

THE INSIDER

A Publication
for Members

January
2009

The Association of State Floodplain Managers

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Deputy Executive Director's Report George Riedel, CFM

I hope everyone had a Happy and Safe 2008 Holiday Season. The Association had a very busy year in 2008, both with national policy and as an organization. This past year, the Association was heavily involved nationally with the NFIP Reform, the National Levee Safety Committee, and providing input to the new Administration regarding FEMA and floodplain management issues. As an organization, ASFPM continues to grow. With this growth comes the demand to meet the members' expectations and needs. The Association hired additional staff in 2008 to assist in meeting these expectations and needs. Additionally, the Association is in the process of revising and updating our website to better assist our members, local officials, the general public, and members of the media in obtaining information in an easy to use and friendly manner. The website revision should be completed by late spring.

ASFPM staff is working diligently to get ready for the 2009 Annual Conference. The conference brochure should be completed and sent out around February 1st. With the Annual Conference comes the election of ASFPM Officers, Regional Directors, and Chapter Directors. Nominations for these positions will be sent to all 2009 paid ASFPM members in February, and elections will occur in May.

Remember, the nomination and election process of ASFPM Board Members is your chance to participate in the Association. ASFPM continues to grow both in membership and in stature. ASFPM is looked to by federal agencies and other organizations for leadership and input on floodplain issues. Every year we wonder if anyone will step up in the organization to accept a Board position, and every year, our members step up and accept the challenge and opportunity of being on the Board. This is why ASFPM is such a strong organization. Our members offer their time, energy, and expertise. I encourage you to take advantage of the nomination and election process this year to become more involved in the Association.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR 2009 ASFPM MEMBERSHIP!!

Don't risk losing your valuable member benefits – send your renewal form and payment to the ASFPM office now!

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Your Association represents its members' needs and concerns at all levels. We seek your input and your involvement in all Association activities. Please contact the ASFPM Executive Office and/or the ASFPM Board if you have any comments, questions, suggestions, or concerns.



Green Works to Reduce Flood Losses

ASFPM 33rd Annual National Conference
June 7 – 12, 2009 – Rosen Centre, Orlando, Florida

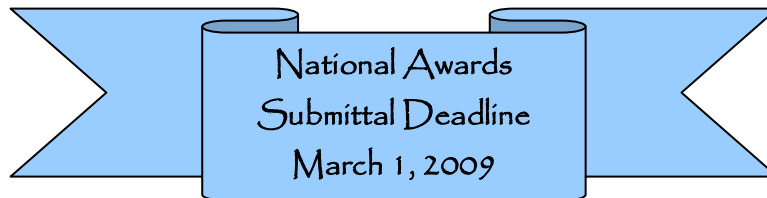
Changes are afoot for the 2009 National Conference! Full details will be available in the brochure, but here's a sneak peek at some of the highlights:

- **4-day Conference.** There will be a greater emphasis on the Monday program to highlight and increase participation in the important national policy and issues discussions.
- **No Package Registration.** This year, the Package Registration has been eliminated. General Registration will include admission to the Welcome Fest, the Monday through Thursday conference program, exhibits hall, the early bird sessions, Tuesday and Thursday luncheons, refreshment breaks, conference materials, participants list, proceedings and one training workshop. Additional workshops, the technical field tours, and the Thursday Evening Networking event will be available à la carte.

If you have not already made your **hotel reservation** at the Rosen Centre, you'll want to do so right away! As always, our room block is filling quickly, with our government rate rooms going the fastest. Call 800-204-7234 and reserve today! Please make sure to refer to the ASFPM Flood Conference to receive our negotiated room rates.

Be on the lookout for the full brochure with all the details and registration forms, coming to an inbox near you the first week of February.

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The national awards for excellence in flood loss reduction are conferred at the annual floodplain managers' conference each spring, and you are invited to feature YOUR outstanding local or state program or person! The 2009 ceremony will be held at the annual ASFPM Awards luncheon, noon Thursday June 11, at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. Please see the Award categories and submittal instructions at www.floods.org/awards/nomination.asp. Make sure you complete this online submission by the March 1 deadline; it is highly recommended that you attach applicable letters of support for your nomination. You may direct any questions to Diane Brown in the ASFPM office at diane@floods.org or call her at 608-441-3003. Winners will be notified in April to allow time to make travel arrangements. We appreciate your help in showcasing what works, as we commemorate those who reduce flood damages in the nation and make flood risk management an achievable reality. Congratulations to those who received national awards in 2008 – you can see them online at www.floods.org/Awards/Recipients.asp.

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FEMA Approves NFDA Member Company Access to eLOMA Application

On December 19, 2008 the National Flood Determination Association (NFDA) received formal approval from FEMA for qualified NFDA member company representatives to access the web-based eLOMA application. This authorization comes in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between FEMA and NFDA after about three years of discussions and negotiations.

Established in 2006, eLOMA has provided an electronic means for licensed land surveyors and professional engineers (“Licensed Professionals”) to submit Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) applications. In most cases, they then receive determinations from FEMA within minutes, instead of the manual process that would have previously taken 60 days. The LOMA is a letter from FEMA stating that an existing structure or parcel of land that has not been elevated by fill is not expected to be inundated by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood (i.e., the base flood). The issuance of the LOMA can result in a revision to the mandatory requirement to purchase flood insurance for homeowners with active loans.

FEMA estimated that approximately 50% of the thousands of LOMA applications submitted annually would be eligible for eLOMA under established guidelines, so the more Licensed Professionals registered as eLOMA users, the more effective the initiative would be in significantly reducing the financial burden on FEMA and on improving the service to the consumer.

NFDA Members, comprised of companies collectively issuing in excess of 30 million determinations annually based on FEMA’s flood data, are the nation’s most prolific users of FEMA’s flood maps. In addition to providing flood hazard data, companies have diversified their offerings to include services such as LOMA application assistance for homeowners. Each year, it is estimated that approximately 2,000 LOMA applications submitted to FEMA have passed through the hands of flood determination company employees at some point in the process.

Although not licensed in the same manner as surveyors or engineers, NFDA member representatives are recognized by lenders and insurance providers as reliable sources of information related to the LOMA process. Part of this knowledge-base has been derived from training and education received through the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) program offered by the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM). By communicating NFDA member company involvement in LOMA application submissions, appealing to FEMA’s interest in improving the effectiveness of eLOMA and reducing production costs, and receiving support from the ASFPM for use of the CFM qualification as one of the conditions of member representative eligibility, NFDA was able to submit a viable proposal to FEMA that has received broad acceptance from eLOMA program officials.

The now-executed MOU outlines the obligations of NFDA to monitor and manage eLOMA access for its member company representatives. NFDA is actively organizing tasks associated with implementing this program amongst member companies and will be communicating program details and scheduling training during the first quarter of 2009. NFDA is grateful for the support received from numerous industry groups and FEMA officials and looks forward to extending to its member companies opportunities for providing improved services to customers while supporting FEMA’s ongoing efforts for increasing efficiency and reducing costs.

The National Flood Determination Association (NFDA) is a non-profit, professional organization comprised of companies in the business of making or selling flood zone determinations. For more information about NFDA, visit www.nfdaflood.com.

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NFIP Training Services

In 2008, the NFIP's Bureau & Statistical Agent (B&SA) contract was split into four separate contracts:

The NFIP IT Services (Contractor: Optimal Solutions and Technologies, OST)

The NFIP Call Center (Contractor: Schatz Publishing Group, LLC; teamed with Lionel Henderson)

The NFIP Bureau & Statistical Agent (Contractor: iService team; OST is the prime and includes DRT Strategies, URS, AmeriClaim, and Torrent Technologies as sub-contractors.)

NFIP Training Services (Contractor: GeoLearning, Inc.; teamed with H2O Partners)

The NFIP Training Services officially took over the B&SA's training duties on December 14, 2008. The prime contractor, GeoLearning, Inc., is a leader in e-learning technology. GeoLearning's training subcontractor is H2O Partners, Inc., led by former FIA Administrator, Jo Ann Howard. She has assembled a team of seasoned instructors and experts with WYO and B&SA experience that includes:

Larry Palmer

Rich Slevin

Larry Moser

Walter McGuckin

Cathy Meek

Leslie Melville

Sonja Wood

Dorothy Martinez

Bruce Bender

Don Beaton

Unfortunately, during this transition, the online training modules are not presently available; a target date for release is set for mid-January. However, instructor-led classroom training *is* available and there is a listing of classes on the NFIP IT Services site, which is temporarily acting as the online training resource: <http://www.nfipbureau.fema.gov/training/index.html>. Note that the flood insurance training contract is currently targeted for agents, lenders and adjusters, though floodplain managers are certainly welcome to attend.

Questions concerning 2009 NFIP Training may be e-mailed to nfiptraininginfo@h2opartnersusa.com. The NFIP Training Announcement Bulletin can be found at <http://bsa.nfipstat.com/wyobull/w-08096.pdf>.

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Texas Law and Houston's High Water Problems

Last month there was a fascinating article published in the *The Houston Lawyer* titled "Houston's High Water Problems" on what we all know to be a problem of monster proportions---flooding in Houston.

The extremely flat terrain of this former bog area (wetland) presents problems in mapping and managing floodplains. On top of this, which is not mentioned in the article, is the ongoing problem of development in these floodways because some engineer provides a "no rise" certificate based on a spot analysis instead of a cumulative analysis. Guidance on this issue is sorely needed.

Accurate maps are critical to thousands of people and varying interests in these rapidly growing metroplex areas. There are lots of interests with lots of money to challenge them, pointing out that FEMA can't just use generalized methods to produce the maps in these areas, but sophisticated engineering is mandatory. Mapping and managing floodplains in these low flat watersheds is complex, and the runoff is easily altered by the rapid development. The challenge is severely complicated when the maps are not tied to a land use plan and regulations---which means the maps will be out of date by the time they get

through the 3-5 year process for adoption. These are the instances that cry out for maps based on future conditions in the local land use plan.

The outcome of these legal actions could have some very important long term implications to the NFIP, Texas law and floodplain management. We will continue to follow these court actions to keep people informed.

You can view the full article online at: http://www.thehoustonlawyer.com/aa_nov08/page18.htm

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National Committee on Levee Safety Review Team Feedback

ASFPM, along with a number of other organizations, was asked to review the National Committee on Levee Safety report. This report will be sent from the Corps of Engineers to Congress for possible legislation to set up a National Levee Safety Program, with incentives to foster delegation of the program to the states.

You can view a copy of ASFPM's comments and the letter we sent with them on our website at:

View Letter:

www.floods.org/PDF/Levees/NCLS_Report_Review_Committee_Comments_from_ASFPM_1208.pdf

View Comments:

www.floods.org/PDF/Levees/NCLS_Review_Team_2_Feedback_form_121208_ASFPM.pdf

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Upcoming Training Opportunities at the Emergency Management Institute

E282, Advanced Training Module 2

Includes Higher Regulatory Standards & NAI Concepts, Manufactured Homes & RVs in the Floodplain, Hydrology and Hydraulics for the Floodplain Administrator, Flood Insurance for the Floodplain Administrator.

E282 is being offered at EMI for classroom delivery on the following dates:

February 2-5, 2009 (15 vacancies)

July 6 -9, 2009 (26 vacancies)

E194, Advanced Floodplain Management Concepts 1

Includes Roles of the Floodplain Administrator, NFIP Rules and Regulations in Depth, Letters of Map Changes and Floodplain Management, Preparing for Post-Disaster Responsibilities.

E194 is being offered at EMI for classroom delivery on the following dates:

May 4-7, 2009 (18 vacancies)

August 10-13, 2009 (29 vacancies)

Both advanced concepts courses (E194 and E282) have a prerequisite of three years of experience to attend the course.

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Save the Date – Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Conference

January 22-23, 2009

Dalton J. Woods Auditorium
Energy, Coast and Environment Bldg., LSU

The Flood Protection & Ecosystem Restoration Development Program is part of an ongoing professional development program to assist public agencies, including levee boards and districts, in achieving their statutory responsibilities in flood protection and ecosystem restoration.

For more information and to register, visit <http://www.laseagrant.org/floodprotection/> or e-mail Katie Lea at klea@lsu.edu.

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Letters of Final Determination (LFD) Distribution Change

As part of its Digital Vision initiative, FEMA set a goal of converting hard-copy flood hazard information to digital data. In keeping with this initiative, FEMA will discontinue mailing hard copies of documents enclosed with Letters of Final Determination (LFDs) beginning January 1, 2009.

An LFD is a letter mailed to community officials to inform them that a new or updated FIRM will become effective in 6 months. Additionally, an LFD finalizes the Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) for the community. Upon receiving an LFD, a participating community must establish compliant floodplain management ordinances by the effective date of the new FIRM to remain in the NFIP.

Communities still will receive a hard copy of the LFD, but instead of receiving enclosures with the letter, FEMA will now make them available on FEMA's Web site at www.floodmaps.fema.gov/lfid. The five enclosures to the LFD that will no longer be included with the letter include:

- * "Answers to Questions about the NFIP";
- * Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations;
- * "Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Effect that Revised Flood Hazards Have on Existing Structures;"
- * "Use of Flood Insurance Study (FIS) Data as Available Data;" and
- * The Elevation Certificates necessary to ensure compliance with community floodplain ordinances.

FEMA mails LFDs to more than 2,000 communities per year at an average cost of \$30 per letter. Switching to digital enclosures will create a significant annual savings for FEMA. Moving to digital enclosures is a low-cost solution that is consistent with the goals of Digital Vision and accommodates the needs of individual communities.

Communities will still be able to request hard copies of enclosures through the FEMA Map Assistance Center at *1-877-FEMA MAP* (1-877-336-2627). Additionally, a fact sheet describing the transition to digital LFD enclosures is available at www.floodmaps.fema.gov/lfid. For questions, please contact Lora Eskandary at FEMA headquarters at 202-646-2717 or lora.eskandary@dhs.gov.

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Promotions and Awards

Mr. Theodore A. “Tab” Brown was recently promoted to Chief of Planning and Policy/ Community of Practice in the Senior Executive Service (SES), Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Brown has served the Corps in engineering planning roles since 1991 and in leadership since 1995. During his 6-year tenure as Chief of the Planning and Policy in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, he oversaw a number of key and complex planning studies, including the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway Study, a bi-national effort among seven Canadian and U.S. agencies. He brings a wealth of valuable Corps and engineering experience along with his professionalism, passion, and talent.

Mr. Mark Mauriello was recently appointed as the new Commissioner of the New Jersey DEP. Mark has served as Assistant Commissioner for Land Use Management since 2006 and prior to that as Director of the Land Use Regulation Division. Mark is also very active in the field of floodplain management on the national level, having served as Regional Director of the Association of State Floodplain Managers and also on the Coastal Policy Committee since 1988.

In addition to his considerable experience in the DEP regulatory programs, Mark has developed a outstanding relationship with members of our legislature as he worked with them over the years to implement far-reaching environmental protection programs throughout the state. Most recently, Mark is leading the effort to implement the recommendations of the Permit Efficiency Review Task Force to streamline and facilitate the Department's permit review processes.

This combination of experience, and his excellent reputation within DEP and with New Jersey's many constituents and partners makes him especially well suited to lead DEP during these exciting and challenging times.

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Submit your own items or suggestions for future topics to column editor Rebecca Quinn, CFM, at rcquinn@earthlink.net. Comments welcomed!

Here's Something You Might Find Interesting . . .

If you've been through a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) more than likely you've had to play catch-up because your records don't have all of the documentation and certifications that you're expected to keep. Among other commitments communities make to participate in the NFIP are three related to keeping records: (1) maintain certain elevation data and design certificates for buildings in Special Flood Hazard Areas, (2) maintain documentation if variances are granted, and (3) submit biennial reports to FEMA.

Let's talk about three aspects: first, collecting Elevation Certificates; second, keeping records accessible; and third, length of time to keep those records.

Collecting Elevation Certificates

If you work for a state or FEMA and have conducted CAVs, more than likely you've had to tell communities that the NFIP assumes that a building is in violation of the requirements if evidence of compliance is missing. The definition of "violation" clearly states that lack of elevation certificates and

other certifications is sufficient for a presumption of a violation until such time as the documentation is provided. I'll bet hundreds of communities each year have to get in touch with owners, builders and surveyors – not an easy task if a couple of years have gone by.

These days, there are no good reasons for a community's records to be inadequate. Every floodplain management ordinance I've seen in the past 30 years contains a clear statement that it is the local administrator's responsibility to obtain and retain certain elevation information and, depending on the building and zone, certain design certificates. Why do we keep finding community officials who don't know this is in their ordinances?

If you work for a community, when was the last time you read through your ordinance from front to back? Check your intake procedures – are applicants given a copy of the Elevation Certificate and told that it must be completed before the final inspection? Some communities require applicants/owners to sign a statement acknowledging that the EC is required before the Certificate of Occupancy is issued. Check your inspection procedures – do inspectors make sure a completed EC is submitted? Check your record retention – are copies of EC retained in a permanent file?

Most states and communities administer building codes that are based on the *International Building Code* and the *International Residential Code*. Both codes require retention of applications received, permits issued, and reports of inspections. Both codes also call for specific inspections, including a "lowest floor elevation" inspection, which specifies that documentation or certification of elevations is to be submitted upon placement of the lowest floor and prior to further vertical construction.

The I-Codes also require that certain documentation, signed and sealed by registered design professions (see sidebar), be submitted to the building official. The documentation includes: elevations (lowest floor or bottom of lowest horizontal structural member, depending on flood zone); engineered openings; foundation design (in V Zones); and breakaway walls. The IRC also clearly requires submission of "as-built" certifications of lowest floor elevations. And for dry floodproofed nonresidential buildings, the IBC requires submission of a statement that designs are in accordance with ASCE 24.

Registered Design Professional is defined in the I-Codes as "an individual who is registered or licensed to practice their respective design profession as defined by the statutory requirements of the professional registration laws of the state or jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed."

OK, the requirement is spelled out clearly, so that's not the problem. Everybody is busy and building inspectors have hundreds of things to check as construction of a building nears completion. So what's the solution?

I'm told it's becoming common in many states for surveyors to charge a single fee upfront to cover establishing the ground elevation, setting a temporary bench mark, and preparing the final as-built Elevation Certificate. Because insurance agents are supposed to have an EC to write flood insurance policies on post-FIRM buildings, I'll bet that most builders and owners call the surveyor to get the as-built EC. Why isn't the paperwork getting submitted to communities?

Here's another thought. A few years ago I became aware of software programs that are designed to help building departments review and track permits. These programs are now used by many communities, both large and small. I'd like to see the vendors modify their programs to include flood-specific content. In particular, because a final inspection is required before a Certificate of Occupancy is issued, doesn't it make sense that the final inspection checklist includes a reminder to collect the Elevation Certificate?

Keeping Records Accessible

The NFIP requires communities to "maintain for public inspection and furnish upon request" information on elevations and certificates of floodproofing. The records must be accessible for inspection during

Community Assistance Visits. In addition, communities themselves must be able to access records in order to complete the NFIP's biennial report (which requests the number of permits and variances issued in the preceding two years). And because many Post-FIRM buildings are now 20 to 30 years old – and as so many maps have been revised and BFEs and zones are changing – it's becoming more important than ever to have documentation of compliance at the time buildings were constructed.

Some communities keep a log of SFHA permits (or can sort their electronic permit tracking data), which helps when digging through boxes of old permit files. Some keep paper copies of Elevation Certificates in a separate file, and some keep electronic copies. All CRS communities are required to maintain records and use FEMA's Elevation Certificate and Floodproofing Certificate, and they must make copies of the certificates available to any inquirer (Activity 310).

Length of Time to Keep Records

The NFIP regulations do not specify how long the records should be kept, suggesting there is no limit. Similarly, local ordinances specify that records must be maintained but are silent about how long they should be kept. On the other hand, the I-Codes indicate that "records shall be retained in the official records for the period required for retention of public records." I'm told that many states mandate that records be retained only for three or four years.

The question then is what are communities supposed to do? Keep in mind that some communities may issue only a handful of permits in a year, but the numbers run into the thousands for many large jurisdictions. Records retention is not a trivial matter.

In my opinion, the answer is that Elevation Certificates, Floodproofing Certificates, and V Zone certificates (foundation design and breakaway walls), should be kept permanently. Yes, that's a lot of work for larger jurisdictions, but they're the ones most likely to already use electronic storage. These days anyone can save scanned copies of documents. Indeed, the EC itself is now available (and can be sealed) electronically. It doesn't matter whether it is a dedicated file for hardcopies or an electronic file, keeping permanent records is the easy part once it truly becomes routine for communities to collect the certificates.

Remember how I opened this article – noting that hundreds of communities each year probably expend a great deal of time and energy to get in touch with owners, builders and surveyors to obtain Elevation Certificates. That's a lot of headache that will be avoided if they pay more attention to the requirements of their own ordinances and codes. [RCQ]

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Washington Legislative Report

Meredith R. Inderfurth, Washington Liaison
Rebecca C. Quinn, Legislative Officer

Lights, Camera, Action!

All of a sudden, they're back! The Capitol was buzzing with activity on January 6th as the Representatives and Senators of the 111th Congress were sworn in, initial votes to elect leadership were taken and receptions were held. During this first week, the House and Senate will also adopt their operating rules for the session. Preliminary lists of committee assignments are being released, to be confirmed at party caucuses very soon. In short, the Congress is consumed with organizing itself and to turning to the business at hand as quickly as possible.



Instead of the usual practice of recessing after these organizational steps to return in late January for legislative business, this year the Congress will remain in session. Since adjourning the 110th session, authorizing committees have been developing their recommendations for the economic stimulus package. Those recommendations have now been reviewed by the Leadership. The Appropriations Committees have been asked to develop the stimulus package using the recommendations. The original idea of having it ready for the new President on Inauguration Day has slipped, with hopes now being expressed that it will be ready by mid-February. Clearly, this will be a major focus during the first weeks of the Congressional session.

Stimulus Package and Mitigation

Estimates vary widely as to the size of the Economic Stimulus Package being developed by the Congress and by the Obama-Biden Transition Team. Clearly, job creation or retention is a major focus and all parties seem in agreement that a major component will fund infrastructure construction, improvement and repair.

ASFPM has suggested that the stimulus package include general language requiring that all infrastructure projects consider hazard mitigation and indicate what steps might be taken to enhance hazard mitigation. Suggestions have been made that some previously highly ranked Pre-Disaster Mitigation projects and not-funded Hazard Mitigation Grant Program projects could qualify as “shovel ready” for stimulus funding. Lack of job creation specifics associated with such projects has, thus far, precluded their inclusion in the recommendations for the stimulus package.

Indications are that the President-Elect intends to include green technology jobs in the stimulus package. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works held a briefing this week on the benefits of green technology jobs as a boost to the economy as well as a help to the environment. Examples given included investment in a digital “smart” grid for electricity delivery, in solar, thermal and wind power and investment in home weatherization.

Accountability requirements are being developed to require states and other fund recipients to begin reporting within 30 days of enactment as to the types and number of jobs created.

At present, plans call for mark-ups in the House Appropriations and Ways and Means Committees during the week of January 19th to be followed by House Floor action by the end of January. Meanwhile, the Senate will develop its version with a view toward achieving agreement between the House and Senate versions by mid-February.

Early activity other than Stimulus

The most obvious early actions will involve confirmation hearings for high level, primarily Cabinet, nominees for the incoming Administration. These hearings will begin on January 8th and 9th with most to take place January 13th, 14th and 15th. Hearings for the EPA Administrator nominee, (Lisa Jackson), are scheduled for the 13th. Hearings for Secretary of Homeland Security (Gov. Janet Napolitano) and Secretary of the Interior (Senator Ken Salazar) are planned for January 15th. The idea, of course, is to have as many Cabinet officials as possible confirmed by the Senate and ready to assume office shortly after the President is sworn in on January 20th.

Appointments of Representatives and Senators to committee assignments are underway and will likely be finalized in the coming two weeks. Senate progress has been slowed because of some remaining unresolved Senate seats.

Many bills from the previous Congress will be reintroduced in the 111th. Some will be reintroduced with the same text, but others may be modified before being reintroduced. All will have new bill numbers for the new Congress.

Budget and Appropriations

This year two new budgets will be released. A perfunctory extension of budget levels and priorities from the Bush Administration will be released in early February, the usual time for budget unrolling. A later version of budget proposals for Fiscal Year 2010 reflecting policies and projections of the incoming Administration is expected to be released in mid to late April. This will create a very shortened schedule for Congressional Appropriations hearings and actions with the objective of completing appropriations bills before the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1st, 2009.

Flood Insurance Outlook

It is anticipated that House and Senate versions of the Flood Insurance Reform bills will be reintroduced. Indications are that there could be some relatively minor adjustments to the House bill. Many staff changes on the Majority staff of the Senate Banking Committee make it difficult to gauge whether or not there could be alterations to the Senate bill.

At present, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) will expire on March 6th unless extended by legislative action. While many key players in the House and Senate have indicated their preference for acting on final passage of the reform bill prior to March 6th, it seems increasingly likely that a further simple extension of time will be agreed to.

Mitigation Outlook

It is quite possible that changes to the Stafford Act will be taken up during this Congressional session. Further, House Homeland Security Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-MS) has indicated that he will reintroduce his bills providing for a mitigation loan program and for a mitigation tax credit. Comparable bills were introduced in the Senate during the last session and could also be reintroduced.

ASFPM recommendations for the Presidential Transition Team and for the new FEMA urge a major focus on hazard mitigation. The President-Elect has frequently referred to the importance of community resilience.

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CFM[®] Corner

Email for certification questions is cfm@floods.org. This section will appear in each issue of the Insider. For suggestions on specific topics or questions to be covered, please send an email to Anita at this address in the ASFPM Office.

Recently, the Executive Office has received many questions regarding the CFM Continuing Education Credits (CECs) criteria and what qualifies as a CEC. The requirement for obtaining 16 CECs over a two-year period can be met through a combination of formal courses, university short courses, home study courses which require an exam for successful completion, online courses such as RedVector.com, attendance at technical program portions of the ASFPM Annual Conference, attendance at state or regional chapter or association conferences, or other related technical conferences and workshops.

The number of CECs a CFM earns depends on the subject matter and the hours of training involved. Education/Training activities are determined to either be Core subjects or Parallel subjects. Core floodplain management subjects are those that are directly related to the field of floodplain management. Parallel floodplain management subjects are those that are indirectly related to the field of floodplain management. Examples of Core and Parallel subjects can be found along with the detailed CEC criteria and requirements in the CFM Program Continuing Education Policy located at http://www.floods.org/Certification/Practical_Guide.pdf. Remember, it is not who conducts the training or where the training is conducted, it is the subject matter that is presented that determines the CECs.

Keeping us updated - Please remember to notify Anita at cfm@floods.org when you move. CFM renewals and other certification related mailed material is sent to your **HOME ADDRESS**. Also, make sure we always have your current employment information and correct email address.

CFM Renewal 1/31/2009 - ASFPM CFMs who are up for their biennial CFM® certification renewal January 31, 2009 have been sent a letter and renewal form via snail mail. If you have not received yours in the mail, please contact Anita Larson at cfm@floods.org or (608) 274-0123 so your CFM does not lapse.

Below are a few CFMs due for CFM renewal that we don't have current contact information on. If you know any of these people or how to reach them, please let us know or contact them to contact us.

Florida- Lianwu Liu

Florida- Justin Valeri

Maryland- Kevin Ennis

Mississippi- Ashanti Smith

Tennessee- Eric Broomfield

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News from Chapters

Chapter Chairs or Chapter newsletter editors are encouraged to email Kait Laufenberg at kait@floods.org with articles or information happening in your Chapter.

The ASFPM Annual Conference will be held in Orlando, Florida on June 7-12, 2009. During the conference, there will again be a meeting of Chapter representatives and ASFPM Chapter Directors and Staff to discuss issues pertaining to Chapters. ASFPM will be contacting the Chapters to see what issues need to be covered at this meeting.

With the New Year comes Chapters having their conferences. Chapter conferences are a great way to work on local issues and network with other people in your State. Chapter conferences are a great opportunity to earn CECs!

Please check out the calendar below or the full calendar posted on the ASFPM website at <http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/calendar.asp> to find out when a State Chapter or Association near you has scheduled a conference.

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Floodplain Management Training Calendar

Below are just several of the upcoming conferences & training opportunities, for a full listing, visit our online calendar at <http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/calendar.asp>.

January 26 – 28, 2009	International Lidar Mapping Forum (ILMF), New Orleans, LA	View Website
February 11 – 13, 2009	GAFM Annual Conference, Columbus, GA	Georgia Association of Floodplain Management
March 2 – 5, 2009	Coastal GeoTools '09, Myrtle Beach, SC	View Website
March 10 – 13, 2009	SCAHM Annual Conference, North Myrtle Beach, SC	South Carolina Association for Hazard Mitigation
March 10 – 13, 2009	MSFA Annual Conference, Bay City, MI	Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association
March 23 – 26, 2009	Urban Water Management 2009, Overland Park, KS	Urban Water Management
April 5 – 7, 2009	NFDA Annual Retreat, Scottsdale, AZ	National Flood Determination Association
April 16 – 17, 2009	AFMA Spring Workshop, Jacksonville, AR	Arkansas Floodplain Management Association
June 7 – 12, 2009	ASFPM 33 rd Annual National Conference, Orlando, FL	Association of State Floodplain Managers
May 16 – 21, 2010	ASFPM 34 th Annual National Conference, Oklahoma City, OK	Association of State Floodplain Managers
May 15 - 20, 2011	ASFPM 35 th Annual National Conference, Louisville, KY	Association of State Floodplain Managers

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Job Corner

Below are just a few of the job openings currently posted on our website. To view all of the listings, visit our online job corner at <http://www.floods.org/StatePOCs/jobs.asp>.

PBS&J is currently seeking multiple **Engineer I (Water Resources)** to join our team in **Beltsville, MD, Marietta, GA, or Madison, WI**

What you will do:

This individual will conduct hydrologic and hydraulic analyses; prepare flood hazard studies for the National Flood Insurance Program; evaluate requests to revise existing flood hazard studies, and act as technical liaison between various stakeholders.

Requirements:

- B.S. in Civil or Environmental Engineering required (preferably with specialization in water resources).
- Engineer-In-Training certification required at hire or within 6 months of hire.
- Knowledge of standard hydrologic and hydraulic models (HEC-HMS, HEC-RAS, XP-SWMM) strongly preferred.
- Knowledge of ArcGIS and HEC-geoRAS strongly preferred.
- Ability to obtain Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) status within one year of hire desired.
- 1 to 3 years work experience since B.S. desired.
- Candidates must be authorized to work permanently in the United States for any employer.

Are you a fit for this position?

If YES, please apply to Requisition #12728.

If NO, please visit our website to see other exciting career opportunities!

URS Corporation

NFIP Communications Specialists

Position Overview:

URS will place one NFIP Communications Specialist in each of the offices listed below to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Regional office. These URS Corporation offices are located in close proximity to FEMA NFIP offices. Candidates will conduct outreach to NFIP stakeholders in support of the insurance and floodplain management objectives of the NFIP and provide support to the FEMA Regional Offices. Stakeholders include state and local Government officials, community organizations, insurance agents, lending institutions, and the general public.

Specifically, candidates will:

- Receive inquiries, directly or via transfer, from the FEMA regional office and directly respond to such inquiries or, as necessary, refer them to the Contractor's own Bureau and Statistical Agent (BSA) Headquarters, or to another appropriate location.
- Provide technical assistance materials for the NFIP Direct Servicing Agent, program stakeholders and the Write Your Own insurance (WYO) companies to support efficient program operations.
- Coordinate communication and information dissemination from the Headquarters BSA operation to the WYO companies, the NFIP Direct Servicing Agent, the NFIP Training contractor, the NFIP Call Center contractor and program stakeholders.
- Support pre- and post-flood activities for the FEMA Regional office, including Town Hall meetings, and other events.

- Support the Community Rating System (CRS) committee and FEMA regional CRS activities.
- Work with state floodplain coordinators in presenting information on the NFIP at the annual CRS meetings for local floodplain managers and flood coordinators.
- Coordinate insurance-related inquiry processing.
- Provide assistance to stakeholders in the use of NFIP modernized systems.
- Coordinate with and support FEMA Regional Offices.

Successful candidates will work in URS offices in the following cities:

New York City, NY; Chicago, IL; Seattle, WA; Philadelphia, PA; Dallas, TX; Atlanta, GA; Oakland, CA

Minimum Requirements:

- BS/BA in Communications, Public Relations or related field
- Must have 5 years experience related to public involvement, communications and public outreach
- Must have four or more years of experience in the flood insurance industry, with strong knowledge of the National Flood Insurance Program
- Proven ability to work independently
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Demonstrated ability to interact with local, State and Federal Government officials, members of industry associations, and the public

For Immediate Consideration:

Go to <http://www.urscorp.com/Careers/index.php>, click on URS, search for requisition number URS32251, create your profile and apply, or search for other positions that interest you. If you have difficulty with the process, please email your resume to Margaret_Burke@urscorp.com.

AMEC Earth & Environmental

Hazard Mitigation Project Manager / Planner - Lakewood, CO

AMEC Earth & Environmental (AMEC) is a leading full-service environmental engineering and construction/remediation services firm in North America, providing environmental and geotechnical engineering and scientific consulting services.

AMEC is a focused supplier of high-value consultancy, engineering, and project management services to the world's energy, power and process industries. With annual revenues of over \$4.6 billion, AMEC designs, delivers and maintains strategic and complex assets for its customers. AMEC's Natural Resources, Power and Process and Earth and Environmental (E&E) businesses employ approximately 22,000 people in more than 30 countries globally. AMEC shares are traded on the London Stock Exchange where the company is listed in the Oil Equipment and Services sector (LSE: AMEC.L). www.amec.com. Since 2000, Engineering News Record magazine has ranked AMEC among the top International Design Firms. AMEC has also ranked at the top of its sector in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index since 2005.

AMEC offers competitive salaries along with a complete benefits package including: medical, vision, & dental coverage, 401K Matching, Educational Reimbursement, and a variety of Training and Development Programs to help you develop the skills you need to succeed in your chosen career path. Additional information can be obtained from our website at www.amec.com.

Full time position in AMEC's highly-regarded Hazard Mitigation and Emergency Management (HM & EM) program for a planner to manage, perform and market hazard mitigation and emergency management services for state and local governments.

Responsibilities

- Manage, develop, and update Hazard Mitigation Plans that meet Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) standards. This includes:
 - Coordinating planning team and public meetings and perform or oversee data collection, documentation, plan development, and plan approval by FEMA
 - Evaluating clients' existing mitigation "capabilities" through on-line research of local plans, regulations, policies and programs, and review of programs and documents
 - Identifying and incorporating data into HM/EM plans and other documents; performing risk assessment analyses on hazard data and write significant portions of planning documents
 - Assisting with the identification and description of cost effective, technically feasible, and environmentally sound mitigation actions
- Identify opportunities to implement actions recommended in HM Plans
- Participate in client and project development – track opportunities, identify client needs, write proposals
- Support clients in identifying, pursuing, and developing grant funding opportunities relative to HM & EM programs
- Provide other research and writing tasks as necessary to support a wide range of mitigation planning tasks and overall plan development
- Assist with other emergency management projects including the development and execution of training and exercises

Knowledge and Qualifications

- BS in planning, emergency management, Civil/Environmental engineering, geography, environmental science, or related field. MS preferred
- 5+ yrs experience in the hazard mitigation planning/emergency management/floodplain management field and experience developing or reviewing DMA 2000 hazard mitigation plans preferred
- Strong writing skills a must
- Experience working in FEMA disaster management preferred, including working knowledge of federal pre- and post-disaster grant programs including HMA, PDM-C, HMGP and FMA
- Knowledge of HAZUS/GIS, FEMA Benefit Cost software, EMAP, NFIP and CRS a plus.
- Strong work ethic, self-motivated and capable of independent work, but demonstrated ability to work on project teams.
- Strong MS Office skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).

AMEC is committed to the principle of equal opportunity in employment.

By submitting your resume, you consent to AMEC Americas Limited sharing this information within its divisions in order to identify other employment opportunities that you may be suitable for

To Apply: Please apply online by copy and pasting the following link into your browser or email resume to David.Bennion@amec.com
https://amec.recruitmax.com/ENG/CareerPortal/job_profile.cfm?szOrderID=7792&szUniqueCareerPortalID=cc8e1101-aaaf-4f78-beea-13ad1d90685c

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