

DONALD J. CAZAYOUX, JR.  
6TH DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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September 10, 2008

The Honorable R. David Paulison  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
500 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Administrator Paulison:

In the wake of Hurricane Gustav, many are returning to their homes to begin the recovery process, prepare for the looming danger of more storms, and protect their property. However, thousands of them remain without power and face the daunting prospect of being in the dark for three to four more weeks.

The likelihood of extended power outages for certain communities is a serious concern that goes far beyond inconvenience, discomfort or nuisance. While FEMA is taking some steps to address these critical needs, Louisiana's excess heat and humidity place many of our most vulnerable citizens at severe risk. I am writing to request that you address this issue immediately.

I understand that FEMA's Interim Recover Policy #1002.1 (copy enclosed) establishes criteria for the reimbursement of generator costs only for the operation of medical devices that are approved and verified by a doctor. I respectfully request that you waive or suspend this policy to include reimbursement for generator costs for individuals in affected parishes who have been without power for more than 7 days.

Thank you in advance for your timely consideration of this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Cazayoux, Jr.  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Bobby Jindal  
Governor, State of Louisiana

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson  
U.S. Representative  
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Henry Cuellar  
U.S. Representative  
Chairman, U.S. House Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response



# FEMA

## RECOVERY POLICY (INTERIM) 1002.1

### I. TITLE: **Generator Reimbursement**

II. DATE: June 1, 2006

### III. PURPOSE:

This interim policy establishes criteria for the reimbursement of generator costs under the Other Needs Assistance (ONA) provisions of the Individuals and Households Program (IHP).

### IV. SCOPE AND AUDIENCE:

This interim policy is to be implemented in all disasters declared on or after June 1, 2006, until superseded by the final policy. All personnel are directed to follow this interim policy.

### V. AUTHORITY:

Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288); specifically, subsection 408(e).

### VI. DESCRIPTION:

Under the "Other Needs" (commonly known as ONA) provision of the Individuals and Households program, FEMA is authorized to provide assistance to repair or replace personal property damaged by the major disaster or emergency. Under the "Miscellaneous" Expense category of the ONA provision, FEMA can also provide funds for items/services that are commonly used to facilitate a household's disaster recovery, including a limited amount for items not owned prior to the major disaster or emergency, such as generators.

### VII. POLICY:

A. This policy will be implemented when the State has requested that generators be included as a "Miscellaneous" expense line item under the ONA provision of IHP. In addition to the eligibility requirements for IHP, the following criteria will apply to generators:

1. The generator is purchased or rented due to an event that results in an emergency or major disaster declaration by the President. For the purposes of this interim policy, the qualifying incident period for the event starts at the date the Governor declared a state of emergency and ends at the closure of the incident date published by FEMA in the Federal Register, or the date power is restored to the applicant's dwelling, whichever occurs first.



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Expenses incurred for generators purchased or rented outside the established timeframe are not eligible for reimbursement.

2. The applicant's dwelling is located in a declared area designated for IA;
3. The generator is purchased or rented to power a medically-required appliance or piece of equipment;
4. The applicant provides proof-of-purchase or rental receipts for the generator; and
5. The applicant provides proof that the appliance or equipment is required for medical purposes (e.g. letter from physician that the applicant/occupant has a medical need for the appliance or equipment).

B. If the preceding criteria are verified, the cost of the generator will be reimbursed up to the prevailing retail or rental rate, identified by FEMA, for a 5.5 kw-sized generator.

1. Reimbursement of rental cost is limited to the period that the generator was rented until commercial power was restored to the dwelling.
2. Reimbursement of rental cost will not exceed established retail purchase pricing guidelines for a 5.5 kw generator.

C. The Joint Field Office is responsible for providing officially verified commercial outage/restoration information (i.e., dates that affected areas were without power, and restoration dates) to the National Processing Service Center Coordination Team.

D. The Recovery Director may waive one or more eligibility criteria during extraordinary circumstances (e.g., sustained power outage during a period of sub-freezing temperatures), when determined to be in the public interest.

**VIII. ORIGINATING OFFICE:** Recovery Division (Individual Assistance Branch).

**IX. SUPERSESSSION:** This Interim Policy supersedes Interim Policy *"Individuals and Households Program – Generator Reimbursement,"* dated August 30, 2005, and all previous guidance on this subject. This is a correction to Interim Policy 1002 *"Generator Reimbursement,"* also dated June 1, 2006.



# FEMA

## RECOVERY POLICY (INTERIM) 1002.1

X. REVIEW DATE: One year from the date of publication.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Garratt", written over a horizontal line.

David Garratt  
Acting Director of Recovery  
Federal Emergency Management Agency