

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**REQUEST FOR MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION
GOVERNOR'S REQUEST COVER LETTER**

February 14, 2024

The Honorable Joseph Robinette Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC

Through: Ms. Lori Ehrlich
Regional Administrator
FEMA Region I
220 Binney Street
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 C.F.R. § 206.36, I request you declare a Major Disaster for the State of Vermont for heavy rainfall and severe flooding that occurred statewide on December 18-19, 2023. I am requesting Public Assistance for Essex, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Windham, and Windsor Counties and Hazard Mitigation Assistance statewide.

A State of Emergency was not declared for this event. However, this flooding necessitated the (partial) activation of the Vermont State Emergency Operations Center from December 18-19, 2023. The SEOC was activated on December 18, 2023 at 1300 hrs. until 2000 hrs. as a Partial-Virtual Activation. For the overnight, the SEOC was in Monitoring Status with two VEM Watch Officers. The SEOC was re-activated on December 19, 2023 at 0800 hrs. to 1600 hrs. as a Partial-Hybrid Activation. For the overnight, the SEOC continued under Monitoring Status by the VEM Watch Officer on duty.

National Weather Service:

“Heavy rainfall combined with significant water runoff from snowmelt led to widespread flooding across Vermont between December 17th and December 20th. Widespread impacts occurred in the forms of ponding of water, low-land field and road flooding, numerous stream and mainstem river flooding. In addition, several landslides were reported on Vermont roads.

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A coastal storm originated off Florida's west coast in the Gulf of Mexico (December 16th) and inland along the eastern seaboard (December 17th), eventually crossing New England on December 18th.

Periods of rain developed and moved across Vermont during the mid to late afternoon of December 17th, becoming steadier and heavier during the night into midday on December 18th before gradually ending by the evening of December 18th.

Rainfall totals across Vermont were generally 1.5 to 3 inches with localized 3.5+ inches. In addition to this rainfall was the contribution of snowmelt to the surface water run-off, estimated to be between 1 and 2 inches of water equivalent.

The combination of heavy rainfall and snowmelt, with wet antecedent conditions from three storms in the prior three weeks, led to significant surface water runoff that created a wide array of flooding impacts.

Impacts initially began as widespread ponding of water, low-land field and road flooding that flowed into streams causing numerous stream flooding which flowed into the larger, mainstem rivers in Vermont causing water levels to reach minor to major flood categories on several official gaged locations. Most rivers crested by the morning of December 19th and receded below flood stage by the afternoon. However, the Winooski River at Essex Junction, the Otter Creek at Center Rutland and the Barton River in Coventry didn't recede below flood stage until the morning of December 20th. In addition, several landslides were reported on Vermont roads."

*-*Preliminary* Weather Summary for the December 17-20, 2023, Significant Flood Event – National Weather Service – Burlington, VT)*

Refer below to Weather Summary, **Enclosure B**: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service - Eastern Region, *Vermont Heavy Rain and Flooding December 17-20, 2023, Report*.

State Emergency Operations Center Activation:

Partners participating in the ongoing SEOC activation included: Agency of Agriculture, Agency of Human Services, Agency of Transportation, Agency of Digital Services, Public Service Department, Radio Technology Services, Department of Health, Vermont State Police, Division of Fire Safety, Department of Labor, Buildings and General Services, Agency of Education, Urban Search and Rescue/Swiftwater Rescue, Department of Environmental Conservation, Department Forest Parks & Recreation, Vermont National Guard, American Red Cross, SerVermont and Vermont-211.

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Impact Summary

One individual died from hypothermia during this incident as a result of exposure to floodwater.

Swift water rescue teams performed twelve rescues. Three people were pulled from a home in Jamaica, and nine were saved from vehicles caught in moving water across the state.

The Vermont National Guard provided the state with high-water vehicles to assist with rescues.

A dozen towns experienced major flooding issues. Damage included dozens of flood-damaged roads and flooded basements in homes in several towns which far exceeded local resources.

The Moretown Village Fire Department issued an evacuation order for homes and businesses in the village. The Moretown Fire Chief confirmed that between 30-50 homes were evacuated. In Brattleboro, officials assisted residents of the Mountain Home mobile home park to evacuate as 12 homes were flooded.

The extent of the storm took many education officials by surprise, prompting 120 schools to close early according to Heather Bouchey, interim Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Education. At the December 19, 2023, press conference in Berlin, she called the event a “mass early dismissal.”

The American Red Cross (ARC) opened a regional shelter (Level-1 Response - ARC managed) on December 18, 2023, in the Town of Barre at their auditorium. The peak shelter population was 18 people and two pets. The shelter remained open for two days and served meals for the 18 individuals. One case was opened and closed; there were no clean-up kits; and no fixed/mobile feeding sites. The VT Departments of Mental Health and Human Services had five personnel on stand-by, for three nights, but no assistance was required. Other than the ARC, the Mass Feeding Group did not activate, though they were put on notice.

Local shelters were opened on December 18, 2023, in Hardwick at Hazen Union High School and in Northfield at Norwich University. A local warming center was also opened on December 18, 2023, in Cavendish at the Cavendish Baptist Church.

Throughout this statewide severe flooding event, local news reports poured in capturing the impacts of the devastation. As Governor, I was quoted by news outlets expressing the heartbreak which this event caused for many Vermonters:

“...Some of the places that were impacted in July are currently experiencing flooding once again, so for them, this is July. And it’s a real gut punch.”

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This storm had multiple statewide impacts. For example, total damage to the Vermont rail system, according to estimates provided by the Vermont Agency of Transportation Rail Division, were approximately \$652,356 in damages for two of the requested Counties; Orleans with \$473,700, Rutland with \$178,656 which contributed to reaching their respective county thresholds. But it is important to note that rail damages totaling \$349,690 with \$122,552 in Addison County; \$61,628 in Bennington County; \$26,625 in Caledonia County; \$49,399 in Franklin County; and \$89,486 in Washington County; will be borne by State of Vermont because these five counties remained below the county threshold and have therefore not been included in this request.

Damages which were validated during the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment included:

Essex County: Town damages included: Bloomfield (1) road; Brighton (2) roads, and Concord (1) road; and VT Agency of Transportation LVRT Rail Trails - (1) site in West Burke at MP 27.68-27.85 - scouring and sediment removal.

Lamoille County: Town damages included: Belvidere (1) road; Morrystown (1) road with failed 9-foot plate culvert by 75 feet long, the washout is 40 feet across by 50 feet long); VT Agency of Transportation Rail Trail LVRT (emergency slope stabilization); and Stowe (5) roads.

Orange County: Town damages included: Randolph (2) roads and (1) emergency slope stabilization; Tunbridge (1) road; Williamstown (1) road; and Washington Electric COOP (WEC) utility damages.

Orleans County: Town damages included: Greensboro (3) roads; and VT Agency of Transportation WACR CLR Railroad - (1) site in Coventry at MP 6.90-7.50 - scouring and sediment removal and (1) site in Orleans at MP 9.80-10.40 - scouring and sediment removal.

Rutland County: Town damages included: Benson 6) roads; and VT Agency of Transportation B&R Railroad - (2) sites in Danby, at MP 37.80 - water over tracks needs ballast stone replacement and MP 38.70 - water under tracks with exposed cross ties needs ballast stone replacement.

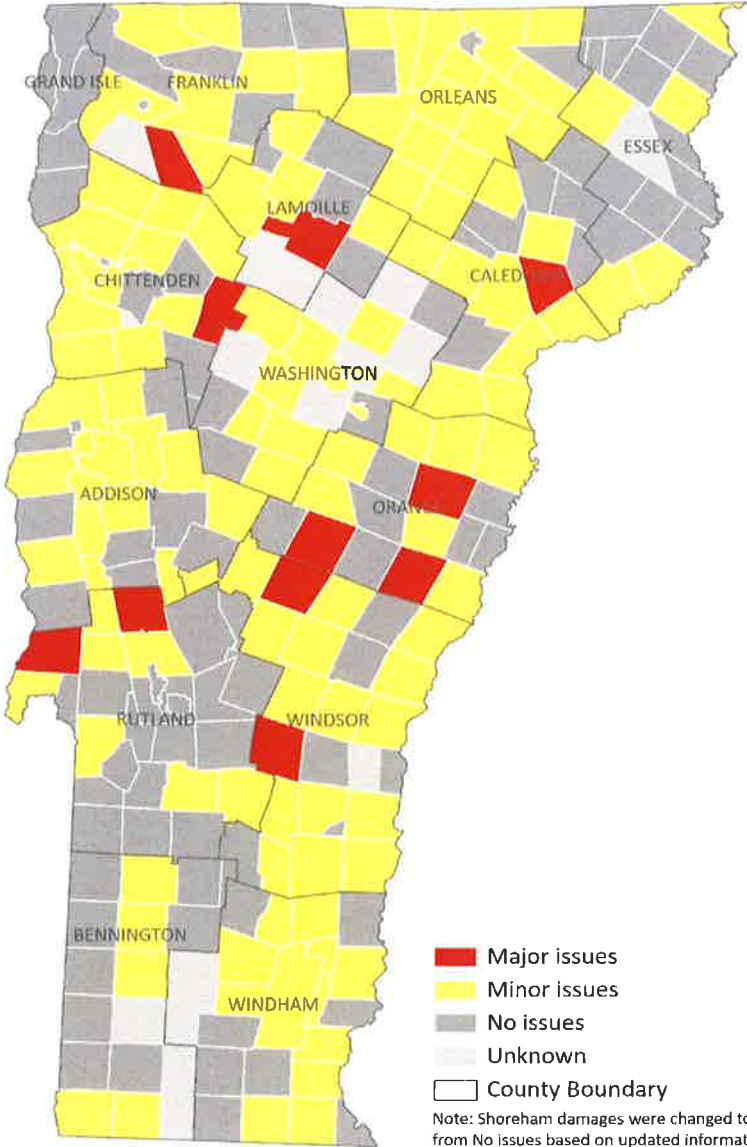
Windham County: Town damages included: Brattleboro (1 road - slope stabilization); Jamaica (7) roads; and Townshend (3) roads.

Windsor County: Town damages included: Barnard (1) site emergency slope stabilization; Bethel (3) roads, (1) pump station, and (1) ballfield; Chester (4) roads; Plymouth (3) roads; Royalton (2) roads; and Springfield (5) roads.

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The Local Liaisons were activated on December 18-20, 2023, to report damages. Results of December 21, 2023, local liaison reporting are summarized in this map:

Local Liaison Report December 21, 2023



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On December 28, 2023, VEM Director Eric Forand requested a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment for six (6) counties: Addison, Essex, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, and Windsor. On January 5, 2024, we asked for the inclusion of four (4) additional counties: Caledonia, Franklin, Lamoille, and Windham Counties. On January 16 and 31, 2024, we asked for the inclusion of Washington and Bennington Counties respectively, based on additional reported damages.

It was confirmed during Preliminary Damage Assessments that all the damage reported occurred during December 18-19, 2023. In their weather summary (Enclosure C: *NOAA Vermont Heavy Rain and Flooding December 17-20, 2023, Report*), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association started the incident period on December 17, 2023. We request December 18, 2024, as the start of the incident period in Vermont because none of the reported damages occurred prior to that date.

Demographics of Impacted Counties That Met County Thresholds

Vermont Median Household income is \$73,991 and Poverty Level is 10.4%. Most counties are rural and sparsely populated.

Essex County: Median Household income is \$55,247; Poverty @13.2%; pop. 5,976
Lamoille County: Median Household income is \$69,886; Poverty @8.6%; pop. 25,945
Orange County: Median Household income is \$74,534; Poverty @9.2%; pop. 29,277
Orleans County: Median Household income is \$63,981; Poverty @6.8%; pop. 27,459
Rutland County: Median Household income is 62,641 Poverty @11.4%; pop. 60,585
Windham County: Median Household income is \$65,473; Poverty @12.6%; pop. 45,857
Windsor County: Median Household income is \$69,492; Poverty @8.7%; pop. 57,753

Sources: United States Census Bureau. 2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Office. Web. 7 December 2023.

United States Census Bureau. Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2020, to July 1, 2022. U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Web. May 2023. <http://www.census.gov/>

Additional Factors for Consideration

Vermonters are still suffering from the devastating impacts of the historical flooding which occurred during summer of 2023, declared as DR-4720 and DR-4744. This smaller but impactful storm caused repeated damages in numerous communities, compounding the misery and setting back recovery efforts from the summer storms for exhausted survivors and local road crews and emergency responders.

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While towns in Vermont obtain insurance through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns' Property and Casualty Intermunicipal Fund (PACIF), roads, water crossings and drainage structures are not covered, and insurance coverage is not commercially available in most cases.

State/ Local Resources for Assistance

Vermont's resource referral hotline, Vermont 211, took damage reports from impacted residents and businesses. More than eighty households comprised of 232 individuals in twelve counties, (including Addison, Caledonia, Chittenden, Essex, Franklin, Orange, Orleans, Lamoille, Rutland, Washington, Windham, and Windsor Counties) called Vermont 211 to report flood damages incurred on December 18-19, 2023. Additionally, fourteen businesses in seven counties (including Addison, Chittenden, Franklin, Lamoille, Rutland, Washington, and Windsor) reported flood damages.

Vermont's Emergency Relief and Assistance Fund (ERAF), provides the state portion of the non-federal share of declared disasters for eligible municipal Public Assistance applicants and is funded through transfers from the Vermont General Fund. This event will add approximately \$150,000 to the need for additional ERAF transfers from the General Fund, the timing of which will be based on estimated cash flow. Based on cash flow expectations, \$6 million was added to ERAF in the Governor's Recommended FY24 Budget Adjustment.

Disaster History

The impacts of this storm clearly exceed the resources of the State of Vermont. Since 2013, Vermont has experienced 16 federally declared and numerous non-declared disasters: DR4120 (May 2013 flooding), DR4140 (June-July 2013 flooding), DR4163 (December 2013 ice storm), DR4178 (April 2014 flooding), DR4207 (December 2014 severe winter storm), DR4232 (June 9, 2015 flooding), DR4330 (June-July 2017 flooding), DR4356 (October 29-30, 2018 severe storm and flooding), DR4380 (May 4-5, 2018 severe storm), DR4445 (April 15, 2019 severe storm and flooding), DR4474 (Severe storm and flooding, October 31- November 1, 2019), DR4621 (Severe storms and flooding, July 29, 2021-July 30, 2021), DR4532 (COVID-19), DR4695 (Severe storm and flooding, December 22-24, 2022), DR4720 (Severe storms and flooding, landslides and mudslides, July 7-21, 2023, and DR4744 August 3-5, 2023, Severe Storms and Flooding).

Hazard Mitigation Damage Avoidance

Vermont and FEMA have been successful in recent years in making use of available funding via Section 404 (42 U.S.C. § 5170c) and Section 406 (42 U.S.C. § 5172). The impacts of this flooding would have been even more devastating if not for mitigation work previously accomplished, particularly more than 170 acquisitions and removals of flood-prone structures accomplished through Hazard Mitigation Assistance since Tropical Storm Irene. The Town of Brandon in Rutland County has been frequently cited as a hazard mitigation success story thanks to culvert upgrades in the downtown business district and buy-outs of residences in Forest Dale,

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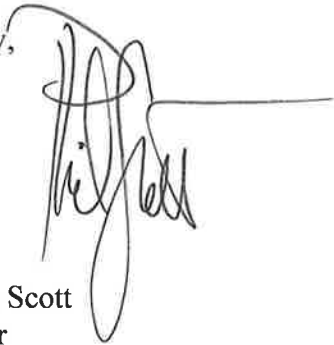
a flood prone area of the community. We are committed to continuing our ongoing efforts to build resiliency and reduce flood vulnerability using Section 406 and Section 404 Hazard Mitigation.

Conclusion

For Essex, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Windham, and Windsor Counties of Vermont, the December 18-19, 2023, severe storms and flooding event compounded the impacts of earlier federally declared severe flooding events in July and August 2023 which overwhelmed state and local resources. Accordingly, I request a Major Disaster Declaration under the Stafford Act for Public Assistance for qualifying counties and Hazard Mitigation Assistance statewide.

Thank you for your continued support of the State of Vermont and its residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

Enclosures:

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

A: Public Assistance

B: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service - Eastern Region, *Vermont Heavy Rain and Flooding December 17-20, 2023, Report.*

C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

ENCLOSURE B:--

WEATHER SUMMARY

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service - Eastern Region, *Vermont Heavy Rain and Flooding December 17-20, 2023, Report.*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE EASTERN
REGION
630 Johnson Ave. Suite 202
Bohemia, NY 11716

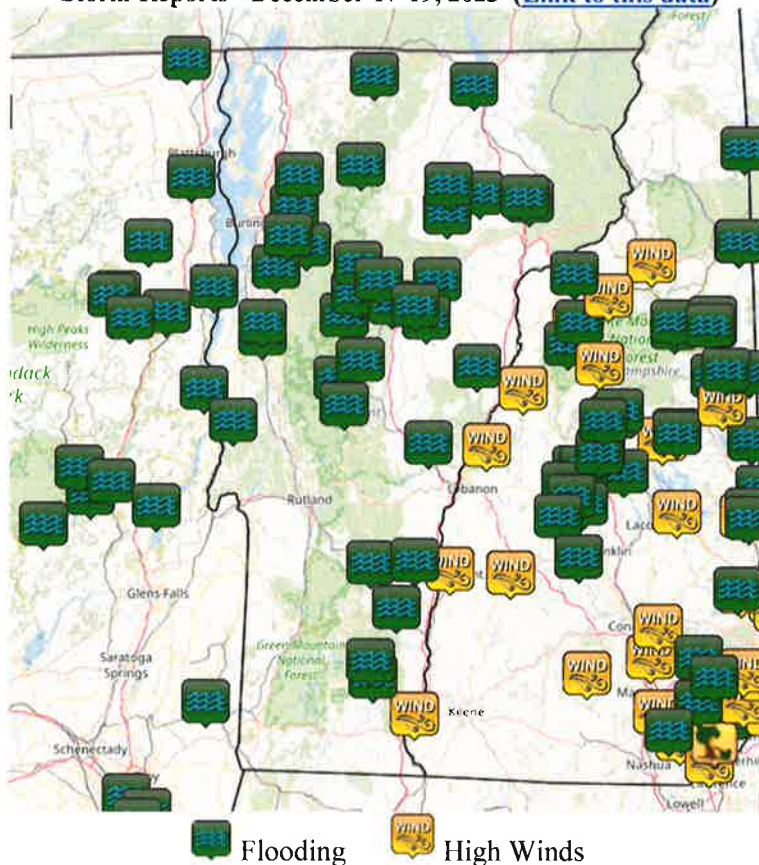
January 4, 2024

Vermont Heavy Rain and Flooding December 17-20, 2023

Overview:

A coastal storm moved up the east coast over the weekend of December 16-17, and tracked across New England Monday into Tuesday, December 18-19. Heavy rain was observed across the area, with amounts ranging from one to locally over four inches across the state. This rain resulted in numerous reports of flooding.

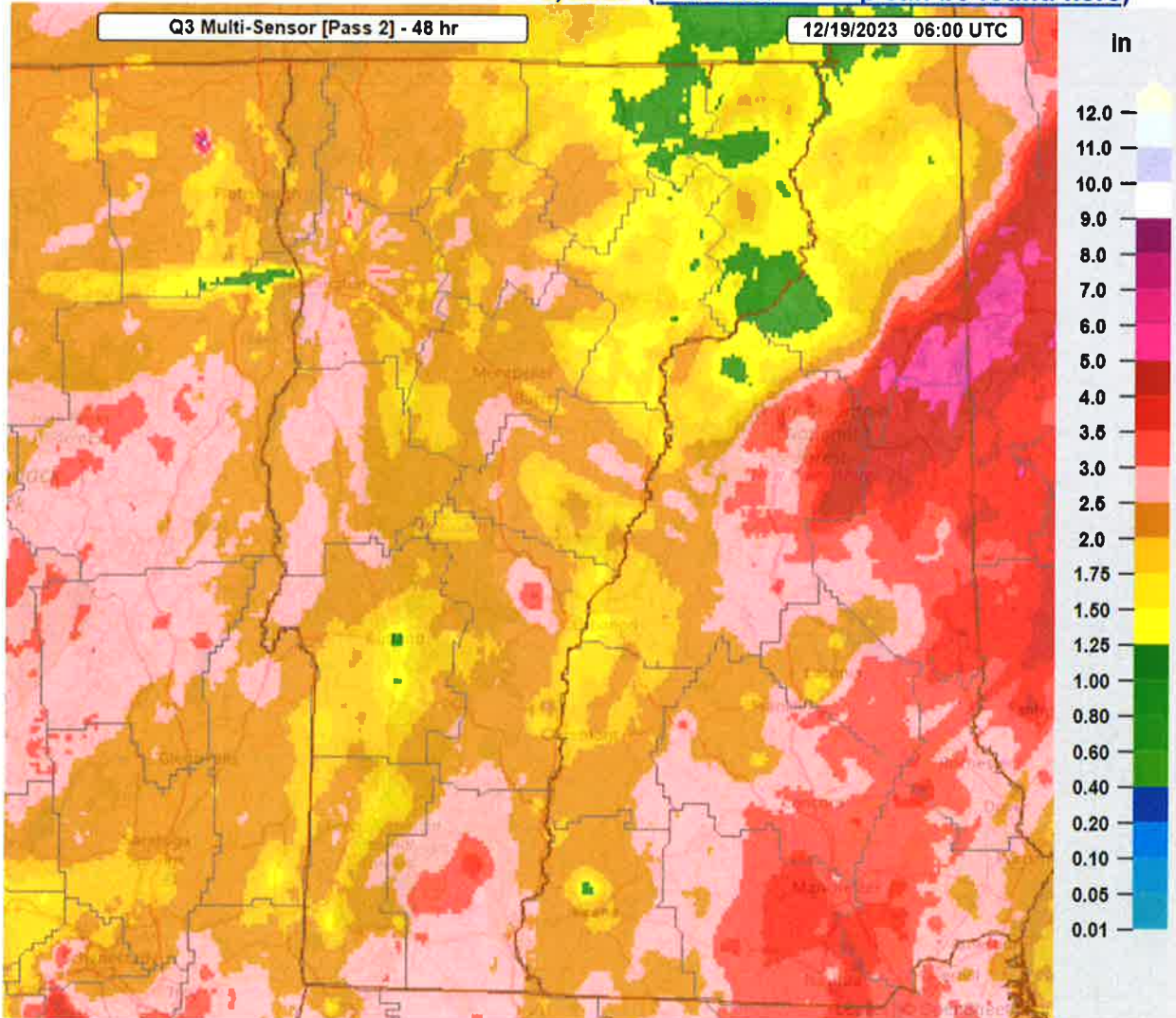
Storm Reports - December 17-19, 2023 ([Link to this data](#))



Flooding/Heavy Rain

Rain moved in from the south Sunday night, December 17th, and continued through the day Monday, December 18th before tapering off at night. The rain was heavy at times. The bulk of the flooding, both flash and river flooding, occurred during the day Monday, the 18th. Slower responding rivers remained above flood stage into Wednesday, the 20th.

Rainfall Estimate December 17-18, 2023 [\(A zoomable map can be found here\)](#)



Total Rainfall Measurements (1" or greater)

County	Location	Total rainfall (inches)
Addison	N Middlebury	3.23
	2 SE New Haven	3.11
	1 SE Cornwall	3.07
	4 NNE Shoreham	3.05
	Addison	3.04
	Bristol	3.02
	1 WNW Orwell	3.02
	East Middlebury	2.95
	Lake Dunmore	2.93
	Vergennes	2.92
	Ferrisburg	2.64
	Middlebury	2.60
	New Haven	2.51
	West Addison	2.36
	Bridport	2.35
	1 NE South Lincoln	2.29
	South Lincoln	2.11
	S Hancock	2.09
	4 ENE Starksboro	2.07
	Ripton	2.01
Cornwall	1.61	
Essex	Island Pond	1.64
	Averill	1.42
Orange	Orange	3.14
	2 E Corinth Corners	3.12
	Tunbridge	3.08
	Chelsea	2.97
	Vershire	2.90
	Brookfield	2.82
	ESE Chelsea	2.76
	Williamstown	2.74
	Randolph	2.58
	2 SE Strafford	2.55

	Corinth	2.52
	3 SW Braintree	2.33
	Strafford	2.00
	East Thetford	1.79
	South Strafford	1.78
	2 ENE West Fairlee	1.76
	North Thetford	1.50
	Union Village NEPP	1.47
Orleans	Lowell	2.82
	Albany	2.43
	Craftsbury Common	2.25
	4 NNE Greensboro	2.22
	2 NNW Greensboro	2.03
	1 NE East Craftsbury	2.01
	1 WNW Westfield	2.01
	Brownington	1.72
	2 W Derby Line	1.57
	7 SE Morgan	1.24
	East Charleston	1.19
Rutland	2 NW West Bridgewater	4.17
	Benson	3.55
	East Wallingford	2.89
	Killington	2.87
	Mount Holly	2.50
	1 W Shrewsbury	2.14
	Poultney	2.13
	Mendon	2.10
	Belmont	1.99
	Wells	1.94
	1 N West Rutland	1.80
	Danby	1.71
	Pawlet	1.71
	1 SSE West Rutland	1.64
	Wallingford	1.61
	3 SSW Wallingford	1.59
	Cuttingsville	1.35

	Rutland Airport	1.27
	1 N Rutland	1.24
Windsor	Quechee	4.27
	North Pomfret	3.80
	3 N Pomfret	3.48
	2 S West Windsor	3.46
	Taftsville	3.40
	Brownsville	3.38
	4 W Hartland	3.22
	Springfield	3.13
	Bridgewater	2.90
	Plymouth	2.89
	Barnard	2.83
	Royalton	2.82
	3 S Ludlow	2.75
	Reading	2.70
	NNE Proctorsville	2.69
	South Royalton	2.54
	Springfield Airport	2.53
	Stockbridge	2.31
	Cavendish	2.25
	4 WNW Bethel	2.20
	1 WNW Weathersfield	2.19
	2 NE Rochester	2.15
	NE Rochester	1.95
	East Bethel	1.94
Rochester	1.79	
1 NNE North Hartland	1.75	
1 E Woodstock	1.39	

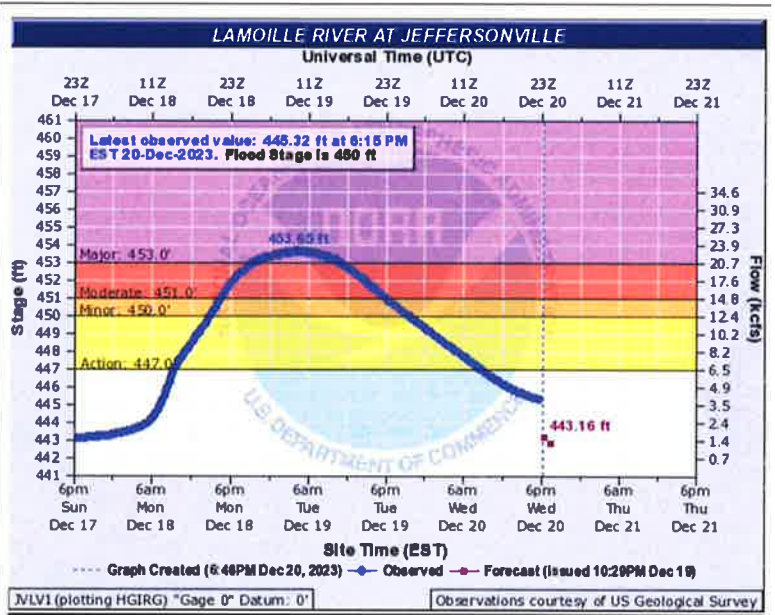
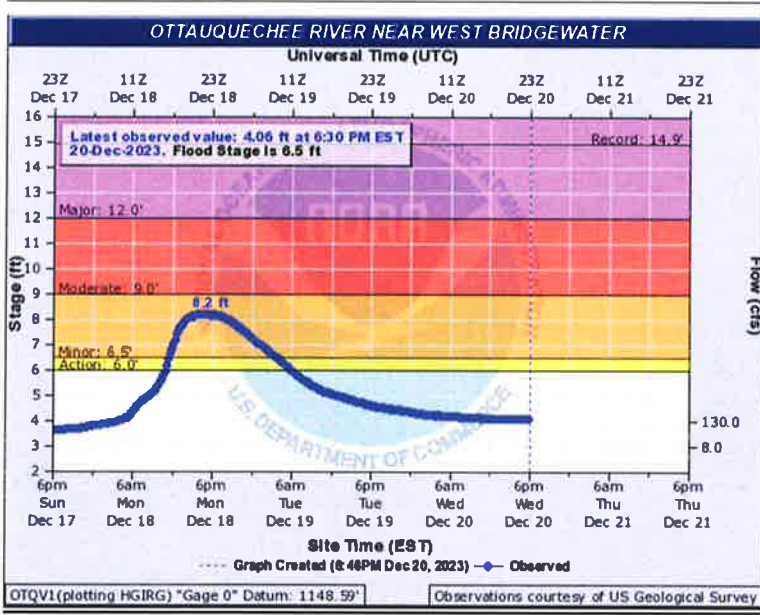
Flood and Flash Flood Reports

County	Location	Date/ Time	Summary
Addison	Granville	12/18 10:13 am	Part of Rt 100 flooded.
	2 NNE Hough Crossing	12/18 11:10 am	Flooding reported on VT Rt 22A between Orwell and Shoreham.
	New Haven Junction	12/18 4:44 pm	Flooding on roads near US Rte 7 & VT Rte 17 Intersection.
	2 N New Haven Junction	12/18 5:12 pm	Portion of Plank Road closed.
Orange	Corinth	12/18 5:01 pm	Pictures of roads flooded in Corinth.
Orleans	1 W Campbells Corner	12/18 5:20 pm	VT 14 closed between VT Rte 15 and E Craftsbury Road in Hardwick/Craftsbury
	2 NNE Coventry	12/18 7:39 pm	Multiple sections of Route 5 closed between Coventry and Newport due to high water.
Windsor	Sharon	12/18 9:00 am	Route 14 Sharon Flooded
	Ludlow	12/18 9:03 am	Route 103/100 Flooded
	Chester	12/18 9:05 am	Numerous roads flooded
	Greenbush	12/18 3:31 pm	VT 106 is closed between VT 131 and Little Ascutney Road due to flooding.
	1 N Rochester	12/18 3:35 pm	VT 100 is closed in Rochester near Quarry Hill Road due to flooding.

River Flooding

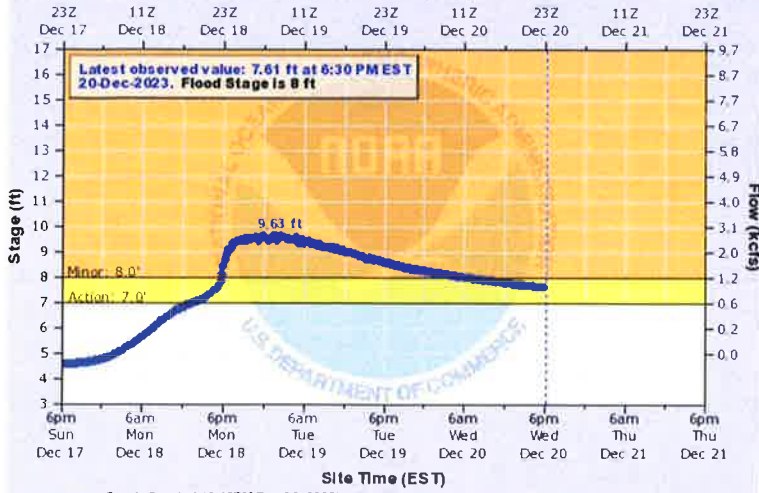
Heavy rainfall combined with significant water runoff from snowmelt led to widespread flooding across Vermont between December 17th and December 20th.

Impacts initially began as field and road flooding. As flood waters drained into the rivers, significant river rises occurred on the larger, mainstem rivers in Vermont causing water levels to reach minor to major flood categories on several official gaged locations. Most rivers crested by the morning of December 19th and receded below flood stage by the afternoon. However, the Winooski River at Essex Junction, the Otter Creek at Center Rutland and the Barton River in Coventry didn't recede below flood stage until the morning of December 20th. In addition, several landslides were reported on Vermont roads.



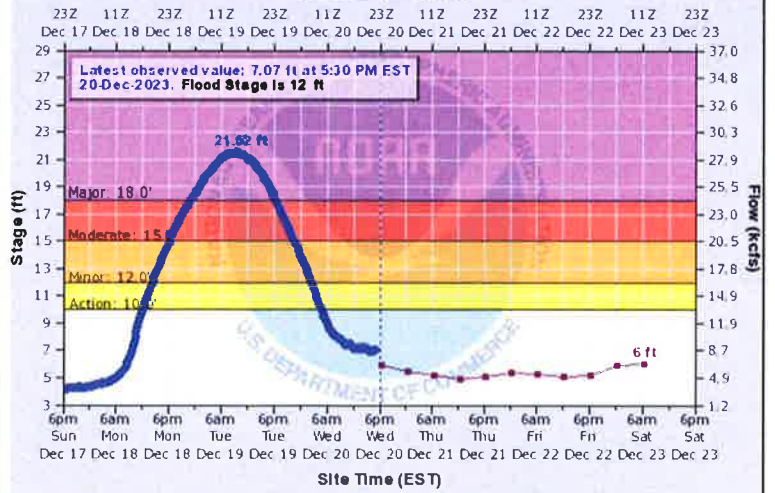
BARTON RIVER NEAR COVENTRY

Universal Time (UTC)



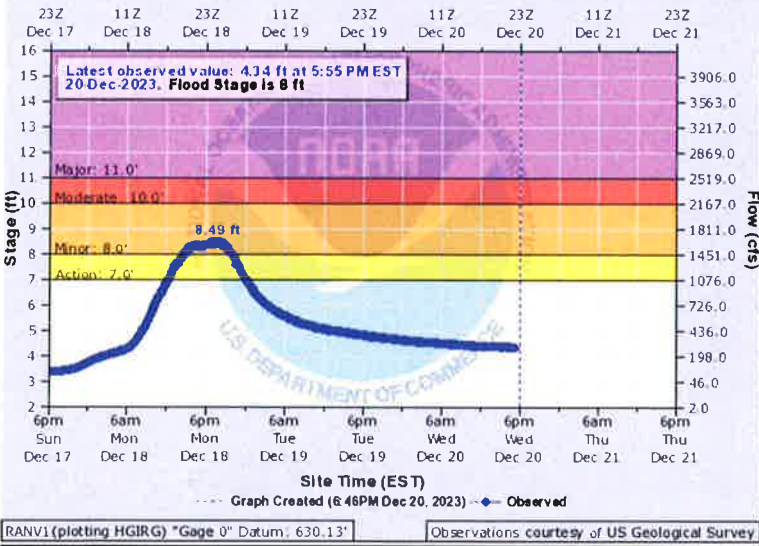
WNOOSKI RIVER AT ESSEX JUNCTION

Universal Time (UTC)



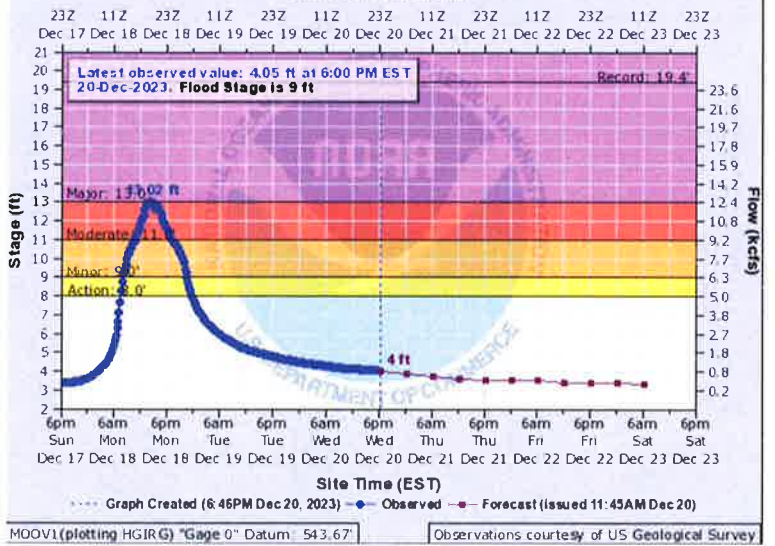
AYERS BROOK AT RANDOLPH

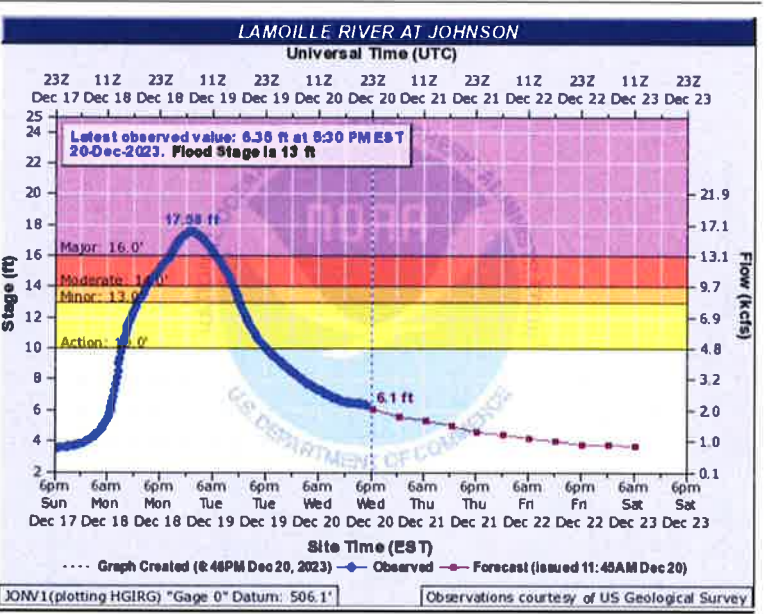
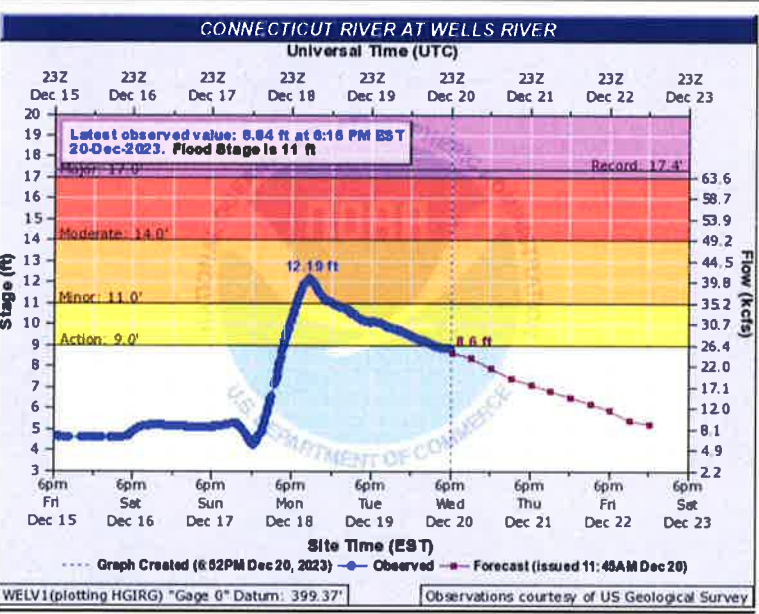
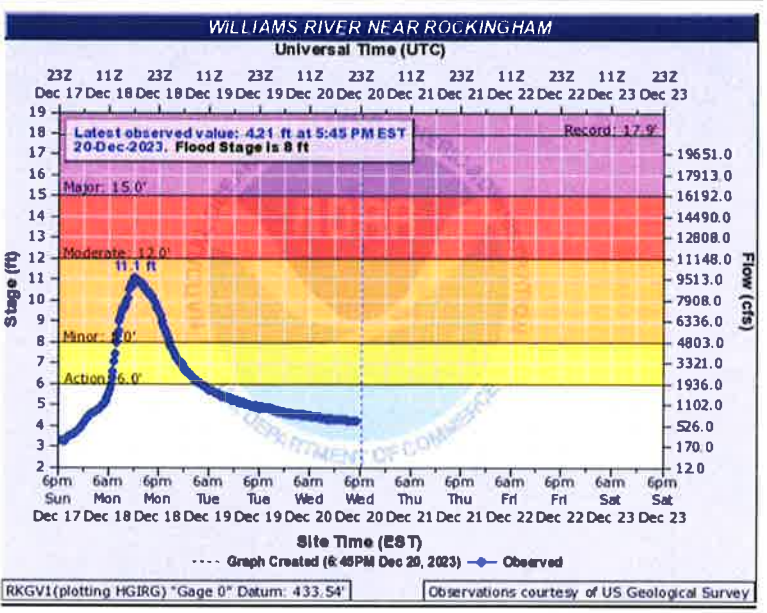
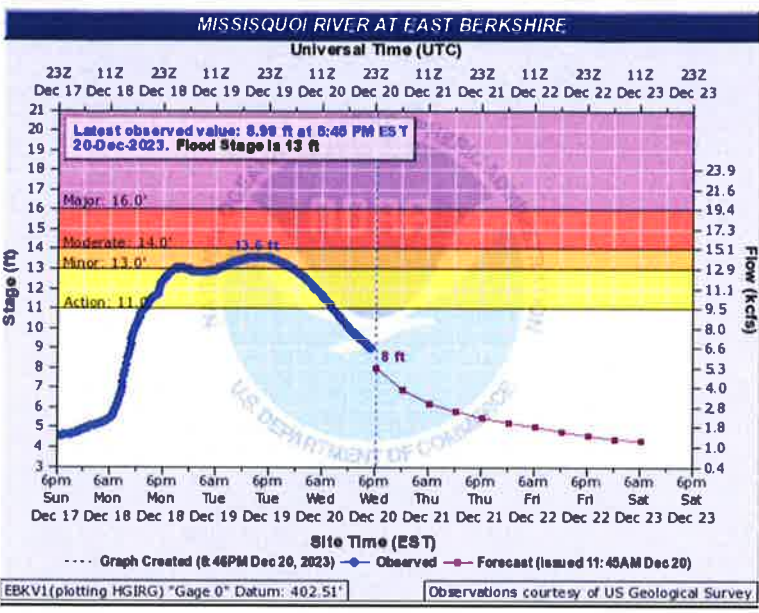
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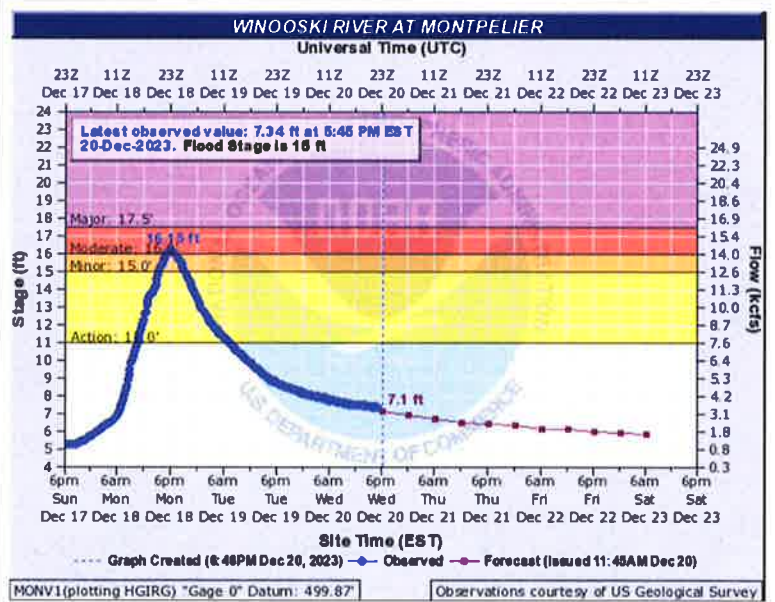
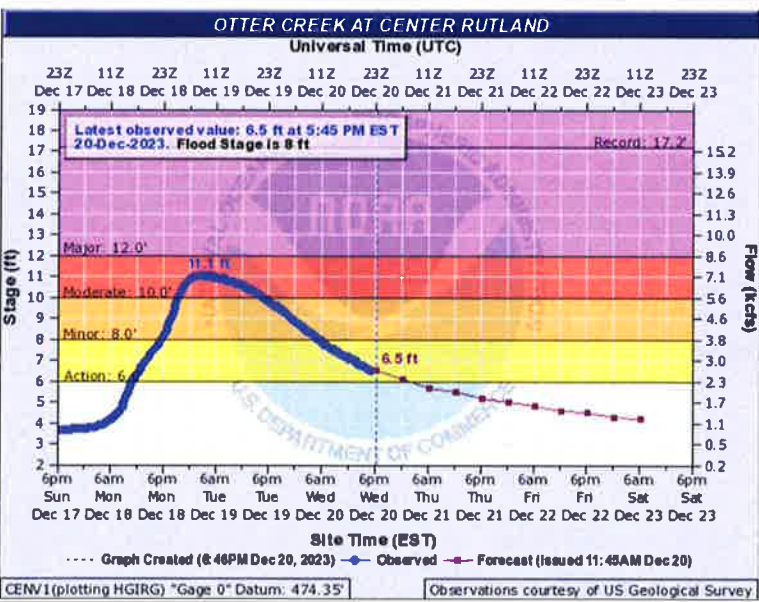
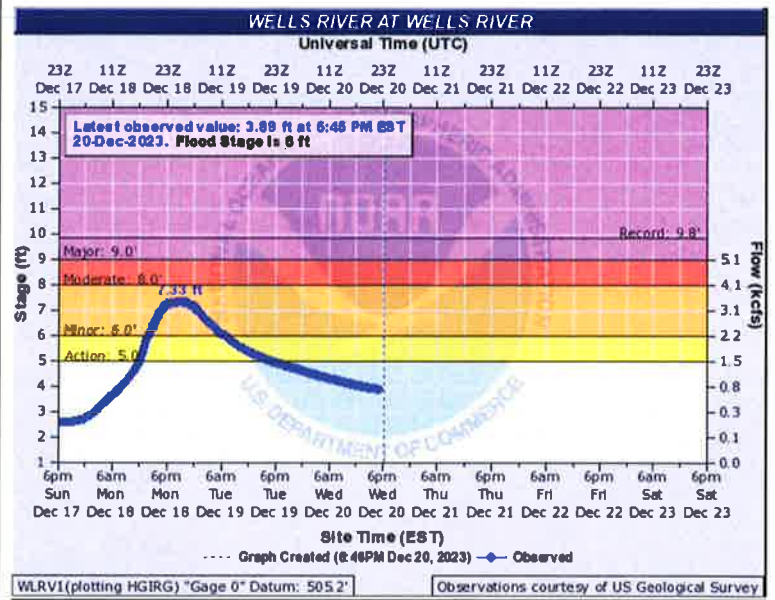
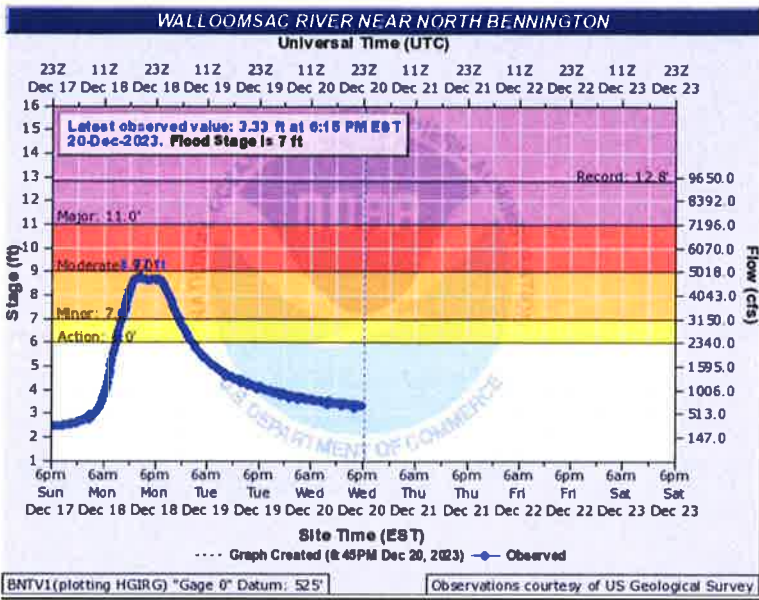


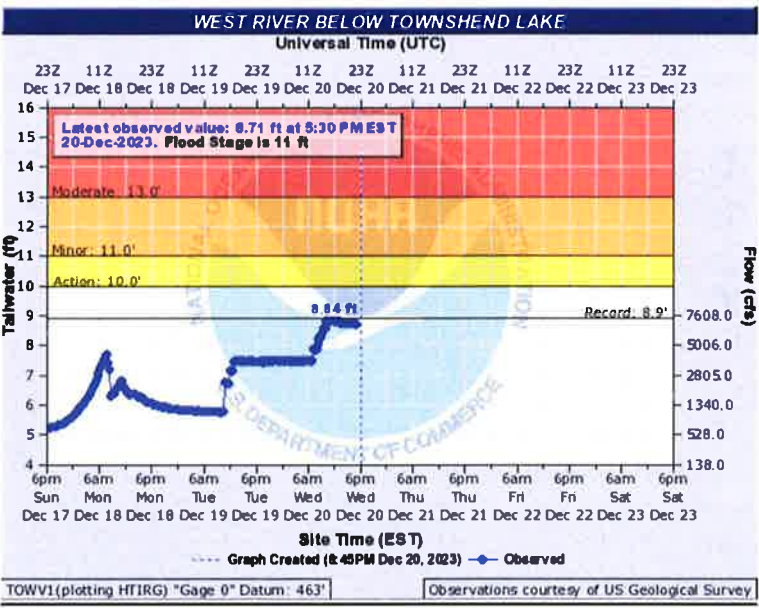
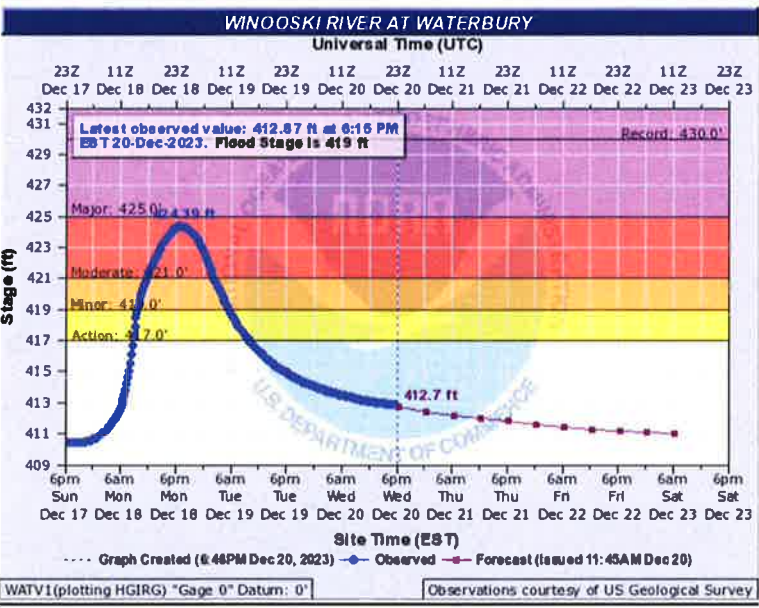
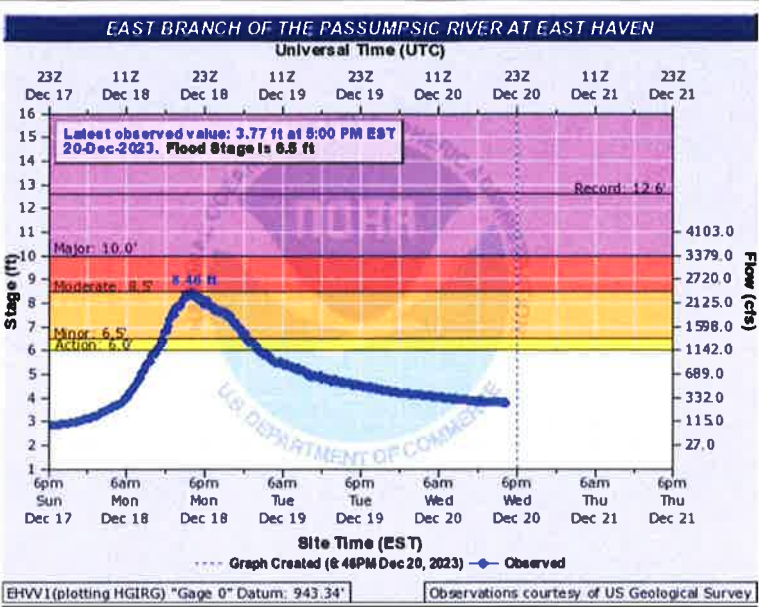
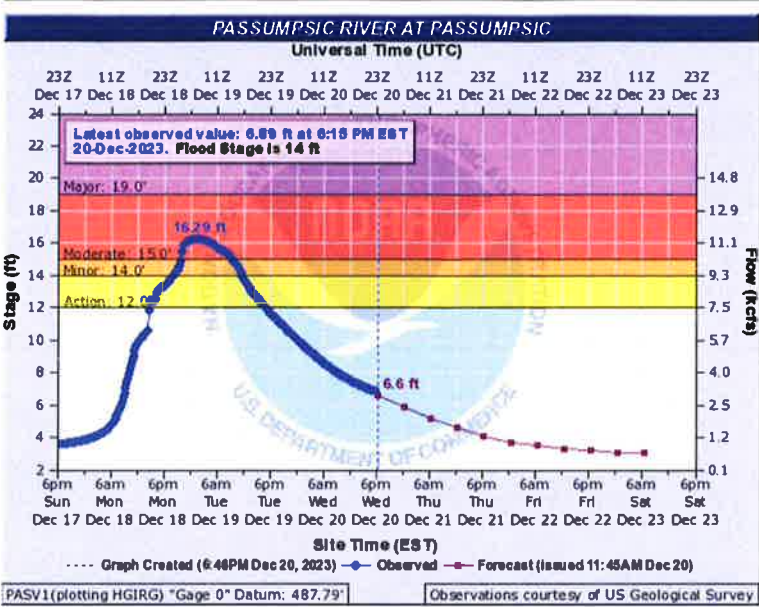
MAD RIVER NEAR MORETOWN

Universal Time (UTC)









Gabriel Langbauer and Scott Whittier

NWS Weather Forecast Office - Burlington, VT

Scott Sukup, Peter Wichrowski, and
 Howard Silverman

Emergency Response Meteorologists
 NWS Eastern Region Headquarters

ENCLOSURE C

TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Assistance from Other Federal Agency Programs

County	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	OTHER
All Counties	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Totals							

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Federal Emergency Management Agency
REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY

OMB Control Number 1660-0009
Expires 06/30/2023
1. Request Date Feb 14, 2024

Burden Disclosure Notice

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration. State of Vermont	2b. Population (as reported by 2010 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s). 643,077 (2020)
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3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name Philip B. Scott	4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number Eric Forand (802) 585-0633
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5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number
Kristin L. Clouser (802) 828-3322

6. Declaration Request For: Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401) Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Dec 18, 2023 End Date Dec 19, 2023 or Continuing *If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).*

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

Drought Earthquake Explosion Fire Flood Hurricane Landslide Mudslide
Severe Storm

(rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning) Snowstorm (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data) Straight-Line Winds

Tidal Wave Tornado Tropical Depression Tropical Storm Tsunami Volcanic Eruption Winter Storm

Other (please specify) _____

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.
Heavy rain started late on December 17, 2023 statewide and continued into December 19, 23, causing severe damage in select locations, including the eleven counties. Several roads were closed due to inundation and several residents were evacuated from their homes to shelters. Preliminary Damage Assessments were performed from January 2, 2023 through February 5, 2024 to capture the damage that occurred in the smaller towns, state agencies (specifically Railroad and Rail Trails) and utility companies. The validated PDA Results were completed on February 5, 2024 and totaled: \$1,929,483 which exceeded the State threshold (\$1,183,261) for the Counties: Essex, \$ 46,399 (\$27,232), Lamoille, \$140,681 (\$119,347), Orange, \$160,678 (\$134,674); Orleans, \$607,818 (\$126,007.80); Rutland, \$290,859 (\$ 278,631); Windham, \$213,300 (\$211,163); & Windsor, \$469,748 (\$265,664).

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

A State of Emergency was not declared. The State Emergency Operations Center remained in partial activation from the catastrophic flooding on December 18, 2023, at 1300 hrs. to 2000 hrs. as a "Partial-Virtual Activation". For the overnight, the SEOC was in Monitoring Status with (2) VEM Watch Officers (WOs). The SEOC was re-activated on December 19, 2023, at 0800 hrs. to 1600 hrs. as a "Partial-Hybrid Activation". In the overnight, the SEOC was under Monitoring Status by the VEM WO on duty. Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions were activated as Local Liaisons on December 18-19, 2023, with the report for each community summarized on December 21, 23. The VTrans Districts performed their initial damage assessments during that time. Vermont Swift-water assets were prepositioned and deployed to the most impacted counties to evacuate residents from their homes to shelters.

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance N/A Debris Removal (Category A) Emergency Protective Measures (Category B) Permanent Work (Categories C-G)* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

Public Assistance is requested in the following (7) counties: Essex, Lamoille, Orange, Orleans, Rutland, Windham and Windsor based on validation of eligible damages from the December 18-19, 2023 storm, from the Preliminary Damage Assessment that was completed on February 5, 2024.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request*.

Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

Request for Direct Federal Assistance

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

Request for Snow Assistance

N/A I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request*.

*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request