



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Congressional Affairs Division
Telephone 202-646-4500

CONGRESSIONAL ADVISORY

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FEMA FINALIZES ANALYSIS AND MAPPING PROCEDURES FOR NON-ACCREDITED LEVEES

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is releasing its updated procedures for analyzing and mapping flood hazards in the vicinity of non-accredited levee systems. These updated procedures are a part of an on-going effort to reform the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The new procedures are repeatable, flexible, and comply with statutory and regulatory requirements.

FEMA recognizes that levee systems that do not fully meet the requirements for accreditation may still provide a measure of flood risk reduction; for that reason, the Agency has developed a new approach and procedures for providing a more refined and realistic depiction of flood risks. The adopted procedures have gone through an extensive process of scientific review and public input.

FEMA's new approach, accompanied by operating guidance, will be applied to a limited number of projects during Fiscal Year 2013. The projects were selected considering a number of factors including data availability and selecting a wide range of levee scenarios to properly pilot the new process. Future mapping projects will be prioritized as the first phase of projects are completed. The first phase will begin the process of compiling the necessary additional data in the coming weeks.

FEMA will continue to tailor its existing approach, guidance and engagement materials to support this new process and incorporate the lessons learned in the pilot projects. To that end, FEMA will periodically issue operating guidance and standards to document updates and improvements to the approach. These materials will provide communities, levee owners, and local project sponsors with a clear understanding of how their participation will be sought and valued throughout the new process. As with other recently-adopted tools that have increased FEMA mapping accuracy, the new levee analysis and mapping procedures add to FEMA's overall continually improving flood mapping and analysis capabilities.

A fact sheet with additional information on these updated procedures is attached. If you need additional assistance please contact FEMA Congressional Affairs Division at (202) 646-4500.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

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