



Mississippi Emergency
Management Agency
P.O. Box 4501
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Mississippi Department of
Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 20305
Jackson, MS 39289

August 4, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: Community Executive Officer / Local Floodplain Administrator

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

RE: Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative
Forrest County Scoping Meeting

The Mississippi Flood Map Modernization Initiative coordination team will conduct its initial 'scoping meeting' with Forrest County and the communities of Hattiesburg and Petal on September 1, 2005 at 10:30 AM. This meeting will take place in the Forrest County EOC, located at 4080 Highway 11, Hattiesburg, MS 39402.

The purpose of this scoping meeting is to solicit input from Forrest County and the incorporated communities regarding their 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 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:

- 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 are your proposed stream study priorities?
- 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, Water Management Districts, NRCS or USACE may also have valuable input to the scoping process. If you have had projects with any of these agencies, please invite them.

We also encourage the involvement of local engineers and surveyors who are familiar with the current flood maps and topography of Forrest 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>.

