

From: Ike, Ryan
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2010 4:13 PM
To: E-mail addresses removed to prevent spam
Cc: E-mail addresses removed to prevent spam
Subject: Status update

Good afternoon,

Earlier today we met with the County Commissioners to provide an update on our study process and spell out the next steps scheduled to occur in coming months. This email summarizes our conversation and provides everyone with an update on the status of the County Flood Insurance Study (FIS).

To keep this brief, I summarized the salient points in bullets.

- The attachment is a document containing our conclusions and final decisions relative to the various data submittals received over the past several years. It also includes the recent March, 2010 meeting held back in Washington D.C. This product is not a standard FIS deliverable, but we believe it will help clarify our position on the longstanding hydrologic debate.
- The Preliminary FIS and associated maps are expected to be sent to all Skagit County communities on or near June 30, 2010. This study is county-wide and will extend from Concrete downstream to the bay. All communities in the County are encouraged to review the maps and take a close look at the new conditions shown. A few highlights include:
 - Datum will be in NAVD 88 (formerly NGVD 29);
 - Communities who currently have a floodway will continue to have a floodway shown on the maps, but new floodway was not included in the “delta”;
 - The comment period will be extended to 3 months and run approximately from June 30 – September 30 to allow for adequate public outreach and consultation meeting coordination;
 - The 90-day appeal period will follow the comment period and run approximately from October 1 – December 31;
 - Upon conclusion of the appeal period, FEMA will review and respond to any data received.
- Along with the preliminary FIS, we are also looking at HAZUS (emergency management and economic loss estimation tool) to evaluate a series of scenarios to determine relative change in damages and flood depths. This product is non-regulatory but helps isolate various levels of risk associated with the flood hazard. It is also a modeling tool frequently used by Emergency Managers to evaluate potential debris, displaced population, and response planning. The data used in the modeling was provided by the County. The primary scenarios we evaluated include:
 - Depths and damages associated with a 50 & 100 year flood;
 - Impact of levees failing in short ~400’ sections in several locations (as opposed to the procedures used in an FIS);
 - Evaluation of the proposed Mount Vernon flood control project;
 - Various flood scenario impacts to critical facilities as identified by the County or the Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP) Gold data, etc.

In the coming weeks, FEMA staffs will be in contact with community officials to ensure that our process is open and available to the public. If you have any questions about this email, or if you think there is someone missing from the distribution, please contact me at the number below.

Regards,

Ryan Ike
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DHS – FEMA Region 10