



# Briefing Notice

## FEMA's Role in Advancing Sustainable, Affordable Housing Options

Tuesday, September 28, 2010

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

428A Russell Senate Office Building

The **Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI)** invites you to a briefing to examine the state of post-disaster, interim housing provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and opportunities to improve the quality and value of this housing. After Hurricane Katrina, FEMA updated its interim-housing procurement specifications to reduce formaldehyde levels in trailer interiors. But there are other criteria that FEMA could also specify, including improved energy efficiency, durability, resilience, accessibility, indoor air quality, and life-cycle cost. This briefing will address opportunities for FEMA to incorporate high performance criteria into its procurement specs; current efforts underway by FEMA, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and others to develop and test new prototypes; and the potential economic and health benefits for disaster victims, taxpayers, communities, residents of all new manufactured housing, and FEMA itself.

Speakers for this event include:

- **Dr. Fred Krimgold**, Director, Disaster Risk Reduction Program, Virginia Tech
- **Scott Sklar**, President, The Stella Group
- **Ben Billings**, Staff Director, Office of Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA)
- **Francis McCarthy**, Analyst, Emergency Management Policy, Congressional Research Service

From 1998 to 2008, FEMA spent \$1.1 billion for manufactured homes and travel trailers and provided more than 200,000 of these to victims of Hurricane Katrina alone. Because of this volume, FEMA procurement specifications can influence the entire manufactured housing industry. The "Mississippi Cottage," a post-Katrina pilot project led by FEMA and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, demonstrated that high performance manufactured housing that provides much higher energy efficiency, good air quality and is resistant to high winds, for example, can be produced for about the same cost as comparable housing built to the HUD-code requirements.

**This briefing is free and open to the public. No RSVP required.**

**For more information, please contact Ellen Vaughan at [evaughan@eesi.org](mailto:evaughan@eesi.org) or (202) 662-1893.**