



### Why This Matters

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides public assistance grants to state, Tribal, and local governments, and certain types of private nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. We perform audits of FEMA grantees and subgrantees to determine whether costs claimed under the awards are eligible and allowable under federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. The Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority (Authority) received a public assistance award of \$2.5 million for damages resulting from Tropical Storm Jeanne in September 2004.

### DHS Response

FEMA's written response is due within 90 days.

## FEMA Public Assistance Grant Funds Awarded to Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority - Tropical Storm Jeanne

### What We Determined

The Authority generally accounted for and expended FEMA funds according to federal regulations and FEMA guidelines. However, we identified \$59,847 of questionable costs resulting from non-disaster and excessive project charges.

### What We Recommend

We recommend that the Regional Administrator, FEMA Region II:

- 1) Disallow \$53,137 (\$39,853 federal share) of non-disaster related project charges.
- 2) Disallow \$6,710 (\$5,033 federal share) of excessive contract charges.

### For Further Information:

Contact our Office of Public Affairs at (202)254-4100, or email us at [DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@dhs.gov](mailto:DHS-OIG.OfficePublicAffairs@dhs.gov)