



FEMA

January 29, 2010

The Honorable Harold Perrin
Mayor, City of Jonesboro
515 West Washington
P.O. Box 1845
Jonesboro, AR 72403

City of Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas
CID: 050048

Dear Mayor Perrin:

As you may be aware, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has undertaken an initiative to modernize National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) maps nationwide. As part of the Map Modernization initiative, we have prepared Preliminary copies of the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Craighead County, Arkansas and the Incorporated Areas, dated January 29, 2010, and mailed them to Craig Light P.E., City Engineer, for review and comment. **We are sending only those DFIRM panels that cover your community.** The following is included in the package:

- Floodplain Management Bulletin 1-98, *Use of Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Data As Available Data*
- Paper copies of the Preliminary DFIRMs and FIS report
- CD containing the Preliminary DFIRMs in digital format:
 - Preliminary DFIRMs and FIS report for the entire county in .pdf format. To view these files you must have Adobe Acrobat installed on your computer. The Acrobat software may be downloaded from the following website free of charge: www.adobe.com
 - Preliminary DFIRM Database and shapefiles. In order to view the Preliminary DFIRM database ArcExplorer or ArcMap and MapInfo is needed. ArcExplorer can be downloaded from the following website free of charge: <http://www.esri.com/software/arcexplorer> and MapInfo Free Viewer can be downloaded from <http://www.mapinfo.com>. Database lookup tables or .dbf files can be opened with Microsoft Excel. **NOTE: The information provided in these files can be incorporated into your local community GIS system. This data is intended for individuals with GIS knowledge and experience.**

We prepared the FIS report and DFIRM in countywide format, which means that flood hazard information for all jurisdictions within Craighead County, Arkansas, including your community, have been included on one DFIRM and in one FIS report. The flood hazard information presented on the DFIRM includes Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs), which are the areas that would be inundated by the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (also known as the base, or 100-year, flood); Base Flood Elevations (BFEs); and regulatory floodways (if applicable), which are the regulatory areas defined as the channels of a stream, plus any adjacent floodplain areas, that must be kept free of encroachment so that the base flood discharge can be conveyed without increasing the BFEs more than a specified amount.

In addition to the format change cited above, we revised the flood hazard information to reflect the results of the Flood Map Project accomplished by your community in accordance with the agreement signed with our office under the Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) program. Additional information on the CTP program is available through the FEMA Website at http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/ctp_main.shtm.

In addition, we have converted the effective flood hazard information and other digital data for your community to conform to the new FEMA DFIRM specifications. Changes that resulted from this conversion process and how they benefit your community are discussed below.

Flood hazard information for your community was converted to meet the FEMA DFIRM database specifications and Geographic Information System (GIS) format requirements. More information on FEMA database specifications is available at http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/dfm_eddb.shtm. By providing the flood hazard information in ESRI Interchange (.e00) format, ESRI Shapefile format, and MapInfo Interchange Format (MIF), we are making it easier for your community to incorporate these data into your local GIS. We also are making the DFIRM for your community available as geo-referenced TIFF files and the FIS report will be available in PDF format, allowing for ready use by your community.

To assist your community in maintaining the DFIRM, we have enclosed a Summary of Map Actions to document previous Letter of Map Change (LOMC) actions (i.e., Letters of Map Amendment, Letters of Map Revision) that will be superseded when the DFIRM becomes effective. Information on LOMCs is presented in the following four categories: (1) LOMCs for which results have been included on the DFIRM; (2) LOMCs for which results could not be shown on the DFIRM because of scale limitations or because the LOMC issued had determined that the lots or structures involved were outside the SFHA as shown on the DFIRM; (3) LOMCs for which results have not been included on the DFIRM because the flood hazard information on which the original determinations were based is being superseded by new flood hazard information; and (4) LOMCs issued for multiple lots or structures where the determination for one or more of the lots or structures cannot be revalidated through an administrative process like the LOMCs in Category 2 above. LOMCs in Category 2 will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of a previously issued LOMC; the letter will be sent to your community shortly before the effective date of the DFIRM and will become effective 1 day after the DFIRM becomes effective. For the LOMCs listed in Category 4, we will review the data previously submitted for the Letter of Map Amendment or Letter of Map Revision request and issue a new determination for the affected properties after the DFIRM becomes effective.

Please be aware, there is a possibility that recently approved LOMCs for your community are not mentioned on the attached SOMA, specifically LOMRs. The LOMR process is dynamic in which there are always applications being processed. However, in order to complete map production of the Preliminary DFIRMs, a specified cut-off date for LOMR incorporation must be established. Any approved LOMRs that are not identified in this preliminary SOMA if properly processed, will be addressed when the final SOMA is distributed. If your community has concerns regarding a specific case, please submit the LOMR case number, as well as any appropriate documentation, to FEMA Region VI before the end of the appeals period to assist us in keeping the map up to date.

The Preliminary copies of the DFIRM and FIS report will be the basis for a formal community coordination meeting with community officials and interested citizens in the City of Jonesboro, Craighead County, Arkansas. The purpose of this meeting will be to present the DFIRM and FIS report and to give your community and other affected communities a chance to comment or ask questions.

We are sending the Preliminary copies at this time to give your community an opportunity to review them. We will contact you shortly to schedule the coordination meeting. In the meantime, we encourage you to circulate the enclosed copies as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, citizens, and other interested local stakeholders so that they will have the opportunity to review them thoroughly before the meeting. The review period provides community officials and citizens in the affected communities with an opportunity to correct or add to the non-technical information presented on the Preliminary DFIRM and FIS report, including the configuration and labeling of physical features such as roads (within or adjacent to the SFHAs), bridges, and streams, prior to the formal appeal period.

After the formal meeting is held, we may initiate a statutory 90-day appeal period for any new or modified BFEs that were identified in your community during the course of preparing the Preliminary DFIRM and FIS report. If

your community has been identified as one in which the BFE's have changed, we will send you a letter approximately 2 weeks before the start of the 90-day appeal period to detail the appeal process. The letter will forward information regarding the notification of BFEs to be published in your local newspaper in a "Notice of Proposed Flood Elevation Determinations," and will provide the first and second publication dates. The appeal period will start on the second publication date. During the appeal period, community officials and/or other interested parties may submit scientific or technical information that would serve to refute the proposed or proposed modified BFEs. Additional instructions concerning the 90-day appeal period will be provided during the formal coordination meeting.

After the review and appeal periods have ended and all comments/appeals have been addressed, we will initiate final preparation of the DFIRM and FIS report. The new DFIRM and FIS report for your community will become effective approximately 6 months later. Before the effective date, you will be reminded that your community must adopt new floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances as necessary to reflect any changes in the DFIRM or FIS report, including reference to the new effective date. If you or other community officials have any questions regarding the floodplain ordinance for your community, you may raise them at the community coordination meeting or you may discuss those issues with your State NFIP Coordinator. Information regarding the State NFIP Coordinator for your community is provided at the bottom of this letter. Approximately 60 days before the effective date, we will send your community one printed copy of the DFIRM and FIS report, and a CD with pdf of DFIRMs & FIS and database.

Once the DFIRM and FIS report are printed and distributed, the digital files containing the flood hazard data for the entire county can be provided to your community for use in a computer mapping system. These files can be used in conjunction with other thematic data for floodplain management purposes, insurance purchase and rating requirements, and many other planning applications. In addition, your community may be eligible for additional credits under our Community Rating System if you implement your activities using digital mapping files.

FEMA maintains information about map features, such as street locations and names, in or near designated SFHAs. Requests to revise such information in or near designated SFHAs may be provided to FEMA during the community review period, at the previously referenced community coordination meeting, or during the statutory 90-day appeal period. Approved requests for changes will be shown on the final printed DFIRM.

Your community's comments on the enclosed materials are an important part of our review process and will be carefully considered before we publish the DFIRM and FIS report in their final form. If you are interested in discussing the enclosed materials or if you have questions about the formal community coordination meeting, please contact the Consultation Coordination Officer designated for your community, Roy McClure, at (940) 898-5500

Sincerely,



Frank Pagano
Director, Mitigation Division

Enclosures:

FIS Report

DFIRM Panels

Disk (including DFIRM and FIS)

Floodplain Management Bulletin 1-98, *Use of Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Data As Available Data*

Preliminary Summary of Map Actions (SOMA)

cc: Craig Light, P.E
City Engineer, City of Jonesboro

Don Davenport
US Army Corps of Engineers – Memphis District

Mike Borengasser
State NFIP Coordinator

Curtis Beitel
CF3R