




Homeland Security

April 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR: Scott Morris
Director
FEMA's Florida Long Term Recovery Office
Orlando, Florida

FROM: C. David Kimble 
Acting Audit Director
Atlanta Field Office

SUBJECT: *Review of Hurricane Wilma Activities
Collier County, Florida
FEMA Disaster No. 1609-DR-FL
Report Number GC-FL-06-39*

We performed an interim review of costs associated with Hurricane Wilma debris removal activities for Collier County, Florida. The objectives of the review were to determine whether the county (1) was properly accounting for disaster-related costs and whether such costs were eligible for funding under FEMA's public assistance program, and (2) let contracts according to federal procurement standards and FEMA guidelines, and had adequate procedures for monitoring the activities of the contractors.

The county received an award of \$37.6 million from the Florida Department of Community Affairs, a FEMA grantee, for debris removal activities. The award provided funding for five projects under which the county let four contracts, as follows:

Project Number	Approved Scope of Work	Amount Awarded	Number of Contracts
7	Debris Collection, Hauling, and Disposal	\$29,621,050	1
52	Contractor Monitoring – Collection, Hauling and Disposal	7,187,335	1
761	Emergency Road Clean up	548,302	1
765	Emergency Road Clean up	44,080	
1496	Contractor Monitoring- Road Clean up	162,511	1
Total		\$37,563,278	4

As of March 16, 2006, the cut-off date of our review, the county had recorded expenditures of \$13.3 million under the projects and had received \$9,512,751 of FEMA funds.

We analyzed the county's accounting system and reviewed the county's contracting practices, contract documents, and monitoring procedures. We also interviewed FEMA, county, and contractor officials.

We concluded that the county had an effective system for accounting for disaster-related costs. A separate cost account had been established to record project expenditures and accounting entries could be systematically traced to supporting source documents. Moreover, the county procured debris removal contracts competitively, maintained detailed contract files, and had adequate monitoring procedures for reviewing and approving debris removal activities and billings of the contractors. Because this report contains no recommendations, no actions are required.

The review was conducted in conjunction with the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE) as part of its examination of relief efforts provided by the Federal government in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As such, a copy of the report has been forwarded to the PCIE Homeland Security Working Group, which is coordinating the Inspectors General review of this important subject.

The nature and brevity of this assignment precluded the use of our normal audit protocols; therefore, this review was not conducted according to generally accepted government auditing standards. Had we followed such standards, other matters might have come to our attention.

Auditors Oscar Andino and Vilmarie Serrano performed this review. Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me at (770) 220-5240.

cc: Under Secretary for Management
Acting Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response
Acting Chief Financial Officer, DHS
Chief Procurement Officer, DHS
Audit Liaison, DHS
Audit Liaisons, FEMA
Chief Financial Officer, FEMA
Senior Procurement Officer, FEMA
Deputy Director, Gulf Coast Recovery
Florida State Coordinating Officer
FEMA Regional Director, Region IV