



## Background

In support of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), FEMA and the State of Georgia has undertaken a massive effort of flood hazard identification and mapping to update Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for much of the State. These maps are created to reflect the base flood event, defined as the flood having a 1-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year (also referred to as the 100-year flood).

## Map Production Phases

### Mapping Needs Assessment:

- Mapping needs are identified and reported to the State Floodplain Management Office for updating FEMA's Mapping Needs Update Support System (MNUSS).
- Additional data are collected including future file information, Letters of Map Change, other historical flooding data, GIS data, aerial photos, digital orthophoto data, and topographic maps/data. (Note: In Georgia, all flood map updates will be produced with digital technology for ease of use and future update and maintenance.)
- FEMA and the State hold a Preliminary Mapping Needs Assessment Meeting.

### Initial Scoping Meeting:

- Held by the State, meeting will include local officials of impacted communities, mapping contractors, and regional agencies.
- Discuss study scope of work, identify resources available and needed, establish priority levels, define format and content.
- All aspects of the project are discussed and outlined.

### Additional Scoping Meetings and Teleconferences:

- Additional meetings may be necessary to address comments and concerns following the initial scoping meeting, select study methods, identify topographic data needs and resources, and evaluate existing data.
- Develop a schedule.
- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is sent and signed by the community and the State detailing the scope of work to be studied.

### Map Production Phase:

- All aerial photos, topography, field survey, and engineering data are gathered and processed to prepare a preliminary Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and FIRM.
- All engineering data are submitted for Quality Control assessments and assurances.

### Preliminary FIS and Digital FIRM (DFIRM) and Community Review Period:

- Preliminary FIS and FIRM are issued to all impacted communities.
- Community officials complete a 30-day Review Period of the preliminary DFIRM and FIS.



## **Public Participation Meetings:**

- Community officials host a public Preliminary DFIRM Community Coordination Meeting to explain the new maps, the review and comment process, and insurance coverage and premiums rates.
- Two notices of Base Flood Elevation (BFE) changes are published in local newspapers. (Second notice begins a 90-day appeal period. Any property owner or lessee within an impacted community can file an appeal or protest.)
  - An appeal disputes a new or revised BFE and must be based on technical and/or scientific information.
  - A protest disputes new or revised data other than BFEs.
- Appeals and/or protests are resolved. (An additional 30-day comment period begins on appeal or protest resolutions.)

## **Final Determination:**

- Letter issued by the State of Georgia and FEMA.
- Dates of the effective DFIRM and FIS are published in the Federal Register.
- Unless lawsuits are filed, DFIRM is final.
- Data may, however, be submitted at any time, and if warranted, update the maps through a Letter of Map Change process.

## **Final FIS and FIRM Effective:**

- FIS report and FIRM panels are published and become effective.
- Maps are distributed to all impacted communities and many other users by FEMA's Map Service Center.

## **More Information**

For more information regarding the flood map production process, please contact your Georgia Floodplain Management Office or the FEMA Regional Office at:

Collis Brown, CFM  
Georgia Floodplain Mgmt Coordinator  
Georgia Dept of Natural Resources  
Environmental Protection Division  
Seven Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Suite 440  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
404-656-6382 FAX 404-656-6383  
Collis\_Brown@mail.dnr.state.ga.us

Janice Mitchell  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Mitigation Specialist  
3003 Chamblee-Tucker Road  
Atlanta, GA 30341  
770-220-5441  
[Janice.Mitchell@dhs.gov](mailto:Janice.Mitchell@dhs.gov)