



# FEMA

August 28, 2006

Johnny Gonzales  
GOHSEP PAO  
FEMA-1603-DR-LA  
415 N. 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

RE: Alternative Arrangements, Reconstruction of Critical Infrastructure in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area, Hospital Signage, West Jefferson Medical Center, PW#: 12394, DR-1603-LA, PA ID: 051-UC395-00

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Public Assistance project, including codes and standards upgrades, for Hospital Signage, 1101 Medical Center Boulevard, Marrero, LA 70072 (29.893 N, 90.096 W), qualifies for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Alternative Arrangements for the Reconstruction of Critical Infrastructure in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area.

Under the regular Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) NEPA review this project would have qualified for Categorical Exclusion XV. However, due to the unprecedented number of grants requested that need to be processed in a short time, the potential cumulative effects, and potential environmentally-related socio-economic effects of FEMA's funding in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area, FEMA has determined that this type of action may have significant impacts that cannot be reviewed under the normal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process. FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) have adopted the Alternative Arrangements to address the basic elements of NEPA under these circumstances. For more information visit [www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/noma/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/noma/index.shtm).

While the use of Alternative Arrangements meets NEPA compliance requirements, there are requirements of other Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) laws and executive orders that must be individually complied with. For the work described in this PW the following conditions relating to those requirements apply:

- This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. LA DNR has determined that receipt of federal assistance is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resource Program. Projects within the coastal zone may still require a Coastal Use Permit or other authorization from DNR. Projects may be coordinated by contacting LA DNR at 1-800-267-4019.
- In accordance with the Formosan Termite Initiative Act, (LA R.S. 3:3391.1 thru 3391.13) the Louisiana parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, and Washington are under quarantine. The movement of wood or cellulose material, temporary housing or architectural components (e.g. beams, doors and other wood salvaged from a structure) may not leave the quarantined parishes without written authorization from the commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry or his designee(s).
- Unusable equipment, debris and material shall be disposed of in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project applicant shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the local, state and federal agencies.

Please note that this transmittal is a notification that this project has been cleared under NEPA only. **This is not a notice of final approval or eligibility.** Any change beyond the approved scope of work for this project will require additional environmental review by FEMA.

Sincerely,

  
*Wm. Fagan for:*

Howard R. Bush, REM  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Enclosures: PW# 12394

Cc: Oliver Mack, FEMA DPAO for Grants