



OCT 16 2007

Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-6115

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter dated September 27, 2007, in which you requested the Office of Inspector General to review the financial information of the hospitals that testified before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on August 1, 2007, regarding the challenges facing the New Orleans area in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Specifically, you requested that we review the testifying hospitals' financial records as needed to perform audits of the significant operating losses cited by the hospitals and that we perform a profitability analysis comparing the five testifying hospitals' financials against other peer hospitals.

We are pleased to inform you that we have already begun these audits. We look forward to sharing the results of our work with the Committee and will keep the Committee's staff informed of the status of our reviews.

We are sending identical letters to the Honorable Joe Barton, the Honorable Bart Stupak, and the Honorable Ed Whitfield. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me, or your staff may call Claire Barnard, Director of External Affairs, at (202) 205-9523.

Sincerely,

*Daniel R. Levinson*

Daniel R. Levinson  
Inspector General