



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
DENNIS DAUGAARD, GOVERNOR

August 11, 2011

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20472

Through:
Robin Finegan
Regional Director
FEMA Region VIII
Denver Federal Center
P.O. Box 25267
Denver, CO 80225-0267

Dear Administrator Fugate:

I'm writing respectfully to appeal for your reconsideration of your July 22, 2011 denial of our recent request for Individual Assistance.

Since our initial request, we have received 656 new reports of damage, of which 363 were verified as not previously reported. This new information was analyzed and a joint preliminary damage assessment was conducted. This preliminary damage assessment determined 21 additional homes had major damage and an additional 6 homes were destroyed. The other 336 homes were considered to have minor damage. Total damage between both preliminary damage assessments revealed 104 homes with major damage and 7 destroyed homes. Based upon this information, I am hopeful you might now consider that the state has met all criteria to participate in the Individual Assistance Program.

Beyond considering the additional damaged and destroyed homes, I hope you might also consider the hundreds of South Dakota citizens who remain displaced from their homes, still unsafe to occupy because water along the temporary levee remains high. This flood is very different from most floods, in which the water rises quickly and then soon recedes. The water of the Missouri rose dramatically in South Dakota in late May and is now projected to be back within its banks no earlier than the end of August. Even then, hundreds of South Dakotans will remain displaced, into September and October, as elevated groundwater prevents sanitary sewer restoration. Clearly, this continues to be an unusually long flooding event, causing substantial and prolonged damage to homes and businesses in our state.

W. Craig Fugate, Administrator

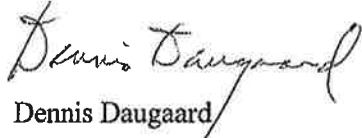
Page 2

August 11, 2011

The length of this flooding event will also result in a very high groundwater table leading into the fall and winter freeze. This is a serious situation, as many homes will sustain further damage as the saturated ground freezes, concrete floors heave, and basement walls buckle. We have not yet seen all the damage that will be caused by this disaster.

Mr. Fugate, this flood has devastated so many in South Dakota. Individual Assistance will be a vital tool in getting our affected families, businesses, and communities back on their feet. I would be grateful for your favorable consideration of this appeal.

Sincerely,



Dennis Dugaard

DD:mn