

EDITOR'S PICK, RECOVERY



Polish Up On Policy for FEMA Relief

By Cathy Cash
Published: August 12th, 2013

With hurricane season looming—and federal emergency funds limited—electric cooperatives are reminded to pay particular attention to contract procurement requirements that involve women and minority-owned businesses.



NRECA urges co-ops to brush up on FEMA relief policies, especially in advance of the next hurricane or other natural disaster. (Photo By: Getty Images)

A couple of co-ops have been “dinged” on these provisions in recent draft audits to receive financial help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the aftermath of a disaster, said Martha Duggan, NRECA’s senior principal, regulatory affairs.

At a time when federal disaster relief funds are becoming scarcer, “all co-ops need to crisp up their procurement processes, especially in advance of the next hurricane or other natural disaster,” she said.

“FEMA applicants need to make sure they have consideration of women- and minority-owned businesses in their competitive procurement processes,” Duggan said. That requirement has been in the regulations for a long time but until recently has not been the focus of audits.

To avoid delays or even denial of emergency funds, Duggan urged co-ops to “take extra steps to make sure women and minority businesses are aware of your contracting opportunities.”

“Be in touch with your regional Small Business Administration offices to receive a list of these types of businesses in your area. Make sure they are aware of bidding opportunities,” she said. Many states have also compiled lists of women and minority vendors, contractors and subcontractors that co-ops can review before essential support services are needed.

“And as always,” Duggan added, “document, document, document!”

FEMA and its Office of Inspector General, which performs the final audit of FEMA fund recipients, expect that recipients to be fully aware of all relevant regulations.

Toward that end, NRECA has updated its *Guide to FEMA for Electric Cooperatives*, which first came out in 2003. NRECA hosted a webinar April 24 that discussed policy changes for disaster and relief emergency assistance.









[The updated guide and a recording of the webinar are available to authorized users of cooperative.com.](#)

Get the latest news from ECT.coop and sign up for your [personalized news alerts](#).

Tags: [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), [Recovery](#)



ECT.coop Quick Links


-  Follow us on Twitter
-  Like us on Facebook
-  Sign up for our Email
-  NRECA 401(k) share prices
-  Subscribe to news alerts
-  View photo galleries
-  Browse archives
-  Read Weekly Digest

ADVERTISEMENT

Paperless Board Meetings


 **BoardPac**

Affordable, Easy-to-Use, Secure



Efficient | Automated | Effective

YOU ASKED
for an easier way
to collect and manage
bad debts.
WE LISTENED.
SEDC
www.sedata.com





MORE FROM NRECA



ADVERTISEMENT

This portion of the requested page has been blocked.

[Click here for details.](#)

Electric Co-op Today: [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertisers](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Terms of Use \(pdf\)](#) | [Glossary \(pdf\)](#) | [Affiliated Organizations](#) | [Got a Story Idea?](#) | [View Mobile Version](#) |

Other Co-op sites: [About NRECA](#) | [Cooperative.com](#) | [Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives](#) | [RE Magazine](#) | [Find a Co-op](#) | [Find a Co-op Job](#) | [Together We Save](#) | [Our Energy. Our Future](#) |

Published by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Copyright © 2013.

