U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

September 5, 2007

Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding

Mr. Rocky Pullman
Board President Hancock County Board of Supervisors
3068 Longfellow Dr. Trailer 3
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Dear Rocky:

It was good to see you last week during the two-year commemoration of Katrina. I appreciated your candid feedback on the issues affecting the people of Hancock County. With this milestone behind us, my office continues to press on with the work before us: to support your efforts to accelerate the rebuilding and renewal of your County and the entire Gulf Coast.

As you know, we are committed to ensuring that the Federal Government provides coordinated, effective, and appropriate support to you and the other local leaders that must drive this rebuilding effort. We strive constantly to improve the performance of all Federal efforts and to ensure that Federal dollars translate into tangible results.

As we discussed, I know that concerns persist regarding Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) public infrastructure funding. While this is a shared partnership between the Federal, State, and local governments, we are committed to ensuring that the Federal Government meets its responsibilities in our ongoing effort to help drive various project worksheets to completion.

Toward that end, I ask you to please outline the five public assistance projects of highest priority to your County. I will work closely with you, FEMA, Mayors Favre and Longo, and other relevant state or local agencies to seek resolution on these projects in an expeditious manner. Within thirty days of receiving your request, our goal is to identify the barriers that prevent us from reaching a decision and/or action on these projects. Please also identify the member of your staff that is the most appropriate point of contact on this going forward.

Thank you for your cooperation, and I look forward to continuing our work together on behalf of the people of Hancock County.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Powell
Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding

cc: Governor Barbour, State of Mississippi