#01-033

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Southern Environmental Law Center

Fax

To:	Sandra Jackson Denise Harris	**From:**	[redacted]
Fax:	202 646-4536 770-220-5508	**Pages:**	3
Phone:		**Date:**	November 8, 2000
Re:	FOIA REQUEST	**CC:**	

☐ **Urgent** ☐ **For Review** ☐ **Please Comment** ☐ **Please Reply** ☐ **Please Recycle**

● **Comments:**

Please find attached an updated FOIA request concerning FEMA actions in Richland and Lexington Counties, South Carolina.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]

NOTICE: THIS FAX MAY CONTAIN CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED INFORMATION AND IS DIRECTED ONLY TO THE NAMED RECIPIENT(S) INDICATED ABOVE. SHOULD YOU RECEIVE THIS FAX IN ERROR, DO NOT READ, COPY OR USE THE TRANSMITTED INFORMATION. INSTEAD, PLEASE CONTACT US AT (919) 967-1450 COLLECT THANK YOU!

SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER

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Charlottesville, VA
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VIA FAX AND U.S. MAIL

November 8, 2000

Sandra Jackson
FOIA/Privacy Specialist
Office of General Counsel
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW, Room 840
Washington, D.C. 20472

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Jackson:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, as amended, we request the following documents:

Documents produced or acquired since January 1, 1995 concerning or relating to modifications or changes to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA's) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Flood Elevations and Floodway determinations for Richland and Lexington Counties, South Carolina, and the incorporated areas therein. **We are most immediately interested in reviewing materials produced by or submitted to FEMA since the September 26, 2000 announcement of revised preliminary flood maps in Columbia. If these materials are kept separately, we would like to review them first.**

Documents that would be responsive to this request would include, but not be limited to, the agency docket for proposed FIRM modifications published in 1999 and currently under appeal as well as communications between FEMA and outside parties concerning the proposed modifications, including communications between FEMA Headquarters and the Region IV Office with elected officials, lobbyists, consultants, private citizens and other agency officials.

This request would also include information concerning or relating to levies and dikes in the FIRM study area (e.g., their history, engineering, composition, ownership, likelihood of failure, certifications by consultants or government agencies and communications concerning planned maintenance, modifications or upgrades). It would also include information concerning or relating to flows, calculations of flows, historical evidence of flows and predicted flood levels of the Congaree River in the FIRM study area.

For the purposes of this request, the term "documents" includes all written, printed, recorded or electronic materials, communications, correspondence, memoranda, notations, copies, diagrams, charts, tables, spreadsheets, formulas, directives, observations, impressions, contracts, letters, messages and mail (including e-mail) in the possession or control of the Federal Emergency Management Agency or its hired agents including contractors.

FOIA directs a responding agency to make a "determination" on any request within twenty (20) working days of receipt. See 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(6)(A)(i). FOIA also requires the release of all reasonably segregable portions of a document that are themselves not exempt. 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b). Should our requests be denied, we request that you inform us of the grounds for denial and the specific administrative appeal rights which are available. See 5 U.S.C. § 552 (a)(6)(A)(i).

We request photocopies without charge, or at a reduced charge, because reduction or waiver of fees would be in the public interest; the Southern Environmental Law Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with over ten years of experience disseminating public information regarding environmental hazard and land use issues. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii). The general public will benefit through increased notice and understanding of the operations of the government and of potential or proposed major policy initiatives. We further certify that disclosure of the information sought is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

Should our request for reduced or waived fees be denied, we are prepared to bear the reasonable duplication and search costs necessary to fulfill this request, although we request that you contact us before processing this request if the charges will exceed $100. We reserve our rights to appeal a fee waiver or reduction denial.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please call me at 919-967-1450. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]

cc: [redacted]
Buford Mabry, Esq.
Denise Harris, Region IV – FOIA