



Taking Emergency and Long-Term Action To Assist Debris Removal

Competitively Bid Emergency Contract With AshBritt Allowed New Jersey Towns To Take Immediate Action In Addressing Debris Removal In An Efficient And Responsible Manner

The Christie Administration Has Overseen A Swift And Efficient Clean-Up Effort:

Within 100 days of Sandy making landfall, the State of New Jersey had overseen the removal of **more than 8 million cubic yards of debris**, including household and vegetative debris caused by the storm as well as sand.

- By mid-January, the New Jersey Department of Transportation and its contractors:
 - Removed over 4,400 truckloads of debris from state and local roads from Sea Bright to Seaside Heights.
 - Cleaned 4,330 dump truck loads of sand for municipalities to recycle and replenish their beaches.
 - Installed 600 feet of metal sheeting to reinforce the ocean side of the Mantoloking breach.
 - Route 35 at the breach has been rebuilt and NJDOT has re-established the connection between County Route 528 and Route 35 at the site of the breach.
 - Replaced 1,100 traffic signs such as "Stop, One Way or speed limit signs).
- 285 Temporary Disposal Management Areas were set up across the state to safely and efficiently collect, stage, and transport offsite the large amount of vegetative and waste debris generated by the storm. More than half of these have already closed.
- The vast majority of an estimated 1,400 sunken or abandoned vessels have been removed from New Jersey's waterways.
- Within 9 days of the storm, electricity had been restored to nearly 90% of customers who had lost power throughout the state, out of a peak of 2.7 million.
 - Over 17,000 out-of-state utilities crew members were recruited to speed up power restoration efforts.

Safeguarding Relief And Reconstruction Funding With A Commitment To Accountability And Transparency:

With the magnitude of the undertaking before New Jersey, Governor Christie has pledged to work to ensure the integrity and accountability of all resources dedicated to recovery from Sandy. The Christie Administration has already begun the process of following through on this commitment to put aggressive transparency and oversight measures already in place with respect to the disbursement of rebuilding and reconstruction funds – federal and State alike.

- Governor Christie Signed Executive Order 125 to Put in Place Key Review and Reporting Initiatives with the Office of the State Comptroller Overseeing All State Contracts Utilizing Federal Rebuilding Funds. The Governor's action directs the Office of the State Comptroller to conduct an independent, legal review of the procurement process for state contracts using federal reconstruction resources prior to the conclusion of the procurement process.
 - Each department of state government dealing with the disbursement of federal rebuilding aid will also designate an "Accountability Officer" to facilitate work with the Comptroller's Office and interface with the Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding on all reconstruction matters.
 - In addition, the Executive Order directs that all approved contracts be made publicly accessible on a State website in coordination with the Governor's Office of Recovery and Rebuilding and the State Comptroller. The

recently launched NJ Sandy Transparency website can be found here:

<http://nj.gov/comptroller/sandytransparency/>

- The Christie Administration Has Already Built a Robust Grants Operation at the State-Federal Joint Field Office to Manage the FEMA Public Assistance Program. Compliance measures and controls include a state-of-the-art software system that will manage documents and information, which will be made available to all applicants, and a quality assurance/quality control function, which will be handled by a private auditing firm.

AshBritt Had Extensive Experience And Unique Capabilities To Respond To Major Disasters:

AshBritt is a national, rapid-response natural disaster recovery company well tested in marshaling extensive resources quickly to remove massive amounts of debris from communities that have been impacted by natural disaster. AshBritt is currently overseeing and coordinating 83 subcontractors in New Jersey for cleanup work – 71 percent (59) of which are New Jersey companies.

AshBritt's experience includes recovery efforts from 30 federally declared major disasters across eleven states since Hurricane Andrew in 1992, including:

- Removing over 21 million cubic yards of debris along the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina;
- Responding to the 2011 Snowstorms in Massachusetts & Connecticut which left up to 27 inches of snow, downing trees and power lines;
- Serving as a primary contractor in Texas following Hurricanes Ike & Dolly; and
- In Florida, AshBritt has worked on the recovery efforts following Hurricanes Andrew, Ivan, Charley and Wilma.

AshBritt is a prime, approved contractor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, conducting debris removal operations following declared states of emergency, as well as holding standing contracts with USACE as the primary responsible organization for debris removal and site management in the event of future disasters for 11 states across the country.

AshBritt Was Offered As An Option To Municipalities:

Having AshBritt allowed New Jersey to make available as an option a previously procured, competitively bid contract for disaster management and debris removal services in the immediate aftermath of the storm.

- The AshBritt contract in New Jersey was intended as and served as an intermediate step, providing a short-term option until an RFP could be completed, which was promptly done in the aftermath of the storm.
- ***Within two days of the state's adoption of the Connecticut contract, the New Jersey League of Municipalities offered this advice to impacted towns:*** *"If you are in need of an emergency vendor to remove storm debris from public properties and public rights of way, or if your current vendor is not available or unable to adequately address your emergency debris removal needs, your local unit may contract with AshBritt, Inc. under the terms of this contract. However, it is important to note that this contract is optional; your local unit does not have to utilize the contract or the services of AshBritt."*

AshBritt's Contract Was Competitively Bid:

AshBritt was retained by the State of New Jersey on October 31, 2013, via an existing competitively bid contract in Connecticut. It was made available as one option among others for municipalities – the majority of which chose other available contractors, chose to use municipal resources, or both.

- The underlying Connecticut contract was competitively bid on February 25, 2008, and AshBritt was awarded the primary contract on June 30, 2008.
- AshBritt was selected from among 10 bidders, which included 3 out of the 4 US Army Corps of Engineers contractors, by an interagency evaluation committee consisting of representatives from the departments of:
 - Administrative Services,
 - Environmental Protection,
 - Transportation,
 - Public Safety, and

- Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

The Connecticut contract fit the scope of work to be done in New Jersey in view of the level of devastation.

The Ashbritt Contract Has Repeatedly Been Utilized By Neighboring States:

Two days prior to the activation of the Connecticut contract by Governor Christie in New Jersey, the City of New York adopted the same “piggybacked” contract and pricing to hire Ashbritt for the removal of thousands of cars and marine debris in and around the city.

- The Connecticut contract had been activated twice in 2011, and resulted in full FEMA reimbursement.
 - AshBritt had another contract with Massachusetts that had also been activated but was more costly than the Connecticut contract.
- The AshBritt contract in New Jersey was intended as and served as an intermediate step, providing a short-term option until an RFP could be completed, which was promptly done in the aftermath of the storm.

The Christie Administration Has Moved To Follow Its Own Objective Bidding Process To Provide Other Competitively Bid Debris Removal Contractors Now And Into The Future:

- A Request for Quotations was issued by Treasury on November 30, 2012 for Disaster Debris Removal and Management Services.
- Of 10 Responding companies, 7 were deemed responsive to the RFQ.
- Four vendors, including AshBritt, ultimately were awarded those contracts on January 25, 2013, following an impartial and objective review by a panel in the Treasury Department's Division of Purchase and Property.
 - The four firms are: AshBritt, Ceres Environmental Services, Crowder Gulf, and T.F.R. Enterprises.

The Christie Administration Has Provided Municipalities With Resources And Options To Protect Taxpayers:

New Jersey also selected contractors available to municipalities to use for debris removal contract monitoring – a requirement for FEMA reimbursement.

- Those firms include two hired under emergency circumstances in the immediate aftermath of the storm to provide monitoring services for emergency debris removal in accordance with FEMA specifications:
 - [Arcadis U.S.](#) of Fair Lawn, and
 - [Scientific Applications International Corporation](#) (SAIC) of Maitland, Fla.
- The state subsequently expanded existing contracts with two additional firms to provide more choices for disaster debris removal monitoring services:
 - [Louis Berger Group](#), of Morristown, and
 - [O'Brien's Response Management](#) of Plainsboro.

As a result, municipalities around the state can choose any one of these four firms, or any other contract of their choosing, to provide them with the monitoring services that FEMA requires.