

# Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

## NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor  
609-777-2600

RELEASE: September 18, 1999

### **Governor Requests Federal Disaster Declaration**

Gov. Christie Whitman today requested a federal disaster declaration from President Clinton that will enable federal relief assistance programs to begin in areas devastated by flooding caused by Hurricane Floyd.

The declaration was requested for Bergen, Essex, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic, and Union counties. The Governor may expand the declaration to other counties, if necessary.

A federal disaster declaration allows for the funding of disaster relief to public entities, businesses and individuals, as well as funding for mitigation against future similar disasters.

"The flooding caused by Hurricane Floyd has caused significant damage to people, property and businesses in many parts of our state. Now that the rescue efforts have concluded, we must turn our attention to helping people put their lives back together," said Gov. Whitman today as she toured parts of Passaic, Bergen and Somerset Counties, which were hardest hit by the flooding.

On Friday, the Governor requested and received from President Clinton a federal emergency declaration, which allows for the deployment of federal emergency response personnel, equipment and assets. In addition, the declaration could provide for reimbursement of qualified costs associated with emergency response activities.

###

