

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472



FEMA

JUN 08 2009

The Honorable Bennie Thompson, Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of April 30, 2009, to the former acting administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) concerning housing units to be used following a disaster, which was referred to me for response. I appreciate your commendation of our National Disaster Housing Strategy publication and your ongoing interest in our programs.

Below, we have responded to the specific questions asked in your letter to FEMA.

- 1) Based on current contracts, what is the maximum number of temporary housing units FEMA could provide if there were a catastrophe requiring temporary housing?

FEMA has the capability to purchase approximately 38,000 traditional temporary housing units such as travel trailers, park models, and manufactured homes. FEMA anticipates awarding an additional contract in July 2009, giving FEMA the capability to purchase up to 135,000 units to support a catastrophic event. This contract will be a five-year Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity contract.

- 2) Based on FEMA's planning efforts and responses to actual events, what is the range of FEMA's housing capacity needs in the wake of a catastrophic incident?

The range of FEMA's housing capabilities are described in our 2009 Disaster Housing Plan. The Plan describes FEMA's approach to working with Federal partners, States, territories, local communities, and individual disaster survivors to meet disaster housing needs during the 2009 hurricane season. The Plan is based on key concepts that are further defined in the National Disaster Housing Strategy, and will be further expanded upon by the National Disaster Housing Task Force in their Concept of Operations slated to be out in November 2009. This document was shared with your staff in April 2009, and is attached for your reference.

- 3) Pursuant to the solicitation, FEMA has the option of ordering a total of 6,000 units from each contractor, divided equally among the four contracts, each year for five years. Will each contractor commence its work simultaneously or will the delivery orders be staggered among the four vendors? Additionally, how will FEMA determine the ordering precedence in light of the time-sensitive nature of post-catastrophe housing needs?

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Solicitation number HSFEHQ-09-R-0019 resulted in the award of four (4) contracts. Each contractor is awarded a minimum order of 100 units (Task Order #1). At the conclusion of Task Order #1 the most highly qualified contractors will be ranked based on their rating as: exceptional, good, marginal or unexceptional. Selections will be based on the following factors: performance, ability to meet delivery requirements (quantity and time), results from formaldehyde tests, and price.

For future Task Orders, contractors who received an exceptional rating will be given precedence over those with less favorable ratings. In the event that multiple contractors are ranked as exceptional, the next order will be divided equally among those contractors.

- 4) How will FEMA ensure that all housing units procured in the future meet the stringent emission standards established by the National Disaster Housing Strategy's Joint Task Force?

Each manufacturer will test the indoor air quality in each unit using a qualified, third-party Industrial Hygienist, and certify that the units meet air emissions standards established by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's Joint Task Force prior to FEMA accepting the units. In addition, FEMA has a national third-party Industrial Hygienist who will conduct random tests on the units as they are procured at each of the manufacturing plants to ensure accuracy.

- 5) What are the range of costs for travel trailers, park models, manufactured homes, and alternative housing options?

The average cost of the temporary housing units may vary:

- \$19,500 for a travel trailer;
- \$25,000 for a park model;
- \$46,000 for a mobile home, and
- \$77,000 for an alternative housing unit.

- 6) Where does FEMA anticipate storing trailers that are not in use and what plan does FEMA have in place for retiring or disposing of trailers that are no longer needed or deemed to be uninhabitable based on prior usage?

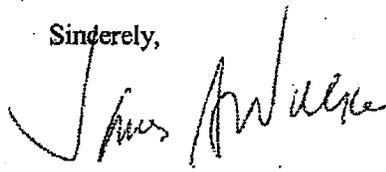
When not in use and no longer deployed, all manufactured housing units are stored at FEMA storage facilities across the country. As required by law, units no longer needed are sold as excess through the General Services Administration, and proceeds are used to fund additional units.

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I trust this information is helpful. If you have additional questions, please have a member of your staff contact our Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 646-4500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James A. Walke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "W".

James A. Walke
Acting Assistant Administrator
Disaster Assistance Directorate