



First Midwest

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February 1, 2008

Ms. Kristin DeCarmine
Reports Analyst
Federal Election Commission
999 E. Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20463

RE: Form 99
FEC Identification No.: C00192906

Dear Ms. DeCarmine,

Per your conversation with Andrea Stangl and as requested, this letter is to serve as explanation as to why the First Midwest Bancorp, Inc. Government Affairs Fund Annual Report on FEC Form 3X is postmarked 1 day after the filing deadline of January 31, 2008.

As a paper filer, every attempt was made by our staff to have the above referenced report postmarked the evening of January 31, 2008, however, due to weather circumstances beyond our control, hazardous driving conditions prevented us from arriving at the nearest postal facility prior to its closure. This report was postmarked as early as possible on the morning of February 1, 2008. I have attached a few local news reports for your reference.

Please accept our apologies and add this letter of explanation to the public record.

Sincerely,

Paul F. Clemens
Treasurer

28039631223

chicagotribune.com

Hazardous rush; more snow expected

By Dan P. Blake and Robert Mitchum

Tribune reporters

7:11 AM CST, February 1, 2008

A major winter storm expected to drop close to a foot of snow before it moves out of the Chicago area later today was causing near whiteout conditions on area roads and a challenge for the city's snow-fighting crews during the morning rush hour.

At least 6 inches of snow had fallen overnight on city streets and forecasters are expecting another 4 inches before the storm moves out of the area early this afternoon. The National Weather Service said the snow had been falling at a rate of about 1 to 2 inches an hour this morning.

At a early-morning news conference, Streets and Sanitation Commissioner Michael Picardi said the full fleet of 273 city snow-fighting trucks are plowing main streets, and officials have also called out an extra 83 garbage trucks equipped with quick-hitch plows along with 24 smaller plows.

"When you get a rapid snowfall like this it takes a long time to clear the main streets," Picardi said. "By no means should anyone takes these conditions lightly."

He said nearly white-out conditions were reported this morning along Lake Shore Drive and several neighborhoods on the Southeast Side were getting hit especially hard due to the blowing and drifting snow.

National Weather Service meteorologist Paul Merzlock said the heaviest snowfall was expected between 4 and 8 a.m. City and state officials said it may be difficult for snow removal crews to keep pace with such heavy precipitation.

"It looks like this morning's rush hour is going to be really impacted," National Weather Service meteorologist Paul Merzlock said. "With what's going to be coming down at the rate it'll be coming down, all the roads are going to be snow packed and snow covered."

Meteorologists are forecasting up to 12 inches of snow in southern Cook County, Ford and Iroquois Counties and northwest Indiana. Six to 8 inches of snow are expected to fall in northern Cook, DuPage, Will, Kendall, Grundy and Livingston Counties.

By this morning, 8.5 inches already had fallen in Geneva, 7.5 inches in Elgin and over 8 inches in other areas of DuPage County. Snow reports at O'Hare and Midway airports were less, but still being updated this morning, according to the weather service.

The storm prompted many school officials across the city and suburbs to delay their school's opening or cancel school for the day.

At O'Hare International Airport Thursday night, more than 600 flights were canceled because of low visibility, said Gregg Cunningham, a spokesman for the Chicago Department of Aviation. The airport was also experiencing delays averaging two hours for inbound and outbound flights.

Midway Airport had about 10 cancellations and delays averaging 90 minutes, Cunningham said. Officials asked air travelers to check with their airlines before heading to the airport. Updated delay and cancellation information was not immediately available this morning, said an aviation spokeswoman.

The snowfall is expected to taper off by about 9 a.m., and by the afternoon the front is expected to move out of the area, but Merzlock said blowing and drifting snow will continue to pose problems throughout the day.

Illinois State Police Trooper Mark Hall said there were at least 10 cars that had slid off into ditches and a number of cars had crashed into walls on area expressways as of early this morning. He added, however, that there had been no serious injuries in any of the crashes.

On the Tollway, an emergency snow plan is in effect where drivers involved in only property damage crashes are asked to exchange insurance information and report the accident at another time.

"The roads are icy and hazardous, but they're still trying to keep up with it," Illinois State Police Master Sgt. William Aukstolis said. "There's a lot of slipping and sliding but nothing major because I don't think you can go that fast."

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Storm cancels more than 600 flights at O'Hare

Jan. 31, 2008

(AP) — As a major snowstorm continued through Northern and Central Illinois, more than 600 flights in and out of O'Hare International Airport were canceled because of deteriorating weather and low visibility.

The Chicago Department of Aviation said Thursday evening that non-canceled flights at O'Hare were experiencing delays averaging two hours.

At Midway Airport, delays were averaging 90 minutes, and about 10 flights had been canceled.

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Heavy snow hits Chicago area

Feb. 01, 2008

(AP) — A huge snow storm that stretched from Texas to the Great Lakes and beyond dumped a heavy blanket of snow across Illinois, clogging roads and causing hundreds of flight cancellations at O'Hare International Airport.

As of just after 8 a.m., about 500 Friday flights had been cancelled at O'Hare, the Chicago Department of Aviation said.

Up to five inches of snow was reported at Midway International Airport by early Friday, and more snow is expected to begin around rush hour, making travel difficult for drivers and commuters.

"It looks like this morning's rush hour is going to be really impacted," National Weather Service meteorologist Paul Merzlock said. "With what's going to be coming down at the rate it'll be coming down, all the roads are going to be snow-packed and snow-covered."

More than 600 flights in and out of O'Hare were canceled Thursday because of low visibility. The airport continued to be affected by low visibility early Friday.

Forecasts call for eight to 12 inches of accumulation in the Chicago area by the time the precipitation ends during the afternoon.

Chicago had dozens of trucks moving overnight in an attempt to keep up with the heavy bands of snow moving over the area, rotating shifts in an effort to keep drivers fresh throughout the night. City and state officials said it may be difficult for snow removal crews to keep pace with such heavy precipitation.

"We are gearing up for pretty serious snowfall overnight tonight," Mike Claffey, spokesman for the Illinois Department of Transportation said late Thursday. "If we're lucky, it'll break before rush hour starts. But if it keeps snowing right into rush hour, it'll be a very messy morning."

The weather service forecast that 6 to 8 inches would be on the ground by noon Friday in Central Illinois. Gusty northwest winds are expected to cause blowing and drifting that will reduce visibility to near zero at times.

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Federal Election Commission
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