



**Federal Emergency  
Management Agency**



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

MEMORANDUM TO: Federal Emergency Management Agency,  
Regional Administrators

and

Commanders, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Major Subordinate  
Commands

SUBJECT: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) / U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers (USACE) Joint Actions on Planning for Flood Risk  
Management Projects

This memorandum addresses the requirement to perform mitigation when proposed USACE flood-risk reduction projects increase the Base (1-percent-annual-chance) Flood Elevation (BFE). National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations (44 C.F.R. 65.12) require revisions to flood insurance rate maps to reflect BFE and/or floodway changes caused by encroachments permitted by an NFIP participating community.

FEMA regulations can be utilized to clearly define the area that is subject to 44 C.F.R. 65.12 for FEMA comment and a future FEMA map revision. According to 44 C.F.R. 65.6(a)(2): *To avoid discontinuities between the revised and unrevised flood data, the necessary hydrologic and hydraulic analyses submitted by the map revision requestor must be extensive enough to ensure that a logical transition can be shown between the revised flood elevations, flood plain boundaries, and floodways and those developed previously for areas not affected by the revision. Unless it is demonstrated that it would not be appropriate, the revised and unrevised base flood elevations must match within one-half foot where such transitions occur.*

Once the area subject to map revision has been defined, the community must demonstrate that no structures are impacted by the increase to the BFE. Understanding and clearly defining the area subject to 44 C.F.R. 65.12 will allow better coordination of both USACE policy and FEMA regulatory requirements as they apply to proposed flood risk reduction projects in communities participating in the NFIP. In the cases where there is a map revision and impacts to structures, USACE and the local project sponsor can anticipate the extent of necessary mitigation, and consequently, the associated project costs. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. 60.3(d)(4), it is the NFIP participating community's responsibility to submit a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) prior to construction of the flood risk reduction project.

As USACE conducts a project study, early and frequent communication with FEMA on the requirements of the NFIP and the impacts of those requirements on the proposed project should occur. This will assist in developing a Federal flood risk management project that meets the

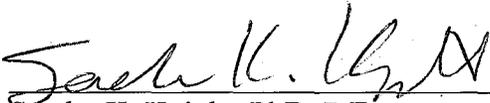
FEMA Regional Division Directors  
USACE Commanders, Major Subordinate Commands

Page 2

requirements of both agencies and best meets the needs of the local sponsor. Both agencies share the goal of reducing flood risk to the Nation and frequent communication throughout the project planning process will assist everyone in reaching that goal.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

  
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Date: 20 June 2012