



**Mississippi Emergency  
Management Agency**  
P.O. Box 5644  
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**Mississippi Department of  
Environmental Quality**  
P.O. Box 2279  
Jackson, MS 39289-1307

December 4, 2009

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Community Executive Officer / Local Floodplain Administrator

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

**RE:** Clay 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 Clay County and the city of West Point at 3:00 p.m. on December 28, 2009.

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, a copy of the preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and a copy of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) were mailed to you, which identified the flood risk in the two communities. An important and necessary component of this process is to offer an opportunity for you, your local officials, and your citizens to review the FIS and FIRM. Please compare your current map with the preliminary map and make note of any changes which may affect your citizens. This will enable you to make any appropriate notifications to residents. We have scheduled the following two sessions, the first to be attended by local officials, and the second is for the general public.

**Clay Co. Local Official's Meeting**

When: Monday, December 28, 2009  
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Where: West Point City Hall  
204 Commerce Street  
West Point, MS 39773

**Clay Co. Public Flood Risk Open House**

When: Monday, December 28, 2009  
When: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Where: West Point City Hall  
204 Commerce Street  
West Point, MS 39773

Our staff will be able to address questions regarding flood protection, flood risk identification, and mitigation. We also encourage your floodplain, building and zoning, and engineering staff to attend as an opportunity to provide information on your local floodplain development permit requirements and ordinance, and other requirements within your community.

This public “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, any local levee board, and members of the local media. We request that you also publicize this event utilizing whatever means you deem necessary to reach this target audience, such as your local newspaper, local libraries, post offices, community web sites, local television stations, or any other relevant organizations.

The format of the Flood Risk Open House is very informal. This is not a typical government/public meeting scenario; no presentations are made and there are no formal questions/statements from the public. The citizens sign in and visit the stations where they speak directly to the team and local officials. Stations will consist of a table for each community map and an insurance/NFIP information table. MGI, MDEQ, and MEMA will staff the tables. We request that the local floodplain administrator jointly staff the individual community map tables with us, in order to answer questions specific to your community 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 officials 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 28<sup>th</sup>, please contact me via e-mail at [agoodman@memas.gov](mailto:agoodman@memas.gov).

Enclosure: sample press release for your use

## **Clay 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 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> in the West Point City Hall, located at 204 Commerce Street, West Point, MS 39773.

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. Citizens of Clay County and the city of West Point can check their floodplain status by viewing the preliminary maps at the MDEQ web site at <http://geology.deq.ms.gov/floodmaps/status.aspx?county=Clay>

Local and state officials will be present to provide information about flood risk, flood insurance, floodplain development requirements, and the process used for floodplain mapping. No public presentation is planned, but floodplain managers will be on hand to answer any questions about the map and its’ effect on specific properties. Inclusion in a high risk flood zone carries a mandatory requirement for flood insurance, if the structure has a federally-backed mortgage, or a mortgage with a federally regulated lender.

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.

The entire state of Mississippi is a mapped flood zone. The first step in protecting yourself and your family against the dangers of flood is to know your level of risk. The community maps will show you where you are in relation to the high risk flood zone and allow you to take appropriate steps to minimize those risks.