

**State of Montana
Office of the Governor**

Executive Order No. 33-2008

**EXECUTIVE ORDER PROCLAIMING A DISASTER TO EXIST IN FALLON,
CARTER, CUSTER, AND POWDER RIVER COUNTIES, WITHIN THE STATE
OF MONTANA**

WHEREAS, On May 1st and 2nd, 2008, a spring storm with high winds coupled with freezing rain and heavy snow, broke over 1900 power poles and lines across the southeastern portion of Montana; and

WHEREAS, the counties of Carter, Custer, Fallon and Powder River have declared emergency or disaster declarations and activated the applicable parts of their emergency plans and programs, and

WHEREAS, the customers of Southeast Electric Co-op and Tongue River Electric Co-op were without power for up to 15 days; and

WHEREAS, the snow and ice storm had caused road closures, debris on the city and county roads, road damage, and the damage to electrical cooperatives infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the county had search and rescue looking for hunters, farmers with livestock lost, and electrical poles and debris blocking many of the roads throughout the counties; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Ekalaka had roads blocked with debris from the storm; and

WHEREAS, the immediate restoration of electrical power was and is essential to ensure the health, safety and welfare of a considerable number of residents of the affected counties; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned electrical cooperatives have expended considerable amounts of resources and manpower and have taken all possible actions to respond to, mitigate, repair and alleviate the situation; and

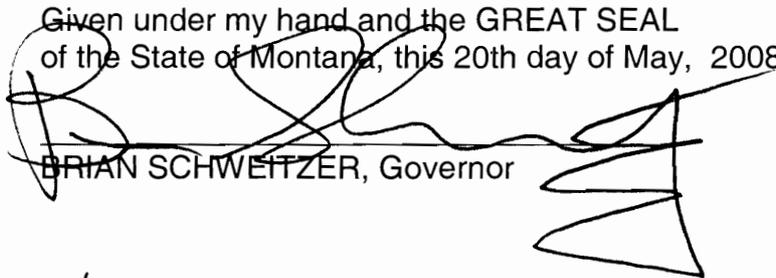
WHEREAS, Montana will be requesting federal disaster assistance on behalf of the affected counties and electrical cooperatives and these federal funds require matching state funds or specific expenditures prior to eligibility for assistance under federal laws, and a state declaration of disaster is necessary before the request can be submitted; and

WHEREAS, a declaration of a disaster under Section 20-3-303, MCA, authorizes the Governor under Section 10-3-311, MCA, to expend funds from the general fund to meet contingencies and needs arising from these conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor of the State of Montana, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor under the Constitution of the State of Montana, Title 10, Chapter 3, MCA, and under other applicable statutes, do hereby declare, under Section 10-3-303, MCA, that a disaster exists in Carter, Fallon, Custer, and Powder River Counties within the State of Montana and authorize, under Section 10-3-311, MCA, the expenditure of funds in order to obtain federal disaster assistance.

This order is effective May 1, 2008.

Given under my hand and the GREAT SEAL
of the State of Montana, this 20th day of May, 2008.



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, Governor

Attest:

Brad Johnson by Susan Pres, deputy
BRAD JOHNSON, Secretary of State