Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

APR - 4 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Russell Swinehart
Chairman of the Lower Heidelberg
Board of Supervisors
24 Lisa Road
Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania 19608

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Case Number:	99-03-133P
Community Name:	Township of Lower Heidelberg, Berks County, Pennsylvania
Community Number:	421077
Map Number:	42011C0483
Effective Date of this Revision:	APR - 4 2000

102-I-A

Dear Mr. Swinehart:

The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Berks County, Pennsylvania (All Jurisdictions), which includes the Township of Lower Heidelberg, have been revised by this Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) to reflect more detailed and up-to-date hydrologic, hydraulic, and topographic information along Little Cacoosing Creek than that used to prepare the December 5, 1997, FIRM. The subject area is located in the vicinity of [illegible] This revision was initiated by [illegible] in a letter dated May 18, 1999.

We received the following data, prepared by [illegible] otherwise noted, in support of this revision:

- a hydrologic analysis, dated October 1997, and prepared using the Penn State Runoff Model, of the 1% annual chance (100-year) flood discharge for Little Cacoosing Creek, reflecting existing conditions;

- a HEC-RAS hydraulic model, dated November 19, 1999, of the 1% annual chance flood for Little Cacoosing Creek, reflecting existing conditions;

- a topographic map, dated March 10, 1999, and revised November 23, 1999, titled FEMA Flood Plain Study, Green Valley Estates, at a scale 1"=50', with a contour interval of 2 feet, reflecting the existing conditions 1% annual chance floodplain;

- an annotated copy of the Berks County (All Jurisdictions) FIRM number 42011C0483 E, dated December 5, 1997, reflecting the existing conditions 1% annual chance floodplain;

- a copy of letter from [illegible], dated February 16, 2000, to [illegible] Township of Lower Heidelberg Secretary, accepting the addition of Base (1% annual chance) Flood Elevations (BFEs) along the subject branch of Little Cacoosing Creek; and

- completed application/certification forms, including community concurrence with this request.

We received all data necessary to process this revision by February 18, 2000.

Based on our review of the submitted data, we are issuing this LOMR to reflect narrowing of the 1% annual chance floodplain and the addition of (BFEs) along Little Cacoosing Creek from a point approximately 1,100 feet downstream of Green Valley Road to a point approximately 3,300 feet downstream of Green Valley Road. This LOMR revises Berks County, FIRM number 42011C0483 E, dated December 5, 1997, as shown on the enclosed annotated portions of the FIRM. In addition, this LOMR revises and supplements the Berks County FIS report, dated January 7, 2000, Table 1 (Summary of Discharges), as shown below, and adds Flood Profile 76P(a)

TABLE 1 - SUMMARY OF DISCHARGES

FLOODING SOURCE AND LOCATION	DRAINAGE AREA (sq. miles)	PEAK DISCHARGES (cfs) 10-YEAR	50-YEAR	100-YEAR	500-YEAR
LITTLE CACOOSING CREEK					
Approximately 1,100 feet downstream of Green Valley Road	4.75	*	*	2,107	*

* Data not available.

We have enclosed a copy of the public notification of the new (BFEs), which will be published in the Reading Eagle/Reading Times on or about March 15, 2000, and March 22, 2000. In addition, we will publish a notice of changes in the Federal Register. However, we will not print and distribute this LOMR to users, such as insurance agents or lenders. Your community will serve as a repository for the new data. Therefore, we encourage you to supplement the notification to appear in the Reading Eagle/Reading Times by preparing a news release for publication in your community newspaper that describes the revision and explains how your community will provide data and help interpret the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) maps. In that way interested persons such as property owners, insurance agents, and mortgage lenders, can benefit from the information.

Within 90 days of the second publication in the Reading Eagle/Reading Times, any interested party may request that we reconsider this determination. Any request for reconsideration must be based on scientific or technical data. This revision is effective as of the date of this letter. However, until the 90-day period elapses, the new BFEs presented in this LOMR may be changed.

We based this determination on the 1% annual chance flood discharges computed in the aforementioned hydrologic model. Future development of projects upstream could cause increased flood discharges, which could cause increased flood hazards. A comprehensive restudy of your community's flood hazards would consider the cumulative effects of development on flood discharges and could, therefore, establish greater flood hazards in this area.

Your community must approve all proposed floodplain development and ensure that permits required by Federal and/or Commonwealth law have been obtained. Commonwealth or community officials based on knowledge of local conditions and in the interest of safety, may set higher standards for construction or may limit development in floodplain areas. If the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the Township of Lower Heidelberg has adopted more restrictive or comprehensive floodplain management criteria, those criteria take precedence over the minimum NFIP requirements.

Because of funding constraints, we must limit the number of map republications. Consequently, we will not republish the FIS and FIRM for Berks County (All Jurisdictions) to reflect this determination. However, we will incorporate this determination when we next republish the FIS and FIRM number 42011C0483.

We have enclosed an updated version of a document titled "List of Current Flood Insurance Study Data," which now includes this letter, to help your community maintain all information for floodplain management and flood insurance. If any of the items in that document are not filed in your community's map repository, please contact the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Map Assistance Center at the number listed below for information on how to obtain those items.

Use the map panel listed above and revised by this letter for flood insurance policies and renewals issued in your community.

We have made this determination pursuant to Section 206 of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) and in accordance with the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended (Title XIII of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, P.L. 90-448), 42 U.S.C. 4001-4128, and 44 CFR Part 65. Pursuant to Section 1361 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, communities participating in the NFIP are required to adopt and enforce floodplain management ordinances that meet or exceed minimum NFIP criteria. These criteria, including adoption of the FIS and FIRM, and modifications made by this LOMR, are the minimum requirements for continued NFIP participation and do not supersede more stringent Commonwealth or local requirements to which the regulations apply.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Director, Mitigation Division of FEMA in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at (215) 931-5512, or the FEMA Map Assistance Center toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (336-2627).

Sincerely,

John F. Magnotti III
Project Engineer
Hazards Study Branch
Mitigation Directorate

For: Matthew B. Miller, P.E., Chief
Hazards Study Branch
Mitigation Directorate

Enclosures

cc:

Commonwealth Coordinator