criticism as a result of anticipated Spring flooding:

- Water and waste-water treatment facilities under repair may be re-flooded and may pose a significant health hazard and repeat financial burden.
- Although sporadic sampling did not indicate a threat to human health from chemical releases during the Midwest Floods of 1993, monitoring efforts must continue in order to identify and prevent or minimize threats to human health resulting from re-flooding.
- Elevated levels of atrazine and nitrates in the Gulf of Mexico have been found and may continue, thus impacts to the Mississippi River Basin and shellfish industry will need to be re-evaluated.
- Vector control efforts and disease surveillance should continue in order to identify and mitigate public health threats. FEMA is seeking to remove county-by-county health surveillance systems that were installed in Iowa.
- Programs necessary to assist elderly victims of the flood require continued focus by additional funding support identified in the Supplemental Budget for AoA.
- Programs focusing on substance abuse and domestic violence will require continued funding support through grants provided by SAMHSA and ACF.
- Request for funding of the nine-state private well water contamination survey has yet to be acted on by FEMA or OMB. This was a joint Federal/State effort and the States are continuing to request the status and question the availability.
- In general, OMB or FEMA inaction on funding requests for health and human service needs present vulnerabilities.
- Nebraska's request for crisis counseling funding remains unresolved.
- Hauling, disposal, and open burning of solid waste and debris, previously too wet to manage, may become an issue. This may be particularly true around State borders.

Potential Vulnerabilities

~~Sensitive Exposures~~ on Environmental and Health Issues Related to Potential Spring Flooding

- Water and wastewater treatment facilities still under repair may be reflooded and may pose a significant health hazard and repeat financial burden.
- Although sporadic sampling did not indicate a threat to human health during the Midwest Floods of 1993, it is imperative that monitoring efforts continue in order to assess data and threats to human health and environmental impacts.
- Elevated levels of atrazine and nitrates in the Gulf of Mexico may continue, thus impacts to the Mississippi River Basin and shellfish industry will need to be re-evaluated.
- Vector control and disease surveillance should continue in order to identify and mitigate public health threats.
- Programs need to continue to assist the aging population affected by the floods.
- Programs need to continue to assist victims of spouse and child abuse resulting from the stress of a disaster.
- Several environmental and health issues that arose during the Midwest Floods will likely reoccur. This may include collecting orphan drums, household hazardous waste, and pesticides.

SPRING FLOOD PREPAREDNESS ACTIVITIES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH SAFETY COMMITTEE

A Subcommittee of the Environmental and Health Safety Committee was formed to focus on preparing for possible environmental and health response concerns in the event of spring floods. The subcommittee reviewed the issues and problems resulting from the federal response to the 1993 floods and is working to remove or reduce them in anticipation of 1994 flooding.

Some of the priority issues that have been addressed and dealt with to date include:

- **Water/Wastewater Treatment Facilities.** The subcommittee is working to ensure that assessment and repair of damaged facilities are addressed in the Federal system (i.e., completed FEMA damage survey reports). The subcommittee also is beginning to address prevention measures for facilities that are partially repaired and may be subject to flooding this spring. Such repeated flooding may intensify the damage experienced previously.
- **Mission Assignments: Initiative, Funding.** The subcommittee is working within the Federal Response Plan (FRP) system to improve the mission assignment process, so that it better addresses environmental and health issues. The subcommittee is coordinating input of EHSC agencies with similar concerns regarding the existing mission assignment process.
- **Monitoring** The subcommittee is working closely with the pre-existing Interagency Flood Emergency Water Quality Monitoring Work groups, which has focused on flood-related monitoring needs since the Fall of 1993. The Workgroup is drafting recommendations for preparedness activities and establishing a methodology for water quality data collection in future flood events. Their draft guidance for states is expected to be available in April.
- **Creation of New Products.** An action-oriented document, called "Special Preparedness Bulletins" has been created by the Special Preparedness Programs of CEPPO. The first one offered specific, actionable steps for EPA Regional staff on flood preparedness measures they should take in the near term. The second one will include state-level examples of flood preparedness measures taken to date.
- **Enhanced EPA Coordination.** A variety of steps have been taken by EPA headquarters to improve coordination with EPA personnel in the Regional offices and those serving in the Disaster Field Offices during an emergency response. Personal contacts have been a significant part of efforts to streamline working relationships during a major disaster response. Major

efforts began with a major after-action meeting on the 1993 Midwest floods, held in October of 1993, continued throughout the Winter months by means of conference calls and small meetings, and will include an early May, 1994, headquarters/regional meeting on flood preparedness issues.

- **Training.** More in depth training is planned for regional and headquarters staff. Training programs on the Federal Response Planning, response to catastrophic disaster events and many other important related topics. The first major training session will be delivered in May.
- **Federal/State Relationships.** The subcommittee is working to identify ways to improve coordination between the states and the federal agencies to facilitate the ability of federal departments and agencies to provide technical and other assistance to impacted states after a major natural disaster. This entails both improving the understanding of state agencies dealing with environmental and health matters regarding the Federal Response Plan and improvements to the Mission Assignment process.
- **Coordination with the National Weather Service.** To help the EPA staff (headquarters and the regions) understand the objective risk that existing this Spring, the Subcommittee chair has worked closely with the National Weather Service, by inviting them to provide briefings to both EPA subcommittee members and the interagency sub-committee members. Those briefings were augmented by distributing additional weather advisories as the NWS has released them.
- **Enhanced Use of Technology by EPA in Responding to Disasters.** EPA staff have underway plans to install a Geographic Information System in the Emergency Operations Center and will soon begin to use the agencies new system called LandView II. Landview II provides the ability to incorporate data from several major agency data bases and to display them in a geographic context. That gives responders the ability to respond more effectively to environmental impacts of a disaster.