



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU  
Governor

November 27, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Mr. Paul Ford, Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region 1, Boston, MA 02110

RE: Request for Presidential Major Disaster Declaration

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 respectfully request that a major disaster be declared for the State of New Hampshire (NH). This request is a result of a severe rain and wind storm which occurred on October 29<sup>th</sup> that overwhelmed State and local resources. At the peak of the incident, there were over 270,000 electrical utility customers without power in the State and required the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) remain staffed 24/7 until November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.

This request includes a designation of the full Public Assistance Program for Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan Counties and a statewide designation of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

NH sustained widespread damages to State and local infrastructure including property damage in all ten (10) counties as a direct result of this incident. The impacts considerably strained State and local resources; it consumed staff time and exhausted available resources due to county-wide flash flooding conditions, strong winds, widespread roadway destruction, historical power outages and significant debris that restricted travel and emergency operations. Fortunately there were no deaths or serious injuries associated with this incident.

The combination of heavy rainfall and damaging winds on Sunday, October 29, 2017 into Monday, October 30, 2017 caused severe damage to hundreds of miles of local and State roadways and dozens of bridges and culverts. Additionally, the high winds damaged many trees and power lines, disrupting electricity to approximately 270,000 customers. Utilities were not able to restore 100% of their customers until Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup>. This incident ranks #4 on the State's list of historical storms having widespread outages. The duration of power outages led to a dozen communities opening warming centers and overnight shelters. Dozens of roadways throughout the state were cut off to emergency services due to road washouts, damages to

culverts and bridges, and downed trees and electrical wires. In many instances, trees could not be removed from roadways until the electric companies arrived to shut off the power to the lines entangled in the downed trees.

These severe conditions created damages that overwhelmed the capabilities of State and local jurisdictions and required an immediate and urgent response. The overwhelming damages and conditions were most severe in Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton and Sullivan Counties resulting in dozens of requests for State assistance.

Based on Initial Damage Assessments (IDA) reported by the communities, the Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Perry Plummer requested a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) on November 1, 2017. The assessment was conducted from November 7, 2017 through November 17, 2017. The PDA teams were comprised of representatives from local, State and Federal agencies.

Joint PDAs were completed in each of the ten (10) New Hampshire counties. While Cheshire, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, and Strafford Counties did not meet their damage indicator, they reported nearly \$1.2 million in FEMA verified damages. The effects of this incident in the State of New Hampshire are evident as demonstrated in the Public Assistance enclosure.

The State indicator has exceeded \$1,922,046 (\$1.46 per capita), with current State and local damages verified at \$5,889,549 (\$4.47 per capita) from this event. The figures captured in Enclosure B reflect uninsured losses and only those that meet FEMA project eligibility; the overall losses were significantly higher. Most of the PDAs focused on reviewing damages to permanent work categories. As described below, over 79% (\$4,664,016) of the Public Assistance cost estimate involved roads and bridges (Category C). Category F (Utilities), has a current assessment of \$846,591 which is 14.37% of the Public Assistance cost estimate. Category A (Debris Management), estimated \$366,605 in damages, which is 6.22% of the total Public Assistance cost estimate. We anticipate these costs to increase significantly as communities and State partners are able to gather additional costs and damage information for both emergency and permanent work.

Across the state, the communities that sustained the most eligible damage include Alexandria, Gorham and Groton.

In Grafton County, the town of Groton (2010 pop 593) suffered over \$1,000,000 in FEMA verified damages. The resulting per capita damage for the community is \$1,743.78. The town of Alexandria (2010 pop. 1,619) suffered \$553,054 in FEMA verified damages as a result of the impacts to roads and bridges. The resulting per capita damage for the community is \$342.87.

In Coos County, the town of Gorham (2010 pop. 2,848) experienced \$436,500 in FEMA verified damages from the storm, resulting in a \$153.27 per capita damage for the community.

The towns of Campton, Piermont, and Wolfeboro (Carroll and Grafton Counties) opened overnight shelters for residents with structural damage to their homes or those who did not have access to heat and/or food and water. The towns of Alexandria, Cornish, Franconia, Haverhill,

Hill, North Conway, Orford, Plymouth, Sugar Hill, and Sunapee (Carroll and Grafton counties) opened warming centers for residents who lost electricity and could not heat their homes.

Nearly 200 of our State and over 400 local roads were also impacted by the storms as roads were undermined and roadside shoulders, ditches, and adjacent slopes were washed away. These damages presented a hazard to the travel of the general public as well as presenting obstacles for first responders in preserving public health and safety. Some of the washout carried dirt and rock into fields and onto private property and large amounts of debris were deposited on roads thus making them impassable. Guardrails were left suspended in air as their foundations washed away, and roads were undermined making them unsafe for travel.

As a result of the storm and the associated road damages, impediments were presented to the travel of any of the affected counties residents or visitors, and more importantly, the response efforts of the local first responders. Some residents were either significantly detoured or were required to abandon automobile travel due to road closures. This also presented an adverse effect to local businesses as customer volume was greatly decreased, and in some cases, the businesses were unable to open.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has already spent significant amounts of time, labor, and money on road and State maintained land assessment, emergency clearing of roads, and road closures. Costs will continue to increase as DOT repairs disaster-damaged roads and properties, which will in turn, delay ongoing projects or forces them to be cancelled altogether. At the time the storm occurred, DOT crews were working to wrap up summer maintenance projects and initiate winter preparedness activities which will now be delayed.

The most severe damage was to NH Routes 25A, 118, and 302, with some damage to US Routes 2, 3, and 4, NH Routes 25, and 112. DOT worked tirelessly for several days to repair the major trucking routes across the county and support local communities.

NH Electric Cooperative (NHEC), a private non-profit utility providing critical services, experienced over \$1,000,000 in FEMA verified damages in several counties. FEMA did not verify damages in Carroll, Coos, or Grafton Counties for the NHEC, and we expect their damage costs to increase substantially as more information and costs are collected in those counties. NHEC has described this storm as the worst they have ever had to manage.

Numerous State offices were shut down Monday October 30<sup>th</sup> due to the lack of power to a number of campuses, including Hazen Drive and Pleasant Street in Concord along with a handful of field offices across the State. The Department of Fish and Game lost several thousand dollars' worth of fish inventory at their fish hatchery in Grafton County along with damages to dozens of state parks and trails managed by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Agencies are still working to gather a full assessment of damages to state-owned property and infrastructure.

Pursuant to the severity of this storm, on October 29<sup>th</sup>, I executed the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) with the activation of the SEOC to a Partial Level. While I did not

declare a State of Emergency in NH, the nature and amount of State and local governmental resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster are as follows:

1. The SEOP was activated on October 29, 2017 and I instructed the HSEM Director to staff the SEOC. The SEOC was activated to monitor the situation, coordinate State response activities, and to respond to local requests for assistance and resources. The Director initiated the appropriate Emergency Support Function (ESF) lead agencies to ensure an adequate and timely response to the needs of our State. The SEOC was activated and staffed 24/7 until Friday November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1900 hours.
2. ESFs that were activated at the time of the SEOC activation included: Transportation (ESF 1), Public Works and Engineering (ESF 3), Emergency Management (ESF 5), Mass Care, Housing and Human Services (ESF 6), Health and Medical (ESF 8), Energy (ESF 12), Law Enforcement and Security (ESF 13), and Public Information (ESF 15).
3. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Emergency Services Unit (ESU) coordinated mass care needs across the State.
4. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) monitored and coordinated response to storm impacts to rivers, dams, and public drinking water supplies across the State. They also provided stream monitoring and dam inspections following the flash flooding and washouts.
5. The DOT coordinated transportation, public works, and engineering needs across the State. Numerous roads across the state required debris removal and repairs to infrastructure.
6. Over a dozen communities activated their local EOCs to respond to the needs and safety of their communities during this disaster. Coordinating activities included potential sheltering of residents and visitors, clearing debris, reestablishing road access, dam and stream level monitoring, health and welfare checks of residents, and coordination of response and recovery efforts.
7. The American Red Cross provided support and resources for sheltering needs.
8. Over the course of the event, three (3) local overnight shelters and seven (7) warming centers were opened across the state.

Over the last twelve (12) months, the State of New Hampshire has and continues to experience a number of challenges that have stretched our state and local resources. Although not considered a natural disaster, the Opioid Crisis tops the list. This crisis has required personnel from State and local governments to divert all available resources to combat the epidemic of addiction. In 2016, there were 470 deaths in New Hampshire as a result of drug overdoses, with nine cases still pending analysis. Over the last year, there have been 44.27 emergency department visits per 100,000 residents for Opioid-related use in New Hampshire.

If granted, this would be the third federally declared disaster the State has experienced in the last 7 months. The following list of incidents capture events over the eighteen (18) months in which State and local jurisdictions expended a considerable amount of their own funds for response and recovery efforts:

- July 1-2, 2017 FEMA-DR-4329
  - Severe thunderstorms with heavy rain left over widespread damages to State and local infrastructure. The storm resulted in campgrounds being flooded and evacuated to a local shelter and caused significant damages in Coos and Grafton Counties.
  - NH is still actively managing recovery efforts for this disaster. Towns in these counties were still recovering from DR 4329 when this current storm hit. They have not had a chance to completely recover from the severe storm in July when they suffered additional flooding and damages to their infrastructure.
- March 14, 2017 FEMA-DR-4316
  - Severe winter storm with heavy, wet snow and gusting winds, left 143,988 homes and businesses without power and damaged over 200 electrical power poles. The storm resulted in hundreds of traffic accidents, over 500 school closures, and caused significant damages in Belknap and Carroll Counties.
  - NH is still actively managing recovery efforts for this disaster.
- Stoddard Forest Fire FMAG DR-5123
  - Stoddard, NH Forest Fire, which grew to more than five alarms, burned 190 acres, threatened more than 100 homes, required the evacuation of 28 people from 17 residences to a shelter, summoned more than 50 firefighting units, and also required the use of three helicopters to coordinate water drops on April 21, 2016 through April 22, 2016.

I look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff with any questions.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor

Enclosures:

Weather Summary

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

B: Public Assistance

**New Hampshire Weather and Hydrological Summary**  
**John Jensenius, Jr. – Warning Coordination Meteorologist**  
**National Weather Service Gray, ME**

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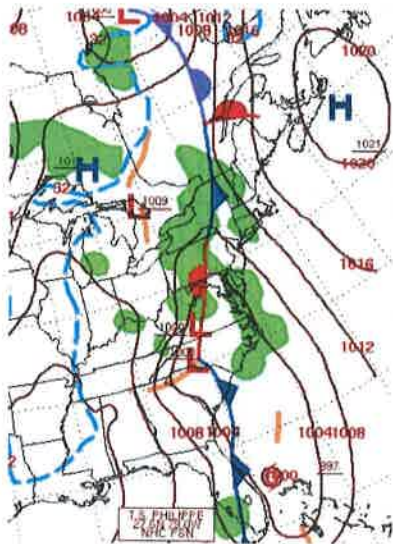
An area of low pressure over the southeastern United States on the morning of Sunday, October 29th, intensified rapidly Sunday night and Monday, October 30, as it moved northward and moisture and energy from the remnants of Tropical Storm Philippe merged with the storm. The combined system brought high winds to much of New Hampshire Sunday night into Monday morning, with the highest winds in southern and central sections of the State. In addition, heavy rain accompanied the high winds over New Hampshire leading to both flash flooding and main-stem river flooding. The highest rainfall amounts were observed in the White Mountains. While the high winds and heavy rain ended during the morning of the 30th, flooding persisted into the late afternoon of November 1st.

The area from Carroll County through Hillsborough County had the greatest impact from the high winds. Numerous trees were snapped and uprooted by the strong southeast winds leading to widespread and prolonged power outages throughout the area. Wet soil conditions, due to heavy rains days earlier, may have contributed to the vulnerability of the many shallow rooted trees. Observed wind gusts across the hardest hit areas generally ranged from 55 to 60 mph, although some areas likely had wind gusts in excess of 65 mph. Some official reporting sites included Manchester (59 mph), Whitefield (58 mph), Portsmouth (56 mph), Rochester (56 mph), Concord (51 mph), and Berlin (51 mph). Several unofficial sites reported stronger wind gusts. Wind gusts in the coastal marine areas ranged up to more than 80 mph.

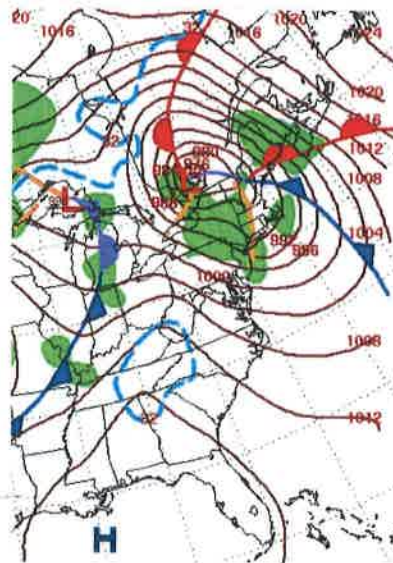
Rainfall amounts generally ranged from 2 to 5 inches across New Hampshire. Most of this rain fell within a 10-hour period from late Sunday evening through early Monday morning. Some of the higher official amounts include Livermore (6.91 inches), Berlin (5.23 inches), Gorham (5.13 inches), Waterville Valley (5.07 inches), Lyndeborough (5.06 inches), Pinkham Notch (5.05 inches), and Lincoln (5.05 inches). The heavy rain caused flash flooding in Grafton, Carroll, and Coos Counties and main-stem river flooding on the Androscoggin, Baker, Contoocook, Pemigewasset, Piscataquog, Saco, Smith, Souhegan, Suncook, and Warner Rivers.

By Wednesday evening, November 1st, all flooding had subsided. Power restoration efforts in the hardest hit areas across New Hampshire persisted for much of the week.

8 am Sunday



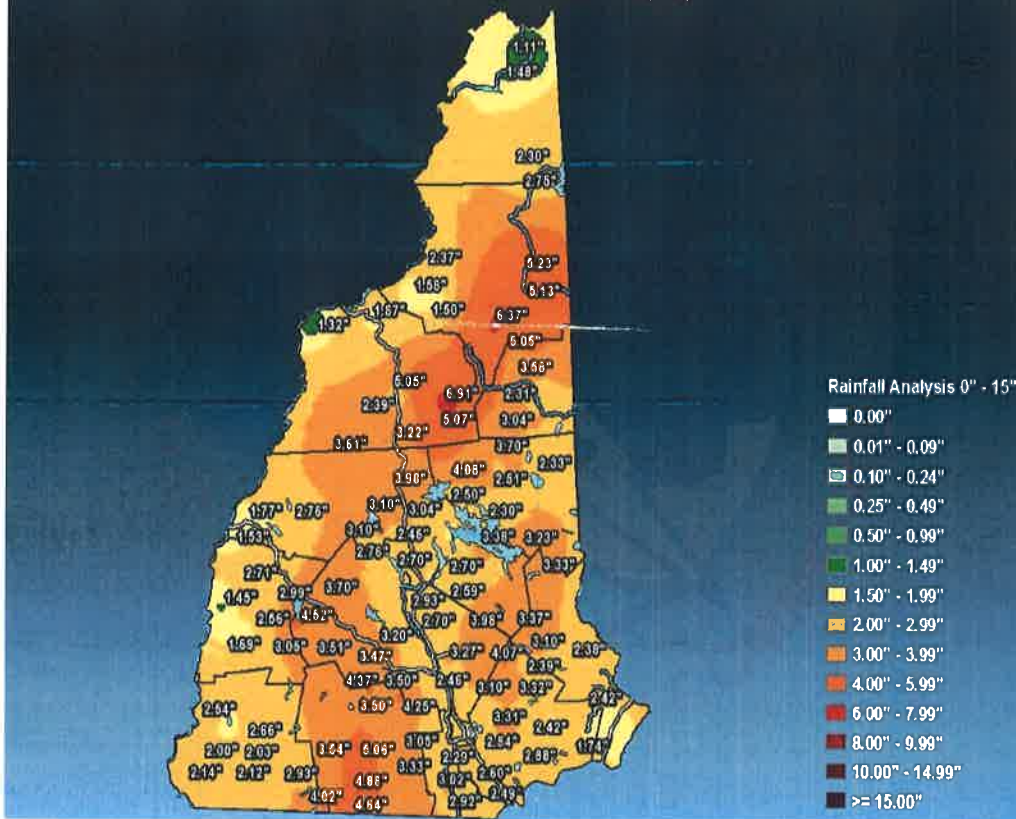
8 am Monday



National Weather Service Gray / Portland Maine

Total Rainfall Oct 29 to Oct 31 2017

Data Source: Regional Observations(PNS)



**ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST**

Estimated Stafford Act Requirements for Public Assistance

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET												
State		\$1.46										
County		\$3.68	New Hampshire									
Date:	11/20/2017											
Report #:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	TOTAL	POP. '10 Est.	\$/CAP.	GOAL	SHORT
PUBLIC DAMAGE												
Belknap County	\$170,443	\$11,610	\$29,288	\$0	\$0	\$444,940	\$0	\$656,281	60,088	10.92	\$3.68/CAP.	0
Carroll County	\$1,351	\$0	\$545,520	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$547,871	47,818	11.46	175,970	0
Cheshire County	\$26,667	\$0	\$30,670	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$57,337	77,117	0.74	283,791	(226,454)
Coos County	\$0	\$0	\$769,917	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$769,917	33,055	23.29	121,642	0
Grafton County	\$0	\$0	\$2,319,117	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,319,117	89,118	26.02	327,954	0
Hillsborough County	\$0	\$0	\$487,997	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$487,997	400,721	1.22	1,474,653	(986,657)
Merrimack County	\$66,702	\$0	\$319,021	\$0	\$0	\$92,851	\$594	\$479,168	146,445	3.27	538,918	(59,750)
Rockingham County	\$16,225	\$0	\$104,578	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$120,803	295,223	0.41	1,086,421	(965,618)
Strafford County	\$0	\$0	\$33,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$33,500	123,143	.27	453,166	(419,667)
Sullivan County	\$85,217	\$0	\$23,408	\$0	\$0	\$308,800	\$133	\$417,558	43,742	9.55	160,971	0
State Agencies	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	State POP	\$/CAP.	\$1.46/CAP	SHORT
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$366,605</b>	<b>\$11,610</b>	<b>\$4,664,016</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$846,591</b>	<b>\$727</b>	<b>\$5,889,549</b>	<b>1,316,470</b>	<b>4.47</b>	<b>\$1,922,046</b>	<b>\$0</b>
NOTES:	DEBRIS CLEARANCE		ROAD SYSTEM	WATER CONTROL	BUILDINGS & EQUIP	PUBLIC UTILITY	PARKS & OTHER	State Population Check Sum				
Percentages	6.22%	0.20%	79.19%	0.00%	0.00%	14.37%	0.01%		1,316,470			





10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

Individual Assistance    Dates Performed    **Requested** \_\_\_\_\_    **Start** \_\_\_\_\_    **End** \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

Public Assistance    Dates Performed    **Requested** Nov 1, 2017    **Start** Nov 7, 2017    **End** Nov 17, 2017

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance  N/A     Individuals and Households Program     Crisis Counseling Program     Disaster Unemployment Assistance  
 All     Disaster Case Management     Disaster Legal Services     Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation.

No IA programs are requested.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

*\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request*

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance  N/A  Debris Removal (Category A)  Emergency Protective Measures (Category B)  Permanent Work (Categories C-G)\* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

Public Assistance for Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan counties.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

**Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity**

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government 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 or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

**Request for Direct Federal Assistance**

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government 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 the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

**Request for Snow Assistance**

N/A  I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation\*  Statewide

OR

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

12. Mitigation Plan Information\*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date October 31, 2018

b. Type of Plan

Enhanced

Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C**: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs for additional information in support of this request\*.

14. Findings and Certifications

I certify the following:

a. 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 government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.

b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on Oct 29, 2017 in accordance with the Stafford Act.

c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

Cover Letter  Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)\*

Enclosure B (Public Assistance)\*

Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs)

Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)

Additional Supporting Documentation Weather Summary



Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

Nov. 27, 2017

Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request