



Mississippi Emergency
Management Agency
P.O. Box 5644
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Mississippi Department of
Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 20307
Jackson, MS 39289-1307

November 21, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Executive Officer / Local Floodplain Administrator

FROM: Al W. Goodman, Jr., CFM
NFIP State Coordinator / FPM Bureau Director

RE: **Harrison County 'Flood Risk Open House'**

The Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative Team (MEMA, MDEQ, and MGI, LLC) will conduct a final coordination meeting with officials from Harrison County and the communities of Biloxi, D' Iberville, Gulfport, Long Beach, and Pass Christian at 9:00 a.m. on December 12, 2007.

On November 15, 2007, we delivered you a copy of the preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and a copy of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), which identified the flood risk in Harrison County and the incorporated communities. An important and necessary component of this process is to offer an opportunity for you, your local officials, and your citizens to preview the FIS and FIRM. This allows feedback and concerns regarding flood risk management and mitigation. We have scheduled the following two sessions, the first to be attended by local officials, and the second being focused on the general public.

<u>Harrison Co. Local Official's Meeting</u>	<u>Harrison Co. Flood Risk Open House</u>
When: Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007	When: Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007
Time: 9:00 a.m.	When: Noon to 8:00 p.m.
Where: Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum 2350 Beach Boulevard Biloxi, MS 39531	Where: Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum 2350 Beach Boulevard Biloxi, MS 39531

Our staff will be able to address FIRM, NFIP, or any other questions regarding flood protection and mitigation. We also encourage your floodplain, building and zoning, and engineering staff to attend as an opportunity to provide information on your local flood development permit requirements and ordinance, and other requirements within your community. In addition, we have extended an invitation to local insurance agents from your community who may wish to use this venue to provide insurance information and outreach to your community related to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

This "Open House" will be of particular interest to those living in or near Special Flood Hazard Areas, as well as realtors, insurance agents, developers, representatives of lending institutions, the local levee board and members of the local media. We request that you publicize this event utilizing whatever means you deem necessary to reach this target audience, such as your local newspaper, local libraries, post offices, community websites, local television stations, or any other relevant organizations.

The format of the Flood Risk Open House is very informal. Stations will consist of a viewing area for the FEMA produced video, property look up computers, a table for each community map, an insurance/NFIP information station and a protest/appeals station. We will staff the property look up station. FEMA will staff the flood insurance and NFIP information table. We request that the local floodplain administrator staff jointly man the individual community map tables with us, in order to answer questions or take comments from the citizens.

As a reminder, participation in the NFIP will require that your community adopt the new FIRM into a local flood damage prevention ordinance by the date when the FIRM goes into effect. We strongly encourage your community's participation in these two events, for they will provide an opportunity for you and your staff to thoroughly review the preliminary FIS and FIRM and bring to the table any questions or concerns prior to your formal adoption process.

Thank you for your time and participation in this process, and we look forward to our continued collaboration. If you have any questions before December 12th, please contact me via e-mail at agoodman@mema.ms.gov.

Enclosure: sample press release for your use

Harrison County “Flood Risk Open House” Scheduled

General public provided opportunity to find out more about floodplain management in their community.

Officials representing the Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative Team will host a Flood Risk Open House from Noon until 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 12th at the Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum at 2350 Beach Boulevard, Biloxi.

The open house will provide the public with an opportunity to review the recently completed preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and its accompanying preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that include base flood information and identification of areas subject to flood hazards within the county. The maps for Harrison County and its incorporated communities are also available for viewing at the MDEQ web site at <http://geology.deq.ms.gov/floodmaps/status.aspx?county=Harrison>

Local, state, and federal officials will be present to provide the public information about flood risk, flood insurance, floodplain development requirements, and the process for floodplain mapping within Harrison County and its incorporated communities. Once the preliminary FIRMs become effective, these maps will be used by floodplain permit officials, builders and developers, lenders, realtors, insurance agents, and the general public to determine flood risk.

Property owners, realtors, lenders, and insurance agents are encouraged to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about flood risk and hazard mitigation within your community.