



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Doug Bellomo, P.E., Project Officer  
Eastern Studies Team

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Mike Grimm, Project Officer  
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[Original Signed]

FROM: Matthew B. Miller, P.E., Chief  
Hazards Study Branch

SUBJECT: Procedure Memorandum 11 - Railroad Naming Conventions

**Background:** Prior guidance on labeling railroads on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) calls for the current railroad names to be labeled on the maps.

**Issue:** The rapid turnover in ownership of rail transportation companies has created a need to research railroad names to determine the current name when a FIRM is being revised. This need is magnified during the creation of a countywide FIRM, due to the different railroad names shown on contiguous community-based FIRMs that are compiled together to make the countywide FIRM. This issue is further complicated by the need to update Flood Profiles to reflect the current name of each railroad that crosses the subject stream(s).

**Final Procedure:** When a FIRM is being revised or a countywide FIRM is being created, the MCC is provided with the option to use a generic "Railroad" label when there is confusion regarding current railroad names.

In addition, although consistency between FIS components (panels, profiles etc) is desired, this type of consistency is not critical for base map information. Accordingly, only a limited effort shall be expended to ensure that railroad names are in complete agreement between FIS components.

cc: see distribution list

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