



Mississippi Emergency  
Management Agency  
P.O. Box 5644  
Pearl, MS 39208



Mississippi Department of  
Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 2279  
Jackson, MS 39289-1307

October 3, 2008

**MEMORANDUM**

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

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

**RE:** **Forrest 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 Forrest County and the communities of Hattiesburg and Petal at 3:00 p.m. on October 21, 2008.

Last month, we mailed 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 Forrest 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 focused on the general public.

**Forrest Co. Local Official’s Meeting**

When: Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008  
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Where: Forrest Co. Library  
329 Hardy Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

**Forrest Co. Flood Risk Open House**

When: Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008  
When: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
Where: Forrest Co. Library  
329 Hardy Street  
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

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.

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 property look-up table (computers), a table for each community map, and an insurance/NFIP information station. MGI will staff the property look up station. FEMA will staff the flood insurance/NFIP 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 October 21<sup>st</sup>, please contact me via e-mail at [agoodman@mema.ms.gov](mailto:agoodman@mema.ms.gov).

Enclosure: sample press release for your use

## **Forrest 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 Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> in the Hattiesburg Petal Forrest County Library, in the community room, at 329 Hardy Street in Hattiesburg.

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 Hinds 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=Forrest>

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 Forrest 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.