



FEMA

APR 1 2009

Dr. G. Kemble Bennett
Office of the Vice Chancellor
Texas A&M University
301 Wisenbaker
College Station, TX 77843-3126

Dear Dr. Bennett:

This letter responds to your memorandum dated December 18, 2008, to then-FEMA Administrator David Paulison in which you recommend that the Special Needs Subcommittee of the National Advisory Council (NAC) be included in the development of position descriptions for the Regional Disability Coordinators.

The Office of Equal Rights and the Disaster Disability Coordinator provided updates on the development and progress of this initiative to the Special Needs Subcommittee during the subcommittee's teleconference on March 16, 2009. The position descriptions are being developed by the Office of Equal Rights with disability coordinator input. We are expecting that some draft document will be available around mid-June 2009. Also, during the teleconference the Subcommittee was invited to continue to consider the recommendations for the way forward pending authorization of the Regional Disability Coordinator positions set forth in then-Administrator Paulison's letter to you dated December 5, 2008.

We value the input provided by the NAC regarding FEMA operations, and we are especially pleased with your interest in supporting these regional disability coordinator positions. The Agency expects there will be widespread interest in these positions when they are announced. It is important that we ensure the integrity of the recruitment and selection process. Therefore, the development and structuring of the position descriptions must remain internal to FEMA.

We look forward to continued partnership with the NAC in developing improved processes for these critical disaster management issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Ward", written over a large, stylized flourish that extends across the signature line.

Nancy Ward
Acting Administrator