Preliminary Damage Assessment Report

North Dakota - Drought Denial

Denied on October 7, 2017

On August 7, 2017, Governor Doug Burgum requested a major disaster declaration due to drought beginning on May 23, 2017, and continuing. The Governor requested the Crisis Counseling Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Case Management, and Disaster Legal Services under the Individual Assistance program for 33 counties and the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation and Hazard Mitigation statewide. The Governor also requested direct federal assistance. Preliminary Damage Assessments estimate damages immediately after an event and are considered, along with several other factors, in determining whether a disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments, and that Federal assistance is necessary. The State of North Dakota did not request joint federal, state, and local government Preliminary Damage Assessments.

On October 7, 2017, the Governor’s request for a major disaster declaration was denied based on the determination that supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act is not appropriate for this event.

Summary of Damage Assessment Information Used in Determining Whether to Declare a Major Disaster

Individual Assistance

- Individual Assistance Cost Estimates:
  - Disaster Case Management: N/A
  - Crisis Counseling Program: N/A
  - Disaster Legal Services: N/A
  - Disaster Unemployment Assistance: N/A
  - Total Individual Assistance cost estimate: N/A

Public Assistance – (Not requested)

- Primary Impact: -
- Total Public Assistance cost estimate: -
- Statewide per capita impact: -
- Statewide per capita impact indicator: $1.46
- Countywide per capita impact: -
- Countywide per capita impact indicator: $3.68
The Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) process is a mechanism used to determine the impact and magnitude of damage and resulting needs of individuals, businesses, public sector, and community as a whole. Information collected is used by the State as a basis for the Governor’s request for a major disaster or emergency declaration, and by the President in determining a response to the Governor’s request (44 CFR § 206.33).

When a Governor’s request for major disaster assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (Stafford Act) is under review, a number of primary factors are considered to determine whether assistance is warranted. These factors are outlined in FEMA’s regulations (44 CFR § 206.48). The President has ultimate discretion and decision making authority to declare major disasters and emergencies under the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. § 5170 and § 5191).

Degree of damage to impacted residences:
- Destroyed – total loss of structure, structure is not economically feasible to repair, or complete failure to major structural components (e.g., collapse of basement walls/foundation, walls or roof);
- Major Damage – substantial failure to structural elements of residence (e.g., walls, floors, foundation), or damage that will take more than 30 days to repair;
- Minor Damage – home is damaged and uninhabitable, but may be made habitable in short period of time with repairs; and
- Affected – some damage to the structure and contents, but still habitable.

Based on State population in the 2010 Census.

Statewide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY18, Federal Register, October 1, 2017.

Countywide Per Capita Impact Indicator for FY18, Federal Register, October 1, 2017.