

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office
One Seine Court
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114
(504) 762-2018 office
(504) 762-2899 fax



FEMA

March 2, 2007

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

RE: Identification of Damage to Roads and Bridges. FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Dear Colonel Kirkpatrick:

I have been reviewing the progress of recovery operations across all categories of damage for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and I have noted slow progress in Category C, Roads and Bridges. I have been advised that a large number of applicants have stated that they are unable to allocate the time or resources to the identification of road damages at this time.

While recognizing that many applicants are fully occupied with their recovery efforts from this monumental event, I am, nonetheless, concerned with the lag in the identification of damages from the disasters, especially for road damages. Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita occurred over 16 months ago.

Review of our records on DR-1603 indicate there are only 51 Category C Project Worksheets (PWs) for Orleans Parish (and of those, only nine are for roads), 40 PWs for Plaquemines Parish, 19 PWs for Jefferson Parish, 13 PWs for St. Bernard Parish, and 75 PWs for the rest of the State. Our records indicate that for DR-1607, there are 125 Category C PWs. In addition, there are 21 PWs from the Louisiana Department of Transportation, 7 for DR-1603, and 14 for DR-1607. I am sure you agree that we need to complete the identification of Category C work for both disasters.

I was pleased to hear of the new joint Road Assessment Teams that will be forming soon. As I want to support the State in accomplishing this work, I am extending the deadline for identification of road damages until June 1, 2007. The following conditions apply:

- Specific descriptions and locations of damage to roads, utilities adjacent to or under roads, curbs, street traffic lights and signs, and storm drains are needed (including schedules for joint teams to evaluate the damage).
- All damages must be identified. In particular, the effort must include the parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines.

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- The State and the applicants should provide staff to participate with FEMA staff in the evaluation of damages the applicants have identified by that date.
- Loss of road life is not considered direct, disaster-related damage and therefore is not eligible under the PA program.

I appreciate our partnership in assuring that your sub-grantees receive the benefits for which they are eligible.

Sincerely,



Jim Stark

Director

Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office

cc: John Connolly, Public Assistance Section Chief