Good afternoon, thank you for coming today.

As the Minnesota Legislature reconvenes for a special session due to lack of appropriations for state government operations and services, Governor Jesse Ventura established a Shutdown team to begin contingency planning and preparations for a government shutdown, which would occur on July 1, 2001.

The Shutdown team consists of members from the Departments of Administration, Employee Relations and Finance along with the Governor’s Office.

The team has been tasked with examining critical and/or core and non-critical state functions, notifications to employees and the public, and the process of shutting down of state government. As the Commissioner of the Department Employee Relations, I have been appointed the team’s spokesperson.

State government and its services affect virtually all citizens of Minnesota. The negative impact of a government shutdown would include:

- Halt of highway maintenance and construction projects;
- Closure of State parks and recreational areas;
- Suspension of services such as drivers license issuance, driving tests, motor vehicle title and registration transactions;
- Increased risk of food-borne disease among public due to lack of agricultural & health department inspectors;
- Prison security risks due to reduced supervision; reduced supervision of offenders in community;
- Limited ability to process and issue State unemployment and welfare checks;
- Limited ability to process and issue State aid payments to local governments.
Governor Jesse Ventura
Talking Points
Commissioner Carter’s Press Conference
2:20pm, June 11, 2001

• Except for those facilities related to delivery of critical and/or core services, all State buildings and facilities will be locked and unavailable to employees and the public unless noted otherwise.

• Specific critical and/or core services will be maintained. These critical and/or core services are those that have a direct impact on public safety and health, and/or are necessary to prevent catastrophic loss to property or the environment. Such services include:
  • State patrol;
  • Disaster services, as provided in the event of emergencies by the Emergency Management Division;
  • Basic supervision and functions in state correctional facilities
  • Custodial care for residents of state-operated nursing homes, hospitals, veterans homes and similar facilities.
  • It is important to note that the State considers all employees to be of critical importance and are highly valued. Only certain services are being identified as non-critical.
  • In addition, since state government is Minnesota’s largest single employer, everyone who has a stake in local economies could suffer if large numbers of state workers are furloughed without pay due to a shutdown.
  • We are also setting up an internet site and phone numbers to allow people to access the latest information.
  • Thank you for joining me today…I will now take any questions you may have.