

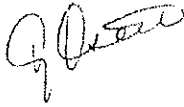


FEMA

OCT 22 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Regional Administrators  
Regions I – X

ATTENTION: Disaster Assistance Division Directors

FROM: Carlos J. Castillo   
Assistant Administrator  
Disaster Assistance Directorate

SUBJECT: End of the Public Assistance Pilot Program – December 31, 2008

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you and your staff that the Public Assistance Pilot Program will end on December 31, 2008.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act, 2007, Public Law 109-295, (the Act) directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a Public Assistance (PA) Pilot Program. The Act gave FEMA the authority to waive certain regulations and policies to implement the Pilot. In accordance with section 689j(d) of the Act, no project may be approved under this program after December 31, 2008.

The PA Pilot Workgroup interpreted the Act to mean that all Pilot projects must be **obligated** by December 31, 2008. The PA Pilot *Program Guidance* (FEMA 598, June 2007) states, “No PA Pilot Program projects may be approved after December 31, 2008. Approval, in this context, is defined as being obligated.”

Participation in the Pilot program is open to State and local governments on a voluntary basis. However, given the pending end of the Pilot program, applicants should be made aware that FEMA will process all projects obligated after December 31, 2008, in accordance with standard Public Assistance regulations and policies. Please inform applicants who are interested in the Grants on the Basis of Estimates procedure that they should make decisions on this procedure as soon as possible given the timeframe needed to develop and agree on an accurate scope of work and cost estimate and the time needed to review and obligate the project worksheets. Although project worksheets for debris recycling and force account labor for debris removal must be obligated by December 31, 2008, FEMA will reconcile final costs for these projects during final inspection and closeout.

For any questions regarding the Public Assistance Pilot Program, please contact James A. Walke, Director of the Public Assistance Division, at (202) 646-2751, or Deana Platt of his staff at (202) 646-2797.

cc: Ted Monette  
Director  
Office of Federal Coordinating Officer Operations