



NEW MEXICO HIGH WATERS

A Publication of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

**Fourth Quarter
November 2008**

FEMA to Stop Producing Paper Flood Hazard Maps

Inside this issue:

In and Around New Mexico with NFIP State Coordinator	3
FEMA - No More Paper Maps	4
NMFMA Spring Workshop	5
Recent Changes in the MIP	7
Data Capture Standards - Comment Period Extended	8
Advertise in the High Waters	9
New Levee Outreach Materials	10
Application for Membership	11

**Spring Workshop - Albuquerque
March 10 - 13, 2009**



October 23, 2008, FEMA published an announcement in the Federal Register that as of October 1, 2009, FEMA will no longer be printing and distributing paper maps. The following talking points will explain the announcement in more detail.

FEMA to Stop Producing Paper Flood Hazard Maps

- Beginning with flood maps finalized October 1, 2009 and later, FEMA will provide a single printed paper map to each mapped community and will end all other paper map distribution. Paper maps will no longer be made available through the Map Service Center.
- FEMA will continue to provide free digital map products and data to Federal, State, Tribal, and local government stakeholders in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and provide these data to all other requestors for the cost of distribution.

- FEMA has a digital version of all its maps available, a new National Flood Hazard Layer product (NFHL), a suite of tools for using digital flood maps and data, and users' guides for these new products.

The NFIP statute and FEMA policy treat paper maps and digital maps and data as equivalent.

Why is FEMA Phasing Out Production of Paper Maps?

- Since the start of the Flood Map Modernization in 2003, most of the product delivery has shifted from paper to digital products. FEMA has achieved a 50-75% reduction in the distribution of paper maps while increasing annual new panel production by 300%.

- FEMA currently distributes most of its paper maps for free. Of the paper map users, the two largest groups are FEMA and its contractors and other Federal Agencies.

By discontinuing most of the free paper map distribution FEMA expects to save at least \$5 million annually.

[Continued on Page 4 - FEMA - NO MORE MAPS](#)



FEMA

The New Mexico High Waters is published through the assistance provided by the Department of Home Land Security (DHS), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Community Assistance Program-State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The contents of this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the Federal Government.

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NEW MEXICO

CERTIFIED FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS

Grant Pinkerton, CFM

Chair, Certification Committee

(505) 624-6562

The NM Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Program is administered by NMFMA. The CFM Program is completely separate from any other NMFMA function. There seems to be some mix-up between applying for MEMBERSHIP with the New Mexico Floodplain Managers ASSOCIATION and applying for the CFM EXAM or RENEWAL of a person's CFM certification.

MEMBERSHIP is an annual requirement in order to remain a member of the Association. Reminder notices are generally sent out during the last part of each year and they come from the High Rolls address. The fee for membership is \$35.00 a year.

CERTIFICATION by the NM CFM Program is obtained by submitting an exam application package, available for download at www.nmfma.org, Certification, NM CFM Exam Application Package, to 21 Lost Trail in Roswell, NM. The fee for taking the exam is \$50 for NMFMA members. Once a person passes the exam and becomes a CFM, he/she must renew that certification every two years. A reminder notice is sent to each CFM when their renewal is due and comes from the NMFMA Certification Board with a Roswell address. The renewal fee is \$25.00 if submitted by the deadline. Each CFM should keep track of the Continuing Education Credits (CECs) earned. 16 CECs are required for every 2 year renewal, but no more than 12 CECs can be counted towards renewal in any given year. (The NM CFM Program is discussed on the NMFMA web site under Certification, About the NM Certified Floodplain Manager Program)

Don't forget that the CFM exam is proctored at every NMFMA conference. **In order to take the CFM exam, an application and fee must be submitted and approved prior to the date of the exam.** The application package is available on the NMFMA website. Click on Certification, then NM CFM Exam Application Package.



In and Around New Mexico with the State NFIP Coordinator

Bill Borthwick, CFM

State NFIP Coordinator

505-476-9617

william.borthwick@state.nm.us

The following Counties have received Preliminary Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Maps this last quarter:

McKinley County, New Mexico – Preliminary dated July 31, 2008

San Juan County, New Mexico – Preliminary dated August 28, 2008

Eddy County, New Mexico – Preliminary dated September 25, 2008

Curry County, New Mexico – Preliminary dated September 19, 2008

Otero County, New Mexico – Preliminary dated September 30, 2008

Valencia County, New Mexico – Preliminary dated September 30, 2008

Community Assistance Contacts (CACS) have been accomplished for FY 2009 for the following communities;

City of Artesia, New Mexico;

City of Espanola, New Mexico; City of Farmington, New Mexico;

City of Socorro, New Mexico;

City of Tucumcari, New Mexico;

Eddy County, New Mexico;

Quay County, New Mexico;

Village of Ruidoso, New Mexico;

Village Ruidoso Downs, New Mexico;

Town of Bernalillo, New Mexico

We would like to thank the following floodplain Administrators for their hard work in preparing for these CACS:

Danny J. Jones, CFM, City of Artesia;

Joe T. Duran, CFM, City of Espanola;

Virginia King, CFM, City of Farmington;

Mike Czosnek, CFM, City of City of Socorro;

Yvette Fazekas, CFM, City Tucumcari;

Georgia Goad, CFM, Eddy County;

Bobbie Rose, CFM, Quay County;

Shawn Fort, CFM, Village of Ruidoso;

Steve Dunigan, CFM, Village of Ruidoso Downs

Wayne Warnhood, CFM, Town of Bernalillo.

The FY 2009 Community Assistance Program/ State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE) FEMA Region VI meeting will be held in Denton, Texas January 27-30, 2009. J. Kyle Zimmerman, CFM Chair, of New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association and the State NFIP Coordinator have been invited to attend the meeting. NMFMA will host the meeting and is planning to bring New Mexico goodies for the sponsored breaks.

[Continued on Page 6 - In and Around New Mexico](#)

FEMA—NO MORE PAPER MAPS

Continued from Page 1

- By discontinuing most of the free paper map distribution FEMA expects to save at least \$5 million annually.
 - The number of paper maps FEMA distributes is declining. Even as the number of paper maps distributed declines, the cost of each map rises because of the loss of the economies of scale at higher printing volumes. As a result the continued distribution of free maps has continued to become more and more costly.
 - One of the central goals for the Flood Map Modernization Program is to convert the National Flood Insurance Program map inventory to digital and to shift to digital delivery via the Internet to make the program more efficient and communicate the flood hazard more effectively.
- Replacing paper products with digital versions will save money and improve the usability of FEMA's flood hazard data products.

How will FEMA Assist Users Affected by this Change?

- FEMA provides several digital options for users. Easy-to-use digital images are available for all FEMA maps and can be accessed online or loaded on a user's computer. 8½-by-11 inch snapshots can be printed to create an official record for any location. For most areas sophisticated flexible, interactive digital maps are also available or in production. This DFIRM GIS Data allows users with appropriate expertise to create custom map products and perform advanced analysis of flood risk. Users can download this data, have it delivered on CD ROM or access it live through a web map service using a variety of FEMA provided or commercially available software tools.
- The Map Service Center provides extensive user instructions and background information about these products and tools on their site: msc.fema.gov
- The Map Service Center provides free tools for user. Users can download the *FIRMette – Desktop* tool for viewing and printing FIRM Scan map images or *MapViewer – Desktop* tool for viewing, printing and commenting on DFIRM GIS Data. The Map Service Center also provides online versions of both of these viewers.

Because FEMA is providing a long lead-time for users to adapt and continuing to provide a printed copy to mapped communities, the impacts of this change should be manageable. FEMA continues to work closely with all of our stakeholders to assure that our products and services meet the needs for the National Flood Insurance Program and support the reduction of flood risk nationally.

Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC



FEMA

ESTA LLOVIENDO CULEBRAS Y CUBEROS

NMFMA SPRING WORKSHOP - MARCH 2009

Mike Czosnek , CFM

Conference Committee Chair

(575) 838-7514

NMFMA Spring Workshop will be held March 10-13, 2009 in Albuquerque, at the MCM Elegante Hotel on Menaul Blvd. The MCM Elegante is the old Holiday Inn Mt. View. If you have been with NMFMA from the beginning, you will remember that the first NMFMA Conference was held in this hotel (a.k.a Holiday Inn Mt. View).

Mark you calendar for March 10-13, 2009. Information on registration, cost, Hotel cost and hotel reservation contacts will be outlined in the February 2009 Newsletter. If you have suggestions, or presentations that you would like to present at the Spring Workshop, please contact Kelly Romero and/or Shelly Cobau. Their contact information —

Conference / Workshop Director is Kelly Romero, CFM — 505-867-7651

kellyromero@sandovalcounty.com

Program Director is Shelly Cobau, CFM — 505-986-6223

scobau@co.santa-fe.nm.us



Continued from page 3 - In and Around New Mexico

The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) Training Opportunities

Vacancies exist for FY 2009 courses at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. For more information please go to: <http://training.fema.gov/emicourses> or contact the Admissions Office at (301) 447-1035 or via email at netc-admissions@dhs.gov. Send **completed** applications to State Training Officer for approval. The State will then forward them to Admissions. Please send applications to:

Felicia Schreir, Training & Citizens Corp

State of New Mexico, Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management

Preparedness Bureau - P.O. Box 27111

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Phone: (505) 476-9633

Fax: (505) 476-9695

E-Mail Felicia.schreier@state.nm.us

Applications for course vacancies must be received at least 6 weeks before the course start date for the applicant to be considered for the course. Vacancies within 6 weeks of the course start date shall only be filled from established waitlist (if one exists), so it's important to apply early! Attached is a list of classes and availability

E172	HAZUS MH for Flood	
	1/12-15/09	9 vacancies
E194	Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts*	
	5/4-7/09	24 vacancies
E202	Debris Management	
	2/23-26/09	3 vacancies
	6/8-11/09	17 vacancies
E270	Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP TTT	
	6/8-11/09	25 vacancies
E273	Managing Floodplain Development through the NFIP	
	3/23-26/09	18 vacancies
	5/18-21/09	15 vacancies
E276	Benefit-Cost Analysis: Entry-Level	
	6/8-10/09	24 vacancies
E278	Community Rating System	
	4/6-9/09	7 vacancies
E279	Retrofitting Flood-prone Residential Buildings	
	4/6-9/09	25 vacancies
E282	Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts*	
	2/2-5/09	23 vacancies
E313	Basic HAZUS Multi-Hazards	
	4/6-9/09	18 vacancies

* Prerequisite course requires 3 years floodplain management experience

RECENT CHANGES IN THE MIP

FEMA and the MIP team recently implemented changes to the Mapping Information Platform (MIP) to improve the submission upload process.

As a result of overall MIP improvements following the recent file server upgrade, FEMA increased the recommended upload file size limit to 1 GB through the "Submit Data Files" portlet. Mapping partners can now use the MIP to upload larger data sets, saving the time it would take to mail these large submissions to the Data Depot. Additional information on data upload options and general guidelines and tips for more efficient DFIRM QA reviews can be found in the DFIRM Upload Guidance document, which is posted on the MIP at hazards.fema.gov > [MIP User Care](#) > [Guides and Documentation](#) > [User Guidance](#) > [DFIRM Upload Guidance October 2008](#).

An additional issue, where the DFIRM submission status automatically reverts to "Data Revised" after passing the National QA/QC Review step, was also resolved in a recent MIP service pack. Users who receive a passing report for a DFIRM submission and do not make any changes to that submission on the J drive will no longer see the DFIRM submission status incorrectly change to "Data Revised."

In addition, a fix is scheduled for a future service pack (deployment date TBD) to address a different part of this issue where the DFIRM submission status changes to "Data Revised" immediately after upload through the MIP. Until this fix is implemented, users should do the following if they receive a "Data Revised" status:

If the submission is a DFIRM upload, check whether any changes have been made to the J drive since the initial upload of the DFIRM submission. If changes were made, the "Data Revised" status is correct and the DFIRM review package should be re-submitted to FAFS for validation. If no changes were made, contact MIP Help for support.

If the submission is for a non-DFIRM task, click the "Validate Contents" button.

FEMA encourages users to contact MIP Help if they experience issues with the MIP by e-mailing miphelp@mapmodteam.com or calling 1-877-FEMA-MAP (choose option 2).

Source: Ken Hamer (703) 317-6285

Baker



DATA CAPTURE STANDARDS COMMENTS PERIOD EXTENDED

FEMA has extended the comment period for the revised Data Capture Standards (DCS) through mid-December 2008. The DCS are in Appendix N of FEMA's *Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners* (G&S). In June 2008, FEMA produced a new version of the DCS that provides simpler and better-documented guidance that will bring significant savings and better archiving of study data. The new specifications also contain new guidance for collecting scoping, base map, coastal, alluvial fan, redelineation, and digital conversion technical data.

FEMA has already begun to implement the new DCS on some existing and future task orders. To more easily transition to the new DCS, FEMA is providing enhanced support through an online discussion forum where interested parties can post questions and comments. FEMA and the MOD team will respond to comments and feedback through the forum. Since the initial posting in June and the ensuing comment period, FEMA has revised the document based on feedback received and has posted additional draft DCS specifications for use with DCS-compliant deliverables.

FEMA has also posted additional new documents along with the updated DCS. Included among the new postings is a geodatabase template for DCS, a sample geodatabase for riverine and coastal DCS, and Geography Markup Language schema documentation for submission of DCS deliverables.

FEMA will publish comments received during the extended comment period in early 2009. FEMA encourages comments from all interested parties regarding the feasibility of implementing the proposed specifications, as well as the usability, completeness, and utility of the proposed finished products and DCS document. The DCS and associated documents are posted to the DCS forum at <https://interactive.dhs.gov/suite/page/2410>. When you visit this site, you will be prompted to register an account.

The DCS and associated documents are also posted to FEMA's Flood Hazard Mapping Web site at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/fhm/gs_dcs.shtm along with a weekly update of summaries of comments received on the DCS forum. This page also provides login instructions for those that are interested in accessing the DCS forum.

Source: Turgay Dabak (703) 317-6286

Baker

FROM THE EDITOR

From an Arab Philosopher I bring you these words:

There are four kinds of people: Those who know not, and know not that they know not. These are foolish.

Those who know not, and know they know not. These are the simple, and should be instructed.

Those who know, and know not that they know. These are asleep; awake them.

Those who know and know they know. These are the wise; listen to them

Diane Calhoun, CFM - Editor

Baker

An Opportunity to Advertise In the High Waters

Advertise Here
For Only \$200
for one year

Advertise Here
For Only \$200
for one year

Advertise Here
For Only \$400
for one year

Advertise Here for Only \$800 for 1 year

Opportunity to Advertise in the New Mexico High Waters

By Diane Calhoun, CFM—Newsletter Editor

We are collecting advertisements to run in the High Waters beginning with the first issue in 2009. Your ad will run for the full year of 2009. The newsletter is published four times a year.

If your firm is interesting in advertising, please provide the following:

- Provide a full color graphic of the advertisement to Diane Calhoun either by email at
- dcalhoun@mbakercorp.com, or ftp site or CD-ROM (M. Baker Inc. 101 S. Locust St., Denton Tx 76209)
- Make your check payable to NMFMA.

New Levee Outreach Material

Levees are built to provide a specific level of flood protection. However, recent events have shown how storms can bring floodwaters that exceed that level, causing levees to overtop or fail. The flood losses that occur due to a levee failure can be devastating and have even a greater impact on home and business owners who do not carry flood insurance. It is important for residents living and working near levees to know about their flood risk and their insurance choices.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and FloodSmart have recently created a new *Levee Outreach Toolkit* that contains materials developed specifically for outreach in communities with levees. The materials in this toolkit provide various audiences, including floodplain managers, with templated, flexible materials to adapt and use in addressing flood risks behind levees and the flood insurance implications of levee status changes, as well as flood risk zones and Special Flood Hazard Areas that are being remapped or revised.

Communication Tips for a Successful Process

The following tips will help ensure that the overall approach to conducting community outreach is on target. Keep these tips in mind to make communications around levee and map changes in your area a smooth - and successful - process.

- **Start early.** Getting started on outreach efforts as early as possible will allow you to identify and address key issues and obstacles and secure the broad-based support needed prior to the rollout of new maps.
- **The media will tell the tale - engage them.** Local and regional media outlets have an interest in this issue and will want to know how map and levee changes affect the average citizen. Providing the press with access to good information in advance of the release of new maps will help ensure that they have a solid understanding of the process.
- **Reach out to representatives from affected industries.** Representatives of the insurance, realty and lending industries will all be affected by the changes that new maps bring. Keeping them updated about developments in the map change and levee review process, getting their feedback on outreach materials and using them to disseminate information to their colleagues are key to a successful communications effort.
- **Residents and business owners need clear messages about flood risks - as well as cost-saving options for protection.** Providing the public with messages and materials that stress both risks and available cost-saving flood insurance options can make the need or requirement for flood insurance more palatable.
- **Make sure you communicate often with all audiences.** Open, transparent and repeated communication goes a long way to building consensus and garnering buy-in in your community. Holding open houses or town hall meetings gives residents and business owners an opportunity to raise issues and concerns in a friendly, educational setting.

Get key decision makers on board. Local elected officials and county board members will ultimately be responsible for adopting ordinances that make new flood maps official and effective throughout the area. If the area around the levees is going through a map change, make sure key officials clearly understand the map change process, insurance implications and overall project benefits.

Please email us at info@femafloodsmart.gov to request a copy of the Levee Outreach Toolkit. Please continue to visit FEMA.gov and FloodSmart.gov for information about map changes, levee status changes and flood insurance.





New Mexico Floodplain Managers Association

Application for Membership

Name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip code:** _____

Email _____

Telephone: () _____ **Fax** () _____

Affiliation:

- Local Government
- State Government
- Federal Government
- Private
- Academic
- Other _____

I am interested in the following areas of concern:

Dam Safety _____

Flood Data _____

Structural Flood Control _____

Litigation/Legal Issues _____

Wetlands Issues _____

AO/AH Flooding _____

Crawl Spaces _____

Flood Warning & Response _____

Other: _____

Nature of Duties

- Administration
- Engineering
- Planning
- Insurance
- Other _____

I am interested in these Committees:

_____ Certification

_____ Conference

_____ Floodplain Management

_____ Legislative

_____ Membership

_____ Nominating

_____ Training/Education

Membership Class Applied for & Dues

- Individual \$ 35.00
- Agency \$100.00
- Corporate \$100.00
- NEW MEMBER
- RENEWAL

DUES ARE FOR ONE CALENDAR YEAR.

MAKE CHECK OUT TO NMFMA

Send to: NMFMA
Executive Office



Executive Office
P. O. Box 531
High Rolls, New Mexico 88325
505-682-1359

WEB SITE:

WWW.NMFMA.ORG

Purpose of the New Mexico Floodplain Managers

- 1. To promote public awareness of proper floodplain management;**
- 2. To promote the professional status of floodplain management and secure all benefits resulting there from;**
- 3. To promote a liaison between individuals concerned with proper floodplain management and to encourage the exchange of ideas;**
- 4. To keep individuals concerned with proper floodplain management well informed through educational and professional seminars and to provide a method for dissemination of information, both general and technical;**
- 5. To inform concerned individuals of pending floodplain legislation and other related management matters; and**
- 6. To study and support legislation pertinent and necessary to the effective implementation of floodplain management matters.**