COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

September 8, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Through: Ms. MaryAnn Tierney
Regional Administrator, Region III
Federal Emergency Management Agency
One Independence Mall, Sixth Floor
615 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Mr. President:

On September 2, 2011, 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 requested that you declare a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. My request was granted on September 3, 2011. I sincerely appreciate the prompt attention that my request was given.

In my letter requesting a major disaster declaration, I specifically referenced that I "reserve the right to request additional assistance under both the Individual and Public Assistance Programs." Additional damage reports continue to be received as a result of the devastating impact connected with Hurricane Irene. Therefore, I am requesting the following Pennsylvania counties be added to declared major disaster FEMA-DR-4025.

For the Individual Assistance Program, I am requesting Federal assistance for Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Sullivan and Wyoming counties. These counties primarily border the Delaware, Schuylkill and Susquehanna Rivers and their tributaries. All Individual Assistance programs are requested to be authorized to include: the Individual and Households programs, the Other Needs Assistance program, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Emergency Food Stamps, farm-related disaster loans, Disaster Legal Services, Small Business Administration disaster loans, and other federal programs as appropriate.

For Public Assistance Categories A-G, I am requesting that the following counties be added: Delaware, Luzerne, Philadelphia, Pike and Wayne. All of these same counties, along with much of

Pennsylvania, are now being inundated with rainfall resulting from Tropical Storm Lee which is now causing additional significant damages.

The impact of Hurricane Irene continues to be assessed within Pennsylvania and to this date families remain unable to access their homes or have chosen to be isolated at their homes without any method of vehicular ingress or egress.

A Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment of homes and business was conducted on August 30 through September 2, 2011. This team consisted of staff from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), and local officials. Not only were homes and families impacted throughout these counties, but businesses suffered heavy losses which will have a further negative impact on communities. A quick four day survey by the U.S. Small Business Administration revealed that 93 businesses incurred major damages and 9 businesses incurred minor damages, with documented losses at over $10 million. The economic loss will be substantial and once a complete damage assessment is finished the losses will increase.

The majority of communities impacted by this storm are generally an older population with a higher than average number of families with low or fixed incomes. For instance, 70% of the damaged homes in Sullivan County were owned by senior citizens. Sullivan County has the highest percentage of seniors per capita in the commonwealth. Pennsylvania is headed into the fall and winter seasons and these families will find it difficult to repair their homes before the cold winter months. Most of the damaged homes have furnaces, hot water heaters and electric systems in their basements and the purchase of these critical systems will be beyond the means of these elderly and low income families. Most of these same households do not have flood insurance to pay for replacement of these items. Throughout the affected counties, low levels of insurance were observed. For example, in Wyoming County, one of the most heavily damaged areas, only 10% of the homes surveyed had flood insurance. In Bucks County, only 19% of the homes had flood insurance.

Some of these counties have a majority of low income households, such as Wyoming County where 70% of the affected population qualifies as low income earners. Most of the affected homes in Delaware County were Section 8 housing. The per capita loss in Northampton County is $6.32; Luzerne County's per capita loss is $7.33; Sullivan county's per capita loss is an astounding $224 per person; and Wyoming County's per capita loss of $813 per person is more than 30,000% of the FEMA per capita threshold for the Public Assistance programs. These citizens will suffer the long term effects of the loss of the infrastructure in addition to the damages to their homes. For instance, in Sullivan County a destroyed bridge has created a 40 mile detour and school buses, emergency response vehicles, and local traffic must follow this detour. This has caused people to miss work, school, medical appointments, and possibly delay emergency life saving medical treatment. Multiple bridges are down throughout the disaster area. With the recent rains, more roads and bridges are failing, thus adding to the hazardous situation.

Significant emergency response was required throughout the commonwealth. Twenty three swift water rescue teams were brought in from Western Pennsylvania at the height of the storm and performed numerous rescues. As an example, in Chester County 30 water rescues were conducted. The Pennsylvania National Guard was dispatched to rescue and help evacuate numerous families.

During the storm, a total of 1.4 million customers lost electrical power. At the peak of the storm, over 700,000 customers were without power for an extended period of time. Many

customers have been without power for over a week. Among other things, these power outages interrupted the power supply to residential sump pumps. As a result, homes flooded and essential equipment and electrical systems in these homes were destroyed. The PDA teams had difficulty assessing some damages because of the difficulty of traveling through a roadway network obstructed by downed power poles and utility lines that created inaccessible areas. To this date, some of those areas remain inaccessible and cut off from essential life and safety services.

Hurricane Irene's destruction extends beyond public infrastructure and private property to citizens themselves, with at least six deaths occurring in Pennsylvania. Falling trees resulted in the deaths of three Pennsylvanians. A tree crushed a camper and killed the occupant in Luzerne County. Another tree crushed a tent and killed a 58-year-old man in Dauphin County. In Monroe County, a 44-year-old father tragically lost his life saving his son when he pushed the boy out of the way of a falling tree. Also, a 39-year-old Carbon County man died when his car crashed as a result of Hurricane Irene weather conditions. In Cumberland County, a social worker discovered a wheelchair bound person who died due to a power outage. The disabled person was moving his chair in the dark and accidentally fell down stairs. Additionally, a 64-year-old woman was swept away by flood waters while she was trying to get help. Unfortunately, without federal aid, we will likely have more incidents like these because our special needs population will not have the money needed to repair their homes or equipment in their homes which was specially adopted for their needs.

In regards to sheltering, 32 shelters were operational and housed almost 600 people. The American Red Cross operated nine feeding sites and fed over 9,000 meals and distributed thousands of clean-up and hygiene kits. A Red Cross comfort station in Luzerne County assisted 351 people in just one day. Volunteer agencies, like Southern Baptists, assisted in feeding people and debris removal. Additionally, they were helped by the United Methodist, Mennonite Disaster Relief, and United Church of Christ volunteers.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the commonwealth and the affected local governments, and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I certify that for this major disaster, the commonwealth will assume all applicable non-federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

The enclosed Attachments A through D provide detail the financial toll this declared major disaster continues to cause Pennsylvania's citizens and its communities.

Sincerely,

TOM CORBETT
Governor

Enclosures

Pennsylvania's

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE

Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance
under the Stafford Act

County	Assistance to Individuals and Households					Other Programs
(List each requested county)	Temporary Housing	Repairs	Replacement	Permanent Housing Construction	Other Needs Assistance	(Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Legal Services, and Crisis Counseling)
Bucks	82	$1,109,000	$0	0	$280,800	-Crisis Counseling:0 -DUA will be included but number TBD*
Chester	13	$217,000	$211,400	0	$60,450	-Crisis Counseling:13 -DUA will be included but number TBD*
Delaware	5	$507,500	$0	0	$31,900	-Crisis Counseling:0 -DUA will be included but number TBD*
Lehigh	2	$483,000	$0	0	$69,700	-Crisis Counseling:0 -DUA will be included but number TBD*
Luzerne	7	$453,000	$30,200	0	$93,375	-Crisis Counseling:0 -DUA will be included but number TBD*
Monroe	2	$27,000	$0	0	$6,875	-Crisis Counseling:0 -DUA will be included but number TBD*
Montgomery	48	$417,500	$90,600	0	$172,250	-Crisis Counseling:0 -DUA will be included but number TBD*
Northampton	5	$103,500	$0	0	$61,425	-Crisis Counseling:0 -DUA will be included but number TBD*
Philadelphia	7	$157,500	$60,400	0	$32,250	-Crisis Counseling:0 -DUA will be included but number TBD*
Sullivan	5	$64,000	$30,200	0	$59,150	-Crisis Counseling:0 -DUA will be included but number TBD*
Wyoming	61	$514,000	$30,200	0	$233,600	-Crisis Counseling:61 -DUA will be included but number TBD*
TOTALS	237	$4,053,000	$453,000	0	$1,101,775	-Crisis Counseling:74 -DUA will be included but number TBD*

*Labor and Industry estimates Disaster Unemployment Assistance to be between 100 and 200 individuals for all counties.

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

SUPPLEMENTAL ADD-ON COUNTIES

Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance
Stafford Act

CATEGORY

County	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Total
Delaware	$703,800	$513,706	295,000	$114,400	$148,500	$130,000	$84,000	$1,989,406
Luzerne	$120,815.99	$627,079	940,000	$647,500	$14,200	-0-	$1,200	$2,350,794.99
Philadelphia	-0-	$3,645,558	782,000	$98,590	$396,600	-0-	$354,400	$5,277,148
Wayne	$18,745	$76,672	231,502	-0-	-0-	-0-	$3,686	$330,605
Pike	$20,250	$6,000	181,700	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	$207,950
Totals:	$863,6210.99	$4,869,015.00	$2,430,202	$860,490	$559,300	$130,000	$443,286	$10,155,903.99

Note: Estimates are to reflect total eligible costs before any cost sharing.

Pennsylvania's
ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST FOR INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE
Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

Programs Other Than SBA To Be Determined

County	SBA Loans Home	SBA Loans Business	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	OTHER
Bucks	$3,020,000	$985,000					
Chester	$456,000	$1,090,000					
Delaware	$1,382,000	$6,142,000					
Lehigh	$1,129,000	$36,000					
Luzerne	$357,000	$236,000					
Monroe	$717,000	$0					
Montgomery	$2,430,000	$570,000					
Northampton	$323,000	$540,000					
Philadelphia	$211,000	$40,000					
Sullivan	$442,000	$795,000					
Wyoming	$717,000	$0					
TOTAL:	$11,184,000	$10,434,000					

ENCLOSURE D TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE SUPPLEMENTAL ADD-ON COUNTIES INITIAL INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST

Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT	
Individual Assistance:	**STATE**	**LOCAL**
"Other Assistance" under the Individuals and Households Program	$275,444	$0
Other (specify): Crisis Counseling, Disaster Uemployment Assistance	$0	$0
Total:	$275,444	$0
Public Assistance:		
Category A - Debris Removal	$441,715.99	$421,895.00
Category B – Emergency Protective Measures	$16,579.00	$4,852,436.00
Category C – Roads and Bridges	$92,755.00	$2,337,447.00
Category D – Water Control Facilities	$-0-	$860,490.00
Category E – Buildings and Equipment	$19,200.00	$540,100.00
Category F – Utilities	$-0-	$130,000.00
Category G – Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	$-0-	$443,286.00
Total:	$570,249.99	$9,585,654.00
Grand Total:	$845,693.99	$9,585,654.00

The assistance required is a result of flood waters destroying personal property of low-income residents who have lost their furnaces, hot water heaters, personal effects, records and documents.