

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office
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FEMA

March 27, 2007

Colonel Thomas Kirkpatrick
State Coordinating Officer
State of Louisiana
415 North 15th Street
Baton Rouge, La 70802

Re: Requests for Extension of Category E Work

Dear Colonel Kirkpatrick:

I am writing in response to a number of recent letters in which you asked FEMA to approve time extension requests that have been submitted to the State by various subgrantees in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita for permanent work.

Pursuant to 44 CFR 206.204 the State of Louisiana already has the authority to grant requests from subgrantees for extensions of time in which to complete permanent work. Under 44 CFR 206.204(c)(1) permanent work must usually be completed within 18 months of a major disaster declaration. However, under 44 CFR 206.204(c)(2)(ii), the State may extend the deadlines for completion of permanent work up to an additional 30 months on a project-by-project basis based on extenuating circumstances or unusual project requirements beyond the control of subgrantees.

Although the State is authorized to grant the requested time extensions for these Project Worksheets, I want to underscore the need for time extension requests to be carefully reviewed to ensure that approved requests are granted only for the minimum time necessary, rather than routinely for the maximum time identified in 44 CFR 206.204. As 44 CFR 206.204(c)(2) indicates, time extensions should only be approved on a project-by-project basis and only for extenuating circumstances or unusual project requirements that are beyond the control of subgrantees.

In summary, I am returning these requests to you with no action because you already have the authority to approve them. I would appreciate it if you would ensure that the State routinely provides FEMA with documentation of time extension requests that it approves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Stark".

Jim Stark
Director
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office