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Sent: Wed, 29 Aug 2012 21:01:21 -0400
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Subject: Tropical Storm Isaac

Sir:

Just a few updates on Isaac:

The National Hurricane Center downgraded Isaac to a Tropical Storm at 3 pm EDT, due to decreased wind speeds as the storm continues to move inland. On forecast track, the center of Isaac will continue its slow movement further inland over Louisiana tonight and tomorrow, over southern Arkansas early Friday, and central Missouri by Saturday afternoon. Steady weakening is forecast, and Isaac could become a Tropical Depression by Thursday night and a "post Tropical Depression" by Saturday. Winds and rainfall will steadily diminish in the next 48 hours.

The first storm-related fatality has been reported in Vermillion Parish, Louisiana; a 36-year old man died after falling from a tree. We will get an update in the morning on any other storm-related casualties.

More than 700,000 customers are without power across the affected area; the vast majority of outages are in southeastern Louisiana. The CEO of Entergy (Louisiana) reports it could be a full week before restoration is complete. Roughly 10,000 crew members from 24 States are waiting for the winds to calm down to less than 30 mph before it is safe to begin restoration activities.

A Louisiana state official says a levee in southeast Louisiana's Plaquemines Parish will be breached to relieve pressure on it. The Governor has given his support to the decision by Plaquemines Parish officials to punch a hole in the levee to provide relief to a flooded community, citing success in doing the same thing four years ago. This is the levee that Governor Jindal mentioned on the call today.

Craig Fugate is still on scene and is working closely with state and local officials. Janet Napolitano is staying in touch with governors of affected states.

Will advise of any significant developments.