



Why This Matters

Section 565 of the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013, codified as Public Law 113-6, requires the Inspector General to review the application for public assistance provided through the Disaster Relief Fund with a project cost that exceeds \$10,000,000 and the resulting decisions issued by FEMA for Category A debris removal for DR-1786 upon receipt of a request from an applicant after filing an appeal with FEMA. Not later than 180 days after the date of such request, the Inspector General shall determine whether FEMA correctly applied its rules and regulations to determine eligibility of the applicant's claim. If the Inspector General finds that FEMA determinations related to eligibility and cost involved a misapplication of its rules and regulations, the applicant may submit the dispute to the arbitration process established under the authority granted under section 601 of Public Law 111-5 not later than 15 days after the date of issuance of the Inspector General's finding. Livingston Parish submitted a request for review to the Inspector General on April 3, 2013.

DHS Response

This audit did not identify issues requiring further action from FEMA, therefore, we consider this audit closed and do not require a response.

For Further Information:

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

FEMA's Application of Rules and Federal Regulations in Determining Debris Removal Eligibility for Livingston Parish, Louisiana

What We Determined

FEMA did not always correctly apply its rules and Federal regulations to determine eligibility of Livingston Parish's claims. Specifically, for two appeals, FEMA did not provide a decision on Livingston Parish's appeals within the 90-day time limit that Federal regulation requires. In the third instance, FEMA held Livingston Parish's second appeal for reimbursement of costs it incurred for clearing waterways for 655 days—more than 21 months—before it responded. As a result, section 565 of Public Law 113-6 allows Livingston Parish to submit the dispute to the arbitration process.