

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Emergency Management Agency has submitted the following proposed information collection to the Office of Management and Budget for review and clearance in accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3507).

Title: Flood Mitigation Assistance (eGrants) and Grant Supplemental Information.

Type of Information Collection: Revision of a currently approved collection.

OMB Number: 1660-0072.

Abstract: Information sought with this submission will comprise Phase I of the electronic, web-based application for Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program grants through FEMA's eGrants system. The eGrants system is being developed to meet the intent of the eGovernment initiative, authorized by Public Law 106-107 passed on November 20, 1999. This initiative requires that all government agencies both streamline grant application process and provide for the means to electronically create, review, and submit a grant application via the Internet.

The FMA eGrants application will not replace the FMA grants program paper-based collection currently under OMB control number 1660-0025. It is provided as an alternative method for grantees and subgrantees to use.

The FMA eGrants application includes the information necessary for FEMA to assess the financial needs of the applicants as well as the projected benefits to be obtained from the use of the grant funds. FEMA will also use the information to determine eligibility and whether the proposed use of such funds meets the requirements and intent of the NFIRA. FEMA will use the information to evaluate applications and make award decisions, monitor ongoing performance and manage the flow of Federal funds, and to appropriately closeout the grant award when all work is completed.

Affected Public: State, local and Tribal governments.

Number of Respondents: 280—56 States and Territories × 4 subgrants per State = 224 + 56 States to review, coordinate and forward FMA grant applications to FEMA for approval.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 14.6 hrs.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 4,088.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Comments: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments within 30 days of this notice on the proposed information collection to the FEMA Desk Officer at the Office of Management and Budget at e-mail address David_Rostker@omb.oep.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be made to Muriel B. Anderson, Chief, Records Management Branch, Information Resources Management Division, Information Technology Services Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency at facsimile number (202) 646-3347 or e-mail address

InformationCollections@fema.gov.

Dated: November 13, 2003.

Edward W. Kernan,

Division Director, Information Resources Management Division, Information Technology Services Directorate.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[FEMA-1501-DR]

Puerto Rico; Major Disaster and Related Determinations

AGENCY: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This is a notice of the Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (FEMA-1501-DR), dated November 21, 2003, and related determinations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 21, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Magda Ruiz, Recovery Division, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-2705.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that, in a letter dated November 21, 2003, the President declared a major disaster under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5206 (the Stafford Act), as follows:

I have determined that the damage in certain areas of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, resulting from severe storms, flooding, mudslides, and landslides on November 10, 2003, and continuing, is of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121-5206 (the Stafford Act). I, therefore, declare that such a major disaster exists in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to allocate from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal disaster assistance and administrative expenses.

You are authorized to provide Individual Assistance in the designated areas, Hazard Mitigation throughout the Commonwealth, and any other forms of assistance under the Stafford Act you may deem appropriate. Consistent with the requirement that Federal assistance be supplemental, any Federal funds provided under the Stafford Act for Hazard Mitigation and the Other Needs Assistance under Section 408 of the Stafford Act will be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs. If Public Assistance is later warranted, Federal funds provided under that program will also be limited to 75 percent of the total eligible costs.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

The time period prescribed for the implementation of section 310(a), Priority to Certain Applications for Public Facility and Public Housing Assistance, 42 U.S.C. 5153, shall be for a period not to exceed six months after the date of this declaration.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security, under Executive Order 12148, as amended, Justo Hernandez, of FEMA is appointed to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this declared disaster.

I do hereby determine the following areas of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to have been affected adversely by this declared major disaster:

The municipalities of Guánica, Guayama, Juana Diaz, Maunabo, Patillas, Río Grande, Salinas, Santa Isabel, and Yauco for Individual Assistance.

All municipalities within the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.