Written by Josie Cooper
Tuesday, June 07 2011 15:22

SIOUX CITY---A spokesperson for MidAmerican Energy says they continue building flood protection around their power plants in Sioux City and Council Bluffs. Spokesperson Ann Thielen says they believe floodwaters may reach their Neal Energy Center in Sioux City, but believe they're taking steps to prevent the water from shutting down the plant.

{audio}MID1.MP3{/audio}

Thielen says they're having more of the barriers shipped in from Iowa City to protect the Council Bluffs plant.

{audio}MID2.MP3{/audio}

Thielen says if the plants are surrounded by water, they believe they can still operate with the coal they have stockpiled.

{audio}MID3.MP3{/audio}

The company has shut down electric and natural gas services across the border in Dakota Dunes. Thielen says they will leave the power on for now in the Iowa town of Hamburg as it is evacuated.

{audio}MID4.MP3{/audio}

Anyone with flood questions is asked to call MidAmerican at 1-888-427-5632. Or you can go on-line at: midamericanenergy.com.

SIOUX CITY---AS LEVEES CONTINUE TO BE BUILT AND SANDBAGS FILLED, THE REALIZATION IS THAT STRUCTURES WILL BE LOST.

WOODBURY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGER GARY BROWN SAYS DESPITE THAT KNOWLEDGE, THE FIGHT WILL CONTINUE.

BROWN SAYS THEY HAVE OBTAINED A SPECIAL VEHICLE THAT CAN GO THROUGH 4 TO 5 FEET OF WATER TO PATCH LEVEES IF NEEDED.

{audio}TUES1.MP3{/audio}

IN REGARDS TO RIVERSIDE LAWNS BEGINNING TO FLOOD, BROWN SAYS THEIR TEAM HELD AN EXERCISE UNDER THAT SCENARIO A FEW YEARS AGO.

{audio}TUES2.MP3{/audio}

A COAST GUARD BOAT IS IN THE SIOUXLAND AREA TO FIGHT ANY FIRES THAT COULD OCCUR.

SIOUX CITY---SIOUX CITY OFFICIALS SAY THE RIVERFRONT HAS COME UP QUITE A BIT IN THE PAST 24 HOURS.
THE MISSOURI RIVER IS CURRENTLY RECEIVING WATER FROM THE GAVINS POINT DAM AT THE RATE OF 123-THOUSAND CUBIC FEET PER SECOND.
AS THE RIVER BEGINS TO RISE, A BERM WILL BE BUILT ALONG NEBRASKA STREET NEAR THE INTERSTATE IN SIOUX CITY TO TRY AND PROTECT LOCAL BUSINESSES.
OFFICIALS ARE ALSO MONITORING THE BIG SIOUX AND FLOYD RIVER ELEVATIONS.