Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

MAR 8 2000

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. John J. Burke
Middletown Township Manager
2140 Trenton Road
Levittown, Pennsylvania 19056

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Case Number:	99-03-151P
Community Name:	Township of Middletown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania
Community Number:	420193
Map Panel Numbers:	42017C0434 and 42017C0442
Effective Date of this Revision:	MAR 8 2000

102-D-A

Dear Mr. Burke:

The Flood Insurance Study (FIS) and Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for Bucks County, Pennsylvania (All Jurisdictions), which include the Township of Middletown, both have been revised by this Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) to reflect more detailed and up-to-date hydraulic and topographic information along Mill Creek No. 1 than that used to prepare the May 18, 1999, FIS. The subject area is located from a point just downstream of Super Highway to a point just downstream of Woodbourne Road. This revision was initiated by , in a letter dated July 21, 1999.

We received the following technical data, prepared by , unless otherwise noted, in support of this revision:

- HEC-2 hydraulic models, dated May 21 and 24, 1999, of the 10% (10-year), 2% (50-year), 1% (100-year), and 0.2% (500-year) annual chance floods and floodway for Mill Creek No. 1, duplicating the models used to prepare the May 18, 1999, FIS for Bucks County;

- HEC-2 hydraulic models, dated September 27 and December 9, 1999, of 10%, 2%, 1%, and 0.2% annual chance floods and floodway for Mill Creek No. 1, reflecting existing conditions;

- a certified topographic map, dated September 22, 1999, titled Map Correction to Mill Creek Floodplain, at a scale of 1"= 200', with a contour interval of 2 feet, reflecting the existing conditions 1% and 0.2% annual chance floodplains and floodway for Mill Creek No. 1;

- a copy of the Bucks County FIS report, flood profile 147P, dated May 18, 1999, annotated to reflect the existing conditions 10%, 2%, 1%, and 0.2% annual chance water-surface elevations for Mill Creek No. 1;

- copies of Bucks County FIRM numbers 42017C0434 F and 42017C0442 F, both dated May 18, 1999, annotated to reflect the existing conditions 1% and 0.2% annual chance floodplains and floodway for Mill Creek No. 1;

- a letter from you, dated December 13, 1999, to [illegible] stating that the only property owner, [illegible] has been notified of the floodway changes; and

- completed application/certification forms, including community concurrence with the revision.

We received all data necessary to process this revision by December 16, 1999.

Based on our review of the submitted data, we are issuing this LOMR to reflect decreases in the 1% annual chance water-surface elevations and narrowing of the 1% and 0.2% annual chance floodplains and floodway. The maximum decrease in the 1% annual chance water-surface elevation along Mill Creek No. 1 is approximately 6.4 feet. This LOMR revises Table 8 (Floodway Data) and Flood Profile 147P of the Bucks County, FIS report; and FIRM numbers 42017C0434 F and 42017C0442 F, all dated May 18, 1999, as shown on the enclosed annotated portions of the FIS and FIRM.

We have enclosed a copy of the public notification of the revised Base (1% annual chance) Flood Elevations (BFEs), which will be published in the News-Herald on or about March 1, 2000, and March 3, 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 News-Herald 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 News-Herald, a citizen 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 revised BFEs presented in this LOMR may be modified.

We based this determination on the 1% annual chance flood discharges computed in the May 18, 1999, FIS for Bucks County without considering subsequent changes in watershed characteristics that could increase flood discharges. Future development of projects upstream could cause increased flood discharges, which could cause increased flood hazards. A comprehensive restudy of your county's flood hazards would consider the cumulative effects of development on flood discharges subsequent to the publication of the May 18, 1999, FIS for Bucks County 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 Middletown 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 Bucks County to reflect this determination. However, we will incorporate this determination when we next republish the FIS and FIRM.

We have enclosed a document titled "List of Current Flood Insurance Study Data," which 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 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.

We provide the floodway designation to your community as a tool to regulate floodplain development. Therefore, the floodway modifications we have described in this letter, while acceptable to us, must also be acceptable to your community and adopted by appropriate community action, as specified in Paragraph 60.3(d) of the NFIP regulations.

Use the map panels listed above and revised by this letter for all 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 regulations that meet or exceed 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: