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Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office  
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FEMA

October 4, 2007

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

Andy Kopplin  
Executive Director,  
Louisiana Recovery Authority  
150 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Re: Eligibility Determination for Road Home Demolitions  
Louisiana Recovery Authority, FEMA-1603-DR-LA

Dear Colonel Kirkpatrick and Mr. Kopplin:

This is in response to the Louisiana Recovery Authority's letter, dated September 21, 2007, which requested that FEMA clarify policy regarding Public Assistance funding for Road Home eligible properties.

FEMA remains committed to providing funding for eligible demolition of privately-owned properties currently identified by parish officials. The primary criteria for evaluating potential demolition activity are related to the authority under of the Stafford Act to address disaster-related damages that pose an immediate threat to the safety of the general public. I recognize that ownership of many of these properties may transfer from private entities to the Road Home Corporation and eventually to individual parishes. In my view, these transfers, or acts of sale, have no substantive bearing on the properties' eligibility for demolition under the Stafford Act. If the properties meet FEMA eligibility requirements, they remain eligible, regardless of title transfers, and FEMA stands ready to reimburse parishes for the eligible and reasonable costs of their demolition. Further, I agree that duplication of benefits does not appear to be an issue for the majority of these properties.

However, to be clear, demolition of gutted, yet otherwise structurally sound and safe properties, to facilitate development or to avoid owners' maintenance costs, is not eligible for FEMA funding. Safety hazards that can be eliminated by boarding up the properties remain eligible costs, as well as filling pools or providing limited fencing.

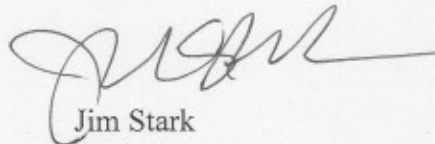
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In addition, FEMA will continue funding the demolition of properties purchased through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This unique program allows FEMA to invoke the authorities of the Stafford Act to fund the demolition of properties that are purchased by local communities. This program also requires specific deed restrictions be placed on the property to prevent any future development and keep the area as open space.

In summary, it is not possible to provide a blanket assurance that FEMA will provide demolition funding for all properties purchased through the Road Home program. Affected communities should continue to submit requests for individual property demolition to the appropriate FEMA representative in their parish. FEMA staff will evaluate each request, and funding for demolition will be provided whenever our health and safety criteria are met. It is possible that many of the properties purchased by the Road Home Corporation, and turned over to local governments, will qualify for demolition. However, as you have pointed out, time is of the essence in our recovery, and these requests should be forthcoming for all properties identified by the affected parishes as health and safety issues regardless of current ownership.

I am confident that we can continue to work collaboratively to support the recovery and rebuilding of Louisiana communities and reduce their vulnerability to future hazards. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jim Stark  
Director  
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office

Cc: Gil Jamieson, Associate Deputy Administrator, GCRO