



**Division of Emergency Management
and Homeland Security**
Vermont Department of Public Safety
103 South Main Street
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101
<http://vem.vermont.gov> • <http://hsu.vermont.gov>

Toll free: 800-347-0488
Phone: 802-244-8721
Fax: 802-241-5556

December 15, 2014

Mr. Paul F. Ford, Acting Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
99 High Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

**Re: Request for Preliminary Damage Assessment –
Severe winter storm starting December 9, 2014**

Dear Mr. Ford:

A severe winter storm which began on December 9, 2014 has resulted in over 100,000 power outages throughout Vermont, causing millions of dollars of power outages to municipal and publicly owned cooperative utilities, thousands of downed trees and branches blocking public roads, and related damages.

I am requesting that the Federal Emergency Management Agency be available to join State and Local teams to conduct a Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment for Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation, starting initially in the counties of Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, and Orleans. We believe that eligible Category F costs for Vermont Electric Cooperative alone are already significantly above county indicator thresholds in these counties, and we anticipate the possibility of requesting other counties as well when additional data becomes available from other utilities, particularly from Washington Electric Cooperative.

If possible, I ask that FEMA personnel be available to conduct Preliminary Damage Assessment visits in the above mentioned counties beginning as soon as possible, ideally On Tuesday Dec.16 or Wednesday Dec.17. The reason for this short timeframe is that current weather forecasts call for another weather system arriving by late Wednesday, Dec.17 which could make it difficult to view and segregate damages from the recent storm system. Our utilities are concerned that there is potential for another major outage event starting late Wednesday.

We stand ready to coordinate with FEMA personnel.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance.

Sincerely,

Joe Flynn, Director

Vermont Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

cc: Jeb Spaulding, Secretary of Administration
Ross Nagy, State Coordinating Officer
Richard Quinlan, FEMA Region 1, Vermont State Liaison Officer

