



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

July 17, 2013

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Through:

Andrew Velasquez III, Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region V
536 South Clark Street, Floor 6
Chicago, IL 60605

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Minnesota as a result of severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding during the incident period of June 20th through June 26th, 2013.

According to National Weather Service reports, thunderstorms that began June 20 formed a quasi-linear convective system (QLCS) and raced southeastward across Minnesota, with the main line of storms located northeast of Madison and Willmar. At Benson in Swift County, a wind speed of 85 miles per hour was measured at 1:33 am on June 21st. This wind speed is equivalent to that of a low end EF0 tornado. Damage reports from Pope, Stearns, and Swift Counties were consistent with such wind speeds. Two thin bands of storms developed ahead of the QLCS, which is indicative of a strengthening storm complex.

This persistent trending weather pattern brought multiple rounds of thunderstorms over several nights. For days, parts of the state were continuously under severe weather watches and warnings. Every night, thunderstorms formed and swept through the area with torrential rainfall and other severe weather, such as large hail and damaging winds. The system began with 5.6 inches of rain in Morris in Stevens County overnight on the 20th and ended with 8.25 inches recorded at Wolverton in Wilkin County on the 26th. Parts of the state saw 48-hour rainfall amounts that have a statistical frequency of about once every 500 years. One to two inch per hour rainfall rates resulted in flash flooding and mudslides in many locations. Numerous flooded and damaged roads made travel hazardous, if not impossible. As grounds became saturated, this rain quickly ran off into waterways and led to significant rises on area rivers. Thousands of mature trees were uprooted due to the softened ground and fell on buildings, homes, roads, and vehicles.

At the peak, more than 600,000 homes and businesses were without electricity, making this the largest power outage in Minnesota history. Some utility customers were without light, refrigeration, climate control, and many amenities for as long as a week. Loss of electricity forced evacuation of the Benton County Jail; inmates were transported to other communities. Generators were needed to run lift stations, water towers, wastewater treatment plants, and other government services and business concerns. Widespread road closures disrupted travel for residents, tourists, farmers, truckers, postal delivery, and emergency services, with whole cities being isolated until water receded and debris could be cleared.

The Minnesota Emergency Operations Plan was activated on June 20th. On June 22nd, 2013, I issued an emergency executive order to declare a state of emergency and provide relief from hours-of-service regulations for motor carriers and drivers providing direct emergency relief assistance. On July 3rd, I declared a peacetime emergency for the period of June 20th through June 26th, in the Counties of Aitkin, Benton, Big Stone, Carver, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Hennepin, Houston, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Pine, Pope, Renville, Ramsey, Sibley, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, Wilkin, Winona, and Wright.

Preliminary damage assessments were conducted July 8th through July 12th, 2013, in the Counties of Benton, Big Stone, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Grant, Hennepin, Houston, McLeod, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pope, Sibley, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, and Wilkin. FEMA, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM), county emergency managers, and local municipalities, townships, school districts, and rural electric cooperatives participated in each county. The joint FEMA-State PDA documented \$17,880,840 in eligible damages, nearly two-and-one-half times Minnesota's state indicator of \$7,266,377.25.

The following information offers a representative snapshot of damages, focusing primarily on the hardest hit county in each category.

Category A – in Hennepin County, the amount of debris has overwhelmed the capacity of Minneapolis. Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of waste has been recorded at this time. The City of Minneapolis lost more trees in this storm than it did as a result of the 2011 tornado (FEMA-1990-DR). Cities in Hennepin County are transporting vegetative debris to a staging site to be quantified and chipped. The debris estimate for Hennepin County is \$3,466,807, which is nearly half the statewide indicator.

Category B – Great Energy Rural Electric performed emergency protective measures to restore power in Swift County. Approximately 1,000 customers were without power for at least three days, with the City of Benson being the hardest hit population. Great River Rural Electric's damage cost represents \$40.89 per capita.

Category C – flash flooding throughout Houston County damaged 24 county bridges and 25 township bridges. Approximately 36 miles of township roads were closed due to washouts. Detours in excess of 20 miles were not uncommon. Emergency responders experienced significant delays in providing service. None of the roads reported are on a federal aid system.

Both Houston and neighboring Fillmore County are still recovering from the damage to their roads and bridges caused by flash flooding in 2007 and 2008 (FEMA-DR-1717 and FEMA-DR-1772). The damages from this storm represent a per capita cost of \$304.19.

Category D – the Freeborn County Drainage Ditch District reported damage to 15 of 65 engineered channels owned by the county. Approximately 61 miles of drainage systems were damaged by rapidly moving waters and overland flooding. Restoration of these ditches represents a \$28.80 loss per capita.

Category E – the West Central Research and Outreach Center (WROC) of the University of Minnesota, Morris, in Stevens County, sustained extensive damage. Approximately 77 mile-per-hour, straight-line winds destroyed cattle equipment, hoop barn roofs and doors, the campus skyway, fences, and a trailer. The research center also lost pasture time, organic grain research projects, and several fences due to the amount of debris throughout the campus. The high winds also damaged the university art gallery's mezzanine roof, causing the ceiling to leak. The University of Minnesota has a \$500,000 insurance deductible. The per capita lost for this county is \$18.71.

Category F – Runestone Rural Electric's main, two line distribution feeder in Grant County was severally damaged. This distribution feeder lost three miles of power line that was snapped and wrapped around the substation. Of the 18 utility poles on this line, 16 were sheared by high winds. The damage to the main feeder of this substation is \$26.59 per capita.

Category G – the main park in the Fillmore County, City of Mabel, population 780, sustained significant damage when the force of picnic tables washed away by flash flooding knocked the equipment building off its foundation and washed it away, as well. Rapidly moving water ripped up the concrete-supported fence posts surrounding the baseball field, creating a public safety hazard. The concession building was rotated on its foundation. The park playground is damaged and covered by debris. The park remains closed. These damages are not covered by the city's insurance policy. The town believes its 61st Annual Steam Engine Days Festival will be cancelled due to the extensive damage. The per capita loss for this city park is \$87.18.

Voluntary agencies supported disaster relief in a variety of ways. The Twin Cities Chapter of the American Red Cross and Salvation Army collaborated to shelter families displaced by the storms in Plymouth. The Salvation Army also distributed 200 flood kits to people in the northeastern part of the state and brought flood supplies to the Albert Lea area. NECHAMA, Jewish Response to Disaster assisted seven homeowners, contributing 175 hours of chainsaw and debris removal work.

The State of Minnesota needs federal assistance to recover from this weather event. Minnesota continues to work on 13 open Stafford Act disasters, two of which (FEMA-4069-DR and FEMA-4113-DR), occurred in the last 12 months. Minnesota's most recent disaster took place just over three months ago, in April 2013, when a late-season winter ice storm paralyzed the southwestern part of the state. Last year, the Minnesota Legislature provided nearly \$160 million

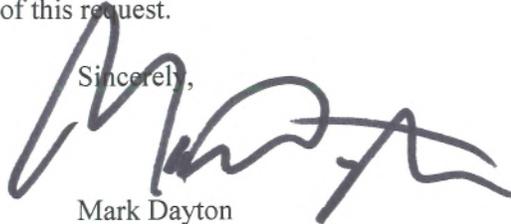
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to help communities recover from declared disasters and an additional \$7.9 million in state assistance to counties affected by a July 2012 non-federally declared windstorm.

Disaster assistance allowed for under the Stafford Act is warranted. Without it, and given the already heavy burden of previous disasters, Minnesotans will struggle to return their communities to normalcy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Dayton', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Ms. Kris A. Eide, Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division
Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Enclosures:

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
Enclosure B: Public Assistance

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Stafford Act Requirements for Public Assistance



FEMA

**TABLE A-1 SUMMARY OF ELIGIBLE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
PDA CONDUCTED July 8-12, 2013**

STATE:		Minnesota							POPULATION:		5,303,925	
Applicant	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	TOTAL	Population	Per/Cap Loss		
County of Benton	\$78,000	\$54,575	\$113,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$32,500	\$8,000	\$298,075	38,451	\$7.75		
County of Big Stone	\$20,000	\$230,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250,500	5,269	\$47.54		
County of Douglas	\$7,320	\$148,121	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$155,441	36,009	\$4.32		
County of Faribault	\$67,100	\$0	\$14,800	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$131,900	14,553	\$9.06		
County of Fillmore	\$146,800	\$73,500	\$1,620,300	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$60,000	\$23,500	\$1,969,100	20,866	\$94.37		
County of Freeborn	\$11,000	\$16,600	\$211,200	\$901,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,140,400	31,255	\$36.49		
County of Grant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160,000	\$0	\$160,000	6,018	\$26.59		
County of Houston	\$383,150	\$145,100	\$5,787,789	\$85,100	\$3,200	\$51,200	\$5,000	\$6,460,539	19,027	\$339.55		
County of Mcleod	\$3,250	\$3,257	\$114,764	\$0	\$27,250	\$17,500	\$0	\$166,021	36,651	\$4.53		
County of Hennepin	\$3,466,807	\$373,226	\$710,026	\$0	\$10,024	\$5,300	\$27,280	\$4,592,663	1,152,425	\$3.99		
County of Mille Lacs	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	26,097	\$0.96		
County of Morrison	\$15,000	\$3,000	\$115,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$133,000	33,198	\$4.01		
County of Pope	\$100,500	\$76,344	\$73,500	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$275,344	10,995	\$25.04		
County of Sibley	\$18,000	\$0	\$52,329	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$70,329	15,226	\$4.62		
County of Stearns	\$205,434	\$79,098	\$22,936	\$0	\$1,500	\$242,615	\$0	\$551,583	150,642	\$3.66		
County of Stevens	\$150,000	\$121,700	\$101,950	\$0	\$103,500	\$0	\$0	\$477,150	9,726	\$49.06		
County of Swift	\$327,125	\$531,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$56,000	\$1,500	\$0	\$917,625	9,783	\$93.80		
County of Traverse	\$2,700	\$0	\$41,985	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$44,685	3,558	\$12.56		
County of Wilkin	\$10,485	\$14,500	\$36,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$61,485	6,576	\$9.35		
State Agencies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0				
TOTAL	\$5,016,671	\$1,872,521	\$9,022,079	\$1,066,700	\$243,474	\$585,615	\$73,780	\$17,880,840	5,303,925	\$3		

Category percentage:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	28.06%	10.47%	50.46%	5.97%	1.36%	3.28%	0.41%

Federal share (75%): \$13,410,630.00
