

PROCEDURES FOR NO-RISE CERTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS IN REGULATORY FLOODWAYS

Section 60.3(d)(3) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) regulations states that a community shall prohibit encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements, and other development within the adopted regulatory floodway unless it has been demonstrated through hydrologic and hydraulic analyses performed in accordance with standard engineering practice that the proposed encroachment would not result in any increase (0.000) in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base (100-year) flood discharge.

Prior to issuing any building, grading or development permits involving activities in a regulatory floodway, the community must obtain a certification stating the proposed development will not impact the pre-project base flood elevations, floodway elevations, or floodway data widths. The certification should be obtained from the permittee and be signed and sealed by a professional engineer.

The engineering or no-rise certification must be supported by technical data. The supporting technical data should be based upon the standard step-backwater computer model utilized to develop the 100-year floodway shown on the community's effective Flood Insurance Rate Map or Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM) and the results tabulated in the community's Flood Insurance Study (FIS).

Although communities are required to review and approve the no-rise submittals, they may request technical assistance and review from the FEMA. This request should be in the form of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision, (CLOMR), using the appropriate application and certification forms contained in the MT-2 application packet available from FEMA. However, if this alternative is chosen, the community must review the technical submittal package and verify that all supporting data, listed in the following paragraphs, are included in the package before forwarding to FEMA.

To support a no-rise certification for proposed developments encroaching into the regulatory floodway, a community will require that the following procedures be followed:

Currently Effective Model

1. Furnish a written request for copies of the hydraulic analysis used in the effective Flood Insurance Study, referred to as the effective models, for the specified stream and community, identifying the limits of the requested data. A fee will be assessed for providing the data. Send data requests to:

~~PBS&J
Flood Insurance Study
Information Specialist
12101 Indian Creek Court
Beltsville, MD 20705~~

*FEMA Project Library
c/o Michael Baker, Jr Inc
3601 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22304
Fax (703) 751-7391*

Duplicate Effective Model

2. Upon receipt of the effective model, the engineer should run the model to duplicate the data in the effective FIS.

Corrected Effective Model

3. Revise the original step-backwater model to reflect site specific existing conditions by adding new cross-sections (two or more) in the vicinity of the proposed development. The Corrected Effective Model must not reflect any man-made physical changes since the date of the effective model. Floodway limits should be manually set at the new cross-section locations by measuring from the effective FIRM or FBFM. The cumulative reach lengths of the stream should also remain unchanged.

Existing or Pre-Project Conditions Model

4. The Corrected Effective Model is modified to produce the Existing or Pre-Project Conditions Model to reflect any modifications that have occurred within the floodplain since the date of the effective model but prior to the construction of the proposed project. If no modifications have occurred since the date of the effective model, then this model would be identical to the Corrected Effective Model.

Proposed Conditions Model

5. Modify the Existing or Pre-Project Conditions Model to reflect the proposed development at the new cross-sections, while retaining the currently adopted floodway widths. The overbank roughness coefficients should remain the same unless a reasonable explanation of how the proposed development will impact Manning's "n" values should be included with the supporting data. The results of this floodway run will indicate the 100-year floodway elevations for proposed conditions at the project site. These results must indicate NO impact, (0.000' rise), on the 100-year flood elevations, floodway elevations, or floodway widths shown in the Corrected Effective Model or in the Existing Pre-Project Conditions Model.

The "no-rise" supporting data and a copy of the engineering certification must be submitted to and reviewed by the appropriate community official prior to issuing a permit.

The "no-rise" supporting data should include, but may not be limited to:

1. Copy of the Currently Effective FIS hydraulic analysis model printout or floppy disk.

2. Copy of the Duplicate Effective Model.
3. Copy of the Corrective Effective Model.
4. Copy of the Existing Pre-Project Conditions Model.
5. Copy of the Revised or Proposed Conditions Model.
6. FIRM and topographic map, showing floodplain and floodway, the additional cross-sections, the site location with the proposed topographic modification superimposed onto the maps, and a photocopy of the effective FIRM or FBFM showing the current regulatory floodway.
7. Documentation clearly stating analysis procedures. All modifications made to the original FIS model to represent revised existing conditions, as well as those made to the revised existing conditions model to represent proposed conditions, should be well documented and submitted with all supporting data.
8. Copy of effective Floodway Data Table copied from the FIS report.
9. Statement defining source of additional cross-section topographic data and supporting information.
10. Cross-section plots, of the added cross sections, for revised existing and proposed conditions.
11. Certified planimetric (boundary survey) information indicating the location of structures on the property.
12. Copy of the microfiche, or other applicable source, from which input for original FIS HEC-2 model was taken.
13. Floppy disk with all input files.
14. Printout of output files from computer runs for all three floodway models.

The engineering "no-rise" certification and supporting technical data must stipulate NO impact, (0.000'), on the 100-year flood elevations, floodway elevations, or floodway widths at the new cross-sections and at all existing cross-sections anywhere in the model. Therefore, the revised computer model should be run for a sufficient distance (usually one mile, depending on hydraulic slope of the stream) upstream and downstream of the development site to insure proper "no-rise" certification.

Attached is a sample "no-rise" certification form that can be completed by a registered professional engineer and supplied to the community along with the supporting technical data when applying for a development permit.

ENGINEERING "NO-RISE" CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that I am a duly qualified engineer licensed to practice in the State of _____.

It is to further certify that the attached technical data supports the fact that proposed

(Name of Development)

will not impact (0.000 ft. rise) the 100-year flood elevations, floodway elevations and floodway widths on _____
(Name of Stream)

at published sections in the Flood Insurance Study for _____
(Name of Community)

dated _____ and will not impact (0.000 ft. rise) the 100-year flood elevations, flood elevations, and floodway widths at unpublished cross-sections in the vicinity of the proposed development.

(Date)

(Signature)

(Title)

(Address)

SEAL:

FEMA