

Grand Forks Area Flood Report Available

BISMARCK - A comprehensive analysis of flood problems in the Grand Forks area with recommendations for dealing effectively with future floods is contained in a new report presented Wednesday to the North Dakota Industrial Commission.

The 70-page report, "Flooding in the Grand Forks-East Grand Forks, North Dakota and Minnesota Area," was written by Julie A. LeFever, State Geologist John P. Bluemle and Ryan P. Waldkirch. It is listed as North Dakota Geological Survey Education Series 25.

"It is important to have a compilation of information regarding the history of flooding in the Grand Forks area," said Gov. Ed Schafer. "Without knowing where we have been we cannot move ahead in a thoughtful manner."

"This report was prepared to update prior Geological Survey reports and provide accurate and factual information to assist the general public and decision makers in planning flood control measures for the future," said Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp.

The report includes a history of flooding in the two-city area, with a description and analysis of the major floods that have occurred since record keeping began in 1882.

"Of particular interest are two colored maps of the two-city area that accurately detail the extent of the 1997 flood, as well as the extent of the area that would be flooded at various river stages," said Commissioner of Agriculture Roger Johnson.

The Geological Survey will hold informational meetings in the Grand Forks area over the next several weeks to explain the content and conclusions of the report. The first meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 17, in the Grand Forks Herald Community Room.

Questions about the report should be directed to LeFever at (701) 777-2231 or Bluemle at (701) 328-8000.

The North Dakota Geological Survey is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Gov. Edward T. Schafer as Chairman, Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp, and Commissioner of Agriculture Roger Johnson.