



Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

August 21, 2000

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

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[Original Signed]

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

SUBJECT: Procedure Memorandum No. 14 - Use Policy for Coastal BFEs

Background: In areas affected by wave action, the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) portrays BFEs as whole foot values that could differ from the actual flood elevation at any given point by as much as .5 foot. For example, a coastal flood zone shown as elevation 10 could contain a range of elevations from 9.5 to 10.4.

Issue: Riverine flood hazard analyses allow for precise elevation determinations using the Flood Profiles and accompanying data tables present in the Flood Insurance Study report. The inherent generalities associated with mapping wave height flood elevations leaves a certain amount of ambiguity in the determination of flood elevations to one tenth of a foot in coastal flood hazard zones.

Final Procedure: The following approved additions to the FIS report and FIRM must be implemented immediately to provide clarification on the usage and interpretation of coastal BFEs.

Addition to the Flood Insurance Study Report

Insert the following paragraph immediately after the introductory paragraph in Section 3.2 (Hydraulic Analyses). Note that the introductory paragraph should also provide clarifying information on the usage and interpretation of riverine BFEs in accordance with Procedural Memorandum No. 3 issued on October 4, 1999.

- Users of the FIRM should also be aware that coastal flood elevations are provided in the Summary of Stillwater Elevations table in this report. If the elevation on the FIRM is higher than the elevation shown in this table, a wave height, wave runoff and/or wave setup component likely exists, in which case, the higher elevation should be used for construction and/or floodplain management purposes.

Addition to the Flood Insurance Rate Map

In the NOTES TO USERS section of the FIRM border, the existing coastal BFE note will be replaced by the following note (with the variable datum reference shown below in italics) to all FIRMs not yet sent to print at the Government Printing Office. For DFIRMs, this can be added in the NOTES TO USERS section; for manual FIRMs, the note may need to be placed in a box near the NOTES TO USERS section, depending on space availability in the FIRM border area. Samples of each format will be provided at a later date.

Coastal BFEs shown on this map apply only landward of 0.0' *NGVD*. Users of this FIRM should be aware that coastal flood elevations are also provided in the Summary of Stillwater Elevations table in the Flood Insurance Study report for this community. Elevations shown in the Summary of Stillwater Elevations table should be used for construction, and/or floodplain management purposes when they are higher than the elevations shown on this FIRM

CC: See attached distribution list

Attachment

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Procedure Memorandum No. 14- Use Policy for Coastal BFEs

bcc:

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