



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
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JON S. CORZINE  
GOVERNOR

April 20, 2007

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Through: Stephen Kempf, Jr, Regional Director  
FEMA Region II  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 13373  
New York City, New York 10278

Dear Mr. President:

My April 18, 2007 letter to you outlined the devastating effects the recent Nor'easter has caused throughout New Jersey. Based upon my tour of the affected areas and reports from our emergency responders on the ground, it is clear that the damage is much more extensive than originally anticipated. Some areas continue to be under several feet of water and will remain inaccessible for several days. Some of our residents continue to live in shelters, unable to return to their homes.

In light of this extensive damage, I am requesting that pursuant to the provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act you declare a major disaster for the State of New Jersey, particularly including the Counties of Burlington, Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, Somerset and Union. I request that you expedite the declaration of a major disaster so that federal assistance programs will be available to meet the essential needs of the residents, businesses and local governments in the affected areas.

This severe "Nor'easter" has devastated the East Coast and particularly New Jersey with heavy rains, winds, record and near record main stream and river flooding, and resulting runoff beginning on Saturday April 14, 2007 continuing through at least April 20, 2007. I anticipate that additional Counties may require federal assistance once we have fully assessed their damages. Municipalities statewide have all incurred substantial expense in response to this event and suffered significant infrastructure

damage. I must commend the efforts of the first responders and communities at large in responding to this record storm.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law and directed the implementation of the State Emergency Operations Plan on April 13, 2007 and on April 16, 2007 I declared a State of Emergency throughout the State.

On April 16, 2007 I requested, through the New Jersey State Director of Emergency Management, a joint preliminary damage assessment for the damaged areas. Preliminary reports indicate the most severe impacts were as follows:

- Nearly 5,000 individuals were evacuated from their homes in eleven counties. Shelters were opened in twelve counties. Some residents continue to be sheltered.
- Severe flooding throughout New Jersey has caused numerous bridges and roadways to be closed. Damage assessment on these bridges and roadways is ongoing as the water level continues to drop, however, a number of these roads appear to have been undermined. Establishing traffic diversion detours and safety zones around these roads and bridges has required the New Jersey State Police and many local police departments to provide services around the clock.
- Several dams have been breached by the flood waters and a number of other dams in the affected areas may have suffered damage and must be inspected for integrity once the water has receded.
- Thousands of homes have been inundated with murky flood water and have had electric and gas disconnected. The water level in many homes has reached the first floor.
- Beach erosion along with damage to the protective dunes has occurred up and down the New Jersey coastline.
- A number of homes have been gutted by fire as high flood waters prevented access by fire apparatus.
- Rail service in the State was suspended or otherwise affected due to flooding on the tracks.
- Flooding has caused hazardous materials, such as oil, to pollute the flood waters.
- Utilities, such as water, sewer and electric, have either failed or been taken off-line due to flood inundation.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting Individual Assistance (all programs), including the Individuals and Households Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, and Crisis Counseling, along with Small Business Administration disaster loans for the affected counties listed above. I consider it vital for the citizens of New Jersey to receive this aid to begin their recovery efforts. I anticipate that upon completion of the preliminary damage assessment in the remaining counties of the State, I will request this relief Statewide.

I am also requesting Public Assistance (all categories) for the counties listed above. Recognizing that the preliminary damage assessment for Public Assistance is ongoing and will not be complete for several days, I anticipate that additional counties may require this assistance. Upon completion of the preliminary damage assessment I will request such additional aid as is warranted.

I am also requesting assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the entire State so that we may address the repetitive loss properties and work to prevent losses from occurring in the future.

The following information details some of the State and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster.

- Activation of the National Guard to assist with evacuations and sheltering
- Activation of swift water rescue teams in multiple locations
- Increased State Police and local police patrols and strike forces
- Activation of the UASI Rapid Deployment Team to supplement law enforcement efforts
- Activation of numerous local police, fire and emergency medical resources to evacuate residents and stabilize situations
- Hazardous material mitigation by State and local hazardous materials teams
- Emergency road repairs and stabilization efforts by the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Transportation
- Activation of the American Red Cross, providing shelters and sustenance to displaced residents, responders and other assisting in this tragedy
- Monitoring of public health conditions by the State Department of Health and Senior Services and local health offices
- Activation of fire companies for pumping details and other recovery efforts throughout New Jersey.

In response to this devastating flood, all counties and most municipalities activated their respective Emergency Operations Center and implemented their Emergency Operations Plans.

I certify that for this major disaster, the State and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal shares of costs required by the Stafford Act.

I also request any direct Federal assistance available under 44 C.F.R. 206.20 that may be needed for work and services to save lives and protect property in the event the State or local government is unable to perform or contract for the services. In accordance with 44 CFR 206.208, the State of New Jersey agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work;

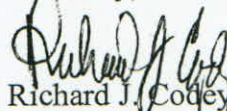
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal government against any claims arising from such work;
3. Provide reimbursement to FEMA for non-Federal share of cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

In addition, if there is a need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

I am designating Major Richard Arroyo as the Governor's Authorized Representative and Lt. William McDonnell as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. They will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency on damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

I thank you in advance for your prompt consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Richard J. Codey  
Acting Governor

cc: Members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation  
Colonel Joseph R. Fuentes, State Director of Emergency Management  
Richard Cañas, Director, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness