TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KIM REYNOLDS
LT. GOVERNOR

October 5, 2011

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

Through: Beth Freeman, Regional Director
FEMA Region VII
Kansas City Federal Center
9221 Ward Parkway, Suite 300
Kansas City, MO 64114

SUBJECT: Reconsideration of Individual Assistance for FEMA-1998-DR

Dear Mr. Fugate:

Under 44 CFR § 206.46, I am respectfully appealing your August 4, 2011, letter denying Individual Assistance under FEMA-1998-DR for Fremont, Harrison, Monona, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury Counties. At this time, I am also asking to amend the original request dated July 18, 2011, to add Mills County to this Individual Assistance request.

Record amounts of rain and snowmelt led to unprecedented runoff in the Missouri River basin during the months of May, June and July. On June 2, 2011, I issued a State Emergency Disaster proclamation authorizing the use of state resources for all six affected counties. On July 14, 2011, I directed the implementation of the State Individual Assistance Program for the same six counties.

This flooding event is substantially different from most floods in which the water rises quickly and then soon recedes. Due to the record releases from Gavins Point Dam, the Missouri River rose above flood stage the end of May and did not drop below flood stage until the end of September, approximately 120 days later. The length of this event has created significant hardships and challenges in both the public and private sectors. The damage to public infrastructure, businesses, communities, individuals and to the overall economy in this region is of enormous concern and will take years to fully recover. The length of this flooding event will also result in high groundwater tables leading into

STATE CAPITOL DES MOINES, IOWA 50319 515.281.5211 FAX 515.281.6611 WWW.GOVERNOR.IOWA.GOV

the fall and winter freeze which will further increase damages and exacerbate our ability to move forward with the recovery process.

On July 6, 2011, Joint Individual Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessments were completed in five of the six counties with Mills County declining to participate. Many affected properties in these counties were not accessible due to the presence of the flood waters. The results of this assessment are shown in the table below:

July 6, 2011 Joint IA PDAs

County	Destroyed	Major	Minor	Affected	Total
Fremont (Air)	3	25	64	9	101
Harrison (Ground)	0	1	1	10	12
Monona (Air)	2	6	10	9	27
Pottawattamie (Air)	36	54	57	46	193
Woodbury (Ground)	0	0	0	28	28
Totals:	**41**	**86**	**132**	**102**	**361**

A second Joint Individual Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment was conducted on September 27-30, 2011, in Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie and Woodbury Counties. Mills County did participate in this Joint PDA. The results of this second Joint Damage Assessment are listed below:

September 27-30, 2011 Joint IA PDA's

County	Destroyed	Major	Minor	Affected	Total
Fremont	76	42	37	1	156
Harrison	2	9	21	7	39
Mills	4	12	58	11	85
Monona	1	8	10	8	27
Pottawattamie	106	90	285	157	638
Woodbury	0	0	5	25	30
Totals:	189	161	416	209	975

More detailed damage data is located in enclosures A- C.

The results of the second Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment revealed a significant increase in the number of homes adversely impacted from this event. The PDA teams were able to conduct a more thorough assessment giving us a much clearer picture of the entire extent of damages in all six counties. The increased damages were caused by the prolonged exposure to homes by flood waters and

hydrostatic pressure from high ground water tables. These prolonged pressures compromised the structural integrity of many homes, causing foundation collapses and structural materials warping or breaking. The building materials within these homes have been compromised and pose a health risk due to chemicals, harmful bacteria, mold and sewage from the flood waters.

The length of this unique flooding event has impacted the entire economy of this region. The region's economy is extremely interdependent and the immediate impact this event has had on the residents and businesses must be taken into consideration as well. Although substantial losses were sustained by those businesses in the direct path of the flood waters, many of the businesses affected indirectly by the floods were near interstates, highways and other roadways that were closed as a result of the flooding. Because the flood waters forced the migration of residents and transient income away from these areas, income for local businesses was significantly reduced or stopped completely. Lost income resulted in layoffs and closures that have further injured an already crippled economy.

Closures at key points of interstates, roads and bridges halted the delivery of goods and services and created huge logistical issues for the economy as a whole. Productivity diminished in the private sector, creating losses that will turn into added costs. Businesses closed or chose to relocate, increasing operating costs – all the while experiencing less business activity. Interstates I-29, I-80 and I-680 are major transportation corridors connecting the trucking industry from Chicago to Denver and Kansas City to Winnipeg, Canada. These major transportation corridors along with numerous state and county roadways have been closed for the entire length of this event creating transportation nightmares in this region.

Not only did this event create significant transportation issues when these major roadways, bridges and adjacent roadways were closed but the impact on ancillary small businesses that cater to these industries such as convenience stores, restaurants, hotels, etc., were also severely affected by the closures. The businesses located along these transportation routes rely immensely on traffic which traverses these corridors on a daily basis. A key concern to these businesses is the revenue that has been lost due to the closure of these corridors for such a long period of time.

There are many grain and fertilizer processing plants along with numerous other agriculture businesses located along the Missouri River in western Iowa, especially around Sioux City in Woodbury County. These businesses are capital intensive, and were forced to spend millions of dollars on flood protective measures. The Port Neal Power Plant along with the numerous agriculture businesses located within Port Neal Industrial Complex in Sioux City will have expended tens of millions of dollars on flood control alone. Companies like Ag Processing Inc (AGP) along with Terra Industries and CF Industries all experienced time periods of plant shut down as a result of the flooding.

Other transportation and economic impacts include the Napier subdivision of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad between Napier, Missouri, and Pacific Junction, Iowa (Mills County) which has been out of service since June 6, 2011. This rail line provided critical economic transportation services to companies operating in Mills and Fremont counties. On August 11, 2011, ConAgra announced that its microwave popcorn production facility located in Hamburg, Iowa (Fremont County) would permanently cease operations in October of 2011. The facility scheduled for closure employs 95 citizens. These examples are just a sample of the impact this event is having on these predominately rural counties that are already facing a challenging economy.

Another key indicator of the impact this event is having on this area is the unemployment rate. The unemployment rate in the affected counties increased nearly one full percentage point from 5.03% to 5.98%. All of the affected counties, except Mills and Pottawattamie, had at least one full percentage increase in unemployment between May and June. The most significant rise in unemployment in the affected area was in Monona County, where the unemployment rate increased from 6.5% in June to 8.2% in July. Fremont County closely followed Monona County with an increase of 1.4% in unemployment from May to July. Although the unemployment rates in the affected areas are below the national average for the same period, three of the counties reported unemployment rates above the state rate of 6% in July of 2011.

Iowa Workforce Development identified approximately 700 initial unemployment claims, beginning in June 2011, which directly relate to the Missouri River flooding. About 40% of these claimants were still filing for benefits in September.

Many farmers throughout the affected counties took extraordinary steps to protect their homes including protective measures such as building their own berms, sandbagging, etc., that ultimately protected their homes from flood waters. However, as wildlife habitats were destroyed by flood waters, the displaced animals sought refuge wherever possible, including those homes that the farmers were successful in protecting from flood waters. As these homeowners return to their properties they have found that mice, rats, raccoons, and other wildlife have moved into these homes. Not only do these animals damage the property, but they also present a health and safety risk to homeowners returning to their homes.

The overall impact to cropland in this region has been staggering. Over 255,000 acres of cropland was subjected to the flood waters causing enormous amounts of damage to this highly productive agricultural land. Not only did standing water eliminate the 2011 crop, but it is highly unlikely that farmers will be able to put this ground back into production for the 2012 season and beyond. Much of the topsoil has washed away plus producers will have to contend with large piles of sand, silt and other debris being deposited in fields. Sediment remaining after the flood (Farrow Syndrome) has historically proven to reduce yield potential.

On July 8, 2011 United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack designated the six affected counties and eight contiguous counties as natural disaster areas. Local Farm Services Agency (FSA) representatives have reported an estimated $82.1 million dollars will be lost in 2011 due to damaged or lost crops and unplanted acres. Below is a breakout by County of the total acres flooded and the estimated acres of flooded cropland.

County	Flooded Acres	
	Total	Crop
Fremont	78,030	70,595
Harrison	85,752	77,849
Pottawattamie	33,939	31,394
Mills	34,467	31,532

Monona	39,625	34,549
Woodbury	12,060	9,849
TOTAL	**283,873**	**255,768**

On August 27, 2011, I issued an additional emergency proclamation related to the Missouri River flooding. This proclamation extended the hours that commercial motor vehicles transporting propane, gasoline, and diesel fuel may operate in Iowa. This is due to a break that flooding caused in the Enterprise Pipeline near Onawa, (Monona County) Iowa. The Enterprise Pipeline supplies much of Iowa with propane and caused disruptions in petroleum refinery production. This was in addition to reduced capacities at fuel terminals throughout the state due to the closing of terminals in flood affected counties. The increased costs of fuel caused by the flooding will have a direct impact on several additional sectors, including tourism, transportation, and agriculture.

In the last four months, Iowans have endured prolonged hardships as a result of the Missouri River flooding. This is in addition to the numerous previously declared and still open disasters that have also impacted these same counties. These events have devastated many Iowa families and businesses. Citizens in the affected areas already earn wages below the state average and are now facing unemployment along the burden of repairing flood-damaged homes without financial assistance. The large-scale disruption of these communities will continue to linger as individuals and businesses continue to focus on recovery. The amount of lost wages within these declared counties and communities will continue to impact the local economy and in some instances these communities may never recover from the prolonged exposure to flood waters.

Individual Assistance will be a vital tool in getting our affected families, businesses and communities back on the road to recovery. Based on the more complete damage data, I am asking for an Individual Assistance declaration for Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Monona, Pottawattamie, and Woodbury Counties.

Sincerely,

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance
Under the Stafford Act

County	Assistance to Individuals and Households					Other Programs
6	Temporary Housing	Repairs	Replacement	Permanent Housing Construction	Other Needs Assistance	(Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Legal Services, and Crisis Counseling)
FREMONT	$ 73,140.00	$1,209,010.00	$2,015,904.00	$0.00	$ 54,696.00	TBD
HARRISON	$ 9,711.00	$ 249,422.00	$ 29,216.00	$0.00	$ 17,808.00	TBD
MILLS	$ 17,181.00	$ 438,866.00	$ 87,648.00	$0.00	$ 45,792.00	TBD
MONONA	$ 5,550.00	$ 263,668.00	$ 29,216.00	$0.00	$ 12,720.00	TBD
POTTAWATTAMIE	$190,485.00	$2,715,776.00	$2,424,928.00	$0.00	$269,664.00	TBD
WOODBURY	$ 3,355.00	$ 5,988.00	$ 0.00	$0.00	$ 5,088.00	TBD
TOTAL	$299,422.00	$4,882,730.00	$4,586,912.00	$0.00	$405,768.00	TBD
GRAND TOTAL	**$299,422.00**	**$4,882,730.00**	**$4,586,912.00**	**$0.00**	**$405,768.00**	

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Profile of Affected Populations

Fremont County – Year 2010 Census Data
The Fremont County population is 7,441. 19.3% of the population are 65 and above, 23.2% are 18 and below and 6.1% are age 5 and under. The racial composition is 96.9% White, .5% Black, .3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, .3% Asian, .9% reporting two or more races, 2.5% Hispanic or Latino origin. There are 3,179 households with an average of 2.30 persons per household. The median household income is $45,897; Per capita income is $23,275, the State of Iowa average income is $48,065; Persons living below the poverty level represents 10.4% of the population.
Harrison County – Year 2010 Census Data
The Harrison County population is 14,928. 17.5% of the population are 65 and above, 23.6% are 18 and below and 6.2% are age 5 and under. The racial composition is 98.2% White, .2% Black, .3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, .3% Asian, .8% reporting two or more races, 1.2% Hispanic or Latino origin. There are 6,385 households with an average of 2.35 persons per household. The median household income is $50,368; Per capita income is $23,939, the State of Iowa average income is $48,065; Persons living below the poverty level represents 10.6% of the population.
Mills County – Year 2010 Census Data
The Mills County population is 15,059. 13.0% of the population are 65 and above, 25.3% are 18 and below and 6.3% are age 5 and under. The racial composition is 97.2% White, .4% Black, .3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, .4% Asian, 1.1% reporting two or more races, 2.4% Hispanic or Latino origin. There are 5,406 households with an average of 2.55 persons per household. The median household income is $54,646; Per capita income is $24,554, the State of Iowa average income is $48,065; Persons living below the poverty level represents 9.1% of the population.
Monona County – Year 2010 Census Data
The Monona County population is 9,243. 23.6% of the population are 65 and above, 21.6% are 18 and below and 5.6% are age 5 and under. The racial composition is 97.1% White, .4% Black, 1% American Indian/Alaskan Native, .2% Asian, 1.0% reporting two or more races, 1.2% Hispanic or Latino origin. There are 4,339 households with an average of 2.05 persons per household. The median household income is $41,072; Per capita income is $21,761, the State of Iowa average income is $48,065; Persons living below the poverty level represents 12.2% of the population.
Pottawattamie County – Year 2010 Census Data
The Pottawattamie County population is 93,158. 14.1% of the population are 65 and above, 23.8% are 18 and below and 6.9% are age 5 and under. The racial composition is 92.9% White, 1.4% Black, .5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, .6% Asian, 1.9% reporting two or more races, 6.6% Hispanic or Latino origin. There are 36,644 households with an average of 2.37 persons per household. The median household income is $45,769; Per capita income is $24,150, the State of Iowa average income is $48,065; Persons living below the poverty level represents 13.1% of the population.
Woodbury County – Year 2010 Census Data
The Woodbury County population is 102,172. 12.8% of the population are 65 and above, 27.1% are 18 and below and 8.1% are age 5 and under. The racial composition is 83.6% White, 2.4% Black, 2.2% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 2.4% Asian, 3.2% reporting two or more races, 13.7% Hispanic or Latino origin. There are 39,106 households with an average of 2.50 persons per household. The median household income is $43,820; Per capita income is $21,563, the State of Iowa average income is $48,065; Persons living below the poverty level represents 14.7% of the population.

2010 Census Data no longer reflects functional needs data.

ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

County (6)	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	OTHER
FREMONT	$1,120,980.00	$ 449,704.00	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
HARRISON	$ 285,740.00	$ 112,426.00	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
MILLS	$ 593,460.00	$ 168,639.00	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
MONONA	$ 197,820.00	$ 56,213.00	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
POTTAWATTAMIE	$4,527,880.00	$ 393,491.00	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
WOODBURY	$ 219,800.00	$ 56,213.00	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
TOTALS	**$6,945,680.00**	**$1,236,686.00**	**$**	**$**	**$**	**$**	**$**