

United States Senate

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Deanne Criswell
Administrator
FEMA
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Mr. Robert Samaan
Regional Administrator, Region 4
FEMA
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Administrator Criswell and Regional Administrator Samaan:

I would like to first thank you for FEMA's written response to my previous letters with regard to Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) decision to retrograde the Community Rating System (CRS) rating of several municipalities in Lee County, Florida. I appreciate FEMA's ongoing commitment to transparency and communication in these efforts.

I have informed Lee County and city officials I have had a positive experience with FEMA and my hope is that FEMA's ultimate decision will be clear and transparent with regard to any regulation and guidance required for compliance and, secondly, that it is made clear whether local officials complied. My goal is that Lee County and city officials know exactly what the regulations are for full compliance and that it will be abundantly clear whether or not they complied with those requirements.

During my most recent conversation with Lee County and city officials this week, the following requests were made were made to FEMA to better help local officials to comply and productively work with the Agency to fulfill your requests for information as you revisit FEMA's rating decision during this 60-day period. I will meet with Lee County area officials again next week. Therefore, I would greatly appreciate, if possible, FEMA's response to these inquiries, in writing, to all stakeholders before that time so we can all continue to make meaningful progress on this important issue.

Requests for FEMA:

1. **Several local officials requested clarification on the terminology being used by FEMA.** For instance, the City of Bonita Springs has provided packages for the sites listed in their Findings Report and has received some feedback from FEMA. **FEMA's feedback includes terms for which they wish to receive clarification:**

- a) Complete: Please confirm that this status indicates these properties have been deemed complete and compliant.
 - b) Perishable: Please provide clarification as to what this status means.
 - c) Additional Information Needed: Please provide the specific information that is missing to evaluate compliance for these properties.
 - d) Waiting on Inspection: Please provide clarification as to what this status means.
 - e) Confirmed Violation: Please provide clarification on this definition.
2. **Please provide feedback as soon as practical on information submitted by local officials to FEMA** to allow County and city officials to respond to any issues well in advance of deadlines. Currently, some areas, such as the Town of Fort Myers Beach, are waiting a full week for results, which they believe slows down their processes.
 3. Lee County has not received written input regarding the parcel specific packets that have been submitted to FEMA. **Should the County expect detailed feedback with regulatory citations? If so, when can the County anticipate receiving that information?**
 4. **Please provide written clarification for properties on the list that FEMA has shown as "complete" will not require any additional information from the city or county and clarify if "complete" is considered compliant.**
 5. **Local officials request that FEMA conduct onsite reviews if possible, taking the time to explain their determinations in person, upon pickup of materials.**

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your assistance in our efforts to reverse FEMA's recent decision regarding the Community Rating System (CRS) in the Lee County area. Your responses will be instrumental in ensuring the community's concerns are heard and addressed. Thank you for your prompt attention to these requests.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
United States Senator

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CC:

Lee County Board of County Commissioners

City of Bonita Springs

City of Cape Coral

Town of Fort Myers Beach

Village of Estero