



Mississippi Emergency
Management Agency
P.O. Box 4501
Jackson, MS 39296



Mississippi Department of
Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 20305
Jackson, MS 39289

June 21, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Executive Officer / Local Floodplain Administrator

FROM: Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM
State NFIP / Dam Safety Coordinator

RE: Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative
Benton County Scoping Meeting

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated the State of Mississippi as a Cooperating Technical State in January 2003. With this designation, the State of Mississippi assumed primary responsibility for the development of new National Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for Mississippi communities. Through a 'Request For Qualification' process, the *Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems* selected a contractor from five interested groups on January 12, 2004. The state's contract was awarded to the multi-discipline team of the Mississippi Geographical Information, LLC. This group consists of Watershed Concepts, Earthdata and Waggoner Engineering.

The Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative coordination team will conduct its initial 'scoping meeting' with Benton County and the various incorporated communities found within its boundaries on July 22, 2004 at 9:00 AM. This meeting will take place in the County Agricultural Center. The building is located approximately one mile north of Ashland on Highway 5.

This will be a countywide re-mapping effort, so the county and the communities found therein are cordially invited to the meeting to provide input into the process. The purpose of this scoping meeting is to solicit input from Benton County, Ashland, Hickory Flat,

and Snow Lake Shores regarding the study needs and ensure that the new maps will adequately address these needs by providing more accurate flood hazard information. The Scoping Team will include representatives from MEMA and MDEQ, as well as MGI, the state's contractor for this project.

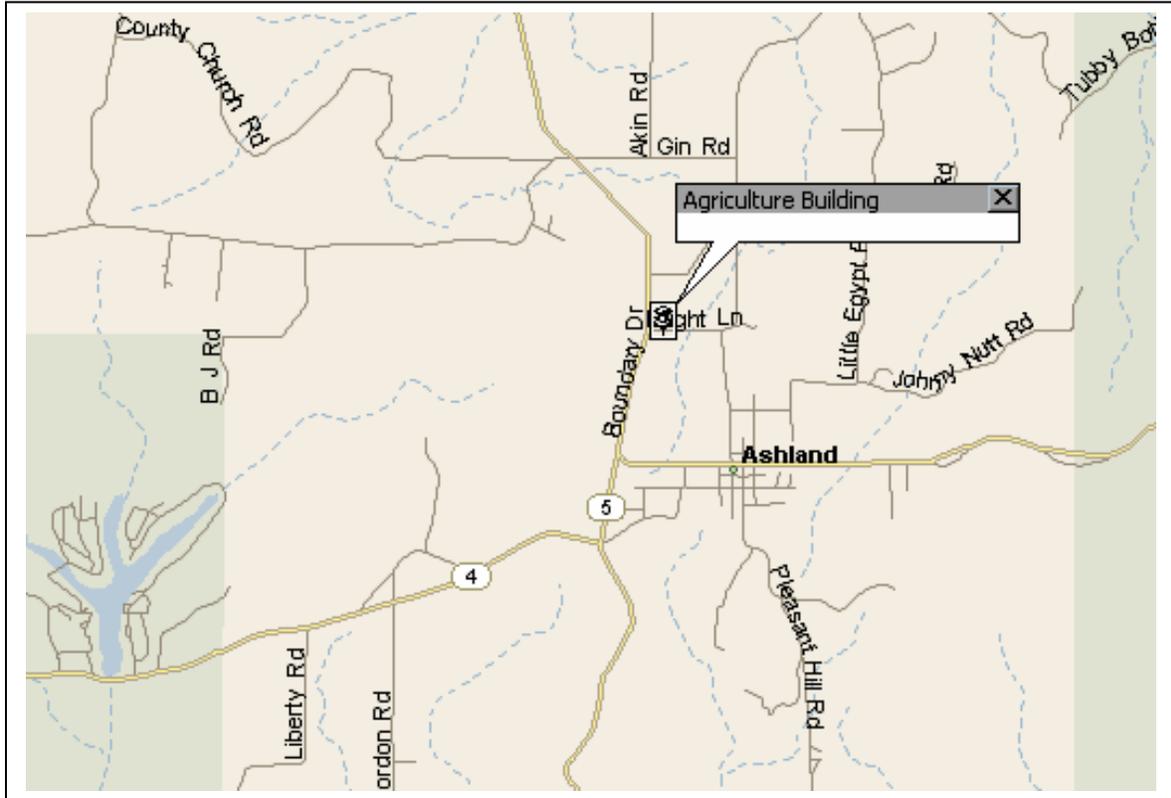
During the visit, our Team will be seeking input from county and municipal officials on issues such as:

- What are your proposed stream study priorities?
- How accurate is the information on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) currently used by the communities?
- Are there areas of the community that routinely flood, but are not depicted as flood zones on the current FIRMs?
- Are there areas where new or planned development will increase stormwater runoff and cause flood heights to increase downstream?
- What data are available from the county or communities that might assist in the remapping effort (such as new orthophotography, digital topographic data (LIDAR), GIS data layers, etc.)?

The responses to these and other questions will be used to identify any currently mapped flood sources that should be restudied to reflect current conditions, and any additional sites that need to be studied and delineated on the new maps.

It will be helpful if the county and municipal officials most familiar with both recent and historical flood events, current and future development patterns, and accuracy of current FIRMs are available to meet with the Scoping Team. In addition, this group may include county planning/zoning officials, emergency management personnel, and building officials. Representatives from local offices of state and federal agencies such as MDOT, NRCS or USACE may also have valuable input to the scoping process. We also encourage the involvement of local engineers and surveyors who are familiar with the current flood maps and topography of Benton County. Since the new FIRMs will be produced in both printed and digital formats, community GIS personnel may wish to discuss how the new maps can be integrated with other county and city GIS systems.

We look forward to working with you and your staff to provide a superior flood hazard risk map for your citizens. A better map will lead to better floodplain management within your community. If you have any questions, please contact me at 601-366-6325 or through the agency web page at <http://www.msema.org/nfip/nfip.htm>.



LOCATION: Benton County Agriculture Building, approximately one mile north of the intersection of Highway 370 and Highway 5. Located on the east side of Highway 5.

DATE: July 22, 2004

TIME: 9:00 AM CST

CONTACT INFO: EMA Office Phone: 662-224-6300