



FEMA

October 13, 2023

The Honorable Gerald Steen
President, Madison County Board of Supervisors
125 West North Street
Canton, Mississippi 39046

RE: Upper Big Black Watershed Physical Map Revision (PMR) 30-Day Data Submission Notification

Dear President Steen:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is currently validating the draft Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) database for Madison County, MS. Completing this draft database is a significant milestone for the flood risk project, as it concludes the collection and analysis of the project's initial engineering data. These data, developed by MGI, mapping partner to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), provide the best available calculation of where water will collect and flow in the event of a flood, based on current conditions.

The engineering data will form the basis for mapping the proposed Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs) on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for your community. An SFHA is an area that is subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual-chance flood (also called the base flood). Over time, water flow and drainage patterns in your area may have changed dramatically due to surface erosion, land use, and other forces. These factors may have increased or decreased the likelihood of flooding in certain areas, which would result in changing SFHA boundaries and types.

Along with the draft FIRM database, MGI developed draft flood hazard information for Madison County, MS. This is available for your community's review on the FEMA Draft National Flood Hazard Viewer (msc.fema.gov/draft). If your community is interested in reviewing other contributing data, please speak to the FEMA Project Officer listed below as soon as possible. We encourage you to circulate these data as widely as possible among elected officials, staff, and other potentially interested individuals or organizations in the community, to allow them to thoroughly review the database before the formal community coordination meeting. However, please note that this data is considered draft/provisional and is subject to change, as it has not yet been through the final reviews or an appeal period.

Your community has 30 days to review the draft FIRM database and provide additional data to supplement or modify the draft database. Any data you provide must be consistent with prevailing engineering principles.

Please send any additional data or comments on the draft FIRM database to:

Kristen M. Martinenza, P.E., CFM, Chief
Risk Analysis Branch
FEMA Region IV
3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30341
770-220-3174

Michael Taylor
AECOM/MGI
1360 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 500
Atlanta, GA 30309

Your community will have several additional opportunities to comment on and provide feedback about the resulting SFHAs and other flood hazard information before the data are finalized.

FEMA wants to use the most up-to-date and accurate technical data to develop flood risk products for your community. We rely on your feedback, partnership, and knowledge during this important project to determine the extent of flood risk in your community, in support of your efforts to reduce those risks. We also look forward to working with community officials and other stakeholders in Madison County, to increase flood risk awareness and reduce the risk to life and property from flooding. Your initial feedback will not affect your community's ability to provide feedback later, or to formally appeal the flood hazard information during a future appeal period.

Please ask questions, send any data, and provide comments on the models selected for this project by November 13, 2023. Contact Michael Taylor, Project Manager, by email at Michael.Taylor@aecom.com, or by telephone at (404) 946-9488, or you can contact Stephen Champlin, Director, Geospatial Resources Division/Flood Mapping, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, SChamplin@mdeq.ms.gov, or by telephone at (601) 961-5506.

Thanks for your time and commitment to this process.

Sincerely,



Kristen M. Martinenza, P.E., CFM, Chief
Risk Analysis Branch
FEMA Region IV

Sincerely,



Stephen D. Champlin, Director
Geospatial Resources Division/Flood Mapping
Mississippi Dept. of Environmental Quality

cc: Scott Weeks, Zoning Administrator, Madison County
DiMaya Randle, State NFIP Coordinator, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency