

502.0 USDA Response

IL502.0(a)

IL502.0 Illinois NRCS EWP Response Procedure

The District Conservationist (DC) in each county shall be responsible for coordinating the NRCS response to requests for potential Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program assistance. As soon as a written request for EWP assistance is received from a potential Sponsor, the DC shall immediately contact the Area Assistant State Conservationist (Area ASTC).

The Area ASTC shall designate an interdisciplinary emergency response team to evaluate the site and complete a Damage Survey Report (DSR) as identified in the EWP Manual, Section 502.0(4).

For exigency situations, the Area ASTC must immediately inform the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, who is the EWP Program Manager. The Area ASTC is responsible to ensure that the 10 day time limit from the date the site is accessible to completion of the repair work is achieved, as required in the EWP Manual, Section 502.13A(2). The decision to call an eligible project an exigency will be made only after careful consideration by the DC, in consultation with the Area ASTC. Most EWP jobs will not meet this level of urgency. An exigency is defined in the EWP Manual, Section 501.7 as a situation that demands immediate action to avoid potential loss of life or property.

All final determinations on the eligibility of a project, its funding priority number and its status as an exigency will be made by the State Conservationist, in consultation with the EWP Program Manager.

For each potential EWP site, the following must be completed:

1. The DC shall perform a preliminary review of the eligibility of the site, as outlined in the EWP Manual, Section 501.3, making sure that the site is not excluded from EWP assistance as listed in Section 501.4. If the site is ineligible, no further EWP investigation is needed.
2. If the proposed work involves protection of roads and/or bridges, the DC shall determine if the road is a Federal Aid Highway and document the finding in writing. Any roadway that is defined as a Federal Aid Highway is eligible for the Emergency Relief Program administered by the Federal Highway Administration of the Department of Transportation and is not eligible for EWP, and the Sponsor should be directed to the Department of Transportation.
3. The emergency response team shall field verify the apparent eligibility of the site as outlined in the EWP Manual, Section 501.3, making sure that the site is not excluded from EWP assistance as listed in Section 501.4.. To be eligible for EWP, the watershed impairment must be due to the identified storm event. EWP does not cover the performance of basic operation or maintenance, such as periodic removal of sediment or debris from man made channels.
4. During the field review, the emergency response team shall collect the information needed to complete a DSR and collect photographic documentation of the watershed impairment.
5. The completed DSR and photographs shall be provided to the Illinois EWP Coordinator. The EWP Coordinator will track all potential EWP projects and provide each completed DSR with photographic documentation to the EWP Program Manager.