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NEWS

Pat Quinn - GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2009

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Federal Assistance Approved for Six Southern Illinois Counties Affected by May 8 Storms

Will provide reimbursement to local governments and electrical co-ops for many storm-related expenses

SPRINGFIELD – Governor Pat Quinn today announced that the state’s request for federal assistance to local governments and electrical cooperatives that will help them recover from the May 8 wind storm has been approved. The federal disaster declaration will enable local governments and electrical power cooperatives in Franklin, Gallatin, Jackson, Randolph, Saline and Williamson counties to recover 75 percent of their extraordinary costs related to storm response and recovery.

The state’s request for assistance to people whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the storm, as well for affected businesses, was not authorized as part of today’s declaration.

“This federal declaration is welcomed news for local governments that incurred extraordinary costs responding to and recovering from that vicious storm,” said Gov. Quinn. “While I’m very pleased help is on the way for local governments, I’m very concerned about people who are still struggling to put their lives back together following the storm. We will continue to pursue assistance for the hundreds of people and businesses who suffered losses due to the storm.”

In late May, assessment teams from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the U.S. Small Business Administration toured storm-ravaged areas of southern Illinois to document the storm’s impact. The assessment teams found nearly 560 homes that were damaged, including 69 homes that were destroyed and 191 that were uninhabitable without major repairs. Teams meeting with local officials determined that costs to governmental bodies and electrical cooperatives could top \$26 million.