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Why Billions in Disaster Recovery Remain Unspent for 2017 Hurricanes.

A new GAO report signals bad news for places that will try to rebuild after the Midwest flooding.

Historic flooding in the Midwest has left millions of acres under water in 10 states after a “bomb cyclone” storm brought heavy snow and drenching rains. And it’s far from over. Weather forecasters say more precipitation is on the way.

The task list for the cleanup and recovery is already mounting. So far, the floods are affecting the safety of more than a million private water wells; farms won’t be able to plant crops this year; and Superfund waste sites are inaccessible.

And when it comes to getting the money to rebuild, states and localities in the Midwest likely have a long wait ahead of them.

According to a new report from the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), states and localities have still barely tapped the billions in federal funding for 2017’s major hurricanes.

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BY LIZ FARMER | MARCH 29, 2019 AT 4:00 AM

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