

Appendix D – Stakeholder Profiles

The following section provides concise descriptions of State and Federal agencies and private/community organizations that participated as stakeholders in the development of the West Virginia All-Hazard Mitigation Plan. These descriptions illustrate the nature, mission, and goals of each agency and illuminate their activities pertaining to hazard mitigation (where appropriate).

The stakeholder profiles are presented in the following order:

- **Federal Agencies**

1. Federal Emergency Management Agency
2. Federal Highway Administration
3. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – National Weather Service
4. United States Army Corps of Engineers
5. United States Department of Agriculture – West Virginia Farm Service Agency
6. United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service
7. United States Geologic Survey

- **State Agencies**

1. West Virginia Conservation Agency
2. West Virginia Department of Agriculture
3. West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection – Division of Water and Waste Management
4. West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection – Office of Abandoned Mine Lands & Reclamation
5. West Virginia Department of Revenue
6. West Virginia Development Office
7. West Virginia Division of Corrections
8. West Virginia Division of Forestry
9. West Virginia Division of Highways

10. West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
11. West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
12. West Virginia Division of Tourism
13. West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey
14. West Virginia Housing Development Fund
15. West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner
16. West Virginia National Guard
17. West Virginia State Fire Marshall's Office
18. West Virginia State Police
19. West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service
20. West Virginia University GIS Technical Center

• **Private/Community Organizations**

1. American Red Cross
2. County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia
3. West Virginia Municipal League
4. West Virginia Public Broadcasting

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA Region III

One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor 615 Chestnut Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plays the most prominent role of all Federal agencies in floodplain management. FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a program that encourages property owners to buy federally backed flood insurance. The NFIP provides flood insurance to meet the rising costs of repairing damage caused by floods. Flood insurance is a better alternative than disaster assistance. The NFIP is based upon an agreement between local communities and the Federal government that if the community will enforce certain practices in the 100- year floodplain, then flood insurance will be available in the community.

The NFIP is a voluntary program where communities elect to join and participate. However, if a community with identified flood hazard areas chooses not to participate, it will not be eligible for certain financial assistance in the event of a Presidentially declared disaster. To participate, communities must adopt a Floodplain Management Ordinance that requires a permit for all construction and development with FEMA mapped floodplains. This provides the basis for a local floodplain management program and should help the community identify its problems, develop resources to confront flooding problems, and establish realistic, achievable measures to reduce flooding risk in the community.

FEMA publishes Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) that show the flood risk areas within a community along with Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) that include 100-year flood elevations, floodways, stream profiles, discharge amounts and other hydrologic and hydraulic information pertinent to understanding flooding. Currently 258 localities within the State have had these studies prepared.

Flood Mitigation Assistance

The Flood Mitigation Assistance program (FMA) is made available to a State on an annual basis. The FMA program provides grants to communities for projects that reduce the risk of flood damage to structures that have flood insurance coverage. This funding is available for mitigation planning and implementation of mitigation

measures only. The State is the administrator of the FMA program and is responsible for selecting projects for funding from the applicants submitted by all communities within the State. The State then forwards selected applications to FEMA for an eligibility determination. Although individuals cannot apply directly for FMA funds, their local government may submit an application on their behalf.

Sustainability/Sustainable Re-development

A new initiative and integral part of the mitigation function is the concept of sustainability/sustainable re-development. The concept of sustainability brings a relatively new approach to environmental, economic, and social thought, and has the potential to enhance the achievement of mitigation goals in the post-disaster (as well as pre-disaster) environment. Sustainability is development that maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community well being while respecting, protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend. Sustainable re-development is simply the application of the concepts and practices of sustainable development to the disaster recovery process.

Mitigation Assistance Program

The Mitigation Assistance Program (MAP) provides financial assistance to states for the purpose of the development and maintenance of a comprehensive statewide hazard mitigation capability for the purpose of implementing pre- and post-disaster mitigation.

Community Assistance Program - State Support Services Element

The Community Assistance Program (CAP) is a product-oriented financial assistance program directly related to the flood-loss reduction objectives of the NFIP. States and communities that are participating in the NFIP are eligible for this assistance. The CAP is intended to identify, prevent, and resolve floodplain management issues in participating communities before they develop into problems requiring enforcement action.

The NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) was implemented in 1990 as a program for recognizing and encouraging community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards. The National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 codified the Community Rating System in the NFIP. Under the CRS, flood insurance premium rates are adjusted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from community activities that meet the three goals of the CRS: (1)

reduce flood losses; (2) facilitate accurate insurance rating; and (3) promote the awareness of flood insurance.

A reduction in flood insurance costs is only one of the benefits of a community participating in the CRS. Others include: increased public safety; avoidance of economic disruption and losses; reduced risks upon local public safety officials and utility personnel; and reduced human suffering. No communities in West Virginia participate in the CRS.

FEMA coordinates the Federal Disaster Relief Programs whenever the President declares an "emergency" or a "major disaster" under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. FEMA provides grants to individuals, state, and local units of governments and qualified nonprofit agencies for the restoration, repair, or replacement of eligible buildings, bridges, roads and other eligible items. FEMA chairs a Federal Interagency Hazard Mitigation Team that examines the incident and issues recommendations to reduce future exposure to flood hazards.

Through the "Section 1362, Purchase of Flood Damaged Property Program" FEMA can purchase flood-damaged property that had flood insurance to provide property owners the chance to relocate to non-flood-prone areas. This helps reduce the loss of lives and property in high-risk flood areas. The program also provides a community with a permanent open space in a floodplain that will be available for recreation. This enhances the beneficial natural values of the floodplain.

Through Section 1316 of the National Flood Insurance Act, flood insurance policy holders may file claims for structures that are subject to imminent collapse or subsidence from erosion due to their location along waterways.

The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is to provide 75/25 matching funds to states and to local communities to implement immediate and long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster. The goal of the program is to effectively reduce a state or community's vulnerability to natural hazards. Eligibility is the same for the HMGP as it is for the Public Assistance Program. Examples of hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects include:

- Structural hazard control, such as debris basins or floodwalls,
- Retrofitting (flood proofing) to protect structures from future damage,
- Acquisition and relocation of structures out of hazard prone areas,

- Warning systems and plans to protect communities from loss of life and property, or
- Development of state or local standards to protect new and substantially improved structures from disaster damage.

Federal Highway Administration

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is part of the US Department of Transportation and is headquartered in Washington, D.C., with field offices across the United States. The agency works with states and communities across the nation to build and maintain America's roads and bridges and to ensure a strong intermodal transportation system.

The FHWA vision is "Improving Transportation for a Strong America". The FHWA mission is "Enhancing Mobility Through Innovation, Leadership, and Public Service". The FHWA has established five strategic goals in Safety, Mobility and Productivity, Environment, National Security, and Organizational Excellence.

The FHWA organization consists of the Washington Headquarters, Resource Center, Federal-aid Division Offices, and the Federal Lands Highway Divisions.

The Washington Headquarters offices set overall policy and provide program direction to the agency. The field organization delivers program services to the FHWA's partners and customers. The field organization consists of the resource center, State-level Federal-aid division offices, and Federal Lands Highway divisions located in Sterling, Virginia; Lakewood, Colorado; and Vancouver, Washington.

The FHWA Resource Center, located in Atlanta, GA, Baltimore, MD, Olympia Fields, IL, and San Francisco, CA, provides technical support and program assistance along with training, and technology delivery to FHWA's Division Offices, State Departments of Transportation, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, and other transportation partners. The Division Offices include the 52 operating Federal-aid Division Offices and the three Federal Lands Highway Divisions. These organizations carry out the Federal-aid and the Federal Lands programs, including the Emergency Relief (ER) Program that provides for the repair or reconstruction of Federal-aid highways and roads on Federal lands which have suffered serious damage as a result of natural disasters or catastrophic failures from an external cause. The West Virginia Division Office is located in Charleston, West Virginia.

Emergency Relief (ER) Program

Congress authorized in Title 23, United States Code, Section 125, a special program from the Highway Trust Fund for the repair or reconstruction of Federal-aid highways and roads on Federal lands which have suffered serious damage as a result of (1) natural disasters or (2) catastrophic failures from an external cause. This program, commonly referred to as the emergency relief or ER program, supplements the commitment of resources by States, their political subdivisions, or other Federal agencies to help pay for unusually heavy expenses resulting from extraordinary conditions. Program guidance can be found in an "interim update" manual that replaces the *Emergency Relief Manual, Publication Number FHWA-PD-98-054*, published in September 1998. An electronic version of this Manual may be accessed at www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/publicat.htm.

Examples of natural disasters include floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, tidal waves, severe storms, or landslides. A catastrophic failure is defined as the sudden and complete failure of a major element or segment of the highway system that causes a disastrous impact on transportation services. The failure must be catastrophic in nature. Additionally, in order to be eligible for ER, the cause of the failure must be determined to be external to the facility. Both conditions must be satisfied. A bridge suddenly collapsing after being struck by a barge is an example of a catastrophic failure.

ER funds are not intended to cover all damage repair costs nor interim emergency repairs costs that will necessarily restore the facility to predisaster conditions. State and local highway agencies must expect additional expenditures, changes in project priorities, and some inconvenience to traffic as a result of emergency conditions. State and local governments are responsible for planning and providing for extraordinary conditions. Economic hardship is not a factor in determining repair eligibility. Although there is no nationwide definitive monetary break point between what is considered routine and extraordinary repair expenses the FHWA has determined that eligible ER repair activities in a State in the range of \$700,000 (Federal share) or more are usually significant enough to justify approval of ER funds.

By law, the FHWA can provide up to \$100 million in ER funding to a State, or to Federal agencies, for each natural disaster or catastrophic failure event that is found eligible for funding under the ER program (commonly referred to as the \$100 million per State cap). Because of the limited amount of money authorized annually for the ER program and the likelihood that a number of states will experience ER events, funding for large events is likely to be provided over a two

(or more) year time period. For a large disaster that exceeds the \$100 million per State cap, Congress may pass special legislation lifting the cap for that disaster.

The ER funds are available for permanent repairs and for work accomplished more than 180 days after an event at the pro rata Federal-aid share that would normally apply to the Federal-aid facility damaged. For Interstate highways, the Federal share is 90 percent. For all other highways, the Federal share is 80 percent. Emergency repair work to restore essential traffic, minimize the extent of damage, or protect the remaining facilities, accomplished in the first 180 days after the occurrence of the disaster, may be reimbursed at 100 percent Federal share. During this 180-day period, permanent repair work is reimbursed at normal pro rata share unless permanent repair is performed as an incidental part of emergency repair work.

The ER program provides for repair and restoration of highway facilities to pre-disaster conditions. Restoration in kind is therefore the predominate type of repair expected to be accomplished with ER funds. ER funds are not intended to replace other Federal-aid, State, or local funds for new construction to increase capacity, correct non-disaster related deficiencies, or otherwise improve highway facilities.

The applicability of the ER program to a natural disaster is based on the extent and intensity of the disaster. Damage to highways must be severe, occur over a wide area, and result in unusually high expenses to the highway agency. The ER program also applies to catastrophic failures (sudden and complete failures due to an external cause) and which result in a disastrous impact on transportation services and unusually high expenses to the highway agency. Failures due to an inherent flaw in the facility itself do not qualify for ER assistance.

In general, the FHWA Division Administrator must evaluate a Damage Survey Summary Report and make a finding that a disaster is eligible within the intent of the law and applicable regulations before ER funds can be made available. Funds are made available on a reimbursement basis. A limited amount of funding may be made available under the "Quick Release" method outlined in Chapter III of the manual.

The decision to seek ER financial assistance rests with the State. Local highway agencies do not deal with the FHWA directly but must make their application through the State. The State has the option to determine whether it will seek ER funding for repair of either State or local agency owned Federal-aid highways.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – National Weather Service

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Charleston, WV 25309

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The National Weather Service (NWS) is concerned with the atmospheric events, and the monitoring and/or prediction of routine and destructive weather events. The NWS describes and predicts those processes of the hydrologic cycle, which impact the functioning of the nation's economy and communities. The information produced by the Weather Service takes the form of several different "products". One of the principal functions of the Weather Forecast Office (WFO) and Hydrologic Service Area (HAS) is issuance of river forecasts and flood warnings to the general public, specialized users and disseminating to media such as newspapers, radio and TV stations.

The National Weather Service operates three specific programs related to water management. These include the River Forecast Centers and River Districts activities, the Flood and Flash Flood Warning program and the Hydrologic Services activities. River and rainfall records kept by the weather service are indispensable to riverside industries and their engineers as they design flood protection systems. The flood and flash flood warnings issued by the NWS are a reliable tool to assist emergency operation managers in implementing flood-fighting strategies. The river forecast centers produce forecasts that are essential for navigation activities, transportation commerce, crop management, reservoir operation, fish and wildlife management and industrial practices along rivers.

The operations of the WFO include the flash flood and flood watch/warning programs. Generally, flood/flash flood watches are issued by WFOs and focus on large areas such as portions of states. Flood/flash flood warnings are issued by the WFO and are primarily county based. The River Forecast Center (RFC) focuses on longer-term flood events. Accordingly, RFCs prepare forecasts for rivers and river systems detailing river stages at specific gauging points.

The flood watch and warning program provides the following products:

- Flood Outlook (ESF) - An ESF may be issued by the WFO if forecast meteorological conditions indicate that a significantly heavy precipitation episode may occur that would either cause flooding or aggravate existing flooding.

- Flood Watch (FFA) - This product is used to inform the public and cooperating agencies that current and developing hydro-meteorological conditions are such that there is a threat of flooding, but the occurrence is neither certain nor imminent. Persons in the watch area are thereby advised to check flood action plans, keep informed and be ready to take necessary actions if a warning is issued or flooding is observed.
- Flash Flood Warning (FFW) - An FFW is a public warning issued by WFOs for life or property threatening situations within six (6) hours of the causative event. It is as specific as possible, focusing on specific communities, streams or areas where flooding is imminent or in progress. Persons in the warning area are advised to take necessary precautions immediately.
- Flood Warning (FLW) - An FLW is a public warning issued by WFOs for life or property threatening situations more than six (6) hours after the causative event or for river flooding when forecasts or conditions indicate that rivers will exceed flooding thresholds. It is as specific as possible, focusing on specific river points or communities, streams or areas where flooding is imminent or in progress. Persons in the warning area are advised to take necessary precautions immediately.
- Flood Statement (FLS) and Flash Flood Statement (FFS) - The office issuing a flood watch or a flood/flash flood warning is responsible for issuing follow-up statements keeping the public fully informed about current conditions. The FLS can also be used to inform the public of minor or nuisance flooding problems.
- Ice Jam Flooding, Dam-break Flooding, Levee Failure - These are forms of flooding which are usually associated with already existing flooding conditions and would be announced along with the FFA, FFW, and FFS.

The NWS recognizes the importance of local flood warning and response systems to improve flood warning service to communities, and provides technical assistance to communities with flood problems. Technical support includes:

- Recommending alternative flood warning systems,
- Helping communities in the design, installation and implementation of warning and response systems,
- Training of personnel, and

- Providing operational support to responsible community officials.

The National Weather Service operates a StormReady program to assist local governments in becoming more resistant to weather related disasters.

The NOAA weather radio broadcasts 24 hours per day with local and regional weather forecasts. These forecasts can be monitored on any radio with the capability to monitor between 162.40 and 162.55 MHz. Some of these radios can be placed in a standby "mode" and will be activated by an emergency tone broadcast by the NWS alerting the user to the broadcast of an emergency message.

S.A.M.E. or Specific Area Message Encoding radios can be programmed to only receive advisories and warnings for specific counties. Three more S.A.M.E. transmitters are needed to cover the entire State.

Integrated Flood Observing and Warning System (IFLOWS) is an automated rain and river gauges early warning system installed in seven Appalachian states. This system is about 45 percent complete in the 46 West Virginia counties where it currently is under development. IFLOWS is monitored locally with information relayed to the State emergency operation center, and to the NWS office responsible for flood forecasting. State and local emergency personnel and NWS forecasters use the information for monitoring developing flooding situations and implementing emergency response plans.

United States Army Corps of Engineers

US Army Corps of Engineers USAED Huntington

502 8th Street

Huntington, WV 25701 (304)-529-5211

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is involved with a variety of resource management activities in West Virginia. The State is divided between the three USACE Districts (Table D-1). Planning activities done by the USACE for the management and development of water and related land resources are undertaken through various congressional authorizations.

**Table D-1
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts in West Virginia and
District River Basins**

Pittsburgh	Cheat River, Tygart River, Monongahela River, and Ohio River
Huntington	Big Sandy River, Kanawha-New River, Little Kanawha River and Ohio River
Baltimore	Potomac River

The USACE is known for its civil works projects for water resources development including flood control, navigation, water supply, environmental restoration, and recreation. These projects, by virtue of their complexity and expense are usually the result of the General investigations program (see below). Flood control measures may include dams, levees, floodwalls, and channel enlargements. Due to the magnitude and expense of these projects, Congress authorizes them through a Water Resources Development Act that is normally enacted every two years. USACE flood control measures, such as dams, floodwalls, channel modifications and non-structural measures require a local or nonfederal financial commitment for planning, design, construction and operations and maintenance of the structures. Nonstructural projects feature flood proofing, floodplain evacuations and flood warning and emergency evacuation systems that are effective in reducing flood damages.

The majority of studies fall under the following programs:

General Investigations Program

Results in individual Congressionally authorized projects for major Federal investments in flood damage reduction. Includes studies for structural and non-structural flood damage reduction features that would exceed the funding limitations of the Continuing Authorities Program. Projects developed through the General Investigations (GI) program are initiated through a Reconnaissance Study (100% Federal cost) followed by a cost shared (50%/50%) Feasibility Study with NEPA compliance. GI projects are authorized by Congress based upon the recommendations of the feasibility study. For flood protection projects, non-federal

sponsors must provide 35% of project design and construction costs and also provides 100% of project O&M costs.

Continuing Authorities Program (CAP)

Pre-authorized by Congress - Smaller scope, less expensive projects--

This program provides the COE with a standing authority to respond quickly to water resource problems. Congress has authorized the USACE to construct small projects for flood control and environmental restoration within specified funding limits. Pre-authorization saves time in development and approval of projects. Funding limits for these small projects range from \$500,000 to \$7,000,000. Under Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (Continuing Authorities Program), as amended, projects may be constructed when the Chief of Engineers determines that the work is advisable. In addition, the project must constitute a complete solution to the flood problem involved, and not require subsequent improvements to insure effective operation. The Federal share may not exceed \$7,000,000. The initial \$100,000 in project feasibility studies is full federal expense. Thereafter all planning, design and construction costs are shared. Cost sharing is 65% Federal and 35% non-Federal. Section 208 projects are those where snagging and clearing operations are performed to reduce flood damages and Section 14 is utilized to provide streambank protection for public infrastructure such as roads and utilities.

Planning Assistance to States Program

Through the Planning Assistance to States Program (Section 22, Water Resources Development Act of 1974) the COE is authorized to cooperate with any State, county or municipal governmental unit in preparing comprehensive plans for the development, utilization and conservation of water and related resources. This program is significant to conservation of water and related resources because it allows a broad range of eligible activities to be completed by the COE. The program uses COE staff and expertise to encourage and promote statewide comprehensive water resources planning, to avoid duplication of Federal and State efforts and to achieve Federal, State and community goals. Section 22 can be used effectively to tie together several water resource concerns including

floodplain management. The technical assistance and information provided through the Flood Plain Management Services Program is also an essential element in fostering local self- help to achieve flood loss reduction.

Technical and Engineering Assistance for Streambank Erosion

The Water Resources Development Act of 1974 allows the COE to provide technical and engineering assistance to nonfederal public project interests for development of methods to prevent damage from shore and stream bank erosion.

Emergency Flood Control Activities Disaster Assistance

Through this program the Chief of Engineers is authorized to spend funds for flood emergency preparation, flood fighting and rescue operations or for the repair and restoration of any flood control work threatened or destroyed by flood, regardless of origin or ownership of the project.

United States Department of Agriculture-West Virginia Farm Service Agency

P.O Box 1049

Morgantown, West Virginia 26507

(304) 284-4800

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) mission is to respond to disasters affecting the agricultural producers of West Virginia by:

- Completing damage assessment procedures to determine the extent and type of damage along with what programs may be available and/or requested.
- Implementing farm programs like the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) that will rehabilitate farmlands and restore farm structures to preexisting conditions.
- Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program Payments to help stabilize farm income.
- Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) provides payments for qualified crop losses.
- Emergency Loans are low interest loans to provide funds needed to maintain the agricultural operations.
- Develop the programs to cover specific needs in the affected area.
- Assisting other agencies as necessary.

FSA provides the needed resources to stabilize farm income, protect farmlands and agricultural operations through the various cost share programs.

United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

75 High Street Room 301

Morgantown, WV 26505

(304) 284- 7540

Under Public Law 83-566 (PL 566), the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has the authority to assist local sponsors who are undertaking activities for the purpose of flood prevention, water conservation, fish and wildlife development, recreation, groundwater recharge, water quality management, and land conservation. The Act provides for technical, financial, and credit assistance by the US Department of Agriculture to local sponsors representing the people living in small watersheds. The NRCS's authority extends to all small watersheds with less than 250,000 acres. That distinction delineates the authorities of the NRCS and USACE.

The NRCS has special authority under Public Law 78-534 (PL 534), for the Potomac Headwaters Drainage within West Virginia. PL 534, enacted in 1944, was the forerunner of PL 566 and authorized NRCS to carry out activities in eleven (11) selected watersheds across the United States. The Potomac Headwaters is one of these watersheds. The purposes and authorities of PL 534 are similar to PL 566, with some differences in cost sharing provisions.

PL 566 and PL 534 are administered by NRCS in cooperation with the West Virginia State Conservation Agency, Conservation Districts, local units of government and the USDA Forest Service. These authorities are excellent examples of strong Federal, State and local partnerships designed to protect and enhance the soil, water and related resources of the State.

Requests for PL 566 and PL 534 assistance are channeled through the West Virginia Conservation Committee, who approve applications for assistance and forward them to NRCS for action. If funding and staff resources are available, NRCS will prepare a watershed plan and if necessary a NEPA compliance document. Once a watershed plan is approved and authorized for operation, the sponsors are eligible for financial and technical assistance from NRCS for installation of the works of improvement.

Through PL 566 and PL 534, NRCS can assist local sponsors in planning and implementing flood damage reduction projects. These projects are based on watersheds, rather than political boundaries. NRCS has the authority to plan and implement a full spectrum of flood damage reduction measures including

structural (dams, channel improvements, dikes, etc.), nonstructural (flood warning systems, floodplain acquisition, relocation, retrofitting structures, etc.), and more innovative projects such as natural stream restoration. NRCS's authorities are unique in that assistance can also be provided to address land conservation issues on both public and private lands that impact flooding.

NRCS can also provide technical assistance in the form of floodplain management and watershed management studies. Since 1977, there have been fifty (50) floodplain Management Studies coordinated and completed by the NRCS in West Virginia. These studies have been used by local units of government to make land use planning decisions and develop land use regulations.

Since the 1950's, NRCS has received seventy-eight (78) applications for assistance from local communities. Sixty-six (66) of the applications were for assistance under PL 566. The others were for assistance under PL 534. Servicing the applications has resulted in forty-one (41) projects being approved for operations. Ten (10) are PL 534 projects and thirty-one are PL 566 projects. Nineteen (19) watershed projects have been completed and another seventeen (17) are in various stages ranging from just getting started to essentially complete. Four (4) projects have been de-authorized and one (1) project has been placed in an inactive status. Preliminary planning indicated that nineteen (19) projects lacked sufficient local support for implementation or would be unfeasible, resulting in those applications being withdrawn. Planning was terminated on ten (10) other applications. Eight (8) applications have not been serviced. NRCS is currently assisting project sponsors with the development of detailed plans on four watersheds in West Virginia.

Completed and operational projects cover almost two million acres of the State. They include applying 307,500 acres of land treatment measures, construction of 157 dams, 265,650 feet of channel work and 4,600 feet of dikes. To date, approximately 233,100 acres of land treatment measures, 157 dams, 234,180 feet of channel work and 4,600 feet of earthen dikes have been installed.

Section 216 of Public Law 81-516 authorizes the NRCS's Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. The EWP program assists sponsors and individuals in implementing emergency recovery measures to relieve imminent hazards created by a natural disaster that causes a sudden watershed impairment. EWP assistance may be made available upon a declaration by the State Conservationist when a Federal emergency has been declared by the President, or upon a request for assistance from a sponsoring agency. EWP assistance consists of the installation of emergency measures to reduce hazards to life and property and

reduce further disaster expenditures through the purchase of floodplain easements by the Federal government. This program is designed for recovery work, not emergency response efforts or flood prevention measures. Requests for EWP assistance can be made through local NRCS service centers or through eligible sponsors, who then would request NRCS assistance.

United States Geologic Survey

US Geological Survey Water Resources Division

11 Dunbar Street

Charleston, WV 25301

(304) 347-5130

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is the Federal source for science about the Earth, its natural and living resources, natural hazards, and the environment. It stands as the sole science agency for the Department of the Interior. It is sought out by thousands of partners and customers for its natural science expertise and its vast earth and biological data holdings. The USGS is the science provider of choice in accessing the information and understanding to help resolve complex natural resource problems across the Nation and around the world.

Vision--USGS is a world leader in the natural sciences through our scientific excellence and responsiveness to society's needs.

Mission--The USGS serves the Nation by providing reliable scientific information to:

- Describe and understand the Earth;
- Minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters;
- Manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and
- Enhance and protect our quality of life.

Furthermore, the USGS is an independent fact-finding agency that collects, monitors, analyzes, and provides scientific understanding about natural resource conditions, issues, and problems. The value of the USGS to the Nation rests on its ability to carry out studies on a national scale and to sustain long-term monitoring and assessment of natural resources. Because it has no regulatory or management mandate, the USGS provides impartial science that serves the needs of our changing world. The diversity of scientific expertise enables the USGS to carry out large-scale, multi-disciplinary investigations that build the base of knowledge about the Earth. In turn, decision makers at all levels of government--

and citizens in all walks of life--have the information tools they need to address pressing societal issues.

In West Virginia, the USGS operates about 100 stream flow-gauging stations that transmit near real-time data via the World Wide Web at <http://water.usgs.gov> or directly to the National Weather Service for flood forecasting. Additional flood peak information is obtained from a network of 20 small streams equipped with crest-stage gauges. Stream flow information obtained from these gauging stations is analyzed periodically by the USGS to predict the magnitude and frequency of future floods. This flood information is the basis for FEMA floodplain studies as well as many other flood-related evaluations such as bridge and culvert design. These data provide the basic foundation for hazard mitigation planning. Information on the flow of rivers is a vital national asset that safeguards lives and property and ensures adequate water resources for a healthy economy.

USGS data are available to the public through published reports and the previously mentioned web site and includes:

- Daily stream flow records for all gauging stations,
- Annual peak discharge values,
- Topographic maps, and
- Flood magnitude and frequency studies.

The USGS is proud of its outstanding history of public service and scientific advances. The USGS has been at the forefront in providing information for understanding the earth. Better scientific data, tools, and understanding of the Nation's rivers are important to virtually all USGS stakeholders and customers. The Nation's rivers are in many ways the lifeblood of our country and represent a resource that needs protection and proper management for the benefit of present and future generations.

WEST VIRGINIA STATE AGENCIES

West Virginia Conservation Agency

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, WV 25305-0193

(304) 558-2204

The West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) is the umbrella under which the 14 districts operate. Chapter 19, Article 21A of the West Virginia Code authorizes

the creation of the State Conservation Committee and the Conservation Districts. The purpose is to conduct surveys, investigations, and research relating to the character of soil erosion, floodwater, and sediment damage to the conservation, development, use, and disposal of water and the preventive and control measures needed. The Agency reviews and makes recommendations to the State Conservation Committee on all applications for assistance and final reports for all work carried out in the State under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (PL 566), administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

West Virginia Department of Agriculture

1900 Kanawha Blvd. East

Charleston, West Virginia 25305

(304) 558-2201

The mission of the Department of Agriculture (WVDA) is to promulgate, uphold, and implement legislative enactments designed to advance the interests of agriculture industries of West Virginia, to guide and nurture the development and maintenance of agriculture and agriculture-related industries in West Virginia, and to ensure the safety and wholesomeness of the food supply and the safety of agricultural workers and practices in West Virginia.

Goals/Objectives

- Develop new markets and further develop existing markets for traditional and nontraditional West Virginia products and produce.
- Regulate businesses and individuals engaged in food production and sale – from slaughterhouses to grocers.
- License and regulate auctioneers, livestock auction markets, weighmen, graders, nurseries, seedsmen, and others.
- Regulate and train businesses and individuals engaged in pesticide usage.
- Educate farm workers about safety, new trends, practices, and agriculture in general.
- Protect West Virginia’s food supply, the health of its citizens, domestic animals, and agricultural products.
- Educate the general public about agricultural accomplishments.

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture supervised by the Commissioner of Agriculture has broad authority under Chapter 19 of the West Virginia Code. This is particularly true for disease among domestic animals (Chapter 19 Article 9).

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture also works closely with various agencies within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in relation to droughts and other severe weather related conditions. In most cases, federal funds are handled by USDA Farm Service Agency. However, the WVDA handles state monies if they become available.

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection – Division of Water and Waste Management

601 57th Street SE

Charleston, West Virginia 25304

(304) 926-0495

The Division of Water and Waste Management's (DWWM) mission is to preserve and enhance West Virginia's watersheds for the benefit and safety of all. The Division implements programs to protect the quality of water resources of the State, and it strives to meet its mission through implementation of programs controlling surface and groundwater pollution caused by industrial and municipal discharges as well as oversight of construction, operation and closure of hazardous and solid waste and underground storage tank sites. In addition, the Division works to protect, restore, and enhance West Virginia's watersheds through comprehensive watershed assessments, groundwater monitoring, wetlands preservation, inspection and enforcement of hazardous and solid waste disposal and proper operation of underground storage tanks.

DWWM programs cover water-quality assessment and certification, permitting and engineering, construction assistance, groundwater protection, dam safety, and environmental enforcement. Significant portions of the Division's responsibilities are designated to administer federally mandated water-quality programs.

Programs such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), a water-pollution control permitting strategy; and underground injection control (UIC), a groundwater-protection permitting plan; strive to meet Clean Water Act objectives. The State revolving fund (SRF), a low-interest loan program, focuses on West Virginia communities seeking financial assistance to plan and construct sewer projects. The 401 Water Quality Certification program reviews and prepares

certification responses for USACE Section 404 permits and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license applications.

Rules/regulations/laws

- WV Code, Chapter 22, Article 11 - Laboratory Certification
- WV Code, Chapter 22, Article 11 - Water Pollution Control Act
- WV Code, Chapter 22, Article 12 - Ground Water Protection Act
- WV Code, Chapter 22, Article 13 - Natural Streams Preservation Act
- WV Code, Chapter 22, Article 14 - Dam Control Act
- WV Code, Chapter 22, Article 15 - Solid Waste Management Act
- WV Code, Chapter 22, articles 16, 17, 18, 19
- WV Code, Chapter 22C, Article 02 - Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Act Regulation, Title 46, CSR, Series 1, 12
- Regulation, Title 47, CSR, Series 3, 5A, 10, 11,26,31,34, 35, 36, 37, 38D, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60 Federal Clean Water Act
- Federal Safe Drinking Water Act

The DWWM provides up-to-date information on the status of sewage, drinking water, and wastewater treatment systems damaged or inoperable because of a flood event. The Department provides technical assistance to the owners/operators of such systems to expeditiously bring them into compliance.

The DWWM also operates a Dam Safety program which maintains a list of deficient dams in the State.

West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection – Office of Abandoned Mine Lands & Reclamation

601 57th Street SE

Charleston, West Virginia 25304

(304) 926-0485

A substantial number of acres of land in the United States have been disturbed by surface and underground coal mining. These un-reclaimed acres impose social and economic costs to residents, are hazards to people, can damage improved property and impair environmental quality. With public health, safety, and danger to property as its first priorities, the Office of Abandoned Mine Lands and Reclamation (AML&R) corrects hazardous conditions. The conditions are: old

buildings, hazardous gases, refuse piles, abandoned equipment, subsidence, hazardous water bodies, mine drainage, clogged streams, open mine entries (portals) and shafts, polluted water, mine fires, abandoned highwalls, and cleaning plants. Problems also include dangerous impoundments, and landslides.

AML&R operates through eight sections responsible for management and administration. The sections decide what sites AML&R should reclaim, design the most cost-effective and practical methods used to abate the many types of abandoned mine problems, obtain right-of-entry agreements from all private property owners and lessees for AML projects, and administer construction contracts. AML&R also addresses emergency problems and manages the water quality monitoring, and provides technical support for environmental quality remediation projects. All work is in conjunction with the Federal Office of Surface Mining.

Rules, regulations, laws

- Title IV, Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, of public law 95-87. WV Code, Chapter 22, Articles 1, 3A.
- West Virginia Surface Mining Reclamation Regulation, Title 38, CSR-2D.

Please see “West Virginia Division of Forestry” for information concerning the Abandoned Mine Safety Stripping Program and the prevention of wildland fires.

West Virginia Department of Revenue

Capital Complex Bldg. 1, W-300

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, West Virginia 25305

The Department of Revenue was created in 1989. The mission of the Department is to administer and enforce West Virginia revenue laws, to efficiently collect the proper amount of revenues due the State. It informs and serves the citizens of West Virginia, all in a manner that maximizes voluntary compliance, provides meaningful assistance, and builds confidence in our frugality, integrity, effectiveness, and fairness.

The Department of Revenue is charged with the responsibility for the enforcement of statutes relating to certain state taxes and the collection thereof, including the beer barrel tax, the business and occupation tax, the business franchise tax, the cigarette tax, the consumers sales and services tax, the corporation license tax, the corporation net income tax, the estate tax, the gasoline and special fuels

taxes, the insurance premium tax, the motor carrier tax, the personnel income tax, the severance tax, the soft drink tax, the telecommunications tax, and the wine liter tax. The Department also is charged with the responsibility of preparing for the Board of Public Works tentative *ad valorem* property tax assessments for all public utilities operating within the State. The department administers the laws relating to the supervision, by the Division of Banking, of banking institutions, industrial loan companies, building and loan associations, industrial banks, supervised lenders, credit unions, and other corporations under such supervision. The Department regulates the insurance industry within the State. The Department is responsible for the operation of the state lottery. The Department issues permits for and regulates bingo occasions and charitable raffles held throughout the State. The Department also oversees the operation of the State's four pari-mutuel racetracks, and has the responsibility for wholesale liquor sales and distribution.

The Secretary of the Department chairs the State Disaster Recovery Board, the West Virginia Economic Development Grant Committee, the Retail Liquor Licensing Board, and the Industrial Development Bond Allocation Review Committee.

West Virginia Development Office

Capital Complex, Bldg 6 Room 553

1900 Kanawha Blvd. East

Charleston, West Virginia 25305

(304) 558-2234

The West Virginia Development Office (WVDO) is a State's chief economic and community development agency. The Community Development Division focuses on programs that fund infrastructure and revitalization. The mission of the WVDO is to promote sustainable community development by providing assistance in the form of grants and loans. Eligible applicants include units of local government, generally counties and municipalities, nonprofit organizations, public service districts, utility boards, recreation boards, and economic development authorities. Funding programs include the Small Cities Block Grant Fund (SCBG), and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), among others. Eligible activities that pertain to mitigation include construction of community centers/senior citizen centers, construction and renovation of public facilities, demolition projects, flood and storm drainage, acquisition projects, water

and wastewater facilities and services, and renovation/construction of community facilities.

In the pre-disaster environment, WVDO coordinates with the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (WVDHSEM) to ensure that infrastructure projects are not located within floodplains.

West Virginia Division of Corrections

WVDOC Central Office

State Capitol Complex

112 California Ave. Bldg. 4, Room 300

Charleston, WV 25305

(304) 558-2036

It is the mission of the West Virginia Division of Corrections (DOC) to provide a safe, secure and humane correctional system for the public, staff, and offenders. The DOC operates 12 correctional and work release facilities statewide. The Division, formerly a division within the Department of Public Institutions, was established under Chapter 70, Acts of the Legislature in 1977. Under the executive reorganization of 1989, corrections became a division of the Department of Public Safety (now the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety). The Commissioner of the Division of Corrections directs the state's adult correctional system. In November 1997, oversight of the juvenile correctional institutions was transferred to the newly created Division of Juvenile Services. The agency is currently responsible for the incarceration of adult felons in West Virginia and for those offenders who are released on parole.

West Virginia Division of Forestry

Guthrie Center Building 13

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, WV 25305-0180

(304) 558-2788

The Division of Forestry (DOF), under chapter 19-1A-3 of the West Virginia Code, is charged with the protection and management of all West Virginia forestland resources. The DOF acts as the lead agency within the State to regulate and coordinate forestry activities of private industries and landowners through partnerships emphasizing a stewardship ethic that protects, nurtures, promotes the wise utilization of and sustains the State's forest resources.

The DOF issues hazard warnings about the dangers of wildfire in West Virginia and conducts public education and outreach through a variety of forums that include:

- Media articles, as well as newspaper, radio, television announcements;
- Public contact including exhibits at fairs and festivals, Smokey Bear contacts at schools, camps, parades, fairs, festivals, 4-H Clubs;
- Fire Danger Flag warning program, which began in 2003. Red Wildland Fire Danger warning flags are displayed at all DOF Office's, State Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, County Courthouses, and County emergency services offices. The flags are raised whenever the fire build up index reaches 30 or more and are flown until the fire buildup index drops below 20. These flags are not associated with a burning ban
- Fire Danger Class Signs are posted to warn the public. For example, the number and location of these signs in District 5 make them a more important prevention tool than the flags presently, and a major complement and reinforcement to the flags in the future.
- Statewide burning bans are issued whenever we are in critical fire danger. This is initiated by the DOF and implemented by the Governors Office.
- West Virginia FireWise, a new program initiated in the Eastern Panhandle, and the Canaan Valley/Pocahontas County area, is used to educate the public about protecting their lives and property against wildland fires. This includes inspection of homes, going over the urban/wildland interface, and discussing defensible space.

The DOF enforces all fire laws. The division has 3 trained arson investigators and 2 arson bloodhounds, which not only work with wildland fires, but assist other state agencies as well. The DOF trains voluntary fire departments in various wildfire suppression and prevention classes.

The DOF is responsible for suppression of all wildfires, except for U.S. Forest Service lands or national parks within state boundaries. This is accomplished through the use of manpower and equipment (including the use of air tankers and helicopters, which the DOF leases to help combat wildfires). Wildfire suppression training programs are conducted for the West Virginia National Guard and Prison inmates. The DOF then supervises these groups when they are called upon to assist in wildfire suppression. Finally, the Division conducts chainsaw safety and other training programs.

Many of the programs the DOF is charged with can have a positive impact on land use activities. Forest protection, Logging Sediment Control Act and Forest Management Plans to name a few, all deal with land use activities and in part ensure those activities reduce or eliminate the movement of soil to our State's waters. These and other programs are ongoing across the State and will ensure our forests continue to provide jobs, scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, clean water, and wildlife.

The WVDOF has an Abandoned Mines safety stripping program which is a result of a grant of \$100,000 from the USDA Forest Service. It, along with matching WVDOF in kind involvement, allows the WVDOF to select hazardous mine breaks which have started or have the potential to start wildland fires. The program began in FY 2002. The WVDOF selects the problem mine site, contacts the property owner, and makes arrangements to layout a firebreak around the mine break. After laying out the firebreak, the WVDOF using USFS grant money, hires a private contractor, and clears the firebreak around the mine down to mineral soil. This eliminates the potential for large wildfires due to the minebreak. Due to the rural nature of these minebreaks, fires that start from this mine breaks generally grow to large fires, as they may burn for days before being discovered, this in turn makes for costly suppression. This grant not only provides for the initial safety stripping, but also allows for yearly re-inspections, and maintenance work.

West Virginia Division of Highways

Capital Complex, Building 5, Room 109

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, WV 25305-0403

(304) 558-3505

Primarily, the Division of Highways maintains the highway system during and after disaster events. Floodplain management by the Division is limited to monitoring highway construction activities to ensure new construction or maintenance does not increase the Base Flood Elevation. Indirect effects, however, may result from new construction incidental to the location of roads and highways in or adjacent to floodplains.

**West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
(formerly the Office of Emergency Services [OES])**

Capitol Complex, Building 1, Room EB-80

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, WV 25305

(304) 558-5380

The primary purpose of the West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is to provide coordination to assist local emergency managers and first responders to provide for the protection of life and property.

Guided by West Virginia State Code and the West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan, the agency is responsible for disaster preparedness, response and recovery, and mitigation. The effort to lessen the impact disasters have on people's lives and property, through damage prevention and flood insurance, is mitigation.

During state emergencies, this division activates the State Emergency Operations Center to respond to and coordinate materials and assistance needed by local emergency services to protect lives and property. Local emergency services offices provide direct assistance to citizens. WVDHSEM provides assistance to local emergency services offices.

The agency also coordinates the recovery efforts after the disaster with all responsible government agencies. After a federal disaster declaration, the WVDHSEM works closely with the FEMA to administer assistance programs.

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

Building 3, Room 669

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East

Charleston, WV 25305-0660

(304) 558-2754

One mission of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR), under Chapter 20-2-1 of the West Virginia Code, is to protect and maintain all species of wildlife in the State for public benefits including hunting, fishing, recreational values, economic contributions and for scientific and educational uses.

DNR's role in floodplain management lies in its authority to protect wetlands, recreation opportunities, and fish and wildlife habitats and in its exercise of the legislative mandates of the Public Land Corporation that exist in these areas. Through a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Environmental

Protection (DEP), DNR provides comments to DEP concerning their certification for wetland fills in accordance with the Federal Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The Public Land Corporation authorizes private sector actions that affect publicly owned minerals in the streambeds of the State.

DNR has developed management plans that preserve, enhance and protect floodplains on many State owned or controlled areas. DNR maintains a statewide inventory on wetlands; significant/sensitive fisheries and wildlife habitat; rare, threatened, and endangered species; and fish and wildlife related recreation areas. It also is developing GIS capabilities to assess the vegetative conditions and uses of the State's stream bank habitats.

The DNR provides staff to assist in maintaining the State Disaster Center, and provides law enforcement at disaster sites along with other police agencies. It should be noted that these officers are paid from federal and state hunting and fishing monies.

The Parks and Recreation and Wildlife Resources Sections of the DNR have limited personnel and equipment, and only respond to the direct needs of their own facilities. In the event of dam failure or high water, plans are in place to notify downstream residents in flood prone areas. There are several DNR parks that have facilities that have been used to house law enforcement and other disaster personnel during past emergencies. These have been considered as temporary housing for disaster displaced persons in the past, but have never been deemed suitable mostly because many are not usable year round or are too small to accommodate large numbers of people.

West Virginia Division of Tourism

90 McCorkle Avenue SW

South Charleston, West Virginia 25303

(304) 558-2200

The West Virginia Division of Tourism's mission is to cultivate a world-class travel and tourism industry in West Virginia through creation of jobs, stimulation of investment, expansion of current tourism attractions and promotion of a positive state image, thereby improving the way of life for West Virginians. The Division of Tourism, in partnership with the private tourism industry and as a function of the West Virginia Development Office, works to achieve the mission set forth by the West Virginia Tourism Commission.

West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey

Mont Chateau Research Center

Morgantown, WV 26507

(304) 294-5331

The West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey (WVGES) has no direct role in the assessment of disaster damage. However, agency activities related to hazard mitigation are summarized below:

- A set of USGS and FEMA flood maps are maintained and are available for public use;
- One staff member is available to assist the public in the use of these maps (fee service);
- Staff members are available to perform mineral and geological hazard reports for proposed development sites. These reports routinely consider the potential for flood hazards (fee service);
- Staff members provide consultations or presentations to inform the public about floods and other geologic hazards; and,
- Landslide-prone area maps associated with Environmental Geology Bulletin 15 (Lessing and others, 1976) are available for limited areas of the state.
- The agency manages the Mineral Lands Mapping Program (MLMP). This program is creating new and more accurate coal geology coverage in a GIS format to better assess the value of remaining coal reserves in the State. Other MLMP partners include the West Virginia University GIS Technical Center and the Department of Revenue.

The agency has fiscal and administrative oversight of the State Geographic Information System (GIS) program and the State GIS Coordinator is an employee of the GES.

West Virginia Housing Development Fund

814 Virginia Street East

Charleston, West Virginia 25301

(304) 345-6475

The West Virginia Housing Development Fund (WVHDF) was established in 1970 as a non-profit housing finance organization by an act of the West Virginia legislature in response to a need for providing affordable housing to the State's

residents. WVHDF is not a State agency and does not provide grants. However, loans are provided for residential as well as non-residential projects. Capital is generated for housing projects through bond sales. A markup on the bonds is used to fund WVHDF earnings. In addition to bond sales, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds are also used for projects via contracts with HUD. The WVHDF provided approximately \$400-450 million in loans in 2003. An eleven-member board of directors administers the WVHDF.

The WVHDF plays an active role in post-disaster situations and provides post-disaster emergency housing in conjunction with USACE and FEMA. The West Virginia Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) describes their role during emergencies in a post-disaster environment.

The WVHDF and FEMA have different approaches with respect to providing housing. In the post disaster environment, FEMA's usually provides temporary housing relief such as trailers. These arrangements do not transition into permanent housing because underground water and sewer improvements are not provided. This results in stressful conditions and people often end up moving back to the same locations where they were flooded. The WVHDF prefers to relocate people permanently out of harm's way by providing better alternative housing; such as, locating alternative housing sites close to communities that are subject to repetitive flooding in advance and having development plans in place for modular housing units with underground water and sewer connections.

The WVHDF recently passed a resolution to purchase restored mountaintop coal mining sites and have engineering plans for their alternative use in place. Communities can be relocated within 3 months of a disaster.

In the pre-disaster environment, the WVHDF coordinates closely with the WVDHSEM to ensure that construction projects are not located within floodplains. The WVHDF does not have enforcement or permitting authority. Therefore, it is not possible for them to prevent a loan approval for a property that is in the floodplain or the floodway.

West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner

1112 Smith Street

P. O. Box 50540

Charleston, WV 25305-0540

(304) 558-3345

The West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner (WVOIC) have responsibility for licensing Insurance Agents. The offices require agents to prove knowledge concerning flooding insurance. The WVOIC can also require insurance agents to notify customers that homeowner's policies do not usually cover flood damage.

In 2002, West Virginia House Bill 2556 passed the legislature requiring the Insurance Commissioner to issue annual communications to State and local government entities and nonprofit organizations to increase the awareness of flood insurance issues. These include:

- The 1998 amendments to the Robert T. Stafford Emergency Assistance and Disaster Relief Act concerning penalties for failing to purchase adequate flood insurance for properties within a floodplain;
- Awareness of the magnitude and financial risk involved from such penalties; and
- Awareness of low cost, federally subsidized flood insurance through the NFIP.

In 2004, the WVOIC established a Fraud Unit to facilitate the conviction and indictment of parties guilty of insurance fraud.

West Virginia National Guard

1703 Coonskin Drive

Charleston, West Virginia 25311

(304) 561-6414

The West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) is the only state agency with the capability to enter a disaster area with its own support in all critical areas – personnel, intelligence, operations, logistics, and communications.

On order from the Governor of the State, the WVNG will assist in evaluating the severity of emergency situations, task organize, including support to WVNG units, to assist in providing the necessary response. Units and individuals will be ready

and trained to be called to duty to assist in emergency situations including natural disasters and civil disturbances. Each unit prepares to accomplish the tasks assigned.

The WV National Guard has five (5) categories of response to support State and Federal agencies and the public, these are:

Information

- Distribution of information by public affairs officer;
- Distribution of bulletins in the field to civilians in area of operations; and
- Collection of information, recon, damage assessment.

Life Support

- Food and water distribution;
- Medical care;
- Medical evacuation;
- Housing (temporary);
- Sanitation (showers); and
- Transportation and distribution of supplies.

Rescue

- Limited rescue by air, ground and water.

Recovery

- Debris removal;
- Security;
- Traffic control;
- Emergency road repair;
- Snow removal; and
- Emergency electrical power.

Other

- Surveillance (air and ground) including live video feed;
- Communications and support to C-2 centers;

- HAZMAT team (CST) chemical identification and decontamination;
- Engineering design for expedient construction;
- Crowd and riot control;
- Training of first responders at Memorial Tunnel; and
- Brush and forest fire fighting.

West Virginia Office of Emergency Services

(See West Virginia Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.)

West Virginia State Fire Marshall's Office

1207 Quarrier Street (2nd Floor)

Charleston, WV 25301

(304) 558-2191

To improve the quality of life of the citizens of West Virginia through the leadership, development and administration of fire safety programs and to reduce the loss of life and property through education, inspections, investigations, certification & licensure, building plan reviews and enforcement of fire safety laws.

WV Code ARTICLE 3. FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT.

§29-3-1. This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Fire Prevention and Control Act."

§29-3-2. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

- (a) A significant part of the population of this state needs improved fire prevention and control;
 - (b) The establishment and maintenance of a coordination program for fire prevention and control for the entire state is necessary to promulgate the safety and well being of the citizens and residents of this state;
- I Adequate fire prevention and control are not likely to become a reality unless certain administrative functions and procedures are enacted by law; and
- (d) Fire prevention and control are a public purpose and a responsibility of government for which public money may be spent.

West Virginia State Police

143 Academy Drive
Dunbar, West Virginia 25064
(304) 767-3066

The West Virginia State Police (WVSP) is the State’s chief law enforcement and investigative agency. The WVSP is well equipped to provide manpower, logistics, communications, and aid as an initial responder in an emergency or disaster situation. The WVSP has locations across West Virginia and can respond quickly to situations via ground and air units.

West Virginia University Cooperative Extension Service

PO Box 6031
West Virginia University
Morgantown, West Virginia 26506
(304) 293-5691

The West Virginia University, Cooperative Extension Service has a grass-roots educational delivery system that extends the University into communities throughout the State. Community development is one of the primary missions of the Extension Service. In support of this mission, County Extensions Agents (1) provide technical assistance and information for group decision making and action, (2) organize and initiate community development efforts, and (3) offer leadership development and training. The Cooperative Extension Service, accordingly, can assume a vital role in working with local communities to help them recover from flood events and to mitigate future flood damage.

The Extension Service also provides an educational framework and delivery system through which diverse University resources can be extended to local communities. Again, this can be relevant to helping communities recover from disaster events and to mitigate future disaster damages.

West Virginia University GIS Technical Center

Department of Geology and Geography 425 White Hall
Morgantown, WV 26507
(304) 293-5603

The GIS Technical Center has no direct role in the assessment of disaster damage. However, as a partner in the Mineral Lands Mapping Program (MLMP) and in

cooperation with the USGS, the center has generated digital versions of USGS quad sheets, including hydrographic and elevation contour layers. The center maintains a comprehensive set of GIS data for the State, a directory of state GIS users and services, as well as links to other GIS resources in the State and nation. The information is available for viewing at the web site: <http://wvgis.wvu.edu>.

PRIVATE/COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross (ARC) responds to the immediate emergency needs of victims affected by all disasters. The ARC works with the communities and local emergency services personnel to establish shelters when necessary and provides for the basic emergency needs after a disaster has occurred (e.g. food, clothing, shelter, immediate physical health needs and mental health). When a single-family incident occurs, the ARC meets the basic needs of the victims but rely heavily on community support.

The ARC has as part of its primary mission, the education of the community to disasters. ARC chapters provide information on all phases of disaster planning, education in community schools, general information for public consumption, and disaster information for the business community. There is also limited participation in the Project Impact communities. Unfortunately, the ARC does not currently address hazard mitigation adequately in West Virginia.

County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia

The County Commissioners' Association of West Virginia (CCAWV) was formed in the late 1950's. It began as an association of Commissioners from across the state with officers, a board of directors, and numerous committees. In 1990, the Association hired its first full-time Legislative Coordinator/Director, to organize, administrate, and attend to the needs of the CCAWV. The mission of the Association is to:

- Maintain a statewide agency for the purpose of promoting the interest and general welfare of local county government through a variety of communication tools;
- To represent county government before the West Virginia Legislature, administrative agencies, and the federal government; to educate the public about the value and need for county programs and services; and
- To facilitate the exchange of problems, ideas and solutions among county officials.

West Virginia Municipal League

The West Virginia Municipal League is a statewide, nonprofit, nonpartisan association of cities, towns and villages established in 1968 to assist local governments and advance the interests of their citizens. The League achieves this through legislative advocacy, research, education and other services for municipal elected officials. The membership includes 90% of all 234 municipalities in the state.

The central purpose of the League is to advance the interests and welfare of the people residing in the municipalities of our state. By cooperating through the League, cities benefit from research programs and a united legislative voice that would be impossible to maintain individually.

West Virginia Public Broadcasting

West Virginia Public Broadcasting advances education, culture and citizenship through high-quality programming and services. West Virginia Public Broadcasting has been serving the state for more than 30 years. West Virginia Public Broadcasting is the most widely used educational and cultural institution in the state, with a network of television, radio, Internet and educational resources available to virtually every citizen of every age.

West Virginia Public Broadcasting is leading the way in addressing our state's unique needs in education, economic development, and quality-of-life issues through a variety of successful partnerships with individuals, businesses, governments and organizations.