

FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE OF GOV. JOE MANCHIN III

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FEDERAL DISASTER DECLARATION APPROVED

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Gov. Joe Manchin announced today that his request for a federal disaster declaration in the seven West Virginia counties has been approved by President Bush. This emergency assistance is the result of damage from severe storms, flooding, landslides and mudslides during April 14 to 18, 2007.

The seven counties that qualify for the Public Assistance (PA) program under the declaration include: Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo, Wayne and Wyoming counties.

Under the PA program, the seven counties will now get assistance with items such as infrastructure repair, emergency response and debris removal. In addition, Hazard Mitigation eligibility has also been granted statewide.

"We are currently continuing to evaluate damage in other counties for potential inclusion in this request also," the governor said. "I greatly appreciate Senator Byrd and Senator Rockefeller as well as Congressman Rahall for assisting with this effort and officially submitting the formal request to the President. Since Hazard Mitigation eligibility has also been granted statewide, I urge the counties that experience frequent flooding issues to apply for this assistance so we might be able to prevent more flooding in the future."

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