



FEMA

November 8, 2016

The Honorable Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor of Connecticut  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Governor Malloy:

Thank you for your October 19, 2016 letter, requesting that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) establish a field office in northeastern Connecticut to conduct a preliminary damage assessment for the purpose of determining the extent and impact of crumbling residential basements. You stated that this damage appears to be the result of the reaction of a naturally occurring mineral, pyrrhotite, to oxygen and water.

Based upon the July 7, 2016 status report from the State's Attorney General, it appears that the pyrrhotite was present in the stone aggregate in the concrete which was used in these foundations. While the mineral and chemical reactions may be naturally occurring, the mixing of concrete and the placing of these foundations are manmade events and do not constitute a natural catastrophe as that term is used in the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act). As such, neither preliminary damage assessments nor Stafford Act assistance are appropriate to address this situation.

Although we are unable to provide Stafford Act assistance, FEMA Region I will make a senior liaison available to facilitate your engagement of other federal partners. Please do not hesitate to contact Paul F. Ford, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region I at (617) 956-7500. We remain committed partners in emergency management and thank you for your collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Craig Fugate".

W. Craig Fugate  
Administrator