



**ATHENS-LIMESTONE COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

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Spencer Black, Director

September 14, 2005

Roy Zimmerman
Director of Nuclear Security
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

I am very disappointed that I have not received a response to my letter dated August 3, 2005 regarding my concerns about FEMA and Homeland Security. I take this opportunity to clarify that the local government is responsible for responding to a disaster while FEMA and Homeland Security will come in at a later time. FEMA and Homeland Security cannot respond successfully at an early stage in a disaster, it starts at the local level. Hurricane Katrina has demonstrated what happens when the local and state government is not prepared for a major disaster.

In the defense of FEMA and Homeland Security, I understand the role of these two federal agencies, this should reassure what I stated in the previous letter that money and training should be at the local level to equip, train and exercise first responders to take control of the disaster during the first 24 hours or until FEMA and Homeland Security arrive.

I feel that your office is concerned as we are to assure that we provide the best services possible to ensure the safety and well-being of our citizens and first responders locally and throughout the State of Alabama. Once again, I solicit your assistance in resolving these concerns.

Sincerely,

Spencer Black,
EMA Director

cc: Senator Richard Shelby
Senator Jeff Sessions
Congressman Bud Cramer
Craig Conklin, FEMA
David Seibert, Limestone County Chairman