

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
FEMA Region IV  
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road  
Atlanta, GA 30341



**FEMA**

September 23, 2011

The Honorable Bill Floyd  
Mayor, City of Decatur  
P.O. Box 220  
Decatur, GA 30031

Reference: Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS)  
Report for DeKalb County, Georgia and Incorporated Areas

Dear Mayor Floyd:

We are pleased to present you with one (1) Preliminary copy of the DFIRM and FIS report for DeKalb County, Georgia and Incorporated Areas for your review and comment. We have produced the DFIRM and FIS report in our countywide format, which means that flooding information for the entire county, including the City of Decatur and all other incorporated areas, is presented. However, we have enclosed only those DFIRM panels that actually cover your community. We have provided complete sets of the DFIRM panels to County officials under separate cover, and they should be available there for review by your community.

We have prepared the enclosed version of the DFIRM directly from the effective FIRMs for the county and incorporated areas using a process that involves capturing data in a digital format and plotting map panels using a specialized computer technology. In so doing, we have incorporated all essential information from the previously effective FIRMs and Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps (FBFMs).

In addition to preparing the DFIRM and FIS report in our countywide format, we made other format revisions. The specific revisions are summarized in Section 10 of the FIS report.

To assist your community in maintaining the DFIRM, we have enclosed a Summary of Map Actions to document previous Letters of Map Change (LOMC) (i.e., Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs), Letters of Map Revision (LOMRs)) that will be superseded when the DFIRM panels become effective. Information on LOMCs is presented in the following four categories: (1) LOMCs for which results have been included on the DFIRM panels; (2) LOMCs for which results could not be shown on the DFIRM panels because of scale limitations or because the LOMC issued had determined that the lots or structures involved were outside the SFHA as shown on the DFIRM; (3) LOMCs for which results have not been included on the DFIRM panels because the flood hazard information on which the original determinations were based are being superseded by new flood hazard information; and (4) LOMCs issued for multiple lots or structures where the determination for one or more of the lots or structures cannot be

revalidated through an administrative process like the LOMCs in Category 2 above. LOMCs in Category 2 will be revalidated through a single letter that reaffirms the validity of a previously issued LOMC; the letter will be sent to the community shortly before the effective date of the DFIRM and will become effective one (1) day after the DFIRM becomes effective. For the LOMCs listed in Category 4, we will review the data previously submitted for the LOMA or LOMR request and issue a new determination for the affected properties after the DFIRM becomes effective.

Your community will have 30 days from the date of this letter to review the enclosed copies of the DFIRM and FIS report. The review period provides your community with an opportunity to correct and add non-technical information, such as corporate limits, road names (within or adjacent to the SFHAs), bridges, and stream labels, presented on the DFIRM or in the FIS report. Comments may be sent to the following address:

Yongqing Yu  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Protection Division  
Floodplain Management  
4220 International Parkway  
Suite 101  
Atlanta, GA 30354  
Tel: 404-675-1688  
[Yongqing.Yu@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:Yongqing.Yu@dnr.state.ga.us)

We will review all comments or changes received during this 30-day review period and incorporate them, as appropriate, before the DFIRM and FIS report become effective.

During the course of preparing the countywide DFIRM and FIS report, we added or modified Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) where appropriate. Therefore, at the end of the 30-day review period, we will initiate a statutory 90-day appeal period for the new or modified BFEs. We will send you a letter approximately two (2) weeks before the start of the 90-day appeal period to detail the appeal process. The letter will forward a list of the BFEs to be published in your local newspaper in a Notice of Proposed Flood Elevation Determinations, and will provide the first and second publication dates. The appeal period will start on the second publication date. During the appeal period, community officials and/or other interested parties may submit scientific or technical information that would serve to refute the proposed or proposed modified BFEs.

After the review and appeal periods have ended and all comments/appeals have been addressed, we will initiate final preparation of the DFIRM and FIS report. The new DFIRM and FIS report for your community will become effective approximately six (6) months later. Before the effective date, you will be notified in writing that your community must adopt new floodplain ordinances or modify existing ordinances as necessary to reflect any changes in the DFIRM or FIS report, including reference to the new effective date. Approximately one (1) to two (2) months before the effective date, we will send your community printed copies of the DFIRM and FIS report.

Once the final DFIRM and FIS report are printed and distributed, the digital files containing the flood hazard data for the entire county can be provided to your community for use in a computer mapping system. These files can be used in conjunction with other thematic data for floodplain management purposes, insurance purchase and rating requirements, and many other planning applications. In addition, your community may be eligible for additional credits under our Community Rating System if you implement your activities using digital mapping files.

FEMA maintains information about map features, such as street locations and names, in or near designated flood hazard areas. Requests to revise such information in or near designated flood hazard areas may be provided to FEMA during the community review period, at the Preliminary DFIRM Community Coordination (PDCC) meeting, or during the statutory 90-day appeal period. Approved requests for changes will be shown on the final printed DFIRM.

Your community's comments on the Preliminary DFIRM panels and FIS report are an important part of our review process, and we will consider them carefully before we publish the DFIRM and FIS report in their final form. If you have any questions regarding the Preliminary copies of the DFIRM and FIS report, the necessary floodplain management measures for your community or the National Flood Insurance Program in general, please contact the Mitigation Division of FEMA in Region IV at (770) 220-5200 and ask for the Regional Project Officer assigned to your community, for assistance.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Lowe, Chief  
Risk Analysis Branch  
FEMA Region IV



Collis O. Brown, CFM  
State Floodplain Management Coordinator  
Environmental Protection Division

Enclosures:

cc: John F. Madajewski, Senior Engineer/CRS Coordinator, City of Decatur