



FEMA

October 14, 2010

Mr. William J. Fraser
City Manager
39 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Appeal Resolution for City of Montpelier, Vermont

Dear Mr. Fraser:

On June 22, 2009, the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided your community with a copy of a revised Preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report and Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs). The FIS report and DFIRMs for your community were prepared in our countywide format. This letter responds to your letter dated February 9, 2010 regarding portions of the revised Preliminary DFIRM and FIS report for Washington County, Vermont (All Jurisdictions). In accordance with Title 44, Chapter I, Part 67.8, of the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR 67.8), FEMA has reviewed and fully considered the technical data submitted by the community in relation to the proposed Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) in the vicinity of the confluence of North Branch with the Winooski River.

The following is a summary of your community's appeal and the resolution resulting from our review:

In follow-up to the July 27, 2009, Consultation Coordination Officer (CCO) meeting in Washington County, Vermont, the City of Montpelier presented concerns with the hydrology and hydraulic modeling of the Winooski River, as shown on the June 22, 2009, revised preliminary.

Summary of Hydrology Appeal

The City of Montpelier noted the following concerns in their appeal submittal:

1. The peak discharge rate for the 100-year flood on the Winooski River, from the existing gauging station to the confluence of North Branch, is over-estimated in the preliminary FIS.
2. The 100-year peak discharge at the gauging station should be 20,000 cfs, rather than 21,000 cfs. Though not a significant difference, it will affect the floodway delineation as depicted on the preliminary DFIRMs.

FEMA Resolution:

The stream-gage based analysis submitted by the City meets FEMA requirements and FEMA has accepted the revised hydrologic and hydraulic analyses.

Summary of Hydraulics Appeal

The City of Montpelier noted the following concern in their appeal submittal:

1. As previously noted, the 100-year peak discharge should be 20,000 cfs at the gauging station, rather than 21,000 cfs; this will alter the floodway delineation between the Washington County Railroad Bridge and the confluence of North Branch downstream.

FEMA Resolution:


FEMA has accepted the hydraulic model provided by the City reflecting the floodway configuration preferable to the City.

As this resolution has resulted in changes to the preliminary FIS report and DFIRM, we have enclosed paper copies of the revised Preliminary DFIRM panel 50023C0264E and applicable sections of the revised Preliminary FIS.

This letter hereby resolves the appeal affecting your community. Please provide us with any comments regarding the revised mapping within 30 days of receipt of this letter. The next step in the publication process is the issuance of a Letter of Final Determination (LFD). The LFD will establish an effective date for the Preliminary FIS report and DFIRM. During the 6-month compliance period, your community will be required, as a condition of continued participation in the NFIP, to adopt or show evidence of adoption of applicable floodplain ordinances.

If you have questions or need additional information regarding this appeal process and review, please contact Kerry Bogdan by telephone at 617-956-7576 or by e-mail at kerry.bogdan@dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Goetz, Chief
Risk Analysis Branch

Enclosures: Revised Preliminary DFIRM panel 50023C0264E, Revised Floodway Data Table (FTD), Revised Profile

cc (w/o enclosures): The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Mayor Mary S. Hooper, City of Montpelier
Donald Syriani, Dewberry
Phil Hipley, Dewberry
Laura Keating, FEMA Region I RSC
Kerry Bogdan, Senior Engineer, FEMA Region I
Jeffery Tucker, Dubois & King

cc (w/ enclosures): Clancy I. DeSmet, Montpelier Planning & Zoning Administrator
Ned Swanberg, VT Department of Environmental Conservation
Rebecca Pfeiffer, VT Department of Environmental Conservation

