



SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

GUBERNATORIAL DISASTER PROCLAMATION

FILED  
INDEX DEPARTMENT

FEB 16 2021

IN THE OFFICE OF  
SECRETARY OF STATE

WHEREAS, beginning over the weekend of February 13-14, 2021, the State of Illinois has experienced winter storms causing large snow accumulations, frigid temperatures and bitter cold windchill temperatures of 15 to near 30 below zero in areas across the State; and,

WHEREAS, according to the National Weather Service, Illinois is expected to continue to have severe winter weather including extreme cold and additional snow accumulations. Current forecasts indicate wind chill temperatures of 20 to 30 below zero in some areas of the state, with the coldest readings in northern and west central Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, brisk winds with the surge of arctic air will produce some areas of blowing and drifting snow in open areas; and,

WHEREAS, due to the snow, heavy gusty winds, and continued subzero temperatures, a widespread public health and safety threat exists; and,

WHEREAS, due to extreme weather in other parts of the country, resulting in freezing wells in natural-gas-producing regions in states such as Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, the supply of natural gas has been reduced while demand for natural gas is increasing; and,

WHEREAS, because of the sub-zero temperatures causing an increased energy demand and natural gas supply constraints, utilities are reporting that they currently are experiencing wholesale natural gas prices anywhere from 10 to 100 times higher than normal. Those costs are expected to cause significant price spikes for consumers, particularly customers of municipal-owned utilities, increasing monthly natural gas and electric bills; and,

WHEREAS, based on reports received by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, local resources and capabilities may be exhausted and State resources will be needed to respond to and recover from the effects of the severe winter weather; and,

WHEREAS, these conditions provide legal justification under section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Act for the issuance of a proclamation of disaster; and,

WHEREAS, the Illinois Constitution, in Article V, Section 8, provides that "the Governor shall have the supreme executive power, and shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws," and states, in the Preamble, that a central purpose of the Illinois Constitution is to "provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the people";

NOW, THEREFORE, in the interest of aiding the people of Illinois and the local governments responsible for ensuring public health and safety, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, hereby proclaim as follows:

Section 1. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, I find that a disaster exists within the State of

Illinois and declare all counties within the State of Illinois as disaster areas. This proclamation authorizes the exercise of all of the emergency powers provided in Section 7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7, including but not limited those specific emergency powers set forth below.

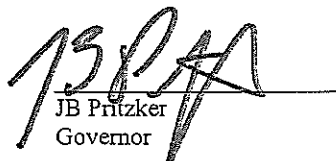
Section 2. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is directed to implement the State Emergency Operations Plan to coordinate State resources to support local governments in disaster response and recovery operations.

Section 3. To aid with emergency purchases necessary for response and other emergency powers as authorized by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, the provisions of the Illinois Procurement Code that would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action in coping with the disaster are suspended to the extent they are not required by federal law.

Section 4. If necessary, and in accordance with Section 7(1) of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act, 20 ILCS 3305/7(1), additional statutes, orders, rules, and regulations may be suspended through executive order.

Section 5: This proclamation can facilitate a request for Federal emergency assistance or disaster assistance if a complete and comprehensive assessment of damage indicates that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and affected local governments.

Section 6: This proclamation shall be effective immediately and remain in effect for 30 days.

  
JB Pritzker  
Governor

Date: February 16, 2021

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