Press Release

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Federal, State and Local Officials Meet to Discuss Flood Preparedness

Three pumps recently provided to Andalusia

SPRINGFIELD – Officials from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), the Illinois Department of Natural Resource’s Office of Water Resources and representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) met with officials from counties along the Mississippi River in northwest Illinois Friday to discuss flood preparedness.

“While current projections don’t call for severe flooding, we know from experience that an extended period of heavy rainfall can quickly change the situation,” said IEMA Acting Director William P. Robertson. “We’re talking with local officials now to ensure we’re well-positioned to protect public health and safety if major flooding develops.”

IEMA coordinates state support to communities before, during and after disasters. The agency recently arranged the delivery of three pumps with hoses to Andalusia. Other types of flood-related support often provided during flooding includes sandbags, sand and plastic, road barricades, offender crews to fill and place sandbags, trucks and other heavy equipment to transport sandbags and assist with debris removal, law enforcement support, boats for patrols and evacuations, and more.

The state also coordinates with federal partners, such as the USACE, to provide resources or levee and flood-fighting expertise to communities dealing with floods.

Snow melt in the Upper Mississippi River Basin caused the Mississippi River to begin rising earlier this month. The river currently is cresting or expected to crest within a few days in northwest Illinois.