



# Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

MAR 23 2001

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

The Honorable John D. W. Reiley  
Mayor of the City of Pottsville  
P.O. Box 50  
Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Case Number: 99-03-115P  
Community Name: City of Pottsville,  
Schuylkill County,  
Pennsylvania  
Community Number: 420785  
Map Panel Numbers: 420785B H&I-01 and  
420785B 01F

Effective Date of  
this Revision: MAR 23 2001

102-I-A

Dear Mayor Reiley:

The Flood Insurance Study (FIS), Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM) for the City of Pottsville have been revised by this Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) to reflect updated hydraulic analysis and topographic information and the construction of a bridge along the Schuylkill River. The subject area is located from a point just downstream of State Route 61 to a point approximately 1,550 feet upstream of State Route 61. This revision also affects flood hazards in the Borough of Palo Alto. This revision was initiated by [REDACTED], in a letter dated May 13, 1999.

We received the following data, prepared by Alfred Benesch & Company, unless otherwise noted, in support of this revision:

- a HEC-2 hydraulic model, dated September 5, 2000, of the 10% (10-year), 2% (50-year), 1% (100-year), and 0.2% (500-year) annual chance floods and floodway for the Schuylkill River, duplicating the model used to prepare the July 5, 1977, FIRM for the City of Pottsville;
- a HEC-2 hydraulic model, dated January 30, 2001, of the 10%, 2%, 1%, and 0.2% annual chance floods and floodway for the Schuylkill River, reflecting existing conditions;
- a certified topographic map titled Pottsville Hospital and Warne Clinic Schuylkill Medical Plaza, dated March 3, 2000, at a scale of 1"=40', with a contour interval of 5 feet, showing the existing conditions 1% annual chance floodplain and floodway;
- a letter dated March 15, 1999, from Mr. Richard J. Schuettler, City of Pottsville Administrator, supporting the proposed revision to the floodway and a letter dated September 6, 2000, from [REDACTED] certifying that the Pottsville Hospital & Warne Clinic is the only property owner affected by the floodway change;

- a letter dated December 4, 2000, from [REDACTED], notifying him of the proposed changes to the 1% annual chance water-surface elevations and floodplain, and a signature on the letter from [REDACTED] accepting the increases; and
- completed application/certification forms, including community concurrence with the revision.

We received all data necessary to process this revision by January 30, 2001.

Based on our review of the submitted data, we are issuing this LOMR to reflect increases and decreases in 1% annual chance water-surface elevations, widening and narrowing of the 1% and 0.2% annual chance floodplains, and narrowing of the floodway for the Schuylkill River from the downstream side of State Route 61 to a point approximately 225 feet upstream of Collins Street. The maximum increase in 1% annual chance water-surface elevations is 0.3 foot and the maximum decrease in 1% annual chance water-surface elevations is 0.8 foot. This LOMR revises the City of Pottsville FIS report, Table 1 (Floodway Data), and Flood Profile 01P, dated January 1977; and FIRM number 420785B, panel H&I-01, and FBFM number 420785B, panel 01F, both dated July 5, 1977, as shown on the enclosed annotated portions of the FIS and the digitally reproduced portions of the FIRM and FBFM. No revision is being issued for the Borough of Palo Alto as the changes within the community are minor; we are deferring this action within the Borough of Palo Alto until a future date.

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 Pottsville Republican on or about April 6, 2001, and April 13, 2001. 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 Pottsville Republican 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 Pottsville Republican, 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 revised BFEs presented in this LOMR may be changed.

We based this determination on the 1% annual chance discharges published in the January 1977 FIS for the City of Pottsville. We have not considered changes in watershed conditions that may have occurred since the publication of the City of Pottsville FIS and that may have increased discharges. Additionally, future development of projects upstream of the subject area could change watershed conditions and increase discharges. A comprehensive restudy of your community's flood hazards would consider any changes to flood hazard conditions subsequent to the publication of the FIS for the City of Pottsville, and the flood hazards shown in the FIS, FIRM, and FBFM could be increased.

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 standards for construction that are higher than the minimum NFIP criteria or may limit development in floodplain areas. If the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the City of Pottsville 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 republications. Consequently, we will not republish the FIS, FIRM, and FBFM for the City of Pottsville to reflect this determination. However, we will incorporate this determination when we next republish the FIS, FIRM panel H&I-01, and FBFM panel 01F.

We have enclosed a document titled "List of Current Flood Insurance Study Data," which includes this letter, to help your community to 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.

We provide the floodway designation to your community as a tool to regulate floodplain development. Therefore, the floodway revision 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.

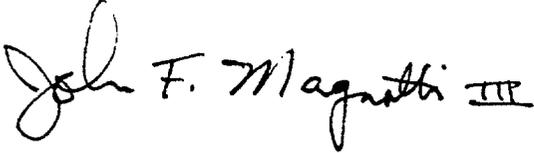
NFIP regulations Subparagraph 60.3(b)(7) requires communities to ensure that the flood-carrying capacity within the altered or relocated portion of any watercourse is maintained. This provision is incorporated into your community's existing floodplain management regulations; therefore, responsibility for maintenance of the modified channel rests with your community. We may request that your community submit a description and schedule of channel maintenance activities.

Use the map panels listed above and revised by this letter for flood insurance policies and renewals issued for property located on these panels.

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, FIRM, and FBFM, and revisions 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).

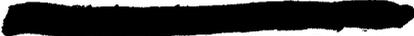
Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of John F. Magnotti III in black ink.

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: The Honorable Vernon Kleckner, Mayor of the Borough of Palo Alto  
Mr. Richard Schuettler  
  
Commonwealth NFIP Coordinator

**LIST OF CURRENT FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY DATA**

This list is provided to document all information currently effective for your community for insurance and floodplain management.

Date: March 23, 2001  
Community: City of Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania  
Community Number: 420785  
Page Number: 1 of 1

**CURRENT EFFECTIVE FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY DATE:** January 1977

**FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP (FIRM)**

<u>Panel Numbers</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
H&I-01	July 5, 1977

**FLOOD BOUNDARY AND FLOODWAY MAP (FBFM)**

<u>Panel Numbers</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
01F	July 5, 1977

**LETTERS OF MAP REVISION**

<u>Panel Numbers</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
H&I-01	March 23, 2001
01F	March 23, 2001

**LETTERS OF MAP AMENDMENT AND MAP REVISION BASED ON FILL**

None

**BEST AVAILABLE DATA LETTERS**

None

FLOODING SOURCE		FLOODWAY			BASE FLOOD WATER SURFACE ELEVATION (FEET NGVD)			
CROSS SECTION	DISTANCE <sup>1</sup>	WIDTH <sup>2</sup> (FEET)	SECTION AREA (SQUARE FEET)	MEAN VELOCITY (FEET PER SECOND)	REGULATORY	WITHOUT FLOODWAY	WITH FLOODWAY	INCREASE
Schuylkill River	647,100	65	488	15	594.8	594.8	595.5	0.7
	648,125	86	855	9	602.4	602.4	602.5	0.1
	648,925	88	1,589	6	611.9	611.9	612.0	0.1
	650,000	184	1,092	7.1	614.5	614.5	615.5	1.0
	650,948	107	1,453	5	616.7	616.7	616.7	0.0
	651,500	97	1,051	7	617.3	617.3	617.6	0.3
Norwegian Creek	50	86	360	8	612.6	612.6	613.3	0.7
	2,505	Sheet Flow						
	4,605	140	367	8	634.6	634.6	635.3	0.7
AREA OF REVISION								

<sup>1</sup>Feet above mouth

<sup>2</sup>Portion of floodway outside corporate limits

REVISED TO REFLECT  
LOMR EFFECTIVE:

MAR 23 2001

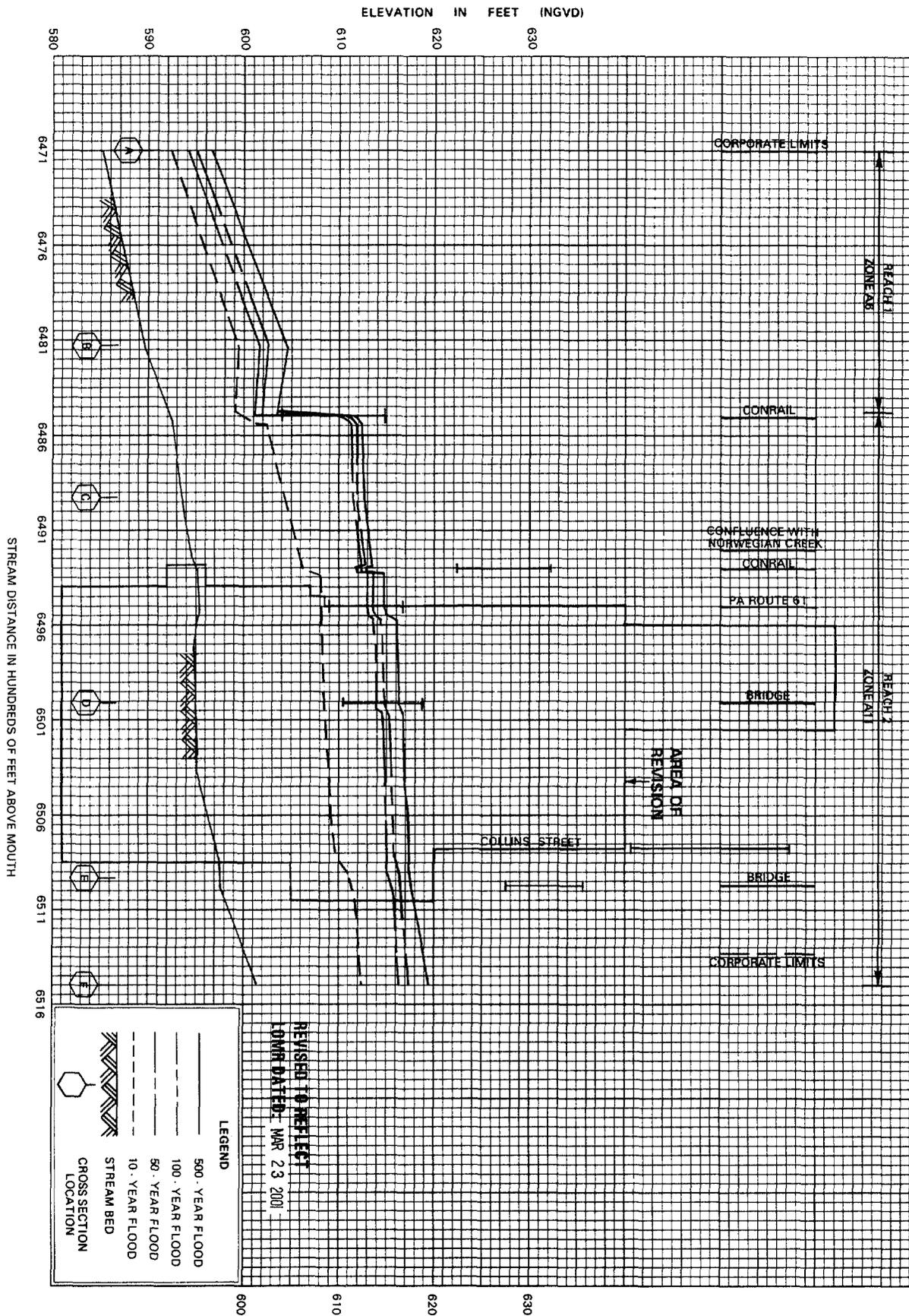
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

CITY OF POTTSVILLE, PA  
(SCHUYLKILL CO.)

**FLOODWAY DATA**

**SCHUYLKILL RIVER - NORWEGIAN CREEK**

**TABLE 1**



01P

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
**CITY OF POTTSVILLE, PA**  
 (SCHUYLKILL)

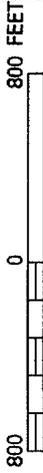
**FLOOD PROFILES**  
**SCHUYLKILL RIVER**

**MAP LEGEND**

REVISED 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN  
REVISED 500-YEAR FLOODPLAIN



APPROXIMATE SCALE



**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM**

**FIRM  
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP**

CITY OF  
POTTSVILLE,  
PENNSYLVANIA  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

PANEL H & I-01

PAGE 1 OF 1 PRINTED

EFFECTIVE DATE  
JULY 5, 1977

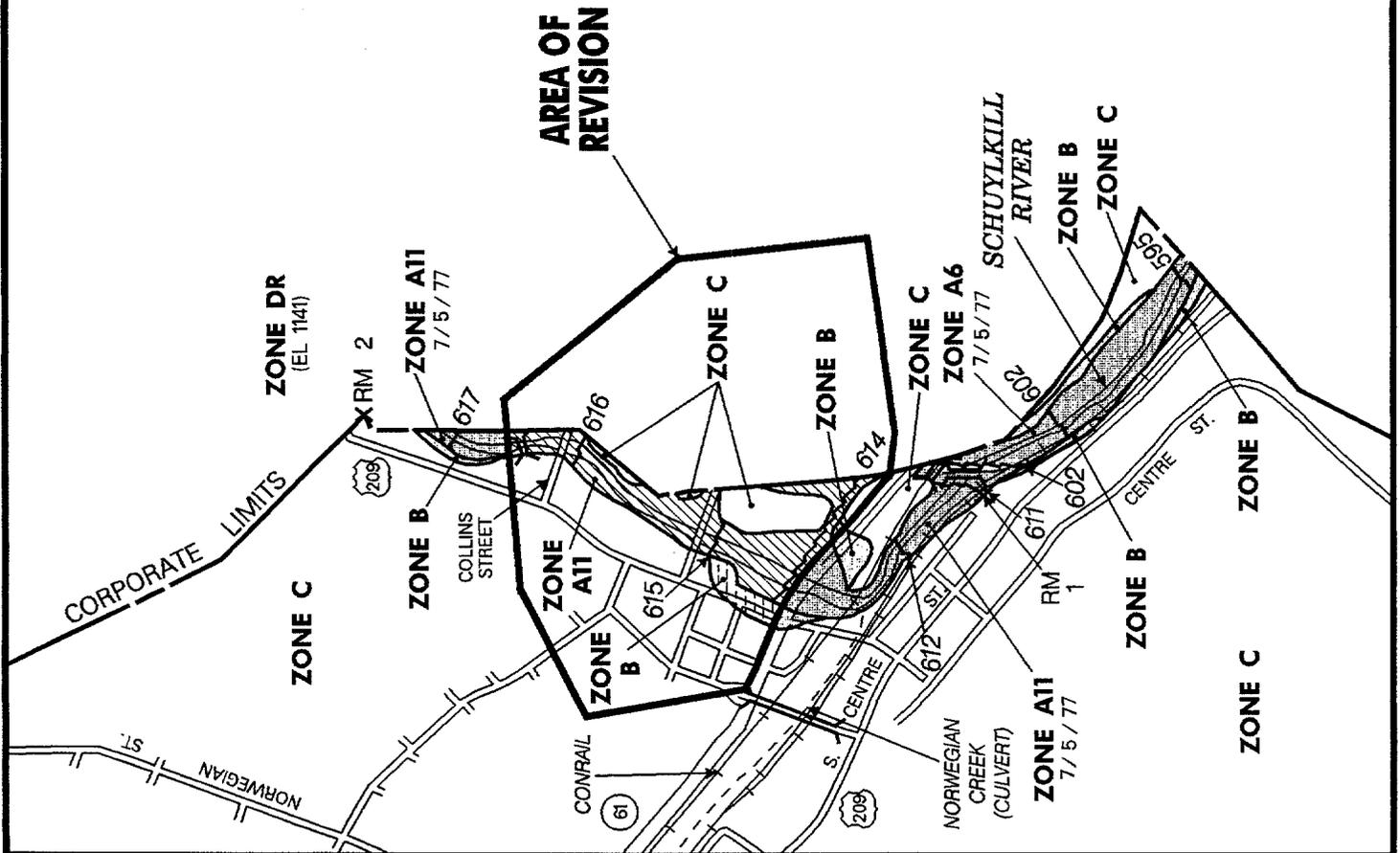
COMMUNITY NUMBER:  
4207858



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Federal Emergency Management Agency

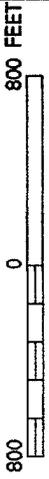


**MAP LEGEND**

-  REVISED FLOODWAY
-  REVISED 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN
-  REVISED 500-YEAR FLOODPLAIN



APPROXIMATE SCALE



NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

# FLOODWAY FLOOD BOUNDARY AND FLOODWAY MAP

CITY OF  
POTTSVILLE,  
PENNSYLVANIA  
SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

PANEL 01F

PAGE 1 OF 1 PRINTED

EFFECTIVE DATE  
JULY 5, 1977

COMMUNITY NUMBER:  
420785B



**REVISED TO REFLECT  
LOMR EFFECTIVE:**

MAR 23 2001

Federal Emergency Management Agency

