



June 25, 2014

Bill Roche
Director, Public Assistance Division
Recovery Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Tod Wells
Deputy Director, Public Assistance Division
Recovery Directorate
Federal Emergency Management Agency
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Roche and Mr. Wells,

I am writing to request clarification on the extension of the *Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Pilot Program Guide for Debris Removal* which will impact State and local governments, and the private sector businesses they often depend upon to clean up and restore their cities, after a disaster.

DRCA would like clarification on FEMA's guidance related to the implementation of the Public Assistance Alternative Procedures Pilot Program for debris removal, as authorized by the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-2), which reads as follows:

"This Public Assistance (PA) Alternative Procedures Pilot Program for Debris Removal (Debris Pilot) – Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) applies to debris removal subgrants in all major disasters and emergencies declared on or after June 28th, 2013. The Debris Pilot will remain in place for one (1) year, at which point FEMA will assess the pilot's effectiveness at achieving its goals."

We understand that quite a few organizations and their clients are currently participating in certain elements of the Debris Pilot program and have active FEMA Project Worksheets (PW's) that will not be closed out prior to June 28th, 2014. In addition, many other communities hope to participate in the program if it is available this hurricane season.

We would like to commend FEMA for encouraging procedures like the Debris Pilot which promote efficiencies in responding to disasters. When victims and communities can recover from a disaster quicker due to economies and efficiencies encouraged by the regulations and policies, the government is fulfilling its proper role of helping victims while protecting taxpayer funds.

DRCA

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With this in mind, DRCA's membership is respectfully requesting written clarification from FEMA as to your intention to extend the Debris Pilot and for what period of time.

We hope this issue can be clarified quickly so state and local government officials can concentrate on the important coordination issues they need to consider during hurricane season this year.

Thank you for your attention to this matter on behalf of our membership and the hundreds of private sector companies that work side by side with governments to help communities recover. Please feel free to contact me at clong@thedrca.org or at (202) 441-0493 if you would like any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "CL", is positioned above the typed name of the sender.

Casey A. Long
Managing Director
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