

10 December 1980

MEMO FOR: RECORD

SUBJECT: Skagit County FIS/Skagit Delta

1. This MFR covers about a one and one-half month period of discussions and coordination concerning flood plain mapping of the Skagit Delta for the Skagit County Flood Insurance Study.
2. On 24 October 1980, I met with Regan, Ristau and Sherril Gardner of Hydraulics to review their latest mapping of the 100-year flood in the delta. This was about the fifth iteration. Some FPMS concerns were resolved: i.e. Skagit flow to Stanwood; Burlington overflow area, etc. but another issue developed as discussed below.
3. In some areas the new 100-year flood elevations are much lower (as much as 7 feet) than the 1972 Flood Insurance Study. Regan explained that in 1972 we assumed a cascade over the entire length of levees, whereas the present study assumes overtopping or breaching at specific locations only. He feels that the levees may break anywhere, so structures within 1000 feet of a levee should be elevated to the 100-year stage in the channel (one possible approach).
4. I checked with Otto Walberg of Skagit County about a 1000-foot zone behind all levees, and he liked it. He said he would talk to Schofield about it.
5. I talked to Wes Edens about it, and he said that the idea had merit, but an arbitrary 1000-foot zone might be difficult to regulate. We then discussed the possibility of using the 1972 study instead of the new study. He did not think we could do it, because of FEMA's policy on alluvial fans, where they require the one percent probability flood, rather than the worst case spread over the fan. He checked with Washington, D.C. and found that they have reversed themselves, and would support showing all levees overtopped. He would like us to use the 1972 study, if MacDonald agrees.
6. Otto Walberg said that Skagit County would not mind going with the 1972 study because they have been using it for 8 years and it is generally accepted.

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7. On 19 November 1980, I met with Lencioni and Ristau and asked for approval to use the 1972 study. They were to check the differences between studies and were to let me know around 24-26 November 1980.
8. After they reviewed the studies (25 November 1980), I met with Lencioni, Ristau, Soule and Sherril Gardner, who tended to prefer the new study, with a special 1000-foot zone. They agreed to go along with the 1972 study, if MacDonald/Hogan agree. On 26 November 1980, Spurlock, Gardner and Ristau discussed the situation with MacDonald. He is generally skeptical about studies based on predictions of precise locations of levee failure, so he prefers the 1972 study approach. Based on his comments we decided to use the 1972 study. Ristau agreed to furnish a narrative, and he will extend the 1972 study flood contours through the cities of Burlington and Mt. Vernon.
9. We got portions of the 1972 study from storage and found negatives and a set of xerox vellums of the maps, but no mylars, which were probably shipped to FIA. We decided to produce a new set of maps with the latest Flood Insurance Study format, at 1 inch = 2000 feet from USGS quads. We will trace the 100-year flood contours from the 1972 study.
10. On 2 December 1980 I met with Ristau and Sherril Gardner. They said that the narrative may be difficult because the stored boxes were destroyed. Sherril will try to get me something in 2 weeks. To save time, we will try to extend the contours for Burlington, Mt. Vernon and Sedro Wolley, and have Sherril check the work.
11. On 5 December 1980 Wes Edens read me a letter he is sending to the District authorizing us to use the 1972 study. He will send copies to WDE and Skagit County.

cc:
Regional Planning
V. Cook, Des. Br.
MacDonald, H&H
Lencioni, H&H
Ristau, H&H
Gardner, H&H

WDE / Brooks, Spurling / RP FILE (Skagit)
Gardner 12/10/80
GERALD M. GARDNER