



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, D.C. 20240

JUN 20 2007

## **NOTIFICATION REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF FEMA MOBILE HOMES**

### **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON ALLOCATING METHODOLOGY**

#### **IMPORTANT DUE DATES:**

#### **TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES MAY VIEW MOBILE HOMES IN HOPE ARKANSAS:**

**July 9 - 20, 2007**

#### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS ON ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY:**

**Three weeks from the date of this letter**

Dear Tribal Leader:

This letter is to inform you of the availability of approximately 2000 unused mobile homes and to seek your comments on the best method to allocate these units to tribes. Under the authority of the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may make these mobile homes available to tribal governments, and is doing so in cooperation with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), General Services Administration (GSA), and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), collectively the Federal Agencies.

#### **WHERE ARE THE MOBILE HOMES CURRENTLY LOCATED?**

The mobile homes that FEMA is making available for screening are located at FEMA facilities in Hope, Arkansas. However, allocation of the mobile homes will also include units located at the FEMA facilities in Texarkana, Texas.

#### **IS THERE A COST FOR THE MOBILE HOMES?**

The mobile homes themselves are free of charge. There are costs, however, to transport, set up, and if necessary, retrofit the mobile homes. These costs must be borne by the tribes, as neither FEMA nor BIA has funds available to assist tribes in transporting and setting up the mobile homes.

Tribes may use funds provided from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) program to pay for the cost of transporting and setting up the mobile homes, and if necessary, for retrofitting the mobile homes for the northern climates. If a tribe uses the IHBG program funds for this purpose, all current rules and regulations attached to the funds will apply. For more information related to the use of these funds, please contact your regional HUD Area Office of Native American Programs.

**HOW WILL THE GOVERNMENT ALLOCATE THE MOBILE HOMES TO THOSE TRIBES THAT REQUEST THEM?**

The two main criteria that the Federal Agencies propose to use are 1) fairness to requesting tribes, and 2) simplicity of implementing the allocation methodology. The Federal Agencies have proposed the following option for allocating the mobile homes to requesting tribes:

Proposed Option: The designated Federal Agent, in cooperation with the other Agencies, will randomly allocate one mobile home to each requesting tribe until all tribes that have requested a mobile home have been allocated one. Tribes, if any, which have requested only one mobile home would then be removed from the allocation process since their entire request will have been fulfilled. The Federal Agent and the aforementioned collaborating agencies will then randomly allocate a second mobile home to each tribe that has requested at least two mobile homes until all tribes that have requested two mobile homes have been allocated a second one. Any tribes that have requested only two will then be removed from the allocation process, since their entire request will have been fulfilled. The allocation process will continue in this manner until all the available mobile homes have been allocated.

Although we have proposed the two criteria and the allocation option described above, BIA and collaborating agencies seek your input on: 1) What criteria we should use to devise the allocation methodology, i.e. should we consider other factors instead of, or in addition to, fairness and simplicity? 2) What is the most equitable way to allocate the mobile homes? Specifically, are there other options which we have not proposed for allocating these mobile homes? 3) Which agency or entity (such as HUD, FEMA or BIA) should facilitate the allocation of these mobile homes to Indian Country?

Please submit your comments on the allocation methodology within three weeks from the date of this letter to:

Les Jensen, Housing Program Officer  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
1849 C Street NW, MS-4513-MIB  
Fax: (202) 208-5113  
Confirmation Telephone Number: (907) 586-7397

Based on the comments received, a decision will be made regarding which allocation methodology will be used one week after the tribal comment deadline.

**CAN TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES VIEW AND INSPECT THE MOBILE HOMES?**

Yes. To ensure that the process of allocating and distributing the mobile homes can proceed as quickly as possible, on July 9-20, 2007, Monday - Friday, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. FEMA representatives will be available at the FEMA facilities in Hope, Arkansas. On those dates, FEMA representatives will make a representative sampling of the mobile homes available for viewing and inspection by tribal representatives. Tribes will not be able to select the specific mobile homes they wish to obtain. Tribes will, however, be able to see the general condition, size, and quality of the mobile homes being made available for transfer to tribes.

If you plan to view the mobile homes, please contact:

Ms. Peggy Lukas  
Hope Arkansas Emergency Housing Storage Site  
3910 Highway 278 West  
Hope, Arkansas 71801  
Telephone Number: (870) 777-3343

Please bring a copy of this letter and Tribal identification or business card with you for admittance to the FEMA facilities.

**WHO DO YOU CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION?**

Bureau of Indian Affairs:

Les Jensen  
Housing Program Officer  
Office of Indian Services  
Phone: (907) 586-7397  
Fax: (202) 208-5113

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

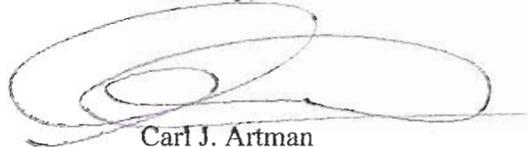
Steve Golubic  
FEMA Tribal Liaison  
(202) 646-4264

Liz Kelley  
Emergency Housing Unit  
(202) 646-3752

Housing and Urban Development:

Ted Key  
Director of Field Operations  
Office of Native American Programs  
(202) 401-7914

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl J. Artman', written over a light gray rectangular background.

Carl J. Artman  
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs