

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
FEMA-State Joint Field Office  
1786-DR-LA  
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**FEMA**

September 10, 2008

Mr. Steve Agullard  
State of Louisiana  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Office of the Secretary  
P.O. Box 4301  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 78021-4301

Dear Steve Agullard:

This is in response to the issues raised in your letter, dated September 9, 2008, concerning the State of Louisiana's debris management plan and reimbursement of its debris removal activities by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program for 1786-DR-LA.

According to your letter, the State's debris management plan requires that vegetative debris be reduced, via grinding or burning, and reused when possible. As stated in the PA Guide, FEMA 322, expenses associated with the removal, reduction and disposal of eligible disaster-related debris by an eligible applicant are eligible for reimbursement under the PA Program. FEMA encourages debris recycling and the reduction of debris prior to disposal at landfills. Provided that all necessary environmental permits are obtained and all Federal and State environmental regulations are followed, the use of an "air curtain destructor" to reduce eligible disaster-related debris by burning is an eligible expense. FEMA will reimburse applicants' use of grinders, air curtain incinerators, or other equipment based on State established rates or the rates established in the FEMA Schedule of Equipment Rates.

Additional guidance on debris eligibility under the PA Program is available in our Debris Management Guide, FEMA 325, available online at:  
<http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/demagde.pdf>.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Hall".

Michael J. Hall  
Federal Coordinating Officer  
FEMA-1786-DR-LA