



FEMA

APR 02 2014

Dear Chief Executive,

I am pleased to announce that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is initiating an initial 120-day tribal consultation on the first draft of the Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance.

This effort stems from the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 (SRIA), which President Obama signed in January 2013. Federally recognized Indian tribal governments (tribal governments) now have the option to request a Presidential emergency or major disaster declaration independently of a state or may continue to choose to seek be considered part of a state's declaration request. Prior to the enactment of SRIA, tribal governments could only seek Stafford Act assistance through a state.

In order to allow tribes the choice to use the new authority immediately, FEMA is processing tribal declaration requests using current declarations regulations used for state requests. As of March 31, 2014, FEMA has received and processed eight major tribal disaster declarations, and the President has declared six tribal major disasters using these existing processes. As the next step in implementing this authority, FEMA seeks to tailor the disaster declaration process to the needs of tribal nations by taking into account the unique circumstances that affect tribal communities.

FEMA received input from tribal governments last year and developed the enclosed draft of the "Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance." After tribal consultation on this draft, FEMA will adjudicate input from tribal governments and publish another draft for public and tribal comment. We will conduct another round of tribal consultation during that comment period. When finalized, the "Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance" will describe the process that tribal governments will use to request declarations, and the criteria FEMA will use to make recommendations to the President whether or not to authorize disaster assistance to tribal governments.

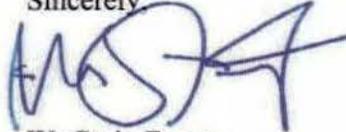
Continuing our commitment to conduct meaningful and regular tribal consultation, over the next few months FEMA will discuss and solicit input on the draft of the "Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance" with tribal officials of federally recognized Indian tribes, or their designees, such as tribal emergency managers, tribal fire and police chiefs. FEMA seeks input from tribes during this consultation period in order to develop a declarations process that reflects the unique circumstances of tribal governments and their communities. During this consultation, we will be holding a series of face-to-face working meetings to discuss and collect your input on the "Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance."

Your FEMA Regional Administrator will be reaching out to you with an official invitation for one of the face-to-face meetings in your region of the country. I sincerely hope you will be able to join us and offer your input. However, if you are unable to join us at one of the meetings, you can always contact us at tribalconsultation@fema.dhs.gov. We will also be listing the complete schedule,

transcripts of meetings and the draft "Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance" on our website at www.fema.gov/tribal-consultations.

In addition to the first draft of the "Tribal Declarations Pilot Guidance," I have also enclosed an overview of the guidance to assist your review of this draft. We look forward to discussing this draft with you, and including tribal governments in the development of this important document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Craig Fugate". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

W. Craig Fugate
Administrator

cc: Regional Administrators